

## APOSYNDETTIC PROPERTIES OF HYPERSPACES

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Let  $X$  be a compact connected metric space and  $2^X(C(X))$  denote the hyperspace of closed subsets (subcontinua) of  $X$ . In this paper the hyperspaces are investigated with respect to the property of aposyndesis. The main result states that each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is aposyndetic. If  $X$  is semi-aposyndetic, then each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is mutually aposyndetic. An example is given of a non-semi-aposyndetic continuum for which  $C(X)$  is not mutually aposyndetic. In an extension of the main result for  $C(X)$  it is shown that  $C(X)$  is countable closed set aposyndetic. The techniques utilize the partially ordered structure of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$ .

A *continuum* will be a compact connected metric space and  $X$  will denote a continuum throughout. Each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is endowed with the finite (Vietoris) topology and since  $X$  is a continuum each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is also a continuum (see [5]). If  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are subsets of  $X$ , then  $N(A_1, \dots, A_n) = \{B \in 2^X \mid \text{for each } i = 1, \dots, n, B \cap A_i \neq \emptyset, \text{ and } B \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\}$ . If  $n$  is a positive integer,  $F_n(X) = \{B \in 2^X \mid B \text{ has at most } n \text{ elements}\}$  and  $F(X) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n(X)$ .

For notational purposes, small letters will denote elements of  $X$ , capital letters will denote subsets of  $X$  and elements of  $2^X$ , and script letters will denote subsets of  $2^X$ . If  $A \subseteq X$ , then  $A^*$  (int  $A$ ) (bd  $A$ ) will denote the closure (interior) (boundary) of  $A$  in  $X$ .

The concept of aposyndesis was introduced by F. Burton Jones [3] and several extensions of this concept have been studied. Let  $p, q \in X, p \neq q$ .  $X$  is *aposyndetic at  $p$  with respect to  $q$*  provided there exists a continuum  $M$  such that  $p \in \text{int } M$  and  $q \in X - M$ . If for each  $q \in X - p$ ,  $X$  is aposyndetic at  $p$  with respect to  $q$ , then  $X$  is *aposyndetic at  $p$* . If  $X$  is aposyndetic at each of its points then  $X$  is *aposyndetic*.  $X$  is *semi-aposyndetic* if for each pair  $(p, q)$  of distinct elements of  $X$ ,  $X$  is aposyndetic at  $p$  with respect to  $q$  or  $X$  is aposyndetic at  $q$  with respect to  $p$  (L. E. Rogers [9]).  $X$  is *mutually aposyndetic* if for each pair  $(p, q)$  of distinct elements of  $X$  there exist disjoint continua  $M$  and  $N$  such that  $p \in \text{int } M$  and  $q \in \text{int } N$  (Hagopian [2]). Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a collection of closed subsets of  $X$ . Then  $X$  is  *$\mathcal{F}$ -aposyndetic* if for each  $x \in X$  and each  $F \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $x \notin F$  there exists a continuum  $M$  such that  $x \in \text{int } M$  and  $M \cap F = \emptyset$  (Bennett [1]). If  $\mathcal{F}$  is the collection of finite (countable closed) subsets of  $X$  and  $X$  is  $\mathcal{F}$ -aposyndetic then  $X$  is said to be *finitely (countable closed set) aposyndetic*.

Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a partially ordered space. If  $x \in X$ , then  $S(x) =$

$\{y \in X \mid y \leq x\}$  and  $T(x) = \{y \in X \mid x \leq y\}$  are called the *lower and upper sets of  $x$*  respectively. Similarly, if  $A \subseteq X$ , then  $S(A) = \cup \{S(a) \mid a \in A\}$  and  $T(A) = \cup \{T(a) \mid a \in A\}$  are called the *lower and upper sets of  $A$*  respectively. If  $X$  is compact and the partial order is closed ( $\{(x, y) \mid x \leq y\}$  is closed in  $X \times X$ ), then  $S(A)$  and  $T(A)$  are closed whenever  $A$  is closed (Proposition 4, p. 44 of [6]).  $A$  is said to be *decreasing* if  $A = S(A)$  and *increasing* if  $A = T(A)$ .

