

**Cantor's diagonalization method:
Proof of Shorack's Theorem 12.8.1**

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Let $I_n(t) \equiv \tau_{n, \lfloor nt \rfloor} / n$. For each fixed t we have

$$I_n(t) \rightarrow_p t \quad \text{by the weak law of large numbers.} \quad (1)$$

We want to show that

$$\|I_n - I\| \equiv \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} |I_n(t) - t| \rightarrow_p 0. \quad (2)$$

Shorack writes: "Using the diagonalization technique, we can extract from any subsequence a further subsequence $\{n'\}$ on which

$$I_{n'}(t) \rightarrow_{a.s.} t \quad \text{for all rational } t. \quad (3)$$

But since all functions involved are monotone, and since the limit function is continuous, this implies that a.s.

$$I_{n'}(t) \rightarrow t \quad \text{uniformly on } [0, 1]. \quad (4)$$

Thus (2) follows from (4) since every (subsequence) n has a further (subsequence) n' with the same limit."

The key part of this argument is going from (1) to (3). Here are the details of that argument.

Let r_1, r_2, \dots be the rationals in $[0, 1]$. Then $I_n(r_1) \rightarrow_p r_1$ by (1). By Theorem 3.5.7 (PFS 2017, page 61) there is a subsequence $\{n'\} \equiv \{n'_1\} \equiv \{n'_{1,j} : j \in \{1, 2, \dots\}\}$ such that $I_{n'_{1,j}}(r_1) \rightarrow_{a.s.} r_1$. A further subsequence $\{n'_2\}$ of $\{n'_1\}$ satisfies $I_{n'_{2,j}}(r_2) \rightarrow_{a.s.} r_2$. Continuing in this way yields a subsequence $\{n'_k\} = \{n'_{k,j} : j \in \{1, 2, \dots\}\}$ of $\{n'_{k-1}\}$ which satisfies $I_{n'_{k,j}} \rightarrow_{a.s.} r_k$, and so forth. Taking the diagonal subsequence $\{n'_{k,k} : k \in \{1, 2, \dots\}\}$ yields (3).

For another use of this method, see PFS, Theorem 9.1.3 (Helly's selection theorem), page 194.