

TOPOLOGY: HOMEWORK 8

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1. Prove that the  $L^1$  norm is a norm on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
2. (Equivalence of topologies on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) Consider the following norms:  $\|\cdot\|_2$  (Euclidean norm),  $\|\cdot\|_1$ , and  $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ .
  - (a) For the case of two metrics  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  on a space  $X$ , compare Proposition 4.7 (M13.3) and Lemma M20.2 (which may be used although the proof should be understood).
  - (b) (No write-up required.) Using the case of  $n = 2$  as an example, show (visually!) that all of the topologies induced by the associated metrics are the same.
  - (c) Choose two of the metrics above and consider the topologies they generate on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Choose one of these topologies and prove that it is finer than the other.<sup>1</sup>

Note that, by Theorem M20.3 and the full result of part (c), each of these norms<sup>2</sup> induce the same topology as the product topology on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . From now on, we may switch between these equivalent formulations of the standard topology on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  as suits our needs.

3. (Topology on matrices.) Let  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  matrices with entries from  $\mathbb{R}$ . The goal of this problem is to understand how we can put a topology on  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  analogous to the usual topology in Euclidean space.

Define the *Hilbert–Schmidt norm*  $\|\cdot\|$  on  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  by:

$$\|A\| = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

for  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  (so  $a_{ij}$  is the entry of  $A$  in the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column). It is a fact that this is, indeed, a norm on  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  and this may be used without proof. The induced metric topology is the *standard topology* on  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

- (a) Let  $d$  be the metric induced by  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ . Find 3 examples of matrices in the ball  $B_d(I_2, 1)$  where  $I_2$  is the  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix.
- (b) Prove that  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^{n^2}$ .  
**Hint:** By problem 2, any of the norms in that problem induce the same topology on  $\mathbb{R}^{n^2}$ . Opt for one of those instead of the product topology.
- (c) Recall the determinant  $\det : M_n(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Prove that  $\det$  is a continuous function.  
**Hint:** Use part (b). To help see how, write down the determinant of a generic element of  $M_2(\mathbb{R})$  or  $M_3(\mathbb{R})$  and consider the previous homework.

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<sup>1</sup>The way that this problem is written should suggest that there are no wrong choices here. In fact, that *is* the case. The conclusion from this is that all three of these topologies are the same.

<sup>2</sup>In fact, a slightly deeper results shows that *any* norm on a finite dimensional vector space induces the same topology.