

SOME FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES OF PRESEPARATED SETS**Miguel Caldas**

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Abstract. In this paper, we offer the new notion of preseparatedness in topological spaces and we study some of its fundamental properties.

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1. Introduction

Throughout the paper (X, τ) (or simply X) will always denote a topological space. For a subset A of X , the closure, interior and complement of A in X are denoted by $Cl(A)$, $Int(A)$ and $X - A$, respectively. By $PO(X, \tau)$ and $PC(X, \tau)$ we denote the collection of all preopen sets and the collection of all preclosed sets of (X, τ) , respectively. Let A be a subset of a topological space (X, τ) . A is preopen [4] (or

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locally dense [1]) if $A \subset \text{Int}(Cl(A))$. The complement of a preopen set A is called preclosed [4] or equivalently A is preclosed if $Cl(\text{Int}(A)) \subset A$. The intersection of all preclosed sets containing A is called the preclosure of A [2] and is denoted by $pCl(A)$. Recall that a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be precontinuous [4] if for each $x \in X$ and each open set V of Y containing $f(x)$, there exists a preopen set U of X containing x such that $f(U) \subset V$. A topological space X is pre- T_1 [3], if for each pair of distinct points x and y of X , there exists a pair of preopen sets one containing x but not y and the other containing y but not x . A topological space X is pre- T_0 [5] if for any pair of distinct points x and y of X , there exists a preopen set containing x but not y or a preopen set containing y but not x . Observe that every topological space is pre- T_0 .

2. Some properties

Definition 2.1. Let X be a topological space and $A, B \subset X$. Then A and B are said to be pre-separated if $A \cap pCl(B) = \emptyset$ and $pCl(A) \cap B = \emptyset$.

Remark 2.1.

- (1) If A and B are pre-separated, then A and B are disjoint.
- (2) If $A \neq \emptyset$ is a subset of B and B is pre-separated from C , then A and C are pre-separated.
- (3) If A and B are pre-separated and A and C are pre-separated, then A and $B \cup C$ are pre-separated.

Definition 2.2. Let X be a topological space. Points are called pre-separated from preclosed sets in X if for all preclosed sets $C \subset X$ and for each $x \in X - C$, $\{x\}$ and C are pre-separated.

Recall that a topological space X is pre-regular [6] if for each preclosed set F and each point $x \in X - F$, there exist disjoint preopen sets U and V such that $x \in U$ and $F \subset V$.

Remark 2.2.

- (1) If X is pre- T_1 , then points are pre-separated from preclosed sets. Hence, this is a weaker separation axiom than pre- T_1 .
- (2) If X is pre-regular, then points are pre-separated from preclosed sets. Hence, pre-regularity is a stronger condition.

This axiom enables us to determine the family of preopen sets of the topology of a space from its pre-separated sets.

Theorem 2.1. *Let X be a topological space in which points are pre-separated from preclosed sets and let S be the pairs of pre-separated sets in X . Then, for each subset A of X , the preclosure of A is*

$$pCl(A) = \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A\} \notin S\}.$$

Proof. Let $x \notin \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A\} \notin S\}$. Then $\{\{x\}, A\} \in S$. We have $\{x\} \cap pCl(A) = \emptyset$. Thus, $x \notin pCl(A)$ and hence $pCl(A) \subset \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A\} \notin S\}$.

Suppose that $x \notin pCl(A)$. Then $pCl(A)$ is a preclosed set disjoint from $\{x\}$ and thus, by hypothesis, $\{\{x\}, A\} \in S$. Hence, $x \notin \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A\} \notin S\}$. ■

In general, if $x \in pCl(\{y\})$ in a topological space, then it need not be the case that $y \in pCl(\{x\})$. However, when points are pre-separated from preclosed sets, this is the case; in fact, this provides us with alternate characterizations of the axiom.

Definition 2.3. A topological space X is called pre-symmetric if topologically distinct points in X are pre-separated.

Observe that a topological space X is pre-symmetric if and only if X is T_1 . Since every topological space is pre- T_0 , this makes sense.

Theorem 2.2. *Let X be a topological space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) *Points are pre-separated from preclosed sets in X .*
- (2) *For all $x, y \in X$, $x \in pCl(\{y\})$ if and only if $y \in pCl(\{x\})$.*
- (3) *X is pre-symmetric.*

Proof. Suppose that (1) holds. If $x \in pCl(\{y\})$, then $\{x\}$ and $\{y\}$ are not pre-separated and hence, $y \in pCl(\{x\})$. If $\{x\}$ and $\{y\}$ are topologically distinct, then one of them, say x , has a preopen neighborhood U which does not contain y . We have $pCl(\{y\}) \subset X - U$. This implies that $\{x\}$ and $pCl(\{y\})$ are pre-separated and $\{x\}$ and $\{y\}$ are pre-separated. Hence, (1) implies (2) and (1) implies (3).

