

# Topological Spaces

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## 1 Topological Spaces

**Definition.** A **topology** on a set  $X$  is a collection  $\mathcal{T}$  of subsets of  $X$  having the following properties:

- (1)  $\emptyset$  and  $X$  are in  $\mathcal{T}$
- (2) For any subcollection of  $\mathcal{T}$ , indexed by set  $I$ , we have:  $\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} U_\alpha \in \mathcal{T}$
- (3) For any finite subcollection of  $\mathcal{T}$  with  $n$  elements, we have:  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n U_i \in \mathcal{T}$

A set for which a topology  $\mathcal{T}$  is specified is called a **topological space**. And the element of  $\mathcal{T}$  is called **Open Set**

With the element of  $\mathcal{T}$  is defined as open set, we could say a topology is a collection of subsets of  $X$  such that  $\emptyset$  and  $X$  itself are open and satisfies that arbitrary unions and finite intersections of open sets are open. We often write set  $X$  and its topology  $\mathcal{T}$  as the ordered pair:  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ . And when we say "Let  $X$  be open sets", that means we defined a topology on  $X$  and  $\mathcal{T}$  consists the subsets mentioned above.

**EXAMPLE.** If  $X$  is any set, the collection of all subsets of  $X$  is a topology on  $X$ , called **discrete topology**. The collection which has only  $\emptyset$  and  $X$  itself is called **trivial topology**.

**EXAMPLE.** Let  $X$  be a set; let  $\mathcal{T}_f$  be the collection of all subsets  $U$  of  $X$  such that  $X - U$  is either finite or all of  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}_f$  is a topology of  $X$ , called **finite complement topology**. Note that  $\text{varnothing} = U - U$  is finite and  $U = U - \emptyset$ , therefore we have  $\emptyset$  and  $U$  belong to  $\mathcal{T}_f$ . Let  $\{U_\alpha\}$  be a subcollection of  $\mathcal{T}$  indexed by  $I$ . Then we have:

$$X - \bigcup U_\alpha = \bigcap (X - U_\alpha)$$

Since each  $X - U_\alpha$  is finite, we have  $X - \bigcup U_\alpha$  is finite. If  $U_1, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{T}_f$ . Then:

$$X - \bigcap_{i=1}^n U_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n (X - U_i)$$

Since each  $X - U_i$  is finite, the finite union of sets with finite cardinal numbers are also finite. Thus  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n U_i \in \mathcal{T}_f$

In conclusion,  $\mathcal{T}_f$  is a topology on set  $X$ .

EXAMPLE. Let  $X$  be a set and  $\mathcal{T}$  a topology on  $X$ . If  $Y$  is a subset of  $U$ . We define the following collection:

$$\mathcal{T}_Y = \{Y \cap U \mid U \in \mathcal{T}\}$$

It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{T}_Y$  is a topology on  $Y$ :

$$\emptyset = \emptyset \cap Y \quad Y = X \cap Y$$

If  $\{V_\alpha\}$  is a subcollection of  $\mathcal{T}_Y$ , then each  $V_\alpha$  could be written as  $U_\alpha \cap Y$ , we have:

$$\bigcup V_\alpha = \bigcup (U_\alpha \cap Y) = (\bigcup U_\alpha) \cap Y$$

Note that  $\bigcup U_\alpha$  is in  $\mathcal{T}$ , hence we have  $\bigcup V_\alpha \in \mathcal{T}_Y$ .

If  $V_i = U_i \cap Y, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  is a finite collection of  $\mathcal{T}_Y$ . Then:

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^n V_i = \bigcap_{i=1}^n (U_i \cap Y) = (\bigcap_{i=1}^n U_i) \cap Y$$

Note that  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n U_i \in \mathcal{T}$ , thus we have  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n V_i \in \mathcal{T}_Y$ . The above new collection consists of the intersection of  $Y$  and open sets are called **subspace topology**, and therefore,  $Y$  is a topological space.

**REMARK.** It is easy to see that a set could be assigned with different topology. A typical example is the discrete topology and trivial topology of the same set  $X$ . These two topology represents different topological structure. A trivial topology looks like a steel while discrete topology is fine enough to make generate any subset of  $X$ .

**Definition.** Suppose  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{T}'$  are two topologies on a given set  $X$ . If  $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{T}' (\mathcal{T} \subsetneq \mathcal{T}')$ , we say that  $\mathcal{T}'$  is **finer** (**strictly finner**) than  $\mathcal{T}$ , or  $\mathcal{T}$  is **coarser** (**stricly coarser**) than  $\mathcal{T}'$ . We say  $\mathcal{T}$  is **comparable** with  $\mathcal{T}'$  if either  $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{T}'$  or  $\mathcal{T}' \subset \mathcal{T}$ .

