Point Set Topology

Book 3

A <u>filter</u> on X is a collection $\mathcal{F}$ consisting of subsets of X such that

- $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{F}$, $X \in \mathcal{F}$
- If $A \in \mathcal{F}$ and $A \subseteq B \subseteq X$, then $B \in \mathcal{F}$.
- If $A, A' \in \mathcal{F}$ then $A \cap A' \in \mathcal{F}$.

Every ultrafilter is a filter, but not conversely.

A collection $\mathcal{S}$ of subsets of X has the <u>finite intersection property</u> (f.i.p.) if for all $A_1, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{S}$, $A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \cdots \cap A_n \neq \emptyset$.

A filter has the f.i.p. If $\mathcal{S}$ is any collection of subsets of X having f.i.p. then $\mathcal{S}$ generates a filter:

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}} = \{\text{supersets of finite intersections of sets in } \mathcal{S}\}$$
$$= \{B \subseteq X : A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \cdots \cap A_n \subseteq B \text{ for some } A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{S}\}.$$

This is the (unique) smallest collection of subsets of X which contains $\mathcal{S}$ and is a filter.

If $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}'$ are filters on X, we say $\mathcal{F}'$ <u>refines</u> $\mathcal{F}$ if $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{F}'$.

The collection of all filters on X is partially ordered by refinement.

Given a filter $\mathcal{F}_0$ on X, the collection of filters refining $\mathcal{F}_0$ has a maximal member by Zorn's Lemma. This is guaranteed to be an ultrafilter.

Assume we are given a nonprincipal ultrafilter $\mathcal{U}$ on $\omega = \{0,1,2,3,\dots\}$.

Construction of the nonstandard real numbers (hyperreals) ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{R}^*$ or $\hat{\mathbb{R}}$.

$\hat{\mathbb{R}}$ and $\mathbb{R}$ are examples of ordered fields. $\hat{\mathbb{R}}$ and $\mathbb{R}$ are very similar from first appearances.

eg. If $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ or $\hat{\mathbb{R}}[x]$ (polynomial in x) of degree 3 then f has a root (in $\mathbb{R}$ or $\hat{\mathbb{R}}$ respectively). If $f' > 0$ then this root is unique. Positive elements have a unique square root.

But: $\mathbb{R}$ is an Archimedean field: it has no infinite or infinitesmal elements. More precisely, if $a \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfies $0 \le a < \frac{1}{n}$ for all $n = 1,2,3,4,\ldots$ then $a = 0$.

$\hat{\mathbb{R}}$ has infinitesimal elements (it is Non-Archimedian field).

Construction: Start with $\mathbb{R}^\omega = \{\underbrace{(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots)}_{a =} : a_i \in \mathbb{R}\}$ (all sequences of real numbers).

Given $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^\omega$ we can add/multiply/subtract pointwise

$$a \pm b = (a_0 \pm b_0, a_1 \pm b_1, a_2 \pm b_2, \ldots)$$
$$ab = (a_0 b_0, a_1 b_1, a_2 b_2, \ldots)$$

making $\mathbb{R}^\omega$ into a commutative ring with identity $1 = (1,1,1,1,1,\ldots)$. It's not a field; it has zero divisors e.g.

$$(1,0,1,0,1,0,\ldots)(0,1,0,1,0,1,\ldots) = (0,0,0,0,0,0,\ldots) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^\omega.$$

But take an ultrafilter $\mathcal{U}$ on ω ($\mathcal{U}$ nonprincipal).

If $a_i = b_i$ for all $i \in U \in \mathcal{U}$ then $a_i \sim b_i$ (equivalence mod $\mathcal{U}$).

In this case $(0,1,0,1,0,1,\ldots) \sim (1,1,1,1,1,1,\ldots) = 1$

$(1,0,1,0,1,0,\ldots) \sim (0,0,0,0,0,0,\ldots) = 0$

Given $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^\omega$, let $A = \{i \in \omega : a_i = b_i\}$. Either $A \in \mathcal{U}$ (in which case $a \sim b$) or $\omega \setminus A \in \mathcal{U}$ (in which case $a \not\sim b$). $\hat{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R}^\omega/\sim = \{[a]_\sim : a \in \mathbb{R}^\omega\}$, $[a]_\sim$ = equiv. class of a = $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^\omega : x \sim a\}$.

