

N. L. Carothers' Real Analysis - A partial solutions manual

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Part I

Metric Spaces

Chapter 1

Calculus Review

1.1 The Real Numbers

Exercise 1

If A is a nonempty subset of \mathbb{R} that is bounded below, show that A has a greatest lower bound. That is, show that there is a number $m \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfying: (i) m is a lower bound for A ; and (ii) if x is a lower bound for A , then $x \leq m$. [Hint: Consider the set $-A = \{-a : a \in A\}$ and show that $m = -\sup(-A)$ works.]

Solution.

As pointed out in the hint, let $m = \sup(-A)$. Let also $B = \{-a : a \in A\}$ and b be any element of B . Since A is non-empty, B is non-empty too. By the definition of B , $b = -a$ for some $a \in A$. Because A is bounded below, it holds that there exists l such that $l \leq a$. This means that $-l \geq -a \implies -l \geq b$. Therefore, $-l$ is an upper bound for B . By the completeness of real numbers, B has a supremum, m . For any $a \in A$, $-a \in B$, therefore $-a \leq m \implies a \geq -m$. This means that $-m$ is a lower bound for A . For any lower bound m' of A , it holds that $m' \leq a$ for all $a \in A$. This means that $-m' \geq -a$ for all $-a \in B$. But then $-m'$ is an upper bound for B , thus by the definition of the supremum, $-m' \geq m \implies m' \leq -m$. We have thus shown that $-m$ is the greatest lower bound of A .

Exercise 3

Establish the following apparently different (but “fancier”) characterization of the supremum. Let A be a non-empty set of \mathbb{R} that is bounded above. Prove that $s = \sup A$ if and only if (i) s is an upper bound for A , and (ii) for every $\epsilon > 0$ there is an $a \in A$ such that $a > s - \epsilon$. State and prove the corresponding result for the infimum of a non-empty subset of \mathbb{R} that is bounded below.

Solution.

\implies : Suppose first that s is the supremum of A . By the definition of the supremum, s is indeed an upper bound for A . Suppose now that there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for every $a \in A$ it is the case that $a \leq s - \epsilon$. Observe that this means that $s - \epsilon$ is an upper bound for A , while it also holds that $s - \epsilon < s$. But this contradicts the definition of s being the supremum of A .

We have arrived at a contradiction, and thus the negation of the assumed statement must hold. Namely, it must be the case that for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $a \in A$ such that $a > s - \epsilon$.

\impliedby : Suppose now that s is an upper bound for A and that for every $\epsilon > 0$ there is an $a \in A$ such that $a > s - \epsilon$. Suppose that s is not the supremum of A . By the completeness of the real numbers, A must have a supremum t . Because s is an upper bound for A , it must hold that $t < s$. Set $\epsilon = s - t > 0$. By the definition of s , there exists $a \in A$ such that $a > s - \epsilon = s - (s - t) = t$. This contradicts the fact that t is an upper bound for A . Therefore, s must be the supremum of A .

The corresponding result for the infimum is that a number s is the infimum of $A \subset \mathbb{R}$, with A non-empty and bounded below, if and only if (i) s is a lower bound for A and (ii) for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $a \in A$ such that $a < s + \epsilon$. To prove this, we have that:

\implies : Suppose s is the infimum of A . Then s is a lower bound for A . Suppose that there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for every $a \in A, a \geq s + \epsilon$. But then $s + \epsilon > s$ is a lower bound for A , contradiction. The negation of our assumption leads to the desired property for s .

\impliedby : Now suppose s is a lower bound for A and for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $a \in A$ such that $a < s + \epsilon$. Suppose s is not the infimum of A , and t is instead. Because s is a lower bound, $s < t$. Set $\epsilon = t - s$. Then there exists $a \in A$ such that $a < s + \epsilon = s + (t - s) = t$. But this contradicts the fact that t is a lower bound for A .

Note that this second proof can also be done by relating the infimum of A to the supremum of $-A$, but since we have not yet proved this (exercise 1) we do not use it here.

Exercise 4

Let A be a nonempty subset of \mathbb{R} that is bounded above. Show that there is a sequence of elements x_n of A that converges to $\sup A$.

Solution.

Recall from exercise 3 that if $s = \sup A$, it holds that for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $a \in A$ such that $a > s - \epsilon$. Consider then the sequence that is formed by taking x_i be an element of A for which it holds that $x_i > s - \frac{1}{i}$. For any $\epsilon > 0$, take $M = \lceil \frac{1}{\epsilon} \rceil$. It then holds that $\frac{1}{M} \leq \epsilon$. Additionally, it is true by the definition of the sequence that $x_M > s - \lceil \frac{1}{M} \rceil \geq s - \epsilon \implies \epsilon > s - x_M$. Also, by the definition of the supremum, $s - x_M \geq 0$, thus $|s - x_M| < \epsilon$. Now, for any $j > M$ we have that $x_j > s - \frac{1}{j} \implies \frac{1}{j} > s - x_j$. By the definition of the supremum, $s - x_j \geq 0$, thus $|s - x_j| < \frac{1}{j} < \frac{1}{M} \leq \epsilon$.

We have thus precisely proved that the limit of the sequence x_i is the supremum s of A .

Exercise 5

Suppose that $a_n \leq b$ for all n and that $a = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ exists. Show that $a \leq b$. Conclude that $a \leq \sup\{a_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Solution.

Suppose that $a > b$, which means that $a - b > 0$. Set $\epsilon = a - b$. By the definition of the limit of a sequence, there exists $M > 0$ such that for all $n > M$, it holds that:

$$|a - a_n| < \epsilon \implies -\epsilon < a - a_n < \epsilon \implies a < a_n + \epsilon$$

It is the case that $a_n \leq b$ for all n , thus $a < b + \epsilon = b + (a - b) \implies a < a$, which is clearly a contradiction. Therefore $a \leq b$. Now because $s = \sup\{a_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is by definition a number for which $a_n \leq s$ for all n , the previous result applies, and thus $a \leq s = \sup\{a_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Exercise 6

Prove that every convergent sequence of real numbers is bounded. Moreover, if a_n is convergent, show that $\inf a_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \leq \sup a_n$.

Solution.

Suppose a_n is a convergent sequence of real numbers, and suppose that it converges to $a \in \mathbb{R}$. By definition, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $M > 0$ such that for every $n > M$ it holds that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon \implies a_n < a + \epsilon$. Pick any such ϵ , e.g. $\epsilon = 1$. We can thus see that there exist at most M elements of the sequence, chosen from a_1, a_2, \dots, a_M such that $a_i \geq a + \epsilon$. Let then S be the —possibly empty— set of all such a_i . We can then see that the set $S \cup \{a + \epsilon\}$ has a finite number of elements. Thus its maximum element s is well defined. Observe then that $s \geq a_n$ for all elements of the sequence. Now recall from exercise 5 that the limit of the sequence is indeed at most equal to its supremum (which we showed is well defined, since at least one upper bound exists).

Again by the definition of the limit, for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $M > 0$ such that for $n > M$ it holds that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon \implies -\epsilon < a_n - a \implies a + \epsilon < a_n$. Observe that we can thus apply a completely symmetric argument: pick, say, $\epsilon = 1$ and then there are at most M elements such that $a_n \leq a - \epsilon$. By constructing S from these elements in the same way as above, the rest of the proof becomes completely symmetric, as is the part regarding $\inf a_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$.

Exercise 8

Given $a < b$, show that there are, in fact, infinitely many distinct rationals between a and b . The same goes for irrationals too.

Solution.

Suppose that there are only a finite number of distinct rationals between a and b , and call them q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n , listed in ascending order. This means $a < q_1 < q_2 < \dots < q_n < b$. But then we have that q_n, b are real numbers with $q_n < b$, and therefore there has to exist a rational number q such that $q_n < q < b$. But this is a contradiction, because $q \neq q_i$ for all i and $a < q < b$. Therefore there exists an infinite number of distinct rationals between a and b .

Now suppose that there is only a finite number of irrationals r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n between a, b , listed in ascending order. However, in exercise 7 we've seen that if $a < b$, there exists an irrational x such that $a < x < b$. This means that in our case there exists an irrational r such that $r_n < r < b$. Clearly, this is a contradiction since $r_i \neq r$ for all i . Therefore there exist infinitely many distinct irrationals between a, b .

Exercise 13

Let $a_n \geq 0$ for all n , and let $s_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$. Show that (s_n) converges if and only if (s_n) is bounded.

Solution.

\Rightarrow : Assume that (s_n) converges to s . Then recall from exercise 6 that every convergent sequence is bounded, thus s_n is indeed bounded.

\Leftarrow : Suppose (s_n) is bounded. Because $a_n \geq 0$, the sequence of partial sums s_n increases monotonically. We know then that a monotone, bounded sequence always converges, thus (s_n) converges.

Exercise 14

Prove that a convergent sequence is Cauchy, and that any Cauchy sequence is bounded.

Solution.

A sequence of real numbers is Cauchy if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there is an integer $N \geq 1$ such that $|x_n - x_m| < \epsilon$ whenever $n, m \geq N$.

Let then a_n be a convergent sequence that converges to a , and select any $\epsilon > 0$. Then, by the definition of convergence, for $\epsilon' = \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ there exists $N > 0$ such that for all $n > N$ it holds that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon'$. Therefore, for any two $n, m > N$, it holds that:

$$|x_n - x_m| = |x_n - a + a - x_m| \leq |x_n - a| + |x_m - a| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon$$

, which is the defining property of Cauchy sequences. Now let a_n be any Cauchy sequence. Suppose that a_n is not bounded. Because a_n is Cauchy, it must hold that for $\epsilon = 1$, there exists $N \geq 1$ such that for all $n, m > N$ it holds that $|a_n - a_m| < 1$. Let then a_k be the first element of the sequence for which this inequality holds when setting $n = k$ and m any other index $m > k$. This means that for any $m > k$, $|a_m - a_k| < 1$. In particular, this means that a_m can never be larger than $a_k + 1$, therefore for all elements of the sequence after that point, $a_k + 1$ is an upper bound. Then, because k is finite, $m = \max\{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ is well defined. If we then set $s = \max\{m, a_k + 1\}$, we see that s constitutes an upper bound for the entire sequence.

