

## Maximal and Minimal $\alpha$ -Open Sets

Dr. Haji M. Hasan

Department of Mathematics, College of Basic Education, university of Duhok, Kurdistan-Region, Iraq

### Abstract.

In 2001 and 2003, Nakaok and Oda [3] and [4] introduced the notation of maximal open sets and minimal open sets in topological spaces. In 2010, Miguel, Saeid and Seithuti [2], introduced the notation of maximal  $\theta$ -open sets and minimal  $\theta$ -closed sets in topological spaces. In this paper, we introduce new classes of sets called maximal  $\alpha$ -open sets and minimal  $\alpha$ -open sets and investigate some of their fundamental properties.

**Key word and phrases:**  $\theta$ -open, maximal open sets, minimal closed, maximal  $\theta$ -open sets and minimal  $\theta$ -closed.

### I. Introduction.

The study of  $\alpha$ -open sets and their properties were initiated by Njastad [5] in 1965; his introduction of  $\alpha$ -open sets. Andrijevic [1] gave some properties of  $\alpha$ -closure of a set  $A$  is denoted by  $\alpha Cl(A)$ , and defined as intersection of all  $\alpha$ -closed sets containing the set  $A$ .

F. Nakaok and N. Oda [3] and [4] introduced the notation of maximal open sets and minimal open sets in topological spaces. In (2010) Miguel Caldas, Saeid Jafari and Seithuti P. Moshokes [2]; introduce the notion of maximal  $\theta$ -open, minimal  $\theta$ -closed,  $\theta$ -semi maximal open and  $\theta$ -semi minimal closed and investigate some of the fundamental properties.

The purpose of the present paper is to introduce the concept of a new class of open sets called maximal  $\alpha$ -open sets and minimal  $\alpha$ -closed sets. We also investigate some of their fundamental properties.

### II. Definition and Preliminaries.

**Definition2.1.** [5] A subset  $A$  of a space  $X$  is said to be  $\alpha$ -open set if  $A \subseteq Int(Cl(Int(A)))$ . The complement of all  $\alpha$ -open set is said to be  $\alpha$ -closed. As in the usual sense, the intersection of all  $\alpha$ -closed sets of  $X$  containing  $A$  is called the  $\alpha$ -closure of  $A$ . also the union of all  $\alpha$ -open sets of  $X$  contained in  $A$  is called the  $\alpha$ -interior of  $A$ .

**Definition2.2.** [6] A subset  $A$  of a space  $X$  is said to be  $\theta$ -open set if for each  $x \in A$ , there exists an open set  $G$  such that  $x \in G \subseteq Cl(G) \subseteq A$ .

**Definition2.3.** [4] A proper nonempty open set  $U$  of  $X$  is said to be a maximal open set if any open set which contains  $U$  is  $X$  or  $U$ .

**Definition2.4.** [4] A proper nonempty open set  $U$  of  $X$  is said to be a minimal open set if any open set which contained in  $U$  is  $\phi$  or  $U$ .

**Definition2.5.** [3] A proper nonempty closed subset  $F$  of  $X$  is said to be a maximal closed set if any closed set which contains  $F$  is  $X$  or  $F$ .

**Definition2.6.** [3] A proper nonempty closed subset  $F$  of  $X$  is said to be a minimal closed set if any closed set which contained in  $F$  is  $\phi$  or  $F$ .

**Definition2.7.** [2] A proper nonempty  $\theta$ -open set  $U$  of  $X$  is said to be a maximal  $\theta$ -open set if any  $\theta$ -open set which contains  $U$  is  $X$  or  $U$ .

**Definition2.8.** [2] A proper nonempty  $\theta$ -closed set  $B$  of  $X$  is said to be a minimal  $\theta$ -closed set if any  $\theta$ -closed set which contained in  $B$  is  $\phi$  or  $F$ .

### III. Maximal and minimal $\alpha$ -open sets.

**Definition3.1.** A proper nonempty  $\alpha$ -open set  $A$  of  $X$  is said to be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set if any  $\alpha$ -open set which contains  $A$  is  $X$  or  $A$ .

