

# I. Connectedness

Defn  $X$  disconnected if can write

$$X = U \cup V \quad U, V \text{ nonempty, disjoint, open}$$

otherwise  $X$  is connected

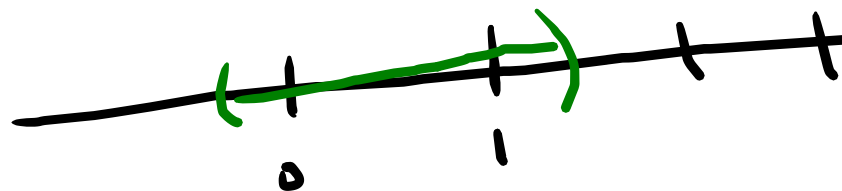
(whenever  $X = U \cup V$   $U, V$  nonempty  
then either  $U$  contains limit point  
of  $V$  or conversely)

## Examples

•  $X = [0, 1] \cup [2, 3] \subset \mathbb{R}$

$$X = (0, 1) \cup (2, 3)$$

$$U = [0, 1] \quad V = [2, 3]$$



disconnected

- $X = \mathbb{Q}$  disconnected

$$X = (-\infty, \sqrt{2}) \cup (\sqrt{2}, \infty)$$

- $\mathbb{R}$  with discrete topology is disconnected

$$\mathbb{R} = \{0\} \cup \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$$

- $\mathbb{R}$  with indiscrete topology is connected  
( $\nexists$  disjoint nonempty open sets)

Prop  $\mathbb{R}$  w/ standard topology  
is connected

Remark connected is a topological property  
( $X \cong Y \rightarrow X$  connected iff  $Y$  connected)

by prop open intervals  $(0,1)$  also connected

Recall LUB property of  $\mathbb{R}$ : any nonempty  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$   
that's bounded above has a least upper bound.

Remark Not true if replace  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $\mathbb{Q}$ . eg  $A = (-\infty, \sqrt{2}) \cap \mathbb{Q}$

Prop  $\mathbb{R}$  w/ standard topology  
is connected

Proof Suppose for contradiction  $\mathbb{R}$  disconnected

$\mathbb{R} = U \cup V$ . Take  $a \in U, b \in V$

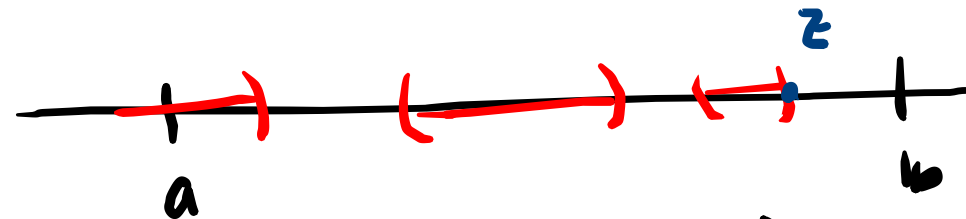
Consider  $A = U \cap [a, b]$  nonempty, bounded above

so  $A$  has a least upper bound  $z$

Case 1  $z \in U$ . Then  $z$  is a

limit point of  $V$  ( $z$  either  $\in V$  or  $\notin V$  either exterior pt or limit of  $V$ )

Case 2  $z \in V$ . similar.  
 $z$  limit point of  $U$



can't happen b/c  $z$  upper bound for  $U$ . □

Remark Same argument shows  $[0,1]$  connected

## II. Connectivity $\equiv$ Continuity.

Lemma  $X$  disconnected  $\iff \exists$  continuous surjection  
 $f: X \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

$\nwarrow$  discrete  
top.

Proof  $(\Rightarrow)$   $X = U \cup V$

define  $f: X \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \in U \\ 1 & x \in V \end{cases}$$

$(\Leftarrow)$  Given  $f: X \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  define  $U = f^{-1}(0)$   $V = f^{-1}(1)$ .  $\square$

Example  $GL_2(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} : ad - bc \neq 0 \right\}$

Claim  $GL_2(\mathbb{R})$  disconnected

Consider  $f: GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$

$$f\left(\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & ad - bc > 0 \\ -1 & ad - bc < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$f\left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\right) = 1$$

$$f\left(\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\right) = -1$$

$$f: GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\det} \mathbb{R}^\times \xrightarrow{\text{sign}} \{-1, 1\}$$

Rank For  $SL_2(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} : ad - bc = 1 \right\}$

this argument doesn't work. In fact  $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$  connected (HW)

Lemma  $X$  connected,  $f: X \rightarrow Y$   
continuous, surjective

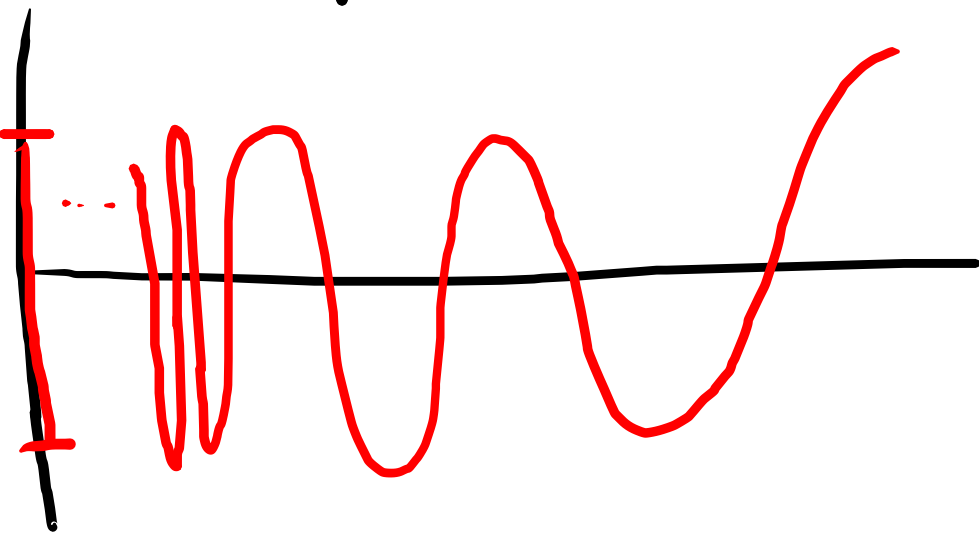
Then  $Y$  connected.

Ex  $[0,1]$  connected  $\Rightarrow S^1$  connected

Proof of lemma: if  $Y$  disconnected.  $Y = U \cup V$

Then  $X = f^{-1}(U) \cup f^{-1}(V) \Rightarrow X$  disconnected.  $\square$

# Ex Topologist sine curve



Claim  
 $X = \underbrace{(\{0\} \times [-1, 1])}_{I_1} \cup \underbrace{\left\{ \left(x, \sin \frac{1}{x}\right) : x > 0 \right\}}_{I_2}$  is connected!

Sketch Suppose  $X = U \cup V$ .  
 $I_1 \cong [0, 1]$  connected  
 $\Rightarrow I_1 \subset U$  or  $I_1 \subset V$ .  
 Any open set in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  containing  $I_1$  contains points of  $I_2$ . Same for  $I_2 \cong (0, \infty) \cong \mathbb{R}$   
 $\Rightarrow U, V$  not both nonempty.

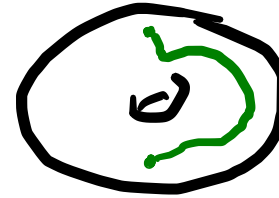


Remark in practice it can be hard to  
show a space is connected using the  
definition

eg  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,



,



Next: path connectedness