Corrections of typos and small errors to the book "A Course in Metric Geometry" by D. Burago, Yu. Burago, and S. Ivanov

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We are grateful to many mathematicians, especially M. Bonk and J. Lott, who have informed us of numerous misprints and inaccuracies in the book.

Misspelled words, missing articles and similar minor errors are not included in this list. The exclamation mark after page numbers indicates errors which affect larger (than a couple of lines) parts of the text. Some of such large corrections are included at the end of the table.

page	line	Description
Chapter 1		
6	12	$\langle v, v \rangle / \langle w, w \rangle \longrightarrow \langle v, w \rangle / \langle w, w \rangle$
7	Ex.1.2.24	This exercise is not as obvious as claimed in the beginning of the chapter. It deserves at least a hint.
13	-1	Add "finite" before " ε -net" and " (2ε) -net".
19	-7	$\mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$
20	17	$c_1 \longrightarrow x_1$
21	-8	$B \in \mathfrak{B}_{m-1} \longrightarrow B \in \mathfrak{B}_{k-1}$
21	-2	$\sup \longrightarrow \subset$
22	8–11	This part of the proof uses the identity $\mu'_n(B_i) = C_n(\operatorname{diam} B_i)^n$, which is not yet proved. The proof should be modified as follows. The set \mathfrak{B} to which Theorem 1.7.14 is applied should be the set of all balls of diameter less than ε rather than the set of all balls. Then the inequality on line 11 should estimate the quantity $\mu'_{n,\varepsilon}(I^n) := C_n \mu_{n,\varepsilon}(I^n)$ rather than $\mu'_n(I^n)$. The desired inequality $\mu'(I^n) \leq 1$ follows by passing to the limit as $\varepsilon \to 0$.
22	-5	$d'-d \longrightarrow d-d'$ (two times)
Chap	oter 2	
30	11	Add "such that $d_L(x,y) < \infty$ " after "two points x,y ".

- 35 Proof of The proof is flawed because N = N(Y) depends on ε and hence the term $(N+2)\varepsilon$ does not go to zero in general. Another issue is that the proof assumes that γ is rectifiable. The proof should read as follows:
 - (iv) Let paths γ_j converge pointwise to γ . If $L(\gamma) < \infty$, take $\varepsilon > 0$ and fix a partition $Y = \{y_i\}_{i=0}^N$ for γ such that $L(\gamma) \Sigma(Y) < \varepsilon$. Now consider the sums $\Sigma_j(Y)$ for paths γ_j corresponding to the same partition Y. Choose j to be so large that the inequality $d(\gamma_j(y_i), \gamma(y_i)) < \varepsilon/N$ holds for all $y_i \in Y$. Then

$$L(\gamma) \le \Sigma(Y) + \varepsilon \le \Sigma_j(Y) + N \cdot 2\varepsilon/N + \varepsilon \le L(\gamma_j) + 3\varepsilon.$$

Since ε is arbitrary, this implies (iv). In the case $L(\gamma) = \infty$ the proof is similar: choose Y such that $\Sigma(Y) > 1/\varepsilon$, then the same argument shows that $L(\gamma_j) \geq \Sigma_j(Y) \geq 1/\varepsilon - 2\varepsilon$ for all large enough j, hence $L(\gamma_j) \to \infty$.

