Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem in cohomological dimension theory

by

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Abstract. The Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem says that for every uncountable family \( \{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A} \) of \( n \)-dimensional closed subsets of an \( n \)-dimensional ANR-compactum, there exist \( \alpha \neq \beta \) such that \( \dim(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n \). In this paper we show a cohomological version of that theorem:

**Theorem.** Suppose a compactum \( X \) is \( \mathrm{cle}^{n+1}_Z \), where \( n \geq 1 \), and \( G \) is an Abelian group. Let \( \{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J} \) be an uncountable family of closed subsets of \( X \). If \( \dim_G X = \dim_G X_\alpha = n \) for all \( \alpha \in J \), then \( \dim_G (X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n \) for some \( \alpha \neq \beta \).

For \( G \) being a countable principal ideal domain the above result was proved by Choi and Kozlowski [C-K]. Independently, Dydak and Koyama [D-K] proved it for \( G \) being an arbitrary principal ideal domain and posed the question of validity of the Theorem for quasicyclic groups (see Problem 1 in [D-K]).

As applications of the Theorem we investigate equality of cohomological dimension and strong cohomological dimension, and give a characterization of cohomological dimension in terms of a special base.

1. Introduction. Borsuk [Bo] and Sieklucki [S] investigated dimension properties of ANR-compacta and proved the following:

**1.1. Theorem.** Let \( \{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A} \) be an uncountable family of \( n \)-dimensional closed subsets of an \( n \)-dimensional ANR-compactum. Then there exist \( \alpha \neq \beta \) in \( A \) such that \( \dim(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n \).

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It is easy to see that Theorem 1.1 holds for $X$ being the $n$-cube. Indeed, the interiors $\text{int}(X_\alpha)$ must be nonempty, so there is a pair of indices $\alpha \neq \beta$ so that $\text{int}(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) \neq \emptyset$. Hence all $n$-dimensional manifolds and $n$-dimensional polyhedra have the same property. On the other hand, an $n$-dimensional compactum may admit an uncountable family $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A}$ of $n$-dimensional (closed) subsets such that $\dim(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) \leq n - 1$ for all $\alpha \neq \beta$ in $A$. For example, the $n$-dimensional Menger compactum $\mu^n$, $n \geq 1$, contains a copy of the product of the $n$-disk $D^n$ and the Cantor set $C$. Thus, $\mu^n$ contains an uncountable family of pairwise disjoint $n$-dimensional closed subsets.

Choi and Kozlowski [C-K] generalized the Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem by using cohomological local connectivity and cohomological dimension based on Alexander–Spanier cohomology with compact supports and with coefficients in a countable principal ideal domain $R$. Their theorem states that if $X$ is a clc$^n$, locally compact separable metric space with $\dim_R X = n$ and $\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in A}$ is an uncountable collection of closed subsets of $X$ with $\dim_R X_\lambda = n$ for all $\lambda$, then there are two distinct indices $\mu, \lambda \in A$ such that $\dim_R(X_\mu \cap X_\lambda) = n$.

Independently, Dydak and Koyama [D-K] undertook an effort to generalize the Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem to cohomological dimension. Here is their result:

1.2. THEOREM. Suppose that a compactum $X$ is clc$^n_R$, where $n \geq 1$ and $R$ is a principal ideal domain. Let $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A}$ be an uncountable family of closed subsets of $X$. If $\dim_R X = n$ and $\dim_R X_\alpha = n$ for each $\alpha \in A$, then there is a pair of indices $\alpha \neq \beta$ in $A$ such that $\dim_R(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n$.

Thus, the result of [D-K] drops the assumption of $R$ being countable and weakens the connectivity of $X$. However, the proof in [C-K] is more elegant. The virtue of the proof in [D-K] is that its idea can be applied to arbitrary groups, which is the goal of this paper. We prove a variant of Theorem 1.2 in which the principal ideal domain $R$ is replaced by a group satisfying the descending chain condition. This allows us to deduce a generalization of the Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem for arbitrary groups if $X$ is locally $(n + 1)$-connected.

As an application, we investigate equality of cohomological dimension and strong cohomological dimension introduced by Kodama [K]. Also, we give a characterization of cohomological dimension in terms of existence of a special base.

