

## THE $\gamma_p$ PROPERTY AND THE REALS

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ABSTRACT. The  $\gamma_p$  property may be generalized by using filters on  $\omega$  in a very natural way. We analyze the necessary requirements for a space  $\mathcal{X}$  to have property  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  for a filter  $\mathcal{F}$ . We construct special filters for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property, in particular a P-point and a Q-point.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Our terminology is standard, but we review the main concepts and notation. The set of natural numbers will be denoted by  $\omega$ ;  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$  denotes the collection of all its subsets. Given a set  $X$ , we write  $[X]^\omega$  and  $[X]^{<\omega}$  to denote the collection of infinite subsets and finite subsets of  $X$  respectively; if we wish to be more specific, we write  $[X]^n$  and  $[X]^{\leq n}$  to denote subsets of size  $n$  or at most  $n$  respectively. We use the well-known “almost inclusion” ordering between members of  $[\omega]^\omega$ , i.e.  $X \subseteq^* Y$  if  $X \setminus Y$  is finite. We identify  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$  with  ${}^\omega 2$  via characteristic functions. The space  ${}^\omega 2$  is further equipped with the product topology of the discrete space  $\{0, 1\}$ ; a basic neighbourhood is then a set of the form

$$\mathcal{O}_s = \{f \in {}^\omega 2 : s \subseteq f\},$$

where  $s \in {}^{<\omega} 2$ , the collection of finite binary sequences. The terms “nowhere dense”, “meager”, “Baire property” all refer to this topology.

A filter is a collection of subsets of  $\omega$  closed under finite intersections, supersets and containing all cofinite sets. It is called proper if it does not contain the empty set; thus the collection of cofinite sets is the smallest proper filter, it is called the *Fréchet* filter and is denoted by  $\mathfrak{F}$ . To avoid trivialities, we shall assume that all filters under discussion are proper. Given a collection of sets  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [\omega]^\omega$ , we denote by  $\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle$  the filter generated by  $\mathcal{A}$ , that is, the smallest filter containing each member of  $\mathcal{A}$ . For a filter  $\mathcal{F}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}^+$  denotes the set of all sets  $X$  such that  $\langle \mathcal{F} \cup \{X\} \rangle$  is a proper filter, and we call such an  $X$  compatible with  $\mathcal{F}$ . Another filter  $\mathcal{G}$  is called compatible with  $\mathcal{F}$  if every element of  $\mathcal{G}$  is compatible with  $\mathcal{F}$ , that is,  $\mathcal{F} \cup \mathcal{G}$  generates a proper filter.

The Rudin-Keisler ordering on filters is defined by

$$\mathcal{F} \leq_{RK} \mathcal{G} \text{ if } (\exists f \in {}^\omega \omega) \mathcal{G} \supseteq f^{-1}(\mathcal{F}) := \{f^{-1}[X] : X \in \mathcal{F}\}.$$

The following Lemma from [6] combinatorially describes  $F_\sigma$  filters.

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**Lemma 1.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an  $F_\sigma$  filter. Then there is an increasing sequence of natural numbers  $\langle n_k : k \in \omega \rangle$  and sets  $a_i^k \subseteq [n_k, n_{k+1})$ ,  $i < m_k$ , such that*

1.  $(\forall x \in [m_k]^{\leq k}) \bigcap_{i \in x} a_i^k \neq \emptyset$ ,
2.  $(\forall X \in \mathcal{F})(\forall^\infty k)(\exists i < m_k) a_i^k \subseteq X$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{F} = \bigcup_n \mathcal{C}_n$ , where each  $\mathcal{C}_n$  is closed, and put

$$\mathcal{C} = \{X \cup n : n \in \omega \text{ and } X \in \mathcal{C}_n\}.$$

Then again  $\mathcal{C}$  is a closed set and every member of  $\mathcal{F}$  is almost equal to a member of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Let  $n_0 = 0$  and, having defined  $n_j$  for  $j \leq k$ , choose an  $n_{k+1} > n_k$  such that

$$(\forall X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{k-1} \in \mathcal{C}) \bigcap_{i < k} X_i \cap [n_k, n_{k+1}) \neq \emptyset.$$

