STEP Project Year 2024 Paper 2

## 2024.2 Question 8

1. Notice that by expanding this square,

$$(\sqrt{x_n} - \sqrt{y_n})^2 = x_n + y_n - 2\sqrt{x_n y_n}$$
  
=  $2a(x_n, y_n) - 2g(x_n, y_n)$   
=  $2(x_{n+1} - y_{n+1}).$ 

Since this is a square, it must be non-negative, with the equal sign taking if and only if  $\sqrt{x_n} = \sqrt{y_n}$ , which holds if and only if  $x_n = y_n$ .

So  $x_{n+1} \ge y_{n+1}$ , and  $x_{n+1} = y_{n+1}$  if and only if  $x_n = y_n$ .

Since  $y_0 < x_0$ , we have  $y_0 \neq x_0$ , and hence  $y_1 \neq x_1$ . By induction, this shows that  $y_n \neq n$  for all n, and hence for all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $y_n < x_n$ .

Furthermore,

$$x_n - x_{n+1} = x_n - a(x_n, y_n)$$

$$= x_n - \frac{x_n + y_n}{2}$$

$$= \frac{x_n - y_n}{2}$$

$$> 0,$$

since  $x_n > y_n$  and hence  $x_n > x_{n+1}$ .

Similarly,

$$y_{n+1} - y_n = g(x_n, y_n) - y_N$$

$$= \sqrt{x_n y_n} - y_N$$

$$= \sqrt{y_n} (\sqrt{x_n} - \sqrt{y_n})$$

$$> 0,$$

since  $x_n > y_n$  implies  $\sqrt{x_n} > \sqrt{y_n}$ , and hence  $y_n < y_{n+1}$ .

Hence, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$y_n < x_n < x_{n-1} < x_{n-2} < \dots < x_0,$$

and  $y_{n+1} > y_n$ .

Hence,  $\{y_N\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  is an increasing sequence, and is bounded above by  $x_0$ .

So there exists  $M \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} y_n = M.$$

As for the inequality, the left inequality sign is equivalent to  $y_{n+1} < x_{n+1}$  which was shown above. To show the right inequality sign, this is equivalent to showing

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{x_n}-\sqrt{y_n})^2 &< \frac{1}{2}(x_n-y_n) \\ x_n+y_n-2\sqrt{x_ny_N} &< x_n-y_n \\ 2y_n &< 2\sqrt{x_ny_n} \\ \sqrt{y_n} &< \sqrt{x_n}, \end{split}$$

which is true since  $y_n < x_n$ .

Hence,

$$0 < x_{n+1} - y_{n+1} < \frac{1}{2}(x_n - y_n)$$

as desired.

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Hence, we have

$$0 < x_n - y_n$$

$$< \frac{1}{2}(x_{n-1} - y_{n-1})$$

$$< \frac{1}{4}(x_{n-2} - y_{n-2})$$

$$< \cdots$$

$$< \frac{1}{2^n}(x_0 - y_0),$$

by induction.

 $x_0 - y_0 > 0$  is a positive real constant. Let  $n \to \infty$ , and by the squeeze theorem, the strict inequalities become weak, and

$$0 \le \lim_{n \to \infty} (x_n - y_n) \le \lim_{n \to \infty} \left( \frac{1}{2^n} (x_0 - y_0) \right) = 0,$$

and hence

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (x_n - y_n) = 0.$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} x_n = \lim_{n \to \infty} [(x_n - y_n) + y_n]$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} (x_n - y_n) + \lim_{n \to \infty} y_n$$

$$= 0 + M$$

$$= M,$$

since both parts of the limit  $x_n - y_n$  and  $y_n$  exist, the limit of the sum is the sum of the limits of the individual parts.

2. Using this substitution, when  $x \to 0^+$ , we have  $t \to -\infty$ , and when  $x \to +\infty$ ,  $t \to +\infty$ . Also,

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{pq}{x^2} = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{pq}{x^2} \right).$$

Hence, the integral can be simplified as

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{4}(p+q)^2 + t^2\right)(pq + t^2)}}$$

$$= \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2}\left(1 + \frac{pq}{x^2}\right) \mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{4}(p+q)^2 + \frac{1}{4}\left(x - \frac{pq}{x}\right)^2\right)\left(pq + \frac{1}{4}\left(x - \frac{pq}{x}\right)^2\right)}}$$

$$= \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2}\left(1 + \frac{pq}{x^2}\right) \mathrm{d}x}{\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\left(p^2 + 2pq + q^2 + x^2 - 2pq + \frac{p^2q^2}{x^2}\right)\left(4pq + x^2 - 2pq + \frac{p^2q^2}{x^2}\right)}}$$

$$= 2\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{pq}{x^2}\right) \mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{\left(p^2 + q^2 + x^2 + \frac{p^2q^2}{x^2}\right)\left(x^2 + 2pq + \frac{p^2q^2}{x^2}\right)}}$$

$$= 2\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(x^2 + pq\right) \mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{\left(x^4 + (p^2 + q^2)x^2 + p^2q^2\right)\left(x^4 + 2pqx^2 + p^2q^2\right)}}$$

$$= 2\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(x^2 + pq\right) \mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{\left(x^2 + p^2\right)\left(x^2 + q^2\right)\left(x^2 + pq\right)^2}}$$

$$= 2\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{\left(x^2 + p^2\right)\left(x^2 + q^2\right)}}$$

$$= 2I(p, q),$$

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which means

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{4}(p+q)^2+t^2\right)(pq+t^2)}} = 2I(p,q).$$

But also note that the left-hand side satisfies that

$$\begin{split} \text{LHS} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{4}(p+q)^2 + t^2\right)(pq + t^2)}} \\ &= 2 \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{1}{2}(p+q)\right)^2 + t^2\right]\left[(\sqrt{pq})^2 + t^2\right]}} \\ &= 2 \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\sqrt{\left[a(p,q)^2 + t^2\right]\left[g(p,q)^2 + t^2\right]}} \\ &= 2I(a(p,q),g(p,q)), \end{split}$$

since the integrand is an even function, and so

$$I(p,q) = I(a(p,q), g(p,q)),$$

as desired.

Since 0 < q < p, let  $y_0 = q, x_0 = p$ , and hence

$$I(p,q) = I(x_0, y_0)$$

$$= I(a(x_0, y_0), g(x_0, y_0))$$

$$= I(x_1, y_1)$$

$$= \cdots$$

$$= I(x_n, y_n).$$

Let  $n \to \infty$ , and we have

$$\begin{split} I(p,q) &= I(M,M) \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{M^2 + x^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{M} \left[ \arctan\left(\frac{x}{M}\right) \right]_0^\infty \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2M}. \end{split}$$

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