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233A - Final

1.4.6 Let Y be a subspace of a topological space X. Show that Y is irreducible if and only if the closure of Y in X is irreducible.

Proof. First suppose that Y is irreducible. If $\overline{Y}$ (the closure of Y in X) were reducible, then we could write $\overline{Y} = \tilde{F}_1 \cup \tilde{F}_2$, where $\tilde{F}_1$ and $\tilde{F}_2$ are nonempty (relatively) closed subsets of $\overline{Y}$. In particular, this means that we can write $\overline{Y} \subseteq F_1 \cup F_2$, where F_1 and F_2 are closed in X and Y is not entirely contained in either F_1 or F_2. If Y is contained in say F_1, then $\overline{Y} \subseteq \overline{F}_1 = F_1$, which contradicts the reducibility of $\overline{Y}$, so Y isn't contained in F_1. By symmetry, Y is not contained in F_2 either. But we have

$$Y \subseteq \overline{Y} \subseteq F_1 \cup F_2.$$

This shows that Y is contained in the union of closed (in X) subsets, but is contained in neither set individually, contradicting the irreducibility of Y. We conclude that $\overline{Y}$ is also irreducible.

Conversely, suppose that $\overline{Y}$ is irreducible but Y is reducible. Then $Y \subseteq F_1 \cup F_2$, where F_1 and F_2 are closed in X and Y is contained in neither F_1 nor F_2. When we take the closure of both sides of this inclusion we get

$$\overline{Y} \subseteq \overline{F_1 \cup F_2} = \overline{F_1} \cup \overline{F_2} = F_1 \cup F_2.$$

Since $\overline{Y}$ is irreducible, it must be contained in F_1 or F_2, say F_1. But then $Y \subseteq \overline{Y} \subseteq F_1$, contradicting our assumption about Y not being contained in F_1. We conclude that Y is irreducible. $\square$

2.6.13 Let X and Y be prevarieties with affine open covers $\{U_i\}$ and $\{V_j\}$, respectively. Construct the product prevariety $X \times Y$ by gluing the affine varieties $U_i \times V_j$ together. Moreover, show that there are projection morphisms $\pi_X : X \times Y \to X$ and $\pi_Y : X \times Y \to Y$ satisfying the usual universal property for products.

Proof. The affine varieties $U_i \times V_j$ (as the product of two affine varieties is an affine variety) form a finite open cover for $X \times Y$ as a topological space. The idea is to glue the sets $U_i \times V_j$ and $U_{i'} \times V_{j'}$ along the identity morphism on the intersection $(U_i \cap U_{i'}) \times (V_i \cap V_{i'})$. $\square$