

Topology

Theorem — Let (X, \mathcal{J}) be a topological space,
 A family B of subsets of X is a base for \mathcal{J}
 iff $B^* = \mathcal{J}$

Proof — Necessity.

Let B be a base for \mathcal{J} , then $B \subseteq \mathcal{J}$ and
 each member G of \mathcal{J} is a union of members
 of B . i.e. $G \in B^*$

Thus $\mathcal{J} \subseteq B^*$ — (1)

Also if $H \in B^*$, then H is a union of
 members from B and since $B \subseteq \mathcal{J}$, it
 follows that H is a union of members from \mathcal{J} .
 Since \mathcal{J} is a topology, we have $H \in \mathcal{J}$

Thus $B^* \subseteq \mathcal{J}$ — (2)

From (1) and (2) we get

$$B^* = \mathcal{J}$$

Sufficient

if $B^* = \mathcal{J}$ then for each $G \in \mathcal{J}$, $G \in B^*$
 and hence G is a union of members from B .

Since

$$B \subseteq B^* = \mathcal{J}$$

it follows that B is a base for \mathcal{J}

Example The family $B = \{\{a\}, \{b\}, X\}$ is
 a base for the topology

$$\mathcal{J} = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, X\} \text{ on}$$

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