

Jiling Cao, Department of Mathematics, The University of Auckland,  
Auckland, New Zealand, e-mail:cao@@math.auckland.ac.nz

Julian Dontchev\*, Department of Mathematics, University of Helsinki, 00014  
Helsinki, Finland, e-mail: dontchev@@cc.helsinki.fi

## ON SOME WEAKER FORMS OF CONTINUITY FOR MULTIFUNCTIONS

### Abstract

The aim of this paper is to improve some recent results of Noiri and Popa on multifunctions by utilizing the concepts of almost  $\beta$ -continuous and weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunctions. We give some more results on strong irresolvability.

### 1 Prelude

In topology, there has been recently significant interest in characterizing and investigating the properties of several weak forms of continuity for multifunctions. The development of such a theory is in fact very well motivated.

In economics, under major consideration is the so called parameterized maximization problem (see [25]). One of the very first obstacles an economist might face is that the solution of that problem might not in general be a function. Often, it is a correspondence, or what topologists call it, a multifunction. Of major interest is how this multifunction changes; in particular how and when it changes ‘continuously’. That is why, extending and studying the different forms of generalized continuity for multifunctions is a ‘real’ problem also beyond the field of topology. The famous theorem of the maximum

---

Key Words: strongly irresolvable space, multifunction, weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous, almost  $\beta$ -continuous

Mathematical Reviews subject classification: Primary: 54C08, 54C60. Secondary: 26A15, 28A05, 54H05

Received by the editors December 12, 1996

\*Research supported partially by the Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation at Merita Bank Ltd., Finland

[25], for example, involves several topological concepts — in brief, it states that every continuous function with compact range and nonempty compact-valued continuous constraints has continuous maximum and the solution of the parameterized maximization problem is an upper semi-continuous multifunction.

## 2 Introduction

In a recent paper [4], Borsík and Doboš presented a decomposition of quasi continuity. They defined almost quasi continuous functions but soon after their paper appeared Popa and Noiri [20] showed that almost quasi continuity is in fact equivalent to  $\beta$ -continuity. Most of the results of the present paper will be about functions closely related to  $\beta$ -continuity and about strong irresolvability of topological spaces, a concept introduced in 1991 by Foran and Liebnitz [8].

In [12], Neubrunn introduced the concept of upper and lower  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunctions and proved that every lower (resp. upper)  $\alpha$ -continuous and upper (resp. lower) quasi continuous multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower (resp. upper) weakly continuous. Some of the theorems of Neubrunn from [12] were recently corrected in [5].

In 1993, Popa and Noiri [21] improved the results of Neubrunn by proving that every lower (resp. upper)  $\alpha$ -continuous and upper (resp. lower)  $\beta$ -continuous multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower (resp. upper) weakly continuous. In another recent article, Noiri and Popa [15] improved some results of Popa [18, 19] by proving that if a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower (resp. upper) almost weakly continuous and upper (resp. lower) almost continuous (or quasi continuous), then  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.

In 1996, Popa and Noiri [23] introduced the concept of upper and lower almost  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunctions and proved that if a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower (resp. upper) almost  $\alpha$ -continuous and upper (resp. lower)  $\beta$ -continuous, then  $F$  is lower weakly continuous. Thus they strengthened their results from the 1993 paper. Moreover, in [23], Popa and Noiri proved that every upper almost  $\alpha$ -continuous compact-valued multifunction into a Hausdorff space  $(Y, \sigma)$  has an  $\alpha$ -closed graph in  $X \times Y$ .

The aim of this paper is to improve all of the results stated above (from [15], [21], [23]), by proving the following:

(A) Every lower (resp. upper) weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous and upper (resp. lower) almost  $\beta$ -continuous multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower (resp. upper) weakly continuous.

(B) If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower (resp. upper) almost weakly continuous and upper (resp. lower) almost quasi continuous, then  $F$  is

lower (resp. upper) weakly continuous.

(C) If  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is an upper weakly (almost)  $\alpha$ -continuous and punctually  $\alpha$ -paracompact multifunction into a Hausdorff space  $(Y, \sigma)$ , then its graph  $G(F)$  is  $\alpha$ -closed in  $X \times Y$ .

