

0.0.1 Topics

- (1) Every neighborhood is an open set.
- (2) If p is a limit point of a set E , then every neighborhood of p contains infinitely many points of E .
- (3) Theorem: E is open $\iff E^c$ is closed.
- (4) Theorem: arbitrary union of open sets is open, Finite intersection of open sets is open.
- (5) Theorem: \overline{E} is the smallest closed subset of X that contains E .

Theorem. Let (X, d) be a metric space and let $p \in X$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Every neighborhood is an open set; that is, $N_\varepsilon(p)$ is an open set.

Proof. Our goal is to show that every point of $N_\varepsilon(p)$ is an interior point of $N_\varepsilon(p)$. Let $q \in N_\varepsilon(p)$. We need to show that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $N_\delta(q) \subseteq N_\varepsilon(p)$. Let $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon - d(p, q)}{2}$. We claim that $N_\delta(q)$ is a subset of $N_\varepsilon(p)$. Indeed, if $x \in N_\delta(q)$, then

$$d(q, x) < \delta \implies d(p, x) < \varepsilon - d(p, q)$$

and so

$$d(p, q) + d(q, x) < \varepsilon \iff d(p, x) < \varepsilon. \quad (\text{triangle inequality})$$

Thus, $x \in N_\varepsilon(p)$. ■

Theorem. Let (X, d) be a metric space and $E \subseteq X$. If $p \in E'$, then every neighborhood of p contains infinitely many points of E .

Proof. Suppose for sake of contradiction that there exists a neighborhood of p that contains finitely many points of E ; that is,

$$\exists \varepsilon > 0 \text{ such that } N_\varepsilon(p) \cap E \text{ is a finite set.}$$

Since $N_\varepsilon(p) \cap (E \setminus \{p\}) \subseteq N_\varepsilon(p) \cap E$, we can immediately conclude that $N_\varepsilon(p) \cap (E \setminus \{p\})$ is finite also. Furthermore, $N_\varepsilon(p) \cap (E \setminus \{p\})$ is nonempty since $p \in E'$. Let us denote the elements of $N_\varepsilon(p) \cap (E \setminus \{p\})$ by x_1, \dots, x_n . Our goal is to find a $\delta > 0$ such that the neighborhood with radius $\delta > 0$, we will not contain any of the finite points we introduced. For each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $d(p, x_i) > 0$,

$$\delta = \min\{d(p, x_i) : i \in 1, \dots, n\} > 0.$$

Clearly, $N_{\delta/2}(p) \cap (E \setminus \{p\}) = \emptyset$. But this contradicts our assumption that p is NOT a limit point of E . ■

Corollary. A finite set has no limit points; that is, if E is finite, then $E' = \emptyset$.

Proof. This is just the contrapositive of the theorem above. ■

Theorem. Let (X, d) be a metric space and $E \subseteq X$. We have that E is open if and only if E^c is closed.

Proof. (\implies) Assume that E is open. We want to show that E^c is closed; that is, every limit point of E^c is contained in E^c . Let p be a limit point of (E^c) . Assume for sake of contradiction that $p \notin E^c$. Then $p \in E$. Since E is open, p is an interior point of E . Thus, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $N_\delta(p) \subseteq E$; that is, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $N_\delta(p) \cap E^c = \emptyset$. Furthermore, we have that

$$N_\delta(p) \cap (E^c \setminus \{p\}) = \emptyset.$$

But this tells us that p is not a limit point which is a contradiction.

(\Leftarrow) Assume that E^c is closed. We want to show that E is open; that is, every $x \in E$ is an interior point. Let $p \in E$. Assume for sake of contradiction that $p \notin E^\circ$. Then for all $\delta > 0$, $N_\delta(p) \not\subseteq E$. Hence, for all $N_\varepsilon(p) \cap E^c \neq \emptyset$. Therefore,

$$\forall \delta > 0 \quad N_\delta(p) \cap (E^c \setminus \{p\}) \neq \emptyset.$$

That is, p is a limit point of E^c . But by assumption, E^c is closed. Thus, $p \in E^c$. But this contradicts the assumption that $p \in E$. ■

Theorem. Let (X, d) be a metric space. Let $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Lambda}$ be a collection of open sets where Λ is an index set (can be finite or infinite). Then

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} A_\alpha$$

is an open set.

Proof. Our goal is to show that every point of $A = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} A_\alpha$ is an interior point. Let $p \in A$. Thus, there exists $\alpha \in \Lambda$ such that $p \in A_\alpha$. Since A_α is open, so there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $N_\delta(p) \subseteq A_\alpha$. But note that

$$A_{\alpha_0} \subseteq A.$$

Hence,

$$N_\delta(p) \subseteq A$$

and thus p is an interior point of A . ■

Theorem. Let A_1, \dots, A_n be open sets in the metric space (X, d) . Then

$$\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k \text{ is open.}$$

Proof. Our goal is to show that every point of $\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k$ is an interior point of $\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k$. Let $p \in \bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k$. Then for all $1 \leq k \leq n$ such that $p \in A_k$. Since A_k is open for all k , we know that for all $1 \leq k \leq n$, there exists $\delta_k > 0$ such that $N_{\delta_k}(p) \subseteq A_k$. Let $\delta = \min\{\delta_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$. Then we have that

$$N_\delta(p) \subseteq N_{\delta_k}(p) \subseteq A_k.$$

Consequently, we have

$$N_\delta(p) \subseteq \bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k.$$

Hence, p is an interior point of the intersection $\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k$. ■

Theorem.