

## TWO COUNTABLE, BICONNECTED, NOT WIDELY CONNECTED HAUSDORFF SPACES

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**ABSTRACT.** We construct two countable, biconnected spaces, not widely connected, not having a dispersion point, and not being strongly connected. The first is Hausdorff and the second is Urysohn and almost regular.

**Keywords and phrases.** Countable connected, biconnected, almost regular.

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**1. Introduction.** The first example of a biconnected space with a dispersion point was constructed by B. Knaster and K. Kuratowski in [23], and the first example of a biconnected space without a dispersion point by E. W. Miller in [26]. Two stronger examples of biconnected spaces without a dispersion point were constructed by M. E. Rudin in [30, 31]. The example in [30] has the property that the complement of every connected subset containing more than one point is at most countable and the example in [31] has the property of being widely connected. All spaces in [26, 30, 31], are subsets of the plane. The first two are constructed under the Continuum Hypothesis and the third one under Martin's Axiom. In [7], G. Gruenhage constructed a countable connected Hausdorff space under Martin's Axiom and a perfectly normal connected space under the Continuum Hypothesis in which the complement of every connected subspace containing more than one point is finite. In [36], we constructed a countable widely connected Hausdorff space and a countable widely connected and biconnected Hausdorff space.

Now, we construct two countable spaces which are biconnected without being widely connected and without a dispersion point. The first is Hausdorff, and the second is Urysohn almost regular. In addition, as it is the case with widely connected spaces and spaces with a dispersion point, both have the property of not being strongly connected [13]. The construction is based on a modification of [16] or [20]. It can be also based on [37]. From the construction, it follows that there exist  $2^c$  non-homeomorphic such spaces.

A space  $X$  is called

- (1) *Urysohn* if every pair of distinct points of  $X$  have disjoint closed neighborhoods.
- (2) *Almost regular* if  $X$  contains a dense subset at every point of which the space is regular.

A connected space  $X$  is called

- (1) *Biconnected* (K. Kuratowski [24]) if it admits no decomposition into two connected disjoint proper subsets containing more than one point.

(2) *Widely connected* (P. M. Swingle [34]) if every connected subset, containing more than one point, is dense.

A point  $x$  of a connected space  $X$  is called

- (1) A *cut point* if  $X \setminus \{x\}$  is disconnected.
- (2) A *dispersion point* if  $X \setminus \{x\}$  is totally disconnected.

A connected space  $(X, \tau)$  is called

(1) *Maximal connected* if, for every strictly finer topology  $\sigma$ , the space  $(X, \sigma)$  is not connected.

(2) *Strongly connected* if it has a finer maximal connected topology.

Biconnected spaces (countable or not, with or without a dispersion point) are considered in [26, 37, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 38, 39] and maximal connected spaces in [13, 1, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15, 32, 35].

## 2. Results

**THE SPACE  $T$ .** For the construction of the countably, biconnected and not widely connected Hausdorff space  $T$ , we first construct an appropriate countable Hausdorff totally disconnected space  $X$  containing a specific point  $p$  and a closed discrete subspace  $\mathbb{N}$  which cannot be separated by disjoint open sets. Then keeping fixed the subspace  $\mathbb{N}$  and condensing the point  $p$  (instead of condensing pairs of points as in [16, 20], or [37]), we construct the space  $T$ .

On the set

$$X = \{a_{ki} : k, i = 1, 2, \dots\} \cup \mathbb{N} \cup \{p\}, \tag{2.1}$$

where  $\mathbb{N}$  is the space of natural numbers, we define the following topology: every point  $a_{ki}$  is isolated. For the points of  $\mathbb{N}$  a basis of open neighborhoods in  $X$  is defined as follows: let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a free ultrafilter on  $\mathbb{N}$  and let  $\mathcal{P}_k$  be the copy of  $\mathcal{P}$  in  $\{a_{ki} : i = 1, 2, \dots\}$ . If  $U \in \mathcal{P}$ , we denote the copy of  $U$  in  $\{a_{ki} : i = 1, 2, \dots\}$  by  $U_k$ . Then, for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a basis of open neighborhoods is the collection of sets

$$U(k) = \{k\} \cup \{a_{ki} : a_{ki} \in U_k\}, \quad U \in \mathcal{P}. \tag{2.2}$$

