Chapter 2

Topological Spaces and Continuous Functions

The concept of topological space grew out of the study of the real line and euclidean space and the study of continuous functions on these spaces. In this chapter, we define what a topological space is, and we study a number of ways of constructing a topology on a set so as to make it into a topological space. We also consider some of the elementary concepts associated with topological spaces. Open and closed sets, limit points, and continuous functions are introduced as natural generalizations of the corresponding ideas for the real line and euclidean space.

§12 Topological Spaces

The definition of a topological space that is now standard was a long time in being formulated. Various mathematicians—Fréchet, Hausdorff, and others—proposed different definitions over a period of years during the first decades of the twentieth century, but it took quite a while before mathematicians settled on the one that seemed most suitable. They wanted, of course, a definition that was as broad as possible, so that it would include as special cases all the various examples that were useful in mathematics—euclidean space, infinite-dimensional euclidean space, and function spaces among them—but they also wanted the definition to be narrow enough that the standard theorems about these familiar spaces would hold for topological spaces in general. This is always the problem when one is trying to formulate a new mathematical concept, to decide how general its definition should be. The definition finally settled on may seem a bit abstract, but as you work through the various ways of constructing topological spaces, you will get a better feeling for what the concept means.

Definition. A ***topology*** on a set X is a collection $\mathcal{T}$ of subsets of X having the following properties:

(1) $\varnothing$ and X are in $\mathcal{T}$.

(2) The union of the elements of any subcollection of $\mathcal{T}$ is in $\mathcal{T}$.

(3) The intersection of the elements of any finite subcollection of $\mathcal{T}$ is in $\mathcal{T}$.

A set X for which a topology $\mathcal{T}$ has been specified is called a ***topological space***.

Properly speaking, a topological space is an ordered pair $(X, \mathcal{T})$ consisting of a set X and a topology $\mathcal{T}$ on X, but we often omit specific mention of $\mathcal{T}$ if no confusion will arise.

If X is a topological space with topology $\mathcal{T}$, we say that a subset U of X is an ***open set*** of X if U belongs to the collection $\mathcal{T}$. Using this terminology, one can say that a topological space is a set X together with a collection of subsets of X, called *open sets*, such that $\varnothing$ and X are both open, and such that arbitrary unions and finite intersections of open sets are open.

EXAMPLE 1 Let X be a three-element set, $X = \{a, b, c\}$ There are many possible topologies on X, some of which are indicated schematically in Figure 12.1. The diagram in the upper right-hand corner indicates the topology in which the open sets are X, $\varnothing$, $\{a, b\}$, $\{b\}$, and $\{b, c\}$ The topology in the upper left-hand corner contains only X and $\varnothing$, while the topology in the lower right-hand corner contains every subset of X. You can get other topologies on X by permuting a, b, and c

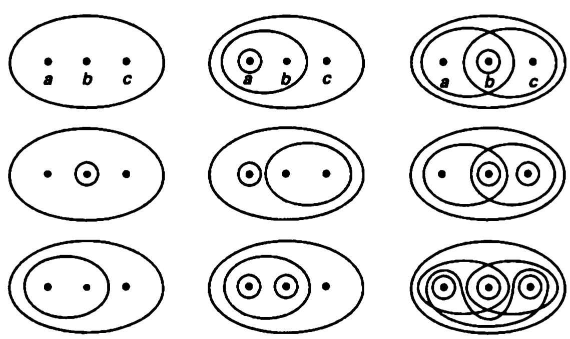

Figure 12.1

From this example, you can see that even a three-element set has many different topologies. But not every collection of subsets of X is a topology on X Neither of the collections indicated in Figure 12 2 is a topology, for instance.

Figure 12.2

EXAMPLE 2. If X is any set, the collection of *all* subsets of X is a topology on X, it is called the ***discrete topology*** The collection consisting of X and $\varnothing$ only is also a topology on X; we shall call it the ***indiscrete topology***, or the ***trivial topology***

EXAMPLE 3. Let X be a set; let $\mathcal{T}_f$ be the collection of all subsets U of X such that $X-U$ either is finite or is all of X Then $\mathcal{T}_f$ is a topology on X, called the ***finite complement topology***. Both X and $\varnothing$ are in $\mathcal{T}_f$, since $X - X$ is finite and $X - \varnothing$ is all of X If $\{U_\alpha\}$ is an indexed family of nonempty elements of $\mathcal{T}_f$, to show that $\bigcup U_\alpha$ is in $\mathcal{T}_f$, we compute

$$X - \bigcup U_\alpha = \bigcap (X - U_\alpha).$$

The latter set is finite because each set $X - U_\alpha$ is finite If U_1, , U_n are nonempty elements of $\mathcal{T}_f$, to show that $\bigcap U_i$ is in $\mathcal{T}_f$, we compute

$$X - \bigcap_{i=1}^{n} U_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} (X - U_i).$$

The latter set is a finite union of finite sets and, therefore, finite

EXAMPLE 4 Let X be a set; let $\mathcal{T}_c$ be the collection of all subsets U of X such that $X - U$ either is countable or is all of X. Then $\mathcal{T}_c$ is a topology on X, as you can check

Definition. Suppose that $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}'$ are two topologies on a given set X. If $\mathcal{T}' \supset \mathcal{T}$, we say that $\mathcal{T}'$ is ***finer*** than $\mathcal{T}$; if $\mathcal{T}'$ *properly* contains $\mathcal{T}$, we say that $\mathcal{T}'$ is ***strictly finer*** than $\mathcal{T}$. We also say that $\mathcal{T}$ is ***coarser*** than $\mathcal{T}'$, or ***strictly coarser***, in these two respective situations. We say $\mathcal{T}$ is ***comparable*** with $\mathcal{T}'$ if either $\mathcal{T}' \supset \mathcal{T}$ or $\mathcal{T} \supset \mathcal{T}'$.

