

# Pacific Journal of Mathematics

**STATISTICAL METRIC SPACES**

BERTHOLD SCHWEIZER AND ABE SKLAR

# STATISTICAL METRIC SPACES

B. SCHWEIZER AND A. SKLAR

**Introduction.** The concept of an abstract metric space, introduced by M. Fréchet in 1906 [2], furnishes the common idealization of a large number of mathematical, physical and other scientific constructs in which the notion of a "distance" appears. The objects under consideration may be most varied. They may be points, functions, sets, and even the subjective experiences of sensations. What matters is the possibility of associating a non-negative real number with each ordered pair of elements of a certain set, and that the numbers associated with pairs and triples of such elements satisfy certain conditions. However, in numerous instances in which the theory of metric spaces is applied, this very association of a *single* number with a pair of elements is, realistically speaking, an over-idealization. This is so even in the measurement of an ordinary length, where the number given as the distance between two points is often not the result of a single measurement, but the average of a series of measurements. Indeed, in this and many similar situations, it is appropriate to look upon the distance concept as a statistical rather than a determinate one. More precisely, instead of associating a number—the distance  $d(p, q)$ —with every pair of elements  $p, q$ , one should associate a distribution function  $F_{pq}$  and, for any positive number  $x$ , interpret  $F_{pq}(x)$  as the probability that the distance from  $p$  to  $q$  be less than  $x$ . When this is done one obtains a generalization of the concept of a metric space—a generalization which was first introduced by K. Menger in 1942 [5] and, following him, is called a statistical metric space.

The history of statistical metric spaces is brief. In the original paper, Menger gave postulates for the distribution functions  $F_{pq}$ . These included a generalized triangle inequality. In addition, he constructed a theory of betweenness and indicated possible fields of application.

In 1943, shortly after the appearance of Menger's paper, A. Wald published a paper [14] in which he criticized Menger's generalized triangle inequality and proposed an alternative one. On the basis of this new inequality Wald constructed a theory of betweenness having certain advantages over Menger's theory [15].

In 1951 Menger continued his study of statistical metric spaces in a paper [7] devoted to a resume of the earlier work, the construction of several specific examples and further considerations of the possible applications of the theory. In this paper Menger adopted Wald's version

of the triangle inequality.<sup>1</sup>

Statistical metric spaces are also considered by Menger in the last chapter of his book *Géométrie Générale* [9]; and references to these spaces are scattered throughout his other works, e.g., [6], [8].<sup>2</sup>

In the present paper we continue the study of statistical metric spaces. Our paper is divided into three parts, each devoted to one main topic. They are :

(I) The axiomatics of statistical metric spaces, with particular emphasis on the triangle inequality ;

(II) The construction and study of particular spaces ;

(III) A consideration of topological notions in statistical metric spaces and a study of the continuity properties of the distance function.<sup>3</sup>

In concluding this introduction, we wish to express our thanks to Professor K. Menger for his never-failing interest and encouragement, and to our colleagues, Professors T. Erber and M. McKiernan, for their many valuable comments and suggestions.

## I. DEFINITIONS AND PRELIMINARIES

**1. Statistical metric spaces.** As is customary, we call a real-valued function defined on the entire real line a *distribution function* if it is non-decreasing, left-continuous and has inf 0 and sup 1. We shall use various symbols for distribution functions. However, in the sequel,  $H$  will always denote the specific distribution function defined by

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq 0, \\ 1, & x > 0. \end{cases}$$

We shall also, for convenience, adhere to the convention that, for any distribution function  $F$ , and any  $x > 0$ ,  $F(x/0) = 1$ , while  $F(0/0) = 0$ .

For purposes of reference and comparison, we list here the postulates, due originally to Fréchet, for an ordinary metric space. A metric space (briefly, an *M-space*) is an ordered pair  $(S, d)$ , where  $S$  is an abstract set and  $d$  a mapping of  $S \times S$  into the real numbers—i.e.,  $d$  associates

<sup>1</sup> However, as Prof. Menger informs us, even before the paper was written, both he and Wald, in a number of conversations, had come to feel that the Wald inequality was in some respects too stringent a requirement to impose on all statistical metric spaces. Some support for this is furnished in the present paper (Theorems 5.4 and 6.4).

<sup>2</sup> In addition, in a note on Menger's paper [7], A. Špaček [13] has considered the question of determining the probability that a random function defined on every pair of points in a set is an ordinary metric on that set. In particular, he has established necessary and sufficient conditions for such a random function to be a metric with probability one. The connection between the concepts of Špaček and that of a statistical metric is considered in [10].

<sup>3</sup> Some of the results of this paper have been presented in [12].

a real number  $d(p, q)$  with every pair  $(p, q)$  of elements of  $S$ . The mapping  $d$  is assumed to satisfy the following conditions :

- (i)  $d(p, q) = 0$  if, and only if,  $p = q$ . (Identity)
- (ii)  $d(p, q) \geq 0$ . (Positivity)
- (iii)  $d(p, q) = d(q, p)$ . (Symmetry)
- (iv)  $d(p, r) \leq d(p, q) + d(q, r)$ . (Triangle Inequality)

**DEFINITION 1.1.** A statistical metric space (briefly, an *SM-space*) is an ordered pair  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  where  $S$  is an abstract set (whose elements will be called *points*) and  $\mathcal{F}$  is a mapping of  $S \times S$  into the set of distribution functions—i.e.,  $\mathcal{F}$  associates a distribution function  $\mathcal{F}(p, q)$  with every pair  $(p, q)$  of points in  $S$ . We shall denote the distribution function  $\mathcal{F}(p, q)$  by  $F_{pq}$ , whence the symbol  $F_{pq}(x)$  will denote the value of  $F_{pq}$  for the real argument  $x$ . The functions  $F_{pq}$  are assumed to satisfy the following conditions :

- I.  $F_{pq}(x) = 1$  for all  $x > 0$  if, and only if,  $p = q$ .
- II.  $F_{pq}(0) = 0$ .
- III.  $F_{pq} = F_{qr}$ .
- IV. If  $F_{pq}(x) = 1$  and  $F_{qr}(y) = 1$ , then  $F_{pr}(x + y) = 1$ .

In view of Condition II, which evidently implies that  $F_{pq}(x) = 0$  for all  $x \leq 0$ , Condition I is equivalent to the statement :  $p = q$  if, and only if,  $F_{pq} = H$ .

Every *M*-space may be regarded as an *SM*-space of a special kind. One has only to set  $F_{pq}(x) = H(x - d(p, q))$  for every pair of points  $(p, q)$  in the *M*-space. Furthermore, with the interpretation of  $F_{pq}(x)$  as the probability that the distance from  $p$  to  $q$  is less than  $x$ , one sees that Conditions I, II, and III are straightforward generalizations of the corresponding conditions i, ii, iii. Condition IV is a ‘minimal’ generalization of the triangle inequality iv which may be interpreted as follows : If it is certain that the distance of  $p$  and  $q$  is less than  $x$ , and likewise certain that the distance of  $q$  and  $r$  is less than  $y$ , then it is certain that the distance of  $p$  and  $r$  is less than  $x + y$ .

Condition IV is always satisfied in *M*-spaces, where it reduces to the ordinary triangle inequality. However, in those *SM*-spaces in which the equality  $F_{pq}(x) = 1$  does not hold (for  $p \neq q$ ) for any finite  $x$ , IV will be satisfied only vacuously. It is therefore of interest to have ‘stronger’ versions of the generalized triangle inequality. We shall consider two such versions in detail. Before doing so, it is convenient to make the following :

**DEFINITION 1.2.** A triangle inequality will be said to hold *universally*

in an  $SM$ -space if and only if it holds for all triples of points, distinct or not, in that space.

