

Math 5615 Honors: Proof Riemann's Theorem on Rearrangements Limits of Functions

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Riemann's Theorem

Theorem

Suppose $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ is conditionally convergent. Given any real number S , there is a rearrangement $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_{p_k}$ that converges to S .

Given a series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$, let

$$a_k^+ := \max\{a_k, 0\} \text{ and } a_k^- := \max\{-a_k, 0\}.$$

Then $a_k^+ = a_k$ if $a_k > 0$ and $a_k^+ = 0$ otherwise; $a_k^- = |a_k|$ if $a_k < 0$ and $a_k^- = 0$ otherwise.

Proposition (Proved last time)

If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ is absolutely convergent, then the series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k^+$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k^-$ are both convergent. If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ is conditionally convergent, then the series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k^+$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k^-$ are both divergent.

Proof of Riemann's Theorem

Know $\sum_k a_k^+$, $\sum_k a_k^-$ diverge, $\sum_k a_k$ converges
 $\Rightarrow a_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Suppose $S \geq 0$.

Construct a rearrangement of $\sum a_k$ as per algorithm:

1. Add a_k^+ 's from $\sum a_k$ (in their original order)
 up to the first a_k^+ term so that $\sum a_k^+ > S$ (possible
 because $\sum a_k^+$ diverges to ∞)

2. Add negative terms of $\sum a_k$ (in their original order)

up to the first $-a_k^-$ term so that the resulting sum $< S$.
 (possible b/c $\sum a_k^-$ diverges to ∞).

3. Repeat steps 1 & 2. Never terminates b/c
 $\sum a_k^+$, $\sum a_k^-$ diverge.
 Get a rearrangement $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_{p_k}$.

Proof of Riemann's Theorem, Continued

Given $\epsilon > 0$, $\exists N$: $\forall k \geq N$ $|a_k| < \epsilon$. Choose

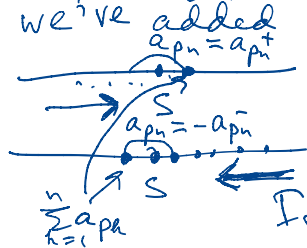
K : a_1, \dots, a_N are among $a_{p_1}, a_{p_2}, \dots, a_{p_K}$.

Thus, if $k \geq K$, then $|a_{p_k}| < \epsilon$.

Claim: $\forall n \geq K$ $|S - \sum_{k=1}^n a_{p_k}| < \epsilon$. Otherwise,

if $|S - \sum_{k=1}^n a_{p_k}| \geq \epsilon$ for some $n \geq K$, then

we've added too many terms of the same sign in the algorithm:



Thus, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_{p_k}$ converges

to S .

If $S < 0$, then start with step 2.

Example

Take the series

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \frac{1}{k} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \dots,$$

which converges and has sum $\log 2$ (the Taylor series of $\log(1+x)$).

The rearrangement

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{3}\right) - \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7}\right) - \frac{1}{4} + \left(\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{11}\right) - \frac{1}{6} + \dots$$

converges to $\frac{3}{2} \log 2$, being $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \frac{1}{k}$.

The parentheses reflect the algorithm used in the proof of Riemann's theorem to achieve $S = \frac{3}{2} \log 2$.

$$\left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7}\right) > \frac{1}{4} > \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{11}, \text{ etc.}$$

Example, Continued

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{10} + \dots \\
 + & 0 + \frac{1}{2} + 0 - \frac{1}{4} + 0 + \frac{1}{6} + 0 - \frac{1}{8} + 0 + \frac{1}{10} + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1 + \cancel{0} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} + \cancel{0} + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \cancel{0} + \frac{1}{11} - \dots \\
 = & \left(1 + \frac{1}{3}\right) - \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7}\right) - \frac{1}{4} + \left(\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{11}\right) - \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Limit of a Function

Definition

Let X and Y be metric spaces (important case $X = \mathbb{R}^n$, $Y = \mathbb{R}^m$), $D \subset X$ and $f : D \rightarrow Y$. Let a be a cluster point of D , and let $L \in X$. We say that f has limit L as x approaches a , and write $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a $\delta > 0$ such that

(f(x) → L as x → a)

$$x \in D \text{ and } 0 < d(x, a) < \delta \Rightarrow d(f(x), L) < \varepsilon.$$

Theorem

If, under the assumption of the definition above, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L_1$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L_2$, then $L_1 = L_2$.

Proof.

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$ $d(L_1, L_2) \leq d(L_1, f(x)) + d(L_2, f(x)) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon$
 if we choose x close enough to a :
 $0 < d(x, a) < \delta$. Then we have and $d(L_1, L_2) = 0$. \square