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Conceptions of topological transitivity

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ABSTRACT

There are several different common definitions of a property in topological dynamics called “topological transitivity,” and it is part of the folklore of dynamical systems that under reasonable hypotheses, they are equivalent. Various equivalences are proved in different places, but the full story is difficult to find. This note provides a complete description of the relationships among the different properties.

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1. Introduction

A discrete-time dynamical system (X, f) is a continuous map f on a nonempty topological space X , i.e. $f : X \rightarrow X$. The dynamics is obtained by iterating the map.

Let \mathbb{Z} and \mathbb{N} be the additive group of integers and the semigroup of nonnegative integers, respectively. A dynamical system (X, f) induces an action of \mathbb{N} on X by $n \mapsto f^n$, where $f^0(x) = x$ and $f^{n+1}(x) = f(f^n(x))$ for all $x \in X$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. A dynamical system (X, f) with f a homeomorphism is called *invertible* or *reversible* with *inverse* (X, f^{-1}) . When f is a homeomorphism we obtain an action of \mathbb{Z} on X .

For $A \subset X$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ we denote by $f^k(A)$ the image of A under f^k when $k \geq 0$ and the preimage under $f^{|k|}$ when $k < 0$. In the case of a single point, x , we will write $f^{-k}(x)$ for the set $f^{-k}(\{x\})$ for $k > 0$ and let context determine in the invertible case whether $f^{-k}(x)$ refers to the singleton set or the point contained therein.

We say $A \subset X$ is *+invariant* when $f(A) \subset A$, or equivalently $A \subset f^{-1}(A)$, and A is *−invariant* when $f^{-1}(A) \subset A$. Clearly, A is *+invariant* iff its complement is *−invariant*. We call A *invariant* when $f(A) = A$. When A is *+invariant* the restricted dynamical system $(A, f|_A)$ is called a *subsystem* of (X, f) .

An action of a group G on a set S is called *transitive* when there is a single orbit; that is, for any $x, y \in S$ there exists $g \in G$ such that $gx = y$, or equivalently, S does not contain a proper invariant subset. For a dynamical system (X, f) , notions of “topological transitivity” are obtained by replacing the original points by arbitrarily close approximations. Differing notions of approximation yield a number of distinct properties that have historically been used as definitions of topological transitivity. The relationship between the various properties is part of the folklore of the subject, but it is hard to find a reference where the issues are sorted out. We take this opportunity to do so. Some of the details appear to be new.

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For $x \in X$ the associated *forward orbit* is the smallest +invariant set containing x ,

$$O(x) = \{f^k(x) : k \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

The smallest +invariant set containing A is $O(A) = \bigcup_{x \in A} O(x)$ for $A \subset X$; A is +invariant iff $A = O(A)$. For any subset $A \subset X$, the smallest –invariant set containing A is

$$O_-(A) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} f^{-k}(A),$$

and A is –invariant iff $A = O_-(A)$. We set $O_-(x) = O_-(\{x\})$. We will also write

$$O_{\pm}(A) = O(A) \cup O_-(A) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f^k(A).$$

This set is +invariant, but not necessarily –invariant unless f is injective. It is invariant if f is bijective. The case $O_{\pm}(x) = O_{\pm}(\{x\})$ will be important later. The *omega-limit set* of x , denoted $\omega f(x)$, is the set of limit points of the forward orbit $O(x)$:

$$\omega f(x) = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} \overline{\{f^k(x) : k \geq n\}} = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} \overline{O(f^n(x))}.$$

A bi-infinite sequence $\langle x_k : k \in \mathbb{Z} \rangle$ is an *orbit sequence* when $f(x_k) = x_{k+1}$ for all k ; the set $\{x_k : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ of its elements is called an *orbit*. We will also call a sequence $\langle x_k : k \geq n \rangle$ an orbit sequence if $f(x_k) = x_{k+1}$ for $k \geq n$ and $f^{-1}(x_n) = \emptyset$; the set of elements of this sequence is $O(x_n)$; its set of elements is again called an orbit. Thus an orbit sequence is +invariant and cannot be extended backward. $O_{\pm}(x)$ is the union of all orbits with $x_0 = x$. Because of our two-pronged definition there is for every $x \in X$ at least one orbit sequence with $x_0 = x$. When f is bijective, this orbit sequence is unique and we call $O_{\pm}(x)$ the *orbit* of x .

For $A, B \subset X$ note that $f^k(A) \cap B \neq \emptyset \iff A \cap f^{-k}(B) \neq \emptyset$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$ because each says there exist $x \in A$ and $y \in B$ such that $y = f^k(x)$. Define the *hitting time sets*

$$N(A, B) = \{k \in \mathbb{Z} : A \cap f^{-k}(B) \neq \emptyset\},$$

$$N_+(A, B) = N(A, B) \cap \mathbb{N}.$$

Thus for $k \geq 0$ we have $k \in N(A, B) \iff k \in N_+(A, B)$, and for $k \leq 0$ we have $k \in N(A, B) \iff -k \in N_+(B, A)$. It follows that

$$N(A, B) = N_+(A, B) \cup -N_+(B, A). \quad (1.1)$$

It also follows from our definitions above that

$$N_+(A, B) \neq \emptyset \iff O(A) \cap B \neq \emptyset \iff A \cap O_-(B) \neq \emptyset; \quad (1.2)$$

$$N(A, B) \neq \emptyset \iff O_{\pm}(A) \cap B \neq \emptyset \iff A \cap O_{\pm}(B) \neq \emptyset. \quad (1.3)$$

As the condition will recur constantly, a set U will be called *opene* when it is open and nonempty. A sequence will be said to be *dense* whenever its associated set is.

A collection \mathcal{D} of opene subsets of a space X will be called a *density basis* when, given any $A \subset X$, if for all $U \in \mathcal{D}$ we have $A \cap U \neq \emptyset$, then A is dense in X . Equivalently, \mathcal{D} is a density basis if X is the only closed set which meets every element of \mathcal{D} (see Proposition A.4 in Appendix A). The property of admitting a countable density basis will be important in finding dense orbits.

Definition 1.1. Let (X, f) be a dynamical system. To describe topological transitivity, we label seven possible properties of (X, f) .

- (IN) X is not the union of two proper, closed, +invariant subsets.
- (TT) For every pair U, V of opene subsets of X , the set $N(U, V)$ is nonempty. In this case, we say (X, f) is *topologically transitive*.
- (TT₊) For every pair U, V of opene subsets of X , the set $N_+(U, V)$ is nonempty.
- (TT₊₊) For every pair U, V of opene subsets of X , the set $N_+(U, V)$ is infinite.
- (DO) There exists an orbit sequence $\langle x_k : k \in \mathbb{Z} \rangle$ or $\langle x_k : k \geq n \rangle$ dense in X .
- (DO₊) There exists a point $x \in X$ with forward orbit $O(x)$ dense in X . In this case, we say (X, f) is *point transitive*, and call x a *transitive point*.
- (DO₊₊) There exists $x \in X$ such that the omega-limit set $\omega f(x) = X$.

The set of transitive points of X is labeled Trans_f . Thus when Trans_f is nonempty, the system (X, f) is point transitive. When $\text{Trans}_f = X$, the system (X, f) is called *minimal*.

It is clear that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{DO}_{++} &\implies \text{DO}_+ \implies \text{DO}; \\ \text{TT}_{++} &\implies \text{TT}_+ \implies \text{TT}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.4)$$

We can add two vertical implications:

Proposition 1.2. *Let (X, f) be a dynamical system.*

- (a) *If X has a dense orbit sequence, (X, f) is topologically transitive, i.e. $\text{DO} \implies \text{TT}$.*
- (b) *If there exists $x \in X$ so that $\omega f(x) = X$, then for every pair U, V of nonempty, open subsets of X , $N_+(U, V)$ is infinite, i.e. $\text{DO}_{++} \implies \text{TT}_{++}$.*

Proof. (a) Suppose (X, f) satisfies DO. Let opene $U, V \subset X$ and a dense orbit sequence $\langle x_k \rangle$ of f be given. By assumption there are $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $x_n \in U$ and $x_m \in V$. Since $x_n \in f^{n-m}(\{x_m\})$, we have $x_n \in U \cap f^{n-m}(V)$, and so (X, f) satisfies TT.

(b) Suppose (X, f) satisfies DO_{++} . Let $x \in X$ be such that $\omega f(x) = X$ and let opene $U, V \subset X$ be given. Since $U, V \subset X = \overline{O(f^n(x))}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there are $j \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $f^j(x) \in U$ and infinitely many $k \geq j$ such that $f^k(x) \in V$. Thus $f^j(x) \in U \cap f^{-(k-j)}(V)$ for infinitely many $k \geq j$. Hence (X, f) satisfies TT_{++} . \square

The TT condition is equivalent to IN:

Proposition 1.3. *For a dynamical system (X, f) the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) (X, f) is topologically transitive (TT).
- (ii) X does not contain two disjoint, opene, $-$ invariant subsets.
- (iii) X is not the union of two proper, closed, $+$ invariant subsets (IN).

Proof. (i) \implies (ii): If U_1 and U_2 are disjoint opene, $-$ invariant subsets of X then $N_+(U_1, U_2) \cup -N_+(U_2, U_1) = N(U_1, U_2)$ is empty and so (X, f) is not topologically transitive.

