

Compact sets

Def 14.1 a: Cover

Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Let $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ be a collection of subsets of \mathbb{R} . We say that $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ covers E (is a cover of E), if $E \subseteq \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha$.

Def 14.1 b: Finite subcover

Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Let $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ be a cover of E . We say that $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ has a finite subcover of E if there exists a finite subset J of I such that the collection $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$ covers E .

Def 14.1 c: Open cover

Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and let any $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ be a cover of E . We say that $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ is an open cover of E , if every A_α is open in \mathbb{R} .

Def 14.1 d: Compact set

A subset $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is said to be compact, if every open cover of E has a finite subcover.

Theorem: Compact subsets of \mathbb{R} are closed.

The converse is not true in general. Ex. \mathbb{R} .

Lemma 14.4: If E is a nonempty, closed and bounded subset of \mathbb{R} then E has a maximum and a minimum.

Theorem: Closed subsets of compact sets are themselves compact.

Remark: Not every subset of a compact set is compact. Ex. $[0,1]$ is compact yet $(0,1)$ is not compact.

Theorem 14.5 (Heine-Borel) A subset $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is compact iff E is closed and bounded.

Theorem 14.5 (Bolzano-Weierstrass) If a bounded subset $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ contains infinitely many points, then there exists at least one point in \mathbb{R} that is an accumulation point of E .

Theorem 14.7: Let $\mathcal{F} = \{K_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ be a family of compact subsets of \mathbb{R} . Suppose that the intersection of any finite subfamily of \mathcal{F} is nonempty. Then $\bigcap_{\alpha \in I} K_\alpha \neq \emptyset$.

Corollary 14.8: (Nested intervals Theorem) Let $\mathcal{F} = \{K_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a family of closed bounded intervals in \mathbb{R} such that $A_{n+1} \subseteq A_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \neq \emptyset$.

HW: 14.1, 14.3, 14.4 and prove that if E is a finite subset of \mathbb{R} , then E is compact.