

A few comments about “Topology” by Munkres

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As the title indicates, we make a comments about the book **Topology** by James R. Munkres. This is a work in progress.

• **Definition of \mathbb{R} p. 31.** The object \mathbb{R} is defined by assuming that there exists a set \mathbb{R} having certain properties. We take this assumption for granted. Then it is easy to see that there are several sets having these properties. So, let \mathbb{R}' be a set having the same properties as \mathbb{R} . Let $\mathbb{Z}'_+, \mathbb{Z}'$ and \mathbb{Q}' be to \mathbb{R}' what \mathbb{Z}_+, \mathbb{Z} and \mathbb{Q} are to \mathbb{R} .

Theorem 1. *There is a unique morphism of fields from $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}'$. This morphism is an isomorphism of ordered fields, and it induces isomorphisms $\mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}'_+, \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}'$ and $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}'$.*

Lemma 2. *There is a unique map $g : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}'_+$ such that $g(0) = 0$ and $g(n+1) = g(n) + 1$ for all n in \mathbb{Z}_+ . Similarly, there is a unique map $h : \mathbb{Z}'_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $h(0) = 0$ and $h(n+1) = h(n) + 1$ for all n in \mathbb{Z}'_+ .*

Proof. For $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ and $\varphi : \{1, \dots, i\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}'_+$ define $\rho(\varphi) \in \mathbb{Z}'_+$ by $\rho(\varphi) := \varphi(i) + 1$. Then the first statement follows from the Principle of Recursive Definition (Theorem 3 p. 2). The proof of the second statement is similar. \square

Proof of Theorem 1. In the notation of Lemma 2, set $u := h \circ g$. Then $u : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$ satisfies $u(0) = 0$ and $u(n+1) = u(n) + 1$ for all n in \mathbb{Z}_+ . One can easily prove that $u(n) = n$ by induction. The same argument works for $g \circ h$. This shows that $g : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}'_+$ and $h : \mathbb{Z}'_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$ are inverse isomorphisms. Then we extend g to morphisms $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}'$ and $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}'$, and similarly for h , and, arguing as before, we show that these morphisms are isomorphisms. More precisely, we see that there is a unique morphism $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}'$ extending g , and that this morphism is an isomorphism, and similarly for the morphism $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}'$. So we can make the identifications $\mathbb{Z}_+ = \mathbb{Z}'_+, \mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}', \mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{Q}'$. To show that there is a unique morphism of fields $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}'$, and that this morphism is an isomorphism (inducing the identity of \mathbb{Q}), we argue as in Section *Appendix to Chapter 1* in *A few comments about “Principles of Mathematical Analysis” by Rudin*, available at <https://zenodo.org/records/13955297>. \square

• **Exercise 7.6. p. 51.** We say that two sets A and B have the same cardinality if there is a bijection of A with B .

(a) Show that if $B \subset A$ and if there is an injection

$$f : A \rightarrow B,$$

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then A and B have the same cardinality. [Hint: Define $A_1 = A, B_1 = B$, and for $n > 1$, $A_n = f(A_{n-1})$ and $B_n = f(B_{n-1})$. (Recursive definition again!) Note that $A_1 \supset B_1 \supset A_2 \supset B_2 \supset A_3 \supset \dots$. Define a bijection $h : A \rightarrow B$ by the rule

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \in A_n \setminus B_n \text{ for some } n, \\ x & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(b) *Theorem (Schröder-Bernstein theorem).* If there are injections $f : A \rightarrow C$ and $g : C \rightarrow A$, then A and C have the same cardinality.

Solution. (a) We will freely use the following two obvious facts:

(F1) For $x \in A$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ we have

$$x \in A_n \iff f(x) \in A_{n+1} \text{ and } x \in B_n \iff f(x) \in B_{n+1}.$$

(F2) We have $\bigcap_{n \geq 1} A_n = \bigcap_{n \geq 1} B_n =: I$.