This terminology is suggested by thinking of a topological space as being something like a truckload full of gravel—the pebbles and all unions of collections of pebbles being the open sets. If now we smash the pebbles into smaller ones, the collection of open sets has been enlarged, and the topology, like the gravel, is said to have been made finer by the operation.

Two topologies on X need not be comparable, of course. In Figure 12 1 preceding, the topology in the upper right-hand corner is strictly finer than each of the three topologies in the first column and strictly coarser than each of the other topologies in the third column. But it is not comparable with any of the topologies in the second column.

Other terminology is sometimes used for this concept. If $\mathcal{T}' \supset \mathcal{T}$, some mathematicians would say that $\mathcal{T}'$ is ***larger*** than $\mathcal{T}$, and $\mathcal{T}$ is ***smaller*** than $\mathcal{T}'$. This is certainly acceptable terminology, if not as vivid as the words "finer" and "coarser."

Many mathematicians use the words "weaker" and "stronger" in this context. Unfortunately, some of them (particularly analysts) are apt to say that $\mathcal{T}'$ is stronger than $\mathcal{T}$ if $\mathcal{T}' \supset \mathcal{T}$, while others (particularly topologists) are apt to say that $\mathcal{T}'$ is weaker than $\mathcal{T}$ in the same situation! If you run across the terms "strong topology" or "weak topology" in some book, you will have to decide from the context which inclusion is meant. We shall not use these terms in this book.

§13 Basis for a Topology

For each of the examples in the preceding section, we were able to specify the topology by describing the entire collection $\mathcal{T}$ of open sets. Usually this is too difficult. In most cases, one specifies instead a smaller collection of subsets of X and defines the topology in terms of that.

Definition. If X is a set, a ***basis*** for a topology on X is a collection $\mathcal{B}$ of subsets of X (called ***basis elements***) such that

(1) For each $x \in X$, there is at least one basis element B containing x.

(2) If x belongs to the intersection of two basis elements B_1 and B_2, then there is a basis element B_3 containing x such that $B_3 \subset B_1 \cap B_2$.

If $\mathcal{B}$ satisfies these two conditions, then we define the ***topology $\mathcal{T}$ generated by $\mathcal{B}$*** as follows: A subset U of X is said to be open in X (that is, to be an element of $\mathcal{T}$) if for each $x \in U$, there is a basis element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B$ and $B \subset U$. Note that each basis element is itself an element of $\mathcal{T}$.

We will check shortly that the collection $\mathcal{T}$ is indeed a topology on X. But first let us consider some examples.

EXAMPLE 1 Let $\mathcal{B}$ be the collection of all circular regions (interiors of circles) in the plane. Then $\mathcal{B}$ satisfies both conditions for a basis The second condition is illustrated in Figure 13 1. In the topology generated by $\mathcal{B}$, a subset U of the plane is open if every x in U lies in some circular region contained in U

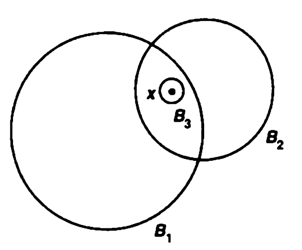

Figure 13.1

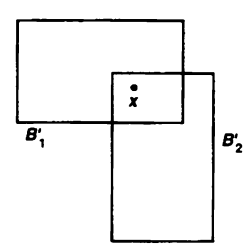

Figure 13.2

EXAMPLE 2. Let $\mathcal{B}'$ be the collection of all rectangular regions (interiors of rectangles) in the plane, where the rectangles have sides parallel to the coordinate axes Then $\mathcal{B}'$ satisfies both conditions for a basis. The second condition is illustrated in Figure 13 2; in this case, the condition is trivial, because the intersection of any two basis elements is itself a basis element (or empty) As we shall see later, the basis $\mathcal{B}'$ generates the same topology on the plane as the basis $\mathcal{B}$ given in the preceding example

EXAMPLE 3 If X is any set, the collection of all one-point subsets of X is a basis for the discrete topology on X

Let us check now that the collection $\mathcal{T}$ generated by the basis $\mathcal{B}$ is, in fact, a topology on X. If U is the empty set, it satisfies the defining condition of openness vacuously. Likewise, X is in $\mathcal{T}$, since for each $x \in X$ there is some basis element B containing x and contained in X Now let us take an indexed family $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha\in J}$, of elements of $\mathcal{T}$ and show that

$$U = \bigcup_{\alpha\in J} U_\alpha$$

belongs to $\mathcal{T}$. Given $x \in U$, there is an index α such that $x \in U_\alpha$. Since U_α is open, there is a basis element B such that $x \in B \subset U_\alpha$. Then $x \in B$ and $B \subset U$, so that U is open, by definition.

Now let us take *two* elements U_1 and U_2 of $\mathcal{T}$ and show that $U_1 \cap U_2$ belongs to $\mathcal{T}$. Given $x \in U_1 \cap U_2$, choose a basis element B_1 containing x such that $B_1 \subset U_1$; choose also a basis element B_2 containing x such that $B_2 \subset U_2$. The second condition for a basis enables us to choose a basis element B_3 containing x such that $B_3 \subset B_1 \cap B_2$. See Figure 13.3. Then $x \in B_3$ and $B_3 \subset U_1 \cap U_2$, so $U_1 \cap U_2$ belongs to $\mathcal{T}$, by definition.

