

# Cauchy Sequence Proof

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

Notice that since  $(\mathbb{R}, |\cdot|)$  is a metric space, then the following inequality holds by the triangle inequality (property 3):

$$|x_m - x_n| \leq |x_m - x_{m+1}| + |x_{m+1} - x_{m+2}| + \dots + |x_{n-1} - x_n|$$

Now for our specific sequence, we see that:

$$\left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{n} \right| \leq \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{m+1} - \frac{1}{m+2} \right| + \dots + \left| \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n} \right|$$

We can play with the inequality above to get a desirable result. Notice that  $\left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| = \left| \frac{-1}{m(m+1)} \right| = \frac{1}{m(m+1)}$ . If  $m < n$ , then  $\left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| > \left| \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n} \right|$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{n} \right| &\leq \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{m+1} - \frac{1}{m+2} \right| + \dots + \left| \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n} \right| \\ &< \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| + \dots + \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| \\ &< (m-n) \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| \\ &< m \left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right| \\ &= m \frac{1}{m(m+1)} \\ &= \frac{1}{(m+1)} \end{aligned}$$

We want to show that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then there exists an  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $m, n \geq N$  where:

$$\left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{n} \right| < \varepsilon$$

If we set  $\frac{1}{N+1} = \varepsilon \Rightarrow N = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} - 1$ . Now we can use a more "formal" proof:

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Choose  $N$  such that  $N > \frac{1}{\varepsilon} - 1$ . Then, for  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $m, n \geq N$ , then:

$$\left| \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{n} \right| \leq \varepsilon$$