

## 2 Elementary topology of $E^n$

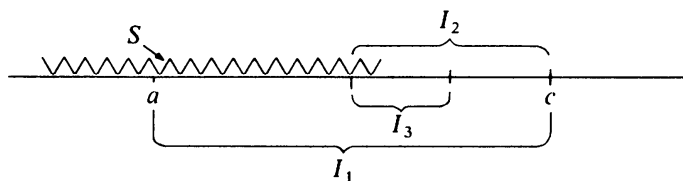


Figure 2.2

$I_1, I_2, \dots$  as follows: Let  $a$  be some point of  $S$ , and  $I_1 = [a, c]$ . Divide  $I_1$  at the midpoint  $(a + c)/2$  into two congruent closed intervals. If  $(a + c)/2$  is an upper bound for  $S$ , let  $I_2$  be the left-hand interval, otherwise let  $I_2$  be the right-hand interval. In general, suppose  $m \geq 1$  and  $I_m$  has been defined. If the midpoint of  $I_m$  is an upper bound for  $S$ , let  $I_{m+1}$  be the left half of  $I_m$ , otherwise the right half. The archimedean property implies that for any  $x \geq 0$ , the sequence  $[m^{-1}x]$  tends to 0 as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $0 \leq 2^{-m} \leq m^{-1}$ , the sequence  $[2^{-m}x]$  also tends to 0. Let  $x = 2(c - a)$ . Now  $I_1 \supset I_2 \supset \dots$  and the length of  $I_m$  is  $2^{-m}x$ . By Theorem 2.3,  $I_1 \cap I_2 \cap \dots$  contains a single point  $x_0$ . By the construction,  $x_0 = \sup S$  (see Figure 2.2).

### *Infinite series*

Formally, an infinite series is an expression written  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{x}_k$  or  $\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots$ . To be more precise, with any sequence  $[\mathbf{x}_k]$  is associated another sequence  $[\mathbf{s}_m]$ , where  $\mathbf{s}_m = \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{x}_m$  is called the *m*th *partial sum*. This pair of sequences defines an *infinite series*. If the sequence of partial sums has a limit  $\mathbf{s}$ , then the series is *convergent* and  $\mathbf{s}$  is its *sum*. This is denoted by  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots$ . If the sequence of partial sums has no limit, then the series is *divergent*.

If  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots$ ,  $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{y}_1 + \mathbf{y}_2 + \dots$ , then  $\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{t} = (\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{y}_1) + (\mathbf{x}_2 + \mathbf{y}_2) + \dots$  and  $c\mathbf{s} = (c\mathbf{x}_1) + (c\mathbf{x}_2) + \dots$  for any scalar  $c$ . This follows from the definition and Proposition 2.6. Some further elementary properties are given in Problems 7(c) and 8.

### PROBLEMS

In Problems 1 and 2 you may use the results of Problems 9 and 10.

1. Find the limit if it exists.

- $x_m = (2^m - 2^{-m})/(3^m + 3^{-m})$ .
- $x_m = \sin(m\pi/2)$ .
- $x_m = \sin m\pi$ .
- $x_m = ((m + 1)/(m - 1))^m$ . [Hint:  $(1 + 1/m)^m \rightarrow e$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .]
- $x_m = ((m^2 + 1)/(m^2 - 1))^m$ .

2. Find the limit if it exists, using Proposition 2.

- $(x_m, y_m) = ((1 + m)/(1 - 2m), 1/(1 + m))$ .
- $(x_m, y_m) = (2^{-m}, 1 + m)$ .
- $(x_m, y_m) = (1 - 2^{-m}, (m^2 + 3^m)/m!)$ .