The following definition is due to L. Nachbin [6]. A partially ordered space is *normally ordered* if for each pair  $A, B$  of disjoint closed subsets of  $X$  such that  $A = S(A)$  and  $B = T(B)$ , there exist disjoint open sets  $U$  and  $V$  such that  $A \subset U$  and  $B \subset V$  and such that  $U = S(U)$  and  $V = T(V)$ . It is known that any compact Hausdorff space with closed partial order is normally ordered (Theorem 4, p. 48 of [6]).

In a partially ordered space, a *chain* is a totally ordered subset. An arc which is also a chain is called an *order arc*.

It is easy to establish that the natural partial order on  $2^X(C(X))$  induced by inclusion is a closed partial order. If  $A, B \in 2^X(C(X))$ , then there exists an order arc in  $2^X(C(X))$  from  $A$  to  $B$  if and only if  $A \leq B$  and each component of  $B$  intersects  $A$  (Lemma 2.3 and Lemma 2.6 of [4]).

**LEMMA 1.** *Let  $A \in 2^X$  and  $M \in C(X)$ . Then  $T(A), T(M) \cap C(X)$ , and  $S(M) \cap C(X)$  are continua. Consequently, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is a closed set in  $2^X(C(X))$ , then  $T(\mathcal{A})$  is a continuum in  $2^X(C(X))$ .*

*Proof.*  $T(A)$  is a continuum in  $2^X$  because  $T(A) = \{B \in 2^X \mid A \subseteq B\}$  is the continuous image of  $2^X$  under the function  $C \rightarrow A \cup C$ . If  $N \in T(M) \cap C(X)$ , there exists an order arc  $\mathcal{L}$  in  $C(X)$  from  $N$  to  $X$ , and  $\mathcal{L} \subset T(M) \cap C(X)$ . It follows that  $T(M) \cap C(X)$  is connected, and since the partial order is closed,  $T(M) \cap C(X)$  is a continuum.  $S(M) \cap C(X) = C(M)$ , so  $S(M) \cap C(X)$  is a continuum. For each  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $T(A)$  is a continuum in  $2^X(C(X))$  and  $X \in T(A)$ . It follows that  $T(\mathcal{A}) = \cup \{T(A) \mid A \in \mathcal{A}\}$  is a continuum in  $2^X(C(X))$ .

**LEMMA 2.**  $2^X(C(X))$  is locally connected at  $X$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an open set containing  $X$  and  $N(U_1, \dots, U_n)$  be a basic open set such that  $X \in N(U_1, \dots, U_n) \subset \mathcal{U}$ . If  $A \in N(U_1, \dots, U_n)$ , then there exists an order arc  $\mathcal{L}$  in  $2^X(C(X))$  from  $A$  to  $X$ . Since  $A, X \in N(U_1, \dots, U_n)$ , each element of  $\mathcal{L}$  is in  $N(U_1, \dots, U_n)$ . It follows that  $N(U_1, \dots, U_n)$  is connected. Hence  $2^X(C(X))$  is locally connected at  $X$ .

The following theorem of Nachbin [6] will yield a useful method for constructing continua in the hyperspaces.

**THEOREM A.** *Let  $X$  be a normally ordered space with closed partial order and  $A$  be a compact subset of  $X$ . Then every continuous, order-preserving, real-valued function on  $A$  can be extended to  $X$  in such a way as to remain continuous and order-preserving.*

We now have the necessary equipment to prove the main result.

**THEOREM 1.** *Each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is aposyndetic.*

*Proof.* Let  $A \in 2^X(C(X))$ . We will show that  $2^X(C(X))$  is aposyndetic at  $A$  with respect to each of the other points of  $2^X(C(X))$ . If  $A = X$ , then by Lemma 2,  $2^X(C(X))$  is locally connected at  $A$  and hence aposyndetic at  $A$ . So we will assume that  $A$  is a proper closed subset (subcontinuum) of  $X$ .

