# Notes for General Topology by Tom Leinster

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## Chapter 1

# **Topological Spaces**

### 1.1 Review of Metric Spaces

**Definition 1.1.1.** Let X be a set. A *metric* on X is a function  $\rho: X \times X \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , such that  $\forall x, y, z \in X$ , the following (metric axioms) holds:

M1.  $\rho(x,y) = 0 \iff x = y \text{ (identity of indiscernibles)};$ 

M2.  $\rho(x,y) = \rho(y,x)$  (symmetry).

M3.  $\rho(x,y) + \rho(y,z) \ge \rho(x,z)$  (triangle inequality);

A metric space is a set together with a metric on it, or more formally, a pair  $(X, \rho)$  where X is a set and  $\rho$  is a metric on X.

#### Example 1.1.1.

1. The function  $\rho_p: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  defined by  $\forall p \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}_{\geq 1}, \, \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\rho_p(x,y) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|^p\right)^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

is a metric on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Clearly it satisfies identity of indiscernibles and symmetry. For triangle inequality, it is suggested by Minkowski inequality.

Given  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , and

$$B_{\rho} = \left\{ y \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid \rho(x, y) \le r \right\}.$$

 $\forall p,q \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}_{\geq 1}$ , it is true that,  $\forall x,y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$p \le q \implies \rho_p(x, y) \ge \rho_q(x, y).$$

Thus,  $B_p \subseteq B_q$ .

Geometrically, as p=1, B is a octahedron in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with center x and radius r; as p=2, B is a sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with center x and radius r. It is easy to observe that as  $p \to \infty$ , B tends to a cube in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with center x and edge length 2r; i.e.,

$$\rho_{\infty}(x,y) = \lim_{p \to \infty} \rho_p(x,y) = \sup_{i \in \{1,\dots,n\}} |x_i - y_i|.$$

2. Let  $f:(X,\rho)\to\mathbb{R}^n$  with  $X\subseteq\mathbb{R}^m$  be a continuous map on X. Let  $x,y\in X$ , then  $\rho':f[X]\times f[X]\to\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  defined by

$$\rho_p'(x,y) = \int_0^1 f(\ell(t)) d_p s(t)$$

where

$$\ell(t) = x + t(y - a)$$

and

$$d_p s(t) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \left| \frac{dg_i}{dt}(t) \right|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} dt.$$

with  $p \geq \overline{\mathbb{R}}_{\geq 1}$  is a metric on f[X].

Fix x and given  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , the set

$$B_p = \left\{ y \in \mathbb{R}^m : \rho_p'(x, y) \le r \right\}$$

describes a set "attached" on f[X] with center x. If p=2, m=2 and n=3, and  $f:[0,2\pi)\times[0,2\pi)\to\mathbb{R}^3$  is defined by

$$f(\lambda, \phi) = \begin{cases} r \cos \lambda \sin \phi, \\ r \sin \lambda \sin \phi, \\ r \cos \phi, \end{cases}$$

then  $\rho'_2$  here is a great circle metric defined by

$$\rho_2'(x,y) = r\arccos(\sin x_\phi \sin y_\phi + \cos x_\phi \cos y_\phi \cos(x_\lambda - y_\lambda)).$$

3. Let  $a,b \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $a \leq b$ , and  $p \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}_{\geq 1}$ , and C[a,b] denote the set of continuous function  $[a,b] \to \mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $d_p$  defined by  $\forall f, g \in C[a, b]$ ,

$$\rho_p(f,g) = \left(\int_a^b |f - g|^p\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

is a metric on C[a, b].

Similar to  $\rho_p$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$B_p = \{g \mid \rho(f, g) \le r\}$$

defines a set with "center" f and "radius"  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .

It also implies that, on  $C[a, b], \forall p, q \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}_{\geq 1}, \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ 

$$p \le q \implies d_p(f,g) \ge d_q(f,g),$$

and, naturally,  $B_p \subseteq B_q$ . This is a straight corollary from the same case of  $d_p$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

4. Let A be a set. The Hamming metric  $\rho$  on a set  $A^n$  is given by  $\forall x, y \in A^n$ 

$$\rho(x,y) = \# \{ i \in \{1,\ldots,n\} : x_i \neq y_i \}.$$

An example from Wikipedia. The word "karolin" and "kathrin" can be considered as tuples

$$x = (k, a, r, o, l, i, n), y = (k, a, t, h, r, i, n).$$

For all  $i \in \{0, \dots, 6\} \setminus \{0, 1, 4, 6\}$ ,  $x_i \neq y_i$ , and  $\#(\{0, \dots, 6\} \setminus \{0, 1, 4, 6\}) = 3$ , thus

$$\rho(x,y) = 3.$$

5. Let  $(M, \rho)$  be a metric space (for example,  $\rho = \rho_2$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ), and  $X, Y \in \mathcal{P}(M)$ . The Hausdorff metric  $\rho_H$  on  $\mathcal{P}(M)$  is defined by

$$\rho_{\mathrm{H}}(X,Y) = \max \left\{ \sup_{x \in X} \rho(x,Y), \sup_{y \in Y} \rho(X,y) \right\},\,$$

where  $\rho(a, B) = \inf_{b \in B} \rho(a, b)$  for all  $B \in \mathcal{P}(M)$  and  $a \in M$ .

This metric can be used to measure how close two figures (as sets of points) are.

**Definition 1.1.2.** Let X be a metric space, let  $x \in X$ , and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . The open ball with center x and radius  $\varepsilon$ , or more briefly the open  $\varepsilon$ -ball about x is the subset

$$B(x,\varepsilon) = \{ y \in X : \rho(x,y) \le \varepsilon \} \subseteq X.$$

Similarly, the closed  $\varepsilon$ -ball around x is

$$\overline{B}(x,\varepsilon) = \{ y \in X : \rho(x,y) \le \varepsilon \} \subseteq X.$$

**Note 1.1.1.** Clearly, the word "ball" does not mean it should look like a ball. Clearly, for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , the ball  $\{y \in \mathbb{R}^3 : \rho_{\infty}(x,y) < 1\}$  is a cube without its surface.

And it is interesting to think that on C[a, b] with conditions above,

$$\{g \in C[a,b] : \rho_p(f,g) < 1\}$$

defines a open ball in C[a, b].

**Note 1.1.2.** For hamming metric  $\rho$  with conditions above, for  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{(0,1)}$ , the ball

$${y \in A^n : \rho(x,y) < 1} = {x}.$$

is a singleton.

**Definition 1.1.3.** Let X be a metric space.

(i) A subset U of X is open in X (or an open subset of X) iff

$$\forall u \in U, \exists \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, B(u, \varepsilon) \subseteq U.$$

(ii) A subset V is closed in X iff  $X \setminus V$  is open in X.

**Note 1.1.3.** Equivalently, U is open in X iff  $\exists \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,

$$U = \bigcup_{x \in U} B(x, \varepsilon);$$

and V is closed in X iff

$$V = X \setminus \bigcup_{x \in U} B(x, \varepsilon) = \bigcap_{x \in U} (X \setminus B(x, \varepsilon)),$$

by De Morgan's Law.

**Definition 1.1.4.** Let X be a metric space, let  $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence in X and let  $x \in X$ . Then  $\{x_n\}$  converges in X iff

$$\exists x \in X, \lim_{n \to \infty} d(x_n, x) = 0.$$

Explicitly, then,  $\{x_n\}$  converges to x iff

$$\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}_{>N}, \quad d(x_n, x) < \varepsilon.$$

#### Note 1.1.4.

1. Equivalently,  $\{x_n\}$  converges in X iff

$$\exists x \in X, \ \forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \#(\{x_n\} \cap B(x,\varepsilon)) = \aleph_0 \land \#(\{x_n\} \setminus B(x,\varepsilon)) < \aleph_0.$$

In other words,  $B(x,\varepsilon)$  contains all but finitely many  $x_n$ .

