

# Weierstrass Theorem

ROB 501

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- **Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem (alternative characterization of compactness in finite dimensional spaces)**
- **Weierstrass Theorem (when does a function guaranteed to have a maximum or minimum in its domain?)**
- **Intro to convexity (if time)**

# Last time

- Continuity of a function  $f$  at a point  $x_0$

- Epsilon-delta definition

- An equivalent characterization in terms of preserving the convergence of sequences, i.e.,  $f$  is continuous at  $x_0$  iff " $(x_n \rightarrow x_0)$  implies  $(f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x_0))$ "

- Question: how about the converse? That is, if

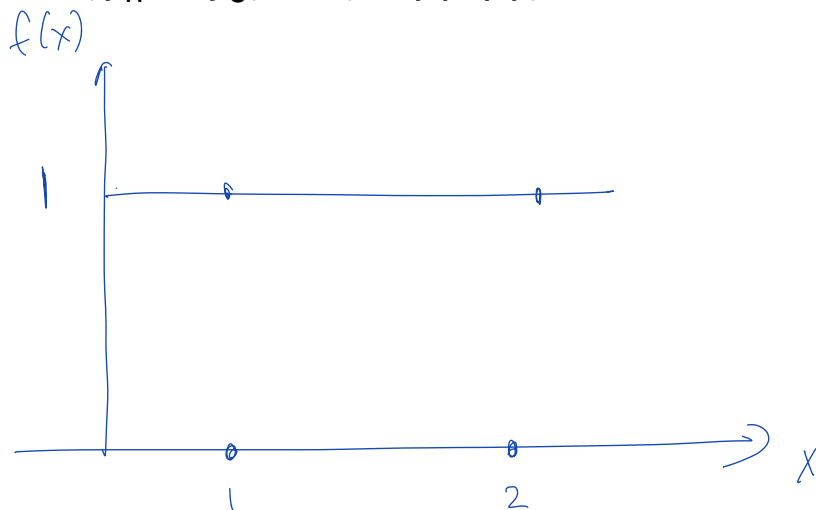
- $f: X \rightarrow Y$  continuous everywhere

- $(x_n) \in X$ , and  $y_n = f(x_n)$

- $(y_n \rightarrow y_0)$  in  $(Y, ||\cdot||)$

Does there exist a  $x_0$  s.t.  
 $(x_n \rightarrow x_0)$  in  $(X, ||\cdot||)$ ?

NO!



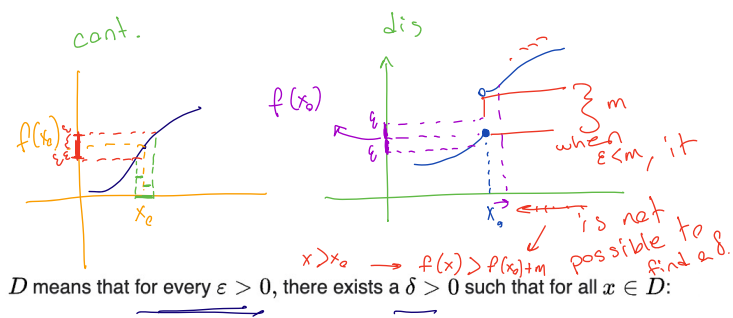
$x_i = \begin{cases} 1 \\ 2 \end{cases}$

$i$  is odd  
 $i$  is even

$(x_n)$  is not convergent

$y_n = f(x_n) = 1$

$(y_n) = 1, 1, \dots$   
 converges to 1.



Alternatively written, continuity of  $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  at  $x_0 \in D$  means that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x \in D$ :

$$|x - x_0| < \delta \text{ implies } |f(x) - f(x_0)| < \varepsilon.$$

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- An equivalent characterization in terms of preserving the convergence of sequences, i.e.,  $f$  is continuous at  $x_0$  iff “ $(x_n \rightarrow x_0)$  implies  $(f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x_0))$ ”

Def: Let  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  be a normed space. Then,  $C \subset X$  is compact if every sequence in  $C$  has a convergent subsequence with limit in  $C$ .

Remark: Often called sequential compactness.

- Compactness

Bolzano – Weierstrass Theorem: (simple characterization of compactness in finite dimensional spaces).

In a finite-dim normed space  $X$ , TFAE for a set  $C \subset X$ :

(a)  $C$  is closed and bounded.

(b)  $C$  is sequentially compact.

