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*Proof.* Let  $x \in \overline{A}$ . Given  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  pick  $x_n$  with  $x_n \in B_r(x) \cap A (\neq \emptyset \text{ since } x \in \overline{A}!)$ . Then  $x_n \in A$  and  $\lim x_n = x$ .

Conversely, if  $x_n \in A$  and  $\lim x_n = x$ , then given  $r > 0$  there exists  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $d(x, x_n) < r$  for all  $n \geq k$ . Therefore  $B_r(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset$  for all  $r > 0 \Rightarrow x \in \overline{A}$ . If  $x$  is an accumulation point of  $A$ , choose  $x_1 \in A, x_1 \neq x$  and  $d(x, x_1) < 1$ . Then, inductively, if  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A \setminus \{x\}$  pick  $x_{n+1} \in A \setminus \{x\}$  with

$$d(x, x_{n+1}) < \min\left(\frac{1}{n+1}, d(x, x_n)\right).$$

Thus  $(x_n)_n$  is a sequence in  $A \setminus \{x\}$ ,  $x_n \neq x_m$  if  $n \neq m$  and  $\lim x_n = x$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.15.**  $A \subset M$  is **dense** in  $M$  if  $\overline{A} = M$ .

**Remark 2.16.** • By Theorem 2.14,  $A$  is dense in  $M$  iff  $\forall x \in M, \exists$  sequence  $(x_n)$  in  $A$  with  $\lim x_n = x$ .

•  $A$  is dense in  $M \Leftrightarrow V \cap A \neq \emptyset$  for every nonempty open set  $V$ .

**Definition 2.17.** Let  $A \subset M$ .  $x \in M$  is a **boundary point** of  $A$  if  $\forall r > 0 : B_r(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset \neq B_r(x) \cap A^c$ . The set of all boundary points of  $A$  is denoted by  $\partial A$  and it is called **boundary** of  $A$ .

Note:

- By symmetry,  $\partial A = \partial(A^c)$ .
- $\partial A = \overline{A} \cap \overline{A^c}$  (Why?)

**Definition 2.18** (Continuity). Let  $(M, d), (N, \rho)$  be two metric spaces. A function  $f : M \rightarrow N$  is

- *continuous at a point*  $a \in M$  if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \delta = \delta(\varepsilon) > 0$  with  $\rho(f(x), f(a)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $d(x, a) < \delta$ .
- *continuous on*  $M$  (or simply *continuous*) if  $f$  is continuous at every point of  $M$ .
- *sequentially continuous at a point*  $a \in M$  if for every sequence  $(x_n)_n \subset M, x_n \rightarrow a$  one has  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(a)$ .
- *sequentially continuous on*  $M$  (or simply *sequentially continuous*) if it is sequentially continuous at every point of  $M$ .
- *topologically continuous* if for every open set  $\mathcal{O}$  the set  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{O}) \subset M$  is open.

**Theorem 2.19.** For a function  $f : (M, d) \rightarrow (N, \rho)$  between two metric spaces, the following are equivalent:

- (a)  $f$  is continuous on  $M$ .
- (b)  $f$  is topologically continuous on  $M$ .
- (c)  $f$  is sequentially continuous on  $M$ .
- (d)  $f(\overline{A}) \subset \overline{f(A)}$  for every  $A \subset M$ .

(e)  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{C}) \subset M$  is closed for every closed subset  $\mathcal{C} \subset N$ .

**Remark 2.20.** For a fixed  $a \in M$ , the following are also equivalent:

(a')  $f$  is continuous at  $a$ .

(c')  $f$  is sequentially continuous at  $a$ .

(Prove this!)

*Proof of Theorem 2.19.* (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b): Let  $\mathcal{O} \subset N$  be open and  $a \in f^{-1}(\mathcal{O})$ . Since  $f(a) \in \mathcal{O}$  and  $\mathcal{O}$  is open, there exists  $r > 0$  such that  $B_r(f(a)) \subset \mathcal{O} \subset N$ .  $f$  continuous implies that there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$d(x, a) < \delta \Rightarrow \rho(f(x), f(a)) < r,$$

i.e.,  $B_\delta(a) \subset f^{-1}(\mathcal{O})$  and so  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{O})$  is open.

