

# HOMEOMORPHISMS OF ČECH-STONE REMAINDERS: THE ZERO-DIMENSIONAL CASE

ILIJAS FARAH AND PAUL MCKENNEY

ABSTRACT. We prove the result announced in [2, Theorem 4.10.1]:  $TA$  and  $MA_{\aleph_1}$  together imply that given any two locally compact, zero-dimensional Polish spaces, any homomorphism between their Čech-Stone remainders is trivial. It follows that two such spaces have homeomorphic remainders if and only if they have cocompact subspaces which are homeomorphic.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Čech-Stone remainder  $\beta X \setminus X$  of a topological space  $X$  is denoted  $X^*$ . A continuous map  $\varphi : X^* \rightarrow Y^*$  is called *trivial* if there is a continuous  $e : X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $\varphi = e^*$ , where  $e^* = \beta e \setminus e$  and  $\beta e$  is the unique continuous extension of  $e$  to  $\beta X$ . It follows that two remainders  $X^*$  and  $Y^*$  are homeomorphic via a trivial map if and only if there are cocompact subspaces of  $X$  and  $Y$  which are themselves homeomorphic. In this paper we prove the following, originally announced in [2, Theorem 4.10.1];

**Theorem 1.** *Assume  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$ . Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be locally compact, noncompact and zero-dimensional Polish spaces. Then every homeomorphism between  $X^*$  and  $Y^*$  is trivial.*

Here  $TA$  abbreviates *Todorćević's Axiom* (also widely known as the *Open Coloring Axiom*, see [8]).  $MA_{\aleph_1}$  is the usual Martin's Axiom for  $\aleph_1$ -many dense sets. Both are consequences of the *Proper Forcing Axiom* (PFA); hence the above result proves a special case of the more general conjecture that PFA implies all homeomorphisms between Čech-Stone remainders of locally compact, noncompact Polish spaces are trivial. In comparison, under the Continuum Hypothesis, all Čech-Stone remainders of locally compact, noncompact, zero-dimensional Polish spaces are homeomorphic (a consequence of Parovičenko's theorem).  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$  thus implies a certain rigidity for such remainders, whereas CH implies the opposite.

Theorem 1 follows a long line of results going back to the late 70's when Shelah proved that, consistently, all autohomeomorphisms of  $\omega^*$  are trivial ([5]). Shelah and Steprans later showed that the same conclusion holds under PFA ([6]) and Veličković improved their result by reducing the assumption to  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$ . The first author ([2]) extended this by proving Theorem 1 in

---

The first author was partially supported by NSERC..

the case where both  $X$  and  $Y$  are countable. All of these results rely heavily on the zero-dimensionality of the spaces  $X$  and  $Y$ ; indeed, all results in this direction in fact deal with isomorphisms between Boolean algebras of the form  $\mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$ , where  $\mathcal{C}(X)$  is the algebra of clopen subsets of  $X$ , and  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  its ideal of compact-open sets. Stone duality provides the connection to  $X^*$  in the case where  $X$  is zero-dimensional (see e.g. [1]). Our proof does not differ in this regard.

In section 2 we introduce some of the language required to prove Theorem 1. Section 3 treats embeddings of  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin}$  into  $\mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$ ; we prove in ZFC that such maps are trivial whenever they are “definable” in a certain sense, and then we prove under  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$  that every such map is trivial. Section 4 completes the proof of Theorem 1 through an analysis of *coherent families of continuous functions*.

## 2. NOTATION

Fix a zero-dimensional, locally compact and noncompact Polish space  $X$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{C}(X)$  the Boolean algebra of clopen subsets of  $X$ , and by  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  its ideal of compact-open subsets of  $X$ . Let  $\langle K_n \mid n < \omega \rangle$  be an increasing sequence of compact-open sets in  $X$ , such that  $X = \bigcup K_n$ . Then  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  is generated by the sequence  $\langle K_n \mid n < \omega \rangle$ , ie,

$$K \in \mathcal{K}(X) \iff \exists n \ K \subseteq K_n$$

It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{C}(X)$  has size continuum, whereas  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  is countable. Let  $X_0 = K_0$  and  $X_{n+1} = K_{n+1} \setminus K_n$ . When  $A, B \in \mathcal{C}(X)$  are distinct, we write  $\delta(A, B)$  for the least  $n$  such that  $A \cap X_n \neq B \cap X_n$ . If

$$d(A, B) = \begin{cases} 2^{-\delta(A, B)} & A \neq B \\ 0 & A = B \end{cases}$$

then  $d$  is a Polish metric on  $\mathcal{C}(X)$ . In this topology,  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  is an  $F_\sigma$  subset of  $\mathcal{C}(X)$ . We will often identify  $\mathcal{C}(X)$  with  $\prod_n \mathcal{C}(X_n)$ , and  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$  with  ${}^\omega 2$ . Under these identifications,  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  maps to  $\bigoplus_n \mathcal{C}(X_n)$  (the set of functions in  $\prod_n \mathcal{C}(X_n)$  which are nonempty on only finitely many coordinates) and  $\text{fin}$  to  ${}^{<\omega} 2$ . If  $Y$  and  $Z$  are zero-dimensional, locally compact Polish spaces,  $\varphi : \mathcal{C}(Y)/\mathcal{K}(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(Z)/\mathcal{K}(Z)$  is a homomorphism, and  $U \in \mathcal{C}(Y)$ , then we write  $\varphi \upharpoonright U$  for the restriction  $\varphi \upharpoonright \mathcal{C}(U)/\mathcal{K}(U)$ .

Finally, we state *Todorćević's Axiom*. Let  $E$  be a separable metric space and let  $[E]^2 = M_0 \cup M_1$  be a partition of the unordered pairs on  $E$ , such that  $M_0$  is open when identified with a symmetric subset of  $E \times E$  minus the diagonal. Then one of the following holds.

- (1) There is an uncountable set  $H \subseteq E$  such that  $[H]^2 \subseteq M_0$ .
- (2) There are sets  $H_n \subseteq E$ , for  $n < \omega$ , such that  $E = \bigcup H_n$  and for each  $n$ ,  $[H_n]^2 \subseteq M_1$ .