Setting $A'_n := A_n \setminus B_n, B'_n := B_n \setminus A_{n+1}$, we get

$$A = \left(\bigcup_{n \geq 1} A'_n \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{n \geq 1} B'_n \right) \cup I,$$

and this union is disjoint. We also have

$$B = \left(\bigcup_{n \geq 2} A'_n \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{n \geq 1} B'_n \right) \cup I.$$

The injection f induces bijections $f_n : A'_n \rightarrow A'_{n+1}$ (here we are using (F1)). To define a bijection $h : A \rightarrow B$, it suffices to define three bijections

$$u : \bigcup_{n \geq 1} A'_n \rightarrow \bigcup_{n \geq 2} A'_n, \quad v : \bigcup_{n \geq 1} B'_n \rightarrow \bigcup_{n \geq 1} B'_n, \quad w : I \rightarrow I.$$

We define u by $u(x) = f_n(x)$ if $x \in A'_n$, and take v and w to be the identity maps.

(b) We set $B := g(C) \subset A$ and define $f' : A \rightarrow B$ by $f'(a) := g(f(a))$. Then $f' : A \rightarrow B$ satisfies the assumptions for $f : A \rightarrow B$ in (a).

• **Exercise 8.7. p. 56.** Prove Theorem 8.4 p. 54.

Solution. Recall the statement of Theorem 8.4.

Theorem 3 (Principle of Recursive Definition, Theorem 8.4 of the book). *Let A be a set; let a_0 be an element of A . Suppose ρ is a function that assigns, to each function f mapping a nonempty section of the positive integers into A , an element of A . Then there exists a unique function*

$$h : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow A$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} h(1) &= a_0, \\ h(i) &= \rho(h|_{\{1, \dots, i-1\}}) \text{ for } i > 1. \end{aligned} \tag{*}$$

The formula $(*)$ is called a recursion formula for h . It specifies $h(1)$, and it expresses the value of h at $i > 1$ in terms of the values of h for positive integers less than i .

The book gives a detailed proof of the particular case when $\rho(h| \{1, \dots, i-1\})$ is equal to $\min(C \setminus h(\{1, \dots, i-1\}))$, where “min” means “*minimum*”, and C is an infinite set. A close inspection of this proof reveals that the sole property of the element c of C defined by the equality $c := \min(C \setminus h(\{1, \dots, i-1\}))$ is that it depends only on the restriction $h| \{1, \dots, i-1\}$. This implies that, if, in the proof given by the book, we replace “ $\min(C \setminus h(\{1, \dots, i-1\}))$ ” with “ $\rho(h| \{1, \dots, i-1\})$ ”, then we obtain a proof of Theorem 3.

• **Exercise 10.7 p. 67.** Let J be a well-ordered set. A subset J_0 of J is said to be **inductive** if for every $\alpha \in J$,

$$(S_\alpha \subset J_0) \Rightarrow \alpha \in J_0.$$

Theorem 4 (The principle of transfinite induction). *If J is a well-ordered set and J_0 is an inductive subset of J , then $J_0 = J$.*

Solution. If $J_0 \neq J$, let α be the least element of $J \setminus J_0$. We get $S_\alpha \subset J_0$, and thus $\alpha \in J_0$, contradiction.

• **Exercise 10.10 p. 67. Theorem.** Let J and C be well-ordered sets; assume that there is no surjective function mapping a section of J onto C . Then there exists a unique function $h : J \rightarrow C$ satisfying the equation

$$h(x) = \min(C \setminus h(S_x)) \tag{*}$$

for each $x \in J$, where S_x is the section of J by x .

Proof.

- If h and k map sections of J , or all of J , into C and satisfy $(*)$ for all x in their respective domains, show that $h(x) = k(x)$ for all x in both domains.
- If there exists a function $h : S_\alpha \rightarrow C$ satisfying $(*)$, show that there exists a function $k : S_\alpha \cup \{\alpha\} \rightarrow C$ satisfying $(*)$.
- If $K \subset J$ and for all $\alpha \in K$ there exists a function $h_\alpha : S_\alpha \rightarrow C$ satisfying $(*)$, show that there exists a function

$$k : \bigcup_{\alpha \in K} S_\alpha \rightarrow C$$

satisfying $(*)$.

