

## A characterization of Corson-compact spaces

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*Abstract.* We characterize Corson-compact spaces by means of countable elementary substructures.

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First, let us review some definitions and facts concerning elementary substructures.

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be an arbitrary non-empty set. A non-empty subset  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  is said to be an elementary substructure of  $\mathcal{H}$  ( $\mathcal{M} \prec \mathcal{H}$ , for short), if for any formula  $\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  of the language of set theory with the only free variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  and for any  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{M}$   $\varphi[a_1, \dots, a_n]$  is true iff it is true in  $\mathcal{H}$ .

A frequently used argument is the following fact which is known as Tarski Criterion for elementary substructures:

A subset  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  forms an elementary substructure of  $\mathcal{H}$  if and only if for every formula  $\varphi(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$  and every  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{M}$  such that there exists an  $a \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $\varphi(a, a_1, \dots, a_n)$  is true in  $\mathcal{H}$ , there is a  $b \in \mathcal{M}$  such that  $\varphi(b, a_1, \dots, a_n)$  is true in  $\mathcal{H}$  (and therefore in  $\mathcal{M}$ ).

Remark that if there is a unique  $a \in \mathcal{H}$  satisfying  $\varphi(a, a_1, \dots, a_n)$  (in  $\mathcal{H}$ ), then  $a$  belongs to  $\mathcal{M}$  provided  $\mathcal{M} \prec \mathcal{H}$  and  $a_i \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . For a cardinal  $\Theta$ ,  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$  denotes the set of all sets whose transitive closure has size less  $\Theta$  (see Kunen [7]). For any sentence  $\varphi$  which is true (in  $V$ ), there exist sufficiently large regular cardinals  $\Theta$  such that  $\varphi$  is true in  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ . This is the reason why we are interested in elementary substructures of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ , where  $\Theta$  is regular and uncountable. When we investigate an object, say a topological space, we always assume  $\Theta$  to be “large enough” without discussion how large it needs to be. Throughout the paper, we make the following assumption. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is an elementary substructure,  $\mathcal{M}$  contains all sets we need for the investigation of our object – for example, the set  $X$ , the set of all open subsets of  $X$  and the family  $C(X)$  of all real-valued continuous functions defined on  $X$ . This will be expressed by saying that “ $\mathcal{M}$  is a suitable elementary substructure”.

The base of all our considerations is the following

**Theorem 1** (Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski). *For each infinite set  $\mathcal{H}$  and each subset  $X \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ , there exists an elementary substructure  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $X \subseteq \mathcal{M}$  and  $|\mathcal{M}| \leq \max\{|X|, \omega\}$ .*

The following facts are well known.

**Fact 2.** If  $\Theta$  is a regular uncountable cardinal,  $\mathcal{M} \prec \mathcal{H}(\Theta)$  and  $A$  is a countable set,  $A \in \mathcal{M}$ , then  $A \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ .

For any uncountable set  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $[\mathcal{H}]^\omega$  denotes the set of all countable subsets of  $\mathcal{H}$ . A family  $C \subseteq [\mathcal{H}]^\omega$  is said to be unbounded if for every  $X \in [\mathcal{H}]^\omega$  there is a  $Y \in C$  with  $X \subseteq Y$ . We say  $C$  is closed if, whenever  $X_n \in C$  and  $X_n \subseteq X_{n+1}$  for each  $n \in \omega$ , then  $\bigcup\{X_n : n \in \omega\} \in C$ .

**Fact 3.**  $\{\mathcal{M} \in [\mathcal{H}]^\omega : \mathcal{M} \prec \mathcal{H}\}$  is a closed unbounded subset of  $[\mathcal{H}]^\omega$ .

**Fact 4.** If  $C_1, C_2$  are closed unbounded subsets of  $[\mathcal{H}]^\omega$ , then  $C_1 \cap C_2$  is also a closed unbounded subset of  $[\mathcal{H}]^\omega$ .

The reader is referred to Kunen [7] or Dow [4] for more information on elementary substructures.

