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# UNIFICATION OF MAXIMALITY AND MINIMALITY OF OPEN AND $\mu$ -OPEN SETS

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#### Abstract

In this paper, we introduce and study the notions of maximal and minimal generalized open sets of a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  with respect to open sets of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  along with the notions of maximal and minimal open sets of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  with respect to generalized open sets of a GTS  $(X, \mu)$ . We observe that contrary to maximal and minimal  $\mu$ -open sets of a GTS  $(X, \mu)$ , the unified notions of maximality and minimality of generalized open sets behave differently.

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# 1 Introduction

The concept of generalized topological spaces was introduced by Császár [2]. A subcollection  $\mu$  of the power set exp(X) of a nonempty set X is a generalized topology due to Császár [2] if the empty set  $\emptyset \in \mu$  and the union of arbitrary numbers of members of  $\mu$  is a member of  $\mu$ . A nonempty set X equipped with a generalized topology  $\mu$  is called a generalized topological space [2] and it is denoted by  $(X, \mu)$ . Generally, we write a 'GT' for a 'generalized topology'  $\mu$  on a nonempty set X and a 'GTS' for a 'generalized topological space'  $(X, \mu)$ . A member of  $\mu$  is called a  $\mu$ -open set of  $(X, \mu)$ . The complement of a  $\mu$ -open set is called a  $\mu$ -closed set.

Nakaoka and Oda [6] introduced and studied the concept of minimal open sets (Definition 1) in a topological space. Dualizing the concept of minimal open sets, Nakaoka and Oda [5] introduced and studied the notion of maximal open sets

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(Definition 2) in a topological space. Generalizing the concept of maximal open sets, Roy and Sen [7] introduced and studied the notion of maximal  $\mu$ -open sets (Definition 3) (and also minimal  $\mu$ -closed sets) in a GTS. Since certain classes of sets like semi-open [3], preopen [4] sets on a topological space  $(X, \mathscr{T})$  form generalized topologies on X, the notion of a GTS may be unified in terms of those sets including open sets of a topological spaces. That's why, we find a considerable number of articles on the unification of existing topological notions via a GT. In this paper, we unified the notions of maximality and minimality of  $\mu$ -open sets of a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  on a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , and we introduce and study the notions of maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets (Definition 5) and minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets (Definition 7). Contrary to maximal and minimal  $\mu$ -open sets of a GTS, maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open and minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets behave differently e.g., Theorem 1 and Theorem 6 under operations of union and intersection respectively. Hence it follows the relevance of the study of properties of maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open and minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets.

For  $A \subset X$ , we write 'A is  $\tau$ -open in X' (resp. ' $\mu$ -open in X') to mean ' $A \in \tau$ ' (resp.' $A \in \mu$ ') without referring the 'topology  $\tau$  on X' (resp. 'GT  $\mu$  on X') to be comprehended from the context. The meanings of terms ' $\tau$ -closed', ' $\mu$ -closed' used in the sequel are apparent. By a 'proper open set' (resp. 'proper  $\mu$ -open set') of a 'topological space  $(X, \tau)$ ' (resp. 'GTS  $(X, \mu)$ '), we mean an 'open set' (resp. ' $\mu$ -open set')  $G \neq \emptyset$ , X. For a subset A of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ ,  $c_{\tau}(A)$ denotes the closure of A with respect to the topological space  $(X, \tau)$ . Throughout the paper, R denotes the set of real numbers.

# 2 Unification of maximality of $\mu$ -open sets

Firstly, we recall some definitions to use in the sequel.

**Definition 1** (Nakaoka and Oda [6]). A proper open set U of  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be a minimal open set if any open set which is contained in U is U or  $\emptyset$ .

**Definition 2** (Nakaoka and Oda [5]). A proper open set U of  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be a maximal open set if any open set which contains U is X or U.

**Definition 3** (Roy and Sen [7]). A proper  $\mu$ -open set U of a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  is said to be a maximal  $\mu$ -open set if any  $\mu$ -open set which contains U is X or U.

**Definition 4** (S. Al Ghour et al. [1]). A proper  $\mu$ -open set U of X is said to be a minimal  $\mu$ -open set if the only nonempty  $\mu$ -open set which is contained in U is U itself.

We introduce the notions following henceforth.

