

## ON $\hat{\alpha}g$ CONNECTED SPACES

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we define  $\hat{\alpha}g$  connected spaces and derive some of its properties.

### 1.Introduction

Throughout this paper, a space means a topological space on which no separation axioms are assumed unless explicitly stated. In 1963, Levine [4] initiated semiopen sets and studied their properties. Mathematicians gave several papers containing interesting results about new types of sets. Njastad [5] defined  $\alpha$  open sets. Senthilkumaran etal [6] defined a new type of sets called  $\alpha g$  closed sets and studied their properties. In this paper we define  $\alpha g$  connected spaces and derive some of its properties.

### 2. Preliminaries

**Definition 2.1:** A subset A of a topological space X is said to be

- 1)A preopen set if  $A \subset \text{int cl } A$  and a preclosed set if  $\text{cl int } A \subset A$
- 2)A regular open set if  $A = \text{int cl } A$  and a regular closed set if  $A = \text{cl int } A$ .
- 3)A semiopen set if  $A \subset \text{cl int } A$  and a semi closed set if  $\text{int cl } A \subset A$
- 4)A  $\alpha$ - open set if  $A \subset \text{int cl int } A$  and a  $\alpha$ - closed set if  $\text{cl int cl } A \subset A$ .

**Definition 2.2:** A subset A of a topological space X is called  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed set if  $\text{int cl int } A \subset U$  whenever  $A \subset U$  and U is open in X.

The complement of  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed set in X is called  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open set in X.

The intersection of all  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed sets containing A is called  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closure of A and shall be denoted by  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A$ . In general  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A$  is not  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed in X.

The union of all  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open sets that are contained in A is called  $\hat{\alpha}g$  interior of A and shall be denoted by  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ int } A$ . In general,  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ int } A$  is not  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open in X.

In what follows, let us assume arbitrary intersection of  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed sets in X is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed in X. Then  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A$  will be  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed in X and  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ int } A$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open in X.

### 3. $\hat{\alpha}g$ Separated sets

**Definition 3.1 :** Let X be a topological space . Two nonempty subsets A and B of X are said to be  $\hat{\alpha}g$  separated if and only if  $A \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B = \phi$  and  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$

These two conditions are equivalent to a single condition  $(A \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B) \cup (\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A \cap B) = \phi$

**Remark 3.2 :** A and B are  $\hat{\alpha}g$  separated if and only if A and B are disjoint and neither of them contains the  $\hat{\alpha}g$  limit point of the other.

**Theorem 3.3:** If A and B are  $\hat{\alpha}g$  separated subsets of X and  $C \subset A$  and  $D \subset B$ , then C and D are  $\hat{\alpha}g$  separated.

**Proof :**  $A \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B = \phi$  and  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$ .

$C \subset A \Rightarrow \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } C \subset \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A$  and  $D \subset B \Rightarrow \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } D \subset \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B$

$C \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } D \subset A \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B = \phi$

Similarly,  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$ . Hence C and D are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated.

**Theorem 3.4 :** Two  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed ( $\hat{\alpha} g$  open) subset of the topological space X are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated if and only if they are disjoint.

**Proof :** Since any two  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated sets are disjoint, we need only to show that two disjoint  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed ( $\hat{\alpha} g$  open) sets are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated. Let A and B be disjoint and  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed. Then  $A \cap B = \phi$ ,  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A = A$ ,  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B = B$ . So,  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$  and  $A \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B = \phi$ .

Hence A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated. Let A and B be disjoint and  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open. Then  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A' = A'$  and  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B' = B'$ .  $A \cap B = \phi \Rightarrow A \subset B'$  and  $B \subset A'$

$\Rightarrow \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \subset \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B' = B'$  and

$\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B \subset \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A' = A'$

$\Rightarrow \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$  and  $A \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B = \phi$

Hence A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated.