(ii) \implies (i): If U_1 and U_2 are opene subsets of X , then the opene sets $O_-(U_1)$ and $O_-(U_2)$ meet by (ii), and so there exist $x \in X$ and $k_i \geq 0$ such that $f^{k_i}(x) \in U_j$ for $j = 1, 2$. Without loss of generality we can assume $k_1 \leq k_2$. Then $y = f^{k_1}(x) \in U_1$ and $f^{k_2-k_1}(y) \in U_2$, so $k_2 - k_1 \in N_+(U_1, U_2) \neq \emptyset$.

(iii) \iff (ii): A_1, A_2 are closed, proper, $+$ invariant subsets with union X iff the complements $X \setminus A_1, X \setminus A_2$ are opene, $-$ invariant subsets which are disjoint. \square

We thus have the following implications for any dynamical system:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{DO}_{++} & \implies & \text{DO}_+ & \implies & \text{DO} \\ \Downarrow & & & & \Downarrow \\ \text{TT}_{++} & \implies & \text{TT}_+ & \implies & \text{TT} \iff \text{IN}. \end{array}$$

When X is a Hausdorff space, the difficulties in reversing the horizontal arrows are associated with the occurrence of isolated points. A point x in a Hausdorff space X is *isolated* when the singleton containing it is open, and hence *clopen* (= closed and open). When there are no isolated points, or equivalently, every opene set is infinite, then X is called *perfect*.

Obtaining the DO conditions from TT requires some strong topological hypotheses. The appropriate assumptions are that X is *second countable*, meaning that X has a countable base, and that X is *non-meager* (or *of second Baire category*), meaning it is not the union of a countable family of nowhere dense subsets. For example, if X is a locally compact, separable metric space, these conditions hold.

Theorem 1.4. *Let (X, f) be a dynamical system with X a Hausdorff space.*

- (a) *If X is perfect, then TT_{++} is equivalent to TT_+ , TT, and IN.*
- (b) *If X is perfect, then DO_{++} and DO_+ are equivalent.*
- (c) *If X is second countable and non-meager, then TT_+ implies DO_+ .*

Thus if X is perfect, Hausdorff, second countable, and non-meager, then all seven conditions are equivalent.

In Section 4, we prove the theorem, showing that if X is perfect, second countable, and non-meager, then the weakest condition TT implies all the others. In Section 5, we describe in detail what can happen when the space has isolated points. In Section 6, we consider minimality. In Section 7, we provide examples which show that various other possible implications fail under weaker hypotheses. Appendix A deals with the apparatus of density bases and Appendix B describes two implications that survive even if the space X is not Hausdorff. For a useful general topology reference, see [10].

2. The literature

Our use of TT as the definition of topological transitivity is perhaps the most common one, although TT_+ is also used, e.g. in [1]. For related surveys see [7] and [8]. We briefly describe some implications that have been proven in the literature.

- In [11], it is shown that $DO_+ \implies TT_+$ for a metric space with no isolated points and $TT_+ \implies DO_+$ for separable, non-meager metric spaces.
- [7] mentions that TT_+ , TT_{++} , and the condition of Proposition 3.1(a), among other statements, are equivalent for metric spaces.
- [8] states, but does not prove, that in a compact metric space, sixteen conditions, including TT_+ , are equivalent and imply DO_+ , and that for a perfect space, $DO_+ \implies TT_+$. The sources they cite focus on compact metric spaces.
- [4] states without proof that $DO \iff TT \iff TT_+$ for homeomorphisms of compact metric spaces.
- [13] shows that $DO_+ \iff TT_+$ for continuous, surjective maps on second countable Baire spaces (his hypotheses can be weakened to these).
- [12] shows $DO \iff TT$ for compact metric spaces.
- In [6], the equivalence of DO , DO_+ , TT , and TT_+ is stated, but the proof given is incomplete. In their later work [5], the problem is partially fixed.

3. Lemmas

Proposition 3.1. *Let (X, f) be a dynamical system.*

- The system (X, f) satisfies TT_+ iff every $-$ invariant opene subset of X is dense.*
- If the system (X, f) satisfies TT_+ , then every $+$ -invariant opene subset of X is dense. The converse holds if f is open.*
- If f is a homeomorphism, then (X, f) is topologically transitive iff every invariant opene subset of X is dense.*

Proof. (a) By (1.2), TT_+ holds just if $O_-(V)$ is dense for each opene V . Since each $O_-(V)$ is opene and $-$ -invariant and every $-$ -invariant opene W is $O_-(W)$, the result follows.

(b) By (1.2), TT_+ holds just if $O(U)$ is dense for each opene U . If TT_+ holds and $U \subset X$ is a $+$ -invariant opene set, then U is of the form $O(U)$, and hence is dense. If all $+$ -invariant opene sets are dense and f is open, then $O(U)$ is dense for every opene U , so TT_+ holds.

(c) By (1.3), TT holds just if $O_{\pm}(U)$ is dense for each opene U . Since f is a homeomorphism these sets $O_{\pm}(U)$ are all invariant and opene; and if an opene set U is invariant, we have $U = f(U) = f^{-1}(U)$ by bijectivity, and therefore $O_{\pm}(U) = U$, so these are the only opene invariant sets. The result follows. \square

Proposition 3.2. *Let (X, f) be a dynamical system and $x \in X$. Then $\omega f(x) = X$ if and only if $N_+(\{x\}, U)$ is infinite for each opene U .*

Proof. $\omega f(x) = \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \overline{O(f^k(x))} = X$ if and only if each $O(f^k(x))$ is dense in X . This happens if and only if each meets each opene $U \subset X$, which in turn happens if and only if for all $k > 0$, there exists $n > k$ such that $f^k(x) \in U$. But that is the same as saying $N_+(\{x\}, U)$ is infinite for each U . \square

Corollary 3.3. *Let (X, f) be a dynamical system.*

- $Trans_f$ is a $-$ -invariant subset of X .*
- If X is a perfect T_1 space and $Trans_f$ is nonempty, then $Trans_f$ is a $+$ -invariant, dense subset of X .*

Proof. (a) If $f(x) \in Trans_f$, then $O(f(x))$ is dense. Thus $O(x) \supset O(f(x))$ is dense, so $x \in Trans_f$.

(b) Let $x \in Trans_f$. Since $O(x)$ is dense and X is perfect T_1 , $O(x) \setminus \{x\} = O(f(x))$ is also dense,¹ so $f(x) \in Trans_f$. Thus $Trans_f$ is $+$ -invariant; and also $O(x) \subset Trans_f$, so $Trans_f$ is dense. \square

¹ See the footnote in Appendix B.

4. Equivalences

N.B. From now until Appendix B we will assume that the state space X of our dynamical system (X, f) is a Hausdorff space.

The key assumption needed to prove $TT \implies TT_+ \implies TT_{++}$ is that X is perfect.

Lemma 4.1. *If X is perfect and (X, f) is topologically transitive, then for any opene $U \subset X$, the set $N_+(U, U)$ is infinite.*

Proof. We will by induction find a decreasing sequence of opene sets $U_n \subset U$ and a strictly increasing sequence $k_n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $f^{k_n}(U_n) \subset U$.

For the initial step, U contains two distinct points because X is perfect. As X is Hausdorff, these have disjoint neighborhoods $V_1, W_1 \subset U$. By TT , there is $k_1 \in N_+(V_1, W_1) \cup N_+(W_1, V_1)$, so that $U_1 = U \cap f^{-k_1}(U)$ is opene; evidently $f^{k_1}(U_1) \subset U$. Because V_1 and W_1 are disjoint, $k_1 > 0$.

For the induction step, suppose we have $U_n \subset U$ and $k_n > 0$ such that $f^{k_n}(U_n) \subset U$. Applying the initial step to U_n gives us an opene $U_{n+1} \subset U_n$ and a $j_{n+1} > 0$ such that $f^{j_{n+1}}(U_{n+1}) \subset U_n$; then setting $k_{n+1} = k_n + j_{n+1}$, we have $f^{k_{n+1}}(U_{n+1}) \subset f^{k_n}(U_n) \subset U$ and $k_{n+1} > k_n$.

Clearly, $k_n \in N_+(U, U)$ for all n . \square

Proposition 4.2. *If X is perfect and (X, f) is topologically transitive, then for all opene U, V , the set $N_+(U, V)$ is infinite; i.e. $TT \implies TT_{++}$.*

Proof. $TT \implies TT_+$: Let $U, V \subset X$ be opene. TT says $N(U, V) \neq \emptyset$, so by (1.1) it will be enough to show that $N_+(U, V) \neq \emptyset$ iff $N_+(V, U) \neq \emptyset$. To that end, assume without loss of generality there exists an $n \in N_+(U, V)$; we will find an element of $N_+(V, U)$.

Now $W = U \cap f^{-n}(V)$ is opene, so by Lemma 4.1, $N_+(W, W)$ is infinite, and thus there exists $k > n$ such that $f^k(W) \cap W \neq \emptyset$. Since

$$f^k(W) = f^k(U \cap f^{-n}(V)) \subset f^k(f^{-n}(V)) = f^{k-n}(V)$$

and $W \subset U$, it follows that $f^{k-n}(V) \cap U \neq \emptyset$, so that $k - n \in N_+(V, U)$.

