MA3002 Generell Topologi — Vår 2014

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May 19, 2014

6.1 Quotient topologies

Notation 6.1.1. Let X be a set, and let ~ be an equivalence relation on X. We denote by X/\sim the set

$$\{[x] \mid x \in X\}$$

of equivalence classes of X with respect to \sim .

Notation 6.1.2. We denote by

$$X \xrightarrow{\pi} X/\sim$$

the map given by $x \mapsto [x]$.

Terminology 6.1.3. We refer to π as the quotient map with respect to \sim .

Definition 6.1.4. Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) be a topological space. and let \sim be an equivalence relation on X. Let $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$ denote the set of subsets U of X/\sim such that $\pi^{-1}(U)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_X .

Proposition 6.1.5. Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) be a topological space, and let \sim be an equivalence relation on X. Then $(X/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{X/\sim})$ is a topological space.

Proof. We verify that each of the conditions of Definition 1.1.1 holds.

- (1) We have that $\pi^{-1}(\emptyset) = \emptyset$. Since \mathcal{O}_X is a topology on X, we have that \emptyset belongs to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$.
- (2) We have that $\pi^{-1}(X/\sim) = X$. Since \mathcal{O}_X is a topology on X, we have that X belongs to \mathcal{O}_X . Thus X belongs to \mathcal{O}_X .
- (3) Let $\{U_i\}$ be a set of (possibly infinitely many) subsets of X/\sim which belong to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$. By definition of $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$, we have that $\pi^{-1}(U_i)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_X . Since \mathcal{O}_X is a topology on X, we deduce that $\bigcup_{i \in I} \pi^{-1}(U_i)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_X . We have that

$$\pi^{-1}\left(\bigcup_{i\in I}U_i\right) = \bigcup_{i\in I}\pi^{-1}(U_i)$$

Thus $\pi^{-1}(\bigcup_{i\in I} U_i)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_X . We conclude that $\bigcup_{i\in I} U_i$ belongs to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$.

(4) Let U_0 and U_1 be subsets of X/\sim which belong to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$. By definition of $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$, we have that $\pi^{-1}(U_0)$ and $\pi^{-1}(U_1)$ belong to \mathcal{O}_X . Since \mathcal{O}_X is a topology on X, we deduce that $\pi^{-1}(U_0) \cap \pi^{-1}(U_1)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_X . We have that

$$\pi^{-1} \left(U_0 \cap U_1 \right) = \pi^{-1} (U_0) \cap \pi^{-1} (U_1).$$

Thus $\pi^{-1}(U_0 \cap U_1)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_X . We conclude that $U_0 \cap U_1$ belongs to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$.

Remark 6.1.6. The proof of Proposition 6.1.5 does not appeal to anything specific to X/\sim or to π . It relies only upon properties of π^{-1} which hold for any map.

Remark 6.1.7. Although we chose not to, it is possible to define the subspace and product topologies in a similar way. To investigate this is the topic of Task E6.2.1 and Task E6.2.2.

Terminology 6.1.8. Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) be a topological space, and let \sim be an equivalence relation on X. We refer to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$ as the quotient topology upon X/\sim .

Remark 6.1.9. Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) be a topological space, and let \sim be an equivalence relation on X. Let X/\sim be equipped with the quotient topology $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$. Then

$$X \xrightarrow{\pi} X / \sim$$

is continuous. This is immediate from the definition of $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$.

Remark 6.1.10. This introduces us to a more conceptual way to understand the definition of a subspace topology and of a product topology. The subspace topology ensures exactly that an inclusion map is continuous. The product topology ensures exactly that the projection maps are continuous. This is a consequence of Task E6.2.1 and Task E6.2.2.

6.2 Finite example of a quotient topology

Example 6.2.1. Let $X = \{a, b, c\}$ be a set with three elements. Let \mathcal{O}_X be the topology on X given by

 $\{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, X\}.$

Let ~ be the equivalence relation on X generated by $a \sim c$. Then

$$X/\sim = \left\{a', b'\right\},\,$$

where a' = [a] = [c] and b' = [b]. The map

 $X \xrightarrow{\pi} X/\sim$

is given by $a \mapsto a', b \mapsto b'$, and $c \mapsto a'$. In order to determine which subsets of X/\sim belong to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$, we have to calculate their inverse images under π . We know from Proposition 6.1.5 that and \emptyset and X/\sim belong to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$. Thus only the following calculations remain.