Suppose that (2) is true. Let $C \subset X$ be preclosed and let $x \in X - C$. For each $y \in C$, $x \notin pCl(\{y\})$ and hence $y \notin pCl(\{x\})$. Thus, $pCl(\{x\}) \cap C = \emptyset$. Hence, (2) implies (1).

Finally, suppose that (3) is true and suppose that $x \notin pCl(\{y\})$. Then $\{x\}$ and $\{y\}$ are topologically distinct and hence pre-separated. Thus, $pCl(\{x\}) \cap \{y\} = \emptyset$, that is, $y \notin pCl(\{x\})$. Hence, (3) implies (2). ■

Theorem 2.1 tells us that when X is pre-symmetric, the collection of pre-separated sets uniquely determines the family of preopen sets of the topology of X . Note that pre-symmetry really is necessary.

Example 2.1. Let $X = \{a, b\}$ and suppose that no pair of nonempty subsets are pre-separated in X . Then the family of preopen sets of the pre-symmetric topology on X must be the power set of X , but the nonpre-symmetric topology $\{\emptyset, \{a\}, X\}$ also pre-separates no pair of nonempty subsets of X .

In fact, pre-symmetric spaces can be presented without reference to preopen sets at all.

Theorem 2.3. *Let S be a set of unordered pairs of subsets of a set X such that*

- (1) *if $\{A, B\} \in S$, then A and B are disjoint,*
- (2) *if $A \subset B$ and $\{B, C\} \in S$, then $\{A, C\} \in S$,*
- (3) *if $\{A, B\} \in S$ and $\{A, C\} \in S$, then $\{A, B \cup C\} \in S$,*
- (4) *if $\{\{x\}, B\} \in S$ for each $x \in A$ and $\{\{y\}, A\} \in S$ for each $y \in B$, then $\{A, B\} \in S$ and*
- (5) *if $\{\{x\}, B\} \notin S$ and for each $y \in B$, $\{\{y\}, A\} \notin S$, then $\{\{x\}, A\} \notin S$.*

Then there exists a unique pre-symmetric family of the preopen sets of the topology on X for which S is the collection of preseparated sets.

Proof. Let $pCl(A) = \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A\} \notin S\}$ for every subset A of X . If $x \notin pCl(A)$, then $\{\{x\}, A\} \in S$ and hence $x \notin A$. Thus, $A \subset pCl(A)$ for each subset A .

If $x \in pCl(A)$, then $\{\{x\}, A\} \notin S$ and hence, $\{\{x\}, B\} \notin S$, that is, $x \in pCl(B)$. Thus, $pCl(A) \subset pCl(B)$ whenever $A \subset B$. In particular, since $A \subset pCl(A)$, $pCl(A) \subset pCl(pCl(A))$.

If $x \in pCl(pCl(A))$, then $\{\{x\}, pCl(A)\} \notin S$ and hence, $\{\{x\}, A\} \notin S$. Furthermore, by the final condition, $pCl(pCl(A)) \subset pCl(A)$ and thus, $pCl(pCl(A)) = pCl(A)$ for each $A \subset X$.

(1) Since $X \subset pCl(X) \subset X$, then $pCl(X) = X$.

(2) If $pCl(A_\alpha) = A_\alpha$, $\forall \alpha \in \Phi$, then $pCl(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha) \subset pCl(A_\alpha) = A_\alpha$ for each $\alpha \in \Phi$, since $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha \subset A_\alpha$ for each $\alpha \in \Phi$. Hence, $pCl(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha) \subset \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha$. Also, since $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha \subset pCl(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha)$, then $pCl(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi} A_\alpha$.

(3) If $pCl(A) = A$ and $pCl(B) = B$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 pCl(A \cup B) &= \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A \cup B\} \notin S\} \\
 &= \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A\} \notin S \text{ or } \{\{x\}, B\} \notin S\} \\
 &= \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, A\} \notin S\} \cup \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, B\} \notin S\} \\
 &= pCl(A) \cup pCl(B) \\
 &= A \cup B.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, pCl is the preclosure operator of a topology τ on X . If $y \notin C = \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, C\} \notin S\}$, then $\{\{y\}, C\} \in S$. Thus, points are preseparated from preclosed sets in X .

