

Δ -continuous and Δ -irresolute functions in topological spaces

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Abstract

In this study, we explore the concepts of Δ -continuous, Δ -irresolute, Δ -open, and Δ -closed functions. It is established that every continuous function is inherently Δ -irresolute, and in turn, every Δ -irresolute function is Δ -continuous. However, the reverse implications do not necessarily hold true. This marks a departure from traditional continuous functions, where the composition of two Δ -continuous functions may not retain Δ -continuity. We introduce several methodologies for constructing new Δ -continuous (or Δ -irresolute) functions from existing ones. Notably, we provide pasting-type lemmas specifically for Δ -continuous and Δ -irresolute functions. The discussion is enriched with several counterexamples to illustrate these concepts.

Keywords: open set, closed set, symmetric difference, Δ -open set, Δ -closed set, continuous function, Δ -continuous function, Δ -irresolute function, Δ -open function, Δ -closed function

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1. Introduction

Open-like and closed-like sets within topological spaces have garnered significant interest from researchers over the past few decades. Similarly, numerous notions of continuous-like functions in topological spaces have been introduced and explored. The pioneering work was by N. Levine, who introduced the concepts of *semi-open sets* and *semi-continuous functions* in topological spaces [13]. A set S in a topological space X is defined as semi-open if $S \subseteq Cl(Int(S))$ [13], where $Cl(A)$ and $Int(A)$ denote the closure and the interior of a set A in X , respectively. A function is semi-continuous if

the inverse image of any open set is semi-open [13]. Following this, S. Crossley and S. Hildebrand introduced *irresolute functions*, characterized by the property that the inverse image of any semi-open set is semi-open as well [7].

In 1965, Olav Njåstad introduced α -sets [21], where a set S in a topological space X is an α -set if $S \subseteq \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(S)))$ [21]. Mappings for which the inverse image of each α -set is an α -set were termed α -irresolute mappings [15], paving the way for the definition and exploration of α -continuous functions [18]. Subsequently, concepts such as θ -open and δ -open sets were developed [30], alongside the notions of *pre-open sets* and *pre-continuous mappings* [17]. A set S in a topological space X is pre-open if $S \subseteq \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(S))$ [17], and a semi-preopen set if $S \subseteq \text{Cl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(S)))$ [2]. The exploration continued with the study of semi-precontinuous mappings, semi-preopen mappings, semi-preclosed mappings, semi-preirresolute mappings, pre-semipreopen mappings, and pre-semipreclosed mappings, along with their characterizations in topological spaces [20]. M. Veera Kumar further contributed by constructing ψ -continuous and ψ -irresolute functions through a novel class of closed-like sets termed ψ -closed sets [29].

The exploration of new classes of continuous-like functions through open-like and closed-like sets in topological spaces continues to captivate the interest of many researchers. Notable contributions include [1], [3], [5], [6], [9], [10], [11], [12], [24], [25], and [26].

A set in a topological space is termed Δ -open if it constitutes the symmetric difference of two open sets. This notion, first appearing in [22] and [8], was credited to a preprint by M. Veera Kumar. Conversely, the complement of a Δ -open set is defined as Δ -closed. Both Δ -open and Δ -closed sets, along with related concepts, were extensively studied by the author in [16].

Section 2 consolidates the essential notions and results prerequisite for the discussions that follow.

Section 3 introduces the concept of a Δ -continuous function, as defined in Definition 3.1. It elaborates on some properties of Δ -continuous functions in Theorem 3.2 and outlines necessary conditions for Δ -continuity in Propositions 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3. Furthermore, Example 3.3 demonstrates that the composition of two Δ -continuous functions may not be Δ -continuous, although the composition of a continuous function with a Δ -continuous function results in a Δ -continuous function, as stated in Proposition 3.5. This section also presents methods for constructing Δ -continuous functions in Proposition 3.6 and offers a pasting-type lemma for Δ -continuous functions in Theorem 3.4. It concludes with Proposition 3.7, asserting that a Δ -continuous function

into a product space $X \times Y$ implies Δ -continuity of its coordinate functions.

In Section 4, the concept of a Δ -irresolute function is defined in Definition 4.1. It is noted that every Δ -irresolute function is Δ -continuous, but Example 4.1 shows that the converse is not universally applicable. This section mirrors Section 3 in its formulation of results concerning Δ -irresolute functions.

Section 5 delineates the definitions of Δ -open and Δ -closed functions. Through various examples, it is illustrated that these concepts are independent of each other and also distinct from the notion of Δ -continuous functions. The section further provides results pertaining to Δ -open and Δ -closed functions.

2. Preliminaries

In this section we provide basic notions and results related to Δ -open and Δ -closed sets. These results will be used and applied in the subsequent sections.

Recall that for sets A and B their *symmetric difference* is given as $A\Delta B := (A - B) \cup (B - A) = (A \cup B) - (A \cap B)$.

Definition 2.1. ([22] and [8]) A set A in a topological space (X, τ) is called Δ -open if there are open sets O_1 and O_2 so that $A = O_1\Delta O_2$.

For an open set O in a topological space (X, τ) , it is obvious that $O = O\Delta\phi$, so every open set is Δ -open. However, the set $(0, 1] \cup [2, 3) = (0, 2)\Delta(1, 3)$ is Δ -open set which is not open in the standard topology on \mathbb{R} . The complement of a Δ -open set is called Δ -closed. We recall a characterization of Δ -open sets.

Theorem 2.1. ([16]) A set A in a topological space (X, τ) is Δ -open if and only if there is an open set O and a closed set C such that $A = O \cap C$.

Corollary 2.1. ([16]) A set B in a topological space (X, τ) is Δ -closed if and only if there is an open set O and a closed set C such that $B = O \cup C$.