Additionally we prove that three recent concepts of Noiri [14] coincide, namely the conditions  $(\beta)$ ,  $(\beta')$  and  $(p)$ . They all are stronger forms of connectedness and strong irresolvability.

We assume that the reader is familiar with the concepts of generalized open sets: semi-open sets,  $\alpha$ -closure,  $\beta$ -interior, etc. However, their definitions can be found in almost any paper listed in our references. Only one of the concepts we use is relatively new, so we recall its definition: A subset  $S$  of a topological space  $X$  is called *b-open* [1] or *sp-open* [7] if  $A \subseteq \text{Cl}(\text{Int}(A)) \cup \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))$ . Note that every preopen and every semi-open set is *b-open* and every *b-open* set is  $\beta$ -open. The family of all semi-open (resp.  $\alpha$ -open, regular open, regular closed, semi-regular,  $\theta$ -semi-open, preopen, sg-open, *b-open*,  $\beta$ -open) subsets of  $X$  is denoted by  $SO(X)$  (resp.  $\alpha(X)$ ,  $RO(X)$ ,  $RC(X)$ ,  $SR(X)$ ,  $\theta\text{-}SO(X)$ ,  $PO(X)$ ,  $SGO(X)$ ,  $BO(X)$ ,  $\beta(X)$ ). Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a collection of sets of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ . For a point  $x \in X$ , we set  $\mathcal{K}(X, x) = \{K \in \mathcal{K}: x \in K\}$ .

For a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$ , following [3], we denote the upper and lower inverse of a subset  $V$  of  $Y$  by  $F^+(V)$  and  $F^-(V)$ , respectively:

$$F^+(V) = \{x \in X: F(x) \subseteq V\} \text{ and } F^-(V) = \{x \in X: F(x) \cap V \neq \emptyset\}.$$

The reader can find undefined notions of some generalized continuities for multifunctions from the references.

### 3 Almost $\beta$ -continuous and Weakly $\alpha$ -continuous Multifunctions

**Definition 1.** A multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is called:

- (a) *upper almost  $\beta$ -continuous* if for each point  $x$  of  $X$  and for each open set  $V$  of  $Y$  with  $F(x) \subseteq V$ , there exists  $U \in \beta(X, x)$  such that  $F(U) \subseteq \text{sCl}(V)$ .
- (b) *lower almost  $\beta$ -continuous* if for each point  $x$  of  $X$  and for each open set  $V$  of  $Y$  with  $F(x) \cap V \neq \emptyset$ , there exists  $U \in \beta(X, x)$  such that  $F(u) \cap \text{sCl}(V) \neq \emptyset$  for each  $u \in U$ .

**Theorem 1.** For a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$ , the following conditions are equivalent:

- (0)  $F$  is upper almost  $\beta$ -continuous.
- (1) For each  $x \in X$  and each  $V \in RO(Y)$  containing  $F(x)$ , there exists  $U \in \beta(X, x)$  such that  $F(U) \subseteq V$ .
- (2)  $F^+(V) \in \beta(X)$  for each  $V \in RO(Y)$ .
- (3)  $F^-(W)$  is  $\beta$ -closed for each  $V \in RC(Y)$ .
- (4)  $\beta Cl(F^-(V)) \subseteq F^-(Cl(V))$  for every  $V \in \beta(Y)$ .
- (5)  $\beta Cl(F^-(V)) \subseteq F^-(Cl(V))$  for every  $V \in SO(Y)$ .
- (6)  $\beta Cl(F^-(V)) \subseteq F^-(Cl(V))$  for every  $V \in RC(Y)$ .
- (7)  $F^+(V) \subseteq \beta Int(F^+(Int(Cl(V))))$  for every  $V \in PO(Y)$ .
- (8)  $F^+(V) \subseteq \beta Int(F^+(Int(Cl(V))))$  for every  $V \in \sigma$ .
- (9)  $F^+(V) \subseteq \beta Int(F^+(Int(Cl(V))))$  for every  $V \in RO(Y)$ .