2. Preliminaries. Let $X$ be a compactum. The cohomological dimension of $X$ with respect to the abelian group $G$, denoted by $\dim_G X$, is said to be less than or equal to $n$ (notation: $\dim_G X \leq n$) provided that
Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem

$H^k(X, A; G) = 0$ for all $k \geq n + 1$ and all closed subsets $A \subset X$, where $H^*$ is the Čech cohomology theory (see [Dr1, 2], [K], or [Ku]).

We are interested in the cohomological dimension where the coefficient group is the quasicyclic group $\mathbb{Q}_p$ (sometimes also denoted by $\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty)$) defined as follows:

Let $p$ be a fixed prime number. The quasicyclic group $\mathbb{Q}_p$ is the union of all $p^k$th roots of unity, where $k$ ranges over all positive integers. There is another way of describing $\mathbb{Q}_p$: for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ define $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^n} = \{m/p^n : m$ is an integer modulo $p^n\}$. Then $\mathbb{Q}_p$ is the set $\bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \mathbb{Z}_{1/p^n}$ together with the abelian group operation $+ : \mathbb{Q}_p \times \mathbb{Q}_p \to \mathbb{Q}_p$ defined by

$$\frac{m}{p^n} + \frac{r}{p^s} = \frac{p^{k-n}m + p^{k-s}r}{p^k}$$

where $k = \max\{n, s\}$ and the sum is modulo $p^k$. Observe that each subgroup $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^n}$ can be generated by an element of the form $m/p^n$ where $m$ and $p^n$ are relatively prime.

An alternative description of $\mathbb{Q}_p$ is as the quotient group $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$, where $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ is the group of all rational numbers $m/n$ so that $n$ is relatively prime to $p$. Under this description $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^n}$ is the image of the group of all rational numbers $m/p^k$, where $k \leq n$.

2.1. Definition. An abelian group satisfies the descending chain condition (see [Hun], p. 374) if every decreasing chain $B_1 \supset B_2 \supset \ldots$ of subgroups of $G$ stabilizes (i.e., there exists $n$ so that $B_i = B_{i+1}$ for all $i > n$).

2.2. Lemma. (1) The quasicyclic group $\mathbb{Q}_p$ satisfies the descending chain condition.

(2) If $G_1, \ldots, G_k$ satisfy the descending chain condition, then so does $G_1 \oplus \ldots \oplus G_k$.

Proof. (1) is a consequence of the fact that all proper subgroups of $\mathbb{Q}_p$ are $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^n}$ and $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p} \subset \mathbb{Z}_{1/p^2} \subset \ldots$. Indeed, if $B$ is a nontrivial subgroup of $\mathbb{Q}_p$ and $0 \neq m/p^n \in B$, where $m$ and $p$ are relatively prime, then $B$ contains $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^n}$ (as $B$ is generated by $m/p^n$). If $B$ is a proper subgroup of $\mathbb{Q}_p$, then there is the smallest integer $k$ so that $B$ contains $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^k}$ but does not contain $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^{k+1}}$. If $m/p^n \in B - \mathbb{Z}_{1/p^k}$, where $m$ and $p$ are relatively prime, then $n$ cannot be greater than $k$ as $B$ does not contain $\mathbb{Z}_{1/p^{k+1}}$, a contradiction. Thus $B = \mathbb{Z}_{1/p^k}$.

(2) is essentially Corollary 1.7 in [Hun], p. 374. ■

It is easy to prove that if $G$ and $H$ are groups, $G$ satisfies the descending chain condition and $f : G \to H$ is an epimorphism, then $H$ also satisfies the descending chain condition. Hence if $K$ is a subgroup of a group $G$ satisfying
the descending chain condition then both $K$ and $G/K$ satisfy the descending chain condition.

We need to generalize the concept of pro-epimorphisms of [D-K] to homomorphisms of groups.

2.3. DEFINITION. Suppose $G$ is a group and $\{G_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$ a family of groups. A homomorphism $f : G \to \prod_{\alpha \in J} G_\alpha$ is called a pro-epimorphism if, for any finite subset $F$ of $J$, the composition

$$G \xrightarrow{f} \prod_{\alpha \in J} G_\alpha \xrightarrow{p_F} \prod_{\alpha \in F} G_\alpha$$

is an epimorphism.

The following result is a version of the Basic Lemma of [D-K] for groups satisfying the descending chain condition.

