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## ON TOPOLOGICAL GROUPS CONTAINING A FRÉCHET-URYSOHN FAN

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Suppose  $G$  is a topological group containing a (closed) topological copy of the Fréchet-Urysohn fan. If  $G$  is a perfectly normal sequential space (a normal  $k$ -space) then every closed metrizable subset in  $G$  is locally compact. Applying this result to topological groups whose underlying topological space can be written as the direct limit of a sequence of closed metrizable subsets, we get that every such a group either is metrizable or is homeomorphic to the product of a  $k_\omega$ -space and a discrete space.

The present investigation was stimulated by the paper [Pe] of E. Pentsak who studied the topology of the direct limit  $X^\infty = \varinjlim X^n$  of the sequence

$$X \subset X \times X \subset X \times X \times X \subset \dots,$$

where  $(X, *)$  was a “nice” pointed space and  $X^n$  was identified with the subspace  $X^n \times \{*\}$  of  $X^{n+1}$ . In particular, in [Pe] the topology of the direct limit  $l_2^\infty$ , where  $l_2$  is the separable Hilbert space, was characterized. To characterize the space  $l_2^\infty$ , it was necessary to glue together maps into  $l_2^\infty$  and at this point it turned out that the equiconnected function generated by the natural convex structure on  $l_2^\infty$  was discontinuous. The same concerned the addition operation on  $l_2^\infty$  — it was discontinuous.

So, the following question arose: is  $l_2^\infty$  homeomorphic to a topological group or a convex set in a linear topological space?

We pose this problem more generally: find simple conditions on a topological space  $X$  under which  $X$  does not support certain algebraic structure.

In order to answer this question, we will define spaces  $K$ ,  $V$ , and  $W$ , called test spaces, and will prove that existence in  $X$  (closed) subspaces homeomorphic to one (or several) of the spaces  $K$ ,  $V$ ,  $W$  forbids  $X$  to carry certain algebraic structures.

Now we define two of three test spaces.

1) *The space  $K$* . Let

$$K = \{(0, 0)\} \cup \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n \cdot m} \right) \mid n, m \in \mathbb{N} \right\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2.$$

The space  $K$  is metrizable and not locally compact. Moreover,  $K$  is a minimal space with these properties in the sense that each metrizable non-locally compact space

contains a closed copy of  $K$ . For the sake of simplicity of denotations in the sequel, put  $x_0 = (0, 0)$  and  $x_{n,m} = (\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{nm})$ ,  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus  $K = \{x_0, x_{n,m} \mid n, m \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .

2) *The space  $V$  (the Fréchet-Urysohn fan)*. Let  $S_0 = \{0\} \cup \{\frac{1}{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  denote the convergent sequence and let

$$V = \mathbb{N} \times S_0 / \mathbb{N} \times \{0\}.$$

Denote by  $\pi_V: \mathbb{N} \times S_0 \rightarrow V$  the quotient map. Let  $y_{n,m} = \pi_V(n, \frac{1}{m})$ ,  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $y_0$  be the (unique) non-isolated point of  $V$ . So  $V = \{y_0, y_{n,m} \mid n, m \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Evidently, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  the sequence  $\{y_{n,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$  converges to  $y_0$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $V_k = \{y_0, y_{n,m} \mid n \leq k, m \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . It is easy to see that  $V$  has the direct limit topology with respect to the sequence  $V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \dots$  (that is a set  $U \subset V$  is open if and only if the intersection  $U \cap V_n$  is open in  $V_n$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ).

A space  $X$  contains a closed copy of  $V$ , provided  $X$  can be written as the direct limit of a sequence

$$X_1 \subset X_2 \subset \dots,$$

where each  $X_n$  is a closed metrizable subset of  $X$ , nowhere dense in  $X_{n+1}$ . In particular, the space  $l_2^\infty$  contains a topological copy of  $V$ .

We call a subset  $A$  of a topological group  $G$  *multiplicative* if for every  $a, b \in A$  we have  $a * b \in A$  (here  $*$  stands for the group operation on  $G$ ). The following theorem implies that  $l_2^\infty$  carries no topological group structure.

