

## HUREWICZ SETS OF REALS WITHOUT PERFECT SUBSETS

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ABSTRACT. We show that even for subsets  $X$  of the real line that do not contain perfect sets, the Hurewicz property does not imply the property  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ , asserting that for each countable family of open  $\gamma$ -covers of  $X$ , there is a choice function whose image is a  $\gamma$ -cover of  $X$ . This settles a problem of Just, Miller, Scheepers, and Szeptycki. Our main result also answers a question of Bartoszyński and the second author, and implies that for  $C_p(X)$ , the conjunction of Sakai's strong countable fan tightness and the Reznichenko property does not imply Arhangel'skii's property  $\alpha_2$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

By a *set of reals* we mean a separable, zero-dimensional, and metrizable space (such spaces are homeomorphic to subsets of the real line  $\mathbb{R}$ ). Fix a set of reals  $X$ . Let  $\mathcal{O}$  denote the collection of all open covers of  $X$ . An open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$  is a  $\gamma$ -cover of  $X$  if it is infinite and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $x$  is a member of all but finitely many members of  $\mathcal{U}$ . Let  $\Gamma$  denote the collection of all open  $\gamma$ -covers of  $X$ . Motivated by Menger's work, Hurewicz [6] introduced the *Hurewicz property*  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$ :

For each sequence  $\{\mathcal{U}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of members of  $\mathcal{O}$  that do not contain a finite subcover, there exist finite sets  $\mathcal{F}_n \subseteq \mathcal{U}_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $\{\bigcup \mathcal{F}_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \in \Gamma$ .

Every  $\sigma$ -compact space satisfies  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$ , but the converse fails [7, 2].

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be any two families. Motivated by works of Rothberger, Scheepers introduced the following prototype of properties [12]:

$S_1(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ : For each sequence  $\{\mathcal{U}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of members of  $\mathcal{A}$ , there exist members  $U_n \in \mathcal{U}_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $\{U_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \in \mathcal{B}$ .

It is easy to see that  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma) = U_{\text{fin}}(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ , and therefore  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$  implies  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$  [12]. However, a set of reals satisfying  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$  cannot contain perfect subsets [7]. It follows that, for example,  $\mathbb{R}$  satisfies  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$  but not  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ . In the fundamental paper [7], we are asked whether there are *nontrivial* examples showing that  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$  does not imply  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ .

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**Problem 1.1** (Just, Miller, Scheepers, Szeptycki [7]). Let  $X$  be a set of reals that does not contain a perfect set, but that does have the Hurewicz property. Does  $X$  then satisfy  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ ?

We give a negative answer that also yields a new result concerning function spaces.

## 2. THE MAIN THEOREM

We prove a stronger assertion than what is needed to settle Problem 1.1; this will be useful for the next section. Let  $C_\Gamma$  denote the collection of all *clopen*  $\gamma$ -covers of  $X$ . Clearly,  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$  implies  $S_1(C_\Gamma, C_\Gamma)$ .<sup>1</sup> The hypothesis in the following theorem is a consequence of the Continuum Hypothesis. See [3] for a survey of the involved cardinals.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Assume that  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c}$ . There exists a set of reals  $X$  such that:*

- (1)  $X$  does not contain a perfect set;
- (2) all finite powers of  $X$  have the Hurewicz property  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$ ;
- (3) no set of reals containing  $X$  satisfies  $S_1(C_\Gamma, C_\Gamma)$ .

Theorem 2.1 is proved in three steps. The first step is analogous to Theorem 4.2 of [5] and will be used to show that the constructed set is not contained in a set of reals satisfying  $S_1(C_\Gamma, C_\Gamma)$ . We say that a convergent sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is *nontrivial* if  $\lim_n x_n \notin \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $X$  be a subspace of a zero-dimensional metrizable space  $Y$  satisfying  $S_1(C_\Gamma, C_\Gamma)$ , and let  $\{x_n^m\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , be nontrivial convergent sequences in  $X$ . Then there are a countable closed cover  $\{F_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  of  $X$  and an infinite  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $F_k \cap \{x_n^m : n \in A\}$  is finite for all  $k, m$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $d$  be a metric on  $Y$  that generates its topology. For each  $m$ , do the following. Let  $x_m = \lim_n x_n^m$ , and for each  $n$  take a clopen neighborhood  $C_n^m$  of  $x_n^m$  in  $Y$ , whose diameter is smaller than  $d(x_n^m, x_m)/2$ . For each  $m, n$ , set

$$U_n^m = Y \setminus (C_n^0 \cup C_n^1 \cup \dots \cup C_n^m).$$

For each  $m$ ,  $\{U_n^m : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a clopen  $\gamma$ -cover of  $Y$ . Apply  $S_1(C_\Gamma, C_\Gamma)$  to get  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  such that  $\{U_{f(m)}^m : m \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a (clopen)  $\gamma$ -cover of  $Y$ . As  $U_{f(m)}^m \subseteq Y \setminus C_{f(m)}^0$  for each  $m$ , we have that the image  $A$  of  $f$  is infinite.

