

1. A sequence  $\{b_k\}$  is a *subsequence* of a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  if and only if there exists an increasing function  $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that  $b_k = a_{\varphi(k)}$  for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

A sequence  $a_n$  is said to be *monotonically increasing* (respectively, *monotonically decreasing*) if and only if  $a_n \leq a_{n+1}$  (respectively,  $a_{n+1} \leq a_n$ ) for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . A sequence is said to be *monotone* if and only if it is either monotonically increasing or monotonically decreasing.

Show that every sequence of real numbers has a monotone subsequence.

*Proof.* For every  $\{x_i\}$  subsequence of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\{x_i\}$  either has a largest element or not. That is, there exists some  $x_j$  such that  $x_j \geq x_i$  for all  $x_i$ , or there does not exist such  $x_j$ .

*Case I:* such a  $x_j$  does not exist.

Therefore the sequence is unbounded and finding a subsequence is trivial. Simply define

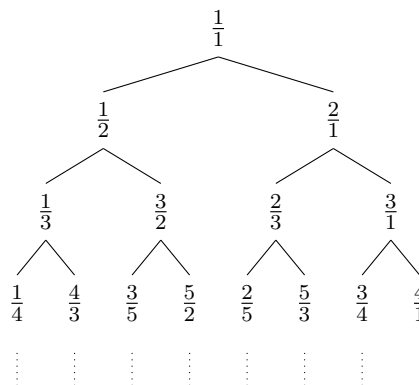
$$\varphi(i) = \begin{cases} x_i & x_i \geq x_j \text{ for all } j \leq i \\ x_{i-1} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We know this sequence will continue on forever, as  $\{x_i\}$  is unbounded above. Thus we can find a monotonically increasing subsequence.

*Case II:* such a  $x_j$  does exist.

Now our argument becomes somewhat recursive. Look at the entire sequence  $\{x_i\}$  such that  $i > j$ . That is, the entire sequence of  $\{x_i\}$  after  $x_j$ . Now we can repeat the same logic, either there is a maximum of the new sequence or there is not. If there exists no maximum, then by *Case I* we have a monotonically increasing subsequence. If there is a maximum we continue to repeat. If there is always a maximum, what we get is a sequence of maximums we denote  $\{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_j\}$ . However, we know that each maximum must be less than or equal to the previous by the definition of max. Therefore, this sequence of maximums is monotonically decreasing. Hence, we have found a monotonic subsequence of  $\{x_i\}$ , showing that a sequence of real numbers  $\{x_i\}$  will *always* have a monotone subsequence.  $\square$

2. The following tree (LaTeX forest!) is constructed inductively using the following rule. Begin with  $\frac{1}{1}$  at the first level. Suppose that the  $m$ -th level of the tree has been constructed with  $2^{m-1}$  nodes, and each node consists of a fraction of  $\frac{i}{j}$ . Then each of the  $2^{m-1}$  entries at the  $m$ -th level in the tree produces two children, a left child and a right child; the  $2^m$  nodes at the  $(m+1)$ -th level consist of these. For  $\frac{i}{j}$  at the  $m$ -th level of the tree, the left child is  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  and the right child is  $\frac{i+j}{j}$ .



Prove the following statements about the tree.

- (a) Every fraction  $\frac{m}{n}$  that appears in the tree is in lowest terms that is,  $(m, n) = 1$ . (Here,  $(m, n)$  denotes the *greatest common divisor* of  $m$  and  $n$ ).

*Proof.* We proceed by induction. First, we note that  $\frac{1}{1}$  is in lowest possible terms, as  $(1, 1) = 1$ . Now, we take our induction hypothesis to be that  $\frac{i}{j}$  is in lowest possible terms, and attempt to show that both  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  and  $\frac{i+j}{j}$  are also in lowest possible terms. First, we know that  $(i, j) = 1$ , this means that given some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} ix + jy &= 1 \\ ix + jy + (xj - xj) &= 1 \\ ix + xj + jy - xj &= 1 \\ (i + j)x + j(y - x) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $i + j$  and  $j$  are coprime, meaning that  $(i + j, j) = 1$ . Hence,  $\frac{i+j}{j}$  is in lowest terms. Additionally we can compute

$$\begin{aligned} ix + jy &= 1 \\ ix + jy + (yi - yi) &= 1 \\ ix - yj + jy + yi &= 1 \\ i(x - y) + (i + j)y &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Once again, we see similarly that  $i$  and  $i + j$  are coprime and that  $(i, i + j) = 1$ . Meaning also that  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  is in lowest terms.

