

202A: Introduction to Topology and Analysis

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THEME 1

METRIC SPACES

My personal view on spaces is that every space I ever work with is either metrizable or is the Zariski topology.

—Evan Chen, [Che22]

1.1 August 24

Good morning everyone. This is my first class of the semester.

1.1.1 Administrative Notes

Here are some housekeeping remarks.

- The webpage for this class is math.berkeley.edu/~rieffel/202AannF22.html.
- The midterm date is negotiable. We will have a vote on Friday. The possible dates are Friday 14 October, Monday 17 October, or Wednesday 19 October.
- There will be no vote on the final exam. It is on 15 December at 7PM.
- Homework will be due Fridays by midnight, approximately every week.
- There is no particular text for this course, and any given text covers more than we have time for. That said, we will (very) loosely follow [Lan12], but it is helpful to have a number of different expositions around.
- Please wear a mask during lectures and office hours.

Here is a summary of the course.

- We will spend the next couple of lectures talking about metric spaces.
- We will then spend the first half of the course on general topology. The second half of the course will be on measure and integration.
- Throughout we will see a little on functional analysis.

1.1.2 Metric Spaces

Hopefully we remember something about metric spaces. Here's the definition.

Definition 1.1 (Metric). A metric d on a set X is a function $d: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ satisfying the following rules for any $x, y, z \in X$.

- (a) Zero: $d(x, x) = 0$.
- (b) Zero: $d(x, y) = 0$ implies $x = y$.
- (c) Symmetry: $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$.
- (d) Triangle inequality: $d(x, y) + d(y, z) \geq d(x, z)$.

We call (X, d) a metric space.

We will want some "almost" metrics as well. Here are their names.

Definition 1.2 (Semi-metric). A semi-metric d on a set X satisfies (a), (c), and (d) of Definition 1.1. We call (X, d) a semi-metric space.

Definition 1.3 (Extended metric). An extended metric d on a set X is a function $d: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{\infty}$ satisfying (a)–(d) of Definition 1.1. We call (X, d) an extended metric space.

Intuitively, we might want extended metrics if we have points that we never want to be able to get to from other ones.

We can turn spaces with a semi-metric into a space with a metric.

Lemma 1.4. Fix a semi-metric space (X, d) , and define the relation \sim on X by $x \sim y$ if and only if $d(x, y) = 0$. Then \sim is an equivalence relation.

Proof. We run these checks by hand. Fix any $x, y, z \in X$.

- Reflexive: $d(x, x) = 0$ means that $x \sim x$.
- Symmetry: if $x \sim y$, then $d(x, y) = 0$, so $d(y, x) = 0$, so $y \sim x$.
- Transitive: if $x \sim y$ and $y \sim z$, then

$$0 \leq d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z) = 0,$$

so $d(x, z) = 0$, so $x \sim z$. ■

As such, given a semi-metric space (X, d) , we may look at the set of equivalence classes under \sim , which we will denote X/\sim .¹

Proposition 1.5. Fix a semi-metric space (X, d) and define \sim as in Lemma 1.4. Then d naturally descends to a metric \tilde{d} on X/\sim .

Proof. Let $[x]$ denote the equivalence class of $x \in X$ under \sim . We claim that the function

$$\tilde{d}([x], [y]) := d(x, y)$$

is a well-defined metric. We have the following checks; fix any $x, y, z \in X$.

¹ The notation of $/\sim$ is intended to make us think of quotients.

- Well-defined: if $x \sim x'$ and $y \sim y'$, then note that

$$d(x, y) \leq d(x, x') + d(x', y) = d(x', y) \leq d(x', y') + d(y', y) = d(x', y').$$

By symmetry, we also have $d(x', y') \leq d(x, y)$, so equality follows. So d does descent properly to the quotient X/\sim .

