

ON INTERSECTIONS OF COMPACT SETS

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Every intersection of compact subsets of a Hausdorff space is again compact. For non-Hausdorff spaces this is obviously not true. Take, for example, an infinite set X with two distinguished elements a and b and as closed sets all finite subsets of X and all subsets which contain both a and b . Then X becomes a T_1 -space such that $X - \{a\}$ and $X - \{b\}$ are compact but their intersection is not compact. During an investigation of compact subsets of arbitrary spaces with de Groot and Strecker the following questions arose:

- (a) is each intersection of compact sets expressible as a finite intersection of compact sets?
- (b) is every finite intersection of compact sets expressible as an intersection of two compact sets?

The following example answers both questions in the negative.

Moreover, the space X which will be constructed in the following example is a compact T_1 -space with subsets Y, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, \dots such that

- (a) Y is expressible as an intersection of compact sets but not as a finite intersection of compact sets,
- (b) Y_m is expressible as an intersection of $m + 1$ compact sets but not as an intersection of m compact sets.

Example. Let n, m be natural numbers, $N = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ the set of natural numbers, $X_m^n = \{n\} \times \{m\} \times N$, $X_m = X_m^1 \cup X_m^2 \cup \dots \cup X_m^m$. The set

$$X = \cup\{X_m : m \in N\} \cup N \cup \{0\}$$

can be made into a compact T_1 -space by calling a subset A of X closed, iff A enjoys the following two properties:

- (1) $|A \cap X_m^n| \geq \aleph_0 \Rightarrow \{m, m + n\} \subset A$,
- (2) $|\{m : A \cap (X_m \cup \{m\}) \neq \phi\}| \geq \aleph_0 \Rightarrow 0 \in A$.

Then a subset A of X is compact iff A enjoys (2) and

- (3) $|A \cap X_m^n| \geq \aleph_0 \Rightarrow \{m, m + n\} \cap A \neq \phi$.

Consequently, a compact subset of X which contains X_m for a certain m must contain m or the whole set $\{m + 1, m + 2, \dots, m + m\}$. From this it follows that $Y_m = X_m \cup X_{m+1} \cup \dots \cup X_{m+m}$ is expressible as intersection of the

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