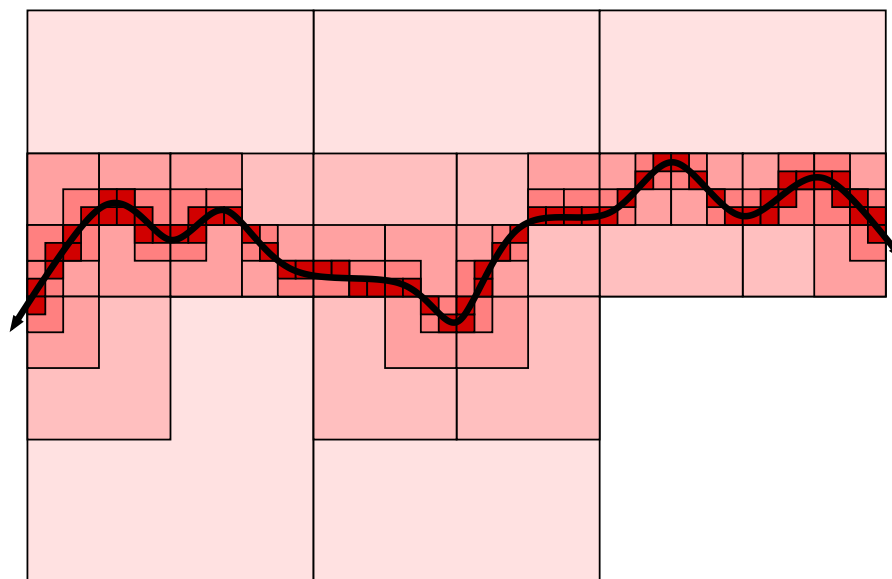


MAT 533, FALL 2021, Stony Brook University

## REAL ANALYSIS II

Christopher Bishop



1. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021

MAT 533 is a continuation of MAT 532 in the Fall of 2020.

In the Fall, Prof. Cheng covered most of Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5. He did not cover the section on interpolation of  $L^p$  spaces. I am willing to discuss it briefly, but I am not planning to cover it in detail.

We will try to cover as much of Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 as we can (not everything, though some chapters are short).

I work in analysis: conformal and quasiconformal mappings, holomorphic dynamics (especially transcendental dynamics), hyperbolic geometry, algebras generated by harmonic functions, analysis of fractals, computational geometry, optimal meshing.



