TOPOLOGY A Categorical Approach

Tai-Danae Bradley, Tyler Bryson, and John Terilla

This graduate-level textbook on topology takes a unique approach: it reintroduces basic, point-set topology from a more modern, categorical perspective. Many graduate students are familiar with the ideas of point-set topology and they are ready to learn something new about them. Teaching the subject using category theory—a contemporary branch of mathematics that provides a way to represent abstract concepts—both deepens students' understanding of elementary topology and lays a solid foundation for future work in advanced topics.

Tai-Danae Bradley is a PhD mathematics graduate from the CUNY Graduate Center and creator of the popular math blog, Math3ma. Tyler Bryson is a PhD candidate in mathematics at the CUNY Graduate Center. John Terilla is Professor of Mathematics at Queens College and on the Doctoral Faculty at the CUNY Graduate Center.

"This book is at the leading edge of what will likely become a major pedagogical trend in mathematics: teaching the fundamentals from a categorical perspective. "—David Spivak, Research Scientist at MIT, author of Category Theory for the Sciences

"As an algebraic topologist who has taught point-set topology from an implicitly category-theoretic viewpoint for many years, I was delighted to discover this beautifully written textbook."—Kathryn Hess, Professor, EPFL

"Bradley, Bryson, and Terilla make a compelling case for approaching category theory through point-set topology, imparting a lovely point of view that enlivens both subjects."—Emily Riehl, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University, author of Categorical Homotopy Theory and Category Theory in Context

"The categorical approach used is not only well motivated, but presented in a style that is very user-friendly."

—Jim Stasheff, Professor Emeritus UNC-CH; Visiting Researcher at the University of Pennsylvania; coauthor of Characteristic Classes



Cover art: London Tsai, Hopf Fibration, 2018

THE MIT PRESS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

http://mitpress.mit.edu



| | Pref | ace | | ix | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|----|--|--|
| 0 | Preliminaries | | | | | |
| | 0.1 | Basic | Topology | 1 | | |
| | 0.2 | Basic | Category Theory | 3 | | |
| | | 0.2.1 | Categories | 3 | | |
| | | 0.2.2 | Functors | 9 | | |
| | | 0.2.3 | Natural Transformations and the Yoneda Lemma | 11 | | |
| | 0.3 | Basic Set Theory | | 14 | | |
| | | 0.3.1 | Functions | 14 | | |
| | | 0.3.2 | The Empty Set and One-Point Set | 15 | | |
| | | 0.3.3 | Products and Coproducts in Set | 15 | | |
| | | 0.3.4 | Products and Coproducts in Any Category | 17 | | |
| | | 0.3.5 | Exponentiation in Set | 17 | | |
| | | 0.3.6 | Partially Ordered Sets | 18 | | |
| | | Exerc | rises | 19 | | |
| 1 | Examples and Constructions | | | | | |
| | 1.1 | Examples and Terminology | | 21 | | |
| | | 1.1.1 | Examples of Spaces | 21 | | |
| | 4 | 1.1.2 | Examples of Continuous Functions | 23 | | |
| | 1.2 | The S | Subspace Topology | 25 | | |
| | | 1.2.1 | The First Characterization | 25 | | |
| | | 1.2.2 | The Second Characterization | 26 | | |
| | 1.3 | The Q | Quotient Topology | 28 | | |
| | | 1.3.1 | The First Characterization | 28 | | |
| | | 1.3.2 | The Second Characterization | 29 | | |
| | 1.4 | 1.4 The Product Topology | | | | |
| | | 1.4.1 | The First Characterization | 30 | | |
| | | 1.4.2 | The Second Characterization | 31 | | |

