

# Reflectivity and reflective hull in the category of $T_0$ spaces

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- 1 Background
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In category theory, **reflectivity** offer a systematic way to associate each object in the larger category **C** with a best approximating object in a smaller category **D**. If a subcategory **D** is reflective in **C**, then every object in **C** can be "best approximated" by an element in the subcategory **D**.

For example, in topology theory:

- **Stone-Čech Compactification:** The category of compact Hausdorff spaces is reflective in the category of Tychonoff spaces. The reflector is the Stone-Čech compactification  $\beta X$ .
- **Completion of Metric Spaces:** Complete metric spaces form a reflective subcategory of metric spaces with uniformly continuous maps. The reflector is the metric completion.

This talk systematically reviews some known results on reflectivity of the category of  $T_0$  spaces, and then show some new findings regarding the reflective hulls of the category of some  $T_0$  spaces in domain theory.

## Definition (Reflective Subcategory)

A full subcategory  $\mathbf{K}$  of  $\mathbf{C}$  is called **reflective** if for every  $X \in \mathbf{C}$ , there exists:

- An object  $X^k \in \mathbf{K}$ ,
- A  $\mathbf{C}$ -morphism  $\mu_X : X \rightarrow X^k$ ,

such that for any  $\mathbf{C}$ -morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Z$  with  $Z \in \mathbf{K}$ , there exists a **unique**  $\mathbf{K}$ -morphism  $g : X^k \rightarrow Z$  such that  $g \circ \mu_X = f$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\mu_X} & X^k \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\ & & Z \end{array}$$

## Explanation:

Think of  $X^k$  as:

- The best approximation of  $X$  from above, but living in  $\mathbf{K}$ .

# Reflectivity from a Poset Perspective

## Example

Consider a poset  $(P, \leq)$  viewed as a category, where objects are elements of  $P$  and there is a unique morphism  $p \rightarrow q$  if and only if  $p \leq q$ . A subset  $Q \subseteq P$  is **reflective** in  $P$  (as a subcategory) if and only if

- $\forall p \in P, \exists \hat{p} \in Q$  such that  $\forall q \in Q$ :

$$p \leq q \implies \hat{p} \leq q.$$

- Equivalently, for each  $p \in P$ ,  $\bigwedge_Q(\uparrow p \cap Q)$  exists.

That is,  $f \dashv i_Q$ , where  $f: P \rightarrow Q$ ,  $p \mapsto \hat{p}$ .

Here  $\hat{p}$  is the **best approximation of  $p$  from above within  $Q$** .

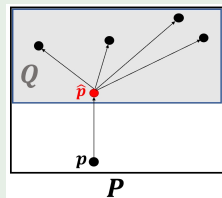


Figure:  $Q$  is reflective in  $P$

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In the category of topological spaces, J.F. Kennison<sup>1</sup> gives three types of full reflective subcategories of all topological spaces **Top** called **simple**, **identifying**, and **embedding**, as follows:

### Definition (Kennison 1965)

Let **P** be a full subcategory of **Top**, and  $F: \mathbf{Top} \longrightarrow \mathbf{P}$  be a reflector from the category of topology.  $F$  is called

- (1) **simple**: if  $e_X: X \longrightarrow F(X)$  is bijective for all  $X$ ;
- (2) **identifying**: if  $e_X(X) = F(X)$  for all  $X$ ;
- (3) **embedding**: if each object of **P** is a Hausdorff space and if  $e_X(X)$  is a dense subset of  $F(X)$  for all  $X$ .

The full category **P** is **simple** (resp., **identifying** or **embedding**) if there exists a simple (resp., identifying or embedding) reflector  $F: \mathbf{Top} \longrightarrow \mathbf{P}$ .

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<sup>1</sup>J.F. Kennison, Reflective functors in general topology and elsewhere, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 118 (1965), 303–315.



In the paper, J. F. Kennison (1965) gave the characterizations of the three reflectors:

### Theorem (A)

*A topological property  $\mathbf{P}$  is simple iff  $\mathbf{P}$  is hereditary, productive and contains every indiscrete space.*

### Theorem (B)

*A topological property  $\mathbf{P}$  is identifying iff  $\mathbf{P}$  is hereditary and productive.*

### Theorem (C)

*A topological property  $\mathbf{P}$  is embedding iff  $\mathbf{P}$  is closed-hereditary, productive and contains only Hausdorff spaces.*

In the paper, J.F. Kennison (1965) gives three types of full reflective subcategories of all topological spaces, but

- he doesn't know whether these three types include all the full reflective subcategories of **Top**.