Now we are going to construct for each Hausdorff compact space  $X$  and each suitable elementary substructure  $\mathcal{M}$  (of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ ) a relatively small compact space  $X(\mathcal{M})$  and a mapping  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  from  $X$  onto  $X(\mathcal{M})$ .<sup>1</sup> Let  $C(X)$  denote the set of all real-valued continuous functions defined on  $X$ .  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  corresponds to the mapping which relates each point  $x \in X$  to the point  $(fx)_{C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}}$  from the product space  $\mathbb{R}^{C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}}$ . That is,  $X(\mathcal{M})$  is the continuous image of  $X$  with the property that for any pair of distinct points  $x_1, x_2 \in X$ , we have  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X(x_1) \neq \varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X(x_2)$  iff there is a function  $f \in C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}$  with  $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ . Hence,  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X(x_1) \neq \varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X(x_2)$  iff there exist open subsets  $U, V \in \mathcal{M}$  of  $X$  such that  $x \in U, y \in V$  and  $\text{cl}(U) \cap \text{cl}(V) = \emptyset$ .

**Lemma 5.** Let  $i : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^T$  be a continuous embedding of the Hausdorff compact space  $X$  into  $\mathbb{R}^T$ . Then  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is isomorphic to the composition of  $i$  and  $\pi_{\mathcal{M}}$ , where  $\pi_{\mathcal{M}}$  denotes the projection mapping  $\mathbb{R}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{T \cap \mathcal{M}}$ .

PROOF: It is enough to show that for every function  $f \in C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}$  and any pair of distinct points  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  with  $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ , we have  $\pi_{\mathcal{M}}(ix_1) \neq \pi_{\mathcal{M}}(ix_2)$ . Since  $X$  is compact, we may find – by means of some elementary observations – a continuous function  $g : \mathbb{R}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f = g \cdot i$ . Since  $i, f \in \mathcal{M}$ , we may assume that  $g \in \mathcal{M}$ . It is well known (see Engelking [5, 3.4.H]) that  $g$  depends on countably many coordinates, i.e. there exists a countable set  $A \subseteq T$  and a continuous function  $h : \mathbb{R}^A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g = h \cdot \pi_A$ . We may assume that  $A \in \mathcal{M}$ . Since  $A$  is countable, it follows from Fact 2 that  $A \subset \mathcal{M}$ . Now it is easy to derive the existence of an index  $\alpha \in A$  with  $\pi_\alpha(ix_1) \neq \pi_\alpha(ix_2)$ . Consequently,  $\pi_{\mathcal{M}}(ix_1) \neq \pi_{\mathcal{M}}(ix_2)$ .  $\square$

The following definition plays the decisive role in this paper.

**Definition 6.** Let  $X$  be a Hausdorff compact space and  $\mathcal{M}$  a suitable elementary substructure (of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ ).  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is called an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction, if  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  maps  $\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M})$  homeomorphic on  $X(\mathcal{M})$ .

A compact space  $X$  is called Corson-compact, if  $X$  is homeomorphic to a subset of

$$\Sigma(\mathbb{R}^T) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : \text{supp}(x) \text{ is countable}\},$$

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<sup>1</sup>This construction may be defined for arbitrary uniform spaces as will be shown in Bandlow [2].

where  $\text{supp}(x) = \{t \in T : x_t \neq 0\}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}^T$ , for some set  $T$ . Of course,  $\Sigma(\mathbb{R}^T)$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^T$  with the usual product topology. Our main result is the following

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $X$  be a Hausdorff compact space. The following assertions are equivalent:*

- (a)  $X$  is Corson-compact.
- (b) There are a sufficiently large regular uncountable cardinal  $\Theta$  and a closed unbounded family  $C \subseteq [\mathcal{H}(\Theta)]^\omega$  of countable elementary substructures of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$  such that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction for every  $\mathcal{M} \in C$ .
- (c) For every sufficiently large regular uncountable cardinal  $\Theta$  there exists a closed unbounded family  $C \subseteq [\mathcal{H}(\Theta)]^\omega$  of countable elementary substructures of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$  such that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction for every  $\mathcal{M} \in C$ .

**Remark.** Other characterizations of Corson-compact spaces were given by Gul’ko [6] and Shapirovskii [7]. I believe that our concept is more convenient for applications. In a subsequent paper, we will use our characterization to investigate the space of all real-valued continuous functions defined on a Corson-compact space in the topology of pointwise convergence.

The proof of the theorem breaks in several lemmas.

**Lemma 8.** (a)  $\rightarrow$  (b).

PROOF: Let  $i : X \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathbb{R}^T)$  be an embedding of the Hausdorff compact space  $X$  into  $\Sigma(\mathbb{R}^T)$ . Suppose  $\mathcal{M}$  is a suitable elementary substructure (of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ ). It is enough to show that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction. For the sake of simplicity, we identify  $X$  with  $i(X)$ . If  $x \in X \cap \mathcal{M}$ , then it follows from Fact 2 that  $\text{supp}(x) \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ . Hence,  $\text{supp}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \subseteq \mathcal{M}$  and, consequently,  $\text{supp}(\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M})) \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ . Now it follows from Lemma 5 that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  restricted to  $\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M})$  is a one-to-one mapping. Since  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  always maps  $\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M})$  onto  $X(\mathcal{M})$ , this implies that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction.  $\square$

**Lemma 9.** (b)  $\rightarrow$  (c).

The idea of the proof of this implication is standard and is based on the following

**Fact 10** (Devlin [3]). Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be uncountable sets,  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ .

