



Applied Real Analysis

AMATH 331



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Preface

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Real Numbers

Refs 1 for review. 2.1-2.2, 2.9

1.1 Decimal expansions and the real number line

finite decimal expansion

A finite decimal expansion has the form

$$x = a_0.a_1a_2a_3 \dots a_N$$

where a_0 is an integer (positive, negative or zero) for $1 \leq n \leq N$ $a_n \in \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$

Example.

$$1.45$$

$$-38.298743$$

You can think of this as

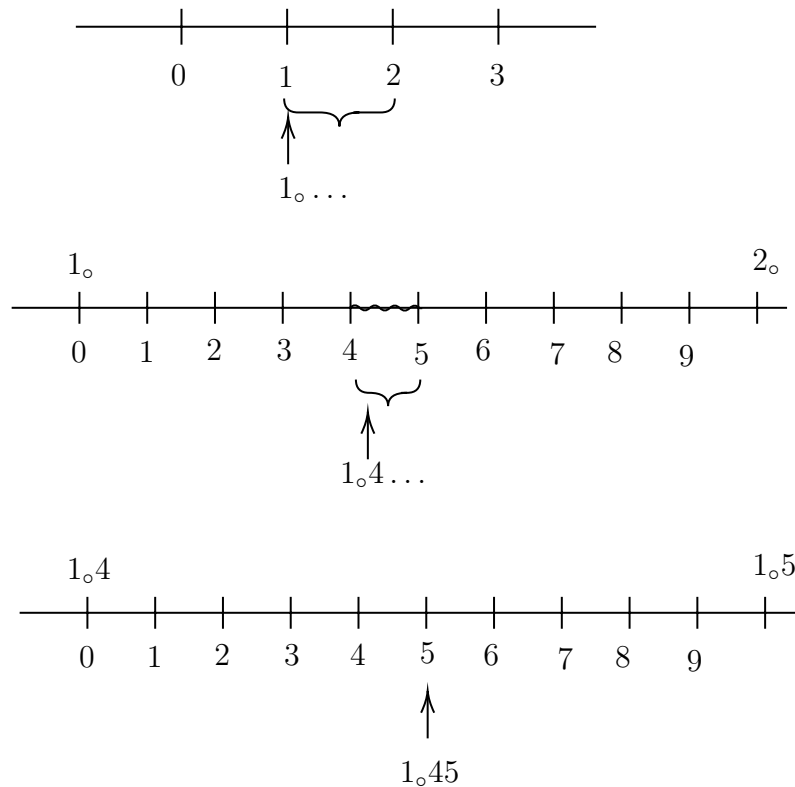
$$x = a_0 + a_1 \left(\frac{1}{10} \right) + \dots + a_N \left(\frac{1}{10^N} \right)$$

Warning This looks like the usual decimal representation but it is not the same for negative numbers.

Any finite decimal expansion can be replaced on the real number line.

Example.

Where is $1_{\circ}45$?



We can similarly define infinite decimal expansions

infinite decimal expansions

$$x = a_0 a_1 a_2 \dots$$

Example.

$$1_{\circ}450000000\dots$$

$$\pi = 3_{\circ}1415926535\dots$$

Assuming the real number line has no gaps, every infinite decimal expansion x corresponds to a point on the line.

Given any positive integer k , let $y = a_0 a_1 a_2 \dots a_k$ be the finite decimal expansion of x to the k -th decimal space. Then, x lies in the interval from y to $(y + 10^{-k})$. So, y approximates x to an accuracy of $1/10^k$. As we increase k , we improve the accuracy; in fact, the error can be made arbitrarily small.

The converse direction: given a point on the real number line, can we find its decimal expansion?

Yes!

It is possible for two decimal expansions to represent the same point. This happens

precisely when one ends in an infinite string of 0's.

Example.

|

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1.000\dots & \text{and} & 0.999\dots \\ 25.300\dots & \text{and} & 25.2999\dots \end{array}$$

We define the real numbers \mathbb{R} as the set of all infinite decimal expansions.

1.2 Ordering of real numbers

Suppose

$$x = x_0 \circ x_1 x_2 x_3 \dots, \quad y = y_0 \circ y_1 y_2 y_3 \dots$$

We say that x and y are equal and write $x = y$ if infinite decimal expansions are identical or equivalent, as discussed previously.

If x and y are not equal, then we say that x are not equal, then x is *less than* y and write $x < y$ if there exists integer $k \geq 0$ such that $x_k < y_k$ and $x_i = y_i$ for $i < k$. x is *greater than* y ($x > y$) if ...

For any two real numbers x, y , exactly one of the following holds:

$$x = y \quad x < y \quad x > y$$

Bounds and Limits

2.1 Bounded sets of real numbers

upper bound

A set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is *bounded above* if there exists $M \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $s \leq M$ for all $s \in S$. M is an *upper bound* of S .

lower bound

A set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is *bounded below* if there exists $m \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $s \geq m$ for all $s \in S$. m is an *lower bound* of S .

bounded

A set is *bounded* if it is both bounded above and bounded below.

supremum

The *supremum* or *least upper bound* of a nonempty set S that is bounded above is the upper bound L satisfies $L \leq M$ for all upper bounds M of S is written as $\sup S$.

infimum

The *infimum* or *greatest lower bound* of a nonempty set S is the lower bound ℓ satisfying $\ell \geq m$ for all lower bounds m of S . The infimum is denoted $\inf S$.

max

If there exists $M \in S$ such that $s \leq M$ for all $s \in S$, then M is called the *maximum* of S , $\max S$.

min

Analogous defn for $\min S$.

2.2 Examples

0. $S_0 = \emptyset$. Bounded above and below. No supremum or infimum.
1. $S_1 = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}^+\} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ not bounded above, bounded below.
1 is infimum and minimum
2. $S_2 = \{-3, -2, 0.5, 1.423\}$. Bounded above and below. Bounded. Has max, min.
3. $S_3 = \{1 - \frac{1}{n} : n \in \mathbb{Z}^+\} = \{0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \dots\}$
Bounded above by 1. Bounded below by 0.
Supremum is 1, but there is no max.

2.3 Least Upper Bound Principle

Theorem 2.1: Least Upper Bound Principle

Every nonempty set S of \mathbb{R} that is bounded above has a supremum. Every nonempty set that is bounded below has an infimum.

Sketch of proof for “infimum”. There are only finitely many integers from m_0 to $s_0 + 2$. Choose the greatest integer lower bound \rightarrow call it a_0 .

$a_0 + 1$ is not a lower bound. Divide $[a_0, a_0 + 1]$ into 10, find a_1 such that $a_0 \circ a_1$ is lower bound of S , but $a_0 \circ a_1 + 1/10$ is not. Repeat infinitely many times to construct $L = a_0 \circ a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$

Now, show that L is infimum.¹

□

¹See details in textbook.

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