

# Intro to Topology

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October 16, 2023

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## Part I

# Basic Definitions and Examples

## 1 What is Topology?

This question is somewhat complicated to answer because people use the word “topology” to refer to two related but distinct areas of study:

- *Modern topology* is roughly speaking the study of geometric objects such as spheres, Möbius strips, Klein bottles, and so on. If a mathematician says they “study topology”, this is typically what they’re referring to.

- *Point set topology* (also called *general topology*) is a very general framework that includes modern topology, much of calculus, and many other areas of mathematics. **This** is what the present course is all about, and from now on whenever I say the word “topology” I’ll be referring to this concept.

The central object studied in topology are mathematical objects called *topologies*. So again we’re left with the question: what is a topology?

## 1.1 What is a Topology: the Short Answer

The definition for a topology is as follows. At this point it should **not** be obvious to you why in the world you would ever consider something like this. Here and throughout, given a set  $X$  we let  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  denote the power set of  $X$ , i.e. the set of all subsets of  $X$ .

**Definition 1.** Given a set  $X$ , a collection of subsets  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$  is called a *topology* of  $X$  if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a)  $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{T}$ .
- (b)  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under (arbitrary) unions, i.e. for any  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ , we have  $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U \in \mathcal{T}$ .
- (c)  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under *finite* intersections, i.e. for any *finite* subset  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ ,  $\bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U \in \mathcal{T}$ .

Again, this is a strange definition that should seem totally bizarre. In the next subsection I’ll attempt to provide motivation for why one might possibly come up with this definition. Those that aren’t interested/confused by this discussion can completely ignore it without affecting their understanding of the rest of the material in this course.

## 1.2 What is Topology: the Long Answer

The study of topology originates with the study of calculus/real analysis. When you took courses in these areas, you learned a number of important concepts about the set of real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ , as well as about functions  $f$  from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ . In particular, two very important definitions are:

1. What it means for a sequence of real numbers  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  to *converge* to a real number  $x_0$ .
2. What it means for a function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  to be *continuous*.

The central aim of topology is to give a *general framework* which expands these definitions for real numbers to a much broader class of mathematical objects. In particular, it aims to answer the following two questions:

1. What does it mean for a sequence of “objects”  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  to *converge* to another object  $x_0$ ? For example, what does it mean for a sequence of functions  $(f_n)_{n \geq 1}$  to converge to another function?
2. What does it mean for a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  between two “nice objects”  $X, Y$  to be *continuous*? For example, what does it mean for a map  $f : S^2 \rightarrow S^2$  from the sphere to itself to be continuous?

We’ll postpone the second question and focus on convergence. Of course, any “reasonable” answer should in particular recover the original definition of convergence from real analysis. With this in mind, let’s recall this definition and then think about how we might generalize it.

**Definition 2.** We say that a sequence of real numbers  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  *converges* to a real number  $x_0$  if for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists an integer  $N_\varepsilon$  such that  $|x_n - x_0| < \varepsilon$  for all  $n \geq N_\varepsilon$ .

While this is a fine definition, it’s a little difficult to generalize. It turns out (for reasons that should not be obvious at this point) that a “better” definition can be made by utilizing the language of *open intervals*, which we recall are sets  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  of the form  $\{x : a < x < b\}$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$ .

**Definition 3.** We say that a sequence of real numbers  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  *converges* to a real number  $x_0$  if for every open interval  $I$  containing  $x_0$ , there exists an integer  $N_I$  such that  $x_n \in I$  for all  $n \geq N_I$ .

**Claim 1.1.** *These two definitions are equivalent. That is, a sequence  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  and real number  $x_0$  satisfy the conditions of Definition 2 if and only if they satisfy the conditions of Definition 3.*

Definition 3 has several advantages over Definition 2. First, it avoids any mention of the real number  $\varepsilon$  (which is mathematically nice<sup>1</sup> since we ultimately want to generalize things beyond real numbers). Second, it frames the definition in terms of the more “geometric” concept of open intervals.

Now, at this point it probably still isn’t obvious how to generalize Definition 3 to more general objects (like sequences of functions). However, if you were to spend 30 years about this problem, then perhaps you would come up with the following idea: replace the words “open interval” in Definition 3 with the words “nice set” (where the exact definition of “nice set” depends on your exact problem at hand) and use this as your definition of convergence. Somewhat more precisely, we’ll try to work with the following definition (which at this point in time you don’t need to memorize since we’ll forget about it a moment).

**Definition 4.** Given a set  $X$ , we call any set  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$  a *pre-topology*<sup>2</sup> of  $X$ . We say that a sequence of points  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  with  $x_n \in X$  *converges* to a point  $x_0 \in X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{T}$  if for every  $I \in \mathcal{T}$  containing  $x_0$ , there exists an integer  $N_I$  such that  $x_n \in I$  for all  $n \geq N_I$ .

For example, if  $X = \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathcal{T}$  is the set of open intervals of  $\mathbb{R}$ , then this exactly recovers Definition 3. Here are a few more (extreme) examples to give some more familiarity with these definitions.

<sup>1</sup>This is also psychologically nice for those who have painful memories of  $\varepsilon$  from real analysis.

<sup>2</sup>This name is not standard at all and we will never use it beyond this first pre-lecture.

**Claim 1.2.** *Let  $X$  be an arbitrary set.*

- (a) *If  $\mathcal{T} = \emptyset$  (i.e. if  $\mathcal{T}$  contains no subsets of  $X$ ), then **every** sequence of points  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  in  $X$  converges to **every** point  $x_0 \in X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{T}$*
- (b) *If  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{P}(X)$  (i.e. if  $\mathcal{T}$  contains every subset of  $X$ ), then a sequence of points  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  in  $X$  converges to a point  $x_0 \in X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{T}$  if and only if there exists some  $N$  such that  $x_n = x_0$  for all  $n \geq N$  (i.e. iff  $x_n$  is “eventually constant”).*
- (c) *If  $\mathcal{T} = \{\{x\} : x \in X\}$  (i.e. if  $\mathcal{T}$  is the set of singletons), then a sequence of points  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  in  $X$  converges to a point  $x_0 \in X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{T}$  if and only if there exists some  $N$  such that  $x_n = x_0$  for all  $n \geq N$  (i.e. iff  $x_n$  is “eventually constant”).*

These last two examples suggest the following definition.

**Definition 5.** Two pre-topologies  $\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'$  for the same set  $X$  are said to be *equivalent* if: a sequence  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  converges to  $x_0$  with respect to  $\mathcal{T}$  if and only if it converges to  $x_0$  with respect to  $\mathcal{T}'$ .

For example, the claim above shows the collection of singletons  $\mathcal{T}$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ . Given that these two collections are equivalent to each other, which one should we work with, i.e. which is “better”? A possible answer is that the larger collection  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is “better” because its extra elements give us extra flexibility. This suggests the following problem.

**Question 1.3.** *Given a pre-topology  $\mathcal{T}$ , what is the “largest” pre-topology  $\mathcal{T}'$  which contains  $\mathcal{T}$  and which is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$ ?*

This question seems a little daunting, so instead we ask the following weaker question.

**Question 1.4.** *Given a pre-topology  $\mathcal{T}$ , are there any “obvious” sets  $U$  that we can add to  $\mathcal{T}$  so that  $\mathcal{T} \cup \{U\}$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$ ?*

Again if you think about this for 30 years you might realize the following.

**Claim 1.5.** *Let  $X$  be a set,  $\mathcal{T}$  a pre-topology, and  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$  some non-empty subset of its elements.*

- (a)  *$\mathcal{T} \cup \{\emptyset\}$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$ .*
- (b)  *$\mathcal{T} \cup \{X\}$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$ .*
- (b)  *$\mathcal{T} \cup \{\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U\}$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$ .*
- (c) *If  $\mathcal{S}$  is a finite set, then  $\mathcal{T} \cup \{\bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U\}$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$ .*
- (d) *Part (c) does not hold in general if  $\mathcal{S}$  is allowed to be an infinite set<sup>3</sup>.*

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<sup>3</sup>Hint: take  $X = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{T}$  to be the set of open intervals, and  $\mathcal{S} = \{(-\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n})\}$ .

*Sketch of Proof.* For (a), since  $\emptyset$  contains no elements of  $X$  it doesn't affect whether any given element is the limit of a sequence.

For (b), one can always take  $N_X = 1$  (since every sequence lies in  $X$  for all  $n \geq 1$ ).

For (c), take  $N_{\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U}$  equal to  $N_U$  for any  $U \in \mathcal{S}$ .

For (d), take  $N_{\bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U} = \max_U N_U$  (note how this requires the set  $\mathcal{S}$  to be finite). □

That is, given any pre-topology  $\mathcal{T}$ , we can freely add in  $\emptyset$  and  $X$ , as well as (arbitrary) unions and finite intersections of elements of  $\mathcal{T}$  into  $\mathcal{T}$  to make a (possibly) larger pre-topology which is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$ . In particular, this means that the largest pre-topology  $\mathcal{T}'$  which is equivalent to  $\mathcal{T}$  must contain  $\emptyset, X$  and be “closed” under taking unions and finite intersections. This is exactly the definition of a topology!

## 2 Definitions and Examples

Let's again restate the definition of a topology, as well as some related definitions that will serve as a useful language for talking about topologies.

**Definition 6.** Given a set  $X$ , a set  $\mathcal{T}$  of subsets of  $X$  is called a *topology* of  $X$  if the following hold:

- (a)  $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{T}$ .
- (b)  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under arbitrary unions. That is, for any subset  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ , the set  $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U$  is in  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- (c)  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under finite intersections. That is, for any finite subset  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ , the set  $\bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{S}} U$  is in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

The elements of  $\mathcal{T}$  are called *open sets*. We will call the pair  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  a *topological space*. When  $\mathcal{T}$  is clear from context we simply write  $X$  instead of  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ .

**Remark 2.1.** For arbitrary unions, the book likes to use the notation  $\bigcup_{\alpha \in J} U_\alpha$  where  $J$  is an “index set”, and we will occasionally use this notation in class as well. I recommend looking at Chapter 1 Section 5 of the book to get a more detailed explanation for how this notation is used throughout the book.

Now that we have the definition of a topology in hand, let's pause for a moment and look at some examples and non-examples of topologies.

### 2.1 Finite Topologies

Is the following pair  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  a topological space: In class write all these down and ask students what they think the answers are

$$X = \{a, b, c\}, \mathcal{T}_1 = \{\{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}?$$

No! It fails to have  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{T}_1$ . Okay, what about

$$X = \{a, b, c\}, \mathcal{T}_2 = \{\emptyset, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}?$$

Well, we have  $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{T}_2$ , and it is not difficult to check by hand that this is closed under unions and (finite) intersections (e.g.  $\{a, b\} \cap \{b\} = \{b\} \in \mathcal{T}_2$ ; the slicker way is to note that unions/intersections of sets containing  $b$  continue to be sets containing  $b$ ) so this *is* a topology! What about

$$X = \{a, b, c\}, \mathcal{T}_3 = \{\emptyset, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}?$$

No! This isn't closed under intersections  $\{a, b\} \cap \{a, c\} = \{a\} \notin \mathcal{T}$ . What about

$$X = \{a, b, c\}, \mathcal{T}_4 = \{\emptyset, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}?$$

No! Again not closed under intersections  $\{a, b\} \cap \{b, c\} = \{b\} \notin \mathcal{T}_4$ . Note that these last three examples show that topologies aren't "monotonic", i.e. if you know  $\mathcal{T}_2$  is a topology and  $\mathcal{T}_4 \subseteq \mathcal{T}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{T}_3$ , you can't conclude that either  $\mathcal{T}_4, \mathcal{T}_3$  are necessarily topologies.

## 2.2 General Families

Let's look at some more general examples.

**Definition 7.** For any set  $X$ , the set  $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, X\}$  is a topology called the *trivial topology* or *indiscrete topology*. The proof that this is a topology follows by considering all 4 of the subsets  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$  and verifying that their unions/intersections lie in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

**Definition 8.** For any set  $X$ , the power set  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{P}(X)$  (i.e. the set of all subsets of  $X$ ) is a topology called the *discrete topology*. The proof that this is a topology follows from the fact that unions/intersections of subsets of  $X$  continue to be subsets of  $X$  (and hence lie in  $\mathcal{T}$ ).

**Definition 9.** For any set  $X$ , the set  $\mathcal{T} = \{S \subseteq X : |X \setminus S| < \infty\} \cup \{\emptyset\}$  (i.e. the set of elements which contain all but a finite number of points from  $X$ ) is a topology called the *cofinite topology* or *finite complement topology*. The proof that this is a topology follows from the fact that unions/finite intersections of cofinite sets are cofinite (this requires a bit more of an argument involving De Morgan's laws).

## 2.3 Euclidean and Subspace Topologies

Here we discuss possible the two most important topologies which should always be at the back of your mind.

**Definition 10.** For  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}$ , define the *open ball*  $B(x_0, \varepsilon) = \{x : |x - x_0| < \varepsilon\}$ . For  $X = \mathbb{R}^n$ , consider the set  $\mathcal{T}$  consisting of all sets  $S$  such that for all  $x_0 \in S$  there exists an open ball  $B(x_0, \varepsilon) \subseteq S$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}$  is a topology called the *Euclidean topology* or *standard topology*.

Draw a picture of an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

Throughout this course, whenever we consider  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we will assume it is a topological space with the Euclidean topology unless stated otherwise.

We next look at a general way for generating new topologies from old ones.

**Definition 11.** Given a topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  and a subset  $Y \subseteq X$ , we define the *subspace topology*  $\mathcal{T}' = \{U \cap Y : U \in \mathcal{T}\}$ . Unless stated otherwise we will always assume subsets  $Y \subseteq X$  come equipped with the subspace topology, in which case we say that  $Y$  is a *subspace* of  $X$ .

**Claim 2.2.** *The subspace topology is a topology.*

*Proof.*  $\emptyset, X$  are easy. For finite intersections, if you have  $V_1, \dots, V_r$  open then  $V_i = U_i \cap Y$  for some  $U_i$ , then  $\bigcap V_i = \bigcap U_i \cap Y$  which is open since  $X$  is a topology. The proofs for unions is similar

Actually, the most naive proof for arbitrary unions requires invoking the axiom of choice (this is a very subtle error; it was only [noticed](#) in 2018!). Since this is an undergraduate class I'm not going to fret over this, but can talk about it in office hours for those that are interested.  $\square$

**Example 2.3.** Let  $X = \mathbb{R}$  with the Euclidean topology and  $Y = [0, 1] \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  with the subspace topology. Which of the following sets are open in  $X$ ? Which are open in  $Y$ ?