- 38 sections Although we usually allow infinite distances, many statements here are obviously valid for finite metrics only. This condition has to be added where necessary.
- 39 -6 The proof of Theorem 2.4.3 works only for paths whose L-length is finite. To fix this issue, change $L(\gamma|_{[a,t]})$ to $L_d(\gamma|_{[a,t]})$ and refer to Proposition 2.3.4(iii) rather than property 2 of length structure. (Note that the desired inequality is trivial if $L_d(\gamma) = \infty$.)
- **42** 12 $p \in A \longrightarrow x \in A$. (The letter p on the next line denotes another point.)
- 42 4th line of Remove "locally-compact". (This assumption is not essential and is never used.) section 2.4.4
- $42 \quad -9 \qquad \qquad x_1 = x_1 \quad \longrightarrow \quad x = x_1$
- 45 Ex.2.4.19 The metrics here are assumed compatible with the topological structure of X. (This can be guessed from the context but we should have said this explicitly.)
- 45 5 Add " $\rightarrow J$ " after " I_2 " and move "(i = 1, 2)" to the end of the sentence.
- **45** -11 $t-t' \longrightarrow t'-t$
- 47 -8 $|t-t_j|<\varepsilon \longrightarrow |t-t_j|<\varepsilon/C$
- **48** 6 $\gamma_i(k/N) \longrightarrow \gamma_i(t)$.
- 51 Thm.2.5.28 All path in the theorem are assumed naturally parametrized.
- -10 Remove "different". (Ambiguity.)
- $\mathbf{54} \quad 15 \qquad \qquad i = 1 \quad \longrightarrow \quad i = 0$
- **54** Ex 2.6.4 $\ell \longrightarrow L$ (two times).
- $\mathbf{56} \quad -1 \qquad \qquad y_{j-1} y_j \quad \longrightarrow \quad y_j y_{j-1}$

Chapter 3

- 65 12 Add "around a fixed point" after "rotations".
- 66 19 Remove parentheses around "semi-".
- 66 Ex.3.1.25 The compatibility assumptions about d_{α} are not needed in this exercise.

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67 15 Insert "if d is a length metric, then" after "Note that"
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69 2 a topological space
$$(P, d) \longrightarrow a \operatorname{set} P$$

70 Example Exercise 3.2.10 and the next paragraph, the way how they are formulated, 3.2.9 require a condition
$$k \leq 2$$
. Indeed, it may happen that adding simplices as described can create a shorter path between two points in X .

72 18 in these cases
$$\longrightarrow$$
 in the first case

77 Lemma 3.3.6 In general,
$$\overline{d}$$
 and d_{R_G} are only semi-metrics. There should be a remark or exercise somewhere, explaining that additional identifications do not occur if all orbits are closed.

Should read: "... and with
$$p_i$$
 being equivalent to q_{i-1} for all $i \geq 1$..."

(This means essentially the same, but provides consistent notation for indices through the argument.)

77 10
$$g_i(q_i) = p_{i+1} \longrightarrow g_i(p_i) = q_{i-1}$$

77
$$-14$$
 Omit " (q_i) " after the long composition of maps.

77
$$-10$$
 $x \longrightarrow p$

79 Exercise The "only if" statement is not true. It can be saved by additional assumptions:
$$3.4.6$$
 the action is faithful, X is connected, and p is a local isometry everywhere (rather than just at one point).

79
$$-8$$
 of sets \longrightarrow of open sets

80 5 Connectedness of
$$X$$
 is not needed.

- When we consider a group action on a topological space, we always assume that the action agrees with the topology (i.e. the groups acts by homeomorphisms). We should have said this explicitly somewhere.
- 84 Lemma Remove "(shortest path)" and "(resp. shortest path)". (A lift of a shortest path 3.4.17 is not always a shortest path.)

84
$$-7$$
 $Y \longrightarrow X$

84
$$-7,-6$$
 $\tilde{\gamma} \longrightarrow \tilde{\gamma}_t$ (two times)

84
$$-3$$
 $Y \longrightarrow X$

84
$$-2$$
 $\gamma_{|_{[0,t)}} \longrightarrow \gamma_{|_{[0,t_0)}}$

84
$$-2$$
 $t_i < t_0 \longrightarrow 0 < t_i < t_0$

85 1st par
$$U_y \longrightarrow U_q$$
 (two times),
of Proof connected components \longrightarrow disjoint open sets

85
$$-14$$
 $g_p^{-1} \longrightarrow g_p$ (two times)

85 Thm 3.4.18 "the shortest path . . . is unique"
$$\longrightarrow$$
 "every two points from this neighborhood are connected by a unique shortest path"