We could alternatively write (a) and (b) as

- (a)  $C$  is closed and bounded  
(b) For every seq.  $(x_n)$  in  $C$  ( $x_n \in C \forall n \geq 1$ ),  
 $\exists x_0 \in C$  and a subsequence  $(x_{n_i})$  of  $(x_n)$   
s.t.  $x_{n_i} \xrightarrow{i \rightarrow \infty} x_0$ . ( $C$  is sequentially compact).

Proof: (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b)

Case 1: Suppose  $(x_n)$  has only a finite # of distinct elements.  
Hence, at least one value is repeated an infinite number of times. WLOG, say that is  $x_5$ . Then  $\exists n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_k < \dots$   
s.t.  $x_{n_i} = x_5 \quad i=1, 2, \dots$  ( $(x_{n_i})$  is a constant sequence).

$$\therefore x_{n_i} \rightarrow x_5.$$

Case 2:  $(x_n)$  has an  $\infty$  # of distinct elements.

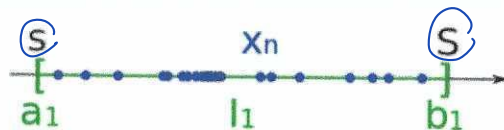
See next page for a Wikipedia proof.

## Alternative proof [edit]

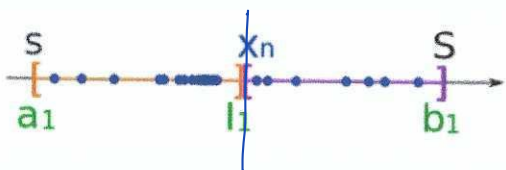
There is also an alternative proof of the Bolzano–Weierstrass theorem using nested intervals. We start with a bounded sequence  $(x_n)$ :



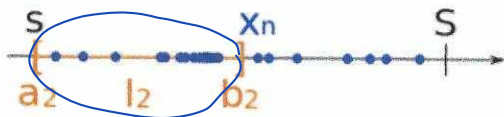
Because  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is bounded, this sequence has a lower bound  $s$  and an upper bound  $S$ .



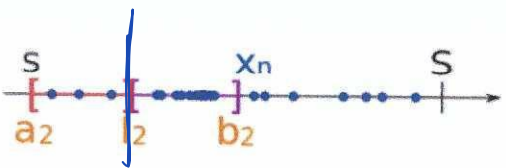
We take  $I_1 = [s, S]$  as the first interval for the sequence of nested intervals.



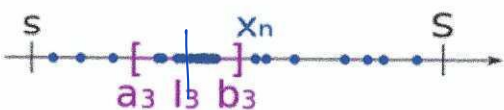
Then we split  $I_1$  at the mid into two equally sized subintervals.



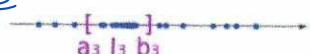
We take this subinterval as the second interval  $I_2$  of the sequence of nested intervals which contains infinitely many members of  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ . Because each sequence has infinitely many members, there must be at least one subinterval which contains infinitely many members.



Then we split  $I_2$  again at the mid into two equally sized subintervals.



Again we take this subinterval as the third subinterval  $I_3$  of the sequence of nested intervals, which contains infinitely many members of  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .



We continue this process infinitely many times. Thus we get a sequence of nested intervals.

$$x_{n_1} = x_1$$

$$x_{n_2} = x_i \text{ in the orange interval}$$

with the smallest index greater than 1.

$$x_{n_3} = x_i \text{ in the purple interval}$$

with the smallest index greater than  $n_2$ .

The <sup>sub</sup>sequence, we constructed as above is a Cauchy sequence (the distance between consecutive points shrinks bc. the size of intervals shrinks)  $\Rightarrow$  it is convergent (since  $\mathbb{R}$  is complete)

What we showed is if  $C$  is bounded in a complete space and  $(x_n)$  is a seq. in  $C$ , then  $(x_n)$  has a convergent subsequence.

$(b) \Rightarrow (a)$ : We can show  $\sim(a) \Rightarrow \sim(b)$

$\sim(a)$ :  $C$  is either not closed or not bounded

$\sim(b)$ :  $\exists (x_n)$  with no convergent subsequence having limit in  $C$ .

Case 1:  $C$  is unbounded  $\Rightarrow \sim(b)$

Shown in exercise (fact) 2 in the last lecture.