2.4. PROPOSITION. Let $G$ be a group satisfying the descending chain condition and let $f : G \to \prod_{\alpha \in J} G_\alpha$ be a pro-epimorphism, where $\{G_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$ is a family of groups. If $J$ is infinite, then there is $\beta \in J$ such that $G_\beta = 0$.

Proof. Consider the subset $J' = \{\alpha \in J \mid G_\alpha \neq \{0\}\}$ of $J$. We plan to show that $J'$ is finite. Suppose $J'$ is infinite and pick an infinite sequence $\alpha_i \in J'$, $i \geq 1$, of points of $J'$. Define $F_k$, $k \geq 1$, as $\{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_k\}$. Define $A_k$ as the kernel of $p_{F_n} \circ f$ for $k \geq 1$. Since $G$ satisfies the descending chain condition, there is $n \geq 2$ so that $A_n = A_{n-1}$. Pick $c \in G_{\alpha_n} - \{0\}$. Since $p_{F_n} \circ f$ is an epimorphism, there is $d \in G$ so that $p_{F_n} \circ f(d) = (0, \ldots, 0, c)$. That means $d \in A_{n-1} - A_n$, a contradiction. ☐

The next result is a modification of the Pro Lemma in [D-K] with a finitely generated module replaced by a group satisfying the descending chain condition.

2.5. LEMMA. Consider a commutative diagram of abelian groups

$$(*) \quad M \xrightarrow{f} \prod_{\alpha \in J} M_\alpha \xrightarrow{h} \prod_{\alpha \in J} k_{\alpha} \xrightarrow{g} \prod_{\alpha \in J} N_\alpha$$

so that $f$ is a pro-epimorphism and $J$ is infinite. If $\im(h)$ satisfies the descending chain condition, then there is $\alpha \in J$ such that $k_{\alpha} : M_\alpha \to N_\alpha$ is trivial.

Proof. We can apply 2.4 to the homomorphism $u = g \im(h) : \im(h) \to \prod_{\alpha \in J} \im(k_{\alpha})$ by noticing that $u$ is a pro-epimorphism since $f$ is, and the diagram $(*)$ is commutative. ☐
The following lemma is a version of Lemma 17.3 of [Br] for groups satisfying the descending chain condition.

2.6. Lemma. Consider the commutative diagram of abelian groups

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A_2 & \xrightarrow{s} & A_3 \\
\downarrow{f} & & \downarrow{k} \\
B_1 & \xrightarrow{i} & B_2 & \xrightarrow{j} & B_3 \\
\downarrow{h} & & \downarrow{g} & & \\
C_1 & \xrightarrow{t} & C_2
\end{array}
\]

in which the middle row is exact. If both \( \text{im}(h) \) and \( \text{im}(k) \) satisfy the descending chain condition, then so does \( \text{im}(g \circ f) \).

Proof. Suppose there is an infinite decreasing sequence \( A_1 \supset A_2 \supset \ldots \) of subgroups of \( \text{im}(g \circ f) \subset C_2 \). Since \( \text{im}(h) \) satisfies the descending chain condition, the chain \( \text{im}(t \circ h) \cap A_i \) stabilizes. Without loss of generality, we may assume \( \text{im}(t \circ h) \cap A_i = \text{im}(t \circ h) \cap A_j \) for all \( i, j \). Since \( \text{im}(k) \) satisfies the descending chain condition, the chain \( (k \circ s)(g \circ f)^{-1}(A_i) \) stabilizes. Again, we may assume \( (k \circ s)(g \circ f)^{-1}(A_i) = (k \circ s)(g \circ f)^{-1}(A_j) \) for all \( i, j \). This is the same as \( j(g^{-1})(A_i) = j(g^{-1})(A_j) \) for all \( i, j \). Suppose \( x \in A_i - A_j \) for some \( j > i \). Pick \( x' \in B_2 \) so that \( g(x') = x \). There is \( y' \in g^{-1}(A_j) \) with \( j(y') = j(x') \). Pick \( z' \in B_1 \) with \( i(z') = x' - y' \). Notice that \( t(h(z')) \in A_i \), so there is \( z'' \in i^{-1}(g^{-1}(A_j)) \) with \( t(h(z'')) = t(h(z'')) \). This implies \( g(i(z'')) = g(x') - g(y') = g(i(z'')) \in A_j \). Thus \( x = g(x') = (g(x') - g(y')) + g(y') \in A_j \), a contradiction. ■

2.7. Definition. A compactum \( X \) is said to be cohomology locally n-connected with respect to an abelian group \( G \) (\( X \) is \( n \)-clc\(_G \) for short) if for each point \( x \in X \) and neighborhood \( N \) of \( x \), there is a neighborhood \( M \subset N \) of \( x \) such that the inclusion-induced homomorphism

\[
i^n_{M,N} : H^n(N;G) \to H^n(M;G)
\]

is trivial, where \( H^* \) is the reduced Čech cohomology theory.