PROOF. The proof is very similar to and based on the technique used in the proofs of [22, Theorem 3.3] and [16, Theorem 1].  $\square$

**Remark 2.** (i) In statement (5) of Theorem 1,  $SO(Y)$  can be replaced by  $\theta$ - $SO(Y)$ ,  $SR(Y)$ ,  $SGO(Y)$  or  $BO(Y)$ . This follows from the observation that each one of those classes of sets contains  $RC(Y)$  and is contained in  $\beta(Y)$ . Those relations are clear and well-known except probably the fact that every sg-closed set is  $\beta$ -closed, which on its behalf was recently proved in [6].

(ii) For similar reasons, in statement (8) of Theorem 1,  $\sigma$  can be replaced by  $\alpha(Y)$ ,  $\tau_s(Y)$ , or  $GA(Y)$ . Here  $\tau_s$  denotes the semi-regularization topology, while  $GA(Y)$  denotes the family of all generalized  $\alpha$ -open subsets of  $Y$  (see [11] for details on  $g\alpha$ -closed sets). Only recently it was shown in [6], that generalized  $\alpha$ -closed sets are preclosed.

A similar result to Theorem 1, holds for lower almost  $\beta$ -continuous multifunctions.

In [14], Noiri gave several new characterizations of hyperconnected spaces (= nonempty open sets are dense) and studied the preservation of hyperconnectedness via different kinds of mappings. In the same paper, Noiri considered the conditions  $(\beta)$ ,  $(\beta')$  and  $(p)$ , which all are stronger forms of connectedness. By definition, a space has the property:

- $(\beta)$  [14] if  $\beta Cl(W) = X$  for every nonempty  $W \in \beta(X)$ ;
- $(\beta')$  [14] if  $\beta Cl(W) = X$  for every nonempty  $W \in PO(X)$ ;

(p) [14] if  $\text{pCl}(W) = X$  for every nonempty  $W \in \text{PO}(X)$ .

Our next result shows that those three properties are equivalent, in fact equivalent to irresolvability and hyperconnectedness taken together. Recall that a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called *resolvable* [10] if  $X$  is the disjoint union of two dense subsets. In the opposite case  $(X, \tau)$  is called *irresolvable*. Recall additionally that a space  $(X, \tau)$  is *strongly irresolvable* [8] if no nonempty open set is resolvable, where a set is resolvable if it is resolvable as a subspace. The following characterization of strongly irresolvable spaces will be useful.

**Theorem 3.** *A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is strongly irresolvable if and only if  $\beta(X) = \text{SO}(X)$ .*

PROOF. (Necessity) Assume that  $X$  is strongly irresolvable. Let  $S \in \beta(X)$ . By definition,  $S \subseteq \text{Cl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(S)))$ . Without loss of generality, we assume  $S \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $U = \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(S))$ . Then  $U$  is a nonempty open set with  $\text{Cl}(U) = \text{Cl}(S)$ . We show that  $S \subseteq \text{Cl}(\text{Int}(S))$ . If not, there exists a point  $x \in S \setminus \text{Cl}(\text{Int}(S))$ . Let  $V$  be an open neighborhood of  $x$  such that  $V \cap \text{Int}(S) = \emptyset$ . Then we have  $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$  and  $V \subseteq X \setminus \text{Int}(S)$ . On one hand,  $U \cap V \subseteq \text{Cl}(U \cap V \cap S)$ . Moreover, we have  $U \cap V = U \cap V \cap (X \setminus \text{Int}(S)) \subseteq \text{Cl}((U \cap V) \setminus S)$ . It follows that  $U \cap V$  is a nonempty resolvable open subspace. This is a contradiction. Therefore  $S \in \text{SO}(X)$ .

(Sufficiency) Let  $U$  be a nonempty open resolvable subspace. Let  $(A, B)$  be a resolution of  $U$ . Observe that both  $A$  and  $B$  are preopen and hence  $\beta$ -open. Due to the assumption, they are semi-open and hence  $\alpha$ -open (both in  $X$  and in  $U$ ). Since  $A$  is both  $\alpha$ -open and  $\alpha$ -closed in  $U$ , then  $A$  is clopen and thus  $A$  is not dense in  $U$ . By contradiction,  $X$  is strongly irresolvable.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.** *For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $X$  has the property  $(\beta)$ .
- (2)  $X$  has the property  $(\beta')$ .
- (3)  $X$  has the property  $(p)$ .
- (4)  $X$  is (strongly) irresolvable and hyperconnected.
- (5) The dense subsets of  $X$  form an ultrafilter on  $X$ .

