

## Almost maximal topologies on groups

by

Yevhen Zelenyuk (Johannesburg)

**Abstract.** Let  $G$  be a countably infinite group. We show that for every finite absolute coretract  $S$ , there is a regular left invariant topology on  $G$  whose ultrafilter semigroup is isomorphic to  $S$ . As consequences we prove that (1) there is a right maximal idempotent in  $\beta G \setminus G$  which is not strongly right maximal, and (2) for each combination of the properties of being extremally disconnected, irresolvable, and nodec, except for the combination  $(-, -, +)$ , there is a corresponding regular almost maximal left invariant topology on  $G$ .

**1. Introduction.** A topological space is called *maximal* if its topology is maximal among all dense in itself topologies. A dense in itself Hausdorff space  $X$  is maximal if and only if for every  $x \in X$  there is only one non-principal ultrafilter on  $X$  converging to  $x$ . We say that a space  $X$  is *almost maximal* if it is dense in itself and for every  $x \in X$  there are only finitely many ultrafilters on  $X$  converging to  $x$ . In [8], assuming Martin's Axiom (MA), an exhaustive construction of countable almost maximal topological groups and countable regular almost maximal left topological groups was given. Recall that a group endowed with a topology is called *left topological* and the topology itself *left invariant* if left translations are continuous. All topologies in the present paper are assumed to satisfy the  $T_1$  separation axiom. The existence of a countable almost maximal topological group cannot be established in ZFC, the system of usual axioms of set theory [6]. In this paper we give an exhaustive construction in ZFC of countable regular almost maximal left topological groups.

Throughout the paper,  $G$  will be an arbitrary countably infinite discrete group.

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The operation of  $G$  extends to the Stone-Ćech compactification  $\beta G$  of  $G$  so that, for each  $a \in G$ , the left translation  $\beta G \ni x \mapsto ax \in \beta G$  is continuous, and for each  $q \in \beta G$ , the right translation  $\beta G \ni x \mapsto xq \in \beta G$  is continuous.

We take the points of  $\beta G$  to be the ultrafilters on  $G$ , the principal ultrafilters being identified with the points of  $G$ , and  $G^* = \beta G \setminus G$ . The topology of  $\beta G$  is generated by taking as a base the subsets  $\bar{A} = \{p \in \beta G : A \in p\}$ , where  $A \subseteq G$ . For  $p, q \in \beta G$ , the ultrafilter  $pq$  has a base consisting of subsets  $\bigcup_{x \in A} xB_x$ , where  $A \in p$  and  $B_x \in q$ . See [1] for more information about  $\beta G$ .

For every left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$ ,

$$\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}) = \{p \in G^* : p \text{ converges to } 1 \text{ in } \mathcal{T}\}$$

is a closed subsemigroup of  $G^*$  called the *ultrafilter semigroup* of  $\mathcal{T}$  [2, 3]. Not each closed subsemigroup of  $G^*$  is the ultrafilter semigroup of a left invariant topology. However, every finite subsemigroup is [8, Proposition 2.4]. Notice that a left invariant topology is *maximal* [almost maximal] if and only if its ultrafilter semigroup is a singleton [finite].

Of special interest are regular almost maximal left invariant topologies. If  $T$  is a finite subsemigroup of  $G^*$  and  $\mathcal{T}$  is the left invariant topology on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}) = T$ , then  $\mathcal{T}$  is regular if and only if

- (i) for every  $p \in G^* \setminus T$ ,  $(pT) \cap T = \emptyset$ , and
- (ii) for every  $a \in G \setminus \{1\}$ ,  $(aT) \cap T = \emptyset$  (=  $\mathcal{T}$  is Hausdorff)

[8, Proposition 2.12]. A subsemigroup  $T$  of  $G^*$  satisfying conditions (i) and (ii) is called *left saturated*. Notice that (ii) is always satisfied if  $T$  is a singleton [1, Theorem 3.34] or  $T$  is a finite *band* (= semigroup of idempotents) and  $G$  can be embedded algebraically in a compact group [9, Lemma 7.10]. Recall that an element  $p$  of a semigroup is an *idempotent* if  $pp = p$ .

