



Why

We want to generalize the notion of continuity.

Definition

Let X be a set. A *topology* is a set of subsets of X for which (1) the empty set base set are distinguished (2) the intersection of a *finite* family of distinguished subsets is distinguished, and (3) the union of a family of distinguished subsets is distinguished. We call the elements of the topology the *open sets*.

A *topological space* is an ordered pair: a base set and a set distinguished subsets of the base set which are a topology.

Notation

Let X be a non-empty set. For the set of distinguished sets, we tend to use \mathcal{T} , a mnemonic for topology, read aloud as “script T”. We tend to denote elements of \mathcal{T} by O , a mnemonic for open. We denote the topological space with base set X and topology \mathcal{T} by (X, \mathcal{T}) . We denote the properties satisfied by elements of \mathcal{T} :

1. $X, \emptyset \in \mathcal{T}$
2. if $O_1, \dots, O_n \in \mathcal{T}$, then $\bigcap_{i=1}^n O_i \in \mathcal{T}$
3. if $O_\alpha \in \mathcal{T}$ for all $\alpha \in I$, then $\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} O_\alpha \in \mathcal{T}$

Examples

\mathbf{R} with the open intervals as the open sets is a topological space.

