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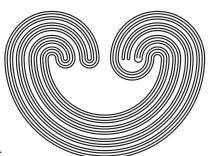
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**ISSN:** 0146-4124

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# A 2-DIMENSIONAL COMPACTUM IN THE PRODUCT OF TWO 1-DIMENSIONAL COMPACTA WHICH DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY RECTANGLE

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#### 1. Introduction

Our terminology follows Kuratowski [Ku]. By a compactum we mean a compact metrizable space.

The aim of this note is to provide the following example which answers (for n=2) a question asked by Y. Sternfeld [St1; Problem 1], [St2; 4, Problem 8].

1.1. Example For each natural  $n \geq 2$  there exist 1-dimensional compacta  $Z_i$ ,  $i = 1, \ldots, n$ , and an n-dimensional compactum  $Y \subset Z_1 \times \cdots \times Z_n$  such that whenever  $A_1 \times \cdots \times A_n \subset Y$ , then all but one  $A_i$  are singletons.

Our construction also answers another question of Sternfeld [St2; 4, Problem 7], see Sec 4. I am grateful to Y. Sternfeld for pointing out this fact to me.

### 2. EMBEDDING HEREDITARILY INDECOMPOSABLE CONTINUA IN PRODUCTS OF 1-DIMENSIONAL CONTINUA

A continuous mapping  $f: A \to B$  between compacta is monotone (zero-dimensional), if all fibers  $f^{-1}(b)$  are connected (zero-dimensional).

Supported by the Polish Scientific Grant R.P.I. 10.

A continuum C is hereditarily indecomposable if for any pair of continua A, B in C with  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , either  $A \subset B$  or  $B \subset A$  [Ku; 48, V].

- R. H. Bing [Bi] constructed hereditarily indecomposable continua of arbitrarily large dimension.
- **2.1.** Lemma Let X be an n-dimensional hereditarily indecomposable continuum. There exist continuous monotone mappings  $h_i: X \to Z_i$ ,  $i = 1, \ldots, n$ , onto 1-dimensional continua  $Z_i$  such that the diagonal mapping  $h = (h_1, \ldots, h_n): X \to Z_1 \times \cdots \times Z_n$  is an embedding.
- *Proof.* By a theorem of Hurewicz [Ku; 45, IX] there exists a zero-dimensional mapping  $f: X \to I^n$  into the *n*-cube, and let  $f = (f_1, \ldots, f_n)$ , where  $f_i: X \to I$ .

For each i = 1, ..., n, we consider the factorization  $f_i = g_i \circ h_i$ , where  $h_i : X \to Z_i$  is a continuous monotone mapping onto  $Z_i$ , and the mapping  $g_i : Z_i \to I$  is zero-dimensional, see [Ku; 47, VI, Theorem 7].

The continua  $Z_i$  are 1-dimensional, cf. [Ku; 45, Theorem 1]. We have to show that for each  $z=(z_1,z_2,\ldots,z_n)\in Z_1\times\cdots\times Z_n$ , the set  $h^{-1}(z)=h_1^{-1}(z_1)\cap\ldots\cap h_n^{-1}(z_n)$  contains at most one point. Let  $C_i=h_i^{-1}(z_i)$  and suppose that  $C_1\cap\ldots\cap C_n\neq\emptyset$ . Since  $C_i$  are subcontinua of the hereditarily indecomposable continuum X, the collection  $C_1,\ldots,C_n$  is linearly ordered by the inclusion, therefore, for some  $j,C_j=C_1\cap\ldots\cap C_n$ , i.e.,  $h^{-1}(z)=C_j$  is a continuum. On the other hand,  $h^{-1}(z)\subset f^{-1}(y)$ , where  $y=(g_1(z_1),\ldots,g_n(z_n))$ , hence  $h^{-1}(z)$  is zero-dimensional. It follows that  $h^{-1}(z)$  is a singleton.

2.2. Remark Sternfeld [St2; 3, p.25] gives interesting refinements of the standard factorization argument we have applied at the beginning of the proof.

### 3. THE EXAMPLE.

Let us fix an  $n \ge 2$ , let us adopt the notation of Lemma 2.1, and let us set Y = h(X).

Assume that  $A_1 \times ... \times A_n \subset Y$  and suppose that for some  $i \neq j$ ,  $A_i = \{s_1, s_2\}$ ,  $A_j = \{t_1, t_2\}$ ,  $s_1 \neq s_2$ ,  $t_1 \neq t_2$ . Let us consider the continua  $C_k = h_i^{-1}(s_k)$  and  $D_k = h_j^{-1}(T_k)$ , k = 1, 2. Then  $C_1 \cap D_1 \neq \emptyset$ ,  $C_1 \setminus D_1 \supset C_1 \cap D_2 \neq \emptyset$ ,  $D_1 \setminus C_1 \supset D_1 \cap C_2 \neq \emptyset$ , contradicting the fact that X is hereditarily indecomposable.

### 4. REMARK

The 2-dimensional compactum Y in the product  $Z_1 \times Z_2$  of 1-dimensional compacta described in Sec. 3 (for n=2) is such that no triple  $\{(s_1,t_1),(s_2,t_2),(s_1,t_2)\}$ , with  $s_1 \neq s_2$ ,  $t_1 \neq t_2$ , is contained in Y. By a result of Sternfeld [St2; 2, Theorem 10] this property implies that each real valued continuous function  $u:Y\to R$  can be represented in the form  $u(z_1,z_2)=v_1(z_1)+v_2(z_2), (z_1,z_2)\in Y$ , where  $v_i:Z_i\to R$  are continuous functions.

This provides an answer to Problem 7, [St2; 4].

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