For the point  $p$ , a basis of open neighborhoods is the collection of sets

$$U(p) = \{p\} \cup \{a_{ki} : k \in U\}, \quad U \in \mathcal{P}. \tag{2.3}$$

Obviously, the space  $X$  is Hausdorff and totally disconnected but not regular since the point  $p$  and the closed subset  $\mathbb{N}$  cannot be separated by disjoint open sets.

We observe that every basic open neighborhood of  $p$  is defined by some  $U \in \mathcal{P}$ , and every  $U \in \mathcal{P}$  defines a basic open neighborhood  $U(p)$ . Obviously,  $\overline{U(p)} \setminus U(p) = U$ .

Let  $X^1(n)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  be disjoint copies of  $X$  and let  $\mathbb{N}^1(n)$  and  $p^1(n)$  be the copies of  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $p$ , respectively, in  $X^1(n)$ . The copies of  $U(k)$  and  $U(p)$  in  $X^1(n)$  are denoted by  $U(k^1(n))$  and  $U(p^1(n))$ , respectively. Since the set  $P^1 = \{p^1(n) : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$  and the dense subset  $D = X \setminus \mathbb{N} \cup \{p\}$  of isolated points of  $X$  are countable, there exists one-to-one function  $f_1$  of  $P^1$  onto  $D$ . We attach the spaces  $X^1(n)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  to the space  $X$  identifying simultaneously each point  $p^1(n)$  with the point  $f_1(p^1(n))$  of  $D$  and each set  $\mathbb{N}^1(n)$  with  $\mathbb{N}$  (by putting  $k^1(n)$  on  $k$ ).

On the set

$$T^1 = X \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( X^1(n) \setminus (\mathbb{N}^1(n) \cup \{p^1(n)\}) \right), \quad (2.4)$$

we define the following topology: every point of  $T^1 \setminus X$  is isolated. For every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a basis of open neighborhoods is the collection of sets

$$\begin{aligned} O_U^1(k) &= U(k) \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( U(k^1(n)) \setminus \{k^1(n)\} \right) \\ &\cup \bigcup_{f_1(p^1(j)) \in U(k)} \left( U(p^1(j)) \setminus \{p^1(j)\} \right), \quad U \in \mathcal{P}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

For every isolated point  $x$  of  $X$ , a basis of open neighborhoods is the collection of sets

$$O_U^1(x) = \{x\} \cup \left( U(p^1(j)) \setminus \{p^1(j)\} \right), \quad U \in \mathcal{P}, \quad (2.6)$$

where  $f_1(p^1(j)) = x$ .

For the point  $p$ , a basis of open neighborhoods is the collection of sets

$$O_U^1(p) = U(p) \cup \bigcup_{f_1(p^1(j)) \in U(p)} \left( U(p^1(j)) \setminus \{p^1(j)\} \right), \quad U \in \mathcal{P}. \quad (2.7)$$

It can be easily proved that the space  $T^1$  is Hausdorff, totally disconnected, and contains the space  $X$  as a closed nowhere dense subset. We observe that every basic open neighborhood in  $T^1$ , of every  $x \in X$  is defined by some  $U \in \mathcal{P}$ , and every  $U \in \mathcal{P}$  defines in  $T^1$ , a basic open neighborhood  $O_U^1(x)$ , for every  $x \in X$ . Obviously,  $\overline{O_U^1(x)} \setminus O_U^1(x) = U$ . Furthermore, for every pair of points  $x, y$  of  $D$  and every basic open neighborhoods  $O_U^1(x), O_V^1(y), U, V \in \mathcal{P}$ , of  $x, y$  respectively, in  $T^1$ , it holds that  $\overline{O_U^1(x)} \cap \overline{O_V^1(y)} \neq \emptyset$ , which implies that every continuous real-valued function of  $T^1$  is constant on  $D$  and, hence, on  $X$  since  $D$  is dense in  $X$ .

