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subbasis

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Let (X, \mathcal{T}) be a topological space. A subset $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ is said to be a *subbasis* if the collection \mathcal{B} of intersections of finitely many elements of \mathcal{A} is a http://planetmath.org/BasisTopologicalSpacebasis for \mathcal{T} .

Conversely, given an arbitrary collection \mathcal{A} of subsets of X, a topology can be formed by first taking the collection \mathcal{B} of finite intersections of members of \mathcal{A} and then taking the topology \mathcal{T} generated by \mathcal{B} as basis. \mathcal{T} will then be the smallest topology such that $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$.