**Definition 5.** A proper  $\mu$ -open set A of a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  is said to be maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if B is a  $\tau$ -open set of  $(X, \tau)$  containing A, then either B = A or B = X. A is said to be absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if A satisfies the following condition: if B is a  $\tau$ -open set of  $(X, \tau)$  containing A, then B = X.

It follows that a maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open set on X is an absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ open set on X iff it is not  $\tau$ -open in X.

We note that a maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open set on X switches to a maximal open set in  $(X, \tau)$ , if we choose  $\mu = \tau$ . Also the existence of a notion like absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X in a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  as well as in a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  is absurd.

**Example 1.** For  $a, b \in R$  with a < b, we define

$$\begin{split} \tau &= \{ \emptyset, R, \{a\}, (-\infty, a), (-\infty, a] \}, \\ \mu &= \{ \emptyset, (-\infty, b), (-\infty, b] \}. \end{split}$$

Then  $\tau$  is a topology in R and  $\mu$  is a GT in R.  $(-\infty, b)$  is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on R but it is not maximal  $\mu$ -open in  $(R, \mu)$ .

**Example 2.** For  $a \in R$ , we define

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= \{ \emptyset, R, \{a\}, (-\infty, a), (-\infty, a] \}, \\ \mu &= \{ \emptyset, (-\infty, a) \}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\tau$  is a topology on R and  $\mu$  is a GT on R.  $(-\infty, a)$  is maximal  $\mu$ -open in  $(R, \mu)$  but it is not maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on R.

So it follows that notions of maximal  $\mu$ -open sets in X and maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X are independent.

**Theorem 1.** If A is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and B is  $\mu$ -open in X with  $A \cup B \neq X$ , then either  $A \cup B$  is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X or A is both  $\tau$ -open and  $\mu$ -open with  $B \subset A$ .

*Proof.* We note that A is a proper  $\mu$ -open set. Suppose there exists a  $\tau$ -open set  $U \neq X, A \cup B$  such that  $A \cup B \subset U$ . Then we get  $A \subset A \cup B \subset U$ . Since A is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and  $U \neq X$ , we have  $A = U \Rightarrow A \cup B = U$ , a contradiction to our assumption  $U \neq A \cup B$ . So we have U = X or  $U = A \cup B$  which imply that  $A \cup B$  is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X. If  $U = A \cup B \neq X$ , then  $A \cup B$  is both  $\mu$ -open and  $\tau$ -open, and so by maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -openness of A on X, we get  $A = A \cup B$  which implies A is both  $\tau$ -open and  $\mu$ -open, and  $B \subset A$ .  $\Box$ 

The assumption of  $A \cup B \neq X$  in Theorem 1 is totally reasonable since  $X \in \mu$  is not ensured in a GTS  $(X, \mu)$ , and we make certain that  $X \in \mu$ , if opted  $A \cup B = X$ .

If A is maximal open (resp. maximal  $\mu$ -open) in a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ (resp. GTS  $(X, \mu)$ ), then there does not exist a maximal open set (resp. maximal  $\mu$ -open set) distinct from A and containing A. But we see from Theorem 1 that if A is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X, then there may exist another maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open set distinct from A and containing A. It is an odd property of maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ open sets on X in comparison to maximal  $\mu$ -open sets which also prompted us to investigate the notion of maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X and some similar notions due to their such behaviour. **Corollary 1.** If A is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and B is  $\mu$ -open with  $A \cup B \neq X$ , then  $A \cup B$  is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X.

*Proof.* It follows easily.

**Corollary 2.** If  $A \notin \tau$  is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and B is  $\mu$ -open with  $A \cup B \neq X$ , then  $A \cup B$  is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X.

*Proof.* Similar to the proof of Theorem 1.

**Theorem 2.** If A, B are distinct maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X, then  $A \cup B$  is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if  $A \cup B \neq X$ .

*Proof.* Proceeding like the proof of Theorem 1, we see that if there exists a  $\tau$ -open set U such that  $A \cup B \subset U$ , then U = X or  $U = A \cup B$ . If  $U = A \cup B \neq X$ , then  $A \cup B$  is proper  $\tau$ -open and so by maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -openness of A on X, we get  $A = A \cup B$  which implies A is  $\tau$ -open and  $B \subset A$ . Since B is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and  $A \neq X$ , we get A = B which is not possible by hypothesis. Similarly, considering  $B \subset A \cup B \subset U$ , we may have U = X or A = B. Hence  $A \cup B$  is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if  $A \cup B \neq X$ .

