

EQUIVALENCY OF PROXIMAL COMPACT AND CORSON COMPACT IN UNIFORM SPACES

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ABSTRACT. A common generalization of metric spaces is the idea of a uniform space, determined by a uniformity of entourages on the diagonal of the square. Proximal uniform spaces are those for which the first player has a winning strategy in this ω -length game due to Bell: the first player chooses an entourage of the space, and her opponent chooses a point close to the point chosen in the previous round, with respect to the entourage chosen in the previous round. As proximal spaces are preserved under Σ -products, Nyikos has observed that every Corson compact space, a compact space embeddable in the Σ -product of real lines, must then be proximal. He asked if that implication may also be reversed. We answer his question positively, by way of defining a stronger version of the proximal game which is perfect-information equivalent to Bell's original game for uniformly locally compact spaces.

Jocelyn Bell introduced the concept of proximal spaces in her doctoral dissertation while working on the following uniform box product problems due to her advisor Scott Williams: is the uniform box product of compact spaces normal, collectionwise normal, or paracompact? Proximal spaces are defined to be the spaces for which the first player in the proximal game played on that space has a winning strategy. Bell has shown that proximal spaces have strong preservation properties, particularly, the Σ -product of proximal spaces is itself proximal [1]. This mirrors the analogous theorem for metric spaces; in fact, every metric space is easily seen to be proximal.

In [5], Peter Nyikos observed that compact subspaces of the Σ -product of real lines, known as Corson compacts, must be proximal, since the proximal property is preserved under Σ -products. He left open the question as to whether any proximal compact must then be Corson compact. Using a characterization of Corson compact due to Gruenhage in [3], we can answer that question in the affirmative.

1. DEFINITIONS AND PROPERTIES OF UNIFORM SPACES

In this paper, all spaces are assumed to be topological spaces induced by a uniformity. We relate some definitions and properties of uniform spaces.

Definition 1.1. A **uniform space** is a pair $\langle X, \mathcal{D} \rangle$ where X is a set, and \mathcal{D} is a **uniformity**. A uniformity is a filter on subsets of X^2 , called **entourages**, such that for each entourage $D \in \mathcal{D}$:

- D is reflexive, i.e., the diagonal $\Delta = \{\langle x, x \rangle : x \in X\} \subseteq D$.
- Its inverse $D^{-1} = \{\langle y, x \rangle : \langle x, y \rangle \in D\} \in \mathcal{D}$.
- There exists $\frac{1}{2}D \in \mathcal{D}$ such that

$$2\left(\frac{1}{2}D\right) = \frac{1}{2}D \circ \frac{1}{2}D = \left\{ \langle x, z \rangle : \exists y \left(\langle x, y \rangle, \langle y, z \rangle \in \frac{1}{2}D \right) \right\} \subseteq D$$

(Let $\frac{1}{2^{n+1}}D$ be shorthand for $\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2^n}D)$.)

Definition 1.2. The **uniform topology** induced by a uniformity declares a set U to be open if for every $x \in U$, there is some $D \in \mathcal{D}$ with $x \in D[x] = \{y : \langle x, y \rangle \in D\} \subseteq U$.

Theorem 1.3. *Every completely regular topology may be induced by a uniformity, and every uniform topology is completely regular.*

Theorem 1.4. *For every entourage D , there is an open symmetric entourage $E \subseteq D$. That is, $\langle x, y \rangle \in E \Leftrightarrow \langle y, x \rangle \in E$, and E is open in X^2 with the usual product topology induced by the uniform topology on X .*

(For convenience, we assume that $\frac{1}{2}D$ is always open symmetric.)

Proposition 1.5. *If D is an open entourage, then for all $x \in X$, $D[x]$ is an open neighborhood of x .*

Proof. For the proofs of these, see [2]. □

We quickly note a couple properties of $\frac{1}{2}D$.