A symmetric argument can be applied to extract a lower bound for the sequence, thus any Cauchy sequence is bounded.

Exercise 15

Show that a Cauchy sequence with a convergent subsequence actually converges.

Solution.

Let a_n be a Cauchy sequence and $b_n = a_{f(n)}$ such that $f(j) > f(k)$ whenever $j > k$ be a convergent subsequence of it that converges to b . Pick any $\epsilon > 0$. Now it must be the case that there exists $N > 0$ such that whenever $n > N$, $|b_n - b| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$. Now because a_n is Cauchy, there exists $M > 0$ such that whenever $n, m > 0$, $|a_n - a_m| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$. Set $K = \max\{N, M\}$ and observe then that for any $n > K$, it holds that:

$$|a_n - b| < |a_n - b_{K+1} + b_{K+1} - b| \leq |a_n - b_{K+1}| + |b_{K+1} - b| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon$$

, where in the last step we used the fact that a_n is Cauchy (and b_{K+1} is of course an element of it) for the first term and that b_n converges to b for the second term. We have thus shown that a_n converges, and more specifically it converges to the limit of its convergent subsequence.

Exercise 17

Given real numbers a and b establish the following formulas: $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$, $||a| - |b|| \leq |a - b|$, $\max\{a, b\} = \frac{1}{2}(a + b + |a - b|)$, $\min\{a, b\} = \frac{1}{2}(a + b - |a - b|)$

Solution.

- $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$: one way to do this is to observe that \mathbb{R} is a vector space over the field \mathbb{R} for which standard multiplication satisfies the properties of being an inner product. Thus we can use Axler's result of the triangle inequality for inner product spaces, whose proof does not assume that the triangle inequality holds for real numbers. Another way is to do a variant of this proof "manually":

$$\begin{aligned} (a + b)^2 &= a^2 + b^2 + 2ab \leq |a|^2 + |b|^2 + 2|a| \cdot |b| = (|a| + |b|)^2 \\ \implies |a + b| &\leq |a| + |b| \end{aligned}$$

, where we used some properties of the absolute value which easily follow from its definition ($|a|^2 = |a|^2$, $x \leq |x|$), and we took square roots at the last step, observing that $|a| + |b|$ is always non-negative.

- $||a| - |b|| \leq |a - b|$: Quite similar to the above, we have that:

$$(|a| - |b|)^2 = |a|^2 + |b|^2 - 2|a| \cdot |b| \leq |a|^2 + |b|^2 - 2ab = (a - b)^2 \implies ||a| - |b|| \leq |a - b|$$

, where when taking square roots the absolute values are now necessary.

- $\max\{a, b\} = \frac{1}{2}(a + b + |a - b|)$: It is either the case that $a \geq b$ or that $a \leq b$ (here we are using the fact that \mathbb{R} is a totally ordered set). In the first case, we have that $\max\{a, b\} = a$ and also that $|a - b| = a - b$, which means $\frac{1}{2}(a + b + |a - b|) = \frac{1}{2}(a + b + a - b) = a = \max\{a, b\}$. The second case is almost exactly the same, except for $|a - b|$ evaluating to $b - a$.
- $\min\{a, b\} = \frac{1}{2}(a + b - |a - b|)$: This is done in the same manner as above, again by utilizing the fact that for any two a, b , it either holds that $a \leq b$ or that $a \geq b$.

Exercise 18

- Given $a > -1$, $a \neq 0$, use induction to show that $(1 + a)^n > 1 + na$ for any integer $n > 1$.
- Use (a) to show that, for any $x > 0$, the sequence $(1 + \frac{x}{n})^n$ increases.
- If $a > 0$, show that $(1 + a)^r > 1 + ra$ holds for any *rational* exponent $r > 1$.
[Hint: If $r = \frac{p}{q}$, then apply (a) with $n = q$ and (b) with $x = ap$.]
- Finally, show that (c) holds for any *real* exponent $r > 1$.

Solution.

- The base case of the induction is $n = 2$. We then have that:

$$(1 + a)^2 = 1 + 2a + a^2 > 1 + 2a$$

, since a is not zero, meaning that $a^2 > 0$. Suppose now that the inequality holds for $n = k > 1$. Then we have that:

$$(1 + a)^{k+1} = (1 + a)(1 + a)^k > (1 + a)(1 + ka) = 1 + ka + a + ka^2 = 1 + (k + 1)a + ka^2 > 1 + (k + 1)a$$

, where, crucially, we used the fact that $a > -1$, thus that $a + 1 > 0$, thus that we can multiply the inequality for $n = k$ with $(1 + a)$. In the last step we again use the fact that $a \neq 0$, thus that $ka^2 > 0$.

(b) We'll work through this the same way as the book's examples, i.e., compute the ratio between two successive terms of the sequence:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(1 + \frac{x}{n+1})^{n+1}}{(1 + \frac{x}{n})^n} &= \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \frac{(1 + \frac{x}{n+1})^{n+1}}{(1 + \frac{x}{n})^{n+1}} = \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \left(\frac{\frac{n+1+x}{n+1}}{\frac{n+x}{n}}\right)^{n+1} \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \left(\frac{n^2 + n + nx}{n^2 + x + n + nx}\right)^{n+1} = \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x}{n^2 + x + n + nx}\right)^{n+1} = \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x}{(x+n)(n+1)}\right)^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

Now, for any $x > 0$ and n positive integer we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} xn + n^2 + n > 0 &\implies xn + n^2 + n + x > x \implies (x+n)(n+1) > x \implies -(x+n)(n+1) < -x \\ &\implies -1 < -\frac{x}{(x+n)(n+1)} \end{aligned}$$

Also, $x > 0$ thus this quantity is never zero. Therefore, using it as an a in the Bernoulli inequality (part (a)) we can obtain that:

$$\frac{(1 + \frac{x}{n+1})^{n+1}}{(1 + \frac{x}{n})^n} > \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \left(1 - (n+1) \frac{x}{(x+n)(n+1)}\right) = \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x}{x+n}\right) = \frac{x+n}{n} \cdot \frac{n}{x+n} = 1$$

, which means that the sequence $(1 + \frac{x}{n})$ does indeed increase.

(c) Consider any rational $r > 1$. r can be written as $\frac{p}{q}$, where p, q are positive integers, and in fact $p > q$. Setting $x = ap$ (for this part, $a > 0$) and observing that $p > q$, from part (b) we have that:

$$\left(1 + \frac{ap}{q}\right)^q < \left(1 + \frac{ap}{p}\right)^p \implies \left(1 + \frac{ap}{q}\right)^q < (1+a)^p$$

For $a > 0$, both quantities inside the parentheses are positive, and thus we can take q -th roots and obtain:

$$\left(1 + \frac{ap}{q}\right) < (1+a)^{\frac{p}{q}}$$

, which, since $r = \frac{p}{q}$, is the equivalent of the Bernoulli inequality for a rational exponent $r > 1$ and $a > 0$.

(d) We know that we can approach any real number $r > 1$ with a sequence of rationals. Furthermore, the Bernoulli inequality will hold for all of those rationals that are larger than 1, so as we approach $r > 1$, the Bernoulli inequality will hold. Now, at the limit, this strict inequality holds as a non-strict inequality, thus we can conclude that:

$$(1+a)^r \geq 1+ra$$

Now pick a rational q such that $1 < q < r$ (such a rational always exists). Observe that:

$$(1+a)^r = (1+a)^{\frac{rq}{q}} = ((1+a)^q)^{\frac{r}{q}} > (1+qa)^{\frac{r}{q}}$$

, where we applied the Bernoulli inequality for q . Now, however, $\frac{r}{q}$ is a real number greater than 1, and hence we can use our non-strict inequality above to arrive at the desired result:

$$(1+a)^r > (1+qa)^{\frac{r}{q}} \geq 1 + q^{\frac{r}{q}} a = 1 + ra \implies (1+a)^r > 1+ra$$

Exercise 21

Let $p \geq 2$ be a fixed integer, and let $0 < x < 1$. If x has a finite-length base p decimal expansion, that is, if $x = a_1/p + \dots + a_n/p^n$ with $a_n \neq 0$, prove that x has precisely two base p decimal expansions. Otherwise, show that the base p decimal expansion for x is unique. Characterize the numbers $0 < x < 1$ that have repeating base p decimal expansions. How about eventually repeating?

Solution.

We consider first the decimal expansion $0.a_1a_2\dots a_n00\dots$, with an infinite number of trailing zeros after the n -th decimal, and call the i -th decimal here b_i . As per the book's definition, this corresponds to an infinite series defined as $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} b_i/p^i$. It's clear that the limit of this sum is x , since x is precisely the sum of the first n terms, and all of the terms after n are zero. Therefore, the expansion above indeed corresponds to x .

Now consider the decimal expansion corresponding to the series $\frac{a_1}{p} + \frac{a_2}{p^2} + \dots + \frac{a_{n-1}}{p^{n-1}} + \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{p-1}{p^k}$. This would yield a series of decimals the first n of which would equal $a_1, \dots, a_n - 1$ (note that because $a_n \neq 0$, $a_n - 1$ causes no problems), while all decimals after that would equal $p - 1$ (call the sequence of digits c_i). If we consider the limit of this series, we can see that the last term is a series summing to $\frac{1}{p^n}$, and that the first n terms sum to $x - \frac{1}{p^n}$. Thus, the series as a whole tends to x , which means that it *is* a decimal expansion for x .

