

## A Generalization of the Kuratowski Intersection Theorem

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—Dedicated to Professor Han Shick Park on his 60th birthday—

In complete metric spaces, the Cantor intersection theorem is the well-known fact. Kuratowski [2] first noticed that the Cantor intersection theorem characterizes the metric completeness and proved a generalized form of it by using the concept of the measure of noncompactness. Recently, Park and Rhoades [4] demonstrate the two basic properties which characterize the metric completeness and there is no need for proving various theorems which characterize the metric completeness. Now we state some definitions. Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space and  $A \subseteq X$  a subset of  $X$ . The *Kuratowski measure* of noncompactness of  $A$  is defined by

$\alpha(A) = \inf\{\epsilon > 0 \mid A \text{ can be covered with a finite number of sets having diameter smaller than } \epsilon\}$ .

From the definition, it is clear that if  $A \subseteq B$  then  $\alpha(A) \leq \alpha(B)$ . If  $\alpha(A) = 0$ , then  $A$  is precompact. A subset  $A \subseteq X$  is called a *compactly closed* subset of  $X$  if  $A \cap K$  is closed for each compact subset of  $X$ . Every closed subset of  $X$  is clearly compactly closed, and compactly closed sets need not be closed. For any  $r > 0$  and  $x \in X$ , we denote  $B_r(x) = \{y \in X \mid d(x, y) \leq r\}$ .

As we mentioned before, Kuratowski [2] proved the following result, which is a generalization of the well-known Cantor intersection theorem:

**Theorem.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space. If  $(A_n)$  ( $n=1, 2, \dots$ ) is a decreasing sequence of nonempty closed subsets of  $X$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha(A_n) = 0$ , then  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  is nonempty and compact.*

In recent paper [1], Horvath gave a generalization of the above Theorem, and also gave some applications to fixed points and nonempty intersection theorem for multivalued mappings in complete metric topological vector spaces. In fact, Horvath proved his basic Theorem 1 using Kuratowski's theorem.

In this paper, we give a further generalization of Horvath's Theorem, and also obtain some corollaries.

We begin with the following:

**Lemma.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space and  $(A_n)$  ( $n=1, 2, \dots$ ) be a decreasing sequence of nonempty compactly closed subsets of  $X$ . If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha(A_n) = 0$ , then  $\overline{\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n}$  is nonempty and compact.*

**Proof.** Since  $\alpha(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n) = 0$ ,  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  is precompact. Therefore  $\overline{\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n}$  is compact. Since  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  is compactly closed,  $\overline{\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n} = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cap (\overline{\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n})$  is also compact. It remains to show that  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  is nonempty.

We may assume that each  $A_n$  is infinite. From the Definition of the measure of noncompactness it follows that we can choose  $x_1 \in A_1$  and  $B_{\alpha(A_1)+\varepsilon/2}(x_1)$  which contains an infinite number of elements of  $A_1$  and also has an infinite number of elements of  $A_2, A_3, \dots$ . Next, we choose  $x_2 \in A_2$  and  $B_{\alpha(A_2)+\varepsilon/2^2}(x_2)$  which contains an infinite number of elements of  $A_2, A_3, \dots$ , and  $B_{\alpha(A_2)+\varepsilon/2^2}(x_2) \subseteq B_{\alpha(A_1)+\varepsilon/2}(x_1)$ . Continuing this process, we obtain sequences of points  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  and sets  $\{B_{\alpha(A_i)+\varepsilon/2^i}(x_i) \mid i=1, 2, \dots\}$ . It is clear that  $d(x_i, x_j) \leq \alpha(A_i) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2^i}$  for all  $j \geq i$  and so  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence. Let  $x_0 = \lim x_n$ , and let  $K = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \dots, x_0\}$ . Then  $K$  is a compact subset of  $X$  with  $A_n \cap K \neq \emptyset$  for each  $n$ . Now let  $B_1 = A_1 \cap K$  and  $B_k = A_k \cap B_{k-1}$  ( $k \geq 2$ ). Then each  $B_k$  is a nonempty closed (actually compact) subset of  $X$ . Furthermore,  $B_{k+1} \subseteq B_k$  for all  $k=1, 2, \dots$ . Therefore, by Kuratowski's Theorem,  $\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} B_k \neq \emptyset$ . Furthermore,

$$\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} B_k = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k \cap K \neq \emptyset.$$

Hence we have  $\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k \neq \emptyset$ . This completes the proof.

