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IRREDUCIBLE MAPPINGS AND HU-TERMINAL CONTINUA

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Abstract. We introduce the notion of an *irreducible* mapping between continua. We prove in the present paper that each atomic mapping is irreducible and each irreducible mapping is monotone. It is also shown that irreducible mappings between hereditarily unicoherent continua map an HU-terminal continuum of the domain onto an HU-terminal continuum of the range. Our examples demonstrate that neither monotone nor open mappings have this property in general. We show that the inverse image of an HU-terminal continuum of a nondegenerate range continuum under an atomic mapping is an HU-terminal continuum of the domain continuum. Some relevant counterexamples are indicated.

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