**Theorem 3.5 :** If A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated sets of a topological space X, then

i)  $A \cup B$  is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed  $\Rightarrow$  A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed

ii)  $A \cup B$  is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open  $\Rightarrow$  A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open

**Proof :** Let A and B be  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated sets of a topological space X so that  $A \neq \phi$  and  $B \neq \phi$

$\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$  and  $A \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B = \phi$

Let  $A \cup B$  be  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed

$\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } (A \cup B) = A \cup B$ . That is  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cup \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B = A \cup B$

$\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A = \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cup \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B)$

$= \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap (A \cup B)$

$= (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap A) \cup (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B)$

$= A \cup \phi = A$ .

Hence A is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed. Similarly, B is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed.

Let  $A \cup B$  be  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open.

$\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B$  is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed. Hence  $X - \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B$  is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open

$(A \cup B) \cap (X - \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B) = (A \cap (X - \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B)) \cup (B \cap (X - \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B))$

$= A \cup \phi = A$ .

Hence A is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open. Similarly B is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open.

**Theorem 3.6 :** Two disjoint sets A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated in a topological space  $X = A \cup B$  if and only if they are both  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open and  $\alpha g$  closed in X.

**Proof :** Let disjoint sets A and B be  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated in X.  $A \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B = \phi$  and  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$

$X = A \cup B$ .  $\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A = \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap X = \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap (A \cup B)$

$= (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap A) \cup (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B) = A$ .

Hence A is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed. Similarly B is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed.

Since A and B are disjoint and  $A \cup B = X$ , B is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open. Similarly A is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open.

Conversely, let disjoint sets A and B be both  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed in  $X = A \cup B$ .

A is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed in X. So,  $A = \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A = \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap X$

$= \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap (A \cup B) = (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap A) \cup (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B)$

$= A \cup (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B)$

$A \cup B = \phi \Rightarrow A \cup (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B) = \phi \Rightarrow \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$

Similarly,  $A \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B = \phi$

So, A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated.

**Theorem 3.7 :** If A and B are proper subsets of a space X and both A and B are  $\hat{\alpha} g$  closed and  $\hat{\alpha} g$  open, then  $A - B$  is  $\hat{\alpha} g$  separated from  $B - A$ .

**Proof :**  $(A - B) \cap (B - A) = \phi$  and  $A - B$  and  $B - A$  are non empty.

$(A - B) \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } (B - A) = (A \cap B') \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } (B \cap A') \subset (A \cap B') \cap (\hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A')$

$= (A \cap B' \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } B) \cap (A \cap B' \cap \hat{\alpha} g \text{ cl } A')$

$$=(A \cap B' \cap B) \cap (A \cap B' \cap A') = \phi$$

Similarly,  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } (A - B) \cap (B - A) = \phi$

Hence  $A - B$  and  $B - A$  are  $\hat{\alpha}g$  separated.

#### 4. $\hat{\alpha}g$ Connected and $\hat{\alpha}g$ Disconnected sets

**Definition 4.1 :** Let  $X$  be a topological space. A subset  $A$  of  $X$  is said to be  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected if and only if it is the union of two non empty  $\hat{\alpha}g$  separated sets. That is, if and only if there exists non empty sets  $C$  and  $D$  such that  $C \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } D = \phi$ ,  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } C \cap D = \phi$  and  $A = C \cup D$ .  $A$  is said to be  $\hat{\alpha}g$  connected if and only if it is not  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected.

**Remark 4.2 :** The empty set is trivially  $\hat{\alpha}g$  connected.

Also, every singleton set is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  connected.

**Definition 4.3 :** Two points  $a$  and  $b$  of a topological space  $X$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  connected if and only if they are contained in a  $\hat{\alpha}g$  connected subset of  $X$ .

**Theorem 4.4 :** A topological space  $X$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected if and only if there exists a non empty proper subset of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed in  $X$ .

**Proof :** Let  $A$  be a non empty proper subset of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed. Let us show that  $X$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected. . Let  $B = A'$ . As  $A$  is a proper subset,  $B$  is nonempty. Moreover,  $A \cup B = X$  and  $A \cap B = \phi$ . As  $A$  is both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed,  $B$  is also both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed. Therefore, by theorem 3.6,  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\hat{\alpha}g$  separated. Hence  $X = A \cup B$ , is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected. Conversely, let  $X$  be  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected. Then, there exists nonempty sets  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $A \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B = \phi$ ,  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \phi$  and  $X = A \cup B$  Now  $A \subset \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A$ . So,  $A \cap B = \phi$   
Hence  $A = B'$

Since  $B$  is nonempty and  $B \cup X = X$ , it follows  $B = A'$  is a proper subset of  $X$ ,

Now  $A \cup \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B = X$  as  $A \cup B = X \Rightarrow A \cup \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B = X$ .

