This page is a detailed introduction to basic topology. Starting from scratch (required background is just a basic concept of sets), and amplifying motivation from analysis, it first develops standard point-set topology (topological spaces). In passing, some basics of category theory make an informal appearance, used to transparently summarize some conceptually important aspects of the theory, such as initial and final topologies and the reflection into Hausdorff and sober topological spaces. The second part introduces some basics of homotopy theory, mostly the fundamental group, and ends with their first application to the classification of covering spaces.

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this chapter: Introduction to Topology 1 – Point-set topology

next chapter: Introduction to Topology 2 -- Basic Homotopy Theory

For introduction to more general and abstract homotopy theory see instead at Introduction to Homotopy Theory.

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Point-set Topology

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Context

Topology
The idea of topology is to study "spaces" with "continuous functions" between them. Specifically one considers functions between sets (whence "point-set topology", see below) such that there is a concept for what it means that these functions depend continuously on their arguments, in that that their values do not "jump". Such a concept of continuity is familiar from analysis on metric spaces, (recalled below) but the definition in topology generalizes this analytic concept and renders it more foundational, generalizing the concept of metric spaces to that of topological spaces. (def. 2.3 below).

Hence topology is the study of the category whose objects are topological spaces, and whose morphisms are continuous functions (see also remark 3.3 below). This category is much more flexible than that of metric spaces, for example it admits the construction of arbitrary quotients and intersections of spaces. Accordingly, topology underlies or informs many and diverse areas of mathematics, such as functional analysis, operator algebra, manifold/scheme theory, hence algebraic geometry and differential geometry, and the study of topological groups, topological vector spaces, local rings, etc.. Not the least, it gives rise to the field of homotopy theory, where one considers also continuous deformations of continuous functions themselves ("homotopies"). Topology itself has many branches, such as low-dimensional topology or topological domain theory.

A popular imagery for the concept of a continuous function is provided by deformations of elastic physical bodies, which may be deformed by stretching them without tearing. The canonical illustration is a continuous bijective function from the torus to the surface of a coffee mug, which maps half of the torus to the handle of the coffee mug, and continuously deforms parts of the other half in order to form the actual cup. Since the inverse function to this function is itself continuous, the torus and the coffee mug, both regarded as topological spaces, are "the same" for the purposes of topology, one says they are homeomorphic.

On the other hand, there is no homeomorphism from the torus to, for instance, the sphere, signifying that these represent two topologically distinct spaces. Part of topology is concerned with studying homeomorphism-invariants of topological spaces which allow to detect by means of algebraic manipulations whether two topological spaces are homeomorphic (or more generally homotopy equivalent). This is called algebraic topology. A basic algebraic invariant is the fundamental
group of a topological space (discussed below), which measures how many ways there are to wind loops inside a topological space.

Beware that the popular imagery of “rubber-sheet geometry” only captures part of the full scope of topology, in that it invokes spaces that locally still look like metric spaces. But the concept of topological spaces is a good bit more general. Notably finite topological spaces are either discrete or very much unlike metric spaces (example 4.7 below), they play a role in categorical logic. Also in geometry exotic topological spaces frequently arise when forming non-free quotients. In order to gauge just how many of such “exotic” examples of topological spaces beyond locally metric spaces one wishes to admit in the theory, extra “separation axioms” are imposed on topological spaces (see below), and the flavour of topology as a field depends on this choice.

Among the separation axioms, the Hausdorff space axiom is most popular (see below) the weaker axiom of soberity (see below) stands out, on the one hand because this is the weakest axiom that is still naturally satisfied in applications to algebraic geometry (schemes are sober) and computer science (Vickers 89) and on the other hand because it fully realizes the strong roots that topology has in formal logic: sober topological spaces are entirely characterized by the union-, intersection- and inclusion-relations (logical conjunction, disjunction and implication) among their open subsets (propositions). This leads to a natural and fruitful generalization of topology to more general “purely logic-determined spaces”, called locales and in yet more generality toposes and higher toposes. While the latter are beyond the scope of this introduction, their rich theory and relation to the foundations of mathematics and geometry provides an outlook on the relevance of the basic ideas of topology.

In this first part we discuss the foundations of the concept of “sets equipped with topology” (topological spaces) and of continuous functions between them.

1. Metric spaces

The concept of continuity was first made precise in analysis, in terms of epsilontic analysis on metric spaces, recalled as def. 1.8 below. Then it was realized that this has a more elegant formulation in terms of the more general concept of open sets, this is prop. 1.13 below. Adopting the latter as the definition leads to a more abstract concept of “continuous space”, this is the concept of topological spaces, def. 2.3 below.

Here we briefly recall the relevant basic concepts from analysis, as a motivation for various definitions in topology. The reader who either already recalls these concepts in analysis or is content with ignoring the motivation coming from analysis should skip right away to the section Topological spaces.

Definition 1.1. (metric space)

A metric space is
1. a set $X$ (the “underlying set”);

2. a function $d : X \times X \to [0,\infty)$ (the “distance function”) from the Cartesian product of the set with itself to the non-negative real numbers

such that for all $x,y,z \in X$:

1. (symmetry) $d(x,y) = d(y,x)$

2. (triangle inequality) $d(x,z) \leq d(x,y) + d(y,z)$.

3. (non-degeneracy) $d(x,y) = 0 \iff x = y$

**Definition 1.2.** Let $(X,d)$ be a metric space. Then for every element $x \in X$ and every $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$ a positive real number, we write

$$B_x^\epsilon(\epsilon) := \{y \in X \mid d(x,y) < \epsilon\}$$

for the open ball of radius $\epsilon$ around $x$. Similarly we write

$$B_x(\epsilon) := \{y \in X \mid d(x,y) \leq \epsilon\}$$

for the closed ball of radius $\epsilon$ around $x$. Finally we write

$$S_x(\epsilon) := \{y \in X \mid d(x,y) = \epsilon\}$$

for the sphere of radius $\epsilon$ around $x$.

For $\epsilon = 1$ we also speak of the unit open/closed ball and the unit sphere.

**Definition 1.3.** For $(X,d)$ a metric space (def. 1.1) then a subset $S \subset X$ is called a bounded subset if $S$ is contained in some open ball (def. 1.2)

$$S \subset B_x^\epsilon(r)$$

around some $x \in X$ of some radius $r \in \mathbb{R}$.

A key source of metric spaces are normed vector spaces:

**Definition 1.4. (normed vector space)**

A normed vector space is

1. a real vector space $V$;

2. a function (the norm)

$$\| \cdot \| : V \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$

from the underlying set of $V$ to the non-negative real numbers,

such that for all $c \in \mathbb{R}$ with absolute value $|c|$ and all $v,w \in V$ it holds true that
1. (linearity) \(|cv| = |c||v||

2. (triangle inequality) \(|v + w| \leq |v| + |w|

3. (non-degeneracy) if \(|v| = 0\) then \(v = 0\).

**Proposition 1.5.** Every normed vector space \((V, \|\cdot\|)\) becomes a metric space according to def. 1.1 by setting

\[ d(x, y) := \|x - y\| \]

Examples of normed vector spaces (def. 1.4) and hence, via prop. 1.5, of metric spaces include the following:

**Example 1.6.** For \(n \in \mathbb{N}\), the Cartesian space \(\mathbb{R}^n = \{\vec{x} = (x_i)_{i=1}^n \mid x_i \in \mathbb{R}\}\)

carries a norm (the Euclidean norm) given by the square root of the sum of the squares of the components:

\[ \|\vec{x}\| := \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i)^2} \]

Via prop. 1.5 this gives \(\mathbb{R}^n\) the structure of a metric space, and as such it is called the Euclidean space of dimension \(n\).

**Example 1.7.** More generally, for \(n \in \mathbb{N}\), and \(p \in \mathbb{R}\), \(p \geq 1\), then the Cartesian space \(\mathbb{R}^n\) carries the \(p\)-norm

\[ \|\vec{x}\|_p := \left(\sum_{i} |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p} \]

One also sets

\[ \|\vec{x}\|_\infty := \max_{i \in I} |x_i| \]

and calls this the supremum norm.

The graphics on the right (grabbed from Wikipedia) shows unit circles (def. 1.2) in \(\mathbb{R}^2\) with respect to various \(p\)-norms.

By the Minkowski inequality, the \(p\)-norm generalizes to non-finite dimensional vector spaces such as sequence spaces and Lebesgue spaces.

**Continuity**
The following is now the fairly obvious definition of continuity for functions between metric spaces.

**Definition 1.8. (epsilonic definition of continuity)**

For \((X,d_X)\) and \((Y,d_Y)\) two **metric spaces** (def. 1.1), then a **function**

\[ f : X \to Y \]

is said to be **continuous at a point** \(x \in X\) if for every **positive real number** \(\epsilon\) there exists a **positive real number** \(\delta\) such that for all \(x' \in X\) that are a **distance** smaller than \(\delta\) from \(x\) then their image \(f(x')\) is a distance smaller than \(\epsilon\) from \(f(x)\):

\[ (f \text{ continuous at } x) \iff \forall \epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^{+} \exists \delta \in \mathbb{R}^{+} \left((d_X(x,x') < \delta) \implies (d_Y(f(x), f(x')) < \epsilon)\right). \]

The function \(f\) is said to be **continuous** if it is continuous at every point \(x \in X\).

**Example 1.9. (polynomials are continuous functions)**

Consider the **real line** \(\mathbb{R}\) regarded as the 1-dimensional **Euclidean space** \(\mathbb{R}\) from example 1.6.

For \(P \in \mathbb{R}[x]\) a **polynomial**, then the function

\[ f_p : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \quad x \mapsto P(x) \]

is a **continuous function** in the sense of def. 1.8.

Similarly for instance

- forming the **square root** is a continuous function \(\sqrt{-} : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}\);

- forming the multiplicative inverse is a continuous function \(1/(-) : \mathbb{R}_{> 0} \to \mathbb{R}_{> 0}\).

On the other hand, a **step function** is continuous everywhere except at the **finite number** of points at which it changes its value, see example 1.14 below.

We now reformulate the analytic concept of continuity from def. 1.8 in terms of the simple but important concept of **open sets**:

**Definition 1.10. (neighbourhood and open set)**

Let \((X,d)\) be a **metric space** (def. 1.1). Say that:
1. A **neighbourhood** of a point \( x \in X \) is a **subset** \( U_x \subset X \) which contains some **open ball** \( B_x^\varepsilon(\varepsilon) \subset U_x \) around \( x \) (def. 1.2).

2. An **open subset** of \( X \) is a **subset** \( U \subset X \) such that for every \( x \in U \) it also contains an **open ball** \( B_x^\varepsilon(\varepsilon) \) around \( x \) (def. 1.2).

3. An **open neighbourhood** of a point \( x \in X \) is a **neighbourhood** \( U_x \) of \( x \) which is also an open subset, hence equivalently this is any open subset of \( X \) that contains \( x \).

The following picture shows a point \( x \), some **open balls** \( B_i \) containing it, and two of its **neighbourhoods** \( U_i \):

![Diagram](attachment:image.png)

*graphics grabbed from Munkres 75*

**Example 1.11. (the empty subset is open)**

Notice that for \((X, d)\) a **metric space**, then the **empty subset** \( \emptyset \subset X \) is always an **open subset** of \((X, d)\) according to def. 1.10. This is because the clause for open subsets \( U \subset X \) says that “for every point \( x \in U \) there exists...”, but since there is no \( x \) in \( U = \emptyset \), this clause is always satisfied in this case.

Conversely, the entire set \( X \) is always an open subset of \((X, d)\).

**Example 1.12. (open/closed intervals)**

Regard the **real numbers** \( \mathbb{R} \) as the 1-dimensional **Euclidean space** (example 1.6).

For \( a < b \in \mathbb{R} \) consider the following **subsets**:

1. \((a, b) := \{ x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a < x < b \} \) (open interval)

2. \((a, b] := \{ x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a < x \leq b \} \) (half-open interval)
3. \([a, b) := \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a \leq x < b\}\) (half-open interval)

4. \([a, b] := \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a \leq x \leq b\}\) (closed interval)

The first of these is an open subset according to def. 1.10, the other three are not. The first one is called an open interval, the last one a closed interval and the middle two are called half-open intervals.

Similarly for \(a, b \in \mathbb{R}\) one considers

1. \((-\infty, b) := \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x < b\}\) (unbounded open interval)

2. \((a, \infty) := \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a < x\}\) (unbounded open interval)

3. \((-\infty, b] := \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \leq b\}\) (unbounded half-open interval)

4. \([a, \infty) := \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a \leq x\}\) (unbounded half-open interval)

The first two of these are open subsets, the last two are not.

For completeness we may also consider

- \((-\infty, \infty) = \mathbb{R}\)
- \((a, a) = \emptyset\)

which are both open, according to def. 2.3.

We may now rephrase the analytic definition of continuity entirely in terms of open subsets (def. 1.10):

**Proposition 1.13. (rephrasing continuity in terms of open sets)**

Let \((X, d_X)\) and \((Y, d_Y)\) be two metric space (def. 1.1). Then a function \(f : X \to Y\) is continuous in the epsilontic sense of def. 1.8 precisely if it has the property that its pre-images of open subsets of \(Y\) (in the sense of def. 1.10) are open subsets of \(X\):

\[ (f \text{ continuous}) \iff \big((O_Y \subset Y \text{ open}) \Rightarrow (f^{-1}(O_Y) \subset X \text{ open})\big). \]

**principle of continuity**

*Continuous pre-Images of open subsets are open.*

**Proof.** Observe, by direct unwinding the definitions, that the epsilontic definition of continuity (def. 1.8) says equivalently in terms of open balls (def. 1.2) that \(f\) is continous at \(x\) precisely if for every open ball \(B^*_f(x)(\epsilon)\) around an image point, there exists an open ball \(B^*_x(\delta)\) around the corresponding pre-image point which maps
into it:

\[
(f \text{ continuous at } x) \iff \forall \varepsilon > 0 \left( \exists \delta > 0 \left( f \left( B^o_{f(x)}(\delta) \right) \subset B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon) \right) \right)
\]

With this observation the proof immediate. For the record, we spell it out:

First assume that \( f \) is continuous in the epsilontic sense. Then for \( O_Y \subset Y \) any open subset and \( x \in f^{-1}(O_Y) \) any point in the pre-image, we need to show that there exists an open neighbourhood of \( x \) in \( f^{-1}(O_Y) \).

That \( O_Y \) is open in \( Y \) means by definition that there exists an open ball \( B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon) \) in \( O_Y \) around \( f(x) \) for some radius \( \varepsilon \). By the assumption that \( f \) is continuous and using the above observation, this implies that there exists an open ball \( B^o_{x}(\delta) \) in \( X \) such that \( f(B^o_{x}(\delta)) \subset B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon) \subset Y \), hence such that \( B^o_{x}(\delta) \subset f^{-1}(B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon)) \subset f^{-1}(O_Y) \). Hence this is an open ball of the required kind.

Conversely, assume that the pre-image function \( f^{-1} \) takes open subsets to open subsets. Then for every \( x \in X \) and \( B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon) \subset Y \) an open ball around its image, we need to produce an open ball \( B^o_{x}(\delta) \subset X \) around \( x \) such that \( f(B^o_{x}(\delta)) \subset B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon) \).

But by definition of open subsets, \( B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon) \subset Y \) is open, and therefore by assumption on \( f \) its pre-image \( f^{-1}(B^o_{f(x)}(\varepsilon)) \subset X \) is also an open subset of \( X \). Again by definition of open subsets, this implies that it contains an open ball as required. ■

**Example 1.14. (step function)**

Consider \( \mathbb{R} \) as the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) and consider the step function

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbb{R} & \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\
x & \mapsto \begin{cases} 
0 & |x| \leq 0 \\
1 & |x| > 0 
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

*graphics grabbed from Vickers 89*

Consider then for \( a < b \in \mathbb{R} \) the open interval \( (a, b) \subset \mathbb{R} \), an open subset according to example 1.12. The preimage \( H^{-1}(a, b) \) of this open subset is
By example 1.12, all except the last of these pre-images listed are open subsets.

The failure of the last of the pre-images to be open witnesses that the step function is not continuous at $x = 0$.

**Compactness**

A key application of metric spaces in analysis is that they allow a formalization of what it means for an infinite sequence of elements in the metric space (def. 1.15 below) to converge to a limit of a sequence (def. 1.16 below). Of particular interest are therefore those metric spaces for which each sequence has a converging subsequence: the sequentially compact metric spaces (def. 1.19).

We now briefly recall these concepts from analysis. Then, in the above spirit, we reformulate their epsilonic definition in terms of open subsets. This gives a useful definition that generalizes to topological spaces, the compact topological spaces discussed further below.

**Definition 1.15. (sequence)**

Given a set $X$, then a sequence of elements in $X$ is a function

$$x_{(-)} : \mathbb{N} \to X$$

from the natural numbers to $X$.

A sub-sequence of such a sequence is a sequence of the form

$$x_{i(-)} : \mathbb{N} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{N} \overset{x_{(-)}}\to X$$

for some injection $i$.

**Definition 1.16. (convergence to limit of a sequence)**

Let $(X, d)$ be a metric space (def. 1.1). Then a sequence

$$x_{(-)} : \mathbb{N} \to X$$

in the underlying set $X$ (def. 1.15) is said to converge to a point $x_{\infty} \in X$, denoted
if for every positive real number $\epsilon$, there exists a natural number $n$, such that all elements in the sequence after the $n$th one have distance less than $\epsilon$ from $x_\infty$.

\[
\left( x_i \to x_\infty \right) \iff \left( \forall \, \epsilon > 0 \text{ } \exists \, n \in \mathbb{N} \left( \forall \, i > n \quad d(x_i, x_\infty) \leq \epsilon \right) \right).
\]

Here the point $x_\infty$ is called the limit of the sequence. Often one writes $\lim_{i \to \infty} x_i$ for this point.

**Definition 1.17. (Cauchy sequence)**

Given a metric space $(X, d)$ (def. 1.1), then a sequence of points in $X$ (def. 1.15)

\[ x_{(-)} : \mathbb{N} \to X \]

is called a Cauchy sequence if for every positive real number $\epsilon$ there exists a natural number $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that the distance between any two elements of the sequence beyond the $n$th one is less than $\epsilon$

\[
\left( x_{(-)} \text{ Cauchy} \right) \iff \left( \forall \, \epsilon > 0 \text{ } \exists \, N \in \mathbb{N} \left( \forall \, i, j > N \quad d(x_i, x_j) \leq \epsilon \right) \right).
\]

**Definition 1.18. (complete metric space)**

A metric space $(X, d)$ (def. 1.1), for which every Cauchy sequence (def. 1.17) converges (def. 1.16) is called a complete metric space.

A normed vector space, regarded as a metric space via prop. 1.5 that is complete in this sense is called a Banach space.

Finally recall the concept of compactness of metric spaces via epsilontic analysis:

**Definition 1.19. (sequentially compact metric space)**

A metric space $(X, d)$ (def. 1.1) is called sequentially compact if every sequence in $X$ has a subsequence (def. 1.15) which converges (def. 1.16).

The key fact to translate this epsilontic definition of compactness to a concept that makes sense for general topological spaces (below) is the following:

**Proposition 1.20. (sequentially compact metric spaces are equivalently compact metric spaces)**

For a metric space $(X, d)$ (def. 1.1) the following are equivalent:

1. $X$ is sequentially compact;
2. for every set \( \{ U_i \subset X \}_{i \in I} \) of open subsets \( U_i \) of \( X \) (def. 1.10) which cover \( X \) in that \( X = \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \), then there exists a finite subset \( J \subset I \) of these open subsets which still covers \( X \) in that also \( X = \bigcup_{i \in J} U_i \).

The proof of prop. 1.20 is most conveniently formulated with some of the terminology of topology in hand, which we introduce now. Therefore we postpone the proof to below.

In summary prop. 1.13 and prop. 1.20 show that the purely combinatorial and in particular non-\( \varepsilon \)-ilsontic concept of open subsets captures a substantial part of the nature of metric spaces in analysis. This motivates to reverse the logic and consider more general “spaces” which are only characterized by what counts as their open subsets. These are the topological spaces which we turn to now in def. 2.3 (or, more generally, these are the “locales”, which we briefly consider below in remark 5.6).

2. Topological spaces

Due to prop. 1.13 we should pay attention to open subsets in metric spaces. It turns out that the following closure property, which follow directly from the definitions, is at the heart of the concept:

**Proposition 2.1. (closure properties of open sets in a metric space)**

The collection of open subsets of a metric space \((X, d)\) as in def. 1.10 has the following properties:

1. The union of any set of open subsets is again an open subset.

2. The intersection of any finite number of open subsets is again an open subset.

**Remark 2.2. (empty union and empty intersection)**

Notice the degenerate case of unions \( \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \) and intersections \( \bigcap_{i \in I} U_i \) of subsets \( U_i \subset X \) for the case that they are indexed by the empty set \( I = \emptyset \):

1. the empty union is the empty set itself;

2. the empty intersection is all of \( X \).

(The second of these may seem less obvious than the first. We discuss the general logic behind these kinds of phenomena below.)

This way prop. 2.1 is indeed compatible with the degenerate cases of examples of open subsets in example 1.11.
Proposition 2.1 motivates the following generalized definition, which abstracts away from the concept of metric space just its system of open subsets:

**Definition 2.3. (topological spaces)**

Given a set $X$, then a topology on $X$ is a collection $\tau$ of subsets of $X$ called the open subsets, hence a subset of the power set $P(X)$

$$\tau \subseteq P(X)$$

such that this is closed under forming

1. finite intersections;
2. arbitrary unions.

In particular (by remark 2.2):

- the empty set $\emptyset \subseteq X$ is in $\tau$ (being the union of no subsets)

and

- the whole set $X \subseteq X$ itself is in $\tau$ (being the intersection of no subsets).