The existence of such an  $n_{k+1}$  follows from the fact that  $\mathcal{C}$  is closed and  $\mathcal{F}$  only contains infinite sets. Finally enumerate  $\{X \cap [n_k, n_{k+1}) : X \in \mathcal{C}\}$  as  $\{a_i^k : i < m_k\}$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

It is worth noticing that conversely, given a family  $\langle \langle a_i^k : i < m_k \rangle ; k \in \omega \rangle$  with the above properties, the collection

$$\{X : (\forall k)(\exists i < m_k) a_i^k \subseteq X\}$$

is a closed set generating an  $F_\sigma$  filter.

To define the  $\gamma$  property, we recall first the notion of an  $\omega$ -cover.

**Definition 1.2.** A collection  $\mathcal{O}$  of open sets is an  $\omega$ -cover of a topological space  $\mathcal{X}$  if  $(\forall x \in [\mathcal{X}]^{<\omega})(\exists \mathcal{O} \in \mathcal{O}) x \subseteq \mathcal{O}$ .

In this paper, we will assume to avoid trivialities that if  $\mathcal{O}$  is an  $\omega$ -cover of a space  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $\mathcal{X} \notin \mathcal{O}$ .

Traditionally, a space  $\mathcal{X}$  is said to have the  $\gamma$  property if every  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  contains a sequence  $\langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  such that

$$\mathcal{X} = \lim_n O_n,$$

where  $\lim_n O_n = \bigcup_n \bigcap_{k \geq n} O_k$ .

Following [1] and [4], we can extend the limit notion  $\lim_n O_n$  using an arbitrary filter  $\mathcal{F}$  by

$$\lim_{\mathcal{F}} O_n := \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{F}} \bigcap_{k \in A} O_k.$$

**Definition 1.3.** Given a filter  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\omega$ , a space  $\mathcal{X}$  is said to have the:

1.  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property if every  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  contains a sequence  $\langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  such that  $\mathcal{X} = \lim_{\mathcal{F}} O_n$ ,
2.  $\gamma'_{\mathcal{F}}$  property if for every sequence  $\langle \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of  $\omega$ -covers, there is  $O_n \in \mathcal{G}_n$  such that  $\mathcal{X} = \lim_{\mathcal{F}} O_n$ ,
3.  $\gamma''_{\mathcal{F}}$  property if for every sequence  $\langle \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of  $\omega$ -covers, there is  $\mathcal{H}_n \in [\mathcal{G}_n]^{<\omega}$  and a sequence  $\langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle \subseteq \bigcup_n \mathcal{H}_n$  such that  $\mathcal{X} = \lim_{\mathcal{F}} O_n$ .

The classical  $\gamma$  property can therefore be rephrased as the  $\gamma_{\mathfrak{F}\tau}$  property, and the properties  $\gamma_{\mathfrak{F}\tau}$ ,  $\gamma'_{\mathfrak{F}\tau}$  and  $\gamma''_{\mathfrak{F}\tau}$  are all equivalent ([3]); but notice that the larger the filter  $\mathcal{F}$ , the weaker these properties become. Indeed, a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  with the

$\gamma$  property necessarily has strong measure zero, but we will see later that  $\mathbb{R}$  itself can have the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property for certain (large) filters  $\mathcal{F}$ ; we will also show that the properties  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  and  $\gamma'_{\mathcal{F}}$  are not equivalent in general. Also observe that if a space  $\mathcal{X}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property, then every open  $\omega$ -cover has a countable  $\omega$ -subcover; this last property is denoted by  $\epsilon$  in [3], and we shall make use of the fact that every  $\sigma$ -compact space has this property.