$TT_+ \implies TT_{++}$: We show that for any opene $U, V \subset X$, if $N_+(U, V) \neq \emptyset$, then $N_+(U, V)$ is infinite.

Suppose $n \in N_+(U, V)$, so $W = U \cap f^{-n}(V)$ is opene. For any $k \in N_+(W, W)$, we have $f^k(W) \cap W \neq \emptyset$, and since $f^n(W) \subset V$, we then have $\emptyset \neq f^{k+n}(W) \cap f^n(W) \subset f^{k+n}(W) \cap V$. Because $W \subset U$, we have $k + n \in N_+(U, V)$. Thus $N_+(W, W) + n \subset N_+(U, V)$. By Lemma 4.1, $N_+(U, V)$ is infinite. \square

Lemma 4.3. *If (X, f) is topologically transitive and A is a $+$ -invariant subset of X then the interior of $f^{-1}(A) \setminus A$ either is empty or consists of a single isolated point.*

Proof. Suppose that the interior U of $f^{-1}(A) \setminus A$ contains at least two points. Then it contains disjoint opene subsets U_1, U_2 . Since $f^k(U_j) \subset A$ for all $k > 0$, $N_+(U_1, U_2) \cup N_+(U_2, U_1) = \emptyset$. Hence (X, f) is not topologically transitive. If the open set U is a single point then the point is isolated. \square

Corollary 4.4. *If (X, f) is topologically transitive then either $f(X)$ is dense in X or $X \setminus \overline{f(X)}$ consists of a single isolated point. In particular, if X is perfect then $f(X)$ is dense.*

Proof. Apply the lemma with A the image $f(X)$ so that $f^{-1}(A) = X$. \square

Proposition 4.5. *If (X, f) is topologically transitive and A is a proper, closed, $+$ -invariant subset of X with nonempty interior $U = A^\circ$, then*

$$f^{-1}(U) \setminus A = (f^{-1}(A) \setminus A)^\circ = f^{-1}(A)^\circ \setminus U = f^{-1}(U) \setminus U$$

is an isolated singleton. Furthermore, $A \setminus U$ is $+$ -invariant.

Proof. Since A is proper, closed, and $+$ -invariant, the complement $X \setminus A$ is opene and $-$ -invariant. If $f^{-1}(U) \subset A$ then since U is the interior of A , $f^{-1}(U) \subset U$ and so U would be an opene, $-$ -invariant subset disjoint from $X \setminus A$. Since (X, f) is transitive, this contradicts Proposition 1.3. It follows that $f^{-1}(U) \setminus A$ is nonempty. As it is open, it is a subset of $(f^{-1}(A) \setminus A)^\circ$. By Lemma 4.3, the latter set is an open singleton $\{x\}$; hence these two sets are equal. Since $(f^{-1}(A) \setminus A)^\circ = f^{-1}(A)^\circ \setminus A = \{x\}$, we see the open set $f^{-1}(A)^\circ \setminus \{x\} \subset A$, so $f^{-1}(A)^\circ \setminus \{x\} \subset A^\circ = U$. Hence $f^{-1}(A)^\circ \setminus U = \{x\}$. Since $f^{-1}(U) \setminus A \subset f^{-1}(U) \setminus U \subset f^{-1}(A)^\circ \setminus U$, we also see $f^{-1}(U) \setminus U = \{x\}$.

Finally, let $y \in A \setminus U$. Then $f(y) \in A$. Since $x \notin A$, we have $y \neq x$, so $y \notin f^{-1}(U) \setminus U$. Thus $f(y) \notin U$, so $f(y) \in A \setminus U$. \square

Proposition 4.6. Let X be perfect, (X, f) point transitive, and $x \in \text{Trans}_f$. Then $\omega f(x) = X$, so $\text{DO}_+ \implies \text{DO}_{++}$.

Proof. f satisfies TT by (1.4) and Proposition 1.2(a): $\text{DO}_+ \implies \text{DO} \implies \text{TT}$. Because X is perfect, Corollary 4.4 implies that $f(X)$ is dense in X . Thus the preimage $f^{-1}(U)$ of each opene U is opene; by induction, $f^{-k}(U)$ is opene for each $k \geq 0$. Since $x \in \text{Trans}_f$, we have $O(x) \cap f^{-k}(U) \neq \emptyset$, so that U meets $f^k(O(x)) = O(f^k(x))$. As U was arbitrary, each $O(f^k(x))$ is dense, so that $\omega f(x) = X$. \square

Proposition 4.7. If (X, f) is a dynamical system satisfying TT_+ , with X a non-meager space admitting a countable density basis, then Trans_f is a nonempty G_δ subset. Thus $\text{TT}_+ \implies \text{DO}_+$ under these hypotheses. If X is perfect, Trans_f is a dense G_δ .

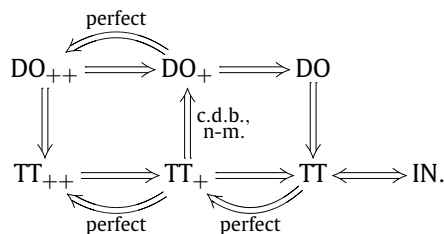
Proof. Let $x \in X$ and let $\{U_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a density basis X . By the definitions, $x \in \text{Trans}_f$ iff $O(x)$ is dense iff $O(x)$ meets each opene U iff $O(x)$ meets each U_n . But from (1.2), $O(x)$ meets U_n just if $x \in O_-(U_n)$, so that $\text{Trans}_f = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} O_-(U_n)$.

By Proposition 3.1(a), each $O_-(U_n)$ is dense. Thus we obtain Trans_f as the intersection of a countable family of dense open sets. It is nonempty because X is not meager. If X is perfect, Trans_f is dense by Corollary 3.3. \square

Beyond compact spaces, we note that the broadest dynamically useful class to which Proposition 4.7 applies is that of Polish spaces. A space is *Polish* when it admits a complete, separable metric compatible with the topology. Separable metric spaces are second countable and by the Baire Category Theorem any countable intersection of dense open subsets of a completely metrizable space is dense in the space (see, e.g., [10]). In particular, a Polish space is non-meager. A subset A of a complete metric space X admits a complete metric iff A is a G_δ subset, i.e., a countable intersection of open sets (for this result as an exercise with hints and for references, see [3, p. 207]). Thus a G_δ subset of a Polish space is Polish. If X is a second countable, locally compact space, then its one point compactification is a second countable, compact space and so X is a G_δ subset of a compact metrizable space. This shows that a second countable, locally compact space is Polish.

The Baire Category Theorem also applies to general locally compact spaces, metrizable or not, and so they are non-meager as well.

Under the blanket assumption that X is Hausdorff, and writing “c.d.b., n-m.” for “countable density basis, non-meager,” the system of hypotheses and implications for a topological dynamic system (X, f) looks like this:



Theorem 1.4 is thus proven:

Proof. (a) The equivalence between TT and IN is Proposition 1.3. If X is perfect, $\text{TT}_{++} \iff \text{TT}_+ \iff \text{TT}$ by the implications (1.4) and by Proposition 4.2.

(b) This is Proposition 4.6.

(c) This is Proposition 4.7. \square

5. The case of isolated points

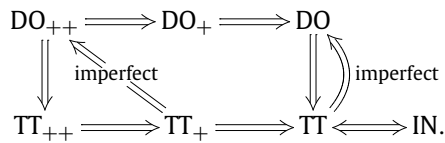
N.B. In this section, our standing assumptions are that X is Hausdorff with at least one isolated point and (X, f) is topologically transitive.

In this section we describe what happens when there are isolated points and in the process obtain the following further equivalences.

Theorem 5.1. Let (X, f) be a dynamical system. Assume that X contains at least one isolated point.

(a) If (X, f) satisfies TT_+ then X is finite and consists of a single periodic orbit. In particular, TT_+ , TT_{++} , and DO_{++} are equivalent for dynamical systems with isolated points, and each implies all the other conditions.

(b) If (X, f) is topologically transitive then the set of isolated points is contained in a single orbit which is dense in X . In particular, TT is equivalent to DO for dynamical systems with isolated points.



Combining this result with Theorem 1.4 thus yields further results.

Corollary 5.2. Let (X, f) be a dynamical system. TT_{+} and TT_{++} are equivalent. If X is non-meager with countable density basis, TT_{+} implies DO_{+} .

We write Iso_X for the set of isolated points of X . For a point $x \in X$ we will, somewhat abusively, let x also denote the singleton $\{x\}$, allowing context to determine the reference.

It is easy to describe the case of a transitive homeomorphism.

Proposition 5.3. Let f be a topologically transitive homeomorphism and $x \in X$ an isolated point. The orbit $O_{\pm}(x)$ is exactly Iso_X and it is dense in X . f is point transitive iff X is finite, in which case it consists of a single periodic orbit.

Proof. All points of $O_{\pm}(x)$ are isolated since f is a homeomorphism. Since $O_{\pm}(x)$ is invariant and open, by Proposition 3.1(c), it is dense. In particular, for $y \in \text{Iso}_X$, it contains y . Thus $O_{\pm}(x) = \text{Iso}_X$.

