

Let $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, B_2, \dots\}$ be a countable basis for the second countable space X . Then we seek a countable local basis for each point $x \in X$ to show that X is first countable.

Let $x \in X$. Then let V_x be any open neighborhood about x . Now consider the subcollection of \mathcal{B} we call \mathcal{C}_x defined as the collection of elements of \mathcal{B} which contain x . Then since \mathcal{B} is a basis for the topology, $\exists B_i \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B_i$ and $B_i \subseteq V_x$, so this set is also in \mathcal{C}_x , so the collection \mathcal{C}_x forms a local basis about x , and since it is a subset of the countable set \mathcal{B} , it is a countable local basis for x , making the space first countable.

To show X is a separable space, for every nonempty set $B_i \in \mathcal{B}$, find exactly one $x_i \in B_i$ and consider the necessarily countable collection F of these x_i . This set is dense as if y is any point in X with an open neighborhood V_y , then there is some $B_i \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $B_i \subseteq V_y$ and $y \in B_i$. Then there is some element $x_i \in F$ such that $x_i \in B_i \subseteq V_y$, so $x_i \in V_y$, and therefore every open neighborhood of each point y in X contains some element of the countable set F , so F is a countable dense subset of X , and therefore X is separable.