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (c): Let  $x_n \rightarrow x$  in  $M$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $V := B_\varepsilon(f(x)) \subset N$ , which is open. Then  $f^{-1}(V)$  is open in  $M$  and since  $x \in f^{-1}(V)$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $B_\delta(x) \subset f^{-1}(V)$ . Let  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $n \geq N \Rightarrow x_n \in B_\delta(x)$  (i.e.,  $d(x_n, x) < \delta$  for all  $n \geq N$ ). Then also  $x_n \in f^{-1}(V)$ , so  $f(x_n) \in V$ , i.e.,  $\rho(f(x_n), f(x)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n \geq N$ . Thus  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x)$ .

(c)  $\Rightarrow$  (d): Let  $A \subset M$ . Assume  $y \in f(\bar{A})$ . Then there exists  $x \in \bar{A}$  with  $f(x) = y$ . Since  $x \in \bar{A}$ , by Theorem 2.14, it follows that there exists a sequence  $(x_n)_n \subset A$  with  $x_n \rightarrow x$ , but then by (c):  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(x)$  in  $N$ , i.e.,  $y \in f(\bar{A})$ . So  $f(\bar{A}) \subset \bar{f(A)}$ .

(d)  $\Rightarrow$  (e): Let  $\mathcal{C} \subset N$  be closed, so  $\bar{\mathcal{C}} = \mathcal{C}$ . Let  $A := f^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$ . Then by (d) we have

$$f(\bar{A}) \subset \bar{f(A)} = \bar{\mathcal{C}} = \mathcal{C},$$

so  $\bar{A} \subset f^{-1}(\mathcal{C}) = A$ . Since  $A \subset \bar{A}$  is always true, we must have  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{C}) = A = \bar{A}$ , i.e.,  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$  is closed.

(e)  $\Rightarrow$  (a): Let  $a \in M$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Consider

$$\mathcal{C} := B_\varepsilon(f(a))^c = \{y \in N : \rho(f(a), y) \geq \varepsilon\}$$

which is closed. By (e)  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{C}) \subset M$  is closed, i.e.,  $(f^{-1}(\mathcal{C}))^c$  is open. Thus, since  $a \notin f^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$ , i.e.,  $a \in (f^{-1}(\mathcal{C}))^c$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $B_\delta(a) \subset (f^{-1}(\mathcal{C}))^c$ . But then  $d(x, a) < \delta \Rightarrow \rho(f(x), f(a)) < \varepsilon$ , i.e.,  $f$  is continuous.  $\square$

**Remark 2.21.** It should be clear that compositions of continuous functions are continuous.

**Definition 2.22.** • Two metric spaces  $(M, d), (N, \rho)$  are **homeomorphic** if  $\exists$  a one-to-one onto function (i.e., bijection)  $f : (M, d) \rightarrow (N, \rho)$  such that both  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  are continuous;

- Two metrics  $d$  and  $\rho$  on  $M$  are **equivalent** if a sequence  $(x_n)_n \subset M$  satisfies

$$\lim d(x_n, x) = 0 \iff \lim \rho(x_n, x) = 0,$$

or equivalently, if any open set w.r.t.  $d$  is open w.r.t.  $\rho$  and conversely.

- A metric space  $M$  is **bounded**, if  $\exists 0 < M < \infty$  s.t.  $d(x, y) \leq M \forall x, y \in M$ . The **diameter** of  $A \subset M$  is

$$d(A) := \sup\{d(x, y) : x, y \in A\}.$$

*Note: If  $d$  is a metric on  $M$*

$$\rho(x, y) := \frac{d(x, y)}{1 + d(x, y)}$$

*is an equivalent metric on  $M$  under which  $M$  is bounded!*

- A sequence  $(x_n)_n$  in a metric space  $(M, d)$  is a **Cauchy sequence** if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N} : d(x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n, m \geq N_\varepsilon$ .

*Note: Every convergent sequence  $(x_n)_n$  is a Cauchy sequence (Why?). The converse is not true, e.g. take  $M = (0, \infty)$ ,  $d(x, y) = |x - y|$ . Then  $x_n = \frac{1}{n}$  is Cauchy but not convergent in  $M$ .*

- A metric space  $(M, d)$  is **complete** (or complete metric space) if every Cauchy sequence converges (in  $M$ ).

