

## SEPARATION OF HOMOGENEOUS CONNECTED LOCALLY COMPACT SPACES

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**ABSTRACT.** We prove that any region  $\Gamma$  in a homogeneous  $n$ -dimensional and locally compact separable metric space  $X$ , where  $n \geq 2$ , cannot be irreducibly separated by a closed  $(n-1)$ -dimensional subset  $C$  with the following property:  $C$  is acyclic in dimension  $n-1$  and there is a point  $b \in C \cap \Gamma$  having a special local base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  in  $C$  such that the boundary of each  $U \in \mathcal{B}_C^b$  is acyclic in dimension  $n-2$ . In case  $X$  is strongly locally homogeneous, it suffices to have a point  $b \in C \cap \Gamma$  with an ordinary base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  satisfying the above condition. The acyclicity means triviality of the corresponding Čech cohomology groups. This implies all known results concerning the separation of regions in homogeneous connected locally compact spaces.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

By a *space* we mean a locally compact separable metric space, and *maps* are continuous mappings. We also consider reduced in dimension zero Čech cohomology groups  $H^n(X; G)$  with coefficients from an Abelian group  $G$ . If  $G$  is the group of the integers  $\mathbb{Z}$ , we simply write  $H^n(X)$ . Recall that a space  $X$  is *separated by a set*  $C \subset X$  if  $C$  is closed in  $X$  and  $X \setminus C$  is the union of two disjoint open subsets  $G_1, G_2$  of  $X$ . When  $C$  is the intersection of the closures  $\overline{G_1}$  and  $\overline{G_2}$ , we say that  $C$  is an *irreducible separator*. A *partition* between two disjoint closed sets  $A, B$  in  $X$  is a closed set  $P$  such that  $X \setminus P$  is the union of two open disjoint sets  $U, V$  in  $X$  such that  $A \subset U$  and  $B \subset V$ . In such a case we say that  $P$  separates  $X$  between  $A$  and  $B$ , or  $A$  and  $B$  are separated in  $X$  by  $P$ . A *region in  $X$*  is an open connected subset of  $X$ . By  $\dim X$  we denote the covering dimension of  $X$ , and  $\dim_G X$  stands for the cohomological dimension of  $X$  with respect to a group  $G$ . The boundary of a given set  $U \subset X$  in  $X$  is denoted by  $\text{bd}U$ ; if  $U \subset C \subset X$ , then  $\text{bd}_C U$  denotes the boundary of  $U$  in  $C$ . We say that a point  $x \in X$  has a *special base*  $\mathcal{B}_x$  if for any neighborhoods  $U, V$  of  $x$  in  $X$  with  $\overline{U} \subset V$  there is  $W \in \mathcal{B}_x$  such that  $\text{bd}W$  separates  $\overline{V} \setminus U$  between  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$ .

One of the first results concerning the separation of homogenous metric spaces is the celebrated theorem of Krupski [11], [12] stating that every region in an  $n$ -dimensional homogeneous space cannot be separated by a subset of dimension  $\leq n-2$ . Kallipoliti and Papasoglu [9] established that any locally connected, simply connected, homogeneous metric continuum cannot be separated by arcs (according

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to Krupski's theorem, mentioned above, the Kallipoliti-Papasoglu result is interesting for spaces of dimension two). van Mill and the author [14] proved that the Kallipoliti-Papasoglu theorem remains true without simply connectedness, but requiring strong local homogeneity instead of homogeneity. Recall that a space  $X$  is *strongly locally homogeneous* if every point  $x \in X$  has a base of open neighborhoods  $U$  such that for every  $y, z \in U$  there is a homeomorphism  $h$  on  $X$  with  $h(y) = z$  and  $h$  is the identity on  $X \setminus U$ . We say that such a homeomorphism  $h$  is *supported by*  $U$ . If for every  $x, y \in X$  there is a homeomorphism  $h$  on  $X$  with  $h(x) = y$ , the spaces  $X$  is *homogeneous*.

In the present paper we establish Theorem 1.1 which captures all above-mentioned results:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\Gamma$  be a region in a homogeneous space  $X$  with  $\dim X = n \geq 2$ . Then  $\Gamma$  cannot be irreducibly separated by any closed set  $C \subset X$  with the following property:*

- (i)  $\dim C \leq n - 1$  and  $H^{n-1}(C) = 0$ ;
- (ii) *There is a point  $b \in C \cap \Gamma$  having a special base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  in  $C$  with  $H^{n-2}(\text{bd}_C U) = 0$  for every  $U \in \mathcal{B}_C^b$ .*

*If  $X$  is strongly locally homogeneous, condition (ii) can be weakened to the following one:*

- (iii) *There is  $b \in C \cap \Gamma$  having an ordinary base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  in  $C$  with  $H^{n-2}(\text{bd}_C U) = 0$ ,  $U \in \mathcal{B}_C^b$ .*

*Remark 1.2.* According to [18, Corollary 1.6], if  $X$  in Theorem 1.1 is a compactum with  $H^n(X) \neq 0$ , then  $X$  is not separated by any  $C$  satisfying condition (i).

Since  $H^{k+1}(Y) = 0$  for any  $k$ -dimensional space  $Y$ , we have the following fact: If  $\dim Y \leq n - 2$ , then  $H^{n-1}(Y) = 0$  and every  $x \in Y$  has a special base of neighborhoods  $U$  with  $H^{n-2}(\text{bd}U) = 0$  because every two closed subsets of  $Y$  can be separated by set  $A$  with  $\dim A \leq n - 3$ . Moreover, any  $(n - 2)$ -dimensional separator contains a closed subset which is an irreducible  $(n - 2)$ -dimensional separator. Therefore, Theorem 1.1 implies directly that any region in a homogeneous  $n$ -dimensional space cannot be separated by a subset of dimension  $\leq n - 2$ . Similar arguments show that if  $G$  is any countable Abelian group, then any homogeneous connected space of cohomological dimension  $\dim_G X \leq n$  cannot be separated by a closed subset of dimension  $\dim_G \leq n - 2$  (this fact was established by different methods in [10]).