**2. Menger spaces.** In his original formulation [5], Menger gave as a generalized triangle inequality the following:

$$\text{IVm.} \quad F_{pr}(x + y) \geq T(F_{pq}(x), F_{qr}(y)) \text{ for all } x, y \geq 0 ,$$

where  $T$  is a 2-place function on the unit square satisfying:

- (a)  $0 \leq T(a, b) \leq 1 ,$
- (b)  $T(c, d) \geq T(a, b) \text{ for } c \geq a, d \geq b ,$
- (c)  $T(a, b) = T(b, a) ,$
- (d)  $T(1, 1) = 1 ,$
- (e)  $T(a, 1) > 0 \text{ for } a > 0 .$

In view of condition (d), it follows that IVm contains IV as a special case. Because of the rather general nature of the function  $T$ , about the most that can be given as an interpretation of IVm is a statement such as: Our knowledge of the third side of a triangle depends in a symmetric manner on our knowledge of the other two sides and increases, or at least does not decrease, as our knowledge of these other two sides increases. The interpretation can, however, be made precise by choosing  $T$  to be a specific function. There are numerous possible choices for  $T$ . We list here six of the simplest:

$$\begin{aligned} T_1: T(a, b) &= \text{Max}(a + b - 1, 0), \text{ i.e., } T = \text{Max}(\text{Sum} - 1, 0); \\ T_2: T(a, b) &= ab, \quad , \quad T = \text{Product}; \\ T_3: T(a, b) &= \text{Min}(a, b), \quad , \quad T = \text{Min}; \\ T_4: T(a, b) &= \text{Max}(a, b), \quad , \quad T = \text{Max}; \\ T_5: T(a, b) &= a + b - ab, \quad , \quad T = \text{Sum-Product}; \\ T_6: T(a, b) &= \text{Min}(a + b, 1), \quad , \quad T = \text{Min}(\text{Sum}, 1). \end{aligned}$$

The six functions are listed in order of increasing ‘strength’, where  $T''$  is said to be *stronger* than  $T'$  (and  $T'$  *weaker* than  $T''$ ) if  $T''(a, b) \geq T'(a, b)$  for all  $(a, b)$  on the unit square with strict inequality for at least one pair  $(a, b)$ . Evidently, if IVm holds for any given  $T$ , it will hold a fortiori for all weaker  $T'$ s. For  $T = \text{Product}$ , IVm may be interpreted as follows: The probability that the distance of  $p$  and  $r$  is less than  $x + y$  is not less than the joint probability that, independently, the distance of  $p$  and  $q$  is less than  $x$ , and the distance of  $q$  and  $r$  is less than  $y$ . For  $T = \text{Min}(\text{Max})$ , the interpretation is: The probability that the distance of  $p$  and  $r$  is less than  $x + y$  is not less than the smaller (larger) of the probabilities that the distance of  $p$  and  $q$  is less

than  $x$  and the distance of  $q$  and  $r$  is less than  $y$ . Similar interpretations may be given to the other choices of  $T$ . However as the following lemmas indicate, the three functions  $T_4$ ,  $T_5$ ,  $T_6$  are actually too strong for most purposes.

**LEMMA 2.1.** *If an SM-space contains two distinct points, then IVm cannot hold universally in the space under the choice  $T = \text{Max}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p$  and  $q$  be two distinct points of the space and let  $x$  and  $y$  satisfy  $0 < y < x$ . Suppose IVm holds universally with  $T = \text{Max}$ . Then,

$$F_{pq}(x) \geq \text{Max}(F_{pq}(x - y), F_{qq}(y)) = 1.$$

But  $x$  can be *any* positive number, which by Condition I means  $p = q$  and contradicts the assumption  $p \neq q$ .

**LEMMA 2.2.** *If an SM-space is not an M-space, and if IVm holds universally in the space for some choice of  $T$  satisfying (a)–(e), then the function  $T$  has the property that there exists a number  $a$ ,  $0 < a < 1$ , such that  $T(a, 1) \leq a$ .*

*Proof.* If an SM-space is not an  $M$ -space, then there is at least one pair  $p, q$  of (necessarily distinct) points for which  $F_{pq}$  assumes values other than 0 or 1. By the left-continuity and monotonicity of  $F_{pq}$ , this means that there is, not merely one point, but an open interval  $(x, y)$  on which we have  $0 < F_{pq} < 1$ . Now assume that  $T(a, 1) = a + \phi(a)$ , where  $\phi(a) > 0$  for  $0 < a < 1$ . Let  $z$  be any point in  $(x, y)$  and take  $t > 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} F_{pq}(z + t) &\geq T(F_{pq}(z), F_{qq}(t)) \\ &= T(F_{pq}(z), 1) \\ &= F_{pq}(z) + \phi(F_{pq}(z)). \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $t \rightarrow 0 +$ , we have:

$$F_{pq}(z+) \geq F_{pq}(z) + \phi(F_{pq}(z)) > F_{pq}(z).$$

Thus  $F_{pq}$  is discontinuous at  $z$ , and therefore at every point of  $(x, y)$ . But this is a contradiction, since a non-decreasing function can be discontinuous at only denumerably many points.

**LEMMA 2.3.** *If IVm holds universally in an SM-space and if  $T$  is continuous, then, for any  $x > 0$ ,  $T(F_{pq}(x), 1) \leq F_{pq}(x)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p, q$  and  $x > 0$  be given and choose  $y$  such that  $0 < y < x$ . Then,

$$F_{pq}(x) \geq T(F_{pq}(x - y), F_{qq}(y)) = T(F_{pq}(x - y), 1) .$$

Letting  $y \rightarrow 0 +$ , we obtain

$$F_{pq}(x) \geq \lim_{y \rightarrow 0+} T(F_{pq}(x - y), 1) .$$

But, by the assumed continuity of  $T$ ,

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0+} T(F_{pq}(x - y), 1) = T(\lim_{y \rightarrow 0+} F_{pq}(x - y), 1) ,$$

while, by the left-continuity of  $F_{pq}$ ,

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0+} F_{pq}(x - y) = F_{pq}(x) .$$

This completes the proof.

Motivated by these lemmas, and noticing that the three weaker functions in our list of  $T$ 's satisfy  $T(a, 1) = a$ , we are led to replace conditions (a), (d) and (e) by the condition,

$$(a') \quad T(a, 1) = a , \quad T(0, 0) = 0 .$$

This new condition implies that  $T \leq \text{Min}$ , for we have the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} T(a, b) &\leq T(a, 1) = a , \\ T(a, b) &= T(b, a) \leq T(b, 1) = b , \end{aligned}$$

whence  $T(a, b) \leq \text{Min}(a, b)$ . Thus, under (a'),  $\text{Min}$  becomes the strongest possible universal  $T$ . Similarly, the weakest possible  $T$  satisfying (a'), (b) and (c) is the function, henceforth denoted by  $T_w$ , which is given by,

$$T_w(x, y) = \begin{cases} a , & x = a, y = 1 \text{ or } y = a, x = 1 , \\ 0 , & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It must not be construed, however, that functions stronger than  $\text{Min}$  or weaker than  $T_w$  thereby lose all interest; in fact, on numerous occasions, we shall find it of value to determine under what conditions —i.e., for which points  $p, q, r$  and for which numbers  $x, y$ —IVm holds for a function stronger than  $\text{Min}$  or weaker than  $T_w$ .