3. EMBEDDINGS OF  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin}$  INTO  $\mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$ 

Let  $e : X \rightarrow \omega$  be a continuous map. If  $e^{-1}(n)$  is compact for every  $n$ , then we say  $e$  is *compact-to-one*. If  $e$  is compact-to-one, then the map  $a \mapsto e^{-1}(a)$ , from  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$  to  $\mathcal{C}(X)$ , induces a homomorphism  $\varphi_e : \mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$ . Moreover,  $\varphi_e$  is injective if and only if  $e$  is finite on compact sets. We call a homomorphism  $\varphi : \mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  *trivial* if it is of the form  $\varphi_e$  for some compact-to-one, continuous  $e$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Suppose  $Y \in \mathcal{C}(X)$  and  $e, f : Y \rightarrow \omega$  are continuous, compact-to-one maps, such that  $e^{-1}(a)\Delta f^{-1}(a)$  is compact for every  $a \subseteq \omega$ . Then  $\{x \in Y \mid e(x) \neq f(x)\}$  is compact.*

*Proof.* Suppose not; then for some infinite set  $I \subseteq \omega$  and all  $n \in I$ , there is a point  $x_n \in Y \cap X_n$  such that  $e(x_n) \neq f(x_n)$ . Since  $e$  and  $f$  are compact-to-one, we may assume also that  $m \neq n$  implies  $e(x_m) \neq e(x_n)$  and  $f(x_m) \neq f(x_n)$ . Now define a coloring  $F : [I]^2 \rightarrow 3$  by

$$F(\{m < n\}) = \begin{cases} 0 & e(x_m) \neq f(x_n) \wedge f(x_m) \neq e(x_n) \\ 1 & e(x_m) = f(x_n) \wedge f(x_m) \neq e(x_n) \\ 2 & e(x_m) \neq f(x_n) \wedge f(x_m) = e(x_n) \end{cases}$$

By Ramsey's theorem, there is an infinite set  $a \subseteq I$  which is homogeneous for this coloring. Suppose first that  $a$  is 1-homogeneous, and let  $m < n < k$  be members of  $a$ . Then

$$e(x_m) = f(x_n) \quad \text{and} \quad e(x_m) = f(x_k) \quad \text{and} \quad e(x_n) = f(x_k)$$

which implies  $e(x_n) = f(x_n)$ , a contradiction. Similarly,  $a$  cannot be 2-homogeneous.

Now suppose  $a$  is 0-homogeneous. Let  $a = a_0 \cup a_1$  be a partition of  $a$  into two infinite sets, and put  $Z_i = \{x_n \mid n \in a_i\}$  and  $Z = \{x_n \mid n \in a\} = Z_0 \cup Z_1$ . From the homogeneity of  $a$ , it follows that  $e''Z \cap f''Z = \emptyset$ , and hence (as  $e$  and  $f$  are injective on  $Z$ )

$$Z \cap e^{-1}((e''Z_0) \cup (f''Z_1)) = Z_0 \quad \text{and} \quad Z \cap f^{-1}((e''Z_0) \cup (f''Z_1)) = Z_1$$

So, if  $b = e''Z_0 \cup f''Z_1$ , we have  $Z \subseteq e^{-1}(b)\Delta f^{-1}(b)$ . But  $Z$  is not compact, so this is a contradiction.  $\square$

## 3.1. Definable embeddings.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Suppose  $\varphi : \mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  is an embedding with a continuous lift  $F : G \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$  on some comeager set  $G \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\omega)$ . Then  $\varphi$  is trivial.*

*Proof.* First we work with the case  $G = \mathcal{P}(\omega)$ . For  $s \in {}^{<\omega}2$  and  $S \in \bigoplus \mathcal{C}(X_n)$  let

$$N_s = \{a \in 2^\omega \mid s \subseteq a\} \quad \text{and} \quad N_S = \left\{ A \in \prod \mathcal{C}(X_n) \mid A \text{ extends } S \right\}$$

So  $N_s$  and  $N_S$  are basic clopen sets for  ${}^\omega 2$  and  $\mathcal{C}(X)$  respectively. If  $F''N_s \subseteq N_S$  we say that  $s$  forces  $S$ .

First we build, by induction on  $i$ , an increasing sequence  $n_i$  of integers, and a sequence of functions  $t_i : [n_i, n_{i+1}) \rightarrow 2$ , such that

- (1) for all  $i$ , if  $s \in {}^{n_i}2$ , then  $s \cup t_i$  forces some  $S$  of length  $n_i$ ,
- (2) for all  $i$ ,  $s, s' \in {}^{n_i}2$ ,  $k > n_{i+1}$ , and  $u : [n_{i+1}, k) \rightarrow 2$ , if  $s \cup t_i \cup u$  and  $s' \cup t_i \cup u$  force  $S$  and  $S'$  respectively, then  $S \Delta S' \subseteq K_{n_{i+1}}$ .

Assume  $n_i$  and  $t_{i-1}$  are defined. First, let  $s_j$ ,  $j < 2^{n_i}$  enumerate  ${}^{n_i}2$ , and construct functions  $t_i^j$  for  $j \leq 2^{n_i}$ , such that  $t_i^j$  has domain  $[n_i, k)$  for some  $k$ ,  $t_i^j \subseteq t_i^{j+1}$  for all  $j$ , and  $s_j \cup t_i^j$  forces some  $S$  of length  $n_i$  (this last is possible by continuity of  $F$ ). Now any  $t$  which extends  $t_i^{2^{n_i}}$  and has domain disjoint from  $n_i$  will satisfy (1) in place of  $t_i$ .

As for condition (2), we first claim that for any  $s, s' \in {}^{n_i}2$  and any  $u : [n_i, n) \rightarrow 2$ , where  $n > n_i$ , there is some  $v : [n_i, k) \rightarrow 2$  extending  $u$ , such that whenever  $s \cup v \cup w$  and  $s' \cup v \cup w'$  force  $S$  and  $S'$  respectively, then  $S \Delta S' \subseteq K_n$ . Assume otherwise. Then we can construct increasing sequences  $u_j : [n_i, j) \rightarrow 2$ ,  $S_j, S'_j \in \mathcal{K}(X)$ , and  $\ell_j < \omega$ , such that  $s \cup u_j$  and  $s' \cup u_j$  force  $S_j$  and  $S'_j$  respectively, but  $S_j \cap X_{\ell_j} \neq S'_j \cap X_{\ell_j}$ . Put  $x = s \cup \bigcup_j u_j$  and  $x' = s' \cup \bigcup_j u_j$ . Then  $x =^* x'$  but  $F(x) \cap X_{\ell_j} \neq F(x') \cap X_{\ell_j}$  for all  $j$ . Now to ensure condition (2), we apply the claim for each pair  $s, s' \in {}^{2^{n_i}}$  in some order, starting with  $u = t_i^{2^{n_i}}$  from above and repeatedly extending  $u$  via the  $v$  as in the claim. We end with a function  $t_i : [n_i, n_{i+1}) \rightarrow 2$  as required.