$\hat{\mathbb{R}}$ is a field. If $a \ne 0$ then actually $a \not\sim 0$ ($[a]_\sim \ne [0]_\sim$) so $\{i \in \omega : a_i \ne 0\} \in \mathcal{U}$. (most coordinates of a are nonzero). Then $\frac{1}{a} = (\frac{1}{a_i} : i \in \omega)$

Anywhere that $a_i = 0$, ignore or replace by 1.

$a \cdot \frac{1}{a} = 1$

$\hat{\mathbb{R}}$ is an ordered field. Given $a, b \in \hat{\mathbb{R}}$, either $a<b$ or $a=b$ or $b<a$.

$$\omega = \{i\in\omega : a_i < b_i\} \sqcup \{i\in\omega : a_i = b_i\} \sqcup \{i\in\omega : b_i < a_i\}$$

Exactly one of these three sets is an ultrafilter set. Correspondingly, $a<b$ or $a=b$ or $b<a$.

$\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{R}^\omega$

Given $a \in \mathbb{R}$, identify with $(a,a,a,a,\dots) \in \mathbb{R}^\omega$. This way $\mathbb{R}$ is embedded in $\mathbb{R}^\omega$.

The standard topology on $\hat{\mathbb{R}}$ is the order topology: basic open sets are open intervals (a,b), $a,b \in \hat{\mathbb{R}}$.

Eg. $\varepsilon = [(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \cdots)]_\sim \in \hat{\mathbb{R}}$ is an infinitesmal.

$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} = [(1,2,3,4,5,\cdots)]_\sim \in \hat{\mathbb{R}}$ is infinite.

$|\mathbb{Q}| = \aleph_0$, $|\mathbb{R}| = 2^{\aleph_0}$, $|\hat{\mathbb{R}}| = 2^{\aleph_0}$

$\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \hat{\mathbb{R}}$

$|\mathbb{R}^\omega| = |\mathbb{R}|^{|\omega|} = (2^{\aleph_0})^{\aleph_0} = 2^{\aleph_0 \cdot \aleph_0} = 2^{\aleph_0}$

Every hyperreal is either infinite ($a \in \hat{\mathbb{R}}$, $|a| > n$ for every positive integer n) or it's bounded in which case a has a unique standard part $st(a) \in \mathbb{R}$ (the closest real number to a).

To compute $f'(x)$ where $f(x) = x^2+3x+7$ using nonstandard analysis, let $a \in \mathbb{R}$, and we want to compute $f'(a) \in \mathbb{R}$.
Pick $\hat{a} \in \hat{\mathbb{R}}$, $st(\hat{a}) = a$, $\hat{a} - a = \varepsilon$ is an infinitesimal. $f(\hat{a}) - f(a) = f(a+\varepsilon) - f(a) = (a+\varepsilon)^2 + 3(a+\varepsilon) + 7 - (a^2+3a+7) = 2\varepsilon a + \varepsilon^2$ $+3a\varepsilon$,

$\frac{f(a+\varepsilon) - f(a)}{\varepsilon} = 2a+3+\varepsilon$, $st(2a+3) = 2a. = f'(a).$

Warm-up to the proof of Tychonoff's Theorem.

Let $\mathcal{S}$ be a collection of subsets of X. $\mathcal{S}$ has the <u>finite intersection property</u> (f.i.p.) if every finite intersection of sets in $\mathcal{S}$ is nonempty i.e.

$$S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n \in \mathcal{S} \implies S_1 \cap S_2 \cap \cdots \cap S_n \neq \emptyset.$$

(Recall: if $\mathcal{S}$ has f.i.p. then supersets of finite intersections of sets in $\mathcal{S}$ is a filter.)

<u>Lemma 1.1</u> Let X be a top. space. Then the following are equivalent.

