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REAL-VALUED FUNCTIONS ON ALEXANDROFF (ZERO-SET) SPACES⁽¹⁾

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Abstract: We give some approximation theorems describing the algebra of all real-valued "continuous" functions on a "space" in the sense of A.D. Alexandroff in terms of a generating subsystem. Corollaries include characterizations of such algebras (some known), and a concrete description of the functions on a subspace in terms of restrictions from the larger space. Topology generally lacks such theorems. The analogue of the Tietze-Urysohn extension theory is described, and the A-space analogues of topological pseudocompact, P-, and F-spaces are discussed briefly.

Key words: Alexandroff space, zero set space, cozero-morphism, inversion-closed, approximation, extension.

AMS: 54-00, 54C30, 54C45, 54C50, 54E15, 54H05

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1. Alexandroff spaces. These spaces were introduced in [1] (under the name "completely normal spaces") and much of the basic theory was developed there.

1.1. Definition. A cozero-field on the set X is a family \mathcal{Q} of subsets of X satisfying

(1) This paper follows, to some extent, the recent paper [2] by R.L. Blair and the present author on somewhat similar topics in topology, and supercedes the unpublished manuscript [10].

(2) I am pleased to thank the Academies of Sciences of Czechoslovakia and the United States for support.

- (a) $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{A}$.
- (b) \mathcal{A} is closed under finite intersection and countable union.
- (c) If $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$, with $(X - A) \cap (X - B) = \emptyset$, then there are disjoint $A_1, B_1 \in \mathcal{A}$ with $A_1 \supset X - A$ and $B_1 \supset X - B$.
- (d) If $A \in \mathcal{A}$, then there are $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{A}$ with $X - A = \bigcap_n A_n$.

An Alexandroff space, or A-space, is a pair $\langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ where \mathcal{A} is a cozero-field on X . The sets in \mathcal{A} are called the cozero-sets of $\langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle$, and the complements are called zero-sets.

An A-map (or cozero-map; or continuous function [1]) $f: \langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle \rightarrow \langle Y, \mathcal{B} \rangle$ between A-spaces is a function with $f^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{A}$.

We shall see below why a cozero-field is so named.

1.1 (a) and (b) say that \mathcal{A} is like a topology, but only closed under countable union. (c) is thus the analogue of normality, and (d) says that each "closed" set is a G_δ . Consequently, any perfectly normal topological space "is" an A-space, and continuous maps between such spaces are A-maps.

Evidently, one gets a category with objects A-spaces and morphisms, the A-maps. A morphism set will generally be abbreviated to $A(X, Y)$, and for $A(X, R)$, we write just $A(X)$ (where R is the real line).

In general, given $f: X \rightarrow R$, the cozero-set is $\text{coz } f = \{x \mid f(x) \neq 0\}$ and the zero-set is $Zf = \{x \mid f(x) = 0\}$.

For $V \subset R^X$, $\text{coz } V = \{\text{coz } f \mid f \in V\}$.

If X is a topological space, let aX be the A-space $\langle X, \text{coz } C(X) \rangle$, where $C(X)$ is the set of real-valued continuous functions. This evidently defines a functor a . Note that for topological spaces X and Y , $f \in C(X, Y)$ iff $af \in A(aX, aY)$ when Y is Tychonoff, because $\text{coz } C(Y)$ is a basis; thus the theory of "continuity" in A-spaces includes the theory of continuity in Tychonoff spaces. In the opposite direction, one may take the cozero-field of an A-space as the basis of a topology, thus defining a functor t . See [1].

Likewise, there is a functor similar to a , from uniform spaces to A-spaces, and more interestingly, at least two in the opposite direction: Given the A-space $\langle X, \mathcal{a} \rangle$, the finite and countable \mathcal{a} -covers form respective bases for uniformities; these functors are full. Some of this is discussed in [11, 12, 7, 4, 5].

We begin the examination of $A(X)$.

1.2. Proposition. If $\langle X, \mathcal{a} \rangle$ is an A-space, $A(X)$ is a uniformly closed inversion-closed vector lattice and ring, and $BA(X)$ is a uniformly closed cbq vector lattice and ring.

The terminology: Let $V \subset R^X$. BV is the subset of bounded functions. The uniform closure $uc V$ consists of all limits of sequences from V which converge uniformly on X ; if $uc V = V$, V is uniformly closed. If $f \in V$ and $Zf = \emptyset$ imply $1/f \in V$, then V is inversion-closed. V is closed under bounded quotients (cbq) if $f, g \in V$,

$Zg = \emptyset$, and f/g bounded imply $f/g \in V$.