Let  $B \in 2^X(C(X))$ ,  $B \neq A$ . If  $B \subset A$  or if  $B$  and  $A$  are not related under inclusion, then there exists  $x \in A$  such that  $x \notin B$ . Let  $U$  be an open set containing  $x$  such that  $U^* \cap B = \emptyset$ . Let  $V$  be an open set containing  $A - U$  such that  $x \notin V^*$ . Then  $A \in N(U, V)$  and  $B \notin N(U^*, V^*) = N(U, V)^*$  (Lemma 2.3.2 of [5]). By Lemma 1,  $T(N(U, V)^*)$  is a continuum, and  $A \in \text{int } T(N(U, V)^*)$ . Furthermore,  $B \notin T(N(U, V)^*)$ . Hence  $2^X(C(X))$  is aposyndetic at  $A$  with respect to  $B$ .

Now suppose  $A, B \in C(X)$  and  $A \subset B$ . Let  $\mathcal{C} = \{A\} \cup \{B\} \cup F_1(X)$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is a compact subset of  $C(X)$ . Define  $f: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$f(C) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } C = A \text{ or } C \in F_1(X) \\ 1 & \text{if } C = B. \end{cases}$$

Since  $A$  is a proper subset of  $B$ ,  $f$  is continuous and order-preserving, so by Theorem A,  $f$  has a continuous extension  $\hat{f}: C(X) \rightarrow R$  (reals) which is also order-preserving. Since  $C(X)$  is a continuum,  $\hat{f}(C(X))$  is a closed interval, and since  $\hat{f}$  is order-preserving, for some  $b \geq 1$ ,  $\hat{f}(C(X)) = [0, b]$ . Let  $t \in (0, 1)$  and consider  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$ . If  $L \in \hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$ , then  $S(L) \subset \hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$ . By Lemma 1,  $S(L)$  is a continuum. Moreover,  $S(L) \cap F_1(X) \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $F_1(X) \subset \hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$  and  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t]) = \cup \{S(L) \mid L \in \hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])\}$ , it follows that  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$  is connected, and since  $\hat{f}$  is continuous, it follows that  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$  is a continuum. Furthermore,  $A \in \text{int } \hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$  and  $B \notin \hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$ . Hence  $C(X)$  is aposyndetic at  $A$  with respect to  $B$ . This concludes the proof that  $C(X)$  is aposyndetic.

Finally, suppose  $A, B \in 2^X$  and  $A \subset B$ . Let  $U$  be an open set such that  $A \subset U$  and  $B - U^* \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $\mathcal{H} = N(U)^* \cup N(X - U)$ . Observe that  $A \in \text{int } \mathcal{H}$  and  $B \notin \mathcal{H}$ . Now  $F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}$ .

We will show that  $F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$  is connected.

Let  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \in N(X - U)$ . Then for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $x_i \in X - U^*$  or  $x_i \in \text{bd } U$ . Let

$$C_i = \begin{cases} \text{the component of } X - U^* \text{ containing } x_i & \text{if } x_i \in X - U^* \\ x_i & \text{if } x_i \in \text{bd } U. \end{cases}$$

Then  $C_i^* \cap \text{bd } U \neq \emptyset$ , because  $C_i$  is a component of the open set  $X - U^*$  and hence meets  $\text{bd } (X - U^*) \subseteq \text{bd } U$ . Let  $x'_i \in C_i^* \cap \text{bd } U$ . Let  $\mathcal{D}_i = \{\{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, y, x'_{i+1}, \dots, x'_n\} \mid y \in C_i^*\}$ . Now  $\mathcal{D}_i$  is the continuous image of the continuum  $C_i^*$ , so  $\mathcal{D}_i$  is a continuum in  $N(X - U)$  containing  $\{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i, x'_{i+1}, \dots, x'_n\}$  and  $\{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x'_i, x'_{i+1}, \dots, x'_n\}$ . Then for each  $i = 2, \dots, n$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{i-1} \cap \mathcal{D}_i \neq \emptyset$ . So  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{D}_i$  is a continuum in  $N(X - U)$  containing  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $\{x'_1, \dots, x'_n\}$ . For each  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , let  $\mathcal{L}_i = \{\{x'_1, \dots, x'_i, y\} \mid y \in X\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{L}_i$  is a continuum in  $\mathcal{H}$  containing  $\{x'_1, \dots, x'_i, x'_{i+1}\}$  and  $\{x'_1, \dots, x'_i\}$ , and for each  $i = 2, \dots, n - 1$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_{i-1} \cap \mathcal{L}_i \neq \emptyset$ . Hence  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathcal{L}_i$  is a continuum in  $\mathcal{H}$  containing  $\{x'_1, \dots, x'_n\}$  and  $\{x'_1\}$ . Let  $\mathcal{M} = \{\{y\} \mid y \in C_1^*\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{M}$  is a continuum in  $N(X - U)$  containing  $\{x'_1\}$  and  $\{x_1\}$ . So