- Show by transfinite induction that for every $\beta \in J$, there exists a function $h_\beta : S_\beta \rightarrow C$ satisfying $(*)$. [Hint: If β has an immediate predecessor α , then $S_\beta = S_\alpha \cup \{\alpha\}$. If not, S_β is the union of all S_α with $\alpha < \beta$.]
- Prove the theorem.

Solution.

- (a) Otherwise there would be a least x such that $h(x) \neq k(x)$, we would get $h(S_x) = k(S_x)$, and $(*)$ would yield a contradiction.
- (b) We define k by $k(x) = h(x)$ if $x < \alpha$ and $k(x) = \min(C \setminus h(S_x))$ if $x = \alpha$, and verify that k satisfies $(*)$.
- (c) Set $k(x) = h_\alpha(x)$ if $x \in S_\alpha$. To show that $k(x)$ is well defined, we must check that $\beta > \alpha$ implies $h_\beta(x) = h_\alpha(x)$. But this follows from (a).
- (d) Let I be the set of all $\beta \in J$ such that there is a map $h_\beta : S_\beta \rightarrow C$ satisfying $(*)$. It suffices to show that I is inductive. So, assume that β is in J and that $S_\beta \subset I$. We must show $\beta \in I$. To do that, we use (b) if β has an immediate predecessor, and we use (c) if not.
- (e) We define h by

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} \min(C \setminus h_x(S_x)) & \text{if } x = \max(J) \\ h_{x+1}(x) & \text{if } x \neq \max(J), \end{cases}$$

where “ $x \neq \max(J)$ ” means “ $x \neq \max(J)$ if J has a maximum”, and $x+1$ is the least element greater than x . Let us show that h satisfies $(*)$, that is, $h(x) = \min(C \setminus h(S_x))$. We can assume $x \neq \max(J)$ (in the above sense). We must show $h_{x+1}(x) = \min(C \setminus h(S_x))$. Since we have $h_{x+1}(x) = \min(C \setminus h_{x+1}(S_x))$ by (d) it suffices to prove $h(S_x) = h_{x+1}(S_x)$. Let y be in S_x , that is, $y \in J$ and $y < x$. It is enough to verify $h(y) = h_{x+1}(y)$, that is, $h_{y+1}(y) = h_{x+1}(y)$. We have $y+1 < x+1$, and thus $S_{y+1} \subset S_{x+1}$, and (a) implies $h_{x+1}|_{S_{y+1}} = h_{y+1}$. This proves $h_{y+1}(y) = h_{x+1}(y)$, which is what we wanted.

• **Supplementary Exercise 11.1 p. 72.**

Theorem 5 (General principle of recursive definition). *Let J be a well-ordered set; let C be a set. Let \mathcal{F} be the set of all functions mapping sections of J into C . Given a function $\rho : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow C$, there exists a unique function $h : J \rightarrow C$ such that $h(\alpha) = \rho(h|_{S_\alpha})$ for each $\alpha \in J$.*

[Hint: Follow the pattern outlined in Exercise 10 of §10.]

Solution. A close inspection of the solution to Exercise 10 of §10 reveals that the sole property of the element c of C defined by the equality $c := \min(C \setminus h(S_x))$ is that it depends only on the restriction $h|_{S_x}$. This implies that, if, in the proof given by the book, we replace “ $\min(C \setminus h(S_x))$ ” with “ $\rho(h|_{S_x})$ ”, then we obtain a proof of Theorem 5.

• **Supplementary Exercise 11.2 p. 72.**

(a) Let J and E be well-ordered sets; let $h : J \rightarrow E$. Show the following two statements are equivalent:

- (i) h is order preserving and its image is E or a section of E .
- (ii) $h(\alpha) = \text{smallest } [E - h(S_\alpha)]$ for all α .

[Hint: Show that each of these conditions implies that $h(S_\alpha)$ is a section of E ; conclude that it must be the section by $h(\alpha)$.]

(b) If E is a well-ordered set, show that no section of E has the order type of E , nor do two different sections of E have the same order type. [Hint: Given J , there is at most one order-preserving map of J into E whose image is E or a section of E .]

Solution.

(a) For all $X \subset E$ set $X^c := E \setminus X$. For the sake of prudence, we change (ii) to:

(ii') $h(S_x) \neq E$ and $h(x) = \min(h(S_x)^c)$ for all x .