In the paper<sup>2</sup>, L. Skula (1969) gave an Negative answer, and proposed another type called *b-embedding* NOT mentioned by Kennison. Then he show that

### Theorem (Skula-1969)

*If  $\mathbf{P}$  is a full reflective subcategory of the category of **Top** containing at least one non- $T_1$  space, then  $\mathbf{P}$  is a subcategory of one of the above-mentioned 4 types.*

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<sup>2</sup>L. Skula, On a reflective subcategory of the category of all topological spaces, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 142 (1969) 37–41.

# Why Skula topology?

Let  $A \subseteq X \in \mathbf{Top}$ ,  $Y \in \mathbf{Top}_0$ , and  $f: A \longrightarrow Y$  be a continuous map.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{i} & X \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow g \\ & & Y \end{array} \text{ at most one}$$

It requires that there is **at most one** continuous extension  $g$  of  $f$ . Otherwise,  $\exists$  conti. map  $g_1 \neq g_2$  s.t.  $g_1|_A = g_2|_A = f$ . Then  $\exists x_0 \in X$  s.t.

- $g_1(x_0) \neq g_2(x_0)$  in  $Y$ .
- $\exists V_0 \in \mathcal{O}(Y)$ ,  $g_1(x_0) \in V_0$  and  $g_2(x_0) \notin V_0$  (without loss of generality).
- $\exists U_1, U_2 \in \mathcal{O}(X)$ ,  $x_0 \in U_1 \setminus U_2$  and  $U_1 \cap A = U_2 \cap A$ . (take  $U_i = g_i^{-1}(V_0)$ ). Consequently,

## Proposition (Skula-1969)

*The extension is at most one for all  $Y \in \mathbf{Top}_0$  iff  $\forall x \in X$ ,  $\nexists U_1, U_2 \in \mathcal{O}(X)$  s.t.  $x \in U_1 \setminus U_2$  and  $U_1 \cap A = U_2 \cap A$ .*

Let  $A \subseteq X \in \mathbf{Top}$ , and define

- $x \in \widehat{A} \Leftrightarrow \nexists U_1, U_2 \in \mathcal{O}(X)$  s.t.  $x \in U_1 \setminus U_2$  and  $U_1 \cap A = U_2 \cap A$ .

## Proposition (Skula-1969)

*The following assertion holds:*

- 1  $A \subseteq \widehat{A} \subseteq \overline{A}$ ;
- 2  $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow \widehat{A} \subseteq \widehat{B}$ ;
- 3  $\widehat{A} = \widehat{\widehat{A}}$ ;
- 4  $\widehat{A \cup B} = \widehat{A} \cup \widehat{B}$ .

*This new topology is the so called **b-topology**, denoted by  $bX$ .*

## Corollary (Skula-1969)

*The extension of the inclusion  $i: A \rightarrow X$  is at most one for all  $Y \in \mathbf{Top}_0$  iff  $A$  is **b-dense** in  $X$  (i.e., dense in  $bX$ ).*

## Definition (Skula 1969)

- Let  $F: \mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}$  be a reflector.  $F$  is called a  $b$ -embedding reflector iff  $\mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbf{Top}_0$  and if  $e_X(X)$  is a  $b$ -dense subset of  $F(X)$  for all  $X \in \mathbf{Top}$ .
- A topological property  $\mathbf{P}$  is called a  $b$ -embedding iff there exists a  $b$ -embedding reflector  $F: \mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}$ .
- A topological property  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $b$ -closed-hereditary if  $Y \in \mathbf{P}$  whenever  $Y$  is a  $b$ -closed subspace of some  $X \in \mathbf{P}$ .

## Theorem (D)

*A topological property  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $b$ -embedding iff  $\mathbf{P}$  is productive,  $b$ -closed-hereditary and  $\mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbf{Top}_0$ .*

# Skula's example

The Sierpinski space  $\mathbb{S} = \Sigma 2$ , where  $2 = \{0, 1\}$  with open sets  $\emptyset, 2, \{1\}$ . Then the power  $\prod_{i \in I} \mathbb{S} = \Sigma(2^I, \subseteq)$ , since  $\uparrow \chi_F = \bigcap_{i \in F} p^{-1}(\{1\})$ .

