A SPACE OF SUBSETS HAVING THE FIXED POINT PROPERTY¹

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In 1939 Wojdyslawski [6] asked whether the property of being a CAR^* (=retract of a Tychonoff cube) is preserved from a space X to the space $S(X)$ of non-null closed subsets of X . This has been answered affirmatively for a special case only, namely, when X is a Peano space. Whether the fixed point property is preserved from X to $S(X)$ is also unknown. Both properties fail to be preserved in the opposite direction [4, Corollary 1 and Corollary 10].

The object of this paper is to prove that if X is a CAR^* then $S(X)$ has the fixed point property. First it will be shown that if T is a Tychonoff cube then $S(T)$ has the fixed point property. If the space X is a CAR^* it is a retract of some cube T and hence [4] $S(X)$ is a retract of $S(T)$. Thus the fixed point property in $S(X)$ follows from that in $S(T)$.

The following notation will be used. If Y is a space then $S(Y)$ denotes the set of non-null closed subsets of Y with the usual topology [5, p. 281]. For each element a in a set A let I_a be the unit interval; then the cartesian product $T = P\{I_a: a \in A\}$ is a Tychonoff cube. Let $\mathfrak{B} = \{B: B \text{ is a finite, non-null subset of } A\}$; then for each B in $\mathfrak{B}$ let $T_B = P\{I_a: a \in B\}$. The projection functions are given by $\pi_a: T \rightarrow I_a$ and $\pi_B: T \rightarrow T_B$.

The proof of the theorem depends upon a collection of subsets of $S(T)$ defined, for B in $\mathfrak{B}$, by $S(T, B) = S(T_B) \times P\{S(I_a): a \notin B\}$. The function $r_B: S(T) \rightarrow S(T, B)$, defined by $r_B(E) = \pi_B(E) \times P\{\pi_a(E): a \notin B\}$, is a retraction of $S(T)$ onto $S(T, B)$ [1, p. 68].

The fact that the system $(\mathfrak{B}, \subset)$ is a directed set is used in the following lemma. For details on nets see [2].

LEMMA. *If $\mathfrak{C}$ is a cofinal subset of $\mathfrak{B}$ and $\{E_C\}$ is a net in $S(T)$ on $\mathfrak{C}$ then $\lim_{\mathfrak{C}} \{E_C\} = E$ implies $\lim_{\mathfrak{C}} \{r_C(E_C)\} = E$.*

PROOF. Let $N(W; V)$ be a subbasic element of the topology of $S(T)$ such that $E \in N(W; V)$. It is sufficient to show that the net $\{r_C(E_C)\}$ is eventually in $N(W; V)$. Now E being in $N(W; V)$ means that $E \subset W$ and $E \cap V \neq \emptyset$ where W and V are open subsets of T .

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Since E is compact we may assume $W = \bigcup \{W_i: i=1, \dots, n\}$, a finite union of basis elements of the form $W_i = P\{U_a: a \in B_i\} \times P\{I_a: a \notin B_i\}$ where U_a is an open subset of I_a . Let $B_0 = \bigcup \{B_i: i=1, \dots, n\}$.

If $\lim_{\mathcal{C}} \{E_C\} = E$ then there is C_1 in $\mathcal{C}$ such that $E_C \in N(W; V)$ whenever C contains C_1 . Let C_2 be in $\mathcal{C}$ such that $C_1 \subset C_2$ and $B_0 \subset C_2$.

Let C be any element of $\mathcal{C}$ which contains C_2 . If $x \in r_C(E_C)$ then there is $y \in E_C$ such that $\pi_C(x) = \pi_C(y)$. Now $y \in E_C \subset W$ and therefore for some i , $y \in W_i$. Since $B_0 \subset C_2$, it follows that $x \in W_i$ and hence $r_C(E_C) \subset W$. Note that $E_C \subset r_C(E_C)$ so that $E_C \cap V \neq \emptyset$ implies $r_C(E_C) \cap V \neq \emptyset$. This means that $r_C(E_C) \in N(W; V)$ whenever C contains C_2 , which completes the proof.

THEOREM. *The space $S(T)$ has the fixed point property.*

PROOF. It is known [3, p. 117] that $S(T)$ can be imbedded in some Tychonoff cube R and we identify $S(T)$ with its homeomorphic image in R . Since the spaces T_B and I_a are all Peano spaces, it follows [4, Theorem 8] that $S(T_B)$ and $S(I_a)$ are CAR^* 's, and hence each $S(T, B)$ is a CAR^* . Each retraction $r_B: S(T) \rightarrow S(T, B)$ can therefore be extended to a retraction $p_B: R \rightarrow S(T, B)$.

Now let $f: S(T) \rightarrow S(T)$ be a continuous function. The composition $fp_B: R \rightarrow S(T) \subset R$ is a continuous function on a cube into itself and has a fixed point. Let E_B be a fixed point of fp_B ; then $E_B \in S(T)$. This determines a net $\{E_B\}$ in the compact space $S(T)$ on $\mathcal{B}$ and hence [2, Theorem 24] there exists a subnet $\{E_C\}$ on a cofinal subset $\mathcal{C}$ of $\mathcal{B}$ with a limit E in $S(T)$. By the lemma $\lim_{\mathcal{C}} \{E_C\} = E$ implies $\lim_{\mathcal{C}} \{r_C(E_C)\} = E$. Since f is continuous this means that $\lim_{\mathcal{C}} \{fr_C(E_C)\} = f(E)$ but $fr_C(E_C) = fp_C(E_C) = E_C$. Hence $f(E) = E$ and the theorem is proved.

COROLLARY. *If X is a CAR^* then $S(X)$ has the fixed point property.*

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