The simplest examples of bands are left zero semigroups ( $xy = x$ ), right zero semigroups ( $xy = y$ ), chains of idempotents ( $x \leq y$  if and only if  $xy = yx = x$ ), and rectangular bands (= direct products of a left zero semigroup and a right zero semigroup). Each band is a disjoint union of its maximal rectangular subsemigroups and these are partially ordered by  $X \leq Y$  if and only if  $XY \subseteq X$ , equivalently  $YX \subseteq X$ .

An object  $P$  in some category is a *projective* if for every morphism  $f : P \rightarrow Q$  and for every surjective morphism  $g : R \rightarrow Q$ , there exists a morphism  $h : P \rightarrow R$  such that  $g \circ h = f$ . We say that an object  $P$  is an *absolute coretract* if for every surjective morphism  $g : R \rightarrow P$  there exists a morphism  $h : P \rightarrow R$  such that  $g \circ h = \text{id}_P$ . Obviously, each projective is an absolute coretract. In many categories these notions coincide but not in all. Let  $\mathfrak{F}$  and  $\mathfrak{C}$  denote the categories of finite semigroups and compact Hausdorff right topological semigroups, respectively. Then the finite abso-

lute coretracts and the finite projectives in  $\mathfrak{C}$  and in  $\mathfrak{F}$  are the same objects, and these are certain chains of rectangular bands; in particular, the finite left (right) zero semigroups and chains of idempotents are such [7].

For every regular almost maximal left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$ ,  $T = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T})$  is a projective in  $\mathfrak{F}$  [8, Theorem 4.1]. Assuming MA, for every finite absolute coretract  $S$  in  $\mathfrak{C}$ , there is a regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T})$  isomorphic to  $S$ , and in the case  $G = \bigoplus_{\omega} \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\mathcal{T}$  can be chosen to be a group topology [8, Theorem 5.2 and Lemma 6.10]. Every countable almost maximal topological group contains an open Boolean subgroup, and its existence cannot be established in ZFC [6] (see also [9, Theorem 10.15 and Corollary 10.17]). However, there is in ZFC a regular maximal left invariant topology on  $G$  [4]. More generally, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is in ZFC a regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T})$  being a chain of  $n$  idempotents [8, Theorem 6.1].

In this paper we prove (in ZFC) the following result.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *For every finite absolute coretract  $S$  in  $\mathfrak{C}$ , there is a regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T})$  isomorphic to  $S$ .*

Theorem 1.1 can be rephrased as follows:

*For every finite absolute coretract  $S$  in  $\mathfrak{C}$ , there is a left saturated sub-semigroup  $T$  of  $G^*$  isomorphic to  $S$ .*

Theorem 1.1 is the complete solution to [8, Question 6] (see also [9, Problem 17]). In fact, this question goes back to the late 1990's, when most of the relevant results had already been proved [5, 6, 4].

From Theorem 1.1 two corollaries follow. To state these, we present some terminology. An idempotent  $p \in G^*$  is called

- *right maximal* if for every idempotent  $q \in G^*$ ,  $qp = p$  implies  $pq = q$ ,
- *strongly right maximal* if the equation  $xp = p$  has the unique solution  $x = p$  in  $G^*$ .

Taking the 2-element right zero semigroup as  $S$ , from Theorem 1.1 we deduce

**COROLLARY 1.2.** *There is a right maximal idempotent in  $G^*$  which is not strongly right maximal.*

Corollary 1.2 is the answer to a question in [1, p. 192].

A space is called

- *extremally disconnected* if the closure of an open set is open,
- *irresolvable* if it cannot be partitioned into two disjoint dense subsets,
- *nodec* if every nowhere dense subset is closed.

An almost maximal left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  is

- extremally disconnected if and only if  $T = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T})$  has only one minimal right ideal,
- irresolvable if and only if the smallest ideal  $K(T)$  of  $T$  is a left zero semigroup,
- nodec if and only if  $K(T) = T$

(see [9, Proposition 7.7]).

**COROLLARY 1.3.** *For each combination of the properties of being extremally disconnected, irresolvable, and nodec, except for the combination  $(-, -, +)$ , there is a corresponding regular almost maximal left invariant topology on  $G$ . There is no countable regular almost maximal left topological group corresponding to the combination  $(-, -, +)$ .*

Corollary 1.3 is a ZFC version of [9, Corollary 10.39]. The proof is the same. In particular, for the combination  $(-, +, +)$ , apply Theorem 1.1 to the 2-element left zero semigroup.