It follows from Theorem 2.1 that any open set and any closed set is Δ -open. Moreover, a finite intersection of Δ -open sets is Δ -open. However, union of two Δ -open sets need not be Δ -open and arbitrary intersection of Δ -open sets need not be Δ -open.

In the same manner, it follows from Corollary 2.1 that any open set and

any closed set is Δ -closed. Additionally, a finite union of Δ -closed sets is Δ -closed. Nonetheless, intersection of two Δ -closed sets need not be Δ -closed and arbitrary union of Δ -closed sets need not be Δ -closed.

Example 2.1. ([16]) Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ with a topology

$$\tau = \{\phi, X, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, c, d\}\}.$$

The collection of all Δ -open sets in X is

$$\tau_{\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, c, d\}, \{d, e\}, \{d\}, \{e\}\}.$$

Clearly, the sets $\{a, b, c\}$ and $\{e\}$ are Δ -open, whereas their union is not.

It is worth noting from the previous example that the collection of all Δ -open sets does not form a topology in general.

Example 2.2. ([16]) Let $\mathbb{Q} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{r_n\}$ be an enumeration of the rationals. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $S_n = \mathbb{R} - \{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n\}$, then considering \mathbb{R} under the standard topology, each S_n is open set and so it is Δ -open. Yet, $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} S_n = \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$ is not Δ -open.

It should be pointed out that the open set O and the closed set C in Corollary 2.1 can be chosen to be disjoint. Indeed, if $B = O \cup C$, with O is open and C is closed, then $B = O \cup (C - O)$ where $C - O$ is closed.

Definition 2.2. ([16]) Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $x \in X$. A Δ -open set containing x is called Δ -neighborhood. We write $\Delta N(x)$.

Definition 2.3. ([16]) Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $A \subseteq X$.

(1) The union of all Δ -open sets contained in A is said to be the Δ -interior of A and is denoted by $\Delta Int(A)$.

(2) The intersection of all Δ -closed sets containing A is said to be the Δ -closure of A and is denoted by $\Delta Cl(A)$.

Clearly, $\Delta Int(A)$ need not be Δ -open and $\Delta Cl(A)$ need not be Δ -closed. It should be also noted that if A is Δ -open, then $\Delta Int(A) = A$, and if A is Δ -closed, then $\Delta Cl(A) = A$. In either case the converse is not true.

Example 2.3. ([16]) Let $\mathbb{Q} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{r_n\}$ be an enumeration of the rationals. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $O_n = (-n, n)$ and $C_n = \{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n\}$. Then $A_n = O_n \cap C_n$ is Δ -open set in \mathbb{R} under the standard topology. Let $A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ then $Int(A) = A$, nevertheless $A = \mathbb{Q}$ is not Δ -open.

It is important to note that in the proof of [22, Theorem 3], the authors assumed that the Δ -interior of a set is Δ -open. However, the above example shows this is not the case.

Because each open set is Δ -open and each closed set is Δ -closed, the following result follows directly.

Lemma 2.2. ([16]) *Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $A \subseteq X$. Then*

- (1) $\Delta Int(A) \subseteq \Delta Cl(A)$.
- (2) $Int(A) \subseteq \Delta Int(A) \subseteq A$.
- (3) $A \subseteq \Delta Cl(A) \subseteq Cl(A)$.

Proposition 2.1. ([16]) *Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $A \subseteq X$. Then $x \in \Delta Int(A)$, if and only if, there is a $\Delta N(x)$, such that $\Delta N(x) \subseteq A$.*

Basic properties of Δ -interior are summarized in the next proposition.

Proposition 2.2. ([16]) *Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $A, B \subseteq X$. Then*

- (1) If $A \subseteq B$, then $\Delta Int(A) \subseteq \Delta Int(B)$.
- (2) $\Delta Int(A) \cup \Delta Int(B) \subseteq \Delta Int(A \cup B)$.
- (3) $\Delta Int(A \cap B) = \Delta Int(A) \cap \Delta Int(B)$.

Proposition 2.3. ([16]) *Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $Y \subseteq X$. Then, S is Δ -open in Y if and only if there is a Δ -open set A in X such that $S = Y \cap A$.*

Proposition 2.4. ([16]) *Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $Y \subseteq X$. Then, S is Δ -closed in Y if and only if there is a Δ -closed set B in X such that $S = Y \cap B$.*

Proposition 2.5. ([16]) *Let (X, τ) be a topological space and $Y \subseteq X$. If S is Δ -open in Y and Y is Δ -open in X , then S is Δ -open in X .*

3. Δ -continuous functions

Given topological spaces X and Y . Recall that a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is called *continuous* if for any open set O in Y , $f^{-1}(O)$ is open in X . A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is called *semi-continuous* if for any open set O in Y , $f^{-1}(O)$ is semi-open in X ; [13]. In the same manner we propose the following notion.

Definition 3.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces. A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be Δ -continuous if for any open set O in Y , $f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in X .

Clearly, every continuous function is Δ -continuous. However, the converse need not be true.

Example 3.1. Let $X = \{a, b, c\}$. Let $\tau_1 = \{\phi, X, \{a\}\}$ and $\tau_2 = \{\phi, X, \{a, b\}\}$ be two topologies on X . Define a function $f : (X, \tau_1) \rightarrow (X, \tau_2)$ by $f(a) = c$, $f(b) = b$, and $f(c) = a$. The collection of all Δ -open sets in (X, τ_1) is

$$\tau_{1\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{b, c\}\}$$

Clearly that f is Δ -continuous. Yet $f^{-1}(\{a, b\}) = \{b, c\}$ is not open in (X, τ_1) . So, f is not continuous.

We provide the following characterization for Δ -continuous functions.