Also  $A \cap \hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B = \phi \Rightarrow A = (\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B)'$  and similarly,  $B = (\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A)'$ . Since  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } A$  and  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ cl } B$  are  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed sets,  $B$  and  $A$  are  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open sets. Since  $A = B'$ ,  $A$  is also  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed.

This completes the proof.

**Remark 4.5 :** In the above theorem, we have also shown that  $B$  is also a proper subset of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed.

**Corollary 4.6 :** A topological space  $X$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  connected if and only if the only nonempty subset of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed in  $X$  is  $X$  itself.

**Theorem 4.7 :** A topological space  $X$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected if and only if any one of the following statement holds.

i)  $X$  is the union of two disjoint nonempty  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open sets.

ii)  $X$  is the union of two disjoint non empty  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed sets.

**Proof :** Let  $X$  be  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected. Then, there exists a nonempty proper subset  $A$  of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed. Then  $A'$  is also both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed. Also  $A \cup A' = X$ . Hence the sets  $A$  and  $A'$  satisfy the requirement of (i) and (ii).

Conversely, let  $X = A \cup B$  and  $A \cap B = \phi$  where  $A$  and  $B$  are nonempty  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open sets.

It follows that  $A = B'$ , so that  $A$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed. Since  $B$  is nonempty,  $A$  is a proper subset of  $X$ . Then  $A$  is a nonempty proper subset of  $X$ . Then  $A$  is a nonempty proper subset of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{\alpha}g$  open and  $\hat{\alpha}g$  closed. Hence by theorem 4.4,  $X$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected. Similarly, assuming (ii) we can prove  $X$  is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnected.

**Remark 4.8 :**  $A \cup B$  is called a  $\hat{\alpha}g$  disconnection of  $X$ .

**Definition 4.9 :** Let  $A$  be a subset of a topological space  $X$ . A point  $x$  of  $X$  is said to be  $\hat{\alpha}g$  exterior point of  $A$  if it is  $\hat{\alpha}g$  interior point of the complement  $A'$  of  $A$ . The set of all  $\hat{\alpha}g$  exterior points of  $A$  is called the  $\hat{\alpha}g$  exterior of  $A$  and shall be denoted by  $\hat{\alpha}g \text{ ext } (A)$ .

**Definition 4.10 :** A point  $x$  of a topological space  $X$  is said to be a  $\hat{a}g$  frontier point or  $\hat{a}g$  boundary point of a subset  $A$  of  $X$  if it is neither a  $\hat{a}g$  interior point nor  $\hat{a}g$  exterior point of  $A$ . The set of all  $\hat{a}g$  frontierpoints of  $A$  is called the  $\hat{a}g$  frontier of  $A$  and shall be denoted by  $\hat{a}g Fr(A)$ .

**Theorem 4.11 :** A topological space  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected if and only if every nonempty proper subset of  $X$  has a nonempty  $\hat{a}g$  frontier.

**Proof :** Let every nonempty proper subset of  $X$  have a nonempty  $\hat{a}g$  frontier. Let us show  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected. Let  $X$  be  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected. Then, there exists nonempty disjoint sets  $G$  and  $H$  both  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed in  $X$  such that  $X = G \cup H$ . Therefore  $G = \hat{a}g int G = \hat{a}g cl G$ . But  $\hat{a}g Fr(G) = \emptyset$ , which is a contradiction to our hypothesis. Hence  $X$  must be  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

Conversely, let  $X$  be  $\hat{a}g$  connected. Let, if possible, there exists a nonempty proper subset of  $A$  of  $X$  such that  $\hat{a}g Fr(A) = \emptyset$  Now  $\hat{a}g cl A = \hat{a}g int A \cup \hat{a}g Fr(A)$  by theorem 6.2[7]

$$= A \cup \hat{a}g Fr(A) \text{ by theorem 6.4[7]}$$

Hence  $A = \hat{a}g int A = \hat{a}g cl A$ , showing that  $A$  is both  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed. Therefore  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected, which is a contradiction. This completes the proof.