If the points of the orbit sequence are all distinct, then clearly none of them are transitive points and the orbit is infinite. Since $X \setminus O_{\pm}(x)$ is a proper, closed, invariant subset of X , none of these points can be transitive points either.

On the other hand, if $f^j(x) = f^k(x)$ for some $j > k$, then $x = f^{j-k}(x)$, so x is periodic. The orbit $O(x) = O_{\pm}(x)$ is closed because it is finite. As it is dense, there are no other points in X , and all points are transitive points. \square

When f is merely a continuous map, there are a few more cases. We now describe the structure of the isolated point set in a series of lemmas. Recall that in general $O_{\pm}(x) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f^k(x)$ is the union of all of the orbit sequences through x .

Lemma 5.4. If $x, y \in \text{Iso}_X$, then $x \in O(y)$ or $y \in O(x)$. Thus for any $x \in \text{Iso}_X$ the set $O_{\pm}(x)$ contains Iso_X .

Proof. x and y are open, so by TT we have $N_{+}(x, y) \cup N_{+}(y, x) \neq \emptyset$. \square

Lemma 5.5. If $x \in \text{Iso}_X$ and $f^{-1}(x)$ contains more than one point, then x is periodic, and $f^{-1}(x)$ consists of exactly two points (one of which lies in $O(x)$ by Lemma 5.4).

Proof. Let U, V be disjoint open subsets of $f^{-1}(x)$ labeled so that $N_{+}(U, V) \neq \emptyset$. Let k be the smallest element of $N_{+}(U, V)$; since U and V are disjoint, $k > 0$. Let $y \in U$ such that $f^k(y) \in V$. Because $U \cup V \subset f^{-1}(x)$, we know $x = f(y)$ and $x = f(f^k(y)) = f^k(f(y)) = f^k(x)$. Thus x is a periodic point and its forward orbit $O(x) = \{x, \dots, f^{k-1}(x)\}$ meets V at the point $f^k(y) = f^{k-1}(x)$. The period of x cannot be a proper divisor ℓ of k , for then we would have $f^{\ell-1}(x) = f^{\ell-1}(f^{k-\ell}(x)) = f^{k-1}(x) \in V$, so that $f^{\ell}(y) \in V$, contradicting minimality of $k \in N_{+}(U, V)$.

Suppose, for a contradiction, there exists a third point in $f^{-1}(x)$. By shrinking U and V if necessary we may find a third open $W \subset f^{-1}(x)$ disjoint from U and V . By topological transitivity there exists $m \in N_{+}(U, W) \cup N_{+}(W, U)$. If $m \in N_{+}(U, W)$, then $m > 0$ by disjointness and there exists $z \in U$ such that $f^m(z) \in W$. Again, $U \cup W \subset f^{-1}(x)$ implies $x = f(f^m(z)) = f^m(f(z)) = f^m(x)$. Hence m is a multiple of k . Thus $f^m(z) = f^{m-1}(x) = f^{k-1}(x)$ is in $W \cap V$, contradicting disjointness. We get a similar contradiction if $m \in N_{+}(W, U)$. \square

Lemma 5.6. If x is an isolated point, then the preimage $f^{-1}(x)$ is a finite open set and so consists entirely of isolated points.

Proof. The preimage $f^{-1}(x)$ of an isolated point x is an open set that by Lemma 5.5 has cardinality 0, 1, or 2. As this set is finite and X is Hausdorff, the points are isolated. \square

Lemma 5.7. For any $x \in \text{Iso}_X$, we have $O_{-}(x) \subset \text{Iso}_X$, so that Iso_X is an open, $-$ -invariant subset of X .

Proof. This follows from Lemma 5.6 by induction and taking unions. \square

Lemma 5.8. If x is a periodic isolated point, then $O(x) \subset \text{Iso}_X$. If, further, $O(x) \neq X$, there is an isolated point y such that $f^{-1}(O(x)) = O(x) \cup \{y\}$.

Proof. Since x is periodic and isolated, by Lemma 5.7, $O(x) \subset O_-(x) \subset Iso_X$. If the clopen set $A = O(x)$ is a proper subset of X , then by Lemma 4.3 the open set $f^{-1}(A) \setminus A$ is a singleton. \square

Lemma 5.9. *There is at most one $x \in Iso_X$ such that $f^{-1}(x)$ contains more than one point.*

Proof. If $x, x' \in Iso_X$, by Lemma 5.4 we may relabel them so that $x \in O(x')$. If their preimages each contain two points, then x and x' are both periodic, by Lemma 5.5, so $O(x) = O(x')$. Then by Lemma 5.8, the preimage of this orbit is $O(x) \cup \{y\}$ for some y . Since $f^{-1}(x)$ and $f^{-1}(x')$ can each only have one point in $O(x)$, it follows that $y \in f^{-1}(x) \cap f^{-1}(x')$, so that $x = f(y) = x'$. \square

We now can describe how Iso_X sits in X .

Proposition 5.10. *For $x, y \in Iso_X$, we have $O_{\pm}(x) = O_{\pm}(y)$ and this set is dense. In particular, $Iso_X \subset O_{\pm}(x)$.*

For $x \in Iso_X$ the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) $O(x) \subset Iso_X$.
- (ii) $O_{\pm}(x) = Iso_X$.
- (iii) Iso_X is $+$ -invariant.

These conditions imply that Iso_X is dense in X .

Proof. By (1.3), TT holds just if $O_{\pm}(U)$ is dense for each opene U , so for each $x \in Iso_X$, we see $O_{\pm}(x)$ is dense. From Lemmas 5.7 and 5.4, we have $y \in O_-(y) \subset Iso_X \subset O_{\pm}(x)$. As $O_{\pm}(x)$ is $+$ -invariant, we see $O(y) \subset O_{\pm}(x)$, so $O_{\pm}(y) = O_-(y) \cup O(y) \subset O_{\pm}(x)$. By symmetry they are equal.

(i) \implies (ii): If $O(x) \subset Iso_X$, then since $O_-(x) \subset Iso_X \subset O_{\pm}(x)$ by Lemmas 5.7 and 5.4, we have $Iso_X = O_{\pm}(x)$.

(ii) \implies (iii): $O_{\pm}(x)$ is $+$ -invariant.

(iii) \implies (i): If $x \in Iso_X$ and Iso_X is $+$ -invariant then $O(x) \subset Iso_X$.

Since $O_{\pm}(x)$ is dense, $Iso_X = O_{\pm}(x)$ implies Iso_X is dense. \square

Putting these facts together gives a complete description of how isolated points occur in a topologically transitive system.

Proposition 5.11. *Assume that (X, f) is topologically transitive and that X contains isolated points. The system has a dense orbit. Exactly one of the following cases occurs:*

1. *There exists a unique $x \in Iso_X$ such that $f^{-1}(x) = \emptyset$. $Trans_f = \{x\}$, and $f(X)$ is not dense in X . In this case DO_+ holds, but TT_+ and hence TT_{++} and DO_{++} do not. Exactly one of the following occurs:*
 - 1a. “ \mathbb{N} ”: $Iso_X = O_{\pm}(x) = O(x)$ consists of infinitely many distinct points in a single forward orbit, and Iso_X is dense in X .
 - 1b. “Finite figure 9”: $Iso_X = O_{\pm}(x) = O(x) = X$ is a finite, pre-periodic forward orbit of period ℓ . $y = f^k(x)$ is periodic for some minimum $k > 0$, and $f^{-1}(y) = \{f^{k-1}(x), f^{\ell-1}(y)\}$.
 - 1c. “ n ”: $Iso_X = \{f^k(x) : 0 \leq k \leq n-1\}$ is a finite sequence of distinct points, for some $n \geq 0$. For $k \geq n$, $f^k(x)$ is not isolated and X is infinite. The finite set Iso_X is not dense in X . $O(x) = O_{\pm}(x)$ is dense in X .
2. *For every point $z \in Iso_X$ the set $f^{-1}(z) \neq \emptyset$, and there exists $x \in Iso_X$ such that $f^{-1}(x)$ contains two points. In that case the point x is unique and we have*
 - 2a. “Infinite figure 9”: $Iso_X = O_{\pm}(x)$ is an infinite, pre-periodic orbit of period ℓ , and $f^{-1}(x) = \{y, f^{\ell-1}(x)\}$ for some y . For all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $f^{-k}(y)$ is a single isolated point. $Trans_f = \emptyset$, and Iso_X and $f(X)$ are dense in X .
3. *For every $x \in Iso_X$, the preimage is a singleton, and exactly one of the following occurs:*
 - 3a. “Figure 0”: $X = f(X) = Trans_f = Iso_X$ is a single periodic orbit. This is the only case satisfying TT_{++} , TT_+ , or DO_{++} .
 - 3b. “ \mathbb{Z} ”: For each $x \in Iso_X$, the bi-infinite orbit $O_{\pm}(x) = Iso_X$. $Trans_f = \emptyset$, Iso_X is dense in X , and $f(X)$ is dense in X .
 - 3c. “ $-\mathbb{N}$ ”: There is a unique $y \in Iso_X$ such that $f(y) \notin Iso_X$. $Iso_X = \{f^{-k}(y) : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ forms an infinite sequence ending in y and for $k > 0$, $f^k(y)$ is not isolated. $Trans_f = \emptyset$ and $f(X)$ is dense in X . Iso_X may or may not be dense in X .