- $(1/4, 3/4)$
- $(1/2, 1]$
- $[1/4, 3/4)$

Around 80% of the topologies we consider in the class will either be  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with the Euclidean topology or some subset  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  equipped with the subspace topology. Here are a few common examples of these sorts of spaces:

- $B^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| < 1\}$  (open ball).
- $D^n$  (open disk)
- $S^{n-1}$  ( $(n-1)$ -dimensional sphere)
- $I^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : 0 \leq x_i \leq 1\}$  ( $n$ -dim cube, draw some examples).

Warning: if  $X$  is a space and  $Y \subseteq X$  is a subspace, it is somewhat ambiguous to talk about “open sets” (do we mean open in  $X$  or in  $Y$ ?). We deal with this as follows.

**Definition 12.** If  $Y \subseteq X$  is a subspace, we say a set  $A$  is open in  $Y$  if it belongs to the topology of  $Y$ , and similarly we define what it means for  $A$  to be open in  $X$ .

In some situations there's no ambiguity, as in the following.

**Claim 2.4.** *If  $Y \subseteq X$  is an open set in  $X$ , then every  $A$  which is open in  $Y$  is also open in  $X$  (intersection of open sets is open).*



### 3 Closed Sets

- Recap: topologies (and that given a topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ , a set  $U \subseteq X$  is called open if  $U \in \mathcal{T}$ ), examples (Euclidean, subspace)
- Idea with definition of “open” is that these generalize notion of open sets from real analysis, but equally important in real analysis is closed sets (e.g. intermediate/extreme value theorem both involve functions  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , i.e. both involve closed intervals).  
So, what’s the right way to define closed sets for general topologies?

- Definition: a set  $A \subseteq X$  is called *closed* if its complement  $X - A$  is open.
- Warmup: which of the following sets  $A$  are open/closed in  $X = \mathbb{R}$ ?

–  $[0, 1]$

–  $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$

–  $\mathbb{Q}$

–  $\mathbb{R}$

–  $\emptyset$

- Def: a set  $A \subseteq X$  which is both open and closed is called clopen.
- Eg in discrete topology, every set is open/closed/clopen.
- Thm: if  $X$  is a topological space then: (1)  $\emptyset, X$  are closed, (2) arbitrary intersections of closed sets are closed, (3) finite unions of closed sets are closed.

With this we see we could have defined topology via closed sets and gotten same theory; there’s no real distinction.

- As in the previous lecture, if we have a subspace  $Y \subseteq X$  it can be ambiguous to say  $A$  is closed. In this case we will say that  $A$  is closed in  $Y$  or closed in  $X$  as appropriate.

Claim: if  $Y \subseteq X$  is closed, then any  $A$  which is closed in  $Y$  is closed in  $X$ .

- Given  $A \subseteq X$  there’s two important sets we can associate to it. Def: the interior  $A^\circ$  (or  $\text{int}A$ ) is the union of all the open sets contained in  $A$ , and the closure  $\bar{A}$  is intersection of closed sets containing it.
- E.g intuitively what is  $[0, 1)$  interior/closure?
- Essentially,  $A^\circ$  is the largest open subset of  $A$  (and similar  $\bar{A}$ ).

- Prop: **Prove these**
  - $A^\circ, \bar{A}$  are open/closed.
  - $A^\circ \subseteq A \subseteq \bar{A}$ .
  - If  $A$  is open then  $A = A^\circ$ , and if  $A$  is closed then  $A = \bar{A}$ .
- In order to characterize closure we need some definitions: if  $U$  is an open set containing  $x$ , then we say that  $U$  is a *neighborhood* of  $x$ . We say that two sets  $A, B$  intersect if  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ .
- Thm:  $x \in \bar{A}$  iff every neighborhood of  $x$  intersects  $A$ .
  - Equivalent to prove  $x \notin \bar{A}$  iff exists neighborhood disjoint from  $A$ . Indeed, if  $x \notin \bar{A}$  then there exists closed set  $C$  containing  $A$  but not  $x$ , then  $X - C$  is a neighborhood disjoint from  $A$ . Reverse direction similar.
- Examples for subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$ :
  - $A = \{n^{-1}\}$ , closure is this plus 0 (easy to see 0 is in due to neighborhood description, everything else has neighborhood disjoint from it).
  - $A = \mathbb{Q}$ , closure is  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- Neighborhoods are one useful way to characterize closures. Another way is through limit points. Definition: given a subset  $A \subseteq X$ , a point  $x$  is called a *limit point* (or cluster point, or point of accumulation) of  $A$  if every neighborhood of  $x$  intersects  $A$  in some point *other than itself*. Equivalently,  $x$  is a limit point if  $x \in \overline{A - \{x\}}$ .
- E.g. for  $X = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $A = \{0\}$  no point is a limit point. If  $A = (0, 1]$  every point in  $[0, 1]$  is a limit point. If  $A = \{n^{-1}\}$  then only 0 is a limit point.  
Intuitively,  $x$  is a limit point if there's a sequence in  $A - x$  "converging" to  $x$ .
- Thm: if  $A'$  denotes the set of limit points of  $A$ , then  $\bar{A} = A \cup A'$ .
  - If  $x \in A'$  then every neighborhood intersects  $A$ , so by the one theorem it's in the closure so  $A \cup A' \subseteq \bar{A}$ .
  - If  $x \in \bar{A} \setminus A$ , then every neighborhood intersects  $A$ , and necessarily  $A - x$  since  $x \notin A$ , so  $x \in A'$ .
- Corollary: a set  $A$  is closed if it contains all of its limit points ( $A = A \cup A'$  implies  $A' \subseteq A$ ).

## 4 Convergent Sequences and Hausdorff Spaces

- Again the goal of topology is to generalize concepts from real analysis, and now that we have a lot of examples/terminology, we can finally start defining these analogs.
- One important concept that we've seen is convergent sequences. Definition: given a topological space  $X$ , we say that a sequence of points  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  in  $X$  converges to a point  $x$  if for all neighborhoods  $U$  of  $x$ , there exists  $N \geq 1$  such that  $x_n \in U$  for all  $n \geq N$ .
- This definition can be used to motivate the name "limit point" from last time.

Prop: let  $X$  be a space and  $A \subseteq X$ . If  $x \in X$  is such that there exists a sequence  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  in  $A - x$  which converges to  $x$ , then  $x$  is a limit point of  $A$ .

- Proof is that for any neighborhood there exist infinitely many  $x_n$  in it, all of which are in  $A$  and all of which are distinct from  $x$ .
- Converse turns out to be false (i.e. there exist limit points which are not limits) but it's not super easy to construct; see [this](#). This is true however in nice spaces (e.g. metric spaces).
- Natural question that pops up when playing with sequences: for every sequence  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ , does there exist at most one point  $x$  which the sequence converges to?  
Intuition with  $\mathbb{R}^n$  says, yes, but this is false: in trivial topology every sequence converges to every point.

- This is a weird situation we'd like to avoid.

Definition: a topological space is said to be *Hausdorff* or  $T_2$  if for each pair of distinct points  $x, y$ , there exist neighborhoods  $U, V$  of  $x, y$  respectively which are disjoint. **Draw picture**

- Thm: if  $X$  is Hausdorff, then every sequence converges to at most one point.
  - Assume for contradiction converge to  $x, y$  let  $U, V$  be neighborhoods. Take  $N_U$ , means all  $n \geq N_U$  lie in  $U$  i.e. aren't in  $V$ , contradicting the existence of  $N_V$ .
  - Note that the definition of Hausdorff is designed to be essentially the weakest condition such that this property holds.
- Examples: **proofs**
  - $\mathbb{R}^n$  is Hausdorff
  - Trivial with at least two points is not
  - Discrete is Hausdorff

- Finite complement with an infinite number of points is not (every two open sets intersect in all but finitely many points).
- This next proof will use the following trick that will be used many times throughout this course:

Neighborhood trick: a set  $U \subseteq X$  is open iff for every  $x \in U$  there exists an open set  $V_x$  with  $x \in V_x \subseteq U$ . (Proof if  $U$  is open is easy, other direction uses unions).

- Already saw Hausdorff is nice because sequences have at most one limit, which agrees with our intuition from  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . It also plays nicely with intuition for closed sets.

Thm: if  $X$  is Hausdorff, then every finite subset  $A \subseteq X$  is closed.

- Not true in general:  $X = \{a, b, c\}$ ,  $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$  doesn't have  $b$  closed.
- Proof: suffices to prove it when  $A = \{x\}$  (since unions of closed sets are closed), i.e. that  $X - x$  is open. Because  $X$  is Hausdorff, each  $y \in X - x$  has a neighborhood  $U_y$  disjoint from  $x$ . Hence  $\bigcup U_y = X - x$  is open.
- Note that we didn't need the full power of Hausdorff in this proof: we only used that each  $y$  has a neighborhood disjoint from each  $x$  (so e.g. it holds for finite complement topology). This disjoint neighborhood condition is called the T1 condition; we'll return to this in Chapter 4.

## 5 Continuous Functions

- Recap: convergence, Hausdorff (and sequences converge to at most one point).
- Again, one of the main points of topology is to generalize key concepts from real analysis.
- Recall from calculus that a function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous if for all  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exist  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x$  with  $|x - x_0| < \delta$  we have  $|f(x) - f(x_0)| < \varepsilon$ .

Phew, that's a mouthful.

- Def: a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  between two topological spaces is called *continuous* if for every open set  $U$  in  $Y$ , the set  $f^{-1}(U)$  is open in  $X$ .
  - That is  $f$  is continuous if the pre-image of open sets are open.
  - Warning: The notation  $f^{-1}(U) := \{x : f(x) \in U\}$  is the *pre-image* of  $f$  NOT the inverse of  $f$  (which may not exist).
- Claim: this is equivalent to the calculus definition for the Euclidean topology.

### 5.1 Examples

- Eg take  $X = \{a, b\}$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_x = \{\emptyset, X, \{a\}\}$ , define  $Y = \{1, 2\}$  with essentially the same topology. Consider all 4 possible maps  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and ask which are continuous (all but  $f(a) = 2, f(b) = 1$  because  $f^{-1}(1) = b$  which isn't open).
- Prop: if  $Y$  has the trivial topology, then every map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous.

“Most” maps from trivial topology on  $X$  aren't continuous (requires every open set of  $Y$  to contain  $f(X)$  or be empty).
- Prop: if  $X$  has the discrete topology, then every map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous.

“Most” maps from discrete  $Y$  aren't continuous.
- If  $\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'$  are topologies on the same set  $X$ , when is the identity map  $f : (X, \mathcal{T}) \rightarrow (X, \mathcal{T}')$  with  $f(x) = x$  continuous? Ans: when  $\mathcal{T}' \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ .

Def if  $\mathcal{T}' \subseteq \mathcal{T}$  then we say that  $\mathcal{T}'$  is coarser than  $\mathcal{T}$  and that  $\mathcal{T}$  is finer than  $\mathcal{T}'$ .  
Prop:  $f : (X, \mathcal{T}) \rightarrow (X, \mathcal{T}')$  with  $f$  the identity map  $f(x) = x$  is continuous iff  $\mathcal{T}$  is finer than  $\mathcal{T}'$ .
- Prop: if  $A \subseteq X$  is given the subspace topology, then the inclusion map  $\iota : A \rightarrow X$  defined by  $\iota(a) = a$  is continuous.
  - $f^{-1}(U) = U \cap A$ , which is open in  $A$  by construction of subspace topology.

- Aside: this proof shows that the subspace topology is the “weakest” topology we can put on  $A \subseteq X$  so that the inclusion map is continuous.  
General theme: if you have a “natural map”  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , then you should define the “weakest” topologies on  $X, Y$  such that  $f$  is continuous (eg subspace above).
- The function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $f(x) = 0$  is continuous (two ways, (1) directly and (2) because calculus).
- Warning:  $f$  continuous does NOT mean it maps open sets to open sets. E.g. the previous example.

## 5.2 Equivalences and Constructions

- Aside: why would you ever come up with the definition of continuity?
  - Intuition of  $\varepsilon - \delta$  definition from calculus: small changes to your input lead to small changes in output.
  - More precisely, we say that  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous at  $x$  if for any “tolerance”  $\varepsilon > 0$  we can find  $\delta > 0$  sufficiently small so that  $f((x - \delta, x + \delta)) \subseteq (f(x) - \varepsilon, f(x) + \varepsilon)$ .
  - If we tried to generalize this intuition, we might come up with the following definition:  
**End of aside**
- Def: a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is said to be continuous at  $x \in X$  if for every open set  $V \subseteq Y$  containing  $f(x)$ , there exists an open set  $U \subseteq X$  such that  $f(U) \subseteq V$ .  
Prop: a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous (as defined at the start of class) iff it is continuous at every point  $x \in X$  (as defined above).
  - Assume  $f$  is continuous and you have some  $f(x) \in V \subseteq Y$ , what  $U$  should you define to have  $f(U) \subseteq V$ ? Take  $U = f^{-1}(V)$ ; this works by construction.
  - Assume  $f$  is continuous at each point. Let  $V$  be open and  $x \in f^{-1}(V)$ . Since  $f(x) \in V$ , there exists some neighborhood  $U_x$  with  $f(U_x) \subseteq V$ , and hence  $U_x \subseteq f^{-1}(V)$ . Note that  $f^{-1}(V) = \bigcup U_x$ , so it’s open.
- Because continuity is such a fundamental concept, it will be useful to have a few more equivalent formulations.

