Compactness

Many of these problems are from a collection made by Behnam Esmayli, who also references a collection created by Cezar Lupu.

Common Lemmas:

(1) If $f : X \to Y$ is a continuious function between metric spaces (X, d) and (Y, ϱ) then $f(X)$ is bounded.

Proof. Assume towards a contradiction that $f(X)$ is not bounded. Therefore, for a fixed $y \in f(X)$ we have that for every R there is some $f(x)$ such that $\varrho(y, f(x)) > R$. Therefore we can construct some sequence $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ such that $\varrho(f(x_n), y) > n$. Since X is compact there must be some $(x_{n_k})_{k=1}^{\infty}$ with $x_{n_k} \to x_0\, (\in X)$. Since f is continuous, we have that $f(x_{n_k}) \to f(x_0)\, (\in Y)$. Since these sequences are covergent, it must be that $\varrho(f(x_{n_k}), y) \to \varrho(f(x_0), y)$. However, $\varrho(x_{n_k}, y) > n_k > k$ for all k. This is a contradiction and therefore $f(X)$ is bounded. □

(2) If $f : X \to \mathbb{R}$ with X compact, then f must achieve a maximum and minimum value.

Proof. It suffices to show only f achieving a maximum since the cases are the same. Applying the first lemma we know that $f(X)$ is a bounded subset of $\mathbb{R}$. Therefore $\alpha := \sup f(X)$ exists. Since α is the supremum of the range of f for every ϵ there must be some x such that $\alpha - \epsilon < f(x) \leq \alpha$. Letting $\epsilon_n := \frac{1}{n}$ we can construct a sequence $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ with $f(x_n) \to \alpha$. Also since X is compact there must be some $(x_{n_k})_{k=1}^{\infty}$ with $x_{n_k} \to x_0\, (\in X)$. Since $f(x_n)$ is convergent, its subsequences must also be convergent to the same limit. And by the continuity of f we have:

$$f(x_0) \leftarrow f(x_{n_k}) \to \alpha$$

By the uniqueness of limits $f(x_0) = \alpha$ is a maximum. □

Problems:

(1) For $f : X \to \mathbb{R}$ with X compact and $\forall x \in X \;\; f(x) > 0$, then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $x \in X \;\; f(x) \geq \delta$

Proof. By applying lemma 2 we know that f must achieve a minimum for some $x_0 \in X$ and by hypothesis we know that $f(x_0) > 0$. Therefore we can pick $\delta := f(x_0)$ and we know that for all $x \in X \;\; f(x) \geq f(x_0) = \delta$. □

(2) For a set compact subset K and F a closed subset of some metric space (X, d). Show that if $K \cap F = \emptyset$ then there exists some $\delta > 0$ such that:

$$\forall p \in K \;\; \forall q \in F \;\; d(p, q) \geq \delta$$

Proof. Assume towards a contradiction that for all $\delta > 0$ there exists some $p \in K$ and $q \in F$ such that $d(p, q) < \delta$. Letting $\delta_n := \frac{1}{n}$ for any n we can construct a sequences $(p_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ in K and $(q_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ in F such that:

$$d(p_n, q_n) \to 0$$

Since p_n is a sequence in a compact set there must exist some subsequence $(p_{n_k})_{k=1}^{\infty}$ that is convergent to some $p_0 \in K$. I claim that the sequence given by $(q_{n_k})_{k=1}^{\infty}$ is convergent to p_0.

$$d(q_{n_k}, p_0) \leq d(q_{n_k}, p_{n_k}) + d(p_{n_k}, p_0)$$

and we can fix some n_0 where for all $n \geq n_0$:

$$d(q_{n_k}, p_0) \leq d(q_{n_k}, p_{n_k}) + d(p_{n_k}, p_0) < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon$$

Since the sequence q_{n_k} is convergent sequence in a closed set, its limit point is necessarily included in the set. Therefore, $p_0 \in F$. We can conlude that $\{p_0\} \subset F \cap K$ which is a contradiction. $\square$

I am confused here because I seem to have solved this problem without employing the strategy of **(1)**. My idea is that you could fix an element of F and define a function the is the distance from the points in K to the fixed element of F. There is necessarily a positive mimimum of this function. For each element of F there is a fixed minimum value, and we could define another funcion on F that ties these elements to their minimum distanced elements in F and I would claim that this set has a minimum positive value in which case the question would follow but I don't kow how to prove the last step!

(3) Let A be a non singular linear map $\mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ (an $n \times n$ matrix) show that there exists some $\delta > 0$ such that:

$$||A(x)|| = ||Ax|| \geq \delta ||x|| \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

Proof. Note that since A is nonsingular: $||Ax|| = 0 \iff ||x|| = 0$ since the only vector mapped to the 0 vector is the 0 vector. Therefore we can fix the sphere of radius 1, denoted S. This is compact since it is a closed and bounded susbset of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Since $||x||$ and $||Ax||$ are nonzero for $x \in S$. We can then define the function $f : S \to \mathbb{R}^n$ as follows:

$$f(x) := \frac{||Ax||}{||x||}$$

This function is defined over a compact set and is positive for all $x \in S$. Therefore, problem **(1)** applies and there must exist some $\delta > 0$ such that:

$$f(x) = \frac{||Ax||}{||x||} \geq \delta \iff ||Ax|| \geq \delta ||x|| \qquad (x \in S)$$

It remains to show the above for the rest of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Since this inequality holds trivially for the zero vector, fix some arbitrary non zero vector, x, in $\mathbb{R}^n$. x can be represented as $t\hat{x}$ with $\hat{x}$ a unit vector and $t \in \mathbb{R}$ nonzero. Since $\hat{x}$ is a unit vector $\hat{x} \in S$ and we can write:

$$||A(x)|| = ||A(t\hat{x})|| = t||A(\hat{x})|| \geq t\delta ||\hat{x}|| = t\delta ||x||$$
$$\iff ||Ax|| \geq \delta ||x||$$

Therefore the delta found for S is sufficient for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. $\square$