We now have to show that there is no other decimal expansion for x . We will do this by selecting a decimal expansion $0.b_1b_2\dots b_nb_{n+1}\dots$ that is not equal to $0.a_1a_2\dots a_n00\dots$ and show that it must necessarily equal $0.a_1a_2\dots(a_n-1)(p-1)(p-1)\dots$. Let us then examine such a decimal expansion. Since it differs from $0.a_1a_2\dots a_n00\dots$, there must exist a first j such that $a_j \neq b_j$. Because both decimal expansions correspond to x , for the two series it must hold that:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{a_i}{p^i} + \sum_{i=j}^{\infty} \frac{a_i}{p^i} = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{b_i}{p^i} + \sum_{i=j}^{\infty} \frac{b_i}{p^i} \implies \frac{a_j}{p^j} + \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{a_i}{p^i} = \frac{b_j}{p^j} + \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{b_i}{p^i}$$

, where we have erased from both sides the first $j - 1$ digits that are equal (note that the set of these may be empty). Because we are manipulating convergent series, we can write:

$$\frac{a_j - b_j}{p^j} = \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{b_i - a_i}{p^i} = \sum_{i=j+1}^n \frac{b_i - a_i}{p^i} + \sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{b_i}{p^i}$$

, where we noted that after the n -th digit, all a_i are zero. Now, note that if $b_j > a_j$, the LHS here equals at most $-\frac{1}{p^j}$. At the same time, the RHS equals at least 0, which happens when $b_i = 0, i \geq n + 1$ and all $b_i - a_i = 0, j + 1 \leq i \leq n$. Clearly then, they can never be equal. On the other hand, if $b_j < a_j$ the LHS equals at least $\frac{1}{p^j}$. The RHS equals at most $\sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{p-1}{p^i} = \frac{1}{p^j}$, and, crucially, this happens if all $b_i = p - 1, i \geq n + 1, b_i - a_i = p - 1, j + 1 \leq i \leq n$. Because the value is achieved when all of the digits fulfill these conditions, the RHS will be strictly smaller than the LHS in all other cases. The consequence of this is that all b_i starting at $i = n + 1$ are equal to $p - 1$. Additionally, all $a_i, j + 1 \leq i \leq n$ have to be zero. But because $a_n \neq 0$, it must hold that $j + 1 > n$. That is, the first digit where the two expansions differ must be at least at position n . If this was strictly larger than n , the LHS would not achieve its minimum value (a_j would be 0 and b_j would be $p - 1$), thus it could not equal the RHS, contradiction. Thus $j = n$. By these observations, the only digit for which we have not yet determined a value is at position n . Recall that $a_j - b_j$ must equal 1, which means that $b_j = a_j - 1$. In other words, $b_n = a_n - 1$, all $b_i = a_i, i < n$ and all $b_i = p - 1, i > n$, leading us to conclude that there exists no third possible representation.

Now we proceed to examine an x with no finite-length base p decimal expansion. Let $a_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$ be one of its expansions, which is necessarily infinite in length. We will show that this is unique by taking another expansion b_i and showing that it must equal a_i at all digits. Indeed, suppose that they differ, and that the first digit at which this happens is at position j . As we did above, we can write:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{a_i}{p^i} + \sum_{i=j}^{\infty} \frac{a_i}{p^i} = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{b_i}{p^i} + \sum_{i=j}^{\infty} \frac{b_i}{p^i} \implies \frac{a_j}{p^j} + \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{a_i}{p^i} = \frac{b_j}{p^j} + \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{b_i}{p^i}$$

, and, again because the series converge, we can rewrite this as:

$$\frac{a_j - b_j}{p^j} = \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{b_i - a_i}{p^i}$$

If $b_j > a_j$ we again observe that the LHS equals at most $-\frac{1}{p^j}$. The RHS equals at least $\sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{-(p-1)}{p^i} = -\frac{1}{p^j}$, which happens if all $b_i - a_i = -(p-1), i > j$. This cannot otherwise be true because this minimum value is achieved when all $b_i - a_i$ are minimized. The consequence is each $b_i = 0, a_i = p-1, i > j$. However, this implies that x can then be written as $0.b_1b_2\dots b_j00\dots$, which is a finite-length expansion since all trailing digits after j are zeros. This is a contradiction. An exactly symmetrical argument applies when $b_j < a_j$, leading us to conclude that $b_j = a_j$ for *all* j , thus a_i is a unique expansion for x .

Now we examine $0 < x < 1$ that have an eventually repeating base p decimal expansion. This means that there exists a finite-length “unique” first part of the number, consisting of m digits, as well as a minimum “period” of repetition n (this can also be zero, in which case the part below does not apply but the number is trivially rational), such that the number can be written as:

$$0.a_1a_2\dots a_ma_{m+1}a_{m+2}a_{m+3}\dots a_{m+n}a_{m+1}\dots a_{m+n}\dots$$

, where we have defined n as the minimum integer for which this holds. Then observe that we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= (a_1a_2\dots a_m)p^{-m} + (a_{m+1}a_{m+2}\dots a_{m+n})p^{-m-n} + (a_{m+1}a_{m+2}\dots a_{m+n})p^{-m-2n} \\ &\quad + (a_{m+1}a_{m+2}\dots a_{m+n})p^{-m-3n} + \dots \\ &= \frac{a_1a_2\dots a_m}{p^m} + (a_{m+1}a_{m+2}\dots a_{m+n})\left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} p^{-m-in}\right) = \\ &\quad \frac{a_1a_2\dots a_m}{p^m} + \frac{a_{m+1}a_{m+2}\dots a_{m+n}}{p^m(p^n - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

, which is a sum of two quotients of integers, and therefore is a rational number. Note that for the case of repeating expansions everything above simplifies to $m = 0$. Now we need to examine whether *every* rational number can be written in this way, in other words, whether every rational number has an eventually repeating (which includes the trivially “eventually repeating” finite-length digit sequences) base p decimal expansion.

Recall that a rational number can be written as the quotient of two integers. Furthermore, because we are interested in numbers in $[0, 1]$, we can restrict ourselves to $x = \frac{a}{b}$ where a, b natural, non-zero numbers with $a < b$. We now recall that for finding a base p decimal expansion for x we can use the division algorithm iteratively. Namely, we first find the smallest power p_1^n such that $ap_1^n \geq b$, and then we use the division algorithm on ap_1^n, b . According to it, there will exist unique $q_1, r_1, 0 \leq r_1 < b \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $ap_1^{n_1} = bq_1 + r_1$. Notice that this implies that $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{q_1}{p_1^{n_1}} + \frac{r_1}{bp_1^{n_1}}$. The first $n_1 - 1$ digits of the decimal expansion of x will be zeros, since for all powers $p^k, k < n$ it has to be that $ap^k < b \implies x < \frac{1}{p^k}$. Now notice that $q_1 \leq \frac{ap_1^{n_1}}{b} < p$ because $ap_1^{n_1-1} < b$ due to the choice of n_1 . Therefore q_1 can be thought of as the n_1 -th digit in the decimal expansion of x . If $r_1 = 0$, the decimal expansion is finished, and finite in length. Otherwise, we can apply the same procedure to $r_1, bp_1^{n_1}$ to obtain that $r_1p_1^{n_2} = bp_1^{n_1}q_2 + r_2$, where n_2 has been chosen in the same manner as above, and signifies that the next $n_2 - 1$ digits of x will be zero, while the n_2 -th will be q_2 . Now we observe that if at any point r_k becomes zero, the expansion is finite in length. Otherwise, we record this sequence of remainders. Each of them is in the range $(0, b)$. Therefore, after at most $b - 1$ steps we will encounter a remainder that has been encountered before. The consequence is that after this point, the sequence of digits is fully known, because we are always performing a division with b . Therefore, from that point on the decimal expansion will indeed be infinitely repeating, thus completing the proof.

Exercise 23

If a_n is convergent, show that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$.

Solution.

We begin by showing $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$. Let L be the limit of a_n . By definition, $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \sup_{n \geq 1} \{\inf\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}$. Suppose first that this supremum did not exist, i.e. that it “equals infinity”. Then for every $M > 0$ there must exist $N > 0$ such that $\inf\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\} > M$. But this in turn would mean that a_n is not bounded and yet converges to L , a contradiction. Now suppose that the supremum

equals $L + \epsilon, \epsilon > 0$. Then $L + \epsilon', \epsilon' < \epsilon$ cannot constitute an upper bound for the infimums. Thus there exists $N > 0$ such that $\inf\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\} > L + \epsilon'$, which means that for $n \geq N, a_n > L + \epsilon'$. This is a clear contradiction of the definition of limit, since a_n cannot get more than ϵ' -close to L . Therefore, the \liminf of a_n is at most L .

Now, by the definition of the limit, for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $N > 0$ such that for $n > N, |a_n - L| < \epsilon \implies a_n > L - \epsilon$. Notice that this means that $\inf\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\} \geq L - \epsilon$, which in turn means that the \liminf of a_n , as an upper bound for these infimums, must equal at least $L - \epsilon$ for any $\epsilon > 0$. At the same time, it equals at most L . The only possibility then is that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$, which is what we are asked to prove.

The argument for showing that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ is exactly symmetrical.

Exercise 24

Show that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-a_n) = -\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$.

Solution.

We begin by the definition of \limsup :

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-a_n) = \inf_{n \geq 1} \{\sup\{-a_n, -a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}$$

We recall from exercise 1 that if $-A = \{-a, a \in A\}$ for some set A , then $\inf A = -\sup(-A)$. This means that for any of the sets $\{-a_n, -a_{n+1}, \dots\}$ it holds that $\sup\{-a_n, -a_{n+1}, \dots\} = -\inf\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}$. Thus:

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-a_n) = \inf_{n \geq 1} \{-\inf\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}$$

Now observe that the “outer” infimum here is taken over the set $\{-\inf\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}, -\inf\{a_2, a_3, \dots\}, \dots\}$. If we now set $A = \{-\inf\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}, -\inf\{a_2, a_3, \dots\}, \dots\}$, then $-A = \{\inf\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}, \inf\{a_2, a_3, \dots\}, \dots\}$. Therefore we can again apply the result of exercise 1 to get that:

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-a_n) = \inf A = -\sup(-A) = -\sup\{\inf\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}, \inf\{a_2, a_3, \dots\}, \dots\} = -\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$$

Exercise 25

If $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = -\infty$, show that a_n diverges to $-\infty$. If $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = +\infty$, show that a_n has a *subsequence* that diverges to $+\infty$. What happens if $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \pm\infty$?

Solution.