Thm:  $X, Y$  be topological spaces and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . TFAE:

1.  $f$  is continuous (i.e. preimage of open sets are open)
2. For every closed set  $B \subseteq Y$ , the set  $f^{-1}(B)$  is closed in  $X$ .
3. For every subset  $A \subseteq X$ , we have  $f(\overline{A}) \subseteq \overline{f(A)}$

Proof:

- (1) to (2): assume  $f$  is continuous and let  $B$  be closed in  $Y$ . Taking  $V = Y - B$ , basic set theory says Then  $f^{-1}(V) = X \setminus f^{-1}(B)$ . Since  $V$  is open, this set is open, which means  $f^{-1}(B)$  is the complement of an open set and hence open. Other direction is basically the same.
- (1) to (3): Assume  $f$  continuous and  $A \subseteq X$ . Aim to show  $x \in \overline{A}$  implies  $f(x) \in \overline{f(A)}$ . Let  $V$  be neighborhood of  $f(x)$ , pre-image is open so neighborhood of  $x$ , thus intersects  $A$ , so  $f(f^{-1}(V)) \subseteq V$  intersects  $f(A)$ . Since every neighborhood of  $f(x)$  intersects  $f(A)$ , we conclude  $f(x) \in \overline{f(A)}$ .
- (3) to (2): Let  $B$  be closed in  $Y$  and take  $A = f^{-1}(B)$ ; aim is to show  $A = \overline{A}$ . Note that  $f(A) = f(f^{-1}(B)) \subseteq B$ . Thus if  $x \in \overline{A}$ ,  $f(x) \in \overline{f(A)} \subseteq \overline{B} = B$ , which means  $x \in f^{-1}(B) = A$ . Thus  $\overline{A} \subseteq A$  and they must equal each other.
- We now look at some ways of constructing new continuous functions from old ones.  
Prop: if  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  are continuous, then  $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$  is continuous.
- For this next result we'll want the following which we've mentioned a few times already now: let  $A \subseteq Y \subseteq X$ . (a) If  $A$  is open in  $Y$  and  $Y$  is open in  $X$ , then  $A$  is open in  $X$ . (b) same with closed. **Prove open one**
- (Pasting Lemma) Let  $X = A \cup B$  with  $A, B$  either both open or both closed in  $X$  and let  $f : A \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : B \rightarrow Y$  be continuous maps that agree at their intersection, i.e.  $f(x) = g(x)$  for all  $x \in A \cap B$ . Then the function  $h : X \rightarrow Y$  defined by  $h(x) = f(x)$  for  $x \in A$  and  $h(x) = g(x)$  for  $x \in B$  is continuous.
  - E.g. the function  $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $h(x) = x$  for  $x \leq 0$  and  $h(x) = x/2$  for  $x \geq 0$  is continuous because of this result.
  - Result is false if one of  $A, B$  is open and the other closed, e.g.  $X = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $A = (-\infty, 0]$  and  $B = (0, \infty)$  with  $f(x) = -1$  and  $g(x) = 1$ .
  - Proof: only prove case when  $A, B$  both closed. Let  $C$  be a closed set. Not difficult to argue  $h^{-1}(C) = f^{-1}(V) \cup g^{-1}(C)$ . Since  $f, g$  continuous, these two sets are *closed in*  $A, B$ . Since  $A, B$  are closed in  $X$ , the lemma above implies these two sets are closed in  $X$ . Thus intersection is closed, proving the result by equivalent formulation of continuity.

### 5.3 Homeomorphisms

- Let  $X = \{a, b\}$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_x = \{\emptyset, X, \{a\}\}$  and similarly define  $Y = \{1, 2\}$  with  $\mathcal{T}_y$  basically the same. Ask if  $(X, \mathcal{T}_x) = (Y, \mathcal{T}_y)$ ? Answer is no, but they are “equivalent”.

- Definition: a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is said to be a *homeomorphism* if (a)  $f$  is a bijection, (b)  $f$  is continuous, and (c)  $f^{-1}$  is continuous (this exists because  $f$  is a bijection); equivalently  $f(U)$  is open whenever  $U$  is open.
  - If there exists a homeomorphism between  $X, Y$  we say these spaces are *homeomorphic* and write  $X \cong Y$ .
  - Note for those familiar with algebra that although this sounds like “homomorphism” its much closer to isomorphism.
- Eg are the  $X, Y$  at the start of this subsection homeomorphic?
  - What homeomorphism shows this?
  - Check that that this works: draw a column on the right listing the open sets of  $Y$  with the open sets of  $X$  on the other side, draw arrows from  $Y$  backwards labeled  $f^{-1}$  to their corresponding sets, then arrows going the other way labeled  $f$ .
  - Aside: a map  $f$  being a homeomorphism is equivalent to saying it “induces” a bijection between  $\mathcal{T}_x$  and  $\mathcal{T}_y$  (as the example above demonstrates), i.e. that the two topologies are just “relabelings” of each other. This relabeling definition is perhaps more intuitive, but the homeomorphism definition is easier to work with in practice.
- Eg let  $B_n(x, r) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - y| < r\}$  denote the ball of radius  $r$  centered at  $x$ .  
 Claim:  $B_n(x, r) \cong B_n(x + a, r)$  for all  $a$  (i.e. translates of the same space are homeomorphic)
  - What’s the homeomorphism?  $f(z) = z + a$ .
  - That  $f$  is a bijection is straightforward.
  - That  $f$  and its inverse  $g(z) = z - a$  are continuous follows “from calculus” (i.e. we know the topological definition of continuity is equivalent to the calculus definition, and we know from real analysis that translations are continuous functions).
  - Convention: throughout this course, if you have a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  with  $X, Y$  subspaces of Euclidean space, you are allowed to say  $f$  is continuous “by calculus” whenever it follows from basic real analysis that  $f$  is continuous.
  - Aside: one can also prove  $f$  is continuous by hand (which is what I originally planned to do), but it is a real pain. The proof will become a lot easier once we have the tools from next lecture. **Maybe sketch this out.**
- Claim: if  $r, c > 0$ , then  $B_n(0, r) \cong B_n(0, cr)$  (i.e. dilates of the same space are homeomorphic). Proof:  $f(x) = cx$  is a homeomorphism “by calculus”.



- The two statements above imply that any two balls in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of finite radius are homeomorphic to each other. In fact, this continues to hold even for infinite radii:

Claim:  $B_n(0, 1) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$ . Proof: take  $f(x) = \frac{x}{1-|x|}$  **draw picture of arrows going out, with arrows expanding more farther away**, this and its inverse  $g(y) = \frac{y}{1+|y|}$  are continuous “by calculus”.

- Variant:  $[0, 1)$  and  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  with subspace topologies are homeomorphic ( $f : [0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  with  $f(x) = \frac{x}{1-x}$  is continuous by calculus, its inverse  $g(y) = \frac{y}{y+1}$  also continuous by calculus).
- Prop:  $X = S^1 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : |x|^2 + |y|^2 = 1\}$  and  $Y = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \max(|x|, |y|) = 1\}$  (square) are homeomorphic **draw picture**, map is  $f(x, y) = (\frac{x}{\max(|x|, |y|)}, \frac{y}{\max(|x|, |y|)})$  and inverse  $g(x, y) = (\frac{x}{\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2}}, \frac{y}{\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2}})$
- More generally, any two subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are homeomorphic if you can “twist/bend” one into the other.

– E.g.  $S^1$  and some wild non-intersecting looking curve.

– E.g. donut and coffee cup.

- Warning:  $f$  being continuous and bijective doesn’t imply inverse is continuous, e.g.  $[0, 1)$  to circle via  $f(x) = (\cos(2\pi x), \sin(2\pi x))$  (is a continuous bijection, but its inverse isn’t continuous because of preimages around 0)
- Sometimes a map can be a “local” homeomorphism. Definition: let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be an injective continuous map. If the restricted map  $f' : X \rightarrow f(X)$  is a homeomorphism, then we say that the original map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is an *embedding*.
- Prop: the relation of being homeomorphic is an equivalence relation.
- Aside: say that a property is a *topological property* if the property is preserved under homeomorphisms.
  - E.g. Cardinality (if have two homeomorphic spaces then necessarily same cardinality because  $f$  bijection).
  - E.g. connectedness (see later).
  - Non-e.g.: location (translations), size, boundedness
  - Non-e.g: “smoothness” (e.g. can’t distinguish circle vs square). That is, topology is too loose to understand curvature, but this can be resolved through “differential topology”.

## 5.4 Padding for Time

- Various general continuous maps:
  - Constant functions.
  - Restricting domain.
  - Expanding codomain.
- Aside: the two most important definitions in any field of math is (1) what are the objects of study, (2) what are the “nice maps” between these objects? E.g. topological spaces/continuous, vector spaces/linear, sets/functions, groups/homomorphisms. More generally category theory.

## 6 Basis

- Problem: it can be hard to show that relatively simple maps  $f$  are continuous “by hand”, e.g. showing the translation  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $f(x) = x + a$  is tricky.
- Part of the difficulty above is that the definition of open sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is complicated: recall that a set  $U$  is open in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  iff for every  $x \in U$  there exists a ball  $B_x \subseteq U$  containing  $x$ ; this means weird shapes can be open **draw one**.

Observation: general open sets  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  can be complex, but they’re made up of simple building blocks (i.e. balls). Can we extend this idea?

- Idea: given a collection of sets  $\mathcal{B}$ , we want to define a topology  $\mathcal{T}$  by having  $U \in \mathcal{T}$  if and only if for all  $x \in U$  there exists  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $x \in B \subseteq U$  (by the neighborhood trick, this is the same as saying every open set is the union of elements of  $\mathcal{B}$ ).

Problem:  $\mathcal{T}$  won’t be a topology for arbitrary sets  $\mathcal{B}$ , so we need to figure out some conditions on  $\mathcal{B}$  which makes this work out.

- Definition: given a set  $X$ , a collection of subsets  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$  is called a *basis* of  $X$  if (1) for every  $x \in X$ , there exists some  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  containing  $x$  and (2) for all  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $x \in B_1 \cap B_2$ , there exists  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $x \in B \subseteq B_1 \cap B_2$ .

- Eg open balls in Euclidean topology (if distance from  $x$  to  $x_i$  is  $d_i$ , then you can take  $B = B(x, \min\{\varepsilon_i - d_i\})$ )
- Eg  $X = \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathcal{R} = \{(a, b) \times (c, d)\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  (intersection itself is open rectangle).
- Eg  $X = \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathcal{H} = \{[a, b)\}$  (again intersection just works).
- $\mathcal{D} = \{\{x\} : x \in X\}$  always works.

- Definition: if  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis for  $X$ , the *topology  $\mathcal{T}$  generated by  $\mathcal{B}$*  is defined by having  $U \in \mathcal{T}$  if and only if for all  $x \in U$  there exists  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $x \in B \subseteq U$  (note that this implies  $\mathcal{B}$  are all open sets in  $\mathcal{T}$ ).

- Note this recovers Euclidean if  $\mathcal{B}$  is open balls.
- This is a topology:  $\emptyset$  easy,  $X$  by (1). Pairwise intersection: there exists  $B_i \subseteq U_i$  containing  $x$  each time, take intersection, by (2) there’s some  $B$  contained in this containing  $x$ . Arbitrary union, take any  $i$  with  $x \in U_i$  and then its corresponding basis element.
- Aside: conditions (1) and (2) for  $\mathcal{B}$  being a basis turn out to be equivalent to the condition that  $\mathcal{T}$  is a topology, so this really is the “right” definition for a basis to make.

- What topologies do previous examples generate? Claim (will see soon)  $\mathcal{R}$  generates Euclidean, i.e. same as balls  $\mathcal{B}$  (despite the two having no elements in common). Topology generated by  $\mathcal{H}$  is something other than Euclidean called “lower limit topology”.  $\mathcal{D}$  is discrete.

- The exact definition of the topology generated by  $\mathcal{B}$  is somewhat complicated. Here’s a cleaner formulation. Lemma: if  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis, then the topology  $\mathcal{T}$  generated by  $\mathcal{B}$  equals the set of all possible unions of elements of  $\mathcal{B}$  (this includes the empty union).

Proof: Note that  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ , and because  $\mathcal{T}$  is a topology, it necessarily contains all possible unions of  $\mathcal{B}$ . Conversely, if  $U \in \mathcal{T}$  then for each  $x \in U$  there exists  $B_x \in \mathcal{B}$  containing  $x$  and contained in  $U$ , so  $U = \bigcup_{x \in U} B_x$ .

- Now we get to one of the most useful consequences of basis.

Thm: if  $Y$  is generated by a basis  $\mathcal{B}$ , then  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous iff  $f^{-1}(B)$  is open for  $B \in \mathcal{B}$ .

– Continuous implies this condition.

– This condition plus  $U$  equal to union of basis elements gives other direction.

- E.g. to check that the translation map  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $f(x) = x + a$  is continuous, it suffices to prove that  $f^{-1}(B)$  is open whenever  $B$  is an open ball, and this holds since  $f^{-1}(B)$  is an open ball.

- Basis play nicely with subspaces.

Prop: if  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis for  $X$ , then  $\mathcal{B}' = \{B \cap Y : B \in \mathcal{B}\}$  is a basis for  $Y$ . (every element of  $Y \subseteq X$  is in some element, if you look at the intersection, lift to  $X$ , then project back down you get the thing).

- Basis make it easier to check if sets are closed.

Thm: if  $X$  has a basis, then  $x \in \bar{A}$  iff every basis element  $B$  containing  $x$  intersects  $A$ .

– Recall:  $x \in \bar{A}$  iff every neighborhood of  $x$  intersects  $A$ .

– It suffices to show this latter condition is equivalent to having every neighborhood intersect  $A$ , easy because  $B$  is open and because neighborhoods always contain a basis sub-neighborhood.

- We know how to go from basis to topology. Sometimes it will be useful to go the other way, i.e. given a topology  $\mathcal{T}$  how do we find a basis for it?

– Prop: let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and  $\mathcal{B}$  a family of subsets of  $X$ . If (a) every element of  $\mathcal{B}$  is open and (b) For every open set  $U \subseteq X$  and every  $x \in U$  there is an element  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $x \in B \subseteq U$ , then  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis which generate the topology on  $X$ .

- Proof (if  $\mathcal{B}$  satisfies these conditions then it is a basis): Taking  $U = X$  implies (1) of basis. Since  $\mathcal{B}$  are open sets,  $B_1 \cap B_2$  is open so can find a  $B$  to satisfy (2), so this is a basis.
- Proof (that the topology generates  $\mathcal{T}$ ): Let  $\mathcal{T}'$  be the topology generated by  $\mathcal{B}$ . Every element  $W \in \mathcal{T}'$  is a union of elements of  $\mathcal{B}$  which are open sets, so  $W \in \mathcal{T}$ . On the other hand, each  $U \in \mathcal{T}$  can be written as the union of basis elements so  $U \in \mathcal{T}'$ .
- Corollary:  $\mathcal{R}$  generates  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .
- Basis requires two relatively weak conditions, but sometimes its useful to relax even these.
  - Def: a set  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$  is called a *sub-basis* (or pre-basis) if for every  $x \in X$ , there exists some  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  containing  $x$  (so it has (1) of the definition of the basis but not necessarily (2)).
  - Claim: the set of finite intersections of a sub-basis  $\mathcal{S}$  is a basis. We define the topology generated by  $\mathcal{S}$  to be the topology generated by this basis.
  - Claim: if  $Y$  is generated by a subbasis  $\mathcal{S}$ , then  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous iff  $f^{-1}(U)$  is open for all  $U \in \mathcal{S}$ .