- Zero: note that $\tilde{d}([x], [y]) = 0$ if and only if $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $x \sim y$ if and only if $[x] = [y]$.
- Symmetry: note that

$$\tilde{d}([x], [y]) = d(x, y) = d(y, x) = \tilde{d}([y], [x]).$$

- Triangle inequality: note that

$$\tilde{d}([x], [z]) = d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z) = \tilde{d}([x], [y]) + \tilde{d}([y], [z]),$$

which finishes. ■

Here are some examples of metric spaces.

Example 1.6. Given a connected graph $G = (V, E)$ with a weighting function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, we can build a metric as follows: define the “shortest-path” function $d: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ sending two vertices $v, w \in V$ to the length of the shortest path. If the graph G is not connected, we merely have an extended metric.

Example 1.7 (Euclidean metric). The function $d: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

$$d((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_n)) := \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}$$

is a metric.

Observe that it is not completely obvious that [Example 1.7](#) satisfies the triangle inequality, but this will follow from the theory of the next subsections.

1.1.3 Norms on Vector Spaces

Norms provide convenient ways to build metrics.

Definition 1.8 (Norm). Fix a vector space V over \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} . A norm $\|\cdot\|: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is a function satisfying the following, for any $r \in \mathbb{R}$ and $v, w \in V$.

- (a) Zero: $\|v\| = 0$ if and only if $v = 0$.
- (b) Scaling: $\|rv\| = |r| \cdot \|v\|$.
- (c) Triangle inequality: $\|v + w\| \leq \|v\| + \|w\|$.

Remark 1.9. We can probably work with a more general normed field instead of “merely” \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} .

And here is our result.

Proposition 1.10. Given a metric space V with a norm $\|\cdot\|: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, then the function

$$d(v, w) := \|v - w\|$$

defines a metric on V .

Proof. We run the checks directly. Let $x, y, z \in V$ be points.

- Zero: note that $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $\|x - y\| = 0$ if and only if $x - y = 0$ if and only if $x = y$.
- Symmetry: note that

$$d(x, y) = \|x - y\| = |-1| \cdot \|y - x\| = 1 \cdot \|y - x\| = d(y, x).$$

- Triangle inequality: note that

$$d(x, z) = \|x - z\| = \|(x - y) + (y - z)\| \leq \|x - y\| + \|y - z\| = d(x, y) + d(y, z),$$

which finishes the check. ■

Here are the usual examples.

Example 1.11. Set $V := \mathbb{R}^n$ or $V := \mathbb{C}^n$. Then the following are norms on V .

- $\|(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_2 := (\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^2)^{1/2}$.
- $\|(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_1 := \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$.

Here are some more esoteric examples.

Example 1.12. Set $V := \mathbb{R}^n$ or $V := \mathbb{C}^n$. Then

$$\|(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_\infty := \sup\{|x_1|, \dots, |x_n|\}$$

provides a norm on V .

Example 1.13. Set $V := \mathbb{R}^n$ or $V := \mathbb{C}^n$. Then, given $p \geq 1$,

$$\|(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_p := \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

provides a norm on V .

Remark 1.14. Taking the limit as $p \rightarrow \infty$ of $\|f\|_p$ gives $\|f\|_\infty$. This justifies the notation.

Remark 1.15. Despite having lots of examples, all of these norms are equivalent in a topological sense.

These normed vector spaces actually allow us to define a metric on any subset.

Proposition 1.16. Given a metric space (X, d) and a subset $Y \subseteq X$, the restriction of d to $Y \times Y$ is a metric.

Proof. All the requirements for d on $Y \times Y$ are satisfied for any points in X , so we are done by doing no work. ■

Example 1.17. Any subset $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ has an induced metric by restricting the (say) Euclidean metric.

1.1.4 A Hint of L^p Spaces

Here is a more complicated example of a metric.

Example 1.18. Define $V := C([0, 1])$ to be the \mathbb{R} -vector space of \mathbb{R} -valued (or \mathbb{C} -valued) continuous functions on $[0, 1]$. The following are norms.