If a region  $\Gamma$  in a two-dimensional strongly locally homogeneous space is separated by an arc  $C$ , then there is a closed  $C' \subset C$  irreducibly separating  $\Gamma$ , see [14]. Then  $H^1(C') = 0$  and the point  $b = \max\{x : x \in C'\}$  has a base  $\mathcal{B}_{C'}$  such that  $\text{bd}_{C'}U$  is a point for all  $U \in \mathcal{B}_{C'}$ . Therefore, Theorem 1.1 also implies our result [14] with van Mill.

Theorem 1.1 is a particular case of Theorem 1.3 when  $G = \mathbb{Z}$ :

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $\Gamma$  be a region in a finite-dimensional homogeneous space  $X$  with  $\dim_G X = n \geq 2$ , where  $G$  is a countable Abelian group. Then  $\Gamma$  cannot be irreducibly separated by any closed set  $C \subset X$  with the following property:*

- (i)  $\dim_G C \leq n - 1$  and  $H^{n-1}(C; G) = 0$ ;
- (ii) *There is a point  $b \in C \cap \Gamma$  having a special local base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  in  $C$  with  $H^{n-2}(\text{bd}_C U; G) = 0$  for every  $U \in \mathcal{B}_C^b$ .*

If  $X$  is strongly locally homogeneous, the finite-dimensionality of  $X$  can be omitted and condition (ii) can be weakened to the following one:

- (iii) There is  $b \in C \cap \Gamma$  having an ordinary base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  in  $C$  with  $H^{n-2}(\text{bd}_C U) = 0$ ,  $U \in \mathcal{B}_C^b$ .

Theorem 1.3 is established in Section 3. Section 2 contains some definitions and preliminary results.

## 2. DEFINITIONS AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Recall that for any nontrivial Abelian group  $G$  the Čech cohomology group  $H^n(X; G)$  is isomorphic to the group  $[X, K(G, n)]$  of pointed homotopy classes of maps from  $X$  to  $K(G, n)$ , where  $K(G, n)$  is a  $CW$ -complex of type  $(G, n)$ , see [7]. It is also well known that the circle group  $\mathbb{S}^1$  is a space of type  $(\mathbb{Z}, 1)$ . The cohomological dimension  $\dim_G(X)$  is the largest number  $n$  such that there exists a closed subset  $A \subset X$  with  $H^n(X, A; G) \neq 0$ . Equivalently, for a metric space  $X$  we have  $\dim_G X \leq n$  if and only if for any closed pair  $A \subset B$  in  $X$  the homomorphism  $j_{B,A}^n : H^n(B; G) \rightarrow H^n(A; G)$ , generated by the inclusion  $A \hookrightarrow B$ , is surjective, see [3]. This means that every map from  $A$  to  $K(G, n)$  can be extended over  $B$ . For every  $G$  we have  $\dim_G X \leq \dim_{\mathbb{Z}} X \leq \dim X$ , and  $\dim_{\mathbb{Z}} X = \dim X$  in case  $\dim X < \infty$  [13] (on the other hand, there is an infinite-dimensional compactum  $X$  with  $\dim_{\mathbb{Z}} X = 3$ , see [2]).

Suppose  $(K, A)$  is a pair of compact sets in a space  $X$  with  $\emptyset \neq A \subset K$ . We say that  $K$  is an  $k$ -cohomology membrane spanned on  $A$  for an element  $\gamma \in H^k(A; G)$  if  $\gamma$  is not extendable over  $K$ , but it is extendable over every proper closed subset of  $K$  containing  $A$ . Here,  $\gamma \in H^k(A; G)$  is extendable over  $K$  means that  $\gamma$  is contained in the image  $j_{K,A}^k(H^k(K; G))$ . Concerning extendability, we are using the following simple fact:

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $A, B$  be closed sets in  $X$  with  $X = A \cup B$ . Then  $\gamma \in H^k(A; G)$  is extendable over  $X$  if and only if  $j_{A,\Gamma}^k(\gamma)$  is extendable over  $B$ , where  $\Gamma = A \cap B$ .*

*Proof.* This follows from the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence

$$H^k(X; G) \xrightarrow{\varphi^k} H^k(A; G) \oplus H^k(B; G) \xrightarrow{\psi^k} H^k(\Gamma; G),$$

where  $\varphi^k(\gamma) = (j_{X,A}^k(\gamma), j_{X,B}^k(\gamma))$  and  $\psi^k(\gamma_1, \gamma_2) = j_{A,\Gamma}^k(\gamma_1) - j_{B,\Gamma}^k(\gamma_2)$ . Indeed, suppose  $\gamma_\Gamma = j_{A,\Gamma}^k(\gamma)$  is extendable over  $B$ . So, there is  $\alpha \in H^k(B; G)$  with  $j_{B,\Gamma}^k(\alpha) = \gamma_\Gamma$ . Then,  $\psi^k(\gamma, \alpha) = 0$ , which implies the existence of  $\beta \in H^k(X; G)$  such that  $\varphi^k(\beta) = (\gamma, \alpha)$ . This yields  $j_{X,A}^k(\beta) = \gamma$ . Hence,  $\gamma$  is extendable over  $X$ .

To prove the other implication, suppose  $j_{X,A}^k(\beta) = \gamma$  for some  $\beta \in H^k(X; G)$ , and let  $\alpha = j_{X,B}^k(\beta)$ . Then  $\psi^k(\gamma, \alpha) = 0$ , which means that  $j_{B,\Gamma}^k(\alpha) = j_{A,\Gamma}^k(\gamma)$ . Therefore,  $j_{A,\Gamma}^k(\gamma)$  is extendable over  $B$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $X$  be a homogeneous space with  $\dim_G X = n > 1$ . For every  $x \in X$  there exists a compactum  $M$  containing  $x$  such that all sufficiently small neighborhoods  $W$  of  $x$  in  $X$  have the following property: For every open neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$  with  $\overline{V} \subset W$  there exist a nontrivial  $\gamma_V \in H^{n-1}(M \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}; G)$  and an  $(n-1)$ -cohomology membrane  $K_V \subset M \cap \overline{V}$  for  $\gamma_V$  spanned on  $M \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $X$  is a countable union of compact sets, there exists a compactum  $Y \subset X$  with  $\dim_G Y = n$  (otherwise, by the countable sum theorem for  $\dim_G$ ,