## 7 Product Topologies

### 7.1 Finite Products

- The next few lectures explore forming new topologies by performing “operations” on old ones.
- Definition: given topological spaces  $X, Y$ , define the *product topology* on  $X \times Y$  as the topology generated by the basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{U \times V : U \text{ open in } X, V \text{ open in } Y\}$ .

Claim:  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis (and hence does indeed generate a topology).

- Warning  $\mathcal{B}$  is *not* a topology, i.e. the open sets of  $X \times Y$  are *not* (the only) elements of  $\mathcal{B}$ . Insert picture of union of two rectangles

- Claim: if  $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$  are basis that generate the topologies for  $X, Y$ , then  $\mathcal{D} = \{B \times C : B \in \mathcal{B}, C \in \mathcal{C}\}$  generates the product topology  $X \times Y$ .

– Recall lemma from before: a set  $\mathcal{D}$  is a basis generating a topology  $\mathcal{T}$  if (1)  $\mathcal{D}$  is a set of open sets, (2) for every  $x \in U \in \mathcal{T}$  there exists  $x \in D \subseteq U$ .

- Cor: if  $\mathbb{R}$  has the standard topology, then the product topology  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  equals the standard topology on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (equivalently, the topology generated by the basis of open rectangles is the same as the topology generated by open balls).

- Subspace and product topologies “commute”: if you take  $X \times Y$  and give  $A \times B$  the subspace topology, it’s the same as if you first gave  $A, B$  the subspace topology and then took the product topology.

- Examples of products:

- $S^1 \times I^1$  is cylinder.
- $S^1 \times S^1$  is torus.
- $S^1 \times D^2$  is solid torus.

- Def: the projection map  $\pi_1 : X \times Y \rightarrow X$  has  $\pi_1(x, y) = x$ , and we similarly define  $\pi_2$ .

These are the most important maps related to product topologies. In particular, they can be used to generate the product topology.

Claim: the sets  $\{\pi_1^{-1}(U) : U \in \mathcal{T}_X\} \cup \{\pi_2^{-1}(V) : V \in \mathcal{T}_Y\}$ , i.e. the sets  $U \times Y$  and  $X \times V$  form a subbasis for the product topology  $X \times Y$  (Pf: every basis element is the intersection of two subbasis elements, every finite intersection of subbasis elements gives you a basis element)

- Prop: the projection maps  $\pi_i$  are continuous (proof:  $\pi_1^{-1}(U) = U \times Y$ )

In fact, the product topology on  $X \times Y$  is the “weakest” topology such that the projection maps are continuous (analogous to how subspace topology was the weakest so that the inclusion map  $\iota : A \rightarrow X$  was continuous). This is essentially why we defined things this way.

- Thm: let  $A$  be a space and  $f : A \rightarrow X_1 \times X_2$  a function, say with  $f(a) = (f_1(a), f_2(a))$  for some  $f_i : A \rightarrow X_i$ . If  $X_1 \times X_2$  is given the product topology, then  $f$  is continuous iff  $f_1, f_2$  are both continuous (if  $f_i$  are not continuous then easy to construct set, if they are both continuous then suffices to check basis elements,  $U \times V$  whose preimage is  $f^{-1}(U) \cap f^{-1}(V)$ ).
- Aside: this is the “universal property” of products (in the sense of category theory).
- Warning: no useful way for saying that a function  $h : A \times B \rightarrow X$  is continuous.

## 7.2 General Products

- How do you define product topology for three spaces? Same basic idea, also works for any finite number of products. What about infinite products? This is more subtle.
- First we need to figure out how to define infinite products.
  - Given sets  $J, X$ , we define a  $J$ -tuple of elements of  $X$  to be a function  $\mathbf{x} : J \rightarrow X$ . If  $\alpha \in J$  we often denote the value  $\mathbf{x}(\alpha)$  by  $x_\alpha$  and denote  $\mathbf{x}$  by the symbol  $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha \in J}$ .
  - Given an indexed family of sets  $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$ , we define the cartesian product  $\prod_{\alpha \in J} A_\alpha$  to be the set of all  $J$ -tuples of  $X = \bigcup A_\alpha$  such that  $x_\alpha \in A_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in J$ . If  $A_\alpha = X$  for all  $\alpha \in J$ , then we will write this product as  $X^J$  (equivalent to set of all functions from  $J$  to  $X$ ), and if  $J = \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  we use the shorthand  $X^\omega$ .
  - Eg if  $J = \{1, 2\}$  then  $A_1 \times A_2$  consists of all functions  $x : \{1, 2\} \rightarrow A_1 \cup A_2$  with  $x_1 \in A_1$  and  $x_2 \in A_2$ . This is just the usual definition.
  - Eg if  $J = \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  and  $A_\alpha = \mathbb{R}$  for all  $\alpha$  what is  $\prod A_\alpha = \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{Z}_{>0}} = \mathbb{R}^\omega$ ? Formally this is all functions  $f : \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , which (in tuple notation) is the set of sequences of real numbers (e.g.  $(n^2)_{n \geq 1}$  is in this set).
  - Most examples of cartesian product will be of the form  $X^\omega$ , i.e. this will just be infinite sequences.
- Topology? Naive attempt: given a family of topological spaces  $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$  we define the *box topology* on  $\prod X_\alpha$  as having the basis consisting of sets  $\prod U_\alpha$  where  $U_\alpha \subseteq X_\alpha$  is open.
  - Lem: this is a basis (and hence a well defined topology).

- This is the simplest thing to do, but it has some serious issues. In particular, nice properties that held for finite products don't hold in general here.
- Define  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\omega$  via  $f(t) = (t, t, \dots)$ . Simple map that's continuous in each coordinate, but  $f$  is not continuous (take preimage of  $(-1, 1) \times (-1/2, 1/2) \times \dots$ , get  $\{0\}$ ).
- This isn't ideal: we'd like to say like before that if we have a map  $f : Y \rightarrow X_1 \times X_2 \dots$  which is continuous in each coordinate then  $f$  is continuous.
- Non-obvious solution: given a family of topological spaces  $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$  we define the *product topology* on  $\prod X_\alpha$  as having the basis consisting of sets  $\prod U_\alpha$  where  $U_\alpha \subseteq X_\alpha$  is open **and** where  $U_\alpha = X_\alpha$  for all but finitely many  $\alpha$ .
  - Lem: this is a basis (and hence a well defined topology).
  - Eg for  $\mathbb{R}^\omega$ , the set  $(-1, 1) \times (-1/2, 1/2) \times \dots$  is open in the box topology (since it's a basis element), but it is **not** open in the product topology (since every non-empty open set must contain a basis element)
  - Note that the box and product agree on finite products but for infinite one's the product topology is coarser than box.
  - Product topology, while less obvious, turns out to be way nicer, so from now on whenever we look at infinite product spaces we'll assume they have the product topology unless stated otherwise. One of main reasons is the following.
- How might you come up with this definition? One way is through projection maps  $\pi_\alpha : \prod X_\beta \rightarrow X_\alpha$  defined by  $\pi_\alpha(x) = x_\alpha$ .
 

Claim: the sets  $\bigcup_\alpha \{\pi_\alpha^{-1}(U) : U \in \mathcal{T}_{X_\alpha}\}$  form a subbasis for the product topology  $\prod X_\alpha$  (i.e. their finite intersections are exactly the basis elements of the product topology).

Claim: the product topology is the “weakest” topology such that each projection map  $\pi_\alpha$  are continuous.
- Thm: let  $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$  be a family of spaces,  $A$  a space,  $f_\alpha : A \rightarrow X_\alpha$  a family of functions, and  $f : A \rightarrow \prod X_\alpha$  defined by  $f(a) = (f_\alpha(a))_{\alpha \in J}$ . If  $\prod X_\alpha$  is given the product topology, then  $f$  is continuous iff  $f_\alpha$  is continuous for all  $\alpha$ .

- Proof: if some  $f_\alpha$  is not continuous then  $f_\alpha^{-1}(U_\alpha)$  is not open in  $A$  for some open set  $U_\alpha \subseteq X_\alpha$ . Note that the set  $U = \prod U_\beta$  with  $U_\beta = X_\beta$  for  $\beta \neq \alpha$  is open (since it's a basis element) and

$$f^{-1}(U) = \bigcap_\beta f^{-1}(U_\beta) = f^{-1}(U_\alpha) \bigcap_{\beta \neq \alpha} A = f^{-1}(U_\alpha)$$

which isn't open by assumption.



- Assume now each  $f_\alpha$  is continuous, and recall to prove  $f$  is continuous it suffices to show  $f^{-1}(U)$  is open for all basis elements  $U = \prod U_\alpha$ . For such a basis element we have

$$f^{-1}\left(\prod U_\alpha\right) = \bigcap f_\alpha^{-1}(U_\alpha).$$

Note that all but finitely many terms in this intersection equal  $A$  by definition of  $U$  being a basis element. Thus this set is equal to the finite intersection of sets of the form  $f_\alpha^{-1}(U_\alpha)$ . These sets are all open since each  $f_\alpha$  is continuous, so their finite intersection is also open.

- In particular, the map  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\omega$  with  $f(t) = (t, t, \dots)$  is continuous under the product topology.
- Aside: the above deals with continuity of (infinite) product spaces, what about sequences in product spaces?
  - E.g. consider  $\mathbb{R}^\mathbb{R} = \{f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$ . Claim that  $f_n \rightarrow f$  iff  $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$  for all  $x$ , i.e. product topology is the topology of pointwise convergence.

**This is a HW problem.**

- Closed sets play nicely with both kinds of product spaces:

Thm: Let  $\{X_\alpha\}$  be a family of spaces and  $A_\alpha \subseteq X_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha$ . If  $\prod X_\alpha$  is given either the product or the box topology, then  $\overline{\prod A_\alpha} = \prod \overline{A_\alpha}$ .

- Let  $x \in \overline{\prod A_\alpha}$ , we want to show  $x \in \prod \overline{A_\alpha}$ . Let  $U = \prod U_\alpha$  be a basis element containing  $x$ . Since  $x_\alpha \in \overline{A_\alpha}$  and each  $U_\alpha \subseteq X_\alpha$  is open, we have that  $U_\alpha \cap A_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ , and hence  $\prod U_\alpha \cap \prod A_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $U$  was arbitrary, it follows that  $x$  is in the closure of  $\prod A_\alpha$ .
- Now assume  $x \in \prod \overline{A_\alpha}$ . We want to show  $x \in \overline{\prod A_\alpha}$  for all  $\beta$ . Fix any neighborhood  $U_\beta \subseteq X_\beta$  of  $x_\beta$ . Observe that  $U = \prod U_\alpha$  with  $U_\alpha = X_\alpha$  for  $\alpha \neq \beta$  is a neighborhood of  $x$  in the product space, so by hypothesis it intersects  $\prod A_\alpha$  at some point  $y$ . But then  $y_\beta \in U_\beta \cap A_\beta$ . This implies every neighborhood of  $x_\beta$  intersects  $A_\beta$ , so  $x_\beta \in \overline{A_\beta}$  and hence  $x \in \prod \overline{A_\beta}$ .

## 8 Quotient Topology

- Idea: we want to take a space  $X$  and “glue” points of  $X$  to create a new space.
  - E.g. if you have a square  $I^2$ , then gluing two opposite sides gives a cylinder  $I \times S^1$ .
  - E.g. if you glue the circles of the cylinder you get a torus  $S^1 \times S^1$  (same thing happens if you take  $I^2$  and glue both pairs of opposite sides)

- Need to formally define how to “glue” things.

Aside: There are two different ways of doing this: quotient maps and equivalence relations. The book does the former, we’ll mostly be doing the latter (see the supplement on the website).

- Def: an equivalence relation  $\sim$  on a set  $X$  is a binary relation satisfying reflexivity, symmetry, and transitivity.

Given  $x \in X$ , the equivalence class  $[x]$  of  $X$  is the subset of  $X$  with  $[x] = \{y \in X : x \sim y\}$ . We let  $X/\sim$  denote the set of equivalence classes:

$$(X/\sim) = \{[x] : x \in X\}.$$

- Some examples (Question: what “space” do these equivalence classes define?)

- Let  $X = \mathbb{R}$  and define  $\sim$  by  $x \sim y$  iff  $x - y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The equivalence classes are

$$[x] = \{\dots, x - 2, x - 1, x, x + 1, x + 2, \dots\}.$$

$$\text{E.g. } [1/2] = \{\dots, -1/2, 1/2, 3/2, \dots\} = [-1/2] = [5/2] = \dots$$

In particular we can write

$$\mathbb{R}/\sim = \{[x] : 0 \leq x < 1\} = \{[y] : 99.5 < y \leq 100.5\}.$$

When asking about the space, draw  $\mathbb{R}$  as a spiral projecting onto  $S^1$ , identify the points of  $[0]$  and note that they map to the same thing.

- Let  $A \subseteq X$  be sets, define  $\sim$  by  $x \sim y$  if  $x = y$  or if  $x, y \in A$ . Equivalence classes are  $[x] = \{x\}$  if  $x \notin A$  and  $[x] = A$  if  $x \in A$ .

E.g. if  $X$  is a circle and  $A$  is two arcs then this turns into a figure eight.

E.g. if  $X$  is a cylinder and  $A$  is one of the faces this turns into a cone.