The proof of 1.2 is easy, and can be found in [1] or [13]. We shall see later that the conditions in 1.2 characterize the morphism sets $A(X)$ and $BA(X)$.

The following guarantees that $A(X)$ is large.

1.4. Proposition [1]. If \mathcal{A} satisfies 1.1 (a), (b), (c), then whenever $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$ have $(X - A) \cap (X - B) = \emptyset$, then there is $f: X \rightarrow R$ with $f^{-1}(0) \in \mathcal{A}$ for each open O in R and $f(X - A) = 0$, $f(X - B) = 1$.

1.5. Corollary [1]. If $\langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ is an A -space, then $\mathcal{A} = \text{coz } A(X)$.

1.4 is proved by the usual technique for Urysohn's Lemma. 1.5 follows by the argument used to show that a closed G_δ in a normal topological space is a zero-set.

2. Approximation and characterization. Some simple preliminaries are needed. The following will be used without explicit mention. We shall assume that all families of real-valued functions contain the constant function 1.

2.1. Lemma. Let $V \subset R^X$ be a uniformly closed vector lattice. Then

(a) If $f \in V$, then $|f| \in V$.

(b) If $f \in V$, then there is $g \in V$ with $0 \leq g \leq 1$ and $\text{coz } g = \text{coz } f$.

(c) If $f \in V$, then $f^{-1}(a, b) \in \text{coz } V$.

Proof. (a). $|f| = (f \vee 0) \vee ((-f) \vee 0)$. (b). $g = |f| \wedge 1$. (c). $f^{-1}(a, b) = \text{coz} [(f - a) \vee 0] \wedge [(b - f) \vee 0]$.

2.2. Proposition. If $V \subset R^X$ is a uniformly closed vector lattice, then $\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle$ is an A-space.

Proof. $\emptyset = \text{coz } 0 \in \text{coz } V$ and $X = \text{coz } 1 \in \text{coz } V$.

The equation $\text{coz } f_1 \cap \dots \cap \text{coz } f_n = \text{coz} (|f_1| \wedge \dots \wedge |f_n|)$ shows $\text{coz } V$ is closed under finite intersection.

And $\bigcup_n \text{coz } f_n = \text{coz} (\sum_n |f_n| \wedge 2^{-n})$ (the series converging uniformly by the Weierstrass M-test) shows $\text{coz } V$ is closed under countable union.

Let $f_1, f_2 \in V$ with $Zf_1 \cap Zf_2 = \emptyset$. Set $g_1 = (|f_2| - 2|f_1|) \vee 0$, $g_2 = (|f_1| - 2|f_2|) \vee 0$.

Then $\text{coz } g_1 \supset Zf_1$, $\text{coz } g_2 \supset Zf_2$, and $\text{coz } g_1 \cap \text{coz } g_2 = \emptyset$.

Finally, the equation $Zf = \bigcap_n \{x \mid |f|(x) < 1/n\}$ shows 1.1 (d).

Thus the question: what is $A(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle)$ for V as in 2.2?

2.3. Theorem. Let $V \subset R^X$ be a uniformly closed vector lattice. The following families coincide.

- (a) $A(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle)$.
- (b) $\cup \{f/g \mid f, g \in BV, Zg = \emptyset\}$.
- (c) The smallest uniformly closed vector lattice (and ring) $H(V)$ which is inversion-closed, and contains V .

Proof. To begin with, we show that the parenthetical condition in (c) follows from the rest of (c).

2.4. Lemma. (a) A uniformly closed vector lattice of bounded functions is a ring.

(b) A uniformly closed inversion-closed vector lattice is

a ring.

Proof. Let V be a vector lattice. To show that products from V are in V , it suffices that $f \in V \implies f^2 \in V$, by the equation $(f + g)^2 = f^2 + 2fg + g^2$.

(a). Let $V = BV$, and let $f \in V$. Let $\{h_n\}$ be a sequence of continuous piecewise linear functions on range f which converges uniformly to the function $x \mapsto x^2$. Then $\{h_n \circ f\}$ converges uniformly to f^2 . Such V is a vector lattice, each $h_n \circ f \in V$.

(b). Let $f \in V$. Then $Z(|f| \wedge 1) = \emptyset$, hence $1/(|f| + 1) \in BV$. By (a), $[1/(|f| + 1)]^2 \in BV$, and inverting again, $f^2 + 2|f| + 1 \in V$. Thus $f^2 \in V$.

Next, the smallest $H(V)$ in (c) exists: R^X is such a family, $R^X \subset V$, and the intersection of such families is another.

We begin the proof proper. We abbreviate $A(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle)$ to A , and denote the object in (b) by Q .