- (1) We have that $\pi^{-1}(\{a'\}) = \{a, c\}$. Since $\{a, c\}$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_X , we deduce that $\{a'\}$ belongs to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$.
- (2) We have that $\pi^{-1}(\{b'\}) = \{b\}$. Since $\{b\}$ does not belong to \mathcal{O}_X , we deduce that $\{b'\}$ does not belong to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$.

We conclude that

$$\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim} = \left\{ \emptyset, \{a'\}, X \right\}.$$

Remark 6.2.2. Throughout the course, we shall make use the notion of an equivalence relation generated by a relation. A formal discussion can be found in A.4. However, you can harmlessly ignore it!

The relations that we shall consider express all that is important about our equivalence relations: which elements are to be identified with which, when we pass to X/\sim . For instance, in Example 6.2.1, the relation $a \sim c$ expresses that a is to be identified with c when we pass to X/\sim , and that no other identifications are to be made.

Formally, in order to construct X/\sim , we have to ensure that the conditions of Definition A.4.3 are satisfied. It is this that we achieve by passing to the equivalence relation generated by a relation. In full detail, the equivalence relation generated by $a \sim c$ is given by $a \sim a, b \sim b, c \sim c, a \sim c$, and $c \sim a$.

In all the examples which we shall consider, it is entirely straightforward to write down the equivalence relation generated by our relation. Since this would be tedious, and would not lend any insight into the corresponding quotient topology, we shall not do so.

6.3 The quotient topology obtained by glueing together the endpoints of *I*

Example 6.3.1. Let \sim be the equivalence relation on *I* generated by $0 \sim 1$.



Then I/\sim is obtained by 'glueing 0 to 1'. We may picture it as follows.



Remark 6.3.2. Let U be the subset of I/\sim given by

$$\left\{ [t] \mid \frac{1}{4} < t < \frac{5}{12} \right\}.$$



Then $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is the open interval $\left]\frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{12}\right[$.



In particular, as in Example 2.3.3, we have that $\pi^{-1}(U)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_I . Thus U belongs to $\mathcal{O}_{I/\sim}$.

Remark 6.3.3. Let U be the subset of I/\sim given by

$$\left\{ [t] \mid 0 \le t < \frac{1}{8} \right\} \cup \left\{ [t] \mid \frac{7}{8} < t \le 1 \right\}.$$

In particular, we have that $[0] = [1] \in U$.



Then $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is $\left[0, \frac{1}{8} \left[\cup\right] \frac{7}{8}, 1\right]$.



As in Example 2.3.4, we have that $[0, \frac{1}{8}[$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_I . As in Example 2.3.5, we have that $]\frac{7}{8}, 1]$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_I . Thus $\pi^{-1}(U)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_I . We conclude that U belongs to $\mathcal{O}_{I/\sim}$.

Remark 6.3.4. Let U be the subset of I/\sim given by

$$\{[t] \mid \frac{7}{8} < t \le 1\}.$$



Then $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is $\{0\} \cup]\frac{7}{8}, 1]$.



The subset $\{0\} \cup \left\lfloor \frac{7}{8}, 1 \right\rfloor$ of I does not belong to \mathcal{O}_I . Thus U does not belong to $\mathcal{O}_{I/\sim}$.

Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) be a topological space, and let ~ be an equivalence relation on X. Let U be a subset of X which belongs to \mathcal{O}_X . Then $\pi(U)$ does not necessarily belong to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$. The crucial point is that $\pi^{-1}(\pi(U))$ is not necessarily equal to U. Remark 6.3.4 demonstrates this, for we have the following.

- (1) The subset U of I/\sim considered in Remark 6.3.4 is $\pi\left(\left\lfloor\frac{7}{12},1\right\rfloor\right)$.
- (2) As in Example 2.3.5, we have that $\left\lfloor \frac{7}{8}, 1 \right\rfloor$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_I .
- (3) We have that $\pi\left(\left\lfloor\frac{7}{12},1\right\rfloor\right)$ does not belong to $\mathcal{O}_{I/\sim}$. In particular

$$\pi^{-1}\left(\pi\left(\left]\tfrac{7}{12},1\right]\right)\right) = \{0\} \cup \left]\tfrac{7}{8},1\right],$$

which is not equal to $\left\lfloor \frac{7}{8}, 1 \right\rfloor$.

Remark 6.3.5. It is not a coincidence that we have depicted I/\sim as a circle! In a sense which we shall define and investigate in the next lecture, $(I/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I/\sim})$ is the 'same' topological space as (S^1, \mathcal{O}_{S^1}) . To prove this is the topic of Task E7.3.10.

