Countable Metric Spaces Without Isolated Points

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June 11, 2021

To prove directly:



To prove directly: $\mathbb{Q}\times\mathbb{Q}\approx\mathbb{Q}$



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 Any countable metric space is homeomorphic to a subspace of Cantor set Δ.

To prove directly: $\mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q} \approx \mathbb{Q}$

 $\mathbb{Q}\cap (0,1]\approx \mathbb{Q}\cap (0,1)$

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- Any countable metric space is homeomorphic to a subspace of Cantor set △.
- (Brouwer 1910) Every zero-dimensional compact metric space with no isolated points is homeomorphic to Δ.

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- $\blacktriangleright X \approx \mathbb{Q}$
- Not direct!

► 1920 Any two countable dense-in-itself subsets of Rⁿ are homeomorphic – proof 6 pages

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- Textbook proofs are rare!

Toolbox

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- ▶ ball: $B(x,r) = \{y : d(x,y) < r\}, r > 0$

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Theorem

Metric
$$X = \{x_1, x_2, ...\}, Y = \{y_1, y_2, ...\}$$

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 $\implies X \approx Y$

Proof:

▶
$$D = \{d_X(x_m, x_n) : m \neq n\} \cup \{d_Y(y_m, y_n) : m \neq n\}$$

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► $D \subset (0, \infty)$ countable

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- ▶ $D \subset (0, \infty)$ countable
- $S \subset X, Y$: next $(S) = x_k$ where $k = \min\{i : x_i \in S\}$

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Proof.



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Proof. X countable.

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References

- Dasgupta, A. Countable metric spaces without isolated points. *Topology Explained*. June 2005, published by *Topology Atlas*. Accessed 7 June 2021 at http://dasgupab.faculty.udmercy.edu.
- Dashiell, F., Countable metric spaces without isolated points. Amer. Math. Monthly 128(3) (2021), 265–267.