We have that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \inf_{n \geq 1} \{\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}$. If this “equals negative infinity”, this means that the set over which the infimum is computed is not bounded below. In other words, for any $M < 0$, we can find $n \geq 1$ such that $\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\} < M$. If the least upper bound of such a set is less than M , then clearly all elements of the set must also be less than M . This means that given an $M < 0$ we can always find an n such that $a_k < M$ for all $k > n$, by appropriately picking the set as above. This means precisely that a_n diverges to $-\infty$.

Now let us examine what happens if \limsup “equals positive infinity”. This means that the set over which the infimum is computed is empty. To see why this is the case, suppose that it was not. Then either it has an lower bound or it does not (law of excluded middle). In the first case, the (corollary of the) Least Upper Bound axiom tells us that the infimum would have to equal some real number. In the second case, by definition we would write that the infimum equals $-\infty$. The only case left is thus for the set to be empty, and in this case we have defined (page 3-4 for the supremum, symmetric for the infimum) that $\inf \emptyset = +\infty$, since every real number is a lower bound for the empty set. For the set to be empty, it must be the case that *all* $\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}$, i.e. for every n , are $+\infty$. This means that all of these sets are unbounded, i.e. that for every n , it is the case that $\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}$ contains, for every $M > 0$, an element a_{n_k} such that $a_{n_k} > M$.

Form then a subsequence b_j of a_n in the following way. Select b_1 to be the first element of $\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ such that $b_1 > 1$, which is guaranteed to exist. Then select b_2 to be the first element of $\{a_2, a_3, \dots\}$ such

that $b_2 > 2, b_2 \neq b_1$. This is also guaranteed to exist, because if it did not, then all elements of a_n after b_1 would be at most 2, which would mean that after that point a_n is bounded and then at least one of the suprema above would be a real number, in which the set over which \limsup is computed would not be empty, a contradiction. Continue this way to pick any b_j to never equal any of the previously selected elements, and then observe that this is a subsequence of a_n that indeed diverges to $+\infty$. For \liminf the cases are symmetrical.

Exercise 26

Prove the characterization of \limsup given above. That is, given a bounded sequence (a_n) , show that the number $M = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ satisfies (*) (page 12) and, conversely, that any number M satisfying (*) must equal $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$. State and prove the corresponding result for $m = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$.

Solution.

Suppose M is the limit supremum of a bounded sequence (a_n) . This means that:

$$M = \inf_{n \geq 1} \{\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}$$

Now, pick any $\epsilon > 0$. Recall from exercise 3 that there must exist an element s of the set of suprema such that $s < M + \epsilon$. This means that there must exist N such that $s = \sup\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\} < M + \epsilon$. Now, by the definition of supremum, this means that for all $a_n, n \geq N$ it must hold that $a_n < M + \epsilon$. These are clearly infinitely many elements of the sequence, and thus the inequality stated here *may* not be true only for *finitely* many elements (up to and not including a_N).

Furthermore, suppose that $M - \epsilon < a_n$ is true for finitely many elements of the sequence, and call N' the largest integer for which $M - \epsilon < a_{N'}$ (well defined due to the set containing finitely many elements). Then for all $n > N'$ it must hold that $M - \epsilon \geq a_n$, which means that $M - \epsilon < M$ constitutes an upper bound for all subsequences $a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots, n > N'$, and thus $\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\} \leq M - \epsilon$. But by the definition of \limsup , M is the infimum of the set of suprema, yet is larger than any $\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}, n > N'$, a contradiction. Therefore $M - \epsilon < a_n$ has to hold for infinitely many n .

In the other direction, suppose M satisfies (*). We need to show that $M = \inf_{n \geq 1} \{\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}$. Suppose first that M is greater than the \limsup . By the definition of infimum, M cannot then constitute a lower bound for the set of suprema. Therefore there exists $N > 0$ such that $\sup\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\} < M$. Set then $\epsilon = M - \sup\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\}$, in which case by (*) there must exist infinitely many n such that $M - \epsilon < a_n \implies \sup\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\} < a_n$. But because n are infinitely many, some of them are greater than N , and thus this inequality contradicts the definition of supremum for the subsequence starting at N .

Now suppose M is smaller than the \limsup , in which case $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n > M$. Then $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n - M = \epsilon > 0$. This furthermore means that there exists $\epsilon' > 0, \epsilon' < \epsilon$. Now, there must exist infinite n such that $a_n < M + \epsilon' < M + \epsilon = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$. Observe that this means the following. First, that for some $N > 0$, for all $n \geq N, M + \epsilon'$ constitutes an upper bound for all a_n , i.e. $M + \epsilon' \geq \sup\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\}$. Second, that $M + \epsilon' < \inf_{n \geq 1} \{\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}$, which means that more specifically $M + \epsilon' < \sup\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\}$. We have arrived at a contradiction. Therefore M cannot be smaller than the \limsup , leading us to conclude that these must in fact be equal.

For \liminf , the corresponding result is as follows. m equals $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ if and only if for every $\epsilon > 0, a_n < m + \epsilon$ for infinitely many n and $a_n > m - \epsilon$ for all but finitely many n . The proof would use symmetrical arguments.

Exercise 27

Prove that every sequence of real numbers (a_n) has a subsequence (a_{n_k}) that converges to

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$$

[Hint: If $M = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \pm\infty$, we must interpret the conclusion loosely; this case is handled in exercise 25. If $M \neq \pm\infty$, use (*) to choose (a_{n_k}) satisfying $|a_{n_k} - M| < 1/k$, for example. There is also a subsequence that converges to $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$. Why?]

Solution.

Firstly, as mentioned in the hint let us categorize the cases of $\pm\infty$. One, if \limsup equals $+\infty$ then (a_n) has a subsequence diverging to $+\infty$. Two, if \limsup equals $-\infty$, then the sequence itself diverges to $-\infty$. Now let's examine the case where \limsup equals some real number M . We consider the following sequence: $\epsilon_k = \frac{1}{k}$. By the characterization of the supremum, there exist infinitely many n such that $M - \epsilon_1 < a_n$, and it also holds that *for all but finitely many* n , $a_n < M + \epsilon_1$. Crucially, the second observation means that there exists a maximum N for which the second inequality *does not* hold. Therefore, the second inequality holds for all $n > N$ for some N . Additionally, the first inequality holds for infinitely many n , and thus infinitely many of those have to be greater than N . Therefore, there exist infinitely many n such that $|a_n - M| < \epsilon_1$. Pick the first of those and call it a_1 .

Precisely because these elements are always infinite in number, for any $k > 1$ we will always be able to pick an a_k as above with the additional constraint that a_k has not been picked before. Repeating this procedure will yield a subsequence (a_{n_k}) that clearly converges to M because $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ (and also decrease monotonically). This concludes the proof.

Because a symmetric characterization exists for \liminf , and because a symmetric version of exercise 25 also exists for it, there will also be a subsequence that converges to \liminf , regardless of whether it equals $\pm\infty$ or some real number.

Exercise 29

If (a_{n_k}) is a convergent subsequence of (a_n) , show that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$.

Solution.

By exercise 23, we know that $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k}$, since (a_{n_k}) converges. Recall the definition of \limsup for $(a_n), (a_{n_k})$:

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \inf_{n \geq 1} \{\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}\}, \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} = \inf_{k \geq 1} \{\sup\{a_{n_k}, a_{n_k+1}, \dots\}\}$$

We claim that the second \limsup equals at most the first one. To see why this is the case, observe that any $\sup\{a_{n_k}, a_{n_k+1}, \dots\}$ is the supremum of a number of elements of (a_n) starting at the n_k -th one and possibly excluding some elements after that. This means that $\{a_{n_k}, a_{n_k+1}, \dots\} \subset \{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}$, and thus by exercise 2, $\sup\{a_{n_k}, a_{n_k+1}, \dots\} \leq \sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}$. Now suppose that the second \limsup was larger than the first. This would mean that at least one of $\sup\{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots\}$ is smaller than $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k}$ (such that it cannot be the largest *lower* bound for the set of suprema of subsequences of (a_n)). Suppose that this happens for $n = N$.

But then because (a_{n_k}) has infinite terms, it has to be the case that for some $k, n_k > N$. Then $\sup\{a_{n_k}, a_{n_k+1}, \dots\} \leq \sup\{a_{n_k}, a_{n_k+1}, \dots\} \leq \sup\{a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots\} < \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k}$. The first equality here was proved above, while the second is again based on exercise 3 applied on two subsequences, one starting at N and one starting at n_k . But then $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k}$ is not a lower bound for the suprema of the subsequences of (a_{n_k}) , which is a contradiction. Therefore, it has to be the case that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \leq \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k}$. As stated in the beginning, by the convergence of (a_{n_k}) this also implies that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$. The proof for the inequality involving the infimum makes use of exercise 23 and a completely symmetric argument.

Exercise 31

If (a_n) is convergent and (b_n) is bounded, show that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n + \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$.

Solution.

First of all, because a_n is convergent, it is also bounded. Since b_n is bounded as well, their sum is bounded. This means that $a_n + b_n$ has a limit supremum that is indeed a real number. Then, by exercise 27, we know that the sequence $a_n + b_n$ has a subsequence $a_{n_k} + b_{n_k}$ that converges to $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n)$. Because a_n converges, the subsequence a_{n_k} that corresponds to the subsequence of the sum also converges to the limit of a_n . Consequently, the subsequence b_{n_k} that corresponds to the subsequence of the sum also converges as a difference of convergent sequences. Observe that this means that:

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (a_{n_k} + b_{n_k}) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} + \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} b_{n_k} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n + \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} b_{n_k}$$

Now, from exercise 29, because b_{n_k} is a convergent subsequence of b_n we conclude that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} b_{n_k} \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$. Combining these two observations we obtain that:

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n + \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$$

Exercise 33

Show that (x_n) converges to $x \in \mathbb{R}$ if and only if every subsequence (x_{n_k}) of (x_n) has a *further* subsequence $(x_{n_{k_l}})$ that converges to x .

Solution.

\Rightarrow : First suppose that (x_n) converges to $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Pick any subsequence (x_{n_k}) , and pick any $\epsilon > 0$. There exists $N > 0$ such that for all $n > N$ it holds that $|x_n - x| < \epsilon$. Because (x_{n_k}) has infinite terms, there exist infinitely many $n_k > N$, and for all of these, by the definition of subsequences, the above inequality holds. Therefore, any subsequence of (x_n) converges to x . Any sequence is a trivial subsequence of itself, and thus we have completed the proof in this direction.