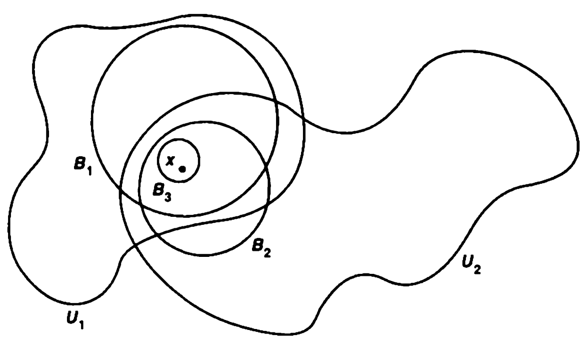

Figure 13.3

Finally, we show by induction that any finite intersection $U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_n$ of elements of $\mathcal{T}$ is in $\mathcal{T}$. This fact is trivial for $n = 1$; we suppose it true for $n - 1$ and prove it for n. Now

$$(U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_n) = (U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_{n-1}) \cap U_n$$

By hypothesis, $U_1 \cap \cdot \cdot \cap U_{n-1}$ belongs to $\mathcal{T}$; by the result just proved, the intersection of $U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_{n-1}$ and U_n also belongs to $\mathcal{T}$

Thus we have checked that collection of open sets generated by a basis $\mathcal{B}$ is, in fact, a topology.

Another way of describing the topology generated by a basis is given in the following lemma:

Lemma 13.1. *Let X be a set; let $\mathcal{B}$ be a basis for a topology $\mathcal{T}$ on X. Then $\mathcal{T}$ equals the collection of all unions of elements of $\mathcal{B}$.*

Proof. Given a collection of elements of $\mathcal{B}$, they are also elements of $\mathcal{T}$. Because $\mathcal{T}$ is a topology, their union is in $\mathcal{T}$. Conversely, given $U \in \mathcal{T}$, choose for each $x \in U$ an element B_x of $\mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B_x \subset U$. Then $U = \bigcup_{x \in U} B_x$, so U equals a union of elements of $\mathcal{B}$. ∎

This lemma states that every open set U in X can be expressed as a union of basis elements. This expression for U is not, however, unique. Thus the use of the term "basis" in topology differs drastically from its use in linear algebra, where the equation expressing a given vector as a linear combination of basis vectors *is* unique.

We have described in two different ways how to go from a basis to the topology it generates. Sometimes we need to go in the reverse direction, from a topology to a basis generating it. Here is one way of obtaining a basis for a given topology; we shall use it frequently.

Lemma 13.2. *Let X be a topological space. Suppose that $\mathcal{C}$ is a collection of open sets of X such that for each open set U of X and each x in U, there is an element C of $\mathcal{C}$ such that $x \in C \subset U$. Then $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis for the topology of X.*

Proof. We must show that $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis. The first condition for a basis is easy: Given $x \in X$, since X is itself an open set, there is by hypothesis an element C of $\mathcal{C}$ such that $x \in C \subset X$. To check the second condition, let x belong to $C_1 \cap C_2$, where C_1 and C_2 are elements of $\mathcal{C}$. Since C_1 and C_2 are open, so is $C_1 \cap C_2$. Therefore, there exists by hypothesis an element C_3 in $\mathcal{C}$ such that $x \in C_3 \subset C_1 \cap C_2$.

Let $\mathcal{T}$ be the collection of open sets of X; we must show that the topology $\mathcal{T}'$ generated by $\mathcal{C}$ equals the topology $\mathcal{T}$. First, note that if U belongs to $\mathcal{T}$ and if $x \in U$, then there is by hypothesis an element C of $\mathcal{C}$ such that $x \in C \subset U$. It follows that U belongs to the topology $\mathcal{T}'$, by definition. Conversely, if W belongs to the topology $\mathcal{T}'$, then W equals a union of elements of $\mathcal{C}$, by the preceding lemma. Since each element of $\mathcal{C}$ belongs to $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}$ is a topology, W also belongs to $\mathcal{T}$. ∎

When topologies are given by bases, it is useful to have a criterion in terms of the bases for determining whether one topology is finer than another. One such criterion is the following.

Lemma 13.3. *Let $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{B}'$ be bases for the topologies $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}'$, respectively, on X. Then the following are equivalent:*

(1) *$\mathcal{T}'$ is finer than $\mathcal{T}$.*

(2) *For each $x \in X$ and each basis element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ containing x, there is a basis element $B' \in \mathcal{B}'$ such that $x \in B' \subset B$.*

Proof. (2) $\Rightarrow$ (1). Given an element U of $\mathcal{T}$, we wish to show that $U \in \mathcal{T}'$. Let $x \in U$. Since $\mathcal{B}$ generates $\mathcal{T}$, there is an element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B \subset U$. Condition (2) tells us there exists an element $B' \in \mathcal{B}'$ such that $x \in B' \subset B$. Then $x \in B' \subset U$, so $U \in \mathcal{T}'$, by definition.

(1) $\Rightarrow$ (2). We are given $x \in X$ and $B \in \mathcal{B}$, with $x \in B$. Now B belongs to $\mathcal{T}$ by definition and $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{T}'$ by condition (1); therefore, $B \in \mathcal{T}'$ Since $\mathcal{T}'$ is generated by $\mathcal{B}'$, there is an element $B' \in \mathcal{B}'$ such that $x \in B' \subset B$. ∎

Some students find this condition hard to remember. "Which way does the inclusion *go*?" they ask. It may be easier to remember if you recall the analogy between a topological space and a truckload full of gravel. Think of the pebbles as the basis elements of the topology; after the pebbles are smashed to dust, the dust particles are the basis elements of the new topology. The new topology is finer than the old one, and each dust particle was contained inside a pebble, as the criterion states.

EXAMPLE 4. One can now see that the collection $\mathcal{B}$ of all circular regions in the plane generates the same topology as the collection $\mathcal{B}'$ of all rectangular regions, Figure 13 4 illustrates the proof We shall treat this example more formally when we study metric spaces

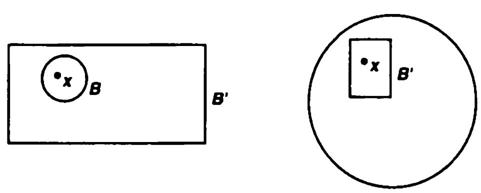

Figure 13.4

We now define three topologies on the real line $\mathbb{R}$, all of which are of interest.