Sometimes we also say that  $\mathcal{T}'$  is larger than  $\mathcal{T}$  or  $\mathcal{T}$  is smaller than  $\mathcal{T}'$ , but not as vivid as finer.

## 2 Closed Sets and Limit Point

**Definition.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space. We say a subset  $A$  of  $X$  is **closed** if  $X - A$  is open.

EXAMPLE. Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and  $\mathcal{T}$  be the discrete topology, then any subset of  $X$  is a closed set. On the other hand, let  $\mathcal{T}$  be trivial topology, then any subset that is neither  $\emptyset$  nor  $X$  is neither open nor closed.

EXAMPLE. Let  $(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and  $\mathcal{T}$  generated by all open ball. And consider the set:

$$\{(x, y) \mid x \geq 0, y \geq 0\}$$

The set is closed as its complement is:

$$(-\infty, 0) \times \mathbb{R} \cup \mathbb{R} \times (-\infty, 0)$$

And each of them are open.

**EXAMPLE.** Let  $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space with topology  $\mathcal{T}$  consists of all open sets under the metric space  $(\mathbb{R}, d)$ . Consider  $Y = [0, 1] \cup (2, 3)$  and the subspace topology. We claim that  $[0, 1]$  is an open set of  $Y$ , because  $[0, 1] = (-1, \frac{3}{2}) \cap Y$ . Similarly,  $(2, 3)$  is also open in  $Y$ . And the complement of each of them is another interval, therefore  $[0, 1]$  and  $(2, 3)$  are both open and closed.

**REMARK.** By these three examples, we could see that a subset of  $X$  can be open, or closed, or both, or neither. In addition, we see that a subset is open(closed) or not depends on the whole space you consider:  $[0, 1]$  in EXAMPLE3 is not open in  $\mathbb{R}$  but open in  $Y$ .  $(2, 3)$  is not closed in  $\mathbb{R}$  but closed in  $Y$ .

**Theorem 1.** Let  $X$  be a topology space. Then the following conditions hold:

- (1)  $\emptyset$  and  $X$  are closed
- (2) For any collection of closed set  $\{V_\alpha \mid \alpha \in I\}$ , we have  $\bigcap_{\alpha \in I} V_\alpha$  is closed
- (3) The intersection of any finite many closed sets are closed.

**Proof.** (1) is trivial with  $\emptyset = X - X$  and  $X = X - \emptyset$ .

As for (2), notice that :

$$\bigcap_{\alpha \in I} V_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} U_\alpha^c = (\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} U_\alpha)^c$$

where  $U_\alpha$  is an open set. And we denote  $X - U_\alpha$  with  $U_\alpha^c$ . (3) follows the same way with the fact that:

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n V_\alpha = \bigcup_{i=1}^n U_\alpha^c = (\bigcap_{i=1}^n U_\alpha)^c$$

**Theorem 2.** Let  $Y$  be a subspace of  $X$ . Then a set  $A$  is closed in  $Y$  if and only if it equals the intersection of a closed set of  $X$  with  $Y$ .

**Proof.** Consider the subspace topology of  $Y$  and let  $V_Y$  is a closed set under such subspace topology. Then we have  $V_Y = Y - U_Y$  for some open set  $U_Y$  in  $Y$ . With the definition of subspace topology, we have  $U_Y = U \cap Y$  with  $U$  an open set in  $X$ . Then  $V_Y = Y - U_Y = Y - U \cap Y = Y - U = Y \cap (X - U)$  where  $(X - U)$  is closed in  $X$ . Therefore if  $V_Y$  is closed in  $Y$ , then  $V_Y$  is intersection of  $Y$  and a closed set in  $X$ .

On the other hand, if  $V_Y = Y \cap V$  for some closed set  $V$  of  $X$ . We have  $V_Y = Y \cap (X - U) = Y - U = Y - (Y \cap U)$ , which is closed in  $Y$ .

**REMARK.** General speaking, a set that is closed in a subspace may not be closed in the larger topological space. For example, let  $X = \mathbb{R}$  and open set consists of conventional open set in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Consider the subspace  $Y$  generated by the intersection of  $[0, 1)$  and  $X$ . Then notice that  $[0, \frac{1}{2})$  is open in  $Y$  as  $[0, \frac{1}{2}) = (-1, \frac{1}{2}) \cap [0, 1)$ . Therefore  $Y - [0, \frac{1}{2}) = [\frac{1}{2}, 1)$  is closed in  $Y$ , however, it's not closed in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

But we have the following theorem explained the so called "transitivity" of closed property:

**Theorem 3.** Let  $Y$  be a subspace of  $X$ . If  $A$  is closed in  $Y$  and  $Y$  is closed in  $X$ , then  $A$  is closed in  $X$ .

**Proof.** By theorem 2,  $A = Y \cap V$  with  $V$  closed in  $X$ . Therefore,  $A$  is closed in  $X$  by the fact that the intersection of two closed sets is closed.