# **Topology Qualifying Exam Solutions**

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### **Contents**

1	Problems to Revisit			
2	Defi	Definitions 2 Theorems 3		
3	Theo			
4	San	dbox of Spaces	3	
5	Gen	eral Topology	3	
	5.1	2	3	
		5.1.1 Alternate Proof of (ii)	4	
	5.2	4	4	
	5.3	6	6	
	0.0	5.3.1 Proof 1: Direct (DZG)	6	
	5.4	8	6	
	0.1	5.4.1 Proof 1 (DZG)	6	
	5.5	10	7	
	5.6	12	8	
	5.7	14	8	
	٠.,			
	5.8	16	9	
	5.9		10	
	5.10		11	

## 1 Problems to Revisit

- 4
- 6 (Without Heine-Borel)
- 8
- 10
- 11
- 14

#### 2 Definitions

- Hausdorff
- Second Countable: admits a countable basis.
- Closed (several characterizations)
- Closure in a subspace:  $Y \subset X \implies \operatorname{cl}_Y(A) := \operatorname{cl}_X(A) \cap Y$ .
- Bounded
- Compact: A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is **compact** if every open cover has a *finite* subcover. That is, if  $\{U_j \mid j \in J\} \subset \tau$  is a collection of open sets such that  $X \subseteq \bigcup_{j \in J} U_j$ , then there exists
  - a finite subset  $J' \subset J$  such that  $X \subseteq \bigcup_{j \in J'} U_j$ .
- Locally compact For every  $x \in X$ , there exists a  $K_x \ni x$  such that  $K_x$  is compact.
- Connected: There does not exist a disconnecting set  $X = A \coprod B$  such that  $\emptyset \neq A, B \subsetneq$ , i.e. X is the union of two proper disjoint nonempty sets. Equivalently, X contains no proper nonempty clopen sets.
  - Additional condition for a subspace  $Y \subset X$ :  $\operatorname{cl}_Y(A) \cap V = A \cap \operatorname{cl}_Y(B) = \emptyset$ .
- Locally connected: A space is locally connected at a point x iff  $\forall N_x \ni x$ , there exists a  $U \subset N_x$  containing x that is connected.
- Retract: A subspace  $A \subset X$  is a retract of X iff there exists a continuous map  $f: X \longrightarrow A$  such that  $f \mid_A = \mathrm{id}_A$ . Equivalently it is a left inverse to the inclusion.
- Uniform Continuity: For  $f:(X,d_x)\longrightarrow (Y,d_Y)$  metric spaces,

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \ \exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that} \quad d_X(x_1, x_2) < \delta \implies d_Y(f(x_1), f(x_2)) < \varepsilon.$$

• Lebesgue number: For (X, d) a compact metric space and  $\{U_{\alpha}\} \rightrightarrows X$ , there exist  $\delta_L > 0$  such that

$$A \subset X$$
, diam $(A) < \delta_L \implies A \subseteq U_\alpha$  for some  $\alpha$ .

- Paracompact
- Components: Set  $x \sim y$  iff there exists a connected set  $U \ni x, y$  and take equivalence classes
- Path Components: Set  $x \sim y$  iff there exists a path-connected set  $U \ni x, y$  and take equivalence classes
- Separable: countable dense subset.
- Limit Point: For  $A \subset X$ , x is a limit point of A if every punctured neighborhood  $P_x$  of x satisfies  $P_x \cap A \neq \emptyset$ , i.e. every neighborhood of x intersects A in some point other than x itself. Equivalently, x is a limit point of A iff  $x \in \operatorname{cl}_X(A \setminus \{x\})$ .

#### 3 Theorems

- Closed subsets of Hausdorff spaces are compact? (check)
- Cantor's intersection theorem?
- Tube lemma
- Properties pushed forward through continuous maps:
  - Compactness?
  - Connectedness (when surjective)
  - Separability
  - Density **only when** f is surjective
  - Not openness
  - Not closedness
- Results that only work for metric spaces

- ?