3. Show that a sequence  $[x_m]$  has at most one limit  $x_0$ . [Hint: If  $y_0$  were another limit, let  $\varepsilon = |x_0 - y_0|/2$ .]
4. (a) Let  $A$  be a closed set. Show that if  $x_m \in A$  for  $m = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $x_0 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} x_m$ , then  $x_0 \in A$ .  
 (b) If  $A$  is not closed, show that there exists a sequence  $[x_m]$ , with  $x_m \in A$  for  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ , converging to a limit  $x_0 \notin A$ .
5. Show that if  $x_m \in A$  for every  $m \geq l$  and  $x_0 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} x_m$ , then  $x_0 \in \text{cl } A$ .
6. (a) Prove Proposition 2.6.  
 (b) Prove Proposition 2.7.
7. (Comparison tests.) Show that:  
 (a) If  $0 \leq x_m \leq y_m$  for every  $m \geq l$  and  $y_m \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $x_m \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .  
 (b) If  $[x_m], [y_m]$  are nondecreasing sequences such that  $x_m \leq y_m$  for each  $m = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $y_m \rightarrow y$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $[x_m]$  has a limit  $x \leq y$ .  
 (c) If  $0 \leq x_m \leq y_m$  for every  $m = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $t = y_1 + y_2 + \dots$ , then the series  $x_1 + x_2 + \dots$  converges with sum  $s \leq t$ .
8. An infinite series  $x_1 + x_2 + \dots$  converges *absolutely* if the series of nonnegative numbers  $|x_1| + |x_2| + \dots$  converges. Prove that any absolutely convergent infinite series is convergent. [Hint: Show that the sequence  $[s_m]$  of partial sums is Cauchy.]
9. Show that if  $a > 0$ , then  
 (a)  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} a^{1/m} = 1$ . (b)  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} a^m/m! = 0$ .  
 (c)  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (x_m)^{1/m} = 1$  provided  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} x_m = a$ .  
 [Hints: For part (a) reduce to the case  $0 < a < 1$ . By Example 1, if  $b < 1$  then  $a \leq b^m$  for only finitely many  $m$ . For part (b), compare with the sequence  $[c/m]$  for suitable  $c$  and suitable  $l$  in Problem 7(a).]
10. Let  $x_0 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} x_m$ ,  $y_0 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} y_m$ , and assume that  $y_m \neq 0$  for  $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Show that  $x_0/y_0 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} x_m/y_m$ . [Hint: By (c) of Proposition 2.6 it suffices to show that  $y_0^{-1} = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} y_m^{-1}$ .]
11. Show that  $x_0 = y_0$  in Example 3.

## 2.4 Bolzano–Weierstrass theorem

Suppose that an infinite number of points lie in a box. It is intuitively reasonable that they cannot remain scattered but must accumulate at some points of the box. The purpose of the present section is to put this idea on a precise basis. We begin with definitions of the concepts of isolated point and accumulation point of a set  $A \subset E^n$ .

**Definition.** A point  $x_0$  is an *isolated point* of  $A$  if there exists a neighborhood  $U$  of  $x_0$  such that  $A \cap U = \{x_0\}$ .

**Definition.** A point  $x_0$  is an *accumulation point* of  $A$  if every neighborhood of  $x_0$  contains an infinite number of points of  $A$ .

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Let us consider the case when  $A$  is an infinite set. Then  $A \subset A_1$  since each  $A_m \subset A_1$ . Since  $A_1$  is bounded,  $A$  is bounded. Let  $\mathbf{x}_0$  be an accumulation point of  $A$ . As in the proof of Corollary 1, we have  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in A_1$  since  $A_1$  is a closed set and  $A \subset A_1$ . For each  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is also an accumulation point of the set  $\{\mathbf{x}_m, \mathbf{x}_{m+1}, \dots\}$ . Since this set is contained in  $A_m$  and  $A_m$  is closed, we get in the same way  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in A_m$ . Since this is true for each  $m$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \bigcap_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m$ .  $\square$

Corollary 3 shows the existence of a point in any closed set  $A$  nearest a given point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \notin A$ .

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $A$  be a closed, nonempty subset of  $E^n$  and  $\mathbf{x}_0 \notin A$ . Then there exists  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in A$  such that  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0| \geq |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0|$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \in A$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $S_r = \{\mathbf{x} : |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0| \leq r\}$  denote the closed spherical  $n$ -ball with center  $\mathbf{x}_0$  and radius  $r$ . Let

$$d = \inf\{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0| : \mathbf{x} \in A\}$$

$$d_m = d + \frac{1}{m}, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$A_m = A \cap S_{d_m}.$$

The sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  satisfy the hypotheses of Corollary 2. Let  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in \bigcap_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m$ . Then  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in A$  since each  $A_m \subset A$ . By definition of  $d$ ,  $|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0| \geq d$ . Since  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in A_m$ , and  $A_m \subset S_{d_m}$ ,  $|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0| \leq d + 1/m$  for each  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ . Thus  $|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0| = d$ .  $\square$

*Note.* The point  $\mathbf{x}_1$  in Corollary 3 need not be unique. However,  $\mathbf{x}_1$  is unique if  $A$  is also convex (Problem 3).