- (a) If  $C \subseteq [\mathcal{B}]^\omega$  is closed and unbounded, then  $\{X \cap \mathcal{A} : X \in C\}$  contains a closed unbounded subfamily of  $[\mathcal{A}]^\omega$ .
- (b) If  $C \subseteq [\mathcal{A}]^\omega$  is closed and unbounded, then  $\{X \in [\mathcal{B}]^\omega : X \cap \mathcal{A} \in C\}$  is a closed unbounded subfamily of  $[\mathcal{B}]^\omega$ .

PROOF OF LEMMA 9: Let  $X$  be a Hausdorff compact space,  $\Theta$  a regular uncountable cardinal and  $C_0$  a closed unbounded set of countable elementary substructures of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ , such that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction for every  $\mathcal{M} \in C_0$ .

Let  $\mu$  be an arbitrary sufficiently large regular uncountable cardinal. “Sufficiently large” means, for instance, that  $X$  and  $C(X)$  are elements of  $\mathcal{H}(\mu)$  and, therefore,  $C(X) \subseteq \mathcal{H}(\mu)$  and  $X \subseteq \mathcal{H}(\mu)$ . Suppose that  $\mu < \Theta$ . By Facts 10 (a) and 4, we can find a closed unbounded subset  $C$  of  $[\mathcal{H}(\mu)]^\omega$ , consisting of elementary substructures of  $\mathcal{H}(\mu)$  and satisfying the property that for each  $\mathcal{N} \in C$  there exists an elementary

substructure  $\mathcal{M} \in C_0$  with  $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{H}(\mu)$ . This implies  $\mathcal{N} \cap X = \mathcal{M} \cap X$  and  $\mathcal{N} \cap C(X) = \mathcal{M} \cap C(X)$ . Hence,  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  and  $\varphi_{\mathcal{N}}^X$  are isomorphic and  $\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) = \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{N})$ . Thus  $\varphi_{\mathcal{N}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{N}$ -retraction.

The proof for the case  $\mu > \Theta$  is quite similar. □

**Lemma 11.** *Let the Hausdorff compact space  $X$  be as in Theorem 7(b). Then  $t(X) = \omega$ .*

PROOF: Let  $x$  be a point of  $X$  and  $A$  a subset of  $X$  such that  $x \in \text{cl}(A) \setminus A$ . Let  $\mathcal{M} \prec \mathcal{H}(\Theta)$  be such that  $x, A \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction. We claim that  $x \in \text{cl}(A \cap \mathcal{M})$ . Otherwise, by the construction of  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$ , for every point  $y \in \text{cl}(A \cap \mathcal{M})$ , there exists a function  $f_y \in C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}$  with  $f_y(x) \neq f_y(y)$ . Since  $\text{cl}(A \cap \mathcal{M})$  is compact and  $\mathcal{M} \prec \mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ , we can find a function  $g \in C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}$  which separates  $x$  and  $\text{cl}(A \cap \mathcal{M})$ . Hence, there exists an open subset  $U \in \mathcal{M}$  of  $X$  with  $x \in U$  and  $U \cap A \cap \mathcal{M} = \emptyset$ . Since  $U$  and  $A$  are elements of  $\mathcal{M}$ , this implies that  $U \cap A = \emptyset$ , i.e.  $x \notin \text{cl}(A)$ . This contradiction proves the lemma. □

**Lemma 12.** *Let  $X$  be a Hausdorff compact space,  $\Theta$  a regular uncountable cardinal and  $C_0 \subseteq [\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X]^\omega$  a closed unbounded family of countable elementary substructures of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$  such that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction for every  $\mathcal{M} \in C_0$ . Furthermore let  $\vartheta > \Theta$  be a regular uncountable cardinal and  $\mathcal{N}$  an elementary substructure of  $\mathcal{H}(\vartheta)$  with  $X, C_0 \in \mathcal{N}$ . Then  $\varphi_{\mathcal{N}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{N}$ -retraction.*