A set $X$ equipped with such a topology is called a topological space.

**Remark 2.4.** In the field of topology it is common to eventually simply say “space” as shorthand for “topological space”. This is especially so as further qualifiers are added, such as “Hausdorff space” (def. 4.4 below). But beware that there are other kinds of spaces in mathematics.

**Remark 2.5.** The simple definition of open subsets in def. 2.3 and the simple implementation of the principle of continuity below in def. 3.1 gives the field of topology its fundamental and universal flavor. The combinatorial nature of these definitions makes topology be closely related to formal logic. This becomes more manifest still for the “sober topological space” discussed below. For more on this perspective see the remark on locales below, remark 5.6. An introductory textbook amplifying this perspective is (Vickers 89).

Before we look at first examples below, here is some common further terminology regarding topological spaces:

There is an evident partial ordering on the set of topologies that a given set may carry:

**Definition 2.6. (finer/coarser topologies)**

Let $X$ be a set, and let $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in P(X)$ be two topologies on $X$, hence two choices of open subsets for $X$, making it a topological space. If

$$\tau_1 \subseteq \tau_2$$
hence if every open subset of $X$ with respect to $\tau_1$ is also regarded as open by $\tau_2$, then one says that

- the topology $\tau_2$ is **finer** than the topology $\tau_2$
- the topology $\tau_1$ is **coarser** than the topology $\tau_1$.

With any kind of **structure** on **sets**, it is of interest how to “**generate**” such structures from a small amount of data:

**Definition 2.7. (basis for the topology)**

Let $(X, \tau)$ be a **topological space**, def. 2.3, and let $\beta \subset \tau$ be a **subset** of its set of **open subsets**. We say that

1. $\beta$ is a **basis for the topology** $\tau$ if every open subset $O \in \tau$ is a **union** of elements of $\beta$;

2. $\beta$ is a **sub-basis for the topology** if every open subset $O \in \tau$ is a **union** of **finite intersections** of elements of $\beta$.

Often it is convenient to **define** topologies by defining some (sub-)basis as in def. 2.7. Examples are the the **metric topology** below, example 2.9, the **binary product topology** in def. 2.18 below, and the **compact-open topology** on **mapping spaces** below in def. 6.17. To make use of this, we need to recognize sets of open subsets that serve as the basis for some topology:

**Lemma 2.8. (recognition of topological bases)**

Let $X$ be a set.

1. A collection $\beta \subset P(X)$ of **subsets** of $X$ is a **basis** for some topology $\tau \subset P(X)$ (def. 2.7) precisely if

   1. every point of $X$ is contained in at least one element of $\beta$;

   2. for every two subsets $B_1, B_2 \in \beta$ and for every point $x \in B_1 \cap B_2$ in their intersection, then there exists a $B \in \beta$ that contains $x$ and is contained in the intersection: $x \in B \subseteq B_1 \cap B_2$.

2. A subset $B \subset \tau$ of opens is a **sub-basis** for a topology $\tau$ on $X$ precisely if $\tau$ is the coarsest topology (def. 2.6) which contains $B$.

**Examples**

We discuss here some basic examples of **topological spaces** (def. 2.3), to get a
feeling for the scope of the concept. But topological spaces are ubiquitous in mathematics, so that there are many more examples and many more classes of examples than could be listed. As we further develop the theory below, we encounter more examples, and more classes of examples. Below in Universal constructions we discuss a very general construction principle of new topological space from given ones.

First of all, our motivating example from above now reads as follows:

**Example 2.9. (metric topology)**

Let $(X,d)$ be a metric space (def. 1.1). Then the collection of its open subsets in def. 1.10 constitutes a topology on the set $X$, making it a topological space in the sense of def. 2.3. This is called the **metric topology**.

The open balls in a metric space constitute a basis of a topology (def. 2.7) for the metric topology.

While the example of metric space topologies (example 2.9) is the motivating example for the concept of topological spaces, it is important to notice that the concept of topological spaces is considerably more general, as some of the following examples show.

The following simplistic example of a (metric) topological space is important for the theory (for instance in prop. 2.35):

**Example 2.10. (empty space and point space)**

On the empty set there exists a unique topology. We write $\emptyset$ also for the resulting topological space, which we call the **empty topological space**.

On a singleton set ${1}$ there exists a unique topology $\tau$ making it a topological space according to def. 2.3, namely

$$\tau := \{\emptyset, \{1\}\}.$$

We write

$$* := (\{1\}, \tau := \{\emptyset, \{1\}\})$$

for this topological space and call it the **point topological space**.

This is equivalently the metric topology (example 2.9) on $\mathbb{R}^0$, regarded as the 0-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6).

**Example 2.11.** On the 2-element set $\{0, 1\}$ there are (up to permutation of elements) three distinct topologies:

1. the **codiscrete topology** (def. 2.13) $\tau = \emptyset, \{0, 1\}$;
2. the **discrete topology** (def. 2.13), $\tau = \emptyset, \{0\}, \{1\}, \{0, 1\}$;
3. the **Sierpinski space** topology \( \tau = \{ \emptyset, \{1\}, \{0,1\} \} \).

**Example 2.12.** The following shows all the topologies on the 3-element set (up to permutation of elements)

![Diagram showing all topologies on a 3-element set](image)

*graphics grabbed from Munkres 75*

**Example 2.13. (discrete and co-discrete topology)**

Let \( S \) be any set. Then there are always the following two extreme possibilities of equipping \( X \) with a topology \( \tau \subset P(X) \) in the sense of def. 2.3, and hence making it a *topological space*:

1. \( \tau := P(S) \) the set of all open subsets;
   
   this is called the *discrete topology* on \( S \), it is the *finest topology* (def. 2.6) on \( X \),
   
   we write \( \text{Disc}(S) \) for the resulting topological space;

2. \( \tau := \{ \emptyset, S \} \) the set containing only the *empty* subset of \( S \) and all of \( S \) itself;
   
   this is called the *codiscrete topology* on \( S \), it is the *coarsest topology* (def. 2.6) on \( X \),
   
   we write \( \text{CoDisc}(S) \) for the resulting topological space.

The reason for this terminology is best seen when considering *continuous functions* into or out of these (co-)discrete topological spaces, we come to this in example 3.8 below.

**Example 2.14. (cofinite topology)**

Given a set \( X \), then the *cofinite topology* or *finite complement topology* on \( X \) is the topology (def. 2.3) whose open subsets are precisely

1. all *cofinite subsets* \( S \subset X \) (i.e. those such that the complement \( X \setminus S \) is a *finite set*);
2. the empty set.

If $X$ is itself a finite set (but not otherwise) then the cofinite topology on $X$ coincides with the discrete topology on $X$ (example 2.13).

We now consider basic construction principles of new topological spaces from given ones:

1. disjoint union spaces (example 2.15)
2. subspaces (example 2.16),
3. quotient spaces (example 2.17)
4. product spaces (example 2.18).

Below in *Universal constructions* we will recognize these as simple special cases of a general construction principle.

**Example 2.15. (disjoint union)**

For $\{(X_i, \tau_i)\}_{i \in I}$ a set of topological spaces, then their disjoint union

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} (X_i, \tau_i)$$

is the topological space whose underlying set is the disjoint union of the underlying sets of the summand spaces, and whose open subsets are precisely the disjoint unions of the open subsets of the summand spaces.

In particular, for $I$ any index set, then the disjoint union of $I$ copies of the point space (example 2.10) is equivalently the discrete topological space (example 2.13) on that index set:

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} * = \operatorname{Disc}(I).$$

**Example 2.16. (subspace topology)**

Let $(X, \tau_X)$ be a topological space, and let $S \subset X$ be a subset of the underlying set. Then the corresponding topological subspace has $S$ as its underlying set, and its open subsets are those subsets of $S$ which arise as restrictions of open subsets of $X$.

$$(U_S \subset S \text{ open}) \iff \left( \exists \left( \exists_{U_X \in \tau_X} (U_S = U_X \cap S) \right) \right).$$

(This is also called the initial topology of the inclusion map. We come back to this below in def. 7.5.)

The picture on the right shows two open subsets inside the square, regarded as
a topological subspace of the plane $\mathbb{R}^2$:

graphics grabbed from Munkres 75

**Example 2.17. (quotient topological space)**

Let $(X, \tau_X)$ be a topological space (def. 2.3) and let

$$R_\sim \subset X \times X$$

be an equivalence relation on its underlying set. Then the quotient topological space has

- as underlying set the quotient set $X/\sim$, hence the set of equivalence classes,

and

- a subset $O \subset X/\sim$ is declared to be an open subset precisely if its preimage $\pi^{-1}(O)$ under the canonical projection map

$$\pi : X \to X/\sim$$

is open in $X$.

(This is also called the final topology of the projection $\pi$. We come back to this below in def. 7.5.)

Often one considers this with input datum not the equivalence relation, but any surjection

$$\pi : X \to Y$$

of sets. Of course this identifies $Y = X/\sim$ with $(x_1 \sim x_2) \Leftrightarrow (\pi(x_1) = \pi(x_2))$. Hence the quotient topology on the codomain set of a function out of any topological space has as open subsets those whose pre-images are open.

To see that this indeed does define a topology on $X/\sim$ it is sufficient to observe that taking pre-images commutes with taking unions and with taking intersections.

**Example 2.18. (binary product topological space)**

For $(X_1, \tau_{X_1})$ and $(X_2, \tau_{X_2})$ two topological spaces, then their binary product topological space has as underlying set the Cartesian product $X_1 \times X_2$ of the corresponding two underlying sets, and its topology is generated from the basis (def. 2.7) given by the Cartesian products $U_1 \times U_2$ of the opens $U_i \in \tau_i$. 
Beware that for non-finite products, the descriptions of the product topology is not as simple. This we turn to below in example 7.11, after introducing the general concept of limits in the category of topological spaces.

The following examples illustrate how all these ingredients and construction principles may be combined.

The following example we will examine in more detail below in example 3.29, after we have introduced the concept of homeomorphisms below.

**Example 2.19.** Consider the real numbers $\mathbb{R}$ as the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) and hence as a topological space via the corresponding metric topology (example 2.9). Moreover, consider the closed interval $[0,1] \subset \mathbb{R}$ from example 1.12, regarded as a subspace (def. 2.16) of $\mathbb{R}$.

The product space (example 2.18) of this interval with itself $[0,1] \times [0,1]$ is a topological space modelling the closed square. The quotient space (example 2.17) of that by the relation which identifies a pair of opposite sides is a model for the cylinder. The further quotient by the relation that identifies the remaining pair of sides yields a model for the torus.

**Example 2.20.** *(spheres and disks)*

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ write

- $D^n$ for the *n-disk*, the closed unit ball (def. 1.2) in the $n$-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$ (example 1.6) and equipped with the induced subspace topology (example 2.16) of the corresponding metric topology (example 2.9);
- $S^{n-1}$ for the *(n-1)-sphere* (def. 1.2) also equipped with the corresponding subspace topology;
- $i_n : S^{n-1} \hookrightarrow D^n$ for the continuous function that exhibits this boundary inclusion.

Notice that
- $S^{-1} = \emptyset$ is the empty topological space (example 2.10);
- $S^0 = * \sqcup *$ is the disjoint union space (example 2.15) of the point topological space (example 2.10) with itself, equivalently the discrete topological space on two elements (example 2.11).

### Closed subsets

The complements of open subsets in a topological space are called closed subsets (def. 2.21 below). This simple definition indeed captures the concept of closure in the analytic sense of convergence of sequences (prop. 2.27 below). Of particular interest for the theory of topological spaces in the discussion of separation axioms below are those closed subsets which are "irreducible" (def. 2.28 below). These happen to be equivalently the "frame homomorphisms" (def. 2.32) to the frame of opens of the point (prop. 2.35 below).

**Definition 2.21. (closed subsets)**

Let \((X, \tau)\) be a topological space (def. 2.3). Then a subset $S \subset X$ is called a closed subset if its complement $X \setminus S$ is an open subset:

\[(S \subset X \text{ is closed}) \iff (X \setminus S \subset X \text{ is open}).\]

*graphics grabbed from Vickers 89*

If a singleton subset \(\{x\} \subset X\) is closed, one says that $x$ is a closed point of $X$.

Given any subset $S \subset X$, then its topological closure \(\text{Cl}(X)\) is the smallest closed subset containing $S$:

\[
\text{Cl}(S) := \bigcap_{\substack{C \subset X \text{ closed} \\text{ s.t. } S \subset C}} C.
\]

**Remark 2.22. (de Morgan's law)**

In reasoning about closed subsets in topology we are concerned with complements of unions and intersections as well as with unions/intersections of complements. Recall therefore that taking complements of subsets exchanges unions with intersections (de Morgan's law):

Given a set $X$ and a set of subsets

\[
\{S_i \subset S\}_{i \in I}
\]

then
\[ X \setminus \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i = \bigcap_{i \in I} (X \setminus S_i) \]

and

\[ X \setminus \bigcap_{i \in I} S_i = \bigcup_{i \in I} (X \setminus S_i) . \]

Also notice that taking complements reverses inclusion relations:

\[ (S_1 \subset S_2) \iff (X \setminus S_2 \subset X \setminus S_1) . \]

Often it is useful to reformulate def. 2.21 of closed subsets as follows:

**Lemma 2.23.** Let \((X, \tau)\) be a topological space and let \(S \subset X\) be a subset of its underlying set. Then a point \(x \in X\) is contained in the topological closure \(\text{Cl}(S)\) (def. 2.21) precisely if every open neighbourhood \(U_x \subset X\) of \(x\) intersects \(S:\)

\[ (x \in \text{Cl}(S)) \iff \neg \left( \forall U \subset X : (x \in U) \right) . \]

**Proof.** In view of remark 2.22 we may rephrase the definition of the topological closure as follows:

\[
\text{Cl}(S) := \bigcap_{C \subset C \subset X \text{ closed}} (C)
\]

\[ = \bigcup_{U \subset X : U \text{ open}} (X \setminus U) . \]

\[ = X \setminus \left( \bigcup_{U \subset X : U \text{ open}} U \right) . \]

\[
\blacktriangleleft
\]

**Definition 2.24.** (topological interior and boundary)

Let \((X, \tau)\) be a topological space (def. 2.3) and let \(S \subset X\) be a subset. Then the topological interior of \(S\) is the largest open subset \(\text{Int}(S) \in \tau\) still contained in \(S\), \(\text{Int}(S) \subset S \subset X:\)

\[ \text{Int}(S) := \bigcup_{U \subset S : U \text{ open}} (U) . \]

The boundary \(\partial S\) of \(S\) is the complement of its interior inside its topological closure (def. 2.21):

\[ \partial S := \text{Cl}(S) \setminus \text{Int}(S) . \]

**Lemma 2.25.** (duality between closure and interior)

Let \((X, \tau)\) be a topological space and let \(S \subset X\) be a subset. Then the topological
interior of \( S \) (def. 2.24) is the same as the complement of the topological closure \( \text{Cl}(X \backslash S) \) of the complement of \( S \):

\[
X \backslash \text{Int}(S) = \text{Cl}(X \backslash S)
\]

and conversely

\[
X \backslash \text{Cl}(S) = \text{Int}(X \backslash S).
\]

**Proof.** Using remark 2.22, we compute as follows:

\[
X \backslash \text{Int}(S) = X \biggl( \bigcup_{U \subset S} U \biggr)_{U \subset X \text{ open}} = \bigcap_{U \subset S}(X \backslash U)_{U \subset X \text{ open}} = \bigcap_{C \supset X \backslash S}(C)_{C \text{ closed}} = \text{Cl}(X \backslash S)
\]

Similarly for the other case. ■

**Example 2.26.** (topological closure and interior of closed and open intervals)

Regard the real numbers as the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) and equipped with the corresponding metric topology (example 2.9). Let \( a < b \in \mathbb{R} \). Then the topological interior (def. 2.24) of the closed interval \([a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}\) (example 1.12) is the open interval \((a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}\), moreover the closed interval is its own topological closure (def. 2.21) and the converse holds (by lemma 2.25):

\[
\text{Cl}((a, b)) = [a, b] \quad \text{Int}((a, b)) = (a, b)
\]

\[
\text{Cl}([a, b]) = [a, b] \quad \text{Int}([a, b]) = (a, b)
\]

Hence the boundary of the closed interval is its endpoints, while the boundary of the open interval is empty

\[
\partial [a, b] = \{a\} \cup \{b\} \quad \partial (a, b) = \emptyset.
\]

The terminology “closed” subspace for complements of opens is justified by the following statement, which is a further example of how the combinatorial concept of open subsets captures key phenomena in analysis:

**Proposition 2.27.** (convergence in closed subspaces)

Let \((X, d)\) be a metric space (def. 1.1), regarded as a topological space via example 2.9, and let \(V \subset X\) be a subset. Then the following are equivalent:

1. \(V \subset X\) is a closed subspace according to def. 2.21.
2. For every sequence $x_i \in V \subset X$ (def. 1.15) with elements in $V$, which converges as a sequence in $X$ (def. 1.16) to some $x_\infty \in X$, then $x_\infty \in V \subset X$.

Proof. First assume that $V \subset X$ is closed and that $x_i \xrightarrow{i \to \infty} x_\infty$ for some $x_\infty \in X$. We need to show that then $x_\infty \in V$. Suppose it were not, hence that $x_\infty \notin V$. Since, by assumption on $V$, this complement $X \setminus V \subset X$ is an open subset, it would follow that there exists a real number $\varepsilon > 0$ such that the open ball around $x$ of radius $\varepsilon$ were still contained in the complement: $B_x^\varepsilon(\varepsilon) \subset X \setminus V$. But since the sequence is assumed to converge in $X$, this would mean that there exists $N_\varepsilon$ such that all $x_i > N_\varepsilon$ are in $B_x^\varepsilon(\varepsilon)$, hence in $X \setminus V$. This contradicts the assumption that all $x_i$ are in $V$, and hence we have proved by contradiction that $x_\infty \in V$.

Conversely, assume that for all sequences in $V$ that converge to some $x_\infty \in X$ then $x_\infty \in V \subset X$. We need to show that then $V$ is closed, hence that $X \setminus V \subset X$ is an open subset, hence that for every $x \in X \setminus V$ we may find a real number $\varepsilon > 0$ such that the open ball $B_x^\varepsilon(\varepsilon)$ around $x$ of radius $\varepsilon$ is still contained in $X \setminus V$. Suppose on the contrary that such $\varepsilon$ did not exist. This would mean that for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$ then the intersection $B_x^\varepsilon(1/k) \cap V$ were non-empty. Hence then we could choose points $x_k \in B_x^\varepsilon(1/k) \cap V$ in these intersections. These would form a sequence which clearly converges to the original $x$, and so by assumption we would conclude that $x \in V$, which violates the assumption that $x \in X \setminus V$. Hence we proved by contradiction $X \setminus V$ is in fact open. □

A special role in the theory is played by the "irreducible" closed subspaces:

Definition 2.28. (irreducible closed subspace)

A closed subset $S \subset X$ (def. 2.21) of a topological space $X$ is called irreducible if it is non-empty and not the union of two closed proper (i.e. smaller) subsets. In other words, a non-empty closed subset $S \subset X$ is irreducible if whenever $S_1, S_2 \subset X$ are two closed subspaces such that $S = S_1 \cup S_2$ then $S_1 = S$ or $S_2 = S$.

Example 2.29. (closures of points are irreducible)

For $x \in X$ a point inside a topological space, then the closure $\text{Cl}(\{x\})$ of the singleton subset $\{x\} \subset X$ is irreducible (def. 2.28).

Example 2.30. (no nontrivial closed irreducibles in metric spaces)

Let $(X, d)$ be a metric space, regarded as a topological space via its metric topology (example 2.9). Then every point $x \in X$ is closed (def 2.21), hence every singleton subset $\{x\} \subset X$ is irreducible according to def. 2.29.

Let $\mathbb{R}$ be the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) with its metric topology (example 2.9). Then for $a < c \subset \mathbb{R}$ the closed interval $[a, c] \subset \mathbb{R}$ (example
1.12 is not irreducible, since for any \( b \in \mathbb{R} \) with \( a < b < c \) it is the union of two smaller closed subintervals:

\[
[a, c] = [a, b] \cup [b, c].
\]

In fact we will see below (prop. 5.3) that in a metric space the singleton subsets are precisely the only irreducible closed subsets.

Often it is useful to re-express the condition of irreducibility of closed subspaces in terms of complementary open subsets:

**Proposition 2.31. (irreducible closed subsets in terms of prime open subsets)**

Let \((X, \tau)\) be a topological space, and let \( P \in \tau \) be a proper open subset of \( X \), hence so that the complement \( F := X \setminus P \) is a non-empty closed subspace. Then \( F \) is irreducible in the sense of def. 2.28 precisely if whenever \( U_1, U_2 \in \tau \) are open subsets with \( U_1 \cap U_2 \subset P \) then \( U_1 \subset P \) or \( U_2 \subset P \):

\[
(X \setminus P \text{ irreducible}) \iff \left( \forall U_1, U_2 \in \tau \left( (U_1 \cap U_2 \subset P) \Rightarrow (U_1 \subset P \text{ or } U_2 \subset P) \right) \right).
\]

The open subset \( P \subset X \) with this property are also called the prime open subsets in \( \tau_X \).

