

Basic definitions and theorems of topology

Definition 1 (Metric Space and Distance) A set X is a metric space if $\forall p, q \in X$ we can define a real number $d(p, q)$ called distance (or metric) such that

1. $d(p, q) > 0$ if $p \neq q$ $d(p, p) = 0$ *positive definite*
2. $d(p, q) = d(q, p)$ *symmetric*
3. $d(p, q) < d(p, r) + d(q, r) \forall r \in X$ *triangular inequality*

The Euclidean spaces \mathbb{R}^n are metric spaces where for a couple of points $\mathbf{x} = (x_1 \dots x_n)$ and $\mathbf{y} = (y_1 \dots y_n)$ the distance is defined as

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

Definition 2 (Ball in \mathbb{R}^n) If $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the open(closed) ball with center in \mathbf{x} and radius \mathbf{r} is defined as the set

$$B(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r}) = \{\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\| < \mathbf{r} \text{ (or } \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\| \leq \mathbf{r})\}$$

Definition 3 (Convex Set) A set $E \subset X$ is convex if $\forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in E$ and $\lambda \in (0, 1)$:

$$\lambda \mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{y} \in E$$

Definition 4 (Neighborhood) In a metric space X , a neighborhood of $p \in X$ is the set

defined as

$$U(p, r) = \{q \in X : d(p, q) < r \text{ for some } r > 0\}$$

In \mathbb{R}^n , the open ball $B(\mathbf{x}, r)$ is the neighborhood of \mathbf{x} .

Definition 5 (Definitions of Points) In a metric space X

1. $p \in E \subset X$ is a limit point of E if every of its neighborhoods $U(p, r)$ contains a $q \neq p$ such that $q \in E$ (it should hold for any $r > 0$);¹
2. $p \in E \subset X$ is an interior point of E if there is a neighborhood $U(p, r)$ of p such that $U \subset E$ (it should exist at least one $r > 0$).²

Definition 6 (Closed Set) In a metric space X , $E \subset X$ is closed if every limit point of E is a point of E .

Definition 7 (Open Set) In a metric space X , $E \subset X$ is open if every point of E is an interior point of E .

Definition 8 (Complementary Set) In a metric space X , the complement of $E \subset X$, denoted as E^c , is the set of all points $p \in X$ such that $p \notin E$.

Theorem 1 In a metric space X , every neighborhood is an open set.

Theorem 2 In a metric space X , a set $E \subset X$ is open if and only if E^c is closed.

Therefore a set $F \subset X$ is closed if and only if F^c is open.

Theorem 3 In a metric space X , for any collection $\{G_\alpha\}$ of open subsets of X , and $\{F_\alpha\}$ of

¹Intuitively given p we can find a sequence $\{q_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ close enough to p for n large enough.

²Intuitively p is not on the border of E the closer p is to the border the smaller will be the radius of the neighborhood but it will always be positive.

closed subsets of X , we have that

1. $\cup_{\alpha} G_{\alpha}$ is open
2. $\cap_{\alpha} F_{\alpha}$ is closed
3. $\cap_{i=1}^n G_i$ is open
4. $\cup_{i=1}^n F_i$ is closed

Definition 9 (Closure) In a metric space X , if $E \subset X$ and we define E' as the set of all limit points of E , the closure of E denoted as \bar{E} is defined as $\bar{E} = E \cup E'$.

Theorem 4 In a metric space X , given $E \subset X$, then

1. \bar{E} is closed;
2. $E = \bar{E}$ if and only if E is closed;
3. $\bar{E} \subset F$ for every closed set $F \subset X$ such that $E \subset F$.

Definition 10 (Open Cover) In a metric space X , the open cover of $E \subset X$ is defined as a collection $\{G_{\alpha}\}$ of open subsets of X such that $E \subset \cup_{\alpha} G_{\alpha}$.

Definition 11 (Compact Set) In a metric space X , $K \subset X$ is compact if every open cover $\{G_{\alpha}\}$ of K , contains a finite subcover, i.e. there exist a finite set of indexes $(\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n)$ such that $K \subset \cup_{i=1}^n G_{\alpha_i}$.

Definition 12 (Bounded Set) In a metric space X , $E \subset X$ is bounded if $\exists M \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\exists q \in X$ such that $d(p, q) < M \forall p \in E$.

Theorem 5 Compact subsets of metric spaces are closed.

Theorem 6 Closed subsets of compact sets are compact.

Theorem 7 (Heine-Borel) For a set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ the following are equivalent

1. E is closed and bounded;
2. E is compact;
3. every infinite subset of E has a limit point in E .

Theorem 8 (Weierstrass) Every bounded infinite subset of \mathbb{R}^n has a limit point in \mathbb{R}^n .

Definition 13 (Connected Set) In a metric space X , two subsets A and B are separated if both $A \cap \bar{B} = \emptyset$ and $\bar{A} \cap B = \emptyset$. A set $E \subset X$ is connected if E is not the union of two nonempty separated sets.

Theorem 9 A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ is connected if and only if $\forall x, y \in E$ then $x < z < y$ implies $z \in E$.

Reference

Rudin, W. *Principles of Mathematical Analysis* McGraw-Hill, Inc. 1976