Theorem 3.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Then f is Δ -continuous if and only if for each closed set C in Y , the set $f^{-1}(C)$ is Δ -closed in X .

Proof. (\implies) Assume $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -continuous. Let C be a closed set in Y . Then $Y - C$ is open in Y . So, $f^{-1}(Y - C) = X - f^{-1}(C)$ is Δ -open in X . That is, $f^{-1}(C)$ is Δ -closed in X .

(\impliedby) Let O be an open set in Y . Then $Y - O$ is closed set in Y . So, $f^{-1}(Y - O) = X - f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -closed in X . That is, $f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in X . Hence, f is Δ -continuous. \square

Theorem 3.2. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. The Δ -continuity of f implies each of the following statements:

- (1) For each $x \in X$ and for each neighborhood of $f(x)$, $N(f(x))$ in Y , there is a Δ -neighborhood of x , $\Delta N(x)$ in X such that $f(\Delta N(x)) \subseteq N(f(x))$.
- (2) For each subset A of X , we have $f(\Delta Cl(A)) \subseteq Cl(f(A))$.
- (3) For each subset B of Y , we have $f^{-1}(Int(B)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f^{-1}(B))$.

Proof. (1) Let $x \in X$ and $N(f(x))$ be a neighborhood of $f(x)$ in Y . Then $f^{-1}(N(f(x)))$ is Δ -open in X and $x \in f^{-1}(N(f(x)))$. So, take $\Delta N(x) = f^{-1}(N(f(x)))$. Hence,

$$f(\Delta N(x)) = f\left(f^{-1}(N(f(x)))\right) \subseteq N(f(x))$$

(2) Let $A \subseteq X$. Then $Cl(f(A))$ is closed in Y . It follows from Theorem 3.1 that $f^{-1}(Cl(f(A)))$ is Δ -closed in X . Moreover, $A \subseteq f^{-1}(Cl(f(A)))$. As a result, $\Delta Cl(A) \subseteq f^{-1}(Cl(f(A)))$. Therefore, $f(\Delta Cl(A)) \subseteq Cl(f(A))$.

(3) Let $B \subseteq Y$. Then $Int(B)$ is open in Y and so $f^{-1}(Int(B))$ is Δ -open in X . Furthermore, $f^{-1}(Int(B)) \subseteq f^{-1}(B)$. Therefore, $f^{-1}(Int(B)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f^{-1}(B))$. \square

None of the statements in Theorem 3.2 assures Δ -continuity.

Example 3.2. Let $X = \{a, b, c\}$ with topologies $\tau_1 = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}\}$ and $\tau_2 = \{\phi, X, \{a\}\}$. Define a function $f : (X, \tau_1) \rightarrow (X, \tau_2)$ by $f(a) = a$, $f(b) = b$, and $f(c) = a$. The collection of all Δ -open sets in (X, τ_1) is

$$\tau_{1\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{c\}, \{b\}\}$$

The set $\{a\}$ is open in (X, τ_2) , but $f^{-1}(\{a\}) = \{a, c\}$ is not Δ -open in (X, τ_1) . Thus, f is not Δ -continuous.

However, it is easy to check that statement (1) in Theorem 3.2 is satisfied. Furthermore, in (X, τ_1) it is easy to see that $\Delta Cl(A) = \Delta Int(A) = A$ for any subset A of X . So statements (2) and (3) in Theorem 3.2 are obviously satisfied as well.

An extra condition is needed for each statement in Theorem 3.2 to guarantee the Δ -continuity.

Proposition 3.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Assume for each $x \in X$ and for each neighborhood of $f(x)$, $N(f(x))$ in Y , there is a Δ -neighborhood of x , $\Delta N(x)$ in X such that $f(\Delta N(x)) \subseteq N(f(x))$. Assume further for any subset A of X the $\Delta Int(A)$ is Δ -open in X . Then f is Δ -continuous.

Proof. Let O be an open set in Y . Let $x \in f^{-1}(O)$. Then O is a neighbourhood of $f(x)$. So, there is a Δ -neighborhood of x , $\Delta N(x)$ in X such that $f(\Delta N(x)) \subseteq O$. Hence, $\Delta N(x) \subseteq f^{-1}(O)$. Consequently,

$$f^{-1}(O) = \bigcup_{x \in O} \Delta N(x) = \Delta Int(f^{-1}(O))$$

Therefore, $f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in X and so f is Δ -continuous. \square

Proposition 3.2. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Assume for each subset A of X , we have $f(\Delta Cl(A)) \subseteq Cl(f(A))$. Assume further for any subset A of X the $\Delta Cl(A)$ is Δ -closed in X . Then f is Δ -continuous.

Proof. Let C be a closed set in Y . Let $A = f^{-1}(C)$. Then, $A \subseteq X$ and $f(\Delta Cl(A)) \subseteq Cl(f(A))$. That is,

$$f(\Delta Cl(f^{-1}(C))) \subseteq Cl(f(f^{-1}(C))) \subseteq Cl(C) = C.$$

Hence,

$$\Delta Cl(f^{-1}(C)) \subseteq f^{-1}\left(f(\Delta Cl(f^{-1}(C)))\right) \subseteq f^{-1}(C).$$

Thus, $f^{-1}(C) = \Delta Cl(f^{-1}(C))$ is Δ -closed in X . Theorem 3.1 implies that f is Δ -continuous. \square

Proposition 3.3. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Assume for each subset B of Y , we have $f^{-1}(Int(B)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f^{-1}(B))$. Assume further for any subset A of X the $\Delta Int(A)$ is Δ -open in X . Then f is Δ -continuous.

