Notes on Polish space

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1 Introduction

This document contains notes about Polish space which play an important role in probability and statistics. The materials are mainly from Cohn (2013), Chapter 8 and Dudley (2002), Chapter 13.

2 Polish space

Exercise 1 (Cohn (2013), Exercise 8.2.1)**.** *Let A be an uncountable analytic subset of the Polish space X. Then,*

(a) A has a subset that is homeomorphic to $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$.

(b) A has the cardinality of the continuum.

Proof. From Cohn (2013), Corollary 8.2.8., there is a continuous function f from $\mathscr{N}$ onto A. By the axiom of choice, there is a set $S \subset \mathscr{N}$ such that the restriction of f on S is a bijection of S onto A. As a subspace of $\mathscr{N}$, S is an uncountable separable metrizable space. Let $S_0 \subset S$ be the set of all condensation points of the space S. From Cohn (2013), Lemma 8.2.12, S_0 is uncountable and each point of S_0 is a condensation point of S_0. Let $d_{\mathscr{N}}(\cdot,\cdot)$ be a metric on $\mathscr{N}$ which metrize the topology of $\mathscr{N}$. Let $d_X(\cdot,\cdot)$ be a metric on X which metrize the topology of X.

Now we construct a homeomorphic between a subset of X and $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$. First, let x_0 and x_1 be two distinct points in S_0. Since the restriction of f on S_0 is injective, $f(x_0) \neq f(x_1)$. Hence there exists $0 < \epsilon_1 < 1$ such that $\overline{B(x_0,\epsilon_1)} \cap \overline{B(x_1,\epsilon_1)} = \emptyset$ and $f(\overline{B(x_0,\epsilon_1)}) \cap f(\overline{B(x_1,\epsilon_1)}) = \emptyset$. For $i = 0,1$, let $C(i) = B(x_i,\epsilon_1)$. Note that for $i = 0,1$, $C(i) \cap S_0$ is uncountable and each point of $C(i) \cap S_0$ is a condensation point of $C(i) \cap S_0$. Then there exist x_{i0}, $x_{i1} \in C(i) \cap S_0$ $(i = 0,1)$ and $0 < \epsilon_2 < 1/2$ such that for $j = 0,1$, $B(x_{ij},\epsilon_2) \subset B(x_i,\epsilon_1)$, $\overline{B(x_{i0},\epsilon_2)} \cap \overline{B(x_{i1},\epsilon_2)} = \emptyset$ and $f(\overline{B(x_{i0},\epsilon_2)}) \cap f(\overline{B(x_{i1},\epsilon_2)}) = \emptyset$. For $i,j \in \{0,1\}$, let $C(i,j) = B(x_{ij},\epsilon_2)$.

Inductively construct sets $C(n_1,n_2,\ldots,n_k)$, $n_i \in \{0,1\}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Then for $\{n_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \in \mathscr{N}$, consider the set $\cap_{k=1}^{\infty}\overline{C(n_1,\ldots,n_k)}$. By the completeness of $\mathscr{N}$, $\cap_{k=1}^{\infty}\overline{C(n_1,\ldots,n_k)} \neq \emptyset$. Also, the diameter of $\overline{C(n_1, \dots, n_k)}$ tends to 0. Then there exists a unique point in $\cap_{k=1}^{\infty} \overline{C(n_1, \dots, n_k)}$. Let g be the function from $\mathscr{N}$ to X which maps $\{n_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ to the unique point of $\cap_{k=1}^{\infty} \overline{C(n_1, \dots, n_k)}$.

By the construction of $C(n_1, \dots, n_k)$, g is continuous and injective. Then $f \circ g$ is continuous. To see that $f \circ g$ is injective, let $\{n_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ and $\{m_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ be two distinct points of $\{0,1\}^{\mathscr{N}}$. Let k_0 be the first k such that $n_k \neq m_k$. By the construction of $C(\cdot, \dots, \cdot)$, $f(\overline{C(n_1, \dots, n_{k_0})}) \cap f(\overline{C(m_1, \dots, m_{k_0})}) = \emptyset$. Since $g(\{n_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}) \subset \overline{C(n_1, \dots, n_{k_0})}$, $g(\{m_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}) \subset \overline{C(m_1, \dots, m_{k_0})}$. Then $f \circ g(\{n_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}) \neq f \circ g(\{m_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty})$.

