A bilinear version of Holsztynski’s theorem on isometries of $C(X)$-spaces

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Abstract. We prove that, for a compact metric space $X$ not reduced to a point, the existence of a bilinear mapping $\phi : C(X) \times C(X) \to C(X)$ satisfying $\|f \phi g\| = \|f\| \|g\|$ for all $f,g \in C(X)$ is equivalent to the uncountability of $X$. This is derived from a bilinear version of Holsztynski’s theorem [3] on isometries of $C(X)$-spaces, which is also proved in the paper.

1. Introduction

A celebrated theorem of W. Holsztynski [3] asserts that, if $X$ and $Z$ are compact Hausdorff topological spaces, and if $T : C(X) \to C(Z)$ is a linear isometry, then there exist a closed subset $Z_0$ of $Z$, a continuous surjective mapping $\varphi : Z_0 \to X$, and a norm-one element $\alpha \in C(Z)$ satisfying $|\alpha(z)| = 1$ and $T(f)(z) = \alpha(z)f(\varphi(z))$ for every $(z,f) \in Z_0 \times C(X)$. As main result, we prove that, if $X,Y,Z$ are compact Hausdorff topological spaces, and if $\phi : C(X) \times C(Y) \to C(Z)$ is a bilinear mapping satisfying $\|f \phi g\| = \|f\| \|g\|$ for every $(f,g) \in C(X) \times C(Y)$, then there exist a closed subset $Z_0$ of $Z$, a continuous surjective mapping $\varphi : Z_0 \to X \times Y$, and a norm-one element $\alpha \in C(Z)$ satisfying $|\alpha(z)| = 1$ and

$$(f \phi g)(z) = \alpha(z)f(\pi_X(\varphi(z)))g(\pi_Y(\varphi(z)))$$

for every $(z,f,g) \in Z_0 \times C(X) \times C(Y)$, where $\pi_X : X \times Y \to X$ and $\pi_Y : X \times Y \to Y$ stand for the natural coordinate projections. We note that Holsztynski’s original theorem follows from the new bilinear version by taking the space $Y$ reduced to a point.

We looked for the main result just reviewed in the attempt to determine those compact Hausdorff topological spaces $X$ such that the Banach space $C(X)$ is “absolute-valuable”. That a Banach space $E$ is absolute-valuable means that there exists a bilinear mapping $\phi : E \times E \to E$ satisfying

\begin{align*}
\|\phi(f,g)\| &\leq \|f\| \|g\| \\
\|f\phi g\| &\geq \|f\| \|g\|
\end{align*}

for all $f,g \in E$. This is equivalent to the uncountability of $X$. This is derived from a bilinear version of Holsztynski’s theorem [3] on isometries of $C(X)$-spaces, which is also proved in the paper.

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Given compact Hausdorff topological spaces $K$ and a linear isometry $T$ we will apply several times the following result, proved by W. Holsztyński: for every $\alpha$ by a continuous surjective mapping $\phi$ for every $(x,y,\alpha)\in C(X)\times C(Y)\times C(Z)$.

Throughout this paper $\mathbb{K}$ will denote the field of real or complex numbers. The field $\mathbb{K}$ will remain fixed, and, for a compact Hausdorff topological space $X$, $C(X)$ will stand for the Banach space over $\mathbb{K}$ of all $\mathbb{K}$-valued continuous functions on $X$. That

**Theorem 2.1.** Let $X, Y, Z$ be compact Hausdorff topological spaces, and let $\odot : C(X) \times C(Y) \rightarrow C(Z)$ be a bilinear mapping satisfying

$$||f \odot g|| = ||f|| ||g||$$

for every $(f, g) \in C(X) \times C(Y)$. Then there exist a closed subset $Z_0$ of $Z$, a continuous surjective mapping $\varphi : Z_0 \rightarrow X \times Y$, and a norm-one element $\alpha \in C(Z)$ satisfying $|\alpha(z)| = 1$ and

$$(f \odot g)(z) = \alpha(z)f(\pi_X(\varphi(z)))g(\pi_Y(\varphi(z)))$$

for every $(z, f, g) \in Z_0 \times C(X) \times C(Y)$. Here, $\pi_X : X \times Y \rightarrow X$ and $\pi_Y : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$ denote the natural coordinate projections.

