数理解析研究所講究録
823巻 1993年 91-100

A Remark on Nowhere Dense Closed P-Sets

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Abstract. Using the methods from continua theory of R^*, we prove that NCF implies that ω^* can be covered by an increasing sequence of nowhere dense closed P-sets.

1980 Math. Subj. Class (1985 Revision): 54D40, 54F20.
Key words: ω^*, R^*, continuum, P-set and NCF.

Kunen, van Mill and Mills proved in [4] that no compact space of weight 2^{ω} can be covered by nowhere dense closed P-sets under CH. It was proved in [1] that, in the model obtained by adding ω_1 Cohen reals to a model of MA+$\neg$CH, ω^* can be covered by nowhere dense closed P-sets. It is not difficult to show that the axiom of near coherence of filters, abbreviated as NCF (See [2]), implies that ω^* can be covered by nowhere dense closed P-sets. Our purpose in this note is to strengthen the conclusion as follows:

Theorem 1. NCF *implies that* ω^* *can be covered by an increasing sequence* of *nowhere dense closed* P-*sets.*

Our way is to use the methods from continua theory of R^* to guarantee an induction construction going smoothly through the limit steps. Acturally, we shall prove, (See also Corollary 5.7 in [5]).

Theorem 2. NCF *is equivalent to that* $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ *can be covered by a strictly increasing sequence of subcontinua which are nowhere dense* P-*sets.*

It is not difficult to show that if ω^* can be covered by nowhere dense closed P-sets then so can R^* (See Corollary 4). But the author don't know whether or not the converse is true.

we refer to [2] for the background on NCF and [5] for continua theory of R^*.

Let Ω be the collection of all families of infinite discrete non-degenerate closed interval of the half real line $[0,\infty)$. For $\mathcal{I}\in\Omega$, we let $i:\omega\longrightarrow\mathcal{I}$ be the bijection such that $i(n)<i(n+1)$ for $n\in\omega$, where $i(n)<i(n+1)$ means that $r<s$ for all $(r,s)\in i(n)\times i(n+1)$. Let $\mathring{\mathbb{i}}:\cup\mathcal{I}\longrightarrow\omega$ be such that $\mathring{\mathbb{i}}(x)=n$ if and only if $x\in i(n)$. Let $\beta\mathring{\mathbb{i}}$ be the Stone-Čech extension of $\mathring{\mathbb{i}}$ from $cl_{\beta R}(\cup\mathcal{I})$ to $\beta\omega$. For $B\subset\omega^*$, we define

$$M(\mathcal{I},B)=\beta\mathring{\mathbb{i}}^{-1}(B)$$

and, if $B=\{u\}$, than $M(\mathcal{I},\{u\})$ is denoted by $M(\mathcal{I},u)$. It is well-known that $M(\mathcal{I},u)$ is a continuum for any $u\in\omega^*$. Moreover, a subcontinuum C of $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ is called a standard continuum if $C=M(\mathcal{I},u)$ for some $\mathcal{I}\in\Omega$ and $u\in\omega^*$. Note that every proper subcontinuum of $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ is nowhere dense since $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ is an indecomposable continuum.

Recall that a subset B of a space X is called a P-set provided that the intersection of countably many neighbourhoods of B is again a neighbourhood of B. A point x of X is called a P-point if the singleton $\{x\}$ is a P-set.

For an open set U of a metric space X, we let $O(U)=\{x\in\beta X: \exists F\in x(F\subset U)\}$. Then $\{O(U):U \text{ is open in } X\}$ is a base for βX. $[\omega]^{\omega}$ is the set of all infinite subsets of ω. As usual, $O(A)\cap\omega^{*}$ is denoted by A^{*} for $A\in[\omega]^{\omega}$.

For $\mathscr{I},\mathscr{I}'\in\Omega$, we say that $\mathscr{I}'$ is an expander of $\mathscr{I}$ if $i(n)$ is contained in the interior of $i'(n)$ for all $n\in\omega$.

Lamma 3. $B\subset\omega^{*}$ *is a nowhere dense closed* P-*set if and only if* $M(\mathscr{I},B)$ *is a nowhere dense closed* P-*set of* $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ *for* $\mathscr{I}\in\Omega$.

