

Give an example of family of intervals  $A_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$ , such that  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  for all  $n$  and  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = 1$ .

Let  $A_n$  be the interval  $[\frac{n}{n+1}, 1]$ , then  $A_{n+1}$  is the interval  $[\frac{n+1}{n+2}, 1]$

The greatest lower bound of  $A_n$  is  $\frac{n}{n+1}$  and the greatest lower bound of  $A_{n+1}$  is  $\frac{n+1}{n+2}$ . They have the same least upper bound, 1.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n}{n+1} &= \frac{n}{n+1} \frac{n+2}{n+2} && \text{Multiply and divide by } n+2 \\ &= \frac{n^2+n}{(n+1)(n+2)} && \text{Expand out numerator} \\ &< \frac{n^2+n+1}{(n+1)(n+2)} && \text{Add 1 to numerator} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)^2}{(n+1)(n+2)} && \text{Factor out } n+1 \text{ from numerator} \\ &= \frac{n+1}{n+2} && \text{Cancel out } n+1 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  since the greatest lower bound of  $A_n$  is strictly less than the greatest lower bound of  $A_{n+1}$ .

Now as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\frac{n}{n+1} \rightarrow 1$ , so  $A_n \rightarrow [1, 1] = \{1\}$  since the greatest lower bound and least upper bound of  $[1, 1]$  are both 1. As 1 is contained in all  $A_n$ ,  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = 1$ . The family of intervals that lead to this conclusion was the interval  $[\frac{n}{n+1}, 1]$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$