**Corollary 3.** If A, B are distinct absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X, then  $A \cup B$  is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if  $A \cup B \neq X$ .

**Theorem 3.** If a  $\tau$ -open set A is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X, then either A is the only such set in X or X is the union of two such sets.

*Proof.* Let another  $\tau$ -open set B be also maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X. Then  $A \cup B$  is  $\tau$ -open. As  $A \subset A \cup B$  and A is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X, we have  $A = A \cup B \Rightarrow B \subset A$  or  $A \cup B = X$ . Similarly, for B, we get  $A \subset B$  or  $A \cup B = X$ .  $B \subset A$  and  $A \cup B = X$  imply that A = X which is not possible. Similarly,  $A \subset B$  together with  $A \cup B = X$  is not possible. The only possible cases are  $B \subset A, A \subset B \Rightarrow A = B$  and  $A \cup B = X$ .

**Definition 6.** A proper  $\tau$ -open set A of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X if B is a  $\mu$ -open set of X containing A, then either B = A or B = X. A is said to be absolutely maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X if Asatisfies the following condition: if B is a  $\mu$ -open set of X containing A, then B = X.

If there exists no proper  $\mu$ -open set containing A, then A is said to be absolutely maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X.

It follows that a maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open set on X is an absolutely maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ open set on X iff it is not  $\mu$ -open in X.

We note that a maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open set on X switches to a maximal open set in  $(X, \tau)$ , if we choose  $\tau = \mu$ .

**Example 3.** For  $a, b \in R$  with a < b, we define

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= \{ \emptyset, R, \{b\}, (-\infty, b), (-\infty, b] \}, \\ \mu &= \{ \emptyset, (-\infty, a), (-\infty, a] \}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\tau$  is a topology in R and  $\mu$  is a GT in R.  $(-\infty, b)$  is maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on R but it is not maximal open in  $(R, \tau)$ .

**Example 4.** For  $a, b \in R$  with a < b, we define

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= \{ \emptyset, R, \{a\}, (-\infty, a), (-\infty, a] \}, \\ \mu &= \{ \emptyset, (-\infty, b) \}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\tau$  is a topology in R and  $\mu$  is a GT in R.  $(-\infty, a]$  is maximal open in  $(R, \tau)$  but it is not maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on R.

So it follows that notions of maximal open sets on X and maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open sets on X are independent.

**Lemma 1.** If a subset A of X is both  $\tau$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$  and maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X, then A is maximal open in  $(X, \tau)$ .

*Proof.* Let U be a  $\tau$ -open set such that  $A \subset U$ . Since A is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X, we have U = A or U = X. Since A is  $\tau$ -open, it follows from the definition that A is maximal open in  $(X, \tau)$ .

**Lemma 2.** If a subset A of X is both  $\mu$ -open in  $(X, \mu)$  and maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X, then A is maximal  $\mu$ -open in  $(X, \mu)$ .

*Proof.* Similar to the proof of Lemma 1.

**Theorem 4.** A subset of X is both maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open and maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X iff it is both maximal open in  $(X, \tau)$  and maximal  $\mu$ -open in  $(X, \mu)$ .

*Proof.* Firstly, suppose that A is both maximal open in  $(X, \tau)$  and maximal  $\mu$ -open in  $(X, \mu)$ . So A is proper  $\tau$ -open as well as  $\mu$ -open. As A is maximal open (resp. maximal  $\mu$ -open) in X, we have A = U or U = X for any  $\tau$ -open (resp.  $\mu$ -open) set U containing A. Considering A as  $\mu$ -open, we do not get a  $\tau$ -open set U such that  $A \subset U$  and  $U \neq A, X$ . So A is maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X. Similarly, A is maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X.

Conversely, if A is both maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open and maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X, then A is both  $\tau$ -open and  $\mu$ -open. The result follows by Lemma 1 and Lemma 2.

**Theorem 5.** If A is  $\tau$ -open in X and maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X, then either  $c_{\tau}(A) = X$  or  $c_{\tau}(A) = A$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x \in X - A$  and G be  $\tau$ -open in X. Since  $A \cup G$  is  $\tau$ -open, we get  $A \cup G = A$  or  $A \cup G = X$ . But  $A \cup G = A$  is impossible. It follows that for any  $x \in X - A$  and any  $\tau$ -open nbd G of x, we have  $A \cup G = X$ . The two cases arise. Case I: There is  $x \in X - A$  and a  $\tau$ -open nbd G of x such that  $A \cap G = \emptyset$ . Then  $c_{\tau}(A) = A$ .