- A retract of a Hausdroff/connected/compact space is closed/connected/compact respectively.
- A continuous function on a compact set is uniformly continuous.
  - Proof: take  $\left\{B_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(y) \mid y \in Y\right\} \Rightarrow Y$ , pull back to an open cover of X, has Lebesgue number  $\delta_L > 0$ , then  $x' \in B_{\delta_L}(x) \implies f(x), f(x') \in B_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(y)$  for some y.
- Lipschitz continuity implies uniform continuity (take  $\delta = \varepsilon/C$ )
  - Counterexample to converse:  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  on [0, 1] has unbounded derivative.
- Extreme Value Theorem: for  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  continuous with X compact and Y ordered in the order topology, there exist points  $c, d \in X$  such that  $f(x) \in [f(c), f(d)]$  for every x.

### 4 Sandbox of Spaces

- Finite discrete sets with the discrete topology
- Subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}$ :  $(a,b),(a,b],(a,\infty)$ , etc.

$$- \{0\} \bigcup \left\{ \frac{1}{n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 1}} \right\}$$

- Q
- The topologist's sine curve
- One-point compactifications
- $\mathbb{R}^{\omega}$

Alternative topologies to consider:

- Cofinite
- Discrete and Indiscrete
- Uniform

## 5 General Topology

#### 5.1 2

- i. See definition section.
- ii. Use Heine-Borel theorem: a set  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is compact  $\iff U$  is closed and bounded.

• X is closed in  $\mathbb{R}$ , since we can write its complement as an arbitrary union of open intervals:

$$X^c = (-\infty, 0) \bigcup \left( \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^+} \left( \frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n+1} \right) \right) \bigcup (1, \infty)$$

- X is bounded, since we can pick r=1, then  $x,y\in X \implies d(x,y)\leq r=1$ .
- iii. Use Heine-Borel again: X is not closed because it does not contain all of its limit points, e.g. the sequence  $\left\{x_n := \frac{1}{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 1}\right\} \subset X$  but  $x_n \stackrel{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} 0 \in X^c$ . Thus is is **not** compact.

#### 5.1.1 Alternate Proof of (ii)

See Munkres p.164

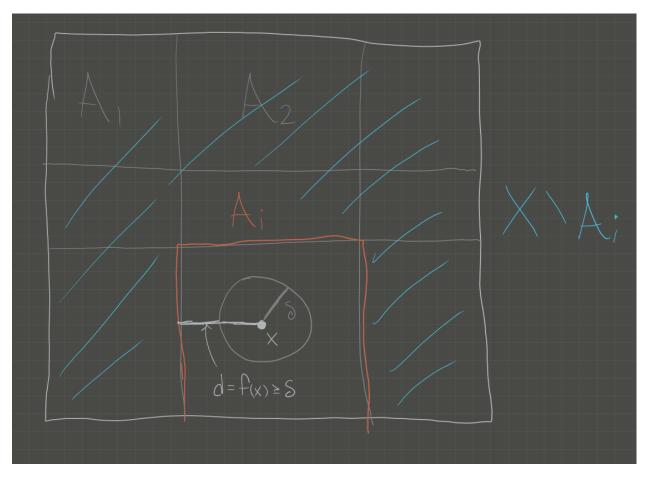
- Let  $\{U_i \mid j \in J\} \Rightarrow X$ ; then  $0 \in U_j$  for some  $j \in J$ .
- In the subspace topology,  $U_i$  is given by some  $V \in \tau(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $V \cap X = U_i$ 
  - A basis for the subspace topology on  $\mathbb{R}$  is open intervals, so write V as a union of open intervals  $V = \bigcup I_k$ .
  - Since  $0 \in U_j$ ,  $0 \in I_k$  for some k.
- Since  $I_k$  is an interval, it contains infinitely many points of the form  $x_n = \frac{1}{n} \in X$
- Then  $I_k \cap X \subset U_j$  contains infinitely many such points.
- So there are only finitely many points in  $X \setminus U_j$ , each of which is in  $U_{j(n)}$  for some  $j(n) \in J$ depending on n.
- So  $U_j$  and the *finitely* many  $U_{j(n)}$  form a finite subcover of X.

#### 5.2 4

Statement: show that the *Lebesgue number* is well-defined for compact metric spaces.

Note: this is a question about the Lebesque Number. See Wikipedia for detailed proof.