**S** The class of spaces that is homeomorphic to a  $b$ -closed subspace of a product  $\prod_{i \in I} \mathbb{S}$  for some non-empty set  $I$ .

## Example (Skula-1969)

Let  $X = \prod_{i=1}^{+\infty} \mathbb{S} = \Sigma 2^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $A = X - \{N\}$ . Note that each open set in  $X$  contains  $N$ , so  $\hat{A} = X$ , which implies that  $X$  is the reflection of  $A$  in **S**. Also, **S** is a topological property such that

- **S** is  $b$ -embedding.
- $e_A$  is not surjective, so **S** is *not simple*.
- $e_A(A) \neq X$ , so **S** is *not identifying*.
- **S**  $\not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_2$ , so **S** is *not embedding*.

## Theorem (Skula-1969)

If  $\mathbf{P}$  is a full reflective subcategory of the category of **Top** containing at least one non- $T_1$  space, then  $\mathbf{P}$  is a subcategory of one of the above-mentioned 4 types:

- *simple*;
- *identifying*;
- *embedding*;
- *b-embedding*

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# Some properties on $b$ -topology

In the paper<sup>3</sup>, Hoffmann (1979) proved some properties on  $b$ -topology.

## Theorem (Hoffmann-1979)

Let  $X$  be a topological space.

- The topology of  $bX$  is equivalently generated by any of the following:
  - The collection  $\{\downarrow x \cap U : x \in U \in \mathcal{O}(X)\}$ ;
  - The union  $\mathcal{O}(X) \cup \mathcal{C}(X)$  (hence the  $b$ -topology is **finer** than the original);
  - The union  $\mathcal{O}(X) \cup \{A \subseteq X : A = \downarrow A\}$ .
- For each  $x \in U \in \mathcal{O}(X)$ ,  $\downarrow x \cap U$  is both  $b$ -closed and  $b$ -open, so  $bX$  is zero-dimensional, hence is completely regular.
- If  $X \in \mathbf{Top}_0$ , then  $bX$  is Hausdorff, hence is a Tychonoff space.
- A  $T_0$  space  $X$  is Noetherian and sober iff  $bX$  is a compact  $T_2$  space.

<sup>3</sup>R.E Hoffmann, On the sobrification remainder  $X^s - X$ , Pacific J. Math. 83(1), 1979

# Characterize sobriety via $b$ -topology

The  $b$ -topology also proves to be a effective tool for describing (or characterizing) the sobrification of  $T_0$  spaces<sup>4</sup>.

## Definition

A nonempty subset  $A$  of a  $T_0$  space is called **irreducible** if for any closed sets  $F_1, F_2$ ,  $A \subseteq F_1 \cup F_2$  implies  $A \subseteq F_1$  or  $A \subseteq F_2$ . A  $T_0$  space  $X$  is called **sober**, if for any irreducible closed set  $F$  of  $X$  there is a (unique) point  $x \in X$  such that  $F = \downarrow x$ .

## Theorem (Keimel and Lawson 2009)

Let  $A \subseteq X \in \mathbf{Sober}$ .

- (1)  $A$  is sober iff  $A$  is  $b$ -closed;
- (2)  $A^s \cong \text{cl}_b(A)$ , where  $A^s$  is the sobrification of  $A$ .

<sup>4</sup>K. Keimel, J.D. Lawson,  $D$ -completions and the  $d$ -topology, Ann. Pure Appl. Logic 159 (2009) 292–306.

# Transition to $\mathbf{Top}_0$ : why $T_0$ spaces?

In the remainder of this talk, we **shift our focus** from the general category  $\mathbf{Top}$  to the category  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  of  $T_0$  spaces.

## Motivation from Domain Theory

From the perspective of domain theory,  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  captures **most structures of interest**, including:

- **sober spaces**, **well-filtered spaces**,  $d$ -spaces, et al.

## Why not $T_1$ ?

Many important topologies in domain theory are naturally  $T_0$  but **not**  $T_1$ , such as:

- the **Scott topology**, the **Alexandroff topology**, and the **upper topology**.

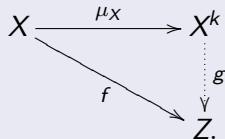
The  $T_0$  separation axiom thus provides the **natural setting** for our study.