\( X \) is said to be clc\(_G^n \) if it is \( k \)-clc\(_G \) for all \( k \leq n \).

2.8. Theorem. Suppose \( G \) is an Abelian group satisfying the descending chain condition. If \( X \) is clc\(_G^n \), and \( K \) and \( L \) are closed subsets of \( X \) with \( K \subset \text{int}(L) \), then the image of the inclusion-induced homomorphism \( i^k_{K,L} : H^k(L;G) \to H^k(K;G) \) satisfies the descending chain condition for \( k = 0, \ldots, n \).

Proof. First consider the image of \( i^0_{K,L} \). As \( X \) is clc\(_G^0 \) and \( K \) is compact, \( K \) is contained in the union of finitely many components of \( L \). This means
that $H^0(L; G) \to H^0(K; G)$ factors through a finite direct sum of copies of $G$. By Lemma 2.2, $\text{im}(i_{K,L}^0)$ satisfies the descending chain condition.

Suppose 2.8 holds for all $n < m$, $X$ is clc$_G^n$, and $K$ and $L$ are closed subsets of $X$ with $K \subset \text{int}(L)$. Consider the family $\mathcal{F}$ of all compact subsets $C$ of the interior of $L$ so that the image of the inclusion-induced homomorphism $i_C^m: H^m(L; G) \to H^m(C; G)$ satisfies the descending chain condition for some compact neighborhood $C'$ of $C$ in $\text{int}(L)$. Since $X$ is clc$_G^m$, each point $x \in \text{int}(L)$ has a compact neighborhood $C_x \in \mathcal{F}$. If we prove that $\mathcal{F}$ is closed under taking unions of sets, we are done as $K$ can be covered by a finite union of elements of $\mathcal{F}$. Suppose $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{F}$. Pick a neighborhood $C'_{j_1}$ of $C_{j_1}$ in $\text{int}(L)$ so that the image of the inclusion-induced homomorphism $i^m_{C_{j_1}, L}: H^m(L; G) \to H^m(C_{j_1}; G)$ satisfies the descending chain condition for $j = 1, 2$. Pick a neighborhood $C''_{j_2}$ of $C_{j_2}$ in $\text{int}(C'_{j_2})$ for $j = 1, 2$. Applying the Meyer–Vietoris exact sequence and Lemma 2.6 to the following diagram shows that $\text{im}(i^m_{C'_{j_1} \cup C''_{j_2}, L})$ satisfies the descending chain condition:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
H^m(L; G) \\
\downarrow \\
H^m(C'_{j_1} \cap C''_{j_2}; G) \\
\downarrow \\
H^m(C'_{j_1} \cup C''_{j_2}; G) \\
\downarrow \\
H^m(C''_{j_2}; G)
\end{array}
$$

The next result is an analog of Theorem 2.2 in [D-K] with a finitely generated module replaced by a group satisfying the descending chain condition.

2.9. THEOREM. Suppose $G$ is an Abelian group satisfying the descending chain condition. If $X$ is clc$_G^n$ and $A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2$ are closed subsets of $X$ such that $A_1 \subset B_1$, $A_2 \subset B_2$, $A_1 \subset \text{int}(A_2)$ and $B_1 \subset \text{int}(B_2)$, then the image of $H^k(B_2, A_2; G) \to H^k(B_1, A_1; G)$ satisfies the descending chain condition for all $k \leq n$.

Proof. Use induction and apply Lemma 2.6 to the commutative diagram

$$
\begin{array}{c}
H^n(B_2, A_2; G) \\
\downarrow \\
H^{n-1}(A; G) \\
\downarrow \\
H^{n-1}(A_1; G)
\end{array}
$$

where $A = A_1 \cup A_2$ and $B = B_1 \cup B_2$. ■
3. **Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem.** Using our previous results we are ready to prove the Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem for groups satisfying the descending chain condition in an analogous way to that of Dydak and Koyama [D-K] for rings.