**Theorem 1.** *A normal  $k$ -space  $X$  containing closed copies of the test spaces  $K$  and  $V$  is homeomorphic to a) no closed multiplicative subset of a topological group and b) no closed convex set in a linear topological space.*

*Proof.* Assume the converse and let  $f: K \times V \rightarrow X$  be the map defined for  $(x, y) \in K \times V \subset X \times X$  by  $f(x, y) = x * y$  if  $X$  is a closed multiplicative subset of a topological group with  $*$  standing for the group operation, or by  $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2}y$  if  $X$  is a closed convex set in a linear topological space. It is easily verified that the map  $f$  has the following properties:

- 1) the map  $(\text{pr}_K, f): K \times V \rightarrow K \times X$  is a closed embedding;
- 2) the map  $f_{y_0}: K \rightarrow X$  defined by  $f_{y_0}: x \mapsto f(x, y_0)$ ,  $x \in K$ , is a closed embedding.

Denote by  $\text{conv}(K) = \{(0, 0)\} \cup \{(x, y) \mid 0 < y \leq x \leq 1\}$  the convex hull of  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and let  $h: X \rightarrow \text{conv}(K)$  be a continuous extension of the map  $f_{y_0}^{-1}: f_{y_0}(K) \rightarrow K$ . (This extension  $h$  can be constructed as follows. Observe that  $\text{conv}(K)$  being a convex  $G_\delta$ -subset of the plane, admits a closed embedding  $i: \text{conv}(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\omega$  and a retraction  $r: \mathbb{R}^\omega \rightarrow \text{conv}(K)$ ,  $r \circ i = \text{id}$ . By the Tietze Extension Theorem, the map  $i \circ f_{y_0}^{-1}: f_{y_0}(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\omega$  can be extended to a map  $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\omega$ . Then the map  $h = r \circ g: X \rightarrow \text{conv}(K)$  extends  $f_{y_0}^{-1}$ ).

For  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $\varepsilon_{n,m} = \frac{1}{2nm(m+1)}$  and set

$$O_{n,m} = \text{conv}(K) \cap \left( \left( \frac{1}{n} - \varepsilon_{n,m}, \frac{1}{n} + \varepsilon_{n,m} \right) \times \left( \frac{1}{nm} - \varepsilon_{n,m}, \frac{1}{nm} + \varepsilon_{n,m} \right) \right).$$

One can check that  $O_{n,m}$ ,  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , is a collection of pairwise disjoint neighborhoods of the points  $x_{n,m}$  in  $\text{conv}(K)$ . Since  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} y_{n,m} = y_0$  and  $h \circ f(x_{n,m}, y_0) = x_{n,m} = (\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{nm})$ , for every  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , we may find a number  $k(n, m) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $h \circ f(x_{n,m}, y_{n,k(n,m)}) \in O_{n,m}$ . Moreover, these numbers can be chosen so that  $k(n, m+1) > k(n, m)$  for  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let

$$Z = \{f(x_{n,m}, y_{n,k(n,m)}) \mid n, m \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Since  $h \circ f(x_0, y_0) \notin O_{n,m}$  for all  $n, m$ , we get  $f(x_0, y_0) \notin Z$ . We claim that  $Z$  is closed in  $X$ . Since  $X$  is a  $k$ -space, it suffices to show that for every compact subset  $C \subset X$  the intersection  $C \cap Z$  is closed in  $C$ . Observe that if  $f(x_{n,m}, y_{n,k(n,m)}) \in C$  then  $h(C) \cap O_{n,m} \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $h(C) \subset \text{conv}(K)$  is compact, we get the set  $C_1 = \{x_0\} \cup \{x_{n,m} \mid h(C) \cap O_{n,m} \neq \emptyset\}$  is compact too. Because the map  $(\text{pr}_K, f): K \times V \rightarrow K \times X$  is a closed embedding, the set  $(\text{pr}_K, f)^{-1}(C_1 \times C) \subset K \times V$  is compact and its projection  $C_2$  onto  $V$  is compact too. Since  $V = \varinjlim V_n$ , we get  $C_2 \subset V_{n_0}$  for some  $n_0$ . Observe that  $C \cap Z \subset f(C_1 \times C_2)$  and thus  $C \cap Z \subset \{f(x_{n,m}, y_{n,k(n,m)}) \mid n \leq n_0, x_{n,m} \in C_1\}$ . Because of compactness of  $C_1$  the latter set is finite. Then  $C \cap Z$  is finite and hence closed in  $C$ .