**Proof.** Given a compact Hausdorff topological space $K$, we denote by $1_K$ the constant function equal to 1 on $K$, and, for $k \in K$, we put

$$S_k := \{ f \in C(K) : ||f|| = 1 = ||f(k)|| \}.$$

Given compact Hausdorff topological spaces $K$ and $L$, an element $k$ of $K$, and a linear isometry $T : C(K) \rightarrow C(L)$, we put

$$Q^T_k := \{ l \in L : T(S_k) \subseteq S_l \}.$$

We will apply several times the following result, proved by W. Holsztyński [3]:

(*) If $l$ is in $Q^T_k$, then we have $T(f)(l) = T(1_K)(l)f(k)$ for every $f \in C(K)$.

Now, for $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ we define

$$Q_{x,y} := \{ z \in Z : S_x \odot S_y \subseteq S_z \},$$

and organize the proof in several steeps.

Steep (i). If $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ and $(f, g) \in C(X) \times C(Y)$ are such that $f(x) = 0$ or $g(y) = 0$, then we have $(f \odot g)(z) = 0$ for every $z \in Q_{x,y}$. Let us fix $(x, y, g)$ in $X \times Y \times C(Y)$ with $g \in S_y$, consider the linear isometry
Assume that $f \in C(X)$ satisfies $f(x) = 0$. Then, by $(\ast)$, we have
\[
(f \circ g)(z) = (T(f))(z) = 0
\]
for every $z \in Q_x^T$, and in particular $(f \circ g)(z) = 0$ for every $z \in Q_{x,y}$. Now, the restriction that $g$ lies in $S_Y$ can be removed by keeping in mind that, since $S_y \subseteq S_y$, the linear hull of $S_y$ in $C(Y)$ is a subalgebra of $C(Y)$, which is self-adjoint, contains the constants, and separates the points of $Y$, so that the Stone-Weierstrass theorem applies.

Steep (ii).- If $(x, y)$ and $(x', y')$ are in $X \times Y$ with $(x, y) \neq (x', y')$, then $Q_{x,y} \cap Q_{x',y'} = \emptyset$. Let $x, x' \in X$ and $y, y' \in Y$ be such that $x \neq x'$, and assume that there exists $z \in Q_{x,y} \cap Q_{x',y'}$. Then, taking $(f, g) \in S_x \times S_y$ with $f(x') = 0$, we have $|(f \circ g)(z)| = 1$ (by the definition of $Q_{x,y}$) and $(f \circ g)(z) = 0$ (by Steep (i)), a contradiction.

Steep (iii).- For every $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ we have $Q_{x,y} \neq \emptyset$. Let $(x, y)$ be in $X \times Y$, and let $f_1, \ldots, f_n$ and $g_1, \ldots, g_n$ be in $S_x$ and $S_y$, respectively. Putting $F := \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x) f_i$ and $G := \sum_{i=1}^n g_i(y) g_i$, we have $|F(x)| = n = ||F||$, $|G(y)| = n = ||G||$, and hence $||F \circ G|| = n^2$. Therefore there exists $z \in Z$ satisfying
\[
n^2 = |(F \circ G)(z)| = \left| \sum_{i,j=1}^n f_i(x) g_j(y) (f_i \circ g_j)(z) \right|.
\]
This implies $|(f_i \circ g_j)(z)| = 1$ for all $i, j = 1, \ldots, n$. In this way we have shown that, denoting by $T$ the unit sphere of $\mathbb{K}$, the family
\[
\{(f \circ g)^{-1}(T) : (f, g) \in S_x \times S_y \}
\]
has the finite intersection property. By the compactness of $Z$, we have in fact $Q_{x,y} = \bigcap_{(f, g) \in S_x \times S_y} (f \circ g)^{-1}(T) \neq \emptyset$.

