Ergodic Ramsey Theory - SNSB Lecture

Laurenţiu Leuştean

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Part I

Topological Dynamics and Partition Ramsey Theory

Chapter 1

Topological Dynamical Systems

In the sequel, we shall use the following notations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}(D) &= \text{the power set of } D, \\ \mathbb{N} &= \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}, \quad \mathbb{Z}_+ = \{1, 2, \ldots\}, \\ [m, n] &= \{m, m+1, \ldots, n\} \quad for\ m \leq n \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.0.0.1. *A* **topological dynamical system** *(TDS for short) is a pair* (X, T)*, where* X *is a compact Hausdorff nonempty topological space and* $T : X \to X$ *is a continuous mapping. The TDS* (X, T) *is called* **invertible** *if* T *is a homeomorphism.*

An invertible TDS (X, T) defines two "one-sided" TDSs, namely the **forward system** (X, T) and the **backward system** (X, T^{-1}).

Topological dynamics is about what happens when the map T is applied repeatedly. If one takes a point $x \in X$, then we are primarily interested in the behaviour of $T^n x$ as n tends to infinity. Some basic questions one might ask are:

(i) Will two points that are close to each other initially, stay close even after a long time?

(ii) Will a point return to its original position (at least very near to it)?

(iii) Will a certain point x never leave a certain region or will it come arbitrarily close to any other given point ot X?

Let (X, T) be a TDS and $x \in X$. The **forward orbit** of x is given by

$$\text{orb}_+(x) = \{T^n x \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} = \{x, Tx, T^2 x, \ldots\}. \tag{1.1}$$

If (X, T) is invertible, the **(total) orbit** of x is

$$\text{orb}(x) = \{T^n x \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}. \tag{1.2}$$

We shall write

$$\overline{\mathrm{orb}_+}(x) = \overline{\{T^n x \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{\mathrm{orb}}(x) = \overline{\{T^n x \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}} \tag{1.3}$$

for the closure of the forward and the total orbit, respectively.

Furthermore, we shall use the notation

$$\mathrm{orb}_{>0}(x) = \{T^n x \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} = \mathrm{orb}_+(x) \setminus \{x\} = \mathrm{orb}_+(Tx) = \{Tx, T^2x, T^3x, \ldots\}. \tag{1.4}$$

It is obvious that many notions, like the forward orbit of a point x, do make sense in the more general setting of a continuous self-map of a topological space. However, we restrict ourselves to compact Hausdorff spaces and reserve the term TDS for this special situation.

Lemma 1.0.0.2. *Let (X, T) be a TDS and $U \subseteq X$.*

(i) $T(orb_+(x)) = orb_{>0}(x)$.

(ii) For all $x \in X$, $orb_+(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset$ iff $x \in \bigcup_{n \geq 0} T^{-n}(U)$.

(iii) If (X, T) is invertible, then for all $x \in X$, $orb(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset$ iff $x \in \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} T^n(U)$.

Proof. (i) $T(\mathrm{orb}_+(x)) = \{T^{n+1}(x) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} = \mathrm{orb}_{>0}(x)$.

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{orb}_+(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset \quad &\text{iff} \quad \text{there exists } n \geq 0 \text{ such that } T^n x \in U \\ &\text{iff} \quad \text{there exists } n \geq 0 \text{ such that } x \in T^{-n}(U) \\ &\text{iff} \quad x \in \textstyle\bigcup_{n \geq 0} T^{-n}(U). \end{aligned}$$

(iii)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{orb}(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset \quad &\text{iff} \quad \text{there exists } n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } T^n x \in U \\ &\text{iff} \quad \text{there exists } n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } x \in T^{-n}(U) \\ &\text{iff} \quad x \in \textstyle\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} T^{-n}(U) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} T^n(U). \end{aligned}$$

□

Definition 1.0.0.3. *Let (X, T) be a TDS. A point $x \in X$ is called* **periodic** *if there is $n \geq 1$ such that $T^n x = x$.*

Thus, x is periodic if and only if $x \in \mathrm{orb}_{>0}(x)$.

1.1 Examples

Let us give some examples of topological dynamical systems.

1.1.1 Finite state spaces

Let X be a finite set with the discrete metric. Then X is a compact metric space and every map $T : X \to X$ is continuous. The TDS (X, T) is invertible if and only if T is injective (or surjective).

1.1.2 Finite-dimensional linear nonexpansive mappings

Let $\|\cdot\|$ be a norm on $\mathbb{R}^n$ and let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be linear and nonexpansive with respect to the chosen norm, i.e.:

$$\|Tx - Ty\| \leq \|x - y\| \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n. \tag{1.5}$$

Lemma 1.1.2.1. *Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be linear. The following are equivalent*

(i) T is nonexpansive

(ii) $\|Tx\| \leq \|x\|$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proof. $(i) \Rightarrow (ii)$ Take $y = 0$ in (1.5) and use the fact that $T0 = 0$.
$(ii) \Rightarrow (i)$ Since T is linear, $\|Tx - Ty\| = \|T(x - y)\| \leq \|x - y\|$. □

Then the unit ball $K := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|x\| \leq 1\}$ is compact and $T|_K$ is a continuous self-map of K.
Hence, $(K, T|_K)$ is a TDS.

1.1.3 Translations on compact groups

Let G be a compact group.
For every $a \in G$, let

$$L_a : G \to G, \quad L_a(g) = a \cdot g.$$

be the left translation. By C.0.0.18, L_a is a homeomorphism for all $a \in G$.
Hence, (G, L_a) is an invertible TDS.

1.1.4 Rotations on the circle group

The unit circle $\mathbb{S}^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$ with the group operation being multiplication is an abelian compact group, called the **circle group**.

Since the group is abelian, left and right translations coincide, we call them **rotations** and denote them R_a for $a \in \mathbb{S}^1$.

Hence, $(\mathbb{S}^1, R_a)$ is an invertible TDS.

1.1.5 Rotations on the n-torus $\mathbb{T}^n$

The n-**dimensional torus**, often called the n-**torus for short** is the topological space

$$\mathbb{T}^n := \mathbb{S}^1 \times \ldots \times \mathbb{S}^1.$$

with the product topology. The 2-dimensional torus is simply called the **torus**.

If we define the multiplication on $\mathbb{T}^n$ pointwise, the n-torus $\mathbb{T}^n$ becomes another example of an abelian compact group. For any $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \ldots, a_n) \in \mathbb{T}^n$, the **rotation** by $\mathbf{a}$ is given by

$$R_{\mathbf{a}} : \mathbb{T}^n \to \mathbb{T}^n, \quad R_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x} = (a_1x_1, \ldots, a_nx_n) \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2 \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{T}^n. \tag{1.6}$$

Then $(\mathbb{T}^n, R_{\mathbf{a}})$ is a TDS.

1.1.6 The tent map

Let $[0,1]$ be the unit interval and define the **tent map** by

$$T : [0,1] \to [0,1], \quad T(x) = 1 - |2x - 1| = \begin{cases} 2x & \text{if } x < \frac{1}{2} \\ 2(1-x) & \text{if } x \geq \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases} \tag{1.7}$$

It is easy to see that T is well-defined and continuous. Since $[0,1]$ is a compact subset of $\mathbb{R}$, we get that (X, T) is a TDS.

1.2 The shift

Let W be a finite nonempty set of **symbols** which we will call the **alphabet**. **We assume** $|W| \geq 2$. Elements of W are also called **letters**, and they will typically be denoted by $a, b, c, \ldots$ or by digits $0, 1, 2, \ldots$.

Although in real life sequences of symbols are finite, it is often extremely useful to treat long sequences as infinite in both directions (or **bi-infinite**).

Definition 1.2.0.1. *The* **full** W**-shift** *is the set* $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ *of all bi-infinite sequences of symbols from* W*, i.e. sequences taking values in* W *indexed by* $\mathbb{Z}$*. The* **full** r**-shift** *(or simply* r**-shift***) is the full shift over the alphabet* $\{0, 1, \ldots, r-1\}$.

We shall denote with boldface letters $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}, \ldots$ the elements of $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and call them also **points** of $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$. Points from the full 2-shift are also called **binary sequences**. If W has size $|W| = r$, then there is a natural correspondence between the full W-shift and the full r-shift, and sometimes the distinction between them is blurred. For example, it can be convenient to refer to the full shift on $\{+1, -1\}$ as the full 2-shift.

Bi-infinite sequences are denoted by $\mathbf{x} = (x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$, or by

$$\mathbf{x} = \ldots x_{-2}x_{-1}x_0x_1x_2 \ldots. \tag{1.8}$$

The symbol x_i is the ith **coordinate** of $\mathbf{x}$. When writing a specific sequence, you need to specify which is the 0th coordinate. This is conveniently done with a "decimal point" to separate the x_i's with $i \geq 0$ from those with $i < 0$. For example,

$$\mathbf{x} = \dots 010.1101 \dots$$

means that $x_{-3} = 0, x_{-2} = 1, x_{-1} = 0, x_0 = 1, x_1 = 1, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1$, and so on.

A **block** or **word** over W is a finite sequence of symbols from W. We will write blocks without separating their symbols by commas or other punctuation, so that a typical block over $W = \{a, b\}$ looks like *aababbabbb*. It is convenient to include the sequence of **no** symbols, called the **empty block** (or **empty word**) and denoted by ε.

The **length** of a block u is the number of symbols it contains, and is denoted by $|u|$. Thus if $u = a_1 a_2 \dots a_k$ is a nonempty block, then $|u| = k$, while $|\varepsilon| = 0$. A k**-block** is simply a block of length k. The set of all k-blocks over W is denoted W^k. A **subblock** or **subword** of $u = a_1 a_2 \dots a_k$ is a block of the form $a_i a_{i+1} \dots a_j$, where $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k$. By convenience, the empty block ε is a subblock of every block. Denote

$$W^+ = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} W^n, \quad W^* = W^+ \cup \{\varepsilon\} = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} W^n. \tag{1.9}$$

If $u = a_1 \dots a_n$, $v = b_1 \dots b_m \in A^\star$, define uv to be $a_1 \dots a_n b_1 \dots b_m$ (an element of W^{m+n}). By convention, $\varepsilon u = u \varepsilon = u$ for all blocks u. This gives a binary operation on $W^\star$ called **concatenation** or **juxtaposition**. If $u, v \in W^+$ then $uv \in W^+$ too. Note that uv is in general not the same as vu, although they have the same length. If $n \geq 1$, then u^n denotes the concatenation of n copies of u, and we put $u^0 = \varepsilon$. The law of exponents $u^m u^n = u^{m+n}$ then holds for all integers $m, n \geq 0$. The point $\dots uuu.uuu \dots$ is denoted by u^∞.

If $\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and $i \leq j$, then we will denote the block of coordinates in $\mathbf{x}$ from position i to position j by

$$\mathbf{x}_{[i,j]} = x_i x_{i+1} \dots x_{j-1} x_j. \tag{1.10}$$

If $i > j$, define $\mathbf{x}_{[i,j]}$ to be ε. It is also convenient to define

$$\mathbf{x}_{[i,j)} = x_i x_{i+1} \dots x_{j-1}. \tag{1.11}$$

The **central** $(2k+1)$**-block** of $\mathbf{x}$ is $\mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = x_{-k} x_{-k+1} \dots x_{k-1} x_k$.

If $\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and u is a block over W, we will say that u **occurs in** $\mathbf{x}$ (or that $\mathbf{x}$ **contains** u) if there are indices i and j so that $u = \mathbf{x}_{[i,j]}$. Note that the empty block ε occurs in every $\mathbf{x}$, since $\varepsilon = \mathbf{x}_{[1,0]}$.

The index n in a point $\mathbf{x} = (x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ can be thought of as indicating time, so that, for example, the time-0 coordinate of $\mathbf{x}$ is x_0. The passage of time corresponds to shifting the sequence one place to the left, and this gives a map or transformation from $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ to itself.

Definition 1.2.0.2. *The* **(left) shift map** T *on* $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ *is defined by*

$$T : W^{\mathbb{Z}} \to W^{\mathbb{Z}}, \quad (T\mathbf{x})_n = x_{n+1} \textit{ for all } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{1.12}$$

In the sequel, we shall give a metric on $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$. The metric should capture the idea that points are close when large central blocks of their coordinates agree.

If $\mathbf{x} = (x_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}, \mathbf{y} = (y_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ are two sequences in $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ such that $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y}$, then there exists $N \geq 0$ such that $x_N \neq y_N$ or $x_{-N} \neq y_{-N}$, so the set $\{n \geq 0 \mid x_n \neq y_n \text{ or } x_{-n} \neq y_{-n}\}$ is nonempty. Then $N(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \min\{n \geq 0 \mid x_n \neq y_n \text{ or } x_{-n} \neq y_{-n}\}$ is well-defined. Thus,

$$N(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 0 \quad \text{if } x_0 \neq y_0, \text{ and} \tag{1.13}$$

$$N(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 1 + \max\{k \geq 0 \mid \mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{y}_{[-k,k]}\} \quad \text{if } x_0 = y_0. \tag{1.14}$$

Let us define $d : W^{\mathbb{Z}} \times W^{\mathbb{Z}} \to [0, +\infty)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= \begin{cases} 2^{-N(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})+1} & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y} \\ 0 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y} \end{cases} \qquad (1.15) \\ &= \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y} \text{ and } x_0 \neq y_0 \\ 2^{-k} & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y},\ x_0 = y_0 \text{ and } k \geq 0 \text{ is maximal with } \mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{y}_{[-k,k]} \\ 0 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

In other words, to measure the distance between $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{y}$, we find the largest k for which the central $(2k+1)$-blocks of $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ agree, and use 2^{-k} as the distance (with the conventions that if $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$ then $k = \infty$ and $2^{-\infty} = 0$, while if $x_0 \neq y_0$, then $k = -1$).

For every $k \geq 0$ and $\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$, let $B_{2^{-k}}(\mathbf{x})$ be the open ball with center $\mathbf{x}$ and radius 2^{-k} and $\overline{B}_{2^{-k}}(\mathbf{x})$ be the closed ball with center $\mathbf{x}$ and radius 2^{-k}.

Proposition 1.2.0.3. *(i) If $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$, then for all $k \geq 0$,*

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 2^{-k} \textit{ iff } d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) < 2^{-k+1} \textit{ iff } \mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{y}_{[-k,k]}.$$

(ii) d is a metric on $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$.

(iii) For all $\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$, $\overline{B}_2(\mathbf{x}) = W^{\mathbb{Z}}$, and, for all $k \geq 0$,

$$B_{2^{-k+1}}(\mathbf{x}) = \overline{B}_{2^{-k}}(\mathbf{x}) = \{\mathbf{y} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]}\}.$$

(iv) Let $(\mathbf{x}^{(n)})$ be a sequence in $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and $\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$. Then $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbf{x}^{(n)} = \mathbf{x}$ exactly when, for each $k \geq 0$, there is n_k such that

$$\mathbf{x}^{(n)}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]}$$

for all $n \geq n_k$.

Proof. (i) If $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$ or $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y}$ and $x_0 \neq y_0$, the conclusion is trivial. We can assume that $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y}$ and $x_0 = y_0$. Then $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 2^{-k}$ iff $2^{-N(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})+1} \leq 2^{-k}$ iff $-N(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) + 1 \leq -k$ iff $k \leq N(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - 1$ iff $\mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{y}_{[-k,k]}$, by (1.14)

(ii) It remains to verify the triangle inequality. Let $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}$ be pairwise distinct points of $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$. If $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 2$ or $d(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = 2$, this is obvious, so we can assume that $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 2^{-k}$ and $d(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = 2^{-l}$ with $k, l \geq 0$. By (i), we get that $\mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{y}_{[-k,k]}$ and $\mathbf{y}_{[-l,l]} = \mathbf{z}_{[-l,l]}$. If we put $m := \min\{k, l\} \geq 0$, it follows that $\mathbf{x}_{[-m,m]} = \mathbf{z}_{[-m,m]}$, hence

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \leq 2^{-m} \leq 2^{-k} + 2^{-l} = d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) + d(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}).$$

(iii) By (i).

(iv) We have that

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbf{x}^{(n)} = \mathbf{x} \quad &\text{iff} \quad \text{for all } k \geq 0 \text{ there exists } n_k \text{ such that } d(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}) \leq 2^{-k} \text{ for all } n \geq n_k \\ &\text{iff} \quad \text{for all } k \geq 0 \text{ there exists } n_k \text{ such that } \mathbf{x}^{(n)}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} \text{ for all } n \geq n_k.\end{aligned}$$

□

Thus, a sequence of points in a full shift converges exactly when, for each $k \geq 0$, the central $(2k+1)$-blocks stabilize starting at some element of the sequence. For example, if

$$\mathbf{x}^{(n)} = (10^n)^\infty = \ldots 10^n 10^n.10^n 10^n \ldots,$$

then $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbf{x}^{(n)} = \ldots 0000.10000 \ldots$.

Proposition 1.2.0.4. *(i) T is invertible, its inverse being the right shift*

$$T^{-1} : W^{\mathbb{Z}} \to W^{\mathbb{Z}}, \quad (T^{-1}\mathbf{x})_n = x_{n-1} \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{1.16}$$

(ii) For all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$,

$$d(T\mathbf{x}, T\mathbf{y}) \leq 2d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \text{ and } d(T^{-1}\mathbf{x}, T^{-1}\mathbf{y}) \leq 2d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}).$$

Hence, both T and T^{-1} are Lipschitz continuous.

Proof. (i) It is easy to see.

(ii) The cases $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 0$ and $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 2$ are obvious, so we can assume $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 2^{-k}$ with $k \geq 0$, so that $\mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{y}_{[-k,k]}$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}(T\mathbf{x})_i = \mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{y}_{i+1} = (T\mathbf{y})_i \quad &\text{for all } i = -(k+1), -k, -(k-1), \ldots, k-1, \text{and} \\ (T^{-1}\mathbf{x})_i = \mathbf{x}_{i-1} = \mathbf{y}_{i-1} = (T^{-1}\mathbf{y})_i \quad &\text{for all } i = -(k-1), \ldots, k-1, k, k+1,\end{aligned}$$

so that $(T\mathbf{x})_{[-(k-1),k-1]} = (T\mathbf{y})_{[-(k-1),k-1]}$ and $(T^{-1}\mathbf{x})_{[-(k-1),k-1]} = (T^{-1}\mathbf{y})_{[-(k-1),k-1]}$. By Proposition 1.2.0.3.(i), we get that

$$d(T\mathbf{x}, T\mathbf{y}), d(T^{-1}\mathbf{x}, T^{-1}\mathbf{y}) \leq 2^{-(k-1)} = 2d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}).$$

□

Theorem 1.2.0.5. *$(W^{\mathbb{Z}}, T)$ is an invertible TDS.*

Proof. By Proposition 1.2.0.4, T is a homeomorphism. Furthermore, $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is Hasudorff, since it is a metric space. It remains to prove that $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is compact. We shall actually show that $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is sequentially compact. Given a sequence $(\mathbf{x}^{(n)})_{n\geq 1}$ in $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$, we construct a convergent subsequence using Cantor diagonalization as follows.