Proof. Assume that $M(\mathscr{I},B)$ is a nowhere dense closed P-set of $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$. It is easily seen that B is nowhere dense closed in ω^{*}. Let $\mathscr{I}'\in\Omega$ be an expander of $\mathscr{I}$. Then $M(\mathscr{I},B)$ is a P-set of $cl_{\beta R}(\cup\mathscr{I}')$. Suppose that $\{A_n^{*}:n\in\omega\}$ is a family of countably many neighbourhoods of B. Then $\{\beta i'^{-1}(A^{*}):n\in\omega\}$ is a family of neighbourhoods of $M(\mathscr{I},B)$. Therefore, there is a basic open set $O(U)$ such that $M(\mathscr{I},B)\subset O(U)\cap R^{*}\subset\beta i'^{-1}(A^{*}{}_n)$ for all $n\in\omega$. Note that, for $u\in\omega^{*}$, $M(\mathscr{I},u)=\bigcap\{cl_{\beta R}(\cup\mathscr{F}):i^{-1}(\mathscr{F})\in u\}$. Therefore, for each $u\in B$, there is $A_u\in u$ such that $\bigcup\{i(n):n\in A_u\}\subset U$. Let $A=\{i^{-1}(I):I\in\mathscr{I} \text{ and } I\subset U\}$. Then $A_u\subset A$ for $u\in B$. So A^{*} is a neighbourhood of B. Since $O(U)\cap R^{*}\subset\beta i'^{-1}(A_n)$, we have that $A^*\subset A_n^*$ for all $n\in\omega$.

Assume that B is a nowhere dense closed P-set of ω^*. Let $O(U)$ be a basic open set of βR and $O(U)\cap M(\mathcal{I},B)\neq\phi$. Let $A=\{n\in\omega: i(n)\cap U\neq\phi\}$. Then $A\in[\omega]^\omega$. Since B is nowhere dense, there is $A_1\in[\omega]^\omega$ such that $A_1\subset A$ and $A_1^*\cap B=\phi$. Therefore, $M(\mathcal{I},A_1^*)\cap M(\mathcal{I},B)=\phi$. But $O(U)\cap M(\mathcal{I},A_1^*)\neq\phi$. So $O(U)\cap R^*\setminus M(\mathcal{I},B)\neq\phi$. It follows that $M(\mathcal{I},B)$ is nowhere dense. Suppose that $\{O(U_n):n\in\omega\}$ is a family of neighbourhoods of $M(\mathcal{I},B)$. Let $A_n=\{i(I):I\in\mathcal{I}$ and $I\subset U_n\}$ for $n\in\omega$. As we showed in the last paragraph, A_n^* is a neighbourhood of B for all $n\in\omega$. Since B is a P-set, there is $A\in[\omega]^\omega$ such that $B\subset A^*$ and $A^*\subset A_n$ for all $n\in\omega$. We choose a strictly increasing sequence $\{m_n:n\in\omega\}$ of integers so that for each $n\in\omega$ $A\setminus m_n\subset A_n$ and $[m_n,m_{n+1})\cap A\neq\phi$, where $[m_n,m_{n+1})=\{i\in\omega:m_n\leq i<m_{n+1}\}$. For each $i\in[m_n,m_{n+1})\cap A$, let J_i be an open interval of R such that $i(i)\subset J_i\subset U_n$. Let $V=\bigcup\{J_n:n\in A\setminus m_0\}$. Then $M(\mathcal{I},B)\subset M(\mathcal{I},A^*)\subset O(V)$ and $O(V)\subset O(U_n)$ for $n\in\omega$. This completes the proof of Lemma 3.

Since we can easily choose $\mathcal{I},\mathcal{I}'\in\Omega$ such that $\cup(\mathcal{I}\cup\mathcal{I}')=[0,\infty)$ and R^* is the topological sum of $\beta(-\infty,0]-(-\infty,0]$ and $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$, we have

Corollary 4. *If* ω^* *can be covered by nowhere dense closed P-sets, then so can* R^*.

