

THE N-COMPACTIFICATION OF PRABIR

ROY'S SPACE A

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ABSTRACT

An N -compact space is one which can be embedded as a closed subspace in a product of countable discrete spaces. Associated with each space X is a unique N -compact space vX (called the N -compactification of X) which plays the same role that pX does for compact Hausdorff spaces: vX is the reflection of X in the category of N -compact spaces. In particular, if $\text{ind } X = 0$ the map from X into vX is an embedding. A conjecture of long standing is that every N -compact space X satisfies $\dim pX = 0$. Prabir Roy has described a complete metric space A such that $\text{ind } A = 0$, $\dim A = \dim pA = 1$. The author showed in Report 70-40 that A is not N -compact, thus eliminating A as a counterexample to the conjecture. But vA remained a promising candidate for the honor. We now give an explicit construction of vA and prove that $\dim vA = \text{ind } vA = 0$, so that $\dim p(vA) = 0$.

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Introduction. Prabir Roy's space A is of great importance in dimension theory, being the first example of a metrizable space for which the small inductive dimension is zero and the Lebesgue covering dimension is positive. (These terms are defined below,,) Indeed it is the first example for which the two dimensions are unequal, whatever they are.

A has shed light on the relationship of N-compact spaces (Spaces which can be embedded as closed subspaces of N^M for some cardinal M, where N denotes the space of positive integers with the discrete topology, are called N-compact; see [N₂].) to other well-known categories of topological spaces. If we let § be the category of strongly zero-dimensional (see definition below) realcompact spaces, h the category of N-compact spaces, and & the category of realcompact spaces of small inductive dimension zero, then

$$§ \subset h \subset \&.$$

The inclusion on the right was immediately apparent once the concept of N-compact spaces was formulated, and the one on the left has been generally known since 1965 [H₂]. A naturally attracted attention as the key to resolving one of these inequalities:

we are done as soon as we show that 2' implies 3.

A filter \mathcal{V} is N -Cauchy iff for every partition of X into $<N$ -clopen sets, one (and, of course, only one) member of the partition is in \mathcal{V} . Now let \mathcal{U} be a clopen ultrafilter with the countable intersection property; it is enough to show that \mathcal{U} contains a member of every partition P of X into $<N$ -clopen sets. For each $D \in \mathcal{P}$ let $S^* = \bigcup \{U : U \in \mathcal{V}, U \cap D \neq \emptyset\}$; then S^* is clopen. Define $\mu_j(D^*) = 1$ if $S^* \in \mathcal{V}$, $\mu_j(D^*) = 0$ otherwise. $\mu_j \in \mathcal{M}_c(X)$ for some $\mu_j \in \mathcal{M}_c(X)$, as otherwise μ_j would induce a measure on the discrete space whose points are elements of P , contradiction.

In constructing the N -compactification of a space X of inductive dimension zero, one adds ideal points to X in 1-1 correspondence with the free clopen ultrafilters with the countable intersection property and uses as a base for the topology the closures of the clopen sets in X , with an ideal point in the closure of A if, and only if, A is a member of the clopen ultrafilter associated with that point. There are numerous ways of justifying this procedure and I will mention two.

One can show that countable intersections of clopen sets form a strong delta normal base \mathcal{H} [see [AS] for a definition], show that clopen ultrafilters with the countable intersection property (write c.i.p.) are in 1-1 correspondence with S -ultrafilters with the c.i.p., so that \mathcal{H} -realcompactness is equivalent to N -compactness. The rest follows from the discussion in [AS].

Or one can define a proximity relation on X thus: for any two subsets A, B of X we say $A \delta B$ if every clopen set containing A

show that $\dim vA = 0$.

Property VII. The clopen ultrafilters on A with the countable intersection property are precisely the fixed clopen ultrafilters and the free clopen ultrafilters of the form U_x and $U_{(p,n)}$.

Proof. Let U be a free clopen ultrafilter and suppose U belongs to none of these classes. If for each N there exists $R \in G_N$ such that $R \in It$, then by 3,5, and the first Lemma we can select a descending sequence of regions $R_n \in I_1$ whose intersection is nonempty. Careful scrutiny of the proof of 4.1 in [R_] shows that the intersection is a single point of A and the R_n form a local base at that point. Hence it converges to p and is therefore fixed. Now suppose there exists G_w such that U contains a region $R \in G_N$, but no regions in G_{N+1} . If $R = R_x$ and $U \wedge U_x$ then there must exist a clopen set $C \subset R_x$ such that $C \in U$, $C \wedge U = \emptyset$. Then c may be partitioned into clopen sets each of which is contained in a region in G_{N+1} , thanks to the three lemmas above. None of these clopen sets can be in U . Therefore U does not have the countable intersection property. A similar argument works for $R = R_x, x > 1$.

