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## On continua which resemble simple closed curves

by

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**1. Introduction.** Consider the following well-known theorems concerning simple closed curves: (for the definition of simple closed curves and arcs, see Moore [3], pp. 44 and 33 respectively)

**THEOREM 1.**  *$M$  is a simple closed curve if and only if for  $x, y \in M$ ,  $M = H \cup K \cup \{x\} \cup \{y\}$  where  $H$  and  $K$  are irreducible continua between  $x$  and  $y$  and  $\text{Int}(H) \cap \text{Int}(K) = \emptyset$ . (In fact,  $H$  and  $K$  are arcs.)*

(It stands for “the interior of”)

**THEOREM 2.**  *$M$  is a simple closed curve if and only if no single point of  $M$  cuts, but every collection of two points of  $M$  do cut. (Bing [1], also refer to this reference for the definition of cut.)*

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $M$  be a simple closed curve. If  $C$  is a subcontinuum of  $M$  and  $\text{Int}(C) \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\overline{M - C}$  is a continuum. (For the purposes of this paper, we shall say that any continuum which satisfies the condition expressed in the conclusion of Theorem 3 is C.C.)*

The first two of these theorems both express equivalent conditions for  $M$  to be a simple closed curve, whereas the third is a rather weak necessary condition for  $M$  to be a simple closed curve. The question that is poised in this paper is how “close” to a simple closed curve, i.e., how “ring-like”, is a compact metric continuum  $M$  which is C.C. It will be shown that if one essentially replaces the point  $x$  by the set

$$L_x \doteq \{y \in M : \text{there is no continuum } C \subset M \text{ with } y \in \text{Int}(C) \text{ and } x \notin C\}$$

in Theorem 2, then we have a characterization of C.C., and if we replace  $x$  by  $L_x$  in Theorem 1, then either  $M$  is C.C. or  $M$  belongs to a very special class of continua which “look” very “ringlike” indeed.

This idea of replacing a point  $x$  by  $L_x$  was used by Thomas [4], where he showed that if  $M$  is irreducible between two closed sets, and contains no indecomposable subcontinuum with interior, then a certain collection of these  $L_x$ 's forms an upper semi continuous decomposition of  $M$  that is an arc.

Discussions of the set  $L_x$  may be found in Jones [2], but for our purposes, we shall only need the following fact given in this reference: if  $M$  is a compact metric continuum, then  $L_x$  is a continuum for all  $x \in M$ .

**II. Definitions and necessary background.** For the sake of completeness and convenience, let us define here all the notions we shall work with:

**DEFINITION.**  $M$  is said to satisfy *Condition 1* iff for  $x \in M$ ,  $x$  does not cut  $M - L_x$  and yet if  $x$  and  $y \in M$  with  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ , then  $\{x\} \cup \{y\}$  does cut  $M - (L_x \cup L_y)$ .

**DEFINITION.**  $M$  is said to satisfy *Condition 2* iff for  $x$  and  $y \in M$  such that  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ , then  $M = L_x \cup H \cup K \cup L_y$  where  $H$  and  $K$  are irreducible subcontinua between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$  and  $\text{Int}(H) \cap \text{Int}(K) = \emptyset$ .

**DEFINITION.**  $M$  is said to be *Continuum Complemented*, i.e., C.C., iff for each subcontinuum  $C$  with  $\text{Int}(C) \neq \emptyset$ ,  $\overline{M - C}$  is a subcontinuum.

Results which we shall use extensively throughout this paper are the following: (In each result we take  $M$  to be a compact metric space, and we take  $H$  and  $K$  to be two closed subsets of  $M$ .)

**RESULT 1.** If there does not exist a subcontinuum  $C$  of  $M$  such that  $C \cap H \neq \emptyset$ , and  $C \cap K \neq \emptyset$ , then  $M = L \cup V$  where  $L$  and  $V$  are separated sets and  $H \subseteq L$  and  $K \subseteq V$ .

**RESULT 2.** Let  $C$  be a subcontinuum of  $M$  such that  $H \cap C \neq \emptyset$  and  $K \cap C \neq \emptyset$ . Then there exists an irreducible subcontinuum  $C'$  of  $C$  from  $H$  to  $K$ . (For a definition of irreducible see Moore [3].)

**RESULT 3.** Let  $C$  be an irreducible subcontinuum of  $M$  from  $H$  to  $K$ . Then  $C - (H \cup K)$  is connected.

**RESULT 4.** Let  $C$  be a subcontinuum of  $M$ , and let  $U$  be an open set. Then every component of  $U \cap C$  has a limit point in  $\partial U$ . ( $\partial U$  means the boundary of  $U$ .)

