Problem Sequence - Solutions

This document will be filled up with the solutions from the problem sequence.

Solution 1. (Greg)

From Axiom 1, there are three cases to consider:

1. $p = 0$

   p is equal to the only element of M. From the definition of limit point, every segment containing p must contain a point of M different from p. However, there are no points in M different from p, so p must not be a limit point of M.

2. $p > 0$

   From Axiom 3, there exists a point a such that $0 < a < p$. There also exists a point b such that $b > p$. Since $p > 0$ and $b > p$, Axiom 2 tells us that $b > 0$. We can then form the segment $S = (a, b)$. Since $a > 0$ and $b > 0$, 0 is not between a and b, so S does not contain 0. However, $a < p < b$, so S contains p. S is a segment containing p that does not contain any element of M, so p is not a limit point of M.

3. $p < 0$

   (symmetric to the $p > 0$ case)

Therefore, regardless of our choice of p, we can construct a segment that contradicts the requirements in the limit point definition, so p is not a limit point of M.

Solution 2. (Jeff)

According to Definition 4, we can prove that p is not a limit point of M if we can construct a segment containing p but not a different point of M. Construct this segment as follows:

1. If all points of M are on the opposite side of p, choose any value as an endpoint.

2. If any point of M is on the same side of p, choose a point between the nearest point of M and p. (Axiom 3 confirms that there will be such a point.)

This segment contains p but will not contain any points of M (with the exception of p, if p is 0 or 1). Therefore, we have found a segment that does not fulfill the requirements of Definition 4, so p is not a limit point of M.

Solution 3. (Erin, solved after Problem 4)

Let $a = 0$ and $b = 1$. Then, according to Problem 4, b is a limit point of (a, b). Therefore, 1 is a limit point of $(0, 1)$.

Solution 4. (Erin)

We will prove that b is a limit point of (a, b); The proof for a is similar.

Construct a segment (p, q) containing b ($p < b < q$). According to Axiom 1, there are three cases, and we will deal with two of them simultaneously:

1. $p < a$

   In this case, $p < a < b < q$, so $p < (a, b) < q$. Since (p, q) contains every point of (a, b), we have found points that satisfy Defintion 4.

2. $p \geq a$

   In this case, $a \leq p < b < q$. According to Axiom 3, there is a point d between p and b. The inequality is then $a \leq p < d < b < q$. Then,

   - $a < d < b$, so d is in (a, b).
   - $p < d < q$, so d is in (p, q).

   This means that (p, q) contains d, which is a point of (a, b).

Therefore, every (p, q) containing b also contains a point of (a, b), so b is a limit point of (a, b).

Solution 5. (Greg)

Choose any point p from S. Construct a segment (x, y) that contains p (ie: $x < p < y$). Put no other condition on y. According to Axiom 1, one of these three cases is true:

1. $x > a$

   Choose a point q between x and p ($x < q < p$; this exists by Axiom 3). Apply Axiom 2 three times:

   - $a < x$ and $x < q$, so $a < q$
   - $q < p$ and $p < b$, so $q < b$
   - $q < p$ and $p < y$, so $q < y$

   so $a < q < b$ and $x < q < y$. Therefore, q is an element of S inside (a, b) that is different from p.

2. $x = a$

   Repeat the proof for $x > a$ with one change:

   - $a = x$ and $x < q$, so $a < q$

3. $x < a$

   Choose q betweem a and p. Change:

   - $x < a$ and $a < q$, so $x < q$

(same conclusion as $x > a$)

In each of these three cases, every (x, y) contains a point q from (a, b). Therefore, we have satisfied Definition 4, so p is a limit point of (a, b).

Solution 6. (Zack)

Solution 7. (Amber)

Solution 8. (Greg)

Solution 9.

Solution 10.

Solution 11. (Greg)

Construct a segment $S = (x, y)$ that contains 0 ($x < 0 < y$). Since the reciprocal of a positive number is positive, every element M_i of M is positive, so $x < M_i$ from Axiom 2.

Then, we will attempt to find an element of M that is less than y. Since every element of M is of the form $\frac{1}{n}$ for some integer n, we are looking for $\frac{1}{n} < y$. From the properties of reciprocals, this is equivalent to $\frac{1}{y} < n$. According to Axiom 4, the point $\frac{1}{y}$ has an integer greater than it, so we can find an n that satisfies this inequality.

Therefore, every S containing 0 also contains a point of M, so 0 is a limit point of M.

Solution 12.

Solution 13.

Solution 14.

Solution 15.

Solution 16.

Solution 17.

Solution 18.