\Leftarrow : Conversely, suppose that every subsequence (x_{n_k}) of a sequence (x_n) has a subsequence $(x_{n_{k_l}})$ that converges to $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Suppose by way of contradiction that (x_n) does not converge to $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for all $N > 0$ there exists $n > N$ for which $|x_n - x| \geq \epsilon$. Construct the following subsequence (x_{n_k}) of (x_n) : the i -th term is the first element of (x_n) with $n > i$ such that $|x_n - x| \geq \epsilon$. By the observation above, this is always well defined.

By construction, all elements of this (x_{n_k}) are at least ϵ -away from x . Therefore, no subsequence $(x_{n_{k_l}})$ of (x_{n_k}) can ever converge to x . which directly contradicts our hypothesis, leading us to conclude that (x_n) converges to $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Exercise 34

Suppose that $a_n \geq 0$ and that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n < \infty$.

(i) Show that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} na_n = 0$.

(ii) Give an example showing that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} na_n > 0$ is possible.

Solution.

(i) In order to show that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} na_n = 0$, we need to show two things. One, that for every $\epsilon > 0$, $na_n > 0 - \epsilon$ holds for all but finitely many n and two, that for every $\epsilon > 0$, $na_n < 0 + \epsilon$ holds for infinite n . The first inequality is obvious, since $a_n \geq 0$. Suppose then that the second inequality does not hold. This means that there exists $\epsilon > 0$ for which $na_n \geq \epsilon$ for only a finite number of n . Call these n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k . Then, observe that for all $n > n_k$, it must be the case that $na_n \geq \epsilon \implies a_n \geq \frac{\epsilon}{n}$. Then:

$$\sum_{n > n_k} a_n \geq \sum_{n > n_k} \frac{\epsilon}{n} = \epsilon \sum_{n > n_k} \frac{1}{n}$$

We know, however, that this infinite sum diverges (since the infinite sum of all $\frac{1}{n}$ diverges), whereas our LHS here was assumed to converge. We have thus arrived at a contradiction, which means that the second inequality must indeed hold, and thus $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} na_n = 0$.

(ii) Consider the sequence $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$ for $n = 2^k, k = 1, 2, \dots$ and $a_n = 0$ for every other n . Observe then that the corresponding series is a geometric series, and thus converges. At the same time, observe that $na_n = 1$ for $n = 2^k, k = 1, 2, \dots$ and $na_n = 0$ for every other n . Clearly then it is the case that $\limsup na_n = 1 > 0$.

Exercise 35

(The ratio test): Let $a_n \geq 0$.

(i) If $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < 1$, show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n < \infty$.

(ii) If $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} > 1$, show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

(iii) Find examples of both a convergent and a divergent series having $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = 1$.

Solution.

(i) Observe, first of all, that $a_n \geq 0$. This means that the corresponding sequence of partial sums is non-decreasing. If we can show that it is also bounded, then we will have proved that it converges, which by definition means that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n < \infty$.

By our hypothesis, we have that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < 1$. Call this quantity M . Then we can always find some $\epsilon > 0$ such that $M + \epsilon < 1$. For this ϵ , we apply the characterization of \limsup on the sequence $\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}$. This means that for all but finitely many n , it holds that $\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < M + \epsilon$. Call N the largest n for which this does not hold, and then observe that we have that $a_{N+2} < a_{N+1}(M + \epsilon)$. This implies then that $a_{N+3} < a_{N+2}(M + \epsilon) < a_{N+1}(M + \epsilon)^2$. More generally, if $N' = N + 1$ for $k \geq 1$ we have that $a_{N'+k} < a_{N'}(M + \epsilon)^k$.

Then for the sequence of partial sums we have that:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i + \sum_{i=N'}^n a_i < \sum_{i=1}^N a_i + \sum_{k=1}^{n-N'} a_{N'}(M + \epsilon)^k$$

The first term here is clearly bounded as a finite sum. The second term can also be bounded by the *infinite* sum for k , precisely because it corresponds to a geometric series with ratio $M + \epsilon < 1$. But then this means that the sequence of partial sums is indeed bounded, and thus it must converge.

(ii) Call the \liminf m . Then $M > 1$ and we can always find $\epsilon > 0$ such that $m - \epsilon > 1$. Then, by the characterization of \liminf , for all but finitely many n it holds that $\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} > m - \epsilon$. Call N the first n after which (and including it) this holds. Then observe that, similarly to (i), for $k \geq 1$ we have that $a_{N+k} > (m - \epsilon)^k a_N$. But because $m - \epsilon > 1$ this implies that the terms of the sequence are not bounded, and hence the infinite series must necessarily diverge.

(iii) Consider the series corresponding to the sequence $a_n = 1$. Clearly, the ratio of two subsequent terms is 1, but the series obviously diverges.

Consider also the series corresponding to the sequence $a_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$, which we take as known that it converges to $\frac{\pi^2}{6}$. Observe that:

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{\frac{1}{(n+1)^2}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \frac{n^2}{n^2 + 2n + 1}$$

, which can easily be shown to converge to 1 as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Exercise 37

If (E_n) is a sequence of subsets of a fixed set S , we define

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} E_k \right) \text{ and } \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} E_k \right)$$

Show that

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n \subset \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n \text{ and that } \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} (E_n^c) = \left(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n \right)^c$$

Solution.

For the first part, we have the following. Suppose $x \in \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n$. We need to show that $x \in \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n$. By this definition of \liminf , it must be the case that $x \in \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} E_k$ for at least one $n \geq 1$.

This in turn means that there exists $n \geq 1$ such that $x \in E_n, E_{n+1}, \dots$. Now observe that the following hold:

- For $l \leq n$, it is the case that $E_n \subset \bigcup_{k=l}^{\infty} E_k$. Therefore, $x \in \bigcup_{k=l}^{\infty} E_k, l \leq n$.
- For $i \geq 1$, it is the case that $E_{n+i} \subset \bigcup_{k=n+i}^{\infty} E_k$. Therefore, $x \in \bigcup_{k=n+i}^{\infty} E_k$. This can equivalently be written as $x \in \bigcup_{k=l}^{\infty} E_k, l > n$.

But then we have shown that $x \in \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} E_n$ for any $n \geq 1$, which means that, by the definition of \limsup used here, $x \in \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n$ (since this is the intersection of all of these sets). Since x was selected as an arbitrary element of $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n$, we've shown that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n \subset \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n$.

For the second part, we will use De Morgan's laws, which we know hold for infinite unions and intersections as well (this is easy to prove using the same arguments as for finite unions and intersections). Namely, we have that:

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} (E_n^c) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} E_k^c \right) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} E_k \right)^c = \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} E_k \right) \right)^c = \left(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n \right)^c$$

1.2 Limits and Continuity

Exercise 40

Prove the following theorem (1.17):

Let f be a real-valued function defined in some punctured neighborhood of $a \in \mathbb{R}$. Then, the following are equivalent:

- (i) There exists a number L such that $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ (by the $\epsilon - \delta$ definition).
- (ii) There exists a number L such that $f(x_n) \rightarrow L$ whenever $x_n \rightarrow a$, where $x_n \neq a$ for all n .
- (iii) $(f(x_n))$ converges (to something) whenever $x_n \rightarrow a$, where $x_n \neq a$ for all n .

Solution.

(i) \implies (ii): Pick any sequence $x_n \rightarrow a$, with $x_n \neq a$ for all of its terms. For any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that whenever $0 < |x_n - a| < \delta$ we have that $|f(x_n) - L| < \epsilon$. Since $x_n \rightarrow a$, for this $\delta > 0$ there exists $N > 0$ such that for $n > N$ we have that $0 < |x_n - a| < \delta$. But then it also holds that for $n > N$, $|f(x_n) - L| < \epsilon$, which means that for any $\epsilon > 0$ we are able to find $N > 0$ such that the definition of the limit for $(f(x_n))$ holds, with the limit value being L .

Therefore, whenever $x_n \rightarrow a, x_n \neq a$, it is also the case that $f(x_n) \rightarrow L$.

(ii) \implies (iii): Pick any sequence $(f(x_n))$ such that the corresponding (x_n) converges to a and such that $x_n \neq a$. Then, applying (ii) one can obtain that $f(x_n) \rightarrow L$, which means indeed that $(f(x_n))$ converges to *something*.

(iii) \implies (ii): Pick any two sequences $x_n \rightarrow a, y_n \rightarrow a$, such that $x_n \neq a, y_n \neq a$ for all n . We then have that $f(x_n) \rightarrow L_1, f(y_n) \rightarrow L_2$. As pointed out in the book, construct the sequence $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots$ by "interlacing" $(x_n), (y_n)$. It's easy to see that this sequence converges to a as well. Therefore, $f(z_n) \rightarrow L_3$. But now observe that both $f(x_n)$ and $f(y_n)$ are subsequences of $f(z_n)$, which means more specifically that all three of them must converge to the same limit, i.e. $L_1 = L_2 = L_3$.

We have thus shown that for any two sequences $x_n \rightarrow a, y_n \rightarrow a$, the corresponding $(f(x_n)), (f(y_n))$ always converge to the same limit, which is an equivalent way of stating (ii).

To complete the full equivalence of the theorem, we will now show that (ii) \implies (i). To do this, suppose that (i) does not hold. Then there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for all $\delta > 0$ it holds that for some x it is the case that both $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ and $|f(x) - L| \geq \epsilon$. Construct a sequence of $\delta_i = \frac{1}{i}$, and from that construct a corresponding sequence of $i \rightarrow x_i$, where each x_i fulfills the above mentioned conditions. Then clearly the sequence (x_i) converges to a , but the corresponding $(f(x_i))$ does not converge to L . This directly contradicts (ii), and we have thus shown that (ii) does indeed imply (i).

Exercise 45

Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and suppose that $f(x) = 0$ whenever x is rational. Show that $f(x) = 0$ for every $x \in [a, b]$.

Solution.