Put  $a^\epsilon = \bigcup \{[n_i, n_{i+1}) \mid i \equiv \epsilon \pmod{3}\}$  and  $x^\epsilon = \bigcup \{t_i \mid i \equiv \epsilon \pmod{3}\}$ , for  $\epsilon = 0, 1, 2$ . For every  $x \subseteq a^0$ , let

$$F^0(x) = F(x \cup x^1 \cup x^2) \setminus F(x^1 \cup x^2)$$

Then  $F^0(x) \Delta F(x)$  is compact, for every  $x \subseteq a^0$ . Moreover, by the properties of the sequence  $t_i$ , there are functions  $h_i^0 : \mathcal{P}([n_{3i}, n_{3i+1})) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(K_{n_{3i+2}} \setminus K_{n_{3i-1}})$  such that for all  $x \subseteq a^0$ ,

$$F^0(x) = \bigcup_i h_i^0(x \cap [n_{3i}, n_{3i+1}))$$

Now we claim that for almost all  $i$ ,  $h_i^0$  is a (Boolean algebra) homomorphism. To see this, suppose for instance that for infinitely many  $i$ , there are  $u_i, v_i \subseteq [n_{3i}, n_{3i+1})$  such that  $h_i^0(u_i \cup v_i) \neq h_i^0(u_i) \cup h_i^0(v_i)$ . Put  $u = \bigcup u_i$  and  $v = \bigcup v_i$ ; then  $F^0(u \cup v) \Delta (F^0(u) \cup F^0(v))$  has nonempty intersection with infinitely many  $X_n$ , and hence is not compact, contradicting the fact that  $\varphi$  is a homomorphism. Let  $A_i^0 = h_i^0([n_{3i}, n_{3i+1}))$ ; then there is a continuous map  $e_i^0 : A_i^0 \rightarrow [n_{3i}, n_{3i+1})$  such that  $h_i^0(x) = (e_i^0)^{-1}(x)$  for all  $x$  in the domain of  $h_i^0$ . Notice that the sets  $A_i^0$  are pairwise disjoint; so if  $A^0 = \bigcup_i A_i^0$  and  $e^0 = \bigcup_i e_i^0$ , then  $e^0 : A^0 \rightarrow a^0$ , and

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{P}(a_0) \quad F^0(x) = (e^0)^{-1}(x)$$

Similarly, we may define  $F^\epsilon$ ,  $A^\epsilon$ , and  $e^\epsilon$  for  $\epsilon = 1, 2$ . Notice that since  $A^\epsilon \Delta F(a^\epsilon)$  is compact, and the sets  $a^\epsilon$  form a partition of  $\omega$ , it follows that  $A^\delta \cap A^\epsilon$  is compact for  $\delta \neq \epsilon$ , and  $A^0 \cup A^1 \cup A^2$  is cocompact. Hence by

putting the functions  $e^\epsilon$  together on a cocompact set, we obtain a function  $e : X \rightarrow \omega$  such that for all  $x \subseteq \omega$ ,  $F(x)\Delta e^{-1}(x)$  is compact.

This completes the proof when  $G = \mathcal{P}(\omega)$ . For the general case, recall (by a Theorem of Talagrand and Jalali-Naini, see [7, 3]) that there are a partition  $\omega = a_0 \cup a_1$ , and sets  $s_i \subseteq a_i$ , such that for all  $x \subseteq a_i$ ,  $x \cup s_{1-i} \in G$ . Hence the function  $F_i(x) = F(x \cup s_{1-i}) \setminus F(s_{1-i})$  induces  $\varphi$  on  $\mathcal{P}(a_i)$ . By the special case, then, we get functions  $e_0 : Y_0 \rightarrow a_0$  and  $e_1 : Y_1 \rightarrow a_1$  (where  $Y_i = F(a_i)$ ) inducing  $\varphi$  on  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  respectively. Then  $Y_0 \cap Y_1$  and  $(Y_0 \cup Y_1)\Delta X$  are compact, and hence we may put together  $e_0$  and  $e_1$  on a cocompact set to get a function  $e : X \rightarrow \omega$  satisfying our requirements.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $\varphi : \mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  be an embedding with a lift  $F : \mathcal{P}(\omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$ . Suppose that there are Borel functions  $F_n : \mathcal{P}(\omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$ , for  $n < \omega$ , such that for all  $a \subseteq \omega$  there is  $n$  with  $F(a)\Delta F_n(a) \in \mathcal{K}(X)$ . Then  $\varphi$  is trivial.*

*Proof.* Define

$$\mathcal{I} = \{a \subseteq \omega \mid \varphi \upharpoonright a \text{ is trivial}\}$$

Then  $\mathcal{I}$  is an ideal containing the ideal of finite sets. For each  $a \in \mathcal{I}$ , we fix a continuous, compact-to-one map  $e_a : F(a) \rightarrow a$  which induces  $\varphi \upharpoonright a$ . We also define, for such  $a$ , the function  $f_a : a \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(F(a))$  given by

$$f_a(n) = e_a^{-1}(\{n\})$$

Clearly,  $e_a$  is uniquely determined by  $f_a$ .

**Claim 3.1.**  $\mathcal{I}$  is not a maximal nonprincipal ideal.

*Proof.* Assume otherwise. Fix a dense  $G_\delta$  subset  $W$  of  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$ , such that each  $F_n$  is continuous on  $W$ . As usual, we may find a partition  $\omega = a_0 \cup a_1$  into infinite sets, along with sets  $t_0 \subseteq a_0$  and  $t_1 \subseteq a_1$ , such that for all  $x \subseteq a_i$ ,  $x \cup t_{1-i} \in W$ . By the assumption, one of  $a_0$  or  $a_1$  is not in  $\mathcal{I}$ ; without loss of generality, say it's  $a_0$ . Now, the function

$$G_n(x) = F_n(x \cup t_1) \cap F_n(a_0)$$

is continuous on  $\mathcal{P}(a_0)$ , and moreover for every  $x \subseteq a_0$  there is some  $n$  such that  $G_n(x)\Delta F(x)$  is compact. Let  $\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{I} \cap \mathcal{P}(a_0)$ . Fix  $a \in \mathcal{J}$  and for each  $n, m < \omega$  let

$$D_{n,m}^a = \{x \subseteq a \mid e_a^{-1}(x) \setminus K_m = G_n(x) \setminus K_m\}$$

Then each  $D_{n,m}^a$  is closed, and  $\mathcal{P}(a) = \bigcup_{n,m} D_{n,m}^a$ . By the Baire category theorem, it follows that there are some  $n, m < \omega$  and a nonempty clopen subset  $U$  of  $\mathcal{P}(a)$  such that  $U \subseteq D_{n,m}^a$ . Let  $H_n$ ,  $n < \omega$  enumerate all functions from  $\mathcal{P}(a_0)$  to  $\mathcal{C}(X)$  of the form

$$x \mapsto (G_\ell((x \setminus j) \cup t) \setminus K_m) \cup s''(x \cap k)$$

where  $j, k, \ell, m < \omega$ ,  $t \subseteq j$ , and  $s : k \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(K_m)$ . Then it follows that each  $H_n$  is continuous, and for every  $a \in \mathcal{J}$  there is some  $n$  such that

$$\forall x \subseteq a \quad H_n(x) = e_a^{-1}(x)$$

Let  $\mathcal{I}_n$  be the ideal of all  $a \in \mathcal{I}$  for which the above holds. Then for any  $a, b \in \mathcal{I}_n$ , we have  $f_a \upharpoonright a \cap b = f_b \upharpoonright a \cap b$ , and so the function

$$f_n = \bigcup_{a \in \mathcal{I}_n} f_a$$

induces  $\varphi$  on every  $a \in \mathcal{I}_n$ . If  $\mathcal{I}_n$  is cofinal in  $\mathcal{I}$  with respect to  $\subseteq^*$ , then it follows that  $f_n$  induces  $\varphi$  on  $a_0$ , contradicting  $a_0 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .

If no  $\mathcal{I}_n$  is cofinal in  $\mathcal{I}$ , then  $\mathcal{I}$  can't be countably directed, and it follows that there is a partition  $a_0 = \bigcup_n b_n$  such that  $b_n \in \mathcal{I}$  for all  $n$ , but there is no  $b \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $b_n \subseteq^* b$  for all  $n$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be the set of all  $b \subseteq a_0$  such that  $b \cap b_n =^* \emptyset$  for all  $n$ ; then  $\mathcal{U}$  is a countably-directed subideal of  $\mathcal{I}$ . If  $\mathcal{U}_n = \mathcal{I}_n \cap \mathcal{U}$ , then there is some  $n$  for which  $\mathcal{U}_n$  is cofinal in  $\mathcal{U}$ . As above, we let

$$f = \bigcup_{a \in \mathcal{U}_n} f_a$$

and

$$e(x) = k \iff x \in f(k)$$

and it follows that  $e$  induces  $\varphi$  on every  $a \in \mathcal{U}$ . Now consider the set

$$T = \{m < \omega \mid e \upharpoonright F(b_m) \text{ does not induce } \varphi \upharpoonright b_m\}$$

Suppose  $T$  is infinite. Then for each  $m \in T$  we may choose some infinite  $c_m \subseteq b_m$  such that  $e^{-1}(c_m) \cap F(c_m)$  is compact; moreover, by shrinking  $c_m$  we may ensure that  $e^{-1}(c_m) \cap F(c_k)$  is compact for every  $m, k \in T$ . We can then find some  $D$  such that  $F(c_m) \setminus D$  and  $e^{-1}(c_m) \cap D$  are compact for all  $m$ . Choose some  $c$  such that  $F(c) \Delta D$  is compact. Then  $c_m \subseteq^* c$  for every  $m$ , since  $F(c_m) \setminus D$  is compact for all  $m$ . So we may choose some  $i_m \in c_m \cap c$  such that  $e(i_m) \notin D$ . Then the set

$$b = \{i_m \mid m \in T\}$$

is in  $\mathcal{U}$ . Hence  $e^{-1}(b) \Delta F(b)$  is compact, and since  $b \subseteq c$ ,  $e^{-1}(b) \setminus F(c)$  must be compact as well. But  $e^{-1}(b) \cap D = \emptyset$ , a contradiction.

Suppose now that  $T$  is finite. Then  $e$  induces  $\varphi$  on every  $a$  in the ideal generated by  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\{b_m \mid m \notin T\}$ . This ideal is dense in the powerset of  $\bigcup_{m \notin T} b_m$  and it follows that  $e$  induces  $\varphi$  on this set. But this means  $a_0 \in \mathcal{I}$ , another contradiction.  $\square$

Now by induction we build subsets  $a_n$  and  $x_n$  of  $\omega$ , for  $n < \omega$ , such that

- (1)  $a_n \cap a_m = \emptyset$  for  $n \neq m$ ,
- (2)  $x_n \subseteq a_n$ ,
- (3)  $\varphi$  is nontrivial on  $\omega \setminus \bigcup_{i < n} a_i$ ,
- (4) for every  $x \subseteq \omega \setminus \bigcup_{i < n} a_i$ ,

$$\left( F_n \left( \bigcup_{i < n} x_i \cup x \right) \cap F(a_n) \right) \Delta F(x_n) \notin \mathcal{K}(X)$$

The existence of such a sequence clearly contradicts our assumption, since if  $x = \bigcup_i x_i$ , then it follows that for every  $n$ ,  $(F_n(x) \cap F(a_n))\Delta F(x_n)$  is not compact.

Suppose  $a_i$  and  $x_i$ , for  $i < n$ , have been constructed so as to satisfy the conditions above. Let  $c_n = \omega \setminus \bigcup_{i < n} a_i$ , and  $z_n = \bigcup_{i < n} x_i$ . Since  $\varphi$  is nontrivial on  $c_n$ , by Claim 3.1 it follows that there are infinite sets  $d_n$  and  $\bar{d}_n$  which partition  $c_n$  and on both of which  $\varphi$  is nontrivial. For each  $y \subseteq d_n$ , put

$$H_n(y) = \{x \subseteq \bar{d}_n \mid (F_n(z_n \cup y \cup x) \cap F(d_n))\Delta F(y) \in \mathcal{K}(X)\}$$

Then  $H_n(y)$  is a Borel set.

**Claim 3.2.** There is some  $y \subseteq d_n$  such that  $H_n(y)$  is not comeager.

*Proof.* Suppose otherwise. Then for all  $(y, Y) \in \mathcal{P}(d_n) \times \mathcal{C}(X)$ ,  $\varphi[y] = [Y]$  if and only if the set

$$\{x \subseteq \bar{d}_n \mid (F_n(z_n \cup y \cup x) \cap F(d_n))\Delta Y \in \mathcal{K}(X)\}$$

is comeager. Then  $\text{Gr}(\varphi \upharpoonright d_n)$  is analytic. By the Jankov-von Neumann theorem ([4]), there is a uniformization of  $\text{Gr}(\varphi \upharpoonright d_n)$  which is C-measurable, and hence continuous on a comeager set. By Lemma 3.2,  $\varphi$  is trivial on  $d_n$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

Fix  $y \subseteq d_n$  so that  $H_n(y)$  is not comeager. Since  $H_n(y)$  is Borel, there is a basic clopen set  $N_s$  in  $\mathcal{P}(\bar{d}_n)$  such that  $H_n(y)$  is meager in  $N_s$ . Let  $u \subseteq \bar{d}_n$  be the domain of  $s$ . Then there is a partition  $\bar{d}_n \setminus u = \bar{d}_n^0 \cup \bar{d}_n^1$  along with sets  $t_i \subseteq \bar{d}_n^i$  such that for any  $x \subseteq \bar{d}_n^i$ ,  $s \cup x \cup t_{1-i}$  is not in  $H_n(y)$ . By Claim 3.1,  $\varphi$  must be nontrivial on one of  $\bar{d}_n^0$  or  $\bar{d}_n^1$ ; say it's  $\bar{d}_n^i$ . Set

$$a_n = d_n \cup u \cup \bar{d}_n^{1-i} \quad x_n = y \cup s \cup t_i$$

This completes the induction, and hence the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

### 3.2. Embeddings under $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$ .

**Theorem 2.** Assume  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$ , and suppose

$$\varphi : \mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$$

is an embedding. Then  $\varphi$  is trivial.