In domain theory, the mostly concerned topological spaces are usually just  $T_0$ . We use

- **Top<sub>0</sub>**: all  $T_0$  spaces + continuous maps.

## Definition

A subcategory **K** of **Top<sub>0</sub>** is called **reflective**, if  $\forall X \in \mathbf{Top}_0$ ,  $\exists X^k \in \mathbf{K}$  (the **K-completion**) and a continuous map  $\mu_X : X \rightarrow X^k$  (the **K-reflection**) s.t. for any conti. map  $f : X \rightarrow Z \in \mathbf{K}$ ,  $\exists$  a unique conti. map  $g : X^k \rightarrow Z$  such that  $g \circ \mu_X = f$ .



In 2009, Keimel and Lawson<sup>5</sup> proved that a full subcategory **K** of  $T_0$  spaces is reflective in the category **Top**<sub>0</sub> of all  $T_0$  spaces if it satisfies the following **four conditions**:

- (K1) **K** contains all sober spaces;
- (K2) If  $X \in \mathbf{K}$  and  $Y$  is homeomorphic to  $X$ , then  $Y \in \mathbf{K}$ ;
- (K3) If  $\{X_i : i \in I\} \subseteq \mathbf{K}$  is a family of subspaces of a sober space, then the subspace  $\bigcap_{i \in I} X_i \in \mathbf{K}$ .
- (K4) If  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a continuous map from a sober space  $X$  to a sober space  $Y$ , then for any subspace  $Y_1$  of  $Y$ ,  $Y_1 \in \mathbf{K}$  implies that  $f^{-1}(Y_1) \in \mathbf{K}$ .

### Theorem (Wu-Xi-Xu-Zhao, 2019)

*The category of well-filtered spaces satisfies (K1) – (K4), thus is reflective in **Top**<sub>0</sub><sup>a</sup>.*

<sup>a</sup>G. Wu, X. Xi, X. Xu and D. Zhao, Existence of well-filterification, *Topol. Appl.* 267 (2019) 107044.

<sup>5</sup>K. Keimel, J.D. Lawson,  $D$ -completions and the  $d$ -topology, *Ann. Pure Appl. Logic* 159 (2009) 292–306.

## Definition

A category  $\mathbf{K}$  **has equalizers** if for any morphisms  $f, g: X \longrightarrow Y$  in  $\mathbf{K}$ , the equalizer  $E_{f,g} = \{x \in X : f(x) = g(x)\}$  of  $f$  and  $g$  belongs to  $\mathbf{K}$ .

We proved that the Keimel-Lawson condition is not only **sufficient** but also **necessary**.

## Theorem (Shen-Xi-Zhao 2024)

Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  such that  $\mathbf{K} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $\mathbf{K}$  is reflective in  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ ;
- (2)  $\mathbf{K}$  satisfies conditions (K1)–(K4);
- (3)  $\mathbf{K}$  is productive and  $b$ -closed-hereditary<sup>a</sup>;
- (4)  $\mathbf{K}$  is productive and has equalizers<sup>b</sup>.







<sup>a</sup>C. Shen, X. Xi, D. Zhao, the reflectivity of some categories of  $T_0$  spaces in domain theory, Rocky Mountain Journal of Mathematics, 54 (2024), 1149 – 1166.

<sup>b</sup>L. Nel, R. Wilson, Epireflections in the category of  $T_0$ -spaces, Fund. Math. 75 (1972) 69-74.

By using the above result, we can easily prove the following:

- **well-filtered spaces** ( $\checkmark$ ), by Wu, Xu, Xi, Zhao (2019)
- **$\mathcal{U}_S$ -admitting spaces** ( $\checkmark$ ), by Shen, Xi, Zhao (2025)
- **$k$ -bounded sober spaces** ( $\times$ ), by Lu, Wang, Wu, Zhao (2020)  
— *(K3) does not hold.*
- **strong- $d$ -spaces** ( $\times$ ), by Jin, Miao, Li (2021)  
— *(K3) does not hold.*
- **open well-filtered spaces** ( $\times$ ), , by Shen, Xi, Zhao (2025)  
— *Not  $b$ -closed hereditary.*
- **co-sober spaces** ( $\times$ ), by Shen, Xi, Zhao (2025)  
— *(K3) does not hold..*
- **$T_D$  spaces** ( $\times$ ), by Hou, Li, Miao, Zhao (2023)  
— *Not productive.*
- et al.