6.4 Further geometric examples of quotient topologies

Example 6.4.1. Let ~ be the equivalence relation on I^2 generated by $(t, 0) \sim (t, 1)$, for all $t \in I$.



Then I^2/\sim is obtained by 'glueing the upper horizontal edge of I^2 to the lower horizontal edge of I^2 '. We may picture it as follows.



Remark 6.4.2. In the sense mentioned in Remark 6.3.5, $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ is the 'same' topological space as the cylinder $(S^1 \times I, \mathcal{O}_{S^1 \times I})$.

Example 6.4.3. Let ~ be the equivalence relation on I^2 generated by $(s,0) \sim (s,1)$, for all $s \in I$, and by $(0,t) \sim (1,t)$ for all $t \in I$.



Then I^2/\sim is obtained by 'glueing together the two horizontal edges of I^2 ', and moreover 'glueing together the two vertical edges of I^2 '. We may picture I^2/\sim as follows.



We can, for instance, first glue together the horizontal edges of I^2 as in Example 6.4.1, to obtain a cylinder.



We then glue the two circles at the end of the cylinder together.



Remark 6.4.4. We can think of I^2/\sim as a 'hollow doughnut'.

Terminology 6.4.5. We refer to $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ as the *torus*.

Notation 6.4.6. We denote $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ by (T^2, \mathcal{O}_{T^2}) .

Example 6.4.7. Let ~ be the equivalence relation on I^2 generated by $(0, t) \sim (1, 1-t)$, for all $t \in I$.



Then I^2/\sim is obtained by 'glueing together the two horizontal edges of I^2 with a twist', so that the arrows in the figure above point in the same direction. We may picture I^2/\sim as follows.



The glued vertical edges of I^2 can be thought of as a line in I^2/\sim , depicted below.



We can also picture I^2/\sim as follows, from a different angle.



Terminology 6.4.8. We refer to $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ as the *Möbius band*.

Notation 6.4.9. We denote $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ by (M^2, \mathcal{O}_{M^2}) .

Remark 6.4.10. If you find it difficult at first to visualise the glueing of M^2 from I^2 , it is a very good idea to try it with a piece of ribbon or paper!

Example 6.4.11. Let ~ be the equivalence relation on I^2 generated by $(s, 0) \sim (1-s, 1)$, for all $s \in I$, and by $(0, t) \sim (1, t)$, for all $t \in I$.



Then I^2/\sim is obtained by 'glueing together the two vertical edges of I^2 ', and moreover 'glueing together the two horizontal edges of I^2 with a twist', so that the arrows point in the same direction. We cannot truly picture I^2/\sim in \mathbb{R}^3 . Nevertheless we can gain an intuitive feeling for it, through the following picture.



We can, for instance, first glue together the vertical edges, to obtain a cylinder.



We can then bend this cylinder so that the arrows on the circles at its ends point in the same direction.



Next we can push the cylinder through itself.



It is this step that is not possible in a true picture of I^2/\sim . It can be thought of glueing together two circles: a cross-section of the part of the cylinder which we have bent upwards, and a circle on the side of the cylinder which we have not bent upwards.



The equivalence relation \sim does not prescribe that these two circles should be glued. We shall nevertheless proceed. The circle obtained after glueing the two circles together is pictured below.



Next we can fold back the end of the cylinder which we have pushed through. We obtain a 'mushroom with a hollow stalk'.



Finally we can glue the ends of the cylinder together, as prescribed by \sim .



Terminology 6.4.12. We refer to $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ as the *Klein bottle*.

Notation 6.4.13. We denote $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ by (K^2, \mathcal{O}_{K^2}) .

Remark 6.4.14. A rite of passage when learning about topology for the first time is to be confronted with the following limerick. I'm sure that I remember Colin Rourke enunciating it during the lecture in which I first met the Klein bottle, as an undergraduate at the University of Warwick!

A mathematician named Klein Thought the Möbius band was divine. Said he: "If you glue The edges of two, You'll get a weird bottle like mine!"

To investigate its meaning is the topic of Task ??.

Example 6.4.15. Let ~ be the equivalence relation on D^2 generated by $(x, y) \sim (0, 1)$ for all $(x, y) \in S^1$.



