

**TOPOLOGY HOMEWORK # 2**  
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ELLEN WELD

**P. 100 # 3, 6(bc), 7, 9, 13**

**Problem 3.** Show that if  $A$  is closed in  $X$  and  $B$  is closed in  $Y$ , then  $A \times B$  is closed in  $X \times Y$ .

**Solution:** Let  $\pi_1 : X \times Y \rightarrow X$  and  $\pi_2 : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$  be defined as on p. 87.

**Lemma 1.** Let  $A \subseteq X$ ,  $B \subseteq Y$ , then

$$\pi_1^{-1}(A) = A \times Y \text{ and } \pi_2^{-1}(B) = X \times B.$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_1^{-1}(A) &= \{x \times y : \pi_1(x \times y) \in A\} \\ &= \{x \times y : x \in A\} \\ &= \{x \times y : x \in A, y \in Y\} \\ &= A \times Y\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_2^{-1}(B) &= \{x \times y : \pi_2(x \times y) \in B\} \\ &= \{x \times y : y \in B\} \\ &= \{x \times y : x \in X, y \in B\} \\ &= X \times B\end{aligned}$$

□

Now, suppose  $A \subseteq X$  open and  $B \subseteq Y$  open. We show that  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are continuous. By lemma (1), we may write

$$\pi_1^{-1}(A) = A \times Y \text{ and } \pi_2^{-1}(B) = X \times B.$$

Since  $A$  is open in  $X$  and  $Y$  is open in  $Y$ , we see that  $A \times Y$  is open in  $X \times Y$  by definition of the product topology on p. 86. Similarly, since  $X$  is open in  $X$  and  $B$  is open in  $Y$ ,  $X \times B$  is open in  $X \times Y$ . Thus, by definition of continuity on p. 102, we see that  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are both continuous.

Suppose that  $A$  is closed in  $X$  and  $B$  is closed in  $Y$ . Then in particular  $X \setminus A$  is open in  $X$  and  $Y \setminus B$  is open in  $Y$ . Thus, by the continuity of  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ , we have that

$$(1) \quad \pi_1^{-1}(X \setminus A) = (X \setminus A) \times Y \text{ and } \pi_2^{-1}(Y \setminus B) = X \times (Y \setminus B)$$

which are both open.

**Lemma 2.** Suppose  $A \subseteq X$  and  $B \subseteq Y$ . Then

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

and

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

*Proof.* We only show

$$(X \times Y) \setminus (A \times Y) = (X \setminus A) \times Y$$

since

$$(X \times Y) \setminus (X \times B) = X \times (Y \setminus B)$$

is done similarly.

$$\begin{aligned} (X \times Y) \setminus (A \times Y) &= \{x \times y : x \times y \notin A \times Y\} \\ &= \{x \times y : x \notin A \text{ or } y \notin Y\} \\ &= \{x \times y : x \notin A\} \\ &= (X \setminus A) \times Y \end{aligned}$$

□

Therefore, equation (1) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1^{-1}(X \setminus A) &= (X \setminus A) \times Y \stackrel{\text{lemma (2)}}{=} (X \times Y) \setminus (A \times Y) \\ \pi_2^{-1}(Y \setminus B) &= X \times (Y \setminus B) \stackrel{\text{lemma (2)}}{=} (X \times Y) \setminus (X \times B). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have that  $(X \times Y) \setminus (A \times Y)$  and  $(X \times Y) \setminus (X \times B)$  are both open in  $X \times Y$  which means that  $A \times Y$  and  $X \times B$  are both closed in  $X \times Y$ .

Finally, we get that

$$(X \times B) \cap (A \times Y) \stackrel{(*)}{=} (X \cap A) \times (B \cap Y) = A \times B$$

which means that  $A \times B$  is closed given that  $A$  and  $B$  are closed. We need only show  $(*)$  to complete the proof.