For each  $k$ , let  $F_k = \bigcap_{i \geq k} U_{f(i)}^i$ .  $\{F_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a closed ( $\gamma$ -)cover of  $Y$ . Fix  $k$  and  $m$ . If  $n$  is large enough and  $n \in A$ , then  $n = f(i)$  with  $i \geq m, k$ . As  $x_n^m = x_{f(i)}^m \in C_{f(i)}^m$  and  $i \geq m$ ,  $x_n^m \notin U_{f(i)}^i$ . As  $i \geq k$ ,  $U_{f(i)}^i \supseteq F_k$ , and therefore  $x_n^m \notin F_k$ .  $\square$

To make sure that our constructed set does not contain a perfect set and that it satisfies the Hurewicz property in all finite powers, we will use the following. Let  $\overline{\mathbb{N}} = \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  be the one-point compactification of  $\mathbb{N}$ , and  $\overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow \mathbb{N}}$  be the collection of all nondecreasing elements  $f$  of  $\overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\mathbb{N}}$  (endowed with the Tychonoff product topology) such that  $f(n) < f(n+1)$  whenever  $f(n) < \infty$ .  $\overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow \mathbb{N}}$  is homeomorphic to the Cantor space (see [13] for an explicit homeomorphism) and can therefore be viewed as a set of reals.

<sup>1</sup>It is an open problem whether the converse implication holds [4, 11].

Let  $S$  be the family of all nondecreasing finite sequences in  $\mathbb{N}$ . For  $s \in S$ ,  $|s|$  denotes its length. For each  $s \in S$ , define  $q_s \in \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$  by  $q_s(n) = s(n)$  if  $n < |s|$ , and  $q_s(n) = \infty$  otherwise. Let  $Q$  be the collection of all these elements  $q_s$ .  $Q$  is dense in  $\overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$ .

For a set  $D$  and  $f, g \in \mathbb{N}^D$ ,  $f \leq^* g$  means:  $f(d) \leq g(d)$  for all but finitely many  $d \in D$ . A  $\mathfrak{b}$ -scale is an unbounded (with respect to  $\leq^*$ ) set  $\{f_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{b}\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  of increasing functions, such that  $f_\alpha \leq^* f_\beta$  whenever  $\alpha < \beta$ .

**Theorem 2.3** (Bartoszyński-Tsaban [2]). *Let  $X \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$  be a union of a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -scale and  $Q$ . Then  $X$  contains no perfect subset, and all finite powers of  $H$  satisfy the Hurewicz property  $\mathcal{U}_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$ .*

For each  $s \in S$ ,  $\{q_{s \hat{\ } n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  (where  $\hat{\ }$  denotes a concatenation of sequences) is a nontrivial convergent sequence in  $\overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$ ,<sup>2</sup> and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q_{s \hat{\ } n} = q_s.$$

The following will be used in our construction.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $X$  be a closed subspace of  $\overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$ . If  $X \cap \{q_{s \hat{\ } n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is finite for each  $s \in S$ , then there exists  $\phi : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $x \in X$  and all  $n \geq 2$ ,  $x(n) \geq \phi(x \upharpoonright n)$  implies  $x(n+1) \leq \phi(x \upharpoonright (n+1))$ .*

*Proof.* For each  $s \in S$ , let  $k(s)$  be such that  $q_{s \hat{\ } k} \in \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}} \setminus X$  for all  $k \geq k(s)$ . As  $X$  is closed in  $\overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$ , for each  $k \geq k(s)$  there is  $m(s, k)$  such that

$$\{z \in \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}} : z \upharpoonright (|s| + 1) = s \hat{\ } k, z(|s| + 1) > m(s, k)\} \cap X = \emptyset.$$

(Note that  $\{z \in \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}} : z \upharpoonright (|s| + 1) = s \hat{\ } k, z(|s| + 1) > m\}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , is a neighborhood base at  $q_{s \hat{\ } k}$ .) Define  $\phi : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by

$$\phi(s) = \max\{k(s), m(s \upharpoonright (|s| - 1)), s(|s| - 1)\}$$

when  $|s| \geq 2$ , and by  $\phi(s) = 0$  when  $|s| < 2$ . Let  $x \in X$  and  $n \geq 2$ . If  $x(n) \geq \phi(x \upharpoonright n)$ , then  $x(n) \geq k(x \upharpoonright n)$ ; hence  $x(n+1) \leq m(x \upharpoonright n, x(n)) \leq \phi(x \upharpoonright (n+1))$ .  $\square$

It remains to prove the following.