So now vA can be identified as the space whose underlying set is $A \cup X \cup F$, where

$$T = \{ [p,n] : p \in P_2^*, n \geq 1, \text{ where } [p,n] = [q,m] \text{ iff } m = n \text{ and } q \in R_{(p,n)} \}$$

copies of the real line with intervals of the form $[a,b)$ as a base for the topology (called the Sorgenfrey line). The Sorgenfrey line has a base of clopen sets and is Lindelöf. Hence [cf. GJ, p.115, pp. 245-7] it is both of (Lebesgue) covering dimension zero and realcompact. Hence it is N -compact, and so the Sorgenfrey plane is also. But the Sorgenfrey plane is not normal and is thus of positive covering dimension. But it may be strongly zero-dimensional; we do not know.

For a further discussion of strongly zero-dimensional spaces see [GJ, ch. 16] [E, ch.6, §2], [H₂, Beispiele 5,6] and [N₂, §2]. The first two references also give an analogue of strongly zero-dimensional spaces in higher dimensions and go into some detail on results in this area; they use "dim X " to refer to the dimension of a space under this system. It turns out to be equal to $\dim pX$ where this second \dim refers to Lebesgue covering dimension. It is also equal to the analytic dimension of $C^*(X)$ as defined by Katětov [A],[GJ, ch.16].

The following two problems generalize certain aspects of the unanswered question above. First: given completely regular spaces X, Y , is it true that

$$\dim (XXY) \leq \dim pX + \dim pY$$

or, if one adopts the notation of [GJ], simply: is it true that

$$\dim XXY \leq \dim X + \dim Y.$$

The result is known to be true for metric spaces [N₁, pp.20-28] and for compact Hausdorff spaces [GJ, 16j] and as far as this author knows, there is no known counterexample in the general case. (Alas! p is not distributive over products!) Second: given a realcompact space X

their union must be clopen. Hence by the axiom of choice we can split $(R_{(q, n+2)} : n = n+2)$ into countably many locally finite families.

Using essentially the same argument we obtain for each $N \geq n+1$ a splitting up of $(R_{(q, N)} : n = N)$ into countably many locally finite families; now let $V = \{R_{(q, N)}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ $U_{v \in V} R_{(q, N)}$ is

a α -locally finite clopen cover of A .

We note in passing the fact that any two distinct regions $R_{(p, n)}$ and $R_{(q, m)}$ in r_2 of level M are disjoint. This follows immediately from 2.1.4 if $|p_v| = |q_v|$ (and, of course, $n = M - |p_x| = M - |q_x| = m$). Otherwise assume without loss of generality that $|p_x| < |q_x|$ then Case III above shows that if they were not disjoint we'd have $|p_x| + m > |p_x| + n$ even for $|q| = 1^*$ contradiction. Of course by 2.1.1, any two distinct regions in r_1 of level M are disjoint.

Next we look at accumulation points of r_1 regions in greater detail. Let $\{R_x\}_{x \in X}$ with $|x| = N$ for all $x \in X$ be such that p is a boundary point of the union, where $|p_v| < N$.

Case I. $|p_x| < N - 1$.

Then, for infinitely many a , (Label them a_1, \dots, a_n, \dots) there exists J_n such that $R_{\text{tan}} = R_{Y(p, N-1-|p_x|, \pm)}_{J_n}$ (C«P»itivity holds because the regions are on the same level). Without loss of generality assume that the sign at the end of $Y(p^{N-1-|p_x|})_{j_n}$ is $+$. Now for each n, x starts off with $(0, \dots, p_v(|p_v|))_{XX}$, $p^{(N-2-|p_x|+j)}$, $F_{a_n(|p_x|+1)}^1$ (p_v)>... and continues with

negative reals as long as it lasts. The variance between the x_{a_n} takes place at the two terms following $p_v(|p_v|)$, and the second of these depends upon the first and upon p_y . It is clear that any $q \in R_{(p, N-1-|p_x|)}^*$ is a boundary point of the $R_{x_{a_n}}$. What else?

1a. $|q_x| < |p_x|$. If $R_{(q, m)}^+ \cap R_{x_{a_n}} \neq \emptyset$ then we must have the term $|p_y| + 1$ positive, so that $p^{(N-2-|p_x|+j)}_{Y_n}$ is equal either to $+ F_{x_{a_n}(|q_x|+1)}^1$ (q_y) or else $+ q_z(i)$ for some i , and the signs remain positive. But then, for $m \geq N$, $R_{(q, m)}^+ \cap R_{x_{a_n}} = \emptyset$. So q is not an accumulation point.

1b. $|q_x| = |p_x|$. if $R_{(q, m)} \cap R_{(p, m)} \neq \emptyset$, where $m = N - 1 - |p_x|$, then the two are equal and $q \in R_{(p, m)}^0$.

