



## 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.