Math Dept, Michigan State



Churchill College, Cambridge

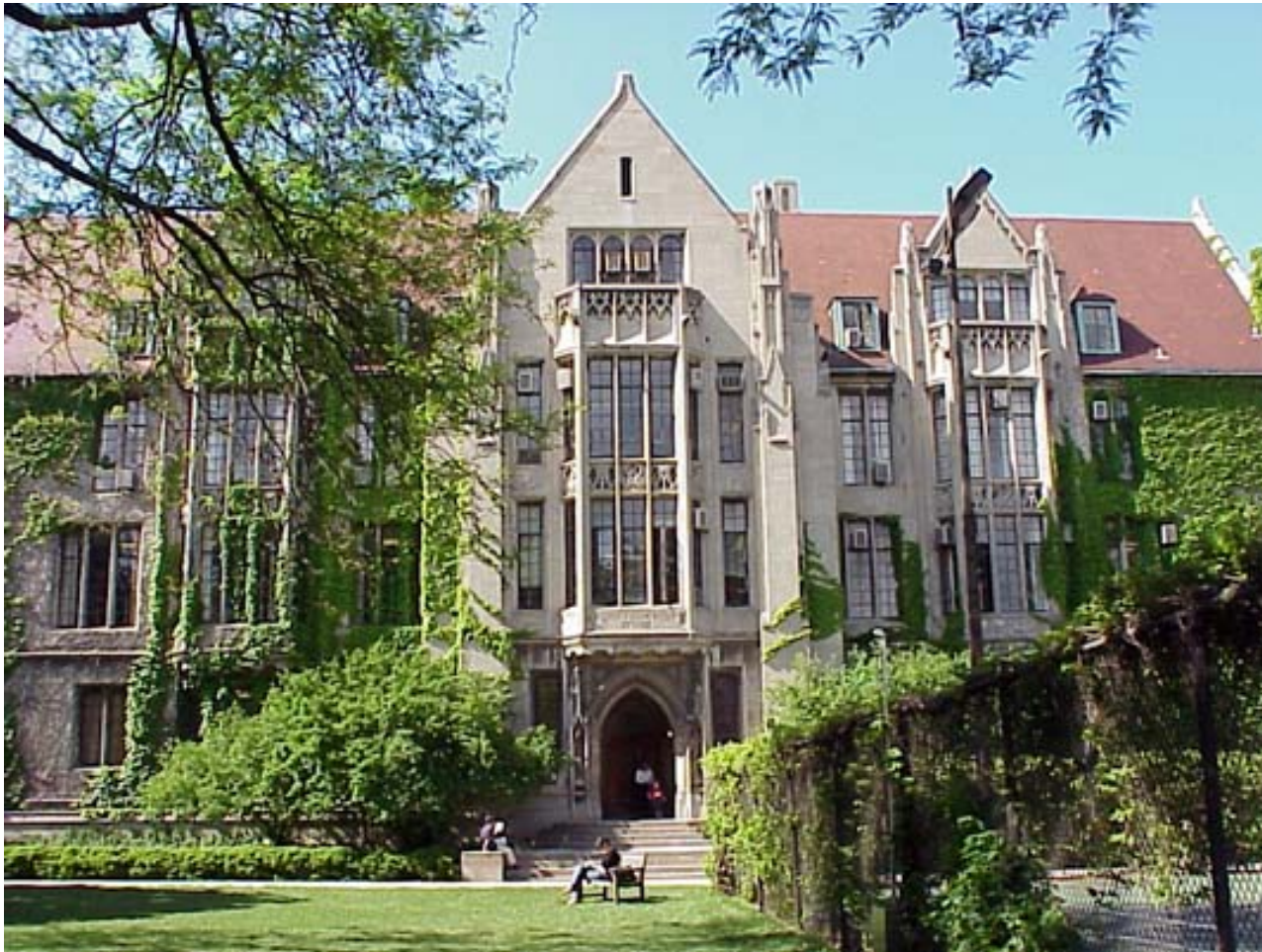


New Math Dept, Cambridge





Old Math Dept, Cambridge



Math Dept, Eckhart Hall, U Chicago





Math Dept, Leet Oliver Memorial, Yale



MSRI, Berkeley



Math Dept, UCLA







Textbook: Real Analysis: modern techniques and their applications,  
2nd Edition.

by Gerald Folland (professor emeritus at Univ. Washington, Seattle)



Gerald Folland (1947–present)

Interview with Gerald Folland

## **Chapter 4: Point Set Topology**

4.1 Topological Spaces

4.2 Continuous Maps

4.3 Nets

4.4 Compact Spaces

4.5 Locally Compact Hausdorff Spaces

4.6 Two Compactness Theorems

4.7 The Stone- Weierstrass Theorem

4.8 Embeddings in Cubes

## **Chapter 5: Elements of Functional Analysis**

5.1 Normed Vector Spaces

5.2 Linear Functionals

5.3 The Baire Category Theorem and its Consequences

5.4 Topological Vector Spaces

5.5 Hilbert Spaces

5.6 Notes and References

## **Chapter 7: Radon Measures**

7.1 Positive Linear Functionals on  $C_c(X)$

7.2 Regularity and Approximation Theorems

7.3 The Dual of  $C_0(X)$ .

7.4 Products of Radon Measures



## **Chapter 8: Elements of Fourier Analysis**

8.1 Preliminaries

8.2 Convolutions

8.3 The Fourier Transform

8.4 Summation of Fourier Integrals and Series

8.5 Pointwise Convergence of Fourier Series

8.6 Fourier Analysis of Measures

8.7 Applications to Partial Differential Equations

## **Chapter 9: Elements of Distribution Theory**

9.1 Distributions

9.2 Compactly Supported, Tempered, and Periodic Distributions

9.3 Sobolev Spaces

## **Existence theorem for ODE:**

We will follow Prof. Varolin's notes (posted on webpage).

## **Chapter 10: Topics in Probability Theory**

10.1 Basic Concepts

10.2 The Law of Large Numbers

10.3 The Central Limit Theorem

10.4 Construction of Sample Spaces

10.5 The Wiener Process

## Chapter 4.3: Nets

Basic idea: nets are like sequences, but only partially ordered.

A set in a metric space is compact iff every sequence has a convergent subsequence.

A set in a topological space is compact iff every net has a convergent sub-net.

Every sequence is an net, but not conversely. It is possible for a sequence to have a sub-net that is not a sequence.

We will use nets to prove Tychonoff's theorem and in Chapter 5 when discussing weak and weak\* topologies on Banach spaces, and later when discussing topologies on spaces of distributions. These are not always metrizable (but one of the most important, the weak\* topology on probability measures is metrizable).

In a general topological space taking limits of all sequences in a set need not give the whole closure.

$\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{R}}$  = all complex functions with product topology.