To the conditions on  $T$  considered thus far we also add the associativity condition,

$$(d') \quad T[T(a, b), c] = T[a, T(b, c)] ,$$

which permits the extension of IVm to a polygonal inequality. Accordingly, we make the following:

**DEFINITION 2.1.** A *Menger space* is an *SM-space* in which IVm holds universally for some choice of  $T$  satisfying conditions (a'), (b), (c) and (d').

The following lemma shows that, in determining whether or not an *SM*-space is a Menger space, only triples of distinct points need be considered.

**LEMMA 2.4.** If the points  $p, q, r$  are not all distinct, then IVm holds for the triple  $p, q, r$  under any choice of  $T$  satisfying (a'), (b), (c) and (d').

*Proof.* We need only consider the choice  $T = \text{Min}$ . If  $p = r$ , then  $F_{pr} = H$  and the conclusion is immediate. If  $p = q \neq r$ , then for  $x, y \geq 0$ ,

$$\text{Min}(F_{pq}(x), F_{qr}(y)) = \text{Min}(H(x), F_{qr}(y)) \leq F_{qr}(y) \leq F_{qr}(x+y) = F_{pr}(x+y).$$

**3. Wald spaces.** The other generalized triangle inequality that we consider is the one due to A. Wald [14, 15]. It is:

$$\text{IVw.} \quad F_{pr}(x) \geq [F_{pq} * F_{qr}](x), \quad \text{for all } x \geq 0,$$

where  $*$  denotes convolution, i.e.,

$$[F_{pq} * F_{qr}](x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F_{pq}(x-y)dF_{qr}(y).$$

Since  $F_{pq}(x-y) = 0$  for  $y \geq x$ , and  $F_{qr}(y) = 0$  for  $y \leq 0$ , we may evidently write

$$[F_{pq} * F_{qr}](x) = \int_0^x F_{pq}(x-y)dF_{qr}(y).$$

Since the convolution of the distribution functions of two independent random variables gives the distribution function of their sum, the interpretation of IVw is: The probability that the distance of  $p$  and  $r$  is less than  $x$  is not less than the probability that the sum of the distance of  $p$  and  $q$  and the distance of  $q$  and  $r$  (regarded as independent) is less than  $x$ .

**DEFINITION 3.1.** A *Wald space* is an *SM*-space in which IVw holds universally.

**THEOREM 3.1.** A *Wald space* is a Menger space under the choice  $T = \text{Product}$ .

*Proof.* In a Wald space, for any  $x, y \geq 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_{pr}(x+y) &\geq \int_0^{x+y} F_{pq}(x+y-z)dF_{qr}(z) \\ &= \int_0^{x+y} \left[ \int_0^{x+y-z} dF_{pq}(t) \right] dF_{qr}(z) \\ &= \iint_{\substack{t, z \geq 0 \\ t+z \leq x+y}} dF_{pq}(t)dF_{qr}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\iint_{\substack{t, z \geq 0 \\ t+z \leq x+y}} dF_{pq}(t)dF_{qr}(z) \geq \iint_{\substack{0 \leq t \leq x \\ 0 \leq z \leq y}} dF_{pq}(t)dF_{qr}(z)$$

since the rectangle  $\{(t, z) ; 0 \leq t \leq x, 0 \leq z \leq y\}$  is contained in the triangle  $\{(t, z) ; t, z \geq 0, t + z \leq x + y\}$  and the  $F$ 's are non-decreasing. But,

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{\substack{0 \leq t \leq x \\ 0 \leq z \leq y}} dF_{pq}(t)dF_{qr}(z) &= \int_0^x \int_0^y dF_{pq}(t)dF_{qr}(z) \\ &= \int_0^x dF_{pq}(t) \int_0^y dF_{qr}(z) = F_{pq}(x)F_{qr}(y). \end{aligned}$$

Combining the various inequalities we obtain

$$(1) \quad F_{pr}(x+y) \geq F_{pq}(x)F_{qr}(y)$$

which is IVm with  $T = \text{Product}$ , and completes the proof of the theorem.

**COROLLARY.** *If the Wald inequality holds, then so does the inequality IV.*

*Proof.* By (1), if  $F_{pq}(x) = 1$  and  $F_{qr}(y) = 1$  then  $F_{pr}(x+y) = 1$ .

The following lemma is a counterpart to Lemma 2.4:

**LEMMA 3.1.** *If the points  $p, q, r$  are not all distinct, then IVw holds for the triple  $p, q, r$ .*

*Proof.* If  $p = r$ , this is immediate, since in this case,  $F_{pr} = H$ .

Otherwise, if  $p = q \neq r$ , then, for  $x \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F_{pr}(x) = F_{qr}(x) &= \int_0^x dF_{qr}(y) = \int_0^x H(x-y)dF_{qr}(y) \\ &= \int_0^x F_{pq}(x-y)dF_{qr}(y). \end{aligned}$$

The case  $p \neq q = r$  follows on interchanging  $r$  and  $p$ .

**THEOREM 3.2.** *If in an SM-space, IVm holds under  $T = \text{Max}$  for all triples of distinct points, then the space is a Wald space.*

*Proof.* Let  $p, q, r$  be distinct. Then for any  $x \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F_{pr}(x) &\geq \text{Max}(F_{pq}(0), F_{qr}(x)) = F_{qr}(x) = \int_0^x dF_{qr}(y) \\ &\geq \int_0^x F_{pq}(x-y)dF_{qr}(y), \end{aligned}$$

since  $0 \leq F_{pq}(x-y) \leq 1$ . Therefore IVw holds for all triples of distinct

points in the space. But, by the preceding lemma, IVw holds automatically for triples of non-distinct points. Consequently, IVw holds for all triples of points in the space.

This theorem is, in a sense, a partial converse to Theorem 3.1. As will be seen later,  $T = \text{Max}$  in the theorem cannot be weakened to  $T = \text{Min}$ , let alone  $T = \text{Product}$ . Thus the true converse of Theorem 3.1 is false.

## II. PARTICULAR SPACES

**4. Equilateral spaces.** The simplest metric spaces are the equilateral spaces in which

$$d(p, q) = \begin{cases} a, & \text{if } p \neq q \\ 0, & \text{if } p = q, \end{cases}$$

where  $a$  is positive.

Accordingly, we call an *SM*-space *equilateral* if, for some distribution function  $G$  satisfying  $G(0) = 0$ ,

$$(1) \quad F_{pq}(x) = \begin{cases} G(x), & \text{if } p \neq q \\ H(x), & \text{if } p = q, \end{cases}$$

where  $H$  is the distribution function defined in § 1. From (1) it follows that the Conditions I–IV defining an *SM*-space are satisfied.

**THEOREM 4.1.** *The means, medians, etc., of the statistical distances in an equilateral *SM*-space form an equilateral *M*-space.*

*Proof.* Any one of these quantities is zero when  $p = q$  and a fixed positive number for any  $p, q$  when  $p \neq q$ .

**THEOREM 4.2.** *In an equilateral *SM*-space, the Menger triangle inequality IVm holds for any triple of distinct points under  $T = \text{Max}$ , and universally under  $T = \text{Min}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $G$  is non-decreasing,

$$G(x + y) \geq \text{Max}(G(x), G(y)) \geq \text{Min}(G(x), G(y)),$$

and  $G(x + y) \geq \text{Min}(G(x), 1)$ .

