

Introduction to Topology

Chapter 4. Countability and Separation Axioms

Section 33. The Urysohn Lemma—Proofs of Theorems

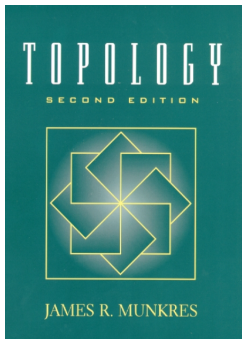


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Proof. Without loss of generality, we take $[a, b] = [0, 1]$. We use normality to construct a nested family of open sets which is indexed by the rational numbers in $[0, 1]$. Continuous f is then defined using the sets. We follow Munkres' four steps.

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Step 1. let $P = [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$. Since P is countable, there is mapping $N : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ which is a bijection. Take $N(1) = 1$ and $N(2) = 0$. We now define indexed sets $U_{N(p)}$ for $p \in P$.

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Theorem 33.1 (continued 1)

Proof (continued). In general, let $P_n = \{N(1), N(2), \dots, N(n)\}$ and suppose for $p, q \in P_n$ with $p < q$, we have already defined open U_p, U_q with $\overline{U_p} \subset U_q$. We now inductively define $U_{N(n+1)}$. Let $N(n+1) = r$ and $P_{n+1} = P_n \cup \{N(n+1)\} = P \cup \{r\}$. Now $r \neq 0, 1$ and so r has an immediate predecessor in P_{n+1} , say p , and an immediate successor in P_{n+1} , say q (this follows from Theorem 10.1). Since $p, q \in P_n$ then we are supposing that U_p and U_q are already defined with $\overline{U_p} \subset U_q$. By the normality of X , there is open $U_r \subset X$ such that $\overline{U_p} \subset U_r$ and $\overline{U_r} \subset U_q$ by Lemma 31.1(b).

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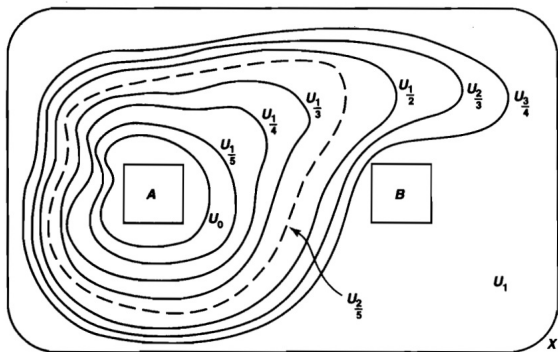


Figure 33.1

Step 2. In this step, we extend the definition to U_p from $p \in [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$ to all of \mathbb{Q} by setting $U_p = \emptyset$ if $p < 0$ and $U_p = X$ if $p > 1$. We still have $p < q$ implying $\overline{U_p} \subset U_q$ for all $p, q \in \mathbb{Q}$.

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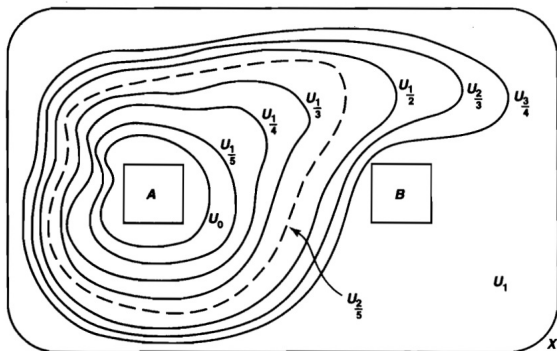


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Theorem 33.1 (continued 3)

Proof (continued).

Step 3. We now define f . For $x \in X$ define $\mathbb{Q}(x) = \{p \in \mathbb{Q} \mid x \in U_p\}$ where U_p is as defined above. Since $U_p = \emptyset$ for $p < 0$, for all $x \in X$ the set $\mathbb{Q}(x)$ contains no rationals less than 0. Since $U_p = X$ for $p > 1$, then all $x \in X$ are in U_p for $p > 1$. So $\mathbb{Q}(x)$ is bounded below and so has a greatest lower bound in $[0, 1]$.