Proof. Let O be an open subset in Y . Then, $f^{-1}(O) = f^{-1}(Int(O)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f^{-1}(O))$. Consequently, $f^{-1}(O) = \Delta Int(f^{-1}(O))$ is Δ -open in X . Therefore, f is Δ -continuous. \square

Next we consider some methods of constructing Δ -continuous functions, but first we recall the following result on continuous functions in topological spaces.

Proposition 3.4. ([19]) Let X and Y be topological spaces. Then

- (1) If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is given by $f(x) = y_0$ where $y_0 \in Y$ is a fixed element, then f is continuous.
- (2) If A is a subspace of X , the inclusion function $i_A : A \rightarrow X$ is continuous.
- (3) Let $\pi_1 : X \times Y \rightarrow X$ and $\pi_2 : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$ be projections onto the first and second factors, respectively. Then π_1 and π_2 are continuous.

The composition of two Δ -continuous functions need not be Δ -continuous as illustrated in the following example.

Example 3.3. Let $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$ with a topology

$$\tau = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$$

The collection of all Δ -open sets in X is

$$\tau_{\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, b, c\}, \{b, c, d\}, \{c, d\}, \{d\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{b, c\}\}$$

Define a function $f : X \rightarrow X$ by $f(a) = d, f(b) = b, f(c) = a$, and $f(d) = c$. It is easy to check that f is Δ -continuous. Nevertheless, $f \circ f$ is not Δ -continuous. Indeed, $(f \circ f)^{-1}(\{a, b, c\}) = f^{-1}(f^{-1}(\{a, b, c\})) = f^{-1}(\{b, c, d\}) = \{a, b, d\}$ which is not Δ -open in X .

Next we show that the composition of a Δ -continuous function and a continuous function produces a Δ -continuous function.

Proposition 3.5. Let X, Y, Z , and W be topological spaces. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y, g : Y \rightarrow Z$, and $h : Z \rightarrow W$.

- (1) If f is continuous and g is Δ -continuous, then $g \circ f$ is Δ -continuous.
- (2) If g is Δ -continuous and h is continuous, then $h \circ g$ is Δ -continuous.

Proof. (1) Assume f is continuous and g is Δ -continuous. Let G be an open set in Z . As g is Δ -continuous, we get $g^{-1}(G)$ is Δ -open in Y . Theorem 2.1 assures that $g^{-1}(G) = O \cap C$ for some open set O in Y and closed set C in Y . Continuity of f implies that $f^{-1}(O)$ is open in X and $f^{-1}(C)$ is closed in X . Therefore, $(g \circ f)^{-1}(G) = f^{-1}(g^{-1}(G)) = f^{-1}(O \cap C) = f^{-1}(O) \cap f^{-1}(C)$ is Δ -open in X by Theorem 2.1. Hence, $g \circ f$ is Δ -continuous.

(2) Suppose g is Δ -continuous and h is continuous. Let G be an open set in W . As h is continuous, we have $h^{-1}(G)$ is open in Z . Being g is Δ -continuous, we obtain $g^{-1}(h^{-1}(G))$ is Δ -open in Y . So, $(h \circ g)^{-1}(G) = g^{-1}(h^{-1}(G))$ is Δ -open in Y . Thus, $h \circ g$ is Δ -continuous. \square

Proposition 3.6. Let X and Y be topological spaces.

- (1) If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -continuous and A is a subspace of X , then the restriction of f to A , $f|_A : A \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -continuous.
- (2) Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -continuous. If B is a subspace of Y such that $f(X) \subseteq B$, then the function $f : X \rightarrow B$ is Δ -continuous.
- (3) Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -continuous. If Z is a topological space having Y as a subspace, then the function $h : X \rightarrow Z$ obtained by extending the codomain of f is Δ -continuous.

Proof. (1) The function $f|_A$ equals to $f \circ i_A$, where i_A is the inclusion function $i_A : A \rightarrow X$. A combination of Proposition 3.4(2) and Proposition 3.5(1) yields that $f|_A$ is Δ -continuous.

(2) Suppose $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -continuous and B is a subspace of Y such that $f(X) \subseteq B$. Let G be an open set in B . Then there is an open set O in Y such that $G = B \cap O$. Then $f^{-1}(G) = f^{-1}(B \cap O) = f^{-1}(B) \cap f^{-1}(O) = X \cap f^{-1}(O) = f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in X . Thus, $f : X \rightarrow B$ is Δ -continuous.

(3) Assume $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -continuous and Z is a topological space having Y as a subspace. Let $h : X \rightarrow Z$ be the function obtained by extending the codomain of f . Then $h = i_Y \circ f$, where i_Y is the inclusion function $i_Y : Y \rightarrow Z$. Proposition 3.4(2) and Proposition 3.5(2) assure that h is Δ -continuous. \square

We recall the usual *pasting lemma* for continuous functions in topological spaces

Theorem 3.3. ([19]) *Let X and Y be topological spaces. Let $X = A \cup B$, where A and B are closed in X . Let $f : A \rightarrow Y$ and $g : B \rightarrow Y$ be continuous. Assume $f(x) = g(x)$ for each $x \in A \cap B$ and let $h : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function defined by $h(x) = f(x)$ for $x \in A$, and $h(x) = g(x)$ for $x \in B$. Then, h is continuous.*

Proof. Let C be a closed subset of Y . Then $h^{-1}(C) = f^{-1}(C) \cup g^{-1}(C)$. Since f is continuous, $f^{-1}(C)$ is closed in A , and so it is closed in X . Similarly, $g^{-1}(C)$ is closed in B , and so in X . Hence, $h^{-1}(C) = f^{-1}(C) \cup g^{-1}(C)$ is closed in X . Therefore, h is continuous. \square

The proof of Theorem 3.3 utilizes the following result: *Let Y be a subspace of X . If C is closed in Y and Y is closed in X , then C is closed in X .* However, such conclusion does not hold in the sense of Δ -closedness.