**Example 2.23.** •  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with Euclidean metric or with  $d_p$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ .

- $L^\infty(S)$ ,  $S \neq \emptyset$ ,  $D(f, g) := \sup_{x \in S} |f(x) - g(x)|$ .

**Theorem 2.24.** Let  $(M, d)$  be a complete metric space. Then  $A \subset M$  is closed if and only if  $(A, d)$  is a complete metric space (in its own right).

*Proof.* " $\Rightarrow$ ": Let  $A \subset M$  be closed,  $(x_n)_n \subset A$  be Cauchy  $\Rightarrow (x_n)_n$  is Cauchy in  $M$ . Since  $M$  is complete, it follows that  $x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$  exists in  $M$ . Since  $A$  is closed, we conclude that  $x \in A$ . So  $(x_n)_n$  converges in  $A$  and thus  $(A, d)$  is complete.

" $\Leftarrow$ ": Let  $(A, d)$  be complete. Let  $(x_n)_n \subset A$  converge to some  $x \in M$ . So  $(x_n)_n$  is Cauchy in  $A$ ,  $A$  is complete  $\Rightarrow (x_n)_n$  converges to some point in  $A \subset M$ . The limit is unique so  $x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n \in A$ . So  $A$  is closed.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.25.** Let  $(M, d)$  be a metric space and  $(x_n)_n, (y_n)_n \subset M$  s.t.  $x_n \rightarrow x, y_n \rightarrow y$ . Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, y_n) = d(x, y).$$

*Proof.* By the triangle inequality one has

$$|d(x, z) - d(z, y)| \leq d(x, y)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow |d(x_n, y_n) - d(x, y)| &\leq |d(x_n, y_n) - d(x, y_n)| + |d(x, y_n) - d(x, y)| \\ &\leq d(x_n, x) + d(y_n, y) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Definition 2.26.** A function  $f : (M, d) \rightarrow (N, \rho)$  is called **uniformly continuous** if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 : x, y \in M, d(x, y) < \delta$  (or  $\leq \delta$ )  $\Rightarrow \rho(f(x), f(y)) < \varepsilon$  (or  $\leq \varepsilon$ ).



**Remark 2.27.** • Every uniformly continuous function is continuous.

- $M = (0, 1], N = \mathbb{R}, d(x, y) = |x - y|, d : (0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto f(x) = x^2$  is uniformly continuous,  $g : (0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  is continuous but not uniformly continuous.

**Theorem 2.28.** Let  $A$  be a subset of a metric space  $(M, d)$ ,  $(N, \rho)$  be a complete metric space. If  $f : A \rightarrow N$  is uniformly continuous, then  $f$  has a unique uniformly continuous extension to the closure  $\overline{A}$  of  $A$ .

**Remark 2.29.** This does not hold if  $f$  is only continuous!

Example: 1)  $f : (0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto \frac{1}{x}$ .

2)  $f : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x^2 \geq 2 \\ -1, & \text{if } x^2 < 2 \end{cases}$  is a continuous function in  $\mathbb{Q}$ !

Note that  $f$  also is differentiable on  $\mathbb{Q}$  with zero derivative!

Look at  $g(x) = x + 4f(x), x \in \mathbb{Q} \Rightarrow g'(x) = 1$ . So  $g$  "must" be increasing! (?). But

$$g(-2) = 2,$$

$$g(0) = -4.$$

So  $g$  is not increasing!

*Proof of Theorem 2.28. Step 1:* Uniqueness should be clear (why?).

*Step 2:* Let  $x \in \overline{A}$ . By Theorem 2.14, there exists a sequence  $(x_n)_n \subset A$  with  $x_n \rightarrow x$ .

Claim:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x_n)$  exists in  $(N, \rho)$ !

$(N, \rho)$  is complete  $\Rightarrow$  we only need to show that  $(f(x_n))$  is Cauchy in  $(N, \rho)$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $f$  is uniformly continuous,  $\exists \delta > 0 : d(x, y) < \delta \Rightarrow \rho(f(x), f(y)) < \varepsilon$ . So let  $N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $d(x_n, x_m) < \delta$  for all  $n, m \geq N_\varepsilon \Rightarrow \rho(f(x_n), f(x_m)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n, m \geq N_\varepsilon$ .