To see this,

$$\begin{aligned} (X \times B) \cap (A \times Y) &= \{x \times y : x \in X, y \in B\} \cap \{x \times y : x \in A, y \in Y\} \\ &= \{x \times y : x \in A, y \in B\} \\ &= A \times B. \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 6.** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $A_\alpha$  denote subsets of a space  $X$ . Prove the following:

(b)  $\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$

**Solution:** ( $\subseteq$ ) By definition of closure on p. 95 under the section “Closure and Interior of a Set”, we see that

$$\overline{A \cup B} = \bigcup_{\substack{C \text{ closed} \\ A \cup B \subseteq C}} C.$$

Further,  $A \cup B \subseteq \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$  since  $A \subseteq \overline{A}$  and  $B \subseteq \overline{B}$ . Since  $\overline{A}$  and  $\overline{B}$  are closed, we see  $\overline{A \cup B}$  is closed by Theorem 17.1(3). Hence, we must have

$$\overline{A \cup B} = \bigcup_{\substack{C \text{ closed} \\ A \cup B \subseteq C}} C \subseteq \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}.$$

( $\supseteq$ )  $\overline{A \cup B}$  is closed since it is the closure of a set (which is an arbitrary intersection of closed sets and is thus closed by Theorem 17.1(2)). Now, since  $A \cup B \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$ , we see that  $A \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$  and  $B \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$ . Then, since  $\overline{A \cup B}$  is closed, we have  $\overline{A} \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$  and  $\overline{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$  because

$$\overline{A} = \bigcap_{\substack{C \text{ closed} \\ A \subseteq C}} C \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$$

and

$$\overline{B} = \bigcap_{\substack{D \text{ closed} \\ B \subseteq D}} D \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}.$$

Thus,

$$\overline{A} \cup \overline{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}.$$

We conclude then that

$$\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}.$$

(c)  $\overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}} \supseteq \bigcup_{\alpha} \overline{A_{\alpha}}$ ; give an example where equality fails.

**Solution:** We see that  $\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha} \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}}$ . Thus, in particular,  $A_{\alpha} \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}}$  for all  $\alpha$ . Then for each  $\alpha$ , we may write

$$\overline{A_{\alpha}} = \bigcap_{\substack{C \text{ closed} \\ A_{\alpha} \subseteq C}} C \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}}.$$

Hence, we have

$$\bigcup_{\alpha} \overline{A_{\alpha}} \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}}.$$

For an example where equality fails, consider  $\mathbb{R}$  in the order topology (so the usual one from real analysis). Let  $A_{\alpha} = \{\alpha\}$  for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Then since singletons are closed in this topology, we see that  $\overline{A_{\alpha}} = \{\alpha\}$  which implies

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}} \overline{A_{\alpha}} = \mathbb{Q}.$$

But,

$$\overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}} = \mathbb{R} \neq \mathbb{Q}.$$

**Problem 7.** Criticize the following “proof” that  $\overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}} \subseteq \bigcup_{\alpha} \overline{A_{\alpha}}$ : if  $\{A_{\alpha}\}$  is a collection of sets in  $X$  and if  $x \in \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}}$ , then every neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  intersects  $\bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}$ . Thus  $U$  must intersect some  $A_{\alpha}$ , so that  $x$  must belong to the closure of some  $A_{\alpha}$ . Therefore,  $x \in \bigcup_{\alpha} \overline{A_{\alpha}}$ .

**Solution:** This issue with this proof is the assertion that  $U$  intersection some  $A_\alpha$  implies that  $x$  must be in the closure of some  $A_\alpha$ . Different choices for  $U$  a neighborhood of  $x$  might intersection different  $A_\alpha$ . For  $x$  to be in the closure of some  $A_\alpha$ , we would need  $U$  a neighborhood of  $x$  to intersection that particular  $A_\alpha$  for all  $U$ . But by simply saying that  $U$  intersects some  $A_\alpha$  doesn't imply that a particular  $A_\alpha$  intersects every such  $U$ .

In other words, the statement is saying  $\forall U$  neighborhood of  $x$ ,  $\exists \alpha$  such that  $U \cap A_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ . But for  $x \in \bigcup_\alpha \overline{A_\alpha}$ , we would need  $\exists \alpha$  such that  $\forall U$  neighborhood of  $x$ ,  $U \cap A_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ . These are not the same statements.

**Problem 9.** Let  $A \subseteq X$  and  $B \subseteq Y$ . Show that in the space  $X \times Y$ ,

$$\overline{A \times B} = \overline{A} \times \overline{B}.$$

**Solution:** We assume that  $X \times Y$  is the product topology, whose definition is given by the basis  $\{U \times V : U \text{ open in } X, V \text{ open in } Y\}$  by p. 86. Theorem 17.5(b) states that  $x \times y \in \overline{A \times B}$  if and only if for all  $U \times V$  ( $U$  open in  $X$ ,  $V$  open in  $Y$ ) such that  $x \times y \in U \times V$ , then  $(A \times B) \cap (U \times V) \neq \emptyset$ .

