Module MA2321: Analysis in Several Real Variables
Michaelmas Term 2016
Section 5: Compact Subsets of Euclidean Spaces

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Contents

5 Compact Subsets of Euclidean Spaces

5.1 The Multidimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem

A sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ of points in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be *bounded* if there exists some constant K such that $|\mathbf{x}_j| \leq K$ for all j.

Example Let

$$(x_j, y_j, z_j) = \left(\sin(\pi\sqrt{j}),\ (-1)^j, \cos\left(\frac{2\pi \log j}{\log 2}\right)\right)$$

for $j = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$. This sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^3$ is bounded, because the components of its members all take values between -1 and 1. Moreover $x_j = 0$ whenever j is the square of a positive integer, $y_j = 1$ whenever j is even and $z_j = 1$ whenever j is a power of two.

The infinite sequence $x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots$ has a convergent subsequence

$$x_1, x_4, x_9, x_{16}, x_{25}, \ldots$$

which includes those x_j for which j is the square of a positive integer. The corresponding subsequence $y_1, y_4, y_9, \ldots$ of $y_1, y_2, y_3, \ldots$ is not convergent, because its values alternate between 1 and -1. However this subsequence is bounded, and we can extract from this sequence a convergent subsequence

$$y_4, y_{16}, y_{36}, y_{64}, y_{100}, \ldots$$

which includes those x_j for which j is the square of an even positive integer.

The subsequence

$$x_4, x_{16}, x_{36}, y_{64}, y_{100}, \ldots$$

is also convergent, because it is a subsequence of a convergent subsequence. However the corresponding subsequence

$$z_4, z_{16}, z_{36}, z_{64}, z_{100}, \ldots$$

does not converge. (Indeed $z_j = 1$ when j is an even power of 2, but $z_j = \cos(2\pi \log(9)/\log(2))$ when $j = 9 \times 2^{2p}$ for some positive integer p.) However this subsequence is bounded, and we can extract from it a convergent subsequence

$$z_4, z_{16}, z_{64}, z_{256}, z_{1024}, \ldots$$

which includes those x_j for which j is equal to two raised to the power of an even positive integer. Then the first, second and third components of the following subsequence

$$(x_4, y_4, z_4), \ (x_{16}, y_{16}, z_{16}), \ (x_{64}, y_{64}, z_{64}), \ (x_{256}, y_{256}, z_{256}), \ldots$$

of the original sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^3$ converge, and it therefore follows from Lemma 4.3 that this sequence is a convergent subsequence of the given sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^3$.

Example Let

$$x_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j = 4k \text{ for some integer } k \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 4k+1 \text{ for some integer } k \\ -1 & \text{if } j = 4k+2 \text{ for some integer } k \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 4k+3 \text{ for some integer } k \end{cases}$$

and

$$y_j = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j = 4k \text{ for some integer } k, \\ 1 & \text{if } j = 4k+1 \text{ for some integer } k, \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 4k+2 \text{ for some integer } k, \\ -1 & \text{if } j = 4k+3 \text{ for some integer } k, \end{cases},$$

and let $\mathbf{u}_j = (x_j, y_j)$ for $j = 1, 2, 3, 4, \ldots$. Then the first components x_j for which the index j is odd constitute a convergent sequence $x_1, x_3, x_5, x_7, \ldots$ of real numbers, and the second components y_j for which the index j is even also constitute a convergent sequence $y_2, y_4, y_6, y_8, \ldots$ of real numbers.

However one would not obtain a convergent subsequence of $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3, \ldots$ simply by selecting those indices j for which x_j is in the convergent subsequence $x_1, x_3, x_5, \ldots$ and y_j is in the convergent subsequence $y_2, y_4, y_6, \ldots$, because there no values of the index j for which x_j and y_j both belong to the respective subsequences. However the one-dimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem (Theorem 1.3) guarantees that there is a convergent subsequence of $y_1, y_3, y_5, y_7, \ldots$, and indeed $y_1, y_5, y_9, y_{13}, \ldots$ is such a convergent subsequence. This yields a convergent subsequence $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_5, \mathbf{u}_9, \mathbf{u}_{13}, \ldots$ of the given bounded sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Theorem 5.1 (The Multidimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem)
Every bounded sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^n$ has a convergent subsequence.

