Aalto University Problem set 2

Department of Mathematics and Systems Analysis MS-C1541 — Metric spaces, 2021/III

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Exercise sessions: 21.-22.1.2021 Hand-in due: Tue 26.1.2021 at 23:59

Topic: Continuous functions on \mathbb{R} , inner product spaces, normed spaces.

Written solutions to the exercises marked with symbol ♠ are to be returned in My-Courses. Each exercise is graded on a scale 0-3. The deadline for returning solutions to problem set 2 is Tue 26.1.2021 at 23:59.

Exercise 1 (Continuous functions on intervals).

Below (as usually), unless explicitly specified, an interval refers to either an open interval, closed interval, or a half-open interval, possibly unbounded. If $c \in \mathbb{R}$, we also interpret the singleton $\{c\} \subset \mathbb{R}$ as a closed interval $[a,b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ with coinciding endpoints, a = c = b.

- (a) Find an example of a continuous function on an interval which has no maximum.
- (b) Find an example of a continuous function on an *open interval* which has a maximum but has no minimum.
- (c) Using a combination of results from Chapter III, prove that if $f:[a,b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function on a closed interval $[a,b] \subset \mathbb{R}$, then the image f[[a,b]] is a closed interval.
- (d) If $f:(a,b)\to\mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function on an *open interval* $(a,b)\subset\mathbb{R}$, is it possible that the image f[(a,b)] is not an open interval?

Exercise 2 (The dihedral angle of a regular tetrahedron).

Calculate the dihedral angle (the angle between two adjacent faces) of a regular tetrahedron using the following idea: Place the vertices of the tetrahedron in the 4-dimensional space \mathbb{R}^4 at points \mathbf{e}_1 , \mathbf{e}_2 , \mathbf{e}_3 ja \mathbf{e}_4 (standard basis vectors).

- (i) Verify that the lengths of the edges $\|\mathbf{e}_i \mathbf{e}_j\|$, for $i \neq j$, are all equal.
- (ii) By symmetry, the angle in question is the same as (for example) the angle between the vectors

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{e}_4 - \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{e}_2) \qquad \text{ and } \qquad \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{e}_3 - \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{e}_2),$$

so it is easily calculated.

Hint: $Draw\ a\ figure!\ Answer:\ \arccos(1/3).$

¹For closed intervals this is a natural convention in the degenerate case of coinciding endpoints, since $[a,b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ by definition consists of points $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $a \leq x \leq b$.

Exercise 3 (Some Legendre polynomials).

Consider the three first Legendre polynomials

$$P_0(x) = 1,$$

 $P_1(x) = x,$
 $P_2(x) = (3x^2 - 1)/2.$

(a) Show that these polynomials are pairwise *orthogonal* with respect to the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-1}^{1} f(x)g(x) \, \mathrm{d}x,$$

i.e., that we have

$$\langle P_i, P_j \rangle = 0,$$
 for $i \neq j$.

(b) Determine coefficients $c_0, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $||c_k P_k|| = 1$ for all $k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$, where as norm we use the one arising from the inner product in part (a).

Remark: Together with orthogonality from part (a), in part (b) we obtain orthonormal vectors.

\triangle Exercise 4 (The ℓ^1 -norm in finite dimensional spaces).

(a) Prove that the formula

$$||x||_1 = |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_n|, \quad \text{for } x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

defines a quantity that satisfies the following conditions:

- (N1) $||x + y||_1 \le ||x||_1 + ||y||_1$ for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$;
- (N2) $||cx||_1 = |c| ||x||_1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$;
- (N3) $||x||_1 = 0$ if and only if $x = \vec{0}$.

Remark: This is an example of a norm (which does not arise from an inner product).

(b) Let n = 2. Sketch the set

$$\{(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid ||(x_1, x_2)||_1 = |x_1| + |x_2| = 1\},$$

i.e., the "unit circle" under the norm of part (a).

Exercise 5 (Ideas behind Fourier series).

<u>Hint</u>: The solution is shorter than the problem statement! Compare also with Problem 3.

An indexed collection $(e_t)_{t\in T}$ of vectors $e_t \in V$ in an inner product space V is called orthonormal, if for all $s, t \in T$, we have

$$\langle e_t, e_s \rangle = \delta_{t,s} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } t = s, \\ 0, & \text{if } t \neq s \end{cases}$$
 (the Kronecker δ -symbol).

Remark: Here T can be an arbitrary index set

(a) Consider a countable orthonormal collection $(e_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ in an inner product space V. Assume that a vector $v\in V$ can be expressed, for some $m\in\mathbb{N}$, as a (finite) linear combination

$$v = \alpha_1 e_1 + \cdots + \alpha_m e_m$$
 with some coefficients $\alpha_n \in \mathbb{R}$.

Calculate the inner products between the vector v and the vectors e_n from the orthonormal collection, and deduce a formula for the coefficients α_n .

Remark: The result generalizes to countable linear combinations (i.e. series), which are convergent in a suitable sense.

(b) Define functions $c_0, s_1, c_1, s_2, c_2, s_3, c_3, \ldots$ of a real variable x by the formulas

$$c_0(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}},$$

$$s_n(x) = \sin(nx) \qquad \text{(for } n \in \mathbb{N}),$$

$$c_n(x) = \cos(nx) \qquad \text{(for } n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Prove that the (countably infinite) collection of these functions is orthonormal in the space $C([-\pi, \pi])$ of continuous functions on $[-\pi, \pi]$, with respect to the rescaled inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)g(x) \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

Remark: Since there are 6–9 different cases (depending on the counting convention), it is enough to do the details of just four cases. The complex version would be somewhat easier...

(c) The idea of Fourier series is founded on the following result: Every continuously differentiable 2π -periodic function $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ can be represented as

$$f(x) = \alpha_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\alpha_n \cos(nx) + \beta_n \sin(nx)).$$

Consider for simplicity the case of a function f, for which the above series contains only finitely many terms, i.e., for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$f(x) = \alpha_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{m} (\alpha_n \cos(nx) + \beta_n \sin(nx)).$$

Using parts (a) and (b), derive the following formula for the coefficients

$$\alpha_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx \qquad (n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

<u>Hint</u>: Using parts (a) and (b) is indeed the intended approach, instead of calculating everything from scratch again!