Suppose that $\{A, B\} \in S$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 A \cap pCl(B) &= A \cap \{x \in X : \{\{x\}, B\} \notin S\} \\
 &= \{x \in A : \{\{x\}, B\} \notin S\} \\
 &= \emptyset.
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $pCl(A) \cap B = \emptyset$. Hence, if $\{A, B\} \in S$, then A and B are pre-separated in τ .

Now suppose that A and B are pre-separated. Then $\{x \in A : \{\{x\}, B\} \notin S\} = A \cap pCl(B) = \emptyset$ and $\{x \in A : \{\{x\}, B\} \notin S\} = pCl(A) \cap B = \emptyset$. Hence, $\{\{x\}, B\} \in S$ for each $x \in A$ and $\{\{y\}, A\} \in S$ for each $y \in B$. Thus, $\{A, B\} \in S$. Hence, S is the collection of pairs of sets pre-separated by $PO(X)$ and by Theorem 2.1, S determines $PO(X)$ uniquely.

Example 2.2. Let $X = R$ be the set of real numbers with $S = \{\{A, B\} : \forall x \in A, \exists \varepsilon > 0 \text{ such that } |x - y| \geq \varepsilon, \forall y \in B\}$. Since $x \in pCl(A)$ if and only if for each $\varepsilon > 0$, $|x - a| < \varepsilon$, for some $a \in A$.

pCl_X will denote the preclosure operator of X and S_X will denote the collection of pre-separated sets of X .

We have seen that pre-symmetric topological spaces can be viewed entirely in terms of their pre-separated sets and it would be nice if we could treat pre-continuous functions similarly.

Definition 2.4. Let X and Y be topological spaces and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function. If for all A, B not pre-separated in X , $f(A)$ and $f(B)$ are not pre-separated in Y , then we say that f is nonpreseparating.

Theorem 2.4. Let X and Y be topological spaces and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function. Then the following are equivalent:

- (1) f is nonpreseparating.
- (2) for all $A, B \subset X$, if $f(A)$ and $f(B)$ are pre-separated in Y , then A and B are pre-separated.
- (3) for all pre-separated $C, D \subset Y$, $f^{-1}(C)$ and $f^{-1}(D)$ are pre-separated in X .

Proof. (2) \Leftrightarrow (1): Obvious.

(2) \Rightarrow (3): Let C and D be pre-separated subsets of Y . Let $A = f^{-1}(C)$ and $B = f^{-1}(D)$. Then $f(A) \subset C$ and $f(B) \subset D$ and hence, $f(A)$ and $f(B)$ are pre-separated in Y . By (2), A and B are pre-separated in X .

(3) \Rightarrow (2): Let $A, B \subset X$ such that $C = f(A)$ and $D = f(B)$ are pre-separated. Then by (3), $f^{-1}(C)$ and $f^{-1}(D)$ are pre-separated and hence, $A \subset f^{-1}(f(A)) = f^{-1}(C)$ and $B \subset f^{-1}(f(B)) = f^{-1}(D)$ are pre-separated. \blacksquare

Note that if f is precontinuous, then f is nonpreseparating. Really, for pre-separated sets C, D in Y ,

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(C) \cap pCl_X(f^{-1}(D)) &\subset f^{-1}(C) \cap f^{-1}(pCl_Y(D)) \\ &= f^{-1}(C \cap pCl_Y(D)) \\ &= \emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $pCl_X(f^{-1}(C)) \cap f^{-1}(D) = \emptyset$.

Theorem 2.5. *Let X and Y be topological spaces with Y pre-symmetric and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function. Then f is precontinuous if and only if f is nonpreseparating.*

Proof. If f is precontinuous, then f is nonpreseparating.

Suppose that f is nonpreseparating. Let $A \subset X$ be nonempty and $y \in f(pCl_X(A))$ and let $x \in pCl_X(A) \cap f^{-1}(\{y\})$. Since $x \in pCl_X(A)$, then $\{\{x\}, A\} \notin S_X$. Since f is nonpreseparating, then $\{\{y\}, f(A)\} \notin S_Y$. Since points are pre-separated from disjoint preclosed sets in Y , then $y \in pCl_Y(f(A))$. Thus, $f(pCl_X(A)) \subset pCl_Y(f(A))$ for each $A \subset X$. ■

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