

## ON THE SPARSE SET TOPOLOGY

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper we examine the regularity and pseudo-completeness of the sparse set topology introduced in [EAMES, W.: *Local property of measurable sets*, Canad. J. Math. **12** (1960), 632–640].

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### 1. Introduction

The idea of sparse sets and proximal continuous mappings were first introduced by Sarkhel and De [13] in the real numbers. Subsequently in [2], the concept of sparse sets was studied in a topological group where a topology was generated with the help of these sets which was named the sparse set topology.

In 2002 the idea of sparse sets was considered by Das and Rashid [3] in a metric space where the density function (Eames [4]) is different from the others in the sense that it happens to exceed one sometimes. It was observed in [3] that the corresponding sparse set topology is also different from that of [2] in many respects.

In this paper we first examine some further properties of this topology and primarily show that the sparse set topology is regular and pseudo-complete under some general conditions.

### 2. Preliminaries

Let  $(X, \rho)$  be a metric space. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a class of closed sets from  $(X, \rho)$  and  $\tau$  be a non-negative real valued function on  $\mathcal{C}$ . We assume that the empty set  $\emptyset$  and all the singleton sets are in  $\mathcal{C}$ , finite union of members of  $\mathcal{C}$  is in  $\mathcal{C}$  and that  $\tau(I) = 0$  if and only if  $I$  contains at most one point. For each  $A \subset X$ ,

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let  $\mu(A)$ ,  $0 \leq \mu(A) \leq \infty$ , be defined by  $\mu(A) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0+} \left[ \inf \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tau(I_n) \right]$  where the infimum is taken over all possible countable collection of sets  $I_n$  from  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $A \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n$  and the diameter of  $I_n$ ,  $\text{diam}(I_n) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n$ . As in Eames [5] we assume that such a countable collection of sets from  $\mathcal{C}$  exists for each set  $A$  and for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then  $\mu$  is an outer measure function [12, p. 35]. A set  $A$  is measurable if  $\mu(B) = \mu(A \cap B) + \mu(A^c \cap B)$  for every  $B \in \mathcal{C}$  where  $c$  stands for the complement. All Borel sets of  $(X, \rho)$  are measurable, cf. [12, pp. 102–106]. For every set  $A$  in  $X$  there is a measurable set  $B$ , called a measurable cover for  $A$  such that  $A \subset B$  and  $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$  ([12, pp. 107–108]) and so  $\mu$  is a regular outer measure function.

**DEFINITION 1.** ([4]) Let  $A \subset X$  and  $p \in X$ . Then the number  $D(A, p)$ ,  $0 \leq D(A, p) \leq \infty$ , called the density of  $A$  at  $p$ , is defined by

$$D(A, p) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0+} \left[ \sup \frac{\mu(A \cap I)}{\tau(I)} \right]$$

where the supremum is taken over all sets  $I$  from  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $p \in I$  and  $\text{diam}(I) < \varepsilon$ . When  $\tau(I) = 0$  or  $\infty$  we take  $\frac{\mu(A \cap I)}{\tau(I)} = 0$ .

In [4] it was shown that if the sets in  $\mathcal{C}$  satisfy certain regularity conditions and  $\mu(A)$  is finite then

- (i)  $D(A, p) = 1$  for almost all  $p \in A$ ,
- (ii)  $D(A, p) = 0$  for almost all  $p \in A^c$  if and only if  $A$  is measurable.

The set function  $D(\cdot, p)$  for a fixed  $p \in X$  is monotone nondecreasing, finitely subadditive. Further if  $E, F$  are measurable then  $D(E, p) + D(F, p) = D(E \cup F, p)$  a.e. in  $X$  provided  $E \cap F = \emptyset$  and also  $D(E, p) + D(E^c, p) = D(X, p)$  a.e. in  $X$  ([8]).

We now recall the definition of density topology on  $X$ .

**DEFINITION 2.** ([7]) Let  $\mathcal{D} = \{U \subset X : D(X - U, p) = 0 \text{ for all } p \in U\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{D}$  is a topology on  $X$  called the density topology (in short  $d$ -topology) and thus  $(X, \mathcal{D})$  is a topological space. Sets in  $\mathcal{D}$  are called  $d$ -open.

Open sets of  $(X, \rho)$  are  $d$ -open ([7]).

The following results of density topology will be needed.

**THEOREM 1.** ([7]) If  $E$  is measurable then the set  $\{x \in E : D(X - E, x) = 0\}$  is the  $d$ -interior of  $E$ .