- Write  $U = \{U_i \mid i \in I\}$ , then  $X \subseteq \bigcup U_i$ . Need to construct a  $\delta > 0$ .
- By compactness of X, choose a finite subcover U<sub>1</sub>, · · · , U<sub>n</sub>.
  Define the distance between a point x and a set Y ⊂ X: d(x, Y) = inf <sub>y∈Y</sub> d(x, y).
  - Claim: the function  $d(\cdot, Y): X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous for a fixed set.
  - Proof: Todo, not obvious.



• Define a function

$$f: X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
  
 $x \mapsto \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} d(x, X \setminus U_i).$ 

- Note this is a sum of continuous functions and thus continuous.

#### • Claim:

$$\delta \coloneqq \inf_{x \in X} f(x) = \min_{x \in X} f(x) = f(x_{\min}) > 0$$

suffices.

- That the infimum is a minimum: f is a continuous function on a compact set, apply the extreme value theorem: it attains its minimum.
- That  $\delta > 0$ : otherwise,  $\delta = 0 \implies \exists x_0 \text{ such that } d(x_0, X \setminus U_i) = 0 \text{ for all } i$ .
  - \* Forces  $x_0 \in X \setminus U_i$  for all i, but  $X \setminus \bigcup U_i = \emptyset$  since the  $U_i$  cover X.
- That it satisfies the Lebesgue condition:

$$\forall x \in X, \exists i \text{ such that } B_{\delta}(x) \subset U_i$$

- \* Let  $B_{\delta}(x) \ni x$ ; then by minimality  $f(x) \ge \delta$ .
- \* Thus it can not be the case that  $d(x, X \setminus U_i) < \delta$  for every i, otherwise

$$f(x) \le \frac{1}{n}(\delta + \dots + \delta) = \frac{n\delta}{n} = \delta$$

- \* So there is some particular i such that  $d(x, X \setminus U_i) \geq \delta$ .
- \* But then  $B_{\delta} \subseteq U_i$  as desired.

#### 5.3 6

Statement: prove that  $[0,1] \subset \mathbb{R}$  is compact.

#### 5.3.1 Proof 1: Direct (DZG)

- Let  $I = [0, 1] = A \bigcup B$  be a disconnection, so
  - $-A, B \neq \emptyset$
  - $-A \prod B = I$
  - $-\operatorname{cl}_I(A) \cap B = A \cap \operatorname{cl}_I(B) = \emptyset.$
- Let  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  where WLOG a < b (since either a < b or b < a, and  $a \neq b$  since A, B are disjoint)
- Let K = [a, b] and define  $A_K := A \cap K$  and  $B_K := B \cap K$ .
- Now  $A_K, B_K$  is a disconnection of K.
- Let  $s = \sup(A_1)$ , which exists since  $\mathbb{R}$  is complete and has the LUB property
- Claim:  $s \in \operatorname{cl}_I(A_K)$ . Proof:
  - If  $s \in A_K$  there's nothing to show since  $A_K \subset \operatorname{cl}_I(A_K)$ , so assume  $s \in I \setminus A_K$ .
  - Now let  $N_s$  be an arbitrary neighborhood of s, then using ??? we can find an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $B_{\varepsilon}(s) \subset N_s$
  - Since s is a supremum, there exists an  $a \in A_K$  such that  $s \varepsilon < a$ .
  - But then  $a \in B_{\varepsilon}(s)$  and  $a \in N_s$  with  $a \neq s$ .
  - Since  $N_s$  was arbitrary, every  $N_s$  contains a point of  $A_K$  not equal to s, so s is a limit point by definition.
- Since  $s \in \operatorname{cl}_I(A_K)$  and  $\operatorname{cl}_I(A_K) \cap B_K = \emptyset$ , we have  $s \notin B_K$ .
- Then the subinterval  $(c, b] \cap A_K = \emptyset$  since  $c := \sup A_K$ .
- But since \$(c)

#### 5.4 8

Topic: proof of the tube lemma.

Statement: show  $X, Y \in \text{Top}_{\text{compact}} \iff X \times Y \in \text{Top}_{\text{compact}}$ 

#### 5.4.1 Proof 1 (DZG)

← :

- By universal properties, the product  $X \times Y$  is equipped with continuous projections
- The continuous image of a compact set is compact, and  $\pi_1(X \times Y) = X, p_2(X \times Y) = Y$
- So X, Y are compact.