### III. Equivalence of C. C. and Condition 1.

**LEMMA 1.** Let  $M$  be a compact metric continuum which is C.C. If  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are two disjoint continua with nonvoid interiors, then there exist two disjoint continua,  $H$  and  $K$ , which are irreducible between  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , and

$$M = C_1 \cup H \cup C_2 \cup K$$

**Proof.** Let  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  be two continua as in the hypothesis. It is elementary that since  $M$  is a C.C. continuum,  $\overline{M - C_1 \cup C_2}$  is not a continuum and so let

$$\overline{M - C_1 \cup C_2} = H \cup K$$

where  $H$  and  $K$  are two disjoint closed sets.

We will now show that  $H$  is an irreducible subcontinuum from  $C_1$

to  $C_2$ . The same arguments will apply to  $K$  and then the lemma will be proved.

**Claim 1.** There does not exist a continuum  $V \not\subseteq H$  such that  $V \cap C_1 \neq \emptyset$  and  $V \cap C_2 \neq \emptyset$ .

Suppose the contrary holds. We note then that by the definition of  $H$  and by the fact that  $V \not\subseteq H$

$$\text{Int}(H - V) \neq \emptyset.$$

From this we see that  $\overline{M - C_1 \cup C_2} = K \cup \overline{(H - V)}$  which, since  $H$  and  $K$  are disjoint, clearly contradicts  $M$  being C.C.

**Claim 2.**  $H$  is a continuum.

This claim is proved by considering the following two possible cases:  $C_1 \cup K \cup C_2$  is a continuum and  $C_1 \cup K \cup C_2$  is not a continuum. In the first case the claim immediately follows from  $M$  being C.C. In the second case we assume the claim is false, then using standard arguments that include Result 1, we arrive at a contradiction.

(Note. It is not difficult to show the converse of the above lemma does not hold.)

**LEMMA 2.** Let  $M$  be a compact metric C.C. continuum. If  $x$  and  $y \in M$ , and  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ , then there exists continua  $C_x$  and  $C_y$  such that  $x \in \text{Int}(C_x)$ ,  $y \in \text{Int}(C_y)$  and  $C_x \cap C_y = \emptyset$ .

**Proof.** If  $z \in L_x$ , then  $z \notin L_y$  and so by the definition of  $L_y$  we see that there exists a continuum  $K_z$  such that  $z \in \text{Int}(K_z)$  and  $y \in K_z$ . Since  $L_x$  is closed and therefore compact, we see that there exists a finite number of these  $K_z$ 's,  $K_1, K_2, \dots, K_n$  such that

$$L_x \subseteq \text{Int}(K) \quad \text{and} \quad y \notin K.$$

where  $K = \bigcup_{i=1}^n K_i$ . Now  $L_x$  is a continuum and so we see that  $K$  is a continuum. So we let  $C_y = \overline{M - K}$  which is a continuum because  $M$  is C.C. Also, by the definition of  $K$  we see that  $y \in \text{Int}(C_y)$ .

Now repeat the above argument where we replace  $x$  by  $y$  and  $L_x$  by  $C_y$ , thereby getting a continuum  $V$  such that  $C_y \subseteq \text{Int}(V)$  and  $x \notin V$ . Now let  $C_x = \overline{M - V}$  which we see is a continuum because  $M$  is C.C. Clearly  $C_x$  and  $C_y$  satisfy the conclusion of the lemma.

**THEOREM 1.** Let  $M$  be a compact metric continuum.  $M$  is C.C. if and only if  $M$  satisfies Condition 1.

**Proof.** Only if. First we show that  $x$  doesn't cut any two points of  $M - L_x$  and therefore doesn't cut  $M - L_x$ .

Let  $v$  and  $g \in M - L_x$ . By the definition of  $L_x$ , there exist continua  $C_v$  and  $C_g$  such that  $v \in \text{Int}(C_v)$ ,  $g \in \text{Int}(C_g)$  and  $x \notin C_v \cup C_g$ . If  $C_v \cap C_g \neq \emptyset$ ,

then the continuum  $C_v \cup C_v$  shows that  $x$  doesn't cut  $g$  and  $v$ . If  $C_x \cap C_v \neq \emptyset$ , then the use of Lemma 1 guarantees that  $x$  doesn't cut  $v$  and  $g$ .

Second, we show that if  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ , then  $\{x\} \cup \{y\}$  cuts  $M - (L_x \cup L_y)$ .

Since  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ , we see by Lemma 2 that there exists two continua  $C_x$ , and  $C_y$ , with  $x \in \text{Int}(C_x)$ ,  $y \in \text{Int}(C_y)$  and  $C_x \cap C_y = \emptyset$ .

