2026 Volume: 02 Issue: 05 www.ijrpa.com ISSN 2456-9995 Case Study

International Journal Research Publication Analysis

Page: 01-05

TOPIC: A BRIEF STUDY OF CANTOR'S INTERSECTION THEOREM IN METRIC SPACE

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Article Received: 09 April 2026
Article Revised: 29 April 2026
Published on: 19 May 2026

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DOI: https://doi-doi.org/101555/ijrpa.9760

ABSTRACT

Cantor's Intersection Theorem is a key result in the field of metric spaces and mathematical analysis. This theorem highlights a crucial relationship between completeness and the nested intersection property of closed sets. This paper offers a succinct examination of Cantor's Intersection Theorem, encompassing preliminary concepts, a formal statement, proof, examples, and its applications in analysis and topology. The theorem is pivotal in fixed point theory, arguments concerning compactness, and the analysis of convergence. Additionally, the paper addresses the importance of completeness in metric spaces and includes illustrative examples to enhance comprehension.

KEYWORDS: Metric space, complete metric space, Cantor's Intersection Theorem, nested sets, completeness, closed sets.

INTODUCTION:

The theory of metric spaces constitutes a vital area of contemporary mathematics and acts as a cornerstone for analysis, topology and functional analysis.

A key property examined within metric spaces is completeness, which pertains to the convergence characteristics of Cauchy sequences.

Cantor's Intersection Theorem offers a description of complete metric spaces via nested sequences of closed sets with diameters that tend toward zero. This theorem is extensively utilized in mathematical analysis and has important implications in fixed point theorems, compactness theory and real analysis. The aim of this paper is to provide a concise yet thorough exploration of Cantor's Intersection Theorem in the context of metric spaces, encompassing definitions, the statement of the theorem, proof, examples, and applications.

Cantor's Intersection Theorem-

Statement: Let $\{F_n\}$ be a sequence of non-empty closed subsets of a complete metric space X such that $F_n \supseteq F_{n=1}$ for each positive integer n and $d(F_n) \rightarrow 0$ Let F = $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$

Then F is a singleton, i.e., it contains exactly one element of X.

Proof: Let F = $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$.

Since $F \subseteq F_n$, We have $d(F) \leq b d(F_n)$ for each positive n= 1 integer n.

As $d(F_n) \rightarrow 0$, we get $d(F) \leq 0$.

So F can not contain more than one element. Thus, the theorem is proved if we show that $F \neq \emptyset$. Since F, is not empty, we can choose an element $x_n \in F_n$. We, thus, get a sequence $\{x_n\}$ in X.

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given. Since $d(F_n) \rightarrow 0$, there exists a positive integer m such that

$d(F_n) < \epsilon$ if $n \geq m$.

Let $n \geq k \geq m$.Then

$F_n \subseteq F_k$

$\Rightarrow \{x_n, x_k\} \subset F_k \Rightarrow d\{x_n, x_k\} \leq F_k < \epsilon$

This shows that $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in X, As X is a complete metric space and $\{x_n\}$ converges to some $x \in X$. Now, we show that $x \in F$, for every n, which in turn will give $x \in F$. Let, if possible, $x \notin F_k$ for some fixed positive integer k.

Then, $x \in F_k^c$ Since F_k is a closed subset of X, F_k^c is an open subset of X, so there exists, r > 0

such that $B(x, r) \subseteq F_k^c$. As $x_n \rightarrow x$,

there exists a positive integer p such that

$d(x_n, x) < r$ if $n \geq p$,

that is, $x_n \in B(x, r)$ if $n \geq p$,

Choose m = max (p, k).

Then $x_n \in B(x, r) \subset F_k^c$, and $x_n \in F_k \subseteq F_k$.

This is a contradiction. This proves that $x \in F_k$. Since this is true for all k, we get $x \in F_n$ that, for all n. Thus $x \in F$, Hence we get the result.

Example 1: Let X = R and F_n = {x ∈ R: x ≥ n).

Then X is a complete metric space and $\{F_n\}$ is a decreasing sequence of non-empty closed subsets of X. Also $d(F_n) = \infty$ for each n so that the condition $d(F_n) \to 0$ is not satisfied here.

Also we have $F = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n = \emptyset$ Hence the claim.