Case 2:  $C$  is not closed  $\Rightarrow \sim(b)$

Proof of Case 2:  $C$  not closed  $\Rightarrow C$  does not contain all of its limit points.  $\exists x_0 \notin C$  and  $(x_n)$  with  $x_n \in C$  s.t.  $x_n \rightarrow x_0$  ( $x_0$  is a limit point of  $C$  that is not in  $C$ )

Hence, we have a sequence  $(x_n)$  for which none of its subsequences have a limit in  $C$  (since  $(x_n)$  is convergent, all its subsequences converge to  $x_0$ , and  $x_0 \notin C$ ).  
Hence  $(b) \Rightarrow (a)$ .

Weierstrass Thm: If  $C$  is a compact subset of a normed space  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  and  $f: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous at each point of  $C$ , then  $f$  achieves its extreme values:  
 $\exists x^* \in C$  s.t.  $f(x^*) = \sup_{x \in C} f(x)$  [sup = max]  
 $\exists x_* \in C$  s.t.  $f(x_*) = \inf_{x \in C} f(x)$  [inf = min]

Proof:

Claim:  $f: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  continuous and  $C$  compact  
 $\Rightarrow f^* := \sup_{x \in C} f(x) < \infty$

Proof of the claim:

$$p \Rightarrow q \Leftrightarrow (\sim p) \vee q \Leftrightarrow \sim(p \wedge (\sim q))$$

$p$ :  $f$  cont. and  $C$  compact

$q$ :  $f^* < \infty$

Suppose  $f^* = \infty$ . Choose  $x_1 \in C$  s.t.  $f(x_1) \geq 1$ .

By induction, choose  $x_{n+1} \in C$  s.t.  $f(x_{n+1}) \geq f(x_n) + 1$ .

$y_n := f(x_n)$  is a sequence in  $\mathbb{R}$  and has no convergent subsequence. (b.c. each consecutive  $y_i$  is at least "1" apart by construction).

However,  $(x_n)$  is a sequence in  $C$ , which is compact. Hence  $\exists \tilde{x} \in C$  and a subsequence  $(x_{n_i})$  s.t.  $x_{n_i} \rightarrow \tilde{x}$ . But  $f$  is continuous,

and thus  $f(x_{n_i}) \xrightarrow{i \rightarrow \infty} f(\tilde{x})$ .

Then,  $(y_{n_i})$  is subsequence of  $(y_n)$  and  $y_{n_i} \rightarrow \tilde{y} = f(\tilde{x})$ . This is a contradiction!

Hence  $(p \wedge \sim q)$  is false!

$\therefore p \Rightarrow q$



Let's go back to the bigger proof  
knowing  $f^* := \sup_{x \in C} f(x) < \infty$ .

$$\therefore \forall n \geq 1, \exists x_n \in C \text{ s.t. } |f(x_n) - f^*| < \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\therefore \underline{y_n} := f(x_n) \rightarrow f^*$$

Invoke  $C$  is compact to choose a point  
 $\tilde{x} \in C$  and a subsequence  $(x_{n_i})$  of  $(x_n)$  s.t.  
$$x_{n_i} \xrightarrow{i \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{x}.$$

Question:  $f(\tilde{x}) = f^*$ ?

$(y_{n_i})$  is a subsequence of  $(y_n)$ , and

$$y_n \rightarrow f^* \implies y_{n_i} \rightarrow f^* \quad \text{by continuity of } f.$$

$$\text{We know } x_{n_i} \rightarrow \tilde{x} \implies y_{n_i} \rightarrow f(\tilde{x})$$

Limits are unique, hence  $f^* = f(\tilde{x})$ .

Then  $x^* = \tilde{x}$  is the point in  $C$  that  
achieves the maximum.  $\square$

The proof for  $x_*$  is similar.