**Theorem 4.12 :** i) Every indiscrete topological space  $X$ , where  $X$  is non empty is  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

ii) Every discrete topological space  $X$ , where  $X$  contains more than one point is  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

**Proof i) :** There is no proper subset of  $X$ , which is both  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed. So,  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

ii)  $X$  contains more than one point. Every singleton subset of  $X$  is a nonempty proper subset of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed. Hence  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected.

**Theorem 4.13 :** Let  $X$  be a topological space and let  $E$  be  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset of  $X$  such that  $E \subset A \cup B$  where  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\hat{a}g$  separated sets. Then  $E \subset A$  or  $E \subset B$ , that is  $E$  cannot intersect both  $A$  and  $B$ .

**Proof :** Since  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\hat{a}g$  separated,  $A \cap \hat{a}g cl B = \emptyset$  and  $\hat{a}g cl A \cap B = \emptyset$

$$\text{Now, } E \subset A \cup B \Rightarrow E = E \cap (A \cup B) = (E \cap A) \cup (E \cap B)$$

Let us prove one of the sets  $E \cap A$  or  $E \cap B$  is empty. For, if possible, none of these sets is empty. That is, let  $E \cap A \neq \emptyset$  and  $E \cap B \neq \emptyset$

$$\text{Then } (E \cap A) \cap \hat{a}g cl (E \cap B) \subset (E \cap A) \cap (\hat{a}g cl E \cap \hat{a}g cl B) = (E \cap (\hat{a}g cl E \cap \hat{a}g cl B)) \cap (A \cap (\hat{a}g cl E \cap \hat{a}g cl B)) = (E \cap \hat{a}g cl B) \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \hat{a}g cl (E \cap A) \cap (E \cap B) = \emptyset$$

Hence  $E \cap A$  and  $E \cap B$  are  $\hat{a}g$  separated sets. So,  $E$  is  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected, which is a contradiction. Hence one of the sets  $E \cap A$  or  $E \cap B$  is empty.

If  $E \cap A = \emptyset$ , then  $E = E \cap B$ , which implies  $E \subset B$ .

**Corollary 4.14 :** If  $E$  is a  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset of a space  $X$  such that  $E \subset A \cup B$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed subsets of  $X$ , then  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\hat{a}g$  separated.

**Proof :**  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\hat{a}g$  open with  $A \cap B = \emptyset$

$$\text{Then } A \subset B' \Rightarrow \hat{a}g cl A \subset \hat{a}g cl B' = B'$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{a}g cl A \cap B = \emptyset$$

$$\text{Similarly } A \cap \hat{a}g cl B = \emptyset$$

Hence  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\hat{a}g$  separated.

**Theorem 4.15 :** Let  $E$  be a  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset of a space  $X$ . If  $F$  is a subset of  $X$  such that  $E \subset F \subset \hat{a}g cl E$ , then  $F$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected. In particular  $\hat{a}g cl E$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

**Proof :** Let  $F$  be  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected. Then there exist nonempty sets  $A$  and  $B$  such that

$$A \cap \hat{a}g cl B = \emptyset, \hat{a}g cl A \cap B = \emptyset \text{ and } A \cup B = F.$$

Since  $E \subset F = A \cup B$ , it follows from theorem 4.13 that  $E \subset A$  or  $E \subset B$ .

