Math 320: Chapter 1

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1 Common sets

- Natural numbers $\mathbb{N}$ (Rudin uses $\mathbb{J}$)
  - Set notation $\{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$
  - Closed under addition and multiplication
  - Not closed under subtraction (might get a negative number)
- Integers $\mathbb{Z}$
  - Set notation $\dots - 3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$
  - Closed under subtraction and addition
  - But not under division
- Rationals $\mathbb{Q}$
  - Set notation: $\left\{\frac{m}{n} : m \in \mathbb{Z}, n \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$
    * Where $\frac{m_1}{n_1} = \frac{m_2}{n_2}$ iff $m_1 * n_2 = m_2 * n_1$
    * Our intuitive idea of division
  - Alternative we could define $\mathbb{Q}$ in a more straightforward way
    * Define $\mathbb{Q}$ as the set of ordered pairs $\{(m, n) : m \in \mathbb{Z}, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$
    * We also need to make sure the equivalent fractions are accounted for
    * where (m_1, n_1) is equivalent to (m_2, n_2) (ie $(m_1, n_1) \sim (m_2, n_2)$) if $m_1 n_2 = m_2 n_1$
  - Closed under addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division (if divisor is non-zero)
  - Question: Are the rationals sufficient for everything we want to do in real analysis (in calculus)?
    * Can we do things in calculus?
    * Can we take limits? (and have them work properly?)
  - Nope! (note: the name of this course is **real** analysis, not **rational** analysis

– The problem is that the rationals have holes, they're not "filled in all the way" like the reals are

Example: Holes in the rationals

(Rudin 1.1a) We want to show that there's a number we can't reach in the rationals ($\sqrt{2}$). $\nexists p \in \mathbb{Q} : p^2 = 2$

Proof:

By contradiction: Suppose that $\exists p \in \mathbb{Q} : p^2 = 2$. Then since p is rational, we can write $p = \frac{m}{n}$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

- WLOG we may suppose that m and n are not both even (because if not then we could just divide both by 2 and have a new m and n and repeat until this statement is true)
  - Q: How can we be sure that this dividing by 2 will eventually end? (More explicitly, how many times do we need to do it?)
- We have $2 = p^2 = \frac{m^2}{n^2}$

$$2 = \frac{m^2}{n^2} \tag{1}$$
$$m^2 = 2n^2 \tag{2}$$

- So m must be even
- Ie $m = 2k$ for some odd integer k

$$2n^2 = m^2 \tag{3}$$
$$2n^2 = (2k)^2 \tag{4}$$
$$n^2 = 2k^2 \tag{5}$$

- So n must be even, but we said that one of them had to be odd.
- Contradiction!

Example:

(Rudin 1.1b)

- Let $A = \{p \in \mathbb{Q} : p > 0, p^2 < 2\}$
- Let $B = \{p \in \mathbb{Q} : p > 0, p^2 > 2\}$
- Consider the area where the two sets meet. We know that they meet at $\sqrt{2}$, which is not a rational.
- So we know that the set of rationals has little holes in it, like $\sqrt{2}$ which make us unable to use limits, which are important for real analysis

Then:

- $\forall p \in A, \exists q \in A : p < q$ (A does not have a largest element)
- Similarly B does not have a smallest element ($\forall p \in B, \exists q \in B : q < p$

Proof:

First one

- Consider arbitrary $p \in A$. Try $q = \frac{2p+2}{2+p}$
- Check $q \in \mathbb{Q}$, the denominator is non-zero and rational, so the result is rational.
- Check $q > 0$, both numerator and denominator are positive
- Check $q^2 < 2$.

$$\begin{aligned} q^2 &= \frac{(2p+2)^2}{(2+p)^2} && (6) \\ &= \frac{2(p^2-2)}{(p+2)^2} + 2 && (7) \end{aligned}$$

- The fraction is less than zero, because the numerator is negative ($p^2 < 2$ because $p \in A$), so $q^2 < 2$)
- Check that $p < q$. Well $q = p + \frac{2-p^2}{2+p}$, which is positive, so $q > p$

Second one

- Exercise (Try the exact same choice of q)

Q: Where did that q come from? (Think calculus)

Q: Why do we care so much that there is $q^2 = 2$, but don't care that there isn't a $q^2 = -1$?