Proof We prove the result by induction on the dimension n of the Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ that contains the infinite sequence in question. It follows from the one-dimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem (Theorem 1.3) that the theorem is true when $n = 1$. Suppose that $n > 1$, and that every bounded sequence in $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ has a convergent subsequence. Let $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ be a bounded infinite sequence of elements of $\mathbb{R}^n$, and let $x_{j,i}$ denote the ith component of $\mathbf{x}_j$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$ and for all positive integers j. The induction hypothesis requires that all bounded sequences in $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ contain convergent subsequences. It follows that there exist real numbers $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_{n-1}$ and an increasing sequence $m_1, m_2, m_3, \ldots$ of positive integers such that $\lim_{k \to +\infty} x_{m_k,i} = p_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1$. The nth components

$$x_{m_1,n}, x_{m_2,n}, x_{m_3,n}, \ldots$$

of the members of the subsequence

$$\mathbf{x}_{m_1}, \mathbf{x}_{m_2}, \mathbf{x}_{m_3}, \ldots$$

then constitute a bounded sequence of real numbers. It follows from the one-dimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem (Theorem 1.3) that there exists an increasing sequence $k_1, k_2, k_3, \ldots$ of positive integers for which the sequence

$$x_{m_{k_1},n}, x_{m_{k_2},n}, x_{m_{k_3},n}, \ldots$$

converges.

Let $s_j = m_{k_j}$ for all positive integers j, and let

$$p_n = \lim_{j \to +\infty} x_{m_{k_j},n} = \lim_{j \to +\infty} x_{s_j,n}.$$

Then the sequence $x_{s_1,i}, x_{s_2,i}, x_{s_3,i}, \ldots$ converges for values of i between 1 and $n - 1$, because it is a subsequence of the convergent sequence

$$x_{m_1,i}, x_{m_2,i}, x_{m_3,i}, \ldots.$$

Moreover

$$x_{s_1,n}, x_{s_2,n}, x_{s_3,n}, \ldots$$

also converges. Thus the ith components of the infinite sequence

$$\mathbf{x}_{m_1}, \mathbf{x}_{m_2}, \mathbf{x}_{m_3}, \ldots$$

converge for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. It then follows from Lemma 4.3 that

$$\lim_{j \to +\infty} \mathbf{x}_{s_k} = \mathbf{p},$$

where $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n)$. The result follows. ∎

5.2 Cauchy Sequences in Euclidean Spaces

Definition A sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ of points of n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be a *Cauchy sequence* if the following condition is satisfied:

> given any strictly positive real number ε, there exists some positive integer N such that $|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_k| < \varepsilon$ for all positive integers j and k satisfying $j \geq N$ and $k \geq N$.

Lemma 5.2 *Every Cauchy sequence of points of n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is bounded.*

Proof Let $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ be a Cauchy sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then there exists some positive integer N such that $|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_k| < 1$ whenever $j \geq N$ and $k \geq N$. In particular, $|\mathbf{x}_j| \leq |\mathbf{x}_N| + 1$ whenever $j \geq N$. Therefore $|\mathbf{x}_j| \leq R$ for all positive integers j, where R is the maximum of the real numbers $|\mathbf{x}_1|, |\mathbf{x}_2|, \ldots, |\mathbf{x}_{N-1}|$ and $|\mathbf{x}_N| + 1$. Thus the sequence is bounded, as required. ∎

Theorem 5.3 (Cauchy's Criterion for Convergence) *An infinite sequence of points of n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is convergent if and only if it is a Cauchy sequence.*

Proof First we show that convergent sequences in $\mathbb{R}^n$ are Cauchy sequences. Let $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ be a convergent sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^n$, and let $\mathbf{p} = \lim\limits_{j \to +\infty} \mathbf{x}_j$. Let some strictly positive real number ε be given. Then there exists some positive integer N such that $|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{p}| < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$ for all $j \geq N$. Thus if $j \geq N$ and $k \geq N$ then $|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{p}| < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$ and $|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{p}| < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$, and hence

$$|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_k| = |(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{p}) - (\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{p})| \leq |\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{p}| + |\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{p}| < \varepsilon.$$

Thus the sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ is a Cauchy sequence.