 $\Longrightarrow$ :

Proof of Tube Lemma:

• Let  $\{U_j \times V_j \mid j \in J\} \rightrightarrows X \times Y$ .

- Fix a point  $x_0 \in X$ , then  $\{x_0\} \times Y \subset N$  for some open set N.
- By the tube lemma, there is a  $U^x \subset X$  such that the tube  $U^x \times Y \subset N$ .
- Since  $\{x_0\} \times Y \cong Y$  which is compact, there is a finite subcover  $\{U_j \times V_j \mid j \leq n\} \rightrightarrows \{x_0\} \times Y$ .
- "Integrate the X": write

$$W = \bigcap_{j=1}^{n} U_j,$$

then  $x_0 \in W$  and W is a finite intersection of open sets and thus open.

- Claim:  $\{U_j \times V_j \mid j \leq n\} \rightrightarrows W \times Y$ 
  - Let  $(x,y) \in W \times Y$ ; want to show  $(x,y) \in U_j \times V_j$  for some  $j \leq n$ .
  - Then  $(x_0, y) \in \{x_0\} \times Y$  is on the same horizontal line
  - $-(x_0,y) \in U_j \times V_j$  for some j by construction
  - So  $y \in V_j$  for this j
  - Since  $x \in W$ ,  $x \in U_j$  for every j, thus  $x \in U_j$ .
  - So  $(x,y) \in U_i \times V_i$

#### Actual Proof:

- Let  $\{U_j \mid j \in J\} \rightrightarrows X \times Y$ .
- Fix  $x_0 \in X$ , the slice  $\{x_0\} \times Y$  is compact and can be covered by finitely many elements  $\{U_j \mid j \leq m\} \rightrightarrows \{x_0\} \times Y$ .
  - Sum: write  $N = \bigcup_{j=1}^{m} U_j$ ; then  $\{x_0\} \times Y \subset N$ .
  - Apply the tube lemma to N: produce  $\{x_0\} \times Y \in W \times Y \subset N$ ; then  $\{U_j \mid j \leq m\} \Rightarrow W \times Y$ .
- Now let  $x \in X$  vary: for each  $x \in X$ , produce  $W_x \times Y$  as above, then  $\{W_x \times Y \mid x \in X\} \rightrightarrows X$ .
  - By above argument, every tube  $W_x \times Y$  can be covered by finitely many  $U_j$ .
- Since  $\{W_x \mid x \in X\} \rightrightarrows X$  and X is compact, produce a finite subset  $\{W_k \mid k \leq m'\} \rightrightarrows X$ .
- Then  $\{W_k \times Y \mid k \leq m'\} \rightrightarrows X \times Y$ ; the claim is that it is a finite cover.
  - Finitely many k
  - For each k, the tube  $W_k \times Y$  is covered by finitely by  $U_i$
  - And finite  $\times$  finite = finite.

#### Shorter mnemonic:

19. U It is sufficient to consider a cover consisting of elementary sets. Since Y is compact, each fiber  $x \times Y$  has a finite subcovering  $\{U_i^x \times V_i^x\}$ . Put  $W^x = \cap U_i^x$ . Since X is compact, the cover  $\{W^x\}_{x \in X}$  has a finite subcovering  $W^{x_j}$ . Then  $\{U_i^{x_j} \times V_i^{x_j}\}$  is the required finite subcovering.

#### 5.5 10

X is connected:

- Write  $X = L \coprod G$  where  $L = \{0\} \times [-1, 1]$  and  $G = \{\Gamma(\sin(x)) \mid x \in (0, 1]\}$  is the graph of  $\sin(x)$ .
- $L \cong [0,1]$  which is connected
  - Claim: Every interval is connected (todo)
- $\bullet$  Claim: G is connected
  - The function

$$f: (0,1] \longrightarrow [-1,1]$$
  
 $x \mapsto \sin(x)$ 

- is continuous (how to prove?)
- Claim: The diagonal map  $\Delta: Y \longrightarrow Y \times Y$  where  $\Delta(t) = (t, t)$  is continuous for any Y since  $\Delta = (\mathrm{id}, \mathrm{id})$
- The composition of continuous function is continuous
- So the composition is continuous:

$$F: (0,1] \xrightarrow{\Delta} (0,1]^2 \xrightarrow{(\mathrm{id},f)} (0,1] \times [-1,1]$$
$$t \mapsto (t,t) \mapsto (t,f(t))$$