PROOF. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) and (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) are obvious.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4) Let  $U$  be open and nonempty. If  $(A, B)$  is a resolution of  $U$ , then both  $A$  and  $B$  are preopen in  $X$ . Hence  $\text{pCl}(A) \neq X$ . By contradiction

$X$  is strongly irresolvable, since  $X$  has the property  $(p)$ . For the second part, note that if  $X$  is not hyperconnected, then there exist two disjoint, nonempty, open (and hence preopen) subsets of  $X$ . Since  $X$  has the property  $(p)$ , then  $X$  must be, again by contradiction, hyperconnected.

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Let  $W \in \beta(X)$ . Observe that in hyperconnected spaces irresolvability and strong irresolvability coincide. By Theorem 3,  $W$  is semi-open. By [14, Theorem 3.1 (e)],  $\beta\text{Cl}(W) = X$ . Thus  $X$  has the property  $(\beta)$ .

(4)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (5) is proved in [9].  $\square$

One can easily find an example showing that almost  $\beta$ -continuous images of hyperconnected spaces fail to be hyperconnected (the indiscrete topology has the property  $(\beta)$  and the discrete topology on every set with at least two points is not hyperconnected). However, the following results holds. Recall first that a space  $X$  is called *nearly compact* (resp. *semi-compact*) if every cover of  $X$  consisting of regular open (resp. semi-open) sets has a finite subcover.

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $f: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  be an almost  $\beta$ -continuous surjection.*

- (i) *If  $(X, \tau)$  has the property  $(\beta)$ , then  $(Y, \sigma)$  is hyperconnected.*
- (ii) *If  $(X, \tau)$  is semi-compact and strongly irresolvable, then  $(Y, \sigma)$  is nearly compact.*

PROOF. (i) Assume that  $U$  and  $V$  are two nonempty disjoint open sets of  $Y$ . Then  $\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(U))$  and  $\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(V))$  are nonempty regular open disjoint sets of  $Y$ . Since  $f$  is an almost  $\beta$ -continuous surjection, then by Theorem 1,  $U' = f^{-1}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(U)))$  and  $V' = f^{-1}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(V)))$  are disjoint  $\beta$ -open subsets of  $X$ . Clearly  $\beta\text{Cl}(U') \neq X$ . Thus, by contradiction,  $Y$  is hyperconnected.

(ii) Let  $\{V_i: i \in I\}$  be a cover of  $Y$  consisting of regular open sets. Since  $f$  is almost  $\beta$ -continuous, then by Theorem 1, each one of the sets  $U_i = f^{-1}(V_i)$  is  $\beta$ -open and by Theorem 3 semi-open. Since  $\{U_i: i \in I\}$  is a semi-open cover of  $X$  and since  $X$  is semi-compact, then for some finite  $F \subseteq I$ , we have  $X = \cup_{i \in F} U_i$ . Thus  $Y = \cup_{i \in I} V_i$ , which shows that  $Y$  is nearly compact.  $\square$

**Remark 6.** A set-valued version of Theorem 5 (ii) exists as follows: Let  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  be an upper almost  $\beta$ -continuous compact-valued multifunction. If  $(X, \tau)$  is semi-compact and strongly irresolvable, then  $(Y, \sigma)$  is nearly compact.

**Definition 2.** A multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is called:

- (a) *upper weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous* [23] if for each point  $x$  of  $X$  and for each open set  $V$  of  $Y$  with  $F(x) \subseteq V$ , there exists  $U \in \alpha(X, x)$  such that  $F(U) \subseteq \text{Cl}(V)$ .

- (b) *lower weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous* [23] if for each point  $x$  of  $X$  and for each open set  $V$  of  $Y$  with  $F(x) \cap V \neq \emptyset$ , there exists  $U \in \alpha(X, x)$  such that  $F(u) \cap \text{Cl}(V) \neq \emptyset$  for each  $u \in U$ .