Example 3.4. Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ with a topology

$$\tau = \{\phi, X, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, c, d\}\}.$$

The collection of all Δ -open sets in X is

$$\tau_{\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, c, d\}, \{d, e\}, \{d\}, \{e\}\}.$$

The collection of all Δ -closed sets in X is

$$\tau_{\Delta c} = \{\phi, X, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, c, d\}, \{a, b, c, e\}, \{d, e\}, \{e\}\}.$$

Let $Y = \{a, b, c, d\}$ and $C = \{d\}$. Obviously, Y is Δ -closed in X . Note that $C = Y \cap \{d, e\}$, so Proposition 2.4 assures that C is Δ -closed set in Y . Yet, C is not Δ -closed in X .

Motivated by Theorem 3.3 and Example 3.4 we propose the following pasting-type lemma for Δ -continuous functions.

Theorem 3.4. *Let X and Y be topological spaces. Let $X = A \cup B$, where A and B are Δ -open in X . Let $f : A \rightarrow Y$ and $g : B \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -continuous. Assume $f(x) = g(x)$ for each $x \in A \cap B$ and let $h : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function defined by $h(x) = f(x)$ for $x \in A$, and $h(x) = g(x)$ for $x \in B$. Assume further, the union of any two Δ -open sets in X is again Δ -open. Then, h is Δ -continuous.*

Proof. Let O be an open subset of Y . Then $h^{-1}(O) = f^{-1}(O) \cup g^{-1}(O)$. Since f is Δ -continuous, $f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in A , and so it is Δ -open in X by Proposition 2.5. Similarly, $g^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in B , and so in X . Hence, $h^{-1}(O) = f^{-1}(O) \cup g^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in X . Therefore, h is Δ -continuous. \square

The condition in Theorem 3.4 that union of any two Δ -open sets is again Δ -open can not be removed.

Example 3.5. Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ with a topology

$$\tau = \{\phi, X, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, c, d\}\}.$$

The collection of all Δ -open sets in X is

$$\tau_{\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, c, d\}, \{d, e\}, \{d\}, \{e\}\}.$$

Clearly, the sets $\{a, b, c\}$ and $\{e\}$ are Δ -open, whereas their union is not. Let $A = \{a, b, c\}$ and $B = \{d, e\}$. Let τ_A and τ_B be the induced topologies on the sets A and B , respectively. Let $f : (A, \tau_A) \rightarrow (X, \tau)$ be given as $f(a) = a, f(b) = b$, and $f(c) = c$. Clearly, the function f is continuous so it is Δ -continuous. Define a function $g : (B, \tau_B) \rightarrow (X, \tau)$ as $g(d) = e$ and $g(e) = d$. Then g is Δ -continuous.

Let $h : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (X, \tau)$ be as stated in Theorem 3.4. For the open set $O = \{a, b, c, d\}$, $h^{-1}(O) = f^{-1}(O) \cup g^{-1}(O) = \{a, b, c\} \cup \{e\} = \{a, b, c, e\}$ is not Δ -open. Thus, h is not Δ -continuous.

Proposition 3.7. Let $X, Y,$ and Z be topological spaces. Let $f_1 : X \rightarrow Y$ and $f_2 : X \rightarrow Z$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y \times Z$ be given as $f(x) = (f_1(x), f_2(x))$. If f is Δ -continuous on X , then f_1 and f_2 are Δ -continuous on X .

Proof. Let $\pi_1 : Y \times Z \rightarrow Y$ and $\pi_2 : Y \times Z \rightarrow Z$ be projections onto the first and second factors, respectively. Then $f_1(x) = \pi_1(f(x)) = (\pi_1 \circ f)(x)$ and $f_2(x) = \pi_2(f(x)) = (\pi_2 \circ f)(x)$. Combining Proposition 3.4(3) and Proposition 3.5(2) gives that f_1 and f_2 are Δ -continuous. \square

It is well known that open and closed sets are preserved under homeomorphisms. Similar conclusion holds for Δ -open and Δ -closed sets.

Proposition 3.8. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a homeomorphism. Then

- (1) The image of a Δ -open set is Δ -open.
- (2) The inverse image of a Δ -open set is Δ -open.
- (3) The image of a Δ -closed set is Δ -closed.
- (4) The inverse image of a Δ -closed set is Δ -closed.

Proof. (1) Let A be Δ -open in X . Theorem 2.1 assures that $A = O \cap C$ for some an open set O in X and a closed set C in X . As f is one-to-one, we get $f(A) = f(O \cap C) = f(O) \cap f(C)$. Being f a homeomorphism we get $f(O)$ is open in Y and $f(C)$ is closed in Y . Therefore, $f(A)$ is Δ -open in Y by Theorem 2.1.

(2) Let B be Δ -open in Y . There are an open set G in Y and a closed set F in Y satisfying $B = G \cap F$; Theorem 2.1. So, $f^{-1}(B) = f^{-1}(G \cap F) = f^{-1}(G) \cap f^{-1}(F)$. Being f a homeomorphism we get $f^{-1}(G)$ is open in X and $f^{-1}(F)$ is closed in X . Therefore, $f^{-1}(B)$ is Δ -open in X by Theorem 2.1.

With the aid of Corollary 2.1, parts (3) and (4) are proved similarly. \square

4. Δ -irresolute functions

Given topological spaces X and Y . A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is called *irresolute* if for any semi-open set O in Y , $f^{-1}(O)$ is semi-open in X ; [7]. In a similar way we propose the following notion in terms of Δ -open sets.

Definition 4.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces. A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be Δ -*irresolute* if for any Δ -open set S in Y , $f^{-1}(S)$ is Δ -open in X .

