

Using these ~~limits~~ limits, we define

$x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$. Clearly, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Letting $p \rightarrow \infty$ in

(1), we obtain

$$d(x_m, x) \leq \varepsilon \quad \forall m \gg N$$

$$\Rightarrow x_m \rightarrow x \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Hence \mathbb{R}^n is a complete metric space.

2.3.3 Examples (Incomplete metric space)

1. The space \mathbb{Q} or \mathbb{Q}_e with the usual metric of absolute value is not complete

(Example 2.2.3 (1))

2. The metric space (X, d) , where $X = (0, 1]$ and d is the usual metric on X , is not complete (Example 2.2.3 (2))

2.3.4 Theorem

Let (Y, d_Y) be a subspace of the metric space (X, d)

Then Y is complete implies that Y is closed.

Proof: To prove that Y is closed, let x be a limit point of Y . Then every open ball centred on x contains ∞ points (other than x) of Y . In particular, the open ball $B_{1/n}(x)$, where n is a positive integer, contain a point x_n of Y , other than x .

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Thus $\{x_n\}$ is a sequence in Y such that
 $x_n \rightarrow x$ in X since $d(x_n, x) < \frac{1}{n}$. In view
of Theorem 2.2.2, $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in X
and hence in Y . But Y being complete, $x \in Y$.
Hence Y is closed.

2.3.5. Theorem

Let (X, d) be a complete metric space and (Y, d_Y)
be a subspace of (X, d) . Then Y is closed implies
 Y is complete.

Proof: Let $\{x_n\}$ be a Cauchy sequence in Y .

Then it is also a Cauchy sequence in X since
 $Y \subset X$. But X being complete, $\{x_n\}$ converges
to a point $x \in X$. We claim that $x \in Y$.

Now, there arise two cases:

Case 1 If $\{x_n\}$ has only finitely many distinct
points, then $x_n = x$ for infinitely many values
of n . Since $\{x_n\}$ is in Y , it follows that
 $x \in Y$.

Case 2 If $\{x_n\}$ consists of infinitely many distinct
points, then the limit of the sequence is also the
limit point of the range of the sequence $\{x_n\}$ (by
Theorem 2.1.8). So, x is also a limit point of Y
since $\{x_n\} \subset Y$. But Y being closed,
 $x \in Y$. This completes the proof of the theorem.

2.3.6 Corollary

Let (X, d) be a metric space and (Y, d_Y) be a subspace of (X, d) . Then Y is complete if and only if Y is closed.

2.3.7 Theorem (Cantor's Intersection Theorem)

Let (X, d) be a complete metric space and let $\{F_n\}$ be a decreasing sequence of non-empty, closed subsets of X such that $d(F_n) \rightarrow 0$. Then, the intersection $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$ contains exactly one point.

Proof: Construct a sequence $\{x_n\}$ in X by selecting a point $x_n \in F_n$ for each n . Since the sets F_n are ~~closed~~ nested, $x_n \in F_m$, $\forall n \geq m$. We now prove that $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. Since $d(F_n) \rightarrow 0$, \exists a positive integer N such that

$$d(F_N) < \varepsilon$$

Note that $x_n, x_m \in F_N$ $\forall n, m \geq N$ and as

$$\text{such, we have } d(x_n, x_m) \leq d(F_N) < \varepsilon$$

$$\forall n, m \geq N$$

Thus $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. Since (X, d) is complete, $\exists x \in X$ such that $x_n \rightarrow x$

now, we claim that $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$. Let n be fixed.

Then the subsequence $\{x_{n_k}, \dots\}$ of $\{x_n\}$ is contained in F_n and still converges to x . But F_n being closed subspace of the complete metric space (X, d) , it is complete and so $x \in F_n$.

This is true for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$.

This verifies that $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$ is non-empty.

Finally, to establish that x is only point in the intersection $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$, let $y \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$. Then

x and y both are in F_n for each n .

So, $0 \leq d(x, y) \leq d(F_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$\Rightarrow d(x, y) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = y$$

This completes the proof of the theorem.

Remark: The assertion of Theorem 2.3.7 may not be true if either of the condition:

(a) each F_n is closed

(b) $d(F_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ is dropped

2.3.8 Example

Consider the usual metric space \mathbb{R} , which, of course is complete.

(a) Take $F_n = [n, \infty)$. Note $\{F_n\}$ is a sequence of non-empty closed sets such that $d(F_n) \not\rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and that $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n = \emptyset$

(b) Take $F_n = (0, \frac{1}{n}]$. Note that $\{F_n\}$ is a