$\dim_G X \leq n - 1$ ). Since  $\dim_G Y = n$  there exists a proper closed subset  $F \subset Y$  and  $\gamma \in H^{n-1}(F; G)$  such that  $\gamma$  is not extendable over  $Y$ . Using the continuity of Čech cohomology [17], we can apply Zorn's lemma to conclude there exists a minimal compact set  $M \subset Y$  containing  $F$  such that  $\gamma$  is not extendable over  $M$ , but it is extendable over every proper closed subset of  $M$  containing  $F$ . Since  $X$  is homogeneous, we can assume that  $x \in M \setminus F$ . Now, let us show that any neighborhood  $W$  of  $x$  with  $\overline{W} \subset X \setminus F$  is as required. Indeed, suppose  $V$  is an open neighborhood of  $x$  with  $\overline{V} \subset W$ . Then  $M \setminus V$  is a proper closed subset of  $M$  containing  $F$ . Hence, there exists  $\gamma' \in H^{n-1}(M \setminus V; G)$  extending  $\gamma$  such that  $\gamma'$  is not extendable over  $M \cap \overline{V}$ . Let  $\gamma_V = j_{M \setminus V, M \cap \text{bd} \overline{V}}(\gamma')$ . Observe that  $M = (M \setminus V) \cup (M \cap \overline{V})$  with  $(M \setminus V) \cap (M \cap \overline{V}) = M \cap \text{bd} \overline{V}$ . So, by Lemma 2.1,  $M \cap \text{bd} \overline{V}$  is nonempty, otherwise  $\gamma'$  would be extendable over  $M$ . By the same reason,  $\gamma_V$  is nontrivial and not extendable over  $M \cap \overline{V}$ . Therefore, there is a minimal closed set  $K_V \subset M \cap \overline{V}$  containing  $M \cap \text{bd} \overline{V}$  such that  $\gamma_V$  is not extendable over  $K_V$ . Then  $K_V$  is an  $(n - 1)$ -cohomology membrane for  $\gamma_V$  spanned on  $M \cap \text{bd} \overline{V}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $A \subset P$  be a compact pair and  $\gamma$  be a nontrivial element of  $H^{n-1}(A; G)$ . Suppose there are closed subsets  $P_1, P_2$  of  $P$  satisfying the following conditions:*

- $P_1 \cup P_2 = P$  and  $P_1 \cap P_2 = C \neq \emptyset$ ;
- $\gamma$  is extendable over  $P_i \cup A$  for each  $i = 1, 2$ , but  $\gamma$  is not extendable over  $P$ .

Then  $H^{n-1}(C, C \cap A; G) \neq 0$ .

*Proof.* Consider the commutative diagram below whose rows are parts of Mayer-Vietoris exact sequences, while the columns are exact sequences for the corresponding couples:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H^{n-1}(P; G) & \xrightarrow{\varphi_P^{n-1}} & H^{n-1}(P_1; G) \oplus H^{n-1}(P_2; G) \\
 \downarrow j_{P,A}^{n-1} & & \downarrow j_{P_1 \oplus P_2}^{n-1} \\
 H^{n-1}(A; G) & \xrightarrow{\varphi_A^{n-1}} & H^{n-1}(A \cap P_1; G) \oplus H^{n-1}(A \cap P_2; G) \\
 \downarrow \partial_{P,A} & & \downarrow \partial_{P_1 \oplus P_2} \\
 H^n(P, A; G) & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{P,A}^n} & H^n(P_1, P_1 \cap A; G) \oplus H^n(P_2, P_2 \cap A; G)
 \end{array}$$

Here, the maps  $j_{P_1 \oplus P_2}^{n-1}$  and  $\partial_{P_1 \oplus P_2}$  are defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 j_{P_1 \oplus P_2}^{n-1} &= j_{P_1, A \cap P_1}^{n-1} \oplus j_{P_2, A \cap P_2}^{n-1}, \\
 \partial_{P_1 \oplus P_2} &= \partial_{P_1, P_1 \cap A} \oplus \partial_{P_2, P_2 \cap A}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall also that  $\varphi_P^{n-1} = (j_{P, P_1}^{n-1}, j_{P, P_2}^{n-1})$ , the maps  $\varphi_A^{n-1}$ ,  $\varphi_{P,A}^n$  and  $\varphi_P^n$  are defined similarly.

Denote  $\alpha_i = j_{A, A \cap P_i}^{n-1}(\gamma)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Since  $\gamma$  is extendable over  $A \cup P_i$ , there exist  $\gamma_i \in H^{n-1}(A \cup P_i)$  extending  $\gamma$ , i.e.,  $j_{A \cup P_i, A}^{n-1}(\gamma_i) = \gamma$ . Let  $\beta_i = j_{A \cup P_i, P_i}^{n-1}(\gamma_i)$ . It follows from the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence

$$H^{n-1}(A \cup P_i; G) \rightarrow H^{n-1}(A; G) \oplus H^{n-1}(P_i; G) \rightarrow H^{n-1}(A \cap P_i; G) \rightarrow \dots$$

that  $j_{P_i, A \cap P_i}^{n-1}(\beta_i) = \alpha_i$  for every  $i = 1, 2$ . This implies  $j_{P_1 \oplus P_2}^{n-1}((\beta_1, \beta_2)) = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ . Since the second column is a part of an exact sequence, the last equality yields  $\partial_{P_1 \oplus P_2}(\varphi_A^{n-1}(\gamma)) = 0$ . Hence,  $\varphi_{P, A}^n(\partial_{P, A}(\gamma)) = 0$ . Note that  $\tilde{\gamma} = \partial_{P, A}(\gamma) \neq 0$  because the first column is exact and  $\gamma$  is not extendable over  $P$ .

