

A quick lemma that will be useful for this proof:

$$(A \times B) \cap (C \times D) = (A \cap C) \times (B \cap D). \quad (*)$$

Proof: Let A, B, C, D be sets, and let $(x, y) \in (A \times B) \cap (C \times D)$, then $(x, y) \in A \times B$ and $(x, y) \in C \times D$, thus $x \in A$ and $x \in C$, and $y \in B$ and $y \in D$, thus $x \in A \cap C$ and $y \in B \cap D$, thus $(x, y) \in (A \cap C) \times (B \cap D)$. These statements are biconditional, so the converse is also proven. ■

Let \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{T}' be the topologies defined in the problem. If \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{T}' are equal, then a subset $U \subseteq A \times B$ is open in \mathcal{T} if and only if it is open in \mathcal{T}' . Let U be open in \mathcal{T} , then there exist collections $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ and $\{V_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ of open sets in A and B respectively where

$$U = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} U_\alpha \times V_\alpha.$$

Since for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, U_α and V_α are open in A and B respectively, we know that for each α , there exist open sets $U'_\alpha \subseteq X$ and $V'_\alpha \subseteq Y$ where $U_\alpha = A \cap U'_\alpha$ and $V_\alpha = B \cap V'_\alpha$. From this, it is clear that

$$U = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} (A \cap U'_\alpha) \times (B \cap V'_\alpha),$$

thus by $(*)$, we have

$$U = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} (A \times B) \cap (U'_\alpha \times V'_\alpha) = (A \times B) \cap \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} U'_\alpha \times V'_\alpha.$$

Since $\{U'_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ and $\{V'_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ are collections of open sets in X and Y respectively, we know that $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} U'_\alpha \times V'_\alpha$ is open in $X \times Y$, thus by definition, U is open in the subspace topology on $A \times B$, and thus U is open in \mathcal{T}' .

Conversely, let $U \subseteq A \times B$ be open in \mathcal{T}' , then there exist collections of open sets $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ and $\{V_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ in X and Y respectively where

$$U = (A \times B) \cap \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} U_\alpha \times V_\alpha,$$

thus by $(*)$,

$$U = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} (A \times B) \cap (U_\alpha \times V_\alpha) = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} (A \cap U_\alpha) \times (B \cap V_\alpha).$$

We know that for each α , $A \cap U_\alpha$ and $B \cap V_\alpha$ are open in A and B respectively. Finally, let $\{U'_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ and $\{V'_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ be collections of sets where $U'_\alpha = A \cap U_\alpha$ and $V'_\alpha = B \cap V_\alpha$. It is clear that

$$U = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} U'_\alpha \times V'_\alpha,$$

and since for all α , U'_α and V'_α are open in A and B respectively, we know that U is open in the product topology on $A \times B$, thus U is open in \mathcal{T} , and thus $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}'$. ■