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 $A \subseteq R$. 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 $f : A \to B$ 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 $f : A \to B$ is *onto (surjective)* if for all $b \in B$, there exists an $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$.

Definition. A function $f : A \to B$ 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 $f : A \to B$. In this case, we write $A \sim B$.

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

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 $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_m$ are each countable sets, then the union $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_m$ 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* $f : A \to P(A)$ *that is onto.*

2 Sequences and Series

2.2 The Limit of a Sequence.

Definition. A *sequence* is a function whose domain is $\mathbb{N}$.

Definition (Convergence of a Sequence)**.** A sequence (a_n) *converges* to a real number a if, for every positive number ϵ, there exists and $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that whenever $n \geq N$, it follows that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon$.

Definition. Given a real number $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and a positive number $\epsilon > 0$, the set

$$V_\epsilon(a) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : |x - a| < \epsilon\} = (a - \epsilon, a + \epsilon)$$

is called the *ϵ-neighborhood of a.*

Definition (Convergence of a Sequence: Topological Version)**.** A sequence (a_n) converges to a if, given any ϵ-neighborhood $V_\epsilon(a)$ of a, there exists a point in the sequence after which all of the terms are in $V_\epsilon(a)$. In other words, every ϵ-neighborhood contains all but a finite number of terms of (a_n).

Theorem (Uniqueness of Limits)**.** *The limit of a sequence, when it exists, must be unique.*

Definition. A sequence that does not converge is said to *diverge.*

2.3 The Algebraic and Order Limit Theorems.

Definition. A sequence (x_n) is *bounded* if there exists a number $M > 0$ such that $|x_n| \leq M$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Theorem. *Every convergent sequence is bounded.*

Theorem (Algebraic Limit Theorem)**.** *Let* $\lim a_n = a$ *and* $\lim b_n = b$*. Then,*

- *(i)* $\lim(ca_n) = ca$*, for all* $c \in \mathbb{R}$*;*
- *(ii)* $\lim(a_n + b_n) = a + b$*;*
- *(iii)* $\lim(a_n b_n) = ab$*;*
- *(iv)* $\lim(a_n/b_n) = a/b$*, provided* $b \neq 0$*.*

Theorem (Order Limit Theorem)**.** *Assume* $\lim a_n = a$ *and* $\lim b_n = b$*.*

- *(i) If* $a_n \geq 0$ *for all* $n \in \mathbb{N}$*, then* $a \geq 0$*.*
- *(ii) If* $a_n \leq b_n$ *for all* $n \in \mathbb{N}$*, then* $a \leq b$*.*
- *(iii) If there exists* $c \in \mathbb{R}$ *for which* $c \leq b_n$ *for all* $n \in \mathbb{N}$*, then* $c \leq b$*. Similarly, if* $a_n \leq c$ *for all* $n \in \mathbb{N}$*, then* $a \leq c$*.*

2.4 The Monotone Convergence Theorem and a First Look at Infinite Series.

Definition. A sequence (a_n) is *increasing* if $a_n \leq a_{n+1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and *decreasing* if $a_n \geq a_{n+1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. A sequence is *monotone* if it is either increasing or decreasing.

Theorem (Monotone Convergence Theorem)**.** *If a sequence is monotone and bounded, then it converges.*