**Definition3.2.** A proper nonempty  $\alpha$ -closed set  $B$  of  $X$  is said to be a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set if any  $\alpha$ -closed set which contained in  $B$  is  $\phi$  or  $B$ .

The family of all maximal  $\alpha$ -open (resp.; minimal  $\alpha$ -closed) sets will be denoted by  $M_{\alpha}O(X)$  (resp.;  $M_{\alpha}C(X)$ ). We set

$M_{\alpha}O(X,x) = \{ A : x \in A \in M_{\alpha}O(X) \}$ , and

$M_{\alpha}C(X,x) = \{ F : x \in A \in M_{\alpha}C(X) \}$ .

**Theorem3.3.** Let  $A$  be a proper nonempty subset of  $X$ . Then  $A$  is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set if  $X \setminus A$  is a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set.

**Proof.** Necessity. Let  $A$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open. Then  $A \subset X$  or  $A \subset A$ . Hence,  $\phi \subset X \setminus A$  or  $X \setminus A \subset X \setminus A$ . Therefore, by Definition 3.2,  $X \setminus A$  is a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set.

Sufficiency. Let  $X \setminus A$  is a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set. Then  $\phi \subset X \setminus A$  or  $X \setminus A \subset X \setminus A$ . Hence,  $A \subset X$  or  $A \subset A$  which implies that  $A$  is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set.

The following example shows that maximal-open sets and maximal  $\alpha$ -open sets are in general independent.

**Example3.4.** Consider  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  with topology  $\tau = \{\phi, X, \{a\}\}$ . Then the family of  $\alpha O(X) = \{\phi, X, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}\}$ . So  $\{a\}$  is a maximal open in  $X$ , which is not maximal  $\alpha$ -open in  $X$ , and  $\{a, b\}$  is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open in  $X$ , which is not maximal open in  $X$ .

**Theorem3.5.** Any open set if it is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set then it is a maximal open set.

**Proof.** Let  $U$  be open and maximal  $\alpha$ -open set in a topological space  $X$ . We want to prove that  $U$  is a maximal open set. Suppose that  $U$  is not maximal open set, then  $U \neq X$  and there exists an open set  $G$  such that  $U \subset G$  and  $U \neq G$ , but every open set is  $\alpha$ -open, this implies that  $G$  is a  $\alpha$ -open set containing  $U$  and  $U \neq G$  and  $U \neq X$ , which is contradiction. Hence  $U$  is a maximal open set.

**Theorem3.6.** For any topological space  $X$ , the following statements are true.

- 1) Let  $A$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set and  $B$  be a  $\alpha$ -open. Then  $A \cup B = X$  or  $B \subset A$ .
- 2) Let  $A$  and  $B$  be maximal  $\alpha$ -open sets. Then  $A \cup B = X$  or  $B = A$ .
- 3) Let  $F$  be a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set and  $G$  be a  $\alpha$ -closed set. Then  $F \cap G = \phi$  or  $F \subset G$ .
- 4) Let  $F$  and  $G$  be minimal  $\alpha$ -closed sets. Then  $F \cap G = \phi$  or  $F = G$ .

**Proof (1).** Let  $A$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set and  $B$  be a  $\alpha$ -open set. If  $A \cup B = X$ , then we are done. But if  $A \cup B \neq X$ , then we have to prove that  $B \subset A$ , but  $A \cup B \neq X$  means

$B \subset A \cup B$  and  $A \subset A \cup B$ . Therefore we have  $A \subset A \cup B$  and  $A$  is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open, then by Definition 3.1,  $A \cup B = X$  or  $A \cup B = A$ , but  $A \cup B \neq X$ , then  $A \cup B = A$ , which implies  $B \subset A$ .

**Proof (2).** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be maximal  $\alpha$ -open sets. If  $A \cup B = X$ , then we have done. But if  $A \cup B \neq X$ , then we have to prove that  $B = A$ . Now  $A \cup B \neq X$ , means  $B \subset A \cup B$  and  $A \subset A \cup B$ . Now  $A \subset A \cup B$  and  $A$  is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open, then by Definition 3.1,  $A \cup B = X$  or

$A \cup B = A$ , but  $A \cup B \neq X$ , therefore,  $A \cup B = A$ , which implies  $B \subset A$ . Similarly if  $B \subset A \cup B$  we obtain  $A \subset B$ . Therefore  $B = A$ .