*Step 3:* The limit  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x_n)$  in Step 2 is independent of the sequence as long as  $x_n \rightarrow x$ . Indeed, let  $(x_n)_n, (y_n)_n \subset A, x_n \rightarrow x, y_n \rightarrow x$  in  $M$ . By Step 2 we know that  $u = \lim f(x_n), v = \lim f(y_n)$  exist in  $N$ . We want to show  $u = v$ .

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $z_{2n} = x_n, z_{2n-1} = y_n \Rightarrow z_n \rightarrow x$  also, and, by Step 2:  $\lim f(z_n)$  exists. We have

$$v = \lim f(y_n) = \lim f(z_{2n-1}) = \lim f(z_n) = \lim f(z_{2n}) = \lim f(x_n) = u.$$

*Step 4:* Define  $f^* = \lim f(x_n), x_n \in A, x_n \rightarrow x$  (well defined by Steps 2&3). Of course  $f^*(x) = f(x), x \in A$  is an extension of  $f$  to  $\overline{A}$ .

*Step 5:*  $f^* : \overline{A} \rightarrow N$  is uniformly continuous. Indeed, given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $\delta > 0$  such that  $x, y \in A, d(x, y) < \delta \Rightarrow \rho(f(x), f(y)) < \varepsilon$ . Now if  $x, y \in \overline{A}$  satisfy  $d(x, y) < \delta$ , let  $(x_n)_n, (y_n)_n \subset A, x_n \rightarrow x, y_n \rightarrow y$ . By Lemma 2.25

$$\lim d(x_n, y_n) = d(x, y) < \delta \Rightarrow \exists N_0 \in \mathbb{N} : d(x_n, y_n) < \delta \quad \text{or all } n \geq N_0.$$

Since  $f$  is uniformly continuous

$$\rho(f(x_n), f(y_n)) < \varepsilon$$

By Lemma 2.25

$$\rho(f(x), f(y)) = \lim \rho(f(x_n), f(y_n)) \leq \varepsilon$$

so  $f^*$  is uniformly continuous. □

**Definition 2.30.** • A function  $f : (M, d) \rightarrow (N, \rho)$  is an **isometry** if  $\rho(f(x), f(y)) = d(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in M$ . If  $f$  is also onto, then  $(M, d)$  and  $(N, \rho)$  are isometric.

*Note: any isometry is uniformly continuous!*

- A complete metric space  $(N, \rho)$  is called a **completion** of a metric space  $(M, d)$  if there exists an isometry  $f : (M, d) \rightarrow (N, \rho)$  such that  $f(M) = \{y \in N : \exists x \in M : y = f(x)\}$  is dense in  $N$  (w.r.t  $\rho$ ).  
If we think of  $M$  and  $f(M)$  as identical, then  $M$  can be considered to be a subset of  $N$ .

**Remark 2.31.** Any two completions of a metric space  $(M, d)$  must be isometric.

*Proof.* Indeed, if  $N_1, N_2$  are completions of  $M$ :

$$N_2 \supset \text{dense } g(M) \xleftarrow{g} M \xrightarrow{f} f(M) \text{ dense } \subset N_1$$

$f, g$  are isometries. Define  $h := g \circ f^{-1} : f(M) \rightarrow f(M)$ .  $h$  is also an isometry (so, it is uniformly continuous).  $f(M)$  is dense in  $N_1$ ,  $N_2$  is complete, so by Theorem 2.23  $h$  has a unique uniformly continuous extension  $\tilde{h} : N_1 \rightarrow N_2$ .

*Note:*  $\tilde{h}$  is an isometry from  $N_1$  onto  $N_2$ ! (Why?) (use that  $g(M)$  is dense in  $N_2$ ).  $\square$

Our approach to completeness: Given a metric space  $(M, d)$ , find a complete metric space  $(N, \rho)$  and an isometry  $f : (M, d) \rightarrow (N, \rho)$ .  $f(M)$  is then isometric to  $M$ . Take the closure  $\overline{f(M)}$  in  $N$ . Then  $(\overline{f(M)}, \rho) \subset (N, \rho)$  is a completion of  $(M, d)$ !

