

Let  $X$  be the set

$$\{\infty\} \amalg \mathbb{N} \amalg (\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N})$$

and consider the topology  $\tau_{Arens}$  generated by

$$\begin{aligned} & \{(a, b) : (a, b) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}\} \\ B_{n,i} &= \{n\} \cup \{(n, k) : k \geq i\} \\ W_m &= \{\infty\} \cup \left( \bigcup_{m \geq j} B_{m,1} \setminus \{(m, b_1), \dots, (m, b_{s_m})\} \right) \end{aligned}$$

This says the pairs are all isolated points, and open sets around  $n$  contain all but finitely many pairs with first coordinate  $n$ . Finally, the  $s_m$  are some finite numbers, depending on  $m$ , so an open set containing  $\infty$  all but finitely many of all but finitely many columns.

**Definition 1.** *The **Arens space** is  $(X, \tau_{Arens})$ .*

**Claim 1.** *In the Arens space, the sequential closure operator is not idempotent. That is, the equation  $scl(scl(A)) = scl(A)$  is **not** true.*

*Proof.* Let  $A = \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ . For any fixed  $n$ , we have the sequence  $x_i = (n, i)$ , which converges to  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (by definition of  $B_{n,i}$ ).

On the other hand, no sequence in  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  can converge to  $\infty$ . Suppose  $x_i = (a_i, b_i)$  did so. There must be a subsequence  $x_{i_j}$  with  $a_{i_j}$  going to infinity, otherwise we could remove the finitely many columns appearing in the sequence and get an open set around  $\infty$  which does not contain the sequence. Then, form an open set  $W_m$  by setting  $s_m = 1$  for all  $m$ , and removing  $(m, b_{i_j})$  whenever  $a_{i_j} = m$ . Since the  $a_{i_j}$  go to infinity, the sequence cannot eventually be contained in the neighborhood.

It is clear that  $x_i = i$  converges to  $\infty$ .

Therefore,

$$scl(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}) = \mathbb{N} \cup \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$$

but

$$scl(scl(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N})) = \{\infty\} \cup \mathbb{N} \cup \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$$

□

**Definition 2.** *A space  $(X, \tau)$  is called **Frechét-Urysohn** if the sequential closure operator is idempotent.*

**Definition 3.** A set  $A$  is called **sequentially closed** if the limit of any sequence in  $A$  is also in  $A$ .

**Definition 4.** A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called **sequential** if every sequentially closed subset is closed.

**Claim 2.** The Arens space is sequential.

*Proof.* Say  $A$  is a sequentially closed set, so we must show  $A$  is closed. Consider the  $n$  for which  $\{(n, i)\} \cap A$  is infinite. For any such  $n$ , we have  $n \in A$  since this gives a convergent sequence. If there are only finitely many such  $n$ , then the complement of  $A$  is open: if  $N$  is the maximum such  $n$ , then  $W_{N+1}$  (minus finitely many pairs in each column) is most of the complement, and for any  $n$  that doesn't appear, some  $B_{n,k}$  will cover all but finitely many of the column. Everything in the complement not in one of these sets is a pair  $(a, b)$ , so any union of them will be open. Thus the complement of  $A$  is open, and  $A$  is closed.  $\square$

Let us give an alternate proof:

**Claim 3.** Any first countable space is sequential.

*Proof.* Suppose  $A$  is a sequentially closed set, and pick  $x$  in the closure of  $A$ . This means every open set containing  $x$  intersects  $A$  (otherwise  $x$  would be in the interior of the complement of  $A$ ). Since  $X$  is first countable, there is a (descending) sequence  $U_i$  of open sets containing  $x$  such that any neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$  contains some  $U_i$ . Pick a sequence  $a_i \in U_i \cap A$ , and we claim  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} a_i = x$ , thus  $x \in A$ , and  $A$  is closed.  $\square$

**Claim 4.** The quotient of a sequential space is sequential.

*Proof.* This is maybe easier to do with the idea of 'sequentially open': Say a set  $A$  is **sequentially open** if, whenever  $(x_i)$  converges to  $x \in A$ , there is some  $N$  such that  $x_n \in A$  for all  $n \geq N$ . One checks that a set is sequentially open if and only if its complement is sequentially closed, and a space is sequential if and only if every sequentially open set is open.

Suppose  $A \subseteq Y$  is a sequentially open set, where  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is the projection mapping of a quotient. Then  $f^{-1}(A)$  is sequentially open in  $X$ : if  $(x_i)$  is a sequence converging to  $x \in f^{-1}(A)$ , then  $(y_i) = (f(x_i))$  is a sequence in  $Y$  with  $\lim(y_i) = f(x) \in A$ . Since  $A$  is sequentially open, for some  $N$  we have  $y_n \in A$  whenever  $n \geq N$ . This means  $x_n \in f^{-1}(A)$  for  $n \geq N$ ,

so  $f^{-1}(A)$  is sequentially open. Since  $X$  is sequential, this means  $f^{-1}(A)$  is open, hence  $A$  is open in the quotient topology on  $Y$ . □

Now, we present the Arens space as a quotient of a first countable space. Let

$$Y = \left\{ (a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : a = \frac{1}{i}, b = \frac{1}{j}, i, j \in \mathbb{N}_+ \right\} \cup \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{i}, 0 \right) : i \in \mathbb{N}_+ \right\} \\ \cup \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{i}, -1 \right) \right\} \cup \{(0, -1)\}$$

with the equivalence relation

$$\left( \frac{1}{i}, 0 \right) \sim \left( \frac{1}{i}, -1 \right)$$

**Claim 5.** *The Arens space is homeomorphic to  $Y / \sim$ .*

**Remark 1.** *It is **not** true that the quotient of a first countable space is first countable. We have seen this with the ‘infinite wedge of circles’, namely  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$  (this is the topological quotient, under the equivalence relation  $x \sim y$  if  $x = y$  or if  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ , not the group-theoretic quotient).*