In fact, we prove a theorem which is a little bit stronger than Theorem 1.1.

**THEOREM 1.4.** *Let  $S$  be a finite absolute coretract in  $\mathfrak{C}$  and let  $X$  be a  $G_\delta$  subset of  $G^*$  containing an idempotent. Then there is a regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  such that  $T = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T})$  is isomorphic to  $S$  and  $T \subseteq X$ .*

The proof of Theorem 1.4 is based on a special construction of regular left invariant topologies and on deep subsets of  $\omega^*$ .

For every closed subset  $Y \subseteq \omega^*$ , the *character* of  $Y$  in  $\omega^*$ , denoted  $\chi(Y)$ , is the minimum cardinality of a family  $\mathcal{F}$  of subsets of  $\omega$  such that  $\bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{F}} \overline{A} = Y$ . A nonempty closed subset  $Z \subseteq \omega^*$  is *deep* if for every closed subset  $Y \subseteq \omega^*$  with  $\chi(Y) < \mathfrak{c}$ ,  $Y \cap Z$  is either empty or infinite.

**THEOREM 1.5** ([11, Theorem 3.1]). *There is a deep subset  $Z \subseteq \omega^*$ .*

As in [11], we use Theorem 1.5 as a replacement of MA.

In Section 2 we discuss first countable regular left invariant topologies. In Section 3 we give that special construction; and in Section 4 we prove Theorem 1.4 itself.

## 2. First countable regular left invariant topologies

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{T}_0$  be a Hausdorff [regular] left invariant topology on  $G$  and let  $(U_n)_{n < \omega}$  be any sequence of neighborhoods of 1 in  $\mathcal{T}$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}_0$  can be weakened to a first countable Hausdorff [regular] left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  in which each  $U_n$  remains a neighborhood of 1.*

*Proof.* We consider the Hausdorff case; the regular one is [9, Lemma 9.28].

Without loss of generality one may suppose that  $U_0 = G$ . Enumerate  $G \setminus \{1\}$  as  $\{x_n : 1 \leq n < \omega\}$ . Construct inductively a sequence  $(V_n)_{n < \omega}$  of open neighborhoods of 1 in  $\mathcal{T}_0$  with  $V_0 = G$  such that for every  $n \geq 1$ :

- (i)  $V_n \subseteq V_{n-1}$ ,
- (ii)  $x_n V_n \subseteq V_k$ , where  $k = \max\{i \leq n - 1 : x_n \in V_i\}$ ,
- (iii)  $(x_n V_n) \cap V_n = \emptyset$ , and
- (iv)  $V_n \subseteq U_n$ .

It then follows from (i)–(iii) that there is a Hausdorff left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  in which  $\{V_n : n < \omega\}$  is a neighborhood base at 1 (see [9, Corollary 4.4]), and by (iv), each  $U_n$  remains a neighborhood of 1 in  $\mathcal{T}$ . ■

For every filter  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $G$  with  $\bigcap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$ , there is a largest left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}[\mathcal{F}]$  on  $G$  in which  $\mathcal{F}$  converges to 1. The topology  $\mathcal{T}[\mathcal{F}]$  has a neighborhood base at 1 consisting of subsets

$$[M] = \{x_0 x_1 \cdots x_n : n < \omega, x_0 = 1 \text{ and } x_{i+1} \in M(x_0 \cdots x_i) \text{ for each } i < n\},$$

where  $M : G \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  [9, Theorem 4.8].

A filter  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $G$  is *strongly discrete* if  $\bigcap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$  and there is  $M : G \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  such that the subsets  $xM(x) \subseteq G$ ,  $x \in G$ , are pairwise disjoint.

