

Solution to Exercise 3.12

Let  $(S, d)$  be a metric space.

1. Show that if  $E$  is a closed subset of a sequentially compact subset  $F$  of  $S$ , then  $E$  is sequentially compact.

Proof: Let  $(s)$  be a sequence in  $E$ . Then  $(s)$  is also a sequence in  $F$  and hence there is a subsequence  $(t)$  of  $(s)$  which converges to some element  $x$  of  $F$ . Since all the terms of  $(t)$  lie in  $E$  and  $E$  is closed,  $x \in E$ . We have thus shown that every sequence in  $E$  has a subsequence which converges to an element of  $E$ .

2. Show that a finite union of sequentially compact sets is compact.

Proof: Let  $F_1, \dots, F_k$  be a finite number of sequentially compact subsets of  $S$  and let  $F$  be their union. Suppose that  $(s)$  is a sequence in  $F$ . Since there are only finitely many  $F_1, \dots, F_k$ , at least one of them must contain  $s_{n_i}$  for infinitely many  $i$ . Thus there is a subsequence  $t$  of  $(s)$  which is contained in one of the  $F_j$ 's. Since this set is sequentially compact, this subsequence has a subsequence which converges to an element of  $F_j$ , and is a subsequence of the original sequence which converges to an element of  $F$ .