

# An interesting theorem in Topology.

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We will prove the following interesting theorem, similar to the Helly type theorems in Convexity.

## Theorem

$F_1, F_2, F_3, \dots, F_{n+1}$  are  $n + 1$  point sets, no pair of them overlap, topological equivalent to  $B^n$ , so that  $F_i \cap F_j \neq \emptyset$  and  $U = \cup F_i$  is topological equivalent to  $B^n$  as well, then it is:  $\cap F_i \neq \emptyset$  for,  $i, j = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n + 1\}$ .

## Proof

Let the point  $A_k \in \text{int}F_k$  and the point  $B_{ij} \in F_i \cap F_j$ . We join by path  $l_{ij}$  through  $B_{ij}$  the points  $A_i \in \text{int}F_i$ ,  $A_j \in \text{int}F_j$ , so that  $l_{ij} \in F_i \cup F_j$ . We can suppose that the points  $A_i, i = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n + 1\}$  are the vertices of a simplex  $S_A^{(n)}$  in  $E^n$ . The vertices of the simplex are joint by the paths  $l_{ij}$  but we can consider  $S_A^{(n)}$  as topological equivalent to a simplex  $S_C^{(n)}$  with edges str.line segments. Therefore in the following we can use  $S_A^{(n)}$ , without any restriction to the proof, considering that the paths are str.line segments and we will denote  $S^{(n)} = S_A^{(n)}$ .

$U$  is a topological equivalent to  $B^{(n)}$  and  $S^{(n)}$  is covered by  $U$ , that is  $S^{(n)}$  is covered by the (non overlapping) point sets  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_{n+1}$ . We now consider the following triangulation of  $S^{(n)}$ . We arbitrary take points  $P_i$  in  $F_i \cap S^{(n)}$ , that is all the points  $P$  in the  $F_i \cap S^{(n)}$  are indexed by 'i'. According to the Sperner's lemma, at least a  $n$ -simplex of the triangulation will be  $t_1 = P_1 P_2 P_3 \dots P_{n+1}$ . A second triangulation (we take arbitrary points inside to  $t_1$ ) gives one at least  $n$ -simplex  $t_2 = P_1 P_2 \dots P_{n+1}$ , so that the Diameter of  $t_1$  is no less than the Diameter of  $t_2$  and  $t_1 \supset t_2$ . Therefore we

choose a sequence, according Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots t_k, \dots$ , so that  $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \neq \emptyset$ .

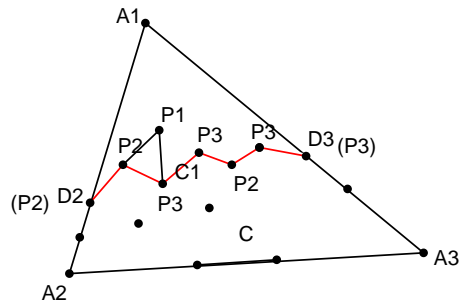
A remarkable proof of Sperner's lemma is the following.

**Sperner's lemma.**

Let  $S^{(n)}$  be a simplex in  $E^n$ . We consider the following triangulation: To the face  $A_j$  opposite to the vertex  $A_j$  we take arbitrary (relative to the position and the number) points denoted by  $P_i$  where  $j \neq i = \{1, 2, \dots, j-1, j+1, \dots, n+1\}$ . In the interior of  $S^{(n)}$  we take arbitrary points  $P_i, i = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n+1\}$ . Then there is at least one  $n$ -simplex  $P_1 P_2 P_3 \dots P_{n+1}$

**Proof**

We will use induction relative the dimension  $n$ . That is we assume that the proposition is correct for the dimension  $n-1$ . In the face  $a_i$  there are points denoted by  $P_2, P_3, \dots, P_{n+1}$ . We consider the max. complex  $C$  including points  $P_i, i \neq 1$ , and  $C_1$  its subcomplex, so that its surface to be closest to  $A_1$ . To understand what I mean, see the figure for  $E^{(2)}$ . Suppose that  $C_1$  has common points with the edges  $A_1 A_i, i = \{2, 3, \dots, n+1\}$  the points  $D_2, D_3, \dots, D_{n+1}$ . We consider the  $(n-1)$ -simplex  $d = D_2 D_3 \dots D_{n+1}$  and we see that we can consider the points of  $C_1$  as a triangulation of the simplex  $d$ .