- Let  $X = [0, 1]^2$ , define  $\sim$  by  $(x, 0) \sim (x, 1)$  for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and  $(0, y) \sim (1, y)$  (draw diagram of what this represents). Equivalence classes:  $[(x, y)] = \{(x, y)\}$  if  $0 < x, y < 1$ ,  $[(x, 0)] = \{(x, 0), (x, 1)\}$  if  $0 < x < 1$ , similar for  $y$ ,  $[(0, 0)] = \{(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1)\}$

- Question: if  $X$  is not just a set but a topological space, what's the right way to define open sets on  $X/\sim$ ?
  - Idea: similar to product spaces, there's a natural "projection map"  $\pi : X \rightarrow X/\sim$  defined by  $\pi(x) = [x]$ . Just like for products, the "right" notion of topology should be the smallest collection of sets such that  $\pi$  is continuous.
  - To get a handle on this, given  $U \subseteq X/\sim$ , what is  $\pi^{-1}(U)$ ? Answer:  $\bigcup_{[x] \in U} [x]$  (i.e.  $U$  is a set of equivalence classes  $[x]$ , and an element of  $X$  maps to an equivalence class of  $U$  iff  $x$  lies in an equivalence class of  $U$ ).
  - In particular, if we want  $\pi$  to be continuous, then every open set  $U \subseteq X/\sim$  needs to have that  $\bigcup_{[x] \in U} [x]$  is open.
- Def: Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $\sim$  an equivalence relation on  $X$ . The quotient topology on  $X/\sim$  consists of all sets  $U \subseteq (X/\sim)$  such that  $\bigcup_{[x] \in U} [x] \subseteq X$  is open in  $X$ . To emphasize:  $U$  is a set of equivalence classes of  $X$ , so this union is over subsets of  $X$  (and hence does indeed lie in  $X$ ).
- Prop: the quotient topology is a topology.
  - If  $U = \emptyset$  then the union is  $\emptyset$  which is empty. If  $U = (X/\sim)$  then the union is  $X$ .
  - Let  $\bigcup_{\alpha} U_{\alpha}$  be an arbitrary union of open sets in  $X/\sim$ . Then
 
$$\bigcup_{[x] \in \bigcup_{\alpha} U_{\alpha}} [x] = \bigcup_{\alpha} \bigcup_{[x] \in U_{\alpha}} [x],$$
 which is the union of open sets in  $X$  by definition of  $U_{\alpha}$  being open.
  - Similarly for a finite intersection
 
$$\bigcup_{[x] \in \bigcap_i U_i} [x] = \bigcap \left( \bigcup_{[x] \in U_i} [x] \right),$$
 which is the finite intersection of open sets.
- Claim: the canonical map  $\pi : X \rightarrow (X/\sim)$  is continuous with respect to the quotient topology (and the quotient topology is the largest topology for which this holds).
- Problem: how do we show that  $X/\sim$  with the quotient topology is homeomorphic to some space  $Y$  we care about? This was theoretically the whole reason we're doing all this in the first place.
- Caution: when dealing with maps  $f$  from equivalence classes, we have to make sure  $f$  is well defined.

E.g. Say  $X = \mathbb{R}$  and  $x \sim y$  iff  $x - y \in \mathbb{Z}$ ; we intuited that this should be homeomorphic to  $S^1$ . Consider the map  $f : (\mathbb{R}/\sim) \rightarrow S^1$  defined by  $f([x]) = (\cos(x), \sin(x))$ . What is  $f([0])$ ?  $f([1])$ ? Problem:  $[0] = [1]$ , so this map isn't well defined.

- We can get around this issue by considering “nice” maps from  $X$  and the following.

Thm (universal property of the quotient topology): let  $X$  be a topological space and  $\sim$  an equivalence relation on  $X$ . Endow  $X/\sim$  with the quotient topology and let  $\pi : X \rightarrow X/\sim$  be the canonical projection.

Let  $Y$  be another topological space and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  a continuous function such that  $f(x) = f(x')$  whenever  $x \sim x'$  in  $X$ . Then there exists a unique continuous function  $\bar{f} : (X/\sim) \rightarrow Y$  such that  $f = \bar{f} \circ \pi$ .

- Proof sketch: define  $\bar{f}([x]) = f(x)$ . This is a well defined map from  $(X/\sim)$  to  $Y$ , so it remains to show it's continuous.
- Let  $U \subseteq Y$  be open, its preimage  $\bar{f}^{-1}(U)$  is open in  $X/\sim$  iff the following set is open in  $X$ :

$$\bigcup_{[x] \in \bar{f}^{-1}(U)} [x] = f^{-1}(U),$$

where the equality used that  $x \in f^{-1}(U)$  iff  $[x] \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$  (since  $f(x) = f(x')$  if  $x \sim x'$ ) which holds iff  $[x] \in \bar{f}^{-1}(U)$ . This set is open in  $X$  since  $f$  is continuous.

- Strategy for proving  $X/\sim$  is homeomorphic to  $Y$ :

- (1) Find a candidate continuous function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ .
- (2) Prove  $f(x) = f(x')$  whenever  $x \sim x'$ ; then  $\bar{f} : (X/\sim) \rightarrow Y$  defined by  $\bar{f}([x]) = f(x)$  is well defined and continuous by universal property.
- (3) Find a candidate inverse continuous function  $g : Y \rightarrow (X/\sim)$ .
- (4) Prove  $f \circ g = id_Y$  and  $g \circ \bar{f} = id_{X/\sim}$ .

- Prop:  $\mathbb{R}/\sim$  with  $x \sim y$  iff  $x - y \in \mathbb{Z}$  is homeomorphic to  $S^1$ .

- (1) Find candidate function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . Take  $f(x) = (\cos(2\pi x), \sin(2\pi x))$ . This is continuous from calculus.
- (2) If  $x \sim x'$  then  $x - x' \in \mathbb{Z}$ , thus

$$f(x) = (\cos(2\pi x), \sin(2\pi x)) = (\cos(2\pi x + 2\pi(x' - x)), \sin(2\pi x + 2\pi(x' - x))) = (\cos(2\pi x'), \sin(2\pi x'))$$

Thus the induced map  $\bar{f}([x]) = (\cos(2\pi x), \sin(2\pi x))$  is well defined and continuous.

- (3) Construct inverse. We will use the pasting lemma: Let  $Y = A \cup B$  with  $A, B$  both closed in  $Y$  and let  $g_1 : A \rightarrow Z$  and  $g_2 : B \rightarrow Z$  be continuous maps that agree

at their intersection. Then the function  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  defined by  $g(x) = g_1(x)$  for  $x \in A$  and  $g(x) = g_2(x)$  for  $x \in B$  is continuous.

Let  $A = \{(x, y) \in S^1 : y \leq 0\}$  and  $B = \{(x, y) \in S^1 : y \geq 0\}$ . For  $z \in A$  there exists a unique  $0 \leq x \leq 1/2$  with  $z = (\cos(2\pi x), \sin(2\pi x))$ , define  $g'_1 : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $g'_1(z) = x$ . Similarly  $z \in B$  can be written uniquely as  $(\cos(2\pi x), \sin(2\pi x))$  with  $1/2 \leq x \leq 1$ . These functions are continuous by calculus but do *not* agree on  $A \cap B$  (e.g. they map  $(1, 0)$  to 0 and 1).

Can fix this: define  $g_1 : A \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}/\sim)$  by  $g_1 = \pi \circ g'_1$  and similarly define  $g'_2$ . Since  $g'_i$  and  $\pi$  are continuous, their compositions  $g_i$  are also continuous. Moreover,  $g_1, g_2$  agree on their intersection  $\{(1, 0), (-1, 0)\}$ , so the pasting lemma gives some continuous function  $g : S^1 \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}/\sim)$ .

- (4) Basic calculations shows  $f \circ g$  and  $g \circ f$  are identity maps.
- That was a lot, let's take a breather and play with pictures for a little bit.
  - Quotients through diagrams. Idea is that equivalence relations are a pain to write down in full, so often people will just draw pictures to indicate what they mean.
  - Draw square with vertical sides identified. The arrows mean  $(0, y) \sim (1, y)$ . **Physically take a strip of papers with arrows on two sides and glue together; emphasize that this makes it so the arrows line up.**
  - Draw previous thing but with one arrow reversed; what equivalence relation does this correspond to? What does this shape look like? **Again physically do an example, trace out a line to show it's one-sided.**
  - **Draw square for torus and ask them what this represents.**
  - **Draw previous with one pair of arrows reversed; this is called a Klein bottle**
  - **Draw with both reversed; this is projective space.**
- Aside: alternative perspective through quotient maps.
  - Let  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  be a surjective map. If  $X$  is a topological space, then we define the “quotient topology” on  $Y$  (with respect to  $q$ ) by making  $U \subseteq Y$  open iff  $q^{-1}(U)$  is open in  $X$  (note that this is the weakest topology so that  $q$  is continuous).
  - Claim: this is a topology.
  - How is this related to previous definition? Given such a  $q$ , define an equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $X$  by having  $x \sim x'$  iff  $q(x) = q(x')$ .  
Claim:  $X/\sim$  with the quotient topology is homeomorphic to  $Y$  with the “quotient topology”.

- The two perspectives (equivalence relations and quotient maps) are entirely equivalent to each other; you should feel free to use whatever makes the most sense.

Post numberphile video on Klein bottles after this lecture.

## 9 Metric Spaces

### 9.1 Basics and Examples

- Again want to generalize ideas from real analysis, i.e. from Euclidean topology, so let's take a closer look at this.
- This is the topology generated by the basis of open balls

$$B_n(x, \varepsilon) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|^2} < \varepsilon\}.$$

Idea: what if we replaced Euclidean distance with some other form of “distance”?

- Eg say you're in Manhattan and your friend is one block up and to the right from you. How far away are you two?
  - One answer is  $\sqrt{2}$  blocks (this is Euclidean distance, i.e. the distance “as the crow flies” since it's only useful if you can ignore the building between you).
  - Another answer is 2 blocks away since that's in practice how far you have to travel.
  - Def: given two points  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we define the *Manhattan distance* to be  $\sum |x_i - y_i|$  (i.e. this is the distance if you can only travel along the axis without cutting corners).
- Broad question: what are other reasonable “distance functions”  $d(x, y)$  we can consider between two objects  $x, y$  of a set  $X$ ? In particular, what are reasonable axioms to impose on such a function  $d$ ?
  - E.g. what should  $d(x, x)$  be, i.e. the distance from  $x$  to itself? Intuitively this is 0.
  - If you think about things some more you might come up with the following definition.
- Def: given a set  $X$ , a function  $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a *metric* if (1)  $d(x, y) \geq 0$  for all  $x, y \in X$  with equality iff  $x = y$ , (2)  $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ , and (3) Triangle inequality:  $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . **Discuss why these are reasonable/cases where maybe these don't quite hold.**
- These axioms, in addition to being relatively intuitive, generalize the key properties of the Euclidean distance function, and with these axioms alone we can generalize much of the theory from this case. To do this we need some more definitions analogous to what we had in the Euclidean case.
  - Def: given a metric  $d$ , a point  $x \in X$ , and a real number  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we define the open ball  $B_d(x, \varepsilon) = \{y \in X : d(x, y) < \varepsilon\}$ . We will also refer to this as the  $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood of  $x$ .

- Claim: the set of open balls is a basis (every point is in at least one. If  $x$  is in the intersection of two balls of  $y, z$  then you can take the minimum  $\varepsilon_y - d(x, y), \varepsilon_z - d(x, z)$  and this will be contained in both by the triangle inequality or something).
- Here we actually proved a useful fact: if  $x$  is a ball  $B$ , then there exists an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $B_d(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq B$ .
- Def: We define the metric topology (induced by  $d$ ) is the topology generated by the basis of open balls  $B_d(x, \varepsilon)$ .  
That is, it is the collection of sets  $U$  such that for every  $x \in U$  there exists a ball  $B$  with  $x \in B \subseteq U$ .  
By the lemma, this is equivalently the set of  $U$  such that every  $x \in U$  we have some  $B_d(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq U$ .

- Examples.

- For any set  $X$ , the function  $d(x, y) = 1$  if  $x \neq y$  and  $d(x, x) = 0$  is a metric (check). What are balls here? Either single points or the whole space. This generates the discrete topology.
- Claim L2-metric on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a metric. Balls are balls.
- Claim L1-metric  $d_M$  is a metric. Balls are diamonds.
- Define square metric on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by  $d_s(x, y) = \max\{|x_i - y_i|\}$ . Claim metric, only tricky part is triangle inequality which you can do by noting

$$|x_i - z_i| \leq |x_i - y_i| + |y_i - z_i| \leq d_s(x, y) + d_s(y, z).$$

Balls are squares.

- Question: what do these last three topologies generate? Claim is they're all Euclidean. More generally:

Thm: let  $d, d'$  be metrics on the set  $X$  and  $\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'$  the topologies they induce. Then  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{T}'$  iff for each  $x \in X$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $B_{d'}(x, \delta) \subseteq B_d(x, \varepsilon)$ .

- (Proof that  $\varepsilon - \delta$  implies finer) A set  $U$  is open in  $\mathcal{T}$  iff for each  $x \in U$  we can find a neighborhood  $B_d(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq U$  (via that ball centering lemma we proved). Note that every such  $U$  also has  $B_{d'}(x, \delta) \subseteq U$ , so every set open in  $\mathcal{T}$  must also be open in  $\mathcal{T}'$ .
- Other direction is left as an exercise.

- Claim: Euclidean, square, and Manhattan metric all generate the same topology.

- Proof (just of Euclidean vs square). Easy to show  $d_s(x, y) \leq d_e(x, y) \leq \sqrt{n}d_s(x, y)$ . This implies  $B_e(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq B_s(x, \varepsilon)$  and that  $B_s(x, \varepsilon/\sqrt{n}) \subseteq B_e(x, \varepsilon)$ . The previous lemma gives things.



- For Manhattan vs square observe  $d_s(x, y) \leq d_M(x, y) \leq nd_s(x, y)$  and a similar proof works.

## 9.2 Metrizable Spaces and Properties of Metric Spaces

- Def: we say that a topological space  $X$  is metrizable if there exists a metric  $d$  on  $X$  which induces the topology of  $X$ . A pair  $(X, d)$  is a metric space if  $X$  is a metrizable topology and  $d$  is a metric inducing the topology on  $X$ .
- Prop: if  $X$  is metrizable, then every subspace  $A \subseteq X$  is metrizable (one can take the metric for  $X$  and restrict it to  $A$ ; this is still a metric and it gives right topology).
- We've seen  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is metrizable for all  $n$ . Are infinite product spaces metrizable?
- Thm: let  $\bar{d}(a, b) = \min\{|a - b|, 1\}$ . For  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^\omega$ , define

$$D(x, y) = \sup_i \frac{\bar{d}(x_i, y_i)}{1}.$$

This is a metric which induces the product topology on  $\mathbb{R}^\omega$ .