Definition. If $\mathcal{B}$ is the collection of all open intervals in the real line,

$$(a, b) = \{x \mid a < x < b\},$$

the topology generated by $\mathcal{B}$ is called the ***standard topology*** on the real line. Whenever we consider $\mathbb{R}$, we shall suppose it is given this topology unless we specifically state otherwise. If $\mathcal{B}'$ is the collection of all half-open intervals of the form

$$[a, b) = \{x \mid a \le x < b\},$$

where $a < b$, the topology generated by $\mathcal{B}'$ is called the ***lower limit topology*** on $\mathbb{R}$. When $\mathbb{R}$ is given the lower limit topology, we denote it by $\mathbb{R}_\ell$. Finally let K denote the set of all numbers of the form $1/n$, for $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, and let $\mathcal{B}''$ be the collection of all open intervals (a, b), along with all sets of the form $(a, b) - K$. The topology generated by $\mathcal{B}''$ will be called the ***K-topology*** on $\mathbb{R}$. When $\mathbb{R}$ is given this topology, we denote it by $\mathbb{R}_K$.

It is easy to see that all three of these collections are bases; in each case, the intersection of two basis elements is either another basis element or is empty. The relation between these topologies is the following:

Lemma 13.4. *The topologies of $\mathbb{R}_\ell$ and $\mathbb{R}_K$ are strictly finer than the standard topology on $\mathbb{R}$, but are not comparable with one another.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{T}$, $\mathcal{T}'$, and $\mathcal{T}''$ be the topologies of $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{R}_\ell$, and $\mathbb{R}_K$, respectively. Given a basis element (a, b) for $\mathcal{T}$ and a point x of (a, b), the basis element $[x, b)$ for $\mathcal{T}'$ contains x and lies in (a, b). On the other hand, given the basis element $[x, d)$ for $\mathcal{T}'$, there is no open interval (a, b) that contains x and lies in $[x, d)$. Thus $\mathcal{T}'$ is strictly finer than $\mathcal{T}$

A similar argument applies to $\mathbb{R}_K$. Given a basis element (a, b) for $\mathcal{T}$ and a point x of (a, b), this same interval is a basis element for $\mathcal{T}''$ that contains x. On the other hand, given the basis element $B = (-1, 1) - K$ for $\mathcal{T}''$ and the point 0 of B, there is no open interval that contains 0 and lies in B.

We leave it to you to show that the topologies of $\mathbb{R}_\ell$ and $\mathbb{R}_K$ are not comparable. ∎

A question may occur to you at this point. Since the topology generated by a basis $\mathcal{B}$ may be described as the collection of arbitrary unions of elements of $\mathcal{B}$, what happens if you start with a given collection of sets and take finite intersections of them as well as arbitrary unions? This question leads to the notion of a subbasis for a topology

Definition. A ***subbasis*** $\mathcal{S}$ for a topology on X is a collection of subsets of X whose union equals X. The ***topology generated by the subbasis*** $\mathcal{S}$ is defined to be the collection $\mathcal{T}$ of all unions of finite intersections of elements of $\mathcal{S}$.

We must of course check that $\mathcal{T}$ is a topology. For this purpose it will suffice to show that the collection $\mathcal{B}$ of all finite intersections of elements of $\mathcal{S}$ is a basis, for then the collection $\mathcal{T}$ of all unions of elements of $\mathcal{B}$ is a topology, by Lemma 13.1. Given $x \in X$, it belongs to an element of $\mathcal{S}$ and hence to an element of $\mathcal{B}$; this is the first condition for a basis. To check the second condition, let

$$B_1 = S_1 \cap \cdots \cap S_m \quad \text{and} \quad B_2 = S'_1 \cap \cdots \cap S'_n$$

be two elements of $\mathcal{B}$. Their intersection

$$B_1 \cap B_2 = (S_1 \cap \cdots \cap S_m) \cap (S'_1 \cap \cdots \cap S'_n)$$

is also a finite intersection of elements of $\mathcal{S}$, so it belongs to $\mathcal{B}$.

Exercises

1. Let X be a topological space; let A be a subset of X. Suppose that for each $x \in A$ there is an open set U containing x such that $U \subset A$. Show that A is open in X
2. Consider the nine topologies on the set $X = \{a, b, c\}$ indicated in Example 1 of §12. Compare them; that is, for each pair of topologies, determine whether they are comparable, and if so, which is the finer.
3. Show that the collection $\mathcal{T}_c$ given in Example 4 of §12 is a topology on the set X. Is the collection
$$\mathcal{T}_\infty = \{U \mid X - U \text{ is infinite or empty or all of } X\}$$
a topology on X?
4. (a) If $\{\mathcal{T}_\alpha\}$ is a family of topologies on X, show that $\bigcap \mathcal{T}_\alpha$ is a topology on X. Is $\bigcup \mathcal{T}_\alpha$ a topology on X?
   (b) Let $\{\mathcal{T}_\alpha\}$ be a family of topologies on X. Show that there is a unique smallest topology on X containing all the collections $\mathcal{T}_\alpha$, and a unique largest topology contained in all $\mathcal{T}_\alpha$.
   (c) If $X = \{a, b, c\}$, let
$$\mathcal{T}_1 = \{\varnothing, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{T}_2 = \{\varnothing, X, \{a\}, \{b, c\}\}.$$
   Find the smallest topology containing $\mathcal{T}_1$ and $\mathcal{T}_2$, and the largest topology contained in $\mathcal{T}_1$ and $\mathcal{T}_2$.
5. Show that if $\mathcal{A}$ is a basis for a topology on X, then the topology generated by $\mathcal{A}$ equals the intersection of all topologies on X that contain $\mathcal{A}$. Prove the same if $\mathcal{A}$ is a subbasis.
6. Show that the topologies of $\mathbb{R}_\ell$ and $\mathbb{R}_K$ are not comparable.
7. Consider the following topologies on $\mathbb{R}$:
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_1 &= \text{the standard topology,} \\ \mathcal{T}_2 &= \text{the topology of } \mathbb{R}_K, \\ \mathcal{T}_3 &= \text{the finite complement topology,} \\ \mathcal{T}_4 &= \text{the upper limit topology, having all sets } (a, b] \text{ as basis,} \\ \mathcal{T}_5 &= \text{the topology having all sets } (-\infty, a) = \{x \mid x < a\} \text{ as basis.} \end{aligned}$$
Determine, for each of these topologies, which of the others it contains.
8. (a) Apply Lemma 13.2 to show that the countable collection
$$\mathcal{B} = \{(a, b) \mid a < b, a \text{ and } b \text{ rational}\}$$

is a basis that generates the standard topology on $\mathbb{R}$.

