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accumulation points and convergent subnets

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**Proposition.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha \in A}$  a net in  $X$ . A point  $x \in X$  is an accumulation point of  $(x_\alpha)$  if and only if some subnet of  $(x_\alpha)$  converges to  $x$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose first that  $(x_{\alpha_\beta})_{\beta \in B}$  is a subnet of  $(x_\alpha)$  converging to  $x$ . Given an open subset  $U$  of  $X$  containing  $x$  and  $\alpha \in A$ , we may select  $\beta_1 \in B$  such that  $x_{\alpha_{\beta_1}} \in U$  for  $\beta \geq \beta_1$ , as well as  $\beta_2 \in B$  such that  $\alpha_\beta \geq \alpha$  for  $\beta \geq \beta_2$ . Finally, because  $B$  is directed, there exists  $\beta \in B$  such that  $\beta \geq \beta_1$  and  $\beta \geq \beta_2$ ; we then have  $\alpha_\beta \geq \alpha$  and  $x_{\alpha_\beta} \in U$ , so that  $(x_\alpha)$  is frequently in  $U$ , whence  $x$  is an accumulation point of  $(x_\alpha)$ . Conversely, suppose that  $x$  is an accumulation point of  $(x_\alpha)$ , let  $N$  be the set of open neighborhoods of  $x$  in  $X$ , directed by reverse inclusion, and let  $B = A \times N$ , directed in the natural way. For each pair  $(\gamma, U) \in B$ , select  $\alpha_{(\gamma, U)} \in A$  such that  $\alpha \geq \gamma$  and  $x_{\alpha_{(\gamma, U)}} \in U$ ;  $(x_{\alpha_{(\gamma, U)}})_{(\gamma, U) \in B}$  is then a subnet of  $(x_\alpha)$  that converges to  $x$ , for given  $U \in N$  and  $\gamma \in A$ , if  $(\gamma', U') \geq (\gamma, U)$ , then  $\alpha_{(\gamma', U')} \geq \gamma' \geq \gamma$  and  $x_{\alpha_{(\gamma', U')}} \in U' \subseteq U$ .  $\square$