**THEOREM 2.** ([7]) For any set  $E$ ,  $x \in X$  is a  $d$ -limit point of  $E$  if and only if  $D(E, x) > 0$ .

**THEOREM 3.** ([7])  $\mu(E) = 0$  if and only if  $E$  is closed and discrete.

The definition of sparse sets in a metric space was given as follows.

**DEFINITION 3.** ([3]) A set  $E \subset X$  is said to be sparse at a point  $x \in X$  where  $D(X, x) \neq 0$  if for every set  $F \subset X$  with  $D(F, x) < D(X, x)$  we have  $D(E \cup F, x) < D(X, x)$ . If  $x \in X$  is such that  $D(X, x) = 0$  then any set  $E \subset X$  is said to be sparse at  $x$ . The collection of all sets sparse at  $x$  will be denoted by  $S(x)$ .

From the definition it is clear that  $D(E, x) = 0$  implies  $E \in S(x)$  and for any  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x)$  is a hereditary ring i.e.,  $E_1, E_2 \in S(x)$  implies  $E_1 \cup E_2 \in S(x)$  and  $E \in S(x)$ ,  $A \subset E$  implies  $A \in S(x)$  ([4]). Also every measurable cover of  $E \in S(x)$  belongs to  $S(x)$  ([4]).

**DEFINITION 4.** ([3]) Let  $\mathcal{T} = \{E : E \subset X \text{ and } E^c \in S(x) \text{ for all } x \in E\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}$  is a topology on  $X$  (see [3, Theorem 4]). The topology thus obtained is called the sparse set topology or in short  $s$ -topology. The sets of  $\mathcal{T}$  are called  $s$ -open.

The  $s$ -topology is finer than  $d$ -topology and if  $E$  is  $s$ -open,  $x \in E$  then  $D(E, x) = D(X, x)$ . If for some  $x \in X$  with  $D(X, x) \neq 0$ ,  $D(E^c, x) < D(X, x)$  then  $x$  is a  $s$ -limit point of  $E$ . Also compact sets in  $s$ -topology are finite ([3]).

Throughout the paper, as in Definition 4, in  $D(X, p) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup \frac{\mu(I_n)}{\tau(I_n)}$ , the supremum will be taken over all closed sets  $I_n$  from  $\mathcal{C}$  with  $p \in I_n$  and  $\text{diam}(I_n) < \frac{1}{n}$  unless otherwise mentioned.

### 3. Regularity of $(X, \mathcal{T})$

In this section we shall show that under certain conditions,  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is regular. We first prove the following results which will be needed in Theorem 4.

**LEMMA 1.** *Open sets in  $(X, \rho)$  are  $s$ -open.*

The proof is omitted.

**LEMMA 2.** *If  $E$  is measurable then the set  $H = \{x \in E : E^c \in S(x)\}$  is the  $s$ -interior of  $E$ .*

**Proof.** Clearly  $H \subset E$ . Let  $H_1 = \{x \in E : D(X - E, x) = 0\}$ . Since  $E$  is measurable,  $\mu(E - H_1) = 0$ . Now  $H_1 \subset H$  and so  $E - H \subset E - H_1$  which implies  $\mu(E - H) = 0$ . We first show that  $H$  is  $s$ -open. Let  $x \in H$ , and  $F \subset X$  be such that  $D(F, x) < D(X, x)$ . Since  $x \in H$ ,  $E^c \in S(x)$  and so  $D(F \cup E^c, x) < D(X, x)$ . Now  $H^c = E^c \cup (E - H)$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} D(F \cup H^c, x) &= D(F \cup E^c \cup (E - H), x) \\ &\leq D(F \cup E^c, x) + D(E - H, x) \\ &= D(F \cup E^c, x) \quad (\text{since } \mu(E - H) = 0, D(E - H, x) = 0) \\ &< D(X, x) \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $H^c \in S(x)$  and consequently  $H$  is  $s$ -open.

Next let  $U$  be any  $s$ -open set contained in  $E$ . From definition  $U^c \in S(x)$  for all  $x \in U$ . Since  $E^c \subset U^c$  and  $S(x)$  is hereditary,  $E^c \in S(x)$  for all  $x \in U$ . Consequently  $U \subset H$ . Thus  $H$  is the  $s$ -interior of  $E$ .  $\square$

We now deduce the main result of this section.