Therefore  $Z \not\ni f(x_0, y_0)$  is a closed set in  $X$ . Using continuity of  $f$ , find neighborhoods  $U(x_0) \subset K$  and  $V(y_0) \subset V$  of  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  such that  $f(U(x_0) \times V(y_0)) \cap Z = \emptyset$ . Fix  $n$  such that  $x_{n,m} \in U(x_0)$  for every  $m$ . Since the sequence  $\{y_{n,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$  converges to  $y_0$  and the sequence  $\{k(n,m)\}_{m=1}^\infty$  is increasing we may find  $m$  such that  $y_{n,k(n,m)} \in V(y_0)$ . Then  $f(U(x_0) \times V(y_0)) \cap Z \ni f(x_{n,m}, y_{n,k(n,m)})$  is not empty, a contradiction.  $\square$

In light of Theorem 1 the following Question arises.

**Question.** Is  $l_2^\infty$  homeomorphic a) to a multiplicative subset of a topological group, b) to a convex set in a linear topological space?

We will give a negative answer to the question a) under the additional assumption that the multiplicative subset contains an idempotent (the unity of the group). This follows from topological homogeneity of  $l_2^\infty$  and the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.** *A perfectly normal sequential space  $X$  containing a closed copy of  $K$  and a copy of  $V$  is homeomorphic to a) no closed convex set in a linear topological space, b) no closed multiplicative subset of a topological group, c) no multiplicative subset of a topological group such that the nonisolated point  $y_0$  of  $V \subset X$  is an idempotent.*

*Proof.* Assume the converse and similarly as in the previous proof define the map  $f: K \times V \rightarrow X$ . Observe that the map  $f$  has the following properties:

- 1') the map  $(\text{pr}_k, f): K \rightarrow V \rightarrow K \times X$  is an embedding;
- 2') the map  $f_{y_0}: K \rightarrow X$  is a closed embedding (in the case (c)  $f_{y_0}$  is the identity embedding because  $y_0$  is the unity of the group).

Let  $h: X \rightarrow \text{conv}(K)$  be a continuous extension of the map  $f_{y_0}^{-1}: f_{y_0}(K) \rightarrow K$  such that  $h^{-1}(x_0) = f(x_0, y_0)$ . (The map  $h$  can be constructed as follows. Using the perfect normality of  $X$ , fix a map  $\lambda: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $\lambda^{-1}(0) = f_{y_0}(K)$ . Let  $\tilde{h}: X \rightarrow \text{conv}(K)$  be any extension of the map  $f_{y_0}^{-1}: f_{y_0}(K) \rightarrow K$  and define a map  $h: X \rightarrow \text{conv}(K)$  letting  $h(x) = \lambda(x) \cdot x_{1,1} + (1 - \lambda(x))\tilde{h}(x)$  for  $x \in K$ .)

Similarly as in the previous proof define neighborhoods  $O_{n,m}$  and the set  $Z \not\ni f(x_0, y_0)$ . As in the proof of Theorem 1, to get a contradiction, it suffices to show that the set  $Z$  is closed in  $X$ . Since the space  $X$  is sequential, it is enough to verify that for every convergent sequence  $S \subset X$  the intersection  $S \cap Z$  is closed in  $S$ . We shall show that  $S \cap Z$  is always finite. Assume on the contrary, that  $S \cap Z$  is infinite.

If  $f(x_0, y_0)$  is not a limit point of  $S$  then  $S \cap Z$  is finite because the collection  $\{h^{-1}(O_{n,m})\}_{n,m \in \mathbb{N}}$  is discrete in  $X \setminus f(x_0, y_0)$  and  $S \setminus f(x_0, y_0)$  is compact. So assume  $f(x_0, y_0)$  is a limit point of  $S$ . Enumerate  $S \cap Z = \{z_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ . Evidently, the sequence  $\{z_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  converges to  $f(x_0, y_0)$ . For every  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  find (unique)  $n_i, m_i$  such that  $z_i = f(x_{n_i, m_i}, y_{n_i, k(n_i, m_i)})$ . Observe that the sequence  $\{x_{n_i, m_i}\}_{i=1}^\infty$  converges to  $x_0$ . Then the sequence  $\{(x_{n_i, m_i}, z_i)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  converges to  $(x_0, f(x_0, y_0))$  and lies

(together with its limit) in  $(\text{pr}_K, f)(K, V)$ . Since  $(\text{pr}_K, f)$  is an embedding and the projection  $\text{pr}_V: K \times V \rightarrow V$  is continuous, we get the set

$$C_2 = \{y_0\} \cup \{y_{n_i, k(n_i, m_i)} \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\} = \\ \text{pr}_V \circ (\text{pr}_K, f)^{-1}(\{(x_0, f(x_0, y_0))\} \cup \{(x_{n_i, m_i}, z_i) \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}) \subset V$$

is compact. Then  $C_2 \subset V_{n_0}$  for some  $n_0$  and thus the sequence  $\{n_i\}$  is bounded, a contradiction with the convergence of the sequence  $\{x_{n_i, m_i}\}$ .  $\square$

Therefore both Theorems 1 and 2 give us that  $l_2^\infty$  is homeomorphic to no topological group. And what about its powers  $(l_2^\infty)^n$ ? Do they admit a compatible group structure? It turns out that the answer here is negative too. Observe that Theorems 1 or 2 are not applicable because the powers of  $l_2^\infty$  are not  $k$ -spaces.