(b) Show that the collection

$$\mathcal{C} = \{[a, b) \mid a < b, a \text{ and } b \text{ rational}\}$$

is a basis that generates a topology different from the lower limit topology on $\mathbb{R}$.

§14 The Order Topology

If X is a simply ordered set, there is a standard topology for X, defined using the order relation. It is called the ***order topology***; in this section, we consider it and study some of its properties.

Suppose that X is a set having a simple order relation $<$. Given elements a and b of X such that $a < b$, there are four subsets of X that are called the ***intervals*** determined by a and b. They are the following :

$$(a, b) = \{x \mid a < x < b\},$$
$$(a, b] = \{x \mid a < x \leq b\},$$
$$[a, b) = \{x \mid a \leq x < b\},$$
$$[a, b] = \{x \mid a \leq x \leq b\}.$$

The notation used here is familiar to you already in the case where X is the real line, but these are intervals in an arbitrary ordered set. A set of the first type is called an ***open interval*** in X, a set of the last type is called a ***closed interval*** in X, and sets of the second and third types are called ***half-open intervals***. The use of the term "open" in this connection suggests that open intervals in X should turn out to be open sets when we put a topology on X. And so they will.

Definition. Let X be a set with a simple order relation; assume X has more than one element. Let $\mathcal{B}$ be the collection of all sets of the following types:

(1) All open intervals (a, b) in X.

(2) All intervals of the form $[a_0, b)$, where a_0 is the smallest element (if any) of X.

(3) All intervals of the form $(a, b_0]$, where b_0 is the largest element (if any) of X.

The collection $\mathcal{B}$ is a basis for a topology on X, which is called the ***order topology***.

If X has no smallest element, there are no sets of type (2), and if X has no largest element, there are no sets of type (3).

One has to check that $\mathcal{B}$ satisfies the requirements for a basis. First, note that every element x of X lies in at least one element of $\mathcal{B}$: The smallest element (if any) lies in all sets of type (2), the largest element (if any) lies in all sets of type (3), and every other element lies in a set of type (1). Second, note that the intersection of any two sets of the preceding types is again a set of one of these types, or is empty. Several cases need to be checked; we leave it to you.

EXAMPLE 1 The standard topology on $\mathbb{R}$, as defined in the preceding section, is just the order topology derived from the usual order on $\mathbb{R}$.

EXAMPLE 2. Consider the set $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ in the dictionary order; we shall denote the general element of $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ by $x \times y$, to avoid difficulty with notation The set $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ has neither a largest nor a smallest element, so the order topology on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ has as basis the collection of all open intervals of the form $(a \times b, c \times d)$ for $a < c$, and for $a = c$ and $b < d$. These two types of intervals are indicated in Figure 14.1. The subcollection consisting of only intervals of the second type is also a basis for the order topology on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$, as you can check

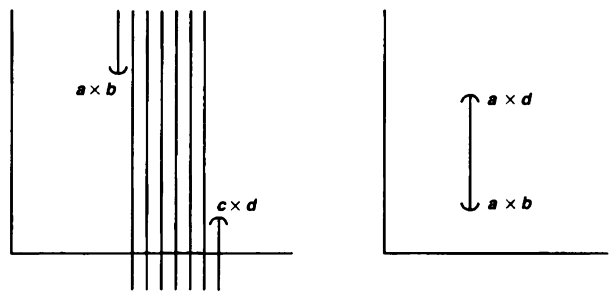

Figure 14.1

EXAMPLE 3 The positive integers $\mathbb{Z}_+$ form an ordered set with a smallest element. The order topology on $\mathbb{Z}_+$ is the discrete topology, for every one-point set is open If $n > 1$, then the one-point set $\{n\} = (n-1, n+1)$ is a basis element; and if $n = 1$, the one-point set $\{1\} = [1, 2)$ is a basis element.

EXAMPLE 4 The set $X = \{1, 2\} \times \mathbb{Z}_+$ in the dictionary order is another example of an ordered set with a smallest element Denoting $1 \times n$ by a_n and $2 \times n$ by b_n, we can represent X by

$$a_1, a_2, \ldots ; b_1, b_2, \ldots$$

The order topology on X is *not* the discrete topology. Most one-point sets are open, but there is an exception—the one-point set $\{b_1\}$. Any open set containing b_1 must contain a basis element about b_1 (by definition), and any basis element containing b_1 contains points of the a_i sequence.

Definition. If X is an ordered set, and a is an element of X, there are four subsets of X that are called the ***rays*** determined by a They are the following:

$$(a, +\infty) = \{x \mid x > a\},$$
$$(-\infty, a) = \{x \mid x < a\},$$
$$[a, +\infty) = \{x \mid x \geq a\},$$
$$(-\infty, a] = \{x \mid x \leq a\}.$$

Sets of the first two types are called ***open rays***, and sets of the last two types are called ***closed rays***.

The use of the term "open" suggests that open rays in X are open sets in the order topology. And so they are. Consider, for example, the ray $(a, +\infty)$. If X has a largest element b_0, then $(a, +\infty)$ equals the basis element $(a, b_0]$. If X has no largest element, then $(a, +\infty)$ equals the union of all basis elements of the form (a, x), for $x > a$. In either case, $(a, +\infty)$ is open. A similar argument applies to the ray $(-\infty, a)$.