**THEOREM 4.** (cf. [7, Theorem 12])  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is regular provided

- (A)  $D(X, p) < \infty$  for all  $p \in X$  and
- (B)  $A \in S(p)$  if there exists a sequence  $\{I_n\}$  from  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $p \in I_n$  and  $\text{diam}(I_n) < \frac{1}{n}$  for all  $n$  such that  $\frac{\mu(A \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Proof.** Let  $p \in X$  and  $F$  be a  $s$ -closed set such that  $p \notin F$ . Then  $p \in X - F = U$  (say) where  $U$  is  $s$ -open. Let  $D(X, p) = l$ .

*Case I.*

If  $l = 0$  then any set is sparse at  $p$  and so  $X - \{p\} \in S(p)$ . Hence  $\{p\}$  is  $s$ -open. Also since  $\{p\}$  is closed in  $(X, \rho)$ ,  $\{p\}$  is  $s$ -closed. Therefore,  $X - \{p\}$  is  $s$ -open. Thus  $p \in \{p\}$ ,  $F \subset X - \{p\}$  and  $\{p\} \cap X - \{p\} = \emptyset$  and so  $\mathcal{T}$  is regular.

*Case II.*

Let  $l > 0$ . Now since  $U = X - F$  is  $s$ -open and  $p \in U$ ,  $D(U, p) = D(X, p) = l$ . Now  $D(X, p) = l$  implies  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup \frac{\mu(I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} = l$ . For each fixed  $n$ , put  $\sup_{\text{diam}(I_n) < \frac{1}{n}} \frac{\mu(I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} = b_n$ .

Then  $b_n \rightarrow l$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $\{b_n\}$  is non-increasing and (A) holds, we can assume without any loss of generality that  $l \leq b_n < \infty$  for all  $n$ .

Again since  $D(U, p) = l$ , if we write

$$\sup_{\text{diam}(I_n) < \frac{1}{n}} \frac{\mu(U \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} = a_n$$

where  $I_n \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $p \in I_n$  for all  $n$ , then  $a_n \rightarrow l$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . So for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we can find a closed set  $I_n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  with  $p \in I_n$  and  $\text{diam}(I_n) < \frac{1}{n}$  such that  $\mu(U \cap I_n) > (a_n - \frac{1}{n^2})\tau(I_n)$ .

Since  $\mu$  is regular, there is a compact set  $C_n$  in  $(X, \rho)$  such that  $C_n \subset U \cap I_n$  and  $\mu(U \cap I_n) < \mu(C_n) + \frac{1}{n^2}\tau(I_n)$ , i.e.  $(a_n - \frac{1}{n^2})\tau(I_n) < \mu(U \cap I_n) < \mu(C_n) + \frac{1}{n^2}\tau(I_n)$ , i.e.

$$\mu(C_n) > \left(a_n - \frac{2}{n^2}\right)\tau(I_n). \quad (1)$$

Let  $C = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n$  and  $E = C \cup \{p\}$ . Now  $C_n$  being a compact subset is closed and so  $C_n \cap I_n$ ,  $(X - C_n) \cap I_n$  are all Borel sets which are measurable.

Then

$$\mu(C_n \cap I_n) + \mu((X - C_n) \cap I_n) = \mu(I_n)$$

i.e.,

$$\frac{\mu(C_n \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} + \frac{\mu((X - C_n) \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} = \frac{\mu(I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} \leq b_n$$

i.e.,

$$\frac{\mu(C_n)}{\tau(I_n)} + \frac{\mu((X - C_n) \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} \leq b_n \quad (\text{since } C_n \subset I_n)$$

Using (1) we now have

$$\left(a_n - \frac{2}{n^2}\right) + \frac{\mu((X - C_n) \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} < b_n$$

i.e.

$$\frac{\mu((X - C_n) \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} < b_n - a_n + \frac{2}{n^2}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

This gives

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu((X - C_n) \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} = 0$$

and so

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu((X - C) \cap I_n)}{\tau(I_n)} = 0 \quad (2)$$

since  $X - C \subset X - C_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . From (2) and condition (B) it follows that  $X - C \in S(p)$ . So  $X - E \in S(p)$ , since  $S(p)$  is hereditary. So by Lemma 2,  $p$  is an  $s$ -interior point of  $E$  and we can find an  $s$ -open set  $G$  such that  $p \in G \subset E$ .