### PROBLEMS

1. Find all accumulation points of  $A$ :

(a)  $A = \{(-1)^m m(1+m)^{-1} : m = 1, 2, \dots\}$ .

(b)  $A = \left\{ \left( \cos \frac{2m\pi}{5}, \sin \frac{2m\pi}{5} \right) : m = 1, 2, \dots \right\}$ .

(c)  $A = \left\{ \left( \left(1 - \frac{1}{m}\right) \cos \frac{2m\pi}{5}, \left(1 - \frac{1}{m}\right) \sin \frac{2m\pi}{5} \right) : m = 1, 2, \dots \right\}$ .

(d)  $A = \{(x, y) : (x^2 + y^2)(y^2 - x^2 + 1) \leq 0\}$ .

(e)  $A = \{\cos m : m = 1, 2, \dots\}$ .

2. Prove Proposition 2.9.

3. Let  $A$  be a closed, convex, nonempty set, and  $\mathbf{x}_0 \notin A$ . Show that there is exactly one point  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in A$  nearest  $\mathbf{x}_0$ .

4. A set  $A$  is called *dense in  $B$*  if every point of  $B$  is an accumulation point of  $A$ .
- (a) Suppose that  $A$  has no isolated points. Show that  $A$  is dense in  $B$  if and only if  $B \subset \text{cl } A$ .
- (b) Suppose that  $A$  is dense in  $B$  and  $B$  is dense in  $C$ . Show that  $A$  is dense in  $C$ .
5. Let  $C = [0, 1] - (A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots)$ , where  $A_1 = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3})$ ,  $A_2 = (\frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}) \cup (\frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9})$ ,  $A_3 = (\frac{1}{27}, \frac{2}{27}) \cup \dots \cup (\frac{25}{27}, \frac{26}{27})$ , and  $A_j$  is the union of  $2^{j-1}$  open intervals of length  $3^{-j}$  chosen similarly (see Figure 2.4). [Note:  $C$  is called the *Cantor set*.]
- (a) Show that  $C$  is a closed set.
- (b) Show that  $C$  is dense in no open set.

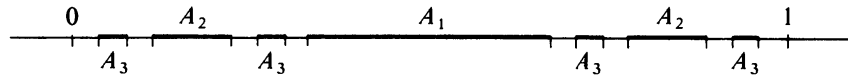


Figure 2.4

6. (*Subsequences*.) Let  $[x_m]$  be a sequence, and  $y_l = x_{m_l}$  for  $l = 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $m_1 < m_2 < \dots$ . Then  $[y_l]$  is called a *subsequence* of  $[x_m]$ .
- (a) Show that any bounded sequence in  $E^n$  has a convergent subsequence.
- (b) A set  $S$  is called *sequentially compact* if: any bounded sequence  $[x_m]$ , with  $x_m \in S$  for  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ , has a subsequence  $[y_l]$  such that  $y_l \rightarrow y_0$  as  $l \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y_0 \in S$ . Show that a nonempty set  $S \subset E^n$  is sequentially compact if and only if  $S$  is closed and bounded.
7. Let  $y$  be any frontier point of a closed convex set  $K$ . Show that  $K$  has a supporting hyperplane  $P$  that contains  $y$ . [Hint: Let  $\{y_m\}$  be a sequence of points exterior to  $K$  such that  $y_m$  tends to  $y$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $x_m$  be a point of  $K$  nearest to  $y_m$  and

$$u_m = \frac{y_m - x_m}{|y_m - x_m|}.$$

Then  $|u_m| = 1$  and  $x_m$  tends to  $y$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . By the proof of Theorem 1.1 there is a supporting hyperplane of the form  $\{x : u_m \cdot (x - x_m) = 0\}$ . Let  $u$  be an accumulation point of the bounded set  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots\}$  and  $P = \{x : u \cdot (x - y) = 0\}$ .]