Conversely we must show that any Cauchy sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is convergent. Now Cauchy sequences are bounded, by Lemma 5.2. The sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ therefore has a convergent subsequence $\mathbf{x}_{k_1}, \mathbf{x}_{k_2}, \mathbf{x}_{k_3}, \ldots$, by the multidimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem (Theorem 5.1). Let $\mathbf{p} = \lim_{j \to +\infty} \mathbf{x}_{k_j}$. We claim that the sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ itself converges to $\mathbf{p}$.

Let some strictly positive real number ε be given. Then there exists some positive integer N such that $|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_k| < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$ whenever $j \geq N$ and $k \geq N$ (since the sequence is a Cauchy sequence). Let m be chosen large enough to ensure that $k_m \geq N$ and $|\mathbf{x}_{k_m} - \mathbf{p}| < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$. Then

$$|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{p}| \leq |\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_{k_m}| + |\mathbf{x}_{k_m} - \mathbf{p}| < \tfrac{1}{2}\varepsilon + \tfrac{1}{2}\varepsilon = \varepsilon$$

whenever $j \geq N$. It follows that $\mathbf{x}_j \to \mathbf{p}$ as $j \to +\infty$, as required. ∎

5.3 The Multidimensional Extreme Value Theorem

Proposition 5.4 *Let X be a closed bounded set in m-dimensional Euclidean space, and let $f: X \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be a continuous function mapping X into n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then there exists a point $\mathbf{w}$ of X such that $|f(\mathbf{x})| \leq |f(\mathbf{w})|$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$.*

Proof Let $g: X \to \mathbb{R}$ be defined such that

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + |f(\mathbf{x})|}$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. Now the function mapping each $\mathbf{x} \in X$ to $|f(\mathbf{x})|$ is continuous (see Lemma 4.9) and quotients of continuous functions are continuous where they are defined (see Lemma 4.8). It follows that the function $g: X \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous.

Let

$$m = \inf\{g(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{x} \in X\}.$$

Then there exists an infinite sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \ldots$ in X such that

$$g(\mathbf{x}_j) < m + \frac{1}{j}$$

for all positive integers j. It follows from the multidimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem (Theorem 5.1) that this sequence has a subsequence $\mathbf{x}_{k_1}, \mathbf{x}_{k_2}, \mathbf{x}_{k_3}, \ldots$ which converges to some point $\mathbf{w}$ of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Now the point $\mathbf{w}$ belongs to X because X is closed (see Lemma 4.16). Also

$$m \leq g(\mathbf{x}_{k_j}) < m + \frac{1}{k_j}$$

for all positive integers j. It follows that $g(\mathbf{x}_{k_j}) \to m$ as $j \to +\infty$. It then follows from Lemma 4.5 that

$$g(\mathbf{w}) = g\left(\lim_{j \to +\infty} \mathbf{x}_{k_j}\right) = \lim_{j \to +\infty} g(\mathbf{x}_{k_j}) = m.$$

Then $g(\mathbf{x}) \geq g(\mathbf{w})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$, and therefore $|f(\mathbf{x})| \leq |f(\mathbf{w})|$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$, as required. ∎

Theorem 5.5 (The Multidimensional Extreme Value Theorem) *Let X be a closed bounded set in m-dimensional Euclidean space, and let $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous real-valued function defined on X. Then there exist points $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ of X such that $f(\mathbf{u}) \leq f(\mathbf{x}) \leq f(\mathbf{v})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$.*

Proof It follows from Proposition 5.4 that the function f is bounded on X. It follows that there exists a real number C large enough to ensure that $f(\mathbf{x}) + C > 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. It then follows from Proposition 5.4 that there exists some point $\mathbf{v}$ of X such that

$$f(\mathbf{x}) + C \leq f(\mathbf{v}) + C.$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. But then $f(\mathbf{x}) \leq f(\mathbf{v})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. Applying this result with f replaced by $-f$, we deduce that there exists some $\mathbf{u} \in X$ such that $-f(\mathbf{x}) \leq -f(\mathbf{u})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. The result follows. ∎

