

Let (X, d) be a metric space.

A contraction mapping is a function $f: X \rightarrow X$ such that there exists $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ such that if $x, y \in X$ then $d(f(x), f(y)) \leq \alpha d(x, y)$.

A fixed point of $f: X \rightarrow X$ is an element $x \in X$ such that $f(x) = x$.

Theorem: Banach fixed point theorem

Let (X, d) be a complete metric space and let $f: X \rightarrow X$ be a contraction mapping.

Let $x \in X$ and let x_1, x_2, \dots be the sequence

$$x_1 = f(x), \quad x_2 = f(f(x)), \quad x_3 = f(f(f(x))), \quad \dots$$

Then x_1, x_2, \dots converges and

$q = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$ is the unique fixed point of f .

Proof: To show: (a) x_1, x_2, \dots is a Cauchy sequence

(b) $q = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$ exists

(c) $f(q) = q$

(d) If q is a fixed point of f then $q = p$.

(a) To show: If $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$, then there exists $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that if $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $m > N$ and $n > N$ then $d(x_m, x_n) < \varepsilon$. (2)

Assume $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$

Let N be the smallest integer in $\mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such

$$\text{that } \frac{\alpha^N d(f(x), x)}{1-\alpha} < \varepsilon \quad \left(\text{so } \alpha^N < \frac{\varepsilon(1-\alpha)}{d(f(x), x)} \right).$$

To show: If $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $m > N$ and $n > N$ then $d(x_m, x_n) < \varepsilon$.

Assume $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $m > N$ and $n > N$. Assume $n < m$.

To show: $d(x_m, x_n) < \varepsilon$.

Since

$$d(x_2, x_1) = d(f^2(x), f(x)) \leq \alpha d(f(x), x),$$

$$d(x_3, x_2) = d(f^3(x), f^2(x)) \leq \alpha d(f^2(x), f(x)) \leq \alpha^2 d(f(x), x),$$

$$d(x_4, x_3) = d(f^4(x), f^3(x)) \leq \alpha d(f^3(x), f^2(x)) \leq \alpha^3 d(f(x), x),$$

...

then

$$\begin{aligned} d(x_n, x_m) &\leq d(x_n, x_{n+1}) + d(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) + \dots + d(x_{m-1}, x_m) \\ &\leq \alpha^n d(f(x), x) + \alpha^{n+1} d(f(x), x) + \dots + \alpha^{m-1} d(f(x), x) \\ &= (\alpha^n + \alpha^{n+1} + \dots + \alpha^{m-1}) d(f(x), x) \\ &\leq \alpha^n (1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 + \dots) d(f(x), x) = \frac{\alpha^n}{1-\alpha} d(f(x), x) < \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

So x_1, x_2, \dots is a Cauchy sequence in X . (3)

(b) Since (X, d) is complete and x_1, x_2, \dots is a Cauchy sequence in X then x_1, x_2, \dots converges in X . So there exists $p \in X$ with $p = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$.

(c) To show: $f(p) = p$.

To show: $d(f(p), p) = 0$.

To show: If $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ then $d(f(p), p) < \varepsilon$.

Assume $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$.

Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = p$, there exists $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that if $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $n \geq N$ then $d(x_n, p) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} d(f(p), p) &\leq d(f(p), x_{N+1}) + d(x_{N+1}, p) \\ &\leq \alpha d(p, x_N) + d(x_{N+1}, p) \quad (\text{since } x_{N+1} = f(x_N)) \\ &< \alpha \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

So $d(f(p), p) = 0$.

So $f(p) = p$.

(d) To show: If q is a fixed point of f then $q=p$. (4)

To show: If $q \in X$ and $f(q)=q$ then $q=p$.

Assume $q \in X$ and $f(q)=q$.

To show: $q=p$.

To show: $d(q, p)=0$.

$$d(q, p) = d(f(q), f(p)) \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{(since } q=f(q) \\ \text{and } p=f(p) \end{array} \right)$$

$$\leq \alpha d(q, p) \quad (\text{since } f \text{ is contractive}).$$

$$\text{So } (1-\alpha)d(q, p) \leq 0.$$

Since $(1-\alpha)d(q, p) \geq 0$ and $(1-\alpha)d(q, p) \leq 0$ then
 $(1-\alpha)d(q, p) = 0$.

Since $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ then $(1-\alpha) \neq 0$,
and so $d(q, p) = 0$.

$$\text{So } p=q. \blacksquare.$$