- $\|f\|_\infty := \sup\{|f(x)| : x \in [0, 1]\}$.
- $\|f\|_1 := \int_0^1 |f(t)| dt$.
- $\|f\|_2 := \left(\int_0^1 |f(t)|^2 dt\right)^{1/2}$.
- More generally, given $p \geq 1$

$$\|f\|_p := \left(\int_0^1 |f(t)|^p dt\right)^{1/p}.$$

These integrals are finite because $[0, 1]$ is compact, forcing f to achieve a finite maximum on $[0, 1]$.

Remark 1.19. We can tell the same story for $C(X)$, for any measurable compact space X .

Remark 1.20. Note the analogy of [Example 1.18](#) with [Example 1.13](#). To see this more rigorously, set X to be the finite set $\{1, \dots, n\}$ so that $C(X) = \mathbb{R}^n$.

We should probably justify the claims of this subsection, so here is our result.

Proposition 1.21. Define $V := C([0, 1])$ to be the vector space of \mathbb{R} -valued (or \mathbb{C} -valued) continuous functions on $[0, 1]$. Then, given $p \geq 1$, the function $\|\cdot\|_p : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ by

$$\|f\| := \left(\int_0^1 |f(t)|^p dt\right)^{1/p}$$

is a norm.

Proof. We run the checks directly.

- Zero: if $f = 0$, then of course $\int_0^1 |f(t)|^p dt = 0$.
- Zero: suppose that $f \in C([0, 1])$ has $f(t_0) \neq 0$ for any $t_0 \in [0, 1]$; set $y := f(t_0)$. Then $f^{-1}((y/2, 3y/2))$ is a nonempty open subset of X and hence contains a nonempty open interval (a, b) with $a < b$. As such,

$$\int_X |f(t)|^p dt \geq \int_a^b |f(t)|^p dt \geq \int_a^b |y/2|^p dt > 0,$$

so we are done.

- Scaling: given $f \in C([0, 1])$ and a scalar r , we have

$$\|rf\| = \left(\int_0^1 |rf(t)|^p dt\right)^{1/p} = \left(|r|^p \int_0^1 |f(t)|^p dt\right)^{1/p} = |r| \cdot \|f\|.$$

- Triangle inequality: we borrow from [Tao09]. Given $f, g \in C([0, 1])$, for psychological reasons we will assume that f and g are nonzero (else this is clear); then $\|f\|, \|g\| \neq 0$, so we may scale everything so that $\|f\| + \|g\|$. In fact, we may again use scaling to find $a, b \in V$ such that

$$f = (1 - \theta)a \quad \text{and} \quad g = \theta b$$

where $\theta \in (0, 1)$ and $\|a\| = \|b\| = 1$. Now, the triangle inequality translates into showing

$$\int_0^1 |(1-\theta)a(t) + \theta b(t)|^p dt = \|(1-\theta)a + \theta b\|_p^p \stackrel{?}{\leq} \left(\|(1-\theta)a\|_p + \|\theta b\|_p \right)^p = 1.$$

Well, because $p \geq 1$, the function $t \mapsto t^p$ is convex, so we get to write

$$\int_0^1 |(1-\theta)a(t) + \theta b(t)|^p dt \leq (1-\theta) \int_0^1 |a(t)|^p dt + \theta \int_0^1 |b(t)|^p dt,$$

which is what we wanted.

The above checks complete the proof; note that the proof of the triangle inequality was nontrivial. ■

Remark 1.22. Now, to show [Remark 1.20](#), replace all \int_0^1 with $\sum_{i=1}^n$ and adjust all the language accordingly. The point is that “integrating over $[0, 1]$ ” is analogous to “integrating over $\{1, \dots, n\}$.” A more thorough understanding of measure theory will allow us to rigorize this.

Next class we will talk about completeness.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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LIST OF DEFINITIONS

Extended metric, [4](#)

Metric, [4](#)

Norm, [5](#)

Semi-metric, [4](#)