(i) X is compact. (Every open cover of X has a finite subcover.)

via complementation (use de Morgan's laws)

(ii) If $\mathcal{S}$ is any collection of closed sets with f.i.p. then $\bigcap \mathcal{S} \neq \emptyset$.

<u>Proof</u>: exercise.

filter such that for every $A \subseteq X$, either $A \in \mathcal{U}$ or $X \setminus A \in \mathcal{U}$, not both.

An ultrafilter $\mathcal{U}$ on X <u>converges</u> to a point $x \in X$ if every (open?) nbhd of x is in $\mathcal{U}$. (A nbhd is a superset of an open nbhd.)

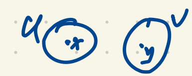
We write $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$ in this case. (Recall: The nbhds of x form a filter.)

Much topology is readily formulated in the language of ultrafilters e.g.

- X is Hausdorff iff every ultrafilter converges to at most one point.
- X is compact iff every ultrafilter converges to at least one point.
- A function $f : X \to Y$ is continuous iff it maps convergent ultrafilters to convergent ultrafilters.

<u>Theorem</u> 2.1(a) Let X be a top. space. Then X is Hausdorff iff every ultrafilter on X converges to at most one point of X.

<u>Proof</u> ($\Rightarrow$) Suppose X is Hausdorff. Suppose $\mathcal{U}$ is an ultrafilter on X converging to two different points $x \neq y$ in X. There exist $U, V \subseteq X$ disjoint open sets with $x \in U$, $y \in V$.



Since $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$, $U \in \mathcal{U}$. Similarly $V \in \mathcal{U}$. Then $U \cap V = \emptyset \in \mathcal{U}$, contradiction.

($\Leftarrow$) Suppose every ultrafilter on X converges to at most one point of X.

($\Leftarrow$) Suppose every ultrafilter on X converges to at most one point of X. Let $x \neq y$ in X. By way of contradiction, suppose that $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$ for every open nbhd U of x and every open nbhd V of y. Then

$$\{\text{open nbhds of } x\} \cup \{\text{open nbhds of } y\} \quad \text{has f.i.p.}$$

This generates a filter which in turn refines to an ultrafilter $\mathcal{U}$. $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$, $\mathcal{U} \searrow y$, a contradiction. So X must be Hausdorff.

Theorem 2.1(6) Let X be a top. space. Then X is compact iff every ultrafilter on X converges to at least one point of X.

Proof ($\Rightarrow$) Suppose X is compact. Let $\mathcal{U}$ be an ultrafilter on X. Suppose $\mathcal{U}$ does not converge to any point of X. So for each $x \in X$, there exists an open nbhd U_x of x such that $U_x \notin \mathcal{U}$. So $\{U_x : x \in X\}$ is an open cover of X. So there is a finite subcover

$$X = U_{x_1} \cup U_{x_2} \cup U_{x_3} \cup \dots \cup U_{x_n} \quad \text{for some } n \geq 1;\ x_1, \dots, x_n \in X.$$

So $U_{x_i} \in \mathcal{U}$ for some i, contradiction.

($\Leftarrow$) Suppose every ultrafilter on X converges to at least one point of X. We must show that X is compact. Let $\mathcal{S}$ be a collection of closed subsets of X with f.i.p.; we must show $\bigcap \mathcal{S} \neq \emptyset$. Now $\mathcal{S}$ generates a filter which refines to an ultrafilter $\mathcal{U} \supseteq \mathcal{S}$. By assumption, $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$ for some point $x \in X$. We will show $x \in \bigcap \mathcal{S}$. If not, then there exists $K \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $x \notin K$. Then $X \setminus K$ is an open nbhd of x. So $X \setminus K \in \mathcal{U}$. But also $K \in \mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$, contradiction. $\square$

Ultrafilters gives the following characterization of open sets.

<u>Theorem 2.2</u> Let X be a top. space, and let $U \subseteq X$. The following are equivalent:

(i) U is open.

(ii) Whenever an ultrafilter converges to a point $x \in U$, we have $U \in \mathcal{U}$.

<u>Proof</u> ($\Rightarrow$) Trivial. Suppose U is open. Suppose also $\mathcal{U}$ is an ultrafilter converging to a point $x \in U$. Then $\mathcal{U} \searrow x \in U$ so $U \in \mathcal{U}$.