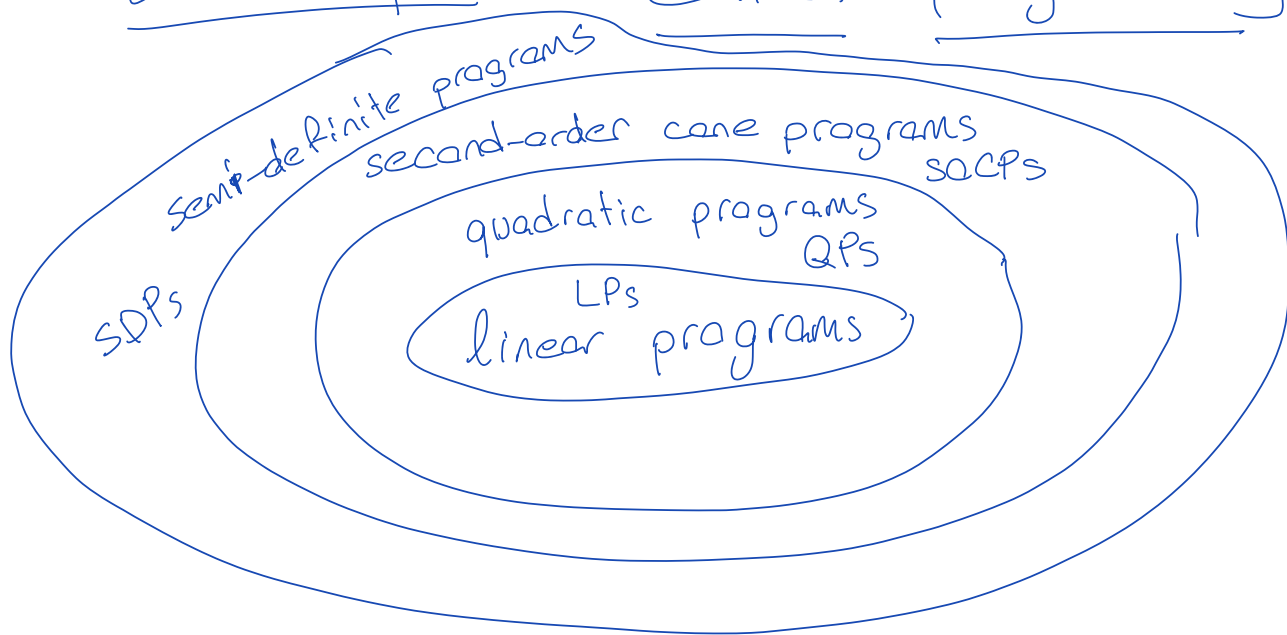
DONE WITH REAL ANALYSIS!

Some follow-up courses: Math 451 (mostly  
finite dimensional or 1-dimensional)

EECS 600 (infinite dimensional)

and other courses in the math depart

Last topic: Convex programming



- Define convex sets
- Define convex function

$$\min \|x\|_1$$

$$\text{s.t. } \underbrace{Hx \leq h}_k$$

$$\tilde{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C^T \tilde{x}$$

$$A \tilde{x} \leq b$$

$$\|x\|_1 = |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_n|$$

$$\begin{array}{c} -\varepsilon_1 \leq x_1 \leq \varepsilon_1 \\ \vdots \\ -\varepsilon_n \leq x_n \leq \varepsilon_n \end{array} \quad 2n$$

$$\min \varepsilon_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_n$$

$$\tilde{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \varepsilon_1 \\ \vdots \\ \varepsilon_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\min [0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1 \ \dots \ 1] \tilde{x}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} H & 0 \\ \boxed{\phantom{0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1 \ \dots \ 1}} \end{bmatrix} \tilde{x} \leq \begin{bmatrix} h \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$2n+k$

$$x_i = \begin{cases} 1 + \frac{1}{i} & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 4 - \frac{1}{i} & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

Not convergent

$$x_1 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 3.5$$

$$x_3 = 1.\bar{3}$$

$$x_4 = 3.75$$

$$x_5 = 1.2$$

$$x_6 = 3 - \frac{1}{6}$$



for all  $\epsilon$ ,

find an index  $N(\epsilon)$  that is

large enough s.t.

for all indices  $i \geq N(\epsilon)$   $x_i \in B_\epsilon(x)$

$$x_i = \frac{1}{i} \quad 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots$$

for  $\varepsilon = 0.5$   $N = 2$  works

$\varepsilon = 0.001$   $N = 1000$  works

Take  $x \in B_a(x_0)$  which means  $\|x - x_0\| < a$

want to show  $x \in \tilde{B}_{\frac{a}{K_1}}(x_0)$ .

We know:

$$\forall x: K_1 \|x - x_0\| \leq \|x - x_0\|$$

if  $x \in B_a(x_0)$  we know  $\|x - x_0\| < a$ ,

$$\text{if } x \in B_a(x_0) \quad K_1 \|x - x_0\| \leq \|x - x_0\| < a$$

$$K_1 \|x - x_0\| < a$$

$$\|x - x_0\| < \frac{a}{K_1} \Rightarrow$$

$$x \in \tilde{B}_{\frac{a}{K_1}}(x_0)$$