Now, we consider the norm-one element $\alpha$ of $C(Z)$ defined by
\[
\alpha(z) := (1_X \diamond 1_Y)(z).
\]

Steep (iv).- For $(x, y, z)$ in $X \times Y \times Z$ with $z \in Q_{x,y}$, we have
\[
(f \circ g)(z) = \alpha(z) f(x) g(y)
\]
for every $(f, g) \in C(X) \times C(Y)$, and $|\alpha(z)| = 1$. Since $(1_X, 1_Y)$ belongs to $S_x \times S_y$ whenever $(x, y)$ is in $X \times Y$, it follows from the definitions of $\alpha$ and $Q_{x,y}$ that $|\alpha(z)| = 1$ whenever $z$ is in $Q_{x,y}$. Now, let us fix $(x, y, f, g)$ in $X \times Y \times C(X) \times C(Y)$ with $g \in S_y$, and consider the linear isometries $T : C(X) \rightarrow C(Z)$ and $R : C(Y) \rightarrow C(Z)$ defined by $T(h) := h \circ g$ and $R(h) := 1_X \circ h$, respectively. Keeping in mind the inclusion $Q_{x,y} \subseteq Q_x^T \cap Q_y^R$, and applying $(\ast)$, for $z \in Q_{x,y}$ we derive
\[
(f \circ g)(z) = T(f)(z) = T(1_X)(z) f(x) = (1_X \circ g)(z) f(x) = R(g)(z) f(x) = R(1_Y)(z) g(y) f(x) = (1_X \diamond 1_Y)(z) f(x) g(y) = \alpha(z) f(x) g(y).
\]
The restriction that $g$ lies in $S_y$ can be removed by arguing as in the conclusion of the proof of Steep (i).

Now, we define $Z_0 := \bigcup_{(x,y) \in X \times Y} Q_{x,y}$. In view of Steep (ii), for every $z \in Z_0$ there exists a unique $\varphi(z) \in X \times Y$ such that $z$ belongs to $Q_{\pi_X(\varphi(z)), \pi_Y(\varphi(z))}$. Moreover, by Steep (iii), the mapping $\varphi : Z_0 \to X \times Y$ defined in this way is surjective. On the other hand, by Steep (iv), the norm-one element $\alpha \in C(Z)$ satisfies $|\alpha(z)| = 1$ whenever $z$ lies in $Z_0$, and the equality

$$
(f \circ g)(z) = \alpha(z)f(\pi_X(\varphi(z)))g(\pi_Y(\varphi(z)))
$$

holds for every $(z, f, g) \in Z_0 \times C(X) \times C(Y)$. Thus, to conclude the proof of the theorem it is enough to establish the following.

Steep (v). $Z_0$ is closed in $Z$, and the mapping $\varphi : Z_0 \to X \times Y$ is continuous. Let $A$ be a closed subset of $X \times Y$, let $z_0$ be in $Z \setminus \varphi^{-1}(A)$, and let $a = (x, y)$ be in $A$. Since $\varphi^{-1}(A) = \bigcup_{(x,y) \in A} Q_{x,y}$, there exists $(f_a, g_a) \in S_x \times S_y$ such that $\varepsilon_a := \frac{1 - |f_a \circ g_a(z_0)|}{2} > 0$. Now, we consider the open subset $U_a$ of $X \times Y$ given by

$$
U_a := \{ (x', y') \in X \times Y : |f_a(x')g_a(y')| > 1 - \varepsilon_a \},
$$

and the disjoint open subsets $V_a$ and $G_a$ of $Z$ defined by

$$
V_a := \{ z \in Z : |(f_a \circ g_a)(z)| > 1 - \varepsilon_a \}
$$

and

$$
G_a := \{ z \in Z : |(f_a \circ g_a)(z)| < 1 - \varepsilon_a \}.
$$

We claim that $\varphi^{-1}(U_a) \subseteq V_a$. Indeed, if $z$ is in $Z_0$ with $\varphi(z) = (x', y') \in U_a$, then, by the sentence containing equality (2.1), and the definition of $U_a$, we have

$$
|(f_a \circ g_a)(z)| = |f_a(x')g_a(y')| > 1 - \varepsilon_a,
$$

which means that $z$ lies in $V_a$, as claimed. On the other hand, since clearly $a$ lies in $U_a$, we can move $a$ in $A$, and apply the compactness of $A$ to find $a_1, \ldots, a_n \in A$ such that $A \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n U_{a_i}$. Then, invoking the claim, we derive $\varphi^{-1}(A) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n V_{a_i}$, and hence

$$
(\bigcap_{i=1}^n G_{a_i}) \cap \varphi^{-1}(A) \subseteq (\bigcap_{i=1}^n G_{a_i}) \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^n V_{a_i}) = \emptyset.
$$