($\Leftarrow$) Suppose (ii) holds. We must prove U is open. If not, then there is some $x \in U$ such that every open nbhd of x meets $X \setminus U$ (i.e. has points outside U). The collection

$$\{\text{open nbhds of } x\} \cup \{X \setminus U\} \quad \text{has f.i.p.}$$

It generates a filter which refines to an ultrafilter $\mathcal{U} \searrow x \in U$. By (ii), $U \in \mathcal{U}$. Also $X \setminus U \in \mathcal{U}$, contradiction. $\square$

Let $f: X \to Y$. Given an ultrafilter $\mathcal{U}$ on X, f pushes $\mathcal{U}$ forward to an ultrafilter $f_*\mathcal{U}$ on Y. This works just like for measures. If μ was a measure on X then for each measurable subset $A \subseteq X$, $\mu(A) \in [0,\infty]$. We'll be interested in probability measures so $\mu(A) \in [0,1]$, $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$, $\mu(X) = 1$, $\mu(A \sqcup B) = \mu(A) + \mu(B)$. "Measure" usually require countable additivity (stronger than finite additivity) so when it's only finitely additive we call μ a finitely additive measure. Ultrafilters can be viewed as finitely additive measures. But $\mu(A) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A \in \mathcal{U}; \\ 0 & \text{if } A \notin \mathcal{U}. \end{cases}$

In general, measures on X give rise to measures on Y: For every $B \subseteq Y$, $\mu_*(B) = \mu(f^{-1}(B))$. Check: μ_* is a measure on Y; it's the push-forward of μ via f.

Special case: Let $f: X \to Y$, $\mathcal{U}$ ultrafilter on X. Then the pushforward of $\mathcal{U}$ via f is $f_*\mathcal{U} = \{ V \subseteq Y : f^{-1}(V) \in \mathcal{U} \}$. Check: this is an ultrafilter on Y.

Theorem 3.2 Let X and Y be top. spaces and let $f: X \to Y$. Then the following are equivalent:

(i) f is continuous.

(ii) f maps convergent ultrafilters to convergent ultrafilters; more precisely if $\mathcal{U} \searrow x \in X$ ($\mathcal{U}$ ultrafilter in X) then $f_*(\mathcal{U}) \searrow f(x) \in Y$.

Proof ($\Rightarrow$) Suppose f is continuous, and let $\mathcal{U}$ be an ultrafilter on X such that $\mathcal{U} \searrow x \in X$. We must show that $f_*\mathcal{U} \searrow f(x) \in Y$. Given an open nbhd V of $f(x)$ in Y, we must show that $V \in f_*\mathcal{U}$, i.e. show $f^{-1}(V) \in \mathcal{U}$. Since f is continuous, $f^{-1}(V)$ is an open nbhd of x, so $f^{-1}(V) \in \mathcal{U}$.

($\Leftarrow$) Suppose (ii). We must show f is continuous. Let $V \subseteq Y$ be open; we must show that $f^{-1}(V)$ is open in X. Let $x \in f^{-1}(V)$ and $\mathcal{U}$ be an ultrafilter converging to x: $\mathcal{U} \searrow x \in f^{-1}(V)$. By assumption (ii), $f_*(\mathcal{U}) \searrow f(x) \in V$. Since V is an open nbhd of $f(x)$ in V, $V \in f_*(\mathcal{U})$ i.e. $f^{-1}(V) \in \mathcal{U}$. By Thm 2.2, $f^{-1}(V)$ is open. $\square$

Theorem 4.2 Let $\mathcal{U}$ be an ultrafilter on $X = \prod X_\alpha$, and let $x = (x_\alpha)_\alpha \in X$. Then $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$ iff $(\pi_\alpha)_*\mathcal{U} \searrow x_\alpha \in X_\alpha$ for all α. ($\pi_\alpha : X \to X_\alpha$, $x \mapsto x_\alpha$).