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85!
                        The proof of Theorem 3.4.18 is incomplete. We should have proved that the set
                         V_p is open (required in the definition of a covering map) and the set \overline{V}_p is closed
                        (for the "compactness implies continuity" argument to work).
                        Adding an assumption that every geodesic segment contained in our
                        neighborhood is a shortest path makes the proof correct (and it may be even
                        simplified). For all our applications such a weaker theorem is sufficient.
      8
                                    \longrightarrow homeomorphic
86
                        bijective
88
      Ex. 3.6.2
                        The two latter product spaces contain
                                                                       \longrightarrow The last product space contains
89
      2nd par of
                        One has to require that the restrictions of the norm to the rays \{x_0, y > 0\} and
      Rem 3.6.3
                        \{x > 0, y_0\} are monotone.
                                 \longrightarrow a = rx
91
      14
                        a = tx
93
      4
                        \Sigma(X) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Con}(X)
                                     \longrightarrow d(x,y) \le \pi
93
      Def 3.6.16
                        t+s \leq \pi
                        t+s \geq \pi
                                     \longrightarrow d(x,y) \ge \pi
99
      -1
                        \geq \theta(a,c) \longrightarrow \geq \theta(a,b)
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Chapter	4	
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103	14	$g_0(t) \leq g(t) \text{ (resp. } g_0(t) \geq g(t)) \longrightarrow g_0(t) \geq g(t) \text{ (resp. } g_0(t) \leq g(t))$
103	Def 4.1.2	Same as above.
105	10	$c \longrightarrow p$
105	14	$ar{c} \longrightarrow ar{p}$
106	14	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} < \frac{1}{2} \longrightarrow \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} > \frac{1}{2}$
107	last line of Dfn 4.1.9	$ \bar{d}\bar{b} = db \longrightarrow \bar{a}\bar{d} = ad $
113	-7	$\triangle abc \longrightarrow \triangle a'b'c'$
117	-11	Add "for $\triangle pq_0s$ and $\triangle sq_0r$ " before "on different sides"
117	-6	The inequality should read: $\angle p_0 q_0 s_0 + \angle s_0 q_0 r_0 \le \pi$.
120		

Chapter 5

137	-3	$x \longrightarrow p$
137	-1	$T_x\Omega \longrightarrow T_p\Omega$
144	-3	$\varphi \colon U \in \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^3 \longrightarrow \varphi \colon U \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^3$
146	11	$\mathbb{R}^3 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$
148	7	a curve $\gamma \longrightarrow \text{a naturally parameterized shortest path } \gamma$
148	12	a certain speed \longrightarrow a certain (unit) speed
148	eq. (5.5)	$t \longrightarrow t_0$

Add a sentence: "This means that f maps I^n to the parallelotope

 $T_{\varphi}(x)M \longrightarrow T_{\varphi(x)}M$ (two times).

 $P = [0, d_1] \times [0, d_2] \times \dots [0, d_n]$."

 $1/4\pi \longrightarrow 2/\pi$ (two times)

195

204

205

-14

-3, -4

-14 (item 2)

Chap	Chapter 6			
212!	pages 212–213	The formula (6.1) is incorrect just for the reason explained two lines below in the book—computing the derivative with respect to ε , one should take into account the variable nature of a Riemannian scalar product, just like in the subsequent computations of derivatives with respect to t ! This leads to a missing term in (6.1) which is carried over through all computations on pages 212–213. As a result, the derived equations for geodesics $((5.10)$ and $(5.11))$ are incorrect (see the above comment for page 150).		
213	-5	Replace ∇ by Δ		
217	12-17	All notations of the form Γ_{ij}^k should be changed to $\Gamma_{ij,k}$.		
218	eq.(6.4)	Another fundamentally incorrect formula. It is valid only at points where $E=G=1$ and $F=0$. Luckily, we never use it		
228	-13	$g(t) \neg 0 \longrightarrow g(t) \neq 0$ $g(t)) = \longrightarrow g(t) =$		
229	eq.(6.13)	The first part of the equation (namely, the statement that the scalar product involving Y is zero) is correct but only a posteriori. It follows from the last equation of (6.13) because Y is proportional to N .		
229	-10, -2	Replace all occurrences of $\frac{D}{dx}$ by $\frac{D}{dt}$ (4 times).		
232	1	Add "at γ_0 " after the formula.		
232	2	V and T are unit vector fields $\longrightarrow V$ is a unit vector field		
235	$\operatorname{Lem} 6.4.12$	Remove piece: "For a unit vector $V \in T_q\Omega$,"		
237	8	$[0,T] \longrightarrow]0,T[.$		
237	Proof of Thm 6.5.1	The proof works only under the assumption $K_0 \leq 0$. (This is implicitly used in the equation on the last line of the page.) See page 9 below for another proof.		
Chapter 7				