Towards the proof of Theorem 2, we fix an embedding  $\varphi : \mathcal{P}(\omega)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$ , and an arbitrary lift  $F : \mathcal{P}(\omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$  of  $\varphi$ . Again we consider the ideal

$$\mathcal{I} = \{a \subseteq \omega \mid \varphi \upharpoonright a \text{ is trivial}\}$$

A family  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\omega)$  is called *almost disjoint* if for all distinct  $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $a \cap b =^* \emptyset$ . Such a family  $\mathcal{A}$  is called *treelike* if there is some tree  $T$  on  $\omega$  and a bijection  $t : \omega \rightarrow {}^{<\omega}\omega$  under which each  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  corresponds to a branch through  $T$ , and vice-versa.

**Lemma 3.4.** Assume  $TA$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an uncountable, tree-like, almost-disjoint family of subsets of  $\omega$ . Then  $\mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{A}$  is countable.

*Proof.* Put

$$E = \{(a, b) \mid \exists c \in \mathcal{A} \ b \subseteq a \subseteq c\}$$

and for each  $(a, b) \in E$ , let  $\sigma(a)$  be the unique element of  $\mathcal{A}$  such that  $a \subseteq \sigma(a)$ . Since  $\mathcal{A}$  is treelike,  $\sigma$  is a continuous map. Define a coloring  $[E]^2 = M_0 \cup M_1$  by placing  $\{(a, b), (\bar{a}, \bar{b})\}$  in  $M_0$  if and only if

- (i)  $\sigma(a) \neq \sigma(\bar{a})$ ,
- (ii)  $a \cap \bar{b} = \bar{a} \cap b$ , and
- (iii)  $F(a) \cap F(\bar{b}) \neq F(\bar{a}) \cap F(b)$ .

Then  $M_0$  is open in the topology on  $E$  obtained by identifying  $(a, b)$  with  $(a, b, F(a), F(b))$ .

**Claim 3.3.** There is no uncountable,  $M_0$ -homogeneous subset  $H$  of  $E$ .

*Proof.* Assume  $H$  is such. Put

$$d = \bigcup_{(a,b) \in H} b$$

Then for all  $(a, b) \in H$ ,  $d \cap a = b$ , and hence  $(F(d) \cap F(a)) \Delta F(b)$  is compact. Then we may find an  $n$ , and sets  $A, B \in \mathcal{C}(K_n)$ , so that for uncountably many  $(a, b) \in H$  we have

- $(F(d) \cap F(a)) \Delta F(b) \subseteq K_n$ ,
- $F(a) \cap K_n = A$ , and
- $F(b) \cap K_n = B$ .

Then, for any such  $(a, b)$  and  $(\bar{a}, \bar{b})$  in  $H$ ,

$$F(a) \cap F(\bar{b}) \cap K_n = A \cap B = F(\bar{a}) \cap F(b) \cap K_n$$

and moreover,

$$(F(a) \cap F(\bar{b})) \setminus K_n = (F(a) \cap F(d) \cap F(\bar{a})) \setminus K_n = (F(b) \cap F(\bar{a})) \setminus K_n$$

Hence there is an uncountable  $M_1$ -homogeneous subset of  $H$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

By TA, there is a sequence  $E_n$ ,  $n < \omega$ , of  $M_1$ -homogeneous sets which cover  $E$ . Let  $D_n$  be a countable, dense subset of  $E_n$ , in the topology on  $E$  described above. Fix  $c \in \mathcal{A}$  so that  $c$  is not equal to  $\sigma(a)$  for any  $(a, b) \in D_n$ , for any  $n$ . We'll show that  $\varphi \upharpoonright c$  is trivial.

**Claim 3.4.** There is a partition  $c = c_0 \cup c_1$ , so that for all  $n$  and  $(a, b) \in E_n$ , if  $a \subseteq c_i$  for some  $i < 2$  then for every  $m$  there is  $(\bar{a}, \bar{b}) \in D_n$  with

- (1)  $a \cap m = \bar{a} \cap m$  and  $b \cap m = \bar{b} \cap m$ ,
- (2)  $F(a) \cap K_m = F(\bar{a}) \cap K_m$  and  $F(b) \cap K_m = F(\bar{b}) \cap K_m$ , and
- (3)  $a \cap \bar{b} = \bar{a} \cap b$ .

*Proof.* For each  $i$ , fix an enumeration  $\langle A_i^j \mid j < \omega \rangle$  of  $\mathcal{C}(K_i)$ . Fix also an enumeration  $p \mapsto ((p)_0, (p)_1, (p)_2)$  of the triples in  $\omega$ , so that  $(p)_i \leq p$  for each  $p$  and  $i < 3$ .



Notice that if  $(a, b) \in E_n$  then for any  $m$  there is some  $(\bar{a}, \bar{b}) \in D_n$  satisfying conditions (1) and (2) above, simply by density of  $D_n$ . Moreover, if  $a \subseteq c$ , then  $a$  and  $\bar{a}$  must be almost disjoint (by choice of  $c$ ), and hence  $a \cap \bar{b}$  and  $\bar{a} \cap b$  are both finite. This motivates the following definition.

Given  $m$ , we choose  $m^+$  large enough that for all  $n, p < m$  and  $s, t \subseteq m$ , if there is some  $(a, b) \in E_n$  with

- $a \cap m = s$ ,  $b \cap m = t$ ,
- $F(a) \cap K_{(p)_0} = A_{(p)_0}^{(p)1}$ , and  $F(b) \cap K_{(p)_0} = A_{(p)_0}^{(p)2}$ ,

then there is  $(\bar{a}, \bar{b}) \in D_n$  with the same properties, which moreover satisfies  $\bar{a} \cap c \subseteq m^+$ . Put  $m_0 = 0$  and  $m_{k+1} = m_k^+$  for each  $k$ , and set

$$c_0 = \bigcup_k c \cap [m_{2k}, m_{2k+1}) \quad c_1 = \bigcup_k c \cap [m_{2k+1}, m_{2k+2})$$

Now suppose  $(a, b) \in E_n$  and  $a \subseteq c_0$ , and let  $m > n$  be given. Choose  $p$  so that  $(p)_0 = m$ , and

$$F(a) \cap K_m = A_m^{(p)1} \quad F(b) \cap K_m = A_m^{(p)2}$$

Find  $k$  so that  $p < m_{2k+1}$ . Then there is  $(\bar{a}, \bar{b}) \in D_n$  such that

$$\bar{a} \cap m_{2k+1} = a \cap m_{2k+1} \quad \bar{b} \cap m_{2k+1} = b \cap m_{2k+1}$$

and

$$F(\bar{a}) \cap K_m = F(a) \cap K_m \quad F(\bar{b}) \cap K_m = F(b) \cap K_m$$

and, moreover,  $\bar{a} \cap c \subseteq m_{2k+2}$ . But then  $\bar{a} \cap c_0 \subseteq m_{2k+1}$ , and hence  $a \cap \bar{b} = \bar{a} \cap b$  as required.  $\square$