3) *The test space  $W$ .* We let  $W$  be the direct limit of a sequence  $W_0 \subset W_1 \subset \dots$ , where the spaces  $W_n \subset K \times V$  are defined as follows. In  $K \times V$  let us consider the points:  $z_0 = (x_0, y_0)$ ,  $z_{n,m} = (x_{n,m}, y_0)$ , and  $z_{n,m,p,q} = (x_{n,m}, y_{p,n+q})$ ,  $n, m, p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $W_0 = \{z_0, z_{n,m} \mid n, m \in \mathbb{N}\}$  and  $W_p = W_{p-1} \cup \{z_{n,m,p,q} \mid n, m, q \in \mathbb{N}\}$  for  $p \geq 1$ . It is easy to see that for every  $p \geq 1$   $W_p$  is a closed subspace of  $K \times V_p$  and  $W_0$  is a nowhere dense closed copy of  $K$  in  $W_0 \cup (W_p \setminus W_{p-1})$ . On the union  $W = \bigcup_{p=0}^\infty W_p$  consider the topology of the direct limit  $\varinjlim W_p$  allowing a subset  $U \subset W$  to be open if and only if  $U \cap W_p$  is open in  $W_p$  for every  $p$ . Observe that a space  $X$  contains a closed copy of  $W$ , provided  $X$  can be written as the direct limit of a sequence  $X_0 \subset X_1 \subset \dots$ , where each  $X_n$  is a closed metrizable subset of  $X$ ,  $X_n$  is nowhere dense in  $X_{n+1}$ , and  $X_0$  is not locally compact. Since the space  $l_2^\infty$  admits such a representation, it contains a copy of  $W$ .

Remark that each direct limit  $X$  of a sequence of metrizable spaces satisfies the following property:

( $\mathcal{M}$ ) for every map  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  of a metrizable space  $Y$ , every point  $y \in Y$  has a neighborhood  $U \subset Y$  such that  $f(U)$  admits a countable neighborhood base at  $f(y)$ .

Observe that a finite product of spaces with the property ( $\mathcal{M}$ ) satisfies this property too. Since the space  $l_2^\infty$  has the property ( $\mathcal{M}$ ) and contains a copy of the test space  $W$ , the following theorem implies that for every  $1 \leq n \leq \omega$  the power  $(l_2^\infty)^n$  does not admit a compatible group operation.

**Theorem 3.** *A topological group containing a copy of the test space  $W$  can not be embedded into a countable product of spaces satisfying the property ( $\mathcal{M}$ ).*

*Proof.* Suppose  $W \subset X \subset \prod_{n=1}^\infty X_n$ , where each  $X_n$  has the property ( $\mathcal{M}$ ). Suppose  $X$  is a topological group and denote by  $*$  the group operation and by  $e$  the unity of  $X$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $Y_k = \prod_{i=1}^k X_i$  and denote by  $\text{pr}_k: X \rightarrow Y_k$  the projection onto the initial  $k$  coordinates. By induction on  $k$  we shall construct increasing number sequences  $\{n(k)\}_{k=1}^\infty$ ,  $\{q(k, m)\}_{m=1}^\infty$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that for every  $k$  the sequence

$$\{\text{pr}_k(z_{n(k), m}^{-1} * z_{n(k), m, k, q(k, m)})\}_{m=1}^\infty$$

converges in  $Y_k$ .

