

10. Give an example of a family of intervals  $A_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$ , such that  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  for all  $n$  and  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  consists of a single real number. Prove that your example has the stated property.

PROOF Consider the family of closed intervals:  $A_n = [0, 1/n]$  on the real line, where  $n \in \mathcal{N}$ . Then,  $A_1$  is the interval  $[0, 1]$ ,  $A_2$  is the interval  $[0, 1/2]$ , and so on.

- Therefore,  $A_{n+1}$  will be the interval  $[0, 1/(n+1)]$ .
- Clearly,  $A_2 \subset A_1, A_3 \subset A_2, \dots, A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  since all the elements in each of these intervals also belong to the preceding interval.
- As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , it is evident that the limit of  $1/n \rightarrow 0$ . Therefore, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the interval  $A_n$  approaches  $[0, 0]$ .
- We know that a closed interval,  $[a, b] = \{x | a \leq x \leq b\}$ . So,  $[0, 0] = \{x | 0 \leq x \leq 0\}$ , which is a set with a single real number:  $\{0\}$ .
- Therefore, it is clear that  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \{0\}$  (since 0 is the only element that belongs to all the sets).

Hence, the family of intervals  $A_n = [0, 1/n], n = 1, 2, \dots$ , satisfies the above property. This completes the proof. ■