**Proof.** Observe that every closed subset \( F_i \subset F \) may be exhibited as the complement

\[
F_i = F \setminus U_i
\]

of some open subset \( U_i \in \tau \) with respect to \( F \). Observe that under this identification the condition that \( U_1 \cap U_2 \subset P \) is equivalent to the condition that \( F_1 \cup F_2 = F \), because it is equivalent to the equation labeled (\( \ast \)) in the following sequence of equations:

\[
F_1 \cup F_2 = (F \setminus U_1) \cup (F \setminus U_2)
\]

\[
= (X \setminus (P \cup U_1)) \cup (X \setminus (P \cup U_2))
\]

\[
= X \setminus ((P \cup U_1) \cap (P \cup U_2))
\]

\[
= X \setminus (P \cup (U_1 \cap U_2))
\]

\[
= X \setminus P
\]

\[
= F.
\]

Similarly, the condition that \( U_i \subset P \) is equivalent to the condition that \( F_i = F \), because it is equivalent to the equality (\( \ast \)) in the following sequence of equalities:
\[ F_i = F \setminus U_i \]
\[ = X \setminus (P \cup U_i) \]
\[ = X \setminus P \]
\[ \subseteq X \setminus P \]
\[ = F \]

Under these identifications, the two conditions are manifestly the same. □

We consider yet another equivalent characterization of irreducible closed subsets, prop. 2.35 below, which will be needed in the discussion of the separation axioms further below. Stating this requires the following concept of "frame" homomorphisms, the natural kind of homomorphisms between topological spaces if we were to forget the underlying set of points of a topological space, and only remember the set \( \tau_X \) with its operations induced by taking finite intersections and arbitrary unions:

**Definition 2.32. (frame homomorphisms)**

Let \((X, \tau_X)\) and \((Y, \tau_Y)\) be topological spaces (def. 2.3). Then a function \( \tau_X \leftarrow \tau_Y : \phi \)

between their sets of open subsets is called a frame homomorphism if it preserves

1. arbitrary unions;
2. finite intersections.

In other words, \( \phi \) is a frame homomorphism precisely if

1. for every set \( I \) and every \( I \)-indexed set \( \{U_i \in \tau_Y\}_{i \in I} \) of elements of \( \tau_Y \), then
   \[ \phi \left( \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \right) = \bigcup_{i \in I} \phi(U_i) \in \tau_X, \]
2. for every finite set \( J \) and every \( J \)-indexed set \( \{U_j \in \tau_Y\}_{j \in J} \) of elements in \( \tau_Y \), then
   \[ \phi \left( \bigcap_{j \in J} U_j \right) = \bigcap_{j \in J} \phi(U_j) \in \tau_X. \]

**Remark 2.33. (frame homomorphisms preserve inclusions)**

A frame homomorphism \( \phi \) as in def. 2.32 necessarily also preserves inclusions in that

- for every inclusion \( U_1 \subset U_2 \) with \( U_1, U_2 \in \tau_Y \subset P(Y) \) then
  \[ \phi(U_1) \subset \phi(U_2) \in \tau_X. \]

This is because inclusions are witnessed by unions.
or alternatively because inclusions are witnessed by finite intersections:

\[(U_1 ⊂ U_2) ⇔ (U_1 ∪ U_2 = U_2)\]

Example 2.34. (pre-images of continuous functions are frame homomorphisms)

Let \((X, τ_X)\) and \((Y, τ_Y)\) be two topological spaces. One way to obtain a function between their sets of open subsets

\[τ_X \leftarrow τ_Y : φ\]

is to specify a function

\[f : X \rightarrow Y\]

of their underlying sets, and take \(φ = f^{-1}\) to be the pre-image operation. A priori this is a function of the form

\[P(Y) \leftarrow P(X) : f^{-1}\]

and hence in order for this to co-restrict to \(τ_X ⊂ P(X)\) when restricted to \(τ_Y ⊂ P(Y)\) we need to demand that, under \(f\), pre-images of open subsets of \(Y\) are open subsets of \(Z\). Below in def. 3.1 we highlight these as the continuous functions between topological spaces.

\[f : (X, τ_X) \rightarrow (Y, τ_Y)\]

In this case then

\[τ_X \leftarrow τ_Y : f^{-1}\]

is a frame homomorphism in the sense of def. 2.32.

For the following recall from example 2.10 the point topological space

\(* = (\{1\}, τ_* = \{∅, \{1\}\})\).

Proposition 2.35. (irreducible closed subsets are equivalently frame homomorphisms to opens of the point)

For \((X, τ)\) a topological space, then there is a natural bijection between the irreducible closed subspaces of \((X, τ)\) (def. 2.28) and the frame homomorphisms from \(τ_X\) to \(τ_*\), and this bijection is given by

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{FrameHom}(τ_X, τ_*) \xrightarrow{φ} \text{IrrClSub}(X) \\
\phi \quad \mapsto \quad X\setminus(U_∅(φ))
\end{array}
\]

where \(U_∅(φ)\) is the union of all elements \(U \in τ_X\) such that \(φ(U) = ∅\):
\[
U_\emptyset(\phi) := \bigcup_{U \in \tau_X} (U).
\]

See also (Johnstone 82, II 1.3).

**Proof.** First we need to show that the function is well defined in that given a frame homomorphism \(\phi : \tau_X \to \tau_*\) then \(X \setminus U_\emptyset(\phi)\) is indeed an irreducible closed subspace.

To that end observe that:

1. If there are two elements \(U_1, U_2 \in \tau_X\) with \(U_1 \cap U_2 \subset \emptyset\), then \(U_1 \subset \emptyset\) or \(U_2 \subset \emptyset\).

This is because \(\phi(U_1) \cap \phi(U_2) = \phi(U_1 \cap U_2) \subset \phi(\emptyset)\), hence \(\phi(U_1) = \emptyset\) or \(\phi(U_2) = \emptyset\). But this means that \(U_1 \subset U_\emptyset(\phi)\) or \(U_2 \subset U_\emptyset(\phi)\), as claimed.

Now according to prop. 2.31 the condition (*) identifies the complement \(X \setminus U_\emptyset(\phi)\) as an irreducible closed subspace of \((X, \tau)\).

Conversely, given an irreducible closed subset \(X \setminus U_0\), define \(\phi\) by

\[
\phi : U \mapsto \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } U \subset U_0 \\ \{1\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.
\]

This does preserve

1. arbitrary unions

because \(\phi(\bigcup_i U_i) = \emptyset\) precisely if \(\bigcup_i U_i \subset U_0\) which is the case precisely if all \(U_i \subset U_0\), which means that all \(\phi(U_i) = \emptyset\) and because \(\bigcup_i \emptyset = \emptyset\);

while \(\phi(\bigcup_i U_i) = \{1\}\) as soon as one of the \(U_i\) is not contained in \(U_0\), which means that one of the \(\phi(U_i) = \{1\}\) which means that \(\bigcup_i \phi(U_i) = \{1\}\);

2. finite intersections

because if \(U_1 \cap U_2 \subset U_0\), then by (*) \(U_1 \in U_0\) or \(U_2 \in U_0\), whence \(\phi(U_1) = \emptyset\) or...
\[ \phi(U_2) = \emptyset, \text{ whence with } \phi(U_1 \cap U_2) = \emptyset \text{ also } \phi(U_1) \cap \phi(U_2) = \emptyset; \]

while if \( U_1 \cap U_2 \) is not contained in \( U_0 \) then neither \( U_1 \) nor \( U_2 \) is contained in \( U_0 \) and hence with \( \phi(U_1 \cap U_2) = \{1\} \) also \( \phi(U_1) \cap \phi(U_2) = \{1\} \cap \{1\} = \{1\}. \)

Hence this is indeed a frame homomorphism \( \tau_X \to \tau_\ast \).

Finally, it is clear that these two operations are inverse to each other. ■

### 3. Continuous functions

With the concept of topological spaces in hand (def. 2.3) it is now immediate to formally implement in abstract generality the statement of prop. 1.13:

**principle of continuity**

*Continuous pre-Images of open subsets are open.*

**Definition 3.1. (continuous function)**

A continuous function between topological spaces (def. 2.3)

\[ f : (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y) \]

is a function between the underlying sets,

\[ f : X \to Y \]

such that pre-images under \( f \) of open subsets of \( Y \) are open subsets of \( X \).

We may equivalently state this in terms of closed subsets:

**Proposition 3.2.** Let \((X_1, \tau_X)\) and \((Y, \tau_Y)\) be two topological spaces (def. 2.3). Then a function

\[ f : X \to Y \]

between the underlying sets is continuous in the sense of def. 3.1 precisely if pre-images under \( f \) of closed subsets of \( Y \) (def. 2.21) are closed subsets of \( X \).

**Proof.** This follows since taking pre-images commutes with taking complements. ■

Before looking at first examples of continuous functions below we consider now an informal remark on the resulting global structure, the “category of topological spaces”, remark 3.3 below. This is a language that serves to make transparent key phenomena in topology which we encounter further below, such as the
Tn-reflection (remark 4.16 below), and the universal constructions.

**Remark 3.3. (concrete category of topological spaces)**

For $X_1, X_2, X_3$ three topological spaces and for

$$
X_1 \xrightarrow{f} X_2 \quad \text{and} \quad X_2 \xrightarrow{g} X_3
$$

two continuous functions (def. 3.1) then their composition

$$
f_2 \circ f_1 : X_1 \xrightarrow{f} X_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} X_3
$$

is clearly itself again a continuous function from $X_1$ to $X_3$. Moreover, this composition operation is clearly associative, in that for

$$
X_1 \xrightarrow{f} X_2 \quad \text{and} \quad X_2 \xrightarrow{g} X_3 \quad \text{and} \quad X_3 \xrightarrow{h} X_4
$$

three continuous functions, then

$$
f_3 \circ (f_2 \circ f_1) = (f_3 \circ f_2) \circ f_1 : X_1 \rightarrow X_3 .
$$

Finally, the composition operation is also clearly unital, in that for each topological space $X$ there exists the identity function $\text{id}_X : X \rightarrow X$ and for $f : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ any continuous function then

$$
\text{id}_{X_2} \circ f = f = f \circ \text{id}_{X_1} .
$$

One summarizes this situation by saying that:

1. topological spaces constitute the objects,

2. continuous functions constitute the morphisms (homomorphisms)

of a category, called the category of topological spaces ("Top" for short).

It is useful to depict collections of objects with morphisms between them by diagrams, like this one:

![Diagram](https://ncatlab.org/nlab/print/Introduction+to+Topology+--+1)

```
diagrams grabbed from Lawvere-Schanuel 09.
```

There are other categories. For instance there is the category of sets ("Set" for short) whose
1. objects are sets,
2. morphisms are plain functions between these.

The two categories Top and Set are different, but related. After all,

1. an object of Top (hence a topological space) is an object of Set (hence a set) equipped with extra structure (namely with a topology);
2. a morphism in Top (hence a continuous function) is a morphism in Set (hence a plain function) with the extra property that it preserves this extra structure.

Hence we have the underlying set assigning function

\[
\text{Top} \xrightarrow{u} \text{Set}
\]

\[
(X, \tau) \mapsto X
\]

from the class of topological spaces to the class of sets. But more is true: every continuous function between topological spaces is, by definition, in particular a function on underlying sets:

\[
\text{Top} \xrightarrow{u} \text{Set}
\]

\[
(X, \tau_X) \mapsto X
\]

\[
f \downarrow \mapsto \downarrow f
\]

\[
(Y, \tau_Y) \mapsto Y
\]

and this assignment (trivially) respects the composition of morphisms and the identity morphisms.

Such a function between classes of objects of categories, which is extended to a function on the sets of homomorphisms between these objects in a way that respects composition and identity morphisms is called a functor. If we write an arrow between categories

\[
U : \text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Set}
\]

then it is understood that we mean not just a function between their classes of objects, but a functor.

The functor \(U\) at hand has the special property that it does not do much except forgetting extra structure, namely the extra structure on a set \(X\) given by a choice of topology \(\tau_X\). One also speaks of a forgetful functor.

This is intuitively clear, and we may easily formalize it: The functor \(U\) has the special property that as a function between sets of homomorphisms (“hom sets”, for short) it is injective. More in detail, given topological spaces \((X, \tau_X)\) and \((Y, \tau_Y)\) then the component function of \(U\) from the set of continuous function
between these spaces to the set of plain functions between their underlying sets

\[
\{ (X, \tau_X) \xrightarrow{\text{continuous function}} (Y, \tau_Y) \} \quad \xrightarrow{U} \quad \{ X \xrightarrow{\text{function}} Y \}
\]

is an injective function, including the continuous functions among all functions of underlying sets.

A functor with this property, that its component functions between all hom-sets are injective, is called a faithful functor.

A category equipped with a faithful functor to Set is called a concrete category.

Hence Top is canonically a concrete category.

**Example 3.4. (product topological space construction is functorial)**

For \( \mathcal{C} \) and \( \mathcal{D} \) two categories as in remark 3.3 (for instance Top or Set) then we obtain a new category denoted \( \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D} \) and called their product category whose

1. objects are pairs \((c, d)\) with \(c\) an object of \( \mathcal{C} \) and \(d\) an object of \( \mathcal{D} \);

   • morphisms are pairs \((f, g) : (c, d) \to (c', d')\) with \(f : c \to d\) a morphism of \( \mathcal{C} \) and \(g : d \to d'\) a morphisms of \( \mathcal{D} \),

   • composition of morphisms is defined pairwise \((f', g') \circ (f, g) \equiv (f' \circ f, g' \circ g)\).

This concept secretly underlies the construction of product topological spaces:

Let \((X_1, \tau_{X_1}), (X_2, \tau_{X_2}), (Y_1, \tau_{Y_1})\) and \((Y_2, \tau_{Y_2})\) be topological spaces. Then for all pairs of continuous functions

\[
f_1 : (X_1, \tau_{X_1}) \to (Y_1, \tau_{Y_1})
\]

and

\[
f_2 : (X_2, \tau_{X_2}) \to (Y_2, \tau_{Y_2})
\]

the canonically induced function on Cartesian products of sets

\[
X_1 \times X_2 \xrightarrow{f_1 \times f_2} Y_1 \times Y_2 \\
(x_1, x_2) \quad \mapsto \quad (f_1(x_1), f_2(x_2))
\]

is a continuous function with respect to the binary product space topologies (def. 2.18)

\[
f_1 \times f_2 : (X_1 \times X_2, \tau_{X_1 \times X_2}) \to (Y_1, \times Y_2, \tau_{Y_1 \times Y_2})
\]

Moreover, this construction respects identity functions and composition of functions in both arguments.

In the language of category theory (remark 3.3), this is summarized by saying
that the *product topological space* construction \((-) \times (-)\) extends to a *functor*
from the *product category* of the *category Top* with itself to itself:

\((-) \times (-) : \text{Top} \times \text{Top} \to \text{Top}.\)

**Examples**

We discuss here some basic examples of *continuous functions* (def. 3.1) between *topological spaces* (def. 2.3) to get a feeling for the nature of the concept. But as with topological spaces themselves, continuous functions between them are ubiquitous in mathematics, and no list will exhaust all classes of examples. Below in the section *Universal constructions* we discuss a general principle that serves to produce examples of continuous functions with prescribed "universal properties".

**Example 3.5. (point space is *terminal*)**

For \((X, \tau)\) any *topological space*, then there is a unique continuous function

\[ X \to * \]

from \(X\) to the *point topological space* (def. 2.10).

In the language of *category theory* (remark 3.3), this says that the point \(*\) is the *terminal object* in the *category Top* of topological spaces.

**Example 3.6. (constant continuous functions)**

For \((X, \tau)\) a *topological space* then for \(x \in X\) any element of the underlying set, there is a unique continuous function (which we denote by the same symbol)

\[ x : * \to X \]

from the *point topological space* (def. 2.10), whose image in \(X\) is that element. Hence there is a *natural bijection*

\[ \left\{ * \to X \mid f \text{ continuous} \right\} \cong X \]

between the continuous functions from the point to any topological space, and the underlying set of that topological space.

More generally, for \((X, \tau_X)\) and \((Y, \tau_Y)\) two topological spaces, then a continuous function \(X \to Y\) between them is called a *constant function* with value some point \(y \in Y\) if it factors through the point spaces as

\[ \text{const}_y : X \twoheadleftarrow * \twoheadrightarrow Y.\]

**Definition 3.7. (locally constant function)**
For \((X, \tau_X), (Y, \tau_Y)\) two \textbf{topological spaces}, then a \textbf{continuous function} 
\(f: (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y)\) (def. 3.1) is called \textit{locally constant} if every point \(x \in X\) has a \textbf{neighbourhood} on which the function is constant.

**Example 3.8. (\textbf{continuous functions into and out of \textit{discrete} and \textit{codiscrete spaces})**

Let \(S\) be a \textit{set} and let \((X, \tau)\) be a \textbf{topological space}. Recall from example 2.13

1. the \textbf{discrete topological space} \(\text{Disc}(S)\);
2. the \textbf{co-discrete topological space} \(\text{CoDisc}(S)\)

on the underlying set \(S\). Then \textbf{continuous functions} (def. 3.1) into/out of these satisfy:

1. every \textbf{function} (of sets) \(\text{Disc}(S) \to X\) out of a discrete space is \textit{continuous};
2. every \textbf{function} (of sets) \(X \to \text{CoDisc}(S)\) into a codiscrete space is \textit{continuous}.

Also:

- every \textbf{continuous function} \((X, \tau) \to \text{Disc}(S)\) into a discrete space is \textit{locally constant} (def. 3.7).

**Example 3.9. (\textbf{diagonal})**

For \(X\) a \textit{set}, its \textbf{diagonal} \(\Delta_X\) is the \textbf{function} from \(X\) to the \textbf{Cartesian product} of \(X\) with itself, given by

\[
\begin{align*}
X & \overset{\Delta_X}{\to} X \times X \\
x & \mapsto (x, x)
\end{align*}
\]

For \((X, \tau)\) a \textbf{topological space}, then the diagonal is a \textbf{continuous function} to the \textbf{product topological space} (def. 2.18) of \(X\) with itself.

\[
\Delta_X : (X, \tau) \to (X \times X, \tau_{X \times X})
\]

To see this, it is sufficient to see that the \textbf{preimages} of \textbf{basic opens} \(U_1 \times U_2\) in \(\tau_{X \times X}\) are in \(\tau_X\). But these pre-images are the \textbf{intersections} \(U_1 \cap U_2 \subseteq X\), which are open by the axioms on the topology \(\tau_X\).

**Example 3.10. (\textbf{image factorization})**

Let \(f: (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y)\) be a \textbf{continuous function}.

Write \(f(X) \subseteq Y\) for the \textbf{image} of \(f\) on underlying sets, and consider the resulting factorization of \(f\) through \(f(X)\) on underlying sets:

\[
\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, surjective] & f(X) \arrow[r, injective] & Y
\end{tikzcd}
\]
There are the following two ways to topologize the image $f(X)$ such as to make this a sequence of two continuous functions:

1. By example 2.16 $f(X)$ inherits a **subspace topology** from $(Y, \tau_Y)$ which evidently makes the inclusion $f(X) \rightarrow Y$ a **continuous function**.

Observe that this also makes $X \rightarrow f(X)$ a continuous function: An open subset of $f(X)$ in this case is of the form $U_Y \cap f(X)$ for $U_Y \in \tau_Y$, and $f^{-1}(U_Y \cap f(X)) = f^{-1}(U_Y)$, which is open in $X$ since $f$ is continuous.

2. By example 2.17 $f(X)$ inherits a **quotient topology** from $(X, \tau_X)$ which evidently makes the surjection $X \rightarrow f(X)$ a **continuous function**.

Observe that this also makes $f(X) \rightarrow Y$ a continuous function: The preimage under this map of an open subset $U_Y \in \tau_Y$ is the restriction $U_Y \cap f(X)$, and the pre-image of that under $X \rightarrow f(X)$ is $f^{-1}(U_Y)$, as before, which is open since $f$ is continuous, and therefore $U_Y \cap f(X)$ is open in the quotient topology.

Beware that in general a continuous function itself (as opposed to its pre-image function) neither preserves **open subsets**, nor **closed subsets**, as the following examples show:

**Example 3.11.** Regard the **real numbers** $\mathbb{R}$ as the 1-dimensional **Euclidean space** (example 1.6) equipped with the **metric topology** (example 2.9). For $a \in \mathbb{R}$ the **constant function** (example 3.6)

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{R} & \xrightarrow{\text{const}_a} & \mathbb{R} \\
X & \mapsto & a
\end{array}
\]

maps every **open subset** $U \subset \mathbb{R}$ to the **singleton set** $\{a\} \subset \mathbb{R}$, which is not open.

**Example 3.12.** Write $\text{Disc}(\mathbb{R})$ for the set of **real numbers** equipped with its **discrete topology** (def. 2.13) and $\mathbb{R}$ for the set of **real numbers** equipped with its **Euclidean metric topology** (example 1.6, example 2.9). Then the **identity function** on the underlying sets

\[
\text{id}_\mathbb{R} : \text{Disc}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}
\]

is a **continuous function** (a special case of example 3.8). A **singleton subset** $\{a\} \in \text{Disc}(\mathbb{R})$ is open, but regarded as a subset $\{a\} \in \mathbb{R}$ it is not open.

**Example 3.13.** Consider the set of **real numbers** $\mathbb{R}$ equipped with its **Euclidean metric topology** (example 1.6, example 2.9). The **exponential function**

\[
\exp(-) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}
\]

maps all of $\mathbb{R}$ (which is a closed subset, since $\mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R} \setminus \emptyset$) to the **open interval**
(0, ∞) ⊂ ℝ, which is not closed.

Those continuous functions that do happen to preserve open or closed subsets get a special name:

**Definition 3.14. (open maps and closed maps)**

A continuous function \( f : (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y) \) (def. 3.1) is called

- an **open map** if the image under \( f \) of an open subset of \( X \) is an open subset of \( Y \);

- a **closed map** if the image under \( f \) of a closed subset of \( X \) (def. 2.21) is a closed subset of \( Y \).