2. Let  $X \subseteq S$ .  $\{x_n\}$  converges to  $x \in S$  does not means it need to converge in X. For example  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , the sequence

$$\left\{x_n = \frac{1}{x} + r : r^2 = 2\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$$

does converge to  $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R}$ , but  $\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ , so  $\{x_n\}$  converges in  $\mathbb{R}$ , but does not converge in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Lemma 1.1.1.** Let X be a metric space and  $V \subseteq X$ . Then V is closed in X iff

$$\forall \{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subseteq V, \ \forall x \in X, \quad \lim_{n \to \infty} d(x_n, x) = 0 \implies x \in V.$$

*Proof.* Suppose V is closed in X, then  $X \setminus V$  is open in X. Suppose  $\exists x \in X \setminus V$ , such that  $\exists \{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subseteq V$ ,  $\{x_n\}$  converges to x, then  $\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $B(x,\varepsilon) \cap \{x_n\} \neq \emptyset$ .  $\{x_n\} \subseteq V$ , so  $B(x,\varepsilon) \cap V \neq \emptyset$ . This implies that  $X \setminus V$  is not open, then V is not closed (for if V is closed, then  $X \setminus V$  is open). It is contradicted to the assumption.

Now, suppose V is not closed in X, then  $X \setminus V$  is not open. Then,  $\exists p \in X \setminus V$ , such that  $\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $B(p,\varepsilon) \cap V \neq \emptyset$ . This implies there are some  $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subseteq V$ , such that  $B(p,\varepsilon)$  contains all but finite elements in  $\{x_n\}$ . Thus,  $\{x_n\}$  converges to  $p \in X \setminus V$ , contradicting to the conditions.

**Lemma 1.1.2.** Let X be a metric space, and  $\mathcal{T}$  be the family of open subsets of X. Then,

- (i)  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under arbitrary union.
- (ii)  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under finite intersection.
- (iii)  $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{T}$ .

Proof.

1. Let I be an index set. For all  $i \in I$ , let  $U_i \in \mathcal{T}$ . Then for some  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,

$$U_i = \bigcup_{x \in U_i} B(x, \varepsilon).$$

Let  $U = \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i$ , then we have,

$$U = \bigcup_{i \in I} \bigcup_{x \in U_i} B(x, \varepsilon) = \bigcup_{x \in U} B(x, \varepsilon)$$

for some  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .

- 2. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the family of closed subsets of X, and let  $U, V \in \mathcal{C}$ . Then for all  $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subseteq U, \ \forall u \in X, \ \{u_n\} \ \text{converges}$  to u implies that  $u \in U$ . It also holds for  $U \cup V \supseteq U$ . Similarly, for all  $\{v_m\}_{m=1}^{\infty}, \ \forall v \in X, \ \{v_m\} \ \text{converges}$  to v implies  $v \in V$ . It also holds for  $U \cup V \supseteq V$ . Thus  $U \cup V$  is closed. Then,  $X \setminus (U \cup V) = (X \setminus U) \cap (X \setminus V)$  is open, where  $X \setminus U$  and  $X \setminus V$ 
  - Then,  $X \setminus (U \cup V) = (X \setminus U) \cap (X \setminus V)$  is open, where  $X \setminus U$  and  $X \setminus V$  are open for U and V are closed.

3.  $\emptyset = \bigcup_{i \in \emptyset} U_i$  for all  $U_i \in \mathcal{T}$ , so  $\emptyset$  is open.  $\emptyset = U \cap V$  for all mutually disjoint closed subsets  $U, V \subseteq X$ , so  $\emptyset$  is closed, so  $X = X \setminus \emptyset$  is open.

**Lemma 1.1.3.** Let X be a metric space, and  $\mathcal{C}$  be the family of all closed subsets of X. Then,

- (i)  $\mathcal{C}$  is closed under arbitrary intersection.
- (ii) C is closed under finite union.
- (iii)  $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{C}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be the family of all open subset of X, and let I be any index set.

1. It has been proved that  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under arbitrary union, so by De Morgan's law, for any  $i \in I$ , if  $U_i \in \mathcal{T}$ , then

$$X \setminus \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i = \bigcap_{i \in I} (X \setminus U_i) \in \mathcal{C}.$$

- 2. It has been proved in Lemma 1.1.2.
- 3. It has been proved that  $\emptyset$  is open in X. So  $X = X \setminus \emptyset$  is closed in X.