**THEOREM 2.2** ([9, Theorem 4.18]). *For every strongly discrete filter  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $G$ , the topology  $\mathcal{T}[\mathcal{F}]$  is regular.*

**LEMMA 2.3.** *Let  $X$  be a  $G_\delta$  subset of  $G^*$  containing an idempotent. Then there is a nondiscrete first countable regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}) \subseteq X$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $e \in X$  be an idempotent. There is a left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}_0$  on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}_0) = \{e\}$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $\mathcal{T}_0$  can be weakened to a first countable Hausdorff left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}_1$  on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}_1) \subseteq X$ . Let  $\{U_n : n < \omega\}$  be a decreasing neighborhood base at 1 in  $\mathcal{T}_1$  and enumerate  $G$  without repetitions as  $\{x_n : n < \omega\}$ . Construct inductively a sequence  $(a_n)_{n < \omega}$  in  $G$  such that

- (i)  $a_n \in U_n \setminus (\{a_j : j < n\} \cup \{1\})$ , and
- (ii) the subsets  $x_i \{a_j : i \leq j \leq n\}$ ,  $i \leq n$ , are pairwise disjoint.

Then  $(a_n)_{n < \omega}$  is a one-to-one sequence in  $G \setminus \{1\}$  converging to 1 in  $\mathcal{T}_1$  and the subsets  $x_n A_n$ ,  $n < \omega$ , are pairwise disjoint, where  $A_n = \{a_j : n \leq j < \omega\}$ . Consequently, the filter  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $G$  with a base of subsets  $A_n$ ,  $n < \omega$ , is strongly discrete and converges to 1 in  $\mathcal{T}_1$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}_2 = \mathcal{T}[\mathcal{F}]$ . By Theorem 2.2,  $\mathcal{T}_2$  is regular, and by Lemma 2.1,  $\mathcal{T}_2$  can be weakened to a first countable regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  finer than  $\mathcal{T}_1$ . ■

Given a left topological group  $L$  and a semigroup  $S$ , a mapping  $h : L \rightarrow S$  is a *local homomorphism* if for every  $x \in L$ , there is a neighborhood  $U$  of 1 such that  $h(xy) = h(x)h(y)$  for all  $y \in U \setminus \{1\}$ . If  $h : L \rightarrow S$  is a local homomorphism,  $S$  is finite, and  $\bar{h} : \beta L_d \rightarrow S$  is the continuous extension of  $h$ , then  $\bar{h}|_{\text{Ult}(L)} : \text{Ult}(L) \rightarrow S$  is a homomorphism [9, Lemma 8.6]. Given left topological groups  $L$  and  $H$ , a mapping  $h : L \rightarrow H$  is a *local isomorphism* if  $h$  is a homeomorphism with  $h(1) = 1$  and a local homomorphism. If  $h : L \rightarrow H$  is a local isomorphism and  $\bar{h} : \beta L_d \rightarrow \beta H_d$  is the continuous extension of  $h$ , then  $\bar{h}|_{\text{Ult}(L)} : \text{Ult}(L) \rightarrow \text{Ult}(H)$  is an isomorphism [9, Lemma 8.4]. Homomorphisms and isomorphisms of ultrafilter semigroups induced by local homomorphisms and local isomorphisms are called *proper*. Endow the countably infinite Boolean group  $\bigoplus_{\omega} \mathbb{Z}_2$  with the topology induced by the product topology on  $\prod_{\omega} \mathbb{Z}_2$  and let  $\mathbb{H}$  denote its ultrafilter semigroup. For every countable nondiscrete regular left topological group  $L$ , there is a local isomorphism of  $L$  onto  $\bigoplus_{\omega} \mathbb{Z}_2$ , and consequently there is a proper isomorphism of  $\text{Ult}(L)$  onto  $\mathbb{H}$  [9, Corollary 8.11].

LEMMA 2.4. *Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a nondiscrete first countable regular left invariant topology on  $G$  and let  $T = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T})$ . Then  $T$  admits a proper homomorphism onto any finite semigroup.*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a finite semigroup. Pick a local isomorphism  $h : (G, \mathcal{T}) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{\omega} \mathbb{Z}_2$ . It is easy to construct a local homomorphism  $g : \bigoplus_{\omega} \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow S$  such that for every neighborhood  $U$  of 0,  $g(U \setminus \{0\}) = S$  (see the proof of [9, Theorem 7.24]). Then  $g \circ h : (G, \mathcal{T}) \rightarrow S$  is a local homomorphism with the same property, and so  $g \circ \bar{h}|_T$  is a proper homomorphism of  $T$  onto  $S$ . ■

REMARK 2.5. Lemma 2.4 remains true with “any finite semigroup” replaced by “any compact Hausdorff right topological semigroup  $R$  whose topological center contains a countable dense subset of  $R$ ” (see the proof of [9, Theorem 7.24]).

