

Abstract Mathematics 101 Bootcamp

Lecture 7 (PART A) Introduction to Metric Spaces

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Make Abstract Mathematics Accessible.



Bootcamp Overview

Metric Topology

Topological Manifolds

Naive Set Theory



Point-set Topology



Module I (May 24th - August 30)



Metric Spaces

Definition 1.0

Let M be a nonempty set. A metric on M is a map $d : M \times M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying the following conditions:

- ❶ $d(x, y) \geq 0$ for all $x, y \in M$.
 - ❷ $d(x, y) = 0$ iff $x = y$ for all $x, y \in M$.
 - ❸ $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$ for all $x, y \in M$.
 - ❹ $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$ for all $x, y, z \in M$.
- The pair (M, d) is called a 'metric space'. Whenever the metric d is understood from the context, we'll just write M .



Concrete Example(i)

- For any nonempty set M , we can define the following metric:

$$d(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \neq y \\ 0 & \text{if } x = y \end{cases}$$

It's not hard to verify that d is a metric (discrete) on M .

- **Homework question:** Let (M, d) be any metric space and let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^+$ (the set of all positive real numbers). Is $d_\alpha(x, y) = \alpha d(x, y)$ a metric on M ?



Concrete Example(ii)

- Let us consider $M = \mathbb{R}^n$. Then for any $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we can define the famous Euclidean metric (or distance) as follows:

$$d(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}.$$

In Machine Learning literature and other applied subjects, the Euclidean metric is often called $L2$ -distance.



Concrete Example(iii)

- Let us consider $M = \mathbb{R}^n$ again. Then for any $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we can define the famous Manhattan distance as follows:

$$d(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|.$$

In Machine Learning literature and other applied subjects, the Manhattan distance is also known as the $L1$ -distance.



Homework Exercises(i)

- 1 Let $(M_1, d_1), (M_2, d_2), \dots, (M_k, d_k)$ be metric spaces. Construct a metric on $M_1 \times M_2 \times \dots \times M_k$.
- 2 Let \mathcal{H} be a finite dimensional complex Hilbert space (think \mathbb{C}^n). Construct a metric on \mathcal{H} using the norm induced by the inner product.



Metric Subspace

Definition 1.1

Let (M, d) be a metric space and $A \subseteq M$ be nonempty. We can construct $d_A : A \times A \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as follows:

- $d_A(a_1, a_2) = d(a_1, a_2)$ for all $a_1, a_2 \in A$.

As you can guess, the pair (A, d_A) is called metric subspace.



Open Balls in Metric Spaces

Definition 1.2

Let (M, d) be a metric space. For each point $p \in M$ and $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$, we can define $B_r(p) = \{x \in M \mid d(p, x) < r\}$.

- $B_r(p)$ is called the open ball centred around the point p with radius r .

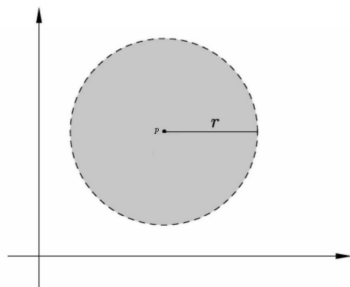
Proposition 1.0

Let $B_r(p)$ be an open ball in a metric space (M, d) . Then for any $p' \in B_r(p)$ there exists a $r' > 0$ such that $B_{r'}(p') \subseteq B_r(p)$.



Concrete Example

- If $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ and d is the Euclidean metric, then $B_r(p)$ is just the open disc of radius r centred around p , i.e. the set of all points inside the circle of radius r centred at point p :



Homework Exercises (ii)

- 1 Let (M, d) be a metric space where d is the discrete metric. Given a point $p \in M$ and $r > 0$, what is $B_r(p)$?
- 2 Let $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ and d be the Euclidean distance. If $p = (0, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $r = 1$, what is $B_r(p)$?
- 3 Let $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ and d now be the Manhattan distance. If $p = (0, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $r = 1$, what is $B_r(p)$?
- 4 Let $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ and d be the Manhattan distance again. If $p = (1, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $r = 1$, what is $B_r(p)$? What if $p = (0, 1)$?



Open Sets in Metric Spaces

Definition 1.3

Let (M, d) be a metric space. A subset $U \subseteq M$ is open in respect to the metric d if for all $p \in U$ there exists an $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ such that $B_r(p) \subseteq U$.

- As you have noticed, whether or not a subset U is open really depends on the metric space that we are considering, i.e., being 'open' depends on the metric space structure being considered!



Concrete Example

- Let $M = \mathbb{R}$ and d the Euclidean metric. Then the open intervals (in the **Real Analysis** sense) (a, b) , $(-\infty, a)$, (b, ∞) are also open in M .

Natural homework question: Is \mathbb{R} itself open in respect to the above?



Homework Exercises (iii)

- 1 Let $M = [a, b]$ and d the Euclidean metric. Is it true that the intervals $[a, b]$ and $[a, b)$ are open?
- 2 Let $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ and d the Euclidean metric. Is \mathbb{R} viewed as subset of \mathbb{R}^2 open?
- 3 Let $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ and d the Manhattan metric. Is \mathbb{R} viewed as subset of \mathbb{R}^2 open?



Properties of Open Sets in Metric Spaces

Proposition 1.1

Given any metric space (M, d) , the following properties hold:

- 1 \emptyset and M are open.
- 2 If U_1, U_2, \dots, U_k are open subsets of M , then their intersection $U_1 \cap U_2 \cap \dots \cap U_k$ is open.
- 3 If $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ is an arbitrary collection of open subsets of M , then the union over the collection $\bigcup_{i \in I} U_i$ is open.

Proof : Homework!

- Anything familiar with the properties above?



Congratulations for making it this far!