PROOF: The assertion “ $(\forall x \in X)(\exists \mathcal{M} \in C_0)(x \in \mathcal{M})$ ” holds in  $\mathcal{H}(\vartheta)$ , hence in  $\mathcal{N}$ , since  $X, C_0 \in \mathcal{N}$ . Therefore, for every point  $x \in X \cap \mathcal{N}$ , there exists an  $\mathcal{M} \in C_0 \cap \mathcal{N}$  with  $x \in \mathcal{M}$ . From Fact 2, it follows that  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$ . Since  $C_0$  is closed, there exists for every countable set  $A \subseteq X \cap \mathcal{N}$  an  $\mathcal{M} \in C_0$  with  $A \subseteq \mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$ .

Let  $x_1, x_2$  be a pair of distinct points of  $\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{N})$ . We have to show that  $\varphi_{\mathcal{N}}^X(x_1) \neq \varphi_{\mathcal{N}}^X(x_2)$ , i.e. there must exist a function  $f \in C(X) \cap \mathcal{N}$  with  $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ . Since  $t(X) = \omega$ , there exists a countable set  $A \subseteq X \cap \mathcal{N}$  such that  $x_1 \in \text{cl}(A)$  and  $x_2 \in \text{cl}(A)$ . Let  $\mathcal{M} \in C_0$  be such that  $A \subseteq \mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$ . Then  $x_1, x_2 \in \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M})$  and we find a function  $f \in C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}$  with  $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ . □

**Lemma 13.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a continuous mapping from the Hausdorff compact space  $X$  onto the Hausdorff compact space  $Y$ . Suppose further that  $\mathcal{M}$  is an elementary substructure (of  $\mathcal{H}(\Theta)$ ) such that  $f \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction. Then  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^Y$  is also an  $\mathcal{M}$ -retraction.*

PROOF: One readily sees that  $f(X \cap \mathcal{M}) = Y \cap \mathcal{M}$ . Let  $x, y$  be a pair of distinct points of  $\text{cl}(Y \cap \mathcal{M})$  and choose open subsets  $U, V$  of  $Y$  such that  $x \in U, y \in V$  and  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ . Since  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^X \upharpoonright_{\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M})}$  is a homeomorphism onto  $X(\mathcal{M})$  and  $\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \setminus f^{-1}(U)$  is compact, there exists a function  $g \in C(X) \cap \mathcal{M}$  which separates  $f^{-1}\{x\} \cap \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M})$  and  $\text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \setminus f^{-1}(U)$ . Thus there exists a closed subset  $F \in \mathcal{M}$  of  $X$  such that  $f^{-1}\{x\} \cap \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \subseteq F \cap \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$ . Analogously we can find a closed subset  $H \in \mathcal{M}$  of  $X$  satisfying

$$f^{-1}\{y\} \cap \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \subseteq H \cap \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \subseteq f^{-1}(V).$$

We claim that  $f(F) \cap f(H) = \emptyset$ . Assume, on the contrary,  $f(F) \cap f(H) \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $F, H \in \mathcal{M}$ , there exist points  $x' \in F \cap \mathcal{M}$  and  $y' \in H \cap \mathcal{M}$  with  $f(x') = f(y')$ . This contradicts  $F \cap \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$  and  $H \cap \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{M}) \subseteq f^{-1}(V)$ . Of course,  $f(F) \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $f(H) \in \mathcal{M}$ . Therefore we can find a function  $h \in C(Y) \cap \mathcal{M}$  which separates  $f(F)$  and  $f(H)$ . This implies  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^Y(x) \neq \varphi_{\mathcal{M}}^Y(y)$ .  $\square$

We have arrived at the final assertion.

**Lemma 14.** *Let  $X$  be as in Theorem 7 (b). Then there exists a set  $T$  and a homeomorphic embedding from  $X$  into  $\Sigma(\mathbb{R}^T)$ .*

PROOF: By induction on  $\tau = w(X)$ . For  $\tau = \omega$ , this is trivial. Suppose the assertion holds for the Hausdorff compact spaces of weight  $< \tau$ . Using Lemma 12, one can find a regular uncountable cardinal  $\vartheta$  and an increasing sequence  $\langle \mathcal{N}_\alpha : \omega \leq \alpha < w(X) \rangle$  of elementary substructures of  $\mathcal{H}(\vartheta)$ , such that

- (1)  $|\mathcal{N}_\alpha| < \tau$  for all  $\alpha, \omega \leq \alpha < \tau$ ,
- (2)  $\varphi_{\mathcal{N}_\alpha}^X$  is an  $\mathcal{N}_\alpha$ -retraction for all  $\alpha, \omega \leq \alpha < \tau$ ,
- (3)  $\mathcal{N}_\alpha = \bigcup \{ \mathcal{N}_\beta : \omega \leq \beta < \alpha \}$  for all limit ordinals  $\alpha, \omega \leq \alpha < \tau$ ,
- (4)  $C(X) \cap (\bigcup \{ \mathcal{N}_\alpha : \omega \leq \alpha < \tau \})$  separates an arbitrary pair of distinct points of  $X$ .

