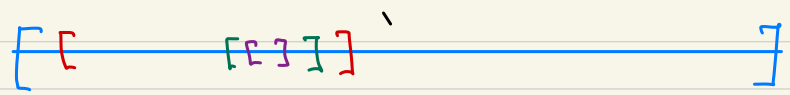


MA 509 - REAL ANALYSIS - LECT. 17

Thm. 2.24 If $\{I_n\}$ is a sequence of closed intervals in \mathbb{R}^1 s.t. $I_n \supset I_{n+1}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$.



Proof: Let $I_n = [a_n, b_n]$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

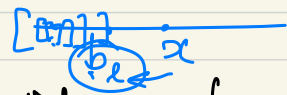
Let $E := \{a_n : a_n \text{ is the left end-point of } I_n\}$.

Then E is non-empty and bounded above by b_1 (Why?)

So $\sup(E)$ exists in \mathbb{R} , say, x .

Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$a_n \leq a_{m+n} \leq b_{m+n} \leq b_n$
 $\Rightarrow x \leq b_m \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$, for otherwise, $x \neq \sup(E)$
 (Explain why?)



Since $a_m \leq x \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $x \in I_m \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$
 $\Rightarrow \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$. □

Thm. 2.25 Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$. If $\{I_n\}$ is a sequence of k -cells such that $I_n \supset I_{n+1}$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$), then $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$.

Proof: Note that for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$I_n = \{ \bar{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k) : a_{n,j} \leq x_j \leq b_{n,j}, 1 \leq j \leq k \}$$

1-cell: $a \text{ --- } b$

2-cell: $[a, b] \times [c, d]$

Let $I_{n,j} := [a_{n,j}, b_{n,j}]$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} I_{1,j} &\supset I_{2,j} \supset I_{3,j} \supset \dots \\ I_{1,2} &\supset I_{2,2} \supset I_{3,2} \supset \dots \end{aligned}$$

Note that $I_{n,j}$ satisfies the hypotheses of Thm. 2.24 for each j . Hence \exists real numbers x_j^* , $1 \leq j \leq k$, s.t.

$$a_{n,j} \leq x_j^* \leq b_{n,j} \quad 1 \leq j \leq k, n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Now let $\bar{x}^* = (x_1^*, \dots, x_k^*)$.

Then $\bar{x}^* \in I_n \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$. \square

Thm. 2.26 Every k -cell is compact.

Proof: Let I be a k -cell. Then

$$I = \{ \bar{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k) : a_j \leq x_j \leq b_j, 1 \leq j \leq k \}.$$

$$\text{Let } \delta = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^k (b_j - a_j)^2}.$$

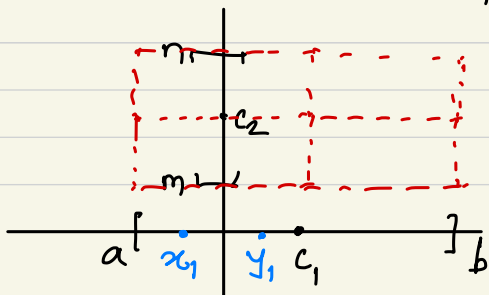
Then if $\bar{x} \in I$, $\bar{y} \in I$, then $|\bar{x} - \bar{y}| \leq \delta$. (Why?)

If $\bar{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ & $\bar{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_k)$, then

$$|\bar{x} - \bar{y}| = \sqrt{(y_1 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - x_2)^2 + \dots + (y_k - x_k)^2} \leq \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^k (b_j - a_j)^2} = \delta$$

Suppose, by means of contradiction, \exists an open cover $\{G_\alpha\}$ of I having no finite subcover for I .

Let $c_j = (a_j + b_j)/2$. Then the intervals $[a_j, c_j]$ & $[c_j, b_j]$ determine 2^k k -cells Q_i , whose union is I .



$$\begin{aligned} a &\leq x \leq b \\ c &\leq y \leq d \end{aligned}$$

Then at least one of these sets G_i , say I_1 , cannot be covered by any finite sub-collection of $\{G_\alpha\}$ (otherwise, I could also be covered).