3.1. **Theorem.** Suppose a compactum $X$ is $\text{clc}^n_G$, where $n \geq 1$, and $G$ is an Abelian group satisfying the descending chain condition. Let $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J}$ be an uncountable family of closed subsets of $X$. If $\dim_G X = \dim_G X_\alpha = n$ for all $\alpha \in J$, then $\dim_G (X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n$ for some $\alpha \neq \beta$.

**Proof.** Suppose that $\dim_G (X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) \leq n-1$ for each pair $\alpha \neq \beta$ in $J$. For each $\alpha \in J$, there is a closed subset $C_\alpha \subset X_\alpha$ such that $H^n(X_\alpha, C_\alpha; G) \neq 0$, because $\dim_G X_\alpha = n$. Let $\{N_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ be a countable family of closed subsets of $X$ such that for each closed subset $K$ of $X$ the family $\{N_i : K \subset \text{int}(N_i)\}$ is a basis of neighborhoods of $K$ in $X$. By the continuity of Čech cohomology, for each $\alpha \in J$, there is $N_{k(\alpha)} \subset \text{int}(N_{h(\alpha)})$ such that the inclusion-induced homomorphism

$$H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap N_{h(\alpha)}; G) \to H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap N_{k(\alpha)}; G)$$

is not trivial.

Since $J$ is uncountable, we may assume that $N_{k(\alpha)} = N$ for every $\alpha \in J$, and $N_{h(\alpha)} = M$ for every $\alpha \in J$. Namely, we have closed subsets $M, N$ of $X$ such that $N \subset \text{int}(M)$ and for every $\alpha \in J$,

$$H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap M; G) \to H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap N; G)$$

is not trivial.

On the other hand, since $\dim_G (X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) \leq n-1$ for all pairs $\alpha \neq \beta$ in $J$,

$$H^n\left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in F} X_\alpha, \left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in F} X_\alpha \right) \cap M; G \right) \to \bigoplus_{\alpha \in F} H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap M; G)$$

is an epimorphism for all finite subsets $F \subset J$.

We note that the inclusion-induced homomorphism

$$H^n\left( \left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in F} X_\alpha \right) \cup M, M; G \right) \to H^n\left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in F} X_\alpha, \left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in F} X_\alpha \right) \cap M; G \right)$$

is an isomorphism by the excision axiom, and the inclusion-induced homomorphism

$$H^n(X, M; G) \to H^n\left( \left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in F} X_\alpha \right) \cup M, M; G \right)$$

is an epimorphism because $\dim_G X = n$. Hence, for all finite subsets $F \subset J$,

$$H^n(X, M; G) \to \bigoplus_{\alpha \in F} H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap M; G)$$

is an epimorphism.
Now we consider the following commutative diagram:

\[
\begin{align*}
H^n(X, M; G) & \longrightarrow \prod_{\alpha \in J} H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap M; G) \\
H^n(X, N; G) & \longrightarrow \prod_{\alpha \in J} H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap N; G)
\end{align*}
\]

Property (2) says that the upper homomorphism is a pro-epimorphism. By Theorem 2.8, the image of \( H^n(X, M; G) \rightarrow H^n(X, N; G) \) satisfies the descending chain condition. Hence, by 2.5, there exists \( \alpha \in J \) such that \( H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap M; G) \rightarrow H^n(X_\alpha, X_\alpha \cap N; G) \) is trivial. This contradicts (1). Therefore there are \( \alpha \neq \beta \) in \( J \) such that \( \dim_G(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n \). □

3.2. Theorem. Suppose a compactum \( X \) is \( \text{clc}^{n+1} \) and \( G \) is an Abelian group, where \( n \geq 1 \). Let \( \{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in J} \) be an uncountable family of closed subsets of \( X \). If \( \dim_G X = \dim_G X_\alpha = n \) for all \( \alpha \in J \), then \( \dim_G(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n \) for some \( \alpha \neq \beta \).