Combining Definition 4.1 and Proposition 3.8, we get that each homeomorphism is Δ -irresolute. Evidently each Δ -irresolute function is Δ -continuous. The converse need not be true.

Example 4.1. Let $X = \{a, b, c\}$ with topologies $\tau_1 = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}\}$ and $\tau_2 = \{\phi, X, \{b\}, \{b, c\}\}$. Define a function $f : (X, \tau_1) \rightarrow (X, \tau_2)$ by $f(a) = c$, $f(b) = b$, and $f(c) = a$. The collection of all Δ -open sets in (X, τ_1) is

$$\tau_{1\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{c\}, \{b\}\}$$

The collection of all Δ -open sets in (X, τ_2) is

$$\tau_{2\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, c\}, \{a\}, \{c\}\}$$

Clearly, f is Δ -continuous. Yet, the set $\{a, c\}$ is Δ -open in (X, τ_2) , but $f^{-1}(\{a, c\}) = \{a, c\}$ is not Δ -open in (X, τ_1) . Thus, f is not Δ -irresolute.

We show that each continuous function is Δ -irresolute.

Proposition 4.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces. If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous, then it is Δ -irresolute.

Proof. Let S be a Δ -open set in Y . By Theorem 2.1 there are an open set O and a closed set C in Y such that $S = O \cap C$. So, $f^{-1}(S) = f^{-1}(O \cap C) = f^{-1}(O) \cap f^{-1}(C)$ which is Δ -open in X by the continuity of f and Theorem 2.1. \square

Example 3.1 provides a Δ -irresolute function that is not continuous. We have seen that Δ -continuity is characterized in terms of closed and Δ -closed sets; Theorem 3.1. In the same manner, we have the following result for Δ -irresolute functions.

Theorem 4.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Then f is Δ -irresolute if and only if for each Δ -closed set C in Y , the set $f^{-1}(C)$ is Δ -closed in X .

Proof. (\implies) Assume $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -irresolute. Let C be a Δ -closed set in Y . Then $Y - C$ is Δ -open in Y . So, $f^{-1}(Y - C) = X - f^{-1}(C)$ is Δ -open in X . That is, $f^{-1}(C)$ is Δ -closed in X .

(\impliedby) Let O be a Δ -open set in Y . Then $Y - O$ is Δ -closed set in Y . So, $f^{-1}(Y - O) = X - f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -closed in X . That is, $f^{-1}(O)$ is Δ -open in X . Hence, f is Δ -irresolute. \square

By similar arguments as Theorem 3.2, Proposition 3.1, Proposition 3.2, and Proposition 3.3, one can prove the next results on Δ -irresolute functions.

Proposition 4.2. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. If f is Δ -irresolute, then for each $x \in X$ and for each Δ -neighborhood of $f(x)$, $\Delta N(f(x))$ in Y , there is a Δ -neighborhood of x , $\Delta N(x)$ in X such that $f(\Delta N(x)) \subseteq \Delta N(f(x))$.

Proposition 4.3. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. If f is Δ -irresolute and for each subset B of Y , the $\Delta Cl(B)$ is Δ -closed in Y , then for each subset A of X , we have $f(\Delta Cl(A)) \subseteq \Delta Cl(f(A))$.

Proposition 4.4. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. If f is Δ -irresolute and for each subset B of Y , the $\Delta Int(B)$ is Δ -open in Y , then for each subset B of Y , we have $f^{-1}(\Delta Int(B)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f^{-1}(B))$.

Proposition 4.5. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Assume for each $x \in X$ and for each Δ -neighborhood of $f(x)$, $\Delta N(f(x))$ in Y , there is a Δ -neighborhood of x , $\Delta N(x)$ in X such that $f(\Delta N(x)) \subseteq \Delta N(f(x))$. Assume further for any subset A of X the $\Delta Int(A)$ is Δ -open in X . Then f is Δ -irresolute.

Proposition 4.6. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Assume for each subset A of X , we have $f(\Delta Cl(A)) \subseteq \Delta Cl(f(A))$. Assume further for any subset A of X the $\Delta Cl(A)$ is Δ -closed in X . Then f is Δ -irresolute.

Proposition 4.7. Let X and Y be topological spaces; let $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Assume for each subset B of Y , we have $f^{-1}(\Delta Int(B)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f^{-1}(B))$. Assume further for any subset A of X the $\Delta Int(A)$ is Δ -open in X . Then f is Δ -irresolute.

The proof of the following theorem is straight forward and so it is omitted.

Theorem 4.2. *Let X, Y , and Z be topological spaces.*

- (1) *If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is homeomorphism, then f is Δ -irresolute.*
- (2) *If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -irresolute and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ is Δ -irresolute, then $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$ is Δ -irresolute.*
- (3) *If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -irresolute and A is a subspace of X , then the restriction of f to A , $f|_A : A \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -irresolute.*
- (4) *Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -irresolute. If B is a subspace of Y such that*

$f(X) \subseteq B$, then the function $f : X \rightarrow B$ is Δ -irresolute.

(5) Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -irresolute. If Z is a topological space having Y as a subspace, then the function $h : X \rightarrow Z$ obtained by extending the codomain of f is Δ -irresolute.

(6) Let $f_1 : X \rightarrow Y$ and $f_2 : X \rightarrow Z$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y \times Z$ be given as $f(x) = (f_1(x), f_2(x))$. If f is Δ -irresolute, then f_1 and f_2 are Δ -irresolute.

In connection with Theorem 3.4 the coming result is easily proved.

Theorem 4.3. Let X and Y be topological spaces. Let $X = A \cup B$, where A and B are Δ -open in X . Let $f : A \rightarrow Y$ and $g : B \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -irresolute. Assume $f(x) = g(x)$ for each $x \in A \cap B$ and let $h : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function defined by $h(x) = f(x)$ for $x \in A$, and $h(x) = g(x)$ for $x \in B$. Assume further, the union of any two Δ -open sets in X is again Δ -open. Then, h is Δ -irresolute.