**Theorem 7.** *For a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (0)  $F$  is upper weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous.
- (1) For each  $x \in X$  and each  $V \in \sigma$  containing  $F(x)$ ,  
 $x \in \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(F^+(\text{Cl}(V))))))$ .
- (2)  $F^+(V) \subseteq \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(F^+(\text{Cl}(V))))))$  for each  $V \in \sigma$ .
- (3)  $\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(F^-(V)))) \subseteq F^-(\text{Cl}(V))$  for each  $V \in \sigma$ .
- (4)  $\alpha\text{Cl}(F^-(V)) \subseteq F^-(\text{Cl}(V))$  for each  $V \in \sigma$ .
- (5)  $F^+(V) \subseteq \alpha\text{Int}(F^+(\text{Cl}(V)))$  for each  $V \in \sigma$ .
- (6)  $\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Int}(W))))) \subseteq F^-(W)$  for every closed subset  $W$  of  $Y$ .
- (7)  $\alpha\text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Int}(W))) \subseteq F^-(W)$  for every closed subset  $W$  of  $Y$ .
- (8)  $\alpha\text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(B)))) \subseteq F^-(\text{Cl}(B))$  for every  $B \subseteq Y$ .
- (9)  $F^+(\text{Int}(B)) \subseteq \alpha\text{Int}(F^+(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(B))))$  for every  $B \in Y$ .

PROOF. The proof is very similar to the one of [15, Theorem 3.1 and Theorem 3.4]; hence we omit it.  $\square$

**Remark 8.** (i) For a singled valued function  $f: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$ , the concept of weak  $\alpha$ -continuity was introduced and studied for the first time in 1987 by Noiri [13]. In 1988, Rose [24] gave a functional tridecomposition of continuity by proving that a function  $f: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is continuous iff  $f$  is almost continuous, (sub)weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous and locally weak\*-continuous.

- (ii) In statements (2) – (5) of Theorem 7,  $\sigma$  can be replaced by  $\alpha(Y)$ ,  $PO(Y)$ ,  $GA(Y)$ ,  $\tau_s(Y)$  or  $RO(Y)$ .
- (iii) Note that every upper almost  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunction is always upper weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous but not vice versa.

A similar result to Theorem 7, holds for lower weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunctions.

#### 4 Some Miscellaneous Results

**Theorem 9.** *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous and upper almost  $\beta$ -continuous, then  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.*

PROOF. Let  $V \in \sigma$ . Since  $F$  is lower weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous, then observe that  $F^-(V) \subseteq \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(F^-(\text{Cl}(V)))) \subseteq \text{Int} \beta \text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Cl}(V)))$ . Since  $F$  is upper almost  $\beta$ -continuous, by Theorem 1 (6), we have  $\beta \text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Cl}(V))) \subseteq F^-(\text{Cl}(\text{Cl}(V))) = F^-(\text{Cl}(V))$ . Thus  $F^-(V) \subseteq \text{Int} \beta \text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Cl}(V))) \subseteq \text{Int} F^-(\text{Cl}(V))$ . From [17, Theorem 4], it follows that  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.  $\square$

**Corollary 10.** (Popa and Noiri [21], [23]) *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower (almost)  $\alpha$ -continuous and upper  $\beta$ -continuous, then  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.*

**Theorem 11.** *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is upper weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous and lower almost  $\beta$ -continuous, then  $F$  is upper weakly continuous.*

PROOF. The proof is very similar to that of Theorem 9 and is thus omitted.  $\square$

**Corollary 12.** (Popa and Noiri [21], [23]) *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is upper (almost)  $\alpha$ -continuous and lower  $\beta$ -continuous, then  $F$  is upper weakly continuous.*  $\square$

**Theorem 13.** *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower almost weakly continuous and upper almost quasi continuous, then  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.*