The open rays, in fact, form a subbasis for the order topology on X, as we now show Because the open rays are open in the order topology, the topology they generate is contained in the order topology. On the other hand, every basis element for the order topology equals a finite intersection of open rays; the interval (a, b) equals the intersection of $(-\infty, b)$ and $(a, +\infty)$, while $[a_0, b)$ and $(a, b_0]$, if they exist, are themselves open rays. Hence the topology generated by the open rays contains the order topology

§15 The Product Topology on $X \times Y$

If X and Y are topological spaces, there is a standard way of defining a topology on the cartesian product $X \times Y$. We consider this topology now and study some of its properties.

Definition. Let X and Y be topological spaces. The ***product topology*** on $X \times Y$ is the topology having as basis the collection $\mathcal{B}$ of all sets of the form $U \times V$, where U is an open subset of X and V is an open subset of Y.

Let us check that $\mathcal{B}$ is a basis. The first condition is trivial, since $X \times Y$ is itself a basis element. The second condition is almost as easy, since the intersection of any two basis elements $U_1 \times V_1$ and $U_2 \times V_2$ is another basis element. For

$$(U_1 \times V_1) \cap (U_2 \times V_2) = (U_1 \cap U_2) \times (V_1 \cap V_2),$$

and the latter set is a basis element because $U_1 \cap U_2$ and $V_1 \cap V_2$ are open in X and Y, respectively. See Figure 15.1.

Note that the collection $\mathcal{B}$ is not a topology on $X \times Y$. The union of the two rectangles pictured in Figure 15.1, for instance, is not a product of two sets, so it cannot belong to $\mathcal{B}$; however, it is open in $X \times Y$.

Each time we introduce a new concept, we shall try to relate it to the concepts that have been previously introduced. In the present case, we ask: What can one say if the topologies on X and Y are given by bases? The answer is as follows:

Theorem 15.1. *If $\mathcal{B}$ is a basis for the topology of X and $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis for the topology of Y, then the collection*

$$\mathcal{D} = \{B \times C \mid B \in \mathcal{B} \text{ and } C \in \mathcal{C}\}$$

is a basis for the topology of $X \times Y$

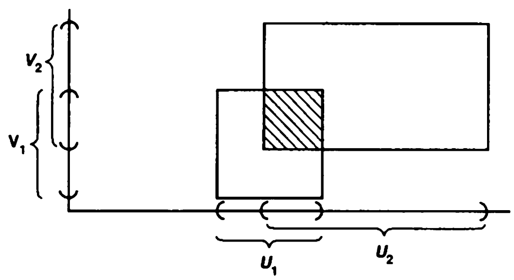

Figure 15.1

Proof. We apply Lemma 13.2. Given an open set W of $X \times Y$ and a point $x \times y$ of W, by definition of the product topology there is a basis element $U \times V$ such that $x \times y \in U \times V \subset W$. Because $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ are bases for X and Y, respectively, we can choose an element B of $\mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B \subset U$, and an element C of $\mathcal{C}$ such that $y \in C \subset V$. Then $x \times y \in B \times C \subset W$. Thus the collection $\mathcal{D}$ meets the criterion of Lemma 13.2, so $\mathcal{D}$ is a basis for $X \times Y$. ∎

EXAMPLE 1. We have a standard topology on $\mathbb{R}$: the order topology The product of this topology with itself is called the ***standard topology*** on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^2$. It has as basis the collection of all products of open sets of $\mathbb{R}$, but the theorem just proved tells us that the much smaller collection of all products $(a, b) \times (c, d)$ of open intervals in $\mathbb{R}$ will also serve as a basis for the topology of $\mathbb{R}^2$ Each such set can be pictured as the interior of a rectangle in $\mathbb{R}^2$. Thus the standard topology on $\mathbb{R}^2$ is just the one we considered in Example 2 of §13

It is sometimes useful to express the product topology in terms of a subbasis. To do this, we first define certain functions called projections.

Definition. Let $\pi_1 . X \times Y \to X$ be defined by the equation

$$\pi_1(x, y) = x;$$

let $\pi_2 : X \times Y \to Y$ be defined by the equation

$$\pi_2(x, y) = y.$$

The maps π_1 and π_2 are called the ***projections*** of $X \times Y$ onto its first and second factors, respectively.

We use the word "onto" because π_1 and π_2 are surjective (unless one of the spaces X or Y happens to be empty, in which case $X \times Y$ is empty and our whole discussion is empty as well!).

If U is an open subset of X, then the set $\pi_1^{-1}(U)$ is precisely the set $U \times Y$, which is open in $X \times Y$. Similarly, if V is open in Y, then

$$\pi_2^{-1}(V) = X \times V,$$

which is also open in $X \times Y$. The intersection of these two sets is the set $U \times V$, as indicated in Figure 15.2. This fact leads to the following theorem:

Theorem 15.2. *The collection*

$$\mathcal{S} = \{\pi_1^{-1}(U) \mid U \text{ open in } X\} \cup \{\pi_2^{-1}(V) \mid V \text{ open in } Y\}$$

is a subbasis for the product topology on $X \times Y$.

