

On The Second Proof of the Banach Contraction Principle

The textbook has a second proof of the Banach Contraction Principle, pg 241-242. I covered the first in class. The second proof looks easier, but that is because there is a gap in the proof. I'll go over this here:

Thm Let M be a complete metric sp. Let $f: M \rightarrow M$ be a contraction, i.e. $\exists k \in [0, 1)$ s.t. $\forall x, y \in M$ $d(f(x), f(y)) \leq k d(x, y)$. Then f has a unique fixed pt.

Pf 2 Uniqueness is proven the same way as proof 1.

Let $x_0 \in M$. Claim $\exists r_0 > 0$ s.t. $f(\overline{B(x_0, r_0)}) \subset B(x_0, r_0)$.

The book just assumes this, but it is not obvious.

To find r_0 , let $y \in B(x_0, r_0)$. We need $d(x_0, f(y)) < r_0$.

We use the triangle inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} d(x_0, f(y)) &\leq d(x_0, f(x_0)) + d(f(x_0), f(y)) \\ &\leq d(x_0, f(x_0)) + k d(x_0, y) \\ &\leq d(x_0, f(x_0)) + k r_0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we want to find $r_0 > 0$ s.t.

$$d(x_0, f(x_0)) + k r_0 < r_0.$$

Thus, choose

$$r_0 > \frac{d(x_0, f(x_0))}{1-k}, \text{ which is } \cancel{\text{not}} \text{ zero}$$

only zero if $f(x_0) = x_0$, and we are done, and is otherwise positive since $k < 1$.

From here you can follow the book's proof. With $B_0 = B(x_0, r_0)$, $B_1 = f(B(x_0, r_0))$, etc. you can check that $B_n \subset B_{n-1}$ and $\text{diam}(B_n) \leq k^n \text{diam}(B_0) \rightarrow 0$. Thus $\bigcap B_n =$ a single pt. $\{p\}$, $f(p) = p$ and if we let $x_n = f^{on}(x_0)$, $x_n \rightarrow p$. $\square$

Reference: I found the trick for getting to from a student's paper: "The Banach Contraction Principle" by Alex Poniecki.

<https://www.math.uchicago.edu/~may/VIGRE/VIGRE2009/REUP/Poniecki.pdf>