First consider the 0th coordinates $\mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}$ for $n \geq 1$. Since there are only finitely many symbols, there is an infinite set $S_0 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_+$ for which $\mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}$ is the same for all $n \in S_0$.

Next, the central 3-blocks $\mathbf{x}_{[-1,1]}^{(n)}$ for $n \in S_0$ all belong to the finite set of possible 3-blocks, so there is an infinite subset $S_1 \subseteq S_0$ so that $\mathbf{x}_{[-1,1]}^{(n)}$ is the same for all $n \in S_1$. Continuing this way, we find for each $k \geq 1$ an infinite set $S_k \subseteq S_{k-1}$ so that all blocks $\mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]}^{(n)}$ are equal for $n \in S_k$.

Define $\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ as follows: for any $k \geq 0$, take $n \in S_k$ arbitrary and define $x_k = x_k^{(n)}$, $x_{-k} = x_{-k}^{(n)}$. By our construction, $x_k^{(n)}$, resp. $x_{-k}^{(n)}$, have the same values for all $n \in S_k$, so $\mathbf{x}$ is well-defined. Furthermore, since $(S_k)_{k\geq 0}$ is decreasing, we have that $\mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]} = \mathbf{x}_{[-k,k]}^{(n)}$ for all $n \in S_k$.

Define inductively a strictly increasing sequence of natural numbers $(n_k)_{k\geq 0}$ by: n_0 is any element in S_0, and, for $k \geq 0$, n_{k+1} is the smallest element in S_{k+1} strictly greater than n_k.

Then $(\mathbf{x}^{(n_k)})_{k\geq 0}$ is a subsequence of $\mathbf{x}^{(n)}$ such that $\lim\limits_{k\to\infty} \mathbf{x}^{(n_k)} = \mathbf{x}$, by Proposition 1.2.0.3.(iv). □

1.2.1 Cylinder sets and product topology

For every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, let

$$\pi_n : W^{\mathbb{Z}} \to W, \quad \pi_n(\mathbf{x}) = x_n. \tag{1.17}$$

be the nth-projection.

An **elementary cylinder** is a set of the form

$$C_n^w = \pi_n^{-1}(\{w\}) = \{\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid x_n = w\}, \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z},\, w \in W.$$

A **cylinder** in $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is a set of the form

$$\begin{aligned} C_{n_1,\ldots,n_t}^{w_1,\ldots,w_t} &= \{\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid x_{n_i} = w_i \text{ for all } i = 1, \ldots, t\} \\ &= \bigcap_{i=1}^{t} C_{n_i}^{w_i} \end{aligned}$$

where $t \geq 1$, $n_1, \ldots, n_t \in \mathbb{Z}$ are pairwise distinct and $w_1, \ldots, w_t \in W$. A particular case of cylinder is the following: if u is a block over X and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, define $C_n(u)$ as the set of points in which the block u occurs starting at position n. Thus,

$$C_n(u) = \{\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid \mathbf{x}_{[n,n+|u|-1]} = u\} = C_{n,n+1,\ldots,n+|u|-1}^{u_1,u_2,\ldots,u_{|u|}}.$$

Notation 1.2.1.1. *We shall use the notations $\mathcal{C}$ for the set of all cylinders and $\mathcal{C}_e$ for the set of elementary cylinders.*

The following lemma collects some obvious properties of cylinders.

Lemma 1.2.1.2. *(i) For all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $W^{\mathbb{Z}} = \bigcup_{w \in W} C_n^w$.*

(ii) For all $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $u, w \in W$,

$$C_n^w \cap C_m^u = \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } m = n \text{ and } w \neq u, \\ C_n^w & \text{if } m = n \text{ and } w = u, \\ C_{n,m}^{w,u} & \text{if } m \neq n. \end{cases}$$

$$W^{\mathbb{Z}} \setminus C_n^w = \bigcup_{z \in W,\, z \neq w} C_n^z, \qquad C_n^w \setminus C_m^u = \bigcup_{z \in W,\, z \neq u} C_n^w \cap C_m^z.$$

(iii) For all $k \geq 0$ and $\mathbf{x} \in W^{\mathbb{Z}}$,

$$B_{2^{-k}}(\mathbf{x}) = C_{-k-1}(\mathbf{x}_{[-k-1,k+1]}).$$

(iv) For all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $w \in W$,

$$T(C_n^w) = C_{n-1}^w \text{ and } T^{-1}(C_n^w) = C_{n+1}^w.$$

Let us consider the discrete metric on W:

$$d(x, y) \quad = \quad \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = y, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since W is finite, we have that (W, d) is a compact metric space. Furthermore, a subbasis for the metric topology is given by

$$\mathcal{S}_W := \{\{w\} \mid w \in W\}. \tag{1.18}$$

Let us consider the product topology on $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$.

Proposition 1.2.1.3. *(i) The set $\mathcal{C}_e$ of elementary cylinders is a subbasis for the product topology on $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$.*

(ii) The set $\mathcal{C}$ of cylinders is a basis for the product topology on $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$.

(iii) Cylinders are clopen sets in the product topology.

Proof. (i) By the fact that $\mathcal{S}_W$ is a subbasis on W and apply B.7.0.16.(ii).

(ii) Any cylinder is a finite intersection of elementary cylinders.

(iii) Since $C_n^w = \pi_n^{-1}(\{w\})$ and $\{w\}$ is closed in W, we have that elementary cylinders are closed. As cylinders are finite intersections of elementary cylinders, they are closed too.

□

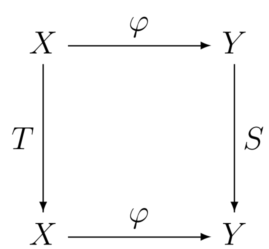
Proposition 1.2.1.4. *The metric d given by (1.15) induces the product topology on $W^{\mathbb{Z}}$.*

Proof. By Lemma 1.2.1.2.(iii), any ball $B_{2^{-k}}(\mathbf{x})$ $(k \geq 0)$ is a cylinder, hence is open in the product topology. Let us prove now that every elementary cylinder C_n^w $(n \in \mathbb{Z}, w \in W)$ is open in the metric topology. Let $\mathbf{y} \in C_n^w$ and take $k \geq 0$ such that $k \geq |n| - 1$, so $n \in [-k-1, k+1]$. Then $B_{2^{-k}}(\mathbf{y}) \subseteq C_n^w$, since $\mathbf{z} \in B_{2^{-k}}(\mathbf{y}) = C_{-k-1}(\mathbf{y}_{[-k-1,k+1]})$, implies that $z_n = y_n = w$. □

1.3 Basic constructions

1.3.1 Homomorphisms, factors, extensions

Definition 1.3.1.1. *Let (X,T) and (Y,S) be two TDSs. A* **homomorphism** *from (X,T) to (Y,S) is a continuous map $\varphi : X \to Y$ such that the following diagram commutes:*



which means $\varphi \circ T = S \circ \varphi$. We use the notation $\varphi : (X,T) \to (Y,S)$.

A homomorphism $\varphi : (X,T) \to (Y,S)$ is an **isomorphism** *if $\varphi : X \to Y$ is a homeomorphism; in this case the TDSs are called* **isomorphic**.

If $\varphi : (X,T) \to (Y,S)$ is a homomorphism (resp. isomorphism), it is easy to see by induction on n that $\varphi \circ T^n = S^n \circ \varphi$ for all $n \geq 1$ (resp. for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$).

An **automorphism** of a TDS (X,T) is a self-isomorphism $\varphi : (X,T) \to (X,T)$. Hence, $\varphi : (X,T) \to (X,T)$ is an automorphism of (X,T) if and only if $\varphi : X \to X$ is a homeomorphism that commutes with T.

Definition 1.3.1.2. *Let (X,T) and (Y,S) be two TDSs. We say that (Y,S) is a* **factor** *of (X,T) or that (X,T) is an* **extension** *of (Y,S) if there exists a surjective homomorphism $\varphi : (X,T) \to (Y,S)$.*

1.3.2 Invariant and strongly invariant sets

In the following, (X,T) is a TDS.

Definition 1.3.2.1. *A nonempty subset $A \subseteq X$ is called*

(i) **invariant under** T *or* T**-invariant** *if* $T(A) \subseteq A$.

(ii) **strongly invariant under** T *or* **strongly** T**-invariant** *if* $T^{-1}(A) = A$.

Trivial strongly T-invariant subsets of X are $\emptyset$ and X.

Lemma 1.3.2.2. *Let (X, T) be a TDS.*

(i) Any strongly T-invariant set is also T-invariant.

(ii) The complement of a strongly T-invariant set is strongly T-invariant.

(iii) The closure of a T-invariant set is also T-invariant.

(iv) The union of any family of (strongly) T-invariant sets is (strongly) T-invariant.

(v) The intersection of any family of (strongly) T-invariant sets is (strongly) T-invariant.

(vi) If A is T-invariant, then $T^n(A) \subseteq A$ and $T^n(A)$ is T-invariant for all $n \geq 0$.

(vii) If A is strongly T-invariant, then $T^n(A) \subseteq A$ and $T^{-n}(A) = A$ for all $n \geq 0$; in particular, $T^{-n}(A)$ is strongly T-invariant for all $n \geq 0$.

(viii) For any $x \in X$, the forward orbit $orb_+(x)$ of x is the smallest T-invariant set containing x and $\overline{orb_+(x)}$ is the smallest T-invariant closed set containing x.

Proof. (i) By A.0.6.5.(v).

(ii) If $T^{-1}(A) = A$, then $T^{-1}(X \setminus A) = X \setminus T^{-1}(A) = X \setminus A$.

(iii) If $T(A) \subseteq A$, then $T(\overline{A}) \subseteq \overline{T(A)} \subseteq \overline{A}$, by B.4.0.25.

(iv) Let $(A_i)_{i \in I}$ be a family of subsets of X. If $T(A_i) \subseteq A_i$ for all $i \in I$, then

$$T\Big(\bigcup_{i\in I} A_i\Big) = \bigcup_{i\in I} T(A_i) \subseteq \bigcup_{i\in I} A_i.$$

If $T^{-1}(A_i) = A_i$ for all $i \in I$, then

$$T^{-1}\Big(\bigcup_{i\in I} A_i\Big) = \bigcup_{i\in I} T^{-1}(A_i) = \bigcup_{i\in I} A_i.$$

(v) Let $(A_i)_{i \in I}$ be a family of subsets of X. If $T(A_i) \subseteq A_i$ for all $i \in I$, then

$$T\Big(\bigcap_{i\in I} A_i\Big) \subseteq \bigcap_{i\in I} T(A_i) \subseteq \bigcap_{i\in I} A_i.$$

If $T^{-1}(A_i) = A_i$ for all $i \in I$, then

$$T^{-1}\Big(\bigcap_{i\in I} A_i\Big) = \bigcap_{i\in I} T^{-1}(A_i) = \bigcap_{i\in I} A_i.$$

(vi) By A.0.6.5.(i).

(vii) By (i), A is T-invariant, hence we can apply (vi) to conclude that $T^n(A) \subseteq A$ for all $n \geq 0$. Apply A.0.6.5.(vi) to obtain that $T^{-n}(A) = A$ for all $n \geq 0$.

(viii) By Lemma 1.0.0.2, We have that $T(\mathrm{orb}_+(x)) = \mathrm{orb}_{>0}(x) \subseteq \mathrm{orb}_+(x)$, hence $\mathrm{orb}_+(x)$ is T-invariant . If B is a T-invariant set containing x, then $Tx \in T(B) \subseteq B$ and, by induction, $T^n x \in B$ for all $n \geq 1$. Thus, $\mathrm{orb}_+(x) \subseteq B$.

By (iii), $\overline{\mathrm{orb}_+}(x)$ is also T-invariant. Furthermore, if B is a closed T-invariant set containing x, then $\mathrm{orb}_+(x) \subseteq B$ and, since B is closed, $\overline{\mathrm{orb}_+}(x) \subseteq B$.

□

Lemma 1.3.2.3. *Let (X, T) be an invertible TDS.*

(i) $A \subseteq X$ is strongly T-invariant if and only if $T(A) = A$ if and only if A is strongly T^{-1}-invariant.

(ii) The closure of a strongly T-invariant set is also strongly T-invariant .

(iii) If $A \subseteq X$ is strongly T-invariant , then $T^n(A) = A$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$; in particular, $T^n(A)$ is strongly T-invariant for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

(iv) For any $x \in X$, the orbit $\mathrm{orb}(x)$ of x is the smallest strongly T-invariant set containing x and $\overline{\mathrm{orb}}(x)$ is the smallest strongly T-invariant closed set containing x.

(v) For any nonempty open set U of X, $\bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^n(U)$ is a nonempty open strongly T-invariant set, and $X \setminus \bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^n(U)$ is a proper closed strongly T-invariant subset of X.

Proof. (i) Using the fact that T is a homeomorphism, we get that $A \subseteq X$ is strongly T-invariant if and only if $T^{-1}(A) = A$ if and only if $T(T^{-1}(A)) = T(A)$ if and only if $A = T(A)$.

(ii) Let A be strongly T-invariant. By (i) and B.4.1.3, we get that $T(\overline{A}) = \overline{T(A)} = \overline{A}$.

(iii) Apply (i) and A.0.6.6.(ii).

(iv)

$$T(\mathrm{orb}(x)) = T\left(\bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^n x\right) = \bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^{n+1}x = \mathrm{orb}(x),$$

so $\mathrm{orb}(x)$ is strongly T-invariant. If B is a strongly T-invariant set containing x, then for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $T^n x \in T^n(B) = B$, by(iii). Thus, $\mathrm{orb}(x) \subseteq B$.

By (ii), $\overline{\mathrm{orb}}(x)$ is also strongly T-invariant. Furthermore, if B is a closed strongly T-invariant set containing x, then $\mathrm{orb}(x) \subseteq B$ and, since B is closed, $\overline{\mathrm{orb}}(x) \subseteq B$.

(v) Let $A := \bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^n(U)$. Then A is open, since T^n is an open mapping for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, and A is nonempty, since $\emptyset \neq U = T^0(U) \subseteq A$. Furthermore,

$$T(A) = T\left(\bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^n(U)\right) = \bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^{n+1}(U) = A.$$

Finally, $X \setminus A$ is proper, closed and strongly T-invariant, as a complement of an open strongly T-invariant set).

□

1.3.3 Subsystems

Let (X,T) be a TDS, $A \subseteq X$ be a nonempty closed T-invariant set and

$$j_A : A \to X, \quad j_A(x) = x$$

be the inclusion.

Notation 1.3.3.1. *We shall use the notation T_A for the mapping obtained from T by restricting both the domain and the codomain to A.*

$$T_A : A \to A, \quad T_A x = Tx \quad \text{for all } x \in A. \tag{1.19}$$

Obviously, T_A is continuous.

Then A is compact Hausdorff and $T_A : A \to A$ is continuous, hence (A, T_A) is a TDS.

Definition 1.3.3.2. *A* **subsystem** *of the TDS (X,T) is any TDS of the form (A, T_A), where A is a nonempty closed T-invariant set.*

For simplicity, we shall say that A **is a subsystem of** (X,T). Obviously, X is a trivial subsystem of itself. A **proper** subsystem is one different from (X,T).

Lemma 1.3.3.3. *Let (X,T) be a TDS.*

(i) For any subsystem A of (X,T), $j_A : (A,T_A) \to (X,T)$ is an injective homomorphism.

(ii) Any subsystem of a subsystem of (X,T) is also a subsystem of (X,T).

(iii) For any $x \in X$, $\overline{orb_+}(x)$ is a subsystem of (X,T).

(iv) If (X,T) is invertible, and $A \subseteq X$ is a nonempty closed strongly T-invariant set, then the subsystem (A,T_A) is invertible.

(v) If (X,T) is invertible, then $\overline{orb}(x)$ is an invertible subsystem of (X,T).

Proof. (i),(ii),(iv) are easy to see.
(iii),(v) follow by Lemma 1.3.2.2.(viii) and Lemma 1.3.2.3.(iv). □

The next proposition shows that every TDS contains a surjective subsystem.

Proposition 1.3.3.4. *Let A be a subsystem of a TDS (X,T). Then there exists a nonempty closed set $B \subseteq A$ such that $T(B) = B$.*

Proof. Using the fact that X is compact Hausdorff, A is closed (hence compact) and T^n is continuous, we get that $T^n(A)$ is compact (hence closed) in X for all $n \geq 0$. Furthermore, by A.0.6.5.(i), $(T^n(A))_{n\geq 0}$ is a decreasing sequence. Applying B.10.0.14, it follows that

$$B := \bigcap_{n\geq 0} T^n(A)$$

is nonempty. Furthermore, $B \subseteq A$ and B is closed, as intersection of closed sets.

Claim $T(B) = B$.

Proof of Claim " $\subseteq$ " B is T-invariant as the intersection of a family of T-invariant sets, by Lemma 1.3.2.2.(vi),(v.

" $\supseteq$ " Let $x \in B$ and set $B_{n+1} := T^{-1}(\{x\}) \cap T^n(A)$ for all $n \geq 0$. Since $\{x\}$ is closed in the compact Hausdorff space X and T is continuous, we get that $T^{-1}(\{x\})$ is also closed, hence, B_{n+1} is closed. Furthermore, $(B_{n+1})_{n\geq 0}$ is a decreasing sequence.

Let us prove that B_{n+1} is nonempty for all $n \geq 0$. Since $x \in B$, we get that $x \in T^{n+1}(A)$, so $x = Ty$ for some $y \in T^n(A)$. Thus, $y \in B_{n+1}$.

We can apply again B.10.0.14 to conclude that

$$\emptyset \neq \bigcap_{n\geq 0} B_{n+1} = T^{-1}(\{x\}) \cap \bigcap_{n\geq 0} T^n(A) = T^{-1}(\{x\}) \cap B.$$

Thus, there exists $y \in B$ such that $Ty = x$, i.e. $x \in T(B)$.