5. Δ -open and Δ -closed functions

Recall that a function is called *open* (*closed*) if the image of each open (closed) set is again an open (a closed) set. Similar notions are given in terms of Δ -open and Δ -closed sets.

Definition 5.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces. A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be Δ -open if for any Δ -open set S in X , $f(S)$ is Δ -open in Y .

Definition 5.2. Let X and Y be topological spaces. A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be Δ -closed if for any Δ -closed set S in X , $f(S)$ is Δ -closed in Y .

In connection with Proposition 3.8, it is evident that a homeomorphism is both a Δ -open and a Δ -closed function. For the function f in Example 3.3 the set $S = \{c, d\}$ is both Δ -open and Δ -closed; but $f(S) = \{a, c\}$ is neither Δ -open nor Δ -closed. This gives an example of a function that is Δ -continuous but it is neither Δ -open nor Δ -closed.

Example 5.1. Let $X = \{a, b, c\}$ with topology $\tau_1 = \{\phi, X, \{a, b\}\}$. Let $Y = \{a, b, c, d\}$ with topology $\tau_2 = \{\phi, Y, \{b, d\}, \{c, d\}, \{d\}, \{b, c, d\}\}$. Define a function $f : (X, \tau_1) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_2)$ by $f(a) = b$, $f(b) = a$, and $f(c) = d$. The collection of all Δ -open sets in (X, τ_1) is the same as the collection of all Δ -closed sets in (X, τ_1) , which is

$$\tau_{1\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a, b\}, \{c\}\}$$

It is easy to see that f is both Δ -open and Δ -closed function. Yet, the set $\{b, d\}$ is open in (Y, τ_2) , but $f^{-1}(\{b, d\}) = \{a, c\}$ is not Δ -open in (X, τ_1) . Thus, f is not Δ -continuous. Hence, f is neither Δ -irresolute nor continuous.

Next we give an example of a Δ -open function that is not Δ -closed and vice versa.

Example 5.2. Let $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$ with topology $\tau = \{\phi, X, \{a, c, d\}, \{c, d\}\}$. The collection of all Δ -open sets in (X, τ) is

$$\tau_{\Delta o} = \{\phi, X, \{a, c, d\}, \{c, d\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{a\}\}$$

On one hand, define a function $f : X \rightarrow X$ by $f(a) = f(b) = f(c) = f(d) = a$. It is easy to see that f is Δ -open but not Δ -closed. On the other hand, define a function $g : X \rightarrow X$ by $g(a) = g(b) = b$, $g(c) = c$, and $g(d) = d$. Then g is Δ -closed. However, the set $\{a, c, d\}$ is Δ -open, yet $g(\{a, c, d\}) = \{b, c, d\}$ is not Δ -open. Thus, g is not Δ -open.

It is clear that the composition of two Δ -open (Δ -closed) functions is again a Δ -open (Δ -closed) function.

Theorem 5.1. *Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ be functions. Assume that $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$ is Δ -open (Δ -closed).*

- (1) *If g is Δ -irresolute injection, then f is Δ -open (Δ -closed).*
- (2) *If f is Δ -irresolute surjection, then g is Δ -open (Δ -closed).*

Proof. We only consider the case that $g \circ f$ is Δ -open. The other case is similar.

(1) Let S be a Δ -open set in X . Then $(g \circ f)(S) = g(f(S))$ is Δ -open in Z . As g is Δ -irresolute, $g^{-1}(g(f(S)))$ is Δ -open in Y . But g is injection, so $g^{-1}(g(f(S))) = f(S)$. Hence, f is Δ -open.

(2) Let S be a Δ -open set in Y . Since f is Δ -irresolute, $f^{-1}(S)$ is Δ -open in X . In the view of the fact that $g \circ f$ is Δ -open, $(g \circ f)(f^{-1}(S))$ is Δ -open in Z . As f is surjection, $(g \circ f)(f^{-1}(S)) = g(f(f^{-1}(S))) = g(S)$. Hence, g is Δ -open. \square

Proposition 5.1. Let X and Y be topological spaces. If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -open, then $f(\Delta Int(A)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f(A))$ for any subset A of X .

Proof. Assume f is Δ -open. For a subset A of X , let $y \in f(\Delta Int(A))$. Then there is $x \in \Delta Int(A)$ such that $y = f(x)$. Proposition 2.1 assures that $x \in \Delta N(x) \subseteq A$ for some Δ -neighbourhood $\Delta N(x)$ of x . So, $f(x) \in f(\Delta N(x)) \subseteq f(A)$. Since, f is Δ -open we get $f(\Delta N(x))$ is Δ -open in Y . Hence, $f(\Delta N(x)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f(A))$. Therefore, $y = f(x) \in \Delta Int(f(A))$. \square

The coming result is a partial converse of the above proposition.

Proposition 5.2. Let X and Y be topological spaces and $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Suppose for each subset A of X , $f(\Delta Int(A)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f(A))$ and for each subset B of Y the $\Delta Int(B)$ is Δ -open in Y . Then f is Δ -open.

Proof. Let A be a Δ -open set in X . Then $\Delta Int(A) = A$ and so $f(A) = f(\Delta Int(A)) \subseteq \Delta Int(f(A))$. However, $\Delta Int(f(A)) \subseteq f(A)$ and hence $f(A) = \Delta Int(f(A))$. By assumption $\Delta Int(f(A)) = f(A)$ is Δ -open in Y . Thus, f is Δ -open. \square

Proposition 5.3. Let X and Y be topological spaces. If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is Δ -closed, then $\Delta Cl(f(A)) \subseteq f(\Delta Cl(A))$ for any subset A of X .