A sequence converges in this topology iff it converges pointwise.

$C(\mathbb{R})$  = continuous complex functions.

Theorem 2.9 says pointwise limits of continuous function are Borel. Thus “sequential closure” of  $C(\mathbb{R})$  are Borel functions.

But  $C(\mathbb{R})$  is dense in  $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{R}}$  in product topology. Given any function, a neighborhood consists of all functions approximating it to within  $\epsilon$  on a finite set. A continuous function can be chosen to agree with any function on a finite set.



A directed set is a set  $A$  equipped with a binary relation  $\lesssim$  such that

- $a \lesssim a$  for all  $a \in A$ ;
- if  $\alpha \lesssim \beta$  and  $\beta \lesssim \gamma$  then  $\alpha \lesssim \gamma$ ;
- for any  $\alpha, \beta \in S$  there is a  $\gamma$  with  $\alpha \lesssim \gamma$ ; and  $\beta \lesssim \gamma$ .

**Defn:** A net in  $X$  is a mapping from a directed set  $A$  into  $X$ .

**Examples:**

- (1)  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  with usual ordering (sequences)
- (2) finite sets under inclusion. Gives nets in product topology on  $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{R}}$ .
- (3) The set of neighborhoods of a point ordered by reverse inclusion.
- (4) Finite partitions of an interval ordered by maximum gap length. Gives limits for defining Riemann integrals.
- (5)  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{a\}$  ordered by decreasing distance to  $a$ . Defines convergence to a point.
- (6) Product of directed sets. Define  $(\alpha, \beta) \lesssim (\gamma, \delta)$  iff  $\alpha \lesssim \gamma$  and  $\beta \lesssim \delta$ .

**Defn:** A net  $\{x_\alpha\}$  is **eventually** in  $E \subset X$  if  $\alpha \lesssim \beta \Rightarrow x_\beta \in E$ .

**Defn:** A net  $\{x_\alpha\}$  is **frequently** in  $E \subset X$  if for all  $\alpha$  there is a  $\alpha \lesssim \beta$  with  $x_\beta \in E$ .

**Defn:** A net **converges** to a point if it is eventually in every neighborhood of that point.

**Defn:** A net **clusters** or **accumulates** at a point if it is frequently in every neighborhood of that point.

**Defn:**  $x$  is an accumulation point of  $E$  if every neighborhood of  $x$  contains a point of  $E$  other than  $x$  itself.

**Prop 4.18.A:**  $x$  is an accumulation point of  $E$  iff there is a net in  $E \setminus \{x\}$  converging to  $x$ .

*Proof.* If  $x$  is an accumulation point every neighborhood hits  $E \setminus \{x\}$ . Define a net by taking one such point from each neighborhood ordered by reverse inclusion. This net converges to  $x$ .

If  $x_\alpha$  is a net in  $E \setminus \{x\}$  converging to  $x$  then every neighborhood of  $x$  has contains some  $x_\alpha \in E \setminus \{x\}$ , so  $x$  is an accumulation point.  $\square$

**Prop 4.18.B:**  $z$  is in the closure of  $E$  iff there is a net in  $S$  converging to  $z$ .

*Proof.* Closure of  $E$  is the union of  $E$  and its accumulation set (Prop 4.1).  $\square$

**Prop 4.19:** A map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  of topological spaces is continuous iff every convergent net maps to a convergent net.

*Proof.* If  $f$  is continuous and  $V$  is a neighborhood of  $f(x)$  then  $U = f^{-1}(V)$  is a neighborhood of  $x$ , so it eventually contains any net converging to  $x$ . Thus  $V$  eventually contains the image of any such net.

Conversely, if  $f$  is not continuous at  $x$ , there is a neighborhood  $V$  of  $f(x)$  whose preimage  $U$  is not a neighborhood of  $x$ , so  $x$  is in the closure of the complement of  $U$ . By Prop. 4.18.B there is net in the complement converging to  $x$ , but the image is not in  $V$ , so does not converge to  $f(x)$ .  $\square$

**Defn:**  $\{y_\beta\}_B$  is a **subnet** of  $\{x_\alpha\}_A$  if there is a map  $B \rightarrow A$  so that

- $y_\beta = x_{\alpha(\beta)}$
- for each  $\alpha_0$  there is a  $\beta_0$  so that  $\beta \gtrsim \beta_0 \Rightarrow \alpha(\beta) \gtrsim \alpha_0$ .

A subnet can be larger than a net “containing” it.

Consider a dense sequence in  $C([0, 1])$ . Set of subsequences of sequence has cardinality  $c$  of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

But this sequence has subnets that converge to any element of  $\mathbb{C}^{[0,1]}$ . This space has strictly more than continuum of elements. So there are subnets that are not sequences (most of them).



