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example of an Alexandroff space which cannot be turned into a topological group

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Let  $\mathbb{R}$  denote the set of real numbers and  $\tau = \{[a, \infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R}\} \cup \{(b, \infty) \mid b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . One can easily verify that  $(\mathbb{R}, \tau)$  is an Alexandroff space.

**Proposition.** The Alexandroff space  $(\mathbb{R}, \tau)$  cannot be turned into a topological group.

*Proof.* Assume that  $\mathbb{R} = (\mathbb{R}, \tau, \circ)$  is a topological group. It is well known that this implies that there is  $H \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  which is open, normal subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$ . This subgroup „generates” the topology (see the parent object for more details). Thus  $H \neq \mathbb{R}$  because  $\tau$  is not antidiscrete. Let  $g \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g \notin H$  (and thus  $gH \cap H = \emptyset$ ). Then  $gH$  is again open (because the mapping  $f(x) = g \circ x$  is a homeomorphism). But since both  $H$  and  $gH$  are open, then  $gH \cap H \neq \emptyset$ . Indeed, every two open subsets in  $\tau$  have nonempty intersection. Contradiction, because different cosets are disjoint.  $\square$