- Aside: for any metric  $d$ , the function  $\bar{d}(x, y) := \min\{d(x, y), 1\}$  turns out to be a (bounded) metric which induces the same topology as  $d$ , and it can sometimes be convenient to work with this metric rather than  $d$  itself.
- Proof of metric: triangle inequality holds for each term in the sup, so the inequality holds for the sup.
- Induces product: let  $U = \prod U_i$  be a basis element in product topology, say with  $N$  a large enough number so that  $U_i = \mathbb{R}$  for all  $i > N$ , and consider some  $x \in U$ . Since  $U_i \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is open, there exists a  $0 < \varepsilon_i \leq 1$  with  $B(x_i, \varepsilon_i) \subseteq U_i$ . Define  $\varepsilon = \min_{i \leq N} \varepsilon_i / i$ , we claim that  $B_D(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq U$ . Indeed, if  $y$  is in this ball then by definition  $\varepsilon > D(x, y) \geq \frac{\bar{d}(x_i, y_i)}{i}$  for all  $i \leq N$ . Since  $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_i / i$ , we have  $\bar{d}(x_i, y_i) < \varepsilon_i \leq 1$ , so  $|x_{\alpha_i} - y_{\alpha_i}| < \varepsilon_i$ . It follows that  $y_i \in U_i$  for all  $i$ , proving  $y \in U$  as desired.
- Let  $B = B_D(x, \varepsilon)$  with  $\varepsilon < 1$ , we want to find a basis neighborhood of  $x$  in  $B$ . Let  $N$  be a large enough integer such that  $N^{-1} < \varepsilon$ . Let  $V$  be the basis element with

$$V = (x_1 - \varepsilon, x_1 + \varepsilon) \times \cdots \times (x_N - \varepsilon, x_N + \varepsilon) \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \cdots$$

Claim that  $V \subseteq B$ . Indeed, observe that for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}^\omega$  and  $i \geq N$  we have  $\frac{\bar{d}(x_i, y_i)}{i} \leq N^{-1}$ . Thus

$$D(x, y) \leq \max\left\{\frac{\bar{d}(x_1, y_1)}{1}, \dots, N^{-1}\right\}.$$

If  $y \in V$ , then this expression is less than  $\varepsilon$  (since each  $\bar{d}$  is at most  $\varepsilon$ ), proving  $y \in B_D(x, \varepsilon)$  as desired.

- What about product for other index sets  $J$ ? Or box topology?
- Idea: to show  $X$  is metrizable you just need to construct a metric. To show  $X$  *isn't* metrizable, we show that it fails to have some property that every metric space must have.
  - Aside: it turns out you can prove  $\mathbb{R}^\omega$  without constructing an explicit metric by using something called the Urysohn metrization theorem (which will be close to the last result of this course).
  - E.g. Prop: every metric space is Hausdorff. **Proof**
  - Corollary: cofinite topology with  $X$  infinite is not metrizable.
- (Sequence lemma) Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $A \subseteq X$ . If there is a sequence of points of  $A$  converging to  $x$ , then  $x \in \overline{A}$ . The converse holds if  $X$  is metrizable.
  - Aside: the first part is similar to something we proved earlier (sequence in  $A$  —  $x$  converging to  $x$  means  $x \in A'$ ) and proof is basically the same.
  - Proof 1: Suppose  $x_n \rightarrow x$  with  $x_n \in A$ . Then every neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  intersects  $A$ , so  $x \in \overline{A}$  by Theorem 17.5.
  - Proof 2: Suppose  $X$  is metrizable, say with  $d$  generating its topology and let  $x \in \overline{A}$ . Consider the balls  $B_d(x, 1/n)$ . Because  $x \in \overline{A}$ , there exists a point  $x_n$  which intersects  $A$  and  $B_d(x, 1/n)$ . We claim that this sequence converges to  $x$ . Indeed, any open set  $U$  containing  $x$  contains an open ball  $B_d(x, \varepsilon)$ . for  $N \geq \varepsilon^{-1}$  we have  $x_n \in B_d(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq U$  for all  $n \geq N$ , proving the claim/result.
  - Note: we didn't really use the full power of the metric space here, only that there exists a “nice” countable family of basis neighborhoods for each point. We will look more at this weaker notion in chapter 4.
- With this we can prove non-metrizability of some topologies on products.
 

Prop: The box topology on  $\mathbb{R}^\omega$  is not metrizable.

  - $A = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots) | x_i > 0 \ \forall i\}$ . Claim that  $0 = (0, 0, \dots) \in \overline{A}$ . Equivalent to saying every basis element  $B = (a_1, b_1) \times \dots$  containing  $0$  intersects  $A$ . Indeed,  $a_i < 0 < b_i$  and hence the point  $(\frac{1}{2}b_1, \dots) \in A \cap B$ .
  - Claim no sequence in  $A$  converges to  $0$  let  $a_n$  be a sequence with  $a_n = (x_{1n}, x_{2n}, \dots, x_{in}, \dots)$ . Since  $x_{in} > 0$ , we can take the basis element  $B' = (-x_{11}, x_{11}) \times (-x_{22}, x_{22}) \dots$ . Note that  $0 \in B'$  but it contains no  $a_n$  point (since  $x_{nn} \notin (-x_{nn}, x_{nn})$ ).  
 Aside: this is a somewhat subtle application of a diagonalization argument.
- If  $J$  is uncountable then  $\mathbb{R}^J$  with the product topology is not metrizable.

- Let  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^J$  be the points  $(x_\alpha)$  with  $x_\alpha = 1$  for all but finitely many  $\alpha$ . Claim  $0 \in \overline{A}$ . Take  $B = \prod U_\alpha$  a basis element containing 0 and let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be the indices with  $U_{\alpha_i} \neq \mathbb{R}$ . Then the point  $(x_\alpha)$  with  $x_{\alpha_i} = 0$  and  $x_\alpha = 1$  otherwise lies in  $A \cap B$ .
- Claim no sequence converges. Indeed, let  $a_n$  be a sequence and let  $J_n \subseteq J$  be the indices with  $(a_n)_\alpha \neq 1$ . Note that  $\bigcup J_n$  is a countable union of finite sets, so there is some  $\beta \notin \bigcup J_n$ . This means  $(a_n)_\beta = 1$  for all  $n$ . Let  $U = \prod U_\alpha$  with  $U_\beta = (-1, 1)$  and  $U_\alpha = \mathbb{R}$  otherwise. Then no point of  $a_n$  is contained in  $U$ , so 0 can not be a limit.

### 9.3 Continuity

- It turns out metric spaces play particularly nicely with continuity. In particular, most definitions from real analysis generalize.
- Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  with  $X, Y$  metrizable with metrics  $d_X, d_Y$ .  $f$  is continuous iff for all  $x \in X, \varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $d_X(x, y) < \delta \implies d_Y(f(x), f(y)) < \varepsilon$ .  
Proof is similar to showing  $\varepsilon - \delta$  definition for Euclidean space is equivalent (which they already did for HW).
- Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . If  $f$  is continuous, then for every convergent sequence  $x_n \rightarrow x$  in  $X$ , the sequence  $f(x_n)$  converges to  $f(x)$ . The converse holds if  $X$  is metrizable.
  - Assume  $f$  is continuous and let  $x_n \rightarrow x$ . We wish to show  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x)$ .
  - Let  $V$  be a neighborhood of  $f(x)$ . Continuity means  $f^{-1}(V)$  is a neighborhood of  $x$ , so for some  $N$  we have  $x_n \in f^{-1}(V)$  for all  $n \geq N$ . Thus  $f(x_n) \in V$  for  $n \geq N$  as well.
  - Now assume  $X$  is metrizable and that the convergent condition is satisfied. We aim to show that for any  $A \subseteq X$  we have  $f(\overline{A}) \subseteq \overline{f(A)}$  (which we proved is equivalent to  $f$  being continuous).
  - If  $x \in \overline{A}$ , then by the sequence lemma there is a sequence of points  $x_n \in A$  converging to  $x$ . By assumption  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x)$ . The other direction of the sequence lemma implies  $f(x) \in \overline{f(A)}$ , giving  $f(\overline{A}) \subseteq \overline{f(A)}$ .

This is where we stopped for the lecture on 10/11/23.

- In metric spaces we can recover other important notions from real analysis.  
Def: let  $f_n : X \rightarrow Y$  be a sequence of functions with  $(Y, d)$  a metric space. We say that  $(f_n)$  *converges uniformly* to a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  if for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an  $N$  such that  $d(f_n(x), f(x)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n \geq N$  and all  $x \in X$ .  
Warning: the definition depends not only on the topology of  $Y$ , but also the specific metric  $d$  which induces it.

- Uniform limit theorem: let  $f_n : X \rightarrow Y$  be a sequence of continuous functions with  $Y$  a metric space. If  $(f_n)$  converges uniformly to  $f$ , then  $f$  is continuous.

- General strategy: try to remember how you proved analogous results from real analysis.
- Recall that the classic real analysis proof for  $X = Y = \mathbb{R}$  goes via a  $\varepsilon/3$  argument, i.e. to show  $f$  is continuous at  $x_0$  you write

$$|f(x) - f(x_0)| \leq |f(x) - f_n(x)| + |f_n(x) - f_n(x_0)| + |f_n(x_0) - f(x_0)|.$$

- Let  $V \subseteq Y$  be open and  $x_0 \in f^{-1}(V)$ . We aim to find a neighborhood  $U$  of  $x_0$  such that  $f(U) \subseteq V$  (this proves that  $f$  is continuous at every point  $x_0$  and hence is continuous).
- Let  $y_0 = f(x_0)$  and choose  $\varepsilon$  so that  $B(y_0, \varepsilon) \subseteq V$ . Using uniform convergence, we can choose  $N$  so that  $d(f_n(x), f(x)) < \varepsilon/3$  for all  $n \geq N$  and all  $x$ .
- Because  $f_N$  is continuous, the set  $U = f_N^{-1}(B(f_N(x_0), \varepsilon/3))$  is open in  $X$  (Aside: this is a somewhat natural thing to do in the argument because the only thing we know about open sets of  $X$  is that they arise as preimages of balls in  $Y$ ).
- Note that for all  $x \in U$  we have  $d(f(x), f_N(x)) < \varepsilon/3$ ,  $d(f_N(x), f_N(x_0)) < \varepsilon/3$  and  $d(f_N(x_0), f(x_0)) < \varepsilon/3$ . By triangle inequality we find  $d(f(x), f(x_0)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $x \in U$ , proving the result.
- Aside: we saw the product topology, which is induced by the metric  $D(x, y) = \sup\{\frac{\bar{d}(x_i, y_i)}{i}\}$ , is the topology of pointwise convergence in that a sequence of functions  $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  converges pointwise to some  $f$  iff they converge as elements in the product topology. Similarly the (perhaps more natural) function  $D'(x, y) = \sup\{\bar{d}(x_i, y_i)\}$  is a metric which induces a topology in between the product and box topology called the *uniform topology*. Here  $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  converges uniformly to some  $f$  iff they converge as elements in the uniform topology.

Possible aside regarding normed vector spaces

## Part II

# Connectedness and Compactness

## 10 Connectedness

- We now begin chapter 3, the focus of which is in proving analogs of two very important theorems from calculus: the intermediate value theorem and the extreme value theorem. We begin with the former.

- Intermediate value theorem: if  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous, then for all real  $r$  between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ , there exists a  $c \in [a, b]$  such that  $f(c) = r$ .

While not at all obvious, the reason this theorem works is because the interval  $[a, b]$  is “connected”. Thus as a starting point we need to generalize “connectedness” to other spaces.

- Intuition: Draw two separate blobs and ask if this space is (intuitively) connected; ask why with an ideal answer being something like you can separate it into two chunks.

Draw a single blob, asking the same questions; ideal answer is that you can't separate it into two chunks (which is intuitively clear but maybe not so easy to prove).

- Def: let  $X$  be a space. We say that  $X$  is *disconnected* if there exist non-empty open sets  $U, V \subseteq X$  with  $U \cap V = \emptyset$  and  $U \cup V = X$  (in which case we say  $U, V$  is a *separation* of  $X$ ). We say that  $X$  is *connected* if it is not disconnected, i.e. if no separation exists.

- Here's a useful reformulation.

Prop: a space  $X$  is disconnected iff  $X$  contains a clopen set  $U \neq \emptyset, X$  (if such a set  $U$  exists then  $U, U^c$  is a separation; if a separation  $U, V$  exists then  $U$  is clopen).

- Examples

- The two disconnected blobs is disconnected (proving the other one is connected is substantially harder but is true).
- Trivial topology is always connected.
- Discrete topology with at least two elements is always disconnected.
- $\mathbb{Q}$  is disconnected (take  $< \pi$  and  $> \pi$ )
- Finite complement topology with  $|X| = \infty$  is connected (easiest to see with clopen formulation).

- Thm: the interval  $[a, b]$  is connected.

- Note: this is intuitively very obvious, but somewhat tricky to prove.
- Assume for contradiction that  $U, V$  is a separation of  $[a, b]$ , say wlog  $a \in U$ .
- Define  $c = \sup\{x : [a, x] \subseteq U\}$ . Note that  $c \geq a$ .
- Claim:  $c \in U$ . Else  $c \in V$  (since  $U, V$  partition  $[a, b]$ ) and hence  $c > a$  (since every element of  $V \subseteq (a, b]$  is larger than  $a$ ).  
Because  $c > a$  and  $V$  is open, there exists  $c' < c$  such that  $(c', c] \subseteq V$ . This implies that for any  $c' < c'' < c$  we have  $c'' \in V$  and hence  $[a, c''] \not\subseteq U$ . By definition of  $c$  this means  $c \leq c''$ , a contradiction.
- Claim  $c = b$ . If  $c < b$  then  $U$  open means there exists  $c < c'$  with  $[c, c') \subseteq U$ , so any  $c'' \in (c, c')$  has  $[a, c''] \subseteq U$  which means  $c'' \leq c$ , a contradiction.
- Since  $[a, b] = [a, c] \subseteq U$ , we conclude  $U = [a, b]$ , contradicting  $V \neq \emptyset$  and disjoint from  $U$ .

That was a lot of work to prove something so simple. Fortunately we can use this result as a black box to prove that many other sets are connected.

- Prop:  $\mathbb{R}$  is connected.

