

### Cauchy Sequences

Let  $(X, d)$  be a metric space. The sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy iff:

$$\lim_{m, n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x_m) = 0$$

That is:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N : (m, n) > N \Rightarrow d(x_m, x_n) < \varepsilon$$

It is easily seen that every convergent sequence is Cauchy.  $(X, d)$  is said to be **complete** iff every Cauchy sequence converges **to a point in  $X$** . Thus, in a **complete** metric space:  **$(x_n)$  is Cauchy  $\Leftrightarrow (x_n)$  is convergent**.

**Theorem 2.2** If  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence, and there exists a convergent subsequence  $\{x_{n_k}\}$  of this sequence:  $x_{n_k} \rightarrow x$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , then the whole sequence converges to  $x$ .

**Proof**

- Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $x_{n_k} \rightarrow x$ ,

$$\exists N_1 : k > N_1 \Rightarrow d(x_{n_k}, x) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

- Note that  $n_k \geq k$  always. Since  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy,

$$\exists N_2 : n_k \geq k > N_2 \Rightarrow d(x_{n_k}, x_k) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

- Then, for  $n > \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ , we have:

$$d(x_k, x) \leq d(x_k, x_{n_k}) + d(x_{n_k}, x) < \varepsilon$$

whereby  $x_k \rightarrow x$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Theorem 2.3** A closed subspace of a complete metric space is complete.

**Proof**

Let  $(Y, d')$  is a subspace of the metric space  $(X, d)$ . Let  $\{x_n\} \subseteq Y \subseteq X$  be a Cauchy sequence in this subspace. Since  $X$  is complete,  $x_n$  converges to a point in  $X$ .

Since  $Y$  is closed, every convergent sequence in  $Y$  finds its limit in  $Y$  (*Sequential Characterization of the Closure*). Thus, every Cauchy sequence converges to a point in  $Y$ , whereby  $Y$  is complete.

**Theorem 2.4** A complete subspace  $Y$  of a metric space  $X$  is closed.

**Proof**

Let  $\{x_n\}$  be a convergent sequence in  $Y$ . Since convergent sequences are Cauchy,  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy, whereby it converges to a point in  $Y$  (since  $Y$  is complete). Thus, every convergent sequence in  $Y$  finds its limit in  $Y$ .