**Lemma 3.** If  $A, U \subseteq X$  and  $B, V \subseteq Y$ , then

$$(A \times B) \cap (U \times V) = (A \cap U) \times (B \cap V).$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} (A \times B) \cap (U \times V) &= \{x \times y : x \in A, y \in B\} \cap \{x \times y : x \in U, y \in V\} \\ &= \{x \times y : x \in A \cap U, y \in B \cap V\} \\ &= (A \cap U) \times (B \cap V). \end{aligned}$$

□

Hence, we have

$$(A \cap U) \times (B \cap V) = (A \times B) \cap (U \times V) \neq \emptyset.$$

**Lemma 4.** Let  $A \subseteq X$  and  $B \subseteq Y$  with  $X \times Y$  using the product topology. Then

$$A \times B \neq \emptyset \iff A \neq \emptyset \text{ and } B \neq \emptyset.$$

*Proof.*

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $A \times B \neq \emptyset$ . Then there exists  $x \times y \in A \times B$ . Hence

$$x \times y \in A \times B = \{x \times y : x \in A, y \in B\}$$

which implies  $x \in A, y \in B$ . Thus  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ . Then there exists  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ . Hence  $x \times y \in \{x \times y : x \in A, y \in B\} = A \times B$ . This implies  $A \times B \neq \emptyset$ . □

Therefore, by lemma (4), we see that  $A \cap U \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \cap V \neq \emptyset$ . Since we chose  $U \times V$  such that  $x \times y \in U \times V$ , we have  $x \in U$  and  $y \in V$ . We note that  $U, V$  were arbitrary open sets in  $X, Y$  respectively containing  $x, y$  respectively. Further, they intersect  $A$  and  $B$  respectively. Theorem 17.5(a) gives that  $x \in \overline{A}$  and  $y \in \overline{B}$ . So, we conclude that  $x \times y \in \overline{A} \times \overline{B}$ .

We observe that every step is reversible (since everything is an if and only if statement) which means we have shown inclusion both ways.

**Problem 10.** Show that every order topology is Hausdorff.

**Solution:** We use the definition of the order topology as given on p.84 where we observe that there must exist at least two distinct elements in the order topology  $X$ .

Let  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  with  $x_1 \neq x_2$ . Since  $X$  has a simple order, we may without loss of generality that  $x_1 < x_2$ .

Let

$$B_1 = \begin{cases} [x_0, x_2) & \text{if } x_0 \text{ is the smallest element of } X \\ (x_0, x_2) & \text{if } X \text{ does not have a smallest element} \end{cases}$$

where we may choose  $x_0 < x_1$  if  $X$  does not have a smallest element. Similarly, define

$$B_2 = \begin{cases} (x_1, x_3] & \text{if } x_3 \text{ is the largest element of } X \\ (x_1, x_3) & \text{if } X \text{ does not have a largest element} \end{cases}$$

where we may choose  $x_3 > x_2$  if  $X$  does not have a largest element. We see then that  $x_1 \in B_1$  and  $x_2 \in B_2$ . Then

$$B_1 \cap B_2 = (x_1, x_2).$$

**Case 1:** Suppose  $(x_1, x_2) = \emptyset$ . Then  $B_1, B_2$  are two open, disjoint sets by the definition of order topology on p. 84. So we are done.

**Case 2:** Suppose there exists  $\bar{x} \in (x_1, x_2)$ . In particular, this means  $x_1 \prec \bar{x} \prec x_2$ . Then take the open sets

$$U_1 = \begin{cases} [x_0, \bar{x}) & \text{if } x_0 \text{ is the smallest element of } X \\ (x_0, \bar{x}) & \text{if } X \text{ does not have a smallest element} \end{cases}$$

and

$$U_2 = \begin{cases} (\bar{x}, x_3] & \text{if } x_3 \text{ is the largest element of } X \\ (\bar{x}, x_3) & \text{if } X \text{ does not have a largest element} \end{cases}$$

Then, we see that  $x_1 \in U_1$  and  $x_2 \in U_2$  both open by definition p. 84 with  $U_1 \cap U_2 = \emptyset$ .