In this way $\bigcap_{i=1}^n G_{a_i}$ becomes a neighbourhood of $z_0$ in $Z$ contained in $Z \setminus \varphi^{-1}(A)$. Since $z_0$ is an arbitrary element of $Z \setminus \varphi^{-1}(A)$, we realize that $\varphi^{-1}(A)$ is closed in $Z$. Finally, since $A$ is an arbitrary closed subset of $X \times Y$ we obtain that $Z_0$ is closed in $Z$ (by noticing that $Z_0 = \varphi^{-1}(X \times Y)$) and that $\varphi$ is continuous.

Taking in Theorem 2.1 the space $Y$ reduced to a point, we immediately get the following.

Corollary 2.2. Let $X, Z$ be compact Hausdorff topological spaces, and let $T : C(X) \to C(Z)$ be a linear isometry. Then there exist a closed
subset $Z_0$ of $Z$, a continuous surjective mapping $\varphi : Z_0 \to X$, and a norm-one element $\alpha \in C(Z)$ satisfying $|\alpha(z)| = 1$ and
\[ T(f)(z) = \alpha(z)f(\varphi(z)) \]
for every $(z, f) \in Z_0 \times C(X)$.

**Corollary 2.3.** For compact Hausdorff topological spaces $X, Z$, consider the following conditions:

1. There exists a continuous surjective mapping from $Z$ to $X$.
2. $C(X)$ is linearly isometric to a subspace of $C(Z)$.
3. There exists a continuous surjective mapping from some closed subset of $Z$ to $X$.

Then $(1) \Rightarrow (2) \Rightarrow (3)$. Moreover, if $Z$ is metrizable, then $(2) \iff (3)$.

**Proof.** $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$.- If there exists a continuous surjective mapping $\theta : Z \to X$, then the mapping $h \mapsto h \circ \theta$ from $C(X)$ to $C(Z)$ is a linear isometry.

$(2) \Rightarrow (3)$.- By Corollary 2.2.

If $Z_0$ is any metrizable closed subset of $Z$, then $C(Z_0)$ is linearly isometric to a subspace of $C(Z)$ (indeed, by the Borsuk-Kakutani theorem [2, Theorem 1.21], there is in fact a norm-one linear operator $S : C(Z_0) \to C(Z)$ satisfying $S(f)|_{Z_0} = f$ for every $f \in C(Z_0)$). Now, assume that $Z$ is metrizable, and that there exists a continuous surjective mapping from a closed subset $Z_0$ of $Z$ to $X$. Then, since $C(X)$ is linearly isometric to a subspace of $C(Z_0)$ (by $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$), it follows that $C(X)$ is linearly isometric to a subspace of $C(Z)$.

**Remark 2.4.** (a) Even if $Z$ is metrizable, the implication $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$ in Corollary 2.3 above is not reversible. Many counterexamples can be exhibited by keeping in mind the Banach-Mazur theorem that $C(X)$ is linearly isometric to $C(Z)$ whenever the compact spaces $X$ and $Z$ are metrizable and $Z$ is uncountable. Thus, putting $X := \{0, 1\}$ and $Z := [0, 1]$, Condition (2) in Corollary 2.3 is fulfilled, whereas clearly Condition (1) does not hold. In this case, an elementary embedding $C(X) \hookrightarrow C(Z)$ is the one assigning to each function from $\{0, 1\}$ to $\mathbb{K}$ its unique affine extension to $[0, 1]$.

(b) Without the assumption of metrizability of $Z$, the implication $(2) \Rightarrow (3)$ in Corollary 2.3 is also not reversible. Indeed, taking $Z := \beta(\mathbb{N})$ (the Stone-Cech compactification of the integers) and $X := \beta(\mathbb{N}) \setminus \mathbb{N}$, Condition (3) is fulfilled in an obvious way, but Condition (2) does not hold. Indeed, the norm of $C(Z)$ is determined by the family of all point evaluations on the set $\mathbb{N}$, whereas the norm of $C(X)$ cannot be determined by any countable subset of the closed unit ball of its dual (see the second paragraph after Proposition II.4.16 of [4]).

