

This note, that [was found here](#), as a part of [a collection](#) is written (completely with human hands) by [Rupadarshi Ray](#), was created on January 13, 2026 1:18:07 PM, was last modified on September 6, 2026 3:21:05 PM, and was exported on September 7, 2026 3:24:53 PM.

Proper actions by topological groups on topological spaces

Definition. Proper actions by topological groups on topological spaces

Let G be a topological group acting on a topological space X continuously

$$\theta : G \curvearrowright X$$

Then the action θ is called **proper** if the map

$$\begin{aligned} \theta \times \pi_2 : G \times X &\rightarrow X \times X \\ (g, p) &\mapsto (\theta^g(p), p) \end{aligned}$$

is a *proper map*. [1]

- Let $A \times B \subseteq X \times X$, then

$$(\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(A \times B) = \{(g, m) \in G \times X \mid \theta^g(m) \in A, m \in B\}$$

- Now its projection onto G is

$$\pi_1((\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(A \times B)) = \left\{ g \in G \mid \underbrace{\exists m \in B : \theta^g(m) \in A}_{\iff B \cap \theta^{g^{-1}}(A) \neq \emptyset} \right\}$$

- For $A = B = K$ we have

$$\pi_1((\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(K \times K)) = \underbrace{\left\{ g \in G \mid \underbrace{K \cap \theta^{g^{-1}}(K) \neq \emptyset}_{\iff \theta^g(K) \cap K \neq \emptyset} \right\}}_{=: G_K}$$

- Let

$$\theta : G \curvearrowright X$$

be a continuous action.

- Let θ is a **proper** action. Then for any compact $K \subseteq X$ we have

$$G_K = \pi_1(\underbrace{(\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(K \times K)}_{\text{compact}})$$

Thus G_K is compact.

- Now let X is **Hausdorff** and for every compact $K \subseteq X$. Any compact subset $L \subseteq X \times X$ we have a compact set $K := \pi_1(L) \cup \pi_2(L)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} L &\subseteq K \times K \\ \implies \underbrace{(\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(L)}_{\text{closed}} &\subseteq (\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(K \times K) \subseteq \underbrace{G_K \times K}_{\text{compact}} \end{aligned}$$

- Thus by

Proposition: A closed subset of a compact space is compact.

$(\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(L)$ is compact for every compact $L \subseteq X \times X$.

- Thus $\theta \times \pi_2$ is a proper map $\implies \theta$ is a proper action.

Hence,

Let G be a group acting on a Hausdorff space X continuously

$$\theta : G \curvearrowright X$$

Then the action θ is called **proper** $\iff$ for every compact set $K \subseteq X$

$$\begin{aligned} G_K &:= \pi_1((\theta \times \pi_2)^{-1}(K \times K)) \\ &= \{g \in G \mid \theta^g(K) \cap K \neq \emptyset\} \subseteq G \end{aligned}$$

is compact.

[2]

Current note has 0 direct children and 0 total descendants.

- [structures based on sets](#)
 - [Topological spaces](#)
 - [Group action on topological spaces](#)
 - [Proper actions by topological groups on topological spaces](#)

And it has 3 siblings.

- [structures based on sets](#)
 - [Topological spaces](#)
 - [Group action on topological spaces](#)
 - [Covering space action](#)
 - [Discontinuous group actions on topological spaces](#)
 - [Proper actions by topological groups on topological spaces](#)

1.

Definition. Proper, perfect, universally closed maps

A continuous map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ between topological spaces is

- **proper** if preimage of compact sets $K \subseteq Y$, $f^{-1}(K)$ are compact in X
- **Bourbaki-proper** if for any topological space Z the product map
$$\text{Id}_Z \times f : Z \times X \rightarrow Z \times Y$$
is closed
- **perfect** if f is closed and has compact fibres ($f^{-1}(y)$ is compact for all $y \in Y$)
- **universally closed** if for every continuous map $g : Z \rightarrow Y$ the pullback
$$g \times_Y f : Z \times_Y X \rightarrow Z$$
is closed
- **sequential escaper** if for any sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq X$ *escaping to infinity* then $\{f(x_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ *escapes to infinity*

↩

2. [John M. Lee.Introduction to Topological Manifolds-Springer-Verlag New York \(2011\),p.319](#)↩