**Example 3.15. (projections are open)**

For \((X_1, \tau_{X_1})\) and \((X_2, \tau_{X_2})\) two topological spaces, then the projection maps

\[
\pi_i : (X_1 \times X_2, \tau_{X_1 \times X_2}) \to (X_i, \tau_{X_i})
\]

out of their **product topological space** (def. 2.18)

\[
\begin{align*}
X_1 \times X_2 & \xrightarrow{\pi_1} X_1 \\
(x_1, x_2) & \mapsto x_1 \\
X_1 \times X_2 & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} X_2 \\
(x_1, x_2) & \mapsto x_2
\end{align*}
\]

are **open maps** (def. 3.14).

Below in prop. 6.24 we find a large supply of **closed maps**.

Sometimes it is useful to recognize **quotient topological space** projections via **saturated subsets** (essentially another term for pre-images of underlying sets):

**Definition 3.16. (saturated subset)**

Let \( f : X \to Y \) be a function of sets. Then a subset \( S \subset X \) is called an **\( f \)-saturated subset** (or just saturated subset, if \( f \) is understood) if \( S \) is the pre-image of its image:

\[
(S \subset X \ f\text{-saturated}) \iff (S = f^{-1}(f(S))).
\]

Here \( f^{-1}(f(S)) \) is also called the **\( f \)-saturation** of \( S \).

**Example 3.17. (pre-images are saturated subsets)**

For \( f : X \to Y \) any function of sets, and \( S_Y \subset Y \) any subset of \( Y \), then the
Observe that:

**Lemma 3.18.** Let \( f : X \to Y \) be a function. Then a subset \( S \subset X \) is \( f \)-saturated (def. 3.16) precisely if its complement \( X \setminus S \) is saturated.

**Proposition 3.19.** *(recognition of quotient topologies)*

A continuous function (def. 3.1)

\[
f : (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y)
\]

whose underlying function \( f : X \to Y \) is surjective exhibits \( \tau_Y \) as the corresponding quotient topology (def. 2.17) precisely if \( f \) sends open and \( f \)-saturated subsets in \( X \) (def. 3.16) to open subsets of \( Y \). By lemma 3.18 this is the case precisely if it sends closed and \( f \)-saturated subsets to closed subsets.

We record the following technical lemma about saturated subspaces, which we will need below to prove prop. 6.28.

**Lemma 3.20.** *(saturated open neighbourhoods of saturated closed subsets under closed maps)*

Let

1. \( f : (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y) \) be a closed map (def. 3.14);
2. \( C \subset X \) be a closed subset of \( X \) (def. 2.21) which is \( f \)-saturated (def. 3.16);
3. \( U \ni C \) be an open subset containing \( C \);

then there exists a smaller open subset \( V \) still containing \( C \)

\[
U \ni V \ni C
\]

and such that \( V \) is still \( f \)-saturated.

**Proof.** We claim that the complement of \( X \) by the \( f \)-saturation (def. 3.16) of the complement of \( X \) by \( U \)

\[
V := X \setminus (f^{-1}(f(X \setminus U)))
\]

has the desired properties. To see this, observe first that

1. the complement \( X \setminus U \) is closed, since \( U \) is assumed to be open;
2. hence the image \( f(X \setminus U) \) is closed, since \( f \) is assumed to be a closed map;
3. hence the pre-image \( f^{-1}(f(X \setminus U)) \) is closed, since \( f \) is continuous (using prop. 3.2), therefore its complement \( V \) is indeed open;
4. this pre-image $f^{-1}(f(X\backslash U))$ is saturated (by example 3.17) and hence also its complement $V$ is saturated (by lemma 3.18).

Therefore it now only remains to see that $U \triangleright V \triangleright C$.

By de Morgan’s law (remark 2.22) the inclusion $U \triangleright V$ is equivalent to the inclusion $f^{-1}(f(X\backslash U)) \triangleright X\backslash U$, which is clearly the case.

The inclusion $V \triangleright C$ is equivalent to $f^{-1}(f(X\backslash U)) \cap C = \emptyset$. Since $C$ is saturated by assumption, this is equivalent to $f^{-1}(f(X\backslash U)) \cap f^{-1}(f(C)) = \emptyset$. This in turn holds precisely if $f(X\backslash U) \cap f(C) = \emptyset$. Since $C$ is saturated, this holds precisely if $X\backslash U \cap C = \emptyset$, and this is true by the assumption that $U \triangleright C$. ■

Homeomorphisms

With the objects (topological spaces) and the morphisms (continuous functions) of the category Top thus defined (remark 3.3), we obtain the concept of “sameness” in topology. To make this precise, one says that a morphism $\phi: (\mathcal{X}, \tau_\mathcal{X}) \to (\mathcal{Y}, \tau_\mathcal{Y})$ in a category is an isomorphism if there exists a morphism going the other way around

$$X \xleftarrow{g} Y$$

which is an inverse in the sense that both its compositions with $f$ yield an identity morphism:

$$f \circ g = \text{id}_Y \quad \text{and} \quad g \circ f = \text{id}_X.$$

Since such $g$ is unique if it exist, one often writes “$f^{-1}$” for this inverse morphism. However, in the context of topology then $f^{-1}$ usually refers to the pre-image function of a given function $f$, and in these notes we will stick to this usage and never use “$(-)^{-1}$” to denote inverses.

Definition 3.21. (homeomorphisms)

An isomorphism in the category Top (remark 3.3) of topological spaces (def. 2.3) with continuous functions between them (def. 3.1) is called a homeomorphism.

Hence a homeomorphism is a continuous function

$$f: (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y)$$

between two topological spaces $(X, \tau_X), (Y, \tau_Y)$ such that there exists another continuous function the other way around
such that their **composites** are the **identity functions** on $X$ and $Y$, respectively:

\[ f \circ g = \text{id}_Y \quad \text{and} \quad g \circ f = \text{id}_X. \]

We notationally indicate that a continuous function is a homeomorphism by the symbol "\( \cong \)".

\[ f : (X, \tau_X) \cong (Y, \tau_Y). \]

If there is some, possibly unspecified, homeomorphism between topological spaces $(X, \tau_X)$ and $(Y, \tau_Y)$, then we also write

\[ (X, \tau_X) \cong (Y, \tau_Y) \]

and say that the two topological spaces are **homeomorphic**.

A **property/predicate** $P$ of **topological spaces** which is **invariant** under homeomorphism in that

\[ ((X, \tau_X) \cong (Y, \tau_Y)) \Rightarrow (P(X, \tau_X) \iff P(Y, \tau_Y)) \]

is called a **topological property** or **topological invariant**.

**Remark 3.22.** If $f : (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y)$ is a **homeomorphism** (def. 3.21) with inverse continuous function $g$, then

1. also $g$ is a homeomorphism, with inverse continuous function $f$;
2. the underlying function of sets $f : X \to Y$ of a homeomorphism $f$ is necessarily a **bijection**, with inverse bijection $g$.

But beware that not every **continuous function** which is **bijective** on underlying sets is a homeomorphism. While an **inverse function** $g$ will exists on the level of functions of sets, this inverse may fail to be continuous:

**Counter Example 3.23.** Consider the **continuous function**

\[
\begin{align*}
[0, 2\pi) & \quad \to \quad S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \\
t & \quad \mapsto \quad (\cos(t), \sin(t))
\end{align*}
\]
from the half-open interval (def. 1.12) to the unit circle \( S^1 \coloneqq S_0(1) \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \) (def. 1.2), regarded as a topological subspace (example 2.16) of the Euclidean plane (example 1.6).

The underlying function of sets of \( \mathbb{C} \) is a bijection. The inverse function of sets however fails to be continuous at \( (1,0) \in S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \). Hence this \( f \) is not a homeomorphism.

Indeed, below we see that the two topological spaces \([0,2\pi)\) and \( S^1 \) are distinguished by topological invariants, meaning that they cannot be homeomorphic via any (other) choice of homeomorphism. For example \( S^1 \) is a compact topological space (def. 6.4) while \([0,2\pi)\) is not, and \( S^1 \) has a non-trivial fundamental group, while that of \([0,2\pi)\) is trivial (this prop.).

Below in example 6.29 we discuss a practical criterion under which continuous bijections are homeomorphisms after all. But immediate from the definitions is the following characterization:

**Proposition 3.24. (homeomorphisms are the continuous and open bijections)**

Let \( f : (X, \tau_X) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_Y) \) be a continuous function between topological spaces (def. 3.1). Then the following are equivalence:

1. \( f \) is a homeomorphism;
2. \( f \) is a bijection and an open map (def. 3.14);
3. \( f \) is a bijection and a closed map (def. 3.14).

**Proof.** It is clear from the definition that a homeomorphism in particular has to be a bijection. The condition that the inverse function \( Y \leftarrow X : g \) be continuous means that the pre-image function of \( g \) sends open subsets to open subsets. But by \( g \) being the inverse to \( f \), that pre-image function is equal to \( f \), regarded as a function on subsets:

\[
g^{-1} = f : P(X) \rightarrow P(Y)
\]

Hence \( g^{-1} \) sends opens to opens precisely if \( f \) does, which is the case precisely if \( f \) is an open map, by definition. This shows the equivalence of the first two items. The equivalence between the first and the third follows similarly via prop. 3.2. □

Now we consider some actual examples of homeomorphisms:

**Example 3.25. (concrete point homeomorphic to abstract point space)**

Let \( (X, \tau_X) \) be a non-empty topological space, and let \( x \in X \) be any point. Regard the corresponding singleton subset \( \{x\} \subset X \) as equipped with its subspace
topology $\tau_{(x)}$ (example 2.16). Then this is homeomorphic (def. 3.21) to the abstract point space from example 2.10:

$([x], \tau_{(x)}) \cong *$.

**Example 3.26. (open interval homeomorphic to the real line)**

Regard the real line as the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) with its metric topology (example 2.9).

Then the open interval $(-1, 1) \subset \mathbb{R}$ (def. 1.12) regarded with its subspace topology (example 2.16) is homeomorphic (def. 3.21) to all of the real line $(-1, 1) \cong \mathbb{R}$.

An inverse pair of continuous functions is for instance given (via example 1.9) by

$$f : \mathbb{R} \to (-1, +1)$$

$$x \mapsto \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$$

and

$$g : (-1, +1) \to \mathbb{R}$$

$$x \mapsto \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}.$$ 

But there are many other choices for $f$ and $g$ that yield a homeomorphism.

Similarly, for all $a < b \in \mathbb{R}$

1. the open intervals $(a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}$ (example 1.12) equipped with their subspace topology are all homeomorphic to each other,

2. the closed intervals $[a, b]$ are all homeomorphic to each other,

3. the half-open intervals of the form $[a, b)$ are all homeomorphic to each other;

4. the half-open intervals of the form $(a, b]$ are all homeomorphic to each other.

Generally, every open ball in $\mathbb{R}^n$ (def. 1.2) is homeomorphic to all of $\mathbb{R}^n$:

$$(B^o_\varepsilon(0) \subset \mathbb{R}^n) \cong \mathbb{R}^n.$$ 

While mostly the interest in a given homeomorphism is in it being non-obvious from the definitions, many homeomorphisms that appear in practice exhibit “obvious re-identifications” for which it is of interest to leave them consistently implicit:

**Example 3.27. (homeomorphisms between iterated product spaces)**
Let \((X, \tau_X), (Y, \tau_Y)\) and \((Z, \tau_Z)\) be topological spaces.

Then:

1. There is an evident homeomorphism between the two ways of bracketing the three factors when forming their product topological space (def. 2.18), called the associator:
   \[
   \alpha_{X,Y,Z} : ((X, \tau_X) \times (Y, \tau_Y)) \times (Z, \tau_Z) \xrightarrow{\simeq} (X, \tau_X) \times ((Y, \tau_Y) \times (Z, \tau_Z)).
   \]

2. There are evident homeomorphisms between \((X, \tau)\) and its product topological space (def. 2.18) with the point space \(*\) (example 2.10), called the left and right unitors:
   \[
   \lambda_X : * \times (X, \tau_X) \xrightarrow{\simeq} (X, \tau_X)
   \]
   and
   \[
   \rho_X : (X, \tau_X) \times * \xrightarrow{\simeq} (X, \tau_X).
   \]

3. There is an evident homeomorphism between the results of the two orders in which to form their product topological spaces (def. 2.18), called the braiding:
   \[
   \beta_{X,Y} : (X, \tau_X) \times (Y, \tau_Y) \xrightarrow{\simeq} (Y, \tau_Y) \times (X, \tau_X).
   \]

Moreover, all these homeomorphisms are compatible with each other, in that they make the following diagrams commute (recall remark 3.3):

1. (triangle identity)
   \[
   (X \times *) \times Y \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X,Y,Y}} X \times (* \times Y) \quad \Downarrow \quad \rho_{X \times \text{id}_Y} \quad \leftarrow \quad \leftarrow \quad \leftarrow \quad \text{id}_X \times \lambda_Y
   \]
   \[
   X \times Y
   \]

2. (pentagon identity)
   \[
   (W \times X) \times (Y \times Z) \xrightarrow{\alpha_{W, X \times Y, Z}} (W \times (X \times (Y \times Z))) \quad \Downarrow \quad (W \times (X \times Y)) \times Z
   \]
   \[
   \Downarrow \quad \alpha_{W, X \times Y, Z} \quad \Downarrow \quad \alpha_{W, X \times Y, Z}
   \]
   \[
   W \times ((X \times Y) \times Z)
   \]

3. (hexagon identities)
\[(X \times Y) \times Z \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X,Y,Z}} X \times (Y \times Z) \xrightarrow{\beta_{X,Y,Z}} (Y \times Z) \times X\]
\[\downarrow \beta_{X,Y} \times \text{id}_Z \quad \downarrow \alpha_{Y,Z,X}\]
\[(Y \times X) \times Z \xrightarrow{\alpha_{Y,X,Z}} Y \times (X \times Z) \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Y \times \beta_{X,Y}} Y \times (Z \times X)\]

and

\[X \times (Y \times Z) \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X,Y,Z}} (X \times Y) \times Z \xrightarrow{\beta_{X,Y,Z}} Z \times (X \times Y)\]
\[\downarrow \text{id}_X \times \beta_{Y,Z} \quad \downarrow \alpha_{X,Y}^{\text{inv}}\]
\[X \times (Z \times Y) \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X,Z,Y}} (X \times Z) \times Y \xrightarrow{\beta_{X,Z} \times \text{id}} (Z \times X) \times Y\]

4. (symmetry)
\[\beta_{Y,X} \circ \beta_{X,Y} = \text{id} : (X_1 \times X_2 \tau_{X_1 \times X_2}) \to (X_1 \times X_2 \tau_{X_1 \times X_2})\]

In the language of category theory (remark 3.3), all this is summarized by saying that the functorial construction \((-) \times (-)\) of product topological spaces (example 3.4) gives the category \(\text{Top}\) of topological spaces the structure of a monoidal category which moreover is symmetrically braided.

From this, a basic result of category theory, the MacLane coherence theorem, guarantees that there is no essential ambiguity re-backeting arbitrary iterations of the binary product topological space construction, as long as the above homeomorphisms are understood.

Accordingly, we may write
\[(X_1, \tau_1) \times (X_2, \tau_2) \times \cdots \times (X_n, \tau_n)\]

for iterated product topological spaces without putting parenthesis.

The following are a sequence of examples all of the form that an abstractly constructed topological space is homeomorphic to a certain subspace of a Euclidean space. These examples are going to be useful in further developments below, for example in the proof below of the Heine-Borel theorem (prop. 6.23).

- **Products of intervals** are homeomorphic to hypercubes (example 3.28).
- The closed interval glued at its endpoints is homeomorphic to the circle (example 3.29).
- The cylinder, the Möbius strip and the torus are all homeomorphic to quotients of the square (example 3.30).

**Example 3.28. (product of closed intervals homeomorphic to hypercubes)**

Let \(n \in \mathbb{N}\), and let \([a_i, b_i] \subset \mathbb{R}\) for \(i \in \{1, \cdots, n\}\) be \(n\) closed intervals in the real line.
(example 1.12), regarded as topological subspaces of the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) with its metric topology (example 2.9). Then the product topological space (def. 2.18, example 3.27) of all these intervals is homeomorphic (def. 3.21) to the corresponding topological subspace of the \( n \)-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6):

\[
[a_1, b_1] \times [a_2, b_2] \times \cdots \times [a_n, b_n] \cong \{ \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n | \forall i (a_i \leq x_i \leq b_i) \} \subset \mathbb{R}^n.
\]

**Proof.** There is a canonical bijection between the underlying sets. It remains to see that this, as well and its inverse, are continuous functions. For this it is sufficient to see that under this bijection the defining basis (def. 2.7) for the product topology is also a basis for the subspace topology. But this is immediate from lemma 2.8. □

**Example 3.29. (closed interval glued at endpoints homeomorphic circle)**

As topological spaces, the closed interval \([0,1]\) (def. 1.12) with its two endpoints identified is homeomorphic (def. 3.21) to the standard circle:

\([0,1]/(0 \sim 1) \approx S^1\).

More in detail: let

\(S^1 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2\)

be the unit circle in the plane

\(S^1 = \{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 | x^2 + y^2 = 1\}\)

equipped with the subspace topology (example 2.16) of the plane \(\mathbb{R}^2\), which is itself equipped with its standard metric topology (example 2.9).

Moreover, let

\([0,1]/(0 \sim 1)\)

be the quotient topological space (example 2.17) obtained from the interval \([0,1] \subset \mathbb{R}^1\) with its subspace topology by applying the equivalence relation which identifies the two endpoints (and nothing else).

Consider then the function

\(f : [0,1] \to S^1\)

given by

\(t \mapsto (\cos(t), \sin(t))\).

This has the property that \(f(0) = f(1)\), so that it descends to the quotient topological space.
We claim that $\tilde{f}$ is a homeomorphism (definition 3.21).

First of all it is immediate that $\tilde{f}$ is a continuous function. This follows immediately from the fact that $f$ is a continuous function and by definition of the quotient topology (example 2.17).

So we need to check that $\tilde{f}$ has a continuous inverse function. Clearly the restriction of $f$ itself to the open interval $(0,1)$ has a continuous inverse. It fails to have a continuous inverse on $[0,1)$ and on $(0,1]$ and fails to have an inverse at all on $[0,1]$, due to the fact that $f(0) = f(1)$. But the relation quotiented out in $[0,1]/(0 \sim 1)$ is exactly such as to fix this failure.

**Example 3.30. (cylinder, Möbius strip and torus homeomorphic to quotients of the square)**

The square $[0,1]^2$ with two of its sides identified is the cylinder, and with also the other two sides identified is the torus:

If the sides are identified with opposite orientation, the result is the Möbius strip:

*graphics grabbed from Lawson 03*

Important examples of pairs of spaces that are not homeomorphic include the
following:

**Theorem 3.31. (topological invariance of dimension)**

For \( n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N} \) but \( n_1 \neq n_2 \), then the Euclidean spaces \( \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \) and \( \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \) (example 1.6, example 2.9) are not homeomorphic.

More generally, an open subset in \( \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \) is never homeomorphic to an open subset in \( \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \) if \( n_1 \neq n_2 \).

The proofs of theorem 3.31 are not elementary, in contrast to how obvious the statement seems to be intuitively. One approach is to use tools from algebraic topology: One assigns topological invariants to topological spaces, notably classes in ordinary cohomology or in topological K-theory), quantities that are invariant under homeomorphism, and then shows that these classes coincide for \( \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \setminus \{0\} \) and for \( \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \setminus \{0\} \) precisely only if \( n_1 = n_2 \).

One indication that topological invariance of dimension is not an elementary consequence of the axioms of topological spaces is that a related “intuitively obvious” statement is in fact false: One might think that there is no surjective continuous function \( \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \to \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \) if \( n_1 < n_2 \). But there are: these are called the Peano curves.

### 4. Separation axioms

The plain definition of topological space (above) happens to admit examples where distinct points or distinct subsets of the underlying set appear as more-or-less unseparable as seen by the topology on that set.

The extreme class of examples of topological spaces in which the open subsets do not distinguish distinct underlying points, or in fact any distinct subsets, are the codiscrete spaces (example 2.13). This does occur in practice:

**Example 4.1. (real numbers quotiented by rational numbers)**

Consider the real line \( \mathbb{R} \) regarded as the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) with its metric topology (example 2.9) and consider the equivalence relation \( \sim \) on \( \mathbb{R} \) which identifies two real numbers if they differ by a rational number:

\[
(x \sim y) \Leftrightarrow \exists \left( \frac{p}{q} \in \mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \right) \left( x = y + \frac{p}{q} \right).
\]

Then the quotient topological space (def. 2.17)

\[
\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Q} := \mathbb{R}/\sim
\]

is a codiscrete topological space (def. 2.13), hence its topology does not distinguish any distinct proper subsets.
Here are some less extreme examples:

**Example 4.2. (open neighbourhoods in the Sierpinski space)**

Consider the Sierpinski space from example 2.11, whose underlying set consists of two points \( \{0, 1\} \), and whose open subsets form the set \( \tau = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{0, 1\}\} \). This means that the only (open) neighbourhood of the point \( \{0\} \) is the entire space. Incidentally, also the topological closure of \( \{0\} \) (def. 2.21) is the entire space.

