

Totally bounded uniform space

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1. OUR PROBLEM

In this article, we will discuss the following theorem:

Theorem 1.1. *Every net in a totally bounded uniform space has a Cauchy subnet.*

This theorem is just one direction of the following famous theorem:

Theorem 1.2. *A uniform space is compact if and only if it is totally bounded and complete.*

Proof assuming Theorem 1.1. (\Leftarrow) Recall that compactness is equivalent to the existence of convergence subnet of an arbitrarily taken net. Then, it is a corollary of Theorem 1.1.

(\Rightarrow) Totally boundedness follows from the definition of compactness. To prove completeness, let $x : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow X$ be a Cauchy net on a compact uniform space X . Since X is compact, x has a convergent subnet $xh : \mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{h} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow X$. Let x_0 be the limit of the net xh .

Let E be an arbitrary entourage. There is β_0 such that $\beta \succ \beta_0$ implies $(x_{h(\beta)}, x_0) \in E$ by the convergence of xh . There is α_0 such that $\alpha, \alpha' \succ \alpha_0$ implies $(x_\alpha, x_{\alpha'}) \in E$ by the Cauchy-ness of x . We may assume $\alpha_0 \succ h(\beta_0)$. For this α_0 , we have

$$\alpha \succ \alpha_0 \implies (x_\alpha, x_0) \in E^2$$

because the cofinality of h allows us to find β with $h(\beta) \succ \alpha$ so that $(x_\alpha, x_{h(\beta)}) \in E$ and $(x_{h(\beta)}, x_0) \in E$. So we are done. \square

2. WRONG PROOF

The following is the copied half of proof of Lemma 39.8, written in page 262, on the book General topology of Stephen Willard:

Lemma 39.8. *X is totally bounded iff each net in X has a Cauchy subnet.*

Proof. Let (x_λ) be a net in the totally bounded space X . Now given any $D \in \mathcal{D}$, there is a set $U_D \subset X$ such that $U_D \times U_D \subset D$ and (x_λ) is frequently in U_D . Let $\Gamma = \{(\lambda, D) \mid D \in \mathcal{D} \text{ and } x_\lambda \in U_D\}$, directed by $(\lambda_1, D_1) \leq (\lambda_2, D_2)$ iff $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2$ and $U_{D_1} \supset U_{D_2}$. For each $(\lambda, D) \in \Gamma$ define $x_{(\lambda, D)} = x_\lambda$. Then, $(x_{(\lambda, D)})$ is a subnet of (x_λ) and, given $D_0 \in \mathcal{D}$, pick $\lambda_0 \in \Lambda$ so that $(\lambda_0, D_0) \in \Gamma$. Then,

$$(\lambda, D), (\lambda', D') \geq (\lambda_0, D_0) \implies (x_\lambda, x_{\lambda'}) \in U_D \times U_{D'} \subset U_{D_0} \times U_{D_0} \subset D_0,$$

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so that $(x_{(\lambda,D)})$ is a Cauchy subnet of (x_λ) .

On the other hand, (\dots) □

This proof is wrong because the set Γ is not directed. If we choose $(\lambda_1, D_1), (\lambda_2, D_2) \in \Gamma$ and if (λ_0, D_0) is an upper bound of them, then U_{D_0} must be contained in both U_{D_1} and U_{D_2} . The thing is, however, U_{D_1} and U_{D_2} can be taken to be disjoint.

Let us give an example. Our uniform space is the set of real numbers \mathbb{R} and the uniformity is the standard $\{(x, y) : |x - y| < \varepsilon\}_{\varepsilon \in (0, \infty)}$. Let $(x_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be a sequence in \mathbb{R} defined by $x_n = (-1)^n$. For two entourage $\varepsilon, \varepsilon'$ less than 1, we can define $U_\varepsilon \ni -1$, $U_{\varepsilon'} \ni 1$. Even though the sequence x_n is frequently in both U_ε and $U_{\varepsilon'}$, we have $U_\varepsilon \cap U_{\varepsilon'} = \emptyset$.

3. METRIC SPACE CASE

4. OUR PROOF USING ZORN'S LEMMA

Then, the problem is: how can we deal with the diagonal argument in non-countable situation? Concretely, which strategy for existence proof can replace the diagonal subsequence? The answer is the axiom of choice.

As we have seen in the Section 1, the main obstacle is that non-directedness of Γ . The reason why Γ is not directed was there can be several “possible” limits of subnets of a given net. Therefore, we are required to “choose” one of them and focus on it in order to make a directed set. Exactly in this step, Zorn's lemma will be used.

We give an original proof that takes a Cauchy subnet by constructing a monotone cofinal map with Zorn's lemma. It may complement the gap in the Willard's proof.

Proof 1 of Theorem 1.1. Let X be a totally bounded uniform space. Let \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{T} be the uniformity and topology of X respectively. Let $x : \mathfrak{A} \rightarrow X$ be a net in X . We are going to show x has a Cauchy subnet.

Step 1: Applying Zorn's lemma.

Define a subset $\mathfrak{A}' \subset \mathfrak{A} \times \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{U}$ by

$$(\alpha, U, E) \in \mathfrak{A}' \iff x_\alpha \in U, U^2 \subset E, \text{ and } x^{-1}(U) \text{ is cofinal in } \mathfrak{A}.$$

The third condition is a necessary condition for U to contain a limit of a subnet of x . Note that the order relation on \mathfrak{A}' is defined as

$$(\alpha, U, E) \prec (\alpha', U', E') \iff \alpha \prec \alpha', U \supset U', E \supset E'.$$

Define a subset $Z \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathfrak{A}')$ by

$$\mathfrak{B} \in Z \iff \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{B}) \subset \mathcal{T} \text{ is directed.}$$

The image of $\pi_{\mathcal{T}}$ will play a similar role like a “filter”. We apply Zorn's lemma on Z to make an “ultrafilter”.