Finally, since  $\varphi_{P, A}^n(\tilde{\gamma}) = 0$ , Proposition 2.3 follows from the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence

$$H^{n-1}(C, C \cap A; G) \xrightarrow{\Delta} H^n(P, A; G) \xrightarrow{\varphi_{P, A}^n} H^n(P_1, P_1 \cap A; G) \oplus H^n(P_2, P_2 \cap A; G).$$

□

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $X$  be a space with  $\dim_G X = n$  and  $C \subset X$  be a nonempty separator of  $X$ . If there is an open set  $U$  such that  $C \subset U$  and  $\overline{U}$  is an  $(n-1)$ -cohomology membrane for some  $\gamma \in H^{n-1}(\text{bd}\overline{U}; G)$  spanned on  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$ , then  $H^{n-1}(C; G) \neq 0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $A = \text{bd}\overline{U}$  and  $P_1, P_2$  be closed subsets of  $X$  with  $P_1 \cap P_2 = C$  and  $P_1 \cup P_2 = \overline{U}$ . Since  $H^{n-1}(C; G) = H^{n-1}(C, C \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}; G)$ , the proof follows from Proposition 2.3. □

Corollary 2.4 implies the well-known fact [8] that  $H^{n-1}(C; G) \neq 0$  for any compact separator  $C$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Indeed, take any ball  $\mathbb{B}^n$  with  $C \subset \text{int}\mathbb{B}^n$ .

By  $X^* = X \cup \{\infty\}$  we denote the one-point compactification of a space  $X$ . By a metric on  $X$  inherited from  $X^*$  we mean the restriction of  $\text{dist}$  to  $X$ , where  $\text{dist}$  is any metric on  $X^*$ .

The following version of Effros' theorem [6] is folklore. For the sake of completeness we include a proof.

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $X$  be a homogeneous locally compact space and  $\rho$  be a metric on  $X^*$ . Then for any  $a \in X$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that for every  $x \in X$  with  $\rho(x, a) < \delta$  there exists a homeomorphism  $h: X \rightarrow X$  with  $h(a) = x$  and  $\rho(h(y), y) < \varepsilon$  for all  $y \in X$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{H}(X^*)$  be the space of all homeomorphism of  $X^*$ , endowed with the compact-open topology. Note that  $\mathcal{H}(X^*)$  is a Polish group and its topology is generated by the metric  $\hat{\rho}(f, g) = \sup\{\rho(f(x), g(x)): x \in X^*\}$ . Therefore the set  $\mathcal{H}_X$  consisting of all  $h \in \mathcal{H}(X^*)$  with  $h(\infty) = \infty$  is a closed subgroup of  $\mathcal{H}(X^*)$ , so  $\mathcal{H}_X$  is also a Polish group. Recall that every homeomorphism  $h$  on  $X$  can be extended to a homeomorphism  $\tilde{h} \in \mathcal{H}_X$ , so  $\mathcal{H}_X \neq \emptyset$ . Since the action  $T^*: \mathcal{H}(X^*) \times X^* \rightarrow X^*$ ,  $T^*(g, x) = g(x)$ , is continuous, so is the action  $T: \mathcal{H}_X \times X \rightarrow X$ ,  $T(h, x) = h(x)$ . Moreover,  $T$  is transitive because  $X$  is homogeneous. Hence, by [15, Theorem 1.1],  $T$  is micro-transitive, i.e., for every  $x \in X$  and every neighbourhood  $U$  of the identity in  $\mathcal{H}_X$  the set  $Ux = \{h(x): h \in U\}$  is a neighbourhood of  $x$ . This implies the statement of the theorem. □

### 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.3

First, consider the case when  $X$  is homogeneous. Suppose  $C \subset X$  is closed such that  $C \cap \Gamma$  irreducibly separates  $\Gamma$  and satisfies conditions (i)–(ii). We are going to obtain a contradiction. To this end, fix a metric  $\rho$  on  $X$  inherited from the one-point compactification  $X^*$  of  $X$ . Then  $\Gamma \setminus C = G_1 \cup G_2$  with  $C' = \overline{G_1} \cap \overline{G_2} \cap \Gamma \subset C$ , where  $G_1, G_2$  are disjoint open subsets of  $\Gamma$ . By Lemma 2.2, there exists a compactum  $M$  containing  $b$  such that all sufficiently small neighborhoods  $W$  of  $b$  satisfy the

thesis of that lemma. We fix such a neighborhood  $W$  having a compact closure with  $\overline{W} \subset \Gamma$ .

*Claim 1.* Following the notations from Lemma 2.2, there exist sufficiently small neighborhoods  $V$  of  $b$  in  $X$  such that  $\overline{V} \subset W$ ,  $\dim_G \text{bd}\overline{V} \leq n - 1$  and  $K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}$  meets both sets  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ .

Indeed, let  $\varepsilon = \min\{\rho(\overline{W}, X \setminus \Gamma), \rho(b, X \setminus W)\}$  and  $\delta > 0$  be a number from Theorem 2.5 corresponding to  $\varepsilon$  and the point  $b$ . Take any neighborhood  $V$  of  $b$  such that  $\overline{V} \subset W$  and the diameter of  $V$  is less than  $\delta$ . Since  $X$  is finite-dimensional, according to [4] and [5] we can suppose also that  $\dim_G \text{bd}\overline{V} \leq n - 1$ . Then there is a  $\varepsilon$ -small homeomorphism  $h$  on  $X$  so that  $\overline{h(V)} \subset W$  and  $h(b) \in K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}$ . Hence, considering the sets  $h^{-1}(V)$  and  $h^{-1}(K_V)$  instead of  $V$  and  $K_V$ , we can assume that  $b \in K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}$ . Moreover,  $\dim_G(K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}) = n$ , otherwise  $\gamma_V$  would be extendable over  $K_V$ .

Further, since  $\dim_G C \leq n - 1$  and  $\dim_G(K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}) = n$ ,  $K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}$  is not contained in  $C$ . So,  $K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}$  meets at least one  $G_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . If  $K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}$  intersects only  $G_1$ , then Theorem 2.5 allows us to push  $K_V$  towards  $G_2$  by a small homeomorphism  $h : X \rightarrow X$  such that  $h(b) \in G_2$ ,  $h(K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}) \cap G_1 \neq \emptyset$  and  $h(V)$  still contains  $b$ . This completes the proof of Claim 1.

*Claim 2.* Let  $V$  be a neighborhood of  $b$  satisfying Claim 1. If  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap M \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}; G) = 0$ , we are done.