Case II: For any  $x \in X - A$  and any  $\tau$ -open nbd G of x we have  $A \cap G \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $c_{\tau}(A) = X$ .

## 3 Unification of minimality of $\mu$ -open sets

We introduce the concept of minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X by dualizing the concept of maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X.

**Definition 7.** A proper  $\mu$ -open set A of  $(X, \mu)$  is said to be minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if B is a  $\tau$ -open set of  $(X, \tau)$  contained in A, then either B = A or  $B = \emptyset$ . A is said to be absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if A satisfies the following condition: if B is a  $\tau$ -open set of  $(X, \tau)$  contained in A, then  $B = \emptyset$ .

It follows that a minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open set on X is an absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ open set on X iff it is not  $\tau$ -open.

We note that a minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open set on X switches to a minimal open set in  $(X, \tau)$ , if we choose  $\mu = \tau$ . Also the existence of a notion like absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X in a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  as well as in a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  is absurd.

In Example 1,  $(-\infty, b)$  is minimal  $\mu$ -open in  $(R, \mu)$  but it is not minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on R. In Example 3,  $(-\infty, a]$  is minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on R but it is not minimal  $\mu$ -open in  $(R, \mu)$ . So the notions of minimal  $\mu$ -open sets in X and minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X are independent.

By dualizing some earlier results, we have the results through Theorem 6 to Theorem 9. The proofs of these results are omitted as the proofs are similar to the proofs of corresponding results already established.

**Theorem 6.** If A is minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and B is  $\mu$ -open with  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ and  $A \cap B \in \mu$ , then either  $A \cap B$  is absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X or A is both  $\tau$ -open and  $\mu$ -open with  $A \subset B$ .

**Corollary 4.** If A is absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and B is  $\mu$ -open with  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$  and  $A \cap B \in \mu$ , then  $A \cap B$  is absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X.

**Corollary 5.** If  $A \notin \tau$  is minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X and B is  $\mu$ -open with  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$  and  $A \cap B \in \mu$ , then  $A \cap B$  is absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X.

**Theorem 7.** If A, B are distinct minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X with  $A \cap B \in \mu$ , then  $A \cap B$  is absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ .

**Corollary 6.** If A, B are distinct absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X with  $A \cap B \in \mu$ , then  $A \cap B$  is absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X if  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 8.** If A, B are  $\tau$ -open sets in X as well as minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open sets on X with  $A \cap B \in \mu$ , then either A = B or  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ .

**Definition 8.** A proper  $\tau$ -open set A of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X if B is a  $\mu$ -open set of X contained in A, then either B = A or  $B = \emptyset$ . A is said to be absolutely minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X if A satisfies the following condition: if B is a  $\mu$ -open set of X contained in A, then  $B = \emptyset$ .

It follows that a minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open set on X is an absolutely minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open set on X iff it is not  $\mu$ -open.

We note that a maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open set on X switches to a maximal open set in  $(X, \tau)$ , if we choose  $\tau = \mu$ .

In Example 3,  $(-\infty, b)$  is minimal open in  $(R, \tau)$  but it is not minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ open on R. In Example 1,  $(-\infty, a]$  is minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on R but it is not
minimal open in  $(R, \tau)$ . So it follows that the notions of minimal open sets in Xand minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open sets on X are independent.

**Lemma 3.** If a subset A of X is both  $\tau$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$  and minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on X, then A is minimal open in  $(X, \tau)$ .

**Lemma 4.** If a subset A of X is both  $\mu$ -open in  $(X, \mu)$  and minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X, then A is minimal  $\mu$ -open in  $(X, \mu)$ .

**Theorem 9.** A subset of X is both minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open and minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X iff it is both minimal open in  $(X, \tau)$  and minimal  $\mu$ -open in  $(X, \mu)$ .

Suppose that a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  has only one proper open set A and a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  has only one proper  $\mu$ -open set B with  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ . Then B is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open as well as absolutely minimal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open on Xand A is absolutely maximal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open as well as minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X. Again suppose that a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  has only one proper open set Aand a GTS  $(X, \mu)$  has only one proper  $\mu$ -open set B with  $A \subsetneq B$ . Then B is absolutely maximal  $(\tau, \mu)$ -open and A is absolutely minimal  $(\mu, \tau)$ -open on X.

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