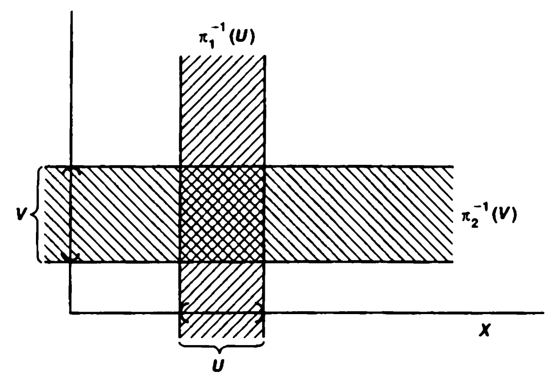

Figure 15.2

Proof. Let $\mathcal{T}$ denote the product topology on $X \times Y$, let $\mathcal{T}'$ be the topology generated by $\mathcal{S}$. Because every element of $\mathcal{S}$ belongs to $\mathcal{T}$, so do arbitrary unions of finite intersections of elements of $\mathcal{S}$. Thus $\mathcal{T}' \subset \mathcal{T}$. On the other hand, every basis element $U \times V$ for the topology $\mathcal{T}$ is a finite intersection of elements of $\mathcal{S}$, since

$$U \times V = \pi_1^{-1}(U) \cap \pi_2^{-1}(V).$$

Therefore, $U \times V$ belongs to $\mathcal{T}'$, so that $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{T}'$ as well ■

§16 The Subspace Topology

Definition. Let X be a topological space with topology $\mathcal{T}$. If Y is a subset of X, the collection

$$\mathcal{T}_Y = \{Y \cap U \mid U \in \mathcal{T}\}$$

is a topology on Y, called the ***subspace topology***. With this topology, Y is called a ***subspace*** of X; its open sets consist of all intersections of open sets of X with Y.

It is easy to see that $\mathcal{T}_Y$ is a topology. It contains $\varnothing$ and Y because

$$\varnothing = Y \cap \varnothing \quad \text{and} \quad Y = Y \cap X,$$

where $\varnothing$ and X are elements of $\mathcal{T}$. The fact that it is closed under finite intersections and arbitrary unions follows from the equations

$$(U_1 \cap Y) \cap \cdots \cap (U_n \cap Y) = (U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_n) \cap Y,$$
$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in J} (U_\alpha \cap Y) = \left(\bigcup_{\alpha \in J} U_\alpha\right) \cap Y.$$

Lemma 16.1. *If $\mathcal{B}$ is a basis for the topology of X then the collection*

$$\mathcal{B}_Y = \{B \cap Y \mid B \in \mathcal{B}\}$$

is a basis for the subspace topology on Y.

Proof. Given U open in X and given $y \in U \cap Y$, we can choose an element B of $\mathcal{B}$ such that $y \in B \subset U$. Then $y \in B \cap Y \subset U \cap Y$. It follows from Lemma 13.2 that $\mathcal{B}_Y$ is a basis for the subspace topology on Y. ■

When dealing with a space X and a subspace Y, one needs to be careful when one uses the term "open set". Does one mean an element of the topology of Y or an element of the topology of X? We make the following definition : If Y is a subspace of X, we say that a set U is ***open in Y*** (or open *relative to* Y) if it belongs to the topology of Y; this implies in particular that it is a subset of Y. We say that U is ***open in X*** if it belongs to the topology of X

There is a special situation in which every set open in Y is also open in X.

Lemma 16.2. *Let Y be a subspace of X. If U is open in Y and Y is open in X, then U is open in X.*

Proof. Since U is open in Y, $U = Y \cap V$ for some set V open in X. Since Y and V are both open in X, so is $Y \cap V$ ■

Now let us explore the relation between the subspace topology and the order and product topologies For product topologies, the result is what one might expect; for order topologies, it is not.

Theorem 16.3. *If A is a subspace of X and B is a subspace of Y, then the product topology on $A \times B$ is the same as the topology $A \times B$ inherits as a subspace of $X \times Y$.*

Proof. The set $U \times V$ is the general basis element for $X \times Y$, where U is open in X and V is open in Y. Therefore, $(U \times V) \cap (A \times B)$ is the general basis element for the subspace topology on $A \times B$. Now

$$(U \times V) \cap (A \times B) = (U \cap A) \times (V \cap B).$$

Since $U \cap A$ and $V \cap B$ are the general open sets for the subspace topologies on A and B, respectively, the set $(U \cap A) \times (V \cap B)$ is the general basis element for the product topology on $A \times B$.

The conclusion we draw is that the bases for the subspace topology on $A \times B$ and for the product topology on $A \times B$ are the same. Hence the topologies are the same. ∎

Now let X be an ordered set in the order topology, and let Y be a subset of X. The order relation on X, when restricted to Y, makes Y into an ordered set. However, *the resulting order topology on Y need not be the same as the topology that Y inherits as a subspace of X.* We give one example where the subspace and order topologies on Y agree, and two examples where they do not.

EXAMPLE 1 Consider the subset $Y = [0, 1]$ of the real line $\mathbb{R}$, in the ***subspace*** topology. The subspace topology has as basis all sets of the form $(a, b) \cap Y$, where (a, b) is an open interval in $\mathbb{R}$ Such a set is of one of the following types:

$$(a, b) \cap Y = \begin{cases} (a, b) & \text{if } a \text{ and } b \text{ are in } Y, \\ [0, b) & \text{if only } b \text{ is in } Y, \\ (a, 1] & \text{if only } a \text{ is in } Y, \\ Y \text{ or } \varnothing & \text{if neither } a \text{ nor } b \text{ is in } Y. \end{cases}$$

By definition, each of these sets is open in Y But sets of the second and third types are not open in the larger space $\mathbb{R}$.

Note that these sets form a basis for the ***order*** topology on Y Thus, we see that in the case of the set $Y = [0, 1]$, its subspace topology (as a subspace of $\mathbb{R}$) and its order topology are the same.

EXAMPLE 2 Let Y be the subset $[0, 1) \cup \{2\}$ of $\mathbb{R}$. In the subspace topology on Y the one-point set $\{2\}$ is open, because it is the intersection of the open set $(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2})$ with Y But in the order topology on Y, the set $\{2\}$ is not open. Any basis element for the order topology on Y that contains 2 is of the form

$$\{x \mid x \in Y \text{ and } a < x \leq 2\}$$

for some $a \in Y$, such a set necessarily contains points of Y less than 2

EXAMPLE 3 Let $I = [0, 1]$ The dictionary order on $I \times I$ is just the restriction to $I \times I$ of the dictionary order on the plane $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$. However, the dictionary order topology on $I \times I$ is not the same as the subspace topology on $I \times I$ obtained from the dictionary order topology on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$! For example, the set $\{1/2\} \times (1/2, 1]$ is open in $I \times I$ in the subspace topology, but not in the order topology, as you can check. See Figure 16.1.