**Definition 1.1.5.** Let  $(X, \rho)$  and  $(Y, \rho')$  be metric spaces. A function  $f: (X, \rho) \to (Y, \rho)$  is *continuous* on a point  $p \in X$  iff

$$\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \ \exists \delta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \ \forall x \in B(p,\delta), \quad f(x) \in B(f(p),\varepsilon).$$

#### Note 1.1.5.

- 1. If  $\rho$  is a discrete metric on X, then  $B(p,\delta)=\{p\}$  for all  $\delta$ . Then, by definition, for all  $\varepsilon$ ,  $f(x) \in B(f(p),\varepsilon)$ . So f is continuous everywhere.
- 2. On the contrary, if  $\rho'$  is a discrete metric on Y, but for all  $p \in X$ ,  $\rho$  suffices for all  $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $\#B(p,\delta) \geq \aleph_0$ , then for some  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , for all  $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , there exists  $x \in B(p,\delta)$ , such that  $f(x) \notin B(f(p),\varepsilon)$ . Thus f is not continuous on such p.

**Lemma 1.1.4.** Let  $(X, \rho)$  and  $(Y, \rho')$  be metric spaces and let  $f: (X, \rho) \to (Y, \rho)$  be a function. The following are equivalent:

- (i) f is continuous on X;
- (ii) for all open  $U \subseteq Y$ , the preimage  $f^{-1}[U] \subseteq X$  is open;
- (iii) for all closed  $V \subseteq Y$ , the preimage  $f^{-1}[V] \subseteq X$  is closed.

### 1.2 The Definition of Topological Space

**Definition 1.2.1.** Let X be a set. A topological on X is a collection  $\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  with the following properties.

T1.  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under arbitrary union;

T2.  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under finite intersection;

T3.  $X \in \mathcal{T}$ .

The Topological Space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is a set X with a topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on X. All  $\mathcal{T}$ -sets are said to be open in  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ .

Lemma 1.2.1.  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{T}$ .

*Proof.* By T1, given I as any index set, if for all  $i \in I$ ,  $U_i \in \mathcal{T}$ , then

$$U = \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \in \mathcal{T}.$$

If  $I = \emptyset$ , then  $U = \emptyset$ .

**Note 1.2.1.** Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$  with topology

$$\mathcal{T} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3\}\}.$$

 $\{1,2\} \in \mathcal{T}$  implies  $\{3\} = X \setminus \{1,2\}$  is closed;  $\{3\} \in \mathcal{T}$  implies that  $\{1,2\} = X \setminus \{3\}$  is closed.  $\{2\} \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , but  $\{2\} \notin \mathcal{T}$ , so  $\{2\}$  is not open in  $(X,\mathcal{T})$ ,  $\{1,3\} = X \setminus \{2\}$  is not closed. For any  $U \in \mathcal{T}$ ,  $\{2\} \neq X \setminus U$ , so  $\{2\}$  is not open.

**Definition 1.2.2.** Given  $(X, \rho)$  as a metric space, the topology

$$\mathcal{T}_{\rho} = \left\{ U \in \mathcal{P}(X) : U = \bigcup_{x \in U} B(x, \delta) \right\},$$

then we call  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho}$  the topology induced by  $\rho$ , and  $(X, \mathcal{T}_{\rho})$  the underlying topological space of metric space  $(X, \rho)$ .

**Note 1.2.2.** These topology is induced by metric.

- 1. In this case, U is open in  $(X, \rho)$  iff  $U \in \mathcal{T}_{\rho}$ .
- 2. The metric  $\rho_p: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  (surjective) induces  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_p} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ . And we'll see that for all  $p, q \geq 1$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_p} = \mathcal{T}_{\rho_q}$ .
- 3. The discrete topology  $\rho_{\text{disc}}: X \times X \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  (non-sujective) induces  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_{\text{disc}}} = \mathcal{P}(X)$ . It is the largest topology on X, and  $\rho[X \times X] \subseteq \{0, 1\}$ .
- 4. The metric  $\rho_p: C[a,b] \times C[a,b] \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  (surjective) induces  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_p} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ . And we'll see that  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_1} \neq \mathcal{T}_{\rho_{\infty}}$ .
- 5. Given X as a space, the Hausdorff metric  $\rho_H : \mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X) \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  (surjective) induces  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_H} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(X))$ .
- 6. Given A as a set, the hamming metric  $\rho: A^n \times A^n \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  (non-surjective) with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  induces  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ .  $\rho[A^n \times A^n] = \mathbb{N}_{< n}$ .