Indeed, let  $A = M \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}$ ,  $P = K_V$  and  $P_i = P \cap \overline{G}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Clearly, then  $P_1 \cup P_2 = P$  and  $P_1 \cap P_2 = K_V \cap C'$ . Hence,  $A \cap P_1 \cap P_2 = C' \cap M \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}$ . Therefore,  $\gamma_V$  is a nontrivial element of  $H^{n-1}(A; G)$  which is not extendable over  $P$ . Because  $K_V \setminus \text{bd}\overline{V}$  meets both sets  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , each  $A \cup P_i$  is a proper subset of  $K_V$  containing  $A$ . So,  $\gamma_V$  is extendable over each  $A \cup P_i$ . Therefore, by Proposition 2.3,  $H^{n-1}(C', C' \cap A) \neq 0$ . On the other hand, we have the exact sequence

$$H^{n-2}(C' \cap A; G) \longrightarrow H^{n-1}(C', C' \cap A; G) \longrightarrow H^{n-1}(C'; G),$$

where  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap A; G) = 0$ . Since  $C'$  is a closed subset of  $C$ ,  $\dim_G C' \leq n - 1$ . The last inequality together with  $H^{n-1}(C; G) = 0$  implies  $H^{n-1}(C'; G) = 0$ . Hence,  $H^{n-1}(C', C' \cap A; G) = 0$ , a contradiction. This completes the proof of Claim 2.

We use below the following notation: Suppose  $\Pi$  is partition in a space  $Z$  between two closed disjoint sets  $P, Q \subset Z$ . Then there are two open disjoint subset  $W_P, W_Q$  of  $Z$  containing  $P$  and  $Q$ , respectively, such that  $Z \setminus \Pi = W_P \cup W_Q$ . Then we denote  $\Lambda_P = W_P \cup \Pi$  and  $\Lambda_Q = W_Q \cup \Pi$ .

*Claim 3.* Suppose that  $V$  is a neighborhood of  $b$  satisfying Claim 1. Then there is another neighborhood  $U$  of  $b$  with  $\overline{U} \subset V$  such that:

- (i) The element  $\gamma_V$  is extendable to an element  $\gamma_{V,U} \in H^{n-1}(M(V,U); G)$ , where  $M(V,U) = \overline{V} \setminus U$ ;
- (ii) The element  $\gamma_U = j_{M(V,U), \text{bd}\overline{U}}(\gamma_{V,U})$  is not extendable over the set  $K_U = \text{bd}\overline{U} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U})$ , but  $\gamma_U$  is extendable over each of the sets  $K_{U,i} = \text{bd}\overline{U} \cup (K_U \cap \overline{G}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ ;
- (iii) If  $\Pi$  separates  $M(V,U)$  between  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$ , then there is  $\gamma_\Pi \in H^{n-1}(\Pi; G)$  such that  $\gamma_\Pi$  is not extendable over  $\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U})$ , but it is extendable over each set  $\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U} \cap \overline{G}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

Take points  $x_i \in (K_V \setminus \text{bd}\bar{V}) \cap G_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Since  $K_V$  is an  $(n-1)$ -cohomology membrane for  $\gamma_V$  spanned on  $M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}$  and each  $K_{V,i} = (M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}) \cup (K_V \cap \bar{G}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , is a proper closed subset of  $K_V$  containing  $M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}$ ,  $\gamma_V$  can be extended to  $\gamma_i \in H^{n-1}(K_{V,i}; G)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Using that  $\dim_G \text{bd}\bar{V} \leq n-1$ , we can extend  $\gamma_V$  to an element  $\gamma_V^* \in H^{n-1}(\text{bd}\bar{V}; G)$ . Then  $\gamma_V^*$  and  $\gamma_i$  provide elements  $\gamma_i^* \in H^{n-1}(K_{V,i}^*; G)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , where  $K_{V,i}^* = \text{bd}\bar{V} \cup (K_V \cap \bar{G}_i)$ , such that  $j_{K_{V,1}^*, \text{bd}\bar{V}}(\gamma_1^*) = j_{K_{V,2}^*, \text{bd}\bar{V}}(\gamma_2^*) = \gamma_V^*$ .

Let  $K$  be a  $CW$ -complex of type  $K(G, n-1)$  and the maps  $f_V : \text{bd}\bar{V} \rightarrow K$ ,  $g_{V,i} : K_{V,i}^* \rightarrow K$  represent  $\gamma_V^*$  and  $\gamma_i^*$ , respectively, such that both restrictions  $g_{V,1}|_{\text{bd}\bar{V}}$  and  $g_{V,2}|_{\text{bd}\bar{V}}$  coincide with  $f_V$ . Since  $G$  is countable,  $K$  is also countable and homotopy equivalent to a metrizable simplicial complex. So, we can suppose that  $K$  is a metrizable simplicial complex, and let  $d$  be a metric on  $K$ . Because  $K$  is a neighborhood extensor for the class of metrizable spaces, there is an open cover  $\omega$  of  $K$  such that any two  $\omega$ -close maps from a given space  $Z$  into  $K$  are homotopic. Moreover, there is an open set  $\Omega_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , in  $X$  containing  $K_{V,i}^*$  and a map  $g_i : \bar{\Omega}_i \rightarrow K$  extending  $g_{V,i}$  such that  $\bar{\Omega}_i$  is compact. By the same reason, there is an open set  $\Omega_0 \subset X$  with a compact closure and a map  $g_0 : \bar{\Omega}_0 \rightarrow K$  extending  $f_V$  such that  $\text{bd}\bar{V} \subset \Omega_0$ . We may assume that each  $\bar{\Omega}_i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , is contained in  $W$ . Since  $\Theta = \bigcup_{i=0}^{i=2} g_i(\bar{\Omega}_i)$  is a compact subset of  $K$ , we can find  $\eta > 0$  such that any two points  $z_1, z_2 \in \Theta$  are contained in an element of  $\omega$  provided  $d(z_1, z_2) < \eta$ . Then for every  $i = 0, 1, 2$  there exist  $\delta_i > 0$  such that  $d(g_i(x), g_i(y)) < \eta/2$  for any  $x, y \in \bar{\Omega}_i$  with  $\rho(x, y) \leq \delta_i$ . Since the points  $x_1, x_2$  and  $b$  belong to  $V \setminus \text{bd}\bar{V}$  and  $\text{bd}\bar{V} \subset \Omega_i$  for each  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , the number