**Example 4.3. (line with two origins)**

Consider the disjoint union space \( \mathbb{R} \sqcup \mathbb{R} \) (example 2.15) of two copies of the real line \( \mathbb{R} \) regarded as the 1-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) with its metric topology (example 2.9), which is equivalently the product topological space (example 2.18) of \( \mathbb{R} \) with the discrete topological space on the 2-element set (example 2.13):

\[
\mathbb{R} \sqcup \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{R} \times \text{Disc}(\{0, 1\})
\]

Moreover, consider the equivalence relation on the underlying set which identifies every point \( x_i \) in the \( i \)th copy of \( \mathbb{R} \) with the corresponding point in the other, the \((1-i)\)th copy, except when \( x = 0 \):

\[
\left( x_i \sim y_j \right) \iff \left( (x = y) \text{ and } ((x \neq 0) \text{ or } (i = j)) \right).
\]

The quotient topological space by this equivalence relation (def. 2.17)

\[
(\mathbb{R} \sqcup \mathbb{R})/\sim
\]

is called the line with two origins. These “two origins” are the points \( 0_0 \) and \( 0_1 \).

We claim that in this space every neighbourhood of \( 0_0 \) intersects every neighbourhood of \( 0_1 \).

Because, by definition of the quotient space topology, the open neighbourhoods of \( 0_i \in (\mathbb{R} \sqcup \mathbb{R})/\sim \) are precisely those that contain subsets of the form

\[
(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)_i := (-\varepsilon, 0) \cup \{0_i\} \cup (0, \varepsilon).
\]

But this means that the “two origins” \( 0_0 \) and \( 0_1 \) may not be separated by neighbourhoods, since the intersection of \( (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)_0 \) with \( (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)_1 \) is always non-empty:

\[
(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)_0 \cap (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)_1 = (-\varepsilon, 0) \cup (0, \varepsilon).
\]

In many applications one wants to exclude at least some such exotic examples of topological spaces from the discussion and instead concentrate on those examples for which the topology recognizes the separation of distinct points, or of more general disjoint subsets. The relevant conditions to be imposed on top of the plain
axioms of a topological space are hence known as separation axioms which we discuss in the following.

These axioms are all of the form of saying that two subsets (of certain kinds) in the topological space are ‘separated’ from each other in one sense if they are ‘separated’ in a (generally) weaker sense. For example the weakest axiom (called $T_0$) demands that if two points are distinct as elements of the underlying set of points, then there exists at least one open subset that contains one but not the other.

In this fashion one may impose a hierarchy of stronger axioms. For example demanding that given two distinct points, then each of them is contained in some open subset not containing the other ($T_1$) or that such a pair of open subsets around two distinct points may in addition be chosen to be disjoint ($T_2$). This last condition, $T_2$, also called the Hausdorff condition is the most common among all separation axioms. Historically this axiom was originally taken as part of the definition of topological spaces, and it is still often (but by no means always) considered by default.

However, there are respectable areas of mathematics that involve topological spaces where the Hausdorff axiom fails, but a weaker axiom is still satisfied, called sobriety. This is the case notably in algebraic geometry (schemes are sober) and in computer science (Vickers 89). These sober topological spaces are singled out by the fact that they are entirely characterized by their sets of open subsets with their union and intersection structure (as in def. 2.32) and may hence be understood independently from their underlying sets of points.

All separation axioms are satisfied by metric spaces (def. 1.1), from whom the concept of topological space was originally abstracted above. Hence imposing some of them may also be understood as gauging just how far one allows topological spaces to generalize away from metric spaces

$T_n$ spaces

There are many variants of separation axioms. The classical ones are labeled $T_n$ (for German "Trennungsaxiom"). These we now introduce in def. 4.4 and def. 4.13:

**Definition 4.4. (the first three separation axioms)**
Let \((X, \tau)\) be a **topological space** (def. 2.3).

For \(x \neq y \in X\) any two points in the underlying set of \(X\) which are not equal as elements of this set, consider the following **propositions**:

- **(T0)** There exists a **neighbourhood** of one of the two points which does not contain the other point.

- **(T1)** There exist **neighbourhoods** of both points which do not contain the other point.

- **(T2)** There exists **neighbourhoods** of both points which do not intersect each other._

The topological space \(X\) is called a **\(T_n\)-topological space** or just **\(T_n\)-space**, for short, if it satisfies condition \(T_n\) above for all pairs of distinct points.

A \(T_0\)-topological space is also called a **Kolmogorov space**.

A \(T_2\)-topological space is also called a **Hausdorff topological space**.

For definiteness, we re-state these conditions formally. Write \(x, y \in X\) for points in \(X\), write \(U_x, U_y \in \tau\) for open **neighbourhoods** of these points. Then:

- **(T0)** \(\forall_{x \neq y} \left( \exists_{U_y} (\{x\} \cap U_y = \emptyset) \right) \text{ or } \left( \exists_{U_x} (U_x \cap \{y\} = \emptyset) \right)\)

- **(T1)** \(\forall_{x \neq y} \left( \exists_{U_x, U_y} ((\{x\} \cap U_y = \emptyset) \text{ and } (U_x \cap \{y\} = \emptyset)) \right)\)

- **(T2)** \(\forall_{x \neq y} \left( \exists_{U_x, U_y} (U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset) \right)\)

The following is evident but important:

**Proposition 4.5.** (\(T_n\) are topological properties of increasing strength)

The separation properties \(T_n\) from def. 4.4 are **topological properties** in that if two topological spaces are **homeomorphic** (def. 3.21) then one of them satisfies \(T_n\) precisely if the other does.

Moreover, these properties imply each other as

\[ T2 \Rightarrow T1 \Rightarrow T0. \]

**Example 4.6.** Examples of topological spaces that are not **Hausdorff** (def. 4.4) include

1. the **Sierpinski space** (example 4.2),
2. the line with two origins (example 4.3),
3. the quotient topological space $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Q}$ (example 4.1).

**Example 4.7. (finite $T_1$-spaces are discrete)**

For a finite topological space $(X, \tau)$, hence one for which the underlying set $X$ is a finite set, the following are equivalent:

1. $(X, \tau)$ is $T_1$ (def. 4.4);
2. $(X, \tau)$ is a discrete topological space (def. 2.13).

**Example 4.8. (metric spaces are Hausdorff)**

Every metric space (def 1.1), regarded as a topological space via its metric topology (example 2.9) is a Hausdorff topological space (def. 4.4).

**Example 4.9. (subspace of $T_n$-space is $T_n$)**

Let $(X, \tau)$ be a topological space satisfying the $T_n$ separation axiom for some $n \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ according to def. 4.4. Then also every topological subspace $S \subset X$ (example 2.16) satisfies $T_n$.

**Separation in terms of topological closures**

The conditions $T_0$, $T_1$ and $T_2$ have the following equivalent formulation in terms of topological closures (def. 2.21).

**Proposition 4.10. ($T_0$ in terms of topological closures)**

A topological space $(X, \tau)$ is $T_0$ (def. 4.4) precisely if the function $\text{Cl}(-): X \rightarrow \text{IrrClSub}(X)$ forms topological closures (def. 2.21) of singleton subsets from the underlying set of $X$ to the set of irreducible closed subsets of $X$ (def. 2.28, which is well defined according to example 2.29), is injective:

$$\text{Cl}(-): X \rightarrow \text{IrrClSub}(X)$$

**Proof.** In one direction, assume that $X$ is $T_0$, and consider $x, y \in X$ such that $\text{Cl}([x]) = \text{Cl}([y])$. We need to show that $x = y$.

Since the closure of a point is the complement of the union of the open subsets not containing the point (lemma 2.23), this means that the union of open subsets that do not contain $x$ is the same as the union of open subsets that do not contain $y$. Hence every open subset that does not contain $x$ also does not contain $y$, and vice versa. By $T_0$ this is not the case when $x \neq y$, hence it follows that $x = y$.

Conversely, assume that if $x, y \in X$ are such that $\text{Cl}(x) = \text{Cl}(y)$ then $x = y$. We need to show that if $x \neq y$ then there exists an open neighbourhood around one of the
two points not containing the other. Hence consider \( x \neq y \in X \). By assumption it follows that \( \text{Cl}(\{x\}) \neq \text{Cl}(\{y\}) \). Since, as before, the closure of a point is the complement of the union of the open subsets not containing the point, this means that there must be at least one open subset which contains \( x \) but not \( y \), or vice versa. By definition this means that \((X, \tau)\) is \( T_0 \).

**Proposition 4.11.** (\( T_1 \) in terms of topological closures)

A topological space \((X, \tau)\) is \( T_1 \) (def. 4.4) precisely if all its points are closed points (def. 2.21).

**Proof.** Assume first that \((X, \tau)\) is \( T_1 \). We need to show that for every point \( x \in X \) we have \( \text{Cl}(\{x\}) = \{x\} \). Since the closure of a point is the complement of the union of all open subsets not containing this point, this is the case precisely if the union of all open subsets not containing \( x \) is \( X \setminus \{x\} \), hence if every point \( y \neq x \) is member of at least one open subset not containing \( x \). This is true by \( T_1 \).

Conversely, assume that for all \( x \in X \) then \( \text{Cl}(\{x\}) = \{x\} \). Then for \( x \neq y \in X \) two distinct points we need to produce an open subset of \( y \) that does not contain \( x \). But as before, since \( \text{Cl}(\{x\}) \) is the complement of the union of all open subsets that do not contain \( x \), the assumption \( \text{Cl}(x) = \{x\} \) means that \( y \) is member of one of these open subsets that do not contain \( x \).

**Proposition 4.12.** (\( T_2 \) in terms of topological closures)

A topological space \((X, \tau_X)\) is \( T_2 \= \text{Hausdorff} \) (def. 4.4) precisely if the diagonal function \( \Delta_X : (X, \tau_X) \to (X \times X, \tau_X \times \tau_X) \) (example 3.9) is a closed map (def. 3.14).

**Proof.** If \((X, \tau_X)\) is Hausdorff, then by definition for every pair of distinct points \( x \neq y \in X \) there exists open neighbourhoods \( U_x, U_y \in \tau_X \) such that \( U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset \). In terms of the product topology (example 2.18) this means that every point \((x, y) \in X \times X \) which is not on the diagonal has an open neighbourhood \( U_x \times U_y \) which still does not contain the diagonal. By definition this means that in fact every subset of the diagonal is a closed subset of \( X \times X \), hence in particular those that are in the image under \( \Delta_X \) of closed subsets of \( X \). Hence \( \Delta_X \) is a closed map.

Conversely, if \( \Delta_X \) is a closed map, then the full diagonal (i.e. the image of \( X \) under \( \Delta_X \)) is closed in \( X \times X \), and hence this means that every points \((x, y) \in X \times X \) not on the diagonal has an open neighbourhood \( U_x \times U_y \) not containing the diagonal, i.e. such that \( U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset \). Hence \( X \) is Hausdorff.

**Further separation axioms**

Clearly one may and does consider further variants of the separation axioms \( T_0 \), \( T_1 \) and \( T_2 \) from def. 4.4.

**Definition 4.13.** Let \((X, \tau)\) be topological space (def. 4.4).
Consider the following conditions

- **(T3)** The space \((X, \tau)\) is \(T_1\) (def. 4.4) and for \(x \in X\) a point and \(C \subseteq X\) a closed subset (def. 2.21) not containing \(x\), then there exist disjoint open neighbourhoods \(U_x \ni \{x\}\) and \(U_C \ni C\).

- **(T4)** The space \((X, \tau)\) is \(T_1\) (def. 4.4) and for \(C_1, C_2 \subseteq X\) disjoint closed subsets (def. 2.21) then there exist disjoint open neighbourhoods \(U_{C_i} \ni C_i\).

If \((X, \tau)\) satisfies \(T_3\) it is said to be a \(T_3\)-space also called a regular Hausdorff topological space.

If \((X, \tau)\) satisfies \(T_4\) it is to be a \(T_4\)-space also called a normal Hausdorff topological space.

Observe that:

**Proposition 4.14.** The separation axioms imply each other as

\[
T_4 \Rightarrow T_3 \Rightarrow T_2 \Rightarrow T_1 \Rightarrow T_0
\]

**Proof.** The implications

\[
T_2 \Rightarrow T_1 \Rightarrow T_0
\]

and

\[
T_4 \Rightarrow T_3
\]

are immediate from the definitions. The remaining implication \(T_3 \Rightarrow T_2\) follows with prop. 4.11. □

Hence instead of saying “\(X\) is \(T_1\) and ...” one could just as well phrase the conditions \(T_3\) and \(T_4\) as “\(X\) is \(T_2\) and ...”, which would render the proof of prop. 4.14 even more trivial.

In summary:

**the main Separation Axioms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>numbername</th>
<th>statement</th>
<th>reformulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(T_0)</td>
<td><strong>Kolmogorov</strong></td>
<td>given two distinct points, at least one of them has an open neighbourhood not containing the other point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T_1)</td>
<td><strong>Hausdorff</strong></td>
<td>given two distinct points, both have an open neighbourhood not containing the other point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T_2)</td>
<td><strong>Hausdorff</strong></td>
<td>given two distinct points, they have disjoint open neighbourhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number name</td>
<td>statement</td>
<td>reformulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_3$</td>
<td><strong>regular</strong> Hausdorff</td>
<td>all points are closed; and given two disjoint closed subsets, at least one of them has an open neighbourhood disjoint from the other closed subset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_4$</td>
<td><strong>normal</strong> Hausdorff</td>
<td>all points are closed; and given two disjoint closed subsets, both of them have open neighbourhoods not intersecting the other closed subset</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice that there is a whole zoo of further variants of separation axioms that are considered in the literature. But the above are maybe the main ones. Specifically $T_2 = $ Hausdorff is the most popular one, often considered by default in the literature, when topological spaces are considered.

**$T_n$ reflection**

Not every universal construction of topological spaces applied to $T_n$-spaces results again in a $T_n$ topological space, notably quotient space constructions need not (as in example 4.3).

But at least for $T_0$, $T_1$ and $T_2$ there is a universal way, called reflection (prop. 4.15 below), to approximate any topological space “from the left” by a $T_n$ topological spaces.

Hence if one wishes to work within the full subcategory of the $T_n$ among all topological space, then the correct way to construct quotients and other colimits (see below) is to first construct them as usual quotient topological spaces (example 2.17), and then apply the $T_n$-reflection to the result.

**Proposition 4.15. ($T_n$-reflection)**

Let $n \in \{0, 1, 2\}$. Then for every topological space $X$ there exists a $T_n$-topological space $T_nX$ and a continuous function

$$t_n(X) : X \to T_nX$$

which is the “closest approximation from the left” to $X$ by a $T_n$-topological space, in that for $Y$ any $T_n$-space, then continuous functions of the form

$$f : X \to Y$$

are in bijection with continuous function of the form.
\[ \tilde{f} : T_n X \to Y \]

and such that the bijection is constituted by
\[ f = \tilde{f} \circ t_n(X) : X \xrightarrow{t_n(X)} T_n X \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} Y. \]

Here \( X \xrightarrow{t_n(X)} T_n(X) \) is called the \( T_n \)-reflection of \( X \).

- For \( n = 0 \) this is known as the **Kolmogorov quotient** construction (see prop. 4.18 below).
- For \( n = 2 \) this is known as **Hausdorff reflection** or Hausdorffication or similar.

Moreover, the operation \( T_n(\_\_\) extends to continuous functions \( f : X \to Y \)
\[ (X \to Y) \mapsto (T_n X \xrightarrow{T_n f} T_n Y) \]
such as to preserve composition of functions as well as identity functions:
\[ T_n g \circ T_n f = T_n (g \circ f) \quad , \quad T_n \text{id}_X = \text{id}_{T_n X} \]

Finally, the comparison map is compatible with this in that the following squares commute:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\
\downarrow h_X & & \downarrow h_Y \\
T_n X & \xrightarrow{T_n f} & T_n Y \\
\end{array}
\]

**Remark 4.16. (reflective subcategories)**

In the language of **category theory** (remark 3.3) the \( T_n \)-reflection of prop. 4.15 says that

1. \( T_n(\_\_\_\) is a **functor** \( T_n : \text{Top} \to \text{Top}_{T_n} \) from the category \( \text{Top} \) of topological spaces to the **full subcategory** \( \text{Top}_{T_n} \) of Hausdorff topological spaces;

2. \( t_n(X) : X \to T_n X \) is a **natural transformation** from the identity functor on \( \text{Top} \) to the functor \( t \circ T_n \)

3. \( T_n \)-topological spaces form a **reflective subcategory** of all topological spaces in that \( T_n \) is **left adjoint** to the inclusion functor \( \iota \); this situation is denoted as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Top}_{T_n} \\
\downarrow H \\
\text{Top} \\
\end{array}
\xleftarrow{\iota} 
\]

Generally, an **adjunction** between two **functors**
\[ L : \mathcal{C} \leftrightarrow \mathcal{D} : R \]
is for all pairs of objects \( c \in \mathcal{C}, \ d \in \mathcal{D} \) a **bijection** between sets of **morphisms** of the form
\[
\{L(c) \to d\} \cong \{c \to R(d)\}.
\]
i.e.
\[
\text{Hom}_D(L(c), d) \xrightarrow{\phi_{c,d}} \text{Hom}_C(c, R(d))
\]
and such that these bijections are “**natural**” in that they for all pairs of morphisms \( f : c' \to c \) and \( g : d \to d' \) then the following **diagram commutes**:
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Hom}_D(L(c), d) & \xrightarrow{\phi_{c,d}} & \text{Hom}_C(c, R(d)) \\
g \circ (-) \circ L(f) \downarrow & & \downarrow R(g) \circ (-) \circ f \\
\text{Hom}_C(L(c'), d') & \xrightarrow{\phi_{c',d'}} & \text{Hom}_D(c', R(d'))
\end{array}
\]

There are various ways to see the existence and to construct the \( T_n \)-reflections. The following is the quickest way to see the existence, even though it leaves the actual construction rather implicit.

**Proposition 4.17.** Let \( n \in \{0, 1, 2\} \). Let \((X, \tau)\) be a **topological space** and consider the **equivalence relation** \( \sim \) on the underlying set \( X \) for which \( x \sim y \) precisely if for every **surjective** continuous function \( f : X \to Y \) into any \( T_n \)-topological space \( Y \) we have \( f(x) = f(y) \).

Then the set of **equivalence classes**
\[
T_nX := X / \sim
\]
equipped with the **quotient topology** is a \( T_n \)-topological space, and the quotient map \( t_n(X) : X \to X / \sim \) exhibits the \( T_n \)-reflection of \( X \), according to prop. 4.15.

**Proof.** First we observe that every continuous function \( f : X \to Y \) into a \( T_n \)-topological space \( Y \) factors uniquely via \( t_n(X) \) through a continuous function \( \tilde{f} \)
\[
f = \tilde{f} \circ h_X
\]
where
\[
\tilde{f} : [x] \mapsto f(x).
\]
To see this, first factor \( f \) through its **image** \( f(X) \)
\[
f : X \to f(X) \hookrightarrow Y
\]
equipped with its **subspace topology** as a subspace of \( Y \) (example 3.10). By prop. 4.9 also \( f(X) \) is a \( T_n \)-topological space if \( Y \) is.
It follows by definition of \( t_n(X) \) that the factorization exists at the level of sets as stated, since if \( x_1, x_2 \in X \) have the same equivalence class \( [x_1] = [x_2] \) in \( T_nX \), then by definition they have the same image under all continuous surjective functions to a \( T_n \)-space, hence in particular under \( X \to f(X) \). This means that \( \tilde{f} \) as above is well defined. Moreover, it is clear that this is the unique factorization.

To see that \( \tilde{f} \) is continuous, consider \( U \in Y \) an open subset. We need to show that \( \tilde{f}^{-1}(U) \) is open in \( X/\sim \). But by definition of the quotient topology, this is open precisely if its pre-image under the quotient projection \( t_n(X) \) is open, hence precisely if
\[
(t_n(X))^{-1}(\tilde{f}^{-1}(U)) = (\tilde{f} \circ t_n(X))^{-1}(U) = f(U)
\]
is open in \( X \). But this is the case by the assumption that \( f \) is continuous.

What remains to be seen is that \( T_nX \) as constructed is indeed a \( T_n \)-topological space. Hence assume that \([x] \neq [y] \in T_nX \) are two distinct points. We need to produce open neighbourhoods around one or both of these points not containing the other point and possibly disjoint to each other.

Now by definition of \( T_nX \) the assumption \([x] \neq [y] \) means that there exists a \( T_n \)-topological space \( Y \) and a surjective continuous function \( f:X \to Y \) such that \( f(x) \neq f(y) \in Y \). Accordingly, since \( Y \) is \( T_n \), there exist the respective kinds of neighbourhoods around these image points in \( Y \). Moreover, by the previous statement there exists the continuous function \( \tilde{f}:T_nX \to Y \) with \( \tilde{f}([x]) = f(x) \) and \( \tilde{f}([y]) = f(y) \). By the nature of continuous functions, the pre-images of these open neighbourhoods in \( Y \) are still open in \( X \) and still satisfy the required disjunction properties. Therefore \( T_nX \) is a \( T_n \)-space. ■

Here are alternative constructions of the reflections:

**Proposition 4.18. (Kolmogorov quotient)**

Let \((X, \tau)\) be a topological space. Consider the relation on the underlying set by which \( x_1 \sim x_2 \) precisely if neither \( x_i \) has an open neighbourhood not containing the other. This is an equivalence relation. The quotient topological space \( X \to X/\sim \) by this equivalence relation (def. 2.17) exhibits the \( T_0 \)-reflection of \( X \) according to prop. 4.15.

**Example 4.19.** The Hausdorff reflection (\( T_2 \)-reflection, prop. 4.15)

\[
T_2 : \text{Top} \to \text{Top}_{\text{Haus}}
\]

of the line with two origins from example 4.3 is the real line itself:

\[
T_2((\mathbb{R} \sqcup \mathbb{R})/\sim) \simeq \mathbb{R}.
\]

**5. Sober spaces**
The alternative characterization of the $T_0$-condition in prop. 4.10 immediately suggests the following strengthening, different from the $T_1$-condition:

**Definition 5.1. (sober topological space)**

A topological space $(X,\tau)$ is called a sober topological space precisely if every irreducible closed subspace (def. 2.29) is the topological closure (def. 2.21) of a unique point, hence precisely if the function

$$\text{Cl}(-) : X \to \text{IrrClSub}(X)$$

from the underlying set of $X$ to the set of irreducible closed subsets of $X$ (def. 2.28, well defined according to example 2.29) is bijective.