$Q \subset H(V)$: obvious.

$H(V) \subset A$: By 2.1 (c) and the fact that each open set in R is the union of a sequence of open intervals.

$A \subset Q$: We show that if $f \in A$ and $\epsilon > 0$, then there are $g, h \in BV$ with $|f(x) - g(x)/h(x)| < \epsilon$ for each $x \in X$.

For each integer i , let I_i be the open interval of length $\epsilon/2$ with center $r_i = i(\epsilon/4)$. Observe that $\{I_i\}_{-\infty}^{+\infty}$ is a cover of R with the property that any $r \in I_i$ for at most two (consecutive) i 's; thus $f^{-1}(\{I_i\})$ is a

cover of X with the same property in X . And each $f^{-1}(I_i) \in \text{coz } V$.

For each i , choose $g_i \in V$ with $\text{coz } g_i = f^{-1}(I_i)$ and $0 \leq g_i \leq 1$. Then $u = \sum g_i$ is well-defined (probably not in V), and so are the functions $u_i = g_i/u$. Then

$$|\sum r_i u_i(x) - f(x)| < \epsilon \quad \text{for each } x \in X,$$

because: $\sum u_i = 1$, so $\sum r_i u_i - f = \sum (r_i - f)u_i$. Given x , x belongs to at most two consecutive $\text{coz } u_i$ ($= \text{coz } g_i$), and $\sum (r_i - f(x)) u_i(x)$ has at most two non-zero terms, each of absolute value $< \epsilon/2$.

Let $\alpha_i = [2^i (1 \vee (|r_{i-1}| + |r_i| + |r_{i+1}|))]^{-1}$, and let $w = \sum \alpha_i g_i$. Then $\sum r_i u_i = w \sum r_i g_i / w \sum g_i$. We show that $g = w \sum r_i g_i$ and $h = w \sum g_i$ are in BV .

Consider a more general product of the form of these, $(\sum_i \beta_i g_i) (\sum_j \gamma_j g_j) = \sum_i \beta_i (\sum_j \gamma_j g_j) g_i$. Since $g_j g_i \neq 0$ for at most $j = i-1, i, i+1$, this becomes $\sum_i \beta_i (\gamma_{i-1} g_{i-1} + \gamma_i g_i + \gamma_{i+1} g_{i+1}) g_i$, which we call $\sum_i w_i$. By 2.4 (a), each $w_i \in BV$. We show that the series converges uniformly for coefficients $\{\beta_i\}, \{\gamma_j\}$ chosen so as to produce g and h . Since

$$|w_i| \leq |\beta_i| (|\gamma_{i-1}| + |\gamma_i| + |\gamma_{i+1}|):$$

For g , we choose $\beta_i = \alpha_i$ and $\gamma_j = r_j$; then $|w_i| \leq 2^{-i}$. For h , we choose $\beta_i = \alpha_i$, $\gamma_j = r_j$; then $|w_i| \leq 2^{-i}$.

The proof is complete.

2.3 has evolved from restricted versions or variants

in [8] and [2]. Related, and partially overlapping results appear in § 41 of [13], and in [15]; these proofs do not bear much resemblance to that above.

We mention some other constructions of $A(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle)$ from V (V being a uniformly closed vector lattice). We shall only sketch the proofs.

Let \bar{V} (respectively, \underline{V}) denote the collection of all limits of pointwise convergent increasing (respectively, decreasing) sequences from V .

2.5. Theorem. $BA(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle) = B(\bar{V} \cap \underline{V})$.

(Note that to construct an $A(X)$ it suffices to construct $BA(X)$, because $A(X) = \{f/g \mid f, g \in BA(X), Zg = \emptyset\}$.)

Proof. In [9], it is shown that if $f \in A(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle)$ and f is bounded below, then $f \in \bar{V}$. This and its "dual" give the inclusion " \subset " in 2.5. The reverse inclusion follows from the elementary fact that if $f \in \bar{V}$ then $\{x \mid f(x) > r\} \in \text{coz } V$ for each $r \in \mathbb{R}$, and "dually".

Note the use of "lower semi-cozero functions" here. More explicitly, Mauldin [14] has shown that for f bounded below, $\{x \mid f(x) > r\} \in \text{coz } V$ for each $r \in \mathbb{R}$ iff $f \in \bar{V}$. Of course, this can be used to prove 2.5.

The next theorem uses Frolík's "strong continuous convergence" (which we indicate by " $f_n \xrightarrow{\text{sc}} f$ "). See [4] for the definition.

2.6. Theorem. These conditions on f are equivalent:

- (a) $f \in A(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle)$.
- (b) $f = g \circ (f_n)$, for some sequence $\{f_n\} \subset V$ and

$g \in A((f_n)(X))$.