Proof. Bockstein’s First Theorem (see [Ku]) says that there is a subset \( \sigma(G) \) (we call it the Bockstein basis of \( G \)) of the family of groups consisting of \( \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Z}/p \) (\( p \) prime), \( \mathbb{Z}_{(p)} \) (\( p \) prime), and \( \mathbb{Q}_p \) (\( p \) prime) such that \( \dim_G Y = \max\{\dim_H Y : H \in \sigma(G)\} \) for all \( Y \) compact. Hence there is \( R \in \sigma(G) \) such that \( \dim_R X = n \), \( \dim_R X_\alpha = n \) for uncountably many \( \alpha \in J \), and \( R \) is either a countable PID or a group satisfying the descending chain condition. From \( X \in \text{clc}^{n+1} \) the Universal Coefficient Theorem implies \( X \in \text{clc}_{R}^{n} \). Therefore, by Theorem 3.1 and [D-K], there are \( \alpha \neq \beta \) in \( J \) such that \( \dim_R(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n \). In particular, \( \dim_G(X_\alpha \cap X_\beta) = n \). □

4. Applications. First we give applications of the cohomological dimension versions of the Borsuk–Sieklucki theorem to strong cohomological dimension introduced by Kodama [K] for compacta but which can be generalized to metrizable spaces without any problem.

4.1. Definition. \( X \) has strong cohomological dimension at most \( n \) with respect to an abelian group \( G \), written \( \text{Ind}_G X \leq n \), provided that for any pair of a closed subset \( A \subset X \) and an open subset \( U \) containing \( A \), there exists an open subset \( V \) such that

\[
A \subset V \subset U \quad \text{and} \quad \dim_G \partial V \leq n - 1.
\]

We define

\[
\text{Ind}_G X = \min\{n : \text{Ind}_G X \leq n\}.
\]

Kodama proved ([K], Lemma 38-9) that for every 2-dimensional compact ANR \( X \) and every nontrivial abelian group \( G \), we have the equality \( \dim_G X = \text{Ind}_G X = \dim X = 2 \), and asked ([K], Problem 38-10): If \( X \) is
a compact ANR, does the equality $\dim_G X = \text{Ind}_G X$ hold for every abelian group $G$?

This problem was affirmatively answered by Dydak and Koyama [D-K].

In this section we will improve some of the results of [D-K] related to the strong cohomological dimension.

4.2. Theorem. Let $G$ be an abelian group. Suppose that a compactum $X$ is $\text{clc}^{n+1}$. If $\dim_G X = n$, then $\text{Ind}_G X = n$.

Proof. By Lemma 4.2 of [D-K], it suffices to show that $\text{Ind}_G X \leq n$. For a given closed subset $A$ of $X$, let

$$B(A, \varepsilon) = \{x \in X : d(a, A) \leq \varepsilon\} \quad \text{and} \quad C_\varepsilon = \partial B(A, \varepsilon), \quad \varepsilon > 0.$$ 

Since $C_\varepsilon \cap C_\delta = \emptyset$ for $\varepsilon \neq \delta$, Theorem 3.2 says that $\dim_G C_\varepsilon = n$ for only countably many $\varepsilon > 0$. Hence $A$ has a neighborhood basis $\{U_i\}_{i \geq 1}$ such that $\dim_G \partial U_i \leq n - 1$ for every $i \geq 1$. It follows that $\text{Ind}_G X \leq n$.

Remark. Theorem 4.2 improves Theorem 4.4 of [D-K].

Now we are ready to characterize $\dim_G$ by using bases, which corresponds to well known facts in usual dimension theory.

4.3. Theorem. Suppose that $G$ is an abelian group and a compactum $X$ is $\text{clc}^{n+1}$. Then the following statements are equivalent:

(i) $\dim_G X \leq n$,

(ii) $X$ has a countable base $\mathcal{B}$ such that $\dim_G \partial U \leq n - 1$ for all $U \in \mathcal{B}$.

Proof. The implication (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii) follows from Theorem 4.2. To prove that (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (i) we take a pair $A, B$ of disjoint closed subsets of $X$. Then there exist elements $U_1, \ldots, U_k \in \mathcal{B}$ such that

$$A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^k U_i \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^k \text{cl}(U_i) \subset X \setminus B.$$ 

Then the boundary $\partial(\bigcup_{i=1}^k U_i)$ separates $A$ and $B$ and $\dim_G \partial(\bigcup_{i=1}^k U_i) \leq n - 1$. Hence, by Lemma 4.2 of [D-K], $\dim_G X \leq n$.

Remark. Theorem 4.3 improves Theorem 4.6 of [D-K].

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