We want to show that (i) and (ii') are equivalent.

(i) implies (ii'). We prove $h(S_x) \neq E$ by noting that $h(S_x) = E$ we would entail $h(x) = h(y)$ for some $y < x$, contradiction. To prove $h(x) = \min(h(S_x)^c)$, assume by contradiction that we have $h(x) \neq \min(h(S_x)^c) =: e$. If $h(x) < e$, then $h(x) \notin h(S_x)^c$, that is, $h(x) \in h(S_x)$, and we reach a contradiction as above. If $e < h(x)$, then $e = h(y)$ for some $y < x$, that is, $\min(h(S_x)^c) = e \in h(S_x)$, contradiction.

(ii') implies (i). We assume (ii'), and, in particular, that h is weakly increasing. To show that h is increasing, suppose $x < y$ and $h(x) = h(y)$ (we cannot have $h(x) > h(y)$ because h is weakly increasing). Since $h(x) = h(y) = \min(h(S_y)^c)$, we have $h(x) \in h(S_y)^c$, but $h(x) \in h(S_y)$, contradiction. Finally, $h(J)$ is downward closed because $e < h(x) = \min(h(S_x)^c)$ implies $e \in h(S_x) \subset h(J)$.

In the statement of the Exercise, the condition that J is well-ordered can be changed from an assumption to a conclusion.

(b) Let a be in E , and assume there is an isomorphism of well-ordered sets $h : S_a \rightarrow E$. It suffices to derive a contradiction. Let $i : S_a \rightarrow E$ be the inclusion. By (a) h and i satisfy the same recursion relation. By the Theorem about the General Principle of Definition by Recursion, we have $h = i$, and thus $a \in h(S_a) = i(S_a) = S_a$, contradiction.

• **Supplementary Exercise 11.3 p. 73.** Let J and E be well-ordered sets; suppose there is an order-preserving map $k : J \rightarrow E$. Using Exercises 1 and 2, show that J has the order type of E or a section of E . [Hint: Choose $e_0 \in E$. Define $h : J \rightarrow E$ by the recursion formula

$$h(\alpha) = \text{smallest } [E - h(S_\alpha)] \text{ if } h(S_\alpha) \neq E,$$

and $h(\alpha) = e_0$ otherwise. Show that $h(\alpha) \leq k(\alpha)$ for all α ; conclude that $h(S_\alpha) \neq E$ for all α .]

Solution. We can assume $E \neq \emptyset$. Let e_0 be in E . Let x be in J . We define $h : J \rightarrow E$ as in the hint.

Claim 1: $h(x) \leq k(x)$ for all x .

Claim 2: $h(y) \leq k(y)$ for all y in S_x implies $h(S_x) \neq E$.

Proof of Claim 2. For all y in S_x we have $h(y) \leq k(y) < k(x)$, and in particular $k(x) \neq h(y)$. This implies $k(x) \notin h(S_x)$.

Proof of Claim 1. Assume by contradiction $h(x) > k(x)$ for some x . We can assume that x is minimum for this condition. For $y < x$ we have $h(y) \leq k(y)$, hence $h(S_x) \neq E$ by Claim 2.

Claims 1 and 2 imply $h(x) = \min(h(S_x)^c)$ for all x , hence h is increasing and $h(J)$ is downward closed by Supplementary Exercise 11.2 above, hence J has the order type of E or a section of E .

• **Supplementary Exercise 11.4 p. 73.** Use Exercises 1–3 to prove the following:

- (a) If A and B are well-ordered sets, then exactly one of the following three conditions holds: A and B have the same order type, or A has the order type of a section of B , or B has the order type of a section of A . [Hint: Form a well-ordered set containing both A and B , as in Exercise 8 of §10; then apply the preceding exercise.]
- (b) Suppose that A and B are well-ordered sets that are uncountable, such that every section of A and of B is countable. Show A and B have the same order type.