$$\left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{D}_i \right) \cup \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathcal{L}_i \right) \cup \mathcal{M}$$

is a continuum in  $\mathcal{H}$  containing  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $\{x_1\}$ .

If  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \in N(U)^*$ , we can use a similar construction to show that  $\mathcal{H}$  contains a continuum containing  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $\{x_1\}$ . So if  $C \in F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$  and  $c \in C$ , there exists a continuum in  $F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$  containing  $C$  and  $\{c\}$ . Hence  $F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$  can be written as a union of continua, each of which meets  $F_1(X)$ . Since  $U^* \cup (X - U) = X$ , it follows that  $F_1(X) \subset F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$ , and since  $F_1(X)$  is connected, it follows that  $F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$  is connected. Furthermore,  $F(X) \cap \mathcal{H}$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}$ , so  $\mathcal{H}$  is connected. Hence  $\mathcal{H}$  is a continuum containing  $A$  in its interior which misses  $B$ . This concludes the proof that  $2^X$  is aposyndetic.

A continuum  $X$  is said to be *unicoherent* provided that whenever  $A$  and  $B$  are proper subcontinua such that  $X = A \cup B$ , then  $A \cap B$  is connected. S. B. Nadler, Jr. [7] has proved that each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is unicoherent. D. E. Bennett [1] has shown that a unicoherent aposyndetic continuum is finitely aposyndetic. These results and Theorem 1 imply the following corollary.

**COROLLARY 1.** *Each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is finitely aposyndetic.*

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $X$  be a semi-aposyndetic continuum. Then each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is mutually aposyndetic.*

*Proof.* Let  $M, N \in C(X)$ ,  $M \neq N$ . Suppose  $M \subset N$  or that  $M$  and  $N$  are not related under inclusion and that  $N \notin F_1(X)$ . Let  $\mathcal{A} = \{M\} \cup \{N\} \cup F_1(X)$  and define  $f: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$f(A) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } A = M \text{ or } A \in F_1(X) \\ 1 & \text{if } A = N. \end{cases}$$

Then  $f$  is continuous and order-preserving, so by Theorem A  $f$  has a continuous extension  $\hat{f}: C(X) \rightarrow R$  which is also order-preserving. Let  $\hat{f}(C(X)) = [0, b](b \geq 1)$  and  $t_1, t_2 \in (0, 1)$ ,  $t_1 < t_2$ . As in the proof of Theorem 1,  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t_1])$  is a continuum containing  $M$  in its interior which misses  $N$ . Now suppose  $L \in \hat{f}^{-1}([t_2, b])$ . Observe that  $T(L) \subset \hat{f}^{-1}([t_2, b])$  and  $X \in T(L)$ . By Lemma 1,  $T(L)$  is a continuum. Since  $\hat{f}^{-1}([t_2, b]) = \cup \{T(L) \mid L \in \hat{f}^{-1}([t_2, b])\}$ ,  $\hat{f}^{-1}([t_2, b])$  is a union of continua, each of which contains  $X$ . Hence  $\hat{f}^{-1}([t_2, b])$  is a continuum containing  $N$  in its interior which misses  $M$ . Since  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t_1]) \cap \hat{f}^{-1}([t_2, b]) = \emptyset$ , it follows that  $C(X)$  is mutually aposyndetic at  $(M, N)$ .