Now we prove the following generalization of Horvath's Theorem:

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space and  $(A_i)_{i \in I}$  be a family of compactly closed subsets of  $X$  having the finite intersection property.*

*If  $\inf_{i \in I} \alpha(A_i) = 0$ , then  $\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i$  is nonempty and compact.*

**Proof.** Since  $\inf_{i \in I} \alpha(A_i) = 0$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we can choose  $A_{i(n)}$  with  $\alpha(A_{i(n)}) < \frac{1}{n}$ . Define  $C_k = \bigcap_{n=1}^k A_{i(n)}$ . Then each  $C_k$  is nonempty compactly closed and  $\alpha(C_k) < \frac{1}{k}$ . Moreover,  $C_{k+1} \subseteq C_k$  for all  $k=1, 2, \dots$ . Applying the previous Lemma to  $(C_k)$ , we obtain  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{i(n)} = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n$  is nonempty precompact. Let  $J$  be any nonempty finite subset of  $I$ , and define

$$B_j = \bigcap_{i \in J} A_i \text{ and } B_j^k = \bigcap_{i \in J} \left( A_i \cap \left( \bigcap_{n=1}^{k-1} A_{i(n)} \right) \right) \quad (k \geq 2).$$

Then  $B_j^k$  is a nonempty compactly closed subset of  $X$  and  $B_j^{k+1} \subseteq B_j^k$  for each  $k=1, 2, \dots$ . Furthermore,  $\alpha(B_j^{k+1}) < \frac{1}{k}$  for each  $k=1, 2, \dots$ . Therefore, by the previous Lemma, we obtain that  $\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} B_j^k$  is nonempty and precompact. Hence,

$$\phi \neq \bigcap_{j \in J} B_j^k = \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j \cap \left( \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{i(n)} \right) \subseteq \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j \cap \overline{\left( \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{i(n)} \right)}.$$

Denote  $B_j$  by  $A_j \cap \overline{\left( \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{i(n)} \right)}$ . Then  $(B_j)_{j \in I}$  is a family of compact subsets of  $X$  having the finite intersection property, so we have  $\bigcap_{j \in I} B_j \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore,

$$\phi \neq \bigcap_{j \in I} B_j = \bigcap_{j \in I} A_j \cap \overline{\left( \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{i(n)} \right)} \subseteq \bigcap_{j \in I} A_j,$$

and the proof is completed.

**Corollary.** ([1]) *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space, and  $(A_i)$  be a family of nonempty compact subsets of  $X$  having the finite intersection property. If  $\inf_{i \in I} \alpha(A_i) = 0$ , then  $\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i$  is nonempty and compact.*

Using Theorem 1, we can obtain several consequences. In this place, by following [1], we only prove the following:

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space, and  $f: X \rightarrow R$  be lower semicontinuous on each compact subset of  $X$ . If  $\inf_{x \in X} \alpha(\{y \in X \mid f(y) \leq f(x)\}) = 0$ , then  $f$  is bounded below and there exists  $x_0 \in X$  such that  $f(x_0) = \inf_{x \in X} f(x)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $A_x = \{y \in X \mid f(y) \leq f(x)\}$ , then  $(A_x)_{x \in X}$  is a family of nonempty compactly closed subsets of  $X$  having the finite intersection property. Since  $\inf_{x \in X} \alpha(A_x) = 0$ , by Theorem 1, there exists  $x_0 \in \bigcap_{x \in X} A_x$ , i.e.,  $f(x_0) \leq f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . This completes the proof.

### References

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