**Proposition 5.2. (sober implies $T_0$)**

Every sober topological space (def. 5.1) is $T_0$ (def. 4.4).

**Proof.** By prop. 4.10. □

**Proposition 5.3. (Hausdorff spaces are sober)**

Every Hausdorff topological space (def. 4.4) is a sober topological space (def. 5.1).

More specifically, in a Hausdorff topological space the irreducible closed subspaces (def. 2.28) are precisely the singleton subspaces (def. 7.6).

Hence, by example 4.8, in particular every metric space with its metric topology (example 2.9) is sober.

**Proof.** The second statement clearly implies the first. To see the second statement, suppose that $F$ is an irreducible closed subspace which contained two distinct points $x \neq y$. Then by the Hausdorff property there are disjoint neighbourhoods $U_x, U_y$, and hence it would follow that the relative complements $F \setminus U_x$ and $F \setminus U_y$ were distinct proper closed subsets of $F$ with

$$F = (F \setminus U_x) \cup (F \setminus U_y)$$

in contradiction to the assumption that $F$ is irreducible.

This proves by contradiction that every irreducible closed subset is a singleton. Conversely, generally the topological closure of every singleton is irreducible closed, by example 2.29. □

By prop. 5.2 and prop. 5.3 we have the implications on the right of the following diagram:

| separation axioms |
separation axioms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T₀ = Kolmogorov</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T₁ = sober</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T₂ = Hausdorff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But there there is no implication between T₁ and sobriety:

**Proposition 5.4.** The intersection of the classes of sober topological spaces (def. 5.1) and T₁-topological spaces (def. 4.4) is not empty, but neither class is contained within the other.

That the intersection is not empty follows from prop. 5.3. That neither class is contained in the other is shown by the following counter-examples:

**Example.**
- The **Sierpinski space** (def. 2.11) is sober, but not T₁.
- The **cofinite topology** (example 2.14) on a non-finite set is T₁ but not sober.

**Frames of opens**

What makes the concept of sober topological spaces special is that for them the concept of continuous functions may be expressed entirely in terms of the relations between their open subsets, disregarding the underlying set of points of which these open are in fact subsets.

Recall from example 2.34 that for every continuous function f : (X, τₓ) → (Y, τᵧ) the pre-image function f⁻¹ : τᵧ → τₓ is a frame homomorphism (def. 2.32).

For sober topological spaces the converse holds:

**Proposition 5.5.** If (X, τₓ) and (Y, τᵧ) are sober topological spaces (def. 5.1), then for every frame homomorphism (def. 2.32)

τₓ ← τᵧ : φ

there is a unique continuous function f : X → Y such that φ is the function of forming pre-images under f:

φ = f⁻¹.

**Proof.** We first consider the special case of frame homomorphisms of the form

τₓ ← τₓ : φ

and show that these are in bijection to the underlying set X, identified with the
continuous functions \( * \to (X, \tau) \) via example \( 3.6 \).

By prop. \( 2.35 \), the frame homomorphisms \( \phi : \tau_X \to \tau_* \) are identified with the irreducible closed subspaces \( X \setminus \mathcal{U}_\phi(\phi) \) of \( (X, \tau_X) \). Therefore by assumption of sobriety of \( (X, \tau) \) there is a unique point \( x \in X \) with \( X \setminus \mathcal{U}_\phi(\phi) = \text{Cl}(\{x\}) \). In particular this means that for \( U_x \) an open neighbourhood of \( x \), then \( U_x \) is not a subset of \( \mathcal{U}_\phi(\phi) \), and so it follows that \( \phi(U_x) = \{1\} \). In conclusion we have found a unique \( x \in X \) such that

\[
\phi : U \mapsto \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } x \in U \\
\emptyset & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

This is precisely the inverse image function of the continuous function \( * \to X \) which sends \( 1 \mapsto x \).

Hence this establishes the bijection between frame homomorphisms of the form \( \tau_* \leftarrow \tau_X \) and continuous functions of the form \( * \to (X, \tau) \).

With this it follows that a general frame homomorphism of the form \( \tau_X \leftarrow \tau_Y \) defines a function of sets \( X \leftarrow Y \) by composition:

\[
X \xleftarrow{f} Y \\
(\tau_* \leftarrow \tau_X) \mapsto (\tau_* \leftarrow \tau_X \leftarrow \tau_Y)
\]

By the previous analysis, an element \( U_Y \in \tau_Y \) is sent to \( \{1\} \) under this composite precisely if the corresponding point \( * \to X \xleftarrow{f} Y \) is in \( U_Y \), and similarly for an element \( U_X \in \tau_X \). It follows that \( \phi(U_Y) \in \tau_X \) is precisely that subset of points in \( X \) which are sent by \( f \) to elements of \( U_Y \), hence that \( \phi = f^{-1} \) is the pre-image function of \( f \). Since \( \phi \) by definition sends open subsets of \( Y \) to open subsets of \( X \), it follows that \( f \) is indeed a continuous function. This proves the claim in generality. ■

**Remark 5.6. (locales)**

Proposition \( 5.5 \) is often stated as saying that sober topological spaces are equivalently the "locales with enough points" (Johnstone 82, II 1.). Here "locale" refers to a concept akin to topological spaces where one considers just a "frame of open subsets" \( \tau_X \), without requiring that its elements be actual subsets of some ambient set. The natural notion of homomorphism between such generalized topological spaces are clearly the frame homomorphisms \( \tau_X \leftarrow \tau_Y \) as above. From this persepective, prop. \( 5.5 \) says that sober topological spaces \( (X, \tau_X) \) are entirely characterized by their frames of opens \( \tau_X \) and just so happen to "have enough points" such that these are actual open subsets of some ambient set, namely of \( X \).

**Sober reflection**
We saw above in prop. 4.15 that every topological space has a “best approximation from the left” by a Hausdorff topological space. We now discuss the analogous statement for sober topological spaces.

Recall again the point topological space $* := ([1], \tau_\ast = \emptyset, \{1\})$ (example 2.10).

**Definition 5.7.** Let $(X, \tau)$ be a topological space.

Define $SX$ to be the set

$$SX := \text{Hom}_{\text{Frame}}(\tau_X, \tau_\ast)$$

of frame homomorphisms from the frame of opens of $X$ to that of the point. Define a topology $\tau_{SX} \subset P(SX)$ on this set by declaring it to have one element $\hat{U}$ for each element $U \in \tau_X$ and given by

$$\hat{U} := \{ \phi \in SX \mid \phi(U) = \{1\} \} .$$

Consider the function

$$X \xrightarrow{s_X} SX \quad x \mapsto (\text{const}_x)^{-1}$$

which sends an element $x \in X$ to the function which assigns inverse images of the constant function $\text{const}_1 : \{1\} \to X$ on that element.

**Lemma 5.8.** The construction $(SX, \tau_{SX})$ in def. 5.7 is a topological space, and the function $s_X : X \to SX$ is a continuous function

$$s_X : (X, \tau_X) \to (SX, \tau_{SX})$$

**Proof.** To see that $\tau_{SX} \subset P(SX)$ is closed under arbitrary unions and finite intersections, observe that the function

$$\tau_X \xrightarrow{(\cdot)} \tau_{SX} \quad U \mapsto \hat{U}$$

in fact preserves arbitrary unions and finite intersections. Whith this the statement follows by the fact that $\tau_X$ is closed under these operations.

To see that $(-)$ indeed preserves unions, observe that (e.g. Johnstone 82, II 1.3 Lemma)

$$p \in \bigcup_{i \in I} \hat{U}_i \iff \exists_{i \in I} p(U_i) = \{1\}$$

$$\iff \bigcup_{i \in I} p(U_i) = \{1\}$$

$$\iff p\left( \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \right) = \{1\}$$

$$\iff p \in \overline{ \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i }$$
where we used that the frame homomorphism $p : \tau_X \to \tau_*$ preserves unions. Similarly for intersections, now with $I$ a finite set:

\[
p \in \bigcap_{i \in I} U_i \iff \forall i \in I \ p(U_i) = \{1\} \\
\iff \bigcap_{i \in I} p(U_i) = \{1\} \\
\iff p\left( \bigcap_{i \in I} U_i \right) = \{1\} \\
\iff p \in \bigcap_{i \in I} \overline{U_i}
\]

where now we used that the frame homomorphism $p$ preserves finite intersections.

To see that $s_X$ is continuous, observe that $s_X^{-1}(\overline{U}) = U$, by construction. ■

**Lemma 5.9.** For $(X, \tau_X)$ a topological space, the function $s_X : X \to SX$ from def. 5.7 is

1. an injection precisely if $X$ is $T_0$ (def. 4.4);
2. a bijection precisely if $X$ is sober (def. 5.1).

In this case $s_X$ is in fact a homeomorphism.

**Proof.** By lemma 2.35 there is an identification $SX \simeq \text{IrrClSub}(X)$ and via this $s_X$ is identified with the map $x \mapsto \text{Cl}(\{x\})$.

Hence the second statement follows by definition, and the first statement by this prop.-.

That in the second case $s_X$ is in fact a homeomorphism follows from the definition of the opens $\overline{U}$: they are identified with the opens $U$ in this case (...expand...). ■

**Lemma 5.10.** For $(X, \tau)$ a topological space, then the topological space $(SX, \tau_{SX})$ from def. 5.7, lemma 5.8 is sober.

(e.g. Johnstone 82, lemma II 1.7)

**Proof.** Let $SX \setminus \overline{U}$ be an irreducible closed subspace of $(SX, \tau_{SX})$. We need to show that it is the topological closure of a unique element $\phi \in SX$.

Observe first that also $X \setminus U$ is irreducible.

To see this use this prop., saying that irreducibility of $X \setminus U$ is equivalent to $U_1 \cap U_2 \subset U \Rightarrow (U_1 \subset U) \lor (U_2 \subset U)$. But if $U_1 \cap U_2 \subset U$ then also $\overline{U_1} \cap \overline{U_2} \subset \overline{U}$ (as in the proof of lemma 5.8) and hence by assumption on $\overline{U}$ it follows that $\overline{U_1} \subset \overline{U}$ or $\overline{U_2} \subset \overline{U}$. By lemma 2.35 this in turn implies $U_1 \subset U$ or $U_2 \subset U$. In conclusion, this shows that also $X \setminus U$ is irreducible .

By lemma 2.35 this irreducible closed subspace corresponds to a point $p \in SX$. By that same lemma, this frame homomorphism $p : \tau_X \to \tau_*$ takes the value $\emptyset$ on all
those opens which are inside \( U \). This means that the topological closure of this point is just \( SX \setminus \tilde{U} \).

This shows that there exists at least one point of which \( X \setminus \tilde{U} \) is the topological closure. It remains to see that there is no other such point.

So let \( p_1 \neq p_2 \in SX \) be two distinct points. This means that there exists \( U \in \tau_X \) with \( p_1(U) \neq p_2(U) \). Equivalently this says that \( \tilde{U} \) contains one of the two points, but not the other. This means that \((SX, \tau_{SX})\) is \( T_0 \). By this prop. this is equivalent to there being no two points with the same topological closure. ■

**Proposition 5.11.** For \((X, \tau_X)\) any topological space, for \((Y, \tau_Y^{\text{sober}})\) a sober topological space, and for \( f : (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y) \) a continuous function, then it factors uniquely through the soberification \( s_X : (X, \tau_X) \to (SX, \tau_{SX}) \) from def. 5.7, lemma 5.8

\[
\begin{align*}
(X, \tau_X) &\xrightarrow{f} (Y, \tau_Y^{\text{sober}}) \\
SX \downarrow &\quad \gamma \_3! \quad \downarrow^{s_X} \\
(SX, \tau_{SX}) &\quad \\
\end{align*}
\]

**Proof.** By the construction in def. 5.7, we the outer part of the following square commutes:

\[
\begin{align*}
(X, \tau_X) &\xrightarrow{f} (Y, \tau_Y^{\text{sober}}) \\
SX \downarrow &\quad \gamma \_3! \quad \downarrow^{s_X} \\
(SX, \tau_{SX}) &\quad \\
\end{align*}
\]

By lemma 5.10 and lemma 5.9, the right vertical morphism \( s_{SX} \) is an isomorphism (a homeomorphism), hence has an inverse morphism. This defines the diagonal morphism, which is the desired factorization.

To see that this factorization is unique, consider two factorizations \( \tilde{f}, \tilde{f} : (SX, \tau_{SX}) \to (Y, \tau_Y^{\text{sober}}) \) and apply the soberification construction once more to the triangles

\[
\begin{align*}
(X, \tau_X) &\xrightarrow{f} (Y, \tau_Y^{\text{sober}}) \\
SX \downarrow &\quad \gamma \_3! \quad \downarrow^{s_X} \\
(SX, \tau_{SX}) &\quad \\
\end{align*}
\]

Here on the right we used again lemma 5.9 to find that the vertical morphism is an isomorphism, and that \( \tilde{f} \) and \( \tilde{f} \) do not change under soberification, as they already map between sober spaces. But now that the left vertical morphism is an isomorphism, the commutativity of this triangle for both \( \tilde{f} \) and \( \tilde{f} \) implies that \( \tilde{f} = \tilde{f} \). ■

### 6. Compact spaces
From the discussion of compact metric spaces in def. 1.19 and prop. 1.20 it is now immediate how to generalize the concept to topological spaces to obtain a notion of compact topological spaces (def. 6.2 and def. 6.4 below). These compact spaces play a special role in topology, much like finite dimensional vector spaces do in linear algebra.

The most naive version of the definition directly generalizes the concept via converging sequences from def. 1.19:

**Definition 6.1. (converging sequence in a topological space)**

Let $(X, \tau)$ be a topological space (def. 2.3) and let $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of points $(x_n)$ in $X$ (def. 1.15). We say that this sequence converges in $(X, \tau)$ to a point $x_\infty \in X$, denoted

\[ x_n \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} x_\infty \]

if for each open neighbourhood $U_{x_\infty}$ of $x_\infty$ there exists a $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $n \geq k$ then $x_n \in U_{x_\infty}$:

\[ \left( x_n \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} x_\infty \right) \iff \forall_{U_{x_\infty} \in \tau_X} \left( \exists_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \left( \forall_{x_n \in U_{x_\infty}} \forall_{n \geq k} \right) \right). \]

**Definition 6.2. (sequentially compact topological space)**

Let $(X, \tau)$ be a topological space (def. 2.3). It is called sequentially compact if for every sequence of points $(x_n)$ in $X$ (def. 1.15) there exists a sub-sequence $(x_{n_k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ which converges according to def. 6.1.

But prop. 1.20 suggests to consider also another definition of compactness for topological spaces:

**Definition 6.3. (open cover)**

An open cover of a topological space $X$ (def. 2.3) is a set $\{U_i \subset X\}_{i \in I}$ of open subsets $U_i$ of $X$, indexed by some set $I$, such that their union is all of $X$:

\[ \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i = X. \]

**Definition 6.4. (compact topological space)**

A topological space $X$ (def. 2.3) is called a compact topological space if every open cover $\{U_i \to X\}_{i \in I}$ (def. 6.3) has a finite subcover in that there is a finite subset $J \subset I$ such that $\{U_i \to X\}_{i \in J}$ is still a cover of $X$ in that $\bigcup_{i \in J} U_i = X$.

**Remark 6.5. (terminology issue regarding “compact”)**

Beware that the following terminology issue persists in the literature:
Some authors use “compact” to mean “Hausdorff and compact”. To disambiguate this, some authors (mostly in algebraic geometry, but also for instance Waldhausen) say “quasi-compact” for what we call “compact” in prop. 6.4.

There are several equivalent reformulation of the compactness condition:

**Proposition 6.6. (compactness in terms of closed subsets)**

Let $(X, \tau)$ be a topological space. Then the following are equivalent:

1. $(X, \tau)$ is compact in the sense of def. 6.4.

2. Let $\{C_i \subset X\}_{i \in I}$ be a set of closed subsets (def. 2.21) such that their intersection is empty $\bigcap_{i \in I} C_i = \emptyset$, then there is a finite subset $J \subset I$ such that the corresponding finite intersection is still empty $\bigcap_{i \in J \subset I} C_i = \emptyset$.

3. Let $\{C_i \subset X\}_{i \in I}$ be a set of closed subsets (def. 2.21) such that it enjoys the finite intersection property, meaning that for every finite subset $J \subset I$ then the corresponding finite intersection is non-empty $\bigcap_{i \in J \subset I} C_i \neq \emptyset$. Then also the total intersection is non-empty $\bigcap_{i \in I} C_i \neq \emptyset$.

**Proof.** The equivalence between the first and the second statement is immediate by de Morgan’s law (remark 2.22). The equivalence between the first and the third proceeds similarly, via a proof by contradiction. ■

**Example 6.7. (finite discrete spaces are compact)**

A discrete topological space (def. 2.13) is compact (def. 6.4) precisely if its underlying set is finite.

**Example 6.8. (closed intervals are compact)**

For any $a < b \in \mathbb{R}$ the closed interval (example 1.12)

$$[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$$

regarded with its subspace topology is a compact topological space (def. 6.4).

**Proof.** Since all the closed intervals are homeomorphic (by example 3.26) it is sufficient to show the statement for $[0, 1]$. Hence let $\{U_i \subset [0, 1]\}_{i \in I}$ be an open cover. We need to show that it has an open subcover.

Say that an element $x \in [0, 1]$ is admissible if the closed sub-interval $[0, x]$ is covered by finitely many of the $U_i$. In this terminology, what we need to show is that 1 is admissible.

Observe from the definition that

1. 0 is admissible,
2. if \( y < x \in [0,1] \) and \( x \) is admissible, then also \( y \) is admissible.

This means that the set of admissible \( x \) forms either an open interval \([0, g]\) or a closed interval \([0, g]\), for some \( g \in [0,1] \). We need to show that the latter is true, and for \( g = 1 \). We do so by observing that the alternatives lead to contradictions:

1. Assume that the set of admissible values were an open interval \([0, g]\). By assumption there would then be a finite set \( I \subset I \) such that \( \{ U_i \subset [0,1] \}_{i \in I} \) were a finite open cover of \([0, g]\). Accordingly, since there is some \( i_g \in I \) such that \( g \in U_{i_g} \), the union \( \{ U_i \}_{i \in I} \cup \{ U_{i_g} \} \) were a finite cover of the closed interval \([0, g]\), contradicting the assumption that \( g \) itself is not admissible (since it is not contained in \([0, g]\)).

2. Assume that the set of admissible values were a closed interval \([0, g]\) for \( g < 1 \). By assumption there would then be a finite set \( I \subset I \) such that \( \{ U_i \subset [0,1] \}_{i \in I} \) were a finite cover of \([0, g]\). Hence there would be an index \( i_g \in I \) such that \( g \in U_{i_g} \). But then by the nature of open subsets in the Euclidean space \( \mathbb{R} \), this \( U_{i_g} \) would also contain an open ball \( B_g'(\epsilon) = (g - \epsilon, g + \epsilon) \). This would mean that the set of admissible values includes the open interval \([0, g + \epsilon]\), contradicting the assumption.

This gives a \textbf{proof by contradiction}. \( \blacksquare \)

**Proposition 6.9. (binary Tychonoff theorem)**

Let \((X, \tau_X)\) and \((Y, \tau_Y)\) be two compact topological spaces (def. 6.4). Then also their product topological space (def. 2.18) \((X \times Y, \tau_{X \times Y})\) is compact.

**Proof.** Let \( \{ U_i \subset X \times Y \}_{i \in I} \) be an open cover of the product space. We need to show that this has a finite subcover.

By definition of the product space topology, each \( U_i \) is the union, indexed by some set \( K_i \), of Cartesian products of open subsets of \( X \) and \( Y \):

\[
U_i = \bigcup_{k_i \in K_i} (V_{k_i} \times W_{k_i}) \quad V_{k_i} \in \tau_X \text{ and } W_{k_i} \in \tau_Y.
\]

Consider then the disjoint union of all these index sets

\[
K := \bigcup_{i \in I} K_i.
\]

This is such that

\[
(\star) \quad \{ V_{k_i} \times W_{k_i} \subset X \times Y \}_{k_i \in K}
\]

is again an open cover of \( X \times Y \).

But by construction, each element \( V_{k_i} \times W_{k_i} \) of this new cover is contained in at
least one $U_{j(k_i)}$ of the original cover. Therefore it is now sufficient to show that there is a finite subcover of ($\ast$), consisting of elements indexed by $k_i \in K_{\text{fin}} \subset K$ for some finite set $K_{\text{fin}}$. Because then the corresponding $U_{j(k_i)}$ for $k_i \in K_{\text{fin}}$ form a finite subcover of the original cover.

In order to see that ($\ast$) has a finite subcover, first fix a point $x \in X$ and write $\{x\} \subset X$ for the corresponding singleton topological subspace. By example 3.25 this is homeomorphic to the abstract point space $\ast$. By example 3.27 there is thus a homeomorphism of the form

$$\{x\} \times Y \simeq Y.$$ 

Therefore, since $(Y, \tau_Y)$ is assumed to be compact, the open cover

$$\left\{ (\{V_{k_1} \times W_{k_1}\} \cap \{x\} \times Y) \subset \{x\} \times Y \right\}_{k_i \in K}$$

has a finite subcover, indexed by a finite subset $J_x \subset K$.

Here we may assume without restriction of generality that $x \in V_{k_i}$ for all $k_i \in J_x \subset K$, because if not then we may simply remove that index and still have a (finite) subcover.