**Theorem 2.32.** Every metric space  $(M, d)$  has a unique (up to isometries) completion.

*Proof.* Goal: Embed  $M$  in a complete metric space and take the closure!  
We will use  $(L^\infty(M), D)$ , the bounded real-valued functions on  $M$  with

$$D(f, g) := \sup_{x \in M} |f(x) - g(x)|.$$

Fix  $a \in M$ . For  $x \in M$  let

$$f_x : \begin{cases} M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \\ y \mapsto f_x(y) := d(x, y) - d(y, a). \end{cases}$$

By the reverse triangle inequality:

$$|f_x(y)| = |d(x, y) - d(y, a)| \leq d(x, a)$$

So  $f_x \in L^\infty(M)$ . Hence there exists a unique

$$f : \begin{cases} M \rightarrow L^\infty(M), \\ x \mapsto f_x. \end{cases}$$

Claim:  $f$  is an isometry!

Indeed, for  $x, y, z \in M$ :

$$\begin{aligned} |f_x(y) - f_z(y)| &= |d(x, y) - d(y, a) - (d(z, y) - d(y, a))| \\ &= |d(x, y) - d(z, y)| \leq d(x, z). \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow D(f_x, f_y) = \sup_{y \in M} |f_x(y) - f_z(y)| \leq d(x, z).$$

Choose  $y = z$ :

$$|f_x(z) - f_z(z)| = |d(x, z) - d(z, z)| = d(x, z),$$

so

$$D(f_x, f_z) = d(x, z).$$

Since  $(L^\infty(M), D)$  is a complete metric space  $\Rightarrow (\overline{f(M)}, D)$  is a completion of  $(M, d)$ .  $\square$

### 3 Compactness in metric space

In the following let  $(M, d)$  be a metric space.

**Definition 3.1** (Totally bounded set). *A subset  $A \subset M$  is totally bounded if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists n \in \mathbb{N} : x_1, \dots, x_n \in M$  with  $A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_\varepsilon(x_i)$  (so each  $x \in A$  is within  $\varepsilon$ -distance from some  $x_i$ ).*

**Remark 3.2.** (a) *Every  $x \in A$  can be approximated up to error  $\varepsilon$  by one of the  $x_i$ .*

(b) *In a finite dimensional (vector) space totally bounded is equivalent to bounded. In general totally bounded  $\Rightarrow$  bounded, but the converse is wrong!*

(c) *In Definition 3.1 we could easily insist that each  $\varepsilon$ -ball is centered at some point in  $A$ . Indeed, let  $\varepsilon > 0$ , choose  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in M$ .*

$$A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(x_i).$$

*W.l.o.g., we may assume that  $B_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(x_i) \cap A \neq \emptyset$ . Then choose any  $y_i \in A \cap B_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(x_i)$ . By the triangle inequality:  $B_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(x_i) \subset B_\varepsilon(y_i) \Rightarrow A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_\varepsilon(y_i)$ .*

**Lemma 3.3.**  *$A \subset M$  is totally bounded  $\Leftrightarrow \forall \varepsilon > 0$  there exist finitely many sets  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  with  $\text{diam}(A_i) < \varepsilon$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ .*

*Proof.* " $\Rightarrow$ ": Let  $A$  be totally bounded. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$  choose  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in M$  with  $A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_\varepsilon(x_i)$ . Let  $A_i := A \cap B_\varepsilon(x_i)$  to see that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A \cap B_\varepsilon(x_i) = A \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^n B_\varepsilon(x_i)) = A$  and note that  $\text{diam}(A_i) < 2\varepsilon$ .

" $\Leftarrow$ ": Given  $\varepsilon > 0$  assume that there are finitely many  $A_i \subset A, i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\text{diam}(A_i) < \varepsilon, A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ . Then choose any  $x_i \in A_i \Rightarrow A_i \subset B_{2\varepsilon}(x_i) (\forall i = 1 \dots n) \Rightarrow A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_{2\varepsilon}(x_i)$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.4.** *In Lemma 3.3 we insisted on  $A_i \subset A (\forall i = 1 \dots n)$ . This is not a real constraint. If  $A$  is covered by  $B_1, \dots, B_n \subset M$ ,  $\text{diam}(B_i) < \varepsilon$ . Then  $A$  is also covered by  $A_i = A \cap B_i \subset A$  and  $\text{diam}(A_i) \leq \text{diam}(B_i) < \varepsilon$ .*