Proof ($\Rightarrow$) Suppose $\mathcal{U} \searrow x = (x_\alpha)_\alpha \in X$. Since π_α is continuous, $(\pi_\alpha)_*\mathcal{U} \searrow x_\alpha$ by Theorem 3.2.

Theorem 4.2 Let $\mathcal{U}$ be an ultrafilter on $X = \prod X_\alpha$, and let $x = (x_\alpha)_\alpha \in X$. Then $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$ iff $(\pi_\alpha)_* \mathcal{U} \searrow x_\alpha \in X_\alpha$ for all α. $\left(\pi_\alpha : \begin{array}{l} X \to X_\alpha \\ x \mapsto x_\alpha \end{array}\right)$.

Proof $(\Leftarrow)$ Suppose $(\pi_\alpha)_* \mathcal{U} \searrow x_\alpha \in X_\alpha$ for all α and let $x = (x_\alpha)_\alpha \in X$. We must show $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$. Given an arbitrary open nbhd U of x in X, we must show $U \in \mathcal{U}$.
Without loss of generality, U is a subbasic open set of the form

$$U = \underset{(\text{some } \alpha)}{\pi_\alpha^{-1}(U_\alpha)} = \Big(\prod_{\beta \neq \alpha} X_\beta\Big) \times U_\alpha .$$

This follows from Thm 3.2 because π_α is continuous. $\square$

Theorem 5.1 (Tychonoff) If each X_α is compact then so is $X = \prod X_\alpha$.

Proof Let X_α be compact. Let $\mathcal{U}$ be any ultrafilter on $X = \prod X_\alpha$; we must show that $\mathcal{U}$ converges to at least one point of X. But $(\pi_\alpha)_* \mathcal{U} \searrow x_\alpha \in X_\alpha$ for some point x_α since X_α is compact. Let $x = (x_\alpha)_\alpha$ and show $\mathcal{U} \searrow x$. This follows from Theorem 4.2. $\square$

Typical application:

Let V be a normed vector space e.g. $C_{\mathbb{R}}([0,1])$ or $\ell_\infty = \{$ bounded sequences $a \in \mathbb{R}^\omega\}$,
i.e. $\|\cdot\| : V \to \mathbb{R}$ satisfies

(i) $\|v\| \geq 0$, and equality holds iff $v = 0$;

(ii) $\|v+w\| \leq \|v\| + \|w\|$

(iii) $\|cv\| = |c|\,\|v\|$ for all $c \in \mathbb{R}$, $v \in V$.

$d(v,w) = \|v-w\|$. A bounded linear functional on V is a map $f : V \to \mathbb{R}$ such that

- $f(au+bv) = af(u) + bf(v)$ for all $a,b \in \mathbb{R}$; $u,v \in \mathbb{R}$
- there exists $C \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $|f(v)| \leq C\,\|v\|$ for all $v \in V$.

$V^* = \{$ bounded linear functionals on $V\}$ is a normed vector space (but larger than V unless $\dim V < \infty$)

For $f \in V^*$, $\|f\| = \sup\{\,|f(v)| : v \in B\}$, $B =$ unit ball in $V = \{v \in V : \|v\| \leq 1\}$.

$d(f,g) = \|f-g\|$.

$B^* = \{f \in V^* : \|f\| \leq 1\} = \{f \in V^* : |f(v)| \leq \|v\|$ for $v \in V\}$.

We can regard $B^* \subseteq [-1,1]^B = \{$ functions $B \to [-1,1]\}$ (B^* consists of all functions $B \to [-1,1]$ which extend to a linear function on V).

B^* is not compact in the $\|\cdot\|$ topology (unless $\dim V = \dim V^* < \infty$)

Eg. $V = \ell_\infty$, $B = \{(a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots) : a_i \in \mathbb{R},\ |a_i| \leq 1\}$ is covered by open balls of radius $\frac{1}{2}$ but no finite number of these cover B. The point set $\{(\pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm\frac{1}{2}, \dots)\} \subset B$

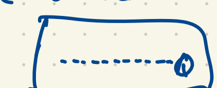
The product topology in $[-1,1]^B$ is really the topology of "pointwise convergence" which is weaker than the norm topology i.e. if $f, f_1, f_2, f_3, \ldots \in V^*$ then saying $f_n \to f$ in the norm topology ($\|f_n - f\| \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$) is a much stronger statement than saying $f_n \to f$ pointwise (for all $v \in V$, $f_n(v) \to f(v)$ as $n \to \infty$) which is weaker. In this topology, B^* is embedded as a closed (topological) subspace of $[-1,1]^B$, hence B^* is compact.