$$\delta = \min\{\delta_i, \rho(\text{bd}\bar{V}, X \setminus \Omega_i)/2, \rho(b, \text{bd}\bar{V})/2, \rho(\{x_1\} \cup \{x_2\}, \text{bd}\bar{V})/2 : i = 0, 1, 2\}$$

is positive, and let  $U = \{x \in V : \rho(x, \text{bd}\bar{V}) > \delta\}$ . Clearly,  $U$  contains the points  $x_1, x_2, b$ . Moreover  $\bar{U} \subset V$ . Indeed, since  $\bar{U} \subset \bar{V}$ , if there is  $x \in \bar{U} \setminus V$  then  $x \in \text{bd}\bar{V}$ . So,  $\rho(x, \text{bd}\bar{V}) = 0$  which means that  $x \notin \bar{U}$ . Because  $\delta \leq \rho(\text{bd}\bar{V}, X \setminus \Omega_i)/2$  for each  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , the set  $\bar{V} \setminus U$  is contained in  $\Omega_i$ . Hence, all maps  $g_i$  are well defined on  $M(V, U) = \bar{V} \setminus U$ . For every  $x \in M(V, U)$  there exists  $y \in \text{bd}\bar{V}$  with  $\rho(x, y) \leq \delta$ , and since  $g_i(y) = f_V(y)$  for all  $i$ , we have  $d(g_i(x), g_j(x)) < \eta$  for any  $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $x \in M(V, U)$ . This means that for all  $x \in M(V, U)$  and  $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  the points  $g_i(x), g_j(x)$  belong to an element of  $\omega$ . Therefore, for any closed set  $B \subset M(V, U)$  the restrictions  $g_{B,i} = g_i|_B$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , are homotopic to each other and represent an element  $\gamma_B \in H^{n-1}(B; G)$ . In particular, all  $g_{M(V,U),i}$  represent  $\gamma_{V,U} \in H^{n-1}(M(V, U); G)$ . Similarly, all maps  $g_{\text{bd}\bar{U},i}$  represent  $\gamma_U \in H^{n-1}(\text{bd}\bar{U}; G)$ . Moreover, since each  $g_{M(V,U),i}$  extends  $g_{B,i}$ , we have  $j_{M(V,U),B}(\gamma_{V,U}) = \gamma_B$  for all closed  $B \subset M(V, U)$ .

So,  $j_{M(V,U), \text{bd}\bar{V}}(\gamma_{V,U}) = \gamma_V^*$  and  $j_{M(V,U), \text{bd}\bar{U}}(\gamma_{V,U}) = \gamma_U$ . This means that  $\gamma_V^*$  is extendable over  $M(V, U)$ . Hence, by Lemma 2.1,  $\gamma_V^*$  would be extendable over  $M(V, U) \cup K_V$  provided  $\gamma_U$  is extendable over  $K_U = \text{bd}\bar{U} \cup (K_V \cap \bar{U})$ . In such a case,  $\gamma_V$  would be extendable over  $K_V$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $\gamma_U$  is not extendable over  $K_U$ .

Consider the sets  $K_{U,i} = \text{bd}\bar{U} \cup (K_U \cap \bar{G}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Each  $K_{U,i}$  is a proper closed subset of  $K_U$  because so is  $K_V \cap \bar{U} \cap \bar{G}_i$  in  $K_V \cap \bar{U}$ . Observe also that  $K_{V,i}^* \cup M(V, U) = M(V, U) \cup (K_V \cap \bar{U} \cap \bar{G}_i)$ . On the other hand,  $\Omega_i$  contains both  $K_{V,i}^*$  and  $M(V, U)$ . So,  $\Omega_i$  contains  $K_{U,i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Consequently,  $g_i|_{K_{U,i}}$  is

well defined and extends  $g_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i}$ . Since  $g_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i}$  represents  $\gamma_U$ , each  $g_i|_{K_{U,i}}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , represents an element  $\mu_i \in H^{n-1}(K_{U,i}; G)$  with  $j_{K_{U,i}, \text{bd}\overline{U}}(\mu_i) = \gamma_U$ . This means that  $\gamma_U$  is extendable over each of the sets  $K_{U,i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

Finally, let  $\Pi \subset M(V, U)$  be a closed set separating  $M(V, U)$  between  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$ . Then  $\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}}$  contains both  $\Pi$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$ ,  $M(V, U) = \Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}} \cup \Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}}$  with  $\Pi = \Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}} \cap \Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}}$ . On the other hand,  $j_{\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}}, \text{bd}\overline{V}}(\gamma_{\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}}}) = \gamma_V^*$  means that  $\gamma_V^*$  is extendable over  $\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}}$ . Since  $j_{\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}}, \Pi}(\gamma_{\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{V}}}) = \gamma_\Pi$ , according to Lemma 2.1, the assumption  $\gamma_\Pi$  is extendable over the set  $\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U})$  would imply that  $\gamma_V^*$  is extendable over  $M(V, U) \cup K_V$ , in particular  $\gamma_V$  would be extendable over  $K_V$ . So,  $\gamma_\Pi$  is not extendable over  $\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U})$ . Let show that  $\gamma_\Pi$  is extendable over each set  $\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i} = \Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U} \cap \overline{G}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Observe that  $\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i}$  is contained in  $\Omega_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Consequently, each  $h_i = g_i|_{\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i}}$  is well defined and extends  $g_{\Pi,i}$ . On the other hand, all  $g_{\Pi,i}$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , are homotopic to each other and represent  $\gamma_\Pi$ . Hence, each  $h_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , represents an element  $\nu_i \in H^{n-1}(\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i}; G)$  with  $j_{\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i}, \Pi}(\nu_i) = \gamma_\Pi$ . Therefore,  $\gamma_\Pi$  is extendable over each  $\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{bd}\overline{U},i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . This completes the proof of Claim 3.

*Claim 4.* Suppose  $U, V$  are neighborhoods of  $b$  satisfying the conditions from Claim 3. If  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap K_V \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}; G) = 0$ , we are done.