Chap	oter 7	
242	22	Remove "Finsler". (In fact, the metric on the limit manifold is sub-Finsler.)
248	-3	The fragment "indexconvergence!uniform" should be an index entry.
253	-16	for an $x \in S \longrightarrow \text{for every } x \in S$
253	-12	for an $x \in S_n \longrightarrow \text{for every } x \in S_n$
263	12	S_n converge to $X \longrightarrow S_n$ converge to S
269	Ex 7.5.11	Add an assumption that X is locally simply connected. Refer to Exercise 7.5.8 instead of 7.5.9.

Chapter 8

272 Ex 8.1.2(1) Add an assumption that the diameters of X_n are uniformly bounded.

273 3
$$\varepsilon_n \longrightarrow \varepsilon \text{ (two times)}$$

278 -18 $f(X) \text{ and } g(Y') \longrightarrow f_1(X) \text{ and } f_2(Y')$
280 -15 Fq. (3) $|g_1| \cdot |g_2| \longrightarrow |g_1| + |g_2|$

-15, Eq. (3) 280 $|g_1| \cdot |g_2| \longrightarrow |g_1| + |g_2|$

281 of x. \longrightarrow of x (up to inner automorphisms).

283 7 $|g_1|_2 \cdots |g_n|_2 \longrightarrow |g_1|_2 + \cdots + |g_n|_2.$

 $=x_i \longrightarrow =y_i$ 284 7

 $\leq \longrightarrow \geq \text{(two times)}$ 286 9 - 10

 $[cf] \longrightarrow [df]$ 288 13

289 Thm 8.4.16 In the proof below we work with strictly intrinsic metrics. Using "almost shortest paths", the reader can easily adopt the argument to the situation when shortest paths may fail to exist.

$$\mathbf{290} \quad 3 \qquad \qquad c \quad \longrightarrow \quad C$$

 $M \longrightarrow X$ 290 4

 $d(a,b) \longrightarrow d(b,c)$ 291

 $d(a_i', a_{i+1}') \quad \longrightarrow \quad d(b_i', b_{i+1}')$ 291 15

 $+6kL\frac{1}{k} = \longrightarrow +6L\frac{1}{k} =$ 291 -9

292! 9 2δ -neighborhood $\longrightarrow 3\delta$ -neighborhood

> This correction obviously implies some changes to other constants too (like 4δ). Namely, one should replace 4δ by 6δ twice in Lemma 8.4.24 and do corresponding (obvious) changes in the proofs of Lemma 8.4.24 and of the Morse Lemma 8.4.20 on page 292. (A nice proof of the Morse Lemma also can be found in [BH]).

292 -15smallest \longrightarrow biggest

292 -11 $ga \longrightarrow \gamma$

292 -7Omit the last term $\geq \frac{n}{q}$

Replace the line by "Since $R \gg \delta$ (namely, $R > k^2 \delta > (20C + 8)^2 \delta > 400C\delta$), the 292 -6last inequality implies n < 9C."

 $K\tilde{K} \longrightarrow \tilde{K}$ 297 17

 $\leq \sum x_i \|e_i\| \leq N^2 \longrightarrow \leq \sum |x_i| \|e_i\| \leq N$ 299 -4

The formula does not follow from the preceding ones. Correction: replace the 300 -12whole statement "Hence ..." by:

Let k be the integer such that $k \leq ||w|| < k+1$, then $||w-kv|| \leq \varepsilon ||w|| + 1$, then

$$d(Mw) \le d(kMv) + d(Mw - kMv) \le (1 + \varepsilon)kM + CM(\varepsilon||w|| + 1),$$

hence $d(Mw)/||Mw|| \le 1 + \varepsilon + C\varepsilon + M/||w||$.