There is also a sequential criterion for total boundedness. The Key observation is



**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $(x_n)_n \subset M$ ,  $A = \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Then*

(a) *If  $(x_n)_n$  is Cauchy, then  $A$  is totally bounded.*

(b) *If  $A$  is totally bounded, then  $(x_n)_n$  has a Cauchy subsequence.*

*Proof.* (a) Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $(x_n)_n$  is Cauchy, there exists  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  with

$$d(x_n, x_m) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \quad \text{for all } n, m \geq N$$

$$\Rightarrow \sup_{n, m \geq N} d(x_n, x_m) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{diam}\{x_n : n \geq N\} = \sup_{n, m \geq N} d(x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow \{x_n : n \geq N\} \subset B_\varepsilon(x_N).$$

(b) If  $A$  is finite, we are done because by pidgeonholing, there must be a point in  $A$  which the sequence  $(x_n)_n$  hits infinitely often. Thus  $(x_n)_n$  even has a constant subsequence in this case.

So assume that  $A$  is an infinite totally bounded set. Then  $A$  can be covered by finitely many sets of diameter  $< 1$ . At least one of them must contain infinitely many points of  $A$ . Call this set  $A_1$ . Note that  $A_1$  is totally bounded, so it can itself be covered by finitely many sets of diameter  $< \frac{1}{2}$ . One of these, call it  $A_2$ , contains infinitely many points of  $A_1$ . Continuing inductively we find a decreasing sequence of sets  $A \supset A_1 \supset A_2 \supset \dots \supset A_n \supset A_{n+1} \supset \dots$  where each  $A_k$  contains infinitely many  $x_n$  and where  $\text{diam}(A_k) < \frac{1}{k}$ .

Now choose a subsequence  $(x_{n_k})_k$ ,  $x_{n_k} \in A_k$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . This subsequence is Cauchy, since

$$\sup(d(x_{n_l}, x_{n_m}) | l, m \geq k) \leq \text{diam}(A_k) < \frac{1}{k}.$$

□

**Theorem 3.6** (Sequential characterization of total boundedness). *A set  $A \subset M$  is totally bounded  $\iff$  every sequence in  $A$  has a Cauchy subsequence.*

*Proof.* “ $\Rightarrow$ ”: Clear by Lemma 3.5.

“ $\Leftarrow$ ”: Assume  $A$  is not totally bounded. So for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $A$  cannot be covered by finitely many  $\varepsilon$ -balls. By induction, there is a sequence  $(x_n)_n \subset A$  with  $d(x_n, x_m) \geq \varepsilon$  for all  $n \neq m$  (Why?). But this sequence has no Cauchy subsequence! □

**Corollary 3.7** (Bolzano-Weierstraß). *Every bounded infinite subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  has an accumulation point.*

*Proof.* Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  be bounded and infinite. Then there is a sequence  $(x_n)_n$  of distinct points in  $A$ . Since  $A$  is totally bounded ( $\mathbb{R}^d$  has dimension  $d < \infty$ ) there is a Cauchy subsequence of  $(x_n)_n$ , but  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is complete, so  $(x_n)_n$  converges to some  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . This  $x$  is an accumulation point of  $A$ . □



Now we come to compactness.

**Definition 3.8.** • A metric space  $(M, d)$  is compact if it is complete and totally bounded.

• A subset  $A \subset M$  is compact, if  $(A, d)$  is a compact metric space.

**Example 3.9.** (a)  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is compact  $\iff K$  is closed and bounded.

(b) Let  $l^\infty =$  set of all bounded sequences and let

$$e_n := \delta_n, \quad \delta_n(j) := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } j = n, \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Then the set  $A := \{e_n | n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is closed and bounded, but not totally bounded, since

$$d(e_n, e_m) = \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} |e_n(j) - e_m(j)| = 1, \quad \text{if } n \neq m,$$

hence,  $A$  cannot be covered by finitely many  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}$ -balls! (Why?)

(c) A subset of a discrete metric space is compact  $\iff A$  is finite. (Why?)

