

If $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is not closed, then A^C is not open. Thus, $\exists y \in A^C$ where each open ball containing y intersects A . Define $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ where $f(x) = \frac{1}{|x - y|}$.

First, we show f is unbounded. By way of contradiction, assume there is an upper bound M s.t. $f(x) \leq M \forall x \in A$.

Consider the open ball of radius $\frac{1}{M}$ about y : $B = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - y| < \frac{1}{M}\}$. Let $S = B \cap A$. S is not empty because its an open ball containing y ; thus, it must intersect A . Take any point $s \in S$. $f(s) = \frac{1}{|s - y|} > M$. This contradicts that $f(x)$ is bounded above by M . Thus, f must be unbounded.

Next, we show f is continuous. It suffices to show that the preimage of every open interval on \mathbb{R} is open in A , as every open set on \mathbb{R} is the union of open intervals.

Consider the interval $D = (a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}$. Then,

$$f^{-1}(D) = \{x \in A : a < \frac{1}{|x - y|} < b\} = \underbrace{\{x \in A : \frac{1}{|x - y|} > a\}}_{D_1} \cap \underbrace{\{x \in A : \frac{1}{|x - y|} < b\}}_{D_2}$$

Note that if $a \leq 0 \implies D_1 = \emptyset$ and $b \leq 0 \implies D_2 = A$, which are both open in A .

If $a > 0$, D_1 is the intersection between A and open ball with radius $\frac{1}{a}$ about y , which is open in A by definition.

If $b > 0$, D_2 is the intersection between A , and the complement of the closed ball of radius $\frac{1}{b}$ (i.e. $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - y| \leq \frac{1}{b}\}$), which is an open set because its the complement of a closed set. Thus, D_2 is open in A .

Since for any $D \subset \mathbb{R}$, D_1 and D_2 are open in A , the intersection of two open sets is an open set. Thus, D open in $\mathbb{R} \implies f^{-1}(D)$ open in A , thus f is continuous.