MATH 142: Elementary Algebraic Topology

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Chapter 1

Introduction

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1.1.1 What is Algebraic Topology

Recall Metric Spaces: (X, d), X is a set, d is a metric on X (ie. $d : X \times X \to \mathbb{R}$)

1. $d(x, y) = 0$ exactly if $x = y$
2. $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$
3. $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$

Let V be a vector space, let $||\cdot||$ be a norm on V, let $d(v, w) = ||v - w||$

- $\mathbb{R}^n$: $||(r_j)||_2 = (\Sigma |r_j|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ - Euclidean Norm, $||(r_j)||_1 = \Sigma |r_j|$, $||(r_j)| = \max |r_j|$

If (X,d) is a metric space and if $Y \subseteq X$, let d^Y be the restriction of d to $Y \times Y$. Then (Y, d^Y) is a metric space.

Metric spaces $\leftrightarrow$ geometry: length, area, size of angles.

Let X be a balloon on $\mathbb{R}^3$

- Two natural metrics: inherited metric from $\mathbb{R}^3$, path-lenght metric (eg. length of shortest path on surface between two points)
- Consider a deformation: (Insert Figure)
  the shapes have different Euclidean distances but still have an underlying commonality
- We also observe that the baloon cannot be continuously deformed into: (Insert Figure)

We want to be able to prove such things without embedding into a metric space. This is done by attaching algebraic objects to topological spaces such that their isomorphism classes dont change under continuous deformation.

1.1.2 Continuity

Let (X, d^X) and (Y, d^Y) be two metric spaces. Let $f : X \to Y$ be a function. Let $x_0 \in X$. We say f is continuous at x_0 if for all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $d^X(x, x_0) < \delta$ then $d^Y(f(x), f(x_0)) < \varepsilon$.

- Let (X, d) be a metric space. By the open ball of radius r about x_0, we mean $B(x_0, r) = \{x \in X : d(x, x_0) < r\}$ (closed ball is $\{x \in X : d(x, x_0) \leq r\}$)
- the above definition can be rephrased as: for any $B(f(x_0), \varepsilon)$ there is an open ball $B(x_0, \delta)$ such that if $x \in B(x_0, \delta)$ then $f(x) \in B(f(x_0), \varepsilon)$.
  eg. For every open ball B_1 about $f(x_0)$ there is an open ball B_2 about x_0 such that if $x \in B_2$ then $f(x) \in B_1$

Definition 1.1.1. For (X, d) a metric space, by a neighborhood of a point $x \in X$, we mean any subset of X that contains an open ball about x.

- rephrasing the definition again we get: For any neighborhood $N_{f(x_0)}$ of $f(x_0)$ there is a neighborhood N_{x_0} of x_0 such that if $x \in N_{x_0}$ then $f(x) \in N_{f(x_0)}$

Definition 1.1.2. $f : X \to Y$ is continuous if it is continuous at each points of X.

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1.2.1 Continuity

Recall: Given (X, d^X), (Y, d^Y) and $f : X \to Y$, f is continuous at x_0 if for any open ball B_1 about $f(x_0)$ there is an open ball B_2 about x_0 such that if $x \in B_2$ then $f(x) \in B_1$, ie. $B_2 \subseteq f^{-1}(B_1)$

Definition 1.2.1. Let (X, d) be a metric space. Let $U \subseteq X$. We say that U is open if for every $x \in U$ ther is an open ball B about x such that $B \subseteq U$, ie. U is a neighborhood of each point it contains.

We say $f : X \to Y$ is continuous if it is continuous at each point of X.
Let U be an open set in Y, $x \in X$ with $f(x) \in U$. For each ball B_1 in U about $f(x)$, there is an open ball about x $B_2 \subseteq X$ such that if $x' \in B_2$ then $f(x') \in B_1$, ie. $B_2 \subseteq f^{-1}(B_1) \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$
ie. if $x \in f^{-1}(U)$ then there is an open ball B_2 about x with $B_2 \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$
ie. $f^{-1}(U)$ is open
Conversely, if the preimage $f^{-1}(U)$ of every open set U in Y is open, then f is continuous. This is because if $x_0 \in X$, B_1 an open ball about $f(x_0)$, then $f^{-1}(B_1)$ is open in X. $f(x_0) \in B_1$ so we have an open ball $B_2 \subseteq X$ about x_0 such that $B_2 \subseteq f^{-1}(B_1)$ so f is continuous at x_0.
Thus, $f : X \to Y$ is continuous exactly if for any open U in Y, $f^{-1}(U)$ is open in X.

1.2.2 Topology

Let (X, d) be a metric space. Let J be the collection of open subsets in X of d. J has the following properties:

1. $X \in J$, $\varnothing \in J$
2. an arbitrary, maybe infinite, union of open sets is open
3. a finite intersection of open sets is open.

Proof of (3). If $U_1, \dots, U_n$ are open sets and $x \in U_1 \cap \cdots, \cap U_n$ then there are $r_1, \dots, r_n \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $B(x, r_j) \subseteq U_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, j_n$. Let $r = \min\{r_1, \dots, r_n\}$, then $B(x, r) \subseteq U_j$ for each j so $B(x, r) \subseteq U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_n$. Thus, $U_1 \cap \cdot \cap U_n$ is open. □

Note: This does not hold for infinite intersections, consider $\bigcap_{i \in \mathbb{N}} B(x, \frac{1}{n}) = \{x\}$ in the plane.

This motivates the following definition:

Definition 1.2.2. Let X be a set. Bya topology on X we mean a collection, $\mathcal{T}$, of subsets of X (called the open sets of the topology) satisfuing **1**, **2**, and **3** above.

Definition 1.2.3. If $(X, \mathcal{T}^X)$, $(Y, \mathcal{T}^Y)$ are topological spaces, $f : X \to Y$ is continuous if for every $U \in \mathcal{T}^Y$, $f^{-1}(U) \in \mathcal{T}^X$

Example 1.2.4. Given X, let $\mathcal{T}_X$ be all subsets of X. This is called the discrete topology on X.

- This topology can also be given by the metric $d(x, y) = 1$ if $x \neq 1$

Definition 1.2.5. If $\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2$ are topologies on X, we say $\mathcal{T}_1$ is bigger, or finer, than $\mathcal{T}_2$ if $\mathcal{T}_1 \supseteq \mathcal{T}_2$.

- the disrcete topology is the biggest topology on X.

Example 1.2.6. $\mathcal{T} = \{X, \varnothing\}$, called the indiscrete topology on X.
Note: this topology can not be given by a metric if X has 2 or more points.