

Trial exam

Spring 2020

1 Let $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$.

Which of the following collections of subsets of X is *not* a topology on X ?

Select one alternative:

- $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, \{b, c, d\}, \{d\}, X\}$
- $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, b, d\}, \{a, d\}, \{d\}, X\}$
- $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, d\}, \{b, c, d\}, X\}$
- $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c, d\}, X\}$

Solution: The collection

$$\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, d\}, \{b, c, d\}, X\}$$

is *not* a topology on X as T2 is not satisfied: the intersection of the open sets $\{a, b, c\}$ and $\{b, c, d\}$ is not an open set as $\{a, b, c\} \cap \{b, c, d\} = \{b, c\} \notin \mathcal{T}$. (Similarly, $\{a, d\} \cap \{b, c, d\} \notin \mathcal{T}$.)

2 Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ and let $\mathcal{T} = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b, c\}, \{b, c\}, X\}$ be a topology on X .

Which of the following statements is false?

Select one alternative:

- The closure of $\{e\}$, $\overline{\{e\}}$, is equal to $\{d, e\}$.
- The interior of $\{d, e\}$, $\text{Int}(\{d, e\})$, is equal to the empty set \emptyset .
- X is Hausdorff.
- X is compact.

Solution: Since the points b and c are not separated by disjoint open sets, X is *not* Hausdorff. (The same argument applies to b and d , b and e , c and d , c and e , and d and e .)

3 Let X be a topological space, and let \mathcal{B} be a basis for the topology on X . Furthermore, let A be a subset of X .

Show that $x \in \overline{A}$ if and only if $B \cap A \neq \emptyset$ for every basis element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ where $x \in B$.

(Here \overline{A} denotes the closure of A .)

Solution: This is essentially the same problem as Exercise 3.6 in [lecture notes](#). We first show that $x \notin \overline{A}$ if and only if there is no neighborhood U of x such that $U \cap A = \emptyset$.

Let $x \notin \overline{A}$. Then $x \in \overline{A}^c = X \setminus \overline{A}$. Since \overline{A}^c is open in X , \overline{A}^c is a neighborhood of x such that $\overline{A}^c \cap A = \emptyset$.

For the other implication assume that there is a neighborhood U of x such that $U \cap A = \emptyset$. Since U is open in X , U^c is closed in X , and $A \subseteq U^c$. Thus as the closure of A is the smallest closed subset of X that contains A , it follows that $\overline{A} \subseteq U^c$. Hence, $x \notin \overline{A}$.

From what we have just proved it follows that $x \in \overline{A}$ if and only if there is a neighborhood U of x such that $U \cap A \neq \emptyset$. Since each basis element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ is open in X , and for each neighborhood U of x there is a basis element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B \subseteq U$, we have $x \in \overline{A}$ if and only if there is a basis element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $B \cap A \neq \emptyset$ and $x \in B$.

- 4 Let \mathbb{R} be the set of real numbers equipped with the standard topology, and consider the set of rational numbers \mathbb{Q} as a subspace of \mathbb{R} .

Show that the subset $A = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} \mid -\sqrt{5} < x < \sqrt{5}\}$ of \mathbb{Q} is both open and closed in \mathbb{Q} .

Solution: Since the open interval $(-\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5})$ is open in \mathbb{R} and $A = (-\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5}) \cap \mathbb{Q}$, it follows that A is open in the subspace topology on \mathbb{Q} . Similarly, since the closed interval $[-\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5}]$ is closed in \mathbb{R} and $A = [-\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5}] \cap \mathbb{Q}$, it follows that A is closed in the subspace topology on \mathbb{Q} .

- 5 Let $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$ be given the topology $\mathcal{T}_X = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, c, d\}, \{c, d\}, X\}$, and let $Y = \{1, 2, 3\}$ be given the topology $\mathcal{T}_Y = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{1, 3\}, Y\}$.

Find a basis for the product topology on $X \times Y$ expressed using bases for the topologies on X and Y , respectively.

Solution: Note that $\mathcal{B}_X = \{\{a\}, \{c, d\}, X\}$ is a basis for \mathcal{T}_X , and that $\mathcal{B}_Y = \{\{1\}, \{1, 3\}, Y\}$ is a basis for \mathcal{T}_Y . Then by Theorem 5.8 in the [lecture notes](#), it follows that

$$\mathcal{B}_{X \times Y} = \{B_X \times B_Y \mid B_X \in \mathcal{B}_X \text{ and } B_Y \in \mathcal{B}_Y\}$$

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

- 6 Let X be a topological space, and consider $I = [0, 1]$ as a subspace of \mathbb{R} where \mathbb{R} is given the standard topology. Furthermore, let the *cone on X* be the quotient space $CX = X \times I / \sim$, where \sim is the equivalence relation on the product space $X \times I$ given by $(x, 0) \sim (x', 0)$ for all $x, x' \in X$.

