

MATH 355: NOTES

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1 THE REAL NUMBERS

1.2 Some Preliminaries.

Theorem (Triangle Inequality). *For all choices of a and b , $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$.*

Theorem. *Two real numbers a and b are equal if and only if for every real number $\epsilon > 0$ it follows that $|a - b| < \epsilon$.*

1.3 The Axiom of Completeness.

Axiom (Axiom of Completeness). *Every nonempty set of real numbers that is bounded above has a least upper bound.*

Definition. A set $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is *bounded above* if there exists a number $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $a \leq b$ for all $a \in A$. The number b is called an *upper bound* for A .

Similarly, the set A is *bounded below* if there exists a *lower bound* $l \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfying $l \leq a$ for every $a \in A$.

Definition. A real number s is the *least upper bound* for a set $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ if it meets the following two criteria:

- (i) s is an upper bound for A ;
- (ii) if b is any upper bound for A , then $s \leq b$.

The least upper bound is also frequently called the *supremum* of the set A . We write $s = \sup(A)$ for the least upper bound.

The *greatest lower bound* or *infimum* for A is defined in a similar way and is denoted by $\inf(A)$.

Theorem. *Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be bounded above and below. Then, the $\sup(A)$ and $\inf(A)$ are unique.*

Definition. A real number a_0 is a *maximum* of the set A if a_0 is an element of A and $a_0 \geq a$ for all $a \in A$. Similarly, a number a_1 is a *minimum* of A if $a_1 \in A$ and $a_1 \leq a$ for every $a \in A$.

Theorem. *Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be nonempty and bounded above.*

- (i) *Let $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and define the set $c + A$ by*

$$c + A = \{c + a : a \in A\}.$$

Then $\sup(c + A) = c + \sup(A)$.

- (ii) *Let $c \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c > 0$ and define the set cA by*

$$cA = \{ca : a \in A\}.$$

Then $\sup(cA) = c \sup(A)$.

Lemma. Assume $s \in \mathbb{R}$ is an upper bound for a set $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then, $s = \sup(A)$ if and only if, for every choice of $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an element $a \in A$ satisfying $s - \epsilon < a$.

1.4 Consequences of Completeness.

Theorem (Nested Interval Property). For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, assume we are given a closed interval $I_n = [a_n, b_n] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : a_n \leq x \leq b_n\}$. Assume also that each I_n contains I_{n+1} . Then, the resulting nested sequence of closed intervals

$$I_1 \supseteq I_2 \supseteq I_3 \supseteq I_4 \supseteq \cdots$$

has a nonempty intersection; that is, $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$.

Theorem (Archimedean Property). (i) Given any number $x \in \mathbb{R}$, there exists an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfying $n > x$.

(ii) Given any real number $y > 0$, there exists an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfying $1/n < y$.

Definition. A set X is dense in \mathbb{R} if for any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a < b$, $\exists x \in X$ with $a < x < b$.

Theorem (Density of \mathbb{Q} in \mathbb{R}). For every two real numbers a and b with $a < b$, there exists a rational number r satisfying $a < r < b$.

1.5 Cardinality.

Definition. A function $f : A \rightarrow B$ is 1-1 (injective) if for all $a_1, a_2 \in A$, $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$ implies that $a_1 = a_2$.

Definition. A function $f : A \rightarrow B$ is onto (surjective) if for all $b \in B$, there exists an $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$.

Definition. A function $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a bijection if it is both 1-1 and onto.

Definition. Two sets A and B have the same cardinality if there exists a bijection $f : A \rightarrow B$. In this case, we write $A \sim B$.

Definition. A set A is finite if there exists an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $A \sim \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Definition. A set A is countable if $A \sim \mathbb{N}$.

Definition. A set which is not finite nor countable is uncountable.

Theorem. (i) The set \mathbb{Q} is countable.

(ii) The set \mathbb{R} is uncountable.

Theorem. If $A \subseteq B$ is countable, then A is either countable or finite.

Theorem. (i) If A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m are each countable sets, then the union $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_m$ is countable.

(ii) If A_n is a countable set for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ is countable.

1.6 Cantor's Theorem.

Theorem. The open interval $(0, 1) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : 0 < x < 1\}$ is uncountable.

Definition. Given a set A , the power set $P(A)$ refers to the collection of all subsets of A .

Theorem (Cantor's Theorem). Given any set A , there does not exist a function $f : A \rightarrow P(A)$ that is onto.