We now prove that  $E^c$  is  $s$ -open. Let  $y \notin E$ . Since  $p \neq y$ , we can find a  $\delta > 0$  such that  $B(p, \delta) \cap B(y, \delta) = \emptyset$  where  $B(p, \delta)$  and  $B(y, \delta)$  denote the open balls centered at  $p$  and  $y$  respectively and radius  $\delta$ . Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $\frac{1}{k} < \delta$ . Then  $C_n \subset I_n \subset B(p, \delta)$  for all  $n \geq k$  (since  $\text{diam}(I_n) < \frac{1}{n}$ ).

We write  $C = C'_1 \cup C'_2$  where  $C'_1 = \bigcup_{i=1}^{k-1} C_i$  and  $C'_2 = \bigcup_{i=k}^{\infty} C_i$ ,  $C'_1$  being a finite union of closed sets is closed in  $(X, \rho)$  and so is  $d$ -closed. Since  $y \notin C'_1$ ,  $y$  is not a  $d$ -limit point of  $C'_1$ . Also clearly  $D(C'_2, y) = 0$ . So by Theorem 2,  $y$  is not a  $d$ -limit point of  $C'_2$ . Hence  $y$  is not a  $d$ -limit point of  $C$  which implies that  $D(C, y) = 0$  (by Theorem 2). Since  $\mu(\{p\}) = 0$ ,  $D(\{p\}, y) = 0$  and so  $D(E, y) \leq D(C, y) + D(\{p\}, y) = 0$  i.e.  $D(E, y) = 0$  for all  $y \in E^c$  which implies that  $E^c$  is  $d$ -open and so  $s$ -open. Clearly  $E \subset U$  and so  $E^c \supset F = X - U$  and  $p \in G$  such that  $G \cap E^c = \emptyset$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**DEFINITION 5.** ([12]) A topological space is quasi-regular if every non empty open set contains the closure of some non-void open set.

**COROLLARY 1.** Under the conditions (A) and (B) of Theorem 4,  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is quasi-regular.

#### 4. Pseudo-completeness of $(X, \mathcal{T})$

In this section we investigate the pseudo-completeness of  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ . The following definitions are needed.

**DEFINITION 6.** ([12]) A pseudo-base for a topological space  $(X, \tau')$  is a subset  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $\tau'$  such that every non void element of  $\tau'$  contains a non-void element of  $\mathcal{B}$ .

**DEFINITION 7.** ([9]) A topological space  $X$  is pseudo-complete if

- (i) it is quasi-regular,
- (ii) there exists a sequence  $\{P_i\}$  of pseudo-bases for  $X$  such that for every sequence of sets  $\{U_i\}$  where  $U_i \in P_i$  and  $\overline{U}_{i+1} \subset U_i$  for all  $i$ , we have  $\bigcap_i U_i \neq \emptyset$ , where bar denotes the closure.

For the next theorem we note that every proper subset of  $X$  has a measurable cover  $F \neq X$ .

**THEOREM 5.** For a compact metric space  $(X, \rho)$ ,  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is pseudo-complete if in addition to the conditions (A) and (B) of Theorem 4,  $\tau$  is monotone non-decreasing and  $D(X, p) > 0$  for all  $p \in X$ .

**Proof.**

*Step 1.* We first construct a sequence of pseudo-bases  $\{\mathcal{B}_n\}$  of  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ . Let  $U (\neq X) \in \mathcal{T}$ . Then  $U^c \in S(x)$  for all  $x \in U$ . Let  $F$  be a measurable cover of  $U^c$  (if  $U^c$  is measurable we take  $F = U^c$ ). Then  $F \in S(x)$  for all  $x \in U$  and so for all  $x \in F^c$  (since  $F^c \subset U$ ). Hence  $F^c \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $F^c \subset U$ . Let  $x \in F^c$ . For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $B(x, \frac{1}{6n})$  be the  $\rho$ -open ball centred at  $x$  with radius  $\frac{1}{6n}$ .  $B(x, \frac{1}{6n})$  is obviously  $\mathcal{T}$ -open. Let  $V = B(x, \frac{1}{6n}) \cap F^c$ . Then  $V$  is  $\mathcal{T}$ -open,  $V \subset U$  and  $\text{diam}(V) < \frac{1}{2n}$ . For each fixed  $n$  let  $\mathcal{B}_n$  consists of all such  $V$ 's as  $U$  runs over  $\mathcal{T}$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}_n$  is a pseudo-base of  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ .

*Step 2.* Let  $V \in \mathcal{B}_n$ . Then  $D(V, x) = D(X, x) = l$  (say) where  $x$  is the point used in step 1.