The sequential characterization of compactness is given by

**Theorem 3.10.**  $(M, d)$  is compact  $\iff$  every sequence in  $M$  has a convergent subsequence in  $M$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.5 and the definition of completeness:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{totally bounded} \\ + \\ \text{complete} \end{array} \right\} \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{every sequence in } M \\ \text{has a Cauchy subsequence} \\ + \\ \text{Cauchy sequences converge} \end{array} \right\}$$

□

Compactness is an extremely useful property to have: if you happen to have a sequence in a compact space which does not converge, simply extract a convergent subsequence and use this one instead!

**Corollary 3.11.** Let  $A$  be a subset of a metric space  $M$ . If  $A$  is compact, then  $A$  is closed in  $M$  (and totally bounded). If  $M$  is compact and  $A$  is closed, then  $A$  is compact.

*Proof.* Assume that  $A$  is compact and let  $x \in M$  and  $(x_n)_n \subset A$  with  $x_n \rightarrow x$ . By Theorem 3.10,  $(x_n)_n$  has a convergent subsequence whose limit is also in  $A \Rightarrow x \in A$  so  $A$  is closed.

Assume  $M$  is compact,  $A \subset M$  is closed. Given  $(x_n)_n \subset A$ , Theorem 3.10 supplies a convergent subsequence of  $(x_n)_n$  which converges to a point  $x \in M$ . Since  $A$  is closed, we must have  $x \in A$ , so by Theorem 3.10 again,  $A$  is compact. □

**Corollary 3.12.** *Let  $(M, d)$  be compact and  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  continuous. Then  $f$  attains its maximum and minimum, i.e., there are  $x_{\min}, x_{\max} \in M$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{\min}) &= \inf(f(x)|x \in M), \\ f(x_{\max}) &= \sup(f(x)|x \in M), \end{aligned}$$

*In particular,  $\inf$  and  $\sup$  are finite!*

*Proof.* Only for minimum (otherwise look at  $-f$ ).

Let  $a := \inf(f(x)|x \in M)$ . Note that there is always a minimizing sequence, i.e., a sequence  $(x_n)_n \subset M$  such that

$$f(x_n) \rightarrow a \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Now if  $(x_n)_n$  converges to some point  $x \in M$ , then we are done, since by continuity of  $f$ ,

$$f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x_n) = a = \inf(f(x)|x \in M).$$

If  $(x_n)_n$  does not converge, use the fact that  $M$  is compact, so by Theorem 3.10  $(x_n)_n$  has a convergent subsequence and then use this subsequence instead!  $\square$

**Corollary 3.13.** *Let  $(N, \rho)$  be a metric space. If  $(M, d)$  is compact and  $f : (M, d) \rightarrow (N, \rho)$  is continuous, then  $f$  is uniformly continuous.*

*Proof.* Recall the definition of uniform continuity:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 : x, y \in M, d(x, y) < \delta \Rightarrow \rho(f(x), f(y)) < \varepsilon.$$

So assume that  $f$  is not uniformly continuous. Then by negating the above one sees

$$\exists \varepsilon > 0 : \forall \delta > 0 \exists x, y \in M, d(x, y) < \delta \text{ and } \rho(f(x), f(y)) \geq \varepsilon.$$

Now fix this  $\varepsilon > 0$  and let  $\delta = \frac{1}{n}$ . Then there must exist  $x_n, y_n \in M, d(x_n, y_n) < \frac{1}{n}$  and  $\rho(f(x_n), f(y_n)) \geq \varepsilon$ . Since  $(y_n)_n \subset M$  and  $M$  is compact, there exists a subsequence  $(y_{n_l})_l$  of  $(y_n)_n$  which converges to some point  $y$ . Look at  $(x_{n_l})_l$ . Again by compactness, there exists a subsequence  $(x_{n_{l_k}})_{l_k}$  which converges to some point  $x$ . Since  $x_{n_{l_k}} \rightarrow x$  and  $y_{n_{l_k}} \rightarrow y$  we have

$$d(x, y) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} d(x_{n_{l_k}}, y_{n_{l_k}}) = 0,$$

i.e,  $x = y$ .

But since  $\rho(f(x_n), f(y_n)) \geq \varepsilon > 0$ , we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(x_{n_{l_k}}) \neq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(y_{n_{l_k}})$$

so  $f$  is not continuous at  $x$ .

Thus  $f$  not uniformly continuous  $\Rightarrow f$  not continuous  $\iff f$  continuous  $\Rightarrow f$  uniformly continuous.  $\square$