Proof. By Proposition 5.10, $x \in Iso_X$ implies $Iso_X \subset O_{\pm}(x)$, and the latter set is dense.

By Corollary 4.4, $f(X)$ fails to be dense exactly when there is an isolated point x – necessarily unique – such that $f^{-1}(x) = \emptyset$, i.e. in Case 1.

Suppose that there is some $y \in Iso_X$ such that $f(y)$ is not isolated. Then no iterate $f^k(y)$ for $k > 0$ is isolated, since by Lemma 5.7, Iso_X is $-$ -invariant. Since $Iso_X \subset O_{\pm}(y)$ we see $Iso_X = O_-(y)$. If for any $x \in Iso_X$ the preimage $f^{-1}(x)$ contained more than one point, by Lemma 5.5 we would have x and hence y periodic. But then, by Lemma 5.8, $O(y)$ would consist of isolated points, contrary to assumption. Thus for each point $x \in Iso_X$, the cardinality of $f^{-1}(x)$ is zero or one. If it is always one, we are in Case 3c, the $-\mathbb{N}$ -shape. If it is zero for some x , we are in Case 1c, the n -shape; in this case, since Iso_X is a proper finite subset of X , it is not dense.

Now suppose there is no $y \in Iso_X$ such that $f(y)$ is not isolated. Then Iso_X is $+$ -invariant, and so by Proposition 5.10, $Iso_X = O_{\pm}(x)$ for $x \in Iso_X$ and so is dense. Now we consider these cases.

Suppose there is a periodic isolated point x . If $O(x) = X$ then we are in Case 3a, the figure 0. Otherwise, by Lemma 5.8, $f^{-1}(O(x)) \setminus O(x)$ is a single isolated point y and $Iso_X = O_{\pm}(y) = O(x) \cup O_{-}(y)$. By Lemma 5.9, the preimage of any point of $Iso_X \setminus O(x)$, consists of one point or none. If every preimage of every isolated point other than $f(y)$ is a single point, we are in Case 2, the infinite figure 9. Otherwise, we are in Case 1b, the finite figure 9.

Now suppose that Iso_X is $+$ -invariant and there are no periodic isolated points. Then by Lemma 5.5, every preimage $f^{-1}(y)$ of an isolated point y contains one or zero points. If it is always one, we are in Case 3b, the \mathbb{Z} -shape. Otherwise we are in Case 1a, the \mathbb{N} -shape.

This exhausts the possibilities.

The results about transitive points are easy to check from the observation, following from Lemma 5.4, that

$$x \in Trans_f \implies Iso_X \subset O(x).$$

From this it follows that (1) if $x \in Iso_X$ and $f^{-1}(x) \neq \emptyset$, then $x \notin Trans_f$ unless x is a periodic point and $X = O(x)$, and (2) if $x \notin Iso_X$ then $x \notin Trans_f$. \square

We establish Theorem 5.1.

Proof. (a) If X is a single periodic orbit then (X, f) satisfies DO_{++} , TT_{++} , and T_{+} ; the remaining isolated point cases satisfy none of them.

(b) In the isolated point cases, TT implies DO by Lemma 5.4, and the converse as always true. \square

We sketch what examples of these cases look like. Let (\mathbb{Z}, s) be the successor dynamical system on the discrete integers with $s(n) = n + 1$.

- “ \mathbb{Z} ”: Every example contains a copy of (\mathbb{Z}, s) with \mathbb{Z} a dense, open, invariant subset. Each compact example maps onto the system obtained by extending s to the one-point compactification of \mathbb{Z} .
- “ \mathbb{N} ”: \mathbb{N} is a $+$ -invariant subset of \mathbb{Z} and every example contains a copy of the subsystem $(\mathbb{N}, s \upharpoonright \mathbb{N})$ with \mathbb{N} as a dense, open, invariant subset. Each compact example maps onto the system obtained by extending s to the one-point compactification of \mathbb{N} .
- “Figure 0”: Every example is isomorphic with $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, \bar{s})$ for some $n > 0$, where \bar{s} is induced by the successor function on the quotient group of integers modulo n .
- “Infinite figure 9”: With $n > 0$, define $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{N}$ to be the quotient space obtained by identifying two nonnegative integers if they are congruent modulo n . The translation s on \mathbb{Z} induces a map \bar{s} on $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{N}$ such that the preimage of the class $\{0\}$ comprises the two classes $\{-1\}$ and $[n - 1]$. Every example contains a copy of this system with $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{N}$ as a dense, open, invariant subset. Each compact example maps onto the system obtained by extending \bar{s} to the one-point compactification of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{N}$.
- “Finite figure 9”: With $n, k > 0$, the image of the set of integers at least $-k$ is a $+$ -invariant subset of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{N}$, and every example is isomorphic to the subsystem of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{N}, \bar{s})$ induced by such a set.
- “ n ”: Let (Y, g) be any point transitive system on a perfect space with a transitive point y_0 . Let X be the disjoint union of Y with $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and define (X, f) to extend the subsystem (Y, g) by $f(i) = i + 1$ for $1 \leq i < n$ and $f(n) = y_0$.
- “ $-\mathbb{N}$ ”: This is the only interesting case. We describe the metric space examples. Let (Y, g) be a dynamical system with the perfect space Y the union of two closed, $+$ -invariant subspaces, $Y = Y_1 \cup Y_2$. Assume that the subsystem (Y_1, g) contains a transitive point y_0 and Y_2 contains a dense set $\{y_{-1}, y_{-2}, \dots\}$ satisfying $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} d(y_{-k}, g(y_{-(k+1)})) = 0$. In $Y \times [0, 1]$, let $X = (Y \times \{0\}) \cup \{(y_{-k}, \frac{1}{k}) : k = 1, 2, \dots\}$. Define

$$f : X \rightarrow X \text{ by } \begin{cases} f(y, 0) = (g(y), 0), & y \in Y; \\ f(y_{-(k+1)}, \frac{1}{k+1}) = (y_{-k}, \frac{1}{k}), & k \geq 1; \\ f(y_{-1}, 1) = (y_0, 0). \end{cases}$$

The closure of Iso_X is $Iso_X \cup (Y_2 \times \{0\})$. Thus Iso_X is dense iff $Y_1 \subset Y_2 = Y$.

6. Minimality

Definition 6.1. A dynamical system (X, f) is called *minimal* when every point is a transitive point, i.e., when $Trans_f = X$. A $+$ -invariant subset A of X is called a *minimal subset* when the subsystem $(A, f \upharpoonright A)$ is minimal.

By definition, a minimal system satisfies DO_{+} and so DO and TT as well. As we will now see, it satisfies DO_{++} and so all seven conditions for topological transitivity.

Clearly, if X consists of a single periodic orbit, then the system is minimal. The term “minimal” comes from parts (a) and (d) of the following proposition.

Proposition 6.2. Let (X, f) be a dynamical system which is not a single periodic orbit.

- (a) (X, f) is minimal iff X contains no proper, closed, $+$ -invariant subsets.
- (b) If (X, f) is minimal then X is perfect, $f(X)$ is dense in X , and $\omega f(x) = X$ for every $x \in X$.
- (c) If X is compact then X contains a minimal, closed, invariant subset.
- (d) If X is compact then (X, f) is minimal iff X contains no proper, closed, invariant subsets.
- (e) If X is compact and (X, f) is minimal with f a homeomorphism, then (X, f^{-1}) is minimal.

Proof. (a) If A is a proper, closed $+$ -invariant subset of X , then no point $x \in A$ is transitive since the closure of $O(x)$ is contained in A . On the other hand, for any $x \in X$, the closure $\overline{O(x)}$ is nonempty, closed, and $+$ -invariant, so if X contains no proper, closed, $+$ -invariant subsets, then $\overline{O(x)} = X$. Thus all points are transitive.

(b) When the periodic orbit case is excluded, the remaining cases of Proposition 5.11 are not minimal. In fact, each such has at most one transitive point. Thus X is perfect. By Corollary 4.4, $f(X)$ is dense in X , and by Proposition 4.6, $X = \omega f(x)$ for all x .

(c) Any nested chain of nonempty, $+$ -invariant closed sets C_α in X has a closed intersection, nonempty by compactness and $+$ -invariant as well since

$$f\left(\bigcap C_\alpha\right) \subset \bigcap f(C_\alpha) \subset \bigcap C_\alpha.$$

Thus Zorn's Lemma gives a minimal nonempty, closed, $+$ -invariant $A \subset X$. By compactness, $f(A)$ is a nonempty, compact, $+$ -invariant subset of A and so equals A by minimality. That is, A is invariant.

(d) If A is a proper, closed, $+$ -invariant subset of X , then by compactness, $\bigcap_{k \geq 0} f^k(A)$ is a proper, closed, invariant subset. Now use (a).

(e) If f is a homeomorphism then a proper, closed $A \subset X$ is invariant for f iff it is invariant for f^{-1} , so the result follows from (d). \square

As was mentioned earlier, the most useful class to which Proposition 4.7 applies is that of Polish spaces.