Proof: if  $U, V$  were a separation, then wlog we can assume  $a \in U$  and  $b \in V$  with  $a < b$ . One can check that  $U \cap [a, b]$  and  $V \cap [a, b]$  must be a separation of  $[a, b]$  (since  $U, V$  both intersect  $[a, b]$ ), but this contradicts intervals being connected.

- The exact same proof also shows rays  $[a, b)$  are connected. This gives the following:

Prop:  $[0, 1)$  and  $S^1$  are not homeomorphic (intuitively obvious, but tricky to prove by hand).

Pf: assume  $h : [0, 1) \rightarrow S^1$  were a homeomorphism. Let  $X = [0, 1) - \{1/2\}$  and  $Y = S^1 - \{h(1/2)\}$ . One can check  $h : X \rightarrow Y$  is still a homeomorphism. But  $X$  is disconnected (easy to show) and  $Y \cong [0, 1)$  is connected, a contradiction.

## 10.1 Building Examples and IVT

- We now look at some ways of building new connected sets from old ones.
- Lem: If  $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A}$  is a collection of connected subspaces of a space  $Y$  with  $\bigcap_\alpha X_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\bigcup_\alpha X_\alpha$  is connected.  
Pf: Let  $p \in \bigcap_\alpha X_\alpha$  and suppose  $U, V$  is a separation of  $Y$ , say with  $p \in U$ . Since each  $X_\alpha$  is connected, it must lie entirely within either  $U$  or  $V$ , and since  $p \in X_\alpha \cap U$  we must have  $X_\alpha \subseteq U$  for all  $\alpha$ , and hence  $\bigcup X_\alpha \subseteq U$ , contradicting  $V \neq \emptyset$  being part of a separation.
- Prop: If  $X, Y$  are connected, then so is  $X \times Y$ .

Proof: **Draw picture** choose an arbitrary point  $(a, b) \in X \times Y$ . Note that the horizontal slice  $X \times b$  is connected (it's homeomorphic with  $X$ ) as is  $a \times Y$ , so  $T_a := (X \times b) \cup (a \times Y)$  is connected by the previous lemma, and so is  $\bigcup_{a \in X} T_a = X \times Y$ .

- Cor: the cubes  $I^n$  are connected.
- Prop: if  $X$  is connected and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous and surjective, then  $Y$  is connected. (Pre-image of a separation for  $Y$  is a separation for  $X$ ).
- Cor: If  $X$  is connected, then every quotient space  $X/\sim$  is connected (the projection map is continuous and surjective).
- Cor: the spheres  $S^n$  for  $n \geq 1$  are connected (draw this for  $n = 1, 2$  using  $I^1, I^2$ ).
- Thm (IVT): if  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and  $X$  is connected, then for all  $a < c < b$  with  $a, b \in f(X)$ , there exists  $x \in X$  such that  $f(x) = c$ .

Remark: this generalizes classic IVT since we now know intervals are connected.

Pf: if not  $X = f^{-1}(-\infty, c) \cup f^{-1}(c, \infty)$  would be a separation.

- Aside: one can prove a stronger version of this result where you replace  $\mathbb{R}$  with any “ordered set”.
- Cor: if  $f : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous then there exists  $x_0 \in S^2$  such that  $f(x) = f(-x)$ .  
Pf: Define  $g : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $g(x) = f(x) - f(-x)$ . Note that  $g$  is continuous because  $f$  is. Let  $x \in S^2$  be arbitrary and  $a = g(x)$ . If  $a = 0$  then we're done, otherwise  $g(-x) = -g(x) = -a$ , so  $a, -a \in f(S^2)$ . Because  $S^2$  is connected, there exists  $x_0 \in S^2$  with  $g(x_0) = 0$ , i.e. with  $f(x_0) = f(-x_0)$ .
- Corollary: there exist two opposite points on the earth with the exact same temperature (can let  $f : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  represent the temperature of each point on the earth).
- Aside: using results from algebraic topology one can in fact show that if you have two continuous functions  $f, g : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , then there exists  $x_0$  with  $f(x_0) = f(-x_0)$  and  $g(x_0) = g(-x_0)$ .

## 10.2 Variants of Connectedness

- Here we look at some variants of connectedness.
- Intuitively, if a space  $X$  is connected then it should be possible to “walk” between any two points of  $X$ . **Draw a squiggle between two points, note that this is basically a map from an interval into the space.**

Def: If  $x, y \in X$ , then a *path* from  $x$  to  $y$  is a continuous map  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow X$  such that  $f(a) = x$  and  $f(b) = y$ . We say  $X$  is *path connected* if every pair of points of  $X$  can be joined by a path in  $X$ .

- Q: how does connectedness and path connectedness relate to each other? Are they equivalent? Does one imply the other?
- Prop: if  $X$  is path connected then  $X$  is connected (assume have separation  $U, V$  let  $u \in U, v \in V$  and  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow X$  a path between them. Then  $f^{-1}(U), f^{-1}(V)$  is a separation of  $[a, b]$ ).
- Does the converse hold? No but it's not easy to show.

Let  $S = \{(x, \sin(1/x)) : 0 < x \leq 1\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  draw this, basically start a sin curve from the right and get more and more compressed as you tend to the origin, and define the topologist's sine curve  $\bar{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ .

Thm:  $\bar{S}$  is connected but not path connected.

- Intuition (proof is too complex):  $\bar{S}$  consists of  $S$  together with part of the  $y$ -axis.
- For connected, general fact is that if  $A \subseteq X$  is a connected subspace, then so is  $\bar{A}$  (because  $\bar{A} \setminus A$  is “arbitrarily close” to  $A$ ).  $S$  (being the image of a connected set  $(0, 1]$ ) is connected, thus so is  $\bar{S}$ .
- For path-connected, claim is there's no path from the  $y$ -axis to any point on the other curve. Point is that although  $y$ -axis and  $S$  are arbitrarily close, there is a gap and you can't quite jump into it.
- Full proof is not hard but somewhat complex, see the book.
- Aside: there are “local” versions of these concepts that are sometimes useful.  
 Def: a set  $X$  is *locally connected* at  $x$  if for every neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$ , there is a connected neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$  contained in  $U$ , and  $X$  is *locally connected* if it is locally connected at each point.  
 The definition for  $X$  being *locally path connected* is completely analogous.
- Remark:  $X$  is locally connected iff there exists a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $X$  where each  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  is connected.
- It turns out that e.g. connectedness and local connectedness are incomparable properties.  
 Make 2x2 grid labeled with connected/local connected and yes/no. YY= $\mathbb{R}$ , intervals,  $S^n$ . YN=two disjoint intervals. NY=Topologist's sine curve. NN= $\mathbb{Q}$ .
- Same for path-connected. YY= $\mathbb{R}, I, S^n$ . YN=disjoint union of intervals, NY=modified sine curve (draw a line from the right of the sine curve below everything and then connecting to the middle of the  $y$ -axis. NN= $\mathbb{Q}$ .



## 11 Compactness

- We used connectedness to generalize IVT, now we want to generalize EVT.

Recall EVT: if  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous, then there exist  $c, d \in [a, b]$  such that  $f(c) \leq f(x) \leq f(d)$  (i.e.  $f$  has a max/min).

- We now want to define some property of  $[a, b]$  which makes the EVT go through (similar to how we defined connectedness to make IVT hold).

While the definition of connectedness was relatively intuitive, this will not be the case for EVT (and indeed it took many years and wrong failed attempts to get this correct).

- Intuitively **Underline three times** the property we want is that  $X$  is closed and bounded. The real property is the following (which we'll go over slowly):

Def: a collection of sets  $\mathcal{A}$  is a *cover* of a set  $X$  if  $X \subseteq \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A$ . It is called an *open covering* if each  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  is open in  $X$ . We say that a subset  $\mathcal{A}' \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  is a *finite subcover* of  $\mathcal{A}$  if  $\mathcal{A}'$  is finite and also a cover of  $X$ .

A space  $X$  is *compact* if every open cover  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $X$  contains a finite sub-cover.

- To emphasize, this is a weird definition that should not make any sense to you right now. Let's look at some examples and non-examples.

- Let  $X$  be any space and  $\mathcal{A} = \{X\}$ . Is  $\mathcal{A}$  a cover? Does  $\mathcal{A}$  have a finite subcover? Does that mean  $X$  is compact?

Emph: to prove  $X$  is compact, you have to make an argument about **all** covers  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $X$ .

- Let  $X$  be a topology on a finite number of points. Is  $X$  compact? Yes: let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a cover, by def each  $x \in X$  has  $x \in A_x$  for some  $A_x \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\{A_x\}_{x \in X}$  is a finite subcover of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

- Let  $X$  have the finite complement topology. Is  $X$  compact? Yes, basically the same proof.

- Is  $\mathbb{R}$  compact? No, take  $\mathcal{A} = \{(n, n+2) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  (e.g. for any finite subset there exists some  $M$  larger than every element of  $\mathcal{A}'$ ).

Morally:  $\mathbb{R}$  isn't compact because it isn't bounded.

- Is  $(0, 1)$  compact? No because it's homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Is  $(0, 1]$  compact? No take  $\mathcal{A} = \{(1/n, 1] : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ , any finite collection is always bounded away from 0.

Morally:  $(0, 1]$  isn't compact because it isn't closed.

- Is  $[0, 1]$  compact? Yes but it's not easy to show and we're going to postpone it.

- Let  $X = \{0\} \cup \{1/n : n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}\}$  **draw this**. Is  $X$  compact? Yes: for any  $\mathcal{A}$  let  $A_0 \in \mathcal{A}$  be an element containing 0. This contains all but finitely many points of  $X$  (since it contains some ball centered at 0), each of which can be dealt with by picking some  $A_x \in \mathcal{A}$  containing it.  
Morally:  $X$  is compact because it is closed and bounded (again, this should always be your intuition, but it will fail for weird spaces).
- Let's explore some ways of creating new compact sets from old ones; many of which will be analogous to statements for connected sets. We first establish a lemma that will be very useful when working with subsets.  
Def: if  $X$  is a space, we say that a set  $Y \subseteq X$  is compact if  $Y$  with the subspace topology is compact.  
Lem: a subset  $Y \subseteq X$  is compact iff every covering  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $Y$  by open sets in  $X$  contains a finite subset  $\mathcal{A}' \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  which covers  $Y$ .
  - Assume  $Y$  is compact and  $\mathcal{A} = \{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$  is a covering of  $Y$  by sets open in  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}_Y = \{A_\alpha \cap Y\}$  is a covering of  $Y$  by open sets of  $Y$ , so there exists some finite subcover  $\{A_{\alpha_1} \cap Y, \dots, \}$ , and hence  $\{A_{\alpha_1}, \dots\} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  is a finite cover of  $Y$ .
  - (Sketch) Assume the other condition holds and let  $\mathcal{A}'$  be a cover of  $Y$ . Since each  $A'_\alpha \in \mathcal{A}'$  is open in  $Y$ , this means there exists an open set  $A_\alpha \subseteq X$  such that  $A'_\alpha = A_\alpha \cap Y$ . One can find a finite subcollection of the  $A_\alpha$  by assumption, which projects to a finite subcollection of the  $A'_\alpha$ .
- Prop: if  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous and  $X$  is compact, then  $f(X)$  is compact.  
Pf: Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a cover of  $f(X)$  by open sets of  $Y$ . Then  $\{f^{-1}(A) : A \in \mathcal{A}\}$  is an open cover of  $X$ . Since  $X$  is compact, there exists a finite subcover  $f^{-1}(A_1), \dots, f^{-1}(A_n)$ . Then the sets  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are a finite subcover for  $Y$ .
- Thm: Let  $X$  be compact. If  $Y \subseteq X$  is closed then  $Y$  is compact. The converse holds if  $X$  is Hausdorff (i.e. the only compact subspaces of  $X$  are closed).
  - Assume  $Y \subseteq X$  is closed. We'll use the previous lemma. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a cover of  $Y$  using open sets of  $X$ . We want to use that  $X$  is compact to get that we can find a finite cover; so can we turn  $\mathcal{A}$  into a cover for  $X$  somehow?  
Let  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A} \cup \{X - Y\}$  which is an open cover of  $X$  since  $Y$  is closed. Since  $X$  is compact there exists a finite subcover  $\mathcal{B}' \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ , and hence  $\mathcal{B}' \cap \mathcal{A}$  is a finite subcover of  $\mathcal{A}$  for  $Y$ , proving the result.
  - Assume  $X$  is Hausdorff and that  $Y \subseteq X$  is compact. We want to show that  $Y$  is closed, i.e. that every  $x \in X - Y$  has a neighborhood  $x \in U$  disjoint from  $Y$ .  
By Hausdorff property, for every  $y \in Y$  there exist disjoint neighborhoods  $U_y, V_y$  for  $x, y$ . Observe that  $\{V_y\}_{y \in Y}$  is a cover of  $Y$  using open sets of  $X$ . Since  $Y$  is compact, one can find a finite subcover  $\{V_{y_1}, \dots, V_{y_n}\}$ . Note that  $\bigcap U_{y_i}$  is disjoint

from  $Y \subseteq \bigcup V_{y_i}$  and open (since its the finite intersection of open sets), so this gives the desired neighborhood.

Rmk: the condition that  $X$  be Hausdorff is necessary for converse to hold: in the finite complement topology (which isn't Hausdorff), every set is compact whether they be open or not.

- Neat corollary: if  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a continuous bijection, and if  $X$  is compact and  $Y$  is Hausdorff, then  $f$  is a homeomorphism.

Pf: To prove  $f^{-1}$  is continuous, it suffices to prove images of closed sets of  $X$  are closed in  $Y$ . Every closed  $A \subseteq X$  is compact by the previous theorem, so  $f(A)$  is compact by the previous proposition. Since  $Y$  is Hausdorff,  $f(A)$  is closed by the previous theorem.

- Def: if  $(X, d)$  is a metric space, we say that  $Y \subseteq X$  is *bounded* if there exists  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  such that  $d(x, y) \leq r$  for all  $x, y \in Y$ .

Prop: if  $(X, d)$  is a metric space, then the only compact subspaces  $Y \subseteq X$  are bounded (sketch: if not, then for any  $x \in Y$  the balls  $B_d(x, n)$  with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$  are a cover without a finite subcover).

- Cor: if  $(X, d)$  is a metric space, then the only compact subspaces  $Y \subseteq X$  are closed and bounded.