REMARK 2.6. The existence of a nondiscrete first countable regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $G$  such that  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}) \subseteq X$  and  $(G, \mathcal{T})$  is locally isomorphic to  $\bigoplus_{\omega} \mathbb{Z}_2$  can be established directly (similarly to the proof of [9, Theorem 7.26]), not involving strongly discrete filters and the local isomorphism theorem, but this direct proof is a little bit longer.

**3. Strongly discrete filters.** By [10, Lemma 6], there is a surjective finite-to-one function  $f : G \rightarrow \omega$  such that

- (1)  $f(1) = 0$ ,
- (2) for every  $x \in G$ ,  $f(x) = f(x^{-1})$ , and
- (3) for all  $x, y \in G$ ,  $f(xy) \leq \max\{f(x), f(y)\} + 1$ , and if  $|f(x) - f(y)| \geq 2$ , then  $f(xy) \geq \max\{f(x), f(y)\} - 1$ .

The function  $f : G \rightarrow \omega$  extends continuously to  $\beta G \rightarrow \beta\omega$ . We use the same letter  $f$  to denote this extension. Notice that for any  $p \in \beta G$  and  $q \in G^*$ ,  $f(pq) = f(q) + i$  for some  $i \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ .

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a Hausdorff left invariant topology on  $G$  and let  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n < \omega}$  be a sequence of filters on  $G$  converging to 1 in  $\mathcal{T}$ . Suppose that*

- (i) *there is a neighborhood  $U$  of 1 in  $\mathcal{T}$  such that the subsets  $f(U \setminus \{1\}) + i \subseteq \omega$ ,  $i \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ , are pairwise disjoint,*
- (ii) *for every  $n < \omega$ , there is  $A_n \in \mathcal{F}_n$  such that the subsets  $f(A_n) \subseteq \omega$ ,  $n < \omega$ , are pairwise disjoint.*

*Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the filter on  $G$  with a base of subsets  $\bigcup_{n \leq i < \omega} B_i$ , where  $n < \omega$  and  $B_i \in \mathcal{F}_i$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}$  is strongly discrete.*

*Proof.* For every  $n < \omega$ , choose a neighborhood  $U_n$  of 1 in  $\mathcal{T}$  such that

- (a) the subsets  $xU_n$ , where  $x \in G$  with  $f(x) \leq n$ , are pairwise disjoint, and choose  $C_n \in \mathcal{F}_n$  such that
- (b)  $C_n \subseteq U_n$ ,
- (c) for every  $x \in C_n$ ,  $f(x) \geq n + 2$ , and
- (d)  $C_n \subseteq U \cap A_n$ .

We claim that the subsets

$$x \bigcup_{n \geq f(x)} C_n,$$

where  $x \in G$ , are pairwise disjoint.

Let  $x, y \in G$ ,  $x \neq y$ . Since

$$x \bigcup_{n \geq f(x)} C_n = \bigcup_{n \geq f(x)} xC_n, \quad y \bigcup_{m \geq f(y)} C_m = \bigcup_{m \geq f(y)} yC_m,$$

it suffices to check that the subsets  $xC_n$  and  $yC_m$  are disjoint for any  $n \geq f(x)$ ,  $m \geq f(y)$ . If  $n = m$ , they are disjoint by (a) and (b). Now let  $n \neq m$ . Then by (c),

$$f(xC_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=-1}^1 (f(C_n) + i), \quad f(yC_m) \subseteq \bigcup_{j=-1}^1 (f(C_m) + j),$$

so by (d),

$$f(xC_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=-1}^1 (f(U \cap A_n) + i), \quad f(yC_m) \subseteq \bigcup_{j=-1}^1 (f(U \cap A_m) + j).$$

