

Definition: A **topological space** is a set, X , together with a collection, $\mathcal{T}$, of subsets of X , called “open” sets, which satisfy the following rules:

T1. The set X itself is “open”

T2. The empty set is “open”

T3. Arbitrary unions of “open” sets are “open”

T4. Finite intersections of “open” sets are “open”

Definition: A function $f : S \rightarrow T$ from one topological space to another is **continuous** if the preimage $f^{-1}(Q)$ of every open set $Q \subset T$ is an open set in S .

If T is any topological space (for example, $\mathbf{R}^n$), and $S \subset T$ is any subset of T , then the **subspace topology**¹ on S is defined as follows: A subset of S is said to be open (in the subspace topology) if it is the intersection of S with an open set in T . With these open sets, S becomes a topological space in its own right, and we refer to S as a **subspace** of T .

Topological Spaces

MATH 348

1. Find all possible topologies on $X = \{a, b\}$.

$$\tau_1 = \{\{a, b\}, \emptyset\} \quad \text{indiscrete topology}$$

$$\tau_2 = \{\{a, b\}, \emptyset, \{a\}\}$$

$$\tau_4 = \{\{a, b\}, \emptyset, \{b\}\}$$

$$\tau_3 = \{\{a, b\}, \emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}\} \quad \text{discrete topology}$$

2. Find all topologies on $X = \{a, b, c\}$ that contain $\{a\}$ and $\{b\}$ as open sets.

$$\tau_1 = \{X, \emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}\}$$

$$\tau_2 = \{X, \emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}\} \quad \text{discrete topology}$$

$$\tau_3 = \{X, \emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}\}$$

$$\tau_4 = \{X, \emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}\}$$

3. Give an example of a topology on $\mathbb{R}$ with...

(a) ...exactly three open sets. $\{\emptyset, \{0\}, \mathbb{R}\}$

(b) ...exactly five open sets.

$$\{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \quad a \neq b$$

4. Is it possible for a topological space to have exactly one open set?

Yes, if $X = \emptyset$. Then the topology is: $\{\emptyset\}$.

5. Let $X = \mathbb{R}$. Which of the following collections of sets form topologies on X ?

(a) $\tau_1 = \{(a, \infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R}\} \cup \{\emptyset, \mathbb{R}\}$ Yes!

(b) $\tau_2 = \{[a, \infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R}\} \cup \{\emptyset, \mathbb{R}\}$ No - it doesn't satisfy union property

(c) $\tau_3 = \{S \subset \mathbb{R} \mid 0 \in S\} \cup \{\emptyset\}$ Yes!

(d) $\tau_4 = \{S \subset \mathbb{R} \mid S \text{ contains either } 0 \text{ or } 1\} \cup \{\emptyset\}$ NO.

(e) $\tau_5 = \{(a, b) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ No.

$$\mathbb{R} \notin \tau_5$$

$$\text{also, } (0, 1) \cup (2, 3) \notin \tau_5$$



$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} [\frac{1}{i}, \infty) = (0, \infty) \notin \tau_2$$

$$\text{consider } \{0, 3\} \cap \{1, 3\} = \{3\} \notin \tau_4$$

6. Consider the space $X = \{a, b, c\}$ with topology $\tau = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$. Which of the following functions are continuous in this topology?

(a) $f: X \rightarrow X$ defined by $f(a) = b$, $f(b) = c$, and $f(c) = a$ NO: $f^{-1}(\{a\}) = \{c\}$ not open!

(b) $g: X \rightarrow X$ defined by $g(a) = b$, $g(b) = a$, and $g(c) = c$

$$f^{-1}(\{b\}) = \{a\} \text{ is open}$$

$$g^{-1}(\{a\}) = \{b\}$$

$$g^{-1}(\{a, b, c\}) = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$g^{-1}(\{b\}) = \{a\}$$

$$g^{-1}(\emptyset) = \emptyset$$

So g is continuous in this topology

$$g^{-1}(\{a, b\}) = \{a, b\}$$

7. State another continuous function $h : X \rightarrow X$ for the topological space in problem #6.

$h(a)=a, h(b)=b, h(c)=c$ — the identity function

or

$h(x)=a$ for $x \in X$

—— class ended here ——

8. Consider the topology $\mathcal{T}_1$ in problem #5. Which of the following functions are continuous?

(a) $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x) = 2x$

(b) $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $g(x) = -x$

to be
continued...

9. Give several examples of continuous functions on the topological space $\mathcal{T}_3$ in problem #5.

10. Let X be a topological space, and let $Y \subset X$ have the subspace topology.

(a) If A is open in Y , and Y is open in X , show that A is open in X .

(b) If A is closed in Y , and Y is closed in X , show that A is closed in X .

11. Consider the following subsets of $\mathbb{R}$ with the subspace topology.

(a) Let $K = \{\frac{1}{n} \in \mathbb{R} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$. Show that the subspace topology on K is the discrete topology.

(b) Let $K^* = K \cup \{0\}$. Show that the subspace topology on K is not the discrete topology.