We construct by induction the spaces  $T^2, T^3, \dots, T^m$ , where

$$T^m = T^{m-1} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( X^{m-1}(n) \setminus (\mathbb{N}^{m-1}(n) \cup \{p^{m-1}(n)\}) \right), \quad (2.8)$$

and where  $X^{m-1}(n), n = 1, 2, \dots$  are disjoint copies of the initial space  $X$ , and  $\mathbb{N}^{m-1}(p), P^{m-1}(n)$  are the copies of  $\mathbb{N}, p$  in  $X^{m-1}(n)$ , respectively. Each point  $p^{m-1}(n)$  is identified with the point  $f_{m-1}(p^{m-1}(n))$ , where  $f_{m-1}$  is one-to-one function of the set  $P^{m-1} = \{p^{m-1}(n) : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$  onto the dense subset of isolated points of  $T^{m-1}$ . Each set  $N^{m-1}(n)$  is identified with the set  $\mathbb{N}$  (by putting  $k^{m-1}(n)$  on  $k$ ).

It can be easily proved that the space  $T^m$  is Hausdorff, totally disconnected, and contains the space  $T^{m-1}$  as a closed nowhere dense subset. We observe that every basic open neighborhood in  $T^m$ , of every  $x \in T^{m-1}$  is defined by some  $U \in \mathcal{P}$ , and every  $U \in \mathcal{P}$ , defines in  $T^m$ , a basic open neighborhood  $O_U^m(x)$ , for every  $x \in T^{m-1}$ . Obviously,  $\overline{O_U^m(x)} \setminus O_U^m(x) = U$ . Furthermore, for every pair  $x, y$  of isolated points of  $T^{m-1}$  and every basic open neighborhood  $O_U^m(x), O_V^m(y), U, V \in \mathcal{P}$  of  $x, y$  respectively, in  $T^m$ ,

it holds that  $\overline{O_U^m(x)} \cap \overline{O_V^m(y)} \neq \emptyset$ , which implies that every continuous real-valued function of  $T^m$  is constant on the set of isolated points of  $T^{m-1}$  and, hence, it is constant on  $T^{m-1}$  since this set is dense in  $T^{m-1}$ .

Finally, we consider the set  $T = \bigcup_{m=1}^\infty T^m$  on which we define the following topology: If  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , we first consider the basic open neighborhood  $O_U^1(t)$  of  $t$  in  $T^1$  and then its corresponding basic open neighborhood in  $T^m$ ,

$$O_U^m(t) = O_U^{m-1}(t) \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^\infty (U(k^m(n)) \setminus \{k^m(n)\}) \cup \bigcup_{f_m(p^m(j)) \in O_U^{m-1}(t)} (U(p^m(j)) \setminus \{p^m(j)\}). \tag{2.9}$$

A basis of open neighborhoods of  $t$  in  $T$  is the collection of sets

$$O_U(t) = \bigcup_{m=1}^\infty O_U^m(t), \quad U \in \mathcal{P}. \tag{2.10}$$

If  $t \in T \setminus \mathbb{N}$ , then either  $t \in X \setminus \mathbb{N}$  or  $t$  is an isolated point of  $T^l$ ,  $l = 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $l$  is the minimal integer for which  $t \in T^l$ .