First, we claim $Z \neq \emptyset$. For an entourage $E \in \mathcal{U}$, using totally boundedness, we can find a finite open cover $\{U_i\}_i$ of X such that $U_i^2 \subset E$ for all i . Since $\bigcup_i x^{-1}(U_i) = x^{-1}(X) = \mathfrak{A}$, there is at least one i such that $x^{-1}(U_i)$ is a cofinal subset of \mathfrak{A} . If we choose any $\alpha \in x^{-1}(U_i)$, then the singleton $\{(\alpha, U_i, E)\}$ is an element of Z , because singleton can be always said to be directed. (We cannot choose $U = X$ since there is no entourage E such that $X^2 \subset E$ in general, hence the totally boundedness is required.)

The upper bound of each chain is obtained by union. Therefore, there is a maximal element in Z . Let it denoted by \mathfrak{M} . Here are several facts about \mathfrak{M} :

- (1) $\mathfrak{M} \subset \mathfrak{A}'$ inherits the order relation from $\mathfrak{A} \times \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{U}$,
- (2) if $U \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$, then

$$x_{\alpha} \in U, U^2 \subset E \implies (\alpha, U, E) \in \mathfrak{M}$$

by the maximality,

- (3) $\mathfrak{M} \in Z$, i.e. $\pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$ is directed,
- (4) $\mathfrak{M} \subset \mathfrak{A}'$, i.e. $x^{-1}(U)$ is cofinal for $U \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$.

Step 2: Verification of Cauchy subnet.

The goal is to show $x \circ \pi_{\mathfrak{A}} : \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow X$ is a subnet that is Cauchy. So, we need to show the followings:

- (1) it is a net; \mathfrak{M} is directed,
- (2) it is a subnet of x ; $\pi_{\mathfrak{A}}|_{\mathfrak{M}} : \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}$ is monotone and cofinal,
- (3) it is Cauchy.

(directedness) For $(\alpha, U, E), (\alpha', U', E') \in \mathfrak{M}$ we can find $U_0 \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$ such that $U \cap U' \supset U_0$ by the directedness $\pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$. There is $\alpha_0 \in x^{-1}(U_0)$ satisfies $\alpha, \alpha' \prec \alpha_0$ by the cofinality of $x^{-1}(U_0)$. Since $x_{\alpha_0} \in U_0$ and $U_0^2 \in U^2 \cap U'^2 \subset E \cap E'$, we have $(\alpha_0, U_0, E \cap E') \in \mathfrak{M}$. It gives an upper bound.

(monotone cofinality) Monotonicity is trivial. Take any element $(\alpha', U, E) \in \mathfrak{M}$. For every $\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}$, we can find $\alpha_0 \in x^{-1}(U)$ such that $\alpha \prec \alpha_0$ by the cofinality of $x^{-1}(U)$. Since $x_{\alpha_0} \in U$ and $U^2 \subset E$, we have $(\alpha_0, U, E) \in \mathfrak{M}$. Then, $\pi_{\mathfrak{A}}(\alpha_0, U, E) \succ \alpha$ implies $\pi_{\mathfrak{A}}|_{\mathfrak{M}}$ is a cofinal map.

(Cauchyness) We claim $\pi_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{M}) = \mathcal{U}$. Assume $E \notin \pi_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{M})$. Let $\{V_i\}_i$ be a finite open cover of X such that $V_i^2 \subset E$ for all i . Suppose for each i there is at least one $U_i \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$ such that $x^{-1}(U_i \cap V_i)$ is bounded above, i.e. not cofinal. If we let $U \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$ be an upper bound of $\{U_i\}_i$, then $x^{-1}(U \cap V_i) \subset x^{-1}(U_i \cap V_i)$ is clearly bounded above for each i , so

$$\bigcup_i x^{-1}(U \cap V_i) = x^{-1}(U \cap X) = x^{-1}(U)$$

is also bounded above, which gives a contradiction to the cofinality of $x^{-1}(U)$. This implies the existence of an open set V that satisfies $V^2 \subset E$ and has $x^{-1}(U \cap V)$ cofinal for all $U \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})$. With this V , it is deduced that $(U \cap V)^2 \subset E$ and the cofinality of $x^{-1}(U \cap V)$ make the following collection

$$\mathfrak{M}_{V,E} := \mathfrak{M} \cup \{(\alpha, U \cap V, E) : U \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M}), \alpha \in U \cap V\}$$

be a subset of \mathfrak{A}' . Note that the union is a disjoint union because $E \notin \pi_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{M})$. Furthermore, $\mathfrak{M}_{V,E}$ is contained in Z as an element because $\pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M}_{V,E}) = \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M}) \cup \{U \cap V\}_{U \in \pi_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathfrak{M})}$ is directed. It is a contradiction to the maximality of \mathfrak{M} , therefore, $\pi_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{M}) = \mathcal{U}$. Then, the Cauchyness follows easily: for an arbitrary entourage E_0 , there is $(\alpha_0, U_0, E_0) \in \mathfrak{M}$ so that $(\alpha, U, E), (\alpha', U', E') \succ (\alpha_0, U_0, E_0)$ implies $(x_{\alpha}, x_{\alpha'}) \in U \times U' \subset U_0^2 \subset E_0$. \square

5. ANOTHER PROOF USING TYCHONOFF'S THEOREM

This proof is by DL Frank, Columbia university, 1965 []. The proof used Tychonoff's theorem to avoid the extremely complicated application of Zorn's lemma.

Proof 2 of Theorem 1.1.

□

6. ANOTHER PROOF USING UNIVERSAL NETS

Joshi?