Proposition 6.3. Let (X, f) be a point transitive system on a perfect Polish space. With the relative topology, the $+$ -invariant subset Trans_f is Polish and the subsystem $(\text{Trans}_f, f \upharpoonright \text{Trans}_f)$ is minimal. If A is any nonempty $+$ -invariant subset of Trans_f then A is second countable and perfect and the subsystem $(A, f \upharpoonright A)$ is minimal.

Proof. Trans_f is a dense, G_δ subset of X by Proposition 4.7 and so is Polish. Any nonempty $+$ -invariant subset A of Trans_f is dense because $O(x)$ is dense for any transitive point x . By Proposition 7.3, such an A is perfect and every point is transitive for $(A, f \upharpoonright A)$. As a subset of a second countable space, A is second countable. \square

7. Examples

In this section we show that the implications proven in Section 4 fail to go through under weaker hypotheses. As usual, all spaces are Hausdorff.

Example 7.1. For X with isolated points, $\text{DO}_+ \not\Rightarrow \text{TT}_+, \text{TT}_{++}$, or DO_{++} , even if X is compact metrizable. Iso_X need not be $+$ -invariant.

Proof. All cases of Proposition 5.11 with an initial point, Cases 1a, 1b, and 1c, satisfy DO_+ , with the initial point x the unique transitive point. However $U = X \setminus x$ is open with $N_+(U, x) = \emptyset$, so TT_+ does not hold, and hence not TT_{++} or DO_{++} either. In Case 1c, Iso_X is not $+$ -invariant. \square

Example 7.2. If X is not perfect, $\text{DO} \not\Rightarrow \text{DO}_+$ or TT_+ , even if X compact and metrizable and f a homeomorphism.

Proof. All cases of Proposition 5.11 satisfy DO . Cases 2, 3b, and 3c do not satisfy DO_+ or TT_+ . The homeomorphism examples are all in Case 3b. \square

We will build many of our examples by using the following:

Proposition 7.3. Let (X, f) be a dynamical system and A a dense, $+$ -invariant subset of X . (X, f) satisfies TT_{++} , TT_+ , or TT iff the subsystem $(A, f \upharpoonright A)$ satisfies the corresponding property. If $x \in A$, then x is a transitive point for (X, f) iff it is a transitive point for $(A, f \upharpoonright A)$, and $\omega(f \upharpoonright A)(x) = A$ iff $\omega f(x) = X$. X is perfect iff A is perfect.

Proof. Since A is dense, $U \cap f^{-k}(V)$ is open iff $U \cap f^{-k}(V) \cap A$ is open in A . Since A is $+$ -invariant,

$$U \cap f^{-k}(V) \cap A = (U \cap A) \cap (f \upharpoonright A)^{-k}(V \cap A)$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence $N_+(U, V)$ for f equals $N_+(U \cap A, V \cap A)$ for $f \upharpoonright A$. By definition of the subspace topology, the open sets in A are exactly of the form $U \cap A$ with U open in X . Thus TT_{++} , TT_+ , or TT holds for (X, f) just if it does for $(A, f \upharpoonright A)$. If $x \in A$ is such that $O(x)$ is dense in A (or $\omega(f \upharpoonright A)(x) = A$), then $O(x)$ is dense in X (resp. $\omega f(x) = X$).

If x is an isolated point of X then the open set x meets the dense set A and so $x = x \cap A$ is an isolated point of A . On the other hand, if $x = U \cap A$ is an isolated point of A with U open in X then $U \setminus x$ is an open set disjoint from A and so is empty. That is, $U = x$ is an isolated point of X . It follows that X is perfect iff A is. \square

If A is any compact space with more than one point, then the product space $A^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is a perfect, compact space. It is the space of bi-infinite sequences in A and on it we define the (left) *shift homeomorphism* $s : A^{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow A^{\mathbb{Z}}$ by

$$s(x)_i = x_{i+1}.$$

Because a basic open set in $A^{\mathbb{Z}}$ restricts only finitely many coordinates, it is easy to see that $(A^{\mathbb{Z}}, s)$ is topologically transitive. In fact, for any opene $U, V \subset A^{\mathbb{Z}}$, $N(U, V)$ contains all but finitely many integers. Thus the system satisfies TT_{++} .

Example 7.4. If X is not separable, then $\text{TT}_{++} \not\Rightarrow \text{DO}$, even if X is perfect and compact and f is a homeomorphism.

Proof. Write $\mathfrak{c} = 2^{\aleph_0}$ for the cardinality of \mathbb{R} . If A is a compact space of cardinality greater than $2^{\mathfrak{c}}$ (e.g. $[0, 1]^{\mathfrak{c}}$ or $\{0, 1\}^{\mathfrak{c}}$ for $\mathfrak{c} > 2^{\mathfrak{c}}$), then A cannot contain a countable dense set, so neither can $A^{\mathbb{Z}}$. Therefore DO does not hold of $(A^{\mathbb{Z}}, s)$ even though TT_{++} does. \square

Example 7.5. There exists (X, f) with X perfect and compact but not admitting a countable density basis — and hence not second countable and thus not metrizable — which satisfies DO_{++} .

Proof. We will sketch the construction. For details see [2, p. 91].

Let K be the Cantor set and A a compact space. Via the identifications $(A^{\mathbb{Z}})^K \cong A^{\mathbb{Z} \times K} \cong (A^K)^{\mathbb{Z}}$, the shift s on $(A^K)^{\mathbb{Z}}$ induces a homeomorphism s_* on $(A^{\mathbb{Z}})^K$. In more detail, given $\alpha : K \rightarrow A^{\mathbb{Z}}$ then $s_*(\alpha) = s \circ \alpha : K \rightarrow A^{\mathbb{Z}}$. Since $((A^K)^{\mathbb{Z}}, s)$ satisfies TT_{++} , so does $((A^{\mathbb{Z}})^K, s_*)$.

When $A = 2 = \{0, 1\}$, the sequence space $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is perfect, compact, and metrizable, but the compact Hausdorff space $(2^{\mathbb{Z}})^K$ is not second countable, hence not metrizable. In fact we have the following:

Proposition 7.6. If Y contains at least two points and K is uncountable then the product space Y^K does not admit a countable density basis.

Proof. If \mathcal{D} is a density basis for a space and \mathcal{B} is a basis for the topology then we can choose for each $U \in \mathcal{D}$ a nonempty $V \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $V \subset U$. These choices determine a family $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} \subset \mathcal{B}$ which is of cardinality at most that of \mathcal{D} . If a set meets every element of $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}$ then it meets every element of \mathcal{D} and so is dense. Thus $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}$ is a density basis consisting of basic open sets. Now suppose that \mathcal{D} is a countable collection of basic open sets of Y^K , that is, that each is of the form $\bigcap_{i \in F} \pi_i^{-1}(U_i)$ where F is a finite subset of K and each $U_i \subset Y$ is open. Taking the union of all of the index sets F associated with elements of \mathcal{D} we obtain a countable $I \subset K$. Let U_1, U_2 be disjoint opene subsets of Y and let $j \in K \setminus I$. Since the opene sets $\pi_j^{-1}(U_1), \pi_j^{-1}(U_2) \subset Y^K$ are disjoint, neither is dense. But each meets every element of \mathcal{D} . Thus \mathcal{D} is not a density basis. \square

Let $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$, the set of continuous functions from the Cantor set K to $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$. Let d be a metric on $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ inducing the product topology, for example $d(x, y) = \max_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} 2^{-|n|} |x_n - y_n|$, and topologize $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$ with the *sup metric* ρ ; that is to say, $\rho(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{k \in K} d(\alpha(k), \beta(k))$. This yields the topology of uniform convergence. This metric is complete because the uniform limit of continuous functions is continuous. Furthermore, because K is a Cantor set, the collection of locally constant functions with image in a countable dense subset of $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ form a countable dense subset of $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$. Hence $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$ is Polish. The inclusion map $J : C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}}) \rightarrow (2^{\mathbb{Z}})^K$ is continuous and injective but it is not a homeomorphism onto its image. In particular, we cannot immediately use Proposition 7.3 to show that s_* is topologically transitive on $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$. However, it is not hard to show that the restriction of s_* to the set of locally constant functions in $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$ is topologically transitive, and so we can use Proposition 7.3 to see that s_* is topologically transitive on $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$. As this is a Polish space, Proposition 4.7 implies there exists a transitive point α for $s_* \upharpoonright C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$. That is, the forward orbit $O(\alpha)$ is dense in $C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}})$. Because $J(C(K, 2^{\mathbb{Z}}))$ is dense in $(2^{\mathbb{Z}})^K$, it follows that $J(O(\alpha))$ is dense in $(2^{\mathbb{Z}})^K$. That is, the orbit of α is dense in $(2^{\mathbb{Z}})^K$. It follows from Proposition 4.6 that s_* satisfies DO_{++} on $(2^{\mathbb{Z}})^K$. \square

As noted above, when $A = 2 = \{0, 1\}$, the sequence space $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is perfect, compact, and metrizable. The shift homeomorphism on sequences of the two symbols 0 and 1 defines a system $(2^{\mathbb{Z}}, s)$ satisfying DO_+ (and hence DO_{++}), because a point is transitive whenever every finite sequence of symbols — every *word* formed from the two-symbol alphabet — appears on

the positive side of the sequence. On the other hand, a sequence is periodic exactly when it is a periodic point for the homeomorphism s . It is easy to see that the set of periodic points is dense in $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$. The point $\bar{0}$ defined by $\bar{0}_j = 0$ for all $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ is a fixed point. Define

$$\text{Trans}_s^0 = \{x \in \text{Trans}_s : \exists N \in \mathbb{Z} \forall n < N (x_n = 0)\}.$$

That is, $x \in \text{Trans}_s^0$ when every finite word appears on the positive side of the sequence, but on the negative side the values are eventually 0, so the forward orbit $O(x)$ is dense but as $k \rightarrow \infty$ the sequence $s^{-k}(x)$ converges to $\bar{0}$.