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Proof (continued). Now to show f is continuous. We first prove two things:

(1) If $x \in \bar{U}_r$ then $f(x) \leq r$.

(2) If $x \notin U_r$ then $f(x) \geq r$.

To prove (1), note that if $x \in \bar{U}_r$ then $x \in U_s$ for every $s > r$ (by the construction of the U_p in Step 1). Therefore $\mathbb{Q}(x)$ contains all rationals greater than r and so $f(x) = \inf \mathbb{Q}(x) \leq r$ for $x \in \bar{U}_r$.

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Now given $x_0 \in X$ and open interval $(c, d) \subset \mathbb{R}$ containing $f(x_0)$, choose rational p and q such that $c < p < f(x_0) < q < d$. Consider $U = U_q \setminus \overline{Q}_p$. We have $f(x_0) < q$ so by the contrapositive of condition (2) we have that $x_0 \in U_q$.

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Theorem 33.1 (continued 5)

Theorem 33.1. The Urysohn Lemma.

Let X be a normal space. Let A and B be disjoint closed subsets of X . Let $[a, b]$ be a closed interval in the real line. Then there exists a continuous map $f : X \rightarrow [a, b]$ such that $f(x) = a$ for every $x \in A$, and $f(x) = b$ for every $x \in B$.

Proof (continued). Let $x \in U$. Then $x \in U_q \subset \overline{U}_q$ so that $f(x) \leq q$ by condition (1). Since $x_0 \notin \overline{U}_p$ then $x_0 \notin U_p$ and $f(x) \geq p$ by condition (2). Therefore, $f(x) \in [p, q] \subset (c, d)$. So $f(U) \subset (c, d)$ and $U = U_q \setminus \overline{U}_p = U_q \cap (X \setminus \overline{U}_p)$ is an open set containing x_0 such that $f(U) \subset (c, d)$. So f is continuous at arbitrary point $x_0 \in X$ and f is the desired function. □

Theorem 33.1 (continued 5)

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Theorem 33.2

Theorem 33.2. A subspace of a completely regular space is completely regular. A product of completely regular spaces is completely regular.

Proof. Let X be completely regular and let Y be a subspace of X . Let $x_0 \in Y$ and let A be a closed set of Y not containing x_0 .

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Proof. Let X be completely regular and let Y be a subspace of X . Let $x_0 \in Y$ and let A be a closed set of Y not containing x_0 . Since A is closed in Y , $A = \bar{A} \cap Y$ where \bar{A} denotes the closure of A in X . So $x_0 \notin \bar{A}$. Since X is completely regular, by definition there is continuous $f : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $f(x_0) = 1$ and $f(\bar{A}) = \{0\}$. The restriction of f to Y is the desired function showing that Y is completely regular.

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Let $X = \prod X_\alpha$ be a product of completely regular spaces. Let $\mathbf{b} = (b_\alpha)$ be a point of X and let A be a closed set of X not containing \mathbf{b} . Choose a basis element $\prod U_\alpha$ containing \mathbf{b} that does not intersect A (which can be done since A is closed and so \mathbf{b} is not a limit point of A). Then (under the product topology) $U_\alpha = X_\alpha$ except for finitely many α , say $\alpha \in \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$.

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Theorem 33.2 (continued)

Proof (continued). Given $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, choose continuous $f : X_{\alpha_i} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $f_i(b_{\alpha_i}) = 1$ and $f_i(X_{\alpha_i} \setminus U_{\alpha_i}) = \{0\}$ (using the complete regularity of each X_{α_i}). Let $\varphi_i : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ as $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = f_i(\pi_{\alpha_i}(\mathbf{x}))$ (where π_{α_i} is the projection of X into X_{α_i}). The projection π_{α_i} is continuous (see the proof of Theorem 19.6) and so each φ_i is continuous. Also, for $\mathbf{x} \notin \pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(U_{\alpha_i})$, $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = f_i(\pi_{\alpha_i}(\mathbf{x})) = f_i(x_{\alpha_i}) = 0$ since $x_{\alpha_i} \in X_{\alpha_i} \setminus U_{\alpha_i}$. So φ_i is zero on $\pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(U_{\alpha_i})$; in particular, φ_i is zero on A . Then the product $f(\mathbf{x}) = \varphi_1(\mathbf{x})\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}) \cdots \varphi_n(\mathbf{x})$ is continuous and for $\mathbf{x} \in A$, we have $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$.