**Corollary 2.5.** For compact Hausdorff topological spaces $X, Y, Z$, consider the following conditions:
Corollary 2.3. Let \( C \) be a Banach space. It follows from Corollary 2.5 that \( C(X) \) is absolute-valuable if and only if there exists a continuous surjective mapping from some closed subset of \( X \) to \( X \times Y \). To this end, we need some elementary lemmas of

(1) There exists a continuous surjective mapping from \( Z \) to \( X \times Y \).
(2) \( C(X \times Y) \) is linearly isometric to a subspace of \( C(Z) \).
(3) There exists a bilinear mapping \( \circ : C(X) \times C(Y) \rightarrow C(Z) \) satisfying 
\[ \| f \circ g \| = \| f \| \| g \| \quad \text{for every} \quad (f, g) \in C(X) \times C(Y). \]
(4) There exists a continuous surjective mapping from some closed subset of \( Z \) to \( X \times Y \).

Then (1) \( \Rightarrow \) (2) \( \Rightarrow \) (3) \( \Rightarrow \) (4). Moreover, if \( Z \) is metrizable, then in fact (2) \( \iff \) (3) \( \iff \) (4).

**Proof.** (1) \( \Rightarrow \) (2).- By Corollary 2.3.
(2) \( \Rightarrow \) (3).- For \( (f,g) \in C(X) \times C(Y) \), define \( f \otimes g \in C(X \times Y) \) by 
\[ (f \otimes g)(x,y) := f(x)g(y). \]
If there exists a linear isometry 
\[ \phi : C(X \times Y) \rightarrow C(Z), \]
then the mapping \( \circ : C(X) \times C(Y) \rightarrow C(Z) \) defined by 
\[ f \circ g := \phi(f \otimes g) \]
is bilinear and satisfies \( \| f \circ g \| = \| f \| \| g \| \) for every \( (f,g) \in C(X) \times C(Y) \).
(3) \( \Rightarrow \) (4).- By Theorem 2.1.

In the case that \( Z \) is metrizable, the implication (4) \( \Rightarrow \) (2) follows from Corollary 2.3.

**Remark 2.6.** We note that, when in Corollary 2.5 above we take \( Y \) reduced to a point, then Conditions (2) and (3) assert the same, and Corollary 2.5 becomes Corollary 2.3. Therefore, by Remark 2.4, none of the implications (1) \( \Rightarrow \) (2) (even if \( Z \) is metrizable) and (3) \( \Rightarrow \) (4) in Corollary 2.5 is reversible.

A more illuminating example that (4) does not imply (3) is the following. Take \( Z := \beta(\mathbb{N}) \times \beta(\mathbb{N}) \) and \( X = Y := \beta(\mathbb{N}) \setminus \mathbb{N} \). Then, since \( X \times Y \) is a closed subset of \( Z \), Condition (4) is fulfilled in an obvious way. However, if Condition (3) were satisfied, then, fixing a norm-one element \( g \in C(Y) \), the mapping \( f \rightarrow f \circ g \) from \( C(X) \) to \( C(Z) \) would be a linear isometry. But, since the norm of \( C(Z) \) is determined by the countable family of all point evaluations on the set \( \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \) (because the inclusion \( \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \hookrightarrow \beta(\mathbb{N}) \times \beta(\mathbb{N}) \) extends to a continuous surjective mapping from \( \beta(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}) \) to \( \beta(\mathbb{N}) \times \beta(\mathbb{N}) \)), the existence of such an isometry is impossible (see Remark 2.4.(b)).

Without the assumption of metrizability of \( Z \), we do not know if the implication (2) \( \Rightarrow \) (3) in Corollary 2.5 is reversible.

### 3. Absolute-valuable \( C(X) \)-spaces

A Banach space \( E \) is said to be **absolute-valuable** if there exists a bilinear mapping \( \circ : E \times E \rightarrow E \) satisfying \( \| \xi \circ \chi \| = \| \xi \| \| \chi \| \) for all \( \xi, \chi \in E \).