## Related papers of the last page

-  G. Wu, X. Xi, X. Xu, D. Zhao, Existence of well-filtered reflections of  $T_0$  topological spaces, Topol. Appl. 267 (2019) 107044.
-  X. Xu, D. Zhao, Some open problems on well-filtered spaces and sober spaces, Topol. Appl. (2020) 107540.
-  Q. Li, M. Jin, H. Miao, S. Chen, On some results related to sober spaces, Acta Mathematica Scientia, 2023, 43B(4): 1477 -1490.
-  C. Shen, X. Xi, X. Xu, D. Zhao, On open well-filtered spaces, Logic Meth. Computer Sci. 16 (4) (2020) 4–18.
-  X. Xu, D. Zhao, On topological Rudin's lemma, well-filtered spaces and sober spaces, Topol. Appl. 272 (2020) 107080.
-  H. Hou, Q. Li, H. Miao, D. Zhao, The reflective hulls of some subcategories in the category of all  $T_0$  spaces. Houston Journal of Mathematics, 49(2)(2023) 381–395.



## Remark 1: Condition $\mathbf{K} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ and Ershov's analogous result

### Definition (Sierpiński space)

The Scott space  $\Sigma 2$ , where the underlying set  $2 = \{0, 1\}$  with  $0 \leq 1$ , is called the **Sierpiński space**. Its open sets are  $\emptyset$ ,  $\{0, 1\}$ , and  $\{1\}$ .

### Lemma

*Let  $X$  be a  $T_0$  space. Then, the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $X$  is non- $T_1$ .*
- (2)  $\Sigma 2$  is a retract of  $X$ .*
- (3)  $\Sigma 2$  is homeomorphic to a  $b$ -closed subspace of  $X$ .*
- (4)  $\Sigma 2$  is homeomorphic to a subspace of  $X$ .*

### Corollary (Shen-Xi-Zhao, 2024)

Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a full subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ . Then, the following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $\mathbf{K} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ .
- (2) The space  $\Sigma 2$  can be topologically embedded into some space  $Y \in \mathbf{K}$ .

### Definition (Ershov-2022)

A full subcategory  $\mathbf{K}$  of  $\mathbf{Top}$  is called **wide** if every  $T_0$  space  $X$  can be topologically embedded into some space  $Y \in \mathbf{K}^a$ .

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<sup>a</sup>Y. L. Ershov, "K-completions of  $T_0$ -spaces", Algebra Logic 61:3 (2022), 177–187.

### Lemma (Ershov-2022)

If  $\mathbf{K}$  is a wide subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ , then  $\mathbf{K} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ . Not vice versa.

# Ershov's result is **later** and **weaker** than ours

Corollary (Ershov-2022; Shen,Xi,Zhao-2021)

A **wide** subcategory  **$K$**  of  **$\mathbf{Top}_0$**  is reflective iff  **$K$**  satisfies Keimel-Lawson conditions (K1)-(K4).

arXiv > math > arXiv:2110.01138

Mathematics > General Topology

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## The reflectivity of some categories of $T_0$ spaces in domain theory

Chong Shen, Xiaoyong Xi, Dongsheng Zhao

Keimel and Lawson proposed a set of conditions for proving a category of topological spaces to be reflective in the category of  $T_0$  spaces. We prove that, in certain sense, these conditions are not just sufficient but also necessary for a category of  $T_0$  spaces to be reflective. We answered a few open problems.

Subjects: **General Topology (math.GN)**; Category Theory (math.CT)

Cite as: [arXiv:2110.01138](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.01138) [math.GN]  
(or [arXiv:2110.01138v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.01138v1) [math.GN] for this version)  
<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2110.01138> ⓘ

Journal reference: Rocky Mountain J. Math. 54(4), 1149-1166 (2024)

Related DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1216/rmj.2024.54.1149> ⓘ

## Remark 2: Xu's approach to $\mathbf{K}$ -reflection

### Definition (Wright-Wagner-Thatcher-1978, Xu-2021)

A covariant functor  $H : \mathbf{Top}_0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  is called a **R-subset system**<sup>ab</sup> on  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  provided that the following two conditions are satisfied:

- (1)  $\forall X \in \mathbf{Top}_0, \mathcal{S}(X) \subseteq H(X) \subseteq Irr(X)$ ;
- (2)  $\forall f: X \longrightarrow Y \in \mathbf{Top}_0, H(f)(A) = f(A) \in H(Y)$  for all  $A \in H(X)$ .

