

Sequences of real numbers (corrections)

Textbook Reading : [JL] Sections 2.1, 2.2

Exercises

1. We say a set $F \subset \mathbb{R}$ is open is closed if its complement F^c is open (see assignment 3). It follows that \emptyset , and \mathbb{R} are closed.
 - (a) Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a < b$. We have $[a, b]^c = (-\infty, a) \cap (b, +\infty)$ which is a finite intersection of open sets (see assignment 3) then it is open.
 - (b) We have $\mathbb{Z}^c = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (n, n+1)$ which is a union of open sets $(n, n+1)$ (see assignment 3) then it is open. Hence, \mathbb{Z} is closed in \mathbb{R} .
 - (c) By contradiction, assume that \mathbb{Q} is closed, then the set of irrationals \mathbb{Q}^c is open, i.e.

$$\forall i \in \mathbb{Q}^c, \exists \varepsilon > 0 : (x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \subset \mathbb{Q}^c,$$

but by the density of \mathbb{Q} in \mathbb{R} , $x - \varepsilon < x + \varepsilon \implies \exists r \in \mathbb{Q} : x - \varepsilon < r < x + \varepsilon$, which is a contradiction with $(x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \subset \mathbb{Q}^c$. Thus \mathbb{Q} is not closed.

2. The proof is based on the De Moivre identity :
 - (a) Let us prove that if F_λ is closed for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$ then the following (intersection) set is closed :

$$\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda := \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \forall \lambda \in \Lambda; x \in F_\lambda\}.$$

It follows directly from the De Moivre identity

$$\left(\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda \right)^c = \bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda^c$$

and the fact that F_λ^c are open sets (see assignment 3).

- (b) Let $n \geq 1$ an integer, and let $F_1, \dots, F_n \subset \mathbb{R}$. Let us prove that if F_1, \dots, F_n are closed sets then the following (finite union) set is closed :

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^n F_k := F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_n.$$

Similarly, it follows directly from the De Moivre identity

$$\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n F_k \right)^c = \bigcap_{k=1}^n F_k^c$$

and the fact that F_k^c are open sets (see assignment 3).

3. In this question, we have to show that a closed set contains the limits of its convergent sequences. Let $F \subset \mathbb{R}$ closed and $\{x_n\}$ a sequence of elements of F that converges to $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Let us show that $x \in F$. By contradiction, assume that $x \notin F$ then $x \in F^c$ which is an open set since F is closed. Then, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $(x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \subset F^c$. However, since $x_n \rightarrow x$ then for this $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\exists M \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n : n \geq M \implies |x_n - x| < \varepsilon,$$

then $x_M \in F$ and $|x_M - x| < \varepsilon$ implies $x_M \in (x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \subset F^c$ which gives a contradiction. The proof is finished.

4. **Exercise 2.2.3 in textbook :** By induction, we have to show that if $\{x_n\}$ is a convergent sequence, and $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} x_n^k = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} x_n \right)^k.$$

- (a) **base step :** for $k = 1$, the identity is evident.
 (b) **induction step :** Assume the assertion is true for a power k , i.e., if $x_n \rightarrow x$ then $x_n^k \rightarrow x^k$ and let us show that it is also true for the power $k + 1$. Let $x_n \rightarrow x$, and let us write (as in the proof of convergence of a product of convergent sequences)

$$x_n^{k+1} - x^{k+1} = (x_n^k - x^k) x_n + (x_n - x) x^k,$$

thus, since x_n is convergent then it is bounded, say $\exists B > 0$ such that $|x_n| \leq B$ for all n , and we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n^{k+1} - x^{k+1}| &\leq |x_n^k - x^k| |x_n| + |x_n - x| |x|^k, \\ &\leq |x_n^k - x^k| B + |x_n - x| |x|^k, \\ &\leq C (|x_n^k - x^k| + |x_n - x|), \end{aligned}$$

where $C = \max(B, |x|^k) > 0$. Since we have $x_n \rightarrow x$ and $x_n^k \rightarrow x^k$ then for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\exists M_1 \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n : n \geq M_1 \implies |x_n - x| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2C}, \text{ and } \exists M_k \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n : n \geq M_k \implies |x_n^k - x^k| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2C},$$

hence, let $M_{k+1} = \max(M_1, M_k) \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$\forall n : n \geq M_{k+1} \implies |x_n^{k+1} - x^{k+1}| < C \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2C} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2C} \right) = \varepsilon,$$

which implies that $x_n^{k+1} \rightarrow x^{k+1}$.