Let  $E \subset A$ . This implies  $\hat{a}g cl E \subset \hat{a}g cl A$ .

$$\text{This implies } \hat{a}g cl E \cap B \subset \hat{a}g cl A \cap B = \emptyset$$

$$\text{That is } \hat{a}g cl E \cap B = \emptyset. \text{ Also } A \cup F \subset \hat{a}g cl E$$

$$\Rightarrow B \subset F \subset \hat{a}g cl E \Rightarrow \hat{a}g cl E \cap B = B$$

Hence  $B = \emptyset$ , a contradiction. So,  $F$  must be  $\hat{a}g$  connected. Again  $E \subset \hat{a}g \text{ cl } E \subset \hat{a}g \text{ cl } E$ ,  $\hat{a}g \text{ cl } E$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

**Theorem 4.16 :** If every two points of a subset  $E$  of a topological space  $X$  are contained in some  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset of  $E$ , then  $E$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset of  $X$ .

**Proof :** Let  $E$  be not  $\hat{a}g$  connected. Then there exist non empty subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of  $X$  such that  $A \cap \hat{a}g \text{ cl } B = \emptyset$ ,  $\hat{a}g \text{ cl } A \cap B = \emptyset$  and  $E = A \cup B$ .

Since  $A$  and  $B$  are non empty, there exists a point  $a \in A$  and a point  $b \in B$ . By hypothesis  $a$  and  $b$  must be contained in some  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset  $F$  of  $E$ . Since  $F \subset A \cup B$ , by theorem 4.13,  $F \subset A$  or  $F \subset B$ . It follows  $a$  and  $b$  are both in  $A$  or  $B$ . Let  $a, b \in A$ . As  $b \in B$ , we have  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , a contradiction. Hence  $E$  must be  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

**Theorem 4.17 :**  $A$  is a  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset of a  $\hat{a}g$  connected topological space  $X$  such that  $A'$  is the union of two  $\hat{a}g$  separated sets  $B$  and  $C$ . Then  $A \cup B$  and  $A \cup C$  are  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

**Proof :** Let  $A \cup B$  be  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected. Then, there exist two nonempty  $\hat{a}g$  separated sets  $G$  and  $H$ , whose union is  $A \cup B$ .  $A$  is a  $\hat{a}g$  connected subset of  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected set  $A \cup B$  having the  $\hat{a}g$  separation

$A \cup B = G \cup H$ . Then by theorem 4.13, either  $A \subset G$  or  $A \subset H$ .

Suppose that  $A \subset G$ .

Now, since  $A \cup B = G \cup H$

$A \subset G \Rightarrow A \cup B \subset G \cup B \Rightarrow G \cup H \subset G \cup B \Rightarrow H \subset B$

Since  $B$  and  $C$  are  $\hat{a}g$  separated sets and  $H \subset B$ ,  $C \subset C$ , it follows from theorem 3.3, that  $H$  and  $C$  are also  $\hat{a}g$  separated. Thus the set  $H$  is  $\hat{a}g$  separated from  $G$  as well as  $C$  and therefore  $H$  is  $\hat{a}g$  separated from  $G \cup C$

But  $A' = B \cup C \Rightarrow X = A \cup A' = A \cup (B \cup C)$

$\Rightarrow X = (A \cup B) \cup C \Rightarrow X = (G \cup H) \cup C = (G \cup C) \cup H$

Consequently,  $X$  has been expressed as the union of nonempty  $\hat{a}g$  separated sets. This implies  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected, a contradiction.

Similar contradiction will arise if  $A \subset H$ .

Hence  $A \cup B$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected. Similarly  $A \cup C$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

### $\hat{a}g$ continuity and $\hat{a}g$ connectedness

**Definition 5.1 :** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be topological spaces. A mapping  $f ; X \rightarrow Y$  is said to be  $\hat{a}g$  continuous if and only if the inverse image of every open set of  $Y$  is  $\hat{a}g$  open in  $X$ .

**Theorem 5.2 :** If  $f$  is a  $\hat{a}g$  continuous mapping of a  $\hat{a}g$  connected space  $X$  onto an arbitrary topological space  $Y$ , then  $Y$  is connected.

**Proof :** Let  $Y$  be disconnected. Then there exists a nonempty proper subset  $G$  of  $Y$  which is both open and closed in  $Y$ . Since  $f$  is  $\hat{a}g$  continuous and onto  $Y$ ,  $f^{-1}(G)$  is a nonempty proper subset of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed in  $X$ . Therefore  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected, a contradiction. Hence  $Y$  must be connected.