□

Applying the above proposition for $A := X$, we get the following useful results.

Corollary 1.3.3.5. *If (X,T) is a TDS, then there exists a nonempty closed set $B \subseteq X$ such that $T(B) = B$.*

Corollary 1.3.3.6. *In an invertible TDS (X,T), any nonempty closed T-invariant subset contains a nonempty closed strongly T-invariant set.*

Proof. Apply Proposition 1.3.3.4 and Proposition 1.3.2.3.(i). □

1.3.4 Products

Let $(X_1,T_1),\ldots,(X_n,T_n)$ be TDSs, where $n \geq 2$. The **product** TDS is defined by:

$$X := \prod_{i=1}^{n} X_i = X_1 \times \ldots \times X_n$$

$$T := \prod_{i=1}^{n} T_i = T_1 \times \ldots \times T_n : X \to X, \quad \text{that is} \quad T(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = (T_1x_1,\ldots,T_nx_n).$$

For any $i = 1, \ldots, n$, let us consider the natural projections

$$\pi_i : \prod_{i=1}^{n} X_i \to X_i, \quad \pi_i(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = x_i.$$

Proposition 1.3.4.1. *(i) (X, T) is a TDS.*

(ii) (X_i, T_i) is a factor of (X, T) for all $i = 1, \ldots, n$.

(iii) (X, T) is invertible whenever (X_i, T_i) $(i = 1, \ldots, n)$ are invertible TDSs.

Proof. (i) X is compact Hausdorff as a product of compact Hausdorff spaces. Furthermore, T is continuos as a product of continuous functions, by B.7.0.18.

(ii) It is easy to see that $\pi_i : (X, T) \to (X_i, T_i)$ is a surjective homomorphism: π_i is surjective, continuous, and for all $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \in X$, we have that

$$(\pi_i \circ T)(x) = \pi_i(Tx) = T_i x_i \quad \text{and} \quad (T_i \circ \pi_i)(x) = T_i x_i.$$

(iii) T is a homeomorphism as a product of homeomorphisms, by B.7.0.18.

□

Example 1.3.4.2. The TDS $(\mathbb{T}^n, R_a)$ (see Example 1.1.5) is the n-fold product of the TDSs $(\mathbb{S}^1, R_{a_i})$, $i = 1, \ldots, n$ (see Example 1.1.4).

1.3.5 Disjoint unions

Let (X_1, T_1) and (X_2, T_2) be TDSs and consider the disjoint union $X := X_1 \sqcup X_2$ of the topological spaces X_1, X_2.

Let us define

$$T : X \to X, \quad Tx = \begin{cases} T_1 x & \text{if } x \in X_1, \\ T_2 x & \text{if } x \in X_2. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 1.3.5.1. *(X, T) is a TDS, called the* **disjoint union** *of the TDSs (X_1, T_1) and (X_2, T_2).*

Proof. Apply B.6.0.14 and B.10.0.15.(vdisj-union-compact). □

Lemma 1.3.5.2. *Let (X, T) be a disjoint union of (X_1, T_1) and (X_2, T_2).*

(i) both (X_1, T_1) and (X_2, T_2) are subsystems of (X, T).

(ii) If (X_1, T_1) and (X_2, T_2) are both invertible, then (X, T) is invertible too.

Proof. (i) X_1 is nonempty closed and T-invariant, since $T(X_1) = T_1(X_1) \subseteq X_1$. Furthermore, $T_1 = T_{X_1}$. Similarly for X_2.

(ii) The inverse $T^{-1} : X \to X$ of T is given by

$$T^{-1}x = \begin{cases} T_1^{-1}x & \text{if } x \in X_1, \\ T_2^{-1}x & \text{if } x \in X_2. \end{cases}$$

and is continuous, by B.6.0.14.(ii).

□

1.4 Transitivity

Definition 1.4.0.3. *Let (X, T) be a TDS. A point $x \in X$ is called* **forward transitive** *if its forward orbit $orb_+(x)$ is dense in X. If there is at least one forward transitive point, the TDS is called* **(topologically) forward transitive***.*

The property of a TDS being forward transitive expresses the fact that if we start at the point x we can reach, at least approximately, any other point in X after some time.

Definition 1.4.0.4. *Let (X, T) be an invertible TDS. A point $x \in X$ is called* **transitive** *if its orbit $orb(x)$ is dense in X. The TDS is called* **(topologically) transitive** *if there is at least one transitive point.*

The following is obvious.

Lemma 1.4.0.5. *Let (X, T) be a TDS.*

(i) For every $x \in X$, $(\overline{orb_+}(x), T_{\overline{orb_+}(x)})$ is a forward transitive subsystem of (X, T).

(ii) If (X, T) is invertible, then $(\overline{orb}(x), T_{\overline{orb}(x)})$ is a transitive subsystem of (X, T) for all $x \in X$.

Lemma 1.4.0.6. *Let (X, T) be a TDS and $x \in X$.*

(i) x is a forward transitive point if and only if $x \in \bigcup_{n\geq 0} T^{-n}(U)$ for every nonempty open subset U of X.

(ii) Assume that (X, T) is invertible. Then x is a transitive point if and only if $x \in \bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^{n}(U)$ for every nonempty open subset U of X.

Proof. (i) Applying B.1.0.16.(ii) and Lemma 1.0.0.2.(ii), we get that x is forward transitive if and only if $\text{orb}_+(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset$ for any nonempty open set U iff $x \in \bigcup_{n\geq 0} T^{-n}(U)$ for any nonempty open set U.

(ii) Similarly, using Lemma 1.0.0.2.(iii).

□

Lemma 1.4.0.7. *Let (X, T) be a TDS with X metrizable and $(U_n)_{n\geq 1}$ be a countable basis of X (which exists, by B.10.0.19).*

(i) $\{x \in X \mid \overline{orb_+}(x) = X\} = \bigcap_{n\geq 1} \bigcup_{k\geq 0} T^{-k}(U_n)$.

(ii) If (X,T) is invertible, then $\{x \in X \mid \overline{orb}(x) = X\} = \bigcap_{n\geq 1} \bigcup_{k\in\mathbb{Z}} T^{k}(U_n)$.

Proof. As the proof of the above lemma, using B.1.0.16.(iii). □

Theorem 1.4.0.8. *Let (X,T) be an invertible TDS and assume that X is metrizable. The following are equivalent:*

(i) *(X,T) is transitive.*

(ii) *If U is a nonempty open subset of X such that $T(U) = U$, then U is dense in X.*

(iii) *If $E \neq X$ is a proper closed subset of X such that $T(E) = E$, then E is nowhere dense in X.*

(iv) *for any nonempty open subset U of X, $\bigcup_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} T^n(U)$ is dense in X.*

(v) *for any nonempty open subsets U,V of X, there exists $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $T^n(U)\cap V \neq \emptyset$.*

(vi) *The set of transitive points is residual.*

Proof. $(i) \Rightarrow (ii)$ Let x be a transitive point, so that $\mathrm{orb}(x)$ is dense. Let U be a nonempty open set satisfying $T(U) = U$. Since $\mathrm{orb}(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset$, we have that $T^k x \in U$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. It follows that for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $T^n x = T^{n-k}(T^k x) \in T^{n-k}(U) = U$, by A.0.6.5.(vi). Hence, $\mathrm{orb}(x) \subseteq U$ and, since $\overline{\mathrm{orb}}(x) = X$, we must have $\overline{U} = X$.
$(ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii)$ By B.1.0.16.(iv).
$(iv) \Leftrightarrow (v)$ follows immediately from B.1.0.16.
$(ii) \Rightarrow (iv)$ Apply Proposition 1.3.2.3.(v).
$(iv) \Rightarrow (vi)$ Let $(U_n)_{n\geq 1}$ be a countable basis of X. By Lemma 1.4.0.7, the set of transitive points is $\bigcap_{n\geq 1} \bigcup_{k\in\mathbb{Z}} T^k(U_n)$, which is an intersection of countably many open dense sets, by (iv). Hence, the set of transitive points is residual, by B.11.0.6.
$(vi) \Rightarrow (i)$ Since X is compact Hausdorff, we get that X is a Baire space, by Baire Category Theorem B.11.0.10. Apply now B.11.0.9 to conclude that there exist transitive points. □

1.5 Minimality

Definition 1.5.0.9. *A TDS (X,T) is called* **minimal** *if there are no non-trivial closed T-invariant sets in X.*

This means that if $A \subseteq X$ is closed and $T(A) \subseteq A$, then $A = \emptyset$ or $A = X$. Equivalently, (X, T) is minimal if and only if it does not have proper subsystems. Hence, "irreducible" appears to be the adequate term. However, the term "minimal" is generally used in topological dynamics.

Proposition 1.5.0.10. *(i) $(X, 1_X)$ is minimal if and only if $|X| = 1$.*

(ii) If (X, T) is minimal, then T is surjective.

(iii) A factor of a minimal TDS is also minimal.

(iv) If a product TDS is minimal, then so are each of its components.

(v) If (X_1, T_{X_1}), (X_2, T_{X_2}) are two minimal subsystems of a TDS (X, T), then either $X_1 \cap X_2 = \emptyset$ or $X_1 = X_2$.

Proof. Exercise. □

As a consequence of the above proposition, minimality is an isomorphism invariant, i.e. if two TDSs are isomorphic and one of them is minimal, so is the other.

Proposition 1.5.0.11. *Let (X, T) be a TDS. The following are equivalent:*

(i) (X, T) is minimal.

(ii) Every $x \in X$ is forward transitive.

(iii) $X = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} T^{-n}(U)$ for every nonempty open subset U of X.

(iv) For every nonempty open subset U of X, there are $n_1, \ldots, n_k \geq 0$ such that $X = \bigcup_{i=1}^{k} T^{-n_i}(U)$.

Proof. $(i) \Rightarrow (ii)$ By Lemma 1.3.3.3.(iii).
$(ii) \Rightarrow (i)$ Assume that $A \neq \emptyset$ is a closed T-invariant set and let $x \in A$ be arbitrary. Then $X = \overline{\text{orb}_+(x)} \subseteq A$, by Proposition 1.3.2.2.(viii). Hence, $X = A$.
$(ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii)$ Apply Lemma 1.4.0.6.(i).
$(iv) \Rightarrow (iii)$ Obviously.
$(iii) \Rightarrow (iv)$ By the compactness of X, since $T^{-n}(U)$ is open for all $n \geq 0$. □

Corollary 1.5.0.12. *Every minimal TDS is forward transitive.*

Theorem 1.5.0.13. *Any TDS (X, T) has a minimal subsystem.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{M}$ be the family of all nonempty closed T-invariant subsets of X with the partial ordering by inclusion. Then, of course, $X \in \mathcal{M}$, so $\mathcal{M}$ is non-empty. Let $(A_i)_{i \in I}$ be a chain in $\mathcal{M}$ and take $A := \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i$. Then $A \in \mathcal{M}$, since A is nonempty (by B.10.0.13), A is closed, and A is T-invariant (by Proposition 1.3.2.2.(v)). Thus, by Zorn's Lemma A.0.6.4 there exists a minimal element $F \in \mathcal{M}$. Then (F, T_F) is a minimal subsystem of (X, T). □

1.6 Topological recurrence

We now turn to the question whether a state returns (at least approximately) to itself from time to time.

Let $A \subseteq X$ be arbitrary and consider the successive sites $x, Tx, T^2x, \dots, T^nx, \dots$ of an arbitrary point $x \in A$ as time runs through $0, 1, 2, \dots, n, \dots$. The set of all points which return (= are back) to A at time $n \geq 1$ is

$$\{x \in A \mid T^n x \in A\} = A \cap T^{-n}(A).$$

Notation 1.6.0.14. *We shall use the following notations:*

(i) A_{ret} *is the set of those points of* A *which return to* A **at least once**.

(ii) A_{inf} *is the set of those points of* A *which return to* A **infinitely often**.

(iii) For every $x \in A$, $rt(x, A)$ *is the set of return times of* x *in* A.

Thus,

$$A_{ret} = A \cap \bigcup_{n \geq 1} T^{-n}(A), \quad A_{inf} = A \cap \bigcap_{n \geq 1} \bigcup_{m \geq n} T^{-m}(A),$$
$$rt(x, A) = \{n \geq 1 \mid T^n x \in A\} = \{n \geq 1 \mid x \in T^{-n}(A)\}.$$

Furthermore, for every $x \in A$ we have that $x \in A_{ret}$ if and only if $rt(x, A)$ is nonempty, and $x \in A_{inf}$ if and only if $rt(x, A)$ is infinite.

Definition 1.6.0.15. *Let* (X, T) *be a TDS. A point* $x \in X$ *is called*

(i) **recurrent** *if* $x \in U_{ret}$ *for every open neighborhood* U *of* x.

(ii) **infinitely recurrent** *if* $x \in U_{inf}$ *for every open neighborhood* U *of* x.

Thus, x is recurrent if and only if x returns at least once to U for every open neighborhood U if and only if $x \in \overline{\mathrm{orb}_{>0}}(x)$.

Definition 1.6.0.16. *A set* $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_+$ *is called* **syndetic** *if there exists an integer* $N \geq 1$ *such that* $[k, k+N] \bigcap S \neq \emptyset$ *for any* $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

Thus syndetic sets have "bounded gaps". Any syndetic set is obviously infinite.

Definition 1.6.0.17. *Let* (X, T) *be a TDS. A point* $x \in X$ *is called* **almost periodic** *or* **uniformly recurrent** *if for every open neighborhood* U *of* x *the set of return times* $rt(x, U)$ *is syndetic.*

Lemma 1.6.0.18. *(i) Any periodic point is almost periodic.*

(ii) Any almost periodic point is recurrent.

Proof. (i) Let x be a periodic point. Let $N \geq 1$ be the smallest positive integer such that $T^N x = x$. Then for every $k \geq 1$, there exists $n \in [k, k+N]$ such that $T^n x = x$, in particular $n \in rt(x, U)$ for every open neighborhood U of x.

(ii) Obviously.

□

Lemma 1.6.0.19. *(i) If $\varphi : (X,T) \to (Y,S)$ is a homomorphism of TDSs and $x \in X$ is recurrent (almost periodic) in (X,T), then $\varphi(x)$ is recurrent (almost periodic) in (Y,S).*

(ii) If (A, T_A) is a subsystem of (X,T) and $x \in A$, then x is recurrent (almost periodic) in (X,T) if and only if x is recurrent (almost periodic) in (A, T_A).

Proof. Exercise. □

As a consequence, isomorphisms map recurrent (almost periodic) points in recurrent (almost periodic) points.

Proposition 1.6.0.20. *Let (X,T) be a TDS and $x \in X$. The following are equivalent:*

(i) x is recurrent.

(ii) x is infinitely recurrent.

Proof. Exercise. □

Lemma 1.6.0.21. *Let (X,T) be a TDS and assume that X is metrizable. For any $x \in X$, the following are equivalent:*

(i) x is recurrent.

(ii) $\lim_{k\to\infty} T^{n_k} x = x$ for some sequence (n_k) in $\mathbb{Z}_+$.

(iii) $\lim_{k\to\infty} T^{n_k} x = x$ for some sequence (n_k) in $\mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $\lim_{k\to\infty} n_k = \infty$.

Proof. Exercise. □

Proposition 1.6.0.22. *[G. D. Birkhoff]*
Every point in a minimal TDS (X,T) is almost periodic.

Proof. Assume that (X,T) is minimal and let $x \in X$, and U be a an open neighborhood of x. Applying Proposition 1.5.0.11.(iv), there are $n_1, \ldots, n_k \geq 0$ such that $X = \bigcup_{i=1}^k T^{-n_i}(U)$. Let $N := \max\{n_1, \ldots, n_k\}$. For each $n \geq 1$, there exists $i = 1, \ldots, k$ such that $T^n x \in T^{-n_i}(U)$, that is $T^{n+n_i} x \in U$. It follows that $n + n_i \in [n, n+N] \cap rt(x, U)$. □

Combining Theorem 1.5.0.13 with Proposition 1.6.0.22, we immediately obtain the

Theorem 1.6.0.23 (Birkhoff Recurrence Theorem)**.**
Every TDS contains at least one point x which is almost periodic (and hence recurrent).

Corollary 1.6.0.24. *Let (X, T) be a TDS and assume that X is metrizable. Then there exists $x \in X$ satisfying $\lim_{k\to\infty} T^{n_k}x = x$ for some sequence (n_k) in $\mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $\lim_{k\to\infty} n_k = \infty$.*

Proof. Apply Theorem 1.6.0.23 and Lemma 1.6.0.21. □

Proposition 1.6.0.25. *Let (X, T) be a TDS and $x \in X$. The following are equivalent:*

(i) x is almost periodic.

(ii) For any open neighborhood U of x there exists $N \geq 1$ such that

$$orb_+(x) \subseteq \bigcup_{k=0}^{N} T^{-k}(U).$$

(iii) $(\overline{orb_+}(x), T_{\overline{orb_+(x)}})$ is a minimal subsystem.

Proof. Exercise. □

1.6.1 An application to a result of Hilbert

The following result, due to Hilbert [43], is presumably the first result of Ramsey theory. Hilbert used this lemma to prove his irreducibility theorem: If the polynomial $P(X, Y) \in \mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ is irreducible, then there exists some $a \in \mathbb{N}$ with $P(a, Y) \in \mathbb{Z}[Y]$.

The **finite sums** of a set D of natural numbers are all those numbers that can be obtained by adding up the elements of some finite nonempty subset of D. The set of all finite sums over D will be denoted by $FS(D)$. Thus,

$$FS(D) = \left\{ \sum_{m\in F} m \mid F \text{ is a finite nonempty subset of } D \right\}. \tag{1.20}$$

If $D = \{n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_l\}$, we shall denote $FS(D)$ by $FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)$.

Theorem 1.6.1.1 (Hilbert (1892)**.** *Let $r \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ and $\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. Then for any $l \geq 1$ there exist $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \ldots \leq n_l \in \mathbb{N}$ such that infinitely many translates of $FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)$ belong to the same C_i. That is,*

$$\bigcup_{a\in B} \big(a + FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)\big) \subseteq C_i$$

for some finite sequence $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \ldots \leq n_l$ in $\mathbb{N}$ and some infinite set $B \subseteq \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. Let $W = \{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$ and consider the full shift $(W^{\mathbb{Z}}, T)$. Let $\mathbf{x} \in W^{Z}$ be defined by:

$$x_n = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } n \geq 0 \text{ and } n \in C_i \\ \text{arbitrarily} & \text{if } n < 0. \end{cases}$$

Step 1 Assume that $\mathbf{x}$ is recurrent.
We construct a finite sequence (W_k), $k = 0, 1, \ldots, l$ of blocks of $\mathbf{x}$ inductively as follows:

(i) Let $N := x_0$ and define $W_0 := N$.