**Proof (3).** Let  $F$  be a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set and  $G$  be a  $\alpha$ -closed set. If  $F \cap G = \phi$ , then there is nothing to prove. But if  $F \cap G \neq \phi$ , then we have to prove that  $F \subset G$ . Now if

$F \cap G \neq \phi$ , then  $F \cap G \subset F$  and  $F \cap G \subset G$ . Since  $F \cap G \subset F$  and given that  $F$  is minimal  $\alpha$ -closed, then Definition 3.2,  $F \cap G = F$  or  $F \cap G = \phi$ . But  $F \cap G \neq \phi$  then  $F \cap G = F$  which implies  $F \subset G$ .

**Proof (4).** Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two minimal  $\alpha$ -closed sets. If  $F \cap G = \phi$ , then there is nothing to prove. But if  $F \cap G \neq \phi$ , then we have to prove that  $F = G$ . Now if  $F \cap G \neq \phi$ , then  $F \cap G \subset F$  and  $F \cap G \subset G$ . Since  $F \cap G \subset F$  and given that  $F$  is minimal  $\alpha$ -closed, then by Definition 3.2,  $F \cap G = F$  or  $F \cap G = \phi$ . But  $F \cap G \neq \phi$  then  $F \cap G = F$  which implies  $F \subset G$ . Similarly if  $F \cap G \subset G$  and given that  $G$  is minimal  $\alpha$ -closed, then by Definition 3.2,  $F \cap G = G$  or  $F \cap G = \phi$ . But  $F \cap G \neq \phi$ , then  $F \cap G = G$  which implies  $G \subset F$ . Then  $F = G$ .

**Theorem3.7.**

- 1) Let  $A$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set and  $x$  is an element of  $X \setminus A$ . Then  $X \setminus A \subset B$  for any  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  containing  $x$ .
- 2) Let  $A$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set. Then either of the following (i) or (ii) holds:
  - (i) For each  $x \in X \setminus A$ , and each  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  containing  $x$ ,  $B = X$ .
  - (ii) There exists a  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  such that  $X \setminus A \subset B$ , and  $B \subset X$ .
- 3) Let  $A$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set. Then either of the following (i) or (ii) holds:

(i) For each  $x \in X \setminus A$ , and each  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  containing  $x$ , we have  $X \setminus A \subset B$ .

(ii) There exists a  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  such that  $X \setminus A = B \neq X$ .

**Proof. 1)** Since  $x \in X \setminus A$ , we have  $B \not\subset A$  for any  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  containing  $x$ . Then  $A \cup B = X$ , by Theorem 3.5(1). Therefore,  $X \setminus A \subset B$ .

2) If (i) dose not hold, then there exists an element  $x$  of  $X \setminus A$ , and a  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  containing  $x$  such that  $B \subset X$ . By (1) we have  $X \setminus A \subset B$ .

3) If (ii) dose not hold, then we have  $X \setminus A \subset B$  for each  $x \in X \setminus A$  and each  $\alpha$ -open set  $B$  containing  $x$ . Hence, we have  $X \setminus A \subset B$ .

**Theorem3.8.** Let  $A, B$  and  $C$  be maximal  $\alpha$ -open sets such that  $A \neq B$ . If  $A \cap B \subset C$ , then either  $A=C$  or  $B=C$ .

**Proof.** Given  $A \cap B \subset C$ . If  $A = C$ , then there is nothing to prove. But If  $A \neq C$ , then we have to prove  $B = C$ . Using Theorem 3.6(2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} B \cap C &= B \cap [C \cap X] = B \cap [C \cap (A \cup B)] \\ &= B \cap [(C \cap A) \cup (C \cap B)] \\ &= (B \cap C \cap A) \cup (B \cap C \cap B) \\ &= (A \cap B) \cup (C \cap B), \text{ since } A \cap B \subset C \\ &= (A \cup C) \cap B \\ &= X \cap B = B, \text{ since } A \cup C = X. \end{aligned}$$

This implies  $B \subset C$  also from the definition of maximal  $\alpha$ -open set it follows that  $B=C$ .