**Problem 13.** Show that  $X$  is Hausdorff if and only if the **diagonal**  $\Delta = \{x \times x \mid x \in X\}$  is closed in  $X \times X$ .

**Solution:**

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $X$  is Hausdorff and suppose  $X \times X$  has the product topology as defined on p. 86. Let  $N = (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ . We know that  $N \neq \emptyset$  since  $X$  Hausdorff implies  $X$  has at least two distinct points. Let  $x \times y \in N$ . Since  $X$  is Hausdorff, there exists  $U$  a neighborhood of  $x$  and  $V$  a neighborhood of  $y$  such that  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ . By p. 86,  $U \times V$  is a basic element of  $x \times X$ . Now, suppose

$$(U \times V) \cap \Delta \neq \emptyset.$$

Then there exists  $z \in X$  such that  $z \in U$  and  $z \in V$ . But,  $U, V$  are disjoint. So we must have

$$(U \times V) \cap \Delta = \emptyset.$$

But then

$$x \times y \in U \times V \subseteq N.$$

By the definition of openness on p. 78 (under the definition of a basis), we see that  $N$  is open. Therefore,  $\Delta$  is closed.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume that  $\Delta$  is closed. Suppose first that  $X = \{x\}$ . Then the Hausdorff condition holds vacuously and we are done.

Suppose second that  $X$  has at least two distinct points. Then, in particular,  $N = (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$  is nonempty and open. Since  $N$  is open, we can write by Theorem 15.1 that

$$N = \bigcup_{\alpha} (U_{\alpha} \times V_{\alpha})$$

where  $U_{\alpha}, V_{\alpha}$  are open in  $X$  for all  $\alpha$ .

Now, if there exists  $x \in X$  with  $x \in U_{\alpha} \cap V_{\alpha}$  for some  $\alpha$ , then we would have  $x \times x \in U_{\alpha} \times V_{\alpha}$ . Thus

$$x \times x \in \bigcup_{\alpha} (U_{\alpha} \cap V_{\alpha}) = N$$

which implies that  $x \neq x$ , a contradiction. Hence, for each  $\alpha$ ,  $U_{\alpha} \cap V_{\alpha} = \emptyset$ .

Take two distinct points in  $X$ , say  $x_1, x_2$ . Then there exists neighborhoods  $U_{\alpha}$  of  $x_1$  and  $V_{\alpha}$  of  $x_2$  disjoint. Therefore, we conclude that  $X$  is Hausdorff.

### P. 111 # 4, 8(ab)

**Problem 4.** Given  $x_0 \in X$  and  $y_0 \in Y$ , show that the maps  $f : X \rightarrow X \times Y$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow X \times Y$  defined by

$$f(x) = x \times y_0 \text{ and } g(y) = x_0 \times y$$

are imbeddings.

**Solution:** Let  $f(X)$  be considered as a subspace of  $X \times Y$ . Then by last paragraph p.105, if  $f' : X \rightarrow f(X)$  defined by  $f'(x) = f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  is a homeomorphism, then we say that  $f : X \rightarrow X \times Y$  is an imbedding of  $X$  in  $X \times Y$ . So we need only show that  $f'$  is bijective, continuous, and open.

**Bijective:** By how we chose  $f'$ , we see that  $f(X) = f'(X)$ . By definition of  $f'(X)$ , we see that  $f'$  is onto. So we need only check that it is injective.

Let  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  with  $f'(x_1) = f'(x_2)$ . Then

$$x_1 \times y_0 = f'(x_1) = f'(x_2) = x_2 \times y_0.$$

We see that in  $X \times Y$ , if  $a \times b, u \times v \in X \times V$ , then

$$a \times b = u \times v \iff a = u \text{ and } b = v.$$

So we see that  $x_1 = x_2$ . So  $f'$  is injective.

**Continuous:** By the top of p. 103, it suffices to show that  $f'^{-1}(W)$  is open for every basis element  $W$  of the subspace  $f(X)$ . Now, we see that  $f'(X) = f(X) = X \times \{y_0\}$ . Let  $U \times V$  be such that  $U$  is open in  $X$  and  $V$  is open in  $Y$ . Then  $U \times V$  is a basis element of  $X \times Y$  which means in the subspace  $f(X)$ ,  $(U \times V) \cap f(X) = (U \times V) \cap (X \times \{y_0\}) = U \times (V \cap \{y_0\})$  is a basic element of  $f(X)$  by the first paragraph of the proof of Theorem 16.3 and lemma (3).

