1.4. Our topic and rationale

From [42]: *Point-set topology, also called set-theoretic topology or general topology, is the study of the general abstract nature of continuity or "closeness" on spaces. Basic point-set topological notions are ones like continuity, dimension, compactness, and connectedness.*

In this work we study a new approach to point-set topology (and pointfree topology).

Traditionally general topology is studied using topological spaces (defined below in the section "Topological spaces"). I however argue that the theory of topological spaces is not the best method of studying general topology and introduce an alternative theory, the theory of *funcoids*. Despite of popularity of the theory of topological spaces it has some drawbacks and is in my opinion not the most appropriate formalism to study most of general topology. Because topological spaces are tailored for study of special sets, so called open and closed sets, studying general topology with topological spaces is a little anti-natural and ugly. In my opinion the theory of funcoids is more elegant than the theory of topological spaces, and it is better to study funcoids than topological spaces. One of the main purposes of this work is to present an alternative General Topology based on funcoids instead of being based on topological spaces as it is customary. In order to study funcoids the prior knowledge of topological spaces is not necessary. Nevertheless in this work I will consider topological spaces and the topic of interrelation of funcoids with topological spaces.

In fact funcoids are a generalization of topological spaces, so the well known theory of topological spaces is a special case of the below presented theory of funcoids.

But probably the most important reason to study funcoids is that funcoids are a generalization of proximity spaces (see section "Proximity spaces" for the definition of proximity spaces). Before this work it was written that the theory of proximity spaces was an example of a stalled research, almost nothing interesting was discovered about this theory. It was so because the proper way to research proximity spaces is to research their generalization, funcoids. And so it was stalled until discovery of funcoids. That generalized theory of proximity spaces will bring us yet many interesting results.

In addition to *funcoids* I research *reloids*. Using below defined terminology it may be said that reloids are (basically) filters on Cartesian product of sets, and this is a special case of uniform spaces.

Afterward we study some generalizations.

Somebody might ask, why to study it? My approach relates to traditional general topology like complex numbers to real numbers theory. Be sure this will find applications.

This book has a deficiency: It does not properly relate my theory with previous research in general topology and does not consider deeper category theory properties. It is however OK for now, as I am going to do this study in later volumes (continuation of this book).

Many proofs in this book may seem too easy and thus this theory not sophisticated enough. But it is largely a result of a well structured digraph of proofs, where more difficult results are made easy by reducing them to easier lemmas and propositions.

1.5. Earlier works

Some mathematicians were researching generalizations of proximities and uniformities before me but they have failed to reach the right degree of generalization