In the first case, we first consider the basic open neighborhood  $O_U^1(t)$  of  $t$  in  $T^1$  and then its corresponding basic open neighborhood in  $T^m$ ,

$$O_U^m(t) = O_U^{m-1}(t) \cup \bigcup_{f_m(p^m(j)) \in O_U^{m-1}(t)} (U(p^m(j)) \setminus \{p^m(j)\}). \tag{2.11}$$

A basis of open neighborhoods of  $t$  in  $T$  is the collection of sets

$$O_U(t) = \bigcup_{m=1}^\infty O_U^m(t), \quad U \in \mathcal{P}. \tag{2.12}$$

In the second case, we first consider the basic open neighborhood  $O_U^1(t)$  of  $t$  in  $T^l$  and then its corresponding basic open neighborhood in  $T^{l+m}$ ,

$$O_U^{l+m}(t) = O_U^{l+m-1}(t) \cup \bigcup_{f_{l+m}(p^{l+m}(j)) \in O_U^{l+m-1}(t)} (U(p^{l+m}(j)) \setminus \{p^{l+m}(j)\}). \tag{2.13}$$

A basis of open neighborhoods of  $t$  in  $T$  is the collection of sets

$$O_U(t) = \bigcup_{m=1}^\infty O_U^m(t), \quad U \in \mathcal{P}. \tag{2.14}$$

From the definition of topology on  $T$ , it follows that, for every  $t \in T$  and for every  $U \in \mathcal{P}$ , the set  $O_U(t)$  is open-and-closed in  $T \setminus \mathbb{N}$  and that  $\overline{O_U(t)} \setminus O_U(t) = U$ .

**PROPOSITION 1.** *The space  $T$  is countable biconnected Hausdorff not widely connected and without a dispersion point.*

**PROOF.** That  $T$  is countable Hausdorff is obvious. To prove that  $T$  is connected, we consider two arbitrary points  $x, y$  of  $T$  and let  $m$  be the minimal integer for which both  $x, y \in T^m$ . But then every continuous real-valued function of  $T^{m+1}$  is constant on  $T^m$  and, hence, for every continuous real-valued function  $g$  of  $T$ ,  $g(x) = g(y)$ , which implies that  $T$  is connected.

Suppose now that  $T$  is not biconnected and let  $A, B$  be two connected, proper disjoint

subsets containing more than one point and  $A \cup B = T$ . By the construction of the space  $T$ , it follows that  $T \setminus \mathbb{N}$  is totally disconnected. Hence, there exists  $b \in B \setminus \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $O_U(b)$  be the basic open neighborhood of  $b$  defined by some  $U \in \mathcal{P}$ . Suppose that  $\overline{O_U(b)} \cap B \cap \mathbb{N} = W \neq \emptyset$ . If  $W \notin \mathcal{P}$ , then  $\mathbb{N} \setminus W \in \mathcal{P}$  and, hence, for the set  $O_{\mathbb{N} \setminus W}(b)$ , it holds that  $\overline{O_{\mathbb{N} \setminus W}(b)} \cap \mathbb{N} = \mathbb{N} \setminus W$ . Therefore,  $\overline{O_U(b)} \cap \overline{O_{\mathbb{N} \setminus W}(b)} \cap B \cap \mathbb{N} = \emptyset$ , which implies that the set  $O_U(b) \cap O_{\mathbb{N} \setminus W}(b) \cap B$  is open-and-closed in  $B$ . Consequently,  $B \subseteq O_U(b)$  for every  $U \in \mathcal{P}$  and, hence,  $B$  is a singleton, which is a contradiction. Hence,  $W \in \mathcal{P}$ . But then if we consider a point  $a \in A \setminus \mathbb{N}$  and the basic open neighborhood  $O_U(a)$  of  $a$ , it follows, in a similar manner, that the relation  $\overline{O_U(a)} \cap A \cap \mathbb{N} = V \neq \emptyset$  implies that  $V \in \mathcal{P}$ , which is impossible because  $B \cap A = \emptyset$ . Therefore, either  $\overline{O_U(a)} \cap A \cap \mathbb{N} = \emptyset$  or  $\overline{O_U(b)} \cap B \cap \mathbb{N} = \emptyset$ . Since  $\overline{O_U(a)} \setminus O_U(a) \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  and  $\overline{O_U(b)} \setminus O_U(b) \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , it follows that either  $\overline{O_U(a)} \cap \mathbb{N}$  is open-and-closed in  $A$  or  $\overline{O_U(b)} \cap \mathbb{N}$  is open-and-closed in  $B$ . Hence, either the subset  $A$  is a singleton or not connected, or the subset  $B$  is a singleton or not connected.