So, if  $y_0 \notin V$ , then

$$f'^{-1}((U \times V) \cap (X \times \{y_0\})) = f'^{-1}(U \times (V \cap \{y_0\})) = \emptyset.$$

We recall that  $\emptyset$  is open in  $X$ . If  $y_0 \in V$ , then

$$f'^{-1}((U \times V) \cap (X \times \{y_0\})) = f'^{-1}(U \times (V \cap \{y_0\})) = U$$

where  $U$  is open in  $X$  by assumption. Hence,  $f'$  is continuous the top of p. 103.

**Open Map:** Suppose  $U$  is open in  $X$ . Then we see that  $f'(U) = U \times \{y_0\}$ . To see this is open in the subspace topology on  $f(X)$ , take  $V$  a neighborhood of  $y_0$  in  $Y$ . Then observe that by lemma (3),

$$(U \times V) \cap (X \times \{y_0\}) = U \times \{y_0\}$$

where  $U \times V$  is open in  $X \times Y$ . Thus, by definition of the subspace topology on p.88, we see that  $U \times \{y_0\}$  is open in  $f(X)$  which is what we wanted. Therefore,  $f'$  is an open map.

We have by the paragraph under the definition of homeomorphism on p.105 that  $f'$  is a homeomorphism. Therefore, by the bottom paragraph of p. 105, we conclude that  $f$  is an imbedding.

The same proofs work for  $g$  by showing that  $g' : Y \rightarrow g(Y)$  defined by  $g'(y) = g(y)$  for  $y \in Y$  and changing  $X$  to  $Y$ .

**Problem 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  $X$ .

**Solution:** Let  $A = \{x : f(x) > g(x)\}$ . Then  $X \setminus A = \{x : f(x) \leq g(x)\}$  and so showing  $A$  is open is equivalent to showing that  $\{x : f(x) \leq g(x)\}$  is closed.

Since  $Y$  is an order topology, we see that Theorem 17.11 gives that  $Y$  is Hausdorff.

**Lemma 5.** Suppose  $Y$  has at least two elements. Then  $Y$  Hausdorff if and only if for each  $y_1, y_2 \in Y$  distinct, there exists basis elements  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{B}$  such that  $y_1 \in B_1, y_2 \in B_2$  with  $B_1 \cap B_2 = \emptyset$ .

*Proof.*

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $Y$  is Hausdorff. Then for  $y_1, y_2 \in Y$  distinct, there exist neighborhoods  $U_1, U_2$  of  $y_1, y_2$  respectively such that  $U_1 \cap U_2 = \emptyset$ . Lemma 13.1 states that

$$U_1 = \bigcup_{\alpha} B_{\alpha} \text{ and } U_2 = \bigcup_{\beta} C_{\beta}$$

for  $\{B_{\alpha}\}, \{C_{\beta}\} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ . Hence, there must exist  $\alpha_0$  and  $\beta_0$  such that  $y_1 \in B_{\alpha_0}, y_2 \in C_{\beta_0}$ . Since  $U_1 \cap U_2 = \emptyset$ , we must have  $B_{\alpha_0} \cap C_{\beta_0} = \emptyset$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let  $y_1, y_2 \in Y$  distinct. Then there exists basis elements  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{B}$  such that  $y_1 \in B_1, y_2 \in B_2$  with  $B_1 \cap B_2 = \emptyset$ . Since  $B_1, B_2$  are open sets in  $Y$ , we conclude that  $Y$  is Hausdorff by definition on p. 98.  $\square$

Let  $x \in A$ . Then we see that  $f(x) \neq g(x)$ . Since  $Y$  is Hausdorff, lemma (??) tells us there exists  $B_1, B_2$  basis elements of the order topology as defined on p.84 such that  $g(x) \in B_1$  and  $f(x) \in B_2$  with  $B_1 \cap B_2 = \emptyset$ . Without loss of generality, let  $B_1 = (y_0, y_1)$  and  $B_2 = (y_2, y_3)$  (where we note that  $g(x) \in (y_0, y_1)$  and  $f(x) \in (y_2, y_3)$  implies that  $y_1 \leq y_2$ , else  $B_1 \cap B_2 \neq \emptyset$ ). Define

$$U = g^{-1}(B_1) \cap f^{-1}(B_2).$$

Since  $B_1, B_2$  are open and  $f, g$  are continuous, we have that  $U$  is open. Further,  $x \in U$  since  $g(x) \in B_1$  and  $f(x) \in B_2$ . We show now that  $U \subseteq A$ .