Let  $n(0) = 0$  and suppose that for  $k - 1$ , the number  $n(k - 1)$  is known. Define a map  $f_k: W_0 \times W_k \rightarrow Y_k$  letting  $f_k(x, y) = \text{pr}_k(x^{-1} * y)$  for  $(x, y) \in W_0 \times W_k$ . Since the space  $W_0 \times W_k$  is metrizable and the space  $Y_k$ , being a finite product of the spaces  $X_i$ 's, has the property ( $\mathcal{M}$ ), the point  $(z_0, z_0)$  has a neighborhood  $U_1 \times U_2 \subset W_0 \times W_k$  such that  $f_k(U_1 \times U_2)$  has a countable neighborhood base  $\{O_m\}_{m=1}^\infty$  at  $f_k(z_0, z_0) = \text{pr}_k(e)$ . Pick  $n(k) > n(k - 1)$  so that  $z_{n(k), m} \in U_1$  for

every  $m$ . Since for every  $m$  the sequence  $\{z_{n(k),m,k,q}\}_{q=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $z_{n(k),m}$ , we see that the sequence  $\{\text{pr}_k(z_{n(k),m}^{-1} * z_{n(k),m,k,q})\}_{q=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $\text{pr}_k(e)$ . Thus, inductively, for every  $m$  we can find a number  $q(k,m) > q(k,m-1)$  such that  $\text{pr}_k(z_{n(k),m}^{-1} * z_{n(k),m,k,q(k,m)}) \in O_m$ . The inductive step is complete.

Consider the set

$$Z = \{z_{n(k),m,k,q(k,m)} \mid k, m \in \mathbb{N}\} \subset W$$

and notice that  $Z$  is closed in  $W$ . Since  $z_0 \notin Z$ , we may find neighborhoods  $U(z_0), U(e) \subset X$  of  $z_0$  and  $e$  such that  $(U(z_0) * U(e)) \cap Z = \emptyset$ . Let  $k$  be such that  $U(e) \supset \text{pr}_k^{-1}(O)$  for some neighborhood  $O \subset Y_k$  of  $\text{pr}_k(e)$ . We may assume the number  $k$  to be so large that  $z_{n(k),m} \in U(z_0)$  for every  $m$ . Find finally  $m$  such that

$$\text{pr}_k(z_{n(k),m}^{-1} * z_{n(k),m,k,q(k,m)}) \in O.$$

Then  $z_{n(k),m}^{-1} * z_{n(k),m,k,q(k,m)} \in U(e)$  and hence the intersection  $(U(z_0) * U(e)) \cap Z \ni z_{n(k),m}^{-1} * (z_{n(k),m}^{-1} * z_{n(k),m,k,q(k,m)}) = z_{n(k),m,k,q(k,m)}$  is not empty, a contradiction.  $\square$

Now let us consider some applications of the obtained results.

#### STRUCTURE OF TOPOLOGICAL GROUPS THAT ARE $\mathcal{M}_\omega$ -SPACES

Recall that a topological space  $X$  is called a  $k_\omega$ -space if  $X$  contains a countable collection  $\mathcal{K}$  of compact subsets of  $X$  such that a subset  $U$  of  $X$  is open in  $X$  if and only if the intersection  $U \cap K$  is closed in  $K$  for every  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  (equivalently,  $X$  is a  $k_\omega$ -space, provided  $X$  is the direct limit of a sequence of its compact subsets).

We define a topological space  $X$  to be an  $\mathcal{M}_\omega$ -space if  $X$  contains a countable collection  $\mathcal{M}$  of closed metrizable subsets of  $X$  such that a subset  $U$  of  $X$  is open in  $X$  if and only if the intersection  $U \cap M$  is closed in  $M$  for every  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  (equivalently,  $X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}_\omega$ -space, if  $X$  is the direct limit of a sequence of its closed metrizable subsets).

It turns out that an existence of a compatible group structure imposes very strict restrictions on the topology of  $\mathcal{M}_\omega$ -spaces.

**Theorem 4.** *Suppose a topological group  $X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}_\omega$ -space. If  $X$  is not metrizable, then*

- (1)  $X$  contains a closed copy of the Fréchet-Urysohn fan;
- (2) each closed metrizable subset of  $X$  is locally compact;
- (3)  $X$  contains an open subgroup  $H$  that is a  $k_\omega$ -space;
- (4)  $X$  is homeomorphic to a product of a  $k_\omega$ -space and a discrete space;
- (5)  $X$  is homeomorphic to an open subset of a  $k_\omega$ -space.