Pick any $x \in [a, b]$. If $x \in \mathbb{Q}$, we immediately know that $f(x) = 0$. If $x \notin \mathbb{Q}$, then we know from a previous result that we can always approach the real number x with a sequence of rational numbers (x_n) . In other words, $x_n \rightarrow x, x_n \in \mathbb{Q}$ for all x_n . Because f is continuous, it must then hold that $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x)$. Observe that the sequence of $f(x_n)$ is a sequence of zeros, since all $x_n \in \mathbb{Q}$. Clearly then the limit has to be zero as well, which directly means that $f(x) = 0$, thus showing that $f(x)$ is indeed the zero function on $[a, b]$.

Exercise 46

Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous.

- (a) If $f(0) > 0$, show that $f(x) > 0$ for all x in some open interval $(-a, a)$.
- (b) If $f(x) \geq 0$ for every rational x , show that $f(x) \geq 0$ for all real x . Will this result hold with “ ≥ 0 ” replaced by “ > 0 ”? Explain.

Solution.

(a) Suppose for the sake of contradiction that this does not hold. This is equivalent to saying that for any $a \in \mathbb{R}$, there exist some $x_a \in (-a, a)$ such that $f(x_a) \leq 0$. Consider constructing the following sequence of a_i : $a_i = \frac{1}{n}$. Then, in every one of these intervals there has to exist x_i such that $f(x_i) \leq 0$. Observe that $a_i \rightarrow 0$, which means also that $x_i \rightarrow 0$. Since f is continuous, this means that it has to be the case that $f(x_i) \rightarrow f(0) > 0$. However, this is by construction a sequence of non-positive numbers, and because limits preserve non-strict inequalities, it cannot be the case that the limit of $(f(x_i))$ is positive. We arrive at a contradiction, and therefore it must be the case that for some a , $f(x) > 0$ for all $x \in (-a, a)$.

(b) Again, for an $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$, we can approach it with a sequence of rationals (x_n) . Then it is the case that $f(x_n) \geq 0$ for all n , and because f is continuous it also holds that $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x)$. Again, limits preserve non-strict inequalities, and thus $f(x) \geq 0$ holds for all real x .

Now we consider whether this is true if we alter “ \geq ” to “ $>$ ”. Consider the function $f(x) = |x - \sqrt{2}|$. Clearly, this function is continuous, and also positive whenever $x \neq \sqrt{2}$ and zero for $x = \sqrt{2}$. More specifically, it’s a function that is strictly positive for rational x . However, for the real $x = \sqrt{2}$, $f(\sqrt{2}) = 0$, thus providing a counterexample to the claim “if $f(x) > 0$ for every rational x , show that $f(x) > 0$ for all real x ”.

Exercise 50

Let D denote the set of rationals in $[0, 1]$ and suppose that $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is increasing. Show that there is an increasing function $g : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $g(x) = f(x)$ whenever x is rational. [Hint: For $x \in [0, 1]$, define $g(x) = \sup\{f(t) : 0 \leq t \leq x, t \in \mathbb{Q}\}$.]

Solution.

Define g as in the provided hint. We first show that if $x \in \mathbb{Q}$, $f(x) = g(x)$. We have that $g(x) = \sup\{f(t) : 0 \leq t \leq x, t \in \mathbb{Q}\}$. Recall that f is increasing, therefore, for all $0 \leq t \leq x, t \in \mathbb{Q}$ it has to hold that $f(t) \leq f(x)$. Therefore $f(x)$ is an upper bound for the set over which we are computing the supremum. For any $s < f(x)$, it is clear that s cannot be an upper bound for this set, because $f(x)$ belongs in it. We conclude that $f(x)$ is indeed the supremum, and thus that $g(x) = f(x)$.

Now to show that g is increasing, pick $x_1 < x_2, x_1, x_2 \in [0, 1]$ and call the sets over which $g(x_1), g(x_2)$ are computed S_1, S_2 respectively. If $y \in S_1$, we have that $y = f(t)$ for some $0 \leq t \leq x_1, t \in \mathbb{Q}$. Since $x_1 < x_2$, this means that $y \in S_2$ as well. Therefore $S_1 \subset S_2$, which means that $g(x_1) \leq g(x_2)$ by the properties of the supremum. Therefore g is indeed an increasing function.

Exercise 51

Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be increasing and define $g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $g(x) = f(x+)$ for $a \leq x < b$. and $g(b) = f(b)$. Prove that g is increasing and right-continuous.

Solution.

Before we begin we note that by proposition 1.19, $f(x+)$ is well-defined for all $x \in [a, b)$. First we will show that g is increasing. Pick $x_1, x_2 \in [a, b], x_1 < x_2$. We need to show that $g(x_1) \leq g(x_2)$, or, equivalently, that $f(x_1+) \leq f(x_2+)$. We will do this in two steps.

First, we will show that for every $x \in [a, b), f(x+) \geq f(x)$. Suppose this was not the case for some x , which would mean that $f(x+) < f(x) \implies 0 < f(x) - f(x+) = \epsilon$. Let $L = f(x+)$ to ease notation. Because L is well-defined, for this ϵ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $y, x < y < x + \delta$ it holds that $|f(y) - L| < \epsilon$. More specifically, this implies that $f(y) < L + \epsilon = L + f(x) - L \implies f(y) < f(x)$. This contradicts the fact that f is increasing.

Secondly, we will show that for all $x \in [a, b), y \in [a, b], x < y$ it holds that $f(x+) \leq f(y)$. Suppose again that for some such x, y this does not hold, which means that $f(x+) > f(y)$, and again for ease of notation let $L = f(x+)$. Firstly, let $\delta_1 = y - x > 0$. Secondly, let $\epsilon = L - f(y) > 0$. Because L is well-defined, for this ϵ there exists $\delta_2 > 0$ such that for all $z, x < z < x + \delta_2$ it holds that:

$$|f(z) - L| < \epsilon \implies f(z) > L - \epsilon = L - L + f(y) \implies f(z) > f(y)$$

Set $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$, which means that $z < x + \delta \leq x + \delta_1 = y$ and also that, as shown above, $f(z) > f(y)$. Again, this directly contradicts the fact that f is increasing.

We can now complete the proof by observing that $g(x_1) = f(x_1+) \leq f(x_2)$ by using the second of the two proven lemmas, and then that $f(x_2) \leq f(x_2+) = g(x_2)$ by using the first of the two proven lemmas. Note that the last step is omitted if $x_2 = b$, in which case $f(x_2) = f(b) = g(b)$.

Now, because g is increasing in $[a, b]$, we know by proposition 1.19 that $g(x+)$ always exists for $x \in [a, b)$. We thus only need to show that $g(x+) = g(x)$. Because $f(x+)$ is well defined, for any given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for $x < y < x + \delta$ it holds that $|f(y) - f(x+)| < \epsilon$. Set $\delta' = \frac{\delta}{2} < \delta$. Then for all $y, x < y < x + \delta'$ it is the case that there exists $z \in (x, x + \delta)$ such that $y < z$. By the second of the two lemmas above, $g(y) = f(y+) \leq f(z) < f(x+) + \epsilon$. By the first of the two lemmas above, it is furthermore true that $g(y) = f(y+) \geq f(y) > f(x+) - \epsilon$.

Putting these together we obtain that $f(x+) - \epsilon < g(y) < f(x+) + \epsilon$, and since $f(x+) = g(x)$ this means that by picking $\delta' = \frac{\delta}{2}$ the definition of right continuity for g at x is satisfied.

Chapter 2

Countable and Uncountable Sets

2.1 Equivalence and Cardinality

Exercise 3

Given finitely many countable sets A_1, \dots, A_n , show that $A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n$ and $A_1 \times \dots \times A_n$ are countable sets.

Solution.

We will use induction on n :

- Base case, for $n = 2$: Consider two countable sets, A_1, A_2 . If both of them are finite, then their union and Cartesian product are also finite, and thus trivially countable.

If exactly one is finite, say $A_2 = \{a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n\}$, then observe that $A_1 \cup A_2$ contains at most all elements of A_1 and all elements of A_2 , and possibly fewer if their intersection is not empty. In any case, suppose $|A_1 \cap A_2| = m$, and name f the bijection from A_1 to \mathbb{N} . Then let $S = A_2 \setminus A_1 = \{a'_{k_1}, \dots, a'_{k_{n-m}}\}$, and $f'(a'_{k_1}) = 1, \dots, f'(a'_{k_{n-m}}) = n - m$, in which case $A_1 \cup A_2 = A_1 \cup S$, and A_1, S have an empty intersection. Let $g : A_1 \cup S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be such that:

$$g(a) = \begin{cases} f(a) + (n - m) & , a \in A_1 \\ f'(a) & , a \in S \end{cases}$$

Because f is a bijection, one can clearly see that g is surjective. Furthermore, g is one-to-one because f, f' are one-to-one and because the two “branches” of g have no overlapping values ($\min\{f(a) + (n - m)\} = n - m + 1 > n - m = \max\{f'(a)\}$). Therefore g is a bijection from $A_1 \cup A_2$ to \mathbb{N} , which means precisely that the union is countable.

Now for the case where both A_1, A_2 are infinite, there exist bijections $f_1 : A_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, f_2 : A_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. These impose orders $f_1(a_1) = 1, f_1(a_2) = 2, \dots$ for $a'_i \in A_1$ and $f_2(a'_1) = 1, f_2(a'_2) = 2$ for $a_i \in A_2$. One can again set $S = A_2 \setminus A_1$, and f_2 can again be used to extract an order for the elements s_1, s_2, \dots of S . If S is finite, the problem reduces to the case above. If S is also infinite, we know that S is also countable, with $f'_2 : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ the corresponding bijection. Additionally, $A_1 \cup A_2 = A_1 \cup S = \{a_1, s_1, a_2, s_2, \dots\}$ and $A_1 \cap S = \emptyset$. Use the orders imposed by f_1, f'_2 to sort the elements of A_1 in the order a_1, a_2, \dots and the elements of S in the order s_1, s_2, \dots . Then define $g : A_1 \cup A_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ as:

$$g(a) = \begin{cases} 2i, & a = a_i \in A_1 \\ 2i + 1, & a = s_i \in S \end{cases}$$

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, if n is even the equation $n = g(a)$ has a unique solution for $a = a_n$, due to the bijectivity of f_1 . If n is odd, the equation $n = g(a)$ has a unique solution for $a = s_n$, due to the bijectivity of f'_2 . In any case, $A_1 \cup A_2$ has been shown to be equivalent to \mathbb{N} .