Let \( X \) be a metrizable compact space. It follows from Corollary 2.5 that \( C(X) \) is absolute-valuable if and only if there exists a continuous surjective mapping from some closed subset of \( X \) to \( X \times X \). In this section we will prove that in fact the absolute valuableness of \( C(X) \) can be settled in terms of the cardinality of \( X \). To this end, we need some elementary lemmas of
pure topology. We feel that such lemmas are well-known, but we give their proofs for the sake of completeness. As usual, for every topological space $X$, we define the derived set $X'$ of $X$ as the set of all accumulation points of $X$.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let $X$ and $Y$ be topological spaces, and let $\varphi : X \to Y$ be a continuous surjective mapping. Assume that $X$ is compact and that $Y$ is Hausdorff. Then $Y' \subseteq \varphi(X')$.

**Proof.** For every point $z$ in a topological space, we denote by $V(z)$ the set of all neighbourhoods of $z$. Let $y$ be in $Y'$. Then, since $\varphi$ is surjective, for every $V \in V(y)$ there exists $x_V \in X$ such that $\varphi(x_V) \in V \setminus \{y\}$. Considering in $V(y)$ the order given by the inverse inclusion, the compactness of $X$ provides us with a cluster point $x \in X$ of the net $\{x_V\}_{V \in V(y)}$. Since $\varphi$ is continuous, $\varphi(x)$ is a cluster point of the net $\{\varphi(x_V)\}_{V \in V(y)}$. Since clearly $\{\varphi(x_V)\}_{V \in V(y)}$ converges to $y$, and $Y$ is Hausdorff, it follows that $\varphi(x) = y$. Since $x$ is different from $x_V$ for every $V \in V(y)$, and is a cluster point of the net $\{x_V\}_{V \in V(y)}$, it lies in $Y'$.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let $X$ and $Y$ be topological spaces, let $\varphi : X \to Y$ be a continuous mapping, and let $\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ be a decreasing net of closed subsets of $X$. Assume that $X$ is compact and that $Y$ is Hausdorff. Then we have $\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \varphi(X_\lambda) = \varphi\left(\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} X_\lambda\right)$.

**Proof.** Let $y$ be in $\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \varphi(X_\lambda)$. Then, for $\lambda \in \Lambda$ there exists $x_\lambda \in X_\lambda$ with $\varphi(x_\lambda) = y$. Taking a cluster point $x$ of the net $\{x_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ in $X$, and keeping in mind that $\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ is a decreasing net of closed subsets of $X$, we obtain that $x$ belongs to $\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} X_\lambda$. Since $\varphi(x) = y$, it follows that $y$ lies in $\varphi\left(\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} X_\lambda\right)$.

Given a topological space $X$ and an ordinal $\alpha$, we apply transfinite induction to define the $\alpha$-derived set $X^{(\alpha)}$ of $X$. Indeed, we put $X^{(0)} := X$, $X^{(\alpha+1)} := (X^{(\alpha)})'$, and $X^{(\alpha)} := \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} X^{(\beta)}$ when $\alpha$ is a limit ordinal.

**Lemma 3.3.** Let $X$ and $Y$ be topological spaces, let $\varphi : X \to Y$ be a continuous surjective mapping, and let $\alpha$ be an ordinal. Assume that $X$ is compact and that $Y$ is Hausdorff. Then $Y^{(\alpha)} \subseteq \varphi(X^{(\alpha)})$.

**Proof.** We argue by transfinite induction on $\alpha$. The case $\alpha = 0$ is clear. Assume that the inclusion $Y^{(\alpha)} \subseteq \varphi(X^{(\alpha)})$ is true for some ordinal $\alpha$. Then, putting $Z := \varphi^{-1}(Y^{(\alpha)}) \cap X^{(\alpha)}$ and $\psi := \varphi_{|Z} : Z \to Y^{(\alpha)}$, we can apply Lemma 3.1, with $(Z, Y^{(\alpha)}, \psi)$ instead of $(X, Y, \varphi)$, to derive that $Y^{(\alpha+1)} \subseteq \varphi(Z')$. Since $Z \subseteq X^{(\alpha)}$, we obtain $Y^{(\alpha+1)} \subseteq \varphi(X^{(\alpha+1)})$.

