A CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CUTPOINT-ORDER ON A TREE(1)

BY
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1. **Introduction.** A *tree* is a continuum (compact, connected Hausdorff space) such that every two distinct points are separated by the omission of a third point. Let X be a tree, and let z be an arbitrary, fixed element of X. Let $Q(z)$ be the set of all pairs (a, b) in $X \times X$ such that at least one of the following three conditions is satisfied:

(i) $a = z$,

(ii) $a = b$,

(iii) a separates z and b in X.

It turns out that $Q(z)$ is a continuous partial order on X, and with respect to this partial order z is the unique minimal element. We shall refer to $Q(z)$, for any z in X, as a *cutpoint-order* [1] on the tree X. The purpose of this paper is to give a characterization of the cutpoint-order on a tree (Theorem 2). We also establish a new characterization of a tree from relation-theoretic and cohomological viewpoints (Theorem 1).

2. **Preliminaries.** A *relation* R on a space X is a subset of the cartesian product $X \times X$. If $x \in X$, we write $xR = \{y \mid (x, y) \in R\}$, $Rx = \{y \mid (y, x) \in R\}$, $RA = \bigcup\{Rx \mid x \in A\}$ and $AR = \bigcup\{xR \mid x \in A\}$. Following Wallace [11], we say that R is *left* (*right*) *monotone* if each $Rx(xR)$ is connected. A relation R is a *quasi-order* if it is reflexive and transitive; it is a *partial-order* if it is an antisymmetric quasi-order. R is *total* if for every (x, y) either $(x, y) \in R$ or $(y, x) \in R$; a *total-order* is a partial-order that is also total. A set $A \subset X$ is an *R-chain* if $R \cap (A \times A)$ is a total-order on A. An *R-minimal* element a is an element such that $(x, a) \in R$ implies $(a, x) \in R$.

DEFINITION 1. A space X is *unicoherent* if and only if X is connected and $X = A \cup B$ (with A and B closed and connected) implies that $A \cap B$ is connected. X is *hereditarily unicoherent* if every subcontinuum of X is unicoherent.

Several characterizations of a tree have been given [2], [3], [14], and [15]. Perhaps the most useful of these characterizations is the following.

Received by the editors November 11, 1965.

(1) This work constitutes Chapter II of the author's doctoral dissertation presented to the University of Florida. The author wishes to thank Professor A. D. Wallace for his guidance. She is also grateful to Professor A. R. Bednarek for many valuable comments.

LEMMA 1 [2], [3]. *A continuum X is a tree if and only if it is locally connected and hereditarily unicoherent.*

An excellent proof of this lemma may be found in Ward [15].

DEFINITION 2. A space X is said to be *semi-locally-connected* (abbreviated s.l.c.) *at a point* $x \in X$ if for each open set U in X containing x there exists an open set V such that $x \in V \subset U$ and such that $X - V$ has only a finite number of components. If X is s.l.c. at each of its points, it is said to be *s.l.c.*

The Alexander-Kolmogoroff-Wallace cohomology groups will be used as explicated in [5], [6], [8] and [12]. In what follows, the coefficient group will be arbitrary but fixed, and will therefore not be mentioned. The following Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence will be used.

LEMMA 2. *If X is a compact Hausdorff space and $X = A \cup B$, with A and B losed, then there is an exact sequence*

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{I^*} H^p(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\Delta} H^{p+1}(X) \xrightarrow{J^*} H^{p+1}(A) \times H^{p+1}(B) \xrightarrow{I^*} \cdots$$

such that $\Delta = 0$ if $p = 0$ and $A \cap B$ is connected.

Following Wallace [10], if $C \subset D$ and $h \in H^p(D)$, we denote by $h \mid C$ the image of h under the natural homomorphism induced by the inclusion map of C into D. Thus, if $h \in H^p(X)$, then $J^*(h) = (h \mid A, h \mid B)$.

DEFINITION 3. If X is a space, $A \subset X$, and h is a nonzero member of $H^p(A)$, then a closed set F ($F \subset A$) is a *floor* for h if and only if $h \mid F \neq 0$ while $h \mid F_0 = 0$ for each closed proper subset F_0 of F.

LEMMA 3 (FLOOR THEOREM [12]). *If A a closed subset of a compact Hausdorff space X and h is a nonzero member of $H^p(A)$, then h has a floor. Moreover, every floor is connected.*

The closure of a set A will be denoted by A^*, and the empty-set by $\square$.

3. **A characterization of trees.** In 1953, A. D. Wallace [9] proved that a one-codimensional compact connected and locally connected topological semigroup with unit and zero is a tree (for the definition and properties of codimension, see Cohen [4]). L. W. Anderson and L. E. Ward, Jr. in 1961 [1] modified Wallace's result by eliminating the necessity of hypothesizing a unit. More precisely, they proved that if X is a compact, connected, locally connected, one-codimensional topological semilattice, then X is a tree. Wallace [10] improved this result by weakening the local connectedness of X to semilocal connectedness of X. These elegant results on topological algebra motivated the following theorem, which bears a relation-theoretic analogy.

