

Test 3, Nov 18 2019, More answers to Ex 3–5

3. If  $S \subseteq T \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  then show that  $\text{Int}(S) \subseteq \text{Int}(T)$ .

Proof #1: Let  $s \in \text{Int}(S)$ . To prove  $s \in \text{Int}(T)$ .

The definition in item 16 says  $\exists_{\epsilon > 0} (s - \epsilon, s + \epsilon) \subseteq S$ . But  $S \subseteq T$  so  $\exists_{\epsilon > 0} (s - \epsilon, s + \epsilon) \subseteq S \subseteq T$ . Then  $s \in \text{Int}(T)$  (again item 16).

Proof #2:  $\text{Int}(T)$  is the union of all open subsets of  $T$ , one of which is  $\text{Int}(S) \subseteq S \subseteq T$ .

4. Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Suppose that  $S$  is dense.  
Show that  $S - \{x\}$  is also dense.

Proof #1: Item 19(d) says that every non-empty open set contains infinitely many elements from  $S$ . If you delete  $x$  then there are still infinitely many left. So every non-empty open set contains infinitely many elements of  $S - \{x\}$ . Then  $S - \{x\}$  is dense by 19(d).

Proof #2: If we use the definition in item 19 then we are given to that **every** open interval  $(\tilde{x} - \epsilon, \tilde{x} + \epsilon)$  contains an element of  $S$ . That is reworded in 19(c) to say that **every** non-empty open set contains an element of  $S$  (why is that equivalent? Well, because every non-empty open set contains an open interval!).

**Note:** we do not know if the  $x$  in Ex 4 is the same as the  $x$  in item 19. We can not use the same symbol for things that might be different. Any time that happens, just use a different letter, or the same letter but with a prime  $x'$  or a tilde  $\tilde{x}$  attached to it.

If we want to prove “ $S - \{x\}$  is dense” using the definition then have to show that every open interval  $(\tilde{x} - \epsilon, \tilde{x} + \epsilon)$  contains an element of  $S - \{x\}$ . You can’t just say:  $(\tilde{x} - \epsilon, \tilde{x} + \epsilon) \cap S \neq \emptyset$  and  $(\tilde{x} - \epsilon, \tilde{x} + \epsilon) \cap (\mathbb{R} - \{x\}) \neq \emptyset$  because just because two sets are non-empty, it doesn’t imply that their intersection is non-empty too. So the key to the proof is to apply the given statement (that **every** non-empty open set contains an element of  $S$ ) not to this open set:  $(\tilde{x} - \epsilon, \tilde{x} + \epsilon)$  but to this open set:  $(\tilde{x} - \epsilon, \tilde{x} + \epsilon) - \{x\}$ . (or to any open interval in there).

Proof #3: If we want to use item 19(b) then we have to show, for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , that there exists a sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots \in S - \{x\}$  that converges to  $\alpha$ . Make sure not to use the same letter for this  $\alpha$  and this  $x$  because we do not know if they are the same. Now there are two cases:

Case 1:  $\alpha = x$ . We could choose  $a_n \in (x, x + 1/n) \cap S$  (that intersection is non-empty because  $S$  is dense). Then  $a_1, a_2, \dots \in S - \{x\}$  and it converges to  $\alpha = x$ .

Case 2:  $\alpha \neq x$ . Now we could take a sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots$  in  $S$  that converges to  $\alpha$ . Such a sequence exists because  $S$  is dense, use 19(b).

The problem now is that we do not know if this same sequence is also in  $S - \{x\}$ . To finish the proof, note that a **tail** of the sequence must be in  $S - \{x\}$  (apply item 8 with  $\epsilon := |\alpha - x|$ ).

5. Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Suppose that  $S \cup \{x\}$  is open. Show that  $x \in \overline{S}$ .

Proof #1: From item 3 we get  $(x - \epsilon, x + \epsilon) \subseteq S \cup \{x\}$  for some  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then  $(x - \epsilon, x) \cup (x, x + \epsilon)$  is a subset of  $S$ .

But recall from Ex 1 that  $x$  is a limit point of  $(x - \epsilon, x) \cup (x, x + \epsilon)$ . Then  $x$  is also a limit point of  $S$ . Then use item 11(a).

Proof #2: If you want to write a proof by contrapositive, you assume  $x \notin \overline{S}$ . By item 11(e) that is the same as saying  $(x - \epsilon, x + \epsilon) \cap S = \emptyset$  for some  $\epsilon > 0$ . The To-Prove statement in the proof-by-contrapositive method is: T.P.  $S \cup \{x\}$  is not open. That means: copy the definition of open from item 3, and negate it.

Warning: there is no guarantee that the  $x$  from item 3 is the same as the  $x$  in Ex 5. It might be the same, but we do not (yet) know that so we must use a different letter! The same goes for the  $\epsilon$  too. Then here is the negation of “ $S \cup \{x\}$  open”:

$$\exists \tilde{x} \in S \cup \{x\} \quad \forall \tilde{\epsilon} > 0 \quad (\tilde{x} - \tilde{\epsilon}, \tilde{x} + \tilde{\epsilon}) \not\subseteq S \cup \{x\}$$

Proof: take  $\tilde{x} := x$

(How did I know to start like that? Well, WP#6 tells us to write “Take  $\tilde{x} := \dots$  but the only element in that set  $S \cup \{x\}$  that I actually know is  $x$  so I don’t see any other options than to write: take  $\tilde{x} := x$ .)

None of the points in  $(x - \epsilon, x + \epsilon)$  are in  $S$ , so it is not possible, for any  $\tilde{\epsilon} > 0$ , that all of the infinitely many points in  $(\tilde{x} - \tilde{\epsilon}, \tilde{x} + \tilde{\epsilon}) = (x - \tilde{\epsilon}, x + \tilde{\epsilon})$  would be in  $S \cup \{x\}$ . So I conclude:  $\forall \tilde{\epsilon} > 0 \quad (\tilde{x} - \tilde{\epsilon}, \tilde{x} + \tilde{\epsilon}) \not\subseteq S \cup \{x\}$ .

Good news: the quiz to add points to test 2 went very well.

Bad news: test 3 did not go well.

Good news: there is enough time to have a similar quiz for test 3.