We obtain D^2/\sim by 'contracting the boundary of D^2 to the point (0,1)'. Imagine, for instance, that the boundary circle of D^2 is a loop of fishing line. Suppose that we have a reel at the point (0,1). Then D^2/\sim is obtained by reeling in tight all of our fishing line. We obtain a 'hollow ball'.





Remark 6.4.16. We could have chosen any single point on S^1 , instead of (0, 1), in the definition of \sim .

Terminology 6.4.17. We refer to $(D^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{D^2/\sim})$ as the 2-sphere.

Notation 6.4.18. We denote $(D^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{D^2/\sim})$ by (S^2, \mathcal{O}_{S^2}) .

Remark 6.4.19. In the sense mentioned in Remark 6.3.5, (S^2, \mathcal{O}_{S^2}) is the 'same' topological space as the set

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid ||x|| = 1\}$$

equipped with the subspace topology with respect to $(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{R}^3})$.

E6 Exercises for Lecture 6

E6.1 Exam questions

Task E6.1.1. Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ be a set with five elements. Let \mathcal{O}_X be the topology on X given by

$$\{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{e\}, \{a, e\}, \{c, d\}, \{c, d, e\}, \{a, c, d, e\}, \{b, c, d, e\}, X\}$$

Let ~ be the equivalence relation on X generated by $b \sim d$ and $c \sim e$. List the subsets of X/\sim which belong to $\mathcal{O}_{X/\sim}$.

Task E6.1.2. Let $X = \{a, b\}$ be a set with two elements. Let \mathcal{O}_X be the topology on X given by

$$\{\emptyset, \{a\}, X\}$$
.

Let $Y = \{a', b', c', d', e'\}$ be a set with five elements. Let \mathcal{O}_Y be the topology on Y given by

 $\left\{ \emptyset, \{a'\}, \{b',c'\}, \{a',b',c'\}, \{b',c',e'\}, \{a',b',c',e'\}, Y \right\}.$

Let ~ be the equivalence relation on Y generated by $b' \sim c'$ and $c' \sim e'$. Let $X \times X$ be equipped with the product topology $\mathcal{O}_{X \times X}$, and let Y/\sim be equipped with the quotient topology $\mathcal{O}_{Y/\sim}$. Which of the following maps

$$X \times X \longrightarrow Y/\sim$$

are continuous?

$$\begin{array}{ll} (1) & (a,a) \mapsto [a'], \, (a,b) \mapsto [b'], \, (b,a) \mapsto [b'], \, (b,b) \mapsto [d'] \\ (2) & (a,a) \mapsto [b'], \, (a,b) \mapsto [b'], \, (b,a) \mapsto [d'], \, (b,b) \mapsto [d'] \\ (3) & (a,a) \mapsto [b'], \, (a,b) \mapsto [b'], \, (b,a) \mapsto [a'], \, (b,b) \mapsto [d'] \\ (4) & (a,a) \mapsto [b'], \, (a,b) \mapsto [a'], \, (b,a) \mapsto [a'], \, (b,b) \mapsto [a'] \\ (5) & (a,a) \mapsto [a'], \, (a,b) \mapsto [d'], \, (b,a) \mapsto [a'], \, (b,b) \mapsto [d'] \end{array}$$

Task E6.1.3. Let U be the subset of I^2 given by

$$\left(\left[0,\frac{1}{4}\right[\times]\frac{1}{8},\frac{3}{8}\right] \cup \left(\left]\frac{1}{2},1\right]\times\left]\frac{1}{8},\frac{3}{8}\right]\right).$$

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For which of the following choices of $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ does $\pi(U)$ belong to $\mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim}$?

- (1) The torus.
- (2) The Möbius band.
- (3) The Klein bottle.
- (4) The cylinder.

Task E6.1.4. Find a subset U of I^2 with the following properties.

- (1) We have that $\pi(U)$ belongs to $\mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim}$ both when $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ is the Klein bottle, and when $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ is the Möbius band.
- (2) It is not a subset of $]0, 1[\times]0, 1[$.

Task E6.1.5. Let ~ be the equivalence relation on S^1 generated by $(1,0) \sim (0,1) \sim (-1,0) \sim (-1,-1)$.



This task has two parts.

- (1) Draw a picture of S^1/\sim . Indicate any important aspects.
- (2) Let U be the 'open arc' given by

$$\{(x,y) \in S^1 \mid -1 \le x < -\frac{1}{2}\}.$$



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Does $\pi(U)$ belong to $\mathcal{O}_{S^1/\sim}$?

Task E6.1.6. Find an equivalence relation \sim on D^2 with the following properties.