**Prop 4.20:**  $x$  is a cluster point of  $X$  iff every net clustering at  $x$  has a subnet converging to  $x$ .

*Proof.* Part 1:

Suppose there is a convergent subnet  $y_\beta$  to  $x$ . For any neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$ , there is a  $\beta_1$  so  $\beta \gtrsim \beta_1 \Rightarrow y_\beta \in V$ .

By the defn of subnet, For any  $\alpha$  choose  $\beta_2$  so that  $\beta \gtrsim \beta_2 \Rightarrow \alpha(\beta) \gtrsim \alpha$ .

By the defn of partial order there is a  $\beta_3 \gtrsim \beta_1, \beta_2$  so that  $\beta \gtrsim \beta_3 \Rightarrow \alpha(\beta) \gtrsim \alpha$  and  $x_\alpha \in V$ . So  $x_\alpha$  is in  $V$  frequently.

Part 2:

If  $x$  is a cluster point of  $\{x_\alpha\}_A$ , let  $\mathcal{N}$  be the set of neighborhoods of  $x$  (ordered by inverse inclusion) and take usual partial order on  $A \times \mathcal{N}$ . for each  $(U, \gamma)$  in product choose  $\alpha \gtrsim \gamma$  so  $x_\alpha \in U$ . This subnet converges to  $x$ .  $\square$

## Section 4.4 Compact Spaces:

**Defn:** a collection of open sets such that  $X = \cup_{\alpha} U_{\alpha}$  is called an **open cover** of  $X$ .

**Defn:**  $X$  is **compact** if every open cover contains a finite subcover.

**Defn:**  $X$  is **precompact** if its closure is compact.

**Defn:** A family of sets  $X_{\alpha}$  has the **finite intersection property** if any finite number of them has a point in common.

**Prop. 4.21**  $X$  is compact if ever family of compact sets with the finite intersection property has non-empty (infinite) intersection.

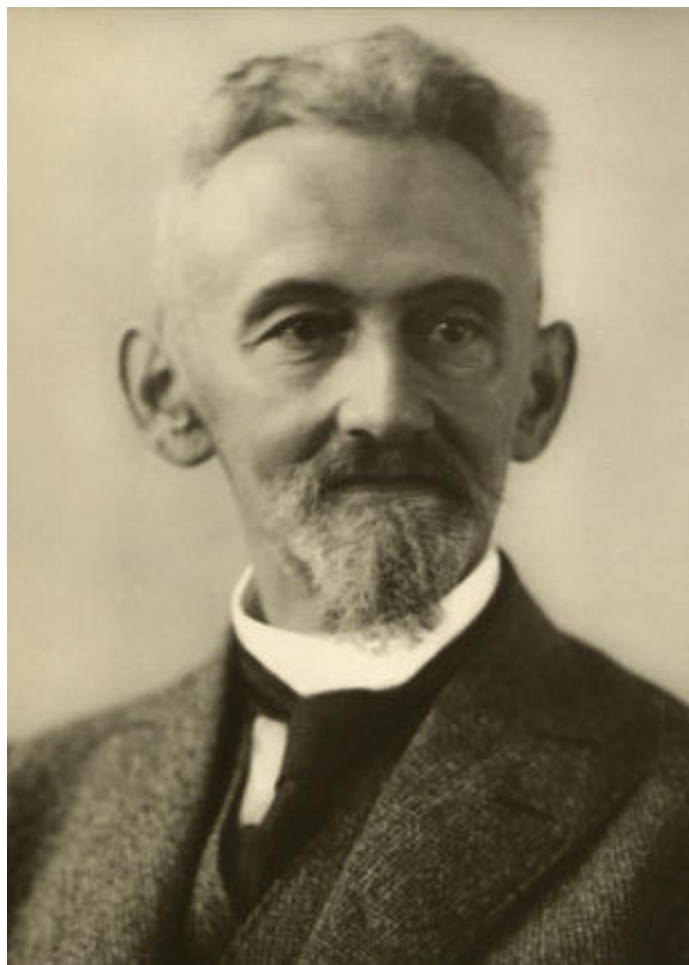
**Prop. 4.22** A closed subset of a compact set is compact.

**Prop. 4.23** If  $F$  is a compact subset of a Hausdorff space  $X$  and  $x \notin F$ , then there are disjoint open sets  $U, V$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $F \subset V$

**Defn:** A space is **Hausdorff**, a.k.a.  $T_2$ , if given  $x \neq y$  there are disjoint open sets  $U, V$  with  $x \in U, y \in V$ .

