

# Understanding Analysis, 2nd Edition: Stephen Abbott

## Chapter 2 - Section 2.6

1. Prove that every convergent sequence is a Cauchy sequence.

**Solution:**

Intuition: Since the sequence is convergent, let the limit be  $L$ . For any  $\epsilon_a$  there exists an  $N_a$  that works.

Now for the Cauchy sequence, we need to make all elements eventually within  $\epsilon_b$ . Choose  $\epsilon_a \leq \epsilon_b/2$ . It should be easy to visualize that for all  $a_n, n \geq N_a$ , the largest distance an element can be from each other is one below and one above the limit  $L$ , both of which is below  $\epsilon_a \leq \epsilon_b/2$ .

More formally, for all  $n, m \geq N_a$ , we have:

$$|a_n - a_m| \leq |a_n - L| + |a_m - L| < \epsilon_a + \epsilon_a \leq 2 * \frac{\epsilon_b}{2} = \epsilon_b.$$

2. Give an example or argue that it's impossible.
  - (a) A Cauchy sequence that is not monotone.
  - (b) A Cauchy sequence with an unbounded subsequence.
  - (c) A divergent monotone sequence with a Cauchy subsequence.
  - (d) An unbounded sequence containing a subsequence that is Cauchy.

**Solution:** For all of these, we'll use the fact that over the reals, a Cauchy sequence is equivalent to a convergent sequence.

- (a)  $\{1, -1, 1/2, -1/2, 1/3, -1/3, \dots\}$  is not monotone and converges to 0.
- (b) Impossible. Every convergent sequence is bounded and a subsequence of a bounded sequence is also bounded.
- (c) Impossible. A divergent monotone sequence must be unbounded (because by MCT, a bounded monotone sequence must be convergent). Subsequence of an unbounded sequence must also be unbounded, but a Cauchy sequence must be bounded.

(d)  $\{1, 1, 2, 1/2, 3, 1/3, 4, 1/4\}$ . The subsequence  $\{1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, \dots\}$  converges to 0.

3. Give a direct argument that does not use the Cauchy criterion or the Algebraic Limit Theorem. If  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_n)$  are Cauchy
- (a)  $(x_n + y_n)$  is Cauchy.
- (b) Do the same for  $(x_n y_n)$ .

**Solution:** Both proofs are reminiscent of the ones for the Algebraic Limit Theorem.

- (a) We want to prove that given any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is an  $N$  such that for all  $n, m \geq N$ ,  $|(a_n + b_n) - (a_m + b_m)| < \epsilon$ .

Rearrange to  $|(a_n - a_m) + (b_n - b_m)| \leq |a_n - a_m| + |b_n - b_m|$ . Since  $(a_n)$  and  $(b_n)$  are Cauchy, there exist  $N_a, N_b$  such that both terms are less than  $\frac{\epsilon}{2}$ . Pick  $N = \max(N_1, N_2)$  then  $|a_n - a_m| + |b_n - b_m| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon$ .

- (b)

$$\begin{aligned} |a_n b_n - a_m b_m| &= |a_n b_n - a_m b_n + a_m b_n - a_m b_m| \\ &\leq |(a_n - a_m)b_n| + |(b_n - b_m)a_m| \\ &= |a_n - a_m||b_n| + |b_n - b_m||a_m| \end{aligned}$$

Now we use the fact that every Cauchy sequence is bounded, so there is an  $L_a$  such that  $|a_n| \leq |L_a|$  for all  $n$ . Similarly for  $b_n$  and  $L_b$ . Let  $L = \max(L_a, L_b)$ , then

$$|a_n - a_m||b_n| + |b_n - b_m||a_m| \leq |a_n - a_m||L| + |b_n - b_m||L|$$

There exist  $N_a$  and  $N_b$  such that both  $|a_n - a_m|$  and  $|b_n - b_m|$  are both less than  $\frac{\epsilon}{2|L|}$ . Pick  $N = \max(N_a, N_b)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} |a_n - a_m||L| + |b_n - b_m||L| &< \frac{\epsilon}{2|L|}|L| + \frac{\epsilon}{2|L|}|L| \\ &= \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

One more special case to handle: if  $|L| = 0$  then both  $(a_n)$  and  $(b_n)$  are just the zero sequence.

4. Let  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  be Cauchy sequences. Decide whether each of the following sequences is a Cauchy sequence, justifying each conclusion.

(a)  $c_n = |a_n - b_n|$

(b)  $c_n = (-1)^n a_n$

(c)  $c_n = \lfloor a_n \rfloor$

**Solution:**

- (a) Yes. We first prove that  $|a_n|$  is Cauchy for any Cauchy sequence  $|a_n|$ . Use the fact that  $|a - b| \geq ||a| - |b||$  for any real numbers  $a$  and  $b$  (the distance between two numbers is at least as great as the distance between their absolute values).

To prove  $|a_n|$  is Cauchy we need to prove that for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N$  such that for all  $n, m \geq N$ ,  $||a_n| - |a_m|| < \epsilon$ . Now use the inequality:  $||a_n| - |a_m|| \leq |a_n - a_m|$  and the rest follows from the fact that  $a_n$  is Cauchy.

Back to the original problem:  $a_n - b_n$  is Cauchy by the Algebraic Limit Theorem so  $|a_n - b_n|$  is Cauchy as well.

- (b) No.  $\{1, 1, 1, \dots\}$  is Cauchy but  $\{1, -1, 1, -1, \dots\}$  is not.

- (c) No. We'll use the Cauchy criterion and talk about convergence instead.

- Counterexample 1:  $\{1, 0.9, 1, 0.99, 1, 0.999, \dots\}$  converges to 1 but its floor  $\{1, 0, 1, 0, \dots\}$  diverges.
- Counterexample 2: This one's more formulaic. Let  $a_{2k-1} = 1$  and  $a_{2k} = 1 - \frac{1}{k}$  for  $k = (1, 2, \dots)$ . The sequence looks like  $(1, 1 - \frac{1}{1}, 1, 1 - \frac{1}{2}, 1, 1 - \frac{1}{3}, \dots)$ . The sequence converges to 1 but its floor  $(1, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$  diverges.

5. Consider the following (invented) definition: A sequence  $(s_n)$  is *pseudo-Cauchy* if, for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exist an  $N$  such that if  $n \geq N$ , then  $|s_{n+1} - s_n| < \epsilon$ . Decide which one of the following two propositions is actually true. Supply a proof or a counterexample.

- (a) Pseudo-Cauchy sequences are bounded.

- (b) If  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_n)$  are pseudo-Cauchy then  $(x_n + y_n)$  is pseudo-Cauchy as well.

**Solution:**

(a) Not necessarily. One counterexample is  $(s_n) = \sqrt{n}$ .

(b) Yes.  $|(x_n + y_n) - (x_{n+1} + y_{n+1})| = |(x_n - x_{n+1}) + (y_n - y_{n+1})| \leq |x_n - x_{n+1}| + |y_n - y_{n+1}|$ . Make each term less than  $\epsilon/2$ .