

## Cantor's Intersection Theorem

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Author paolini (1187) Entry type Theorem Classification msc 54E45 **Theorem 1.** Let  $K_1 \supset K_2 \supset K_3 \supset \ldots \supset K_n \supset \ldots$  be a sequence of non-empty, compact subsets of a metric space X. Then the intersection  $\bigcap_i K_i$  is not empty.

Proof. Choose a point  $x_i \in K_i$  for every i = 1, 2, ... Since  $x_i \in K_i \subset K_1$  is a sequence in a compact set, by Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem, there exists a subsequence  $x_{i_j}$  which converges to a point  $x \in K_1$ . Notice, however, that for a fixed index n, the sequence  $x_{i_j}$  lies in  $K_n$  for all j sufficiently large (namely for all j such that  $i_j > n$ ). So one has  $x \in K_n$ . Since this is true for every n, the result follows.