Now define

$$F_n(b) = \bigcup \{F(c_0) \cap F(\bar{b}) \mid (\bar{a}, \bar{b}) \in D_n \text{ and } c_0 \cap \bar{b} = \bar{a} \cap b\}$$

Then  $F_n$  is Borel. We claim moreover that, if  $(c_0, b) \in E_n$ , then  $F_n(b) \Delta F(b) \in \mathcal{H}(X)$ . To see this, first suppose  $(\bar{a}, \bar{b}) \in D_n$  and

$$c_0 \cap \bar{b} = \bar{a} \cap b$$

Then by  $M_1$ -homogeneity of  $E_n$  (since  $\sigma(c_0) \neq \sigma(\bar{a})$ ), it follows that

$$F(c_0) \cap F(\bar{b}) = F(\bar{a}) \cap F(b)$$

Hence  $F_n(b) \subseteq F(b)$ . The claim above also implies that for any  $m$  there is such a pair  $(\bar{a}, \bar{b}) \in D_n$  with  $F(b) \cap K_m = F(\bar{b}) \cap K_m$ ; hence

$$F_n(b) = F(c_0) \cap F(b)$$

Since  $b \subseteq c_0$ , we have  $F(b) \setminus F(c_0) \in \mathcal{H}(X)$ , so  $F_n(b) \Delta F(b) \in \mathcal{H}(X)$ . By Lemma 3.3 it follows that  $c_0 \in \mathcal{I}$ , and the same argument shows that  $c_1 \in \mathcal{I}$ . Then  $c \in \mathcal{I}$ , as required.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.** *Assume  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$ . If  $\mathcal{I}$  is a dense  $P$ -ideal then  $\varphi$  is trivial.*

*Proof.* For each  $a \in \mathcal{S}$ , we fix some continuous, compact-to-one map  $e_a : F(a) \rightarrow a$  which induces  $\varphi$  on  $a$ . We also define  $f_a : \omega \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$  by

$$f_a(n) = e_a^{-1}(\{n\})$$

Define a partition  $[\mathcal{S}]^2 = M_0 \cup M_1$  by placing  $\{a, b\} \in M_0$  if and only if there is some  $n \in a \cap b$  such that  $f_a(n) \neq f_b(n)$ . Then  $M_0$  is open when  $a \in \mathcal{S}$  is identified with  $f_a \in {}^\omega \mathcal{C}(X)$ .

**Claim 3.5.** There is no uncountable,  $M_0$ -homogeneous subset  $H$  of  $\mathcal{S}$ .

*Proof.* Assume  $H$  is such a set, and that  $|H| = \aleph_1$ . Since  $\mathcal{S}$  is a P-ideal, there is a set  $\bar{H} \subseteq \mathcal{S}$  such that for every  $a \in H$  there is some  $b \in \bar{H}$  with  $a \subseteq^* b$ , and moreover  $\bar{H}$  is a chain of order-type  $\omega_1$  with respect to  $\subseteq^*$ . By (a weakening of) TA, there is an uncountable subset of  $\bar{H}$  which is homogeneous for one of the two colors  $M_0$  and  $M_1$ ; hence, by passing to this subset, we may assume  $\bar{H}$  is either  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  homogeneous.

Say  $\bar{H}$  is  $M_1$ -homogeneous. Put  $\bar{a} = \bigcup \bar{H}$ , and  $\bar{f} = \bigcup_{a \in \bar{H}} f_a$ . Then  $\bar{f} : \bar{a} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$ , and for all  $a \in H$  we have  $a \subseteq^* \bar{a}$  and  $\bar{f}_a \upharpoonright (a \cap \bar{a}) =^* f_a \upharpoonright (a \cap \bar{a})$ . Choose  $n$  so that for uncountably many  $a \in H$ , we have  $a \setminus n \subseteq \bar{a}$ , and  $\bar{f}_a \upharpoonright a \setminus n = f_a \upharpoonright a \setminus n$ . Then if  $a, b \in H$  are such, and  $f_a \upharpoonright n = f_b \upharpoonright n$ , we have  $\{a, b\} \in M_1$ , a contradiction.

So  $\bar{H}$  is  $M_0$ -homogeneous. Define a poset  $\mathbb{P}$  as follows. Put  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  if and only if  $p = (A_p, m_p, H_p)$  where  $m_p < \omega$ ,  $A_p \in \mathcal{C}(K_{m_p})$ , and  $H_p \in [\bar{H}]^{<\omega}$ , and for all distinct  $a, b \in H_p$ , there is an  $n \in a \cap b$  such that

$$\neg(f_a(n) \cap A_p = \emptyset \iff f_b(n) \cap A_p = \emptyset)$$

That is, one of  $f_a(n)$ ,  $f_b(n)$  is disjoint from  $A_p$ , and the other isn't. Put  $p \leq q$  if and only if  $m_p \geq m_q$ ,  $A_p \cap K_{m_q} = A_q$ , and  $H_p \supseteq H_q$ .

First we must show that  $\mathbb{P}$  is ccc. Suppose  $\mathcal{X}$  is an uncountable subset of  $\mathbb{P}$ . We may assume without loss of generality that for some fixed  $m$  and  $A \in \mathcal{C}(K_m)$ , and for all  $p \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $m_p = m$  and  $A_p = A$ , and moreover that  $H_p$  is the same size for all  $p \in \mathcal{X}$ . Let  $a_p$  be the minimal element of  $H_p$  under  $\subseteq^*$ , for each  $p \in \mathcal{X}$ . Find  $n_p$  so that for all  $a \in H_p$ ,

$$f_{a_p} \upharpoonright (a_p \setminus n_p) \subseteq f_a \quad e''_{a_p} K_m \subseteq n_p$$

We may assume that for some fixed  $n$ , we have  $n_p = n$  for all  $p \in \mathcal{X}$ . Find  $p, q \in \mathcal{X}$  with  $f_{a_p} \upharpoonright n = f_{a_q} \upharpoonright n$ . Since  $\{a_p, a_q\} \in M_0$ , there is some  $k \in a_p \cap a_q$  such that  $f_{a_p}(k) \neq f_{a_q}(k)$ . Then  $k \geq n$ , and so  $f_{a_p}(k) \cap K_m = f_{a_q}(k) \cap K_m = \emptyset$ . At least one of  $f_{a_p}(k) \setminus f_{a_q}(k)$  and  $f_{a_q}(k) \setminus f_{a_p}(k)$  must be nonempty; whichever one it is, call it  $B$ . Put  $A_r = A \cup B$  and  $H_r = H_p \cup H_q$ , and choose  $m_r$  large enough that  $A_r \subseteq K_{m_r}$ . Then  $r = (A_r, m_r, H_r) \in \mathbb{P}$ , and  $r \leq p, q$ .