**COROLLARY.** *An equilateral *SM*-space is a Wald space.*

*Proof.* This is a direct consequence of Theorem 3.2.

There are also equilateral *SM*-spaces in which IVm holds under a stronger choice of  $T$ .

## EXAMPLE 1.

$$G(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq 0, \\ x, & 0 \leq x \leq 1, \\ 1, & 1 \leq x. \end{cases}$$

For any triple of distinct points in this space, IVm holds under  $T = \text{Min}(\text{Sum}, 1)$ , since in all cases we have  $G(x + y) \geq \text{Min}(G(x) + G(y), 1)$ .

## EXAMPLE 2.

$$G(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq 0, \\ 1 - e^{-x}, & x \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

For any triple of distinct points in this space, IVm holds under  $T = \text{Sum} - \text{Product}$ . This follows from the fact that  $e^{-x}e^{-y} = e^{-(x+y)}$ .

However, even through, as Examples 1 and 2 show, there are equilateral  $SM$ -spaces in which the generalized triangle inequality IVm holds under a stronger  $T$  than Max, the result of Theorem 4.2 is the best possible. This is shown by:

## EXAMPLE 3.

$$G(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq 0, \\ a, & 0 < x \leq k, \\ b, & k < x \leq 3k, \\ 1, & 3k < x, \end{cases}$$

where  $0 < a \leq b < 1$  and  $k$  is any positive number. Then for  $0 < x \leq k$ ,  $k < y \leq 2k$ , we have  $G(x + y) = b = \text{Max}(a, b)$ , whence IVm cannot hold under any choice of  $T$  which is stronger than Max.

**5. Simple spaces.** A class of  $SM$ -spaces, more interesting than the equilateral, may be obtained as follows:

Let  $(S, d)$  be an  $M$ -space and  $G$  a distribution function, different from  $H$ , satisfying  $G(0) = 0$ . For every pair of points  $p, q$  in  $S$ , define the distribution function  $F_{pq}$  as follows:

$$(2) \quad F_{pq}(x) = \begin{cases} G[x/d(p, q)], & p \neq q, \\ H(x), & p = q. \end{cases}$$

**DEFINITION 5.1.** An  $SM$ -space  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  is said to be a *simple space* if and only if there exists a metric  $d$  on  $S$  and a distribution function  $G$  satisfying  $G(0) = 0$ , such that, for every pair of points  $p, q$  in  $S$ ,  $\mathcal{F}(p, q) = F_{pq}$  is given by (2). Furthermore, we say that  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  is

the simple space generated by the  $M$ -space  $(S, d)$  and the distribution function  $G$ .

**THEOREM 5.1.** *A simple space is a Menger space under any choice of  $T$  satisfying (a'), (b), (c) and (d').*

*Proof.* It is sufficient to show that IVm holds universally under  $T = \text{Min}$ , since this is the strongest choice of  $T$  possible. Thus, in view of Lemma 2.4, we have only to show that for  $p, q, r$  distinct,

$$(3) \quad G\left(\frac{x+y}{d(p, r)}\right) \geq \text{Min}[G(x/d(p, q)), G(y/d(q, r))].$$

Now, since  $d$  is an ordinary metric,

$$d(p, r) \leq d(p, q) + d(q, r).$$

Thus,

$$(4) \quad \frac{x+y}{d(p, r)} \geq \frac{x+y}{d(p, q) + d(q, r)}.$$

Furthermore, since  $d(p, q)$  and  $d(q, r)$  are positive,

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{Max}[x/d(p, q), y/d(q, r)] &\geq \frac{x+y}{d(p, q) + d(q, r)} \\ &\geq \text{Min}[x/d(p, q), y/d(q, r)] \end{aligned}$$

with equality on either side if and only if  $x/d(p, q) = y/d(q, r)$ . Consequently, on combining (4) and the right-hand inequality in (5) we have,

$$\frac{x+y}{d(p, r)} \geq \text{Min}[x/d(p, q), y/d(q, r)],$$

which, since  $G$  is non-decreasing, implies (3) and completes the proof.

**COROLLARY 1.** *An equilateral  $M$ -space generates an equilateral SM-space.*

**COROLLARY 2.** *If  $G(x) = H(x - 1)$ , the generated SM-space reduces to the generating  $M$ -space.*

*Proof.*

$$F_{pq}(x) = H\left(\frac{x}{d(p, q)} - 1\right) = H(x - d(p, q)).$$

In most simple spaces  $T = \text{Max}$  will be too strong since the left-hand inequality in (5) shows that, for a triple of distinct points  $p, q, r$

such that  $d(p, r) = d(p, q) + d(q, r)$ , IVm under  $T = \text{Max}$  fails. Indeed, in simple spaces having sufficient structure the choice  $T = \text{Min}$  implicit in Theorem 5.1 is the best possible.

**THEOREM 5.2.** *If  $(S, d)$  is a finite-dimensional Euclidean space,  $G$  a continuous distribution function such that  $G(0) = 0$  and  $0 < G(x) < 1$  for all  $x > 0$ , then Min is the strongest  $T$  under which IVm holds for all triples of distinct points.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $T$  is stronger than Min. Then there exists at least one pair of numbers,  $a, b$  ( $0 < a, b < 1$ ), such that  $T(a, b) > \text{Min}(a, b)$ . We distinguish two cases:

(i) If  $a = b$ , choose  $x = y$  such that  $G(x) = a$ , and choose  $d(p, q) = d(q, r) = 1, d(p, r) = 2$ . Then, since equality is attained in (3), we cannot have  $T(a, a) > \text{Min}(a, a) = a$ .

(ii) If  $a \neq b$ , we may suppose that  $a < b$ . Let  $\varepsilon = T(a, b) - \text{Min}(a, b)$  and choose  $u, v$  so that  $a = G(u)$  and  $b = G(v)$ . Such numbers  $u, v$  clearly exist since  $G$  is a continuous distribution function; moreover  $u < v$ . Also, since  $G$  is continuous, there exists an  $h > 0$  such that

$$G(u + h) < G(u) + \varepsilon = a + \varepsilon.$$

Now let  $d(q, r) = t$  be fixed and choose

$$d(p, q) = s \text{ such that } \frac{t}{s+t} < \frac{h}{v-u},$$

$$d(p, r) = d(p, q) + d(q, r) = s + t,$$

$$x = ud(p, q) \text{ and } y = vd(q, r).$$

Then,

$$\text{Min}[G(x/d(p, q)), G(y/d(q, r))] = \text{Min}[G(u), G(v)] = \text{Min}(a, b) = a.$$

Furthermore,

$$G\left(\frac{x+y}{d(p, r)}\right) = G\left(\frac{us+vt}{s+t}\right) = G\left(u + \frac{(v-u)t}{s+t}\right) \leq G(u+h) < a + \varepsilon,$$

which contradicts the hypothesis

$$G\left(\frac{x+y}{d(p, r)}\right) \geq T(a, b) = \text{Min}(a, b) + \varepsilon = a + \varepsilon.$$

**THEOREM 5.3.** *In a simple space, the means (if they exist), medians, modes (if unique) each form an  $M$ -space homothetic<sup>4</sup> to the original  $M$ -space.*

<sup>4</sup> Two  $M$ -spaces,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ , with distance functions  $d_1$  and  $d_2$ , respectively are said to be homothetic if there exists a number  $a > 0$  and a one-to-one mapping,  $f$ , from  $M_1$  to  $M_2$  such that, for every  $p, q \in M_1$ ,  $d_1(p, q) = ad_2(f(p), f(q))$ .