Let  $A, B \in 2^X$ ,  $A \neq B$ . Suppose that  $A \subset B$  or that  $A$  and  $B$  are not related under inclusion and  $B \notin F_1(X)$ . Let  $x \in B - A$  and  $y \in B$ ,  $x \neq y$ . Let  $U$  be an open set containing  $A$  and  $y$  such that  $x \notin U^*$ . Let  $V_y$  be an open set containing  $y$  such that  $V_y^* \subset U$ . Let  $V_x$  be an open set containing  $x$  such that  $V_x^* \subset \text{int}(X - U)$ . Let  $W$  be an open set containing  $B - (V_x \cup V_y)$  such that  $x, y \notin W^*$ . (If  $B - (V_x \cup V_y) = \emptyset$ , replace  $N(V_x, V_y, W)$  by  $N(V_x, V_y)$  in the remainder of the argument.) Then  $B \in N(V_x, V_y, W)$  and  $N(V_x, V_y, W)$  is disjoint from the sets  $N(U)^*$  and  $N(X - U)$ . As in the proof of Theorem 1,  $N(U)^* \cup N(X - U)$  is a continuum containing  $A$  in its interior which misses  $B$ . By Lemma 1,  $T(N(V_x, V_y, W)^*)$  is a continuum, and  $B \in \text{int} T(N(V_x, V_y, W)^*)$ . If  $C \in T(N(V_x, V_y, W)^*)$ , then  $C$  meets  $V_x^*$  and  $V_y^*$ , so  $C$  meets  $U$  and  $\text{int}(X - U)$ . Therefore  $C \notin N(U)^* \cup N(X - U)$ . So  $T(N(V_x, V_y, W)^*) \cap (N(U)^* \cup N(X - U)) = \emptyset$ . Hence  $2^X$  is mutually aposyndetic at  $(A, B)$ .

Finally, suppose  $A, B \in F_1(X)$ ,  $A \neq B$ . We will write  $A = \{p\}$ ,  $B = \{q\}$ . Since  $X$  is semi-aposyndetic, we assume that  $X$  is aposyndetic at  $p$  with respect to  $q$ . Then there exists a subcontinuum  $M$  of  $X$  such that  $p \in \text{int} M$  and  $q \in X - M$ . Let  $V$  be an open set containing  $q$  such that  $V^* \cap M = \emptyset$ . By Lemma 1,  $T(N(V)^*)$  is a continuum in  $2^X(C(X))$  and  $\{q\} \in \text{int} T(N(V)^*)$ . Now  $2^M(C(M))$  is a subcontinuum of  $2^X(C(X))$  and  $\{p\} \in \text{int} 2^M(C(M))$ . Moreover,  $2^M(C(M))$  and  $T(N(V)^*)$  are disjoint, since  $M$  and  $V^*$  are disjoint. Hence  $2^X(C(X))$  is mutually aposyndetic at  $(\{p\}, \{q\})$ . This concludes the proof.

In the preceding theorem we have shown that if  $X$  is any continuum and at least one of  $A$  and  $B$  is not an element of  $F_1(X)$ , then

each of  $2^X$  and  $C(X)$  is mutually aposyndetic at the pair  $(A, B)$ . We now give an example of a non-semi-aposyndetic continuum for which  $C(X)$  fails to be mutually aposyndetic at certain pairs of elements belonging to  $F_1(X)$ .

EXAMPLE 1. Let  $X$  be the planar continuum which is the union of  $S^1 = \{(r, \theta) | r = 1\}$  and  $S = \{(r, \theta) | \theta \geq 0 \text{ and } r = 1 + 1/(1 + \theta)\}$ . J. T. Rogers, Jr. [8] has shown that for this  $X$ ,  $C(X)$  is homeomorphic to the cone over  $X$ . Moreover, the homeomorphism carries  $F_1(X)$  onto the base of the cone.

Observe that if  $p, q \in S^1$ , then  $X$  is not semi-aposyndetic at  $(p, q)$ . To show that  $C(X)$  is not mutually aposyndetic at  $(\{p\}, \{q\})$  it will suffice to show that  $X \times I (I = [0, 1])$  is not mutually aposyndetic at  $(p', q')$  where  $p' = (p, 0)$  and  $q' = (q, 0)$ .