Now consider I_1 and subdivide it in a similar way, and continue this process indefinitely.

Thus we get a sequence $\{I_n\}$ of k -cells with the following properties: -

- (i) $I \supset I_1 \supset I_2 \supset \dots$
- (ii) $\{G_\alpha\}$ does not have a finite subcover which covers I_n .
- (iii) If $\bar{x} \in I_n$ & $\bar{y} \in I_n$, then $|\bar{x} - \bar{y}| \leq 2^{-n} \delta$

(This is because, consider I_1 . We want to show $|\bar{x} - \bar{y}| \leq \delta/2$. Now $|\bar{x} - \bar{y}| = \sqrt{(y_1 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - x_2)^2 + \dots + (y_k - x_k)^2}$

$$\leq \sqrt{\left(\frac{b_1 - a_1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{b_2 - a_2}{2}\right)^2 + \dots + \left(\frac{b_k - a_k}{2}\right)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(b_1 - a_1)^2 + \dots + (b_k - a_k)^2} = \frac{1}{2} \delta.$$

By (i) and Thm. 2.2B, $\exists \bar{x}^* \ni \bar{x}^* \in I_n \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let $x^* \in G_\alpha$ for some α .

$\exists \epsilon > 0 \ni |\bar{y} - x^*| < \epsilon \Rightarrow \bar{y} \in G_\alpha$.

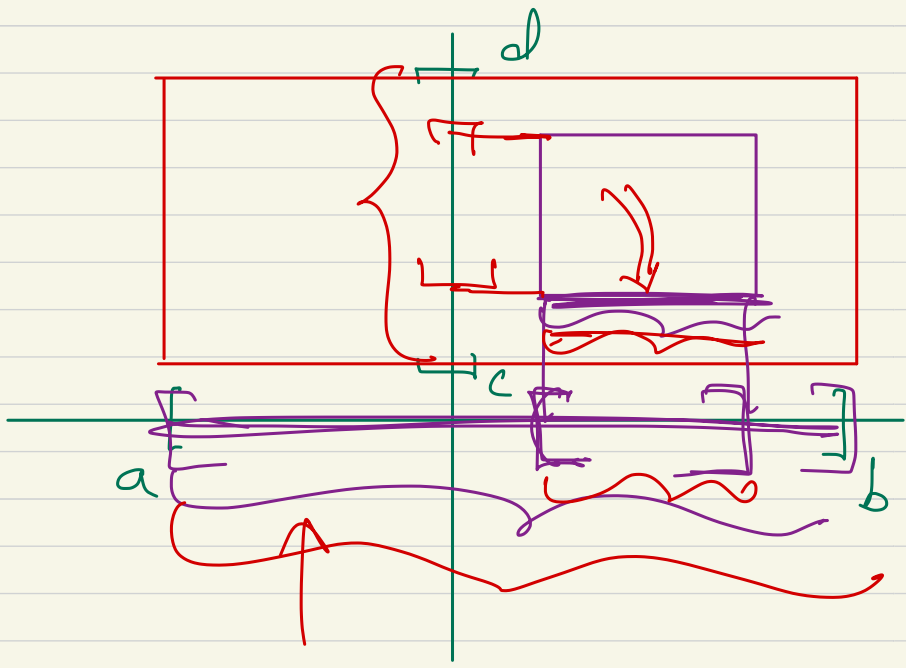
Choose n so large that $2^{-n} \delta < \epsilon$.

$\Rightarrow |\bar{x}^* - \bar{y}| < 2^{-n} \delta < \epsilon \Rightarrow \bar{y} \in G_\alpha$

Then $I_n \subset G_\alpha \rightarrow \leftarrow$ since I_n did not have a finite subcover.

\Rightarrow Every k -cell is compact.

□



$$I_{1,j} \supset I_{2,j} \supset I_{3,j}$$