Since $\{0,1\}^{\mathscr{N}}$ is compact, the inverse of $f \circ g$ is also continuous. This completes the proof of (a).

(a) implies that $\text{card}(A) \geq \mathfrak{c}$. On the other hand, Cohn (2013), Corollary 8.2.8. implies that $\text{card}(A) \leq \mathfrak{c}$. Thus, $\text{card}(A) = \mathfrak{c}$.

□

Exercise 2 (Cohn (2013), Exercise 8.2.2)**.** *Let X be an uncoutable Polish space. Then the collection of analytic subsets of X and the collection of Borel subsets of X have the cardinality of the continuum.*

Proof. Exercise 1 implies that the cardinality of X is $\mathfrak{c}$. Since each single point of X is a Borel set, the cardinality of the collection of Borel subsets of X is at least $\mathfrak{c}$. We only need to prove that the cardinality of the collection of analytic subsets of X is at most $\mathfrak{c}$.

Cohn (2013), Proposition 8.2.9 implies that it suffices to upper bound the cardinality of the collection of closed subsets of the Polish space $\mathscr{N} \times X$. Let $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ be a countable base of the topology of $\mathscr{N} \times X$. Then every closed subset of $\mathscr{N} \times X$ is the intersection of certain $U_i^{\complement}$, that is, $\cap_{i \in S} U_i^{\complement}$ where S is a subset of $\mathbb{N}$. Hence there is an injective map from the collection of closed subsets of $\mathscr{N} \times X$ to $2^{\mathbb{N}}$. Thus, the cardinality of the collection of closed subsets of $\mathscr{N} \times X$ is at most $\mathfrak{c}$.

□

Exercise 3 (Cohn (2013), Exercise 8.2.3)**.**

(a) Let X be a nonempty zero-dimensional Polish space such that each nonempty open subset of X is not compact. Then X is homeomorphic to $\mathscr{N}$.

(b) the Space $\mathscr{I}$ of irrational numbers in the interval $(0,1)$ is homeomorphic to $\mathscr{N}$.

Proof. Let $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ be a complete metric for X. We begin by constructing a family $\{C(n_1, \dots, n_k)\}$ of subsets of X, indexed by the set of all finite sequences $\{(n_1, \dots, n_k)\}$ of positive integers, in such a way that

1. $C(n_1, \dots, n_k)$ is nonempty, open, closed and noncompact,

2. the diameter of $C(n_1, \dots, n_k)$ is at most $1/k$,

3. $\{C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1}, n_k)\}_{n_k=1}^{\infty}$ are disjoint and $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1}) = \cup_{n_k=1}^{\infty} C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$,

4. $X = \cup_{n_1=1}^{\infty} C(n_1)$.

We do this by induction on k.

First, suppose that $k = 1$. Since X is assumed to be not compact, Cohn (2013), Lemma 8.2.11 gives a sequnce $\{C(n_1)\}_{n_1=1}^{\infty}$ where terms are nonempty, open, closed and with diameter at most 1. By assumption, each $C(n_1)$ is not compact.

Now suppose that $k > 1$ and that $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$ has already been chosen. It is easy to use a modification of the construction of the $C(n_1)$'s, now applied to $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$ rather than to X, to produce sets $C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$, $n_k = 1, 2, \ldots$ that satisfy conditions 1 to 4. With this, the induction step in our construction is complete.