For the Cartesian product, the case where both A_1, A_2 are finite is again trivial. If A_1 is infinite and A_2 finite, then:

$$A_1 = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}, A_2 = \{a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n\}$$

Let then $g : A_1 \times A_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$:

$$g(a_i, a'_j) = n(i - 1) + (j - 1), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Observe that the fact that $A_1 \sim \mathbb{N}$ and j only takes a finite number of values makes g a surjection. Indeed, for $x = k \cdot n + l, l = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ (here we use the division algorithm for integers), one has but to set $i = 1 + k$ (possible due to $A_1 \sim \mathbb{N}$ and $j = l + 1$ (always possible due to the range of values l can achieve) to obtain $g(a_i, a'_j) = x$.

To show that g is injective, suppose $g(a_i, a'_j) = g(a_k, a'_l)$, and we then have that:

$$n(i - 1) + (j - 1) = n(k - 1) + (l - 1) \implies n(i - k) = l - j$$

This implies that the RHS is a multiple of n , which, because $1 \leq l, j \leq n$ is only possible if $l = j$. But then we also have that $i = k$, thus that $(a_i, a'_j) = (a_k, a'_l)$, i.e. that g is injective.

g is therefore a bijection, and thus $A_1 \times A_2 \sim \mathbb{N}$.

If both A_1, A_2 are infinite, then consider the function $g : A_1 \times A_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$:

$$g(a_i, a'_j) = 2^i(2j - 1)$$

, which, because of the fact that $A_1 \sim \mathbb{N}, A_2 \sim \mathbb{N}$ (thus i, j take all natural numbers as values), and by a proof completely analogous to $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ can be shown to be a bijection, thus proving that $A_1 \times A_2 \sim \mathbb{N}$.

- Inductive step: If this holds for $n = k \geq 2$, then observe that $A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_{k+1} = (A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_k) \cup A_{k+1}$, and we can therefore apply the inductive hypothesis to the sets A_1, \dots, A_k , and the base case to the union of those with A_k to obtain the statement for $n = k + 1$ as well. The same argument applies to the Cartesian product as well, thus concluding the proof.

Exercise 5

Prove that a set is infinite if and only if it is equivalent to a proper subset of itself.

[Hint: If A is infinite and $x \in A$, show that A is equivalent to $A \setminus \{x\}$.]

Solution.

\implies : Suppose A is infinite. Then A contains an element x , and the set $S = A \setminus \{x\}$ must also be infinite. By exercise 4, the set S contains a countably infinite subset S' . We then have that:

$$S = S' \cup (S \setminus S'), A = S' \cup (S \setminus S') \cup \{x\}$$

, where all of the sets used in the unions are disjoint. By exercise 3, it holds that $S' \cup \{x\} \sim S'$, and this yields a corresponding bijection $g : S' \cup \{x\} \rightarrow S'$. Consider then the following function $f : A \rightarrow S$:

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} z, & z \in S \setminus S' \\ g(z), & z \in S' \cup \{x\} \end{cases}$$

, which, by the above observations regarding the bijectivity of g and the disjointness of the sets $S', S \setminus S', \{x\}$, means that f is a bijection as well, proving that $A \sim S$.

\Leftarrow : Now suppose that a set A is equivalent to S , S being a proper subset of A . By contradiction, suppose A is not infinite and that it contains n elements. Then S must contain at most $n - 1$ elements. By the pigeonhole principle, there cannot exist a bijection from A to S , which means that $A \sim S$ cannot be true, a contradiction. Therefore A must be infinite.

Exercise 8

Show that $(0, 1)$ is equivalent to $[0, 1]$ and to \mathbb{R} .

Solution.

First, observe that $[0, 1] = \{0\} \cup \{1\} \cup (0, 1)$, and that $[0, 1], [0, 1), (0, 1)$ are all infinite sets. By exercise 5, we have that $[0, 1) \sim (0, 1)$ (by explicitly picking $x = 0$ and $S = (0, 1)$). Similarly, we also have that $[0, 1] \sim [0, 1)$ (by explicitly picking $x = 1$ and $S = [0, 1)$). The transitivity property of the equivalence relation “is equivalent to” (exercise 1) yields then that $[0, 1] \sim (0, 1)$.

For $(0, 1) \sim \mathbb{R}$, consider the function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (0, 1)$, $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$, which is known to be both injective and surjective, thus sufficing to show that $(0, 1) \sim \mathbb{R}$.

Exercise 9

Show that $(0, 1)$ is equivalent to the unit square $(0, 1) \times (0, 1)$.

[Hint: “Interlace” decimals, but carefully!]

Solution.

Pick any $x \in (0, 1) \times (0, 1)$. Then $x = (a, b)$, $a, b \in (0, 1)$. If a or b can be written as a decimal ending in infinite 9’s (e.g. $0.3999\dots$), write them in the equivalent form that features finite decimals (in this example, 0.4). Now consider the function $f : (0, 1) \times (0, 1) \rightarrow (0, 1)$:

$$f(0.a_1a_2a_3\dots, 0.b_1b_2b_3\dots) = 0.a_1b_1a_2b_2a_3b_3\dots$$

Observe first that for any $x \in (0, 1)$, x can be written as $x = 0.x_1x_2x_3\dots$, and again if this can be written as ending in infinite 9’s, “round it up”. Then $f(0.x_1x_3x_5\dots, 0.x_2x_4x_6\dots) = x$. Furthermore, suppose that $f(0.y_1y_2y_3\dots, 0.z_1z_2z_3\dots) = x = 0.x_1x_2x_3\dots$. By definition, it is also the case that

$$f(0.y_1y_2y_3\dots, 0.z_1z_2z_3\dots) = 0.y_1z_1y_2z_2y_3z_3\dots$$

Because we always choose to write decimals ending in infinite 9’s as “rounded up”, there can be no ambiguities here, in the sense that the equality of these two numbers directly implies that $y_1 = x_1, z_1 = x_2, y_2 = x_3, z_2 = x_4\dots$ (i.e. any two decimals that do not end in infinite 9’s can only be equal if all corresponding digits are equal). These two observations yields that f is bijective, thus proving the desired equivalence.

Exercise 10

Prove that $(0, 1)$ can be put into one-to-one correspondence with the set of all functions $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$.

Solution.

To begin, we observe that a function from \mathbb{N} to $\{0, 1\}$ can be thought of a set of the form:

$$\{(0, v_0), (1, v_1), (2, v_2), \dots\}$$

, where each v_i is the value of the function on i , and as such can be either 0 or 1. We now observe that the set of all such functions can be written as $S \cup \bar{S}$, where $S = \{f \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \mid \exists k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\}, f(i) = 1, i > k\}$ (in other words, a function either becomes 1 “forever” after some point, or it does not). Note that from now on we will use the binary system in this exercise.

Observe that all functions that belong in S are uniquely characterized by a “finite-length prefix” of values. This means that we can list all of them: start with a prefix of length 0, list all possible f such that in the above definition $k = -1$, then list all f with a prefix of length 1, etc. Since each length N yields only a finite number of functions (each corresponds to a binary number with N digits such that the last digit is not 1), we conclude that S is in fact countable, and that there exists a bijection $g : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. Define now the following mapping $F : \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow (0, 1) \cup \mathbb{N}$:

$$F(f) = \begin{cases} 0.v_0v_1v_2\dots, & f \in \bar{S} \\ g(f), & f \in S \end{cases}$$

By the bijectivity of g , F achieves all natural numbers. Furthermore, for any $x \in (0, 1)$, we can always write $x = 0.b_0b_1\dots$ such that it does not end in infinite ones, and then we can define an $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

such that $f(i) = b_i$, which means that $F(f) = x$. We have thus shown that F is surjective. Additionally, we observe that due to our construction, if $f_1 \in \bar{S}, f_2 \in S, F(f_1), F(f_2)$ can never be equal: one is always in $(0, 1)$ and the other is a non-zero natural number. For $f_1, f_2 \in \bar{S}, F(f_1) = F(f_2)$ either implies that all corresponding digits are equal, in which case clearly $f_1 = f_2$, or that one of them ends in infinite ones, which is impossible since $f_1, f_2 \in \bar{S}$. Finally, for $f_1, f_2 \in S$, the bijectivity of g implies that $f_1 = f_2$. This shows that F is also injective, which means it is a bijection from $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ to $(0, 1) \cup \mathbb{N}$. Now, \mathbb{N} is clearly countable, and from exercise 6 we then have that $(0, 1) \cup \mathbb{N} \sim (0, 1)$, which by exercise 1 also gives us our desired result, $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \sim (0, 1)$.

Exercise 13

Show that \mathbb{N} contains infinitely many pairwise disjoint infinite subsets.

Solution.

We know that there exist infinitely many primes, p_1, p_2, \dots . Consider then forming the sets $S_i = \{p_i^k | k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}\}$. These are clearly infinitely many, and each of them is infinite. Suppose that two of them, S_i, S_j had a non-empty intersection. Then there exists $x \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x = p_i^k = p_j^l, k, l \geq 1$. But then this number has two different prime factorizations, which is a contradiction. Therefore all of these sets are pairwise disjoint.

Exercise 15

Show that any collection of pairwise disjoint, nonempty open intervals in \mathbb{R} is at most countable. [Hint: Each one contains a rational!]

Solution.

Suppose that there exists an uncountable collection of pairwise disjoint and nonempty intervals of the form $(a, b), a, b \in \mathbb{R}$. As indicated in the hint, each such interval must contain a rational, regardless of whether a, b are rationals or not. Furthermore, because the intervals are all disjoint, no two such rationals can be equal. This means that there exist at least as many rationals as intervals, therefore an uncountable number of them, which we know is a contradiction.