Suppose  $M_{p'}$  and  $M_{q'}$  are disjoint continua containing  $p'$  and  $q'$  respectively in their interiors. Let  $N_{p'}$  be the component of  $(S^1 \times I) \cap M_{p'}$  which contains  $p'$ . Let  $U_1, \dots, U_n$  be a finite cover of  $N_{p'}$  by spherical open sets such that  $(\bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i) \cap M_{q'} = \emptyset$ . Using the fact that each component of  $(S^1 \times I) - (\bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i)$  is arcwise connected, it can be established that no component of  $(S^1 \times I) - (\bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i)$  meets both  $S^1 \times \{0\}$  and  $S^1 \times \{1\}$ . It follows that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i$  contains a simple closed curve  $C$  which separates  $S^1 \times I$  between  $S^1 \times \{0\}$  and  $S^1 \times \{1\}$ . Furthermore, for some  $c \in C$ ,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i$  contains an arc  $[p', c]$  such that  $[p', c] \cap C = \{c\}$ .

Let  $N_{q'}$  be the component of  $(S^1 \times I) \cap M_{q'}$  which contains  $q'$  and let  $V_1, \dots, V_m$  be a finite cover of  $N_{q'}$  by spherical open sets disjoint from  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i$ . In the analogous manner,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^m V_i$  contains a simple closed curve  $D$  which separates  $S^1 \times I$  between  $S^1 \times \{0\}$  and  $S^1 \times \{1\}$  and for some  $d \in D$ ,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^m V_i$  contains an arc  $[q', d]$  such that  $D \cap [q', d] = \{d\}$ . It can now be shown (this involves a consideration of some properties of  $S^2$ ) that  $([p', c] \cup C) \cap ([q', d] \cup D) \neq \emptyset$ , a contradiction. Hence  $C(X)$  is not mutually aposyndetic at  $(\{p\}, \{q\})$ .

The final theorem extends the main result and Corollary 1 for  $C(X)$ . First we need the following lemma.

LEMMA 3. Let  $M \in C(X)$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable closed set in  $C(X)$ . Then there exists a decreasing open set  $\mathcal{U}$  in  $C(X)$  such that  $M \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $(\text{bd } \mathcal{U}) \cap \mathcal{A} = \emptyset$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and let  $d$  denote the metric on  $X$ . For each  $x \in M$  let  $S_\varepsilon(x) = \{y \in X | d(x, y) < \varepsilon\}$ . Let  $U_\varepsilon = \bigcup_{x \in M} S_\varepsilon(x)$  and  $\mathcal{U}_\varepsilon = N(U_\varepsilon)$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}_\varepsilon$  is a decreasing open set in  $C(X)$  which contains  $M$ . If  $L \in \text{bd } \mathcal{U}_\varepsilon$ , then there exists  $y \in L$  such that

$$y \in \left( \bigcup_{x \in M} S_\varepsilon(x) \right)^* - \left( \bigcup_{x \in M} S_\varepsilon(x) \right).$$

It follows that for each  $x \in M$ ,  $d(x, y) \geq \varepsilon$  and for some  $x_0 \in M$ ,  $d(x_0, y) = \varepsilon$ . Therefore if  $\varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_2$  and  $L_1 \in \text{bd}(\mathcal{U}_{\varepsilon_1})$  and  $L_2 \in \text{bd}(\mathcal{U}_{\varepsilon_2})$ , then  $L_1 \neq L_2$ . Since  $\mathcal{A}$  is countable there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\text{bd}(\mathcal{U}_\varepsilon) \cap \mathcal{A} = \emptyset$ .

**THEOREM 3.**  *$C(X)$  is countable closed set aposyndetic.*

*Proof.* Let  $M \in C(X)$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable closed set in  $C(X)$  such that  $M \notin \mathcal{A}$ . If  $M = X$ , then by Lemma 2,  $C(X)$  is locally connected at  $M$  and hence  $C(X)$  is countable closed set aposyndetic at  $M$ .

