HW #5

Sam Fleischer

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Problem 1

Let $(X, \mathcal{T})$ be a Hausdorff space and $F, K \subset X$ such that F is closed and K is compact.

a)

Prove that K is closed.

Pick y in K^C. Then for every $x \in K$, choose an open neighborhood of x, U_x, and an open neighborhood of y, V_x, such that $U_x \cap V_x = \emptyset$ for each x. This is possible since X is a Hausdorff space. Clearly, $\{U_x\}_{x \in K}$ is an open cover of K. Since K is compact, $\exists x_1, \dots, x_n$ such that $\{U_{x_i}\}_{i=1}^n$ is an open cover of K. Let $V = \bigcap_{i=1}^n V_{x_i}$. Then V is open since it is a finite intersection of open neighborhoods. Let $v \in V$. Then for $i = 1, \dots, n$, $v \notin U_{x_i}$. Then $v \notin K$, i.e. $v \in K^C$. Thus $V \subset K^C$. Thus K^C contains a neighborhood of each element of K^C, and so $K^C \in \mathcal{T}$. Thus K is closed. $\square$

b)

Prove that $F \cap K$ is compact.

Choose an open cover $\{G_\alpha\}_\alpha$ of $F \cap K$. Since K is compact, it is closed (by part a), and since F is also closed, $F \cap K$ is closed, i.e. $(F \cap K)^C$ is open. Then $\left\{\{G_\alpha\}_\alpha, (F \cap K)^C\right\}$ is an open cover of K. Then since K is compact, there is a finite open subcover, namely $\left\{\{G_{\alpha_i}\}_{i=1}^n, (F \cap K)^C\right\}$. But since $(F \cap K)^C \cap (F \cap K) = \emptyset$, then $\{G_{\alpha_i}\}_{i=1}^n$ is an open cover of $F \cap K$. Since this is a subcover of $\{G_\alpha\}$, then $F \cap K$ is compact. $\square$

Problem 2

Let $(X, \mathcal{T})$ be a topological space and K_1, K_2 two compact subsets of X.

a)

Prove that $K_1 \cup K_2$ is compact.

Let $\{G_\alpha\}_\alpha$ be an open cover of $K_1 \cup K_2$. Then $\{G_\alpha\}_\alpha$ is an open cover of both K_1 and K_2. Then there are finite subcovers $\{G_{\alpha_i}\}_{i=1}^n$ and $\{G_{\alpha_j}\}_{j=1}^m$ of K_1 and K_2, respectively. Then $\left\{\{G_{\alpha_i}\}_{i=1}^n, \{G_{\alpha_j}\}_{j=1}^m\right\}$ is a finite cover of $K_1 \cup K_2$, and is a subcover of $\{G_\alpha\}_\alpha$. Thus every open cover has a finite subcover, proving $K_1 \cup K_2$ is compact. □

b)

Assuming $(X, \mathcal{T})$ is Hausdorff, proce that $K_1 \cap K_2$ is compact.

By part 1.a), the compactness of K_1 implies its closure. Thus by part 1.b), $K_1 \cap K_2$ is compact. □

Problem 3

If A is a subset of a toplogical space, then the interior A° *of A is the union of all open sets contained in A, the* closure $\overline{A}$ *of A is the intersection of all closed sets that contain A, and the* boundary ∂A *of A is defined by $\partial A = \overline{A} \cap \overline{A^C}$.*

Lemma 1. $\overline{A^C} = (A^\circ)^C$

Proof. Let $\{C_\alpha\}$ be the set of all closed sets containing A^C. Then by the definition of closure, $\overline{A^C} = \bigcap_\alpha C_\alpha$. Since $A^C \subset C_\alpha$ for all α, then $C_\alpha^C \subset A$ for all α. Also, since C_α is closed for all α, C_α^C is open for all α. In addition, if G is an open set contained in A, then $G = C_\alpha^C$ for some C_α. Then by the definition of interior, $A^\circ = \bigcup_\alpha C_\alpha^C$. Thus,

$$(A^\circ)^C = \left(\cup_\alpha C_\alpha^C\right)^C = \cap_\alpha \left(C_\alpha^C\right)^C = \cap_\alpha C_\alpha = \overline{A^C}$$

□

Lemma 2. $\overline{A}^C = \left(A^C\right)^\circ$

Proof. Let $B = A^C$. Then by Lemma 1, $\overline{B^C} = (B^\circ)^C$. Then $\overline{(A^C)^C} = \left(\left(A^C\right)^\circ\right)^C$. Thus $\overline{A} = \left(\left(A^C\right)^\circ\right)^C$. Thus $\overline{A}^C = \left(A^C\right)^\circ$ □

a)

Show that a set is closed if and only if it contains its boundary.