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## 2. BASIC PROPERTIES

We are most interested in the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property relative to subsets of the reals  $\mathbb{R}$  (see [3] and [4]), but many basic properties will hold for any  $\sigma$ -compact space.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\mathcal{O} = \langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  be a countable  $\omega$ -cover of a space  $\mathcal{X}$ . For  $x \in [\mathcal{X}]^{<\omega}$ , let  $A_x = \{n : x \subseteq O_n\}$  and put

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}) = \langle \{A_x : x \in [\mathcal{X}]^{<\omega}\} \rangle.$$

If  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , we often abuse notation and use  $A_x$  instead of  $A_{\{x\}}$ . Thus  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  is a filter on  $\omega$  which will play an important role in the study of the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property; it shouldn't come as a surprise that if a space  $\mathcal{X}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property then the filter  $\mathcal{F}$  should be somewhat related to  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  for any  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ . In this section, we develop various tools regarding this filter.

**Proposition 2.2.** *A space  $\mathcal{X}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property if and only if  $\mathcal{X}$  has the  $\epsilon$  property and  $\mathcal{F} \geq_{RK} \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  for every countable  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ .*

*Proof.* We already noted that a space with the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property must have the  $\epsilon$  property. Further, if  $\mathcal{O} = \langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  is a countable  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then by assumption there is a subsequence  $\langle n_j : j \in \omega \rangle$  such that

$$\mathcal{X} = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{F}} \bigcap_{j \in A} O_{n_j}.$$

Define  $f \in {}^\omega \omega$  by  $f(j) = n_j$ ; we claim that  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})) \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ . Indeed, fix  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and choose  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $x \in \bigcap_{j \in B} O_{n_j}$ ; but this means that  $n_j \in A_x$  whenever  $j \in B$ , i.e.  $f[B] \subseteq A_x$  and hence  $B \subseteq f^{-1}[A_x]$ , and thus  $\mathcal{F} \geq_{RK} \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$ .

Conversely, to prove that  $\mathcal{X}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property, let  $\mathcal{O}$  be an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ . By the  $\epsilon$  property, we can assume that  $\mathcal{O} = \langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$ . Now if  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})) \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ , put  $n_j = f(j)$ , and then for  $x \in \mathcal{X}$

$$\begin{aligned} \{j : x \in O_{n_j}\} &= \{j : x \in O_{f(j)}\} \\ &= \{j : f(j) \in A_x\} \\ &= f^{-1}[A_x] \in \mathcal{F}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\mathcal{X} = \lim_{\mathcal{F}} O_{n_j}$ , and this completes the proof. □

**Corollary 2.3.** *If  $\mathcal{F} \leq_{RK} \mathcal{G}$ , then any space with  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  has  $\gamma_{\mathcal{G}}$ .*

The following lemma is straightforward.

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $\mathcal{O} = \langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  is a countable  $\omega$ -cover of a space  $\mathcal{X}$ , then for any  $A \in [\omega]^\omega$ ,*

*$A$  is compatible with  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$ , iff  $\langle O_n : n \in A \rangle$  is an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ .*

**Corollary 2.5.** *If  $A \in [\omega]^\omega$  is compatible with  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$ , where  $\mathcal{O}$  is a countable  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then*

$$\langle \{A\} \cup \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}) \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{H}(\tilde{\mathcal{O}}),$$

where  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}} = \langle \tilde{O}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  is the  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $\tilde{O}_n = O_n$  if  $n \in A$ , and  $\tilde{O}_n = \emptyset$  otherwise.

**Lemma 2.6.** *If  $\mathcal{H} = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_n)$  generates a proper filter, where each  $\mathcal{O}_n$  is a countable  $\omega$ -cover of a  $\sigma$ -compact space  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  for some  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ .*

*Proof.* Write  $\mathcal{X} = \bigcup_n \mathcal{C}_n$ , where  $\langle \mathcal{C}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  is an increasing sequence of compact sets, and let  $\mathcal{O}_n = \langle O_k^n : k \in \omega \rangle$ . We build an  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O} = \langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  by induction as follows.