*Proof.* Let  $E[G] = \int_0^\infty xdG(x) = \mu$ .

If  $p = q$ , then

$$E[F_{pq}] = \int_0^\infty xdH(x) = 0 .$$

If  $p \neq q$ , then

$$E[F_{pq}] = \int_0^\infty xdG(x/d(p, q))$$

which on substituting  $t = x/d(p, q)$  becomes

$$E[F_{pq}] = d(p, q) \int_0^\infty tdG(t) = \mu d(p, q) .$$

The other cases are similar.

In Theorem 3.1 it was shown that every Wald space is a Menger space under  $T = \text{Product}$  and in the corollary to Theorem 4.2 that every equilateral space is a Wald space. However, as the following examples show, there exist simple spaces which are not Wald spaces. Thus the converse of Theorem 3.1 is false. For, if in a Menger space IVm holds under  $T = \text{Min}$ , it holds a fortiori under  $T = \text{Product}$ .

**THEOREM 5.4.** *There exist simple spaces which are not Wald spaces.*

*Proof.* We give two counter-examples:

**EXAMPLE 4.**

$$F_{pq}(x) = 1 - e^{-x/d(p,q)} .$$

With  $d(p, q) = R$ ,  $d(q, r) = S$  and  $d(p, r) = T$ , one obtains (taking into account the fact that the lower limit of the convolution integral is 0 and the upper limit is  $x$ ),

$$(6) \quad [F_{pq} * F_{qr}](x) = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{1}{R-S}(Re^{-x/R} - Se^{-x/S}) , & R \neq S , \\ 1 - \left(1 + \frac{x}{R}\right)e^{-x/R} , & R = S . \end{cases}$$

In order that the Wald inequality IVw be satisfied, we must have

$$(7) \quad F_{pr}(x) \geq [F_{pq} * F_{qr}](x) , \text{ for every } x \geq 0 ,$$

Suppose  $R \neq S$ , say  $R > S$ . Then, keeping  $x$  fixed and applying the mean value theorem to the second term on the upper right-hand side

of (6), we have

$$(8) \quad [F_{pq} * F_{qr}](x) = 1 - \left(1 + \frac{x}{t}\right)e^{-x/t}, \text{ where } S < t < R.$$

Furthermore, if  $R = S$ , we observe, on comparing (8) with (6), that (8) holds with  $t = R$ . Thus, in both cases, in order that (7) hold, it is necessary that

$$\left(1 + \frac{x}{t}\right)e^{-x/t} \geq e^{-x/T}, \text{ for all } x \geq 0;$$

that is,

$$1 + \frac{x}{t} \geq e^{x(1/t - 1/T)}, \text{ for all } x \geq 0.$$

This will be true if and only if  $(1/t - 1/T) \leq 0$ , i.e.,  $T \leq t$ . In particular, therefore, it is necessary that  $T \leq R$ . But this means that the side of the triangle  $pqr$  whose length is  $T$  certainly cannot be the longest side of that triangle. Thus we conclude: If  $d(p, r) \geq \text{Max}(d(p, q), d(q, r))$ , then the Wald inequality will fail for sufficiently large  $x$ .

#### EXAMPLE 5.

$$F_{pq}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq 0, \\ x/d(p, q), & 0 \leq x \leq d(p, q), \\ 1, & x \geq d(p, q). \end{cases}$$

In this simple space, one can construct an example in which IVw holds for  $x$  sufficiently small and again for  $x$  sufficiently large, but fails in an intermediate range. For instance, if,  $d(p, q) = 1$ ,  $d(q, r) = 3$ , and  $d(p, r) = 3.75$ , then for  $2.50 < x < 3.68$ , we have  $[F_{pq} * F_{qr}](x) > F_{pr}(x)$ .

**6. Normal spaces.** Statistical metric spaces also arise very naturally in the following manner: Let  $p, q, \dots$ , be random variables on a common  $M$ -space  $E$  with distance function  $d$ . Then  $d(p, q)$  is a random variable on the Cartesian product  $E \times E$ . Let  $F_{pq}$  be the distribution function of  $d(p, q)$ . Then the ordered pair  $(S, \mathcal{F})$ , where  $S$  is the set  $\{p, q, \dots\}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  the class of ordered pairs  $\{(p, q), F_{pq}\}$  is an  $SM$ -space.

Particularly interesting  $SM$ -spaces of this type result when  $S$  is taken to be a set of mutually independent spherically-symmetric Gaussian random variables on an  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space. We have investigated these at some length. However, reproducing the details here would take us too far afield. We shall therefore restrict ourselves

to a brief presentation, without proof, of the main results.<sup>5</sup>

Let  $S_n^*$  be the set of all mutually independent, spherically-symmetric,  $n$ -dimensional Gaussian random variables,  $p, q, \dots$ , etc., on a Euclidean  $n$ -space  $E^n$ . Let the  $n$ -dimensional mean of  $p$  (which is a point in  $E^n$ ) be  $\mathbf{m}_p$  and the common standard deviation of the one-dimensional marginal distributions of  $p$  be  $\sigma_p$ ; and let the corresponding objects for  $q$  be  $\mathbf{m}_q$  and  $\sigma_q$ , respectively. Then, upon setting

$$r = r(p, q) = d(\mathbf{m}_p, \mathbf{m}_q),$$

where  $d$  is the metric in  $E^n$ , and

$$\sigma = \sigma(p, q) = (\sigma_p^2 + \sigma_q^2)^{1/2},$$

the distribution function,  $F_{pq}$ , of  $d(p, q)$  is given by:

$$(9) \quad F_{pq}(x) = R_n(\sigma, r; x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq 0, \\ \left(\frac{r}{\sigma}\right)^{1-n/2} e^{-r^2/2\sigma^2} \int_0^{x/\sigma} y^{n/2} I_{(n/2)-1}\left(\frac{r}{\sigma}y\right) e^{-y^2/2} dy, & x \geq 0, \end{cases}$$

if  $\sigma > 0$ , where  $I_\nu$  is the modified Bessel function of order  $\nu$ ; and by

$$F_{pq}(x) = R_n(0, r; x) = H(x - r),$$

if  $\sigma = 0$ . The distribution function  $R_n$  has been found in different contexts, first by Bose [1]<sup>6</sup>, and more recently, by K. S. Miller, R. I. Bernstein and L. E. Blumenson [11].

An  $SM$ -space ( $S_n, \mathcal{F}$ ) will be called an ( $n$ -dimensional) *normal space* if: (a)  $S_n$  is a subset of  $S_n^*$  having the property that, for every point  $\mathbf{m}$  in  $E^n$ , there is at least one  $p$  in  $S_n$  whose expectation is  $\mathbf{m}$ ; (b) For  $p, q$  in  $S_n$ ,  $\mathcal{F}(p, q) = F_{pq}$  is given by (9). A normal space is called *homogeneous* if  $\sigma_p = \sigma_q$  for all  $p, q$  in  $S_n$ ; otherwise, *inhomogeneous*.

Normal spaces have the following properties:

1. For all  $n$ , the means' of the  $F_{pq}$ 's form a metric space. This metric space is 'asymptotic in the large' to  $E^n$  in the following sense: If the distance between the means of  $p$  and  $q$  is  $r$ , then (for  $\sigma$  fixed) the mean of  $F_{pq}$  as a function of  $r$  is asymptotic to  $r$  for large  $r$ . In the 'small', the metric is definitely non-Euclidean. Furthermore, for  $\sigma > 0$ , there is a *positive minimum distance* between distinct points. That is to say, if  $p \neq q$ , and  $r = d(\mathbf{m}_p, \mathbf{m}_q) > 0$ , then the mean of  $F_{pq}$ , which is the expected value of the random variable  $d(p, q)$ , is greater than  $\sqrt{2} \sigma [\Gamma(n/2 + 1/2)/\Gamma(n/2)]$ . When  $r = 0$  equality is attained.

