

Open & closed sets

SOLUTIONS

Problem 1

If  $A$  is a closed set that contains every rational number,  $r \in [0,1]$ , show that  $[0,1] \subset A$ .

$A$  is closed,  $r \in A$        $\mathbb{R} \setminus A$  open  
 $[0,1] \subset A$

so,  $n \in [0,1] \Rightarrow n \in A$

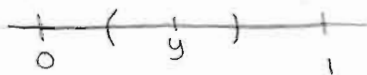
$y \in [0,1]$  &  $y \neq$  rational

want:  $y \in A$

assume by way of contradiction, that  $y \notin A$

$y \in \mathbb{R} \setminus A$  (open set)

then, there exists an open interval  $I$  about  $y$ ,  $y \in I \subseteq I \subseteq \mathbb{R} \setminus A$   
 $I$  has no rational numbers



However, that is a contradiction as any open interval about  $y$  contains rational numbers

$\therefore y \in A$ .

Problem 2

a)  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\| < 1\}$

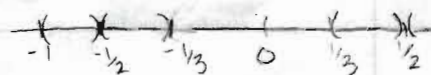
$I : \|x\| < 1$  (set itself)

$E : \|x\| > 1$

$B : \|x\| = 1$

b) The collection of open intervals,  $(\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n+1})$   $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Let's call this set  $B$ .



$I: B$  (the set itself)

$E: (-\infty, -1) \cup (1, \infty)$

$B: \{-1, -1/2, -1/3, \dots, 0, \dots, 1/3, 1/2, 1\}$

### Problem 3

Find an open cover for

a) the closed interval  $[-1, 1]$



b) The set of all rational numbers

$(0, 0) \cup (-1, 1) \cup (-2, 2) \cup (-3, 3) \cup (-4, 4) \cup \dots \cup (-n, n)$

### Definition:

A collection  $\mathcal{O}$  of open sets is an open cover of  $A$  (or, briefly, covers) if every point  $x \in A$  is in some open set in the collection  $\mathcal{O}$ .