Now  $D(X, x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sup \frac{\mu(I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} = l$ . We can choose a positive integer  $m$  such that

$$\sup \frac{\mu(I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} < l + \frac{1}{2n^2}$$

for all  $k \geq m$ .

Again let  $a_k = \sup \frac{\mu(V \cap I_k)}{\tau(I_k)}$ . Clearly we can find a  $I_k \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $x \in I_k$ ,  $\text{diam}(I_k) < \frac{1}{k}$  and  $\frac{\mu(V \cap I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} > a_k - \frac{1}{k^2}$ .

Now for  $k \geq m$ , we have both

$$\frac{\mu(V \cap I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} > a_k - \frac{1}{k^2} \tag{3}$$

and

$$\frac{\mu(I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} \leq \sup \frac{\mu(I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} < l + \frac{1}{2n^2}. \quad (4)$$

Now since  $V$  is measurable,

$$\mu(V \cap I_k) + \mu[(X - V) \cap I_k] = \mu(I_k)$$

i.e.

$$\frac{\mu(V \cap I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} + \frac{\mu[(X - V) \cap I_k]}{\tau(I_k)} = \frac{\mu(I_k)}{\tau(I_k)}$$

i.e.

$$\frac{\mu[(X - V) \cap I_k]}{\tau(I_k)} = \frac{\mu(I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} - \frac{\mu(V \cap I_k)}{\tau(I_k)} < l + \frac{1}{2n^2} - a_k + \frac{1}{k^2}.$$

As  $k \rightarrow \infty$  we get  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu[(X - V) \cap I_k]}{\tau(I_k)} \leq \frac{1}{2n^2} < \frac{1}{n^2}$ . Thus we can find a sequence of closed sets  $\{I_k\}$  from  $\mathcal{C}$  with  $\text{diam}(I_k) < \frac{1}{k}$  such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu[(X - V) \cap I_k]}{\tau(I_k)} < \frac{1}{n^2}$  and consequently we can find a closed set  $A$  with  $\text{diam}(A) < \frac{1}{6n}$  from  $\mathcal{C}$  such that

$$\frac{\mu[(X - V) \cap A]}{\tau(A)} < \frac{1}{n^2}. \quad (5)$$

*Step 3.* Let  $\{U_n\}$  be a sequence of non void sets such that  $U_n \in \mathcal{B}_n$  for each  $n$  and  $s\text{-cl}(U_{n+1}) \subset U_n$  for all  $n$ . So  $U_{n+1} \subset U_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now  $\overline{U}_1$  being a closed subset of a compact metric space is compact. Also  $\{\overline{U}_n\}$  is a collection of closed subsets of  $\overline{U}_1$  with finite intersection property. So  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \overline{U}_n \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $\text{diam}(\overline{U}_n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \overline{U}_n = \{x_0\}$  (say). Now by (5) for each  $n$  there is a set  $A_n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $A_n \cap \overline{U}_n \neq \emptyset$ ,  $\text{diam}(A_n) < \frac{1}{6n}$  and  $\frac{\mu[(X - U_n) \cap A_n]}{\tau(A_n)} < \frac{1}{n^2}$ .

Let  $B_n = A_n \cup \{x_0\}$ . Then  $\{B_n\}$  is a sequence of closed sets of  $\mathcal{C}$  containing  $x_0$ . Since for every  $y \in A_n$ ,

$$\rho(y, x_0) \leq \rho(y, x) + \rho(x, x_0) < \frac{1}{6n} + \frac{1}{2n} < \frac{1}{n}$$

where  $x \in A_n \cap \overline{U}_n$ , we have  $\text{diam}(B_n) < \frac{1}{n}$ . Now for each fixed  $k$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu[(X - U_k) \cap B_n]}{\tau(B_n)} &\leq \frac{\mu[(X - U_k) \cap A_n]}{\tau(A_n)} \\ &\leq \frac{\mu[(X - U_n) \cap A_n]}{\tau(A_n)} < \frac{1}{n^2} \quad \text{for all } n \geq k \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\frac{\mu[(X - U_k) \cap B_n]}{\tau(B_n)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

and so by (B),  $X - U_k \in S(x_0)$ . Then  $D(X - U_k, x_0) < D(X, x_0)$  which implies  $x_0 \in s\text{-cl}(U_k)$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $s\text{-cl}(U_{k+1}) \subset U_k$  for all  $k$ ,  $x_0 \in \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} U_k$  and this completes the proof.  $\square$

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