Let  $n_0 = 0$  and, given  $n_k$ , choose  $n_{k+1}$  large enough so that

$$(\forall x \in [\mathcal{C}_k]^{\leq k})(\exists i \in [n_k, n_{k+1})) x \subseteq \bigcap_{j \leq k} O_i^j.$$

This is possible by the compactness of each  $\mathcal{C}_i$  and the fact that  $\mathcal{H}$  is assumed to generate a proper filter. Now for  $n_k \leq i < n_{k+1}$ , define

$$O_i = \bigcap_{j \leq k} O_i^j.$$

So  $\mathcal{O}$  is indeed an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ . Finally, if  $\{A_{x_0}^0, \dots, A_{x_m}^m\} \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ , where  $x_i \in [\mathcal{X}]^{<\omega}$  and  $A_{x_i}^i \in \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_i)$ , then let  $x = \bigcup_{i \leq m} x_i$  and choose  $k$  large enough so that  $k \geq \max\{|x|, m\}$  and  $x \subseteq \mathcal{C}_k$ . If we let  $A_x = \{n : x \subseteq O_n\}$ , then  $A_x \in \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  and  $A_x \setminus n_k \subseteq A_{x_0}^0 \cap \dots \cap A_{x_m}^m$ , as desired.  $\square$

We can also pull back  $\omega$ -covers via a surjective map:

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $f \in {}^\omega\omega$  be onto and  $\mathcal{O} = \langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  a countable  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ . Then  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{O}) := \langle \tilde{O}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  is an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ , where  $\tilde{O}_n = O_{f(n)}$  for each  $n$ , and*

$$f^{-1}(\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})) = \mathcal{H}(f^{-1}(\mathcal{O}))$$

**Lemma 2.8.** *If  $\mathcal{X}$  is a  $\sigma$ -compact space and  $\mathcal{O}$  is a countable  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  is contained in some  $F_\sigma$  filter. In particular,  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  is a meager filter.*

*Proof.* Write  $\mathcal{X} = \bigcup_n \mathcal{C}_n$ , where  $\langle \mathcal{C}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  is an increasing sequence of compact sets, and let  $\mathcal{O} = \langle O_n : n \in \omega \rangle$ . As above, let  $n_0 = 0$  and, given  $n_k$ , choose  $n_{k+1}$  large enough so that

$$(\forall x \in [\mathcal{C}_k]^{\leq k^2})(\exists i \in [n_k, n_{k+1})) x \subseteq O_i.$$

Now for  $k \in \omega$  and  $x \in [\mathcal{C}_k]^{\leq k^2}$ , let  $a_x^k = \{i \in [n_k, n_{k+1}) : x \subseteq O_i\}$ . Notice now that, given  $x_0, \dots, x_{k-1} \in [\mathcal{C}_k]^{\leq k}$ , we have  $\bigcap_{i < k} a_{x_i}^k = a_{\bigcup_{i < k} x_i}^k \neq \emptyset$ , and therefore  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  is included in the  $F_\sigma$  filter defined by the family  $\langle \langle a_x^k : x \in [\mathcal{C}_k]^{\leq k} \rangle; k \in \omega \rangle$ .  $\square$

It follows in particular from Lemma 2.8 that if  $\mathcal{X}$  is  $\sigma$ -compact and  $\mathcal{O}$  is a countable  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  is a meager filter.

**Corollary 2.9.** *Given two countable  $\omega$ -covers  $\mathcal{O}_1$  and  $\mathcal{O}_2$  of a  $\sigma$ -compact space  $\mathcal{X}$ , there is an  $f \in {}^\omega\omega$  such that  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_2))$  is compatible with  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_1)$ .*

*Proof.* As  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_1)$  is contained in some  $F_\sigma$  filter, it must be meager; indeed the proof of Lemma 2.8 provides a sequence of integers  $\langle n_k : k \in \omega \rangle$  such that

$$(\forall A \in \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_1))(\forall^\infty k) A \cap [n_k, n_{k+1}) \neq \emptyset.$$

Now we define  $f \in {}^\omega\omega$  by  $f^{-1}(k) = [n_k, n_{k+1})$ . Clearly  $f^{-1}(\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_2))$  is compatible with  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_1)$ .  $\square$

Finally, here is a well-known result ([2]) about the Rudin-Keisler ordering that we quote without proof.