That  $T$  is not widely connected is obvious observing that, for every  $U \in \mathcal{P}$  and every  $t \in T$ , the subset  $\overline{O_U(t)}$  is connected. That  $T$  has no dispersion point is obvious by its construction.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 1.** *The space  $T$  is not strongly connected.*

**PROOF.** let  $\tau$  denote the topology on  $T$  and let  $\tau_{\max}$  denote a maximal connected topology finer than  $\tau$ . By [13, Cor. 14A], it follows that the space  $(T, \tau_{\max})$  has infinitely many cut points. Hence, if  $t$  is such a point, then there exist two disjoint subsets  $K$  and  $L$  such that  $K$  and  $L$  are open-and-closed in  $T \setminus \{t\}$ , contain more than one point, and  $K \cup L = T \setminus \{t\}$ . Since the sets  $K \cup \{t\}, L \cup \{t\}$ , are connected in  $(T, \tau_{\max})$ , they are also connected in  $(T, \tau)$ . But by the proof of Proposition 1, it follows that, for every pair of connected subsets of  $(T, \tau)$ , which contain more than one point, their intersections include a member of  $\mathcal{P}$ . Therefore, the set  $(K \cup \{t\}) \cap (L \cup \{t\}) = \{t\}$  must be a member of  $\mathcal{P}$ , which is impossible.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 2.** *There exists  $2^c$  mutually non-homeomorphic countable biconnected Hausdorff spaces not widely connected and without a dispersion point.*

**PROOF.** Because [19, Thm. 10], there exists  $2^c$  different types of free ultrafilters on the discrete subspace  $\mathbb{N}$  of the initial space  $X$ .  $\square$

**THE SPACE  $S$ .** For the construction of the countable biconnected Urysohn almost regular space  $S$ , we first construct an appropriate countable Urysohn almost regular non-regular space and then, using the method of F. B. Jones [17], we construct a space  $Y$  having the additional property of containing a point  $\infty$  at which the space  $Y$  is regular. The condensation process of this regular point is the same as in the construction of the space  $T$ .

We consider the initial space  $X$  and, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we consider a sequence  $\langle b_{ni} \rangle_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  converging to  $n$  and consisting of isolated points not belonging to  $X$ . We set  $B = \{b_{ni} : n, i = 1, 2, \dots\}$  and we consider the space  $C = X \cup B$ . Let  $C_1, C_2$  be disjoint copies of  $C$  and let  $p_1, p_2$  and  $\mathbb{N}_1, \mathbb{N}_2$  be the copies of  $p$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  in  $C_1, C_2$ , respectively. We attach the space  $C_1$  to  $C_2$  identifying the point  $p_1$  with  $p_2$ . We set  $q = p_1 = p_2$  and we consider the space  $Z = (C_1 \setminus \{p_1\}) \cup \{q\} \cup (C_2 \setminus \{p_2\})$  which is obviously Hausdorff but not regular

since the point  $q$  and the closed subset  $\mathbb{N}_1 \cup \mathbb{N}_2 = K$  cannot be separated by disjoint open sets.

Let  $Z_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$  be disjoint copies of  $Z$  and let  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} Z_n$  be their disjoint union (topological sum). We add one more point  $r$  and, on the set  $L = \{r\} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} Z_n$ , we define a basis of open neighborhoods of  $r$  as follows: we consider the copies  $B_1, B_2$  of  $B$  in  $C_1, C_2$ , respectively. We set  $B_1 \cup B_2 = R$  and let  $R_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$  be the copy of  $R$  in  $Z_n$ . Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a free ultrafilter on the closed discrete subspace  $Q = \{q_n : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ , where  $q_n$  is the copy of  $q$  in  $Z_n$ . Then, for every  $U \in \mathcal{R}$ , a basis of open neighborhoods of  $r$  is the collection of sets  $U(r) = \{r\} \cup \{\cup R_i : q_i \in U\}$ .