Proposition 1.6. *If $x \in \frac{1}{2}D[y]$ and $y \in \frac{1}{2}D[z]$, then $x \in D[z]$*

Proof. Directly from the definition of $\frac{1}{2}D$. Note that the same result holds if we assumed instead that $y \in \frac{1}{2}D[x]$ or $z \in \frac{1}{2}D[y]$, since $\frac{1}{2}D$ is assumed to be symmetric. □

Proposition 1.7. *If X is a uniform space, then for all $x \in X$ and symmetric entourages D :*

$$\frac{1}{2}D[x] \subseteq \overline{\frac{1}{2}D[x]} \subseteq D[x]$$

Proof. If y is a limit point of $\frac{1}{2}D[x]$, then $\frac{1}{2}D[y]$ must intersect $\frac{1}{2}D[x]$ at some z . It follows then that $z \in D[x]$. □

1.1. The Proximal Game. The theory of proximal uniform spaces relies on an ω -length game, which proceeds as follows:

Definition 1.8. The **proximal game** $Prox_{D,P}(X)$ of length ω played on a uniform space X with two players \mathcal{D} , \mathcal{P} proceeds as follows:

- In the initial round 0, \mathcal{D} chooses an open symmetric entourage D_0 , followed by \mathcal{P} choosing a point $p_0 \in X$.
- In round $n + 1$, \mathcal{D} chooses an open symmetric entourage $D_{n+1} \subseteq \frac{1}{4}D_n$, followed by \mathcal{P} choosing a point $p_{n+1} \in D_n[p_n]$.

At the conclusion of the game, \mathcal{D} wins if either $\bigcap_{n < \omega} D_n[p_n] = \emptyset$ or $\langle p_0, p_1, \dots \rangle$ converges, and \mathcal{P} wins otherwise.

The reader familiar with proximal spaces may note that this definition is different than the original formulation of the game (see [1]); however, it is easily verified that \mathcal{D} has a winning strategy in the original game if and only if \mathcal{D} has a winning strategy in our version.

Definition 1.9. If a player \mathcal{P} has a winning strategy in a game G , we write $\mathcal{P} \uparrow G$. Otherwise, we write $\mathcal{P} \nmid G$.

Definition 1.10. A uniform space X is said to be **proximal** if and only if $\mathcal{D} \uparrow Prox_{D,P}(X)$.

2. PROXIMAL GAMES AND W GAMES

The first author introduced the following game in [4].

Definition 2.1. The W -convergence game $Con_{O,P}(X, H)$ of length ω played on a topological space X and set $H \subseteq X$ with two players \mathcal{O} , \mathcal{P} proceeds as follows:

- In the initial round 0, \mathcal{O} chooses an open neighborhood O_0 of H , followed by \mathcal{P} choosing a point $p_0 \in O_0$.
- In round $n + 1$, \mathcal{O} chooses an open neighborhood $O_{n+1} \subseteq O_n$ of H , followed by \mathcal{P} choosing a point $p_{n+1} \in O_{n+1}$.

At the conclusion of the game, \mathcal{O} wins if $\langle p_0, p_1, \dots \rangle$ converges to H (every open neighborhood of H contains all but finitely many points of the sequence), and \mathcal{P} wins otherwise.

In the case of $H = \{x\}$, we abuse notation and write $Con_{O,P}(X, x)$.

Definition 2.2. A topological space X is said to be a W space if and only if for every $x \in X$, $\mathcal{O} \uparrow Con_{O,P}(X, x)$.

We find it useful to consider a (seemingly) weaker version of this game.

Definition 2.3. The W -clustering game $Clus_{O,P}(X, H)$ proceeds identically to $Con_{O,P}(X, H)$, except that \mathcal{O} need only force p to cluster at H (every open neighborhood of H contains infinitely many points of the sequence).

Theorem 2.4. $\mathcal{O} \uparrow Con_{O,P}(X, H)$ if and only if $\mathcal{O} \uparrow Clus_{O,P}(X, H)$

Proof. Shown for $H = \{x\}$ in [4], but the analogous proof works for arbitrary H . The forward implication is immediate. Let σ be a strategy for \mathcal{O} witnessing $\mathcal{O} \uparrow Clus_{O,P}(X, H)$. Note σ is a function whose domain is all possible partial attacks by \mathcal{P} (finite sequences of points in X), and whose range is the open neighborhoods of H , such that for any legal attack $p = \langle p_0, p_1, \dots \rangle$ against σ , it follows that p must cluster at H .