So by Lemma 1, there exist two continua  $H$  and  $K$  irreducible between  $C_x$  and  $C_y$  and  $M = C_x \cup H \cup C_y \cup K$ . Let  $g \in \text{Int}(H)$  and  $v \in \text{Int}(K)$ . If  $\{x\} \cup \{y\}$  doesn't cut  $M - (L_x \cup L_y)$ , then there exists a continuum  $V$  such that  $g$  and  $v \in V$ , and  $x$  and  $y \notin V$ . Now  $H \cup V \cup K$  is a continuum, but  $R = \overline{M - H \cup V \cup K} \subseteq C_x \cup C_y$  with  $x \in C_x \cup R$  and  $y \in C_y \cup R$  which is a clear contradiction to  $M$  being C.C.

If. Assume to the contrary, i.e., assume there exists a continuum  $C$  with  $\text{Int}(C) \neq \emptyset$  and  $\overline{M - C} = A \cup B$  where  $A$  and  $B$  are two closed disjoint sets. Let  $x \in \text{Int}(A)$  and  $y \in \text{Int}(B)$ , then it is clear that  $L_x \subseteq A$  and  $L_y \subseteq B$ , i.e.,  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ . By hypothesis then there exists  $r$  and  $v \in M - (L_x \cup L_y)$  such that  $\{x\} \cup \{y\}$  cuts  $r$  and  $v$ .

Claim. If  $z \in M - (C \cup L_x \cup L_y)$ , then there exists a continuum  $C_z$  such that  $z \in C_z$ ,  $C_z \cap C \neq \emptyset$  and  $x$  and  $y \notin C_z$ .

Without loss of generality, let  $z \in \text{Int}(A)$ . Let  $q \in \text{Int}(C)$ . Since  $z$  and  $q \notin L_x$  we see that the hypothesis implies the existence of a continuum  $C'$  for which  $z$  and  $q \in C'$  and  $x \notin C'$ . Now using the fact that  $\text{Int}(A)$  is an open set,  $\partial C' \subseteq C$ , and result 4 we see that  $C_z$  can be taken to be the closure of the component of  $C' \cap \text{Int}(A)$  which contains  $z$ .

It is now a straightforward argument that shows the existence of a continuum  $C''$  which contains  $r$  and  $v$  but not  $x$  and  $y$ . This is a contradiction and completes the proof of the theorem.

#### IV. Relationship between C.C. and Condition 2.

LEMMA 3. Let  $M$  be a compact metric C.C. If  $z \notin L_x \cup L_y$ , then there exists a continuum  $C_z$  such that  $z \in \text{Int}(C_z)$  and  $x$  and  $y \notin C_z$ .

Proof. Using the fact that  $z \notin L_x \cup L_y$  and that  $M$  is C.C., we have the existence of two continua  $C_x$  and  $C_y$  for which  $x \in \text{Int}(C_x)$ ,  $y \in \text{Int}(C_y)$  and  $z \notin C_x \cup C_y$ .

If  $C_x \cap C_y \neq \emptyset$ , then take  $C_z$  of the conclusion to be  $C_x \cup C_y$ .

If  $C_x \cap C_y = \emptyset$ , then the choice of  $C_z$  follows directly from Lemma 1.

LEMMA 4. Let  $M$  be a continuum, let  $H$  and  $G$  be two closed subsets of  $M$ , let  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  be two irreducible subcontinua between  $H$  and  $G$  such that

$$\text{Int}(C_1) \cap \text{Int}(C_2) = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad M = C_1 \cup H \cup C_2 \cup G.$$

If  $R$  is an irreducible continuum between  $H$  and  $G$ , then  $R = C_1$  or  $R = C_2$ .

Proof. Clear by Result 3.

LEMMA 5. Let  $M$  be a continuum satisfying Condition 2. Then  $x \in L_v$  implies  $v \in L_x$ .

Proof. Suppose  $v \notin L_x$ . Then there exists a continuum  $C_v$  such that  $v \in \text{Int}(C_v)$  and  $x \notin C_v$ . Since  $x \in L_v$  we have

$$\overline{M - C_v} = R \cup S$$

where  $R \cap S = \emptyset$ . Without loss of generality let  $x \in R$ . Choose  $y \in \text{Int}(S)$ .  $C_v \cup R$  and  $C_v \cup S$  are continua and so  $L_x \subseteq R$  and  $L_y \subseteq S$ , i.e.,  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ . Let  $H$  and  $K$  be the two continua, mentioned in Condition 2, which are irreducible between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$ . Without loss of generality let  $v \in \text{Int}(H)$ . Because  $x \in L_v$  and  $K \cup L_x \cup L_y$  is a continuum we have that  $x \in H$ .