By finiteness of $J_x$ it now follows that the intersection

$$V_x := \bigcap_{k_i \in J_x} V_{k_i}$$

is still an open subset, and by the previous remark we may assume without restriction that

$$x \in V_x.$$ 

Now observe that by the nature of the above cover of $\{x\} \times Y$ we have

$$\{x\} \times Y \subset \bigcup_{k_i \in J_x \subset K} V_{k_i} \times W_{k_i}$$

and hence

$$\{x\} \times Y \subset \{x\} \times \bigcup_{k_i \in J_x \subset K} W_{k_i}.$$ 

Since by construction $V_x \subset V_{k_i}$ for all $k_i \in J_x \subset K$, it follows that we have found a finite cover not just of $\{x\} \times Y$ but of $V_x \times Y$

$$V_x \times Y \subset \bigcup_{k_i \in J_x \subset K} (V_{k_i} \times W_{k_i}).$$

To conclude, observe that $\{V_x \subset X\}_{x \in X}$ is clearly an open cover of $X$, so that by the assumption that also $X$ is compact there is a finite set of points $S \subset X$ so that $\{V_x \subset X\}_{x \in S \subset X}$ is still a cover. In summary then
\{ V_{k_i} \times W_{k_i} \subseteq X \times Y \}_{X \in S \subseteq X, k_i \in I_X \subseteq K}

is a finite subcover as required. ■

In terms of the topological incarnation of the definitions of compactness, the familiar statement about metric spaces from prop. 1.20 now equivalently says the following:

**Proposition 6.10. (sequentially compact metric spaces are equivalently compact metric spaces)**

If \((X, d)\) is a metric space, regarded as a topological space via its metric topology (example 2.9), then the following are equivalent:

1. \((X, d)\) is a compact topological space (def. 6.4).
2. \((X, d)\) is a sequentially compact topological space (def. 6.2).

**Proof.** of prop. 1.20 and prop. 6.10

Assume first that \((X, d)\) is a compact topological space. Let \((x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}\) be a sequence in \(X\). We need to show that it has a sub-sequence which converges.

Consider the topological closures of the sub-sequences that omit the first \(n\) elements of the sequence

\[ F_n := \text{Cl}(\{x_k \mid k \geq n\}) \]

and write

\[ U_n := X \setminus F_n \]

for their open complements.

Assume now that the intersection of all the \(F_n\) were empty

\[ \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} F_n = \emptyset \tag{*} \]

or equivalently that the union of all the \(U_n\) were all of \(X\)

\[ \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} U_n = X, \]

hence that \((U_n \to X)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\) were an open cover. By the assumption that \(X\) is compact, this would imply that there is a finite subset \(\{i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}\) with

\[ X = U_{i_1} \cup U_{i_2} \cup \cdots \cup U_{i_k} \]

\[ = U_{i_k} \]

This in turn would mean that \(F_{i_k} = \emptyset\), which contradicts the construction of \(F_{i_k}\). Hence we have a proof by contradiction that assumption (\(\ast\)) is wrong, and hence
that there must exist an element

\[ x \in \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} F_n . \]

By definition of topological closure this means that for all \( n \) the open ball \( B_x^*(1/(n+1)) \) around \( x \) of radius \( 1/(n+1) \) must intersect the \( n \)th of the above subsequence:

\[ B_x^*(1/(n+1)) \cap \{ x_k \mid k \geq n \} \neq \emptyset . \]

Picking one point \( (x'_n) \) in the \( n \)th such intersection for all \( n \) hence defines a sub-sequence, which converges to \( x \).

This proves that compact implies sequentially compact for metric spaces.

For the converse, assume now that \( (X,d) \) is sequentially compact. Let \( \{ U_i \to X \}_{i \in I} \) be an open cover of \( X \). We need to show that there exists a finite sub-cover.

Now by the Lebesgue number lemma, there exists a positive real number \( \delta > 0 \) such that for each \( x \in X \) there is \( i_x \in I \) such that \( B_x^*(\delta) \subset U_{i_x} \). Moreover, since sequentially compact metric spaces are totally bounded, there exists then a finite set \( S \subset X \) such that

\[ X = \bigcup_{s \in S} B_s^*(\delta) . \]

Therefore \( \{ U_{i_s} \to X \}_{s \in S} \) is a finite sub-cover as required. □

**Remark 6.11. (neither compactness nor sequential compactness implies the other)**

Beware that, in contrast to prop. 6.10, for general topological spaces being sequentially compact neither implies nor is implied by being compact. The corresponding counter-examples are maybe beyond the scope of this note, but see for instance Vermeeren 10, prop. 17 and prop. 18.

In analysis, the extreme value theorem asserts that a real-valued continuous function on the bounded closed interval (def. 1.12) attains its maximum and minimum. The following is the generalization of this statement to general topological spaces:

**Lemma 6.12. (continuous surjections out of compact spaces have compact codomain)**

Let \( f: (X,\tau_X) \to (Y,\tau_Y) \) be a continuous function between topological spaces such that

1. \( (X,\tau_X) \) is a compact topological space;
2. \( f:X \to Y \) is a surjective function.
Then also $(Y, \tau_Y)$ is compact.

**Proof.** Let \( \{U_i \subset Y\}_{i \in I} \) be an open cover of \( Y \). We need show that this has a finite sub-cover.

By the continuity of \( f \) the pre-images \( f^{-1}(U_i) \) are open subsets of \( X \), and by the surjectivity of \( f \) they form an open cover \( \{f^{-1}(U_i) \subset X\}_{i \in I} \) of \( X \). Hence by compactness of \( X \), there exists a finite subset \( J \subset I \) such that \( \{f^{-1}(U_i) \subset X\}_{i \in J \subset I} \) is still an open cover of \( X \). Finally, using again that \( f \) is assumed to be surjective, it follows that

\[
Y = f(X) = f \left( \bigcup_{i \in J} f^{-1}(U_i) \right) = \bigcup_{i \in J} U_i
\]

which means that also \( \{U_i \subset Y\}_{i \in J \subset I} \) is still an open cover of \( Y \), and in particular a finite subcover of the original cover. ■

**Corollary 6.13. (continuous images of compact spaces are compact)**

If \( f : X \rightarrow Y \) is a continuous function out of a compact topological space \( X \) which is not necessarily surjective, then we may consider its image factorization

\[
f : X \rightarrow f(X) \hookrightarrow Y
\]

as in example 3.10. Now by construction \( X \rightarrow f(X) \) is surjective, and so lemma 6.12 implies that \( f(X) \) is compact.

The converse to cor. 6.13 does not hold in general: the pre-image of a compact subset under a continuous function need not be compact again. If this is the case, then we speak of **proper maps**:

**Definition 6.14. (proper maps)**

A continuous function \( f : (X, \tau_X) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_Y) \) is called proper if for \( C \in Y \) a compact topological subspace of \( Y \), then also its pre-image \( f^{-1}(C) \) is compact in \( X \).

There are various variants of the concept of compact spaces.

**Definition 6.15. (locally compact topological space)**

A topological space is called locally compact if every point has a neighbourhood which is compact (def. 6.4).

**Remark 6.16. (terminology issue regarding “locally compact”)**

On top of the terminology issue inherited from that of “compact” (remark 6.5), the definition of “locally compact” is subject to further ambiguity in the literature. There are various definitions of locally compact spaces alternative to
def. 6.15. For Hausdorff topological spaces all these definitions used happen to be equivalent, but in general they are not. The version we state in def. 6.15 is the one that makes prop. 6.18 below work without requiring the Hausdorff property.

**Definition 6.17. (mapping space with compact-open topology)**

For \( X \) a topological space and \( Y \) a locally compact topological space (def. 6.15) then the mapping space

\[
\left( X^Y, \tau_{(X^Y)} \right)
\]

is the topological space

- whose underlying set \( X^Y \) is the set of continuous functions \( Y \to X \),
- whose topology \( \tau_{(X^Y)} \) is generated from the sub-basis for the topology (def. 2.7) which is given by subsets denoted

\[
U^K \in \text{Hom}_{\text{Top}}(Y,X) \text{ for }
\]

- \( K \hookrightarrow Y \) a compact subset
- \( U \hookrightarrow X \) an open subset

and defined to be those subsets of all those continuous functions \( f \) that fit into a commuting diagram of the form

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
K & \hookrightarrow & Y \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow f \\
U & \hookrightarrow & X
\end{array}
\]

Accordingly this \( \tau_{(X^Y)} \) is called the compact-open topology on the set of functions.

The construction extends to a functor

\[
(-)^{(-)} : \text{Top}_{\text{comp}}^{\text{op}} \times \text{Top} \to \text{Top} .
\]

**Proposition 6.18.** For \( X \) a topological space and \( Y \) a locally compact topological space, then then mapping space \( X^Y \) with its compact-open topology from def. 6.17 is an exponential object in Top.

**Relation to Hausdorff spaces**

We discuss some important relations between the concepts of compact spaces and of Hausdorff topological spaces.
Proposition 6.19. (closed subspaces of compact Hausdorff spaces are equivalently compact subspaces)

Let \((X, \tau)\) be a compact Hausdorff topological space (def. 4.4, def. 6.4) and let \(Y \subset X\) be a topological subspace. Then the following are equivalent:

1. \(Y \subset X\) is a closed subspace (def. 2.21);
2. \(Y\) is a compact topological space.


Lemma 6.20. (closed subspaces of compact spaces are compact)

Let \((X, \tau)\) be a compact topological space (def. 6.4), and let \(Y \subset X\) be a closed topological subspace. Then also \(Y\) is compact.

Proof. Let \(\{V_i \subset Y\}_{i \in I}\) be an open cover of \(Y\). We need to show that this has a finite sub-cover.

By definition of the subspace topology, there exist open subsets \(U_i\) of \(X\) with

\[ V_i = U_i \cap Y. \]

By the assumption that \(Y\) is closed, the complement \(X \setminus Y\) is an open subset of \(X\), and therefore

\[ \{X \setminus Y \subset X\} \cup \{U_i \subset X\}_{i \in I} \]

is an open cover of \(X\). Now by the assumption that \(X\) is compact, this latter cover has a finite sub-cover, hence there exists a finite subset \(J \subset I\) such that

\[ \{X \setminus Y \subset X\} \cup \{U_i \subset X\}_{i \in J \subset I} \]

is still an open cover of \(X\), hence in particular intersects to a finite open cover of \(Y\). But since \(Y \cap (X \setminus Y) = \emptyset\), it follows that indeed

\[ \{V_i \subset Y\}_{i \in J \subset I} \]

is a cover of \(Y\), and in indeed a finite subcover of the original one.

Lemma 6.21. (separation by neighbourhoods of points from compact subspaces in Hausdorff spaces)

Let

1. \((X, \tau)\) be a Hausdorff topological space;
2. \(Y \subset X\) a compact subspace.

Then for every \(x \in X \setminus Y\) there exists
1. an open neighbourhood $U_x \ni \{x\}$;

2. an open neighbourhood $U_y \ni Y$

such that

- they are still disjoint: $U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset$.

**Proof.** By the assumption that $(X, \tau)$ is Hausdorff, we find for every point $y \in Y$ disjoint open neighbourhoods $U_{x,y} \ni \{x\}$ and $U_y \ni \{y\}$. By the nature of the subspace topology of $Y$, the restriction of all the $U_y$ to $Y$ is an open cover of $Y$:

$$\{(U_y \cap Y) \ni Y\}_{y \in Y}.$$

Now by the assumption that $Y$ is compact, there exists a finite subcover, hence a finite set $S \subset Y$ such that

$$\{(U_y \cap Y) \ni Y\}_{y \in S \subset Y}$$

is still a cover.

But the finite intersection

$$U_x := \bigcap_{s \in S \subset Y} U_{x,s}$$

of the corresponding open neighbourhoods of $x$ is still open, and by construction it is disjoint from all the $U_s$, hence in particular from their union

$$U_Y := \bigcup_{s \in S \subset Y} U_s.$$

Therefore $U_x$ and $U_Y$ are two open subsets as required. $\blacksquare$

**Lemma 6.22.** (*compact subspaces of Hausdorff spaces are closed*)

Let $(X, \tau)$ be a Hausdorff topological space (def. 4.4) and let $C \subset X$ be a compact (def. 6.4) topological subspace (example 2.16). Then $C \subset X$ is also a closed subspace (def. 2.21).

**Proof.** Let $x \in X \setminus C$ be any point of $X$ not contained in $C$. We need to show that there exists an open neighbourhood of $x$ in $X$ which does not intersect $C$. This is implied by lemma 6.21. $\blacksquare$

**Proposition 6.23.** (*Heine-Borel theorem*)

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, regard $\mathbb{R}^n$ as the $n$-dimensional Euclidean space via example 1.6, regarded as a topological space via its metric topology (example 2.9).

Then for a topological subspace $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ the following are equivalent:
1. S is **compact** (def. 6.4);

2. S is **closed** (def. 2.21) and **bounded** (def. 1.3).

**Proof.** First consider a subset \( S \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) which is closed and bounded. We need to show that regarded as a **topological subspace** it is **compact**.

The assumption that \( S \) is bounded by (hence contained in) some \( \text{open ball} \ B^*_x(\varepsilon) \) in \( \mathbb{R}^n \) implies that it is contained in \( \{ (x_i)_{i=1}^n \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid -\varepsilon \leq x_i \leq \varepsilon \} \). By example 3.28, this topological subspace is homeomorphic to the \( n \)-cube \( [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]^n \). Since the closed interval \( [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon] \) is compact by example 6.8, the binary **Tychonoff theorem** (prop. 6.9) implies that this \( n \)-cube is compact. Since **closed subspaces of compact spaces are compact** (lemma 6.20) this implies that \( S \) is compact.

Conversely, assume that \( S \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) is a compact subspace. We need to show that it is closed and bounded.

The first statement follows since the **Euclidean space** \( \mathbb{R}^n \) is **Hausdorff** (example 4.8) and since **compact subspaces of Hausdorff spaces are closed** (prop. 6.22).

Hence what remains is to show that \( S \) is bounded.

To that end, choose any **positive real number** \( \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \) and consider the **open cover** of all of \( \mathbb{R}^n \) by the open \( n \)-cubes

\[
(k_1 - \varepsilon, k_1 + 1 + \varepsilon) \times (k_2 - \varepsilon, k_2 + 1 + \varepsilon) \times \cdots \times (k_n - \varepsilon, k_n + 1 + \varepsilon)
\]

for \( n \)-tuples of integers \( (k_1, k_2, \cdots, k_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \). The restrictions of these to \( S \) hence form an open cover of the subspace \( S \). By the assumption that \( S \) is compact, there is then a finite subset of \( n \)-tuples of integers such that the corresponding \( n \)-cubes still cover \( S \). But the union of any finite number of bounded closed \( n \)-cubes in \( \mathbb{R}^n \) is clearly a bounded subset, and hence so is \( S \). □

**Proposition 6.24.** (**maps from compact spaces to Hausdorff spaces are closed and proper**)

Let \( f: (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y) \) be a **continuous function** between **topological spaces** such that

1. \((X, \tau_X)\) is a **compact topological space**;

2. \((Y, \tau_Y)\) is a **Hausdorff topological space**.

Then \( f \) is

1. a **closed map** (def. 3.14);

2. a **proper map** (def. 6.14.).

**Proof.** For the first statement, we need to show that if \( C \subset X \) is a **closed subset** of \( X \), then also \( f(C) \subset Y \) is a closed subset of \( Y \).
Now

1. since closed subsets of compact spaces are compact (lemma 6.20) it follows that $C \subseteq X$ is also compact;

2. since continuous images of compact spaces are compact (cor. 6.13) it then follows that $f(C) \subseteq Y$ is compact;

3. since compact subspaces of Hausdorff spaces are closed (prop. 6.22) it finally follow that $f(C)$ is also closed in $Y$.

For the second statement we need to show that if $C \subseteq Y$ is a compact subset, then also its pre-image $f^{-1}(C)$ is compact.

Now

1. since compact subspaces of Hausdorff spaces are closed (prop. 6.22) it follows that $C_{\text{sub}e} \subseteq Y$ is closed;

2. since pre-images under continuous of closed subsets are closed (prop. 3.2), also $f^{-1}(C) \subseteq X$ is closed;

3. since closed subsets of compact spaces are compact (lemma 6.20), it follows that $f^{-1}(C)$ is compact.

Proposition 6.25. (continuous bijections from compact spaces to Hausdorff spaces are homeomorphisms)

Let $f: (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y)$ be a continuous function between topological spaces such that

1. $(X, \tau_X)$ is a compact topological space;

2. $(Y, \tau_Y)$ is a Hausdorff topological space.

3. $f : X \to Y$ is a bijection of sets.

Then $f$ is a homeomorphism, i. e. its inverse function $Y \to X$ is also a continuous function.

In particular then both $(X, \tau_X)$ and $(Y, \tau_Y)$ are compact Hausdorff spaces.

Proof. Write $g : Y \to X$ for the inverse function of $f$.

We need to show that $g$ is continuous, hence that for $U \subseteq X$ an open subset, then also its pre-image $g^{-1}(U) \subseteq Y$ is open in $Y$. By prop. 3.2 this is equivalent to the statement that for $C \subseteq X$ a closed subset then the pre-image $g^{-1}(C) \subseteq Y$ is also closed in $Y$. 


But since $g$ is the inverse function to $f$, its pre-images are the images of $f$. Hence the last statement above equivalently says that $f$ sends closed subsets to closed subsets. This is true by prop. 6.24. ■

**Proposition 6.26. (compact Hausdorff spaces are normal)**

Every compact Hausdorff topological space is a normal topological space (def. 4.13).

**Proof.** First we claim that $(X, \tau)$ is regular. To show this, we need to find for each point $x \in X$ and each disjoint closed subset $Y \in X$ disjoint open neighbourhoods $U_x \ni \{x\}$ and $U_Y \ni Y$. But since closed subspaces of compact spaces are compact (lemma 6.20), the subset $Y$ is in fact compact, and hence this is in fact the statement of lemma 6.21.

Next to show that $(X, \tau)$ is indeed normal, we apply the idea of the proof of lemma 6.21 once more:

Let $Y_1, Y_2 \subset X$ be two disjoint closed subspaces. By the previous statement then for every point $y_1 \in Y$ we find disjoint open neighbourhoods $U_{Y_1} \ni \{y_1\}$ and $U_{Y_2} \ni Y_2$. The union of the $U_{Y_1}$ is a cover of $Y_1$, and by compactness of $Y_1$ there is a finite subset $S \subset Y$ such that

\[ U_{Y_1} := \bigcup_{s \in S \subset Y_1} U_y \]

is an open neighbourhood of $Y_1$ and

\[ U_{Y_2} := \bigcap_{s \in S \subset Y} U_{Y_2,s} \]

is an open neighbourhood of $Y_2$, and both are disjoint. ■

**Relation to quotient spaces**

**Proposition 6.27. (continuous surjections from compact spaces to Hausdorff spaces are quotient projections)**

Let

\[ \pi : (X, \tau_X) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_Y) \]

be a continuous function between topological spaces such that

1. $(X, \tau_X)$ is a compact topological space (def. 6.4);
2. $(Y, \tau_Y)$ is a Hausdorff topological space (def. 4.4);
3. $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is a surjective function.
Then $\tau_X$ is the quotient topology inherited from $\tau_X$ via the surjection $f$ (def. 2.17).

**Proof.** We need to show that an subset $U \subset Y$ is an open subset $(Y, \tau_Y)$ precisely if its pre-image $\pi^{-1}(U) \subset X$ is an open subset in $(X, \tau_X)$. Equivalently, as in prop. 3.2, we need to show that $U$ is a closed subset precisely if $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is a closed subset. The implication

$$(U \text{ closed}) \Rightarrow (f^{-1}(U) \text{ closed})$$

follows via prop. 3.2 from the continuity of $\pi$. The implication

$$(f^{-1}(U) \text{ closed}) \Rightarrow (U \text{ closed})$$

follows since $\pi$ is a closed map by prop. 6.24. □

The following proposition allows to recognize when a quotient space of a compact Hausdorff space is itself still Hausdorff.

**Proposition 6.28.** *(quotient projections out of compact Hausdorff spaces are closed precisely if the codomain is Hausdorff)*

Let

$$\pi : (X, \tau_X) \to (Y, \tau_Y)$$

be a continuous function between topological spaces such that

1. $(X, \tau)$ is a compact Hausdorff topological space (def. 6.4, def. 4.4);
2. $\pi$ is a surjection and $\tau_Y$ is the corresponding quotient topology (def. 2.17).

Then the following are equivalent

1. $(Y, \tau_Y)$ is itself a Hausdorff topological space (def. 4.4);
2. $\pi$ is a closed map (def. 3.14).

**Proof.** The implication $((Y, \tau_Y) \text{ Hausdorff}) \Rightarrow (\pi \text{ closed})$ is given by prop. 6.24. We need to show the converse.

Hence assume that $\pi$ is a closed map. We need to show that for every pair of distinct point $y_1 \neq y_2 \in Y$ there exist open neighbourhoods $U_{y_1}, U_{y_2} \in \tau_Y$ which are disjoint, $U_{y_1} \cap U_{y_2} = \emptyset$.

Therefore consider the pre-images

$$C_1 := \pi^{-1}([y_1]) \quad C_2 := \pi^{-1}([y_2]) .$$

Observe that these are closed subsets, because in the Hausdorff space $(Y, \tau_Y)$ (which is hence in particular $T_1$) the singleton subsets $\{y_i\}$ are closed by prop.
4.11, and since pre-images under continuous functions preserves closed subsets by prop. 3.2.