1c. $|p_v| < |q_v| < N$. (The second inequality follows from our

set containing A . Any $x' \in X$ is not an accumulation point of A , for if $x^1 > x$, $\overline{R} \setminus \overline{R}$, is a clopen set containing A and missing x' ; if $x > x'$, and $x \wedge x^1$, the same is true of \overline{R} ; we have just taken care of the case $x = x^1$, while in any other case $\overline{R} \cap \overline{R} = \emptyset$.

Similar arguments work for $[p^n, k]$ with $k > 1$ and $[q, k]$ with $q \wedge p$ for some n and all k . So, actually, A has the single accumulation point x and that cannot be gotten as an accumulation point of countably many points of A .

A similar argument shows that T taken by itself is not a c -space. Take for each $p > k$ the set A of points $[q, k+1]$ such that $q \in R$, $\% .$ By 5.4.2, $[p^*k]$ is an accumulation point of A ; ($p > k$.)

and there are no others. And $[p, k]$ is not in the closure of a countable subset of A because we can get a clopen set containing any countable subset of A by truncating the associated regions R as we did above for the p and taking the union of what is left. This shows that we cannot get an analogue of 6.4 for r -regions. 5.4.2 is the best result we can get.

X taken by itself is not a c -space, either. This we can show in the following manner: split the positive reals into 2 disjoint countably infinite sets (the group \mathbb{Q} comes to mind), arranging each into a sequence. Take one of these sequences (think of \mathbb{Q}), a , and for each remaining sequence a_n , let p_{5^k} be the sequence whose $(2n)$ th term is $a(n)$ and whose $(2n + 1)$ th term is $a_{5^k}(n)$.

In other words, within any R_x ball we take the top row of r_1 -balls in it, the top row of each of these, and so on. What results (call it $P(x)$) is actually a sequential space, an uncountable analogue of the space $S^{\wedge} [AF]$. Each point x' of $P(x)$ is the extra point of the one-point compactification of the set $\{x'' : x'' \in P(x), |x''| > |x'|, |x''| = |x'| + 1\}$ -- the points "below x on the following level". What makes $P(x)$ a sequential space is the lack of interference from T_2 regions. Suppose we have any number of $R_{x''}$, "two levels down from x , below it"¹ such that each R_x , one level down from x contains at most finitely many $R_{x''}$; then $\bigcup R_{x''}$ is a clopen set pure and simple. With this in mind the proof that $P(x)$ is sequential is quite easy. Let A be a sequentially closed subset of $P(x)$ not containing x , then we show x is not an accumulation point of A : by 6.4 there are at most finitely many x^1 on the next level down from x in A . $\bigcup \overline{R_{x^1}} = A$, for all such x^1 is a clopen set. In each other x' on this level there are at most finitely many $x^{1'}$ in A for the next level below x' ; and $\bigcup \overline{R_{x^{1'}}} = A_2$ for all $x^{1'}$ associated with these x' is a clopen set. Proceeding thus we cover A by infinitely many disjoint clopen sets. Their intersections with A form an infinite collection of disjoint clopen sets, and it is easy to show that no point of A is a boundary point of this collection, so the union of all these sets is clopen in A and so is the closure in VA ,

¹Strictly speaking, we should say "above it" since if x is on level G_N , the x^f are in G_{N+1} , the x'' are in G_{N+2} (the subscripts are increasing) but if one has before him a visual image of A as described in $[R^{\wedge}]$, it is much more natural to think of x as being above all the x' extending it.

which is $\bigcup A_n$. We have covered $\bigcup A_n$ by a discrete collection of $\overline{R_A}$ each properly contained in \overline{R} and so x is not an accumulation point of A . To complete the proof that A is closed, take any point \hat{x} in the closure of A , then \hat{x}^1 is in the closure of $A \cap P(x)$ which is likewise sequentially closed. If $\hat{x} \notin A$ we adapt the above argument to obtain a contradiction.

There is an interesting parallel of the $P(x)$ in T : for each $[p,n]$ take the set $P([p,n]) = \{ [q,m] \mid q \in \mathbb{R}^+, m > n \}$. This is not a sequential space (see above) but its topology is an uncountable parallel of that of $P(x)$. For instance, $[p,n]$ is the extra point of the "one-point Lindelofization" of the set $\{ [q,n+1] : q \in \mathbb{R}^+ \}$. And if we delete all countable limit points from $a_{\mathbb{1}} + 1$ and define a " $N_{\mathbb{1}}$ -sequence" in a space X as a continuous function from this space to X and define $H_{\mathbb{1}}$ -sequential spaces accordingly, we can show $P([p,n])$ is an $\hat{\mathbb{1}}$ -sequential space. Details are left to the reader.

It may be that the applications of A to general topology are not yet exhausted!

- [R₁] Roy, P., "Failure of Equivalence of Dimension Concepts for Metric Spaces", Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. 68.(1962), 609-613.
- [R₂] _____, "Nonequality of Dimensions for Metric Spaces", Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 134(1968), 117-132.
- [T] Thron, W. J., Topological Structures, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1966.
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