

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.

**Claim:** Let  $A_n = [0, 1/n]$

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N} [A_{n+1} \subset A_n] \wedge \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \{0\}$$

**Proof:** We will separate the claim in two and make two proofs.

**First claim:**  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} [A_{n+1} \subset A_n]$ , i.e.,

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N} [[0, 1/(n+1)] \subset [0, 1/n]], \text{ i.e.}$$

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \forall x \in \mathbb{R} [ (0 \leq x \leq 1/(n+1) \Rightarrow 0 \leq x \leq 1/n) \wedge \neg(0 \leq x \leq 1/(n+1) \Leftrightarrow 0 \leq x \leq 1/n) ]$$

**First proof:** Given and an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and an  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  suppose  $0 \leq x \leq 1/(n+1)$ . We know that  $1/(n+1) < 1/n$ , so  $0 \leq x \leq 1/(n+1) \leq 1/n$ , hence  $0 \leq x \leq 1/n$ . From this we deduce that  $A_{n+1} \subseteq A_n$ . Now, to prove the second term, suppose  $0 \leq x \leq 1/n$ . If  $x = 1/(n+0.5)$  then  $0 \leq x \leq 1/n$ , but  $1/(n+1) < x$ , so it is not the case that  $0 \leq x \leq 1/(n+1)$ , hence,  $A_{n+1}$  and  $A_n$  are not equal, so  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  proving the first claim.

**Second claim:**  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \{0\}$ , i.e.,

$$\{x | (\forall n)(x \in A_n)\} = \{0\}, \text{ i.e.,}$$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R} [\forall n \in \mathbb{N} (0 \leq x \leq 1/n) \Leftrightarrow x = 0]$$

**Second proof:** Take an arbitrary  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

[ $\Rightarrow$ ] Suppose  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} (0 \leq x \leq 1/n)$ . By way of contradiction suppose  $x \neq 0$ . By the assumptions, clearly  $x$  must be greater than 0. If  $x > 0$ , you can pick an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  so large that makes  $1/n < x$ , contradicting the assumption, proving the left-to-right part.

[ $\Leftarrow$ ] Suppose  $x = 0$ . Given any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $1/n$  is always greater than 0, hence,  $0 \leq x \leq 1/n$ , proving the right-to-left part.

With both claims proved the original claim gets proved.  $\square$