

of $\{X_n\}$.

Choose n_1 so that $X_{n_1} \neq X$. If no such n_1 exists, then A has one point, and we are done. Let $\delta = d(X, X_1)$.

Suppose n_1, \dots, n_{m-1} are chosen. Since X is a limit point of A , there is a $Y \in A$ with $d(X, Y) < \delta^{-m} \delta$. Since $Y \in A$, there is an $n_m > n_{m-1}$ with $d(Y, X_{n_m}) < \delta^{-m} \delta$.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} d(X, X_{n_m}) &\leq d(X, Y) + d(Y, X_{n_m}) \\ &\leq \delta^{-m} \delta + \delta^{-m} \delta = \delta^{1-m} \delta, \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that $\{X_{n_m}\} \rightarrow X$.

Finally, we discuss the connection between boundedness (Defn. 2.3.9) and convergence of sequences. (This material belongs after Thm 2.3.6)

Definition 4.1.1

A sequence $\{X_n\}$ in a metric space (X, d) is bounded if its range forms a bounded set in X . Otherwise, it is unbounded.

Equivalently, $x_n \in A$, A a bounded subset in \mathbb{R} , for all n .

Example 4.1.1 In $(\mathbb{R}, |\cdot|)$,

(1) $\left\{\frac{1}{n}\right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges and is bounded

(2) $\{n^2\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ diverges and is unbounded

(3) $\{-1 + (-1)^n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ diverges and is bounded

We have the relation

Theorem 4.1.4

A sequence in a metric space that converges is bounded.

Proof Suppose $\{x_n\}$ is a sequence in a metric space (X, d) that converges to x .

There is an integer N such that $d(x_n, x) < 1$ for $n \geq N$. Set

$$r = \max \{1, d(x, x_1), \dots, d(x, x_{N-1})\}.$$

Then, $d(x_n, x) \leq r$ for all n .

§ 4.2 Cauchy Sequences

The practical trouble with the standard definition of convergence is that it involves the (usually) unknown limit.

Example 4.2.1

The sequence

$$\left\{ \sum_{m=1}^n \frac{4}{n} \sqrt{e^{\frac{m^4}{n}} - \sin\left(\frac{2}{1+\frac{m^4}{n}}\right)} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$$

converges, because it converges to

$$\int_1^4 \sqrt{e^x - \sin\left(\frac{2}{1+x}\right)} dx,$$

which we can prove exists by standard Calculus results. However, we do not know the value of this integral and cannot verify the definition of convergence.

The notion of a Cauchy sequence gives a way around this difficulty.

The idea is that if a sequence converges to a limit, i.e., the terms in the sequence approach

a limit as the index increases, then the terms also approach each other as the index increases.

Definition 4.2.1

A sequence $\{x_n\}$ in a metric space (X, d) is a Cauchy sequence if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is an $N > 0$ such that $d(x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$ for $n, m \geq N$.

Example 4.2.2

$\left\{\frac{1}{n}\right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $(\mathbb{R}, |\cdot|)$.

$$\text{For } d\left(\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{m}\right) = \left|\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{m}\right| \leq \frac{2}{\min\{n, m\}}$$

so given $\varepsilon > 0$, if we choose $N > \frac{2}{\varepsilon}$, then for $n, m \geq N$, $\left|\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{m}\right| < \varepsilon$.

Example 4.2.3

$\left\{\frac{\sin(nx)}{n}\right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $C([0, \pi])$

since $\left|\frac{\sin(nx)}{n} - \frac{\sin(mx)}{m}\right| \leq \frac{2}{\min\{n, m\}}$, $0 \leq x \leq \pi$,

hence given $\varepsilon > 0$, if $N > \frac{2}{\varepsilon}$, then $d\left(\frac{\sin(nx)}{n}, \frac{\sin(mx)}{m}\right) < \varepsilon$ for $n, m \geq N$.

Boole's
better
example

Fitting our intuition:

Theorem 4.2.1

Any sequence in a metric space that converges is a Cauchy sequence.

Proof

Assume $\{x_n\}$ is a sequence in a metric space (X, d) and $x_n \rightarrow x$. Choose $\varepsilon > 0$. There is an N such that $d(x_n, x) < \varepsilon$ for $n \geq N$. Hence,

$$d(x_n, x_m) \leq d(x_n, x) + d(x_m, x) \leq 2\varepsilon, \quad n, m \geq N,$$

and $\{x_n\}$ is Cauchy.

Moreover

Theorem 4.2.2

If a subsequence of a Cauchy sequence in a metric space converges to a limit, then the Cauchy sequence itself converges to the same limit.

Proof

Let $\{x_n\}$ be a Cauchy sequence

in a metric space (X, d) . Suppose the subsequence $\{x_{n_k}\}$ converges to x . Given $\varepsilon > 0$, choose N so that $d(x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon/2$ for $n, m \geq N$. Choose K such that $k \geq K$ implies $n_k \geq N$ and $d(x_{n_k}, x) < \varepsilon/2$. Then for all $n \geq N$ and $k \geq K$,

$$d(x_n, x) \leq d(x_n, x_{n_k}) + d(x_{n_k}, x) < \varepsilon.$$

Proof:
already seen
is correct

§ 4.3 Completeness

Unfortunately, the converse to Theorem 4.2.1 just does not hold. Not every Cauchy sequence in a metric space must converge to a point in the space.

Example 4.3.1

Consider $(0, 1) \subset (\mathbb{R}, |\cdot|)$. $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $(0, 1)$, but does not converge to a limit in $(0, 1)$.

Example 4.3.2

Consider \mathbb{Q} d($\mathbb{R}, ||$). $\left\{ \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in \mathbb{Q} because we know that $\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \rightarrow e'$ in $(\mathbb{R}, ||)$, but its limit $e \notin \mathbb{Q}$.

Example 4.3.3

Consider the space of polynomials on $[a, b]$: $\mathcal{P}([a, b]) \subset C([a, b])$.

The sequence $\left\{ 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} \right\}$ converges uniformly to e^x on $[a, b]$, i.e.

$$\max_{a \leq x \leq b} \left| 1 + x + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} - e^x \right| \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

by Taylor's theorem. Hence, $\left\{ 1 + x + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} \right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $\mathcal{P}([a, b])$, but its limit $e^x \notin \mathcal{P}([a, b])$.

Definition 4.3.1

A metric space is complete if every Cauchy sequence converges to an element in the space.

ex. 6.2
 Note: e^x is not in $\mathcal{P}([a, b])$ because it is not a polynomial. e^x is a limit of a Cauchy sequence in $\mathcal{P}([a, b])$ but it is not in $\mathcal{P}([a, b])$.
 book: sum up the examples in words. The Cauchy sequence acts like it converges but it's limit is not in the space and the def. in cannot be verified.

— start —