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name. It still has not found a name on which everyone agrees. On historical grounds, some call it "Fréchet compactness"; others call it the "Bolzano-Weierstrass property." We have invented the term "limit point compactness." It seems as good a term as any; at least it describes what the property is about.

**Theorem 28.1.** Compactness implies limit point compactness, but not conversely.

*Proof.* Let X be a compact space. Given a subset A of X, we wish to prove that if A is infinite, then A has a limit point. We prove the contrapositive—if A has no limit point, then A must be finite.

So suppose A has no limit point. Then A contains all its limit points, so that A is closed. Furthermore, for each  $a \in A$  we can choose a neighborhood  $U_a$  of a such that  $U_a$  intersects A in the point a alone. The space X is covered by the open set X - A and the open sets  $U_a$ ; being compact, it can be covered by finitely many of these sets. Since X - A does not intersect A, and each set  $U_a$  contains only one point of A, the set A must be finite.

EXAMPLE 1. Let Y consist of two points; give Y the topology consisting of Y and the empty set. Then the space  $X = \mathbb{Z}_+ \times Y$  is limit point compact, for *every* nonempty subset of X has a limit point. It is not compact, for the covering of X by the open sets  $U_n = \{n\} \times Y$  has no finite subcollection covering X.

EXAMPLE 2. Here is a less trivial example. Consider the minimal uncountable well-ordered set  $S_{\Omega}$ , in the order topology. The space  $S_{\Omega}$  is not compact, since it has no largest element. However, it is limit point compact: Let A be an infinite subset of  $S_{\Omega}$ . Choose a subset B of A that is countably infinite. Being countable, the set B has an upper bound b in  $S_{\Omega}$ ; then B is a subset of the interval  $[a_0, b]$  of  $S_{\Omega}$ , where  $a_0$  is the smallest element of  $S_{\Omega}$ . Since  $S_{\Omega}$  has the least upper bound property, the interval  $[a_0, b]$  is compact. By the preceding theorem, B has a limit point x in  $[a_0, b]$ . The point x is also a limit point of A. Thus  $S_{\Omega}$  is limit point compact.

We now show these two versions of compactness coincide for metrizable spaces; for this purpose, we introduce yet another version of compactness called *sequential* compactness. This result will be used in Chapter 7.

**Definition.** Let X be a topological space. If  $(x_n)$  is a sequence of points of X, and if

$$n_1 < n_2 < \cdots < n_i < \cdots$$

is an increasing sequence of positive integers, then the sequence  $(y_i)$  defined by setting  $y_i = x_{n_i}$  is called a *subsequence* of the sequence  $(x_n)$ . The space X is said to be *sequentially compact* if every sequence of points of X has a convergent subsequence.

\*Theorem 28.2. Let X be a metrizable space. Then the following are equivalent:

- (1) X is compact.
- (2) X is limit point compact.
- (3) X is sequentially compact.

*Proof.* We have already proved that  $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$ . To show that  $(2) \Rightarrow (3)$ , assume that X is limit point compact. Given a sequence  $(x_n)$  of points of X, consider the set  $A = \{x_n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$ . If the set A is finite, then there is a point x such that  $x = x_n$  for infinitely many values of n. In this case, the sequence  $(x_n)$  has a subsequence that is constant, and therefore converges trivially. On the other hand, if A is infinite, then A has a limit point x. We define a subsequence of  $(x_n)$  converging to x as follows: First choose  $n_1$  so that

$$x_{n_1} \in B(x, 1)$$
.

Then suppose that the positive integer  $n_{i-1}$  is given. Because the ball B(x, 1/i) intersects A in infinitely many points, we can choose an index  $n_i > n_{i-1}$  such that

$$x_{n_i} \in B(x, 1/i).$$

Then the subsequence  $x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, \ldots$  converges to x.

Finally, we show that  $(3) \Rightarrow (1)$ . This is the hardest part of the proof.

First, we show that if X is sequentially compact, then the Lebesgue number lemma holds for X. (This would follow from compactness, but compactness is what we are trying to prove!) Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an open covering of X. We assume that there is no  $\delta > 0$  such that each set of diameter less than  $\delta$  has an element of  $\mathcal{A}$  containing it, and derive a contradiction.

Our assumption implies in particular that for each positive integer n, there exists a set of diameter less than 1/n that is not contained in any element of A; let  $C_n$  be such a set. Choose a point  $x_n \in C_n$ , for each n. By hypothesis, some subsequence  $(x_{n_i})$  of the sequence  $(x_n)$  converges, say to the point a. Now a belongs to some element A of the collection A; because A is open, we may choose an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $B(a, \epsilon) \subset A$ . If i is large enough that  $1/n_i < \epsilon/2$ , then the set  $C_{n_i}$  lies in the  $\epsilon/2$ -neighborhood of  $x_{n_i}$ ; if i is also chosen large enough that  $d(x_{n_i}, a) < \epsilon/2$ , then  $C_{n_i}$  lies in the  $\epsilon$ -neighborhood of a. But this means that  $C_{n_i} \subset A$ , contrary to hypothesis.

Second, we show that if X is sequentially compact, then given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a finite covering of X by open  $\epsilon$ -balls. Once again, we proceed by contradiction. Assume that there exists an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that X cannot be covered by finitely many  $\epsilon$ -balls. Construct a sequence of points  $x_n$  of X as follows: First, choose  $x_1$  to be any point of X. Noting that the ball  $B(x_1, \epsilon)$  is not all of X (otherwise X could be covered by a single  $\epsilon$ -ball), choose  $x_2$  to be a point of X not in  $B(x_1, \epsilon)$ . In general, given  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ , choose  $x_{n+1}$  to be a point not in the union

$$B(x_1,\epsilon)\cup\cdots\cup B(x_n,\epsilon),$$

using the fact that these balls do not cover X. Note that by construction  $d(x_{n+1}, x_i) \ge \epsilon$  for i = 1, ..., n. Therefore, the sequence  $(x_n)$  can have no convergent subsequence; in fact, any ball of radius  $\epsilon/2$  can contain  $x_n$  for at most *one* value of n.

Finally, we show that if X is sequentially compact, then X is compact. Let A be an open covering of X. Because X is sequentially compact, the open covering A has a Lebesgue number  $\delta$ . Let  $\epsilon = \delta/3$ ; use sequential compactness of X to find a finite