**Prop. 4.24** Every compact subset of a Hausdorff space is closed.

In a non-Hausdorff space, compact sets need not be closed, and intersections of compact sets need not be compact (Exercise 37). All our spaces will be Hausdorff.



Felix Hausdorff 1868–1942

**Defn:** A space is  $T_1$ , if given  $x \neq y$  there is an open sets  $U$  with either  $x \in U, y \in U^c$ , or  $x \in U^c, y \in U$ .

**Defn:** A space is **normal**, a.k.a.  $T_4$ , if it is  $T_1$  and given disjoint closed sets  $A, B$  there are disjoint open sets  $U, V$  with  $A \subset U, B \subset V$ .

**Prop. 4.25:** Every compact Hausdorff space is normal.

**Prop. 4.26:** If  $X$  is compact and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous, then  $f(X)$  is compact.

**Cor. 4.26:** Complex valued continuous functions on a compact space are bounded.

**Prop. 4.28:** If  $X$  is compact and  $Y$  is Hausdorff, then a continuous 1-1 map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  has a continuous inverse, i.e., is a homeomorphism.

**Thm. 4.29:** If  $X$  is a topological space, TFAE:

- (a)  $X$  is compact.
- (b) Every net in  $X$  has a cluster point.
- (c) Every net in  $X$  has a convergent subnet.

*Proof.* (b)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (c) is Prop. 4:20.

Assume (a) holds ( $X$  is compact). If  $x_\alpha$  is a net, let  $E_\alpha = \{x_\beta : \beta \succeq \alpha\}$  definition of partially ordered set implies this has finite intersection property, hence so does family of closures  $\overline{E_\alpha}$ . By compactness, this family has non-empty intersection  $E$ .

If  $x \in E$  then any neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  hits every  $E_\alpha$ , hence  $x_\alpha$  clusters at  $x$ .

Assume (a) fails ( $X$  is not compact). Let  $\{U_\beta\}_B$  be an open cover with no finite subcover. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be collection of finite subsets  $\alpha$  of  $B$  ordered by inclusion and define net on  $A$  by choosing  $x_\alpha$  not in  $\cup_{\beta \in \alpha} U_\beta$ . For every  $x \in X$ , this net is eventually outside an open set containing  $x$ , so does not cluster at  $x$ . Hence it clusters nowhere. □

## Section 4.6: Two compactness theorems:

**Defn:** If  $\{X_\alpha\}$  is a family topological spaces, then  $X = \prod_\alpha X_\alpha$  is the space of all maps  $A \rightarrow \cup_\alpha X_\alpha$  that takes  $\alpha$  into  $x_\alpha$ .

**Defn:** The product topology is the weakest making the projection onto each coordinate continuous. The open sets are all finite intersections of inverse images of open sets under the coordinates.

Corresponds to pointwise convergence on each coordinate.

**Defn:** We say  $p \in \prod_C X_\alpha$  is an extension of  $q \in \prod_B X_\alpha$  if  $B \subset C$  and  $p = q$  on  $B$ .

**Tychonoff's Theorem:** If  $\{X_\alpha\}$  is a family of compact topological spaces, then  $X = \prod_\alpha X_\alpha$  is compact.





Andrei Nikolaevich Tikhonov 1906–1993

**Tychonoff's Theorem:** If  $\{X_\alpha\}$  is a family of compact topological spaces, then  $X = \prod_\alpha X_\alpha$  is compact.

*Proof.* We have to show any net  $x_i$  has a cluster point. Let

$$\mathcal{P} = \cup_{B \subset A} \{p \in \prod_{\alpha \in B} X_\alpha : p \text{ is a cluster point of } \pi_B(x_i)\}$$

When  $B = \{\alpha\}$  is a single point, the projected net has cluster point since  $X_\alpha$  is compact. Order  $\mathcal{P}$  by inclusion.

Given a linearly ordered subset of  $\mathcal{P}$ , we claim the union  $p^* \in \cup_{B^*} X_\alpha$  is an element of  $\mathcal{P}$ . Indeed,  $p^*$  has a neighborhood of the form  $U = \prod U_\alpha$  where  $U_\alpha = X_\alpha$  except for finitely many indices, all of which belong to some  $B_l$  in the linear ordering. Thus the projection of  $x_i$  into  $\prod_{B_l} X_\alpha$  is in  $\prod_{B_l} U_\alpha$  frequently, so the projection on  $B^*$  is in  $U$  frequently, so  $p^*$  is a cluster point of it, so  $p^* \in \mathcal{P}$ .