<sup>5</sup> The detailed discussion will be the subject of another paper.

<sup>6</sup> See also Mahalanobis [3].

<sup>7</sup> These always exist; indeed, the  $F_{pq}$ 's in a normal space have moments of all orders.

2. All normal spaces are Menger spaces under the choice  $T = T_w$ .

3. A homogeneous normal space is a Menger space under the choice  $T = \text{Max}(\text{Sum}-1, 0)$ . For some triples of points,  $p_1, p_2, p_3$ , and for some numbers,  $x, y$ —subject to certain restrictions—IVm will hold under a stronger choice of  $T$ . However, other than  $T_w$  and  $\text{Max}(\text{Sum}-1, 0)$ , none of the  $T$ 's listed in § 2 will hold universally. In particular, there are triples of points for which IVm does not hold for all  $x, y$  under  $T = \text{Product}$ . Consequently,

4. No normal space is a Wald space.

Whether IVm will hold in a normal space under a  $T$  that is weaker than Product, yet stronger than  $\text{Max}(\text{Sum}-1, 0)$  is not known.

### III. TOPOLOGY, CONVERGENCE, CONTINUITY

7. In the theory of metric spaces, the concept of a neighborhood can be introduced and defined with the aid of the distance function. A similar procedure applies in the theory of statistical metric spaces. In fact, neighborhoods in  $SM$ -spaces may be defined in several non-equivalent ways. Here we shall consider only one of these—the one which seems to be the strongest, in that its consequences most nearly resemble the classical results on  $M$ -spaces.

**DEFINITION 7.1.** Let  $p$  be a point in the  $SM$ -space  $(S, \mathcal{F})$ . By an  $\varepsilon, \lambda$ -neighborhood of  $p$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0, \lambda > 0$ , we mean the set of all points  $q$  in  $S$  for which  $F_{pq}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \lambda$ . We write:

$$N_p(\varepsilon, \lambda) = \{q; F_{pq}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \lambda\}.$$

The interpretation is:  $N_p(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  is the set of all points  $q$  in  $S$  for which the probability of the distance from  $p$  to  $q$  being less than  $\varepsilon$  is greater than  $1 - \lambda$ . Observe that this neighborhood of a point in an  $SM$ -space depends on two parameters.

**THEOREM 7.1.** *In a simple space,  $N_p(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  is an ordinary spherical neighborhood of  $p$  in the generating  $M$ -space.*

*Proof.* For any  $p, q$ , we have

$$F_{pq}(\varepsilon) = G(\varepsilon/d(p, q)),$$

which will be greater than  $1 - \lambda$  provided only that  $d(p, q)$  is sufficiently small.

**LEMMA 7.1.** *If  $\varepsilon_1 \leqq \varepsilon_2$  and  $\lambda_1 \leqq \lambda_2$ , then  $N_p(\varepsilon_1, \lambda_1) \subset N_p(\varepsilon_2, \lambda_2)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $q \in N_p(\varepsilon_1, \lambda_1)$  so that  $F_{pq}(\varepsilon_1) > 1 - \lambda_1$ . Then,  $F_{pq}(\varepsilon_2) \geq F_{pq}(\varepsilon_1) > 1 - \lambda_1 \geq 1 - \lambda_2$ , whence, by definition,  $q \in N_p(\varepsilon_2, \lambda_2)$ .

**THEOREM 7.2.** *If  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  is a Menger space and  $T$  is continuous then  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  is a Hausdorff space in the topology induced by the family of  $\varepsilon, \lambda$ -neighborhoods  $\{N_p\}$ .*

*Proof.* We have to show that the following four properties are satisfied:

- (A) For every  $p$  in  $S$ , there exists at least one neighborhood,  $N_p$ , of  $p$ ; every neighborhood of  $p$  contains  $p$ .
- (B) If  $N_p^1$  and  $N_p^2$  are neighborhoods of  $p$ , then there exists a neighborhood of  $p$ ,  $N_p^3$ , such that  $N_p^3 \subset N_p^1 \cap N_p^2$ .
- (C) If  $N_p$  is a neighborhood of  $p$ , and  $q \in N_p$ , then there exists a neighborhood of  $q$ ,  $N_q$ , such that  $N_q \subset N_p$ .
- (D) If  $p \neq q$ , then there exist disjoint neighborhoods,  $N_p$  and  $N_q$ , such that  $p \in N_p$  and  $q \in N_q$ .

*Proof of (A).* For every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and every  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $p \in N_p(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  since  $F_{pp}(\varepsilon) = 1$  for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

*Proof of (B).* Let

$$N_p^1(\varepsilon_1, \lambda_1) = \{q; F_{pq}(\varepsilon_1) > 1 - \lambda_1\}$$

and

$$N_p^2(\varepsilon_2, \lambda_2) = \{q; F_{pq}(\varepsilon_2) > 1 - \lambda_2\}$$

be the given neighborhoods of  $p$ , and consider

$$N_p^3 = \{q; F_{pq}(\text{Min}(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)) > 1 - \text{Min}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)\}.$$

Clearly  $p \in N_p^3$ ; and since  $\text{Min}(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2) \leq \varepsilon_1$  and  $\text{Min}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) \leq \lambda_1$ , by Lemma 7.1,  $N_p^3 \subset N_p^1$ . Similarly,  $N_p^3 \subset N_p^2$ , whence  $N_p^3 \subset N_p^1 \cap N_p^2$ .

*Proof of (C).* Let  $N_p = \{r; F_{pr}(\varepsilon_1) > 1 - \lambda_1\}$  be the given neighborhood of  $p$ . Since  $q \in N_p$ ,

$$F_{pq}(\varepsilon_1) > 1 - \lambda_1.$$

Now,  $F_{pq}$  is left-continuous at  $\varepsilon_1$ . Hence, there exists an  $\varepsilon_0 < \varepsilon_1$  and a  $\lambda_0 < \lambda_1$ , such that

$$F_{pq}(\varepsilon_0) > 1 - \lambda_0 > 1 - \lambda_1.$$

Let  $N_q = \{r; F_{qr}(\varepsilon_2) > 1 - \lambda_2\}$ , where  $0 < \varepsilon_2 < \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_0$ , and  $\lambda_2$  is chosen such that

$$T(1 - \lambda_0, 1 - \lambda_2) > 1 - \lambda_1.$$

Such a  $\lambda_2$  exists since, by hypothesis,  $T$  is continuous,  $T(a, 1) = a$ , and  $1 - \lambda_0 > 1 - \lambda_1$ . Now suppose  $s \in N_q$ , so that

$$F_{qs}(\varepsilon_2) > 1 - \lambda_2.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} F_{ps}(\varepsilon_1) &\geq T(F_{pq}(\varepsilon_0), F_{qs}(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_0)) \geq T(F_{pq}(\varepsilon_0), F_{qs}(\varepsilon_2)) \\ &\geq T(1 - \lambda_0, 1 - \lambda_2) > 1 - \lambda_1. \end{aligned}$$

But this means  $s \in N_p$ , whence  $N_q \subset N_p$ .