For every partial attack a , let $S(a)$ contain all subsequences of a . We then define $\tau(p \upharpoonright n) = \bigcap_{b \in S(p \upharpoonright n)} \sigma(b)$. If p attacks the strategy τ for $Con_{O,P}(X, H)$, then it also is a legal attack against σ in $Clus_{O,P}(X, H)$, so p clusters at H .

But not only that: let q be a subsequence of p . If $q \upharpoonright n$ is a legal partial attack against σ and $q \upharpoonright n$ is a subsequence of $p \upharpoonright m$ with $q(n) = p(m)$, then since $q(n) = p(m) \in \tau(p \upharpoonright m) \subseteq \sigma(q \upharpoonright n)$, $q \upharpoonright n + 1$ is a legal partial attack against σ as well. Thus q is a legal attack against σ in $Clus_{O,P}(X, H)$, so q clusters at H .

Since no infinite subsequence of p can be completely missed by an open neighborhood of H , it follows that p converges to H . \square

Theorem 2.5. All proximal spaces are W spaces.

Proof. Due to Bell, see [1]. The idea of the proof is to consider the result of an attack on the winning strategy for \mathcal{P} in $Prox_{D,P}(X)$ which alternates between points chosen by \mathcal{P} in $Con_{O,P}(X, x)$ and the particular point x itself. Since the intersection $\bigcap_{n < \omega} D_n[p_n]$ must contain x , the sequence must converge, and since the sequence contains x infinitely often, it must converge to x . \square

While there is not much trouble in ensuring the nonempty intersection of $\bigcap_{n < \omega} D_n[p_n]$ for this particular proof, we turned to a stronger version of $Prox_{D,P}(X)$ which avoids the issue entirely.

Definition 2.6. The **strong proximal game** $sProx_{D,P}(X)$ proceeds identically to $Prox_{D,P}(X)$, except that \mathcal{D} may only win in the case that $\langle p_0, p_1, \dots \rangle$ converges.

Certainly, if $\mathcal{D} \uparrow sProx_{D,P}(X)$, then $\mathcal{D} \uparrow Prox_{D,P}(X)$, so all “strongly proximal” spaces are proximal. We are interested in the case that both games are equivalent for \mathcal{D} .

Definition 2.7. A uniform space is uniformly locally compact if there exists an open symmetric entourage L such that $\overline{L[x]}$ is a compact neighborhood of x for all $x \in X$.

Theorem 2.8. *A uniformly locally compact space X is proximal if and only if $\mathcal{D} \uparrow sProx_{D,P}(X)$.*

Proof. Let L be a uniformly locally compact entourage. Let σ be a strategy for \mathcal{D} witnessing $\mathcal{D} \uparrow Prox_{D,P}(X)$. Without loss of generality, we may assume such that $\sigma(p \upharpoonright n) \subseteq L$ for all partial attacks $p \upharpoonright n$ (so $\overline{\sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[x]} \subseteq \overline{L[x]}$ is compact), since $\sigma(p \upharpoonright n) \cap L$ is itself an open symmetric entourage, and any legal attack against these refined entourages is also a legal attack against the original.

Let $\tau(p \upharpoonright n) = \frac{1}{2}\sigma(p \upharpoonright n)$. If p attacks τ in $sProx_{D,P}(X)$, then

$$p(n+1) \in \tau(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n)] = \frac{1}{2}\sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n)]$$

and for

$$x \in \overline{\sigma(p \upharpoonright (n+1))[p(n+1)]} \subseteq \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n+1)]} \subseteq \frac{1}{2}\sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n+1)]$$

we can conclude $x \in \sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n)]$. Thus

$$\sigma(p \upharpoonright (n+1))[p(n+1)] \subseteq \overline{\sigma(p \upharpoonright (n+1))[p(n+1)]} \subseteq \sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n)]$$

Finally, note that since τ yields refinements of σ , then p attacks the winning strategy σ in $Prox_{D,P}(X)$, but since the intersection of a descending chain of nonempty compact sets is nonempty:

$$\bigcap_{n < \omega} \sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n)] = \bigcap_{n < \omega} \overline{\sigma(p \upharpoonright n)[p(n)]} \neq \emptyset$$

We conclude that p converges. □

To wrap up this section, we cite a few required results due to Bell, also from [1].