Blass proved in [2] that, under NCF, for any $u \in \omega^*$ there is a finite-to-one non-decreasing function $f:\omega \longrightarrow \omega$ such that $v=\beta f(u)$ is a P-point. It is easily seen that $\beta f^{-1}(v)$ is a nowhere dense closed P-set of ω^* and $u \in \beta f^{-1}(v)$. Therefore, NCF implies that ω^* can be covered by nowhere dense closed P-sets. Our purpose is to sharpen the conclusion so that ω^* can be covered by an increasing sequence of nowhere dense closed P-sets under NCF.

We regard ω^* as a subspace of $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$. The following lemma is an easy observation.

Lemma 5. *If* $u \in \omega^*$ *is a* P-*point, then* $M(\mathcal{I},u) \cap \omega^*$ *is a nowhere dense closed* P-*set of* ω^* *for* $\mathcal{I} \in \Omega$.

Proof. Let $X=\omega \cap (\cup \mathcal{I})$ and $Y=\{\iota^{-1}(I) : I \cap \omega \neq \phi\}$. If $Y \notin u$, then, $M(\mathcal{I},u) \cap \omega^* = \phi$. So we assume that $Y \in u$. We define a finite to one function $f:X \longrightarrow Y$ from X onto Y by $f(n)=m$ if and only if $n \in \iota(m)$. Then $M(\mathcal{I},u) \cap \omega^* = \beta f^{-1}(u)$. Since $\beta f^{-1}(u)$ is a nowhere dense closed P-set in X^*, $M(\mathcal{I},u) \cap \omega^*$ is a nowhere dense closed P-set in ω^*.

By Lemma 3 and 5, our Theorem 1 and 2 follows easily from the following theorem.

Theorem 2'. NCF *is equivalent to that there is a family* $\{(\mathcal{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha):\alpha<\lambda\}$ *such that*

(1) $\mathcal{I}_\alpha\in\Omega$ *and* $u_\alpha\in\omega^*$ *is a* P-*point for all* $\alpha<\lambda$;

(2) $M(\mathcal{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha)\subset M(\mathcal{I}_\beta,u_\beta)$ *for all* $\alpha<\beta<\lambda$;

(3) $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)=\bigcup\{M(\mathcal{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha):\alpha<\lambda\}$.

Theorem 2' will be proved along the line of the proof of Corollary 5.7 in [5]. We first recall some properties of NCF and standard continua. We refer to [2] and [5] for details.

A subset C of a continuum K is a composant if, for some point $p\in C$, C is the set of all points x such that there is a proper subcontinuum of K containing both p and x. It is well-known that NCF is equivalent to that $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ is a composant of itself (See [3]). Therefore, our conditions in Theorem 2' implies NCF.

Recall that there is a natural partial order $<^{\mathcal{I}}_u$ on $M(\mathcal{I},u)$ for $\mathcal{I}\in\Omega$ and $u\in\omega^*$, defined as follows: For any $x,y\in M(\mathcal{I},u)$,

$$x<^{\mathcal{I}}_u y \text{ if there are } F\in x \text{ and } H\in y \text{ such that}$$
$$\{i^{-1}(I):I\in\mathcal{I} \text{ and } F\cap I<H\cap I\}\in u,$$

For $x\in M(\mathcal{I},u)$, we let

$$[x]_u^{\mathscr{I}}=\{y\in M(\mathscr{I},u): y \text{ is } <_u^{\mathscr{I}}\text{-incomparable with } x \text{ or } y=x\}.$$

$[x]_u^{\mathscr{I}}$ is called a layer of $M(\mathscr{I},u)$. It is well-known that layers are indecomposable subcontinua of $M(\mathscr{I},u)$ and every indecomposable subcontinuum of $M(\mathscr{I},u)$ is contained in a layer.

Lemma 6 (Corollary 2.11 in [5]). *Let* C *and* D *be subcontinua of* R^*. *If one of them is indecomposable, then* $C\subset D$, $D\subset C$ *or* $C\cap D=\phi$.

A point $u\in\omega^*$ is a Q-point if every finite-to-one function from ω to ω is one-to-one on a set in u. By Proposition 5.1 in [5], it is equivalent to require the functions in the definition of Q-points to be non-decreasing. Blass proved in [2] that NCF implies that there is no Q-points.