5.4 Uniform Continuity for Functions of Several Real Variables

Definition Let X be a subset of $\mathbb{R}^m$. A function $f\colon X \to \mathbb{R}^n$ from X to $\mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be *uniformly continuous* if, given any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists some $\delta > 0$ (which does not depend on either $\mathbf{x}'$ or $\mathbf{x}$) such that $|f(\mathbf{x}') - f(\mathbf{x})| < \varepsilon$ for all points $\mathbf{x}'$ and $\mathbf{x}$ of X satisfying $|\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x}| < \delta$.

Theorem 5.6 *Let X be a subset of $\mathbb{R}^m$ that is both closed and bounded. Then any continuous function $f\colon X \to \mathbb{R}^n$ is uniformly continuous.*

Proof Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. Suppose that there did not exist any $\delta > 0$ such that $|f(\mathbf{x}') - f(\mathbf{x})| < \varepsilon$ for all points $\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x} \in X$ satisfying $|\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x}| < \delta$. Then, for each positive integer j, there would exist points $\mathbf{u}_j$ and $\mathbf{v}_j$ in X such that $|\mathbf{u}_j - \mathbf{v}_j| < 1/j$ and $|f(\mathbf{u}_j) - f(\mathbf{v}_j)| \geq \varepsilon$. But the sequence $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3, \ldots$ would be bounded, since X is bounded, and thus would possess a subsequence $\mathbf{u}_{j_1}, \mathbf{u}_{j_2}, \mathbf{u}_{j_3}, \ldots$ converging to some point $\mathbf{p}$ (Theorem 5.1). Moreover $\mathbf{p} \in X$, since X is closed. The sequence $\mathbf{v}_{j_1}, \mathbf{v}_{j_2}, \mathbf{v}_{j_3}, \ldots$ would also converge to $\mathbf{p}$, since $\lim\limits_{k \to +\infty} |\mathbf{v}_{j_k} - \mathbf{u}_{j_k}| = 0$.

But then the sequences

$$f(\mathbf{u}_{j_1}), f(\mathbf{u}_{j_2}), f(\mathbf{u}_{j_3}), \ldots \quad \text{and} \quad f(\mathbf{v}_{j_1}), f(\mathbf{v}_{j_2}), f(\mathbf{v}_{j_3}), \ldots$$

would both converge to $f(\mathbf{p})$, since f is continuous (Lemma 4.5), and thus

$$\lim_{k \to +\infty} |f(\mathbf{u}_{j_k}) - f(\mathbf{v}_{j_k})| = 0.$$

But this is impossible, since $\mathbf{u}_j$ and $\mathbf{v}_j$ have been chosen so that

$$|f(\mathbf{u}_j) - f(\mathbf{v}_j)| \geq \varepsilon$$

for all j. We conclude therefore that there must exist some positive real number δ such that $|f(\mathbf{x}') - f(\mathbf{x})| < \varepsilon$ for all points $\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x} \in X$ satisfying $|\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x}| < \delta$, as required. ∎

5.5 Lebesgue Numbers

Definition Let X be a subset of n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$. A collection of subsets of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is said to *cover* X if and only if every point of X belongs to at least one of these subsets.

Definition Let X be a subset of n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$. An *open cover* of X is a collection of subsets of X that are open in X and cover the set X.

Proposition 5.7 *Let X be a closed bounded set in n-dimensional Euclidean space, and let $\mathcal{V}$ be an open cover of X. Then there exists a positive real number δ_L with the property that, given any point $\mathbf{u}$ of X, there exists a member V of the open cover $\mathcal{V}$ for which*

$$\{\mathbf{x} \in X : |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}| < \delta_L\} \subset V.$$