By induction we can therefore conclude that every element of the tree will be in lowest terms.  $\square$

- (b) Every positive rational number appears somewhere in the tree.

*Proof.* Assume that there were such rational numbers that did not appear somewhere in the tree. If this were the case we pick  $q$  to be lowest denominator of any rational number that does not exist in the tree. We then pick  $p$  to be the small numerator of numbers which do not appear in the tree that have the denominator  $q$ . We then have a rational number,  $\frac{p}{q}$  which does not exist in the tree. Now, we know that if  $\frac{p}{q}$  does not exist in the tree, neither can its parent node, otherwise the parent nodes inclusion in the tree would imply that  $\frac{p}{q}$  is in the tree. We then have two cases,

*Case I:*  $\frac{p}{q}$  is a left child. Thus, by definition of the tree

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{p}{q-p} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \frac{p}{q} \quad \frac{q}{q-p} \end{array}$$

However, this poses a contradiction as  $\frac{p}{q-p}$  is then also not in the tree, but  $q - p < q$  and we defined  $q$  to be the lowest denominator of any rational number that did not exist on the tree. Therefore  $\frac{p}{q-p}$  must exist on the tree after all, implying that  $\frac{p}{q}$  exists in the tree as well.

*Case II:*  $\frac{p}{q}$  is a right child. Then,

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{p-q}{q} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \frac{p-q}{p} \quad \frac{p}{q} \end{array}$$

Once again, we find a contradiction as  $\frac{p-q}{q}$  must not be in the tree, but  $p-q < p$  and we defined  $p$  to be the lowest numerator of any rational number with denominator  $q$ . However,  $\frac{p-q}{q}$  also has denominator  $q$  and has a smaller numerator, thus  $\frac{p-q}{q}$  exists in the tree and so much  $\frac{p}{q}$ .  $\square$

(c) No rational number appears more than once in the tree.

*Proof.* We will proceed by induction. First we have our base case that  $\frac{1}{1}$  only appears in the tree once. This is because  $i+j > 1$  as  $i, j > 1$ . Now we take our induction hypothesis to be that  $\frac{i}{j}$  only appears in the tree once, and we need to show that  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  and  $\frac{i+j}{j}$  also only exist in the tree once. However, assume that  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  did appear in the tree more than once.

*Case I:*  $\frac{i+j}{j}$  is a left child.

Then its parent element,  $\frac{i}{j}$  would also appear in the tree more than once, but this violates our induction hypothesis, therefore  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  must only appear in the tree once. The same goes for  $\frac{i+j}{j}$

*Case II:*  $\frac{i+j}{j}$  is a right child. Then,

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{i+j}{-i} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \frac{i}{-i} \quad \frac{i+j}{j} \end{array}$$

However, this is also impossible as we are only dealing with the positive rational numbers, therefore  $\frac{i+j}{-i}$  cannot exist on the tree. Hence,  $\frac{i+j}{j}$  must only appear on the tree once.

Similarly, with  $\frac{i}{i+j}$ .

*Case I:*  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  is a left child.

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{-j}{i+j} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \frac{i}{i+j} \quad \frac{-j}{i} \end{array}$$

Once again, this is impossible as this tree contains only the positive rational numbers, therefore  $\frac{-j}{i+j}$  cannot be a node of the tree.

*Case II:*  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  is a right child.

Then,  $\frac{i}{j}$  is the parent node of  $\frac{i}{i+j}$ . However, if there are multiple occurrences of  $\frac{i}{i+j}$ , then it follows that there are multiple occurrences of  $\frac{i}{j}$ , but this violates our induction hypothesis, and is therefore a contradiction. As a result, we know that  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  must exist only once in the tree.

By this logic we have shown our inductive step that, given  $\frac{i}{j}$  appears only once on the tree, it follows that  $\frac{i+j}{j}$  and  $\frac{i}{i+j}$  also appear only once on the tree. We have thus shown that every rational number appears only once on the tree.  $\square$