## 2.5 Relative neighborhoods, continuous transformations

For the definition in Section 2.2 of a transformation continuous at a point  $x_0$ , it is assumed that  $x_0$  is interior to the domain  $D$ . However, we often wish to discuss continuity at points which are not interior to the domain. Moreover, even if the domain  $D$  is an open subset of  $E^n$ , we may be interested only in the restriction of the transformation to some set  $S \subset D$ .

We easily circumvent this apparent difficulty by introducing the idea of relative neighborhood.

**Definition.** Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of  $E^n$ . A *relative neighborhood* of a point  $x \in S$  is any set  $U$  such that  $U = S \cap W$ , where  $W$  is a neighborhood of  $x$  in  $E^n$  (Figure 2.5).

Next suppose that  $\mathbf{f}(S)$  is not closed. Then there exists  $\mathbf{y}_0 \in \text{cl}[\mathbf{f}(S)] - \mathbf{f}(S)$ . For  $m = 1, 2, \dots$  there exists  $\mathbf{y}_m \in \mathbf{f}(S)$  such that  $\mathbf{y}_m \rightarrow \mathbf{y}_0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . Choose  $\mathbf{z}_m \in S$  with  $\mathbf{y}_m = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_m)$ . As before, the set  $B = \{\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \dots\}$  has an accumulation point  $\mathbf{z}_0 \in S$ . Since  $\mathbf{y}_0 \notin \mathbf{f}(S)$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_0 \neq \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_0)$ . Let  $V$  be a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_0)$  of radius  $\frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_0) - \mathbf{y}_0|$ . Since  $\mathbf{f}$  is continuous at  $\mathbf{z}_0$ , there exists a relative neighborhood  $U$  of  $\mathbf{z}_0$  with  $\mathbf{f}(U) \subset V$ . In particular,  $\mathbf{y}_m = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_m)$  is in  $V$  for infinitely many  $m$  for which  $\mathbf{z}_m \in U$ . This contradicts the fact that  $\mathbf{y}_m \rightarrow \mathbf{y}_0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus  $\mathbf{f}(S)$  is closed.  $\square$

If we specialize Theorem 2.4 to real valued functions, we get a theorem about the existence of maxima and minima.

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $f$  be a real valued function continuous on a closed, bounded set  $S$ . Then there exist  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in S$  such that*

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1) \leq f(\mathbf{x}) \leq f(\mathbf{x}_2)$$

for all  $\mathbf{x} \in S$ .

**PROOF.** We recall that if  $T \subset E^1$  is bounded and closed, then  $y_1 = \inf T$  and  $y_2 = \sup T$  are points of  $T$  (Example 4, Section 1.4). Let  $T = f(S)$ . By Theorem 2.4,  $T$  is closed and bounded. Take  $\mathbf{x}_i$  such that  $y_i = f(\mathbf{x}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .  $\square$

The function  $f$  is said to have a *minimum* on  $S$  at  $\mathbf{x}_1$  and a *maximum* on  $S$  at  $\mathbf{x}_2$ .

### PROBLEMS

- In each case show that  $f$  has a minimum on  $S$ , but no maximum on  $S$ . Which assumption in Theorem 2.5 is violated?
  - $S = (0, 1]$ ,  $f(x) = x^{-1}$ .
  - $S = E^n$ ,  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{|\mathbf{x}|}{1 + |\mathbf{x}|}$ .
- Given  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , let  $f(\mathbf{x}) = |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0|$ . Show that  $f$  has a minimum on any closed, nonempty set  $A \subset E^n$ . (This gives another proof of Corollary 3, Section 2.4.)
- Let  $S = [a; b]$ .
  - Show that the relative neighborhoods of  $a$  are the half open intervals  $[a, c)$  with  $a < c < b$ , and  $S$ .
  - Let  $a < x_0 < \frac{1}{2}(a + b)$ . Show that the relative neighborhoods of  $x_0$  are as follows:  $(x_0 - \delta, x_0 + \delta)$  if  $0 < \delta < x_0 - a$ ;  $[a, x_0 + \delta)$  if  $x_0 - a \leq \delta < b - x_0$ ;  $S$ .
  - Describe the relative neighborhoods in the remaining cases  $\frac{1}{2}(a + b) \leq x_0 \leq b$ .
- Define the projection  $\pi$  from  $E^n$  onto  $E^s$  as in Problem 7, Section 2.1.
  - Show that  $\pi(A)$  is closed and bounded if  $A$  is closed and bounded.
  - Give an example of a closed set  $A$  such that  $\pi(A)$  is not closed.