Show that CX is path connected.

Solution: Denote by $[x, t]$ the equivalence class of (x, t) , and let v denote the vertex of CX , i.e., v is the point corresponding to $[X, 0]$. Then for any $x \in X$ and any $t > 0$, there is a path $f: I \rightarrow X \times I$ given by

$$f(s) = (x, (1 - s)t).$$

In other words, f is a path in $X \times I$ from (x, t) to $(x, 0)$. Thus $\pi \circ f: I \rightarrow CX$ is a path in CX from $[x, t]$ to v . Hence, CX is path connected.

- 7 Let X be a topological space, and let A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n be subspaces of X each of which is compact in X .

Show that $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ is compact in X .

Solution: Let \mathcal{A} be an open cover of $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$, i.e.,

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \subseteq \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{A}} U.$$

We must show that \mathcal{A} has a finite subcover.

Note that $A_i \subseteq \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{A}} U$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Hence, \mathcal{A} is an open cover of each A_i . Since each A_i is compact in X , there is a finite subcover \mathcal{A}_i of \mathcal{A} that covers A_i . Thus

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{A}_i$$

is a finite subcover of the open cover \mathcal{A} . Hence, $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ is compact in X .

8 Let X be a contractible space.

Show that X is path connected.

Solution: Let $a, b \in X$. Since X is contractible there is a homotopy $H: X \times I \rightarrow X$ such that

$$H(x, 0) = x$$

and

$$H(x, 1) = c$$

for all $x \in X$ for some fixed point $c \in X$. Then the map $\alpha: I \rightarrow X$ given by $\alpha(t) = H(a, t)$ is a path in X from $\alpha(0) = a$ to $\alpha(1) = c$. Similarly, the map $\beta: I \rightarrow X$ given by $\beta(t) = H(b, t)$ is a path in X from $\beta(0) = b$ to $\beta(1) = c$. Thus a, b and c are all joined by paths. Hence, X is path connected.

9 Let B be a Hausdorff space, and let E be a topological space.

Show that if $p: E \rightarrow B$ is a covering map, then E must be Hausdorff.

Solution: Let e and e' be two distinct points in E , i.e., $e \neq e'$. If $p(e) \neq p(e')$, there are, by assumption that B is Hausdorff, disjoint open subsets U and U' in X such that $p(e) \in U$ and $p(e') \in U'$. Then $p^{-1}(U)$ and $p^{-1}(U')$ are disjoint neighborhoods of e and e' , respectively.

Let U be a neighborhood of $p(e)$ that is evenly covered by p , i.e.,

$$p^{-1}(U) = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} V_\lambda$$

where V_λ is open in E , and $p|_{V_\lambda}: V_\lambda \rightarrow U$ is a homeomorphism for each $\lambda \in \Lambda$. If $p(e) = p(e')$, then there are distinct indices λ_1 and λ_2 in Λ such that $e \in V_{\lambda_1}$ and $e' \in V_{\lambda_2}$.

Hence, E is Hausdorff.

10 Let n be an integer that is greater than or equal to 3, and let $D^n = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2} \leq 1\}$ be considered as a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n where \mathbb{R}^n is given the standard topology.

Show that the inclusion map $i: D^n \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow D^n$ induces an isomorphism of fundamental groups. (Here 0 denotes the origin in \mathbb{R}^n .)

You may assume as a known fact that the m -sphere S^m is simply connected where S^m is considered as a subspace of \mathbb{R}^{m+1} and m is an integer that is greater than or equal to 2.

Solution: Since D^n is contractible, and $D^n \setminus \{0\}$ is a deformation retract of S^{n-1} (the homotopy $H: D^n \times I \rightarrow D^n$ given by

$$H(x, t) = tx + (1-t)\frac{x}{\|x\|}, \quad x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n), \quad \|x\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2},$$

is a deformation retraction of D^n onto S^{n-1}), it follows that for any $d_0 \in D^n \setminus \{0\}$, we have

$$\pi_1(D^n \setminus \{0\}, d_0) \cong 0$$

and

$$\pi_1(D^n, d_0) \cong 0$$

where 0 denotes the trivial group and where we have used the fact that S^{n-1} is simply connected. Hence, the induced homomorphism $i_*: \pi_1(D^n \setminus \{0\}, d_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(D^n, d_0)$ is an isomorphism for each $d_0 \in D^n \setminus \{0\}$.