(ii) Assume that $W_0, \ldots, W_k$ were defined. Since $\mathbf{x}$ is recurrent, the block W_k occurs in $\mathbf{x}$ a second time (see H2.5). Hence, there exists a (possibly empty) block Y_{k+1} such that $W_k Y_{k+1} W_k$ occurs in $\mathbf{x}$. Define $W_{k+1} := W_k Y_{k+1} W_k$.

For every $k = 1, \ldots, l$, let n_k be the length of $W_k Y_{k+1}$, so that $1 \leq n_1 \leq \ldots \leq n_l$. Let us remark that

$$W_k = \mathbf{x}_{[0, |W_k|-1]}, \quad |W_{k+1}| = |W_k| + n_k,$$

and that if some symbol occurs at position p in W_k, then it occurs also at position $p + n_k$ in W_{k+1}.

Let $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \ldots < i_p \leq l$, where $1 \leq p \leq l$. Then N occurs at position 0 in $\mathbf{x}$, at position n_{i_1} in W_{i_1}, at position $n_{i_1} + n_{i_1+1}$ in W_{i_1+1}, at position $n_{i_1} + n_{i_1+2}$ in W_{i_1+2}, and so on, at position $n_{i_1} + n_{i_2}$ in W_{i_2}. Applying the above argument repeatedly, we get that N occurs at position $n_{i_1} + n_{i_2} + \ldots + n_{i_p}$ in W_{i_p}, hence in $\mathbf{x}$. It follows that N occurs in $\mathbf{x}$ at any position in $FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)$.

Applying again the fact that $\mathbf{x}$ is recurrent, we get that the block W_l occurs in $\mathbf{x}$ at an infinite number of positions, say $0 = p_1 < p_2 < \ldots < p_k < \ldots$. Take $B = \{p_k \mid k \geq 1\}$ to get that N occurs at any position in $\bigcup_{a \in B} \big(a + FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)\big)$. That is,

$$\bigcup_{a \in B} \big(a + FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)\big) \subseteq C_N.$$

Step 2 Let us consider the general case, when $\mathbf{x}$ is not necessarily recurrent. Consider the subsystem $(\overline{\text{orb}_+}(x), T_{\overline{\text{orb}_+}(x)})$, and apply Birkhoff recurrence theorem 1.6.0.23 to get a recurrent point $\mathbf{y}$ of this TDS. We have two cases:

Case 1: $\mathbf{y} = T^m \mathbf{x}$ for some $m \geq 0$. Applying Step 1 for $\mathbf{y}$, we get that $N := y_0 = x_m$ occurs in $\mathbf{y}$ at any position in $\bigcup_{a \in B} \big(a + FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)\big)$. Letting $C := m + B$, we get that C is infinite and

$$\bigcup_{a \in C} \big(a + FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)\big) \subseteq C_N$$

Case 2: $\mathbf{y} \notin \mathrm{orb}_+(x)$. Then $\lim\limits_{k\to\infty} T^{m_k}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$ for some strictly increasing sequence (m_k) of natural numbers. Applying Step 1 for the recurrent point $\mathbf{y}$, we get that $N := y_0$ occurs at any position $p \in FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)$ for some finite sequence $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \ldots \leq n_l$ in $\mathbb{N}$.

Take $n := n_1 + n_2 + \ldots + n_l$. It follows that there exists $K \geq 0$ such that $(T^{m_k}\mathbf{x})_{[-n,n]} = \mathbf{y}_{[-n,n]}$ for all $k \geq K$. Let $B = \{m_k \mid k \geq K\}$. Then B is infinite, and

$$x_{m_k+p} = \left(T^{m_k}\mathbf{x}\right)_p = y_p = N \text{ for all } p \in FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big), \text{ and all } m_k \in B.$$

Thus

$$\bigcup_{a\in B} \big(a + FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)\big) \subseteq C_N.$$

$\square$

1.7 Multiple recurrence

Let X be a compact metric space, $l \geq 1$, and $T_1, \dots, T_l : X \to X$ be continuous mappings.

Definition 1.7.0.2. *We say that a point $x \in X$ is* **multiply recurrent** *(for $T_1, \dots, T_l$) if there exists a sequence (n_k) in $\mathbb{N}$ with $\lim_{k\to\infty} n_k = \infty$ such that*

$$\lim_{k\to\infty} T_1^{n_k} x = \lim_{k\to\infty} T_2^{n_k} x = \dots = \lim_{k\to\infty} T_l^{n_k} x = x. \tag{1.21}$$

Furthermore, the mappings $T_1, \dots, T_l : X \to X$ are said to be **commuting** if $T_i \circ T_j = T_j \circ T_i$ for all $i, j = 1, \dots, l$. This implies $T_i^n \circ T_j^m = T_j^m \circ T_i^n$ for all $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$; if the T_i's are homeomorphisms, then $T_i^n \circ T_j^m = T_j^m \circ T_i^n$ holds for all $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

In this section, we extend Birkhoff's Recurrence Theorem. We shall prove the following result.

Theorem 1.7.0.3 (Multiple Recurrence Theorem (MRT))**.**
Let $l \geq 1$ and $T_1, \dots, T_l : X \to X$ be commuting homeomorphisms of a compact metric space (X, d). Then there exists a multiply recurrent point for $T_1, \dots, T_l$.

Corollary 1.7.0.4.
Let (X, d) be a compact metric space and $T : X \to X$ be a homeomorphism. For all $l \geq 1$, there exists a multiply recurrent point for $T, T^2, \dots, T^l$.

Proof. Let $T_i := T^i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq l$. Then $T_1, \dots, T_l$ are commuting homeomorphisms of the compact metric space (X, d), so we can apply MRT to conclude that there exists a multiply recurrent point $x \in X$. □

Corollary 1.7.0.5.
Let (X, d) be a compact metric space and $T : X \to X$ be a continuous mapping. For all $l \geq 1$, there exists a multiply recurrent point for $T, T^2, \dots, T^l$.

Proof. Exercise. □

1.7.1 Some useful lemmas

In the sequel, (X, d) is a compact metric space, $l \geq 1$, and $T_1, \dots, T_l : X \to X$ are continuous mappings.

Consider the product TDS $(X^l, \tilde{T})$:

$$X^l = \underbrace{X \times X \times \dots \times X}_{l}, \qquad \tilde{T} := \prod_{i=1}^{l} T_i.$$

Then the metric $d_l(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \max_{i=1,\dots,l} d(x_i, y_i)$ induces the product topology on X^l, by B.7.1.1.

For every $\emptyset \neq Y \subseteq X$, let

$$Y_\Delta^l := \{\mathbf{y} = (y, y, \ldots, y) \mid y \in Y\}$$

be the diagonal of Y. For every $i = 1, \ldots, l$, let

$$\tilde{T}_i : X^l \to X^l, \quad \tilde{T}_i = \underbrace{T_i \times \ldots \times T_i}_{l}.$$

Lemma 1.7.1.1. *(i) $d_l(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = d(x, y)$ for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in X_\Delta^l$.*

(ii) For all $x \in X$, $(B_\varepsilon(x))_\Delta^l = \{\mathbf{y} \in X_\Delta^l \mid d_l(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) < \varepsilon\} = B_\varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) \cap X_\Delta^l$.

(iii) V is open in X_Δ^l if and only if $V = U_\Delta^l$ for some open subset U of X.

(iv) Let $Y \subseteq X$ be a nonempty closed set. Then

(a) Y_Δ^l is a compact metric space.

(b) For all $i = 1, \ldots, l$, $\tilde{T}_i(Y_\Delta^l) = (T_i(Y))_\Delta^l$.

We have the following characterization of multiply recurrent points.

Lemma 1.7.1.2. *Let $x \in X$ and $\mathbf{x} = (x, \ldots, x) \in X_\Delta^l$. The following are equivalent:*

(i) x is multiply recurrent for $T_1, \ldots, T_l$.

(ii) $\mathbf{x}$ is a recurrent point in $(X^l, \tilde{T})$.

(iii) For all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $N \geq 1$ such that $d_l(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{T}^N \mathbf{x}) < \varepsilon$.

(iv) For all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $N \geq 1$ such that $d(x, T_i^N x) < \varepsilon$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, l$.

Proof. Exercise. □

Lemma 1.7.1.3. *Assume that $T_1, \ldots, T_l : X \to X$ are commuting homeomorphisms. Then*

(i) X contains a subset X_0 which is minimal with the property that it is nonempty closed and strongly T_i-invariant for all $i = 1, \ldots, l$.

(ii) For every nonempty open subset U of X_0, there are $M \geq 1$ and $n_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}, i = 1, \ldots, l,\ j = 1, \ldots, M$ such that $X_0 = \bigcup_{j=1}^{M} \left(T_1^{n_{1j}} \circ \ldots \circ T_l^{n_{lj}}\right)(U)$.

(iii) $(X_0)_\Delta^l$ is strongly $\tilde{T}_i$-invariant for all $i = 1, \ldots, l$.

Proof. Exercise. □

The following lemma is one of the most important steps in proving Theorem 1.7.0.3. According to Furstenberg, its proof is due to Rufus Bowen.

Lemma 1.7.1.4. *Let (X,T) be a TDS with (X,d) metric space. Let $A \subseteq X$ be a subset with the property that*

$$\text{for every } \varepsilon > 0 \text{ and for all } x \in A \text{ there exist } y \in A \text{ and } n \geq 1 \text{ with } d(T^n y, x) < \varepsilon. \tag{1.22}$$

Then for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exist a point $z \in A$ and $N \geq 1$ satisfying $d(T^N z, z) < \varepsilon$.

Proof. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. We define inductively sequences $\varepsilon_1 > \varepsilon_2 > \dots$ of positive parameters, $z_0, z_1, \dots,$ of points in A, and $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n, \dots$ of positive integers satisfying the following for all $k \geq 1$:

(i) $\varepsilon_k < \frac{\varepsilon}{2^{k+1}}$,

(ii) $d(z_k, T^{p_{k+1}} z_{k+1}) < \varepsilon_{k+1}$, and

(iii) for all $u, v \in X$, $d(u,v) < \varepsilon_{k+1}$ implies

$$d(T^{p_k}u, T^{p_k}v) < \varepsilon_k,\ d(T^{p_{k-1}+p_k}u, T^{p_{k-1}+p_k}v) < \varepsilon_k, \dots, d(T^{p_1+\dots+p_k}u, T^{p_1+\dots+p_k}v) < \varepsilon_k.$$

Let $z_0 \in A$ be arbitrarily. Let $\varepsilon_1 < \varepsilon/4$ and apply (1.22) to get $z_1 \in A$ and $p_1 \geq 1$ such that

$$d(T^{p_1} z_1, z_0) < \varepsilon_1.$$

Since $T^{p_1} : X \to X$ is uniformly continuous, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $u, v \in X$,

$$d(u,v) < \delta \quad \text{implies} \quad d(T^{p_1}u, T^{p_1}v) < \varepsilon_1.$$

Let $\varepsilon_2 < \min\{\delta, \varepsilon_1/2\}$ and apply again (1.22) to get $z_2 \in A$ and $p_2 \geq 1$ such that

$$d(z_1, T^{p_2} z_2) < \varepsilon_2.$$

Since $T^{p_2}, T^{p_1+p_2} : X \to X$ are uniformly continuous, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $u, v \in X$,

$$d(u,v) < \delta \quad \text{implies} \quad d(T^{p_1}u, T^{p_1}v) < \varepsilon_2,\ d(T^{p_1+p_2}u, T^{p_1+p_2}v) < \varepsilon_2.$$

Let $\varepsilon_3 < \min\{\delta, \varepsilon_2/2\}$ and apply again (1.22) to get $z_3 \in A$ and $p_3 \geq 1$ such that

$$d(z_2, T^{p_3} z_3) < \varepsilon_3.$$

Assume $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_k$, $z_0, z_1, \dots, z_k$, and $p_1, \dots, p_k$ were defined. Since T^{p_k},$T^{p_{k-1}+p_k}$, $T^{p_1+\dots+p_k}$: $X \to X$ are uniformly continuous, there exist $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k > 0$ such that for all $u, v \in X$,

$$\begin{aligned} d(u,v) < \delta_k &\quad \text{implies} \quad d(T^{p_k}u, T^{p_k}v) < \varepsilon_k, \text{ and for all } i = 1, \dots, k-1, \\ d(u,v) < \delta_i &\quad \text{implies} \quad d(T^{p_i+\dots+p_k}u, T^{p_i+\dots+p_k}v) < \varepsilon_k. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\varepsilon_{k+1} < \min\{\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k, \varepsilon_k/2\}$ and apply again (1.22) to get $z_{k+1} \in A$ and $p_{k+1} \geq 1$ such that

$$d(z_k, T^{p_{k+1}} z_{k+1}) < \varepsilon_{k+1}.$$

By sequential compactness, the sequence (z_n) has a convergent subsequence. In particular, there exist $1 \leq i < j$ such that $d(z_i, z_j) < \varepsilon/2$. It follows that

$$\begin{array}{rcll} d(z_i, T^{p_{i+1}} z_{i+1}) & < & \varepsilon_{i+1}, & \text{by (ii) for } k = i \\ d(T^{p_{i+1}} z_{i+1}, T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}} z_{i+2}) & < & \varepsilon_{i+1}, & \text{by (ii), (iii) for } k = i+1, \\ d(T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}} z_{i+2}, T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}+p_{i+3}} z_{i+3}) & < & \varepsilon_{i+2}, & \text{by (ii), (iii) for } k = i+2, \\ d(T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}+\dots p_{j-1}} z_{j-1}, T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}+\dots p_j} z_j) & < & \varepsilon_{j-1}, & \text{by (ii), (iii) for } k = j-1. \end{array}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{array}{rcl} d(z_i, T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}+\dots+p_j} z_j,) & \leq & \varepsilon_{i+1} + \varepsilon_{i+1} + \dots + \varepsilon_{j-1} < \dfrac{\varepsilon}{2^{i+2}} + \dfrac{\varepsilon}{2^{i+2}} + \dfrac{\varepsilon}{2^{i+3}} + \dots \dfrac{\varepsilon}{2^j} \\ & < & \varepsilon/8 + \varepsilon/8 \displaystyle\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 1/2^k = \varepsilon/8 + \varepsilon/4 < \varepsilon/2. \end{array}$$

By the triangle inequality we then have

$$d(z_j, T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}+\dots+p_j} z_j) \quad \leq \quad d(z_j, z_i) + d(z_i, T^{p_{i+1}+p_{i+2}+\dots p_j} z_j) < \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 = \varepsilon.$$

The conclusion of the lemma follows on taking $x := z_j$ and $N := p_{i+1} + p_{i+2} + \dots p_j$. □

1.7.2 Proof of the Multiple Recurrence Theorem

In the sequel, we give a proof of Theorem 1.7.0.3.
Let us denote with $MRT(l)$ the statement of the theorem. We prove it by induction on $l \geq 1$.

M$RT(1)$ follows from Birkhoff Recurrence Theorem (see Corollary 1.6.0.24).

M$RT(l-1) \Rightarrow MRT(l)$ Let $l \geq 2$ and $T_1, \dots, T_l : X \to X$ be l commuting homeomorphisms of X. By Lemma 1.7.1.3.(i), we can assume that X does not contain a proper nonempty closed subset Y such that $T_i(Y) = Y$ for all $i = 1, \dots, l$.

Claim 1: For all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exist $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in X^l_\Delta$ and $N \geq 1$ such that $d_l(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{T}^N \mathbf{y}) < \varepsilon$.

Proof: For every $i = 1, \dots, l-1$, let $S_i := T_i \circ T_l^{-1}$. Then $S_1, \dots, S_{l-1}$ are commuting homeomorphisms, so we can apply $MRT(l-1)$ to get the existence of $x \in X$ such that, for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $N \geq 1$ satisfying $d(x, S_i^N x) < \varepsilon$ for all $i = 1, \dots, l-1$. By letting $y := T_l^{-N} x$, and $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in X^l_\Delta, \mathbf{x} = (x, x, \dots, x), \mathbf{y} = (y, y, \dots, y)$, we get that

$$d_l(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{T}^N \mathbf{y}) = \max\{d(x, S_1^N x), \dots, d(x, S_{l-1}^N x), d(x, x)\} < \varepsilon. \quad \square$$

Claim 2: For all $\varepsilon > 0$ and for all $\mathbf{x} \in X^l_\Delta$ there exist $\mathbf{y} \in X^l_\Delta$ and $N \geq 1$ such that $d_l(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{T}^N \mathbf{y}) < \varepsilon$.