Following the notations from Claim 3, denote  $A = K_V \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}$ ,  $P = K_V \cap \overline{U}$  and  $P_i = K_V \cap \overline{U} \cap \overline{G}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Then  $P_1 \cup P_2 = P$ ,  $A \cap P_1 \cap P_2 = C' \cap K_V \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}$ . According to Claim 3,  $\gamma_U \in H^{n-1}(\text{bd}\overline{U}; G)$  is not extendable over  $K_U = \text{bd}\overline{U} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U})$ . This means that the element  $\mu_U = j_{\text{bd}\overline{U}, K_V \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}}(\gamma_U) \in H^{n-1}(A; G)$  is not extendable over  $P$ . On the other hand,  $\gamma_U$  is extendable over each  $K_{U,i} = \text{bd}\overline{U} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U} \cap \overline{G}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Consequently,  $\mu_U$  is extendable over each  $K_V \cap \overline{U} \cap \overline{G}_i$ . To complete the proof of Claim 4, we can apply Proposition 2.3 as we did in Claim 2. This completes the proof of Claim 4.

Therefore, we can suppose everywhere below that there are two neighborhoods  $U, V$  of  $b$  satisfying the conditions of Claim 3 with  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap M \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}; G) \neq 0$  and  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap K_V \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}; G) \neq 0$ . In particular, both  $C \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}$  and  $C \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}$  are nonempty.

*Claim 5.* Let  $V, U$  be neighborhoods of  $b$  satisfying the conditions from Claim 3 with  $C \cap \text{bd}\overline{V} \neq \emptyset \neq C \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}$ . Then there exists a partition  $\Pi$  in  $M(V, U) = \overline{V} \setminus U$  between  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$  such that  $H^{n-2}(\Pi \cap C'; G) = 0$ .

Consider the set  $C \cap M(V, U)$  and its closed disjoint subsets  $C \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}$  and  $C \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}$ . Since  $b$  has a special local base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  in  $C$ , there is  $W^* \in \mathcal{B}_C^b$  with  $H^{n-2}(\text{bd}_C W^*; G) = 0$  such that  $\text{bd}_C W^*$  separates  $C \cap M(V, U)$  between  $C \cap \text{bd}\overline{U}$  and  $C \cap \text{bd}\overline{V}$ . By [16, Corollary 3.1.5], there exists a partition  $T$  in  $M(V, V)$  between  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$  such that  $T \cap C \subset \text{bd}_C W^*$ . Hence,  $\Pi = T \cup \text{bd}_C W^*$  is a partition in  $M(U, V)$  between  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$  with  $\Pi \cap C = \text{bd}_C W^*$  and  $H^{n-2}(\Pi \cap C; G) = 0$ . Finally, since  $\Pi \subset \Gamma$ , we have  $\Pi \cap C = \Pi \cap C'$ . This completes the proof of Claim 5.

Now, we can complete the proof of Theorem 1.3 when  $X$  is homogeneous. According to Claims 1–5, the proof is reduced to the assumption that there are two neighborhoods  $V, U$  of  $b$  and a partition  $\Pi$  of  $M(V, U)$  between  $\text{bd}\overline{V}$  and  $\text{bd}\overline{U}$  such that  $H^{n-2}(\Pi \cap C'; G) = 0$ . Then, by Claim 3, there is  $\gamma_\Pi \in H^{n-1}(\Pi; G)$  such that  $\gamma_\Pi$  is not extendable over  $\Lambda_{\text{bd}\overline{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \overline{U})$ , but it is extendable over each set

$\Lambda_{\text{bd}\bar{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \bar{U} \cap \bar{G}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . In particular,  $\gamma_\Pi$  is extendable over each of the sets  $(\Lambda_{\text{bd}\bar{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \bar{U})) \cap \bar{G}_i$ . We can apply Proposition 2.3 to obtain a contradiction. Indeed, denote  $P = \Lambda_{\text{bd}\bar{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \bar{U})$  and  $P_i = P \cap \bar{G}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Clearly  $P_1 \cup P_2 = P$  and  $P_1 \cap P_2 = (\Lambda_{\text{bd}\bar{U}} \cup (K_V \cap \bar{U})) \cap C'$ . Since  $\Pi \subset \Lambda_{\text{bd}\bar{U}}$  and  $\Pi \cap \bar{U} = \emptyset$ ,  $P_1 \cap P_2 \cap \Pi = \Pi \cap C'$ . Finally, the exact sequence

$$H^{n-2}(C' \cap \Pi; G) \longrightarrow H^{n-1}(C', C' \cap \Pi; G) \longrightarrow H^{n-1}(C'; G)$$

shows that  $H^{n-1}(C', C' \cap \Pi; G) = 0$  which contradicts Proposition 2.3. Therefore, the homogeneous case of Theorem 1.3 is established.

Consider now the case when  $X$  is strongly locally homogeneous.

*Claim 6.* The point  $b$  has a local base in  $X$  consisting of open sets  $V$  with  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}; G) = 0$ .

Let  $W$  be an arbitrary neighborhood of  $b$  with  $\bar{W} \subset \Gamma$ . Since  $b$  has a base  $\mathcal{B}_C^b$  in  $C$  consisting of sets  $U$  with  $H^{n-2}(\text{bd}_C U; G) = 0$ , there is  $U \in \mathcal{B}_C^b$  such that  $\bar{U} \subset W$ . Now, we use the following well-known fact [1]: If  $F$  is a closed subset of a metric space  $Z$ , then there is a correspondence  $e : \mathcal{T}(F) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(Z)$  between the topologies of  $F$  and  $Z$  such that

$$e(\Omega) \cap F = \Omega, \quad e(\Omega_1) \cap e(\Omega_2) = e(\Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2) \quad \text{and} \quad e(\emptyset) = \emptyset.$$

Such a correspondence is called a  $K_0$ -function. It is easily seen that  $\overline{e(\Omega)} \cap F = \bar{\Omega}$  for every open  $\Omega \subset F$ . Now, we consider a  $K_0$ -function  $e : \mathcal{T}(C' \cap \bar{W}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\bar{W})$  and define  $e' : \mathcal{T}(C' \cap W) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(W)$  by  $e'(\Omega) = e(\Omega) \cap W$ . Clearly,  $e'$  is also a  $K_0$ -function, and let  $V = e'(U)$ . Then  $b \in V$  and, according to the above-mentioned properties of  $K_0$ -functions, we have

$$\bar{V} \cap C' \subset \overline{e(U)} \cap C' = \overline{e(U)} \cap \bar{W} \cap C' = \bar{U}.$$

Since  $U \subset \bar{V} \cap C'$ , we obtain  $\bar{V} \cap C' = \bar{U}$ . Similarly,  $V \cap C' = U$ . Moreover,  $U \cap \text{bd}\bar{V} = \emptyset$  because  $U \subset V$ . So,  $C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V} \subset \text{bd}_{C'} U$ . On the other hand,  $V \cap C' = U$  implies that  $\text{bd}_{C'} U \subset \bar{V} \setminus V$ . Therefore,  $C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V} = \text{bd}_{C'} U$ . Clearly,  $\text{bd}_{C'} U = \text{bd}_C U$ . So,  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}; G) = 0$ . This completes the proof of Claim 6.