These topology is not induced by any metric.

- 1. The indiscrete topology  $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, X\}$  on X is not induced by any metric space. Suppose it was, then there would be a metric  $\rho$  such that for all  $x \in X$ , for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $B(x, \varepsilon) \in \mathcal{T}$ . But, clearly, for those  $\varepsilon \in (0, \phi X)$ ,  $B(x, \varepsilon) \notin \mathcal{T}$ .
- 2. Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$  with topology

$$\mathcal{T} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3\}\}.$$

These is no such metic  $\rho$  induces  $\mathcal{T}$  for same reason.

**Definition 1.2.3.** Let X be a set and  $\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'$  be topologies on X. If  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{T}'$ , then we say that  $\mathcal{T}'$  is *finer* than  $\mathcal{T}$ , or  $\mathcal{T}$  is *coarser* than  $\mathcal{T}'$ .

#### Note 1.2.3.

- 1. Given X as a set, for all topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on X,  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{T}_{disc}$  and  $\mathcal{T} \supseteq \mathcal{T}_{indisc}$ , Thus,  $\mathcal{T}_{disc}$  is the finest topology on X, and  $\mathcal{T}_{indisc}$  is the coarsest.
- 2.  $\rho_p$  and  $\rho_{\text{disc}}$  induced same topology on  $\mathbb{Z}$ . But on  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_p}$  is coarser than  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho_{\text{disc}}}$ .

**Definition 1.2.4.** Given  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  as a topological space, a set  $V \subseteq X$  is said to be *closed* in  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  iff  $X \setminus V \in \mathcal{T}$ .

#### Definition 1.2.5.

- 1. In the discrete topology on X, all subsets are closed. Because for all  $U \in \mathcal{T}_{disc}$ ,  $X \setminus U \in \mathcal{T}_{disc}$ .
- 2. In the indiscrete topology on X, only  $\emptyset$  and X is closed.

**Lemma 1.2.2.** Let  $X = (X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space, and let

$$\mathcal{C} = \{ V \subseteq X : V = X \setminus U, \ U \in \mathcal{T} \}.$$

- (i)  $\mathcal{C}$  is closed under arbitrary intersection;
- (ii) C is closed under finite intersection;
- (iii)  $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{C}$ .

Proof.

(i). By De Morgan's laws,

$$V = X \setminus \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i = \bigcap_{i \in I} (X \setminus U_i).$$

So, if  $U_i \in \mathcal{T}$ , then  $V \in \mathcal{C}$ .

(ii). By De Morgan's laws,

$$V = X \setminus \bigcap_{i=1}^{n} U_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} (X \setminus U_i).$$

(iii).

$$\emptyset = X \setminus X, \ X = X \setminus \emptyset.$$

**Definition 1.2.6.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space, and let  $x \in X$ . An open neighbourhood of x is a set  $N_x \in \mathcal{T}$  with  $x \in N_x$ . A neighbourhood of x is any  $N \supseteq N_x$ .

**Note 1.2.4.** Given  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  as a topological space. If  $A \in \mathcal{T}$ ,

$$A = \bigcup_{x \in A} B$$
,  $B \in x$ , and  $B \in \mathcal{T}$ .

If  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}_{\rho}$  for some metric  $\rho$  on X, then  $A \in \mathcal{T}$  implies

$$A = \bigcup_{x \in A} B(x, \varepsilon)$$

for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

**Lemma 1.2.3.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and  $U \subseteq X$ . Then  $U \in \mathcal{T}$  iff for all  $x \in U$ , there is a neighbourhood  $N_x \subseteq U$ .

Proof.