**Theorem 5.3 :** A topological space  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected if and only if there exists a  $\hat{a}g$  continuous mapping of  $X$  onto the discrete two point space  $\{0,1\}$

**Proof :** Let  $X$  be  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected. Then, there exist two nonempty disjoint  $\hat{a}g$  open subsets  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  of  $X$  such that  $X = G_1 \cup G_2$ . Define a mapping  $f$  of  $X$  onto  $\{0,1\}$  by setting  $f(x) = 0$  if  $x \in G_1$  and  $f(x) = 1$  if  $x \in G_2$ . Since  $\{0,1\}$  is discrete, its open sets are  $\emptyset$ ,  $\{0\}$ ,  $\{1\}$  and  $\{0,1\}$

$f^{-1}(\{0\}) = G_1$ ,  $f^{-1}(\{1\}) = G_2$ ,  $f^{-1}(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ ,  $f^{-1}(\{0,1\}) = X$

Hence  $f$  is  $\hat{a}g$  continuous.

Conversely, let there exists a  $\hat{a}g$  continuous mapping of  $X$  onto the discrete space  $\{0,1\}$ .

If  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected, then  $\{0,1\}$  is connected by the above theorem. But this is impossible, since every discrete space is disconnected.

**Theorem 5.4 :** A space  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected if and only if every  $\hat{a}g$  continuous function  $f$  from  $X$  into the discrete two points space  $\{0,1\}$  is constant.

**Proof :** Let  $X$  be  $\hat{a}g$  connected and let  $y \in f(x) \subset \{0,1\}$ , where  $f : X \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is any  $\hat{a}g$  continuous function. Then  $\{y\}$  is both open and closed in the discrete space  $\{0,1\}$ .  $f$  is  $\hat{a}g$  continuous. Therefore  $f^{-1}(\{y\})$  is  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed and nonempty. Since  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected,  $f^{-1}(\{y\}) = X$ . Therefore  $f$  is a constant function.

Conversely, let every  $\hat{a}g$  continuous function  $f : X \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  be constant.

Suppose, if possible,  $X$  be  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected. Then, there exists a nonempty proper subset  $A$  of  $X$  which is both  $\hat{a}g$  open and  $\hat{a}g$  closed in  $X$ . Consider the characteristic function  $K_A$  of  $A$  defined by

$$K_A(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in A \\ 0, & \text{if } x \in A' \end{cases}$$

Then  $K_A^{-1}(\phi) = \phi$ ,  $K_A^{-1}(\{1\}) = A$ ,  $K_A^{-1}(\{0\}) = A'$ ,

$K_A^{-1}(\{0,1\}) = X$ . Therefore  $K_A$  is  $\hat{a}g$  continuous.

But  $K_A$  is non constant, a contradiction.

Hence  $X$  must be  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

**Definition 5.5 :** A map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is called  $\hat{a}g$  irresolute if  $f^{-1}(V)$  is  $\hat{a}g$  closed in  $X$  for every  $\hat{a}g$  closed set  $V$  of  $Y$ . It is called irresolute if  $f^{-1}(V)$  is open in  $X$  for every open set  $V$  of  $Y$ .

**Theorem 5.6 :** A map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is  $\hat{a}g$  irresolute if for every  $\hat{a}g$  open set  $A$  of  $Y$ ,  $f^{-1}(A)$  is  $\hat{a}g$  open in  $X$ .

**Proof :** obvious

**Theorem 5.7 :** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a map. Then, if  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected and  $f$  is  $\hat{a}g$  irresolute surjective, then  $Y$  is  $\hat{a}g$  connected.

**Proof :** Let  $Y$  be  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected. Then  $Y = A \cup B$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint nonempty  $\hat{a}g$  open subsets of  $Y$ . Since  $f$  is  $\hat{a}g$  irresolute surjective,  $X = f^{-1}(A) \cup f^{-1}(B)$ .  $f^{-1}(A)$  and  $f^{-1}(B)$  are disjoint nonempty  $\hat{a}g$  open subset of  $X$ . So,  $X$  is  $\hat{a}g$  disconnected, a contradiction. This completes the proof.

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