| | 1.5 | The Coproduct Topology | 32 | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|----|--|
| | | 1.5.1 The First Characterization | 32 | |
| | | 1.5.2 The Second Characterization | 33 | |
| | 1.6 | Homotopy and the Homotopy Category | 34 | |
| | | Exercises | 36 | |
| 2 | Connectedness and Compactness | | | |
| | 2.1 | Connectedness | 39 | |
| | | 2.1.1 Definitions, Theorems, and Examples | 39 | |
| | | 2.1.2 The Functor π_0 | 43 | |
| | | 2.1.3 Constructions and Connectedness | 44 | |
| | | 2.1.4 Local (Path) Connectedness | 46 | |
| | 2.2 | Hausdorff Spaces | | |
| | 2.3 | Compactness | 48 | |
| | | 2.3.1 Definitions, Theorems, and Examples | 48 | |
| | | 2.3.2 Constructions and Compactness | 50 | |
| | | 2.3.3 Local Compactness | 51 | |
| | | Exercises | 53 | |
| 3 | Limits of Sequences and Filters | | | |
| | 3.1 | Closure and Interior | 55 | |
| | 3.2 | Sequences | 56 | |
| | 3.3 | Filters and Convergence | | |
| | 3.4 | Tychonoff's Theorem | | |
| | | 3.4.1 Ultrafilters and Compactness | 64 | |
| | | 3.4.2 A Proof of Tychonoff's Theorem | 68 | |
| | | 3.4.3 A Little Set Theory | 69 | |
| | | Exercises | 71 | |
| 4 | Cat | egorical Limits and Colimits | 75 | |
| | 4.1 | Diagrams Are Functors | 75 | |
| | 4.2 | Limits and Colimits | 77 | |
| | 4.3 | Examples | 79 | |
| | | 4.3.1 Terminal and Initial Objects | 79 | |
| | | 4.3.2 Products and Coproducts | 80 | |
| | | 4.3.3 Pullbacks and Pushouts | 81 | |
| | | 4.3.4 Inverse and Direct Limits | 83 | |
| | | 4.3.5 Equalizers and Coequalizers | 85 | |
| | 4.4 | Completeness and Cocompleteness | 86 | |
| | | Exercises | 88 | |

| 5 | Adj | Adjunctions and the Compact-Open Topology | | | |
|---|------|---|-----|--|--|
| | 5.1 | Adjunctions | 92 | | |
| | | 5.1.1 The Unit and Counit of an Adjunction | 93 | | |
| | 5.2 | Free-Forgetful Adjunction in Algebra | 94 | | |
| | 5.3 | The Forgetful Functor $U: Top \to Set$ and Its Adjoints | 96 | | |
| | 5.4 | Adjoint Functor Theorems | 97 | | |
| | 5.5 | Compactifications | 98 | | |
| | | 5.5.1 The One-Point Compactification | 98 | | |
| | | 5.5.2 The Stone-Čech Compactification | 99 | | |
| | 5.6 | The Exponential Topology | 101 | | |
| | | 5.6.1 The Compact-Open Topology | 104 | | |
| | | 5.6.2 The Theorems of Ascoli and Arzela | 108 | | |
| | | 5.6.3 Enrich the Product-Hom Adjunction in Top | 109 | | |
| | 5.7 | Compactly Generated Weakly Hausdorff Spaces | 110 | | |
| | | Exercises | 114 | | |
| 5 | Path | ns, Loops, Cylinders, Suspensions, | 115 | | |
| | 6.1 | Cylinder-Free Path Adjunction | 116 | | |
| | 6.2 | The Fundamental Groupoid and Fundamental Group | 118 | | |
| | 6.3 | The Categories of Pairs and Pointed Spaces | 121 | | |
| | 6.4 | The Smash-Hom Adjunction | 122 | | |
| | 6.5 | The Suspension-Loop Adjunction | 124 | | |
| | 6.6 | Fibrations and Based Path Spaces | 127 | | |
| | | 6.6.1 Mapping Path Space and Mapping Cylinder | 129 | | |
| | | 6.6.2 Examples and Results | 131 | | |
| | | 6.6.3 Applications of $\pi_1 S^1$ | 137 | | |
| | 6.7 | The Seifert van Kampen Theorem | 139 | | |
| | | 6.7.1 Examples | 141 | | |
| | | Exercises | 145 | | |
| | Glos | Glossary of Symbols | | | |
| | Bibl | Bibliography | | | |
| | Inde | Index | | | |
| | | | | | |