PROOF. Let  $V \in \sigma$ . Since  $F$  is lower almost weakly continuous, then by [15, Theorem 3.2 (b)],  $F^-(V) \subseteq \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Cl}(V))))$ . Note that  $\text{Cl}(V)$  is regular closed in  $Y$ . Thus by [16, Lemma 2(d)],  $F^-(\text{Cl}(V))$  is semi-closed in  $X$ . Hence  $F^-(V) \subseteq \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(F^-(\text{Cl}(V)))) = \text{Int}(F^-(\text{Cl}(V)))$ . From [17, Theorem 4], it follows that  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.  $\square$

**Corollary 14.** (Noiri and Popa [15]) *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower almost weakly continuous and upper almost continuous, then  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.*  $\square$

**Corollary 15.** (Noiri and Popa [15]) *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is lower quasi continuous and upper almost continuous, then  $F$  is lower weakly continuous.*  $\square$

**Theorem 16.** *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is upper almost weakly continuous and lower almost quasi continuous, then  $F$  is upper weakly continuous.*

PROOF. The proof is very similar to that of Theorem 13 and is thus omitted.  $\square$

**Corollary 17.** (Noiri and Popa [15]) *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is upper almost weakly continuous and lower almost continuous, then  $F$  is upper weakly continuous.*

**Corollary 18.** (Noiri and Popa [15]) *If a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is upper almost weakly continuous and lower quasi continuous, then  $F$  is upper weakly continuous.*

Recall first that a subset  $A$  of a space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $\alpha$ -paracompact [2] if for every open cover  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $A$  in  $(X, \tau)$ , there exists a locally finite open cover  $\mathcal{W}$  of  $A$  which refines  $\mathcal{V}$ . Furthermore, a multifunction  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is called *punctually  $\alpha$ -paracompact* [21] if  $F(x)$  is  $\alpha$ -paracompact for each point  $x \in X$ . Theorem 4.6 from [21] and Theorem 21 from [23] can be generalized as follows.

**Theorem 19.** *Let  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  be an upper weakly (almost)  $\alpha$ -continuous and punctually  $\alpha$ -paracompact multifunction into a Hausdorff space  $(Y, \sigma)$ . Then the graph  $G(F)$  of  $F$  is  $\alpha$ -closed in  $X \times Y$ .*

PROOF. Suppose that  $(x_0, y_0) \notin G(F)$ . Then  $y_0 \notin F(x_0)$ . Since  $(Y, \sigma)$  is a Hausdorff space, then for each  $y \in F(x_0)$  there exist open sets  $V(y)$  and  $W(y)$  containing  $y$  and  $y_0$  respectively such that  $V(y) \cap W(y) = \emptyset$ . The family  $\{V(y) : y \in F(x_0)\}$  is an open cover of  $F(x_0)$  which is  $\alpha$ -paracompact. Thus, it has a locally finite open refinement  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\beta : \beta \in I\}$  which covers  $F(x_0)$ . Let  $W_0$  be an open neighborhood of  $y_0$  such that  $W_0$  intersects only finitely many members  $U_{\beta_1}, U_{\beta_2}, \dots, U_{\beta_n}$  of  $\mathcal{U}$ . Choose  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  in  $F(x_0)$  such that  $U_{\beta_i} \subseteq V(y_i)$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and set  $W = W_0 \cap (\bigcap_{i=1}^n W(y_i))$ . Then  $W$  is an open neighborhood of  $y_0$  with  $W \cap (\bigcup_{\beta \in I} U_\beta) = \emptyset$ , which implies that  $W \cap \text{Cl}(\bigcup_{\beta \in I} U_\beta) = \emptyset$ . By the upper weak  $\alpha$ -continuity of  $F$ , there is a  $U \in \alpha(X, x_0)$  such that  $F(U) \subseteq \text{Cl}(\bigcup_{\beta \in I} U_\beta)$ . It follows that  $(U \times W) \cap G(F) = \emptyset$ . Therefore the graph  $G(F)$  is  $\alpha$ -closed in  $X \times Y$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 20.** (Noiri and Popa [21] and [23]) *If  $F: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is an upper (almost)  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunction into a Hausdorff space  $(Y, \sigma)$  such that  $F(x)$  is compact for each  $x \in X$ , then the graph  $G(F)$  is  $\alpha$ -closed in  $X \times Y$ .*