*Proof of (D).* Let  $p \neq q$ . Then there exists an  $x > 0$  and an  $a$ ,  $0 \leq a < 1$ , such that,  $F_{pq}(x) = a$ . Let

$$N_p = \{r; F_{pr}(x/2) > b\} \text{ and } N_q = \{r; F_{qr}(x/2) > b\},$$

where  $b$  is chosen so that  $0 < b < 1$  and  $T(b, b) > a$ . Such a number  $b$  exists, since  $T$  is continuous and  $T(1, 1) = 1$ . Now suppose there is a point  $s$  in  $N_p \cap N_q$ , so that  $F_{ps}(x/2) > b$  and  $F_{qs}(x/2) > b$ . Then

$$a = F_{pq}(x) \geq T(F_{ps}(x/2), F_{qs}(x/2)) \geq T(b, b) > a,$$

which is a contradiction. Thus  $N_p$  and  $N_q$  are disjoint.

It should be noted that the function  $T$  appeared only in the proofs of (C) and (D). Also, the  $\varepsilon, \lambda$ -neighborhoods defined at various stages in the proof may consist of only a single point. The situation here is analogous to the one that arises in connection with isolated points in  $M$ -spaces.

8. As is well known, in an  $M$ -space the notion of convergence of a sequence of points  $\{p_n\}$  to a point  $p$  may be introduced with the aid of the neighborhood concept. There is also a well known theorem which states that the distance function  $d$  is continuous on  $S$ : that is to say, if  $p_n \rightarrow p$  and  $q_n \rightarrow q$ , then  $d(p_n, q_n) \rightarrow d(p, q)$ . The proof of this theorem depends strongly on the triangle inequality.<sup>8</sup> Having defined neighborhoods in  $SM$ -spaces, it is natural to consider the above questions in this more general setting. In so doing, a significant difference arises, for there are now two distinct types of questions regarding convergence and continuity that must be considered: (a) Those relating to the distance function,  $\mathcal{F}$ , considered as a function on  $S \times S$ —either for a fixed value of  $x$ , or for a range of values; (b) Those relating to the individual distribution functions  $F_{pq}$ —either for a fixed pair of points  $(p, q)$  or for

<sup>8</sup> In fact, as Menger has shown [4, pp. 142-145], the triangle inequality is, in a certain sense, the simplest condition implying continuity that can be imposed on a semi-metric.

a set of pairs of points. As is to be expected, these questions are not independent.

**DEFINITION 8.1.** A sequence of points  $\{p_n\}$  in an *SM*-space is said to converge to a point  $p$  in  $S$  (and we write  $p_n \rightarrow p$ ) if and only if, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and every  $\lambda > 0$ , there exists an integer  $M_{\varepsilon, \lambda}$ , such that  $p_n \in N_p(\varepsilon, \lambda)$ , i.e.,  $F_{pp_n}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \lambda$ , whenever  $n > M_{\varepsilon, \lambda}$ .

**LEMMA 8.1.** If  $p_n \rightarrow p$ , then  $F_{pp_n} \rightarrow F_{pp} = H$ , i.e., for every  $x$ ,  $F_{pp_n}(x) \rightarrow F_{pp}(x) = H(x)$ , and conversely.

*Proof.* (a) If  $x > 0$ , then for every  $\lambda > 0$ , there exists an integer  $M_{x, \lambda}$  such that  $F_{pp_n}(x) > 1 - \lambda$  whenever  $n > M_{x, \lambda}$ . But this means that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{pp_n}(x) = 1 = F_{pp}(x)$ .

(b) If  $x = 0$ , then for every  $n$ ,  $F_{pp_n}(0) = 0$  and hence  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{pp_n}(0) = 0 = F_{pp}(0)$ .

The converse is immediate.

**COROLLARY.** The convergence is uniform on any closed interval  $[a, b]$  such that  $a > 0$ , i.e.,  $M_{x, \lambda}$  is independent of  $x$  for  $a \leq x \leq b$ .

*Proof.* For any  $x$ ,  $a \leq x \leq b$ ,  $F_{pp_n}(x) \geq F_{pp_n}(a)$ .

**THEOREM 8.1.** If  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  is a Menger space and  $T$  is continuous, then the statistical distance function,  $\mathcal{F}$ , is a lower semi-continuous function of points, i.e., for every fixed  $x$ , if  $q_n \rightarrow q$  and  $p_n \rightarrow p$ , then,

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{pq_n}(x) = F_{pq}(x).$$

*Proof.* If  $x = 0$ , this is immediate, since for every  $n$ ,  $F_{pq_n}(0) = 0 = F_{pq}(0)$ . Suppose then that  $x > 0$ , and let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. Since  $F_{pq}$  is left-continuous at  $x$ , there is an  $h$ ,  $0 < 2h < x$ , such that

$$F_{pq}(x) - F_{pq}(x - 2h) < \varepsilon/3.$$

Set  $F_{pq}(x - 2h) = a$ . Since  $T$  is continuous, and  $T(a, 1) = a$ , there is a number  $t$ ,  $0 < t < 1$ , such that

$$T(a, t) > a - \varepsilon/3$$

and

$$T(a - \varepsilon/3, t) > a - 2\varepsilon/3.$$

Since  $q_n \rightarrow q$  and  $p_n \rightarrow p$ , by Lemma 8.1 there exists an integer  $M_{h,t}$  such that  $F_{qq_n}(h) > t$  and  $F_{pp_n}(h) > t$  whenever  $n > M_{h,t}$ . Now,

$$F_{p_n q_n}(x) \geq T(F_{p_n q}(x - h), F_{q_n q}(h))$$

and

$$F_{p_n q}(x - h) \geq T(F_{p q}(x - 2h), F_{p p_n}(h)).$$

Thus, on combining the various inequalities, we obtain

$$F_{p_n q}(x - h) \geq T(a, t) > a - \varepsilon/3,$$

whence

$$F_{p_n q_n}(x) \geq T(a - \varepsilon/3, t) > a - 2\varepsilon/3 > F_{p q}(x) - \varepsilon.$$

**COROLLARY 1.** *Let  $p$  be a fixed point and suppose  $q_n \rightarrow q$ . Then*

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{p q_n}(x) = F_{p q}(x).$$

**COROLLARY 2.** *If  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  is a Wald space, then  $\mathcal{F}$  is a lower semi-continuous function of points.*

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.1, in a Wald space, the Menger inequality holds under  $T = \text{Product}$ , which is continuous.