**Theorem3.9.** Let  $A, B$  and  $C$  be maximal  $\alpha$ -open sets which are different from each ether. Then  $(A \cap B) \not\subset (A \cap C)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $(A \cap B) \subset (A \cap C)$ . Then  $(A \cap B) \cup (C \cap B) \subset (A \cap C) \cup (C \cap B)$ . Hence,

$(A \cup C) \cap B \subset C \cap (A \cup B)$ . Since by Theorem 3.6(2),  $A \cup C = X$ . We have  $X \cap B \subset C \cap X$  which implies  $B \subset C$ . From the definition of maximal  $\alpha$ -open set it follows that  $B = C$ . Contradiction to the fact that  $A, B$  and  $C$  are different from each other. Therefore  $(A \cap B) \not\subset (A \cap C)$ .

**Theorem3.10.** (1) Let  $F$  be a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set of  $X$ . If  $x \in F$ , then  $F \subset G$  for any  $\alpha$ -closed set  $G$  containing  $x$ .

(2) Let  $F$  be a minimal  $\alpha$ -closed set of  $X$ . Then  $F = \bigcap \{G : G \in \alpha C(X), x \in G\}$ .

**Proof. (1).** Let  $F \in M_\alpha C(X, x)$  and  $G \in \alpha C(X, x)$ , such that  $F \not\subset G$ . This implies that  $F \cap G \subset F$  and  $F \cap G \neq \phi$ . But since  $F$  is minimal  $\alpha$ -closed, by Definition 2.2,  $F \cap G = F$  which contradicts the relation that  $F \cap G \subset F$ . Therefore  $F \subset G$ .

(2) By (1) and the fact that  $F$  is  $\alpha$ -closed containing  $x$ , we have  $F \subset \bigcap \{G : G \in \alpha C(X, x)\} \subset F$ . Therefore we have the result.

**Theorem3.11.** (1) Let  $F$  and  $\{F_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  be minimal  $\alpha$ -closed sets. If  $F \subset \bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda$ , then there exists  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  such that  $F = F_\lambda$ .

(2) Let  $F$  and  $\{F_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  be minimal  $\alpha$ -closed sets. If  $F \neq F_\lambda$  for each  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , then  $\bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda \cap F = \phi$ .

**Proof. (1)** Let  $F$  and  $\{F_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  be minimal  $\alpha$ -closed sets with  $F \subset \bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda$ . we have to prove that  $F \cap F_\lambda \neq \phi$ . Since if  $F \cap F_\lambda = \phi$ , then  $F_\lambda \subset X \setminus F$  and hence,  $F \subset \bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda \subset X \setminus F$  which is a contradiction. Now as  $F \cap F_\lambda \neq \phi$ , then  $F \cap F_\lambda \subset F$  and  $F \cap F_\lambda \subset F_\lambda$ . Since  $F \cap F_\lambda \subset F$  and give that  $F$  is minimal  $\alpha$ -closed, then by Definition2.1,  $F \cap F_\lambda = F$  or  $F \cap F_\lambda = \phi$ . But  $F \cap F_\lambda \neq \phi$ , then  $F \cap F_\lambda = F$  which implies  $F \subset F_\lambda$ . Similarly  $F \cap F_\lambda \subset F_\lambda$  and give that  $F_\lambda$  is minimal  $\alpha$ -closed, then by Definition2.1,  $F \cap F_\lambda = F_\lambda$  or  $F \cap F_\lambda = \phi$ . But  $F \cap F_\lambda \neq \phi$  then  $F \cap F_\lambda = F_\lambda$  which implies  $F_\lambda \subset F$ . Therefore,  $F = F_\lambda$ .