Proof Let

$$B_X(\mathbf{u}, \delta) = \{\mathbf{x} \in X : |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}| < \delta\}$$

for all $\mathbf{u} \in X$ and for all positive real numbers δ. Suppose that there did not exist any positive real number δ_L with the stated property. Then, given any positive number δ, there would exist a point $\mathbf{u}$ of X for which the ball $B_X(\mathbf{u}, \delta)$ would not be wholly contained within any open set V belonging to the open cover $\mathcal{V}$. Then

$$B_X(\mathbf{u}, \delta) \cap (X \setminus V) \neq \emptyset$$

for all members V of the open cover $\mathcal{V}$. There would therefore exist an infinite sequence

$$\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3, \ldots$$

of points of X with the property that, for all positive integers j, the open ball

$$B_X(\mathbf{u}_j, 1/j) \cap (X \setminus V) \neq \emptyset$$

for all members V of the open cover $\mathcal{V}$. The sequence

$$\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3, \ldots$$

would be bounded, because the set X is bounded. It would then follow from the multidimensional Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem (Theorem 5.1) that there would exist a convergent subsequence

$$\mathbf{u}_{j_1}, \mathbf{u}_{j_2}, \mathbf{u}_{j_3}, \ldots$$

of

$$\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3, \ldots.$$

Let $\mathbf{p}$ be the limit of this convergent subsequence. Then the point $\mathbf{p}$ would then belong to X, because X is closed (see Lemma 4.16). But then the point $\mathbf{p}$ would belong to an open set V belonging to the open cover $\mathcal{V}$. It would then follow from the definition of open sets that there would exist a positive real number δ for which $B_X(\mathbf{p}, 2\delta) \subset V$. Let $j = j_k$ for a positive integer k large enough to ensure that both $1/j < \delta$ and $\mathbf{u}_j \in B_X(\mathbf{p}, \delta)$. The Triangle Inequality would then ensure that every point of X within a distance $1/j$ of the point $\mathbf{u}_j$ would lie within a distance 2δ of the point $\mathbf{p}$, and therefore

$$B_X(\mathbf{u}_j, 1/j) \subset B_X(\mathbf{p}, 2\delta) \subset V.$$

But $B(\mathbf{u}_j, 1/j) \cap (X \setminus V) \neq \emptyset$ for all members V of the open cover $\mathcal{V}$, and therefore it would not be possible for this open set to be contained in the open set V. Thus the assumption that there is no positive number δ_L with the required property has led to a contradiction. Therefore there must exist some positive number δ_L with the property that, for all $\mathbf{u} \in X$ the open ball $B_X(\mathbf{u}, \delta_L)$ in X is contained wholly within at least one open set belonging to the open cover $\mathcal{V}$, as required. ∎

Definition Let X be a subset of n-dimensional Euclidean space, and let $\mathcal{V}$ be an open cover of X. A positive real number δ_L is said to be a *Lebesgue number* for the open cover $\mathcal{V}$ if, given any point $\mathbf{p}$ of X, there exists some member V of the open cover $\mathcal{V}$ for which

$$\{\mathbf{x} \in X : |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta_L\} \subset V.$$

Proposition 5.7 ensures that, given any open cover of a closed bounded subset of n-dimensional Euclidean space, there exists a positive real number that is a Lebesgue number for that open cover.

Definition The *diameter* $\operatorname{diam}(A)$ of a bounded subset A of n-dimensional Euclidean space is defined so that

$$\operatorname{diam}(A) = \sup\{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| : \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in A\}.$$

It follows from this definition that $\operatorname{diam}(A)$ is the smallest real number K with the property that $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| \leq K$ for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in A$.

A *hypercube* in n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$ of the form

$$\{(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : u_i \leq x_i \leq u_i + l\},$$

where l is a positive constant that is the length of the edges of the hypercube and $(u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n)$ is the point in $\mathbb{R}^n$ at which the Cartesian coordinates of points in the hypercube attain their minimum values. The diameter of a hypercube with edges of length l is $l\sqrt{n}$.