Lemma 7. *Under* NCF, *for every proper subcontinuum* C *of* $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$, *there is a standard continuum* $M(\mathscr{I},u)$ *and a layer* T *of* $M(\mathscr{I},u)$ *such that* $C\subset T$ *and* $M(\mathscr{I},u)$ *is a nowhere dense* P-*set of* $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$.

Proof. Since every proper subcontinuum of $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ is contained in a standard subcontinuum, we assume that $C\subset M(\mathscr{I}_1,u_1)$ for some $\mathscr{I}_1\in\Omega$ and $u\in\omega^*$. Since NCF implies that there is no

Q-points, there is a finite-to-one non-decreasing function $f:\omega\longrightarrow\omega$ which witnesses that u_1 is not a Q-point. We define $\mathscr{I}_2=\{I_n:n\in\omega\}$ as follows: I_n is the convex hull of the set $\bigcup\{i_1(m):m\in f^{-1}(n)\}$. Let $u_2=f(u_1)$. Then, $M(\mathscr{I}_1,u_1)\subset M(\mathscr{I}_2,u_2)$. Moreover, for any $x,y\in M(\mathscr{I}_1,u_1)$, x and y are $<^{\mathscr{I}_2}_{u_2}$-incomparable or $x=y$. Therefore, $M(\mathscr{I}_1,u_1)$ is contained in a layer T' of $M(\mathscr{I}_2,u_2)$. By NCF, there is a finite-to-one non-decreasing function $g:\omega\longrightarrow\omega$ such that $u=g(u_2)$ is a P-point. By the same method as above, we can find $\mathscr{I}\in\Omega$ such that $M(\mathscr{I}_2,u_2)\subset M(\mathscr{I},u)$. Since T' is an indecomposable subcontinuum of $M(\mathscr{I},u)$, there is a layer T of $M(\mathscr{I}.u)$ such that $C\subset T'\subset T$. By Lemma 3, $M(\mathscr{I},u)$ is a nowhere dense P-set of $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$.

Now we are in a position to complete the proof of Theorem 2'. We assume NCF. We define, inductively, $\mathscr{I}_\alpha\in\Omega$, $u_\alpha\in\omega^*$ and a layer T_α of $M(\mathscr{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha)$ for $\alpha\geq 0$ satisfying that

(a) u_α is a P-point for all $\alpha\geq 0$;

(b) $M(\mathscr{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha)\subset T_\beta$ for $\alpha<\beta$.

Our induction process will stop at some λ if $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)=\bigcup\{M(\mathscr{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha):\alpha<\lambda\}$. Suppose that we have defined $\mathscr{I}_\beta$, u_β and T_β for all $\beta<\alpha$ satisfying (a) and (b). If $\alpha=0$ or $\gamma+1$, then, by Lemma 7, we can easily define $\mathscr{I}_\alpha$, u_α and T_α satisfying (a) and (b). Assume that $\alpha\neq 0$ is a limit and $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ is not covered by $\{M(\mathscr{I}_\beta,u_\beta):\beta<\alpha\}$. Note that by (b) $\bigcup\{M(\mathscr{I}_\beta,u_\beta):\beta<\alpha\}=$

$\bigcup\{T_\beta:\beta<\alpha\}$ since α is a limit. Take $x,y\in\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ such that $x\in T_0$ and $y\notin T_\beta$ for all $\beta<\alpha$. By NCF, there is a proper subcontinuum C of $\beta[0,\infty)-[0,\infty)$ containing both x and y. By Lemma 6, $T_\beta\subset C$ for all $\beta<\alpha$. By Lemma 7, there is $\mathcal{I}_\alpha\in\Omega$, $u_\alpha\in\omega^*$ and a layer T_α of $M(\mathcal{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha)$ such that $C\subset T_\alpha$ and u_α is a P-point. This completes our inductive construction. Since $\{M(\mathcal{I}_\alpha,u_\alpha):\alpha\geq 0\}$ is a strictly increasing sequence, our induction process can not go over $|R^*|$ steps. This completes the proof of Theorem 2'.

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