
MUNKRES SOLUTIONS

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Last updated February 28, 2021

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§2. Topological Spaces and Continuous Functions

2.13. Basis for a Topology

Exercise 2.13.1. Let X be a topological space and $A \subseteq X$. Suppose that for each $x \in A$, there is an open set U containing x such that $U \subseteq A$. Show that A is open in X .

Solution

For each $x \in A$, denote by U_x an open subset of A that contains x . Then $A = \bigcup_{x \in A} U_x$. However, an arbitrary union of open sets is open and thus, so is A .

Exercise 2.13.5. Show that if \mathcal{A} is a basis for a topology on X , the topology generated by \mathcal{A} equals the intersection of all topologies that contain \mathcal{A} . Prove the same if \mathcal{A} is a subbasis.

Solution

Let \mathcal{T} be the topology generated by \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{T}' be a topology that contains \mathcal{A} . Let $U \in \mathcal{T}$. Then $U = \bigcup_{i \in I} B_i$ for some $(B_i)_{i \in I}$ in \mathcal{A} . However, each B_i is also in \mathcal{T}' . Since an arbitrary union of open sets is open, $U \in \mathcal{T}'$ as well. Therefore, $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{T}'$, proving the result. The solution for the case where \mathcal{A} is a subbasis is very similar and so omitted.

2.16. The Subspace Topology

Exercise 2.16.1. Show that if Y is a subspace of X and A is a subset of Y , then the topology A inherits as a subspace of Y is the same as the topology it inherits as a subspace of X .

Solution

The topology A inherits as a subspace of X is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T} &= \{U \cap A : U \text{ open in } X\} \\ &= \{(U \cap Y) \cap A : U \text{ open in } X\} \\ &= \{V \cap A : V \text{ open in } Y\}, \end{aligned}$$

which is the topology it inherits as a subspace of Y .

Exercise 2.16.2. If \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{T}' are topologies on X and \mathcal{T}' is strictly finer than \mathcal{T} , what can you say about the corresponding subspace topologies on the subset Y of X .

Solution

It is easily seen that \mathcal{T}'_Y is finer than \mathcal{T}_Y . We further see that it need not be strictly finer by considering the example $X = \{a, b, c\}$, $Y = \{a, b\}$, $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, X, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}\}$, and \mathcal{T}' as the discrete topology on X .

Exercise 2.16.3. Consider $Y = [-1, 1]$ as a subspace of \mathbb{R} . Which of the following is open in Y ? Which are open in \mathbb{R} ?

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \left\{x : \frac{1}{2} < x < 1\right\} \\ B &= \left\{x : \frac{1}{2} < x \leq 1\right\} \\ C &= \left\{x : \frac{1}{2} \leq x < 1\right\} \\ D &= \left\{x : \frac{1}{2} \leq x \leq 1\right\} \\ E &= \{x : 0 < x < 1 \text{ and } 1/x \notin \mathbb{Z}^+\} \end{aligned}$$

Solution

A and B are open in Y and only A is open in \mathbb{R} . This is reasonably straightforward to prove.

C is not open in Y (and so not \mathbb{R} either) because there is no basis element U of the order topology such that $1/2 \in U \subseteq C$. A similar argument holds for D as well.

E is open in both \mathbb{R} and Y because it can be written as a union of basis elements

$$E = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^+} \left(\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n} \right).$$

Exercise 2.16.4. A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be an open map if for every open U of X , $f(U)$ is open in Y . Show that $\pi_1 : X \times Y \rightarrow X$ and $\pi_2 : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$ are open.

Solution

We shall only show that π_1 is open, the other case is nearly identical. Let

$$U = \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \times V_i$$

be open in $X \times Y$ for some indexing set I , where each U_i and V_i are open in X and Y respectively. Then,

$$\pi_1(U) = \pi_1 \left(\bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \times V_i \right) = \bigcup_{i \in I} \pi_1(U_i \times V_i) = \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i$$

is open in X .