Given a top. space X, we would like to embed X in a "nice" space that we think we understand. An <u>embedding</u> of X in Y is an injection $\iota: X \to Y$ such that the image $\iota(X) \subseteq Y$ is homeomorphic to X via ι. (ι is continuous and $\iota^{-1}|_{\iota(X)} : \iota(X) \to X$ is continuous. In this case X is identified as a subspace of Y.

Eg. a <u>completion</u> of a metric space (X, d) is an embedding of (X,d) as a dense subspace in a complete metric space (Y, d'). If moreover ι preserves distances i.e. $d'(\iota(x), \iota(x')) = d(x,x')$ for all $x,x' \in X$) then ι is an <u>isometric embedding</u>.

(Y,d') is <u>complete</u> means that Cauchy sequences converge i.e. if $(y_n)_n$ is a Cauchy sequence in Y (for all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists N such that $d'(y_m, y_n) < \varepsilon$ whenever $m,n > N$) then there exists $y \in Y$ such that $y_n \to y$ (i.e. $d(y_n, y) \to 0$).

Eg. ($\mathbb{Q}$, usual distance) is a metric space which is not complete. It can be embedded in a complete metric space; there are many ways to do this. eg. $\mathbb{Q} \to \mathbb{C}$

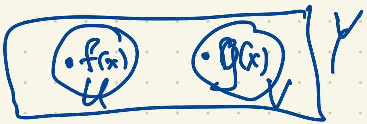


$\mathbb{C}$

We regard $\mathbb{Q} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as "the" completion of $\mathbb{Q}$: it is unique up to equivalence.
$a \mapsto a$

We'll use: If $f : X \to Y$ is a continuous map, and if Y is Hausdorff, then f is determined by its values on a dense subset of X. ($S \subseteq X$ is dense iff every nonempty open subset of X meets S). This says: if $f, g : X \to Y$ are continuous and they agree on a dense subset $S \subseteq X$, then $f = g$.

<u>Proof</u> Suppose $f \neq g$, i.e. there exists $x \in X$ such that $f(x) \neq g(x)$ in Y. Then there exist open nbhds $f(x) \in U$, $g(x) \in V$, $U \cap V = \emptyset$.



Then $f^{-1}(U)$, $g^{-1}(V)$ are open nbhds of $x \in X$. So there exists $s \in S \cap f^{-1}(U) \cap g^{-1}(V)$, so $f(s) = g(s) \in U \cap V$, contradiction. $\square$

Laramie   Denver is a "universal hub" for most flights out of Laramie.

$$\begin{tikzcd} \text{LAR} \arrow[r] \arrow[dr] & \text{DEN} \arrow[d] \\ & \text{LGA} \end{tikzcd}$$

New York

Go to the category of real vector spaces (objects are real vector spaces; arrows (morphisms) are linear transformations).

Given: U, V vector spaces; $S \subseteq U$ any set of vectors.

You are looking for a linear transformation $T : U \to V$ vanishing on S ($Tv = 0$ for all $v \in S$).

$\langle S \rangle$ = subspace spanned by S

$\pi : U \to U/\langle S \rangle$ is the canonical map $u \mapsto u + \langle S \rangle$

$$\begin{tikzcd} U \arrow[r, "\pi"] \arrow[dr, "T"'] & U/\langle S \rangle \arrow[d, "\hat{T}"] \\ & V \end{tikzcd}$$

For every $T : U \to V$ vanishing on S, there is a unique $\hat{T} : U/\langle S \rangle \to V$ making this diagram commute i.e. $T = \hat{T} \circ \pi$.

