

29 Local Compactness

Definition. A space X is *locally compact at x* if there is some compact subspace C of X that contains a nbhd of x . If X is locally compact at each of its points, X is said to be *locally compact*.

We ask: "Under what conditions is a space homeomorphic with a subspace of a compact Hausdorff space?"

Theorem 29.1. Let X be a space. X is locally compact Hausdorff iff there exists a space Y satisfying the following conditions:

- X is a subspace of Y .
- $Y - X$ comprises a single point.
- Y is a compact Hausdorff space.

Definition. If Y is a compact Hausdorff space and X is a proper subspace of Y dense in Y , then Y is said to be a *compactification* of X . If $Y - X$ equals a single point, then Y is called the *one-point compactification* of X .

Theorem 29.2. Let X be a Hausdorff space. Then X is locally compact iff given $x \in X$ and a nbhd U of x , there is a nbhd V of x such that \bar{V} is compact and $\bar{V} \subset U$.

Corollary 29.3. Any open or closed subspace of a locally compact Hausdorff space is itself locally compact.

Corollary 29.4. A space X is homeomorphic to an open subspace of a compact Hausdorff space iff X is locally compact Hausdorff.

Exercises

(1) Show that the rationals \mathbb{Q} are not locally compact.

Proof. It will be sufficient to show that \mathbb{Q} is not locally compact at 0; i.e., that there is no compact subspace of \mathbb{Q} containing a neighborhood of 0.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there existed a compact subspace C of \mathbb{Q} and an open nbhd U of 0 in C . Then there would be some open nbhd $(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \cap \mathbb{Q} \subseteq U$ of 0. Note that the inclusion $\mathbb{Q} \xhookrightarrow{\iota} \mathbb{R}$ is continuous; this map preserves compactness. Hence $\iota(C)$ is compact in \mathbb{R} . As \mathbb{R} is Hausdorff, $\iota(C)$ is closed in \mathbb{R} . Thus $[-\varepsilon, \varepsilon] = \overline{(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \cap \mathbb{Q}} \cap \mathbb{Q} \subseteq \iota(C)$. Since $[-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]$ is uncountable while $\iota(C)$ is countable, we obtain a contradiction. Hence \mathbb{Q} is not locally compact. \square

Supplementary Exercises: Nets

Nets are generalizations of sequences that characterize limit points, continuous functions, and compact sets not only in metric topologies, but in *all* topologies.

Definition. A *directed set* J is a poset wherein for each pair $\alpha, \beta \in J$, there exists an element $\gamma \in J$ such that $\alpha \preceq \gamma$ and $\beta \preceq \gamma$.

(1) Show that the following are directed sets:

- Any simply ordered set, under the relation \leq .

Proof. We take \preceq to be \leq . Let S be a simply (totally) ordered set with elements x, y . Then, as S is simply ordered, either $x \leq y$ or $y \leq x$. By reflexivity, $x \leq x$ and $y \leq y$ in either case, so y or x serves as γ respectively. \square

- The collection of all subsets of a set S , partially ordered by inclusion.

Proof. We are speaking of the power set $\mathcal{P}(S)$. Let $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(S)$. Then there are inclusions $U \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$ and $V \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$. As the identity map $\mathcal{P}(S) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$ is an inclusion, $\mathcal{P}(S)$ serves as γ . \square

- A collection \mathcal{A} of subsets of S that is closed under finite intersections, partially ordered by reverse inclusion.

Proof.

- The collection of all closed subsets of a space X , partially ordered by inclusion.

(2) A subset K of J is said to be *cofinal* in J if for each $\alpha \in J$, there exists $\beta \in K$ such that $\alpha \preceq \beta$. Show that if J is a directed set and K is cofinal in J , then K is a directed set.

(3) Let X be a topological space. A *net* in X is a function f from a directed set J into X . If $\alpha \in J$, we usually denote $f(\alpha)$ by x_α . We denote the net f itself by the symbol $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha \in J}$, or merely by (x_α) if the index set is understood.

The net (x_α) is said to *converge* to the point $x \in X$ (written $x_\alpha \rightarrow x$) if for each nbhd U of x , there exists $\alpha \in J$ such that $\alpha \preceq \beta \implies x_\beta \in U$. Show that these definitions reduce to familiar ones when $J = \mathbb{Z}_+$.

(4) Suppose that $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha \in J} \rightarrow x \in X$ and $(y_\alpha)_{\alpha \in J} \rightarrow y \in Y$. Show that $(x_\alpha \times y_\alpha) \rightarrow x \times y \in X \times Y$.

(5) Show that if X is Hausdorff, a net in X converges to at most one point.

(6) **Theorem.** Let $A \subseteq X$. Then $x \in \overline{A}$ iff there is a net of points of A converging to x .

(7) **Theorem.** Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Then f is continuous iff for every convergent net $(x_\alpha) \rightarrow x$ in X , the net $(f(x_\alpha))$ converges to $f(x)$.