By Zorn's lemma  $\mathcal{P}$  has a maximal element  $\bar{p} \in \prod_{\bar{B}} X_\alpha$ . If  $\bar{B}$  is not all of  $A$ , choose  $\gamma \in A \setminus \bar{B}$ . By the definition of  $\mathcal{P}$  there is a net in the product over  $\bar{B}$  that clusters at  $\bar{p}$  and hence a subset that converges to it. Since  $X_\gamma$  is compact, there is a subnet that also converges when projected to  $X_\gamma$ , and this defines an extension of  $\bar{B} \cup \gamma$ , contradicting maximality. Thus  $\bar{B} = A$ .

Thus any net  $x_i$  has a cluster point in  $\prod_A X_\alpha$ , proving the product space is compact.  $\square$



Max Zorn (1906–1993)

**Defn:** a family of functions is equicontinuous at  $x$  if for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there is a neighborhood  $U$  so that  $x, y \in U \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(y)| < \epsilon$ .

**Defn:** a family of functions is equicontinuous on  $X$  if it is equicontinuous at  $x \in X$ .

$\{x^n\}$  is not equicontinuous on  $[0, 1]$ . Neither is  $\{\sin(nx)\}$ .

**Defn:** a family of functions  $\mathcal{F}$  is pointwise bounded equicontinuous on  $X$  if  $\{f(x) : f \in \mathcal{F}\}$  is bounded for each  $x$ .

**Arzela-Ascoli Theorem, I:** Let  $X$  be a compact Hausdorff space. If  $\mathcal{F}$  is an equicontinuous, pointwise bounded subset of  $C(X)$ , then it is totally bounded in the uniform metric and is precompact.

**Arzela-Ascoli Theorem, II:** Let  $X$  be a  $\sigma$ -compact, locally compact Hausdorff space. If  $f_n$  is an equicontinuous, pointwise bounded sequence in  $C(X)$ , then there a subsequence that converges to some  $f \in C(X)$  uniformly on compact subset.



Cesare Arzelà (1847–1912) or Giulio Ascoli (1843–1896)?

Wikipedia shows this picture for both.



Cesare Arzelà according to St.Andrews



## Section 4.5 The Stone-Weierstrass theorem:

**Weierstrass's Theorem:** The polynomials are uniformly dense in  $C([0, 1])$ .

Throughout this section,  $X$  will denote a compact Hausdorff space.

**Defn:** A subset  $A$  of  $C(X)$  is said to **separate points** if for every  $x, y \in X$  with  $x \neq y$  there exists  $f \in A$  such that  $f(x) \neq f(y)$ .

**Defn:**  $A$  is called an algebra if it is a real vector subspace of  $C(X)$ , such that  $fg \in A$  whenever  $f, g \in A$ .

**Defn:** If  $A \subset C(X, \mathbb{R})$ , the  $A$  is called a lattice if  $f, g \in A$  implies  $\max(f, g) \in A$  and  $\min(f, g) \in A$ .

Since the algebra and lattice operations are continuous, one easily sees that if  $A$  is an algebra or a lattice, so is its closure  $\bar{A}$  in the uniform metric.

**The Stone- Weierstrass Theorem:** Let  $X$  be a compact Hausdorff space. If  $A$  is a closed subalgebra of  $C(X, \mathbb{R})$  that separates points, then either  $A = C(X, \mathbb{R})$  or  $A = \{f \in C(X, \mathbb{R}) : f(x_0) = 0\}$  for some  $x_0 \in X$ . The first alternative holds iff  $A$  contains the constant functions.

Not true for complex functions. The algebra  $A$  generated by  $\{z^n\}$ ,  $n \geq 0$  on the unit circle separates points, but only contains functions that extend holomorphically into the disk, e.g.,  $\bar{z} \notin A$ . More about this later.



Karl Weierstrass (1815-1897)



Marshall Stone (1903-1989)

**Lemma 4.46:** Consider  $\mathbb{R}^2$  as an algebra under coordinate wise addition and multiplication. Then the only subalgebras are  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $\{(O, O)\}$ , and the linear spans of  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1)$ , and  $(1, 1)$ .

*Proof.* These subspaces are evidently subalgebras.

If  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  containing a non-zero element  $(a, b)$ , then  $(a^2, b^2) \in A$ . If  $a, b$  are both non-zero and unequal then these two points are linearly independent and generate the whole plane. Otherwise they generate one of the given subalgebras.

□

**Lemma 4.47:** For any  $\epsilon > 0$  there is a polynomial  $P$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $P(0) = 0$  and  $||x| - P(x)| < \epsilon$  on  $[-1, 1]$ .