- Then G = F((0,1]) is the continuous image of a connected set and thus connected.
- $\bullet$  Claim: X is connected
  - Suppose there is a disconnecting cover  $X = A \coprod B$  such that  $\overline{A} \cap B = A \cap \overline{B} = \emptyset$  and  $A, B \neq \emptyset$ .
  - WLOG suppose  $(x, \sin(x)) \in B$  for x > 0.
  - Claim: B = G
    - \* It can't be the case that A intersects G: otherwise  $X = A \coprod B \implies G = (A \bigcap G) \coprod (B \bigcap V)$  disconnects G. So  $A \bigcap G = \emptyset$ , forcing  $A \subseteq L$
    - \* Similarly L can not be disconnected, so  $B \cap L = \emptyset$  forcing  $B \subset G$
    - \* So  $A \subset L$  and  $B \subset G$ , and since  $X = A \coprod B$ , this forces A = L and B = G.
  - But any open set U in the subspace topology  $\overline{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  (generated by open balls) containing  $(0,0) \in L$  is the restriction of a ball  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  of positive radius r > 0, i.e.  $U = V \cap X$ .
    - \* But any such ball contains points of G: namely take n large enough such that  $\frac{1}{n\pi} < r$ .
    - \* So  $U \cap L \cap G \neq \emptyset$ , contradicting  $L \cap G = \emptyset$ .

#### 5.6 12

- Using the fact that  $[0, \infty) \subset \mathbb{R}$  is Hausdorff, any retract must be closed, so any closed interval  $[\varepsilon, N]$  for  $0 \le \varepsilon \le N \le \infty$ .
  - Note that  $\varepsilon = N$  yields all one point sets  $\{x_0\}$  for  $x_0 \ge 0$ .
- No finite discrete sets occur, since the retract of a connected set is connected.
- ?

#### 5.7 14

• Take two connected sets X, Y; then there exists  $p \in X \cap Y$ .

- Write  $X \bigcup Y = A \coprod B$  with both  $A, B \subset A \coprod B$  open.
- Since  $p \in X \bigcup Y = A \coprod B$ , WLOG  $p \in A$ . We will show B must be empty.
- Claim:  $A \cap X$  is clopen in X.
  - $-A\bigcap X$  is open in X: ?
  - $-A\bigcap X$  is closed in X:?
- The only clopen sets of a connected set are empty or the entire thing, and since  $p \in A$ , we must have  $A \cap X = X$ .
- By the same argument,  $A \cap Y = Y$ .
- So  $A \cap (X \cup Y) = (A \cap X) \cup (A \cap Y) = X \cup Y$
- Since  $A \subset X \bigcup Y$ ,  $A \cap (X \bigcup Y) = A$
- Thus  $A = X \bigcup Y$ , forcing  $B = \emptyset$ .

#### 5.8 16

Topic: closure and connectedness in the subspace topology. See Munkres p.148

- $S \subset X$  is **not** connected if S with the subspace topology is not connected.
  - I.e. there exist  $A, B \subset S$  such that
    - \*  $A, B \neq \emptyset$ ,
    - $*A \cap B = \emptyset,$
    - \*  $A \prod B = S$ .
- Or equivalently, there exists a nontrivial  $A \subset S$  that is clopen in S.

Show stronger statement: this is an iff.

 $\Longrightarrow$ :

- Suppose S is not connected; we then have sets  $A \bigcup B = S$  from above and it suffices to show  $\operatorname{cl}_Y(A) \cap B = A \cap \operatorname{cl}_X(B) = \emptyset$ .
- A is open by assumption and  $Y \setminus A = B$  is closed in Y, so A is clopen.
- Write  $\operatorname{cl}_Y(A) := \operatorname{cl}_X(A) \cap Y$ .
- Since A is closed in Y,  $A = \operatorname{cl}_Y(A)$  by definition, so  $A = \operatorname{cl}_Y(A) = \operatorname{cl}_X(A) \cap Y$ .
- Since  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , we then have  $cl_Y(A) \cap B = \emptyset$ .
- The same argument applies to B, so  $cl_Y(B) \cap A = \emptyset$ .

