

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  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $U_\alpha$  and  $V_\alpha$  are open in  $A$  and  $B$  respectively, we know that for each  $\alpha$ , 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  $\alpha$ ,  $A \cap U_\alpha$  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  $\alpha$ ,  $U'_\alpha$  and  $V'_\alpha$  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  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}'$ . ■