

I § 9. No. 8. One-point (or Alexandroff Compactification) of a LC space.

Theorem (Alexandroff) X LC space. Then \exists a homeomorphism of X into the complement of a point of a compact space \tilde{X} . Uniqueness: if \tilde{X}' is another compact space with complement of a point being homeo to X , then via $g: X \rightarrow \tilde{X}'$, then the bijection from \tilde{X} to \tilde{X}' that is $g \circ f^{-1}$ on δX is a homeo.

Proof: Uniqueness. Let ϕ be the bijection from \tilde{X} to \tilde{X}' described in the assertion. ETS ϕ is open (for by switching the roles of \tilde{X} and \tilde{X}' we see that ϕ^{-1} is also open, so that ϕ is a homeo. Let V be open in \tilde{X} . If $V \subseteq X$, then ϕV is clearly open in gX , and so open in \tilde{X}' (since gX is open in \tilde{X}' , because it is the complement of a point in a Hdf space). ^{Now} Suppose that $V \not\subseteq X$, then $CV \subseteq X$ and CV being closed ~~in \tilde{X}~~ in \tilde{X} , it is compact. $\phi CV = (g \circ f^{-1}) CV$ and since $g \circ f^{-1}$ is continuous ~~(with $g \circ f^{-1}: \delta X \rightarrow \tilde{X}'$)~~, ϕCV is compact and so closed. But $\phi CV = C \phi V$ (since ϕ is a bijection), so ϕV is open.

Existence: As a set, take $\tilde{X} := X \cup \{\omega\}$. Define a topology on \tilde{X} by taking the open sets to be of the form $U \cup (\{\omega\} \cup (X \setminus K))$ where U is a open set in X and K is compact in X . We check that this defines a topology: E.g.

$\bigcup_{i \in I} (U_i \cup (\{\omega\} \cup (X \setminus K_i))) = \{\omega\} \cup (X \setminus \bigcap_{i \in I} K_i)$; ~~note that K_i being compact is closed in X and so $\bigcap K_i$ is also closed in X if the intersection $\bigcap K_i$ is non-empty. Since $I \neq \emptyset$, $\bigcap K_i$ is closed in X (\because the K_i are closed in X and so is their intersection), for any choice of i , $\bigcap K_i$ is closed in compact is compact).~~ Thus $\{\omega\} \cup (X \setminus \bigcap_{i \in I} K_i)$ is open in \tilde{X} .

CHECK ~~check~~: The topology induced on X from \tilde{X} is the original top of X .

- \tilde{X} Hdf [uses LC ness of X]
- \tilde{X} compact. QED

Remark: • If X is compact, then ω is ~~of little use~~ an isolated point of \tilde{X}

- \tilde{X} is said to be constructed by adjoining "a point at infinity"
- $X = \mathbb{R}^2$. ~~then~~ $\tilde{X} \cong S^2$ and the inclusion of $\mathbb{R}^2 \hookrightarrow S^2$ is by the "stereographic projection".
- LC ness of X is used only in showing \tilde{X} Hdf. ~~Otherwise~~ For the rest, we may as well take X to be just Hdf and proceed.