2.17. Closed Sets and Limit Points

Exercise 2.17.1. Let \mathcal{C} be a collection of subsets of set X . Suppose that \emptyset and X are in \mathcal{C} and that finite unions and arbitrary intersections of elements of \mathcal{C} are in \mathcal{C} . Show that the collection $\mathcal{T} = \{X \setminus C : C \in \mathcal{C}\}$ is a topology on X .

Solution

Let $(U_i)_{i \in I}$ be in \mathcal{T} with $U_i = X \setminus C_i$ for each i . Then

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} U_i = X \setminus \bigcap_{i \in I} C_i = X \setminus C \in \mathcal{T}$$

for some $C \in \mathcal{C}$. Closure under finite intersections is shown similarly. We trivially have $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{T}$ because $X, \emptyset \in \mathcal{C}$.

Exercise 2.17.2. Show that if A is closed in Y and Y is closed in X , then A is closed in X .

Solution

Let U be open in X such that $Y \setminus A = U \cap Y$. Then, we can write A as $X \setminus ((X \setminus Y) \cup U)$. Since $X \setminus Y$ and U are open in X , A is closed in X .

Exercise 2.17.3. Show that if A is closed in X and B is closed in Y , $A \times B$ is closed in $X \times Y$.

Solution

Observe that

$$(X \times Y) \setminus (A \times B) = ((X \setminus A) \times (Y \setminus B)) \cup ((X \setminus A) \times Y) \cup (A \times (Y \setminus B)).$$

Since each of the sets on the right are open in $X \times Y$, $A \times B$ is closed.

Exercise 2.17.4. Show that if U is open in X and A is closed in X , $U \setminus A$ is open in X and $A \setminus U$ is closed in Y .

Solution

This is easily seen on writing $U \setminus A = U \cap (X \setminus A)$ and $A \setminus U = A \cap (X \setminus U)$.

Exercise 2.17.19. If $A \subseteq X$, define the boundary of A by

$$\text{Bd } A = \overline{A} \cap \overline{X \setminus A}.$$

- (a) Show that A° and $\text{Bd } A$ are disjoint, and $\overline{A} = A^\circ \cup \text{Bd } A$.
- (b) Show that $\text{Bd } A = \emptyset$ iff A is both open and closed.
- (c) Show that U is open iff $\text{Bd } U = \overline{U} \setminus U$.
- (d) If U is open, is it true that $U = \overline{U}^\circ$? Justify your answer.

Solution

- (a) Let $x \in A \setminus A^\circ$. Then for any open $U \ni x$, $U \not\subseteq A$ (otherwise, $A^\circ \cup U \supsetneq A^\circ$ is open and contained in A). That is, $U \cap (X \setminus A) \neq \emptyset$. However, this implies that $x \in \overline{X \setminus A}$, that is, $A \setminus A^\circ \subseteq \overline{X \setminus A}$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{A \setminus A^\circ} &= (\overline{A \setminus A}) \cup (A \setminus A^\circ) \subseteq \overline{X \setminus A} \\ \overline{A} &\subseteq A^\circ \cup \overline{X \setminus A} \\ &= \overline{A} \cap (A^\circ \cup \overline{X \setminus A}) \\ &= A^\circ \cup (\overline{A} \cap \overline{X \setminus A}) = A^\circ \cup \text{Bd } A. \end{aligned}$$

- (b) If A is not closed, $\overline{A} \supsetneq A$ intersects $X \setminus A \subseteq \overline{X \setminus A}$, contradicting $\text{Bd } A = \emptyset$. Similarly, $X \setminus A$ is closed as well, so A is both open and closed. The other direction is similarly straightforward.
- (c) If U is open, $X \setminus U$ is closed so $\text{Bd } U = \overline{U} \cap \overline{(X \setminus U)} = \overline{U} \setminus U$. On the other hand, if $\overline{U} \cap (X \setminus U) = \overline{U} \cap \overline{X \setminus U}$, $X \setminus U$ must be closed. Indeed, otherwise, $\overline{X \setminus U} \setminus (X \setminus U) \subseteq U \subseteq \overline{U}$, contradicting the equality.
- (d) No, this is not the case. Consider the open set $U = (1, 2) \cup (2, 3) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then $\overline{U}^\circ = (1, 3)$.