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<sup>a</sup>J. Wright, E. Wagner, J. Thatcher. A uniform approach to inductive posets and inductive closure, Theoret. Comput. Sci. 7(1)(1978) 57-77.

<sup>b</sup>X. Xu, On H-sober spaces and H-sobrifications of  $T_0$  spaces, Topol. Appl. 289 (2021) 107548.

## Definition (Xu - 2021)

Let  $H: \mathbf{Top}_0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  be an  $R$ -subset system.

- A  $T_0$  space  $X$  is called  **$H$ -sober** if for any  $A \in H(X)$ , there is a (unique) point  $x \in X$  such that  $\overline{A} = \overline{\{x\}}$ .
- The category of all  $H$ -sober spaces with continuous mappings is denoted by  **$H\text{-Sob}$** .

## Theorem (Xu-2021)

*For a full subcategory  $\mathbf{K}$  of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  with  $\mathbf{K} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\mathbf{K}$  is reflective in  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ .*
- (2) There exists an  $R$ -subset system  $H: \mathbf{Top}_0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  such that  $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{H-sob}$ .*

## Definition (Xu-2020)

Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a full subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  with  $\mathbf{Sob} \subseteq \mathbf{K}$ .

- A subset  $A$  of a  $T_0$  space  $X$  is called **K-determined** provided for any continuous mapping  $f: X \rightarrow Y \in \mathbf{K}$ , there exists a unique  $y_A \in Y$  such that  $\overline{f(A)} = \overline{\{y_A\}}$ .
- Denote by  $\mathbf{K}(X)$  the set of all closed **K-determined** sets of  $X$ .
- The **lower Vietoris topology** on  $\mathbf{K}(X)$  is the topology  $\{\diamond U : U \in \mathcal{O}(X)\}$ , where

$$\diamond U = \{A \in \mathbf{K}(X) : A \cap U \neq \emptyset\},$$

and the resulting space is denoted by  $P_H(\mathbf{K}(X))^a$ .

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<sup>a</sup>X. Xu, A direct approach to K-reflections of  $T_0$  spaces, Topol. Appl. 272 (2020) 107076.

### Definition (Xu-2020)

$\mathbf{K}$  is called **adequate** if for any  $T_0$  space  $X$ ,  $P_H(\mathbf{K}(X))$  is a  $\mathbf{K}$ -space.

### Theorem (Xu-2020)

*For a full subcategory  $\mathbf{K}$  of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  with  $\mathbf{K} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\mathbf{K}$  is reflective in  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ .
- (2)  $\mathbf{K}$  is adequate.

## Theorem (Shen,Xi,Zhao-2024; Xu-2020-2021)

*For a full subcategory  $\mathbf{K}$  of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  with  $\mathbf{K} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\mathbf{K}$  is reflective in  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ .*
- (2)  $\mathbf{K}$  is adequate.*
- (3)  $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{H-Sob}$  for some  $R$ -subset system  $H : \mathbf{Top}_0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ .*
- (4)  $\mathbf{K}$  is a Keimel-Lawson category.*
- (5)  $\mathbf{K}$  is productive and  $b$ -closed-hereditary.*
- (6)  $\mathbf{K}$  is productive and has equalizers.*



### Remark 3: $T_D$ -space and $\mathbf{K}$ -remainder $X^k \setminus X$

Observing that

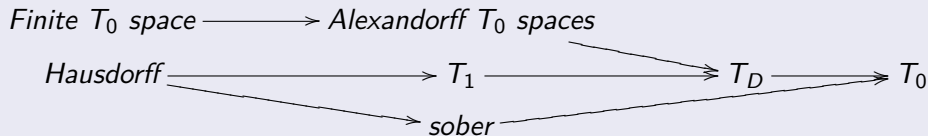
- $T_0$ -separation:  $\text{cl}(\{x\}) \setminus \{x\} = \bigcup_{y \in \text{cl}(\{x\}) \setminus \{x\}} \text{cl}(\{y\})$ , the **union of closed** sets.
- $T_1$ -separation:  $\text{cl}(\{x\}) \setminus \{x\} = \emptyset$ , a **closed** set.