Proof: Let $U := B_{\varepsilon/2}(x) \subseteq X$. Applying Lemma 1.7.1.3.(ii), we get the existence of $M \geq 1$ and $n_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}, i = 1, \ldots, l, \ j = 1, \ldots, M$ such that $X = \bigcup_{j=1}^{M} \big(T_1^{n_{1j}} \circ \ldots \circ T_l^{n_{lj}}\big)(U)$. As an immediate consequence,

$$X^l_\Delta = \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{M} \big(T_1^{n_{1j}} \circ \ldots \circ T_l^{n_{lj}}\big)(U) \right)^l_\Delta = \bigcup_{j=1}^{M} \big(\tilde{T}_1^{\,n_{1j}} \circ \ldots \circ \tilde{T}_l^{\,n_{lj}}\big)(U^l_\Delta). \tag{1.23}$$

Let us denote, for all $j = 1, \ldots, M$,

$$S_j := \left(\tilde{T}_1^{\,n_{1j}} \circ \ldots \circ \tilde{T}_l^{\,n_{lj}}\right)^{-1} = \tilde{T}_1^{\,-n_{1j}} \circ \ldots \circ \tilde{T}_l^{\,-n_{lj}}, \quad \text{since } \tilde{T}_i\text{'s commute.} \tag{1.24}$$

X^l_Δ is compact and strongly S_j-invariant, by Lemma 1.7.1.3.(iii), so $S_j : X^l_\Delta \to X^l_\Delta$ is uniformly continuous. We get then for all $j = 1, \ldots, M$ the existence of $\delta_j > 0$ such that for all $\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{u} \in X^l_\Delta$,

$$d_l(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{u}) < \delta_j \quad \text{implies} \quad d_l(S_j \mathbf{z}, S_j \mathbf{u}) < \varepsilon/2. \tag{1.25}$$

Take $\delta := \min\{\delta_1, \ldots, \delta_j\} > 0$ and apply Claim 1 to get $\mathbf{z}_0, \mathbf{u}_0 \in X^l_\Delta$ and $N \geq 1$ such that

$$d_l(\mathbf{u}_0, \tilde{T}^N \mathbf{z}_0) < \delta. \tag{1.26}$$

Since $\mathbf{u}_0 \in X^l_\Delta$, by (1.23) there exists $j_0 = 1, \ldots, M$ such that $S_{j_0} \mathbf{u}_0 \in U^l_\Delta$, hence

$$d_l(\mathbf{x}, S_{j_0} \mathbf{u}_0) < \varepsilon/2. \tag{1.27}$$

Let $\mathbf{y} := S_{j_0} \mathbf{z}_0$. Applying (1.25), (1.26), and the fact that $\tilde{T}^N$ and S_{j_0} commute, we get that

$$d_l(\tilde{T}^N \mathbf{y}, S_{j_0} \mathbf{u}_0) = d_l(S_{j_0}(\tilde{T}^N \mathbf{z}_0), S_{j_0} \mathbf{u}_0) < \varepsilon/2. \tag{1.28}$$

Finally, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} d_l(\tilde{T}^N \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) &\leq d_l(\tilde{T}^N \mathbf{y}, S_{j_0} \mathbf{u}_0) + d_l(S_{j_0} \mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{x}) \\ &< \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 = \varepsilon. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Claim 3: For all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exist $\mathbf{x} \in X^l_\Delta$ and $N \geq 1$ such that $d_l(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{T}^N \mathbf{x}) < \varepsilon$.

Proof: follows from Claim 2, after applying Lemma 1.7.1.4 with $A = X^l_\Delta$. $\square$

Claim 4: For all $\varepsilon > 0$ the set

$$Y_\varepsilon = \{\mathbf{x} \in X^l_\Delta \mid \text{ there exists } N \geq 1 \text{ such that } d_l(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{T}^N \mathbf{x}) < \varepsilon\} \tag{1.29}$$

is dense in X^l_Δ.

Proof: Let $\varepsilon > 0$. We shall prove that $Y_\varepsilon \cap U^l_\Delta \neq \emptyset$ for any open subset U of X. As in the proof of Claim 2, we get

$$M \geq 1,\, n_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}, i = 1, \ldots, l,\ j = 1, \ldots, M,\ \ S_j = \tilde{T}_1^{-n_{1j}} \circ \ldots \circ \tilde{T}_l^{-n_{lj}}$$

satisfying

(i) $X^l_\Delta = \bigcup_{j=1}^{M} S_j^{-1}(U^l_\Delta)$, and

(ii) there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $j = 1, \ldots, M$, and for all $\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{u} \in X^l_\Delta$,

$$d_l(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{u}) < \delta \quad \text{implies} \quad d_l(S_j\mathbf{z}, S_j\mathbf{u}) < \varepsilon.$$

By Claim 3, Y_δ is nonempty. Let $\mathbf{x} \in Y_\delta$ and $N \geq 1$ be such that $d_l(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{T}^N\mathbf{x}) < \delta$. Since $\mathbf{x} \in X^l_\Delta$, there exists $j_0 = 1, \ldots, M$ such that $\mathbf{y} := S_{j_0}\mathbf{x} \in U^l_\Delta$. Since $\tilde{T}^N$ and S_{j_0} commute, it follows that

$$d_l(\mathbf{y}, \tilde{T}^N\mathbf{y}) = d_l(S_{j_0}\mathbf{x}, S_{j_0}(\tilde{T}^N\mathbf{x})) < \varepsilon,$$

hence $\mathbf{y} \in U^l_\Delta \cap Y_\varepsilon$.

□

Claim 5: $MRT(l)$ is true, that is there exists $\mathbf{x} \in X^l_\Delta$ such that, for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $N \geq 1$ such that

$$d_l(\tilde{T}^N\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) < \varepsilon.$$

Proof: For every $n \geq 1$, by Claim 5, By Claim 5, $Y_{1/n}$ is dense in X^l_Δ. Furthermore, $Y_{1/n} = U^l_\Delta$, where

$$U = \bigcup_{N\geq 1} \bigcap_{i=1}^{l} \{x \in X \mid d(x, T_i^N x) < 1/n\}.$$

It is easy to see that U is open in X, hence $Y_{1/n}$ is is open in X^l_Δ. Thus, $Y := \bigcap_{n\geq 1} Y_{1/n}$ is a residual set and we can apply B.11.0.9 to conclude that Y is nonempty. Then any $\mathbf{x} \in Y$ satisfies the claim. □

Chapter 2

Ramsey Theory

Ramsey theory is that branch of combinatorics which deals with structure which is preserved under partitions. The theme of Ramsey theory:

"Complete disorder is impossible." (T.S. Motzkin)

Thus, inside any large structure, no matter how chaotic, will lie a smaller substructure with great regularity. One looks typically at the following kind of question: *If a particular structure (e.g. algebraic, combinatorial or geometric) is arbitrarily partitioned into finitely many classes, what kind of substructure must always remain intact in at least one class?*

Ramsey theorems are natural, and they can be very powerful, as they assume very little information; they are usually very easy to state, but can have very complicated combinatorial proofs.

Ramsey theory owes its name to a very general theorem of Ramsey from 1930 [68], popularized by Erdös in the 30's.

A number of results in Ramsey theory have the following general form:

(*) *Let X be a set. For any $r \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, and any r-partition $X = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$ of X, at least one of the classes possesses some property P.*

X could be $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{N}^d, \mathbb{Z}^d\,(d \geq 1), \ldots$. The statement can be expressed also in terms of finite colourings of X. For any $r \geq 1$, an r-**colouring** of X is a mapping $c : X \to \{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$. Then (*) becomes:

For any finite colouring of a set X, there exists a monochromatic subset of X having some property P.

An **affine image** of a set $F \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ (resp. $F \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$) is a set of the form

$$a + bF = \{a + bf \mid f \in F\} \quad \text{where } a \in \mathbb{N},\, b \in \mathbb{Z}_+(\text{ resp. } a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}). \tag{2.1}$$

2.1 van der Waerden theorem

One of the most fundamental results of Ramsey theory is the celebrated van der Waerden theorem:

Theorem 2.1.0.1 (van der Waerden)**.**
Let $r \geq 1$ *and* $\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$*. For any* $k \geq 1$*, there exists* $i \in [1, r]$ *such that* C_i *contains an arithmetic progression of length* k*.*

This result was conjectured by Baudet and proved by van der Waerden in 1927 [85]. The theorem gained a wider audience when it was included in Khintchine's famous book *Three pearls in number theory* [49].

Let us denote with **(vdW1)** the above formulation of van der Waerden theorem and consider the following statements:

(vdW2) Let $r \geq 1$ and $\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. There exists $i \in [1, r]$ such that C_i contains arithmetic progression of arbitrary finite length.

(vdW3) Let $r \geq 1$ and $\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. For any finite set $F \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ there exists $i \in [1, r]$ such that C_i contains affine images of F.

(vdW4) Let $r \geq 1$ and $\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. There exists $i \in [1, r]$ such that C_i contains affine images of every finite set $F \subseteq \mathbb{N}$.

Let (**vdWi**$*$), $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ be the statements obtained from (**vdWi**), $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ by changing $\mathbb{N}$ to $\mathbb{Z}$ in their formulations.

Proposition 2.1.0.2. (**vdWi**), (**vdWi**$*$), $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ *are all equivalent.*

Proof. Exercise. □

(vdW2) states that for any finite partition of $\mathbb{N}$, one of the cells contains arithmetic progressions of arbitrary finite length. Equivalently, any finite colouring of $\mathbb{N}$ contains monochromatic arithmetic progressions of arbitrary finite length.

We remark that one cannot, in general, expect to get from any finite colouring of $\mathbb{N}$ a monochromatic infinite arithmetic progression (why?).

2.1.1 Topological dynamics proof of van der Waerden Theorem

The topological dynamics proof we give here is due to Furstenberg and Weiss [31].

Proposition 2.1.1.1.
Let $l \geq 1$ *and* $\varepsilon > 0$*. For any compact metric space* (X, d) *and homeomorphism* $T : X \to X$ *there exist* $x \in X$ *and* $N \geq 1$ *such that*

$$d(x, T^{iN}x) < \varepsilon \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq l. \tag{2.2}$$

Proof. Apply Corollary 1.7.0.4 and Lemma 1.7.1.2.(iv) □

Let us denote with **(vdW-dynamic)** the statement of the above proposition.

Theorem 2.1.1.2. (vdW-dynamic) *implies* **(vdW1*)**.

Proof. Let $r, k \geq 1$ and let $\mathbb{Z} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. Set $W = \{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$ and consider the full shift $(W^{\mathbb{Z}}, T)$. Let $\gamma \in W^Z$ be defined by:

$$\gamma_n = i \quad \text{if and only if } n \in C_i.$$

Let $X := \overline{\{T^n\gamma \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}}$ be the orbit closure of γ and consider the subsystem (X, T_X).

Applying **(vdW-dynamic)** with $\varepsilon := 2$ and $l := k-1$, we get $\mathbf{x} \in X$ and $N \geq 1$ such that

$$d(\mathbf{x}, T^{jN}\mathbf{x}) < 2 \text{ for all } 1 \leq j \leq k-1.$$

Thus, by Proposition 1.2.0.3.(i),

$$x_0 = \left(T^N\mathbf{x}\right)_0 = \ldots = \left(T^{(k-1)N}\mathbf{x}\right)_0, \qquad \text{i.e. } x_0 = x_N = \ldots = x_{(k-1)N}.$$

Since $\mathbf{x} \in X$, by letting $p = (k-1)N - 1$, we get the existence of $M \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$d(\mathbf{x}, T^M\gamma) < 2^{-p}, \quad \text{hence, } \mathbf{x}_{[-(k-1)N,(k-1)N]} = (T^M\gamma)_{[-(k-1)N,(k-1)N]}.$$

Let $i := x_0$. It follows that $i = x_0 = x_N = \ldots x_{(k-1)N}$, hence

$$i = (T^M\gamma)_0 = (T^M\gamma)_N = \ldots = (T^M\gamma)_{(k-1)N}, \qquad \text{i.e. } i = \gamma_M = \gamma_{M+N} = \ldots = \gamma_{M+(k-1)N}.$$

By the definition of γ, it follows that the k-term arithmetic progression

$$\{M, M+N, M+2N \ldots, M+(k-1)N\} \tag{2.3}$$

is contained in C_i.

□

Theorem 2.1.1.3. (vdW1) *implies* **(vdW-dynamic)**.

Proof. Let $l \geq 1$, $\varepsilon > 0$, (X, d) be a compact metric space, and $T : X \to X$ be a homeomorphism. Since X is compact, it is totally bounded (see B.10.2.2). Thus, there exists a finite cover of X by $\varepsilon/2$-balls. From this we can construct a finite cover of X by pairwise disjoint sets $U_1, \ldots, U_r$ of less than ε diameter (see A.1.0.9).

Let $y \in X$ and define for all $i = 1, \ldots, r$,

$$C_i := \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid T^n y \in U_i\}.$$

Then $\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$, and the C_i's are pairwise disjoint, so by taking the nonempty ones of them we get a finite partition of $\mathbb{N}$.

Applying **(vdW1)**, one of the cells C_i contains an arithmetic progression $\{a, a + N, \ldots, a + lN\}$ of length $l + 1$, where $a \in \mathbb{N}$, and $N \geq 1$, since $l \geq 1$. This means that

$$T^a y \in U_i,\ T^{a+N} y \in U_i, \ldots, T^{a+lN} y \in U_i.$$

By letting $x := T^a y$, it follows that $\{x, T^N x, \ldots, T^{lN} x\} \subseteq U_i$. Since U_i is of diameter less than ε, the conclusion follows. □

2.1.2 The compactness principle

The compactness principle, in very general terms, is a way of going from the infinite to the finite. It gives us a "finite" (or finitary) Ramsey-type statement providing the corresponding "infinite" Ramsey-type statement is true.

Theorem 2.1.2.1 (The Compactness Principle)**.**
Let $r \geq 1$ and let $\mathcal{F}$ be a family of finite subsets of $\mathbb{Z}_+$. Assume that for every r-colouring of $\mathbb{Z}_+$ there is a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$. Then there exists a least positive integer $N = N(\mathcal{F}, r)$ such that, for every r-colouring of $[1, N]$, there is a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$.

Proof. The proof we give is essentially what is known as Cantor's diagonal argument. Let $r \geq 1$ be fixed and assume that every r-colouring of $\mathbb{Z}_+$ admits a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$. Assume by contradiction that for each $n \geq 1$ there exists an r-colouring

$$\chi_n : [1, n] \to [1, r]$$

with no monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$. We proceed by constructing a specific r-colouring χ of $\mathbb{Z}_+$. Since there are only finitely many colours, among $\chi_1(1), \chi_2(1), \ldots$, there must be some colour that appears an infinite number of times. Call this colour c_1, and let $\mathcal{C}_1$ be the infinite set of all colourings χ_j with $\chi_j(1) = c_1$. Within the set of colours $\{\chi_j(2) \mid \chi_j \in \mathcal{C}_1\}$ there must be some colour c_2 that occurs an infinite number of times. Let $\mathcal{C}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{C}_1$ be the infinite set of all colourings $\chi_j \in \mathcal{C}_1$ with $\chi_j(2) = c_2$. Continuing in this way, we find for each $k \geq 2$ a colour c_k such that the family of colourings

$$\mathcal{C}_k = \{\chi_j \in \mathcal{C}_{k-1} \mid \chi_j(k) = c_k\}$$

is infinite. We define the r-colouring

$$\chi : \mathbb{Z}_+ \to [1, r], \quad \chi(k) = c_k.$$

Then χ has the property that for every $k \geq 1$, $\mathcal{C}_k$ is the collection of colourings χ_j with $\chi(i) = \chi_j(i)$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, k$.

By assumption, χ admits a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$, say S. Let $M := \max S$ and take some arbitrary colouring $\chi_j \in \mathcal{C}_M$. Then $\chi_j|_S = \chi|_S$, hence $S \in \mathcal{F}$ is monochromatic under χ_j. This contradicts our assumption that all of the χ_n's avoid monochromatic members of $\mathcal{F}$. □

Remark 2.1.2.2. *The compactness principle does not give us any bound for $N(\mathcal{F}, r)$; it only gives us its existence.*

Corollary 2.1.2.3. *Let $r \geq 1$ and let $\mathcal{F}$ be a family of finite subsets of $\mathbb{Z}_+$. The following are equivalent:*

(i) For every r-colouring of $\mathbb{Z}_+$ there is a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$.

(ii) There exists a least positive integer $N = N(\mathcal{F}, r)$ such that, for every r-colouring of $[1, N]$, there is a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$.

(iii) There exists a least positive integer $N = N(\mathcal{F}, r)$ such that, for all $m \geq N$ and for every r-colouring of $[1, m]$, there is a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$.

Proof. $(i) \Rightarrow (ii)$ By the Compactness Principle.
$(ii) \Rightarrow (iii)$ If $m \geq N(\mathcal{F}, r)$, and χ is an r-colouring of $[1, m]$, then we can apply (ii) for its restriction to $[1, N(\mathcal{F}, r)]$ to get a monochromatic member of $\mathcal{F}$.
$(iii) \Rightarrow (i)$ is obvious. □

2.1.3 Finitary version of van der Waerden theorem

As a consequence of the Compactness Principle, we get the following

Theorem 2.1.3.1 (Finitary van der Waerden theorem)**.**
Let $r, k \geq 1$. There exists a least positive integer $W = W(k, r)$ such that for any $n \geq W$ and for any partition $[1, n] = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$ of $[1, n]$, some C_i contains an arithmetic progression of length k.

In terms of colourings, there exists a least positive integer $W = W(k, r)$ such that for all $n \geq W$, and for any r-colouring of $[1, n]$ there is a monochromatic arithmetic progression of length k. In fact, by Corollary 2.1.2.3, van der Waerden theorem and its finitary version are equivalent.

Definition 2.1.3.2. *The numbers $W(r, k)$ are called the* **van der Waerden numbers***.*

We have that $W(1, k) = k$ for any $k \geq 1$, since one colour produces only trivial colourings. $W(r, 2) = r + 1$, since we may construct a colouring that avoids arithmetic progressions of length 2 by using each color at most once, but once we use a color twice, a length 2 arithmetic progression is formed.

The combinatorial proof of van der Waerden theorem proceeds by a double induction on r and k and yields extremely large upper bounds for $W(k,r)$. Shelah [77] proved that van der Waerden numbers are primitive recursive. In 2001, Gowers [32] showed that van der Waerden numbers with $r \geq 2$ are bounded by

$$W(r,k) \leq 2^{2^{r^{2^{2^{k+9}}}}}. \tag{2.4}$$

There are only a few known nontrivial van der Waerden numbers. We refer to

http://www.st.ewi.tudelft.nl/sat/waerden.php

for known values and lower bounds for van der Waerden numbers.

2.1.4 Multidimensional van der Waerden Theorem

An **affine image** of a set $F \subseteq \mathbb{N}^d$ (resp. $F \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^d$) is a set of the form

$$a + bF = \{a + bf \mid f \in F\} \quad \text{where } a \in \mathbb{N}^d,\ b \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \text{ (resp. } a \in \mathbb{Z}^d,\ b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}). \tag{2.5}$$

Here is the formulation of the multidimensional analogue of van der Waerden's theorem. It was first proved by Grünwald (also referred to in the literature by the name of Gallai), who apparently never published his proof (Grünwald's authorship is acknowledged in [66, p.123]).

Theorem 2.1.4.1 (Multidimensional van der Waerden)**.**
Let $d \geq 1, r \geq 1$, and $\mathbb{N}^d = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$ be an r-partition of $\mathbb{N}^d$. There exists $i \in [1,r]$ such that C_i contains affine images of every finite set $F \subseteq \mathbb{N}^d$.

Proof. Exercise. □

2.1.5 Polynomial van der Waerden's theorem

The following generalization of van der Waerden theorem is due to Bergelson and Leibman [12], who proved it using topological dynamics methods. A combinatorial proof was obtained in 2000 by Walters [86].

