

Arzela - Ascoli Theorem:

Details of the Final Steps of the Proof:

(1) Uniform Cauchy given convergence at countable dense subset:

Setup: $f_n: X \rightarrow Y$, X compact, $\{f_n\}$ converges at each point s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots of a countable dense subset of X , $\{f_n\}$ equicontinuous.

Hope to prove: $\{f_n\}$ converges uniformly on X .
This is the same as $\{f_n\}$ being uniformly Cauchy.

By compactness of X , it is enough to prove that given $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x_0 \in X$, there is a $\delta_{\varepsilon, x_0} > 0$ and an N_{ε, x_0} such that:

$$\text{for } l, k \geq N \text{ and } d_X(x_0, x) < \delta_{\varepsilon, x_0} \Rightarrow d_Y(f_{n_l}(x), f_{n_k}(x)) < \varepsilon \text{ if } l, k \geq N.$$

Why this suffices: $B(x_0, \delta_{\varepsilon, x_0})$, $\forall x_0 \in X$ is an open cover of X . So there is a finite subcover. And $N = \max$ of N 's for each element of the finite subcover will work for uniform Cauchy for the given ε .

(that is, $\text{for } l, k \geq \text{that } N \Rightarrow d_Y(f_{n_l}(x), f_{n_k}(x)) < \varepsilon$).

We find, given $\varepsilon > 0$ and x_0 , the required $\delta_{\varepsilon, x_0}$ and N_{ε, x_0} as follows: Choose $\delta_{\varepsilon, x_0}$ such that $d_X(x_0, x) < \delta_{\varepsilon, x_0} \Rightarrow d_Y(f_{n_j}(x), f_{n_j}(x_0)) < \varepsilon/6$ for all n_j (i.e., all j).

This is possible by equicontinuity.

Then choose N_{ε, x_0} as follows:

Choose some s in the countable dense subset (on which $\{f_n\}$ converges) such that $d_X(x_0, s) < \delta_{\varepsilon, x_0}$ ← already chosen.

Then choose N_{ε, x_0} such that $l, k \geq N_{\varepsilon, x_0} \Rightarrow$

$$d_Y(f_{n_l}(s), f_{n_k}(s)) < \varepsilon/6.$$

Then for $l, k \geq N_{\varepsilon, x_0}$ and $x \in B(x_0, \delta_{\varepsilon, x_0})$,

$d_Y(f_{n_l}(x), f_{n_k}(x))$ can be estimated by:

$f_{n_l}(x)$ is $\varepsilon/6$ -close to $f_{n_l}(x_0)$ which is $\varepsilon/6$ close to $f_{n_l}(s)$ which is $\frac{\varepsilon/3}{\varepsilon/3}$ -close to $f_{n_k}(s)$ which

is $\varepsilon/6$ -close to $f_{n_k}(x_0)$ which is $\varepsilon/6$ close to $f_{n_k}(x)$

$\Rightarrow f_{n_l}(x)$ is $\varepsilon/6 + \varepsilon/6 + \varepsilon/3 + \varepsilon/6 + \varepsilon/6 = \varepsilon$ -close to $f_{n_k}(x)$. [Here: "a ε -close to b" means $d(a, b) < \varepsilon$]

Thus these $\delta_{\varepsilon, x_0}$ and N_{ε, x_0} suffice \square

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(2) Every sequentially compact metric space X has a countable dense subset.

Def: An ε -net in X , $\varepsilon > 0$, is a maximal set S such that $s_1, s_2 \in S \Rightarrow d_X(s_1, s_2) \geq \varepsilon$.
 (i.e. S has this property, that every two distinct points are at least ε -separated and no $S' \supset S$, $S' \neq S$, has this property).

Lemma: $\varepsilon > 0$, X seq compact $\Rightarrow \exists$ an finite ε -net in X . The An ε -net is necessarily a finite set.

Proof: Finiteness is clear: an infinite ε -net would yield an infinite sequence with no convergent subsequence. For existence: choose $x_0 \in X$.

If $X \subset B(x_0, \varepsilon)$, done. If not, choose $x_1 \in X$ such that $d_X(x_0, x_1) \geq \varepsilon$. If $B(x_0, \varepsilon) \cup B(x_1, \varepsilon) = X$, done. If not, choose $x_2 \in (X - B(x_0, \varepsilon)) \cap (X - B(x_1, \varepsilon))$ so that $d_X(x_1, x_2) \geq \varepsilon$ & $d_X(x_0, x_2) \geq \varepsilon$.

Continue this process. It must terminate since otherwise one would obtain an infinite sequence with no convergent subsequence. \square

To get a countable dense subset S , let $S_n =$ a $1/n$ -net, $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and set $S = \bigcup_{n=1}^{+\infty} S_n$

Since each S_n is finite, S is countable and clearly dense, \square