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5. (a) Let  $\mathbf{f}$  be continuous on  $S$ , and let  $S_1 \subset S$ . Show that the restriction  $\mathbf{f}|_{S_1}$  is continuous on  $S_1$ .  
(b) Let  $f(x) = 1 - x$  if  $x \geq 0$  and  $f(x) = 0$  if  $x < 0$ . Let  $S_1 = [0, \infty)$ ,  $S = E^1$ . Show that  $f|_{S_1}$  is continuous, but  $f$  is not continuous at each point of  $S_1$ .
6. Let  $\mathbf{f}$  be a transformation with domain  $S$ . Show that  $\mathbf{f}$  is continuous at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  if and only if  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_m)$  for every sequence  $[\mathbf{x}_m]$  such that  $\mathbf{x}_m \in S$  for  $m = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $\mathbf{x}_m \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .
7. Let  $f$  be continuous on  $E^n$ . Suppose, moreover, that  $f(\mathbf{x}) > 0$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , and that  $f(c\mathbf{x}) = cf(\mathbf{x})$  for any  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $c > 0$ . Show that there exist  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$  such that  $a|\mathbf{x}| \leq f(\mathbf{x}) \leq b|\mathbf{x}|$ . [Hint: First consider  $\{\mathbf{x} : |\mathbf{x}| = 1\}$ .]
8. (*Uniform continuity*.) A transformation  $\mathbf{f}$  is *uniformly continuous* on  $S \subset E^n$  if given  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  (depending only on  $\varepsilon$ ) such that  $|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y})| < \varepsilon$  for every  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S$  with  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| < \delta$ . Show that if  $S$  is closed and bounded then every  $\mathbf{f}$  continuous on  $S$  is uniformly continuous on  $S$ . [Hint: If not, then there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  and for  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_m, \mathbf{y}_m \in S$  such that  $|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_m) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}_m)| \geq \varepsilon$  and  $|\mathbf{x}_m - \mathbf{y}_m| \leq 1/m$ . Let  $\mathbf{x}_0$  be an accumulation point of  $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots\}$ . Show that the continuity of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is contradicted.]

## 2.6 Topological spaces

In order to proceed further with the study of subsets of  $E^n$  and continuous transformations, it is convenient to introduce a very general concept—that of topological space. In this section  $S$  denotes a set, not necessarily a subset of  $E^n$ , and  $p$  denotes a point of  $S$ .

The notion of topological space occurs in practically all branches of mathematics. There are several equivalent definitions; of these, we give the one in terms of neighborhoods.

**Definition.** Let  $S$  be a nonempty set. For every  $p \in S$  let  $\mathcal{U}_p$  be a collection of subsets of  $S$  called *neighborhoods* of  $p$  such that:

- (1) Every point  $p$  has at least one neighborhood.
- (2) Every neighborhood of  $p$  contains  $p$ .
- (3) If  $U_1$  and  $U_2$  are neighborhoods of  $p$ , then there is a neighborhood  $U_3$  of  $p$  such that  $U_3 \subset U_1 \cap U_2$ .
- (4) If  $U$  is a neighborhood of  $p$  and  $q \in U$ , then there is a neighborhood  $V$  of  $q$  such that  $V \subset U$ .

Then  $S$  is a *topological space*.

More precisely, the topological space is  $S$  together with the collections  $\mathcal{U}_p$  of neighborhoods. However, it is common practice to omit explicit reference to the collections of neighborhoods when no ambiguity can arise.

For our purposes, the following two examples of topological spaces are of primary importance.