THEOREM 1. *If X is an s.l.c. compact Hausdorff space of codimension one equipped with a relation R such that*

(i) *$R = R^*$ and $RX = X$,*

(ii) *$H^1(Rx) = 0$ for each x in X,*

(iii) *the collection $\{Rx \mid x \in X\}$ has the finite intersection property (abbreviated f.i.p.), and*

(iv) *$Ra \cap Rb$ is connected for each pair (a, b) in $X \times X$,*

then X is a tree. Conversely, a tree satisfies all of the hypotheses described above.

LEMMA 4. *If X is regular and is s.l.c. at $x \in X$, and if x does not separate two points a and b in X, then there exists a closed and connected subset N of X such that $\{a, b\} \subset N \subset X - x$.*

This lemma was first proved by G. T. Whyburn [16] for the particular case in which X was assumed to be a metric continuum. The general case was implicit in a paper by Wallace [10].

Proof of Theorem 1. We shall show that X is hereditarily unicoherent and then using this, together with Lemma 4, to show that X is a tree. It follows from (i), (ii), and (iii) that

$$X = \bigcup \{Rx \mid x \in X\}$$

is connected, and thus X is a continuum.

We first show $H^1(X) = 0$. If there were a nonzero $h \in H^1(X)$, then there would be a nonvoid maximal tower τ of closed subsets A of X such that $h \mid RA \neq 0$. Let $A_0 = \bigcap \{A \mid A \in \tau\}$. Then $h \mid RA_0 \neq 0$, for if $h \mid RA_0 = 0$, then by the reduction theorem [8] there would be an open $V \supset RA_0$ such that $h \mid V^* = 0$. Let $U = \{x \mid Rx \subset V\}$; then it follows from (i) that U is an open set containing A_0 such that $RU \subset V$. Thus, there is an A in τ with $A \subset U$ and $RA \subset RU$ $(\subset V^*)$; therefore $h \mid RA = 0$, a contradiction.

Case 1. Card $A_0 = 1$; that is, $A_0 = \{x\}$. By (ii), $H^1(RA_0) = 0$, a contradiction.

Case 2. Card $A_0 > 1$. Write $A_0 = A_1 \cup A_2$, where both A_1 and A_2 are proper closed subsets of A_0. We consider the part

$$H^0(RA_1 \cap RA_2) \xrightarrow{\Delta} H^1(RA_0) \xrightarrow{J^*} H^1(RA_1) \times H^1(RA_2)$$

of the Mayer-Vietoris exact sequence (Lemma 2). Since by (iii) and (iv) the set

$$RA_1 \cap RA_2 = \bigcup \{Ra \cap Rb \mid (a, b) \in A_1 \times A_2\}$$

is connected, $\Delta = 0$ by Lemma 2, and

$$h \mid RA_0 \in \operatorname{Ker} J^* = \operatorname{Im} \Delta = 0,$$

a contradiction.

Since X is a continuum and $H^1(X) = 0$, X is unicoherent ([2] and [3]). X being of codimension one and $H^1(X) = 0$ imply that $H^1(K) = 0$ for every closed subset K of X [4], and thus every subcontinuum of X is unicoherent.

We now prove that every two points of X are separated in X by a third point.

Suppose there were two points a and b such that no point separates a and b in X. Then by Lemma 4, for any p different from both a and b, there would exist a continuum P that is irreducible from a to b and does not contain p. If q were an element of P distinct from a and b, there would also exist a continuum Q, irreducible from a to b, that does not contain q. But then $P \cup Q$ would be a subcontinuum of X that is not unicoherent, since (by our selection of P and Q) $P \cap Q$ would obviously not be connected. This contradiction proves that X is a tree. Our proof depends heavily on Wallace [10].

The proof for the converse of this theorem is included in the proof of the next theorem.

4. **A characterization of the cutpoint-order on a tree.** The main purpose of the next theorem is to characterize the cutpoint-order on a tree from relation-theoretic and cohomological stand-points. A relation R on a space X is said to be *closed* if it is closed in the product $X \times X$.

THEOREM 2. *If X is a compact Hausdorff space and P is a relation on X, then the conditions*

(i) *X is of codimension one and s.l.c.,*

(ii) *P is a closed partial order,*

(iii) *P is both left and right monotone and $H^1(Px) = 0$ for every x in X, and*

(iv) *$\{Px \mid x \in X\}$ has the f.i.p.*

are necessary and sufficient that X be a tree and that P be a cutpoint-order.