But by (i) and (ii),

$$\bigcup_{i=-1}^1 (f(U \cap A_n) + i) \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{j=-1}^1 (f(U \cap A_m) + j)$$

are disjoint. Consequently,  $f(xC_n)$  and  $f(yC_m)$  are disjoint, and so are  $xC_n$  and  $yC_m$ . ■

**4. Proof of Theorem 1.4.** Let  $e \in X$  be an idempotent. Pick  $A \in e$  such that the subsets  $f(A) + i \subseteq \omega$ ,  $i \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ , are pairwise disjoint. By Lemma 2.3, there is a nondiscrete first countable regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}_0$  on  $G$  such that

$$T_0 = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}_0) \subseteq X \cap \bar{A}.$$

Since  $T_0 \subseteq \bar{A}$ , we see that for any  $p, q \in T_0$ ,  $f(pq) = f(q)$ . By Lemma 2.4, there is a surjective proper homomorphism  $\pi : T_0 \rightarrow S$ . For each  $s \in S$ , let  $X_s = \pi^{-1}(s)$ . Notice that  $X_s$  is a  $G_\delta$  subset of  $G^*$ . Pick an infinite  $D_s \subseteq \omega$  with  $D_s^* \subseteq f(X_s)$ . By Theorem 1.5, there is a deep subset  $Z_s \subseteq D_s^*$ . Let

$$J = f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_{s \in S} Z_s\right) \cap T_0.$$

Then

- (i)  $J$  is a closed left ideal of  $T_0$ ,
- (ii) for each  $s \in S$ ,  $J \cap X_s \neq \emptyset$ ,
- (iii)  $f(J) \subseteq \omega^*$  is deep, and
- (iv)  $J = f^{-1}(f(J)) \cap T_0$ .

Next, enumerate the subsets of  $G$  as  $\{C_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{c}\}$  with  $C_0 = G$ , and inductively, for every  $\alpha > 0$ , construct a first countable regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha$  on  $G$  such that

- (1) for each  $s \in S$ , either  $T_\alpha \cap X_s \subseteq \bar{C}_\alpha$  or  $T_\alpha \cap X_s \subseteq \overline{G \setminus C_\alpha}$ , where  $T_\alpha = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}_\alpha)$ , and
- (2) for each  $s \in S$ ,  $\bigcap_{\gamma \leq \alpha} T_\gamma \cap X_s \cap J \neq \emptyset$ .

Fix  $\alpha > 0$  and suppose that we have already constructed  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma$  for all  $\gamma < \alpha$  as required. Let

$$P_\alpha = \bigcap_{\gamma < \alpha} T_\gamma \cap J.$$

By (i),  $P_\alpha$  is a closed subsemigroup of  $T_0$ , and by (ii) and (2),  $\pi(P_\alpha) = S$ . Since  $S$  is an absolute coretract, there is a homomorphism  $\varepsilon_\alpha : S \rightarrow P_\alpha$  such that  $\pi \circ \varepsilon_\alpha = \text{id}_S$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}'_\alpha$  be the left invariant topology on  $G$  with  $\text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}'_\alpha) = \varepsilon_\alpha(S)$ . For each  $s \in S$ , pick  $D_{\alpha,s} \in \varepsilon_\alpha(s)$  such that either  $D_{\alpha,s} \subseteq C_\alpha$  or  $D_{\alpha,s} \subseteq G \setminus C_\alpha$ , and let  $D_\alpha = \bigcup_{s \in S} D_{\alpha,s}$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $\mathcal{T}'_\alpha$  can be weakened to a first countable Hausdorff left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}''_\alpha$  such that  $T''_\alpha = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}''_\alpha) \subseteq \bar{D}_\alpha$ . Let

$$Q_\alpha = \bigcap_{\gamma < \alpha} T_\gamma \cap T''_\alpha.$$

For each  $s \in S$ ,  $\varepsilon_\alpha(s) \in Q_\alpha \cap X_s \cap J$  and  $\chi(Q_\alpha \cap X_s) \leq |\alpha| + \omega < \mathfrak{c}$ , so by (iii),  $f(Q_\alpha \cap X_s) \cap f(J)$  is infinite. For every  $n < \omega$  and  $s \in S$ , choose

$$u_{\alpha,s}^n \in f(Q_\alpha \cap X_s) \cap f(J)$$

and  $E_{\alpha,s}^n \in u_{\alpha,s}^n$  such that the subsets  $E_{\alpha,s}^n \subseteq \omega$ ,  $n < \omega$  and  $s \in S$ , are pairwise disjoint.