Example 7.7. For X meager, $\text{TT}_{++} \not\Rightarrow \text{DO}$, even if X is perfect, second countable, and metrizable and f is a homeomorphism.

Proof. Let A be the set of periodic points for s in $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$.² This is a dense, invariant subset of $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and so $(A, s \upharpoonright A)$ satisfies TT_{++} by Proposition 7.3. Every orbit is finite and so is nowhere dense in the perfect space A . \square

If (X, f) is topologically transitive and X is compact and perfect, then $f(X)$ is a compact subset of X , dense by Corollary 4.4, and so equals X . That is, f is surjective.

Example 7.8. If X is not compact, then DO_{++} implies neither that f is surjective nor that Trans_f is invariant, even if X is perfect, second countable, and locally compact.

Proof. Begin with $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and choose $x \in \text{Trans}_s^0$. Let $X = 2^{\mathbb{Z}} \setminus (\{\bar{0}\} \cup \{s^{-k}(x) : k \geq 1\})$ and $f = s \upharpoonright X$. Clearly, X is a dense, +invariant subset of $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$. Since X is open, it is locally compact. The subsystem (X, f) is topologically transitive by Proposition 7.3, which also implies that X is perfect. Hence (X, f) satisfies DO_{++} by Proposition 4.7 and Proposition 4.6. On the other hand, $x \in \text{Trans}_f \setminus f(X)$. Thus neither X nor Trans_f is invariant. \square

Example 7.9. If X is meager, (X, f) minimal with f a homeomorphism, does not imply (X, f^{-1}) satisfies DO_{+} , even if X is perfect and second countable. If X is meager, $\text{DO} \not\Rightarrow \text{DO}_{+}$, even if f is a homeomorphism and X is perfect and second countable.

Proof. Begin with $(2^{\mathbb{Z}}, s)$. Let $f = s \upharpoonright \text{Trans}_s^0$, a homeomorphism on the meager invariant set $X = \text{Trans}_s^0$. By Proposition 6.3, the subsystem (X, f) is minimal, and X is perfect. However, for the inverse system (X, f^{-1}) no orbit is a transitive point since the orbit sequences all converge in $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ to $\bar{0}$. Thus the inverse system does not satisfy DO_{+} . Of course, it does satisfy DO . \square

Recall that for a point $x \in X$ under a map $f : X \rightarrow X$ we define $O_{\pm}(x) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f^k(x)$ even when f is not a homeomorphism. If $f^{-1}(x)$ is countable for every $x \in X$ then each $O_{\pm}(x)$ is countable.

Example 7.10. The existence of a dense $O_{\pm}(x)$ for some point $x \in X$ (as opposed to a dense orbit sequence) need not imply TT for (X, f) , even if X is a perfect, compact, metrizable space with each $f^{-1}(x)$ finite.

Proof. Choose $x \in \text{Trans}_s^0$ so that its forward s -orbit $O(x)$ is dense in $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$. Now let $X_1 = 2 \times 2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ be a disjoint union of two copies of $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$, and define $f_1(i, x) = (i, s^{-1}(x))$ for $i = 0, 1$. Define $E \subset X_1$ by

$$E = 2 \times (\{\bar{0}\} \cup \{s^{-k}(x) : k \geq 1\}).$$

Clearly, E is closed and +invariant under f_1 . Let $\pi : X_1 \rightarrow X$ be the quotient space projection identifying all of the points of E together to define a single point e . The homeomorphism f_1 induces a continuous map f on X . The preimage $f^{-1}(e)$ of the fixed point e is $\{e, [(0, x)], [(1, x)]\}$. Hence $O_{\pm}(e)$ is e together with $2 \times O(x)$, which is dense. On the other hand, $\pi(\{0\} \times 2^{\mathbb{Z}}) \setminus \{e\}$ and $\pi(\{1\} \times 2^{\mathbb{Z}}) \setminus \{e\}$ are disjoint –invariant open subsets of X . Hence (X, f) is not topologically transitive by Proposition 3.1. \square

Example 7.11. For f a homeomorphism and X not compact, (X, f) minimal $\not\Rightarrow (X, f^{-1})$ minimal, even if X is perfect and Polish.

Proof. Begin again with $(2^{\mathbb{Z}}, s)$. By Proposition 6.3, the subsystem $(\text{Trans}_s, s \upharpoonright \text{Trans}_s)$ is minimal, with Trans_s perfect and Polish. Since Trans_s is both +invariant and –invariant, it is invariant for the homeomorphism s , and so $s \upharpoonright \text{Trans}_s$ is a homeomorphism. On the other hand, the subset Trans_s^0 consists of points which are not transitive points for s^{-1} , and so $(\text{Trans}_s, (s \upharpoonright \text{Trans}_s)^{-1})$ is not minimal. \square

We conclude with an issue which remains open as far as we know:

² This example is actually conjugate to the set of periodic orbits of the tent map.

Question. How far can we push Proposition 4.7?

- Does there exist a topologically transitive (X, f) with X compact and separable which is not point transitive, or even fails to have a dense orbit sequence, i.e. does not satisfy DO?
- Does there exist a point transitive (X, f) with f a homeomorphism and X compact (and necessarily separable) but for which (X, f^{-1}) is not point transitive?

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Appendix A. Density bases

Recall our definition:

Definition A.1. A density basis \mathcal{D} for a space X is a collection of opene subsets of X such that if $A \subset X$ meets every $U \in \mathcal{D}$, then A is dense in X .

In other words, \mathcal{D} is a density basis just when in order that a set $A \subset X$ meet each opene $V \subset X$, it suffices A meet each $U \in \mathcal{D}$. Evidently each basis is a density basis, then, though the converse need not hold (see Example A.3). In particular, a second countable space admits a countable density basis.

Proposition A.2. If \mathcal{D} contains a neighborhood basis for each point of a dense set $D \subset X$, then \mathcal{D} is a density basis. In particular, if X is separable and first countable then X admits a countable density basis.

Proof. Any closed set which meets every element of \mathcal{D} must then contain D and so must equal X . Thus \mathcal{D} is a density basis. \square

Example A.3. There exists a compact Hausdorff space X which is separable and first countable (and hence admits a countable density basis by Proposition A.2), but which is not second countable and so is not metrizable.

Proof. If the product set $X = [0, 1] \times \{0, 1\}$ is ordered lexicographically and given the associated order topology, then X becomes a compact space with uncountably many clopen sets and so is not second countable. It is separable and first countable. \square

In addition, if Y is a separable metric space which is not compact then the Stone–Čech compactification $X = \beta Y$ is not metrizable but does admit a countable density basis (see Proposition A.9 below). On the other hand, if \mathcal{D} is a countable density basis, then by choosing a point from each set in \mathcal{D} , we obtain a countable dense subset, and so the space is separable.

N.B. Throughout the rest of this appendix we assume that our spaces are regular as well as Hausdorff.

Proposition A.4. Let \mathcal{D} be a collection of opene subsets of X . The following are equivalent:

- \mathcal{D} is a density basis for X .
- If a closed $C \subset X$ meets every $U \in \mathcal{D}$, then $C = X$.
- If an open $V \subset X$ meets every $U \in \mathcal{D}$, then V is dense in X .
- For every opene $V \subset X$, the set $\bigcup\{U \in \mathcal{D} : U \subset V\}$ is dense in V .
- Every opene $V \subset X$ contains some $U \in \mathcal{D}$.

Proof. (v) \implies (i): If A meets every element of \mathcal{D} then by (v) it meets every opene set and so is dense.

(i) \implies (ii): If C is closed and dense in X , then $C = X$.

(ii) \implies (iii): If V meets every element of \mathcal{D} , then so does its closure \bar{V} . By (ii), then, $\bar{V} = X$.

(iii) \implies (iv): If V is opene and W is an arbitrary opene subset of V , then by regularity there exists a closed set $B \subset W$ with nonempty interior. Since $X \setminus B$ is open but not dense, by (iii), $X \setminus B$ is disjoint from some $U \in \mathcal{D}$. That means $U \subset B \subset W$. It follows that the union of those $U \in \mathcal{D}$ contained in V is dense in V .

(iv) \implies (v): Obvious. \square

Proposition A.5. Let D be a dense subset of X .

(a) If \mathcal{D} is a density basis for X then

$$\mathcal{D} \wedge D = \{U \cap D : U \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

is a density basis for D with the relative topology induced from X .