We turn to the construction of a homeomorphic between $\mathscr{N}$ and X. Let $\mathbf{n} = \{n_k\}$ be an element of $\mathscr{N}$. Then the sets $C(n_1)$, $C(n_1, n_2)$, ... are decreasing nonempty closed sets whose diameters approach to 0. Since X is complete, there is a unique element in $\cap_{k=1}^{\infty} C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$. We can define a function $f : \mathscr{N} \to X$ by letting $f(\mathbf{n})$ be the unique member of $\cap_{k=1}^{\infty} C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$. Note that if $\mathbf{m}$ and $\mathbf{n}$ are elements of $\mathscr{N}$ such that $m_i = n_i$ holds for $k = 1, \ldots, k$, then $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) \le 1/k$. It follows that f is continuous. Also, it is obvious that f is bijective. It remain to prove that the inverse of f is continuous. Suppose $f(\mathbf{n}^{(l)}) \to f(\mathbf{n})$. Fix $k > 0$. Then if l is large enough, $f(\mathbf{n}^{(l)}) \in C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$. By the construction of f, this implies that $n_i^{(l)} = n_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, k$. Thus, $\mathbf{n}^{(l)} \to \mathbf{n}$ as $l \to \infty$. This completes the proof of (a).

We turn to the proof of (b). The space $\mathscr{I}$ is a G_δ set of $[0, 1]$, and hence is a Polish space. The family of intervels (a_i, b_i) where a_i and b_i is rational is a base that consists of sets that are both open and closed. It follows that $\mathscr{I}$ is zero-dimensional. Each interval (a, b) is the union of $\{(a_i, b_i)\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ where a_i, b_i are rational and $a_i \downarrow a$ and $b_i \uparrow b$. Hence each interval of $\mathscr{I}$ is not compact. Then the conclusion follows from (a).

□

Exercise 4 (Cohn (2013), Exercise 8.2.3)**.** *Each nonempty Polish space is the image of $\mathscr{N}$ under a continuous open map.*

Proof. We mimic the proof of Cohn (2013), Proposition 8.2.7.

Let X be a nonempty Polish space, and let d be a complete metric for X. We begin by constructing a family $\{C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)\}$ of subsets of X, indexed by the set of all finite sequences $\{n_1, \ldots, n_k\}$ of positive integers, in such a way that

1. $C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$ is nonempty and open,

2. the diameter of $C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$ is at most $1/k$,

3. $\overline{C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1}, n_k)} \subset C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$ and $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1}) = \cup_{n_k=1}^{\infty} C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$,

4. $X = \cup_{n_1=1}^{\infty} C(n_1)$.

We do this by induction on k.

First, suppose that $k = 1$, and let $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence whose terms form a dense subset of X. The sequence $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ may have duplicated elements. Let $\{C(n_1)\}_{n_1=1}^{\infty}$ be the collection of open balls which center at certain x_i and with rational radius not larger than $1/2$. Certainly each $C(n_1)$ is open and nonempty and has diameter at most 1. Furthermore, $X = \cup_{n_1} C(n_1)$.

Now suppose that $k > 1$ and that $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$ has already been chosen. Let $\{C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1}, n_k)\}_{n_k=1}^{\infty}$ be the collection of open balls which center at centain x_i and with rational radius not larger than $1/(2k)$ and whose closure is contained in $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$. Certainly each $C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$ is open and nonempty and has diameter at most $1/k$. Now we prove that $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1}) = \cup_{n_k=1}^{\infty} C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$. Suppose $x \in C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$. Since $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$ is open, there is a open ball $B(x, r) \subset C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$ where r is rational and $r < 1/k$. Since $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ is dense in X, there is an x_i such that $d(x, x_i) < r/3$. Then the ball $B(x_i, r/2)$ contains x. Also, the Closure of $B(x_i, r/2)$ has radius not larger than $1/(2k)$ and is contained in $C(n_1, \ldots, n_{k-1})$. Thus, $B(x_i, r/2) = C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$ for some n_k. With this, the induction step in our construction is complete.