(2) Suppose that  $(\bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda) \cap F \neq \phi$  then there exists  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  such that  $F_\lambda \cap F \neq \phi$ . By Theorem 3.6(4), we have  $F = F_\lambda$  which is a contradiction to the fact  $F \neq F_\lambda$ . Hence,

$$(\bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} F_\lambda) \cap F = \phi.$$

### Some Properties of Maximal $\square$ -open set.

**Theorem3.12.** Let  $U$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set. Then  $\alpha Cl(U)=X$  or  $\alpha Cl(U)=U$ .

**Proof.** Since  $U$  is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set, the only following cases (1) and (2) occur by Theorem 3.7(2):

- (1) For each  $x \in X \setminus U$  and each  $\alpha$ -open set  $W$  of  $x$ , we have  $X \setminus U \subset W$ , let  $x$  be any element of  $X \setminus U$  and  $W$  be any  $\alpha$ -open set of  $x$ . Since  $X \setminus U \neq W$ , we have  $W \cap U \neq \emptyset$  for any  $\alpha$ -open set  $W$  of  $x$ . Hence,  $X \setminus U \subset \alpha Cl(U)$ . Since  $X = X \cup (X \setminus U) \subset U \cup \alpha Cl(U) = \alpha Cl(U) \subset X$ , we have  $\alpha Cl(U) = X$ .
- (2) There exists a  $\alpha$ -open set  $W$  such that  $X \setminus U = W \neq X$ , since  $X \setminus U = W$  is a  $\alpha$ -open set,  $U$  is a  $\alpha$ -closed set. Therefore,  $U = \alpha Cl(U)$ .

**Theorem3.13.** Let  $U$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set. Then  $\alpha Int(X \setminus U) = X \setminus U$  or  $\alpha Int(X \setminus U) = \emptyset$ .

**Proof.** By Theorem3.7, we have following cases (1)  $\alpha Int(X \setminus U) = \emptyset$  or (2)  $\alpha Int(X \setminus U) = X \setminus U$ .

**Theorem3.14.** Let  $U$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set and  $S$  a nonempty subset of  $X \setminus U$ . Then  $\alpha Cl(S) = X \setminus U$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\emptyset \neq S \subset X \setminus U$ , we have  $W \cap S \neq \emptyset$  for any element  $x$  of  $X \setminus U$  and any  $\alpha$ -open set  $W$  of  $x$  by Theorem 3.12. Then  $X \setminus U \subset \alpha Cl(S)$ . Since  $X \setminus U$  is a  $\alpha$ -closed set and  $S \subset X \setminus U$ , we see that  $\alpha Cl(S) \subset \alpha Cl(X \setminus U) = X \setminus U$ . Therefore  $X \setminus U = \alpha Cl(S)$ .

**Corollary 3.15.** Let  $U$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set and  $M$  a subset of  $X$  with  $U \subset M$ . Then  $\alpha Cl(M) = X$ .

**Proof.** Since  $U \subset M \subset X$ , there exists a nonempty subset  $S$  of  $X \setminus U$  such that  $M = U \cup S$ . Hence we have  $\alpha Cl(M) = \alpha Cl(U \cup S) = \alpha Cl(U) \cup \alpha Cl(S) \supset (X \setminus U) \cup U = X$  by Theorem 3.14. Therefore  $\alpha Cl(M) = X$ .

**Theorem3.16.** Let  $U$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set and assume that the subset  $X \setminus U$  has two element at least. Then  $\alpha Cl(X \setminus \{a\}) = X$  for any element of  $X \setminus U$ .

**Proof.** Since  $U \subset X \setminus \{a\}$  by our assumption, we have the result by Corollary 3.15.

**Theorem3.17.** Let  $U$  be a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set, and  $N$  be a proper subset of  $X$  with  $U \subset N$ . Then,  $\alpha Int(N) = U$ .

**Proof.** If  $N = U$ , then  $\alpha Int(N) = \alpha Int(U) = U$ . Otherwise,  $N \neq U$ , and hence  $U \subset N$ . It follows that  $U \subset \alpha Int(N)$ . Since  $U$  is a maximal  $\alpha$ -open set, we have also  $\alpha Int(N) \subset U$ . Therefore  $\alpha Int(N) = U$ .

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