**Proposition 2.5.** *Assume that  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c}$ . There exists a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -scale  $B = \{b_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{b}\}$  such that for each closed cover  $\{F_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  of  $B \cup Q$  and each infinite set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , there are  $n$  and  $s \in S$  such that  $F_n \cap \{q_{s \hat{\ } k} : k \in A\}$  is infinite.*

*Proof.* Let  $\{A_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{c}\}$  be an enumeration of all infinite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ , such that for each infinite  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , there are  $\mathfrak{c}$  many  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$  with  $A_\alpha = A$ .

As  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{d} = \mathfrak{c}$ , there is a (standard) scale in  $\mathbb{N}^S$ , that is, a family  $\{\phi_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{c}\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}^S$  such that:

- (1) for each  $\phi \in \mathbb{N}^S$ , there is  $\beta < \mathfrak{c}$  such that  $\phi \leq^* \phi_\beta$ ;
- (2) for all  $\alpha < \beta < \mathfrak{c}$ ,  $\phi_\alpha \leq^* \phi_\beta$ .

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<sup>2</sup>Strictly speaking,  $q_{s \hat{\ } n} \notin \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$  when  $n < s(|s| - 1)$ , but since we are dealing with convergent sequences, we can ignore the first few elements.

For an infinite  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , let  $\overline{A} = A \cup \{\infty\}$  and

$$\overline{A}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}} = \{x \in \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}} : x(n) \in \overline{A} \text{ for all } n\}.$$

The order isomorphism between  $A \cup \{\infty\}$  and  $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  induces an order isomorphism  $\Psi_A : \overline{A}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{N}}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$ .

By induction on  $\alpha < \mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c}$ , construct a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -scale  $B = \{b_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{c}\}$  such that for each  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ ,  $b_\alpha \in (A_\alpha)^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$ , and

$$\Psi_{A_\alpha}(b_\alpha)(n) > \phi_\alpha(\Psi_{A_\alpha}(b_\alpha) \upharpoonright n)$$

for all  $n \geq 2$ .

We claim that  $X = B \cup Q$  is as required. Indeed, let  $A$  be an infinite subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Take an increasing enumeration  $\{\beta_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{c}\}$  of  $\{\alpha < \mathfrak{c} : A_\alpha = A\}$ . For each  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ ,  $b_{\beta_\alpha} \in \overline{A}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}}$ . Set  $c_\alpha = \Psi_A(b_{\beta_\alpha})$ , and  $C = \{c_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{c}\}$ . By the construction of the functions  $b_\alpha$ ,

$$c_\alpha(n) > \phi_{\beta_\alpha}(c_\alpha \upharpoonright n) \geq \phi_\alpha(c_\alpha \upharpoonright n)$$

for all but finitely many  $n$ .

Let  $\{K_m : m \in \mathbb{N}\}$  be a closed cover of  $C \cup Q$ . Then there are  $m$  and  $s \in S$  such that  $K_m \cap \{q_{s \cdot k} : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is infinite: Otherwise, by Lemma 2.4, for each  $m$  there is  $\psi_m \in \mathbb{N}^S$  such that for all  $x \in K_m$  and  $n \geq 2$ ,  $x(n) \geq \psi_m(x \upharpoonright n)$  implies  $x(n+1) \leq \psi_m(x \upharpoonright (n+1))$ . Let  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$  be such that for each  $m$ ,  $\phi_\alpha(s) \geq \psi_m(s)$  for all but finitely many  $s \in S$ . It is easy to verify that  $c_\alpha \notin K_m$  for all  $m$ , a contradiction.

Now consider any closed cover  $\{F_m : m \in \mathbb{N}\}$  of  $B \cup Q$  and set  $K_m = \Psi_A(F_m \cap \overline{A}^{\uparrow\mathbb{N}})$ . Let  $s \in S$  and  $m$  be such that  $K_m \cap \{q_{s \cdot k} : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is infinite. Then for  $\tilde{s} \in S$  such that  $\tilde{s}(i)$  is the  $s(i)$ -th element of  $A$  for each  $i < |s|$ , we have that  $F_m \cap \{q_{\tilde{s} \cdot k} : k \in A\}$  is infinite.  $\square$

This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1. The following corollary of Theorem 2.1 answers in the negative Problem 15(1) of Bartoszyński and the second author [2].