Example 2: Here we give an example to show that the set F in the Cantor's intersection theorem may be empty if the hypothesis that each F, is a closed subset of X is dropped. Then X is a complete metric space and $\{F_n\}$ is a decreasing sequence of nonempty subsets such that of X

Such that $d(F_n) = \frac{1}{n} \to 0$

But F_n is not a closed subset of R. Now we have

$F = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n = \emptyset$

Hence the claim is clear.

Example 3: In this example, we show that the set E in the Cantor's intersection theorem may be empty if the condition that X is a complete metric space is dropped.

Let X be the metric space of all positive real numbers. Then X is not complete.

Let $F_n = \{x \in R: 0 < x \leq \frac{1}{n}\}$

Then $\{F_n\}$ is a decreasing sequence of non-empty closed subset of X and $d(F_n) = \frac{1}{n} \to 0$.

Here also we have $F = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n \neq \emptyset$

Hence the claim is clear.

Next we shall prove another theorem related to completeness property.

Theorem: Let (X, d) be a complete metric space and $\{U_n\}$ a countable collection of dense open subsets of X. Then $\bigcap U_n$ is not empty.

Proof: We first note that if $x \in X$ and $0 < r < s$, then

$B\,\overline{(x, r)} \subset B[x, r] \subset B\,(x, s)$

Since U_1 is dense in X and $U_1 \neq \emptyset$ and $x_1 \in 0_1$.

Then $\exists$ $r_1 > 0$, $r_1 < \frac{1}{2}$ such that $B_1 = B(x_1, r_1) \subseteq U_1$. Since U_1 is dense, there must be a point x_2 in $U_2 \cap B$. Clearly

$s_1 = r_1 - d(x_1, x_2) > 0$

Since U_2 is open $\exists$ $s > 0$ such that $B(x_2, s) \subseteq U_2$

Let $0 < r_2 < \min\{\frac{1}{2^2}, s\}$ and take $B_2 = B(x_2, r_2)$. Then we get

$\overline{B_2} \subseteq B(x_2, s) \subseteq U_2$

Also by above equation

$\overline{B_2} \subseteq B(x_2, s_1) \subseteq B(x_1, r_1) = B_1 \subseteq U_1$

Further $d(\overline{B_2}) \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Proceeding inductively, we get a (B_n) such that

$\overline{B_n} \subset B_{n-1}$, $B_n \subseteq U_1$ and

$d(B_n) \leq \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}$ for $n \in N$.

Then by Cantor intersection theorem, $\cap F_n$ contain exactly one element, say x. Then $x \in U_n$, $\forall n$ and, therefore, $\cap U_n$ is not empty. Hence we get the result.

Applications of Cantor's Intersection Theorem

Fixed Point Theory - The theorem is frequently used in proving the existence and uniqueness of fixed points, especially in the proof of the Banach Fixed Point Theorem. In contraction mappings, one often constructs a nested sequence of closed balls whose diameters approach zero. Cantor's theorem ensures that the intersection contains exactly one point, which becomes the unique fixed point.

Construction of Real Numbers - Nested interval arguments based on Cantor's theorem are used in the construction and completeness properties of real numbers.

Functional Analysis - In functional analysis, the theorem helps establish convergence properties in Banach spaces and other complete metric spaces.

Topology and Compactness - Cantor's theorem is closely related to compactness and finite intersection properties in topology.

Limitations of Cantor's Intersection Theorem

Requires Completeness - The theorem only works in a complete metric space. If the space is not complete, the intersection may be empty even when all other conditions hold.

Closedness is Necessary - The sets must be closed. If the nested sets are not closed, the limiting point may not belong to all sets.

Diameters Must Tend to Zero - The condition diam $(A_n) \to 0$ is crucial for uniqueness. Without it, the intersection may contain many points.

Applies Only to Nested Sequences - The theorem requires $A_1 \supseteq A_2 \supseteq A_3 \supseteq \cdots$ If the sets are not nested, the theorem does not apply.

Metric-Space Dependence - The theorem is formulated for metric spaces (or suitably generalized spaces). In arbitrary topological spaces, the result may fail unless additional compactness/completeness assumptions are introduced.

CONCLUSION

Cantor's Intersection Theorem represents a significant and refined finding within the realm of metric space theory. It illustrates how the property of completeness guarantees the presence of a singular point within nested closed sets that have diminishing diameters. This theorem finds extensive applications across various fields, including analysis, topology, and fixed point theory. By providing examples and a proof, this paper emphasizes the critical nature of completeness and the function of nested set configurations in contemporary mathematics.

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