The quotient $U/\langle S\rangle$, and in fact the map $\pi: U \to U/\langle S\rangle$ is the unique such morphism making the above universal property hold.
(up to equivalence). If $\pi': U \to U'$ also had this universal property
i.e. for every $T: U \to V$ vanishing on S, there is a unique $\hat{T}$ making the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} U \arrow[r, "\pi'"] \arrow[dr, "T"'] & U' \arrow[d, "\hat{T}"] \\ & V \end{tikzcd}$$

i.e. $\hat{T} \circ \pi' = T$

then $U' \cong U/\langle S\rangle$ and more

$$\begin{tikzcd} U \arrow[r, "\pi"] \arrow[dr, "\pi'"] \arrow[ddr, bend right, "\pi"'] & U/\langle S\rangle \arrow[d, "f"] \arrow[dd, bend left=60, "\mathrm{id}"] \\ & U' \arrow[d, "g"] \\ & U/\langle S\rangle \end{tikzcd}$$

$f \circ \pi = \pi'$

$g \circ \pi' = \pi$

$g \circ f \circ \pi = \pi$

$\mathrm{id} \circ \pi = \pi$

By uniqueness for π,

$g \circ f = \mathrm{id}: U/\langle S\rangle \to U/\langle S\rangle$

Also $f \circ g = \mathrm{id}: U' \to U'$

$$\begin{tikzcd} U \arrow[r, "\pi"] \arrow[dr, "\pi'"'] & U/\langle S\rangle \arrow[d, bend left, "f"] \\ & U' \arrow[u, bend left, "g"] \end{tikzcd}$$

This is what we mean when we say $U \xrightarrow{\pi} U/\langle S\rangle$ is "the" universal domain for maps on U vanishing on S.

(Existence requires a construction; uniqueness follows from the universal property.)

Eg. in the category of groups ... objects are groups; arrows (morphisms) are group homomorphisms. Every group G comes with an "abelianization" $G/[G,G]$, actually $\pi: G \to G/[G,G]$ (the canonical homomorphism) which makes this into the universal domain for morphisms $G \to A$ (A abelian). I.e. given any $f: G \to A$ (A abelian) there exists a unique $\hat{f}: G/[G,G] \to A$ making the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} G \arrow[r, "\pi"] \arrow[dr, "f"'] & G/[G,G] \arrow[d, dashed, "\hat{f}"] \\ & A \end{tikzcd}$$

commute i.e. $\hat{f} \circ \pi = f$.

In the category Top whose objects are top. spaces and arrows (morphisms) are continuous maps:

Eg. Let X be a metric space. Then a completion of X is a (continuous) map $\iota: X \to \hat{X}$ ($\hat{X}$ is a complete metric space) such that for every $f: X \to$ complete Y there is a unique $\hat{f}$ making this diagram commute:

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[r, "\iota"] \arrow[dr, "f"'] & \hat{X} \arrow[d, dashed, "\hat{f}"] \\ & Y \end{tikzcd}$$

i.e. $f = \hat{f} \circ \iota$.

<u>Theorem</u> Every metric space has a completion and it is essentially unique.

It requires moreover that ι be an embedding.

Moreover $\iota(X) \subseteq \hat{X}$ must be dense.

Eg. $X = (\mathbb{Q}, \text{usual metric})$ has $\hat{X} = \mathbb{R}$ as its completion.

Eg. <u>Compactification</u> Given a ~~top.~~ space X, we want to define a kind of universal compactification of X, $\iota : X \longrightarrow \beta X$ which is compact Hausdorff and which is the universal object having this property i.e. for every $f : X \longrightarrow Y$ where Y is compact Hausdorff, there exists $\hat{f} : \beta X \longrightarrow Y$ making the following commute:

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[r, "\iota"] \arrow[dr, "f"'] & \beta X \arrow[d, dashed, "\hat{f}"] \\ & Y \end{tikzcd}$$

i.e. $\hat{f} \circ \iota = f$

<u>Theorem</u> X has such a universal compactification $\iota : X \longrightarrow \beta X$ iff X is completely regular and Hausdorff. In this case $\iota : X \longrightarrow \beta X$ is unique and it's an embedding of X in βX as a dense subspace.