Lemma 5.8 *Let X be a bounded subset of n-dimensional Euclidean space, and let δ be a positive real number. Then there exists a finite collection $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_s$ of subsets of X such that the* $\operatorname{diam}(A_i) < \delta$ *for* $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$ *and*

$$X = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_k.$$

Proof The set X is bounded, and therefore there exists some positive real number M such that that if $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \in X$ then $-M \leq x_j \leq M$ for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. Choose k large enough to ensure that $2M/k < \delta_L/\sqrt{n}$. Then the large hypercube

$$\{(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : -M \leq x_j \leq M \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \ldots, n\}$$

can be subdivided into k^n hypercubes with edges of length l, where $l = 2M/k$. Each of the smaller hypercubes is a set of the form

$$\{(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : u_j \leq x_j \leq u_j + l \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \ldots, n\},$$

where $(u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n)$ is the corner of the hypercube at which the Cartesian coordinates have their minimum values. If $\mathbf{p}$ is a point belonging to such a small hypercube, then all points of the hypercube lie within a distance $l\sqrt{n}$ of the point $\mathbf{p}$. It follows that the small hypercube is wholly contained within the open ball $B_{\mathbb{R}^n}(\mathbf{p}, \delta_L)$ of radius δ about the point $\mathbf{p}$.

Now the number of small hypercubes resulting from the subdivision is finite. Let $H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_s$ be a listing of the small hypercubes that intersect the set X, and let $A_i = H_i \cap X$. Then $\operatorname{diam}(H_i) \leq \sqrt{n}l < \delta_L$ and

$$X = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_k,$$

as required. ∎

Definition Let $\mathcal{V}$ and $\mathcal{W}$ be open covers of some subset X of a Euclidean space. Then $\mathcal{W}$ is said to be a *subcover* of $\mathcal{V}$ if and only if every open set belonging to $\mathcal{W}$ also belongs to $\mathcal{V}$.

Definition A subset X of a Euclidean space is said to be *compact* if and only if every open cover of X possesses a finite subcover.

Theorem 5.9 (The Multidimensional Heine-Borel Theorem) *A subset of n-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is compact if and only if it is both closed and bounded.*

Proof Let X be a compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and let

$$V_j = \{\mathbf{x} \in X : |\mathbf{x}| < j\}$$

for all positive integers j. Then the sets $V_1, V_2, V_3, \ldots$ constitute an open cover of X. This open cover has a finite subcover, and therefore there exist positive integers $j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_k$ such that

$$X \subset V_{j_1} \cup V_{j_2} \cup \cdots \cup V_{j_k}.$$

Let M be the largest of the positive integers $j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_k$. Then $|\mathbf{x}| \leq M$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. Thus the set X is bounded.

Let $\mathbf{q}$ be a point of $\mathbb{R}^n$ that does not belong to X, and let

$$W_j = \left\{\mathbf{x} \in X : |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q}| > \frac{1}{j}\right\}$$

for all positive integers j. Then the sets $W_1, W_2, W_3, \ldots$ constitute an open cover of X. This open cover has a finite subcover, and therefore there exist positive integers $j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_k$ such that

$$X \subset W_{j_1} \cup W_{j_2} \cup \cdots \cup W_{j_k}.$$

Let $\delta = 1/M$, where M is the largest of the positive integers $j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_k$. Then $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q}| \geq \delta$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$ and thus the open ball of radius δ about the point $\mathbf{q}$ does not intersect the set X. We conclude that the set X is closed. We have now shown that every compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is both closed and bounded.

We now prove the converse. Let X be a closed bounded subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$, and let $\mathcal{V}$ be an open cover of X. It follows from Proposition 5.7 that there exists a Lebesgue number δ_L for the open cover $\mathcal{V}$. It then follows from Lemma 5.8 that there exist subsets $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_s$ of X such that $\operatorname{diam}(A_i) < \delta_L$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$ and

$$X = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_s.$$

We may suppose that A_i is non-empty for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$ (because if $A_i = \emptyset$ then A_i could be deleted from the list). Choose $\mathbf{p}_i \in A_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$.

Then $A_i \subset B_X(\mathbf{p}_i, \delta_L)$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$. The definition of the Lebesgue number δ_L then ensures that there exist members $V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_s$ of the open cover $\mathcal{V}$ such that $B_X(\mathbf{p}_i, \delta_L) \subset V_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$. Then $A_i \subset V_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$, and therefore

$$X \subset V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \cdots \cup V_s.$$

Thus $V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_s$ constitute a finite subcover of the open cover $\mathcal{U}$. We have therefore proved that every closed bounded subset of n-dimensional Euclidean space is compact, as required. ∎