**THEOREM 8.2.** *Let  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  be a Menger space. Suppose that  $T$  is continuous<sup>9</sup> and at least as strong as Max(Sum-1, 0). Suppose further that  $p_n \rightarrow p$ ,  $q_n \rightarrow q$ , and that  $F_{p q}$  is continuous at  $x$ . Then  $F_{p_n q_n}(x) \rightarrow F_{p q}(x)$ , i.e., the distance function  $\mathcal{F}$  is a continuous function of points at  $(p, q, x)$ ; or, expressed in another way, the sequence of functions  $\{F_{p_n q_n}\}$  converges weakly to  $F_{p q}$ .*

*Proof.* In view of Theorem 8.1, it suffices to prove upper semi-continuity, i.e., that for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $n$  sufficiently large,

$$(1) \quad F_{p_n q_n}(x) < F_{p q}(x) + \varepsilon.$$

Suppose then that  $\varepsilon > 0$  is given. Since  $F_{p q}$  is continuous, and in particular therefore right-continuous at  $x$ , there exists an  $h > 0$ , such that

$$(2) \quad F_{p q}(x + 2h) - F_{p q}(x) < \varepsilon/3.$$

By Lemma 8.1, there is an integer  $M$  such that the conditions,

$$(3) \quad F_{p p_n}(h) > 1 - \varepsilon/3,$$

$$(4) \quad F_{q_n q}(h) > 1 - \varepsilon/3,$$

are simultaneously satisfied for all  $n > M$ . And from IVm, we have

---

<sup>9</sup> Here, as well as in Theorems 7.2 and 8.1, the continuity of  $T$  may be replaced by the weaker condition,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} T(a, x) = a$ .

$$(5) \quad F_{pq}(x + 2h) \geq T(F_{pq_n}(x + h), F_{qq_n}(h))$$

and

$$(6) \quad F_{pq_n}(x + h) \geq T(F_{p_n q_n}(x), F_{pp_n}(h)).$$

Now, by hypothesis,  $T$  is at least as strong as  $\text{Max}(\text{Sum}-1, 0)$ , so that on combining (3) and (6) we obtain

$$(7) \quad F_{pq_n}(x + h) \geq F_{p_n q_n}(x) + F_{pp_n}(h) - 1 > F_{p_n q_n}(x) - \varepsilon/3;$$

and, on combining (7) with (4) and (5), we obtain

$$F_{pq}(x + 2h) \geq F_{pq_n}(x + h) + F_{qq_n}(h) - 1 > F_{p_n q_n}(x) - 2\varepsilon/3.$$

Finally, combining (8) with (2) yields (1) and completes the proof.

**COROLLARY 1.** *Under the hypotheses of Theorem 8.2, if  $q_n \rightarrow q$ , then  $F_{pq_n}(x) \rightarrow F_{pq}(x)$ .*

**COROLLARY 2.** *If the functions  $F_{pq}$  are each continuous functions for all  $p, q$  in  $S$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is a continuous function of points.*

**COROLLARY 3.** *If  $(S, \mathcal{F})$  is a Wald space and if the functions  $F_{pq}$  are each continuous, then  $\mathcal{F}$  is a continuous function of points.*

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. R. Bose, *On the exact distribution and moment-coefficients of the  $D^2$ -statistics*, Science and Culture, **1** (1935), p. 205.
2. M. Fréchet, *Sur quelques points du calcul fonctionnel*, Rendiconti de Circolo Matematico di Palermo, **22** (1906), 1-74.
3. P. C. Mahalanobis, *On the generalized distance in statistics*, Proc. Nat. Inst. of Sci. India, **2** (1936), 49-55.
4. K. Menger, *Untersuchungen über allgemeine Metrik*, Mathematische Annalen, **100** (1928), 75-163.
5. ———, *Statistical metrics*, Proc. Nat. Acad. of Sci., U. S. A., **28** (1942), 535-537.
6. ———, *Probabilistic theories of relations*, Ibid., **37** (1951), 178-180.
7. ———, *Probabilistic geometry*, Ibid., **37** (1951), 226-229.
8. ———, *Ensembles flous et fonctions aléatoires*, Comptes Rendus Acad. Sci. Paris, **232** (1951), 2001-2003.
9. ———, *Géométrie générale*, Mémorial des Sciences Mathématiques, no. 124, Paris 1954.
10. K. Menger, B. Schweizer and A. Sklar, *On probabilistic metrics and numerical metrics with probability 1*, Czechoslovak Math. Journal, **9** (84), (1959), 459-466.
11. K. S. Miller, R. I. Bernstein and L. E. Blumenson, *Generalized Rayleigh processes*, Quarterly of Applied Math., **16** (1958), 137-145.
12. B. Schweizer and A. Sklar, *Espaces métriques aléatoires*, Comptes Rendus Acad. Sci. Paris, **247** (1958), 2092-2094.
13. A. Špaček, *Note on K. Menger's probabilistic geometry*, Czechoslovak Math. Journal **6** (81), (1956), 72-74.

14. A. Wald, *On a statistical generalization of metric spaces*, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., U.S.A., **29** (1943), 196-197.
15. ———, *On a statistical generalization of metric spaces*, Reports of a Mathematical Colloquium, Second Series, 5-6, (1944), 76-79. Reprinted in: Abraham Wald: Selected Papers in Statistics and Probability, New York 1955, pp. 413-416.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES  
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

## EDITORS

DAVID GILBARG

Stanford University  
Stanford, California

F. H. BROWNELL

University of Washington  
Seattle 5, Washington

A. L. WHITEMAN

University of Southern California  
Los Angeles 7, California

L. J. PAIGE

University of California  
Los Angeles 24, California

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

E. F. BECKENBACH

F. M. CHERRY

D. DERRY

E. HEWITT

A. HORN

L. NACHBIN

M. OHTSUKA

H. L. ROYDEN

M. M. SCHIFFER

E. SPANIER

E. G. STRAUSS

F. WOLF

## SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

OREGON STATE COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

OSAKA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

\* \* \*

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

CALIFORNIA RESEARCH CORPORATION

HUGHES AIRCRAFT COMPANY

SPACE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORIES

NAVAL ORDNANCE TEST STATION

Printed in Japan by Kokusai Bunken Insatsusha  
(International Academic Printing Co., Ltd.), Tokyo, Japan

# Pacific Journal of Mathematics

Vol. 10, No. 1

September, 1960

Richard Arens, <i>Extensions of Banach algebras</i> . . . . .	1
Fred Guenther Brauer, <i>Spectral theory for linear systems of differential equations</i> . . . . .	17
Herbert Busemann and Ernst Gabor Straus, <i>Area and normality</i> . . . . .	35
J. H. Case and Richard Eliot Chamberlin, <i>Characterizations of tree-like continua</i> . . . . .	73
Ralph Boyett Crouch, <i>Characteristic subgroups of monomial groups</i> . . . . .	85
Richard J. Driscoll, <i>Existence theorems for certain classes of two-point boundary problems by variational methods</i> . . . . .	91
A. M. Duguid, <i>A class of hyper-FC-groups</i> . . . . .	117
Adriano Mario Garsia, <i>The calculation of conformal parameters for some imbedded Riemann surfaces</i> . . . . .	121
Irving Leonard Glicksberg, <i>Homomorphisms of certain algebras of measures</i> . . . . .	167
Branko Grünbaum, <i>Some applications of expansion constants</i> . . . . .	193
John Hilzman, <i>Error bounds for an approximate solution to the Volterra integral equation</i> . . . . .	203
Charles Ray Hobby, <i>The Frattini subgroup of a <math>p</math>-group</i> . . . . .	209
Milton Lees, <i>von Newmann difference approximation to hyperbolic equations</i> . . . . .	213
Azriel Lévy, <i>Axiom schemata of strong infinity in axiomatic set theory</i> . . . . .	223
Benjamin Muckenhoupt, <i>On certain singular integrals</i> . . . . .	239
Kotaro Oikawa, <i>On the stability of boundary components</i> . . . . .	263
J. Marshall Osborn, <i>Loops with the weak inverse property</i> . . . . .	295
Paulo Ribenboim, <i>Un théorème de réalisation de groupes réticulés</i> . . . . .	305
Daniel Saltz, <i>An inversion theorem for Laplace-Stieltjes transforms</i> . . . . .	309
Berthold Schweizer and Abe Sklar, <i>Statistical metric spaces</i> . . . . .	313
Morris Weisfeld, <i>On derivations in division rings</i> . . . . .	335
Bertram Yood, <i>Faithful *-representations of normed algebras</i> . . . . .	345