Case 1.  $C_v \cap (L_x \cup L_y) \neq \emptyset$ .

$\partial H \subseteq L_y \cup L_y$  and so by Result 4 each of the components of  $C_v \cap \text{Int}(H)$  have a limit point in either  $L_x$  or  $L_y$ . Define then

$$H_x \equiv L_x \cup \{\text{all components of } C_v \cap \text{Int}(H) \text{ with limit points in } L_x\},$$

$$H_y \equiv L_y \cup \{\text{all components of } C_v \cap \text{Int}(H) \text{ with limit points in } L_y\}.$$

Since  $x \in H$ ,  $x \notin C_v$  and  $H$  is irreducible we see that  $H_x$  and  $H_y$  are disjoint continua. (Without loss of generality, let  $v \in H_x$ .) This combined with Result 1 shows that  $\overline{H - C_v}$  is a continuum and therefore so is  $\overline{H - C_v} \cup L_x \cup K \cup L_y \cup H_y$  which violates  $x \in L_v$ .

Case 2.  $C_v \cap (L_x \cup L_y) = \emptyset$ .

$H$  being irreducible quickly implies that  $\overline{H - C_v} = R \cup S$  where  $R$  and  $S$  are disjoint continua with  $R \cap L_x \neq \emptyset$  and  $S \cap L_v \neq \emptyset$ . But then  $R \cup L_x \cup K \cup L_y \cup S$  is a continuum that violates  $x \in L_v$ .

LEMMA 6. Let  $M$  be a compact metric continuum which satisfies Condition 2. Then  $x$  cuts  $\{v\} \cup \{w\}$  implies  $v$  or  $w \in L_x$ .

Proof. Assume to the contrary. Then there exists  $v$  and  $w \in M - L_x$  for which  $x$  cuts  $\{v\} \cup \{w\}$ . By Lemma 5,  $x \notin L_v \cup L_w$ . But  $L_v$  and  $L_w$  are continua, and so  $L_v \cap L_w = \emptyset$ . Now a straightforward application of Condition 2 gives a contradiction.

In the next two lemmas, let  $M$  be a compact metric continuum satisfying Condition 2. Also, let  $x$  and  $y \in M$  with  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ . Finally, let  $H$  and  $K$  be the two irreducible continua between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$  as guaranteed to us by Condition 2.

LEMMA 7. If  $v \in \text{Int}(H)$  and  $L_v \cap L_x = \emptyset$ , then  $x \notin H$ .

Proof. First we note that  $\text{Int}(H) \cap (L_x \cup K \cup L_y) = \emptyset$  and so we see that  $L_v \subseteq H$ .

Second we note by Lemma 5 that since  $v \notin L_x$ , then  $x \notin L_v$ .

Third we note that since  $v \notin L_x$  there exists a continuum  $C$  such that  $v \in \text{Int}(C)$  and  $x \notin C$ .

Using now the hypothesis  $L_x \cap L_y \neq \emptyset$ , Result 4, and the irreducibility of  $H$ , it becomes clear that  $x \notin H$ .

LEMMA 8. *If there exists  $v \in \text{Int}(H)$ ,  $z \in \text{Int}(K)$ , and a continuum  $C$  with  $\{v, z\} \subseteq C$  and  $\{x, y\} \subseteq M - C$ , then*

$$(1) L_r = H \text{ for all } r \in \text{Int}(H)$$

$$(2) H \cap K \neq \emptyset.$$

Proof. As in the first note of Lemma 7, we see that  $L_r \subseteq H$  for all  $r \in \text{Int}(H)$ .

We first show  $L_v = H$  before verifying that  $L_r = H$  for all  $r \in \text{Int}(H)$ .

Claim 1.  $L_v \cap L_x \neq \emptyset$ .

Assume the claim false, and let  $H'$  and  $K'$  be the two continua associated with  $L_v$  and  $L_x$  as specified in Condition 2. By Lemma 4, we see that  $C$  contains either  $H'$  or  $K'$  and so let it contain  $H'$ . By hypothesis  $\{x, y\} \subseteq M - C$ , and Lemma 5 implies  $\{x, y\} \subseteq M - (L_v \cap L_x)$  and so we see that  $L_x \cup L_y \subseteq K'$ . Let  $K_0$  be an irreducible subcontinuum of  $K'$  between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$ . By Lemma 4,  $K = K_0$  and therefore  $v \in \text{Int}(K)$  which is a contradiction.