Let  $z \in U$ . Then  $g(z) \in B_1$  and  $f(z) \in B_2$  by definition. Hence,

$$y_0 < g(z) < y_1 \leq y_2 < f(z) < y_3 \Rightarrow g(z) < f(z)$$

which means  $z \in A$ .

We have just shown that for each  $x \in A$ , there exists an open set  $U$  with  $x \in U \subseteq A$ . Since we may always take the topology itself as a basis for the topology, we have that  $U$  is a basis element. Therefore,  $A$  is open by p.78 under the definition of a basis.

Since  $A$  is open, we must have that  $\{x : f(x) \leq g(x)\}$  is closed, as desired.

(b) Let  $h : X \rightarrow Y$  be the function

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

Show that  $h$  is continuous. [**Hint:** Use the pasting lemma.]

**Solution:** Let  $A = \{x : f(x) \leq g(x)\}$  and  $B = \{x : g(x) \leq f(x)\}$ . We note by part (a) that  $A, B$  are both closed in  $X$ . Define  $f' = f|_A : A \rightarrow Y$  and  $g' = g|_B : B \rightarrow Y$ . By Theorem 18.2(d), we see that  $f', g'$  are continuous. We note that  $f'(x) = g'(x)$  on  $A \cap B$ . Then

$$h(x) = \min\{f(x), g(x)\} = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \in A \\ g(x) & \text{if } x \in B \end{cases}.$$

By the pasting lemma, we conclude that  $h$  is continuous.

### Extra Problems

**Problem 1.** Given:  $X$  is a topological space with open sets  $U_1, \dots, U_n$  such that  $\overline{U_i} = X$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Prove that the closure of  $U_1 \cap \dots \cap U_n$  is  $X$ .

**Solution:** We show this by induction.

**Base Case:** Let  $n = 2$ . We show that if  $\overline{U_1} = X = \overline{U_2}$  for  $U_1, U_2$  open in  $X$ , then  $\overline{U_1 \cap U_2} = X$ .

**Lemma 6.** For all nonempty  $V$  open in  $X$ ,  $U_1 \cap V \neq \emptyset$  and  $U_2 \cap V \neq \emptyset$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x \in X$ , then  $x \in \overline{U_1}$ . Suppose  $V_x$  is a neighborhood of  $x$ . Then by Theorem 17.5(a),  $U_1 \cap V_x \neq \emptyset$ .

Now suppose  $V \neq \emptyset$  is open in  $X$ . Then there exists  $x \in V$  and  $V$  is a neighborhood of  $x$ . Hence  $U_1 \cap V \neq \emptyset$ .

The same proof works for  $U_2$ . □

Next, let  $x \in X$ . Let  $V$  be a neighborhood of  $x$  in  $X$ . Then  $U_2 \cap V \neq \emptyset$  with  $U_2 \cap V$  open in  $X$  since  $U_2$  is open in  $X$ . Hence  $U_1 \cap (U_2 \cap V) \neq \emptyset$  by lemma (5). So we see that  $(U_1 \cap U_2) \cap V \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore, by Theorem 17.5(a), we conclude that  $x \in \overline{U_1 \cap U_2}$ . Since  $\overline{U_1 \cap U_2} \subseteq X$ , we see that  $\overline{U_1 \cap U_2} = X$ .

**Induction Hypothesis:** Suppose that for  $n-1$ ,  $\overline{U_1 \cap U_2 \cap \dots \cap U_{n-1}} = X$  and  $\overline{U_n} = X$ . Let  $S = U_1 \cap U_2 \cap \dots \cap U_{n-1}$ . Then  $\overline{S} = X$ . By base case we see that  $\overline{S \cap U_n} = X$ . Hence

$$\overline{U_1 \cap U_2 \cap \dots \cap U_n} = X.$$