

Show that every compact metrizable space X has a countable basis. Hint: Let \mathcal{A}_n be a finite covering of X by $1/n$ -balls.

Let d be the metric inducing the topology τ on X . As X is sequentially compact there is a finite collection of ε -balls covering X . (Proved in Theorem 28.2).

Following the hint let then \mathcal{A}_n be a finite covering of X by $1/n$ -balls. Then let

$\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{A}_n$ this is countable being a countable union of finite sets.

Let $U \in \tau$, $x \in U$ then for some $\varepsilon > 0$

$B(x, \varepsilon) \subset U$ pick N s.t. $1/N < \varepsilon/2$. as \mathcal{A}_N covers X there is an element $A \in \mathcal{A}_N$ s.t. $x \in A$. But then $A \subset B(x, \varepsilon) \subset U$ as $\text{diam } A < \varepsilon$.

Thus \mathcal{A} is a basis. ■