

Topology with many open sets

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Let $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, n\}$.

Claim: The only topology τ on X with $|\tau| > 3 * 2^{n-2}$ is the discrete topology.

Def: We call a binary relation \leq on a set P a preorder if

- i) $\forall a \in P : a \leq a$
- ii) $\forall a, b, c \in P : (a \leq b \cup b \leq c \Rightarrow a \leq c)$

Lemma: There exist a one-to-one correspondence between topologies and preorders on X :

- a) For any preorder \leq on X ,
 $\tau := \{A \subset X \mid \forall x \in A : (\forall y \in X : x \leq y \Rightarrow y \in A)\}$ defines a topology.
- b) For any topology τ on X , $x \leq y$ if and only if $x \in \overline{\{y\}}$ defines a preorder.

Proof of the Lemma.

a) Note that

- i) $\emptyset, X \in \tau$
- ii) $\forall A, B \in \tau : A \cap B \in \tau$ as
 $\forall x \in A \cap B : \forall y \in X : (x \leq y \Rightarrow y \in A \wedge y \in B \Rightarrow y \in A \cap B)$
- iii) $\forall A, B \in \tau : A \cup B \in \tau$ as
 $\forall x \in A \cup B : \forall y \in X : (x \leq y \Rightarrow y \in A \vee y \in B \Rightarrow y \in A \cup B)$

Since X is finite, this implies that τ is a topology.

b) Note that

- i) $\forall x \in X : x \in \overline{\{x\}} \Rightarrow x \leq x$ (reflexive)
- ii) $\forall x, y \in X : (x \leq y, y \leq z \Rightarrow x \in \overline{\{y\}}, y \in \overline{\{z\}} \Rightarrow x \in \overline{\{y\}} \subset \overline{\{z\}})$ (transitive)

Therefore, \leq defines a preorder on X .

Proof of the claim.

According to the Lemma, it suffices to consider the topologies induced by preorders on X . Assume that the preorder \leq is not trivial and let τ denote the topology induced by it.

It holds that $\exists x, y \in X : x \leq y$ and $\forall A \subset X : (x \in A \wedge y \notin A \Rightarrow A \notin \tau)$. Note that there are 2^{n-2} distinct subsets A of X with $x \in A \wedge y \notin A$ and hence $|\tau| \leq 3 * 2^{n-2}$. Since the discrete topology is induced by the trivial preorder, it is the only topology satisfying $|\tau| > 3 * 2^{n-2}$.

q.e.d.