Solution. (a) For any element x of any ordered set X , let $X_{<x}$ denote the corresponding section, and let us set $X_{<\infty} := X$. Let C be the well-ordered set containing both A and B , described in Exercise 8 of §10, and let $k : A \rightarrow C$ and $\ell : B \rightarrow C$ be the natural increasing maps. By the previous Exercise, we have isomorphisms $A \simeq C_{<x}$ and $B \simeq C_{<y}$ for some x and y in $C \cup \{\infty\}$. We can assume $x \leq y$. Then $x = y$ implies $A \simeq B$. If $x < y$, we get

$$A \simeq C_{<x} = (C_{<y})_{<x} \subsetneq C_{<y} \simeq B.$$

This implies $A \simeq B_{<b}$ for some b in B . The fact that the various cases are exclusive follows from Supplementary Exercise 11.2b.

(b) Follows from (a).

Here is an important consequence of (a):

Theorem 6 (Comparability Theorem). *If A and B are sets, then exactly one of the following three conditions holds:*

- (i) *there is a bijection $A \rightarrow B$,*
 - (ii) *there is an injection $A \rightarrow B$ and a surjection $B \rightarrow A$,*
 - (iii) *there is an injection $B \rightarrow A$ and a surjection $A \rightarrow B$.*
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• **Supplementary Exercise 11.5 p. 73.** Let X be a set; let \mathcal{A} be the collection of all pairs $(A, <)$, where A is a subset of X and $<$ is a well-ordering of A . Define

$$(A, <) \prec (A', <')$$

if $(A, <)$ equals a section of $(A', <')$.

- (a) Show that \prec is a strict partial order on \mathcal{A} .
- (b) Let \mathcal{B} be a subcollection of \mathcal{A} that is simply ordered by \prec . Define B' to be the union of the sets B , for all $(B, <) \in \mathcal{B}$; and define $<'$ to be the union of the relations $<$, for all $(B, <) \in \mathcal{B}$. Show that $(B', <')$ is a well-ordered set.

Solution. Left to the reader.

• **Supplementary Exercise 11.6 p. 73.** Use Exercises 1 and 5 to prove the following:

Theorem. The maximum principle is equivalent to the well-ordering theorem.

Solution. The fact that the well-ordering theorem implies the maximum principle is proved on p. 70 of the book. Let us prove the converse. In the setting of Supplementary Exercise 11.5b, take \mathcal{B} maximal. Then it suffices to show that $B' = X$. If it was not so, we could add to B' a new element x and make it the largest element of $B' \cup \{x\}$, which would then be a well-ordered set larger than B' , contradiction.

• **Supplementary Exercise 11.7 p. 73.** Use Exercises 1–5 to prove the following:

Theorem. The choice axiom is equivalent to the well-ordering theorem.

Proof. Let X be a set; let c be a fixed choice function for the nonempty subsets of X . If T is a subset of X and $<$ is a relation on T , we say that $(T, <)$ is a tower in X if $<$ is a well-ordering of T and if for each $x \in T$,

$$x = c(X - S_x(T)),$$

where $S_x(T)$ is the section of T by x .

- (a) Let $(T_1, <_1)$ and $(T_2, <_2)$ be two towers in X . Show that either these two ordered sets are the same, or one equals a section of the other. [Hint: Switching indices if necessary, we can assume that $h : T_1 \rightarrow T_2$ is order preserving and $h(T_1)$ equals either T_2 or a section of T_2 . Use Exercise 2 to show that $h(x) = x$ for all x .]
- (b) If $(T, <)$ is a tower in X and $T \neq X$, show there is a tower in X of which $(T, <)$ is a section.
- (c) Let $\{(T_k, <_k) | k \in K\}$ be the collection of all towers in X . Let

$$T = \bigcup_{k \in K} T_k \text{ and } < = \bigcup_{k \in K} (<_k).$$

Show that $(T, <)$ is a tower in X . Conclude that $T = X$.