**Proposition 2.10.** *The Rudin-Keisler ordering is  $2^{\aleph_0}$  upward directed.*

### 3. SPECIAL FILTERS

In this section we investigate various filters  $\mathcal{F}$  for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property; clearly Proposition 2.2, Lemma 2.8 and Proposition 2.10 combined imply the following:

**Proposition 3.1.** *Every  $\sigma$ -compact space  $\mathcal{X}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property for some filter  $\mathcal{F}$ .*

and therefore the following result of [4]:

**Corollary 3.2.** *There is a filter  $\mathcal{F}$  for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property.*

Now for any  $\sigma$ -compact space  $\mathcal{X}$  and filter  $\mathcal{F}$ , the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property is equivalent to the  $\gamma''_{\mathcal{F}}$  property; indeed in general, the  $\gamma''_{\mathcal{F}}$  property is equivalent to the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property plus the property that given any sequence  $\langle \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of  $\omega$ -covers, there is  $\mathcal{H}_n \in [\mathcal{G}_n]^{<\omega}$  such that  $\bigcup_n \mathcal{H}_n$  is again an  $\omega$ -cover (more on this below), a property clearly satisfied by  $\sigma$ -compact spaces. However a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  with the  $\gamma'_{\mathcal{F}}$  property must have strong measure zero, and therefore  $\mathbb{R}$  itself cannot have this stronger property for any  $\mathcal{F}$ .

If one wishes to investigate what possible filters  $\mathcal{F}$  could be built for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property, it is essential that we understand the combinatorics satisfied by filters of the form  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$ . They should be quite close to  $F_\sigma$  filters and turn out to be what is called a  $P^+$ -filter in [7], where it is proved that  $F_\sigma$  filters themselves are  $P^+$ -filters, and this is all we will need.

**Definition 3.3.** A filter  $\mathcal{F}$  is called a  $P^+$ -filter if, given any decreasing sequence  $\langle X_0^* \supseteq X_1^* \supseteq X_2^* \supseteq \dots \rangle$  from  $\mathcal{F}^+$ , there is an  $X \in \mathcal{F}^+$  such that  $X \subseteq^* X_n$  for each  $n$ .

**Proposition 3.4.** *Given a  $\sigma$ -compact space  $\mathcal{X}$  and a countable  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then the filter  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  is a  $P^+$ -filter.*

*Proof.*  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  is in fact a *strong*  $P^+$ -filter as defined in [7], but we shall not need this stronger property. Write  $\mathcal{X} = \bigcup_n \mathcal{C}_n$ , where  $\langle \mathcal{C}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  is an increasing sequence of compact sets, and let  $\mathcal{O} = \langle \mathcal{O}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$ . Fix a sequence  $\langle X_0^* \supseteq X_1^* \supseteq X_2^* \supseteq \dots \rangle$  from  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})^+$ .

By compactness and by Lemma 2.4, we can choose for each  $k$  a finite set  $s_k \in [X_k]^{<\omega}$  such that

$$(\forall x \in [\mathcal{C}_k]^{\leq k})(\exists i \in s_k) x \subseteq O_i.$$

Then  $X = \bigcup_k s_k \subseteq^* X_n$  for each  $n$ , and by Lemma 2.4 again it is compatible with  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$ , as  $\langle \mathcal{O}_n : n \in X \rangle$  is an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ .  $\square$

Now we are ready to show that certain special filters  $\mathcal{F}$  will provide  $\mathbb{R}$  with the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property.