- (1) We can picture D^2/\sim as a 'hollow ball'.
- (2) No three distinct elements of D^2 are identified by \sim .

Task E6.1.7. Find a subset X of \mathbb{R}^2 , and an equivalence relation \sim on X, such that X/\sim can be pictured as a 'hollow cone'.



Let X be equipped with the subspace topology \mathcal{O}_X with respect to $(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{R}^2})$. Give an example of a subset U of X/\sim such that $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is the disjoint union of a pair of subsets U_0 and U_1 of X which belong to \mathcal{O}_X .

Task E6.1.8. Let $X = I^2 \cup ([3,4] \times [0,1])$. Let \mathcal{O}_X be the subspace topology on X with respect to $(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{R}^2})$.



Define an equivalence relation ~ on X such that $(X/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{X/\sim})$ can be thought of as two tori placed side by side.



E6.2 For a deeper understanding

Task E6.2.1. Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) be a topological space. Let A be a subset of X. Let \mathcal{O}_A denote the subspace topology on A with respect to (X, \mathcal{O}_X) . Let

$$A \xrightarrow{i} X$$

denote the inclusion map. Let \mathcal{O}'_A denote the set

$$\left\{i^{-1}(U) \mid U \in \mathcal{O}_X\right\}.$$

Prove that $\mathcal{O}_A = \mathcal{O}'_A$.

Task E6.2.2. Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) and (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) be topological spaces. Let $\mathcal{O}_{X \times Y}$ denote the product topology on $X \times Y$ with respect to (X, \mathcal{O}_X) and (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) . Let

$$X \times Y \xrightarrow{p_1} X$$

and

$$X \times Y \xrightarrow{p_2} Y$$

denote the projection maps. Let $\mathcal{O}'_{X \times Y}$ denote the set

$$\{p_1^{-1}(U) \mid U \in \mathcal{O}_X\} \cup \{p_2^{-1}(U) \mid U \in \mathcal{O}_Y\}.$$

Prove that $\mathcal{O}'_{X \times Y}$ is a subbasis for $(X \times Y, \mathcal{O}_{X \times Y})$.

Remark E6.2.3. In other words, $\mathcal{O}_{X \times Y}$ is the smallest possible topology on $X \times Y$ for which p_1 and p_2 are continuous.

Task E6.2.4. In the notation of Task E6.2.2, find an example to prove that $\mathcal{O}'_{X \times Y}$ is not a basis for $(X \times Y, \mathcal{O}_{X \times Y})$.

Task E6.2.5. Find an equivalence relation ~ on I^2 such that $(I^2/\sim, \mathcal{O}_{I^2/\sim})$ can truly, unlike the Klein bottle, be pictured as follows.



Terminology E6.2.6. Let X and Y be sets. Let \sim be an equivalence relation upon X. Let

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y$$

be a continuous map. Then f respects \sim if, for all $x, x' \in X$ such that $x \sim x'$, we have that f(x) = f(x').

Task E6.2.7. Let (X, \mathcal{O}_X) and (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) be topological spaces. Let \sim be an equivalence relation on X, and let X/\sim be equipped with the quotient topology with respect to (X, \mathcal{O}_X) . Let

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y$$

be a continuous map such that f respects \sim . Let

$$X/\sim \xrightarrow{g} Y$$

be the map given by $[x] \mapsto f(x)$, which is well defined since f respects \sim . Prove that g is continuous.

E6.3 Exploration — torus knots

Task E6.3.1. Let K denote the subset of I^2 pictured below.



In words: begin at (0,0), and follow a line of gradient $\frac{2}{3}$ until we hit a side of I^2 ; Jump over to the other side, and repeat this process. Eventually we end up at (1,1). Let

$$I^2 \xrightarrow{\pi} T^2$$

be the quotient map. Can you visualise or, even better, draw $\pi(K)$?

Remark E6.3.2. If you can draw $\pi(K)$, I would love to see it!

Remark E6.3.3. Later in the course, we shall investigate knots and links. As an apéritif, $\pi(K)$ is a gadget known as the *trefoil knot*, but wrapped around a torus!

Terminology E6.3.4. A knot which can be wrapped around a torus is known as a *torus knot*. Any pair of integers p and q whose greatest common divisor is 1 gives rise to a torus knot in a similar way, working with lines of gradient $\frac{p}{q}$ in place of $\frac{2}{3}$ above. For any pair of integers p and q, one obtains a link wrapped around a torus.