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*Uniformly metastable convergence in metric structures.*

We study Tao’s finitary viewpoint of convergence in metric spaces, as captured by the notion of metastability with a uniform rate. We adopt the perspective of continuous model theory. We show that, in essence, uniform metastability is the only formulation of metric convergence that can be captured by a theory in continuous first-order logic, a result we call the Uniform Metastability Principle. Philosophically, this principle amounts to the following meta-theorem: “*If a classical statement about convergence in metric structures is refined to a statement about uniformly metastable convergence, then the validity of the original statement implies the validity of its uniformly metastable version.*” As an instance of this phenomenon, we formulate an abstract version of Tao’s Metastable Dominated Convergence Theorem as a statement about axiomatizable classes of metric structures, and show that it is a direct consequence of the Uniform Metastability Principle.

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