Now we make use of the inductive assumption. By Lemma 13, there exist a set  $T_\alpha$  and a homeomorphic embedding

$$q_\alpha : X(\mathcal{N}_\alpha) \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathbb{R}^{T_\alpha})$$

for every  $\alpha, \omega \leq \alpha < \tau$ . Of course, one may assume that the  $T_\alpha$  are pairwise disjoint. We set  $Z_\alpha = \text{cl}(X \cap \mathcal{N}_\alpha)$  and identify  $Z_\alpha$  with  $X(\mathcal{N}_\alpha)$ . Instead of  $\varphi_{\mathcal{N}_\alpha}^X$ , we consider a mapping  $\varphi_\alpha : X \rightarrow X$ , where  $\varphi_\alpha(X) = Z_\alpha, \omega \leq \alpha < \tau$ .

Now we define the mapping  $q : X \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathbb{R}^T)$ , where  $T = \bigcup \{ T_{\alpha+1} : \omega \leq \alpha < \tau \}$  by setting

$$(q(x))_t = (q_{\alpha+1}(\varphi_{\alpha+1}(x)))_t - (q_{\alpha+1}(\varphi_\alpha(x)))_t$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $t \in T_{\alpha+1}, \omega \leq \alpha < \tau$ , and

$$(q(x))_t = (q_\alpha(\varphi_\omega(x)))_t$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $t \in T_\omega$ .

(Remark that the idea of this definition is due to Amir and Lindenstrauss [1].)

$q$  is obviously a continuous mapping from  $X$  into  $\mathbb{R}^T$ . First, let us check that  $q$  is injective. Suppose we are given two points  $x, y \in X, x \neq y$ . Then there exists an ordinal  $\beta, \omega \leq \beta < \tau$ , such that  $\varphi_\beta(x) \neq \varphi_\beta(y)$  and  $\varphi_\gamma(x) = \varphi_\gamma(y)$  for all  $\gamma$  with  $\omega \leq \gamma < \beta$ . If  $\beta = \omega$ , then  $(q(x))_t \neq (q(y))_t$  for any  $t \in T_\omega$  and hence  $q(x) \neq q(y)$ . If  $\beta > \omega$ , then, by the condition (3),  $\beta$  is a successor ordinal, i.e.  $\beta = \alpha + 1$  for an  $\alpha, \omega \leq \alpha < \tau$ . From  $\varphi_\alpha(x) = \varphi_\alpha(y)$  and  $\varphi_{\alpha+1}(x) \neq \varphi_{\alpha+1}(y)$ , it follows that  $(q(x))_t \neq (q(y))_t$  for any  $t \in T_{\alpha+1}$ .

To complete the proof, we have to show that for every point  $x \in X$  the set  $B_x = \{ t \in T : (q(x))_t \neq 0 \}$  is at most countable. Assume, on the contrary, that

$B_x$  is uncountable. Then we can choose a subset  $B \subseteq B_x$  such that  $\mu = \sup B$  satisfies  $\text{cf}(\mu) > \omega$ . Since  $t(X) = \omega$  (see Lemma 11), we have  $Z_\mu = \bigcup \{Z_\alpha : \omega \leq \alpha < \tau\}$ . Therefore, one can find an ordinal  $\alpha_0 < \mu$  such that  $\varphi_\mu(x) \in Z_{\alpha_0}$  and, consequently,  $\varphi_\alpha(x) = \varphi_\mu(x)$  for every  $\alpha$  with  $\alpha_0 < \alpha < \mu$ . Hence  $(q(x))_t = 0$  for every  $t \in T_{\alpha+1}$ ,  $\alpha_0 < \alpha < \mu$ , which contradicts  $B \subseteq B_x$ ;  $B$  is countable.

This concludes the proof of the lemma and of the theorem.  $\square$

**Remark.** The proof of Lemma 13 is a new proof of the fact that a Hausdorff continuous image of a Corson-compact space is Corson-compact (Gul'ko [6]).

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