

§ 5 RELATIVISATION

Obviously a given set X can have more than one metric (e.g., Proposition 14). This is one way of creating a “new” metric space out of an old one. But, sometimes the difference between two metrics on a set is not “topological,” in that it doesn’t effect the limit points, etc.

Theorem 39. *Let X be a set and let d_1 and d_2 be metrics on X . The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) *For any $A \subset X$ and any $x \in X$, x is a limit point of A in $\langle X, d_1 \rangle$ iff x is a limit point of A in $\langle X, d_2 \rangle$.*
- (2) *For any $A \subset X$, A is open in $\langle X, d_1 \rangle$ iff A is open in $\langle X, d_2 \rangle$.*
- (3) *For any $A \subset X$, A is closed in $\langle X, d_1 \rangle$ iff A is closed in $\langle X, d_2 \rangle$.*
- (4) *For any $x \in X$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists some $\delta > 0$ such that the open ball of radius δ centered at x in $\langle X, d_1 \rangle$ is a subset of the open ball of radius ε centered at x in $\langle X, d_2 \rangle$, and vice-versa (with d_1 and d_2 swapped).*

5.1 Definition. If metrics d_1 and d_2 for a set X are *equivalent* means that they satisfy the conditions of Theorem 39. (Sometimes such metrics are called *topologically equivalent*.)

Another way to make a “new” space out of an old one is to consider a subset of a metric space as a space in its own right. This is a very simple concept which can become much more confusing than you might expect. Technically, we first need a theorem to justify things.

Theorem 40. *Let $\langle X, d \rangle$ be a metric space and let $X_0 \subset X$. Let $d_0 : X_0 \times X_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the restriction of d to $X_0 \times X_0$ (i.e., $d_0(x, y) = d(x, y)$ for all $x, y \in X_0$). Then $\langle X_0, d_0 \rangle$ is a metric space.*

5.2 Definition. The space $\langle X_0, d_0 \rangle$ is called a *subspace* of $\langle X, d \rangle$, and when $X_0 \subset X$ and d_0 is the restriction of d as in Theorem 40. We will usually abuse notation slightly and use d for both of the metrics. When the metric is understood, we will say simply that X_0 is a subspace of X . For example, when we refer to \mathbb{Q} as a subspace of \mathbb{R} , we mean the space $\langle \mathbb{Q}, d \rangle$ where $d(x, y) = |x - y|$ for $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Evidently, it will often happen that a given point is simultaneously a member of more than one space, and that a given set is simultaneously a subset of more than one space. This points up a deficiency in most of our definitions and notations, since they refer (in one way or another) to the space we are working in. Thus, “limit point of A ” should be “limit point of A in $\langle X, d \rangle$,” or simply “limit point of A in X if the metric is understood. When needed, we will use a subscript on the L operator: so $L_X(A)$ or $L_{\langle X, d \rangle}(A)$ denotes the corresponding set of all limit points, which is referred to as the set of limit points of A *relative* to X or to $\langle X, d \rangle$. For a simple example, let $X_0 = (0, 1]$ be a subspace of \mathbb{R} , and let $A = \{1/n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Then $L_{\mathbb{R}}(A) = \{0\}$, while $L_{X_0}(A) = L_{(0,1]}(A) = \emptyset$. On the other hand, condition (1) of Theorem 39 can now be expressed as $L_{\langle X, d_1 \rangle}(A) = L_{\langle X, d_2 \rangle}(A)$ for all $A \subset X$.

Similarly, we need to consider the “relative” forms for the closure, interior, boundary, and exterior operators: $\text{cl}_X(A)$, $\cap_X(A)$, etc. For the open ball centered at a point, we have already used a subscript for the radius. We can either use a superscript for the space or we can move the radius inside the parenthesis:

$$B_\varepsilon^X(x) = B_X(x, \varepsilon) = \{y \in X \mid d(x, y) < \varepsilon\}$$

Finally, the notions of open and closed sets must be relativised: we will say that “ A is open in X ” or that “ A is open relative to X ” and similarly for closed sets. So, for the above example, the set A is not a closed subset in \mathbb{R} , but it *is* a closed set relative to $(0, 1]$. Similarly $(1/2, 1]$ is a relatively open set in $(0, 1]$ even though it is not open in \mathbb{R} .

Theorem 41. *Let X be a metric space, let $X_0 \subset X$ be a subspace of X , and let $A \subset X_0$. Then:*

- (a) *A is open in X_0 iff $A = U \cap X_0$ for some $U \subset X$ such that U is open in X .*
- (b) *A is closed in X_0 iff $A = U \cap X_0$ for some $U \subset X$ such that U is closed in X .*

You may have noticed that we did *not* relativise the definition of connected. This is because it is not really necessary.

