

Cauchy Criterion Problem (Textbook; Problem 2, (a))

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1 3.5 - Cauchy Criterion Problems (Textbook); Problem 2, (a)

1.1 Problem

Show that the following sequence is a Cauchy Sequence

$$X = \frac{n+1}{n} \quad (1)$$

2 Solution

Layout the Proof In order to show that the sequence X is a Cauchy sequence it must be shown that:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists H \in \mathbb{N} : \quad m, n > H \implies |x_n - x_m| < \varepsilon \quad (2)$$

so first we will consider the restriction required by ε and work backwards to find a sufficient value for H .

Consider the ε Restriction

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{n+1}{n} - \frac{m+1}{m} \right| &= \left| \frac{mn + m - mn + n}{mn} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{m+n}{mn} \right| \\ &= \frac{m+n}{mn} && \text{Because } m, n \in \mathbb{N} \\ &= (m+n) \cdot \frac{1}{mn} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Hence we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{n+1}{n} - \frac{m+1}{m} \right| &< \varepsilon \\ \implies (m+n) \cdot \frac{1}{mn} &< \varepsilon \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Assume a Value for H Now assume an arbitrary value for H , we will use $H \geq 3$, this implies from (??):

$$\begin{aligned}
 m, n &\geq H \\
 m, n &\geq 3 && \text{sub } H \geq 3 \\
 m \cdot n &\geq 9 \\
 \frac{1}{mn} &\leq \frac{1}{9} \\
 \frac{1}{mn} &\leq \frac{1}{9} \\
 (m+n) \cdot \frac{1}{mn} &\leq \frac{1}{9} \cdot mn
 \end{aligned}$$

and from (??) we have:

$$(m+n) \cdot \frac{1}{mn} \leq \varepsilon$$

Apply the restriction to H So we will choose H :

$$\frac{1}{9}(m+n) > \varepsilon \quad (5)$$

So re arranging this to solve some value for m, n, H

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{9}(m+n) &> \varepsilon \\
 (m+n) &> 9 \cdot \varepsilon
 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

So if we choose a H value such that $H > \frac{9\varepsilon}{2}$ then we will have $m > \frac{9\varepsilon}{2}$ and $n > \frac{9\varepsilon}{2}$ and so $(m+n) > \varepsilon$

Choose the Specific H Value Now there are two values for H , we need a value of $H \geq 3$ and $H > \frac{9\varepsilon}{2}$, this is satisfied by taking $H = \sup \left\{ 9 \cap \left(\frac{2\varepsilon}{2}, \infty \right) \right\}$

The actual proof

$$\forall \varepsilon, \exists H = \sup \left\{ 9 \cap \left(\frac{9\varepsilon}{2}, \infty \right) \right\}$$

Now assume that $m, n > H$, and consider $|x_n - x_m|$:

$$|x_n - x_m| = \left| \frac{n+1}{n} - \frac{m+1}{m} \right| \quad (7)$$

$$= (m+n) \cdot \frac{1}{mn} \quad (8)$$

Now because $H \geq 9$ and $m, n \geq H$

$$< \frac{1}{9}(m+n)$$

because $H > \frac{9\varepsilon}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned} &< \frac{1}{9} \cdot \left(\frac{9\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{9\varepsilon}{2} \right) \\ &< \varepsilon \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Now because we have shown that $\forall \varepsilon, \exists H = \sup \{9 \cap (\frac{9\varepsilon}{2}, \infty)\}$ such that:

$$m, n \geq H \implies |x_n - x_m| < \varepsilon$$

It is established that X must be a Cauchy Sequence.