Chapter 9

 $\sqrt{k} \longrightarrow 1/\sqrt{k}$ 308 10

```
1/\sqrt{k} \longrightarrow \pi/\sqrt{k}
308
         11
                                U-I \longrightarrow U_i
308
         -17
313
                                \leq r \longrightarrow < r
         1
313
                                       \longrightarrow < r
313
         12
                                paths starting \longrightarrow parts in U starting
314
         -18
                                three \longrightarrow four
314
         -16
314
         -3
                                |a_0b_0| = |\bar{a}\bar{b}|
                                                     \longrightarrow |a_0x_0| = |\bar{a}\bar{x}|
315
                                second \angle bxc
                                                     \longrightarrow \angle axc
                                (Theorem 4.5.6) \longrightarrow (for k = 0 it is Theorem 4.5.6)
315
                                \bar{x}, \bar{x}' \longrightarrow \bar{x}, \bar{y}
315
         16
                                C \in \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow C \subset \mathbf{X}
316
         10
316
         Figure 9.1
                                Letters X_1 and X_2 should be interchanged
318
                                Hopf-Rinow Theorem \longrightarrow simple implication (i) \Rightarrow (iii) in the Hopf-Rinow
         3
                                Theorem (This implication does not require local compactness of X.)
318
                                Hopf-Rinow theorem \longrightarrow the implication mentioned above.
320
         -12
                                d(x,y) \longrightarrow |xy|
                                \triangle pab \longrightarrow \widetilde{\triangle} pab
324
         17
                                |pa| = |O\tilde{a}|, |pb| = |O\tilde{b}| \longrightarrow |\bar{p}\bar{a}| = |O\tilde{a}|, |\bar{p}\bar{b}| = |O\tilde{b}|
324
         18
324
                                \angle apb \geq \longrightarrow \angle \bar{a}\bar{p}\bar{b} \geq
         19
                                convex \longrightarrow 1-convex
333
         13
         -16
                                surface T_1 \cup T_2 \longrightarrow \text{surface } T_3 \cup T_4
336
         -12
336
                                T_1 \cup T_2 \longrightarrow T_3 \cup T_4
338
         -2-3
                                p \longrightarrow q \quad (3 \text{ times})
339
                                Pressmann \longrightarrow Preissmann
         7
340
         1
                                the set of sums \longrightarrow the set of positive sums
                                \mathbb{R}^{3n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3N}
341
         -2
341
         -1
                                \ldots, x_n, y_n, z_n
                                                     \longrightarrow \ldots, x_N, y_N, z_N
342
         9
                                The formula should read
                                K((v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N), (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N)) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \langle v_i, v_i \rangle,
348
                                a_{a+1} \longrightarrow a_{i+1} (two times)
         -18
```

Chapter 10

353 - 12-13 The equation should read

$$\widetilde{\angle}ba'd + \widetilde{\angle}da'c + \widetilde{\angle}ca'b \le \angle ba'd + \angle da'c + \angle ca'b$$