Now assume that $\alpha$ is a limit ordinal, and that the inclusion $Y^{(\beta)} \subseteq \varphi(X^{(\beta)})$ holds for every ordinal $\beta < \alpha$. Applying Lemma 3.2 we have $Y^{(\alpha)} = \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} Y^{(\beta)} \subseteq \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} \varphi(X^{(\beta)}) = \varphi\left(\bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} X^{(\beta)}\right) = \varphi(X^{(\alpha)})$. 

Lemma 3.4. Let $X$ and $Y$ be topological spaces, and let $\alpha$ be an ordinal. Then $X^{(\alpha)} \times Y \subseteq (X \times Y)^{(\alpha)}$.

Proof. Straightforward by transfinite induction on $\alpha$. ■

We recall that a topological space $X$ is said to be scattered if for every nonempty closed subset $Y$ of $X$ we have $Y \setminus Y' \neq \emptyset$.

Theorem 3.5. For a compact Hausdorff topological space $X$, consider the following conditions:

1. There exists a continuous surjective mapping from $X$ to $X \times X$.
2. $C(X \times X)$ is linearly isometric to a subspace of $C(X)$.
3. $C(X)$ is absolute-valuable.
4. There exists a continuous surjective mapping from some closed subset of $X$ to $X \times X$.
5. $X$ is either reduced to a point or non scattered.
6. $X$ is either reduced to a point or uncountable.

Then (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) $\Rightarrow$ (3) $\Rightarrow$ (4) $\Rightarrow$ (5) $\Rightarrow$ (6). Moreover, if $X$ is metrizable, then (2) $\iff$ (3) $\iff$ (4) $\iff$ (5) $\iff$ (6).

Proof. (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) $\Rightarrow$ (3) $\Rightarrow$ (4).- By Corollary 2.5.

(4) $\Rightarrow$ (5).- Assume that $X$ is scattered, and that there exist a closed subset $X_0$ of $X$ and a continuous surjective mapping $\varphi : X_0 \to X \times X$. Since $X$ is scattered and compact, there is an ordinal $\alpha$ such that $X^{(\alpha)}$ is finite and nonempty (see for example [5, 8.6.8]). Denote by $n$ and $m$ the cardinal numbers of $X^{(\alpha)}$ and $X$, respectively. Since $X^{(\alpha)} \times X \subseteq \varphi(X_0^{(\alpha)})$ (by Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4), we have $nm \leq n$. This implies $m = 1$.

(5) $\Rightarrow$ (6).- Since countable compact Hausdorff spaces are scattered.

If $X$ is uncountable and metrizable, then, by the Banach-Mazur theorem (see Remark 2.4.(a)), $C(X \times X)$ is linearly isometric to a subspace of $C(X)$.

Remark 3.6. Even if $X$ is metrizable, the implication (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) in Theorem 3.5 is not reversible. Indeed, taking $X = [0, 1] \cup \{2\}$, Condition (2) is satisfied (by the Banach-Mazur theorem), whereas a connectedness argument shows that Condition (1) is not fulfilled.

Without the assumption of metrizability of $X$, the implication (5) $\Rightarrow$ (6) is also not reversible. Indeed, if $X$ denotes the one-point compactification of an uncountable discrete space, then $X$ is scattered.

Without the assumption of metrizability of $X$, we do not know about the reversibility of any of the implications (2) $\Rightarrow$ (3) $\Rightarrow$ (4) $\Rightarrow$ (5).

Given an infinite set $\Gamma$, we denote by $c(\Gamma)$ the vector space over $\mathbb{K}$ of all functions from $\Gamma$ to $\mathbb{K}$ having a limit along the filter of all co-finite subsets of $\Gamma$, endowed with the sup norm. Since $c(\Gamma)$ is linearly isometric to the space of all $\mathbb{K}$-valued continuous functions on the scattered compact
Hausdorff topological space consisting of the one-point compactification of the discrete space $\Gamma$, we derive from Theorem 3.5 the following.

**Corollary 3.7.** [1] Let $\Gamma$ be an infinite set. Then $c(\Gamma)$ is not absolute-valuable.

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**References**


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