Now since compact Hausdorff spaces are normal it follows (by def. 4.13) that we may find disjoint open subset $U_1, U_2 \in \tau_X$ such that
\[
C_1 \subset U_1 \quad C_2 \subset U_2.
\]

Moreover, by lemma 3.20 we may find these $U_i$ such that they are both saturated subsets (def. 3.16). Therefore finally lemma 3.20 says that the images $\pi(U_i)$ are open in $(Y, \tau_Y)$. These are now clearly disjoint open neighbourhoods of $y_1$ and $y_2$.

Example 6.29. Consider the function
\[
[0, 2\pi]/\sim \rightarrow S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2
\]
\[
t \mapsto (\cos(t), \sin(t))
\]

- from the quotient topological space (def. 2.17) of the closed interval (def. 1.12) by the equivalence relation which identifies the two endpoints
\[
(x \sim y) \Leftrightarrow ((x = y) \text{or} ((x \in [0, 2\pi) \text{and} (y \in (0, 2\pi))))
\]

- to the unit circle $S^1 = S_0(1) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ (def. 1.2) regarded as a topological subspace of the 2-dimensional Euclidean space (example 1.6) equipped with its metric topology (example 2.9).

This is clearly a continuous function and a bijection on the underlying sets. Moreover, since continuous images of compact spaces are compact (cor. 6.13) and since the closed interval $[0, 1]$ is compact (example 6.8) we also obtain another proof that the circle is compact.

Hence by prop. 6.25 the above map is in fact a homeomorphism
\[
[0, 2\pi]/\sim \simeq S^1.
\]

Compare this to the counter-example 3.23, which observed that the analogous function
\[
[0, 2\pi) \rightarrow S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2
\]
\[
t \mapsto (\cos(t), \sin(t))
\]

is not a homeomorphism, even though this, too, is a bijection on the underlying sets. But the half-open interval $[0, 2\pi)$ is not compact, and hence prop. 6.25 does not apply.

7. Universal constructions
One point of the general definition of **topological space** above is that it admits constructions which intuitively should exist on "continuous spaces", but which do not in general exist on **metric spaces**.

Examples include the construction of **quotient topological spaces** of metric spaces, which are not **Hausdorff** anymore (e.g. example 4.3), and hence in particular are not metric spaces anymore (by example 4.8).

Now from a more abstract point of view, a **quotient topological space** is a special case of a "**colimit**" of topological spaces. This we explain now.

Generally, for every **diagram** in the category **Top** of topological spaces (remark \ref{TopCat}), hence for every collection of topological spaces with a system of **continuous functions** between them, then there exists a further topological space, called the **colimiting** space of the diagram, which may be thought of as the result of "gluing" all the spaces in the diagram together, while using the maps between them in order to identify those parts “along which” the spaces are to be glued.

One may formalize this intuition by saying that the colimiting space has the property that it receives compatible continuous functions from all the spaces in the diagram, and that it is characterized by the fact that it is **universal with this property**: every compatible system of maps to another space uniquely factors through the colimiting one.

Therefore forming colimits of topological spaces is a convenient means to construct new spaces which have prescribed properties for continuous functions out of them. We implicitly used a simple special case of this phenomenon in the proof of the **Hausdorff reflection** in prop. 4.15, when we concluded the existence of certain unique factorizing maps out of the Hausdorff quotient of a topological space.

**Dual** to the concept of **colimits** of topological space is that of “**limits**” of **diagrams** of topological spaces (not to be confused with **limits of sequences** in a topological space). Here one considers topological spaces with the **universal property** of having compatible continuous functions into a given **diagram** of spaces.

Most constructions of new topological spaces that one builds from given spaces are obtained by forming limits and/or colimits of diagrams of the original spaces.

**Limits and colimits**

**Definition 7.1. (diagram in a category)**

A **diagram** \( X \), in a **category**, such as the **category** **Top** of topological spaces or the category **Set** of **sets** from remark 3.3, is

1. a **set** \( \{X_i\}_{i \in I} \) of **objects** in the category;

2. for every **pair** \((i, j) \in I \times I\) of labels of objects a **set** \( \{X_i \xrightarrow{f_{ij}} X_j\}_{\alpha \in I_{i,j}} \) of **morphisms** between these objects;
3. for each triple $i, j, k \in I$ function

$$\text{comp}_{i,j,k} : I_{i,j} \times I_{j,k} \to I_{i,k}$$

such that

1. for every $i \in I$ the identity morphisms $\text{id}_{X_i} : X_i \to X_i$ is part of the diagram;
2. $\text{comp}$ is associative and unital in the evident sense,
3. for every composable pair of morphisms

$$X_i \xrightarrow{f_\alpha} X_j \xrightarrow{f_\beta} X_k$$

then the composite of these two morphisms equals the morphisms of the diagram that is labeled by the value of $\text{comp}_{i,j,k}$ on their labels:

$$f_\beta \circ f_\alpha = f_{\text{comp}_{i,j,k}(\alpha, \beta)}.$$ 

The last condition we depict as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{cccc}
X_j & f_\alpha & \searrow & X_k \\
\downarrow & \downarrow f_\beta & & \\
X_i & \xrightarrow{\text{comp}_{i,j,k}(\alpha, \beta)} & X_k
\end{array}
$$

**Definition 7.2. (cone over a diagram)**

Consider a diagram

$$X_* = \left( \left( X_i \xrightarrow{f_\alpha} X_j \right)_{i,j \in I, \alpha \in I_{i,j}}, \text{comp} \right)$$

in some category (def. 7.1). Then

1. a cone over this diagram is

   1. an object $\tilde{X}$ in the category;
   2. for each $i \in I$ a morphism $\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p_i} X_i$ in the category

such that

   i) for all $(i, j) \in I \times I$ and all $\alpha \in I_{i,j}$ then the condition

$$f_\alpha \circ p_i = p_j$$

holds, which we depict as follows:
2. a **co-cone** over this diagram is

1. an **object** $\tilde{X}$ in the category;

2. for each $i \in I$ a morphism $q_i : X_i \to \tilde{X}$ in the category

such that

- for all $(i, j) \in I \times I$ and all $\alpha \in I_{i,j}$ then the condition

\[ q_j \circ f_\alpha = q_i \]

holds, which we depict as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
X_i \xrightarrow{f_\alpha} X_j \\
\downarrow q_i \downarrow q_j \\
\tilde{X}
\end{array}
\]

**Definition 7.3. (limiting cone over a diagram)**

Consider a **diagram**

\[
X_* = \left( \{X_i \xrightarrow{f_\alpha} X_j\}_{i,j \in I, \alpha \in I_{i,j}}, \text{comp} \right)
\]

in some **category** (def. 7.1). Then

1. its **limiting cone** (or just **limit** for short) is, if it exists, **the cone**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\lim_i X_i \\
\{ p_i \downarrow \} \\
X_i \xrightarrow{f_\alpha} X_j \\
\{ p_j \downarrow \}
\end{array}
\]

over this diagram (def. 7.2) which is **universal** or **initial** among all possible cones, in that it has the property that for

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\tilde{X} \\
\{ p_i' \downarrow \} \\
X_i \xrightarrow{f_\alpha} X_j \\
\{ p_j' \downarrow \}
\end{array}
\]

any other **cone**, then there is a unique morphism
that factors the given cone through the limiting cone, in that for all \( i \in I \) then

\[
p'_i = p_i \circ \phi
\]

which we depict as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
X_i \\
\downarrow^{\phi} \\
\text{lim}_i X_i \\
\downarrow^{p_i} \\
X_i
\end{array}
\]

2. its \textit{colimiting cocone} (or just \textit{colimit} for short) is, if it exists, the cocone

\[
\begin{cases}
X_i \to X_j \\ q_i \downarrow f_a \\
\text{lim}_i X_i \\
\downarrow q_j \\
\tilde{X}
\end{cases}
\]

under this diagram (def. 7.2) which is \textit{universal} or \textit{terminal} among all possible co-cones, in that it has the property that for

\[
\begin{cases}
X_i \to X_j \\ q'_i \downarrow f_a \\
\text{lim}_i X_i \\
\downarrow q'_{ij} \\
\tilde{X}
\end{cases}
\]

any other cocone, then there is a unique morphism

\[
\phi : \text{lim}_i X_i \to \tilde{X}
\]

that factors the given co-cone through the co-limiting cocone, in that for all \( i \in I \) then

\[
q'_i = \phi \circ q_i
\]

which we depict as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
X_i \\
\downarrow^{q_i} \\
\text{lim}_i X_i \\
\downarrow^{q'_{ij}} \\
\tilde{X}
\end{array}
\]

\textbf{Proposition 7.4. (limits of sets)}

\textit{Let}
be a diagram of sets (def. 7.1). Then

1. its limit cone (def. 7.3) exists and is given by the following subset of the Cartesian product \( \prod_{i \in I} X_i \) of all the sets \( X_i \) appearing in the diagram

\[
\lim_{\leftarrow} X_i \hookrightarrow \prod_{i \in I} X_i
\]

on those tuples of elements which match the graphs of the functions appearing in the diagram:

\[
\lim_{\leftarrow} X_i \simeq \left\{ (x_i)_{i \in I} \in \prod_{i \in I} X_i \mid \forall_{i, j \in I} (f_{\alpha}(x_i) = x_j) \right\}
\]

2. its colimiting co-cone (def. 7.3) exists and is given by the quotient set of the disjoint union \( \bigsqcup_{i \in I} X_i \) of all the sets \( X_i \) appearing in the diagram

\[
\bigsqcup_{i \in I} X_i \longrightarrow \lim_{\rightarrow} X_i
\]

with respect to the equivalence relation which is generated from the graphs of the functions in the diagram:

\[
\lim_{\rightarrow} X_i \simeq \left( \bigsqcup_{i \in I} X_i \right) / \left( x \sim x' \iff \exists_{i, j \in I} (f_{\alpha}(x) = x') \right)
\]

Now we turn to limits of diagrams of topological spaces.

**Definition 7.5.** Let \( \{X_i = (S_i, \tau_i) \in \text{Top} \}_{i \in I} \) be a class of topological spaces, and let \( S \in \text{Set} \) be a bare set. Then

- For \( \{S \xrightarrow{f_i} S_i\}_{i \in I} \) a set of functions out of \( S \), the initial topology \( \tau_{\text{initial}}([f_i]_{i \in I}) \) is the topology on \( S \) with the minimum collection of open subsets such that all \( f_i : (S, \tau_{\text{initial}}([f_i]_{i \in I})) \to X_i \) are continuous.

- For \( \{S_i \xrightarrow{f_i} S\}_{i \in I} \) a set of functions into \( S \), the final topology \( \tau_{\text{final}}([f_i]_{i \in I}) \) is the topology on \( S \) with the maximum collection of open subsets such that all \( f_i : X_i \to (S, \tau_{\text{final}}([f_i]_{i \in I})) \) are continuous.

**Example 7.6.** For \( X \) a single topological space, and \( \iota_S : S \hookrightarrow U(X) \) a subset of its underlying set, then the initial topology \( \tau_{\text{initial}}(\iota_S) \), def. 7.5, is the subspace topology, making
\[ t_S : (S, \tau_{\text{initial}}(t_S)) \mapsto X \]

a **topological subspace** inclusion.

**Example 7.7.** Conversely, for \( p_S : U(X) \to S \) an **epimorphism**, then the final topology \( \tau_{\text{final}}(p_S) \) on \( S \) is the **quotient topology**.

**Proposition 7.8.** Let \( I \) be a **small category** and let \( X_* : I \to \text{Top} \) be an **\( I \)-diagram** in \( \text{Top} \) (a **functor** from \( I \) to \( \text{Top} \)), with components denoted \( X_i = (S_i, \tau_i) \), where \( S_i \in \text{Set} \) and \( \tau_i \) a topology on \( S_i \). Then:

1. The **limit** of \( X_* \) exists and is given by the topological space whose underlying set is the **limit** in \( \text{Set} \) of the underlying sets in the diagram, and whose topology is the **initial topology**, def. 7.5, for the functions \( p_i \) which are the limiting **cone** components:

\[
\lim_{\leftarrow i \in I} S_i
\]

\[
p_i \leftarrow \begin{array}{c} p_j \end{array} \]

\[
S_i \quad \to \quad S_j
\]

Hence

\[
\lim_{\leftarrow i \in I} X_i \simeq \left( \lim_{\leftarrow i \in I} S_i, \tau_{\text{initial}}(\{p_i\}_{i \in I}) \right)
\]

2. The **colimit** of \( X_* \) exists and is the topological space whose underlying set is the **colimit** in \( \text{Set} \) of the underlying diagram of sets, and whose topology is the **final topology**, def. 7.5 for the component maps \( i_i \) of the colimiting **cocone**

\[
S_i \quad \to \quad S_j
\]

\[
i_i \leftarrow \begin{array}{c} i_j \end{array} \]

\[
\lim_{\to i \in I} S_i
\]

Hence

\[
\lim_{\to i \in I} X_i \simeq \left( \lim_{\to i \in I} S_i, \tau_{\text{final}}(\{i_i\}_{i \in I}) \right)
\]

(e.g. Bourbaki 71, section I.4)

**Proof.** The required **universal property** of \( \left( \lim_{\leftarrow i \in I} S_i, \tau_{\text{initial}}(\{p_i\}_{i \in I}) \right) \) is immediate: for

\[
(S, \tau)
\]

\[
f_i \leftarrow \begin{array}{c} f_j \end{array} \]

\[
X_i \quad \to \quad X_i
\]
any cone over the diagram, then by construction there is a unique function of underlying sets \( S \to \lim_{i \in I} S_i \) making the required diagrams commute, and so all that is required is that this unique function is always continuous. But this is precisely what the initial topology ensures.

The case of the colimit is formally dual. ■

Examples

Example 7.9. The limit over the empty diagram in \( \text{Top} \) is the point space * (example 2.10).

Example 7.10. For \( \{X_i\}_{i \in I} \) a set of topological spaces, their coproduct \( \bigsqcup_{i \in I} X_i \in \text{Top} \) is their disjoint union (example 2.15).

Example 7.11. For \( \{X_i\}_{i \in I} \) a set of topological spaces, their product \( \prod_{i \in I} X_i \in \text{Top} \) is the Cartesian product of the underlying sets equipped with the product topology, also called the Tychonoff product.

In the case that \( S \) is a finite set, such as for binary product spaces \( X \times Y \), then a sub-basis for the product topology is given by the Cartesian products of the open subsets of (a basis for) each factor space.

Example 7.12. The equalizer of two continuous functions \( f, g : X \to Y \) in \( \text{Top} \) is the equalizer of the underlying functions of sets

\[
\text{eq}(f, g) \hookrightarrow S_X \xrightarrow{f/g} S_Y
\]

(hence the largest subset of \( S_X \) on which both functions coincide) and equipped with the subspace topology, example 7.6.

Example 7.13. The coequalizer of two continuous functions \( f, g : X \to Y \) in \( \text{Top} \) is the coequalizer of the underlying functions of sets

\[
S_X \xrightarrow{f/g} S_Y \to \text{coeq}(f, g)
\]

(hence the quotient set by the equivalence relation generated by \( f(x) \sim g(x) \) for all \( x \in X \)) and equipped with the quotient topology, example 7.7.

Example 7.14. For

\[
A \xrightarrow{g} Y \\
f \downarrow \\
X
\]
two continuous functions out of the same domain, then the colimit under this diagram is also called the pushout, denoted

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
A & \xrightarrow{g} & Y \\
\downarrow \quad \ & \ & \downarrow \, g \cdot f \\
X & \rightarrow & X \cup_A Y.
\end{array}
\]

(Here \(g, f\) is also called the pushout of \(f\), or the cobase change of \(f\) along \(g\).) If \(g\) is an inclusion, one also write \(X \cup_f Y\) and calls this the attaching space.

By example 7.13 the pushout/attaching space is the quotient topological space

\[X \cup_A Y \simeq (X \cup Y) / \sim\]

of the disjoint union of \(X\) and \(Y\) subject to the equivalence relation which identifies a point in \(X\) with a point in \(Y\) if they have the same pre-image in \(A\).

(Example 7.15. As an important special case of example 7.14, let

\[i_n : S^{n-1} \rightarrow D^n\]

be the canonical inclusion of the standard \((n-1)\)-sphere as the boundary of the standard \(n\)-disk from example 2.20.

Then the colimit in Top under the diagram, i.e. the pushout of \(i_n\) along itself,

\[\left\{D^n \xleftarrow{i_n} S^{n-1} \xrightarrow{i_n} D^n\right\},\]

is the \(n\)-sphere \(S^n\):

\[S^{n-1} \xrightarrow{i_n} D^n\]

\[i_n \downarrow \quad \text{(po)} \quad \downarrow \]

\[D^n \rightarrow S^n\]

(Example 7.16. (single cell attachment)

For \(X\) any topological space and for \(n \in \mathbb{N}\), then an \(n\)-cell attachment to \(X\) is the result of gluing an \(n\)-disk to \(X\), along a prescribed image of its bounding \((n-1)\)-
**sphere** (def. 2.20): Let

\[ \phi : S^{n-1} \to X \]

be a **continuous function**, then the "attaching space"

\[ X \cup_\phi D^n \in \text{Top} \]

is the topological space which is the **pushout** of the boundary inclusion of the \(n\)-sphere along \(\phi\), hence the universal space that makes the following **diagram commute**:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
S^{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & X \\
\downarrow{i_n} & (\text{po}) & \downarrow . \\
D^n & \to & X \cup_\phi D^n
\end{array}
\]

**Example 7.17.** A single cell attachment of a 0-cell, according to example 7.16 is the same as forming the **disjoint union space** \(X \sqcup *\) with the **point** space *:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
(S^{-1} = \emptyset) & \xrightarrow{\exists !} & X \\
\downarrow (\text{po}) & \downarrow . \\
(D^0 = *) & \to & X \sqcup *
\end{array}
\]

In particular if we start with the **empty topological space** \(X = \emptyset\) itself, then by attaching 0-cells we obtain a **discrete topological space**. To this then we may attach higher dimensional cells.

**Definition 7.18. (attaching many cells at once)**

If we have a **set** of attaching maps \(\{S^{n_i-1} \xrightarrow{\phi_i} X\}_{i \in I}\) (as in def. 7.16), all to the same space \(X\), we may think of these as one single continuous function out of the **disjoint union space** of their **domain** spheres

\[
(\phi_i)_{i \in I} : \bigsqcup_{i \in I} S^{n_i-1} \to X.
\]

Then the result of attaching **all** the corresponding \(n\)-cells to \(X\) is the pushout of the corresponding **disjoint union** of boundary inclusions:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\bigsqcup_{i \in I} S^{n_i-1}(\phi_i)|_{i \in I} & \xrightarrow{\bigsqcup_{i \in I} \phi_i |_{i \in I}} & X \\
\downarrow (\text{po}) & \downarrow . \\
\bigsqcup_{i \in I} D^n & \to & X \cup_{\phi_i|_{i \in I}} (\bigsqcup_{i \in I} D^n)
\end{array}
\]

Apart from attaching a set of cells all at once to a fixed base space, we may “attach cells to cells” in that after forming a given cell attachment, then we further attach cells to the resulting attaching space, and ever so on:
Definition 7.19. (relative cell complexes and CW-complexes)

Let $X$ be a topological space, then a topological relative cell complex of countable height based on $X$ is a continuous function

$$f : X \to Y$$

and a sequential diagram of topological space of the form

$$X = X_0 \hookleftarrow X_1 \hookleftarrow X_2 \hookleftarrow X_3 \hookleftarrow \cdots$$

such that

1. each $X_k \hookleftarrow X_{k+1}$ is exhibited as a cell attachment according to def. 7.18, hence presented by a pushout diagram of the form

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} S^{n_i-1} \xrightarrow{(\phi_i)_{i \in I}} X_k$$

$$\downarrow \quad \text{(po)} \quad \downarrow$$

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} D^{n_i} \xrightarrow{} X_{k+1}$$

2. $Y = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} X_k$ is the union of all these cell attachments, and $f : X \to Y$ is the canonical inclusion; or stated more abstractly: the map $f : X \to Y$ is the inclusion of the first component of the diagram into its colimiting cocone $\lim_{\to k} X_k$:

$$X = X_0 \twoheadrightarrow \quad X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \quad X_2 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots$$

$$f \swarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \nearrow \quad \cdots$$

$$Y = \lim_{\to k} X.$$  

If here $X = \emptyset$ is the empty space then the result is a map $\emptyset \hookleftarrow Y$, which is equivalently just a space $Y$ built form “attaching cells to nothing”. This is then called just a topological cell complex of countable height.

Finally, a topological (relative) cell complex of countable height is called a CW-complex is the $(k+1)$-st cell attachment $X_k \to X_{k+1}$ is entirely by $(k+1)$-cells, hence exhibited specifically by a pushout of the following form:

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} S^k \xrightarrow{(\phi_i)_{i \in I}} X_k$$

$$\downarrow \quad \text{(po)} \quad \downarrow$$

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} D^{k+1} \xrightarrow{} X_{k+1}$$

A finite CW-complex is one which admits a presentation in which there are only finitely many attaching maps, and similarly a countable CW-complex is one which admits a presentation with countably many attaching maps.

Given a CW-complex, then $X_n$ is also called its $n$-skeleton.
This concludes Section 1 \textit{Point-set topology}.
For the next section see \textit{Section 2 -- Basic homotopy theory}.

\section*{8. References}

A canonical compendium is


Introductory textbooks include


See also

- \textbf{Alan Hatcher}, \textit{Algebraic Topology}

and see also the references at \textit{algebraic topology}.

Lecture notes include

- \textbf{Friedhelm Waldhausen}, \textit{Topologie} (pdf)

Discussion of \textit{sober topological spaces} is in


See also

- \textbf{Topospaces}, a Wiki with basic material on topology.

\textit{Revised on April 27, 2017 03:38:47 by Urs Schreiber}