

On Thomae Function  
 Let  $I$  be any interval of finite length  
 and let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\frac{m}{n}$  in lowest terms

$$Z_n := \left\{ m \in \mathbb{Z} : \frac{m}{n} \in I \right\}, \text{ where } \frac{m}{n} \text{ in lowest terms}$$

Then  $Z_n$  is finite (or empty) (by the well-order property, as  $Z_n$  is bounded). Hence

$I_n := \left\{ x \in I \cap \mathbb{Q} : x = \frac{m}{n} \right\}$  is also a finite set, and so  $\bigcup_{n \leq N} I_n$  is finite for any  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \forall x \text{ irrational} \\ \frac{1}{n} & \forall x = \frac{m}{n} \text{ rational in lowest terms} \end{cases}$

Let  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$  (so  $f(x_0) = 0$ ), and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $I = (x_0 - \frac{1}{2}, x_0 + \frac{1}{2})$

and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $\frac{1}{N} < \varepsilon$ . Since  $x_0$  is not in the finite set  $\bigcup_{n \leq N} I_n$  (as  $x_0$  is irrational and the set is contained in  $\mathbb{Q}$ ), pick positive

$\delta < \frac{1}{2}$  such that  $V_\delta(x_0)$  disjoint from  $\bigcup_{n \leq N} I_n$

Then  $|f(x)| = f(x) < \varepsilon \quad \forall x \in V_\delta(x_0)$ . This is because all rationals  $\frac{m}{n}$  in  $V_\delta(x_0)$  are in  $\bigcup_{n > N} I_n$  (so  $f(x) = \frac{1}{n} < \frac{1}{N} < \varepsilon$ ).