The set $I \times I$ in the dictionary order topology will be called the ***ordered square***, and denoted by I_o^2.

The anomaly illustrated in Examples 2 and 3 does not occur for intervals or rays in an ordered set X. This we now prove.

Given an ordered set X, let us say that a subset Y of X is ***convex*** in X if for each pair of points $a < b$ of Y, the entire interval (a, b) of points of X lies in Y. Note that intervals and rays in X are convex in X.

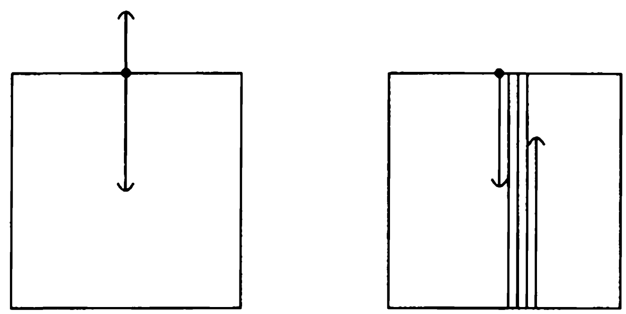

Figure 16.1

Theorem 16.4. *Let X be an ordered set in the order topology; let Y be a subset of X that is convex in X Then the order topology on Y is the same as the topology Y inherits as a subspace of X.*

Proof. Consider the ray $(a, +\infty)$ in X. What is its intersection with Y? If $a \in Y$, then

$$(a, +\infty) \cap Y = \{x \mid x \in Y \text{ and } x > a\};$$

this is an open ray of the ordered set Y. If $a \notin Y$, then a is either a lower bound on Y or an upper bound on Y, since Y is convex. In the former case, the set $(a, +\infty) \cap Y$ equals all of Y; in the latter case, it is empty.

A similar remark shows that the intersection of the ray $(-\infty, a)$ with Y is either an open ray of Y, or Y itself, or empty. Since the sets $(a, +\infty) \cap Y$ and $(-\infty, a) \cap Y$ form a subbasis for the subspace topology on Y, and since each is open in the order topology, the order topology contains the subspace topology.

To prove the reverse, note that any open ray of Y equals the intersection of an open ray of X with Y, so it is open in the subspace topology on Y. Since the open rays of Y are a subbasis for the order topology on Y, this topology is contained in the subspace topology. ∎

To avoid ambiguity, let us agree that whenever X is an ordered set in the order topology and Y is a subset of X, *we shall assume that Y is given the subspace topology* unless we specifically state otherwise. If Y is convex in X, this is the same as the order topology on Y, otherwise, it may not be.

Exercises

1. Show that if Y is a subspace of X, and A is a subset of Y, then the topology A

inherits as a subspace of Y is the same as the topology it inherits as a subspace of X.

2. If $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}'$ are topologies on X and $\mathcal{T}'$ is strictly finer than $\mathcal{T}$, what can you say about the corresponding subspace topologies on the subset Y of X?
3. Consider the set $Y = [-1, 1]$ as a subspace of $\mathbb{R}$. Which of the following sets are open in Y? Which are open in $\mathbb{R}$?
$$A = \{x \mid \tfrac{1}{2} < |x| < 1\},$$
$$B = \{x \mid \tfrac{1}{2} < |x| \leq 1\},$$
$$C = \{x \mid \tfrac{1}{2} \leq |x| < 1\},$$
$$D = \{x \mid \tfrac{1}{2} \leq |x| \leq 1\},$$
$$E = \{x \mid 0 < |x| < 1 \text{ and } 1/x \notin \mathbb{Z}_+\}.$$
4. A map $f : X \to Y$ is said to be an ***open map*** if for every open set U of X, the set $f(U)$ is open in Y. Show that $\pi_1 : X \times Y \to X$ and $\pi_2 : X \times Y \to Y$ are open maps.
5. Let X and X' denote a single set in the topologies $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}'$, respectively; let Y and Y' denote a single set in the topologies $\mathcal{U}$ and $\mathcal{U}'$, respectively. Assume these sets are nonempty.
   (a) Show that if $\mathcal{T}' \supset \mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{U}' \supset \mathcal{U}$, then the product topology on $X' \times Y'$ is finer than the product topology on $X \times Y$.
   (b) Does the converse of (a) hold? Justify your answer.
6. Show that the countable collection
$$\{(a, b) \times (c, d) \mid a < b \text{ and } c < d, \text{ and } a, b, c, d \text{ are rational}\}$$
is a basis for $\mathbb{R}^2$.
7. Let X be an ordered set. If Y is a proper subset of X that is convex in X, does it follow that Y is an interval or a ray in X?
8. If L is a straight line in the plane, describe the topology L inherits as a subspace of $\mathbb{R}_\ell \times \mathbb{R}$ and as a subspace of $\mathbb{R}_\ell \times \mathbb{R}_\ell$. In each case it is a familiar topology.
9. Show that the dictionary order topology on the set $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ is the same as the product topology $\mathbb{R}_d \times \mathbb{R}$, where $\mathbb{R}_d$ denotes $\mathbb{R}$ in the discrete topology. Compare this topology with the standard topology on $\mathbb{R}^2$.
10. Let $I = [0, 1]$. Compare the product topology on $I \times I$, the dictionary order topology on $I \times I$, and the topology $I \times I$ inherits as a subspace of $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ in the dictionary order topology.

§17 Closed Sets and Limit Points

Now that we have a few examples at hand, we can introduce some of the basic concepts associated with topological spaces. In this section, we treat the notions of *closed set*,