(c) There is a sequence $\{f_n\} \subset V$ with $f_n \xrightarrow{\text{sc}} f$.

Here, (f_n) denotes the reduced product, or diagonal map, of X into $R^{\#0}$, and $(f_n)(X)$ is the range. This range is metric, so that $A((f_n)(X)) = C((f_n)(X))$.

Proof. (a) \implies (c). Write $f = f^+ - f^-$, and by the device from [9] used in the proof of 2.6, choose $\{g_n\}$, $\{h_n\} \subset V$ with $g_n \uparrow f^+$ and $h_n \downarrow f^-$. Then $g_n - h_n \xrightarrow{\text{sc}} f$.
 (c) \implies (b). Let $f_n \xrightarrow{\text{sc}} f$, and define $g: (f_n)(X) \rightarrow R$ by $g((f_n)(x)) = f(x)$. Using sequences in $(f_n)(X)$, continuity of g is easily verified. (b) \implies (a). One checks easily that (f_n) is an A-map, and hence so is $g \circ (f_n)$. (That (f_n) is an A-map uses separability of the range. In general, the reduced product of even two A-maps need not be an A-map. See [12].)

The equivalence of (a) and (c) in 2.6 is the "constructive version" of a characterization in [4]. [4] includes some other closely related ideas.

Each of the foregoing constructions yields immediately a characterization of the morphism sets $A(X)$:

2.7. Corollary. Let $V \subset R^X$. The following are equivalent:

- (a) $V = A(\langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle)$ for some cozero-field \mathcal{A} on X .
- (b) $V = A(\langle X, \text{coz } V \rangle)$.
- (c) V is a uniformly closed inversion-closed vector lattice (or ring).
- (d) V is "sc-closed".
- (e) V is "composition-closed".

Likewise, the morphism sets $BA(X)$ can be characterized, notably as the uniformly closed cbq vector lattices V with $V = BV$, or as those V with $V = B(\overline{V} \cap V)$.

3. Functions on subspaces. The main observation here (a simple corollary of 2.3) is that for X an A -space and S an A -subspace (defined shortly) the functions in $A(S)$ have an explicit description in terms of the restrictions of functions in $A(X)$. This should be compared with topology, where for $S \subset X$, $C(S)$ generally bears no concrete relation to $C(X)$. The present simplification results directly from the equality $\text{coz } A(S) = \text{coz } A(X) \upharpoonright S$, the analogue of which fails in topology.

Notation: For $\langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ an A -space and $S \subset X$, $\mathcal{A} \upharpoonright S = \{A \cap S \mid A \in \mathcal{A}\}$, and for $\langle Y, B \rangle$ another A -space, $A(X, Y) \upharpoonright S$ is the set of restrictions $f \upharpoonright S$, for $f \in A(X, Y)$.

3.1. Proposition. If $\langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ is an A -space, and $S \subset X$, then $\mathcal{A} \upharpoonright S$ is a cozero-field on S . So $\langle S, \mathcal{A} \upharpoonright S \rangle$ is an A -space.

Proof. It is obvious that $\mathcal{A} \upharpoonright S$ satisfies Conditions 1.1 (a), (b), (d). (c) is more difficult, but proved exactly as one proves that a perfectly normal topological space is hereditarily normal; see [3] for a sketch of this.

So, $\langle S, \mathcal{A} \upharpoonright S \rangle$ is said to be an A -subspace of $\langle X, \mathcal{A} \rangle$. We shall write $S \subset X$ when no ambiguity seems likely.

3.2. Corollary. If $S \subset X$, then

- (a) for any X , $A(X, Y) \upharpoonright S \subset A(S)$;
- (b) $\text{coz } A(S) = \text{coz } (A(X) \upharpoonright S) = (\text{coz } A(X)) \upharpoonright S$.

Proof. (a) is obvious. For (b): If \mathcal{A} is the cozero-field of X , then $\mathcal{A}|S$ is the cozero-field of S , and thus $\mathcal{A}|S = \text{coz } A(S)$ by 1.5.

Since $\mathcal{A}|S = \text{coz } (A(X)|S) = (\text{coz } A(X))|S$, (b) follows.

3.3. Lemma. Let $S \subset X$, let $f_1, f_2, \dots \in A(X)|S$, and let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. If $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S , then $f \in A(X)|S$.

The usual proof for continuous functions works here; see [2].

3.4. Corollary. Let $S \subset X$. Then $A(X)|S$ is a uniformly closed vector lattice (with $\text{coz } A(X)|S = \text{coz } A(S)$).