2.18. Continuous Functions

Exercise 2.18.1. Suppose that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous. If x is a limit point of $A \subseteq X$, is $f(x)$ necessarily a limit point of $f(A)$?

Solution

No. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the zero function, $A = \{1/n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$, and $x = 0$.

Exercise 2.18.8. Let Y be an ordered set in the order topology. Let $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ be continuous.

- (a) Show that the set $\{x : f(x) \leq g(x)\}$ is closed in X .
- (b) Let $h : X \rightarrow Y$ be the function

$$h(x) = \min\{f(x), g(x)\}.$$

Show that h is continuous.

Solution

- (a) It suffices to show that $V = \{x : f(x) > g(x)\}$ is open in X . Let $x \in V$. Since Y is Hausdorff, there are open sets U_1, U_2 such that $f(x) \in U_1$, $g(x) \in U_2$, and $U_1 \cap U_2 = \emptyset$.

We can consider a basis element $B_1 \subseteq U_1$ that contains $f(x)$ in lieu of U_1 . That is, we may suppose wlog that U_1 and U_2 are disjoint basis elements. Further, we may assume that U_1 is of the form (a, ∞) (if it is of the form (a, c) instead, we can replace it with (a, ∞)). Due to the disjointness assumption, this means that we can consider U_1 to be of the form (a, ∞) and U_2 of the form $(-\infty, b)$ such that for any $c \in U_1, d \in U_2$, $c > d$.

Now, let $U = f^{-1}(U_1) \cap g^{-1}(U_2) \ni x$. f and g are continuous so U is open. Further, for any $y \in U$, $f(y) > g(y)$ (by the above assumption), that is, $U \subseteq V$.

It follows that V is open (for any $x \in V$, there is an open $V \subseteq U$ such that $x \in V$).

- (b) Let $U_1 = \{x : f(x) \geq g(x)\}$ and $U_2 = \{x : f(x) \leq g(x)\}$. By (a), U_1 and U_2 are both closed. Since g is continuous on U_1 , f is continuous on U_2 , and $f = g$ on $U_1 \cap U_2$, we can use the pasting lemma to conclude that h is continuous ($h(x) = g(x)$ on U_1 and $f(x)$ on U_2).

2.19. The Product Topology

Exercise 2.19.4. Show that $(X_1 \times \cdots \times X_{n-1}) \times X_n$ is homeomorphic to $X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n$.

Solution

Let the two topological spaces above be denoted by X and Y respectively. Consider the map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ with

$$f(x) = (\pi_1(\pi_1(x)), \dots, \pi_{n-1}(\pi_1(x)), \pi_2(x)).$$

We claim that f is a homomorphism.

If U_i is open in X_i for each i , then $f^{-1}(U_1 \times \cdots \times U_n) = (U_1 \times \cdots \times U_{n-1}) \times U_n$ is open in X ($U_1 \times \cdots \times U_{n-1}$ is open in $X_1 \times \cdots \times X_{n-1}$ and U_n is open in X_n). Therefore, f is continuous.

On the other hand, if U is open in $X_1 \times \cdots \times X_{n-1}$ and U_n is open in X_n , then $f(U \times U_n) = U_1 \times \cdots \times U_n$, where each U_i is open in X_i by Exercise 2.16.4.

Exercise 2.19.6. Let x_1, x_2, \dots be a sequence of points in the product space $\prod X_\alpha$. Show that this sequence converges to the point x iff the sequence $\pi_\alpha(x_1), \pi_\alpha(x_2), \dots$ converges to $\pi_\alpha(x)$ for each α . Is this true if we use the box topology instead of the product topology?