Theorem 2.9. *The Σ -product of proximal spaces is proximal. In particular, if X is proximal, then X^2 is proximal.*

Theorem 2.10. *Every closed subspace of a proximal space is proximal.*

Theorem 2.11. *Every metrizable space is proximal.*

3. CORSON COMPACTS AND PROXIMAL COMPACTS

We recall from [3] the definition of Corson compact.

Definition 3.1. A space is said to be Corson compact if and only if it is homeomorphic to a compact set within the Σ -product $\Sigma\mathbb{R}^\kappa$ of κ -many real lines, that is:

$$\Sigma\mathbb{R}^\kappa = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^\kappa : |\{\alpha : x(\alpha) \neq 0\}| < \omega\}$$

Proposition 3.2. *Every Corson compact is proximal.*

Proof. As observed by Nyikos in [5]. Any Corson compact is a Σ -product of compact subsets of the real line. Since closed subsets of metrizable spaces are proximal, and the Σ -product of proximal spaces is proximal, the result follows. \square

However, this characterization of Corson compact is less useful when proving the other direction.

Theorem 3.3. *A space X is Corson compact if and only if X is compact and $\mathcal{O} \uparrow \text{Con}_{O,P}(X^2, \Delta)$.*

Proof. See [3]. \square

The reverse implication also relies upon a non-trivial lemma.

Theorem 3.4. *For any uniformly locally compact proximal space X , $\mathcal{O} \uparrow \text{Con}_{O,P}(X, H)$ for all compact $H \subseteq X$.*

Proof. Let σ witness $\mathcal{D} \uparrow s\text{Prox}_{D,P}(X)$. Let $o(t)$ be the subsequence of t consisting of its odd-indexed terms.

We define $T(\emptyset)$, etc. as follows:

- Let $\emptyset \in T(\emptyset)$.
- Choose $m_\emptyset < \omega$, $h_{\emptyset,i} \in H$ for $i < m_\emptyset$, and $h_{\emptyset,i,j} \in H \cap \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(\emptyset)[h_{\emptyset,i}]}$ for $i, j < m_\emptyset$ such that

$$\{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(\emptyset)[h_{\emptyset,i}] : i < m_\emptyset\}$$

is a cover for H and such that for each $i < m_\emptyset$

$$\{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(\langle h_{\emptyset,i} \rangle)[h_{\emptyset,i,j}] : j < m_\emptyset\}$$

is a cover for $H \cap \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(\emptyset)[h_{\emptyset,i}]}$.

- Let $\langle i \rangle \in T(\emptyset)$, $\langle i, h_{\emptyset,i} \rangle \in T(\emptyset)$, and $\langle i, h_{\emptyset,i}, j \rangle \in T(\emptyset)$ for $i, j < m_\emptyset$.

Suppose $T(a)$, etc. are defined. We then define $T(a \smallfrown \langle x \rangle)$, etc. for

$$x \in \bigcup_{s \smallfrown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j \rangle \in \max(T(a))} \frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \smallfrown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]$$

as follows:

- Let $T(a) \subseteq T(a \smallfrown \langle x \rangle)$.
- Choose $t = s \smallfrown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j, x \rangle$ such that $s \smallfrown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j \rangle \in \max(T(a))$ and $x \in \frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \smallfrown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]$.
- Note that, assuming $o(s) \smallfrown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle$ is a legal partial attack against σ , then

$$x \in \frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \smallfrown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}] \subseteq \frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s))[h_{s,i,j}]$$

and

$$h_{s,i,j} \in \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s))[h_{s,i}]} \subseteq \frac{1}{2}\sigma(o(s))[h_{s,i}]$$

implies

$$x \in \sigma(o(s))[h_{s,i}]$$

and thus $o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i}, x \rangle = o(t)$ is a legal partial attack against σ .