Proof. Obviously, $A(X)|S$ is a vector lattice. That it is uniformly closed follows from 3.3.

3.5. Theorem. Let $S \subset X$. If $f \in A(S)$ and $\epsilon > 0$, then there are $g, h \in A(X)$ with $Z(h) \cap S = \emptyset$ and

$$|f(s) - g(s)/h(s)| < \epsilon \text{ for each } s \in S.$$

That is, $A(S) = \text{uc}\{g/h \mid g, h \in A(X)|S \text{ and } Z(h) = \emptyset\}$.

Proof. By 3.4 and 2.3.

Similar theorems can be derived from 2.5 and 2.6.

4. Extension theorems. We now describe an extension theory for A -spaces analogous to that for topology originating with Tietze and Urysohn. The development follows [2].

4.1. Theorem. Let $S \subset X$. Then $A(S) = A(X)|S$ (respectively, $BA(S) = BA(X)|S$) iff $A(X)|S$ is inversion-closed (respectively, cbq).

Proof. Immediate from 3.5 and 3.3.

This uses the approximation theorem 2.3.

A more usual argument yields a more usual theorem, 4.3 below.

4.2. Lemma. Let $E_1, E_2 \subset X$. The following are equivalent.

- (a) There are disjoint zero-sets Z_1, Z_2 of X with $E_1 \subset Z_1$ and $E_2 \subset Z_2$.
- (b) There is $f \in A(X)$ (with $0 \leq f \leq 1$) with $f(E_1) = 0$ and $f(E_2) = 1$.

The usual proof for topology works here; see [6].

As in topology (e.g. [6]) subsets E_1 and E_2 which satisfy the conditions 4.2 are said to be completely separated in X .

4.3. Theorem. Let $S \subset X$.

- A. $BA(X) \upharpoonright S = BA(S)$ iff disjoint zero-sets of S are completely separated in X .
- B. $A(X) \upharpoonright S = A(S)$ iff S is completely separated from each disjoint zero-set.

Proof. A. can be proved by the usual Urysohn technique described in [6], or by the somewhat different method in 3.4 of [2].

To prove B., first note that the separation hypothesis in B. implies that in A; the proof then proceeds as in 3.4 of [2]. Alternatively, a direct proof of B. from 2.3 is possible; see page 47 of [2].

The results for topology described in [2] which correspond to 4.1 and 4.3 can be derived as follows: For X a topological space, $\langle X, \text{coz } C(X) \rangle$ is an A-space with $A(X) = C(X)$. But a topological subspace S need not be an A-sub-

space; the condition that it be is called "z-embedded" in [2]. So for example: $C(X) \mid S = C(S)$ iff S is completely separated from each disjoint zero-set and S is z-embedded; this is part of 3.6 of [2], and is immediate from 4.3 B. The reader can easily finish the comparison with [2].

5. On special cases. We conclude with some discussion of A-spaces which arise from consideration of the conditions in 4.1 and 4.3. Again, the discussion is modeled on [2] (§ 4), and so we shall omit proofs.

The Alexandroff compactification βX of the A-space X is the space of zero-set ultrafilters of X . It has the properties: βX is a compact A-space; X is a dense A-subspace; each A-map of X to a compact A-space has a unique A-extension over βX . See [1]. (Thus βX is the compact reflection in the category of A-spaces.)

5.1. Proposition. The following conditions on the A-space S are equivalent.

- (a) S is pseudocompact: $A(S) = BA(S)$.
- (b) The cozero-field of S is semi-compact: each countable cozero cover has a finite subcover.
- (c) Each zero-set of βS meets S .
- (d) Whenever S is an A-subspace of X , then $A(X) \mid S = A(S)$ (or, $BA(X) \mid S = BA(S)$).

See 4.3 of [2], and Gordon's nice theorem [7] that a pseudocompact A-space has only one compactification. Other equivalent conditions are given in [12].

5.2. Proposition. The following condition on the A-space X are equivalent.

(a) For each $S \subset X$ (or, for each cozero set $S \subset X$), $A(X) \upharpoonright S = A(S)$.

(b) The cozero-field of X is a \mathcal{C} -field.

And then βX is the Stone space of $\text{coz } A(X)$, hence basically disconnected.

5.3. Proposition. The following conditions on the A-space X are equivalent.

(a) For each $S \subset X$ (or, for each cozero set $S \subset X$), $BA(X) \upharpoonright S = BA(S)$.

(b) $t \beta X$ is an F-space.

These describe the A-space analogous of topological P-spaces and F-spaces. See 4.5 of [2]. Virtually all the other equivalent conditions from topology carry over; see Chapter 14 of [6].

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