Theorem 2.1.5.1 (Polynomial van der Waerden theorem)**.** *[12]*
Let $k \geq 1$, and $p_1, \ldots, p_k : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}$ be polynomials of one variable with integer coefficients, which vanish at the origin (i.e. $p_i(0) = 0$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, k$). For any finite colouring of $\mathbb{Z}$, there exists a monochromatic configuration of the form

$$\{a + p_1(d), \ldots, a + p_k(d)\}, \quad a, d \in \mathbb{Z},\ d \neq 0.$$

The case with a single polynomial was proved by Furstenberg [27] and Sarkozy [74] independently.

Remark that by specializing to the linear case $p_i(n) := in$, $i = 1, \ldots, k$ one recovers the ordinary van der Waerden theorem.

2.2 The ultrafilter approach to Ramsey theory

We present now a different approach to Ramsey theory, based on *ultrafilters* via the *Stone-Čech compactification*. We refer to [45] or to the surveys [10, 6, 7] for details.

Definition 2.2.0.2. *Let D be any set. A* **filter** *on D is a nonempty set $\mathcal{F}$ of subsets of D with the following properties:*

(i) $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{F}$.

(ii) If $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$, *then* $A \cap B \in \mathcal{F}$.

(iii) If $A \in \mathcal{F}$ *and* $A \subseteq B \subseteq D$, *then* $B \in \mathcal{F}$.

We remark that $D \in \mathcal{F}$ for any filter $\mathcal{F}$ on D. A classic example of a filter is the set of neighborhoods of a point in a topological space. If D is an infinite set, an example of a filter on D is the family of **cofinite** subsets of D, defined to be those subsets of D whose complement is finite.

Definition 2.2.0.3. *An* **ultrafilter** *on D is a filter on D which is not properly contained in any other filter on D.*

Proposition 2.2.0.4. *Let $\mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(D)$. The following are equivalent.*

(i) $\mathcal{U}$ is an ultrafilter on D.

(ii) $\mathcal{U}$ has the finite intersection property and for each $A \in \mathcal{P}(D) \setminus \mathcal{U}$ there is some $B \in \mathcal{U}$ such that $A \cap B = \emptyset$.

(iii) $\mathcal{U}$ is maximal with respect to the finite intersection property. (That is, $\mathcal{U}$ is a maximal member of $\{\mathcal{V} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(D) \mid \mathcal{V}$ has the finite intersection property$\}$.)

(iv) $\mathcal{U}$ is a filter on D and for any collection $C_1, \ldots, C_n$ of subsets of D, if $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i \in \mathcal{U}$, then $C_j \in \mathcal{U}$ for some $j = 1, \ldots n$.

(v) $\mathcal{U}$ is a filter on D and for all $A \subseteq D$ either $A \in \mathcal{U}$ or $D \setminus A \in \mathcal{U}$.

Proof. Exercise. See [45, Theorem 3.6, p.49]. □

If $a \in D$, then $e(a) := \{A \in \mathcal{P}(D) \mid a \in A\}$ is easily seen to be an ultrafilter on D, called the **principal ultrafilter** defined by a. It is immediate the fact that $e(a) = e(b)$ if and only if $a = b$, so e is an embedding of D into the set of ultrafilters of D.

Proposition 2.2.0.5. *Let $\mathcal{U}$ be an ultrafilter on D. The following are equivalent:*

(i) $\mathcal{U}$ is a principal ultrafilter.

(ii) There is some $F \in \mathcal{P}_f(D)$ such that $F \in \mathcal{U}$.

(iii) *The set* $\{A \subseteq D \mid D \setminus A$ *is finite* $\}$ *is not contained in* $\mathcal{U}$.

(iv) $\bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{U}} A \neq \emptyset$.

(v) *There is some* $x \in D$ *such that* $\bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{U}} A = \{x\}$.

Proof. Exercise. See [45, Theorem 3.7, p.50]. □

Proposition 2.2.0.6. *Let* D *be set and let* $\mathcal{A}$ *be a subset of* $\mathcal{P}(D)$ *which has the finite intersection property. Then there is an ultrafilter* $\mathcal{U}$ *on* D *such that* $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$.

Proof. Exercise. □

Corollary 2.2.0.7. *Let* D *be set, let* $\mathcal{F}$ *be a filter on* D, *and let* $A \subseteq D$. *Then* $A \notin \mathcal{F}$ *if and only if there is some ultrafilter* $\mathcal{U}$ *with* $\mathcal{F} \cup \{D \setminus A\} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$.

Proof. Exercise. □

To see that non-principal ultrafilters exist, take, for example,

$$\mathcal{A} = \{A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid \mathbb{Z}_+ \setminus A \text{ is finite}\}.$$

Clearly $\mathcal{A}$ has the finite intersection property, so there is an ultrafilter $\mathcal{U}$ on $\mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$. It is easy to see that such $\mathcal{U}$ cannot be principal.

The following result shows that questions in Ramsey theory are questions about ultrafilters.

Proposition 2.2.0.8. *Let* D *be a set and let* $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(D)$. *The following are equivalent.*

(i) *Whenever* $r \geq 1$ *and* $D = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$, *there exists* $i \in [1, r]$ *and* $G \in \mathcal{G}$ *such that* $G \subseteq C_i$.

(ii) *There is an ultrafilter* $\mathcal{U}$ *on* D *such that for every member* A *of* $\mathcal{U}$, *there exists* $G \in \mathcal{G}$ *with* $G \subseteq A$.

Proof. Exercise. □

Those more familiar with measures may find it helpful to view an ultrafilter on D as a $\{0, 1\}$-valued finitely additive measure on $\mathcal{P}(D)$. Given an ultrafilter p on D, define a mapping $\mu_p : \mathcal{P}(D) \to \{0, 1\}$ by $\mu_p(A) = 1 \Leftrightarrow A \in p$. It is easy to see that $\mu_p(\emptyset) = 0$, $\mu_p(D) = 1$, and the fact that for any finite collection of pairwise disjoint sets $C_1, \ldots, C_n$, one has $\mu_p\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} C_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mu_p(C_i)$. The members of the ultrafilters are the "big" sets.

2.2.1 The Stone-Čech compactification

Let D be a discrete topological space. We shall denote with p, q ultrafilters on $\mathcal{D}$ and we shall use the following notations

$$\beta D = \{p \mid p \text{ ultrafilter on } D\}, \tag{2.6}$$

$$\widehat{A} = \{p \in \beta D \mid A \in p\} \quad \text{for any } A \subseteq D, \tag{2.7}$$

$$\mathcal{B} = \{\widehat{A} \mid A \subseteq D\}. \tag{2.8}$$

Lemma 2.2.1.1. *Let $A, B \subseteq D$.*

(i) $\widehat{A \cap B} = \widehat{A} \cap \widehat{B}$ *and* $\widehat{A \cup B} = \widehat{A} \cup \widehat{B}$.

(ii) $\widehat{D \setminus A} = \beta D \setminus \widehat{A}$.

(iii) $\widehat{A} = \emptyset$ *if and only if* $A = \emptyset$.

(iv) $\widehat{A} = \beta D$ *if and only if* $A = D$.

(v) $\widehat{A} = \widehat{B}$ *if and only if* $A = B$.

Proof. Exercise. See [45, Lemma 3.17, p.53]. □

It follows that the family $\mathcal{B}$ forms a basis for a topology on βD. We define the topology of βD to be the topology which has these sets as a basis.

We consider any $a \in D$ as an element of βD by identifying it with the principal filter $e(a)$ defined by a.

Theorem 2.2.1.2. *βD is the Stone-Čech compactification of D.*

Proof. See [45, Theorem 3.27, p.56]. □

Being a nice compact Hausdorff space, βD is, for infinite discrete spaces D, quite a strange object.

Proposition 2.2.1.3. *Let D be an infinite discrete topological space.*

(i) $|\beta D| = 2^{2^{|D|}}$. *In particular,* $|\beta \mathbb{Z}_+| = 2^c$, *where c is the cardinality of the continuum,* $c = |\mathbb{R}| = 2^{\aleph_0}$.

(ii) *βD is not metrizable.*

(iii) *Any infinite closed subset of βD contains a homeomorphic copy of all $\beta \mathbb{Z}_+$.*

Proof. (i) See [45, Section 3.6, p.66].

(ii) Otherwise, being a compact and hence separable metric space, it would have cardinality not exceeding c.

(iii) See [45, Theorem 3.59, p.66].

□

2.2.2 Topological semigroups

In the sequel, $(S,+)$ is a semigroup. For every $A, B \subseteq S$, $A + B = \{a + b \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$.

An element $x \in S$ is an **idempotent** if and only if $x + x = x$. We shall denote with $E(S)$ the set of all idempotents of S.

Definition 2.2.2.1. *Let $\emptyset \neq L, R, I \subseteq S$.*

(i) L is a **left ideal** *of S if and only if $S + L \subseteq L$.*

(ii) R is a **right ideal** *of S if and only if $R + S \subseteq R$.*

(iii) I is an **ideal** *of S if and only if I is both a left and a right ideal of S.*

Of special importance is the notion of **minimal** left and right ideals. By this we mean simply left or right ideals which are minimal with respect to set inclusion.

Let $(S,+)$ be a semigroup with S a topological space and define for each $x \in S$, the functions

$$\rho_x,\ \lambda_x : S \to S, \quad \rho_x(y) = y + x,\ \ \lambda_x(y) = x + y. \tag{2.9}$$

Definition 2.2.2.2. *(i) $(S,+)$ is a* **right topological semigroup** *if ρ_x is continuous for all $x \in S$.*

(ii) $(S,+)$ is a **left topological semigroup** *if λ_x is continuous for all $x \in S$.*

(iii) $(S,+)$ is a **semitopological semigroup** *if it is both a left and a right topological semigroup.*

(iv) $(S,+)$ is a **topological semigroup** *if $+ : S \times S \to S$ is continuous.*

We shall be concerned with compact Hausdorff right topological semigroups. Of fundamental importance is the following result.

Theorem 2.2.2.3. *Any compact Hausdorff right topological semigroup has an idempotent.*

Proof. See [45, Theorem 2.5, p.33]. □

Proposition 2.2.2.4. *Let $(S,+)$ be a compact Hausdorff right topological semigroup. Then every left ideal of S contains a minimal left ideal. Minimal left ideals are closed, and each minimal left ideal has an idempotent.*

Proof. See [45, Corollary 2.5, p.34]. □

Definition 2.2.2.5. *A* **minimal idempotent** *of $(S,+)$ is an idempotent which belongs to a minimal left ideal.*

Hence, any compact Hausdorff right topological semigroup has minimal idempotents.

2.2.3 The Stone-Čech compactification of $\mathbb{Z}_+$

Let us consider the discrete semigroup $(\mathbb{Z}_+, +)$ and its Stone-Čech compactification $\beta\mathbb{Z}_+$. It is natural to attempt to extend the addition $+$ from $\mathbb{Z}_+$ to $\beta\mathbb{Z}_+$. We recall that we consider $\mathbb{Z}_+ \subseteq \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$, by identifying $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ with the principal ultrafilter $e(n)$.

We define the following operation on $\beta\mathbb{Z}_+$: for all $p, q \in \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$,

$$p + q = \{A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid A - n \in q\} \in p\}. \tag{2.10}$$

Proposition 2.2.3.1. *(i) $+$ extends to $\beta\mathbb{Z}_+$ the addition $+$ on $\mathbb{Z}_+$.*

(ii) $(\beta\mathbb{Z}_+, +)$ is a right topological semigroup.

(iii) $(\beta\mathbb{Z}_+, +)$ is not commutative. In fact, for all non-principal ultrafilters $p, q \in \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$, we have that $p + q \neq q + p$.

Proof. (i), (ii) See [10, p. 43-44], or, for arbitrary discrete semigroups, [45, Chapter 4]. (iii) See [45, Theorem 6.9, p.109].

□

Proposition 2.2.3.2. *(i) Any idempotent ultrafilter is non-principal.*

(ii) There are minimal idempotents in $\beta\mathbb{Z}_+$.

Proof. (i) This follows from the fact that $(\mathbb{Z}_+, +)$ has no idempotents.

(ii) Apply the fact that $(\beta\mathbb{Z}_+, +)$ is a compact Hausdorff right topological semigroup.

□

Proposition 2.2.3.3. *Let p be an idempotent ultrafilter and define for all $A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_+$,*

$$A^\star(p) := \{n \in A \mid A - n \in p\}. \tag{2.11}$$

Then

(i) For every $A \in p$, $A^\star(p) \in p$.

(ii) For each $n \in A^\star(p)$, $A^\star(p) - n \in p$.

Proof. (i) We have that $p + p = \{A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid (A - n) \in p\} \in p\}$. Hence, $A \in p = p + p$ implies $\{n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid (A - n) \in p\} \in p$. In particular, $A^\star(p) = A \cap \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid A - n \in p\} \in p$.

(ii) Let $n \in A^\star(p)$, and let $B := A - n$. Then $B \in p$ and, by (i), $B^\star(p) \in p$. We prove that $B^\star(p) \subseteq A^\star(p) - n$ and then apply (ii) from the definition of a filter to conclude that $A^\star(p) - n \in p$. Assume that $m \in B^\star(p)$. It follows that $m \in B$, hence $m + n \in A$. Furthermore, $B - m \in p$, that is $A - (n + m) \in p$. We get that $m + n \in A^\star(p)$, i.e. $m \in A^\star(p) - n$.

□

Property (i) from the above proposition is a shift-invariance property of idempotent ultrafilters.

2.2.4 Finite Sums Theorem

In this section, we shall give an ultrafilter proof of Hindman's classical Finite Sums theorem [44], which contains as very special cases two early classical results in Ramsey theory: Hilbert theorem 1.6.1.1 and Schur theorem. Hindman's original proof, elementary though difficult, was greatly simplified by Baumgartner [2]. A topological dynamics proof was given by Furstenberg and Weiss [31].

Given an infinite sequence $(x_n)_{n\geq 1}$ in $\mathbb{Z}_+$, the **IP-set** generated by (x_n) is the set $FS\big((x_n)_{n\geq 1}\big)$ of finite sums of elements of (x_n) with distinct indices:

$$FS\big((x_n)_{n\geq 1}\big) = \left\{\sum_{m\in F} x_m \mid F \text{ is a finite nonempty subset of } \mathbb{Z}_+\right\}. \tag{2.12}$$

The term "IP-set", coined by Furstenberg and Weiss [31], stands for *infinite-dimensional parallelepiped*, as IP-sets can be viewed as a natural generalization of the notion of a parallelepiped of dimension d.

Furthermore, for any finite sequence $(x_k)_{k=1}^n$, let

$$FS\big((x_k)_{k=1}^n\big) = \{\sum_{m\in F} x_m \mid F \text{ is a finite nonempty subset of } \{1,\dots,n\}\}. \tag{2.13}$$

Then $FS\big((x_n)_{n\geq 1}\big) = \bigcup_{n\geq 1} FS\big((x_k)_{k=1}^n\big)$.

Theorem 2.2.4.1. *Let $p\in\beta\mathbb{Z}_+$ be a minimal idempotent and let $A\in p$. There exists a sequence $(x_n)_{n\geq 1}$ in $\mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $FS\big((x_n)_{n\geq 1}\big)\subseteq A$.*

Proof. Let p be a minimal idempotent and $A\in p$. By Proposition 2.2.3.3.(i), we have that $A^\star(p)\in p$. We define $(x_n)_{n\geq 1}$ in $\mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $FS\big((x_k)_{k=1}^n\big)\subseteq A^\star(p)$ for all $n\geq 1$. Since $A^\star(p)\subseteq A$, the conclusion follows.
$n=1$: Take $x_1\in A^\star(p)$ arbitrary. Remark that $A^\star(p)$ is nonempty, since p is a filter, hence $\emptyset\notin A$.
$n\Rightarrow n+1$: Let $n\geq 1$ and assume that we have chosen $(x_k)_{k=1}^n$ satisfying $FS\big((x_k)_{k=1}^n\big)\subseteq A^\star(p)$. Let

$$E = FS\big((x_k)_{k=1}^n\big). \tag{2.14}$$

Then E is a finite subset of $\mathbb{Z}_+$ and for each $a\in E$ we have, by Proposition 2.2.3.3.(ii), that $A^\star(p)-a\in p$. Hence, $B := A^\star(p)\cap\bigcap_{a\in E}\big(A^\star(p)-a\big)\in p$, so we can pick $x_{n+1}\in B$. Then $x_{n+1}\in A^\star(p)$ and given $a\in E$, $x_{n+1}+a\in A^\star(p)$. Thus, $FS\big((x_k)_{k=1}^{n+1}\big)\subseteq A^\star(p)$. □

As an immediate corollary we obtain the Finite Sums theorem.

Corollary 2.2.4.2 (Finite Sums theorem)**.**
Let $r\geq 1$ and $\mathbb{Z}_+ = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. There exist $i\in[1,r]$ and a sequence $(x_n)_{n\geq 1}$ in $\mathbb{Z}_+$ such that such that $FS\big((x_n)_{n\geq 1}\big)\subseteq C_i$.

Proof. By Proposition 2.2.3.2.(ii), there exists a minimal idempotent $p \in \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$. Since $\mathbb{Z}_+ \in \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$, we can apply Proposition 2.2.0.4.(iv) to get $i \in [1, r]$ such that $C_i \in p$. The conclusion follows from Theorem 2.2.4.1. □

As an immediate corollary, we obtain Schur theorem, one of the earliest results in Ramsey theory.

Corollary 2.2.4.3 (Schur theorem)**.** *[76]*
Let $r \geq 1$ and let $\mathbb{Z}_+ = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. There exist $i \in [1, r]$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\{x, y, x+y\} \subseteq C_i$.

Hilbert theorem 1.6.1.1, proved in Section 1.6.1 using topological dynamics, is also an immediate consequence of Finite Sums theorem.

Corollary 2.2.4.4 (see Hilbert theorem 1.6.1.1)**.**
Let $r \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ and $\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. Then for any $l \geq 1$ there exist $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \ldots \leq n_l \in \mathbb{N}$ such that infinitely many translates of $FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)$ belong to the same C_i. That is,

$$\bigcup_{a \in B} \big(a + FS\big(n_1, \ldots, n_l\big)\big) \subseteq C_i$$

for some finite sequence $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \ldots \leq n_l$ in $\mathbb{N}$ and some infinite set $B \subseteq \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. Exercise. □

2.2.5 Ultrafilter proof of van der Waerden

Theorem 2.2.5.1. *Let $p \in \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$ be a minimal idempotent and let $A \in p$. Then A contains arbitrarily long arithmetic progressions.*

Proof. See [10, Theorem 3.11, p. 50] or [,]. □

As an immediate corollary, we get van der Waerden theorem.