Let  $W$  be as Lemma 2.2 and take another two neighborhoods  $V, U$  of  $b$  such that  $\bar{U} \subset V \subset \bar{V} \subset W$ ,  $H^{n-2}(C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}; G) = 0$  and for every two points  $x, y \in U$  there is a homeomorphism  $h$  on  $X$  with  $h(x) = y$  and  $h$  is supported by  $U$ . According to the proof of Lemma 2.2, the element  $\gamma \in H^{n-1}(F; G)$  is extendable to  $\gamma' \in H^{n-1}(M \setminus U; G)$ . Let  $\gamma_V = j_{M \setminus U, M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}}(\gamma') \in H^{n-1}(M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}; G)$  and  $\gamma_U = j_{M \setminus U, M \cap \text{bd}\bar{U}}(\gamma') \in H^{n-1}(M \cap \text{bd}\bar{U}; G)$ . Then  $\gamma_V$  is not extendable over  $M \cap \bar{V}$  (otherwise  $\gamma$  would be extendable over  $M$ ). By the same reason,  $\gamma_U$  is not extendable over  $M \cap \bar{U}$ . Moreover,  $\gamma_V = j_{M \cap (\bar{V} \setminus U), M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}}(\gamma'')$ , where  $\gamma'' = j_{M \setminus U, M \cap (\bar{V} \setminus U)}(\gamma')$ . Hence,  $\gamma_V$  is extendable over  $M \cap (\bar{V} \setminus U)$ .

Let  $A = (C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}) \cup (M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V})$ . Since  $\dim_G C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V} \leq \dim_G C' \leq n - 1$ , there exists  $\gamma_A \in H^{n-1}(A; G)$  extending  $\gamma_V$ . Observe that  $A \cap C' = C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}$  and  $A \cap M = M \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}$ . Since  $\gamma_V$  is extendable over  $M \cap (\bar{V} \setminus U)$ , so is  $\gamma_A$  over  $(M \cap (\bar{V} \setminus U)) \cup (C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V})$ . On the other hand,  $\gamma_V$  being not extendable over  $M \cap \bar{V}$  implies  $\gamma_A$  is not extendable over  $(C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}) \cup (M \cap \bar{V})$ . Hence, there is an  $(n - 1)$ -cohomology membrane  $K_A \subset (M \cap \bar{V}) \cup (C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V})$  for  $\gamma_A$  spanned on  $A$ . Therefore,  $K_A$  meets  $M \cap U$ . We can suppose that  $b \in K_A$ . Indeed, if  $b \notin K_A$

take a point  $y \in K_A \cap U$  and a homeomorphism  $h$  on  $X$  supported by  $U$  with  $h(y) = b$ . Then  $h(K_A)$  is an  $(n-1)$ -cohomological membrane for  $\gamma_A$  spanned on  $A$  and contains  $b$ .

We can suppose that  $\dim_G \text{bd}\bar{U} \leq n-1$ . Since  $K_A \cap \bar{U} = (K_A \cap \text{bd}\bar{U}) \cup (K_A \cap U)$  and  $K_A \cap U$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -set, the assumption  $\dim_G K_A \cap U \leq n-1$  would imply that  $\dim_G K_A \cap \bar{U} \leq n-1$  (by the countable sum theorem for  $\dim_G$ ). Then  $\gamma_U$  would be extendable over  $K_A \cap \bar{U}$ . Hence, because  $\gamma_A$  is extendable over  $(M \cap (\bar{V} \setminus U)) \cup (C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V})$ , we could extend  $\gamma_A$  over  $K_A$ . Therefore,  $\dim_G K_A \cap U = n$ . Consequently,  $K_A \cap U$  meets at least one  $G_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Suppose there is a point  $x \in K_A \cap U \cap G_1$ . Then  $b \neq x$  because  $b \notin G_1$ . So, there exists a neighborhood  $U'$  of  $b$  such that  $x \notin \bar{U}'$ ,  $\bar{U}' \subset U$  and for every two points  $x', y' \in U'$  there is a homeomorphism  $h'$  on  $X$  supported by  $U'$  with  $h'(x') = y'$ . Since  $U' \cap G_2 \neq \emptyset$ , we can push  $b$  by a homeomorphism  $\varphi$  on  $X$  supported by  $U'$  such that  $\varphi(b) \in U' \cap G_2$ . Then  $\varphi(K_A)$  is an  $(n-1)$ -cohomology membrane for  $\gamma_A$  spanned on  $A$  meeting both  $G_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Hence,  $\gamma_A$  is not extendable over  $\varphi(K_A)$ , but it is extendable over each  $\varphi(K_A) \cap \bar{G}_i$ . Finally, let  $P = \varphi(K_A)$  and  $P_i = \varphi(K_A) \cap \bar{G}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Since  $P_1 \cup P_2 = P$  and  $A \cap P_1 \cap P_2 = A \cap C'$ , we can apply Proposition 2.3 with  $\gamma = \gamma_A$  to obtain that  $H^{n-1}(C', A \cap C') \neq 0$ . Finally, since  $H^{n-2}(A \cap C'; G) = 0$  (recall that  $A \cap C' = C' \cap \text{bd}\bar{V}$ ), the exact sequence from the proof of Claim 2 implies  $H^{n-1}(C', A \cap C') = 0$ , a contradiction. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.3.

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