We turn to the construction of a continuous function that maps $\mathscr{N}$ onto X. Let $\mathbf{n} = \{n_k\}$ be an element of $\mathscr{N}$. It follows from 3 that $\cap_{k=1}^{\infty} C(n_1, \ldots, n_k) = \cap_{k=1}^{\infty} \overline{C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)}$ which is intersection of a decreasing sequence of nonempty closd subsets of X whose diameters approach 0. Thus there is a unique element in the intersection of these sets, and we can define a function $f : \mathscr{N} \to X$ by letting $f(\mathbf{n})$ be the unique member of $\cap_k C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$. Note that if $\mathbf{m}$ and $\mathbf{n}$ are elements on $\mathscr{N}$ such that $m_i = n_i$ holds for $i = 1, \ldots, k$, then $d(f(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n})) \leq 1/k$. It follows that f is continuous. Also, 3 and 4 above imply that for each x in X there is an element $\mathbf{n} = \{n_k\}$ of $\mathscr{N}$ such that $x \in \cap_k C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$ and hence such that $x = f(\mathbf{n})$. Thus f is surjective.

It remains to prove that f is an open map. Note that the sets of the form $\{n_1\} \times \cdots \times \{n_k\} \times \mathbb{N} \times \ldots$ is a base for the topology of $\mathscr{N}$. By the construction of f, for any $n_1, .., n_k$, $f(\{n_1\} \times \cdots \times \{n_k\} \times \mathbb{N} \times \ldots) = C(n_1, \ldots, n_k)$ is an open set. This completes the proof.

□

Exercise 5 (Cohn (2013), Exercise 8.2.5)**.** *Each Borel subet of a Polish space is the image under a continuous injective map of some Polish space.*

Proof. Let X be a Polish space. Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the collection of Borel subsets of X which are the image under continuous injective maps of some Polish spaces. Then all open and closed subsets of X belong to $\mathcal{A}$ since they are themselves Polish spaces.

Assume $A_1, \ldots, A_n, \cdots \in \mathcal{A}$ and $A_1, \ldots, A_n, \ldots$ are disjoint. For each A_i, there is a Polish space X_i and a continuous infective map $f_i(\cdot)$ such that $f_i(X_i) = A_i$. Define $f : \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i \mapsto \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$ by $f(x) = f_i(x)$ if $x \in X_i$. Here $\cup_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i$ is the disjoint union of X_i. Then $\cup_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i$ is Polish and f is injective and continuous. Then $\cup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{A}$.

Assume $A_1, \dots, A_n, \dots \in \mathcal{A}$. For each A_i, there is a Polish space X_i and a continuous infective map $f_i(\cdot)$ such that $f_i(X_i) = A_i$. Define $f : \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i \mapsto \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} X$ by $f(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}) = \{f_i(x_i)\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$. Then f is injective and continuous onto $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \subset \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} X$. Let $D = \{(x, x, \dots) : x \in X\}$. Define $g : D \mapsto X$ by $g(x, x, \dots) = x$. Then g is a homeomorphism between D and X. Consider $g \circ f$ defined on $f^{-1}(D)$. Then $g \circ f$ is injective and continuous from $f^{-1}(D)$ onto $\cap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$. Since $f^{-1}(D)$ is a closed subset of $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i$, it is Polish. Thus, $\cap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{A}$.

From Cohn (2013), Lemma 8.2.4, $\mathcal{A}$ contains all Borel subset of X. This completes the proof. □

Exercise 6 (Cohn (2013), Exercise 8.2.6)**.** *If X is an uncountable Polish space, then there is an analytic subset of X that is not a Borel set.*

Proof. Let X be an uncountable Polish space. From Cohn (2013), Proposition 8.2.13, there is a continuous injective map $f : \mathscr{N} \to X$ such that $X - f(\mathscr{N})$ is countable. From Cohn (2013), Corollary 8.2.17, there is an analytic set $A \in \mathscr{N}$ that is not a Borel set. Then $f(A)$ is not a Borel set of X, or else $A = f^{-1}(f(A))$ would be a Borel set, a contradiction. On the other hand, $f(A)$ is analytic. This completes the proof.

□

References

Cohn, D. L. (2013). *Measure Theory*. Birkhäuser, New York, 2nd edition.

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