COMPACT HAUSDORFF SPACES AND INVERSE LIMIT SPACES

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journal or publication title	鹿児島大学理学部紀要．数学・物理学・化学
volume	3
page range	1-2
別言語のタイトル	コンパクト・ハウスドルフ空間と逆極限空間
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10232/6303

Rep. Fac. Sci. Kagoshima Univ., (Math. Phys. Chem.) No. 3, p. 1-2, 1970

COMPACT HAUSDORFF SPACES AND INVERSE LIMIT SPACES

By

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(Received September 30, 1970)

The purpose of this note is to show that any compact Hausdorff space is represented as the inverse limit space of an inverse limit system in which each space is a compact subspace of a finite dimensional Euclidean cube.

Let X be a compact Hausdroff space and let $I=[0, 1]$ be the closed interval with the usual topology. Suppose that $C(X)=\{\varphi_\mu: \mu \in M\}$ is the family of all continuous mappings from X to I. Now we consider a family $D=\{\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\alpha}: \alpha$ is a finite subset of $M\}$. And we define an order relation $<$ in D by saying $f<g$, where $f=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\alpha}$ and $g=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\beta}$, if $\alpha\subset\beta$. Then $(D, <)$ is a directed set. Because, given $f=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\alpha}\in D$ and $g=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\beta}\in D$, we take $h=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\alpha\cup\beta}$. Of course h is in D (Such the h is denoted by $f\vee g$). Then we have obviously $h>f$ and $h>g$, hence $(D, <)$ is a directed set.

For each $\varphi_\mu\in C(X)$, setting $H_\mu=\varphi_\mu(X)$, H_μ is a compact subset of I. And for each $f=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\alpha}\in D$, we define a mapping $f: X\to\Pi\{H_\mu: \mu\in\alpha\}$ by

$$f(x)=\{\varphi_\mu(x) : \mu\in\alpha\},$$

and set $X_f=f(X)$. Then f is continuous and X_f is a compact subspace of a finite dimensional Euclidean space.

Next, we consider the family $\{X_f: f\in D\}$. For each $f, g\in D$ with $f<g$, a mapping π_{fg}: $X_g\to X_f$ is defined by

$$\pi_{fg}g(x)=f(x).$$

Then π_{fg} has the following properties:

(1) π_{fg} is well defined.

(2) π_{fg} is continuous onto.

(3) π_{ff} is identity.

(4) if $f<g<h$, then $\pi_{fg}\pi_{gh}=\pi_{fh}$.

In fact, suppose $f<g$, where $f=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\alpha}$ and $g=\{\varphi_\mu\}_{\mu\in\beta}$. If $g(x)=g(y)$, then $\varphi_\mu(x)=\varphi_\mu(y)$ for $\mu\in\beta$. Since $f<g$, we have $\alpha\subset\beta$, so that $\varphi_\mu(x)=\varphi_\mu(y)$ for $\mu\in\alpha$. Hence $f(x)=f(y)$, and we have (1). (2) is evident since π_{fg} is a projection of the product space onto its factor space. (3) and (4) follow immediately from the definition of the mapping π_{fg}. Therefore we can conclude that the family $\{X_f, \pi_{fg}\}$ is an inverse limit system over the directed set D.

Moreover, since X_f is a non empty compact Hausdorff space, the inverse limit space

X_∞ of the inverse limit system $\{X_f, \pi_{fg}\}$ is non empty compact Hausdroff [1].

Now, the evalution mapping $e : X \to \Pi\{X_f : f \in D\}$ is continuous [2]. And $e(x) \in X_\infty$ since $e(x) = \{f(x) : f \in D\}$ and $\pi_{hf} f(x) = h(x)$ whenever $h < f$.

The mapping e is injective. To prove this, suppose that x and y are two distinct points of X. Since X is a compact Hausdorff space, there exists a mapping $\varphi_\nu \in C(X)$ such that

$$\varphi_\nu(x) = 0 \text{ and } \varphi_\nu(y) = 1.$$

Take $h = \{\varphi_\mu\}$ consisting of only one element φ_μ. Then h is a member of D and $h(x) \neq h(y)$. Thus $e(x) \neq e(y)$, so that e is injective.

Next, we shall show that $e(X)$ is dense in X_∞. For this, it is sufficient to prove that every open neighborhood of any point of X_∞ contains a point of $e(X)$. Let $\{x_f\} \in X_\infty$, and suppose that $\Pi\{U_f : f \in D\}$ is an arbitrary open neighborhood of $\{x_f\}$, where each U_f is an open neighborhood of x_f in X_f, and $U_f = X_f$ for all but a finite number of $f \in D$. Let the finite elements of D be $\{g, \cdots, h\}$, and take $\psi = g \vee \cdots \vee h$. Then there exists a $y \in X$ such that $x_\psi = \psi(y) \in X_\psi$, since $x_\psi \in X_\psi$ and $X_\psi = \psi(X)$. When considering $\{f(y) : f \in D\} \in X_\infty$,

$$\pi_{g\psi}\psi(y) = g(y), \cdots, \quad \pi_{h\psi}\psi(y) = h(y),$$

and since $\psi(y) = x_\psi$ and for $l < \psi$ $\pi_{l\psi} x_\psi = x_l$, we have

$$g(y) = x_g, \cdots, h(y) = x_h.$$

It follows that $\{f(y)\} \in \Pi\{U_f : f \in D\}$. This proves that $e(X)^- = X_\infty$.

Since X is a compact Hausdorff space and e is a continuous mapping, $e(X)$ also is a compact Hausdroff space. Moreover since X_∞ is Hausdroff, $e(X)$ is closed in X_∞. Consequentely,

$$e(X) = e(X)^- = X_\infty,$$

and therefore e is homemorphism.

Thus we have established the following theorem.

THEOREM. *Every compact Hausdroff space is homeomorphic to the inverse limit space of an inverse limit system in which each space is a compact subspace of a finite dimensional Euclidean space.*

References

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[2] J.L. KELLEY: General Topology. Van Nostrand, Princeton, 1955.