By  $MA_{\aleph_1}$ , there is a set  $A \in \mathcal{C}(X)$  and an uncountable  $H^* \subseteq \bar{H}$  such that for all distinct  $a, b \in H^*$ ,

$$\exists n \in a \cap b \quad \neg(f_a(n) \cap A = \emptyset \iff f_b(n) \cap A = \emptyset)$$

Fix  $x \subseteq \omega$  such that  $F(x) = A$ . Then for all  $a \in H^*$ ,  $e_a^{-1}(x \cap a) \Delta (A \cap F(a))$  is compact; hence there are  $k_a$  and  $m_a$  such that

$$e_a^{-1}(x \cap a \setminus k_a) = (A \cap F(a)) \setminus K_{m_a} \quad \text{and} \quad e_a^{-1}(a \setminus k_a) = F(a) \setminus K_{m_a}$$

Then, for all  $n \in a \setminus k_a$ ,  $n \in x$  implies  $f_a(n) \subseteq A$ , and  $n \notin x$  implies  $f_a(n) \cap A = \emptyset$ . Fix distinct  $a, b \in H^*$  with  $k_a = k_b = k$ , and  $f_a \upharpoonright k = f_b \upharpoonright k$ . Then,

$$\forall n \in a \cap b (f_a(n) \cap A = \emptyset \iff f_b(n) \cap A = \emptyset)$$

This contradicts the choice of  $A$ .  $\square$

Now by TA, there is a cover of  $\mathcal{I}$  by countably many sets  $\mathcal{I}_n$ , each of which is  $M_1$ -homogeneous. Since  $\mathcal{I}$  is a P-ideal, at least one of the  $\mathcal{I}_n$ 's must be cofinal in  $\mathcal{I}$  with respect to  $\subseteq^*$ . Choose such an  $\mathcal{I}_n$ , and let  $f = \bigcup \{f_a \mid a \in \mathcal{I}_n\}$ . Then  $f$  is a function from some subset of  $\omega$  to  $\mathcal{C}(X)$ . Setting  $e(x) = n$  if and only if  $x \in f(n)$ , we get a function  $e : X \rightarrow \omega$ , and since  $\mathcal{I}$  is dense and  $\mathcal{I}_n$  cofinal in  $\mathcal{I}$ ,  $a \mapsto e^{-1}(a)$  is a lift for  $\varphi$ .  $\square$

#### 4. COHERENT FAMILIES OF CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONS

**Theorem 3.** *Assume  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$ . Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be zero-dimensional, locally compact Polish spaces, and let  $\varphi : \mathcal{C}(Y)/\mathcal{K}(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  be an isomorphism. Then there are compact-open  $K \subseteq X$  and  $L \subseteq Y$ , and a homeomorphism  $e : X \setminus K \rightarrow Y \setminus L$ , such that the map  $A \mapsto e^{-1}(A)$  is a lift of  $\varphi$ .*

By Stone duality, a homeomorphism  $\varphi : X^* \rightarrow Y^*$  induces an isomorphism  $\hat{\varphi} : \mathcal{C}(Y)/\mathcal{K}(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$ , and any map  $e$  as in the conclusion to Theorem 3 will in this case be a witness to the triviality of  $\varphi$ . Hence Theorem 3 implies Theorem 1.

**Corollary 4.1.** *Suppose  $\varphi : \mathcal{C}(Y)/\mathcal{K}(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  is an isomorphism, with a lift  $F : \mathcal{C}(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$  which is Borel measurable. Then  $\varphi$  is trivial.*

*Proof of Corollary 4.1.* The assertion that  $\varphi$  is trivial is

$$\exists e \in C(X, Y) \forall U \in \mathcal{C}(Y) F(U) \Delta e^{-1}(U) \in \mathcal{K}(X)$$

which is visibly  $\Sigma_2^1$ , and hence absolute between the ground model and any forcing extension. Since there is a forcing extension satisfying  $TA + MA_{\aleph_1}$  ([8]), the result is proven.  $\square$

Before the proof of Theorem 3 we set down some more notation. Fix  $X, Y$  and  $\varphi$  as in the statement of the theorem. Let  $L_n$  be an increasing sequence of compact subsets of  $Y$ , with union  $Y$ , and let  $Y_{n+1} = L_{n+1} \setminus L_n$  and  $Y_0 = L_0$ . Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a countable base for  $Y$  consisting of compact-open sets, such that

- for all  $U \in \mathcal{B}$ , the set of  $V \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $V \supseteq U$  is finite and linearly ordered by  $\subseteq$ , and

- for all  $U \in \mathcal{B}$  and all  $n < \omega$ , either  $U \subseteq Y_n$  or  $U \cap Y_n = \emptyset$ .

It follows that for all  $U, V \in \mathcal{B}$ , either  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ ,  $U \subseteq V$ , or  $V \subseteq U$ . Let  $\mathbb{P}$  be the poset of all partitions of  $Y$  into elements of  $\mathcal{B}$ , ordered by refinement;

$$P \prec Q \iff \forall U \in P \exists V \in Q \quad U \subseteq V$$

We also use  $\prec^*$  to denote *eventual refinement*;

$$P \prec^* Q \iff \forall^\infty U \in P \exists V \in Q \quad U \subseteq V$$

When  $P \prec^* Q$  we let  $\Gamma(P, Q)$  be the least  $n$  such that every  $U \in P$  disjoint from  $L_n$  is contained in some element of  $Q$ .

For a given  $P \in \mathbb{P}$ , let  $s_P : Y \rightarrow P$  be the unique function satisfying  $x \in s_P(x)$  for all  $x \in Y$ ; similarly, when  $P, Q \in \mathbb{P}$  and  $P \prec Q$  we let  $s_{PQ} : P \rightarrow Q$  be the unique function satisfying  $U \subseteq s_{PQ}(U)$  for all  $U \in P$ . These maps induce embeddings  $\sigma_P : \mathcal{P}(P)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(Y)/\mathcal{K}(Y)$  and  $\sigma_{PQ} : \mathcal{P}(Q)/\text{fin} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(P)/\text{fin}$  in the usual way.

*Proof of Theorem 3.* For each  $P \in \mathbb{P}$ , let  $\varphi_P = \varphi \circ \sigma_P$ . Then  $\varphi_P$  is an embedding of  $\mathcal{P}(P)/\text{fin}$  into  $\mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$ . By Theorem 3, there is a continuous map  $e_P : X \rightarrow P$  such that  $a \mapsto e_P^{-1}(a)$  lifts  $\varphi_P$ . Note that if  $P, Q \in \mathbb{P}$  and  $P \prec^* Q$ , then the following diagram commutes;

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}(P)/\text{fin} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_P} & \mathcal{C}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X) \\ \sigma_{PQ} \uparrow & \nearrow \varphi_Q & \\ \mathcal{P}(Q)/\text{fin} & & \end{array}$$

So by Lemma 3.1, the set  $\{x \in X \mid s_{PQ}(e_P(x)) \neq e_Q(x)\}$  is compact.