2.2 The Cantor Set

Exercise 21

Show that any ternary decimal of the form $0.a_1a_2\dots a_n11$ (base 3), i.e., any finite-length decimal ending in two (or more) 1s is *not* an element of Δ .

Solution.

For this problem we will be using the following formalization of the Cantor set \mathcal{C} :

$$\mathcal{C} = [0, 1] \setminus \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=0}^{3^n-1} \left(\frac{3k+1}{3^{n+1}}, \frac{3k+2}{3^{n+1}} \right)$$

We now consider a ternary decimal x of the form $x = 0.a_1\dots a_n11$, where n may be zero, in which case the “prefix” has zero length. Consider then what x equals:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{a_1}{3} + \frac{a_2}{3^2} + \dots + \frac{a_n}{3^n} + \frac{1}{3^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{3^{n+2}} = \frac{a_13^{n+1} + a_23^n + \dots + a_n3^2 + 3 + 1}{3^{n+2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{3^{n+1}} \left(a_13^n + a_23^{n-1} + \dots + a_n3 + \frac{4}{3} \right) = \frac{1}{3^{n+1}} \left(3(a_13^{n-1} + a_23^{n-2} + \dots + a_n) + \frac{4}{3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Notice now that if $y = a_13^{n-1} + a_23^{n-2} + \dots + a_n$, y is an integer that is at least 0 and at most $6\frac{3^n-1}{2} = 3(3^n-1)$ (by using the geometric progression sum). But then this range in which y can move means that x is precisely equal to *one* of the left endpoints in the n -th union in the definition of \mathcal{C} plus $\frac{4}{3}$, which, because $1 < \frac{4}{3} < 2$, means that x will always lie *inside* one of the intervals that comprise this union, which means of course that it lies outside of the Cantor set.

Exercise 22

Show that Δ contains no (nonempty) open intervals. In particular, show that if $x, y \in \Delta$, then there is some $z \in [0, 1] \setminus \Delta$ with $x < z < y$. (It follows from this that Δ is *nowhere dense*, which is another way of saying that Δ is “small”.)

Solution.

Let $x, y \in \Delta$. Following the notation of the book, we name I_k the union of closed intervals that comprises the k -th “level” of the “tree” that creates the Cantor set. Then recall that $\Delta = \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} I_k$. Since $x, y \in \Delta$, it holds that $x, y \in I_k$ for all k . We now claim that there exists k such that x, y belong in two disjoint intervals that comprise the union I_k . This will of course imply that there exists a “removed middle third” interval between x, y at the k -th level, any of whose elements fulfill the condition $z \notin \Delta$. We do this by contradiction. Namely, suppose that x, y belong in the same closed interval at every level of the “tree”, and call those intervals I_1, I_2, \dots . By construction, these are nested intervals, and we know that I_n ’s length goes to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$. But then the nested interval theorem dictates that the infinite intersection of I_1, I_2, \dots contains precisely one element, which means $x = y$, a contradiction.

Exercise 23

The endpoints of Δ are those points in Δ having a finite-length base 3 decimal expansion (not necessarily in the proper form), that is, all of the points in Δ of the form $a/3^n$ for some integers n and $0 \leq a \leq 3^n$. Show that the endpoints of Δ other than 0 and 1 can be written as $0.a_1a_2\dots a_{n+1}$ (base 3) where each a_k is 0 or 2, except a_{n+1} , which is either 1 or 2. That is, the discarded “middle third” intervals are of the form $(0.a_1a_2\dots a_n1, 0.a_1a_2\dots a_n2)$ where both entires are points of Δ written in base 3.

Solution.

We will apply induction on n , which corresponds to the “level” of the “tree” of the Cantor set. More specifically, we will prove the following.

- If $x \neq 0$ is a left endpoint of the Cantor set, that is, the the intersection forming the Cantor set contains it in the n -th “tree-level union ” in some interval $[x, y]$, then it can be written in the form $0.a_1\dots a_n2$ where $a_i \in \{0, 2\}, i = 1, \dots, n$.
- If $x \neq 1$ is a right endpoint of the Cantor set, that is, the intersection forming the Cantor set contains it in the n -th “tree-level union” in some interval $[y, x]$, then it can be written in the form $0.a_1\dots a_n1$ where $a_i \in \{0, 2\}, i = 1, \dots, n$.

As stated, we will use induction on n starting at 0, which corresponds to the first level of the tree.

- **Base case:** if $n = 0$, then the corresponding union is $I_1 = [0, 0.1] \cup [0.2, 1]$ (written in ternary). Obviously, the only non-zero left endpoint is 0.2, which satisfies the claim stated above. Similarly, the only right endpoint not equal to 1 is 0.1, which also satisfies the claim.
- **Inductive hypothesis:** Suppose that for $n = k, k \geq 0$ it holds that $I_n = [0, x_1] \cup [x_2, x_3] \cup \dots \cup [x_M, 1]$, where each left and right endpoint fulfill the conditions stated above (note that $M = 2^{n+1}$).
- **Inductive step:** Observe then that the intervals comprising I_{n+1} are formed by taking each interval $[x, y]$ comprising I_n and replacing it by $[x, x + \underbrace{0\dots 0}_{n+1}1] \cup [y - \underbrace{0\dots 0}_{n+1}1, y]$. Therefore, new right endpoints are formed by taking either 0 or a previous left endpoint and adding $0.\underbrace{0\dots 0}_{n+1}1$. Clearly, adding such a number to 0 results in a right endpoint fulfilling the claim stated in the beginning. In the other case, we have an endpoint of the form $0.a_1\dots a_n2 + 0.\underbrace{0\dots 0}_{n+1}1 = 0.a_1\dots a_n21$, which based on the inductive hypothesis also fulfills the initial claim. Similarly, new left endpoints are formed by taking either 1 or previous right endpoints and subtracting $0.\underbrace{0\dots 0}_{n+1}1$. Subtracting this quantity from 1

results in $0.\underbrace{2\dots 2}_{n+1}2$, which fulfills the claim for a left endpoint. On the other hand, subtracting it from a previous right endpoint results in an endpoint of the form $0.a_1\dots a_n1 - 0.\underbrace{0\dots 0}_{n+1}1 = 0.a_1\dots a_n02$, which based on the inductive hypothesis also satisfies the claim for left endpoints.

This concludes the proof that endpoints of Δ have a ternary decimal expansion described in the exercise.

Exercise 26

Let $f : \Delta \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be the Cantor function and let $x, y \in \Delta$ with $x < y$. Show that $f(x) \leq f(y)$. If $f(x) = f(y)$, show that x has two distinct ternary decimal representations. Finally, show that $f(x) = f(y)$ if and only if x, y are “consecutive” endpoints of the form $x = 0.a_1a_1\dots a_n1$ and $y = a_1a_2\dots a_n2$ (base 3).

Solution.

Let $x = 0.a_1a_2\dots$ and $y = 0.b_1b_2\dots$. Because $x, y \in \Delta$, we know that we can write x, y such that each of a_i, b_i is either 0 or 1. Now, because $x < y$ it has to be the case that for some $i \geq 1, a_i < b_i$ and $a_k = b_k$ for $k < i$. This can be seen by making a “digit-wise” comparison: the first decimal digit in which x, y differ determines which one is larger, since after that point the decimal digits get multiplied by smaller powers of 3 and the smaller number can never “catch up”. The only possible exception would be if $x = 0.a_1\dots a_i00\dots$ and $y = 0.a_1\dots (a_i - 1)22\dots$, but we know that this cannot be true since it would require $a_i = 1$ or $a_i - 1 = 1$, which is impossible due to the way we’ve written x, y . Now consider the decimal strings $x' = 0.(\frac{a_1}{2})(\frac{a_2}{2})\dots, y' = 0.(\frac{b_1}{2})(\frac{b_2}{2})\dots$. What the Cantor function does is interpret these as binary instead of ternary numbers, and set then $f(x) = x'_{\text{bin}}, f(y) = y'_{\text{bin}}$. But then $\frac{a_k}{2} = \frac{b_k}{2}$ for $k < i, \frac{a_i}{2} < \frac{b_i}{2}$. By this we have established that it is impossible that $f(x) > f(y)$, thus $f(x) \leq f(y)$. If it is the case that $f(x) = f(y)$, then for $k > i, \frac{a_k}{2} = 1, \frac{b_k}{2} = 0$ and $\frac{a_i}{2} = 0, \frac{b_i}{2} = 1$. Going back to the ternary numbers x, y , this implies that x is of the form:

$$x = 0.a_1\dots a_{i-1}0222\dots,$$

which can also be written as $x = 0.a_1\dots a_{i-1}1$. Furthermore, it implies that y is of the form:

$$y = 0.a_1\dots a_{i-1}2000\dots,$$

which completes the proof that a) x has two distinct ternary decimal expansions, and that whenever $f(x) = f(y), x, y$ are endpoints of “discarded” middle third intervals. For the other direction of the last equivalence, if x, y are endpoints of “discarded” middle third intervals, write both of them such that they only contain 0s and 2s in ternary, apply f and observe that $f(x)$ ends in infinite 1s, $f(y)$ in 0s, and for some $i, f(x)_i = 0, f(y)_i = 1$ and $f(x)_k = f(y)_k, k < i$, which of course means that $f(x) = f(y)$.

Exercise 29

Prove that the extended Cantor function $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (as defined above) is increasing. [Hint: consider cases.]

Solution.

For any two $x, y \in [0, 1]$, with $x < y$, we have the following:

- If $x, y \in \Delta$, we have shown in exercise 23 that $f(x) \leq f(y)$.
- If $x \in \Delta, y \notin \Delta$, then $f(y) = \sup\{f(z), z \leq y, z \in \Delta\}$. This means that $f(x) \in \{f(z), z \leq y, z \in \Delta\}$, and thus it must be the case that $f(x) \leq f(y)$.
- If $x, y \notin \Delta$, then $f(x) = \sup\{f(z), z \leq x, z \in \Delta\}$ and $f(y) = \sup\{f(z), z \leq y, z \in \Delta\}$. But then since $x < y$, the set over which the second supremum is computed is a superset of the set over which the first supremum is computed, meaning that $f(x) \leq f(y)$.