Theorem 42. *Let $\langle X, d \rangle$ be metric space and let $A \subset X$. Then A is a connected set in the space $\langle X, d \rangle$ iff the subspace $\langle A, d \rangle$ of X is a connected metric space.*

Note that this means that Theorem 35 can be used to decide the connectedness of sets, by showing that there are no non-trivial sets which are relatively clopen.

§ 6 MORE ON FUNCTIONS

6.1 Definitions. A 1:1 correspondence between sets X and Y is a 1:1 function f from X onto Y (i.e., $X = \text{dom}(f)$ and $Y = \text{ran}(f)$). When such an f exists, then f^{-1} is a 1:1 correspondence between Y and X , so we can simply say that X and Y are in 1:1 correspondence. A set is called *finite* if it is either empty or in 1:1 correspondence with a set of the form $\{1, \dots, n\}$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$. A set is *infinite* if it is not finite. A set is called *countably infinite* if it is in 1:1 correspondence with \mathbb{N} . A set is called *uncountable* if it is neither finite or countably infinite.

Theorem 43 (Cantor). *The sets ω , \mathbb{Z} , and \mathbb{Q} are all countably infinite.*

Theorem 44 (Cantor). *The set \mathbb{R} is uncountable.*

Theorem 44 (Schröder-Bernstein). *Let X and Y be sets. If X is in 1:1 correspondence with a subset of Y and Y is in 1:1 correspondence with a subset of X , then X and Y are in 1:1 correspondence.*

6.2 Definition. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. If $A \subset X$, then $f(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{f(x) \mid x \in A\}$ is called the *image of A under f* . If $B \subset Y$, then $f^{-1}(B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in B\}$ is called the *inverse image of B under f* .

Theorem 45. *Let X and Y be metric spaces and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) *for each $x \in X$ and each positive number ε there exists a positive number δ such that $f(B_X(x, \delta)) \subset B_Y(f(x), \varepsilon)$*
- (2) *if $A \subset X$ and $x \in L_X(A)$, then $f(x) \in L_Y(f(A))$*
- (3) *if $A \subset X$ and $x \in \text{cl}_X(A)$, then $f(x) \in \text{cl}_Y(f(A))$*
- (4) *if U is an open subset of Y , then $f^{-1}(U)$ is open in X .*
- (5) *if C is an closed subset of Y , then $f^{-1}(C)$ is closed in X .*

6.3 Definition. Let X and Y be metric spaces and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. If f satisfies the conditions of Theorem 45, we say that f is *continuous*. We also say that f is *continuous at $x \in X$* when condition 1 of Theorem 45 is satisfied at that particular x . We say that f is a *homeomorphism* if it is a 1:1 correspondence from X onto Y and both f and f^{-1} are continuous. We say that X and Y are *homeomorphic* when a homeomorphism from X

onto Y exists (note that f^{-1} is a homeomorphism from Y onto X , so this notation is justified). We also write $X \cong Y$ to denote that X and Y are homeomorphic.

Theorem 46. *If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous and A is a connected subset of X , then $f(A)$ is connected.*

Theorem 47. *If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a homeomorphism, then for any set $A \subset X$, $f(L_X(A)) = L_Y(f(A))$ and $f(\text{cl}_X(A)) = \text{cl}_Y(f(A))$.*

Theorem 48. *There exist non-homeomorphic metric spaces X and Y and a continuous 1:1 correspondence from X onto Y .*

Theorem 49. *Every non-empty open interval in \mathbb{R} is homeomorphic to \mathbb{R} .*

Theorem 50. *Homeomorphism is an equivalence relation: i.e., $X \cong X$ for any space X ; if $X \cong Y$ then $Y \cong X$; and if $X \cong Y$ and $Y \cong Z$ then $X \cong Z$.*

Proposition 51. $\mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{Z}$ (as subspaces of \mathbb{R}).

Proposition 52. $[0, 1] \cong (0, 1)$ (as subspaces of \mathbb{R}).

Proposition 53. $\mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{P}$

Proposition 54. $\mathbb{P} \cong \mathbb{Q}$

Proposition 55. $\mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1] \cong \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1)$

Theorem 56. *Let X be a set and let d_1 and d_2 be metrics for X . Then d_1 and d_2 are equivalent iff the identity function on X is a homeomorphism between $\langle X, d_1 \rangle$ and $\langle X, d_2 \rangle$.*