
Problem Set 5

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PROBLEM 1

Show that for (X, \mathcal{T}) a compact Hausdorff space, any topology $\mathcal{T} \subsetneq \mathcal{T}'$ makes (X, \mathcal{T}') no longer compact Hausdorff. Furthermore, for $\mathcal{T}' \subsetneq \mathcal{T}$, the space (X, \mathcal{T}') is not compact Hausdorff.

Proof. For this proof, we will show that for $\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'$ topologies on X with $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{T}'$ and the property that X is compact Hausdorff under both these topologies, then they must be equal.

To do so, we consider the identity function $id : (X, \mathcal{T}') \rightarrow (X, \mathcal{T})$, which is continuous since $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{T}'$. Now, for any C closed in (X, \mathcal{T}') , since (X, \mathcal{T}') is compact and id is continuous, $id(C) = C$ is compact in (X, \mathcal{T}) . However, since (X, \mathcal{T}) is Hausdorff, C must also be closed. Thus, id is a closed map, and thus a homeomorphism, and the two topologies must be equal. \square

PROBLEM 2

Prove that for compact subsets A, B of X , their union $A \cup B$ is compact as well.

Proof. Let \mathcal{O} be an open cover of $A \cup B$. In particular, \mathcal{O} covers A , and has a finite subset \mathcal{O}_A that covers A . Similarly, there is a finite subset \mathcal{O}_B that covers B . Their union $\mathcal{O}_A \cup \mathcal{O}_B$ covers $A \cup B$, and is finite, as it is the union of finite sets. It is also a subcover, since both \mathcal{O}_A and \mathcal{O}_B are subsets of \mathcal{O} . Thus, \mathcal{O} has a finite subcover, and $A \cup B$ is compact as desired. \square

PROBLEM 3

Suppose A is a subset of a metric space. Show that A is compact implies that A is closed and bounded. Give an example where the converse does not hold.

Proof. Suppose A is a compact subset of a metric space (X, d) . Since all metric spaces are Hausdorff, it follows immediately that A is closed (since it is a compact subset of a Hausdorff space).

Now, fix $x \in A$, and consider the open cover $\mathcal{O} = \{V_n(x) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ of balls centered at x with radius n . This has a finite subcover, by compactness of A . So, let N be the largest radius in the finite subcover. For each $V_m(x)$ in the finite subcover, then, we have that $V_m(x) \subset V_N(x)$. Thus, since the subcover covers A , it follows that $V_N(x)$ covers A , and thus A is bounded.

For an example where the converse fails, consider the metric space (\mathbb{R}, d_{LA}) of the real numbers with the discrete (Los Angeles) metric. The set \mathbb{R} itself is closed and bounded (since everything is at most distance 1 away from any particular point), but is clearly not compact, since it is an uncountable discrete set of points. \square

PROBLEM 4

Show that for X Hausdorff, A, B disjoint compact subsets of X , then there exist disjoint open sets U and V containing A and B respectively.

Proof. Let $a \in A$, and $b \in B$. Since A and B are disjoint, it must be that $a \neq b$. Thus, there exist disjoint open sets U_{ab}, V_{ab} such that $a \in U_{ab}$ and $b \in V_{ab}$. Now, since B is compact, the open cover $\mathcal{O}_B = \{V_{ab} \mid b \in B\}$ has a finite subcover $\{V_{ab_i}\}_{i=1}^n$. Furthermore, the open set $U_a = \bigcap_{i=1}^n U_{ab_i}$ does not intersect the open set $V_a = \bigcup_{i=1}^n V_{ab_i}$ which covers B ,

So, consider the open cover $\mathcal{O}_A = \{U_a \mid a \in A\}$. By compactness of A , this has a finite subcover $\{U_{a_j}\}_{j=1}^n$. \square