Very important fact: the converse is true for Euclidean space.

- The key here will be proving things for intervals (similar to what happened with connected).

Thm: the interval  $[0, 1]$  is compact.

– Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an open cover of  $[0, 1]$ ,  $c = \sup\{0 \leq x \leq 1 : [0, x] \text{ is covered by a finite subfamily of } \mathcal{A}\}$ , and  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  a set containing  $c$ .

– Claim:  $c = 1$ . If  $c = 0$ , then  $[0, \varepsilon] \subseteq A$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ , which means  $c \geq \varepsilon$ , a contradiction.

If  $0 < c < 1$ , then  $[c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon] \subseteq A$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By definition of  $c$ , the interval  $[0, c - \varepsilon]$  has a finite subcover from  $\mathcal{A}$ , and adding  $A$  to this gives a finite subcover to  $[0, c + \varepsilon]$ , so  $c \geq c + \varepsilon$ , a contradiction.

– Because  $c = 1$ , we have  $[1 - \varepsilon, 1] \subseteq A$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $[0, 1 - \varepsilon]$  has a finite subcover, so does  $[0, 1]$ , proving the result.

- Can boost this result to higher dimensions.

Thm: If  $X, Y$  are compact, then  $X \times Y$  is compact.

For this we'll need a lemma.

- Tube lemma: let  $X, Y$  be spaces with  $Y$  compact, and let  $N \subseteq X \times Y$  be an open set containing the “slice”  $\{x_0\} \times Y$ . Then  $N$  contains a “tube”  $W \times Y$  where  $W \subseteq X$  is a neighborhood of  $x_0$  **Draw picture**.

- **Possible way to motivate the proof:** know every open set is the union of basis elements. Simplest case is that it's (contained in) union of finitely many basis elements (which we can assume contain  $x$ ), in which case the solution is to just take the intersection of the horizontal sets. Thus suffices to reduce to this finite cover, and for this it makes sense to use compactness.

- Pf: Since  $N$  is open, it can be written as the union of basis elements  $U \times V$ . Since  $\{x_0\} \times Y$  is homeomorphic to  $Y$  it is compact, so it can be covered by finitely many of these basis elements  $U_1 \times V_1, \dots, U_n \times V_n$ . Wlog we can assume  $x_0 \in U_i$  for all  $i$  (otherwise we can throw out this set).

- Let  $W = \bigcap U_i$ , which is an open neighborhood of  $x_0$ . We claim that the  $U_i \times V_i$  sets cover  $W \times Y$ . Indeed let  $(x, y) \in W \times Y$ . By assumption of these sets covering  $\{x_0\} \times Y$ , there exists some  $i$  such that  $y \in V_i$ , and hence  $(x, y) \in U_i \times V_i$  since  $x \in \bigcap U_j$ .

Since  $W \times Y \subseteq \bigcup U_i \times V_i \subseteq N$ , we conclude the result.

- Now we can prove  $X \times Y$  is compact if  $X, Y$  are both compact.

- Pf: let  $X, Y$  be compact and  $\mathcal{A}$  an open cover of  $X \times Y$ .

Claim: for each  $x \in X$ , there exist s a neighborhood  $W \subseteq X$  such that  $W_x \times Y$  can be covered by finitely many elements of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Indeed, since  $\{x\} \times Y$  is compact, there exists a finite subcover  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  of this slice, so taking  $N = \bigcup A_i$  and applying the tube lemma gives the result.

- The sets  $W_x$  are an open cover of  $X$ , so by compactness there exists some finite subcover  $W_1, \dots, W_m$ . The union of the tubes  $W_i \times Y$  covers all of  $X \times Y$ , and since each of these finitely many tubes can be covered with finitely many sets, we conclude the result.

Remark: this implies finite products of compact spaces are compact, what about infinite spaces?

Tychonoff Thorem: arbitrary products of compact spaces are compact in the product topology (This is not an easy result: it requires the axiom of choice and is the central focus of Chapter 5).

- Heine Borel Thm:  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is compact iff  $X$  is closed and bounded.

Already saw that if  $X$  is compact then it must be closed and bounded (since  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a metric space).

If  $X$  is closed and bounded, then  $X \subseteq [-M, M]^n$  for some sufficiently large  $M$ . This is compact by the previous theorem, and thus  $X \subseteq M$  (which is a closed subspace of a compact set) is compact.

Wow, amazing!

- Cor:  $S^1 \not\cong [0, 1)$  (former is compact, other is not).

## 11.1 EVT and Consequences

- Now that we have a good handle on what compact sets look like, we can state the generalized version of EVT.

Extreme Value Theorem: if  $X \neq \emptyset$  is compact and  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous, then  $f(X) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  has a maximum and a minimum.

Pf: Assume  $f(X)$  has no maximum, i.e. for all  $z \in f(X)$  there exists some  $y \in f(X)$  with  $z < y$ . This implies that  $\mathcal{A} = \{f^{-1}(\infty, y) : y \in f(X)\}$  is an open cover of  $X$ . Note that  $\mathcal{A}$  has no finite subcover (as this would imply  $f^{-1}(\infty, y)$  is a subcover for some  $y$ ), contradicting  $X$  being compact.

- We can use this to prove an analog of the uniform convergence theorem, which we recall says that continuous maps  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are uniformly convergent. For this we need some definitions/lemmas.

Def: if  $B \neq \emptyset$  is a subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$ , then the *diameter* of  $B$  is  $\sup\{d(a, b) : a, b \in B\}$ , and the *distance* from a point  $x$  to  $B$  is  $\inf\{d(x, b) : b \in B\}$  (note: this is a continuous function).

Lebesgue number lemma: let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an open covering of a metric space  $(X, d)$ . If  $X$  is compact, then there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that every for every subset  $B \subseteq X$  of diameter less than  $\delta$  there exists some  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  containing  $B$ . The number  $\delta$  is called the *Lebesgue number* for the covering  $\mathcal{A}$ .

I.e. this says that all sufficiently small sets are contained in some element of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

- If  $X \in \mathcal{A}$  then this holds for all  $\delta$ , so assume this is not the case.
- Let  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  be a finite subcover of  $X$  **maybe note intuition that working with this smaller cover can only make our lives harder** and let  $C_i := X - A_i$  (which are non-empty by assumption). Define  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $f(x) = n^{-1} \sum d(x, C_i)$  (i.e. this is the average distance from  $x$  to one of the  $C_i$  sets).
- Claim:  $f(x) > 0$  for all  $x$ . Indeed,  $x \in A_i$  for some  $i$ , which means there exists some  $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood of  $x$  in  $A_i$ . This means  $d(x, C_i) \geq \varepsilon$  and  $f(x) \geq \varepsilon/n$ .
- Note that  $f$  is continuous, so by EVT it has a minimum value  $\delta$ , i.e. every  $x \in X$  have average distance at least  $\delta$  to the  $C_i$ . We want to show this  $\delta$  works.

- Let  $B$  be a subset of diameter less than  $\delta$  and choose  $x_0 \in B$ . By the diameter condition,  $B$  lies in the  $\delta$ -neighborhood of  $x_0$ . Note  $\delta \leq f(x_0) \leq \max_i d(x_0, C_i)$ . If the maximum is achieved by  $i$  then the  $\delta$ -neighborhood of  $x_0$  is contained in  $X - C_i = A_i$ , so  $B \subseteq A_i$ .

Rmk: this result turns out to be used a fair amount in algebraic topology, and we'll also use it to show various forms of compactness are equivalent to each other.

- Def: a function  $f$  from a metric space  $(X, d_X)$  to  $(Y, d_Y)$  is said to be *uniformly convergent* if for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x_0, x_1 \in X$  with  $d_X(x_0, x_1) < \delta$  we have  $d_Y(f(x_0), f(x_1)) < \varepsilon$ .

Uniform convergence theorem: if  $f : (X, d_X) \rightarrow (Y, d_Y)$  is continuous and  $X$  is compact, then  $f$  is uniformly continuous.

- Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $\mathcal{A}'$  be the open cover of  $Y$  by balls  $B(y, \varepsilon/2)$ , and let  $\mathcal{A} = \{f^{-1}(A') : A' \in \mathcal{A}'\}$ . Let  $\delta$  be the Lebesgue number of  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- For any  $x_0, x_1 \in X$  with  $d_X(x_0, x_1) < \delta$ , the set  $B = \{x_0, x_1\}$  has diameter less than  $\delta$ , so there exists some preimage of a ball containing  $B$ , i.e.  $\{f(x_0), f(x_1)\} \subseteq B(y, \varepsilon/2)$  for some  $y$ . This means  $d(f(x_0), f(x_1)) < \varepsilon$  as desired.

## 12 Variants of Compactness

As noted before, there were many alternative definitions proposed for compactness during the development of topology, many of which still have their uses.

- Def: a space  $X$  is said to be *limit point compact* if every infinite subset  $A \subseteq X$  has a limit point, i.e. a point  $x$  such that every neighborhood of  $x$  intersects  $A$  in some point *other than itself*.

Thm: if  $X$  is compact, then it is limit point compact.

- Let  $X$  be compact and assume for contradiction that there exists  $A \subseteq X$  infinite with no limit point. This implies that  $A$  contains all its limit points (trivially), so  $A$  is closed. Since  $X$  is compact, this implies  $A$  is also compact.

Goal is to find an open cover without a finite subcover.

- Because each  $a \in A$  is not a limit point, there exists a neighborhood  $U_a$  with  $U_a \cap A = \{a\}$ . Now  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_a : a \in A\}$  is a cover of  $A$  with no finite subcover (since  $A$  is infinite and each element of  $U_a$  intersects  $A$  in one vertex), contradicting  $A$  being compact.

- The converse does not hold.

Claim: if  $X = \{a, b\}$  has the trivial topology, then  $X \times \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  is LPC but not compact.

- LPC: every  $A \neq \emptyset$  has a limit point (e.g. if  $(a, n) \in A$  then every neighborhood of  $(b, n)$  intersects  $A$ ).
- Not compact: the open cover with sets  $\{a, b\} \times \{n\}$  has no finite subcover.

- Def: a space  $X$  is said to be *sequentially compact* if every sequence of points has a convergent subsequence.

E.g.  $X = [0, 1]$  is sequentially compact (since every sequence in  $X$  is bounded via Bolzano-Weierstrass).

- In general sequential compactness is incomparable to compactness (though the examples are a little complex). However, all of these notions of compactness agree for metrizable spaces.

Thm: Let  $X$  be a metrizable space. The following are equivalent: (1)  $X$  is compact, (2) LPC, (3) sequentially compact.

- Fix some metric  $d$  inducing  $X$ . Already showed (1) implies (2).
- (2) implies (3): let  $(x_n)$  be a sequence in  $X$ ; how should we construct a set of infinite points  $A$ ?

Take  $A = \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}\}$ . Is this infinite? Not necessarily.

If  $A$  is finite, then some  $x \in A$  has  $x = x_n$  for infinitely many  $n$ ; the subsequence using such  $x_n$  converges.

Thus we may assume  $A$  is infinite, so by LPC there exists some limit point  $x \in A$ .

Fact: if  $x$  is the limit point of a set  $A \subseteq X$  and  $X$  is metrizable, then every neighborhood of  $x$  intersects  $A$  in infinitely many points (in fact this holds for Hausdorff spaces in general).

Build our convergent subsequence as follows. Choose any  $x_{n_1} \in A \cap B(x, 1)$ , then choose any  $x_{n_2} \in A \cap B(x, 1/2)$  with  $n_2 > n_1$  (can do this because the intersection is infinite), and iteratively continue in this way with  $x_{n_t} \in A \cap B(x, 1/t)$  and  $n_t > n_{t-1}$ . Easy to check this is a convergent subsequence, proving the result.

- (3) implies (1). We first solve a special case:

Claim 1: for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a finite cover of  $X$  by  $\varepsilon$ -balls (equivalently, the cover  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of all  $\varepsilon$ -balls has a finite subcover).

Suppose not **Draw a picture for this**. Choose any  $x_1 \in X$ , then  $x_2 \in X - B(x, \varepsilon)$ , and so on choosing  $x_n \in X - \bigcup_{i < n} B(x_i, \varepsilon)$ . This defines an infinite sequence (else there'd be a finite covering), so by assumption there exists some subsequence  $x_{n_k}$  converging to some  $y$ . However, the ball  $B(y, \varepsilon/3)$  contains at most one  $x_{n_k}$  (since they're all at least  $\varepsilon$  away from each other), contradicting it converging to  $y$ .

- Claim 2: the Lebesgue number lemma holds, i.e. for all open covers  $\mathcal{A}$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that every for every subset  $B \subseteq X$  of diameter less than  $\delta$  there exists some  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  containing  $B$ . (Again we know this must in particular hold if  $X$  is compact).

Assume this failed for some  $\mathcal{A}$ . This means for all  $n$ , there exists non-empty  $B_n \subseteq X$  such that  $\text{diam}(B_n) < 1/n$  but  $B_n \not\subseteq A$  for any  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ .

Choose some  $x_n \in B_n$  for each  $n$ . This has a convergent subsequence  $x_{n_k} \rightarrow y$ , and there exists some  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $y \in A$ . Because  $A$  is open,  $B(y, \varepsilon) \subseteq A$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . But because  $x_{n_k} \rightarrow y$ , there exists some  $K$  such that  $x_{n_k} \in B(y, \varepsilon/3)$  for all  $k \geq K$ . For some  $k \geq K$  we have  $\text{diam}(B_{n_k}) < \varepsilon/3$ , which implies  $B_{n_k} \subseteq B(y, \varepsilon) \subseteq A$ , a contradiction.

- Now we can finally prove things. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an open cover of  $X$  and let  $\delta > 0$  be the Lebesgue number of this cover (exists by claim 2). By Claim 1 there exists a finite cover  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $X$  by open balls of radius  $\delta/3$  (and diameter  $2\delta/3 < \delta$ ). This means for each  $B_i \in \mathcal{B}$  there is some  $A_i \in \mathcal{A}$  containing  $B_i$ . Since the  $B_i$  are a finite cover for  $X$ , the  $A_i$  do as well, proving the result.

- Aside: as noted, it is not true in general that  $X$  is compact iff every sequence has a convergent subsequence. However, it turns out that  $X$  is compact iff every “generalized sequence” has a convergent “generalized subsequence”.

These “generalized subsequences” are called nets; see the supplementary exercises at the end of chapter 3.