Now let  $[\mathbb{P}]^2 = M_0 \cup M_1$  be the partition defined by

$$\{P, Q\} \in M_0 \iff \exists x \in X \quad s_{P, P \vee Q}(e_P(x)) \neq s_{Q, P \vee Q}(e_Q(x))$$

Here  $P \vee Q$  is the finest partition coarser than both  $P$  and  $Q$ . If we define  $f_P : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X)$  by

$$f_P(U) = \{x \in X \mid e_P(x) \subseteq U\}$$

then we have

$$\{P, Q\} \in M_0 \iff \exists U \in \mathcal{B} \quad f_P(U) \neq f_Q(U)$$

and it follows that  $M_0$  is open in the topology on  $\mathbb{P}$  obtained by identifying  $P$  with  $f_P$ .

**Claim 4.1.** There is no uncountable,  $M_0$ -homogeneous subset of  $\mathbb{P}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $H$  is such, and has size  $\aleph_1$ . Using  $MA_{\aleph_1}$  with a simple modification of Hechler forcing, we see that there is some  $\bar{P} \in \mathbb{P}$  such that  $P \succ^* \bar{P}$  for all  $P \in H$ . By thinning out  $H$  and refining a finite subset of  $\bar{P}$ ,

we may assume that  $P \succ \bar{P}$  for all  $P \in H$ , and moreover that there is an  $\bar{n}$  such that for all  $P \in H$ ,

$$\{x \in X \mid s_{\bar{P},P}(e_{\bar{P}}(x)) \neq e_P(x)\} \subseteq K_{\bar{n}}$$

Now fix  $P, Q \in H$  such that  $e_P \upharpoonright K_{\bar{n}} = e_Q \upharpoonright K_{\bar{n}}$ . Then  $s_{P,P \vee Q} \circ e_P = s_{Q,P \vee Q} \circ e_Q$ , contradicting the fact that  $\{P, Q\} \in M_0$ .  $\square$

By TA, there is a countable cover of  $\mathbb{P}$  by  $M_1$ -homogeneous sets; since  $\mathbb{P}$  is countably directed under  $\succ^*$ , it follows that one of them, say  $\mathbb{Q}$ , is cofinal in  $\mathbb{P}$ . It follows moreover that for some  $n$ , we have

$$\forall P \in \mathbb{P} \exists Q \in \mathbb{Q} \quad \Gamma(Q, P) \leq n$$

That is,  $\mathbb{Q}$  is cofinal in  $\mathbb{P}$  under  $\succ^n$  defined by

$$P \prec^n Q \iff \forall U \in P \ (U \cap L_n = \emptyset \implies \exists V \in Q \ U \subseteq V)$$

**Claim 4.2.** There is a compact set  $K \subseteq X$  and a unique continuous map  $e : X \setminus K \rightarrow Y$  satisfying

$$\forall x \in X \setminus K \quad e(x) \in \bigcap_{P \in \mathbb{Q}} e_P(x)$$

*Proof.* Fix  $x \in X$ . If  $P, Q \in \mathbb{Q}$ , then by  $M_1$ -homogeneity of  $\mathbb{Q}$  we have

$$s_{P,P \vee Q}(e_P(x)) = s_{Q,P \vee Q}(e_Q(x))$$

Then, the unique member of  $P \vee Q$  containing  $e_P(x)$  is the same as the unique member of  $P \vee Q$  containing  $e_Q(x)$ . It follows that  $e_P(x) \cap e_Q(x) \neq \emptyset$ , and so either  $e_P(x) \subseteq e_Q(x)$  or vice-versa. Then the collection  $\{e_P(x) \mid P \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  is a chain, and hence by compactness has nonempty intersection.

Now let

$$K = \{x \in X \mid \forall P \in \mathbb{Q} \ e_P(x) \subseteq L_n\} \subseteq \bigcap_{P \in \mathbb{Q}} e_P^{-1}(P \cap \mathcal{C}(L_n))$$

Then  $K$  is contained in a compact set. If  $x \in X \setminus K$  and  $P \in \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $e_P(x)$  is disjoint from  $L_n$ . Then for any  $x \in X \setminus K$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is some  $P \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $e_P(x)$  has diameter less than  $\epsilon$  (since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is cofinal in  $\mathbb{P}$  under  $\succ^n$ ). Thus  $e$ , as defined above, is unique.

To see that  $e$  is continuous, note that for any open  $U \subseteq X$ ,

$$x \in e^{-1}(U) \iff \exists P \in \mathbb{Q} \quad e_P(x) \subseteq U$$

$\square$

**Claim 4.3.** The map  $U \mapsto e^{-1}(U)$  lifts  $\varphi$ .

*Proof.* Fix  $P \in \mathbb{Q}$ , and let  $U \in P$ . Then clearly, for all  $x \in X \setminus K$ ,  $e_P(x) = U$  if and only if  $e(x) \in U$ . Since there are only finitely many  $U \in P$  such that one of  $e_P^{-1}(\{U\})$  or  $e^{-1}(U)$  meets  $K$ , it follows that

$$\forall^\infty U \in P \quad e_P^{-1}(\{U\}) = e^{-1}(U)$$

Then  $U \mapsto e^{-1}(U)$  lifts  $\varphi_P$ .

Now fix  $A \in \mathcal{C}(Y)$ . Then there is some  $P \in \mathbb{P}$  such that  $A$  can be written as a union of a subset of  $P$ . Find  $Q \in \mathbb{Q}$  with  $Q \prec^* P$ ; then, up to a compact set,  $A$  can be written as a union of some subset  $a$  of  $Q$ . Hence,

$$\varphi[A] = \varphi_Q[a] = [e^{-1}(A)]$$

□

□

## REFERENCES

- [1] W. W. Comfort and S. Negrepointis. *The theory of ultrafilters*. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1974. Die Grundlehren der mathematischen Wissenschaften, Band 211.
- [2] Ilijas Farah. Analytic quotients: theory of liftings for quotients over analytic ideals on the integers. *Mem. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 148(702):xvi+177, 2000.
- [3] S.-A. Jalali-Naini. *The monotone subsets of Cantor space, filters, and descriptive set theory*. PhD thesis, Oxford, 1976.
- [4] Alexander S. Kechris. *Classical descriptive set theory*, volume 156 of *Graduate Texts in Mathematics*. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1995.
- [5] Saharon Shelah. *Proper forcing*, volume 940 of *Lecture Notes in Mathematics*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1982.
- [6] Saharon Shelah and Juris Steprāns. PFA implies all automorphisms are trivial. *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 104(4):1220–1225, 1988.
- [7] Michel Talagrand. Compacts de fonctions mesurables et filtres non mesurables. *Studia Math.*, 67(1):13–43, 1980.
- [8] Stevo Todorćević. *Partition problems in topology*, volume 84 of *Contemporary Mathematics*. American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 1989.

ILIJAS FARAH: DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, YORK UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, CANADA  
*E-mail address:* ifarah@mathstat.yorku.ca

PAUL MCKENNEY: DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH, USA  
*E-mail address:* pmckenne@andrew.cmu.edu