

Q6:

Let $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, not closed. Let x be a point such that $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus A$ and $x \notin \text{int } \mathbb{R}^n \setminus A$. Consider $f(y) = \frac{1}{\|y-x\|}$. We want to show that this function is unbounded and continuous. We begin by showing that f is continuous. Notice that if $g(y) = \|x-y\|$ and $h(z) = \frac{1}{z}$, then $f = h \circ g$. It is sufficient to show that g is continuous and never 0. We will use the following fact to prove that g is continuous

Claim: $|\|x\| - \|y\|| \leq \|x-y\|$

pf: since both quantities are positive we can square them

$$\begin{aligned} (\|x\| - \|y\|)^2 &\leq \|x-y\|^2 \\ \iff \|x\|^2 - 2\|x\|\|y\| + \|y\|^2 &\leq \langle x, x \rangle - 2\langle x, y \rangle + \langle y, y \rangle \\ \iff -2\|x\|\|y\| &\leq -2\langle x, y \rangle \\ \iff \langle x, y \rangle &\leq \|x\|\|y\| \text{ which is true by Cauchy-Schwarz} \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Now we show that g is continuous. Let $\epsilon > 0$. Let $\delta = \epsilon$. Take $y, z \in A$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \|z-y\| &< \epsilon \\ \implies \|z-x-y+x\| &< \epsilon \\ \implies \|(z-x)-(y-x)\| &< \epsilon \\ \implies |\|z-x\| - \|y-x\|| &\leq \|(z-x)-(y-x)\| < \epsilon \text{ (by claim)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore g is continuous. Now h will be continuous since g will never be 0, since $g(y) = 0 \iff \|y-x\| = 0 \iff y = x$, but x is not in A . As the composition of two continuous functions, f is continuous as well. Now we show that f is unbounded. First, note that the point x must be in the boundary of A , since it is not in the exterior of A , and is not in A so it can not be in the interior. Therefore, for all $\epsilon > 0$, $B_\epsilon(x)$ will contain at least one point $z \in A$. Choose $\epsilon > 0$. Suppose that this f is bounded. There must exist some M with $f(y) \leq |M|$ for all $y \in A$. So we see that

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &\leq |M| \\ \iff \frac{1}{\|y-x\|} &\leq |M| \\ \iff \frac{1}{|M|} &\leq \|y-x\|, \text{ for all } y \in A \end{aligned}$$

However, we can choose any $\epsilon > 0$ and find a $y \in A$ where $\|y-x\| < \epsilon$. Choosing $\epsilon = \frac{2}{|M|}$ implies that $\frac{1}{|M|} \leq \|y-x\| < \frac{2}{|M|}$. This is a contradiction, since no such positive number M exists where $\frac{1}{|M|} < \frac{2}{|M|}$. Thus f is not bounded on A . \blacksquare