(b) If \mathcal{D} is a density basis for D with the subspace topology inherited from X , then

$$\bar{\mathcal{D}} = \{(\bar{U})^\circ : U \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

is a density basis for X , where the closure and interior are taken in X .

Proof. (a) If $A \subset D$ meets every element of $\mathcal{D} \wedge D$, then it meets every element of \mathcal{D} , and so is dense in X and hence in D .

(b) If $U \in \mathcal{D}$, then U is open in D , so there exists G open in X such that $U = G \cap D$. Since D is dense and G is open, U is dense in G and so $G \subset (\bar{U})^\circ$. Thus the elements of $\bar{\mathcal{D}}$ are all nonempty.

If $V \subset X$ is open, let B be a closed subset of X with $B \subset V$ and the interior of B nonempty; such a B exists by the regularity of X . Because D is dense, $B^\circ \cap D$ is open in D . By Proposition A.4(v) there exists $U \in \mathcal{D}$ such that $U \subset B^\circ \cap D$. Thus $\bar{U} \subset \bar{B}^\circ \cap \bar{D} = \bar{B}^\circ$ and $(\bar{U})^\circ \subset (\bar{B}^\circ)^\circ = B^\circ \subset V$. By Proposition A.4(v) again, $\bar{\mathcal{D}}$ is a density basis for X . \square

Remark. Let $x \in D$. By using essentially the same pair of arguments we can see that if \mathcal{D} is a neighborhood base in X for x then $\mathcal{D} \wedge D$ is a neighborhood base in D for x , and if \mathcal{D} is a neighborhood base for x in D then $\bar{\mathcal{D}}$ is a neighborhood base for x in X . Thus x has a countable neighborhood base in X iff it does in D .

From Proposition A.5 we immediately see

Corollary A.6. Let D be a dense subset of X and give D the subspace topology inherited from X . X admits a countable density basis iff D does.

Corollary A.7. If X admits a countable density basis then every dense subset of X is separable with respect to the subspace topology.

Proof. By Corollary A.6, any dense subset $D \subset X$ also admits a countable density basis \mathcal{D} . Choosing a point from every member of a density basis for D , we obtain a dense subset of D by Proposition A.4(v). \square

A continuous map $h : X \rightarrow Y$ is called *irreducible* when each $A \subset X$ is dense in X iff $h(A)$ is dense in Y . In particular, such an h has a dense image. In general, if A is dense in X , then $h(A)$ is dense in $h(X)$, and so is dense in Y when h has a dense image. It is the converse implication which is restrictive. The map h is called *weakly almost open* if $(\overline{h(U)})^\circ \neq \emptyset$ for every open $U \subset X$. Assume the image of h is dense in Y . If h is not weakly almost open, there is an open $U \subset X$ such that $(\overline{h(U)})^\circ = \emptyset$. Then $G = Y \setminus \overline{h(U)}$ is open and dense in Y while $V = h^{-1}(G)$ is not dense because it is disjoint from U . Because G is open and h has dense image, $h(V) = h(X) \cap G$ is dense in G and so in Y , and thus h is not irreducible. This shows that an irreducible map is weakly almost open.

Proposition A.8. Let $h : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous map.

(a) Assume h is irreducible. If \mathcal{D} is a density basis for Y then

$$h^*\mathcal{D} = \{h^{-1}(U) : U \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

is a density basis for X . In particular, if Y admits a countable density basis, then so does X .

(b) Assume h is weakly almost open with dense image. If \mathcal{D} is a density basis for X then

$$h_*\mathcal{D} = \{(\overline{h(U)})^\circ : U \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

is a density basis for Y . In particular, if X admits a countable density basis, then so does Y .

Proof. (a) Assume $A \subset X$ meets each $h^{-1}(U)$ for $U \in \mathcal{D}$. Then $h(A)$ meets U in the density basis \mathcal{D} and hence is dense in Y . Since h is irreducible, A is dense.

(b) Because h is weakly almost open, $(\overline{h(U)})^\circ \neq \emptyset$ for every open U .

Suppose an open $V \subset Y$ meets each element of $(\overline{h(U)})^\circ$ of $h_*\mathcal{D}$. Then it meets each $h(U)$ and so $h^{-1}(V)$ meets each $U \in \mathcal{D}$. As \mathcal{D} is a density basis, $h^{-1}(V)$ is dense in X . It follows that $h(h^{-1}(V)) = V \cap h(X)$ is dense in $h(X)$. Since $h(X)$ is dense in Y and $V \cap h(X) \subset V$, it follows V is dense in Y . That $h_*\mathcal{D}$ is a density basis follows from Proposition A.4. \square

A compactification of X is a map $j : X \rightarrow X^*$ with X^* compact, $j(X)$ dense in X^* , and j a homeomorphism onto its image, endowed with the subspace topology. A Hausdorff space admits a compactification iff it is completely regular. The maximum compactification of a completely regular Hausdorff space X is the Stone–Čech compactification $j_\beta : X \rightarrow \beta X$, for which there exists a – necessarily unique – continuous map $h : \beta X \rightarrow X^*$ such that $j = h \circ j_\beta$. Levy and McDowell observed that the map from βX to X^* is irreducible [9, Lemma 2.1]. This follows from the observation that $h^{-1}(j(x)) = \{j_\beta(x)\}$ for all $x \in X$ because j is a homeomorphism onto its image. From Corollary A.6 we immediately have

Proposition A.9. *Let X be a completely regular Hausdorff space. The following are equivalent:*

- (a) X admits a countable density basis.
- (b) X has a compactification $j : X \rightarrow X^*$ such that X^* admits a countable density basis.
- (c) For every compactification $j : X \rightarrow X^*$, X^* admits a countable density basis.
- (d) The Stone–Čech compactification βX of X admits a countable density basis.

Compare [9, Theorem 3.1].

Appendix B. Non-Hausdorff spaces

For the sake of generality we remove the Hausdorff restriction here.

Proposition B.1. *Let (X, f) be a dynamical system.*

- (a) If X is a perfect T_1 space, then $\text{DO} \implies \text{TT}_+$.
- (b) If f is surjective and $x \in \text{Trans}_f$, then $\omega f(x) = X$; i.e., $\text{DO}_+ \implies \text{DO}_{++}$.

Proof. (a) Let opene $U, V \subset X$ and a dense orbit sequence $O = \langle x_j \rangle$ of f be given; we want to find a $p \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $f^p(U) \cap V \neq \emptyset$.

By DO , the sets $N = \{n : x_n \in U\}$ and $M = \{m : x_m \in V\}$ are nonempty. If there is no $p \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $f^p(U) \cap V \neq \emptyset$, it follows that each element of N is greater than any element of M , so the maximum element $m \in M$ and the minimum $n \in N$ are defined. Since $m - n < 0$ and f is continuous, $f^{m-n}(U) \cap V \ni x_m$ is open.

Now $O \setminus F$ is dense for any finite $F \subset X$.³ As $O \setminus \{x_m\}$ is dense, it contains some element $x_k \neq x_m$ of the open set $f^{m-n}(U) \cap V$; since $m \in M$ was maximal, evidently $k < m$. Let m_1 be the greatest such k . Again by density of $D \setminus \{x_m, x_{m_1}\}$, there is a greatest $m_2 < m_1$ such that $x_{m_2} \in f^{m-n}(U) \cap V \setminus \{x_m, x_{m_1}\}$. By induction, it is clear that there are arbitrarily small k with $x_k \in f^{m-n}(U) \cap V$; in particular, there is k such that $2m - n - k > 0$. Now $x_m \in V$ and also $x_m = f^{m-k}(x_k) \in f^{m-k}(f^{m-n}(U)) \subset f^{2m-n-k}(U)$.

(b) Let $O = O(x)$ be a dense forward orbit, so that the closure \bar{O} is X . For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, by surjectivity and continuity, we have $X = f^n(X) = f^n(\bar{O}) \subset \bar{f^n(O)}$, so $\bar{f^n(O)} = \bar{O}(f^n(x)) = X$. Since this holds for all n , taking the intersection we get $\omega f(x) = X$. \square

Example B.2. *If the topological space X is not Hausdorff, then $\text{TT}_{++} \not\Rightarrow \text{DO}_+$.*

Proof. Let $X = \mathbb{N}$ with the topology $\{\emptyset, X\} \cup \{(-\infty, x) : x \in X\}$, and let $f(x) = x + 1$ be the successor map. (Taking the subspace $(-\infty, 0]$ and reassigning $f(0) = 0$ also works.) Since $f^{-1}(X) = X$ and $f^{-1}((-\infty, x)) = (-\infty, x - 1)$, f is continuous. Since all opene sets meet, we have TT_{++} trivially and X is not T_1 . We have DO , but not DO_+ : no forward orbit is dense, since $O(x)$ fails to meet $(-\infty, y)$ for $y \leq x$. \square

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³ Assume D is dense. By induction it suffices to show that $D \setminus \{x\}$ is still dense for any $x \in D$. If for some opene U we had $U \cap D = \{x\}$, that would mean $(U \setminus \{x\}) \cap D = \emptyset$, where $U \setminus \{x\}$ is opene (since X is T_1 and perfect), contradicting density. Thus each opene U meets $D \setminus \{x\}$.

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