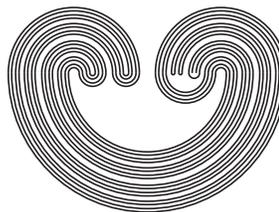


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TOPOLOGY PROCEEDINGS



Volume 48, 2016

Pages 251–259

<http://topology.nipissingu.ca/tp/>

MAKING HOLES IN THE SECOND SYMMETRIC PRODUCT OF UNICOHERENT LOCALLY CONNECTED CONTINUA

by

JOSÉ G. ANAYA, DAVID MAYA, AND FERNANDO OROZCO-ZITLI

Electronically published on October 26, 2015

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ISSN: 0146-4124

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**MAKING HOLES IN THE
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JOSÉ G. ANAYA, DAVID MAYA, AND FERNANDO OROZCO-ZITLI

ABSTRACT. A *continuum* is a compact connected metric space. The *second symmetric product* of a continuum X , $\mathcal{F}_2(X)$ is the hyperspace of all nonempty subsets of X having at most two points. Let X be a continuum such that $\mathcal{F}_2(X)$ is unicoherent. Then an element $A \in \mathcal{F}_2(X)$ *makes a hole* in $\mathcal{F}_2(X)$ if $\mathcal{F}_2(X) - \{A\}$ is not unicoherent. In this paper, we characterize the elements $A \in \mathcal{F}_2(X)$ satisfying A makes a hole in $\mathcal{F}_2(X)$ when X is a unicoherent locally connected continuum.

1. INTRODUCTION

A *continuum* is a connected compact metric space. Let X be a continuum. For each positive integer n , let $\mathcal{F}_n(X) = \{A \subseteq X : A \text{ has at most } n \text{ points and } A \neq \emptyset\}$. The hyperspace $\mathcal{F}_n(X)$ is called the n^{th} *symmetric product of X* . It is known that each $\mathcal{F}_n(X)$ is a continuum (see [6, pp. 876, 877] and [11, Theorem 4.10]).

A connected topological space Z is *unicoherent* provided that $A \cap B$ is connected whenever A and B are connected closed subsets of Z such that $Z = A \cup B$. A point z in a unicoherent topological space Z *makes a hole in Z* if $Z - \{z\}$ is not unicoherent.

In this paper, we are interested in the following problem which arises in [1, p. 2000].

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 54B20; Secondary 54F55.
Key words and phrases. continuum, make a hole, property (b), symmetric products, unicoherence.

The second author was supported by CONACyT.

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