#### Definition (Aull-Thron, 1963)

A space  $X$  is  $T_D$  if for every  $x \in X$ ,  $\text{cl}(\{x\}) \setminus \{x\}$  is closed <sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup>C.E. Aull, W.J. Thron. Separation axioms between  $T_0$  and  $T_1$ , Indag. Math., 24(1963), 26 – 37.

#### Remark



## Theorem (Hoffmann-1977)

<sup>a</sup> The following are equivalent:

- (1)  $X$  is  $T_D$ ;
- (2) For any subset  $A \subseteq X$ , the derived set  $A'$  of  $A$  is closed.
- (3)  $bX$  is discrete; that is,  $\forall x \in X, \exists U \in \mathcal{O}(X)$  s.t.  $U \cap \text{cl}(\{x\}) = \{x\}$ .

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<sup>a</sup>R.E. Hoffmann, Irreducible filters and spaces, Manuscripta Math. 22 (1977) 365 - 380.

## Theorem (Thron-1962)

<sup>a</sup>Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be  $T_D$  spaces. If  $(\mathcal{O}(X), \subseteq) \cong (\mathcal{O}(Y), \subseteq)$ , then  $X \cong Y$ .

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<sup>a</sup>W.J. Thron, Lattice-equivalence of topological spaces, Duke Math. J., 29 (1962) 671–679.

Let  $X$  be a  $T_0$  space, and  $\mathbb{N}$  be the set of natural numbers with Alexandorff topology. Let

$$\mathbb{N}_X := (\mathbb{N}^s \times X^s) - (\{\infty\} \times X)$$

with the topology induced from  $\mathbb{N}^s \times X^s$  ( $X$  is to be considered as a subspace of  $X^s$ ).

### Theorem (Hoffmann-1979)

<sup>a</sup> For every  $T_0$ -space  $X$  holds  $X \cong {}^sN_X - N_X$ , i.e., every  $T_0$ -space is a sobrification remainder.

<sup>a</sup>R.E Hoffmann, On the sobrification remainder  $X^s - X$ , Pacific J. Math. 83(1), 1979.

### Lemma (Hoffmann-1979)

- (i) If  $Y$  is a  $T_D$ -space, then  ${}^sY - Y$  is sober.
- (ii)  $N_X$  is  $T_D$  iff  $X$  is both sober and  $T_D$ .

## Proposition

*Let  $Y$  be a  $b$ -dense subspace of a topological space  $X$ . If  $Y$  is a  $T_D$  space, then  $Y$  is a  $b$ -open subset of  $X$ , or equivalently,  $X \setminus Y$  is  $b$ -closed.*

## Theorem (Remainder of $\mathbf{K}$ -reflection)

*Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ . If  $X$  is a  $T_D$  space, then  $X^k \setminus X$  (as a subspace of  $X^k$ ) belongs to  $\mathbf{K}$ .*

## Corollary

*If  $Y$  is a  $T_D$ -space, then*

- (1)  $Y^s \setminus Y$  is sober;*
- (2)  $Y^{wf} \setminus Y$  is well-filtered;*
- (3)  $Y^d \setminus Y$  is a  $d$ -space;*
- (4)  $Y^{us} \setminus Y$  is  $\mathcal{U}_s$ -admitting.*

Thank you for your attention.

I am happy to take any questions you might have.

- 1 Background
- 2 Reflections in the category of topological spaces
- 3 Reflectivity of some  $T_0$  spaces in domain theory
- 4 The reflective hull of some  $T_0$  spaces

# Determine the reflective hull via Xi-Zhao model

## Definition (reflective hull)

Let  $\mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbf{C}$  be a full subcategory. The **reflective hull** of  $\mathbf{P}$  (denoted by  $\overline{\mathbf{P}}$ ) in  $\mathbf{C}$  is, if it exists, the smallest reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{C}$  containing  $\mathbf{P}$ .

## Proposition (J. Martin Harvey-1985)

*<sup>a</sup> If the intersection of a family of reflective subcategories of  $\mathbf{C}$  is cowell-powering, then it is reflective.*

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<sup>a</sup>J. Martin Harvey. Reflective subcategories, Illinois J. Math. 29 (1985) 365–369.