Corollary 2.2.5.2. *Let $r \geq 1$ and $\mathbb{Z}_+ = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} C_i$. There exists $i \in [1, r]$ such that C_i contains arithmetic progression of arbitrary finite length.*

2.2.6 Ultralimits

Definition 2.2.6.1. *Let $p \in \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$, X be a Hausdorff topological space, $x \in X$, and $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence in X. Then x is said to be a p-**limit** of (x_n) if*

$$\{n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \mid x_n \in U\} \in p$$

for every open neighborhood U of x.

We write $p-\lim x_n = x$.

Proposition 2.2.6.2. *Let X be a Hausdorff topological space and $(x_n)_{n\geq 1}$ be a sequence in X.*

(i) For every $p \in \beta\mathbb{Z}_+$, the following are satisfied:

(a) The p-limit of (x_n), if exists, is unique.

(b) If X is compact, then $p-\lim x_n$ exists.

(c) If $f : X \to Y$ is continuous and $p-\lim x_n = x$, then $p-\lim f(x_n) = f(x)$.

(ii) $\lim\limits_{n\to\infty} x_n = x$ implies $p-\lim x_n = x$ for every non-principal ultrafilter p.

Proof. Exercise. □

Proposition 2.2.6.3. *Let $(x_n)_{n\geq 1}, (y_n)_{n\geq 1}$ be bounded sequences in $\mathbb{R}$, and p be a non-principal ultrafilter on $\mathbb{Z}_+$.*

(i) (x_n) has a unique p-limit. If $a \leq x_n \leq b$, then $a \leq p-\lim x_n \leq b$.

(ii) For any $c \in \mathbb{R}$, $p-\lim cx_n = c \cdot p-\lim x_n$.

(iii) $p-\lim(x_n + y_n) = p-\lim x_n + p-\lim y_n$.

Proof. Exercise. □

Part II

Appendices

Appendix A

Set theory

Proposition A.0.6.4 (Zorn's Lemma).
Let $(X, \leq)$ be a nonempty partially ordered set. Assume every chain (i.e. totally ordered subset) has an upper bound (resp. a lower bound). Then X has a maximal element (resp., minimal element).

Let $T : X \to X$. For any $n \geq 1$, $T^n : X \to X$ is the composition of T n-times. For $n \geq 1$ and $A \subseteq X$, we shall use the notation

$$T^{-n}(A) := (T^n)^{-1}(A) = \{x \in X \mid T^n x \in A\}. \tag{A.1}$$

If T is bijective with inverse T^{-1}, then the inverse of T^n is $\left(T^{-1}\right)^n$, the composition of T^{-1} n-times. We shall denote it with T^{-n}. Thus,

$$T^{-n} = \left(T^{-1}\right)^n = (T^n)^{-1}. \tag{A.2}$$

Lemma A.0.6.5. *Let $T : X \to X$ and $A \subseteq X$.*

(i) If $T(A) \subseteq A$, then $T^{n+1}(A) \subseteq T^n(A) \subseteq A$ for all $n \geq 0$.

(ii) If $T(A) = A$, then $T^n(A) = A$ for all $n \geq 0$.

(iii) $T^{-n-1}(A) = T^{-1}(T^{-n}(A)) = T^{-n}(T^{-1}(A))$.

(iv) If $T^{-1}(A) \subseteq A$, then $T^{-n-1}(A) \subseteq T^{-n}(A) \subseteq A$ for all $n \geq 0$.

(v) If $T^{-1}(A) = A$, then $T(A) \subseteq A$.

(vi) If $T^{-1}(A) = A$, then $T^{-n}(A) = A$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Lemma A.0.6.6. *Let $T : X \to X$ be bijective and $A \subseteq X$.*

(i) $T(A) = A$ if and only if $T^{-1}(A) = A$.

(ii) If $T(A) = A$, then $T^n(A) = A$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

A.1 Collections of sets

Definition A.1.0.7. *Let X be a set. A collection $\mathcal{C}$ of subsets of X is said to* **cover** *X, or to be a* **cover** *or a* **covering** *of X, if every point in X is in one of the sets of $\mathcal{C}$, i.e. $X = \bigcup \mathcal{C}$.*

Given any cover $\mathcal{C}$ of X, a **subcover** *of $\mathcal{C}$ is a subset of $\mathcal{C}$ that is still a cover of X.*

Definition A.1.0.8. *Let X be a set. A collection $\mathcal{C}$ of subsets of X is said to have the* **finite intersection property** *if for every finite subcollection $\{C_1, \ldots, C_n\}$ of $\mathcal{C}$, the intersection $C_1 \cap \ldots \cap C_n$ is nonempty.*

Remark A.1.0.9. *If X has a finite cover $X = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} A_i$, then we can always construct a cover $X = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} B_i$ of X such that $m \leq n$, $B_i \subseteq A_i$, and $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$. Just take $B_i := A_i \setminus \bigcup_{j \neq i} A_j$.*

Appendix B

Topology

In the sequel, spaces X, Y, Z are nonempty topological spaces.

Definition B.0.0.10. *A point x in X is said to be an* **isolated point** *of X if the one-point set $\{x\}$ is open in X.*

Definition B.0.0.11. *Let X, Y be topological spaces and $f : X \to Y$.*

(i) f is said to be an **open** *map if for each open set U of X, the set $f(U)$ is open in Y.*

(ii) f is said to be a **closed** *map if for each closed set U of X, the set $f(U)$ is closed in Y.*

B.1 Closure, interior and related

Let A be a subset of X.

Definition B.1.0.12. *The* **closure** *of A, denoted by $\overline{A}$, is defined as the intersection of all closed subsets of X that contain A.*

Definition B.1.0.13. *The* **interior** *of A, denoted by A°, is the union of all open subsets of X that are contained in A.*

Proposition B.1.0.14. *(i) If U is an open set that intersects $\overline{A}$, then U must intersect A.*

(ii) If X is a Hausdorff space without isolated points, then given any nonempty set U of X and any finite subset S of X, there exists a nonempty open set V contained in U such that $S \cap \overline{V} = \emptyset$.

Proof. See [56, proof of Theorem 27.7, p.176]. □

Definition B.1.0.15. *A subset A of X is* **dense** *in X if $\overline{A} = X$.*

Proposition B.1.0.16. *Let $A \subseteq X$. The following are equivalent:*

(i) A is dense in X.

(ii) A meets every nonempty open subset of X.

(iii) A meets every nonempty basis open subset of X.

(iv) the complement of A has empty interior.

Definition B.1.0.17. *A subset A of a topological space X is called* **nowhere dense** *if its closure $\overline{A}$ has empty interior.*

Hence, a closed subset is nowhere dense if and only if it has nonempty interior.

B.2 Hausdorff spaces

Definition B.2.0.18. *X is said to be* **Hausdorff** *if for each pair x, y of distinct points of X, there exist disjoint open sets containing x and y, respectively.*

Proposition B.2.0.19. *(i) Every finite subset of a Hausdorff topological space is closed.*

(ii) Any subspace of a Hausdorff space is Hausdorff.

(iii) X is Hausdorff if and only if the diagonal $\Delta = \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\}$ is closed in $X \times X$.

Proof. (i) See [56, Theorem 17.8, p.99].

(ii) See [51, Proposition 3.4, p.41-42].

(iii) See [56, Ex. 13, p.101].

□

B.3 Bases and subbases

Definition B.3.0.20. *Let X be a set. A* **basis** *(for a topology) on X is a collection $\mathcal{B}$ of subsets of X (called* **basis elements***) satisfying the following conditions:*

(i) Every element is in some basis element; in other words, $X = \bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{B}} B$.

(ii) If $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{B}$ and $x \in B_1 \cap B_2$, there exists a basis element $B_3 \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B_3 \subseteq B_1 \cap B_2$.

Let $\mathcal{B}$ be basis on a set X, and define

$$\mathcal{T} := \text{the collection of all unions of elements of } \mathcal{B}.$$

Then $\mathcal{T}$ is a topology on X, called the **topology generated by** $\mathcal{B}$. We also say that $\mathcal{B}$ **is a basis for** $\mathcal{T}$.

Another way of describing the topology generated by a basis is given in the following. Given a set X and a collection $\mathcal{B}$ of subsets of X, we say that a subset $U \subseteq X$ satisfies the **basis criterion** with respect to $\mathcal{B}$ if for every $x \in U$, there exists $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B \subseteq U$.

Proposition B.3.0.21. *Let $\mathcal{B}$ be a basis on a set X and $\mathcal{T}$ be the topology generated by $\mathcal{B}$. Then $\mathcal{T}$ is precisely the collection of all subsets of X that satisfy the basis criterion with respect to $\mathcal{B}$.*

Proof. See [51, Lemma 2.10, p.27-28]. □

Proposition B.3.0.22. *Suppose X is a topological space, and $\mathcal{B}$ is a collection of open subsets of X. If every open subset of X satisfies the basis criterion with respect to $\mathcal{B}$, then $\mathcal{B}$ is a basis for the topology of X.*

Proof. See [51, Lemma 2.11, p.29]. □

Definition B.3.0.23. *A* **subbasis** *(for a topology) on X is a collection of subsets of X whose union equals X. The* **topology generated by the subbasis** $\mathcal{S}$ *is defined to be the collection $\mathcal{T}$ of all unions of finite intersections of elements of $\mathcal{S}$.*

If $\mathcal{S}$ is a subbasis on X and $\mathcal{B}$ is the collection of all finite intersections of elements of $\mathcal{S}$, then $\mathcal{B}$ is a basis on X and $\mathcal{T}$ is the topology generated by $\mathcal{B}$.

B.4 Continuous functions

A function $f : X \to Y$ is said to be **continuous** if for each open subset V of Y, the set $f^{-1}(V)$ is open in X.

Remark B.4.0.24. *If the topology of Y is given by a basis (resp. a subbasis), then to prove continuity of f it suffices to show that the inverse image of every* **basis element** *(resp.* **subbasis element***) is open.*

Proof. See [56, p.103]. □

Proposition B.4.0.25. *Let $f : X \to Y$. The following are equivalent*

(i) f is continuous.

(ii) For every closed subset B of Y, the set $f^{-1}(B)$ is closed in X.

(iii) For every subset A of X, $f(\overline{A}) \subseteq \overline{f(A)}$.

(iv) For each $x \in X$ and each open neighborhood V of Tx, there is an open neighborhood U of x such that $f(U) \subseteq V$.

Proof. See [56, Theorem 18.1, p.104]. □

Proposition B.4.0.26. *Let X, Y, Z be topological spaces.*

(i) (Inclusion) If A is a subspace of X, then the inclusion function $j : A \to X$ is continuous.

(ii) (Composition) If $f : X \to Y$ and $g : Y \to Z$ are continuous, then the map $g \circ f$ is continuous.

(iii) (Restricting the domain) If $f : X \to Y$ is continuous and A is a subspace of X, then the restricted function $f\mid_A: A \to Y$ is continuous.

(iv) (Restricting or expanding the range) Let $f : X \to Y$ be continuous. If Z is a subspace of Y, containing the image set $f(X)$ of f, then the function $g : X \to Z$ obtained by restricting the range of f is continuous. If Z is a space having Y as a subspace, then the function $h : X \to Z$, obtained by expanding the range of f is continuous.

(v) (Local formulation of continuity) The map $f : X \to Y$ is continuous if X can be written as the union of open sets $U_i (i \in I)$ such that $f\mid_{U_i}$ is continuous for each $i \in I$.

Proof. See [56, Theorem 18.2, p.108]. □

B.4.1 Homeomorphisms

Definition B.4.1.1. *A mapping $f : X \to Y$ is called a* **homeomorphism** *if f is bijective and both f and its inverse f^{-1} are continuous.*

If $f : X \to X$ is a homeomorphism, then $f^n : X \to X$ is also a homeomorphism for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Definition B.4.1.2. *A continuous map $f : X \to Y$ is a* **local homeomorphism** *if every point $x \in X$ has a neighborhood $U \subseteq X$ such that $f(U)$ is an open subset of Y and $f|_U : U \to f(U)$ is a homeomorphism.*

Proposition B.4.1.3. *Let $f : X \to Y$ be bijective. The following properties of f are equivalent*

(i) f is a homeomorphism.

(ii) f is continuous and open.

(iii) f is continuous and closed.

(iv) $f(\overline{A}) = \overline{f(A)}$ for each $A \subseteq X$.

(v) f is a local homeomorphism.

Proof. See [21, Theorem 12.2, p.89] and [51, Ex. 2.8.(d), p.24]. □

Proposition B.4.1.4. *Every local homeomorphism is an open map.*

Proof. See [51, Ex. 2.8.(a), p.24]. □

B.5 Metric topology and metrizable spaces

Let (X, d) be a metric space. Given $x \in X$ and $r > 0$, let

$$\begin{aligned} B_r(x) &= \{y \in X \mid d(x,y) < r\} \text{ is the } \textbf{open ball} \text{ with center} x \text{ and radius } r, \text{ while} \\ \overline{B}_r(x) &= \{y \in X \mid d(x,y) \leq r\} \text{ is the } \textbf{open ball} \text{ with center} x \text{ and radius } r. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition B.5.0.5. *The collection*

$$\mathcal{B} := \{B_r(x) \mid x \in X, r > 0\}$$

is a basis for a topology on X.

Proof. See [56, p.119]. □

The topology generated by $\mathcal{B}$ is called the **metric topology (induced by d)**.

Remark B.5.0.6. *It is easy to see that the set $\{B_{2^{-k}}(x) \mid x \in X, k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is also a basis for the metric topolgy.*

Example B.5.0.7. (i) Let X be a discrete metric space. Then the induced metric topology is the discrete topology.

(ii) Let $(\mathbb{R}, d)$ be the set of real numbers with the natural metric $d(x, y) = |x - y|$. Then the induced metric topology is the standard topology on $\mathbb{R}$.

(iii) Let $(\mathbb{C}, d)$ be the set of complex numbers with the natural metric $d(z_1, z_2) = |z_1 - z_2|$.

(iv) Let $\mathbb{R}^n (n \geq 1)$ and define the **euclidean metric** on $\mathbb{R}^n$ by

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sqrt{(x_1 - y_1)^2 + (x_2 - y_2)^2 + \ldots + (x_n - y_n)^2}$$
$$\text{for all } \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2 \ldots, x_n),\ \mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2 \ldots, y_n).$$

The metric space $(\mathbb{R}^n, d)$ is called the **euclidean n-space**.

Definition B.5.0.8. *Let (X, d) be a metric space and $\emptyset \neq A \subseteq X$.*

(i) A is said to be **bounded** *if there exists $M \geq 0$ such that $d(x, y) \leq M$ for all $x, y \in A$.*

(ii) If A is bounded, the **diameter** *of A is defined by*

$$diam(A) = \sup\{d(x, y) \mid x, y \in A\}. \tag{B.1}$$

Let (X, d) be a metric space. Define

$$\overline{d} : X \times X \to [0, \infty), \quad \overline{d}(x, y) = \min\{d(x, y), 1\} \tag{B.2}$$

Proposition B.5.0.9. *$\overline{d}$ is a metric on X that induces the same topology as d.*

Proof. See [56, Theorem 20.1, p.121]. □

The metric $\overline{d}$ is called the **standard bounded metric** corresponding to d. Thus, $(X, \overline{d})$ is bounded.

Definition B.5.0.10. *If X is a topological space, X is said to be* **metrizable** *if there exists a metric d on X that induces the topology of X.*

Thus, a metric space is a metrizable topological space together with a specific metric d that gives the topology of X.

Proposition B.5.0.11. *Let X be a metrizable space.*

(i) X is Hausdorff.

(ii) If $A \subseteq X$ and $x \in X$, then $x \in \overline{A}$ if and only if there is a sequence of points of A converging to x.

Proof. (i) is easy to see.

(ii) See [56, Lemma 21.2, p.129-130].

□

Proposition B.5.0.12 (Continuity)**.** *Let $f : X \to Y$; let X and Y be metrizable with metrics d_X and d_Y. The following are equivalent*

(i) f is continuous.

(ii) Given $x \in X$ and given $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $y \in X$,

$$d_X(x, y) < \delta \quad \Rightarrow \quad d_Y(f(x), f(y)) < \varepsilon.$$

(iii) Given $x \in X$, for every sequence (x_n) in X,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} x_n = x \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lim_{n\to\infty} f(x_n) = f(x).$$

B.6 Disjoint unions

Let X, Y be topological spaces. Consider the **disjoint union** $X \sqcup Y$ of the sets X, Y. Thus, the points in $X \sqcup Y$ are given by taking all the points of X together with all the points of Y, and thinking of all these points as being distinct. So if the sets X and Y overlap, then each point in the intersection occurs twice in the disjoint union $X \sqcup Y$. We can therefore think of X as a subset of $X \sqcup Y$ and we can think of Y as a subset of $X \sqcup Y$, and these two subsets do not intersect.

Define a topology on $X \sqcup Y$ by

$$\mathcal{T} = \{A \cup B \mid A \text{ open in } X,\, B \text{ open in } Y\}.$$

It is easy to see that both X and Y are clopen subsets of $X \sqcup Y$.

Remark B.6.0.13. *Formally, $X \sqcup Y = \{(x,1) \mid x \in X\} \cup \{(y,2) \mid y \in Y\}$, $j_1 : X \to X \sqcup Y, j_1(x) = (x,1)$ and $j_2 : Y \to X \sqcup Y, j_2(y) = (y,2)$ are the canonical embeddings, and*

$$\mathcal{T} = \{j_1(A) \cup j_2(B) \mid A \text{ open in } X,\, B \text{ open in } Y\}.$$

Proposition B.6.0.14. *(i) $X \sqcup Y$ is Hausdorff if and only if both X and Y are Hausdorff.*

(ii) For any topological space Z, a map $f : X \sqcup Y \to Z$ is continuous if and only if its components $f_1 : X \to Z$, $f_2 : Y \to Z$ are continuous.

Proof. See [19, Theorems 5.31, 5.35, 5.36, p.68-70]. □

B.7 Product topology

Let $(X_i)_{i\in I}$ be an indexed family of nonempty topological spaces and $\pi_i : \prod_{i\in I} X_i \to X_i$ be the projections.