"$\Longrightarrow$" Let A be closed. Then $A = \overline{A}$. Then $\partial A = \overline{A} \cap \overline{A^C} \subset \overline{A} = A$. Then A contains its boundary.

"$\Longleftarrow$" Let A contain its boundary, i.e. $\partial A = \overline{A} \cap \overline{A^C} \subset A$. We want to show A^C is open, i.e. $A^C = \left(A^C\right)^\circ$. Obviously, $\left(A^C\right)^\circ \subset A^C$. Let $x \in A^C$. Then $x \notin A$. Since $\partial A \subset A$, $x \notin \partial A$. Then either $x \notin \overline{A}$ or $x \notin \overline{A^C}$, i.e. either $x \in \overline{A}^C$ or $x \in \overline{A^C}^C$. By Lemmas 1 and 2, either $x \in \left(A^C\right)^\circ$ or $x \in A^\circ$. But since $x \notin A$, $x \notin A^\circ$. Thus $x \in \left(A^C\right)^\circ$. Then $A^C = \left(A^C\right)^\circ$. Thus A^C is open, proving A is closed. □

b)

Show that a set is open if any only if it is disjoint from its boundary.

"$\Longrightarrow$" Let A be open. Then $A = A^\circ$. Then $A \cap \partial A = A \cap \left(\overline{A} \cap \overline{A^C}\right) = A \cap \left(\overline{A} \cap (A^\circ)^C\right)$ (by Lemma 1) and thus $A \cap \partial A = A \cap \left(\overline{A} \cap A^C\right) = \left(A \cap A^C\right) \cap \overline{A} = \emptyset \cap \overline{A} = \emptyset$. Thus A is disjoint from its boundary.

"$\Longleftarrow$" Let $A \cap \partial A = \emptyset$, and choose $x \in A$. Then $x \notin \partial A$. Thus $x \notin \overline{A}$ or $x \notin \overline{A^C}$. Since $x \in A$, $x \in \overline{A}$. Thus $x \notin \overline{A^C}$. By Lemma 1, $x \notin (A^\circ)^C$. Thus $x \in A^\circ$. Since A° is open, there is a neighborhood G of x such that $G \subset A^\circ$. But $A^\circ \subset A$. Thus A is open. $\square$

c)

What are the closure, interior, and boundary of the Cantor set, considered as a subset of $\mathbb{R}$ with its usual topology? The Cantor set is defined in Example 1.40 of the textbook.

Define the function f whose domain is closed intervals of $\mathbb{R}$ by

$$f([a,b]) = \left\{ \left[a, a + \frac{b-a}{3}\right], \left[b - \frac{b-a}{3}, b\right] \right\}$$

Define G_n as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} G_0 &= \{[0,1]\} \\ G_1 &= \left\{ \left[0, \frac{1}{3}\right], \left[\frac{2}{3}, 1\right] \right\} \\ &\vdots \\ G_n &= \bigcup_{[a,b] \in G_{n-1}} f([a,b]) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

and define $F_n \equiv \bigcup_{[a,b] \in G_n} [a,b]$. Finally, define the Cantor set $\mathcal{C} = \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} F_n$. Since for each n, $|G_n| = 2^n$, label each element of G_n as $G_{n,k}$ for $k = 1, \ldots, 2^n$. Note that for each $G_{n,k}$, $\sup\{|x_1 - x_2| \mid x_1, x_2 \in G_{n,k}\} = 3^{-n}$. Next we will show $\mathcal{C}^\circ = \emptyset$, which will show $\mathcal{C} = \overline{\mathcal{C}}$ and $\partial\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}$.

Let $x \in \mathcal{C}^\circ$. Then since $\mathcal{C}^\circ$ is open, there is some open neighborhood U such that $x \in U \subset \mathcal{C}^\circ$. Since U is an open neighborhood, $\exists \epsilon > 0$ such that $x \in B_\epsilon(x) \subset U \subset \mathcal{C}^\circ$. Sicne $\mathcal{C}^\circ \subset \mathcal{C} = \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} F_n$, then $\forall n$, $\exists k$ such that $B_\epsilon(x) \subset F_{n,k}$. Thus $\forall n$, $\sup\{|y_1 - y_2| \mid y_1, y_2 \in B_\epsilon(x)\} = 2\epsilon < 3^{-n}$, which is a contradiction. Thus $\mathcal{C}^\circ = \emptyset$, and $\overline{\mathcal{C}} = \mathcal{C}$. Finally $\partial\mathcal{C} = \overline{\mathcal{C}} \cap \overline{\mathcal{C}^C} = \mathcal{C} \cap (\mathcal{C}^\circ)^C = \mathcal{C} \cap \mathbb{R} = \mathcal{C}$. $\square$