$$\le (\angle ba'd + \angle da'a) + (\angle aa'c + \angle ca'b) = 2\pi.$$

```
358
          10
                                   dilatation
                                                     \longrightarrow distortion
          12
                                   of p.
361
                                                \longrightarrow of q.
361
          -7
                                   in Step 2,
                                                     \longrightarrow in Step 2 and such that the angle condition fails just at c,
362
          2, 11, -5
                                   Figure 10.3 \longrightarrow Figure 10.1
                                                                                         (three times)
                                   \angle zy'z' = \angle yz'y' = 0, \longrightarrow \angle zz'y' = \angle yy'z' = 0,
365
          15
366
          2
                                    \geq k \longrightarrow \geq 1
366
                                   maximal \longrightarrow minimal
366
          Def 10.5.3
                                   straight lines \longrightarrow parallel straight lines
367
          -10
                                    = |\bar{a}\bar{c}| + |\bar{a}c\bar{b}| = |\bar{a}\bar{c}|. \longrightarrow = |\bar{a}\bar{c}| + |\bar{c}\bar{b}| = |\bar{a}\bar{b}|.
                                   |\bar{a}\bar{c}| \longrightarrow |\bar{a}\bar{b}|
367
          -8
369
          5.6
                                   \gamma_q \longrightarrow \gamma_x
                                   through q. \longrightarrow through x.
369
          6
383
                                    Add "Note that |pa_2| < |a_2b_2|, |pb_2| < |a_2b_2|, so Lemma 10.8.13 is applicable to
383
          -1
                                   the 1-strainer (a_1,b_1) for p and points q=a_2,\,q=b_2." before "Then" .
384
          6
                                   \angle b_1 p b_2 \longrightarrow \angle b_1 p a_2
                                   \begin{array}{cccc} -2\delta & \longrightarrow & -\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \\ +|p_2| & \longrightarrow & +|pb_2| \end{array}
384
          -17
384
          -13
                                   |x_n a_{i_0}| < |x_{n+1} a_{i_0}| \longrightarrow |x_n a_{i_0}| > |x_{n+1} a_{i_0}|
386
                                   \widetilde{\angle} a_i x_n x_{n+1} \longrightarrow \widetilde{\angle} x_n a_i x_{n+1}
386
          16
                                    < \longrightarrow >
387
          -13
                                   t \to \infty \longrightarrow t \to 0
391
          -13
                                   p_i \gamma_i(r) \longrightarrow p_i = \gamma_i(r)
392
          9
394
          -10
                                   |\xi\eta_i| \longrightarrow |\xi_i\eta_i|
                                   \mathbb{C}^k \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^{k+1}
400
          -3
                                   (z_1,\ldots,z_3) \longrightarrow (z_1,z_2)
401
          1
                                   \mathbb{CP}^1 \longrightarrow K_0(\mathbb{CP}^1)
401
          4
                                    \mathbb{CP}^2 \longrightarrow K_0(\mathbb{CP}^2)
401
          4
```

Large corrections

Proof of Theorem 6.5.1

First we prove the theorem under an additional assumption that Y_0 does not vanish on]0, T[. Let $g_0(t) = |Y_0(t)|$, $g_1(t) = |Y_1(t)|$. Then the functions g_0 and g_1 satisfy the equations

$$\ddot{g}_i(t) = -K_i(t)g_i(t)$$
 subject to $g_i(0) = 0$, $\dot{g}_i(0) = 1$

where the dot denotes the derivative with respect to t.

We want to prove that $g_1(t) \leq g_0(t)$ for all $t \in [0,T]$. Consider a function $\varphi(t) = \frac{g_0(t)}{g_1(t)}$ defined on]0,T[. Observe that $\lim_{t\to 0} \varphi(t) = 1$ by the L'Hopital rule. We will prove that φ is (non-strictly) monotone increasing and hence $\varphi(t) \geq 1$ for all t.

To prove the monotonicity of φ , it suffices to verify that $\dot{\varphi}(t) \geq 0$ for all t. We have

$$\dot{\varphi}(t) = \frac{\dot{g}_0(t)g_1(t) - g_0(t)\dot{g}_1(t)}{g_1(t)^2}.$$

Denote the numerator of the last formula by $\psi(t)$. Since the denominator $g_1(t)^2$ is positive, we have to prove that $\psi(t) \geq 0$. Observe that $\psi(0) = 0$ because $g_0(0) = g_1(0) = 0$. So again it suffices to prove that $\dot{\psi}(t) \geq 0$ for all t. ¿From the equations for g_0 and g_1 one gets

$$\dot{\psi}(t) = \ddot{g}_0(t)g_1(t) - g_0(t)\ddot{g}_1(t) = (K_1(t) - K_0(t))g_0(t)g_1(0) \ge 0.$$

since $K_1(t) \ge K_0(t)$. Thus we have proved that $\varphi(t) \ge 1$ for all $t \in]0, T[$ and hence $g_1(t) \le g_0(t)$ for all $t \in [0, T]$. It remains to get rid of the assumption that Y_0 does not vanish. Suppose this is not the case, and let T_0 be the first point where Y_0 vanishes. Then the above argument applies to the interval $]0, T_0[$ instead of]0, T[, and we conclude that $|Y_0(T_0)| \ge |Y_1(T_0)| > 0$, contrary to the choice of T_0 .