**Proposition 3.5.** *Assuming the Continuum Hypothesis (or Martin’s Axiom,  $P(\mathfrak{c})$ , ...), there is a P-point  $p$  such that  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_p$  property.*

*Proof.* Assuming the Continuum Hypothesis, list all possible countable  $\omega$ -covers of  $\mathbb{R}$  as  $\langle \mathcal{O}_\alpha : \alpha < \aleph_1 \rangle$  and all possible sequences  $\langle X_0^\alpha \supseteq X_1^\alpha \supseteq \dots \rangle$  of infinite subsets of  $\omega$  for  $\alpha < \aleph_1$ .

We build an increasing sequence of filters  $\langle \mathcal{H}_\alpha : \alpha < \aleph_1 \rangle$  as follows. Having constructed compatible filters  $\mathcal{H}_\beta$  each of the form  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  for  $\beta < \alpha$ , choose by Lemmas 2.6 and 2.9 a countable  $\omega$ -cover  $\mathcal{O}$  such that  $\bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} \mathcal{H}_\beta \subseteq \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  and  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}) \geq_{RK} \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O}_\alpha)$ . Further, by Proposition 3.4 and Corollary 2.5, we can assume that some  $X_n^\alpha$  either is not compatible with  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{O})$  or else contains some infinite set  $X \subseteq^* X_n^\alpha$  for each  $n$ .

Clearly  $\mathcal{H} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \aleph_1} \mathcal{H}_\alpha$  is a P-point for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{H}}$  property. □

It is shown in [4] that  $\mathbb{R}^\omega$  cannot have the  $\gamma_p$  property whenever  $p$  is a P-point; thus we have, assuming the Continuum Hypothesis, found a filter  $p$  for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_p$  property but  $\mathbb{R}^\omega$  doesn’t; and this answers a question of [4] and [5].

We can also easily get a Q-point  $q$  for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_q$  property.

**Proposition 3.6.** *Assuming the Continuum Hypothesis (or Martin’s Axiom,  $P(\mathfrak{c})$ , ...), then for each filter  $p$  there is a Q-point  $q$  such that  $q \geq_{RK} p$ .*

*Proof.* Fix  $p$  and choose a sequence  $\langle r_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of pairwise non-isomorphic selective ultrafilters; then

$$q = p \otimes \langle r_n : n \in \omega \rangle = \{A \subseteq \omega \times \omega : \{n : \{m : \langle n, m \rangle \in r_n\} \in p\}$$

is a Q-point above  $p$  in the RK ordering. □

**Corollary 3.7.** *Assuming the Continuum Hypothesis (or Martin’s Axiom,  $P(\mathfrak{c})$ , ...), there is a Q-point  $q$  for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_q$  property.*

We remind the reader that an ultrafilter that is both a P-point and a Q-point is called selective.

The next proposition slightly improves a result from [5], where selective is used instead of semiselective.

**Proposition 3.8.** *If  $s$  is a semiselective ultrafilter and  $\mathcal{X}$  is a space with the  $\gamma_s$  property, then for every sequence  $\langle \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of  $\omega$ -covers of  $\mathcal{X}$ , there are an ultrafilter  $\tilde{s}$  isomorphic to  $s$  and for each  $n \in \omega$ ,  $W_n \in \mathcal{G}_n$  such that  $\mathcal{X} = \lim_{\tilde{s}} W_n$ .*

*Proof.* Consider a sequence  $\langle \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of  $\omega$ -covers of a space  $\mathcal{X}$ . We may assume that  $\mathcal{X}$  is infinite, and we therefore fix an infinite subset  $\{x_n : n \in \omega\}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ .

Now choose an increasing sequence  $\langle \pi_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of natural numbers such that  $\lim_n (\pi_{n+1} - \pi_n) = \infty$  and for each  $n$ , redefine

$$\mathcal{G}'_n = \left\{ \bigcap_{j=\pi_n}^{\pi_{n+1}} V_j \setminus \{x_n\} : V_j \in \mathcal{G}_j \right\}$$

and let  $\mathcal{G} = \bigcup_n \mathcal{G}'_n$ .

Then  $\mathcal{G}$  is an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ , and by the  $\gamma_s$  property there must be a sequence  $\langle U_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  from  $\mathcal{G}$  such that  $\mathcal{X} = \lim_s U_n$ .