Solution. (a) The map h in the hint exists by Supplementary Exercise 4a. Let us show $h(x) = x$ for all x thanks to Supplementary Exercise 2. Assume by contradiction that we have $h(x) \neq x$ for some x in T_1 , which we can suppose to be minimum for this condition. The map h induces an isomorphism $T_1 \simeq h(T_1)$, implying $h(T_{1, <_1 y}) = T_{2, h(y)}$ for all y in T_1 . By the choice of x we get $T_{1, <_1 x} = T_{2, <_2 h(x)}$. Since T_1 and T_2 are towers, this entails

$$h(x) = c(X \setminus T_{2, <_2 h(x)}) = c(X \setminus T_{1, <_1 x}) = x,$$

contradiction. The fact that $h(x) = x$ for all x in T_1 implies, by Supplementary Exercise 11.2a, that T_1 is contained and downward closed in T_2 .

- (b) Add $c(X \setminus T)$ to T , and make it the largest element.
- (c) Left to the reader.

This shows that the choice axiom implies the well-ordering theorem. The converse is clear.

• **Solution to Exercise 13.6 p. 83.** We must show that the topologies \mathcal{T}_ℓ and \mathcal{T}_K are incomparable.

Claim: $[2, 3) \notin \mathcal{T}_K$. Proof. If not we would have $2 \in (a, b) \setminus K \subset [2, 3)$ for some a and b , hence $a < 2$ and $a \leq 2$, contradiction.

Claim: $(-1, 1) \setminus K \notin \mathcal{T}_\ell$. Proof. If not we would have $0 \in [a, b) \subset (-1, 1) \setminus K \subset [2, 3)$ for some a and b , hence $a \leq 0 < b$, hence $a < \frac{1}{n} < b$ for some n , contradiction.

• **Solution to Exercise 13.7 p. 83.** Let us use the following notation:

$\mathcal{T}_s :=$ standard topology,

$\mathcal{T}_K :=$ topology of \mathbb{R}_K ,

$\mathcal{T}_{fc} :=$ finite complement topology,

$\mathcal{T}_u :=$ upper limit topology (having the sets $(a, b]$ as basis),

$\mathcal{T}_\infty :=$ topology having the sets $(-\infty, a)$ as basis.

We denote the corresponding topological spaces by $\mathbb{R}_s, \mathbb{R}_K, \mathbb{R}_{fc}, \mathbb{R}_u$ and \mathbb{R}_∞ . Finally we write $\mathcal{B}_s, \mathcal{B}_K, \mathcal{B}_u$ and \mathcal{B}_∞ for the obvious bases.

The inclusions between these five topologies on \mathbb{R} can be summarized by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & u & \\ & K & \\ & s & \\ fc & & \infty, \end{array}$$

where “ i below j ” means “ $\mathcal{T}_i \subsetneq \mathcal{T}_j$ ”², and “ i and j on the same level” means “ \mathcal{T}_i and \mathcal{T}_j are incomparable”.

Preliminary comments: It is easy to see that the elements of \mathcal{T}_∞ are \emptyset , the intervals $(-\infty, a)$, and \mathbb{R} , and to observe that $\mathcal{T}_\infty \cap \mathcal{T}_{fc} = \{\emptyset, \mathbb{R}\}$. It is also easy to compare the standard topology \mathcal{T}_s to the others: the elements of \mathcal{T}_{fc} and \mathcal{T}_∞ are clearly open in \mathbb{R}_s , and it is plain that the intervals (a, b) (which are the elements on \mathcal{B}_s) are open in \mathbb{R}_K and in \mathbb{R}_∞ (note that $(a, b) = \bigcup_{d < b} (a, d]$). Clearly, $(-1, 1) \setminus K \in \mathcal{T}_K$ and $(a, b] \in \mathcal{T}_u$ are not open in \mathbb{R}_s . Moreover $(2, 3]$ is in \mathcal{T}_u but not in \mathcal{T}_K . So, it only remains to prove $\mathcal{T}_K \subset \mathcal{T}_u$.

Let x be in $(a, b) \setminus K$. It suffices to show that there is a c such that $x \in (c, x] \subset (a, b) \setminus K$. If $x \leq 0$ we set $c := a$. If $\frac{1}{n+1} < x < \frac{1}{n}$ we set $c := \frac{1}{n+1}$. If $x > 1$ we set $c := \max(1, a)$.

²I denote inclusion by \subset and proper inclusion by \subsetneq . I know that, in some sense, it would be more coherent to use \subseteq for inclusion, but I prefer to do it that way, and hope the reader will not be confused.