## Theorem (J.M. Harvey,1985; Hou-Li-Miao-Zhao, 2023)

*Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be a full subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  with  $\mathbf{P} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Top}_1$ . Then the reflective hull of  $\mathbf{P}$  exists<sup>a</sup>.*

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<sup>a</sup>H. Hou, Q. Li, H. Miao, D. Zhao, The reflective hulls of some subcategories in the category of all  $T_0$  spaces. Houston Journal of Mathematics, 49 (2023), 381 – 395.





## Remark

Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be a full subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ , then  $\overline{\mathbf{P}}$  contains:

- all *sober* spaces;
- $\prod_{i \in I} X_i$ , for  $X_i \in \mathbf{P}$ ,  $i \in I$ ;
- $Y$ , if  $Y$  is a *b-closed* (hence, *saturated* or *closed*) subspace of some  $X \in \mathbf{P}$ .
- $Z$ , if  $Z$  is a *retract* of some  $X \in \mathbf{P}$ .

## Corollary

If every  $T_0$  space is a saturated (*b-closed*) subspace of some space in  $\mathbf{P}$ , then  $\overline{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{Top}_0$ .

### Proposition (Shen-Xi-Zhao, 2022)

*For each  $T_0$  space  $X$ , the product  $X \times \Sigma\mathbb{J}$  is open well-filtered<sup>a</sup>.*

<sup>a</sup>C. Shen, X. Xi, D. Zhao. Further studies on open well-filtered spaces, *Electronic Notes in Theoretical Informatics and Computer Science* 2(2022), 1–12

### Proposition

*Every  $T_0$  space is a retract of some open well-filtered space.*

Using the above method, we can therefore recover the result established by Hou et al. (2023).

### Corollary (Hou et al, 2023)

*The reflective hull of open well-filtered spaces in  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  is  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ .*

## Definition

A  $T_0$  space  $X$  is *k-bounded sober* (resp., *bounded sober*) if for any irreducible closed set  $A$  with  $\sup A$  existing (resp.,  $A$  being upper bounded), there is a unique point  $x \in X$  such that  $A = \downarrow x$ .

## Lemma

*For each  $T_0$  space  $X$ , the product  $X \times \mathbb{N}_{\text{cof}}$  is *k-bounded (bounded) sober*.*

## Proposition

*Every  $T_0$  space  $X$  is a retract of some *k-bounded (bounded) sober space*.*

We can therefore easily recover the result of Hou et al. (2023) using a relatively simple method.

## Corollary (Hou et al, 2023)

*The reflective hull of *k-bounded (bounded) sober spaces* in  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  is  $\mathbf{Top}_0$ .*

## Proposition

*For each  $d$ -space  $X$ , there is a dcpo  $P$  such that*

- (1)  $X$  is a subspace of  $\Sigma P$ ;*
- (2)  $X$  is a saturated subspace of  $\Sigma P$ .*
- (3)  $X$  is sober if and only if  $\Sigma P$  is sober.*

## Theorem (A)

- (1) The reflective hull of dcpos in **Top**<sub>0</sub> is  $d$ -spaces.*
- (2) The reflective hull of sober dcpos in **Top**<sub>0</sub> is sober spaces.*

## Theorem (B)

*The reflective hull of Rudin space is **Top**<sub>0</sub>.*

## Lemma

*Let  $\{X_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a family of topological spaces. Then, the topology of  $b\prod_{i \in I} X_i$  is finer than that of  $\prod_{i \in I} bX_i$ .*

## Lemma

*Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $Y$  a subspace of  $X$ . Then,  $bY$  is a subspace of  $bX$ .*

# Direct construction of the reflective hull

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be a  $T_0$  topological property. Then, the reflective hull  $\overline{\mathbf{P}}$  of  $\mathbf{P}$  in  $\mathbf{Top}_0$  is given by

$$\overline{\mathbf{P}} = \left\{ X \in \mathbf{Top}_0 : X \hookrightarrow \prod_{i \in I} X_i \text{ as a } b\text{-closed subspace, with } X_i \in \mathbf{P} \right\}.$$

Thus, the class  $\overline{\mathbf{P}}$  can be constructed in two stages:

- First, form **arbitrary products** of members of  $\mathbf{P}$ ;
- Second, take all  **$b$ -closed subspaces** (within the  $T_0$  category) of these products.

## Research Topic

Determine the reflective hull (in the category of **Top**<sub>0</sub>) of  $T_D$  spaces and other non-Hausdorff spaces (e.g. co-sober spaces, consonant space, strong-d-spaces, et al)?