Now let  $B_k = \{n : U_n \in \mathcal{G}'_k\}$ ; and notice that  $B_k \notin s$ . Therefore there must be an  $X \in s$  such that  $|X \cap B_k| \leq k$  for each  $k$ . But this means that we can define a one-to-one function  $\sigma : X \rightarrow \omega$  such that  $\pi_k \leq \sigma(i) < \pi_{k+1}$  whenever  $i \in B_k$ .

Finally for  $\pi_k \leq j < \pi_{k+1}$ ,  $j = \sigma(i)$ , choose  $W_j \in \mathcal{G}_j$  such that  $U_i \subseteq W_j$ ; choose  $W_j$  arbitrary from  $\mathcal{G}_j$  if  $j$  is not in the range of  $\sigma$ .

Then  $\mathcal{X} = \lim_{\bar{s}} W_n$ , where  $\bar{s} = \sigma(s)$ .  $\square$

Although properties  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  and  $\gamma''_{\mathcal{F}}$  are invariant under isomorphic transformations of the filter  $\mathcal{F}$ , this does not appear to be so with the  $\gamma'_{\mathcal{F}}$  property which is very unnatural while working with filters. The property  $\gamma'_{\bar{s}}$  for some isomorphic ultrafilter  $\bar{s}$  is called *strictly*  $W\gamma_{T(s)}$  in [5]; there is however a more natural formulation of this property.

**Definition 3.9.** A space  $\mathcal{X}$  is said to have the:

1.  $C'''(\omega)$  property if for every sequence  $\langle \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of  $\omega$ -covers of  $\mathcal{X}$ , there is a sequence  $\langle O_n \in \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  forming an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ .
2. Hurewicz( $\omega$ ) property if for every sequence  $\langle \mathcal{G}_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of  $\omega$ -covers of  $\mathcal{X}$ , there are  $\mathcal{H}_n \in [\mathcal{G}_n]^{<\omega}$  such that  $\bigcup_n \mathcal{H}_n$  is an  $\omega$ -cover of  $\mathcal{X}$ .

These are generalizations of and actually imply the classical properties  $C'''$  and *Hurewicz* respectively; further, it is proved in [8] that a space  $\mathcal{X}$  has property  $C'''(\omega)$  if and only if each finite power  $\mathcal{X}^n$  has property  $C'''$ . Note that the  $\gamma''_{\mathcal{F}}$  property defined above is clearly equivalent to the  $\gamma_{\mathcal{F}}$  property together with the Hurewicz( $\omega$ ) property. It is not hard to show that the *strict*  $W\gamma_{T(s)}$  property is nothing else than the  $\gamma_s$  property together with the  $C'''(\omega)$  property; this is a much more natural property than  $\gamma'_{\mathcal{F}}$  as far as filters are concerned.

We have shown that (assuming CH) there are P-points  $p$  and Q-points  $q$  for which  $\mathbb{R}$  has the  $\gamma_p$  and  $\gamma_q$  property; it is proved in [4] that if  $r$  is selective, then any space  $\mathcal{X}$  with the  $\gamma_r$  property has property  $C'''$  and therefore every subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  with the  $\gamma_r$  property has strong measure zero. A slight modification of this result shows that if  $s$  is a semiselective ultrafilter that is both rapid and a P-point, then any space  $\mathcal{X}$  with the  $\gamma_s$  property has property  $C'''$ .

**Proposition 3.10.** *If  $s$  is a semiselective ultrafilter, then every space with the  $\gamma_s$  property has property  $C'''(\omega)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a space with the  $\gamma_s$  property. By Theorem 2.1 (c) of [4], every finite power of  $\mathcal{X}$  has the  $\gamma_s$  property. According to the remark quoted above, every finite power of  $\mathcal{X}$  has property  $C'''$ . It then follows from Sakai's result [8] that  $\mathcal{X}$  has property  $C'''(\omega)$ .  $\square$

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