Proof. Assume f is Δ -closed and A is a subset of X . Then for any Δ -closed set C in X with $C \supseteq A$ we have $f(C)$ is Δ -closed in Y and clearly $f(C) \supseteq f(A)$. Therefore,

$$\Delta Cl(f(A)) = \bigcap_{\substack{K \supseteq f(A) \\ K \Delta\text{-closed}}} K \subseteq \bigcap_{\substack{C \supseteq A \\ C \Delta\text{-closed}}} f(C) \subseteq f\left(\bigcap_{\substack{C \supseteq A \\ C \Delta\text{-closed}}} C\right) = f(\Delta Cl(A)).$$

\square

The coming result is a partial converse of the above proposition.

Proposition 5.4. Let X and Y be topological spaces and $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Suppose for each subset A of X , $\Delta Cl(f(A)) \subseteq f(\Delta Cl(A))$ and for each subset B of Y the $\Delta Cl(B)$ is Δ -closed in Y . Then f is Δ -closed.

Proof. Let A be a Δ -closed set in X . Then $\Delta Cl(A) = A$ and so $\Delta Cl(f(A)) \subseteq f(\Delta Cl(A)) = f(A)$. However, $f(A) \subseteq \Delta Cl(f(A))$ and hence $f(A) = \Delta Cl(f(A))$. By assumption $\Delta Cl(f(A)) = f(A)$ is Δ -closed in Y . Thus, f is Δ -closed. \square

Proposition 5.5. Let X and Y be topological spaces and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -open. Then for each subset B of Y and each Δ -closed set H in X containing $f^{-1}(B)$ there exists a Δ -closed set K in Y such that $K \supseteq B$ and $f^{-1}(K) \subseteq H$.

Proof. Let $B \subseteq Y$ and H be a Δ -closed set in X with $H \supseteq f^{-1}(B)$. Then $X - H$ is Δ -open in X and hence $f(X - H)$ is Δ -open in Y . Take $K = Y - f(X - H)$. Clearly, K is Δ -closed in Y , and

$$\begin{aligned}
H \supseteq f^{-1}(B) &\Leftrightarrow X - H \subseteq X - f^{-1}(B) \\
&\Rightarrow f(X - H) \subseteq f(X - f^{-1}(B)) \\
&\Leftrightarrow K = Y - f(X - H) \supseteq Y - f(X - f^{-1}(B)) \\
&\Rightarrow K \supseteq Y - f(X - f^{-1}(B)) \supseteq B \\
&\Rightarrow K \supseteq B.
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}
f^{-1}(K) &= f^{-1}(Y - f(X - H)) \\
&= f^{-1}(Y) - f^{-1}(f(X - H)) \\
&= X - f^{-1}(f(X - H)) \\
&\subseteq X - (X - H) = H.
\end{aligned}$$

□

Proposition 5.6. Let X and Y be topological spaces and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be Δ -closed. Then for each subset B of Y and each Δ -open set U in X containing $f^{-1}(B)$ there exists a Δ -open set V in Y such that $V \supseteq B$ and $f^{-1}(V) \subseteq U$.

Proof. Let $B \subseteq Y$ and U be a Δ -open set in X with $U \supseteq f^{-1}(B)$. Then $X - U$ is Δ -closed in X and hence $f(X - U)$ is Δ -closed in Y . Take $V = Y - f(X - U)$. Clearly, V is Δ -open in Y , and

$$\begin{aligned}
U \supseteq f^{-1}(B) &\Leftrightarrow X - U \subseteq X - f^{-1}(B) \\
&\Rightarrow f(X - U) \subseteq f(X - f^{-1}(B)) \\
&\Leftrightarrow V = Y - f(X - U) \supseteq Y - f(X - f^{-1}(B)) \\
&\Rightarrow V \supseteq Y - f(X - f^{-1}(B)) \supseteq B \\
&\Rightarrow V \supseteq B.
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}
f^{-1}(V) &= f^{-1}(Y - f(X - U)) \\
&= f^{-1}(Y) - f^{-1}(f(X - U)) \\
&= X - f^{-1}(f(X - U)) \\
&\subseteq X - (X - U) = U.
\end{aligned}$$

□

Conclusion

In this work, we introduced four distinct classes of functions within topological spaces, characterized by their interactions with Δ -open and Δ -closed sets.

The inaugural class, Δ -continuous functions, is defined by the criterion that the inverse image of any open set must be Δ -open. A comprehensive characterization of Δ -continuous functions, involving closed and Δ -closed sets, is encapsulated in Theorem 3.1.

Subsequently, we explored Δ -irresolute functions, identified by the property that the inverse image of each Δ -open set remains Δ -open. Theorem 4.1 offers a pivotal characterization of Δ -irresolute functions, leveraging Δ -closed sets.

The implications

$$\text{continuous function} \Rightarrow \Delta\text{-irresolute function} \Rightarrow \Delta\text{-continuous function}$$

underscore the hierarchical relationships among these classes. Nonetheless, as demonstrated by Example 3.1 and Example 4.1, these implications are not bi-directional.

The third and fourth classes— Δ -open and Δ -closed functions, respectively—further enrich our taxonomy. A Δ -open function ensures the Δ -openness of images of Δ -open sets, whereas a Δ -closed function guarantees the Δ -closed nature of images of Δ -closed sets. The distinctions among Δ -open, Δ -closed, and Δ -continuous functions, highlighted through Examples 5.1 and 5.2, reveal the nuanced interplay of these concepts.

Looking ahead, we aim to extend our inquiry into the realms of Δ -compactness, Δ -connectedness, and Δ -separation axioms within topological spaces.

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