fn check_candidates

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> This proof resides in **"contrib"** because it has not completed the vetting process.

Proves soundness of check_candidates in mod.rs at commit f5bb719 (outdated[1]). check_candidates raises an error if the discrete quantile candidate set is invalid.

1 Hoare Triple

Precondition

None

Function

```python
def validate_candidates(candidates: list[T]):
    if not candidates: #
        raise ValueError("candidates must not be empty")

    i1 = iter(candidates)
    i2 = iter(candidates)
    next(i1)

    for c1, c2 in zip(i1, i2): #
        cmp = c1.partial_cmp(c2)
        if cmp is None or cmp != Ordering.Less:
            raise ValueError("candidates must be non-null and strictly increasing")
```

Postcondition

Theorem 1.1. Candidates must be:

1. non-empty

2. strictly increasing

3. totally ordered

Otherwise the function errors.

Proof. 1. candidates is non-empty, by the check on line 2

2. candidates is strictly increasing, because there is no window where the left candidate is not less than the right candidate

3. candidates is totally ordered, because no comparisons may fail
The postcondition holds. $\qquad\square$

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[1]See new changes with `git diff f5bb719..142d8fae rust/src/transformations/quantile_score_candidates/mod.rs`