*Proof.* Proof. Many possible proofs. e.g.,

$$|x| = \sqrt{x^2} \approx \sqrt{x^2 + \epsilon} \approx \sum_0^n a_n(x^2 + \epsilon - 1)^n,$$

where  $\sum a_n(y - 1)^2$  is the Maclaurin series for  $\sqrt{y}$ , centered at 1. If  $P(0) \neq 0$ , replace  $P$  by  $P - P(0)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary:** If  $A \subset C(X, \mathbb{R})$  is a closed algebra, then  $f \in A \Rightarrow |f| \in A$

**Lemma 4.48:** If  $A$  is a closed subalgebra of  $C(X, \mathbb{R})$ , and if  $f \in A \Rightarrow |f| \in A$ , then  $A$  is a lattice.

*Proof.* If  $h \in A$  is not the zero function, scale it to have supremum norm 1. By the previous result  $|h| \in A$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\max(f, g) &= \frac{1}{2}(f + g + |f - g|), \\ \min(f, g) &= \frac{1}{2}(f + g - |f - g|),\end{aligned}$$

are in  $A$ .

□



**Lemma 4.49:** Suppose  $A$  is a closed sublattice of  $C(X, \mathbb{R})$ , and if  $f \in C(X, \mathbb{R})$ . Suppose also that for every  $x, y \in X$  there is a  $g_{xy} \in A$  that agrees with  $f$  at  $x$  and  $y$ . Then  $f \in A$ .

*Proof.* For  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $x, y \in X$  let

$$U_{xy} = \{z \in X : f(z) < g_{xy}(z) + \epsilon\}$$

$$V_{xy} = \{z \in X : f(z) > g_{xy}(z) - \epsilon\}.$$

For a fixed  $y$ ,  $U_{xy}$  is cover of  $X$ , so has a finite subcover  $\{U_{x_j y}\}_1^n$ . Let

$$g_y = \max_j g_{x_j y},$$

and note  $f < g_y + \epsilon$  on  $X$ . Also  $f > g_y - \epsilon$  on

$$V_y = \cap V_{x_j y}.$$

These sets are an open cover of  $X$ , so also have a finite subcover  $\{V_{k_k}\}$ . Let

$$g = \min_h g_{x_k y},$$

and note  $g - \epsilon < f < g + \epsilon$  so  $|f - g| < \epsilon$ . Since  $A$  is closed,  $f \in A$ . □

## Proof of Stone-Weierstrass Theorem:

*Proof.* For  $x \neq y \in X$  let

$$A_{xy} = \{(f(x), f(y)) : f \in A\}.$$

This is a subalgebra of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  so has one of the forms described earlier.

If  $A_{xy} = \mathbb{R}^2$  for all  $x, y$  then we are done by the previous lemmas.

$A_{xy}$  can't always be  $(0, 0)$  or span of  $(1, 1, )$  since it separates points.

Assume  $A_{xy}$  is the span of  $(1, 0)$  or  $(1, 0)$ . In either case there is a point where every  $f \in A$  vanishes, and only one such point since  $A$  separates points. The previous lemma implies  $A = \{f \in C(X, \mathbb{R} : f(x_0) = 0\}$  for some  $x_0 \in X$

If  $A$  contains all constant functions, there is no such point  $x_0$  so  $A$  is all continuous functions on  $X$ . □

**Cor. 4.50:** If  $B$  is a subalgebra of  $C(X, \mathbb{R})$  that separates points then either  $B$  is dense in  $C(X, \mathbb{R})$  or dense in

$$\{f \in C(X, \mathbb{R}) : f(x_0) = 0\}$$

for some  $x_0 \in X$ .

**Complex Stone-Weierstrass Theorem:** Suppose  $X$  is a compact Hausdorff space. Suppose  $A \subset C(X)$  is a closed subalgebra that separates points and that is closed under complex conjugation. Then  $A = C(X)$  or  $A = \{f \in C(X) : f(x_0) = 0\}$  for some  $x_0 \in X$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\operatorname{Re}(f) = (f + \overline{f})/2$  and  $\operatorname{Im}(f) = (f - \overline{f})/2i$ ,  $A$  contains its real and imaginary parts. Apply SW-theorem to these. and  $\square$

**Defn:** If  $A$  is a subalgebra of  $C(X)$ , a nonempty subset  $S$  of  $X$  is called an  $A$ -antisymmetric set if whenever  $f$  is an element of  $A$  and the restriction of  $f$  to  $S$  is real-valued, then the restriction of  $f$  to  $S$  is constant.