Proof. We first prove the sufficiency. Conditions (ii), (iv) and the first half of (iii) imply that

$$Pa \cap Pb = \bigcup \{Px \mid x \in Pa \cap Pb\}$$

is connected, and thus Theorem 1 implies that X is a tree.

Since X is compact and $\{Px \mid x \in X\}$ has the f.i.p., $\bigcap \{Px \mid x \in X\}$ is is a single point, the unique P-minimal element of X. Let us denote by $\{0\}$ the set

$$\bigcap \{Px \mid x \in X\}.$$

We prove that $P = Q(0)$. If $(a, b) \in Q(0)$ and $a = 0$ or $a = b$, then clearly (a, b) is also in P. If a separates 0 and b in X, then since Pb is a continuum containing 0 and b, it must contain a, and we again conclude that (a, b) is in P. Thus $Q(0) \subset P$. Conversely, if (a, b) is in P, then since a is in $aP \cap Pb$, and since both aP and Pb are continua, $aP \cup Pb$ is a subcontinuum of the tree X, and therefore by Lemma 1 it is unicoherent. Thus $aP \cap Pb$ is also a continuum. Now, by virtue of Hausdorff's Maximality Principle, $aP \cap Pb$ has a maximal P-chain C; such a P-chain willl be shown to be closed, connected, and unique. The closedness of C is proved in [7]. Suppose C were not connected, then there would exist two nonvoid disjoint closed sets A and B such that $C = A \cup B$ and $b \in B$. The set A contains a maximal element m. Define A' and B' by the equations

$$A' = Pm \cap C \text{ and } B' = C - Pm.$$

Then $B' \subset mP$, and since $A \subset A'$, it follows that $B' \subset B$. Now

$$A' \cap B'^* \subset Pm \cap (mP \cap B) = (Pm \cap mP) \cap B = \square,$$

therefore

$$C = A' \cup B'$$

is a separation. If b_0 designates the minimal element in B', then by the maximality of C

$$mP \cap Pb_0 = \{m, b_0\};$$

this contradicts the connectedness of $mP \cap Pb_0$. Therefore, any maximal P-chain in $aP \cap Pb$ is connected. We now show that C is unique. For, if C and C' were two distinct maximal P-chains in $aP \cap Pb$, then both C and C' would contain a and b; therefore, $C \cup C'$ would be connected, and hence $C \cap C'$ would be connected. But for $x \in C - C'$,

$$\begin{aligned} C \cap C' &= (px \cup xP) \cap C \cap C' \\ &= (px \cap C \cap C') \cup (xP \cap C \cap C') \end{aligned}$$

is obviously a separation; this is a contradiction. *Throughout the rest of proof, the unique P-chain containing a and b will be denoted by* $C_P(a, b)$.

Since $(0, b) \in Q(0) \subset P$ and X is a tree, there exists a unique connected Q-chain [14] $C_Q(0, b) \subset Pb$ that contains both 0 and b. Pb must also have a connected P-chain containing both 0 and b, and this P-chain must be unique. We denote by $C_P(0, b)$ the unique connected P-chain in Pb contining 0 and b. Since a Q-chain is also a P-chain,

$$C_P(0, b) = C_Q(0, b).$$

Similarly, there is a unique connected P-chain $C_P(0, a)$ in Pa containing both 0 and a. Clearly,

$$C_P(0, a) \cup C_P(a, b) = C_P(0, b) = C_Q(0, b).$$

As a consequence, $a \in C_Q(0, b)$, and hence $(a, b) \in Q$, which was to be proved.

We next prove the necessity. Let X be tree, and let P be the cutpoint-order on X with respect to a point z in X. We shall prove that X and P satisfy the conditions (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) stated in the theorem.

Proof of (i). By Ward [15], a tree is a compact connected commutative idempotent semigroup with zero; therefore, it is acyclic [10]. Hence, in particular, $H^1(X) = 0$. We now show that $H^1(A) = 0$ for every $A = A^* \subset X$ and thus X is of codimension one, unless X is degenerate. Suppose on the contrary that

$H^1(A) \neq 0$ for some closed subset A of X. If h is a nonzero member of $H^1(A)$, then by the Floor Theorem (Lemma 3) there exists a floor $F \subset A$ for h, which is connected. The set F being a subcontinuum of a tree is itself a tree and hence is acyclic. Therefore $H^1(F) = 0$, which contradicts the fact that F is a floor, and thus $H^1(A) = 0$. The semilocal connectedness of X follows from the fact that X is compact and locally connected (Lemma 1).

Proof of (ii). This is proved in Ward [15].

Proof of (iii). The cutpoint-order P is order dense [14], and since $P = P^*$ by (ii), every maximal P-chain in Px is connected [13]; thus Px is connected. Similarly, each xP is connected. Indeed, Px itself is a tree and therefore, as has been proved in (i), $H^1(Px) = 0$.

Proof of (iv). This is obvious, since $z \in Px$ for every $x \in X$.

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