**Corollary 2.6.** *The union of a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -scale and  $Q$  need not satisfy  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ .*  $\square$

### 3. REFORMULATION FOR SPACES OF CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONS

Let  $Y$  be a (not necessarily metrizable) topological space. For  $y \in Y$  and  $A \subseteq Y$ , write  $\lim A = y$  if  $A$  is countable and an (any) enumeration of  $A$  converges nontrivially to  $y$ . Let  $\Gamma_y = \{A \subseteq Y : \lim A = y\}$ .  $Y$  has the Arhangel'skiĭ *property*  $\alpha_2$  [1] if  $S_1(\Gamma_y, \Gamma_y)$  holds for all  $y \in Y$ .

Fix a set of reals  $X$ .  $C_p(X)$  is the subspace of the Tychonoff product  $\mathbb{R}^X$  consisting of the continuous functions. It was recently discovered, independently by Bukovský and Haleš [4] and by Sakai [11], that  $C_p(X)$  has the property  $\alpha_2$  if, and only if,  $X$  satisfies  $S_1(C_\Gamma, C_\Gamma)$ .

Many additional connections of this type are studied in the literature. For families  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ , consider the following prototype [12].

$S_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ : For each sequence  $\{\mathcal{U}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of members of  $\mathcal{A}$ , there exist finite subsets  $\mathcal{F}_n \subseteq \mathcal{U}_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $\bigcup_n \mathcal{F}_n \in \mathcal{B}$ .

For a topological space  $Y$  and  $y \in Y$ , let  $\Omega_y = \{A \subseteq Y : y \in \overline{A} \setminus A\}$ .  $Y$  has the Arhangel'skiĭ *countable fan tightness* [1] if  $S_{\text{fin}}(\Omega_y, \Omega_y)$  holds for each  $y \in Y$ .  $Y$  has the *Reznichenko property* if for each  $y \in Y$  and each  $A \in \Omega_y$ , there are pairwise disjoint finite sets  $F_n \subseteq A$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that each neighborhood  $U$  of  $y$  intersects  $F_n$  for all but finitely many  $n$ .

For sets of reals  $X$ ,  $C_p(X)$  has countable fan tightness and the Reznichenko property if, and only if, all finite powers of  $X$  have the Hurewicz property  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$  [9]. Thus, Theorem 2.1 can be reformulated as follows.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c}$ . There exists a set of reals  $X$  without perfect subsets such that  $C_p(X)$  has countable fan tightness and the Reznichenko property, but does not have the Arhangel'skiĭ property  $\alpha_2$ .*  $\square$

A topological space  $Y$  has the *Sakai strong countable fan tightness* if  $S_1(\Omega_y, \Omega_y)$  holds for each  $y \in Y$ . Sakai proved that for sets of reals,  $C_p(X)$  has strong countable fan tightness if, and only if, all finite powers of  $X$  satisfy  $S_1(\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O})$  [10]. For sets of reals  $X$ ,  $C_p(X)$  has strong countable fan tightness and the Reznichenko property if, and only if, all finite powers of  $X$  satisfy  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$  as well as  $S_1(\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O})$  [8].

If  $\mathfrak{b} \leq \text{cov}(\mathcal{M})$  and  $X$  is a union of a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -scale and  $Q$ , then all finite powers of  $X$  satisfy  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$  as well as  $S_1(\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O})$  [2]. As the Continuum Hypothesis (or just Martin's Axiom) implies that  $\mathfrak{b} = \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \mathfrak{c}$ , we have the following.

**Corollary 3.2.** *Even for  $C_p(X)$  where  $X$  is a set of reals, the conjunction of strong countable fan tightness and the Reznichenko property does not imply the Arhangel'skiĭ property  $\alpha_2$ .*  $\square$

#### 4. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND OPEN PROBLEMS

Our results are consistency results. What is not settled is whether the answers to the problems addressed in this paper are undecidable.

**Problem 4.1.** Is it consistent that all sets of reals that have the Hurewicz property  $U_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{O}, \Gamma)$  but have no perfect subsets satisfy  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ ?

**Problem 4.2.** Is it consistent that each union of a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -scale and  $Q$  satisfies:

- (1)  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$ ?
- (2)  $S_1(\Gamma, \Gamma)$  in all finite powers?

**Problem 4.3.** Is it consistent that for each set of reals  $X$ , if  $C_p(X)$  has both strong countable fan tightness and the Reznichenko property, then  $C_p(X)$  has the Arhangel'skiĭ property  $\alpha_2$ ?

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