Accepting that the lemma of Sperner is valid for  $E^{n-1}$  that is for the

simplex  $d$  we see that we can find in  $C_1$  a simplex  $d_1 = P_2P_3.. ..P_{n+1}$ . Therefore according our choice of  $C_1$  the next point of the triangulation of the  $S^{(n)}$  simplex is a point  $P_1$ . Hence we found a simplex  $P_1P_2.. P_{n+1}$  of the triangulation.

As an interesting application of the theorem we prove below the theorem of Brouwer.

**The theorem of the fixed point of Brouwer.**

Let  $F$  be a point set topological equivalent to the  $B^n = \{x/|x| \leq 1\}$  ball and  $q$  is a continuous transformation. Then  $\exists x \in F$  so that:  $q(x) = x$

**The proof of the theorem of Brouwer.**

The point set  $F$  is topological equivalent to  $B^{(n)}$  ball, hence we can consider that  $F$  is the regular n-simplex  $S^{(n)}$ . Let  $O$  be the center of the  $S^{(n)}$ :  $c = \{x/|x| = 1\}$  is a  $S^{(n-1)}$  sphere (that is the surface of a  $B^{(n)}$  ball) and we denote by  $B_i = OA_i \cap c$ , and by  $b_i$  the spherical  $S^{(n-1)}$  simplex  $b_i = B_1B_2...B_{i-1}B_{i+1}.. B_{n+1}$  opposite to the vertex  $B_i$  of the simplex  $S_1^{(n)} = B_1B_2.. ..B_{n+1}$ . The sector of the  $B^{(n)}$  ball,  $W = (O, 1) = \{x/|x| \leq 1\}$ , with base  $b_i$  is denoted by  $W_i$ . We see that  $\cup b_i = \omega$  the "area" ((n-1)volume) of the surface of the W sphere and  $\cup W_i = volume W$ .

Let now  $x, q(x) \in S^{(n)}$ . We suppose that  $O\vec{D}_i = xq(x)$  and the end point  $D_i \in W_i$ . It is remarkable to point out here that each  $W_i$  characterizes a direction in the space. We also denote by  $U_i$  the point set of the end points  $q(x)$ . The transformation  $q$  is continuous therefore  $U_i$  is connect compact point set, topological equivalent to the  $B^{(n)}$  sphere. It is not difficult to see that:  $U_i \cap U_j \neq \emptyset$ . That is because there is a common vector  $xq(x)$  to both the sectors  $W_i, W_j$ , therefore the end-point  $q(x)$  is in  $U_i \cap U_j$ .

The point sets  $U_i$  realize the conditions of the theorem, therefore:  $\cap_1^{n+1} U_i \neq \emptyset$ , that is for a common point to  $U_i$  there is a point  $D$  in all the sectors  $W_i$  (so  $xq(x)$  has every direction in the space), hence there is point  $x \in S^{(n)}$ , so that  $x = q(x)$ .

**Remark**

Combining our theorem and the theorem of Helly we can obtain the following remarkable theorem.

**Theorem**

$F_1, F_2, F_3, \dots, F_k$  are  $k$ ,  $k \geq n + 1$ , point sets, no pair overlap, topological equivalent to  $B^n$ , so that  $F_i \cap F_j \neq \emptyset$  and the union of every  $n + 1$  of them is topological equivalent to  $B^n$  as well, then it is:  $\bigcap_1^k \text{conv}(F_i) \neq \emptyset$ .

**References**

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