This can be done by induction on  $n$  as follows. For each  $s \in S$ , pick  $u_{\alpha,s}^n \in (f(Q_\alpha \cap X_s) \cap f(J)) \setminus \overline{F_\alpha^{n-1}}$  and  $E_{\alpha,s}^n \in u_{\alpha,s}^n$ , where  $F_\alpha^{n-1} = \bigcup_{j \leq n-1, s \in S} E_{\alpha,s}^j$ , such that (a) the subsets  $E_{\alpha,s}^n$ ,  $s \in S$ , are pairwise disjoint and disjoint from  $F_\alpha^{n-1}$ , and (b)  $(f(Q_\alpha \cap X_s) \cap f(J)) \setminus \overline{F_\alpha^n} \neq \emptyset$  for each  $s \in S$ .

For every  $n < \omega$  and  $s \in S$ , pick  $q_{\alpha,s}^n \in Q_\alpha \cap X_s$  such that  $f(q_{\alpha,s}^n) = u_{\alpha,s}^n$ . By (iv),  $q_{\alpha,s}^n \in J$ , so

$$q_{\alpha,s}^n \in Q_\alpha \cap X_s \cap J.$$

For every  $n < \omega$ , let  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha^n = \bigcap_{s \in S} q_{\alpha,s}^n$  and  $A_\alpha^n = \bigcup_{s \in S} f^{-1}(E_{\alpha,s}^n)$ . Then  $A_\alpha^n \in \mathcal{F}_\alpha^n$  and the subsets  $f(A_\alpha^n) \subseteq \omega$ ,  $n < \omega$ , are pairwise disjoint. Let  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha$  be the filter on  $G$  with a base consisting of subsets  $\bigcup_{n \leq i < \omega} B_\alpha^i$ , where  $n < \omega$  and  $B_\alpha^i \in \mathcal{F}_\alpha^i$ , and let  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha''' = \mathcal{T}[\mathcal{F}_\alpha]$ . By Theorem 3.1,  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha$  is strongly discrete, so  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha'''$  is regular. By Lemma 2.1,  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha'''$  can be weakened to a first countable regular left invariant topology  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha$  finer than  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha''$ . Clearly, condition (1) is satisfied. To see (2), let  $q$  be any limit point of  $\{q_{\alpha,s}^n : n < \omega\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha \subseteq q$  and  $q \in \bigcap_{\gamma < \alpha} T_\gamma \cap X_s \cap J$ , so  $q \in \bigcap_{\gamma \leq \alpha} T_\gamma \cap X_s \cap J$ .

Finally, let  $\mathcal{T}$  be the least upper bound of topologies  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ . That is,  $\mathcal{T}$  is the left invariant topology on  $G$  with a neighborhood base at 1 consisting of subsets  $\bigcap_{i \leq n} U_{\alpha_i}$ , where  $n < \omega$ ,  $\alpha_0 < \dots < \alpha_n < \mathfrak{c}$ , and  $U_{\alpha_i}$  is a neighborhood of 1 in  $\overline{\mathcal{T}_{\alpha_i}}$  for each  $i \leq n$ . Then  $T = \text{Ult}(\mathcal{T}) = \bigcap_{\alpha < \mathfrak{c}} T_\alpha$ . If each  $U_{\alpha_i}$  is closed in  $\mathcal{T}_{\alpha_i}$ , then  $\bigcap_{i \leq n} U_{\alpha_i}$  is closed in  $\mathcal{T}$ . Consequently,  $\mathcal{T}$  is regular. Since  $T_0 \subseteq X$ , one has  $T \subseteq X$ . By (1) and (2),  $T \cap X_s$  is a singleton for each  $s \in S$ . Hence,  $T \ni p \mapsto \pi(p) \in S$  is an isomorphism.

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Yevhen Zelenyuk  
School of Mathematics  
University of the Witwatersrand  
Private Bag 3, Wits 2050  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
E-mail: yevhen.zelenyuk@wits.ac.za