Suppose  $M$  is a nondegenerate proper subcontinuum of  $X$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_S = \mathcal{A} \cap S(M)$ . By Lemma 3, for each  $L \in \mathcal{A}_S$  there exists a decreasing open set  $\mathcal{U}_L$  such that  $L \in \mathcal{U}_L$  and  $\text{bd}(\mathcal{U}_L) \cap (\mathcal{A} \cup \{M\}) = \emptyset$ . Since  $\mathcal{A}_S$  is compact there exist  $\mathcal{U}_{L_1}, \dots, \mathcal{U}_{L_n}$  such that  $\mathcal{A}_S \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{L_i}$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_F = F_1(X) \cap \mathcal{A}$ . For each  $x \in \mathcal{A}_F$  let  $\mathcal{V}_x$  be a decreasing open set such that  $\{x\} \in \mathcal{V}_x$  and  $(\text{bd} \mathcal{V}_x) \cap (\mathcal{A} \cup \{M\}) = \emptyset$ . Since  $\mathcal{A}_F$  is compact there exist  $\mathcal{V}_{x_1}, \dots, \mathcal{V}_{x_m}$  such that  $\mathcal{A}_F \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^m \mathcal{V}_{x_i}$ .

Let

$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \mathcal{A} \cap \left[ \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{L_i} \right) \cup \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \mathcal{V}_{x_i} \right) \right] = \mathcal{A} \cap \left[ \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{L_i}^* \right) \cup \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \mathcal{V}_{x_i}^* \right) \right]$$

and let  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{A} - \mathcal{A}_0$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  are disjoint closed subsets of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define  $f: \mathcal{A} \cup \{M\} \cup F_1(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$f(A) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } A \in \mathcal{A}_0 \text{ or if } A \in F_1(X) \\ 1/2 & \text{if } A = M \\ 1 & \text{if } A \in \mathcal{A}_1. \end{cases}$$

Then  $f$  is continuous and order-preserving, so by Theorem A,  $f$  has a continuous extension  $\hat{f}: C(X) \rightarrow [0, b]$  ( $b \geq 1$ ) which is also order-preserving.  $\hat{f}$  has the property that if  $t \in [0, b]$ , then  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$  and  $\hat{f}^{-1}([t, b])$  are subcontinua of  $C(X)$ . Since  $C(X)$  is unicoherent,  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, 3/4]) \cap \hat{f}^{-1}([1/4, b])$  is a continuum containing  $M$  in its interior which misses  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Now suppose that for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $M = \{x_0\}$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_F = \mathcal{A} \cap F_1(X)$ . For each  $\{x\} \in \mathcal{A}_F$  let  $\mathcal{U}_x$  be a decreasing open set such that  $\{x\} \in \mathcal{U}_x$  and  $(\text{bd} \mathcal{U}_x) \cap (\mathcal{A} \cup \{M\}) = \emptyset$ . Since  $\mathcal{A}_F$  is compact there exist  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  such that  $\mathcal{A}_F \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{x_i}$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_0 = \mathcal{A} \cap \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{x_i} \right) = \mathcal{A} \cap \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{x_i}^* \right)$  and let  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{A} - \mathcal{A}_0$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  are disjoint closed subsets of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define  $f: \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{x_i}^* \right) \cup \mathcal{A} \cup F_1(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$f(A) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } A \in \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{x_i}^* \right) \cup F_1(X) \\ 1 & \text{if } A \in \mathcal{A}_1. \end{cases}$$

Then  $f$  is continuous and order-preserving, so  $f$  has a continuous, order-preserving extension  $\hat{f}: C(X) \rightarrow [0, b]$  ( $b \geq 1$ ). Let  $t \in (0, 1)$ . Then  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t])$  is a continuum containing  $M$  in its interior which misses  $\mathcal{A}_1$ .

Let  $\mathcal{M} = C(X) - \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{U}_{x_i}$ .  $\mathcal{M}$  is a closed set containing  $M$  in its interior which misses  $\mathcal{A}_0$ . Since each of  $\mathcal{U}_{x_1}, \dots, \mathcal{U}_{x_n}$  is decreasing, it follows that  $\mathcal{M}$  is increasing. So  $\mathcal{M} = T(\mathcal{M})$  and by Lemma 1,  $T(\mathcal{M})$  is a continuum. Observe that  $C(X) = \hat{f}^{-1}([0, t]) \cup \mathcal{M}$ . Since  $C(X)$  is unicoherent,  $\hat{f}^{-1}([0, t]) \cap \mathcal{M}$  is a continuum containing  $M$  in its interior which misses  $\mathcal{A}$ . Hence  $C(X)$  is countable closed set aposyndetic.

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