Definition B.7.0.15. *The* **product topology** *is the smallest topology on $\prod_{i\in I} X_i$ for which all the projections $\pi_i\, (i \in I)$ are continuous. In this topology, $\prod_{i\in I} X_i$ is called a* **product space**.

Let us define, for $i \in I$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_i &:= \{\pi_i^{-1}(U) \mid U \text{ is open in } X_i\} \\ &= \left\{\prod_{j\in I} U_j \mid U_i \text{ is open in } X_i \text{ and } U_j = X_j \text{ for } j \neq i\right\} \end{aligned}$$

and let $\mathcal{S}$ denote the union of these collections,

$$\mathcal{S} := \bigcup_{i\in I} \mathcal{S}_i. \tag{B.3}$$

Then S is a subbasis for the product topology on $\prod_{i\in I} X_i$.
Furthermore, if we define

$$\mathcal{B} := \Big\{ \prod_{i\in I} U_i \mid U_i \text{ is open in } X_i \text{ for each } i \in I \text{ and } U_i = X_i \\ \text{for all but finitely many values of } i \in I \Big\},$$

then $\mathcal{B}$ is the basis generated by $\mathcal{S}$ for the product topology .

Proposition B.7.0.16. *(i) Suppose that the topology on each space X_i is given by a basis $\mathcal{B}_i$. Then the collection $\mathcal{B} := \Big\{ \prod_{i\in I} B_i \mid B_i \in \mathcal{B}_i$ for finitely many indices $i \in I$ and $B_i = X_i$ for the remaining indices $\Big\}$ is a basis for the product topology.*

(ii) Suppose that the topology on each space X_i is given by a subbasis $\mathcal{S}_i$. Then the collection $\mathcal{S} := \bigcup_{i\in I}\{\pi_i^{-1}(U) \mid U \in \mathcal{S}_i\}$ is a subbasis for the product topology.

Proof. (i) See [56, Theorem 19.2, p.116].

(ii) See [21, 1.2, p.99].

□

Proposition B.7.0.17.

(i) For any topological space Y, a map $f : Y \to \prod_{i\in I} X_i$ is continuous if and only if each of its components $f_i : Y \to X_i$, $f_i = \pi_i \circ f$ is continuous.

(ii) If each X_i is Hausdorff, then $\prod_{i\in I} X_i$ is Hausdorff.

(iii) Let (x^n) be a sequence in $\prod_{i\in I} X_i$ and $x \in \prod_{i\in I} X_i$. Then $\lim_{n\to\infty} x^n = x$ if and only if $\lim_{n\to\infty} x_i^n = x_i$ for all $i \in I$, where $x_i^n := \pi_i(x^n), x_i := \pi_i(x)$.

Proof. (i) See [56, Theorem 19.6, p.117].

(ii) See [56, Theorem 19.4, p.116].

(iii) See [56, Exercise 6, p.118].

□

Proposition B.7.0.18. *Let $(f_i : X_i \to Y_i)_{i\in I}$ be a family of functions and*

$$\prod_{i\in I} f_i : \prod_{i\in I} X_i \to \prod_{i\in I} Y_i, \quad \prod_{i\in I} f_i((x_i)_{i\in I}) = (f_i(x_i))_{i\in I}$$

be the product function. If each f_i is continuous (resp. a homeomorphism), then $\prod_{i\in I} f_i$ is continuous (resp. a homeomorphism).

Proof. See [21, Theorem 2.5, p.102]. □

B.7.1 Metric spaces

Proposition B.7.1.1. *Let $(X_1, d_1), \dots, (X_n, d_n)$ be metric spaces. Then*

$$d : \prod_{i=1}^{n} X_i \times \prod_{i=1}^{n} X_i \to [0, \infty), \quad d(x, y) := \max_{i=1,\dots,n} d_i(x_i, y_i) \tag{B.4}$$

is a metric that induces the product topology on $\prod_{i=1}^{n} X_i$.

Proof. See [56, Ex 3, p. 133]. □

Proposition B.7.1.2. *Any countable product of metric spaces is metrizable.*

Proof. See, for example, [47, Theorem 14, p. 122]. □

B.8 Quotient topology

Definition B.8.0.3. *Let X and Y be topological spaces and $p : X \to Y$ be a surjective map. The map p is said to be a* **quotient map** *provided a subset U of Y is open if and only if $p^{-1}(U)$ is open.*

The condition is stronger than continuity; some mathematicians call it "*strong continuity*". An equivalent condition is to require that a subset F of Y is closed if and only if $p^{-1}(F)$ is closed.

Now we show that the notion of quotient map can be used to construct a topology on a set.

Definition B.8.0.4. *Let X be a topological space, Y be any set and $p : X \to Y$ be a surjective map. There is exactly one topology $\mathcal{Q}$ on X relative to which p is a quotient map; it is called the* **quotient topology** *induced by p.*

The topology $\mathcal{Q}$ is of course defined by

$$\mathcal{Q} := \{U \subseteq Y \mid p^{-1}(U) \text{ is open in } X\}. \tag{B.5}$$

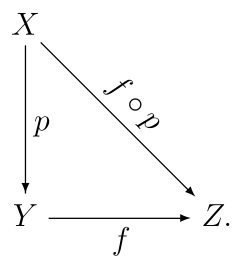
It is easy to check that $\mathcal{Q}$ is a topology. Furthermore, the quotient topology is the largest topology on Y for which p is continuous

Proposition B.8.0.5. *If $p : X \to Y$ is a surjective continuous map that is either open or closed, then p is a quotient map.*

Proposition B.8.0.6 (Characteristic property of quotient maps)**.**
Let X and Y be topological spaces and $p : X \to Y$ be a surjective map. The following are equivalent

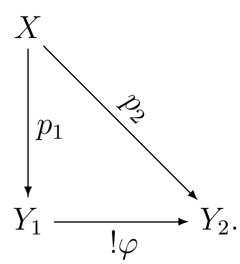
(i) p is a quotient map;

(ii) for any topological space Z and any map $f : Y \to Z$, f is continuous if and only if the composite map $f \circ p$ is continuous:



Proof. See [51, Theorem 3.29, p.56] and [51, Theorem 3.31, p.57]. □

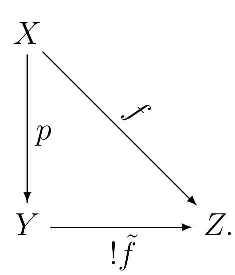
Proposition B.8.0.7 (Uniqueness of quotient spaces)**.**
Suppose $p_1 : X \to Y_1$ and $p_2 : X \to Y_2$ are quotient maps that make the same identifications (i.e., $p_1(x) = p_1(z)$ if and only if $p_2(x) = p_2(z)$). Then there is a unique homeomorphism $\varphi : Y_1 \to Y_2$ such that $\varphi \circ p_1 = p_2$.



Proof. See [51, Corollary 3.32, p.57-58]. □

Proposition B.8.0.8. (Passing to the quotient) *Suppose $p : X \to Y$ is a quotient map, Z is a topological space and $f : X \to Z$ is a map that is constant on the fibers of p (i.e. $p(x) = p(z)$ implies $f(x) = f(z)$). Then there exists a unique map $\tilde{f} : Y \to Z$ such that $f = \tilde{f} \circ p$.*

The induced map $\tilde{f}$ is continuous if and only if f is continuous; $\tilde{f}$ is a quotient map if and only if f is a quotient map.



Proof. [51, Corollary 3.30, p.56], [56, Theorem 22.2, p.142]. □

The most common source of quotient maps is the following construction. Let $\equiv$ be an equivalence relation on a topological space X. For each $x \in X$ let $[x]$ denote the equivalence class of x, and let $X/\equiv$ denote the set of equivalence classes. Let $\pi : X \to X/\equiv$ be the natural projection sending each element of X to its equivalence class. Then $X/\equiv$ together with the quotient topology induced by π is called **the quotient space of X modulo $\equiv$**.

One can think of $X/\equiv$ as having been obtained by "identifying" each pair of equivalent points. For this reason, the quotient space $X/\equiv$ is often called an **identification space**, or a **decomposition space** of X.

We can describe the topology of $X/\equiv$ in another way. A subset U of $X/\equiv$ is a collection of equivalence classes, and the set $p^{-1}(U)$ is just the union of the equivalence classes belonging to U. Thus, the typical open set of $X/\equiv$ is a collection of equivalence classes whose **union** is an open set of X.

Any equivalence relation on X determines a partition of X, that is a decomposition of X into a collection of disjoint subsets whose union is X. Hence, alternatively, a quotient space can be defined by explicitly giving a partition of X. Thus, let $X^\star$ be a partition of X into and $\pi : X \to X^\star$ be the surjective map that carries each point of X to the unique element of $X^\star$ containing it. Then $X^\star$ together with the quotient topology induced by π is called also a **quotient space of X**.

Whether a given quotient space is defined in terms of an equivalence relation or a partition is a matter of convenience.

B.9 Complete regularity

Definition B.9.0.9. *[56, p. 211]*
A topological space X is **completely regular** *if it satisfies the following:*

(i) One-point sets are closed in X.

(ii) For each point $x_0 \in X$ and each closed set A not containing x_0, there is a continuous function $f : X \to [0,1]$ such that $f(x_0) = 1$ and $f(A) = \{0\}$.

B.10 Compactness

Definition B.10.0.10. *An* **open cover** *of X is a collection of open sets that cover X.*

Definition B.10.0.11. *A topological space X is said to be* **compact** *if every open cover $\mathcal{A}$ of X contains a finite subcover of X.*

Proposition B.10.0.12 (Equivalent characterizations).
Let X be a topological space. The following are equivalent:

(i) X is compact.

(ii) For every collection $\mathcal{C}$ of nonempty closed sets in X having the finite intersection property, the intersection $\bigcap \mathcal{C}$ of all the elements of $\mathcal{C}$ is nonempty.

Proof. See [56, Theorem 26.9, p.169]. □

Corollary B.10.0.13. *If $\mathcal{C}$ is a chain (i.e. totally ordered by inclusion) of nonempty closed subsets of a compact space X, then the intersection $\bigcap \mathcal{C}$ is nonempty.*

Proof. It is easy to see that $\mathcal{C}$ has the finite intersection property. □

As an immediate consequence, we get

Corollary B.10.0.14. *If $(C_n)_{n\geq 0}$ is a decreasing sequence of nonempty closed subsets of a compact space X, then the intersection $\bigcap_{n\geq 0} C_n$ is nonempty.*

Proposition B.10.0.15.

(i) Any finite topological space is compact.

(ii) Every closed subspace of a compact space is compact.

(iii) Every compact subspace of a Hausdorff space is closed.

(iv) The product of finitely many compact spaces is compact.

(v) $X \sqcup Y$ is a compact space if and only if both X and Y are compact spaces.

(vi) The image of a compact space under a continuous map is compact.

Proof. (i) Obviously.

(ii) See [56, Theorem 26.2, p.165].

(iii) See [56, Theorem 26.3, p.165].

(iv) See [56, Theorem 26.7, p.167].

(v) See [56, Exercise 3, p.171].

(vi) See [56, Theorem 26.5, p.166].

□

Proposition B.10.0.16. *Let X be a compact space.*

(i) If $x \in X$ and U is an open neighborhood of x, then there exists an open neighborhood V of x such that $\overline{V} \subseteq U$.

Theorem B.10.0.17 (Tychonoff Theorem).
An arbitrary product of compact spaces is compact in the product topology.

Proof. See [56, Theorem 37.3, p.234]. □

Theorem B.10.0.18 (**Heine-Borel Theorem).**
A subspace A of the euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is compact if and only if it is closed and bounded.

Proof. See [56, Theorem 27.3, p.173]. □

Theorem B.10.0.19. *Let X be a compact Hausdorff space. The following are equivalent:*

(i) X is metrizable.

(ii) X is **second-countable***, that is X has a countable basis for its topology.*

Proof. See [56, Ex. 3, p.218]. □

B.10.1 Sequential compactness

Definition B.10.1.1. *A topological space X is* **sequentially compact** *if every sequence of points of X has a convergent subsequence.*

Proposition B.10.1.2. *If X is metrizable, then X is compact if and only if it is sequentially compact.*

Proof. See [56, Theorem 28.2, p.179]. □

B.10.2 Total boundedness

Definition B.10.2.1. *A metric space (X, d) is said to be* **totally bounded** *if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a finite cover of X by ε-balls.*

Proposition B.10.2.2. *A metric space (X, d) is compact if and only if it is complete and totally bounded.*

Proof. See [56, Theorem 45.1, p.276]. □

B.10.3 Stone-Čech compactification

Definition B.10.3.1. *A* **compactification** *of a topological space X is a compact Hausdorff space Y containing X as a subspace such that $\overline{X} = Y$. Two compactifications Y_1 and Y_2 of X are said to be* **equivalent** *if there is a homeomorphism $h : Y_1 \to Y_2$ such that $h(x) = x$ for every $x \in X$.*

Proposition B.10.3.2. *Let X be a completely regular space. There exists a compactification βX of X having the following properties:*

(i) βX satisfies the following **extension property***: Given any continuous map $f : X \to C$ of X into a compact Hausdorff space C, the map f extends uniquely to a continuous map $\tilde{f} : \beta X \to C$.*

(ii) Any other compactification Y of X satisfying the extension property is equivalent with βX.

Proof. See [56, Theorem 38.4, p.240] and [56, Theorem 38.5, p.240]. □

βX is called the **Stone-Čech compactification** of X.

Proposition B.10.3.3. *Let X and Y be completely regular spaces. Then any continuous mapping $f : X \to Y$ extends uniquely to a continuous function $\beta f : \beta X \to \beta Y$.*

B.11 Baire category

Definition B.11.0.4. *[75, 20.6, p. 532] Let X be a topological space. A set $A \subseteq X$ is* **meager***, or of the* **first category of Baire***, if it is the union of countably many nowhere dense sets.*

A set that is not meager is called **nonmeager***, or of the* **second category of Baire***.*

Thus, every set is either of first or second category.

Definition B.11.0.5. *[75, 20.6, p. 532] A set A is* **residual** *(or* **comeager** *or* **generic***) if $X \setminus A$ is meager.*

Lemma B.11.0.6. *Let X be a topological space.*

(i) A is meager iff A is contained in the union of countably many closed sets having empty interiors.

(ii) A is comeager iff A contains the intersection of countably many open dense sets.

Definition B.11.0.7. *A topological space X is said to be a* **Baire space** *if the following condition holds:*

Given any countable collection $(F_n)_{n\geq 1}$ of closed sets each of which has empty interior, their union $\bigcup_{n\geq 1} F_n$ has empty interior.

Proposition B.11.0.8 (Equivalent characterizations)**.** *Let X be a topological space. The following are equivalent:*

(i) X is a Baire space.

(ii) Given any countable collection $(G_n)_{n\geq 1}$ of open dense subsets of X, their intersection $\bigcap_{n\geq 1} G_n$ is also dense in X.

(iii) Any residual subset of X is dense in X.

(iv) Any meager subset of X has empty interior.

(v) Any nonempty open subset of X is nonmeager.

Proof. See [75, 20.15, p. 537]. □

An immediate consequence of Proposition B.11.0.8.(iii) is the following

Corollary B.11.0.9. *Any residual subset of a Baire space is nonempty.*

We may think of the meager sets as "small" and the residual sets as "large". Although "large" is a stronger property than "nonempty", in some situations the most conveninet way to prove that some set A is nonempty is by showing the set is "large". That is one way in which the above corollary is used.

The most important result about Baire spaces is

Theorem B.11.0.10 (Baire Category Theorem)**.** *If X is a compact Hausdorff space or a complete metric space, then X is a Baire space.*

Proof. See [56, Theorem 48.2, p. 296]. □

B.12 Covering maps

Definition B.12.0.11. *Let $p : Y \to Y$ be a continuous surjective map. The open set U of Y is said to be* **evenly covered** *by p if the inverse image $p^{-1}(U)$ can be written as the union of disjoint open sets V_α in X such that for each α, the restriction of p to V_α is a homeomorphism of V_α onto U. The collection (V_α) will be called a partition of $p^{-1}(U)$ into* **slices***.*

Definition B.12.0.12. *Let $p : Y \to Y$ be a continuous surjective map. If every point of Y has an open neighborhood U that is evenly covered by p. then p is called a* **covering map***, and Y is said to be a* **covering space** *of X.*

Lemma B.12.0.13. *Any covering map is a local homeomorphism, but the converse does not hold.*

Proof. See [56, Example 2, p.338]. □

Proposition B.12.0.14. *The map*

$$\varepsilon : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{S}^1, \quad \varepsilon(t) = e^{2\pi i t}. \tag{B.6}$$

is a covering map.

Proof. See [56, Theorem 53.3, p.339] or [51, Lemma 8.5, p.183]. □

Appendix C

Topological groups

References for topological groups are, for example, [53] or [42].

Definition C.0.0.15. *Let G be a set that is a group and also a topological space. Suppose that*

(i) the mapping $(x, y) \mapsto xy$ of $G \times G$ onto G is continuous.

(ii) the mapping $x \mapsto x^{-1}$ of G onto G is continuous.

Then G is called a **topological group***.*

Definition C.0.0.16. *A* **compact group** *is a topological group whose topology is compact Hausdorff.*

Example C.0.0.17. (i) Every group is a topological group when equipped with the discrete topology.

(ii) All finite groups are compact groups with their discrete topology.

(iii) The additive group $\mathbb{R}$ of real numbers is a Hausdorff topological group which is not compact.

(iv) More generally, the additive group of the euclidean space R^n is a Hausdorff topological group.

(v) The multiplicative group $\mathbb{R}^\star = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ with the induced topology is a topological group.

(vi) The multiplicative group $\mathbb{C}^\star = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ of nonzero complex numbers with the induced topology is a topological group.

(vii) The unit circle $\mathbb{S}^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$ with the group operation being multiplication is a compact group, called the **circle group**.

In the sequel, G is a topological group. For every $a \in G$, let us define the maps

$$L_a : G \to G,\ L_a(x) = ax, \qquad R_a : G \to G,\ R_a(x) = xa.$$

L_a is called the **left translation** by a, while R_a is the **right translation** by a.

Proposition C.0.0.18. *Left and right translations are homeomorphisms of G. Thus, for all $a \in G$, $(L_a)^{-1} = L_{a^{-1}}$ and $(R_a)^{-1} = R_{a^{-1}}$.*

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