

Exercise 2 c)

Solution. 1. \mathcal{B} is a subbasis for the discrete topology. Take an arbitrary subset $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{R}$. If $\mathcal{U} = \mathbb{R}$, then we simply have

$$\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{x, x+1\}$$

as $\{x, x+1\}$ are members of the subbasis \mathcal{B} . Similarly, if $\mathcal{U} = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{y\}$ for some $y \in \mathbb{R}$, then we have

$$\mathbb{R} \setminus \{y\} = \left(\bigcup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R} \\ x+1 \neq y}} \{x, x+1\} \right) \cup \{y-1, y+1\}$$

because again $\{y-1, y+1\}$ lies in \mathcal{B} . For any other cases, notice that there are two distinct points $y \neq z$ with $y, z \notin \mathcal{U}$, thus the two sets $\{x, y\}$ and $\{x, z\}$ are members of \mathcal{B} . Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U} &= \bigcup_{x \in \mathcal{U}} \{x\} \\ &= \bigcup_{x \in \mathcal{U}} \{x, y\} \cap \{x, z\}. \end{aligned}$$

In other words, every subset of \mathbb{R} is a union of finite intersections of members in \mathcal{B} , thus \mathcal{B} as a subbasis generates the discrete topology.

2. However, \mathcal{B} is not a basis of the discrete topology. Plainly, a singleton set cannot be generated from a union of elements of \mathcal{B} . □

Exercise 3 b)

Suppose \mathcal{B} is a subbasis for a topology \mathcal{T} on a set X . Given another topological space Y , show that a map $f : Y \rightarrow X$ is continuous if and only if for every $\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{B}$, $f^{-1}(\mathcal{U})$ is open in Y .

Solution. Denote the topology of Y by \mathcal{S} .

“ \Rightarrow ”: Let $f : Y \rightarrow X$ be continuous and fix an $\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{B}$. Since \mathcal{B} is subbasis, all its elements are open subsets, thus \mathcal{U} is open. Then by definition of continuous maps, the preimage $f^{-1}(\mathcal{U})$ is also open in Y . As we have fixed an arbitrary $\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{B}$, we may conclude the desired result.

“ \Leftarrow ”: On the other hand, let for every $\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{B}$ the preimage $f^{-1}(\mathcal{U})$ be open in Y . Consider an arbitrary open subset $\mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{T}$. By the definition of a subbasis, \mathcal{V} is a finite intersection of members of \mathcal{B} , i.e.

$$\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{U}_1 \cap \dots \cap \mathcal{U}_n$$

with $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The preimage of \mathcal{V} therefore is

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(\mathcal{V}) &= f^{-1}(\mathcal{U}_1 \cap \dots \cap \mathcal{U}_n) \\ &= f^{-1}(\mathcal{U}_1) \cap \dots \cap f^{-1}(\mathcal{U}_n) \end{aligned}$$

where we applied the aforementioned lemma on the last step. Now, $f^{-1}(\mathcal{U}_i)$ are open subsets for all $1 \leq i \leq n$. By the definition of topological spaces, finite intersections of open subsets are also open, hence $f^{-1}(\mathcal{V})$ is open. Thus, f is continuous. □

Exercise 3 c)

Now suppose $\{(X_\alpha, \mathcal{T}_\alpha)\}_{\alpha \in I}$ is a collection of topological spaces, (X, \mathcal{T}) is $\prod_{\alpha \in I} X_\alpha$ with the product topology, and the subbase $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{T}$ is taken to consist of all sets of the form

$$\{x_{\alpha} \mid x_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{U}_{\alpha}\} \subset \prod_{\alpha} X_{\alpha}$$

for arbitrary $\alpha \in I$ and $\mathcal{U}_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{T}_{\alpha}$.

Show that a sequence $\{x_{\alpha}^n\}_{\alpha \in I} \in X$ converges to $\{x_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I} \in X$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ if and only if $x_{\alpha}^n \rightarrow x_{\alpha}$ for every $\alpha \in I$.

Solution. “ \Rightarrow ”: Let the sequence $\{x_{\alpha}^n\}_{\alpha \in I} \in X$ converge to $\{x_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I} \in X$. By the definition of convergence, we have that every neighbourhood $\mathcal{U} \subset X$ of $\{x_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I}$ it is $\{x_{\alpha}^n\}_{\alpha \in I} \in \mathcal{U}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ sufficiently large.

“ \Leftarrow ”: On the other hand, let $x_{\alpha}^n \in X_{\alpha}$ converge to $x_{\alpha} \in X_{\alpha}$ for every $\alpha \in I$. By exercise 3 a), we have that for every member of a subbasis $\mathcal{U}_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{B}_{\alpha}$ containing x_{α} , it is $x_{\alpha}^n \in \mathcal{U}_{\alpha}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ sufficiently large. \square