It can be easily verified that the space  $L$  is Urysohn but not normal since the closed subsets  $Q$  and  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} K_n$  ( $K_n$  is the copy of  $K$  in  $Z_n$ ) cannot be separated by disjoint open sets. Also, the subsets  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} K_n$ , and the point  $r$  cannot be separated by disjoint open sets, while  $Q$  and  $r$  can be separated by disjoint open sets but not by disjoint open-and-closed sets. However,  $L$  is not regular at  $r$ . Since the closed subsets  $Q$  and  $\{r\}$  of  $L$  cannot be separated by a continuous real-valued function, it follows that if we consider  $L_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$  disjoint copies of  $L$ , we can apply the construction in [17] and obtain a space  $Y$  with the following properties

- (1) It is countable Urysohn containing a dense subset of isolated points.
- (2) It contains a point  $\infty$  at which  $Y$  is regular.
- (3) The point  $\infty$  and each copy  $Q_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$  of the subset  $Q$ , in  $L_n$  cannot be separated by disjoint open-and-closed subsets, that is they cannot be separated by a continuous real-valued function of  $Y$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.** *There exists  $2^c$  mutually non-homeomorphic countable biconnected Urysohn almost regular spaces, not widely connected, not having a dispersion point, and not being strongly connected.*

**PROOF.** We imitate the condensation process that we used in the construction of the space  $T$  using the space  $Y$  in place of the space  $X$  and the point  $\infty$  and the set  $Q_1$  in place of  $p$  and  $\mathbb{N}$ , respectively. Let  $S^m, m = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $S = \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} S^m$  be the corresponding spaces to  $T^m$  and  $T$ , respectively. It can be easily proved that  $S$  is Urysohn. Since the different copies of the regular point  $\infty$  are attached in each step to the isolated points of  $S^m, m = 1, 2, \dots$ , it follows that these points remain regular in the final space  $S$ . Obviously, the set of all these points is dense in  $S$  and, hence,  $S$  is almost regular. □

All the other properties of  $S$  are proved as in Proposition 1 and Corollaries 1 and 2.

**REMARK.** In [37], E. K. van Doven constructed a regular space with a dispersion point on which every continuous real-valued function is constant. We can modify his method and construct a countable biconnected Hausdorff space not widely connected, not having a dispersion point, and not being strongly connected. For this, we consider again the initial space  $X$  and let  $X_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$  be disjoint copies of  $X$ . We denote by  $x_i$  the copy of  $x \in X$  in  $X_i$ , and by  $\mathbb{N}_i$  the copy of  $\mathbb{N}$ . We attach the spaces  $X_i, i = 2, 3, \dots$  to  $X_1$  identifying each copy  $\mathbb{N}_i$  with  $\mathbb{N}_1$ , that is by putting each  $n_i$  to  $n_1$ . We denote this point by  $n$ . In the space  $Z = \mathbb{N} \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (X_i \setminus \mathbb{N}_i)$ , the subset  $P = \{p_i : i = 1, 2, \dots\}$  and the subset  $D$  consisting of all isolated points of the copies  $X_i$  are countable and,

therefore, there exists a one-to-one function  $g$  of  $P$  onto  $D$ . On the quotient space  $T_X = \mathbb{N} \cup \{(p_i, g(p_i)) : i = 1, 2, \dots\}$ , we define a second topology  $\tau$  in a similar manner as in the construction of the space  $T$ . Obviously, the topology  $\tau$  is weaker than the quotient topology of  $T_X$ . It can be proved, as in Proposition 1 and Corollaries 1 and 2, that  $(T_X, \tau)$  is the required space.

In a similar manner, we can construct a Urysohn almost regular space having all the above properties. For this, it suffices to consider space  $Y$  as the initial space.

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