## References

- [1] D. Andrijević, *On  $b$ -open sets*, Mat. Vesnik, **48** (1996), 59–64.
- [2] C.E. Aull, *Paracompact subsets*, in: General Topology and its Relations to Modern Analysis and Algebra II, Proceedings of the Symposium, Prague, 1966, pp. 45–51.
- [3] C. Berge, *Espaces Topologiques. Fonctions Multivoques*, Dunod, Paris, 1959.
- [4] J. Borsík and J. Doboš, *On decompositions of quasi continuity*, Real Anal. Exchange, **16** (1990/1991), 292–305.
- [5] J. Cao and I. L. Reilly,  *$\alpha$ -continuous and  $\alpha$ -irresolute multifunctions*, Math. Bohemica, **121** (1996), 415–424.
- [6] J. Dontchev, *On some separation axioms associated with  $\tau^\alpha$* , Mem. Fac. Sci. Kochi Univ. Ser. A Math., **18** (1997), to appear.
- [7] J. Dontchev and M. Przemski, *On the various decompositions of continuous and some weakly continuous functions*, Acta Math. Hungar., **71** (1-2) (1996), 109–120.
- [8] J. Foran and P. Liebnitz, *A characterization of almost resolvable spaces*, Rend. Circ. Mat. Palermo, Serie II, Tomo **XL** (1991), 136–141.
- [9] M. Ganster, I. L. Reilly and M.K. Vamanamurthy, *Dense sets and irresolvable spaces*, Ricerche Mat., **36**, (2) (1987), 163–170.
- [10] E. Hewitt, *A problem of set-theoretic topology*, Duke Math. J., **10** (1943), 309–333.
- [11] H. Maki, R. Devi and K. Balachandran, *Generalized  $\alpha$ -closed sets in topology*, Bull. Fukuoka Univ. Ed. Part III, **42** (1993), 13–21.
- [12] T. Neubrunn, *Strongly quasi-continuous multivalued mappings*, in: General Topology and its Relations to Modern Analysis and Algebra VI (Prague 1986), Heldermann, Berlin, 1988, pp. 351–359.
- [13] T. Noiri, *Weakly  $\alpha$ -continuous functions*, Internat. J. Math. Math. Sci., **10**(3) (1987), 483–490.
- [14] T. Noiri, *Properties of hyperconnected spaces*, Acta Math. Hungar., **66** (1995), 147–154.

- [15] T. Noiri and V. Popa, *Almost weakly continuous multifunctions*, Demonstratio Math., **26**(2) (1993), 363–380.
- [16] T. Noiri and V. Popa, *Characterizations of almost quasi continuous multifunctions*, Res. Rep. Yatsushiro Nat. Coll. Tech., **15** (1993), 97–101.
- [17] V. Popa, *Weakly continuous multifunctions*, Boll. Un. Mat. Ital.(A), **15** (1978), 379–388.
- [18] V. Popa, *On some weakened forms of continuity for multifunctions*, Mat. Vesnik, **36** (1984), 339–350.
- [19] V. Popa, *Sur certaines formes faibles de continuité les multifunctions*, Rev. Roumanie Math. Pures Appl., **30** (1985), 539–546.
- [20] V. Popa and T. Noiri, *On  $\beta$ -continuous functions*, Real Anal. Exchange, **18** (1992/1993), 544–548.
- [21] V. Popa and T. Noiri, *On upper and lower  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunctions*, Math. Slovaca, **43**(4) (1993), 477–491.
- [22] V. Popa and T. Noiri, *On upper and lower almost quasi continuous multifunctions*, Bull. Inst. Math. Acad. Sinica, **21** (1993), 337–349.
- [23] V. Popa and T. Noiri, *On upper and lower almost  $\alpha$ -continuous multifunctions*, Demonstratio Math., **29**(2) (1996), 381–396.
- [24] D. Rose, *Subweakly  $\alpha$ -continuous functions*, Internat. J. Math. Math. Sci., **11**(4) (1988), 713–720.
- [25] H. R. Varian, *Microeconomic Analysis*, Third Edition (1992), W.W. Norton & Company – New York – London.