Theorem 33.2 (continued)

Proof (continued). Given $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, choose continuous $f : X_{\alpha_i} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $f_i(b_{\alpha_i}) = 1$ and $f_i(X_{\alpha_i} \setminus U_{\alpha_i}) = \{0\}$ (using the complete regularity of each X_{α_i}). Let $\varphi_i : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ as $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = f_i(\pi_{\alpha_i}(\mathbf{x}))$ (where π_{α_i} is the projection of X into X_{α_i}). The projection π_{α_i} is continuous (see the proof of Theorem 19.6) and so each φ_i is continuous. Also, for $\mathbf{x} \notin \pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(U_{\alpha_i})$, $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = f_i(\pi_{\alpha_i}(\mathbf{x})) = f_i(x_{\alpha_i}) = 0$ since $x_{\alpha_i} \in X_{\alpha_i} \setminus U_{\alpha_i}$. So φ_i is zero on $\pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(U_{\alpha_i})$; in particular, φ_i is zero on A . Then the product $f(\mathbf{x}) = \varphi_1(\mathbf{x})\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}) \cdots \varphi_n(\mathbf{x})$ is continuous and for $\mathbf{x} \in A$, we have $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$. Also,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{b}) &= \varphi_1(\mathbf{b})\varphi_2(\mathbf{b}) \cdots \varphi_n(\mathbf{b}) = f_1(\pi_{\alpha_1}(\mathbf{b}))f_2(\pi_{\alpha_2}(\mathbf{b})) \cdots f_n(\pi_{\alpha_n}(\mathbf{b})) \\ &= f_1(b_1)f_2(b_2) \cdots f_n(b_n) = (1)(1) \cdots (1) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

So f is the desired continuous function and shows that $\prod X_{\alpha}$ is complete regular. \square

Theorem 33.2 (continued)

Proof (continued). Given $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, choose continuous $f : X_{\alpha_i} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $f_i(b_{\alpha_i}) = 1$ and $f_i(X_{\alpha_i} \setminus U_{\alpha_i}) = \{0\}$ (using the complete regularity of each X_{α_i}). Let $\varphi_i : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ as $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = f_i(\pi_{\alpha_i}(\mathbf{x}))$ (where π_{α_i} is the projection of X into X_{α_i}). The projection π_{α_i} is continuous (see the proof of Theorem 19.6) and so each φ_i is continuous. Also, for $\mathbf{x} \notin \pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(U_{\alpha_i})$, $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = f_i(\pi_{\alpha_i}(\mathbf{x})) = f_i(x_{\alpha_i}) = 0$ since $x_{\alpha_i} \in X_{\alpha_i} \setminus U_{\alpha_i}$. So φ_i is zero on $\pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(U_{\alpha_i})$; in particular, φ_i is zero on A . Then the product $f(\mathbf{x}) = \varphi_1(\mathbf{x})\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}) \cdots \varphi_n(\mathbf{x})$ is continuous and for $\mathbf{x} \in A$, we have $\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$. Also,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{b}) &= \varphi_1(\mathbf{b})\varphi_2(\mathbf{b}) \cdots \varphi_n(\mathbf{b}) = f_1(\pi_{\alpha_1}(\mathbf{b}))f_2(\pi_{\alpha_2}(\mathbf{b})) \cdots f_n(\pi_{\alpha_n}(\mathbf{b})) \\ &= f_1(b_1)f_2(b_2) \cdots f_n(b_n) = (1)(1) \cdots (1) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

So f is the desired continuous function and shows that $\prod X_{\alpha}$ is complete regular. □