- (c) **conclusion step :** if $\{x_n\}$ is a convergent sequence, and $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} x_n^k = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} x_n \right)^k.$$

5. **Exercise 2.2.5 :** Let $x_n = \frac{n - \cos(n)}{n}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Using the squeeze theorem, let us show that $\{x_n\}$ converges and find the limit. We have, $-1 \leq \cos n \leq 1$,

$$1 - \frac{1}{n} \leq x_n = 1 - \frac{\cos(n)}{n} \leq 1 + \frac{1}{n}$$

and $(1 - 1/n) \rightarrow 1$ and $(1 + 1/n) \rightarrow 1$ then $x_n \rightarrow 1$.

6. The proof is direct by the hint and the squeeze theorem, since $a_0 - 1/n \rightarrow a_0$ and the constant sequence $\{a_0\}$ converges also to a_0 .
 7. Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ nonempty. We say $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is a **cluster** point of E if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, $(x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \cap E \setminus \{x\} \neq \emptyset$.
 (a) We shall prove that x is a cluster point of E if and only if there exists a sequence $\{x_n\}$ of elements of $E \setminus \{x\}$ such that $x_n \rightarrow x$.

- i. right implication \implies) : let $x \in \mathbb{R}$ a **cluster** point of E then by definition for every $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, put $\varepsilon = 1/n > 0$, there exists $x_n \neq x$, such that

$$x - \frac{1}{n} < x_n < x + \frac{1}{n},$$

thus, by the squeeze theorem, the sequence $\{x_n\}$ of element of $E \setminus \{x\}$ converges to x .

- ii. left implication \impliedby) : assume that there exists a sequence $\{x_n\}$ of elements of $E \setminus \{x\}$ such that $x_n \rightarrow x$, then for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\exists M \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n : n \geq M \implies |x_n - x| < \varepsilon,$$

hence there exists $x_M \in E \setminus \{x\}$ such that $|x_M - x| < \varepsilon$, which means that $x_M \in (x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon)$, thus $(x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \cap E \setminus \{x\} \neq \emptyset$, then x is a cluster point of E , which ends the proof.

- (b) Let A the set of all cluster points of E . Consider its complement A^c and let us show that it is open. For all $x \in A^c$, x is not a cluster point of E , then by definition,

$$\exists \varepsilon > 0 : (x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \cap E \setminus \{x\} = \emptyset,$$

which implies that

$$(x - \varepsilon, x) \cap E = \emptyset \text{ and } (x, x + \varepsilon) \cap E = \emptyset.$$

Let us show that for any $y \in (x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon)$, y is not a cluster point of E . In fact, we have :

- i. Case 1 : If $y = x$ then there is nothing to show since x is not a cluster point by assumption.
- ii. Case 2 : If $y \in (x - \varepsilon, x)$ then putting $\varepsilon' = \min(x - y, y - (x - \varepsilon)) > 0$, we obtain $(y - \varepsilon', y + \varepsilon') \cap E = \emptyset$ which gives also

$$(y - \varepsilon', y + \varepsilon') \cap E \setminus \{y\} = \emptyset,$$

and implies that y is not a cluster point of E .

- iii. Case 3 : If $y \in (x, x + \varepsilon)$ then putting $\varepsilon'' = \min(y - x, (x + \varepsilon) - y) > 0$, we obtain $(y - \varepsilon'', y + \varepsilon'') \cap E = \emptyset$ which gives also

$$(y - \varepsilon'', y + \varepsilon'') \cap E \setminus \{y\} = \emptyset,$$

and implies that y is not a cluster point of E .

Conclusion : $\exists \varepsilon > 0 : (x - \varepsilon, x + \varepsilon) \subset A^c$ which implies that A^c is open and therefore A is closed.