- Choose $m_t < \omega$, $h_{t,k} \in H \cap \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]}$ for $k < m_t$, and $h_{t,k,l} \in H \cap \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(t)[h_{t,k}]}$ for $k, l < m_t$ such that

$$\{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(t))[h_{t,k}] : k < m_t\}$$

is a cover for $H \cap \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]}$ and such that for each $k < m_t$

$$\{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(t) \frown \langle h_{t,k} \rangle)[h_{t,i,j}] : l < m_t\}$$

is a cover for $H \cap \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(t))[h_{t,k}]}$.

- Note that, assuming $o(t)$ is a legal partial attack against σ , then

$$h_{t,k} \in \overline{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]} \subseteq \frac{1}{2}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]$$

and

$$x \in \frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]$$

implies

$$h_{t,k} \in \sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[x]$$

and thus $o(t) \frown \langle h_{t,k} \rangle$ is a legal partial attack against σ .

- Let $t \in T(a \frown \langle x \rangle)$, $t \frown \langle k \rangle \in T(a \frown \langle x \rangle)$, $t \frown \langle k, h_{t,k} \rangle \in T(a \frown \langle x \rangle)$, and $t \frown \langle k, h_{t,k}, l \rangle \in T(a \frown \langle x \rangle)$ for $k, l < m_t$.
- Note that assuming

$$\{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}] : s \frown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j \rangle \in \max(T(a))\}$$

covers H , then since

$$\{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(t) \frown \langle h_{t,k} \rangle)[h_{t,k,l}] : s \frown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j, x, k, h_{t,k}, l \rangle \in \max(T(a \frown \langle x \rangle)) \setminus \max(T(a))\}$$

covers $H \cap \frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]$, we have that

$$\{\frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(t) \frown \langle h_{t,k} \rangle)[h_{t,k,l}] : t \frown \langle k, h_{t,k}, l \rangle \in \max(T(a \frown \langle x \rangle))\}$$

covers H .

With this we may define the strategy τ for \mathcal{O} in $Clus_{O,P}(X, H)$ such that:

$$\tau(p \upharpoonright n) = \bigcup_{s \frown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j \rangle \in \max(T(p \upharpoonright n))} \frac{1}{4}\sigma(o(s) \frown \langle h_{s,i} \rangle)[h_{s,i,j}]$$

If p attacks τ , then it follows that $T(p \upharpoonright n)$ is defined for all $n < \omega$, so let $T(p) = \bigcup_{n < \omega} T(p \upharpoonright n)$. We note $T(p)$ is an infinite tree with finite levels:

- \emptyset has exactly m_\emptyset successors $\langle i \rangle$.
- $s \frown \langle i \rangle$ has exactly one successor $t \frown \langle i, h_{s,i} \rangle$
- $s \frown \langle i, h_{s,i} \rangle$ has exactly m_s successors $t \frown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j \rangle$
- $s \frown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j \rangle$ has either no successors or exactly one successor $t \frown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j, x \rangle$
- $t = s \frown \langle i, h_{s,i}, j, x \rangle$ has exactly m_t successors $t \frown \langle k \rangle$

Let $q' = \langle i_0, h_0, j_0, x_0, i_1, h_1, j_1, x_1, \dots \rangle$ correspond to this infinite branch in $T(p)$, and let $q = o(q') = \langle h_0, x_0, h_1, x_1, \dots \rangle$. Note that by the construction of $T(p)$, q is an attack on the winning strategy σ in $sProx_{D,P}(X)$, so it must converge. Since every other term of q is in H , it must converge to H . Then since q is a subsequence of p , p must cluster at H .

Since $\mathcal{O} \uparrow Clus_{O,P}(X, H)$ if and only if $\mathcal{O} \uparrow Con_{O,P}(X, H)$, the result follows. \square

The equivalency result follows as a quick corollary.

Corollary 3.5. *For any compact uniform space X , X is proximal if and only if X is Corson compact.*

Proof. The reverse implication was shown earlier. If X is compact proximal, then so is X^2 . By the previous theorem, $\mathcal{O} \uparrow Con_{O,P}(X^2, \Delta)$, which is a characterization of Corson compact. \square

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