Associated to  $A$  is a unique decomposition of  $X$  into pairwise disjoint, non-empty, closed, maximal  $A$ -antisymmetric sets. Denote this family by  $A(X)$ .

**Errett Bishop's Stone-Weierstrass Theorem 1961:** Let  $X$  be a compact Hausdorff space,  $A$  a uniformly closed subalgebra of  $C(X)$  containing the constants. Then  $f \in C(X)$  belongs to  $A$  iff for every anti-symmetric set  $S$  there is an  $F \in A$  so that  $f|_S = F|_S$ .

[Burckel's MMA article on Bishop's theorem](#)



Erret Bishop (1928–1983)

**Machado's Theorem 1977:** Let  $X$  be a compact Hausdorff space,  $A$  a uniformly closed subalgebra of  $C(X)$  containing the constants. Then

$$\text{dist}(f, A) = \inf_{g \in A} \sup_{x \in X} |f(x) - g(x)| = \sup_S \text{dist}(f|_S, A|_S),$$

where supremum on the right is over all anti-symmetric sets  $S$ .

There are many generalizations variations. Here is one I proved as a postdoc.

**Thm. (C. Bishop 1996)** If  $f$  is real valued and harmonic on the unit disk, let  $A$  be the closed algebra generated by  $f$  and the set of bounded holomorphic functions. If  $g \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  then

$$\text{dist}(g, A) = \inf_{\delta > 0} \sup_{a \in \mathbb{C}} \text{dist}(g, H^\infty(f^{-1}(D(a, \delta)))).$$

paper

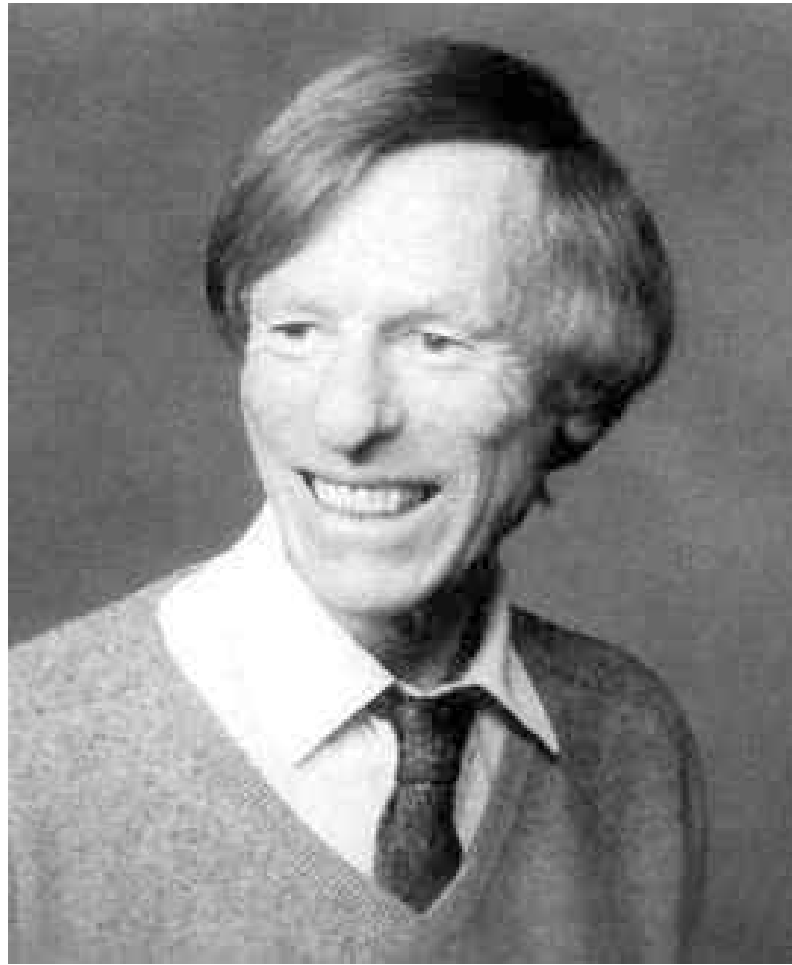
The closed algebra generated by  $f$  and the set of bounded holomorphic functions is usually denoted  $H^\infty(\mathbb{D})[f]$ . If  $f$  is constant on an open subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{D}$ , the functions in  $A$  are clearly holomorphic on  $U$ , so the condition is reasonable.

**Cor. (Axler-Shields, 1987)** If  $f$  is a bounded harmonic function on  $\mathbb{D}$  that is not holomorphic, then  $H^\infty(\mathbb{D})[f]$  contains  $C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ .





Sheldon Axler (1949–present)



Allen Shields (1927-1989)