

## Subspace topology

If  $(X, \tau)$  is a topological space, and  $Y$  is a subset of  $X$ , then  $Y$  is called a **subspace** when  $Y$  is equipped with the topology  $\tau_Y$  consisting of all sets  $U \cap Y$ , where  $U \in \tau$ .

Warning: The words “open” and “closed” have different meanings in  $X$  and in  $Y$ .

### Example

Suppose  $X = \mathbb{R}$  with the Euclidean topology, and  $Y = \mathbb{Q}$  with the subspace topology. Let  $A$  be  $\{x \in \mathbb{Q} : 0 < x < 1\}$ .

The set  $A$  is “open in  $Y$ ” (meaning  $A \in \tau_Y$ ) but not “open in  $X$ ” ( $A \notin \tau$ ).

Relative to  $X$ , the interior of  $A$  is empty. Relative to  $Y$ , the interior of  $A$  is  $A$ . The closure of  $A$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  is  $[0, 1]$ . The closure relative to  $Y$  is  $\{x \in \mathbb{Q} : 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$ .

## Consistency questions

1. If  $Y$  is a subspace of  $X$ , and  $A$  is a *closed* subset of  $X$ , is  $A \cap Y$  a relatively closed subset of  $Y$ ?

Yes.

## Assignment due next class

1. Write solutions to numbers 6 and 11 in Exercises 4.1.
2. Read section 4.2 in the textbook.