Solution

We first show the backward direction. Suppose $(\pi_\alpha(x_i))$ converges to $\pi_\alpha(x)$. Let U be an open set containing x and $B \subseteq U$ be a basis element of the product topology containing x . Let $B = \prod_\alpha U_\alpha$ where $U_\alpha \neq X_\alpha$ for the finite set $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$. Since $(\pi_{\alpha_j}(x_i))$ converges to $\pi_{\alpha_j}(x)$ for each j , each U_{α_j} contains all but finitely many $\pi_\alpha(x_i)$. As a result, B contains all but finitely many x_i and therefore, (x_i) converges to x .

On the other hand, let (x_i) converge to x . Let U_α be an open set in X_α containing $\pi_\alpha(x)$. We wish to show that it contains all but finitely many $\pi_\alpha(x_i)$. Let $U' = \prod U'_\beta$ be a basis element containing x and $V = \prod V_\beta$, where $V_\beta = U'_\beta$ for $\beta \neq \alpha$ and $V_\alpha = U_\alpha \cap U'_\alpha$. Since V is an open set containing x , it contains all but finitely many x_i . In particular, V_α contains all but finitely many $\pi_\alpha(x_i)$. The required follows.

Observe that the forward proof works even if we use the box topology instead, but the backward direction breaks.

To see that the result need not hold for the box, let the product space be \mathbb{R}^ω , $\pi_n(x_i) = n/i$ and $\pi_n(x) = 0$ for each i, n .

Exercise 2.19.7. Let \mathbb{R}^∞ be the subset of \mathbb{R}^ω consisting of all sequences that are eventually 0 ($x_i \neq 0$ for finitely many i). What is the closure of \mathbb{R}^∞ in \mathbb{R}^ω in the box and product topologies?

Solution

We claim that the closure under the product topology is \mathbb{R}^ω . Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^\omega$ and $U = \prod U_n$ be a basis element containing x . We wish to determine when $U \cap \mathbb{R}^\infty \neq \emptyset$. Consider $y \in \mathbb{R}^\infty$ such that $y_n = x_n$ if $U_n \neq \mathbb{R}$ and 0 otherwise. Then $y \in U \cap \mathbb{R}^\infty$, thus proving the result.

For the box topology, we claim that \mathbb{R}^∞ is closed. Indeed, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^\omega \setminus \mathbb{R}^\infty$, consider the open set $U = \prod U_n$, where $U_n = (x_n/2, 3x_n/2)$ if $x_n \neq 0$ and \mathbb{R} otherwise. Then $U \cap \mathbb{R}^\infty$ is empty, completing the proof.

2.20. The Metric Topology

Exercise 2.20.3. Let X be a metric space with metric d .

- (a) Show that $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous.
- (b) Let X' denote a space having the same underlying set as X . Show that if $d : X' \times X' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, the topology of X' is finer than the topology of X .

This means that if X has a metric d , the metric topology induced by it is the coarsest topology with respect to which d is continuous.

Solution

- (a) Let $x = (x_1, x_2) \in X \times X$ and for some $\varepsilon > 0$, $U = B(f(x), \varepsilon)$ be a basis element of \mathbb{R} containing $f(x)$. Consider the open sets $U_1 = B_d(x_1, \varepsilon/4)$ and $U_2 = B_d(x_2, \varepsilon/4)$. If $y_1 \in U_1$ and $y_2 \in U_2$, then

$$d(y_1, y_2) \leq d(x_1, x_2) + d(x_1, y_1) + d(x_2, y_2) \leq f(x) + \varepsilon/2.$$

Therefore, $d(y_1, y_2) \in U$. As a result, $U_1 \times U_2$ is an open set such that $x \in f(U_1 \times U_2) \subseteq U$ and d is continuous.