*Proof.* Suppose  $X$  is not metrizable and let  $e$  denote the unity of the group  $X$ . Let  $X = \varinjlim X_n$  be the direct limit of a sequence  $\{e\} = X_0 \subset X_1 \subset X_2 \subset \dots$  consisting of closed metrizable subsets of  $X$ . To prove 1) we will show that for every  $n$  there is  $m$  such that  $e$  is a limit point of the set  $X_m \setminus X_n$  in  $X_m$ . Fix  $n$  and a decreasing neighborhood base  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  of  $e$  in  $X_n$ . Since  $X$  is not metrizable, each  $U_i$  is not open in  $X$ , and thus  $U_i$  is not open in some  $X_{m(i)}$ . Consequently, there is a sequence  $\{y_{ij}\}_{j=1}^{\infty} \subset X_{m(i)} \setminus X_n$  convergent to a point  $x_i \in U_i$ . Let  $k(i) = \min\{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid \forall j_0 \in \mathbb{N} \exists j \geq j_0 \text{ such that } y_{ij} \in X_k\}$ . Passing to a subsequence, if necessary, we may assume that  $\{y_{ij}\}_{j=1}^{\infty} \subset X_{k(i)} \setminus X_{k(i)-1}$ .

If  $m = \sup\{k(i) \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\} < \infty$  then all the points  $y_{ij}$ ,  $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$  lie in the set  $X_m \setminus X_n$ . Since  $X_m$  is metrizable and the sequence  $\{x_i\}$  tends to  $e$ , we may choose a subsequence  $\{z_j\}_{j=1}^\infty \subset \{y_{ij} \mid i, j \in \mathbb{N}\}$  convergent to  $e$ . Thus  $e$  is a limit point of the set  $X_m \setminus X_n$  and we are done.

Now suppose  $\sup\{k(i) \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\} = \infty$ . Using the continuity of the multiplication  $*$ , find  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $U_p * U_p \subset X_k$  for some  $k$ . Let  $i$  be such that  $k(i) > k$  and  $i \geq p$ . Obviously, the sequence  $\{x_i^{-1} * y_{ij}\}_{j=1}^\infty$  converges to  $e$ . We claim that there exists  $j_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x_i^{-1} * y_{ij} \notin X_n$  for all  $j \geq j_0$ . Assuming the converse we would find  $j$  such that  $x_i^{-1} * y_{ij} \in U_p \subset X_n$ . Then  $y_{ij} \in x_i * U_p \subset U_p * U_p \subset X_k$ , a contradiction with  $k(i) > k$  and  $y_{ij} \in X_{k(i)} \setminus X_{k(i)-1}$ . Thus we have proven that  $\{x_i^{-1} * y_{ij}\}_{j \geq j_0} \subset X \setminus X_n$  for some  $j_0$ . Since this sequence converges to  $e$ , it is contained in some  $X_m$ .

Now we are ready to construct a closed copy of  $V$  in  $X$ . Applying the statement proved above, we may construct inductively an increasing number sequence  $\{m(i)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  and sequences  $\{y_{ij}\}_{j=1}^\infty$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} y_{ij} = e, \quad y_{ij} \in X_{m(i)} \setminus X_{m(i)-1}, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Evidently, the set  $\{e\} \cup \{y_{ij} \mid i, j \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a closed copy of  $V$  in  $X$ . Hence a) is proven.

To prove 2), notice that  $X$ , being a direct limit of a sequence of metrizable spaces, is a perfectly normal sequential space. Since  $X$  contains a copy of the test space  $V$ , by Theorems 1 and 2,  $X$  contains no closed copy of the test space  $K$ . Because every metrizable non-locally compact space contains a closed copy of  $K$ , every closed metrizable subset in  $X$  must be locally compact.

To prove 3), let us firstly construct an open separable subset  $U \subset X$ . By 2), each  $X_n$  is locally compact. Thus, we may choose inductively open neighborhoods  $U_n$  of  $e$  in  $X_n$  so that the closure  $\bar{U}_n$  is compact and  $\bar{U}_n \subset U_{n+1}$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since each  $\bar{U}_n$  is a (separable) metric compactum, the union  $U = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} U_n$  is an open separable subset of  $X$ . Then its span  $H = \text{span}(U)$  is an open separable subgroup of  $X$ . Using the separability of  $H$ , one can easily show that for every  $n$  the locally compact space  $H_n = H \cap X_n$  is separable, and thus  $H_n$  is a  $k_\omega$ -space. Then  $H = \varinjlim H_n$  is a  $k_\omega$ -space too. Since the subgroup  $H$  is open in  $X$ , the decomposition of  $X$  onto right residue classes of  $H$  just provides us with a homeomorphism of  $X$  onto the product  $H \times D$  for some discrete space  $D$ . Let  $\alpha D$  be the one-point compactification. Evidently,  $H \times D$  is an open subset of the  $k_\omega$ -space  $H \times \alpha D$ , thus (5) follows.  $\square$

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