⇐=:

- Suppose displayed condition holds; given such A, B we will show they are clopen in Y.
- Since  $\operatorname{cl}_Y(A) \cap B = \emptyset$ , (claim) we have  $\operatorname{cl}_Y(A) = A$  and thus A is closed in Y.

- Why?

$$cl_{Y}(A) := cl_{X}(A) \bigcap Y$$

$$= cl_{X}(A) \bigcap \left(A \coprod B\right)$$

$$= \left(cl_{X}(A) \bigcap A\right) \coprod \left(cl_{X}(A) \bigcap B\right)$$

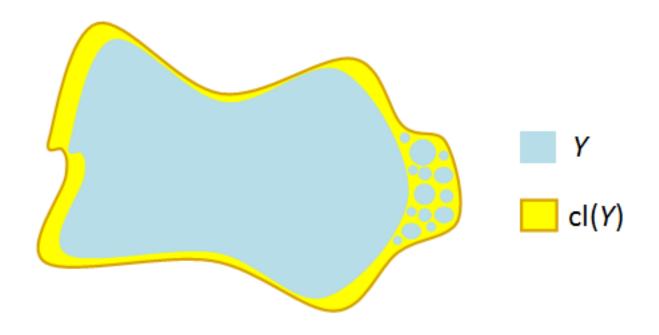
$$= A \coprod \left(cl_{X}(A) \bigcap B\right) \quad \text{since } A \subset cl_{Y}(A)$$

$$= A \coprod \left(cl_{Y}(A) \bigcap B\right) \quad \text{since } B \subset Y$$

$$= A \coprod \emptyset \quad \text{using the assumption}$$

$$= A$$

• But  $A = Y \setminus B$  where B is closed, so A is open and thus a nontrivial clopen subset.



#### 5.9 18

• Define a new function

$$g: X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
 
$$x \mapsto d_X(x, f(x)).$$

- $\bullet$  Attempt to minimize. Claim: g is a continuous function.
- Given claim, a continuous function on a compact space attains its infimum, so set

$$m\coloneqq\inf_{x\in X}g(x)$$

and produce  $x_0 \in X$  such that g(x) = m.

• Then

$$m > 0 \iff d(x_0, f(x_0)) > 0 \iff x_0 \neq f(x_0).$$

• Now apply f and use the assumption that f is a contraction to contradict minimality of m:

$$d(f(f(x_0)), f(x_0)) \le C \cdot d(f(x_0), x_0)$$
  
  $< d(f(x_0), x_0) \text{ since } C < 1$   
  $< m$ 

• Proof that g is continuous: use the definition of g, the triangle inequality, and that f is a contraction:

$$d(x, f(x)) \le d(x, y) + d(y, f(y)) + d(f(x), f(y))$$

$$\implies d(x, f(x)) - d(y, f(y)) \le d(x, y) + d(f(x), f(y))$$

$$\implies g(x) - g(y) \le d(x, y) + C \cdot d(x, y) = (C+1) \cdot d(x, y)$$

– This shows that g is Lipschitz continuous with constant C+1 (implies uniformly continuous, but not used).

#### 5.10 20

Space	Connected	Locally Connected
$\mathbb{R}$	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
$[0,1] \bigcup [2,3]$		$\checkmark$
Sine Curve	$\checkmark$	
$\mathbb{Q}$		

- a. See definitions in intro.
- b. Claim: the Topologist's sine curve X suffices.

#### Proof:

- $\bullet$  Claim 1: X is connected.
  - Intervals and graphs of cts functions are connected, so the only problem point is 0.
- ullet Claim 2: X is **not** locally path connected.
  - Take any  $B_{\varepsilon}(0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ; then  $\pi_X B_{\varepsilon}(0)$  yields infinitely many arcs, each intersecting the graph at two points on  $\partial B_{\varepsilon}(0)$ .
  - These are homeomorphic to a collection of disjoint embedded open intervals, and any
    disjoint union of intervals is clearly not connected.

Todo: what's the picture?