- (b) Consider the continuous function $g : X' \rightarrow X' \times X'$ given by $y \mapsto (x, y)$ (we proved continuity in Exercise 2.16.4). Since the composition of continuous functions is continuous, so is $d \circ g : X' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Note that for any $\varepsilon > 0$, $(d \circ g)^{-1}((0, \varepsilon)) = B_d(x, \varepsilon)$. It follows that $B_d(x, \varepsilon)$ is open in X' and therefore, the topology on X' is finer than that on X .

Exercise 2.20.5. Let \mathbb{R}^∞ be the subset of \mathbb{R}^ω consisting of all infinite sequences that are eventually 0. What is the closure of \mathbb{R}^∞ in \mathbb{R}^ω in the uniform topology?

Solution

We claim that the closure of \mathbb{R}^∞ is the set of all sequences that converge to 0. Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^\omega$.

- Case 1. The sequence x does not converge to 0. There is then some $\varepsilon > 0$ such that for infinitely many n , $|x_n| > \varepsilon$. We may assume that $\varepsilon < 1$. Consider the open set $U = B_{\overline{\rho}}(x, \varepsilon)$. We claim that $U \cap \mathbb{R}^\infty = \emptyset$. Indeed, for any $y \in \mathbb{R}^\infty$, $|x_n - y| > \varepsilon$ for infinitely many n so $y \notin B_{\overline{\rho}}(x, \varepsilon)$, thus proving that $x \notin \overline{\mathbb{R}^\infty}$.
- Case 2. The sequence x converges to 0. Let $B_{\overline{\rho}}(x, \varepsilon)$ be an arbitrary basis element containing x . Then there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $n > N$, $|x_n| < \varepsilon/2$. Consider the element $y \in \mathbb{R}^\infty$ such that $y_n = x_n$ for $n \leq N$ and $y_n = 0$ otherwise. Then $y \in B_{\overline{\rho}}(x, \varepsilon)$, thus proving that $x \in \overline{\mathbb{R}^\infty}$.

2.21. The Metric Topology (continued)

Exercise 2.21.2. Let X and Y be metric spaces with metrics d_X and d_Y respectively. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ such that for any $x_1, x_2 \in X$,

$$d_Y(f(x_1), f(x_2)) = d_X(x_1, x_2).$$

Show that f is an imbedding. It is called the *isometric imbedding* of X in Y .

Solution

Let $x \in X$ and $V = B_{d_Y}(f(x), \varepsilon)$ be a basis element in Y containing $f(x)$. Then $U = B_{d_X}(x, \varepsilon)$ is an open set in X containing x such that $f(U) \subseteq V$. Therefore, f is continuous. Showing that f is open is similarly straight-forward.

Exercise 2.21.3. Let X_n be a metric space with metric d_n for each $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Let $\bar{d}_i = \min\{d_i, 1\}$. Show that

$$D(x, y) = \sup\{\bar{d}_i(x_i, y_i)/i\}$$

is a metric for the product space $\prod X_i$.

Solution

Let $U = \prod U_i$ be a basis element of the product topology, where $U_i \neq X_i$ for $i = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$. Let $x \in U$. For each j , let $B_{\bar{d}_{\alpha_j}}(x_{\alpha_j}, \varepsilon_j) \subseteq U_{\alpha_j}$. Let $\varepsilon = \min\{\varepsilon_j/2\alpha_j\}$. Then $x \in B_D(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq U$, so the metric topology is finer than the product topology.

For the other direction, let $\varepsilon > 0$ and $U = B_D(x, \varepsilon)$. We want to show that there is an element of the product topology containing x that is contained in U . Let $V = \prod V_i$, where $V_i = B_{\bar{d}_i}(x_i, i\varepsilon/2)$ for each i . Note that V is a basis element of the product topology since $V_i = X_i$ for $i > 2/\varepsilon$. Since $x \in V \subseteq U$, the product topology is finer than the metric topology, thus proving the result.