Since  $\partial K \subseteq L_x \cup L_y$  we assume without loss of generality that  $L_v \cap L_x \subseteq L_x$ . Therefore by Lemma 7 we see that  $x \notin H \cup K$ .

Claim 2.  $L_v \cap L_y \neq \emptyset$ .

Again we assume the claim is false and let  $H^*$  and  $K^*$  be the two continua associated with  $L_v$  and  $L_y$  as specified in Condition 2. From Claim 1, we see that  $L_v \cap K \neq \emptyset$  and so let  $H_0, K_0$  be irreducible subcontinua of  $K, H$  between  $L_v$  and  $L_y$ . By Lemma 4 we see that we can take  $K_0 = K^*$  and  $H_0 = H^*$ . But  $M = L_y \cup H^* \cup L_v \cup K^*$  and yet  $x$  is not an element of any of these sets—so the claim holds.

So  $L_v \cap L_y \neq \emptyset$ ,  $L_v \cap L_x \neq \emptyset$ ,  $L_v$  is a continuum and  $L_v \subseteq H$ . Therefore the irreducibility of  $H$  implies  $L_v = H$ .

Now let  $r \in \text{Int}(H) \subseteq L_v$ . By Lemma 5,  $v \in L_r$ . But then  $C \cup L_r$  is a continuum between  $r$  and  $z$  missing  $x$  and  $y$ —so now we just let  $r$  take  $v$ 's place in the above arguments.

$H \cap K \neq \emptyset$  follows from Claim 1.

THEOREM 2. *Let  $M$  be a compact metric continuum. Then  $M$  satisfies Condition 2 iff*

(1)  $M$  is C.C.

or

(2) *There exists four indecomposable continua  $\{R_i\}_i^4 = 1$  such that*

$M = \bigcup_{i=1}^4 R_i$ ,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are irreducible between  $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , and  $R_1 \cap R_2 \cap R_3 \neq \emptyset$ .

Proof. Only if. Since (2) clearly implies that  $M$  satisfies Condition 2, we only need show that C.C. implies Condition 2. So we let  $x$  and  $y \in M$  be such that  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$ .

If  $v \in M$ , then define

$$H_v = \{m \in M: \{x\} \cup \{y\} \text{ does not cut } v \text{ and } m\}.$$

It is clear that  $H_v$  is connected and  $H_t \cap H_s \neq \emptyset$  implies  $H_s = H_t$  for  $s, t \in M$ .

This combined with Theorem 1 implies that if  $v \in M - (L_x \cup L_y)$  then

$$(*) \quad H_v \not\supseteq M - (L_x \cup L_y).$$

Claim 1. If  $v \in M = (L_x \cup L_y)$ , then  $\partial H_v \subseteq L_x \cup L_y$ .

Suppose there exists  $w \in \partial H_v - L_x \cup L_y$ . Then by Lemma 3, there exists a continuum  $C_w$  with  $w \in \text{Int}(C_w)$  and  $x$  and  $y \notin C_w$ . Clearly then by the definition of  $H_v$ ,  $\text{Int}(C_w) \subseteq H_v$  which is impossible since  $w \in \partial H_v$ .

Claim 2. If  $v$  and  $w \in M - (L_x \cup L_y)$  are such that  $H_v \neq H_w$  then: there exist continua  $C_v, C_w, K$  and  $H$  such that  $v \in \text{Int}(C_v)$ ,  $w \in \text{Int}(C_w)$ ,  $H$  and  $K$  are irreducible subcontinua between  $C_v$  and  $C_w$ ,  $H \cap K = \emptyset$ ,  $C_v \cap C_w = \emptyset$ ,  $L_x \subseteq H$ ,  $L_y \subseteq K$  and

$$M = H \cup C_v \cup K \cup C_w.$$

By Lemma 3, there are continua  $C_v$  and  $C_w$ , with  $v \in \text{Int}(C_v)$ ,  $w \in C_w$  and  $x$  and  $y \notin C_v \cup C_w$ . Since  $H_v \neq H_w$  we know that  $H_v \cap H_w = \emptyset$  which in turn implies  $C_v \cap C_w = \emptyset$ . Using Lemma 1, the fact  $v \notin H_w$ , and the assumption of  $M$  being C.C. we see that the claim is valid.

At this point it is convenient to introduce the following notation:

$$H'_v = H_v - (L_x \cup L_y).$$

Claim 3. If  $v \in M - (L_x \cup L_y)$ , then  $\overline{H'_v}$  is an irreducible continuum between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$ .

From Claim 1 we know that  $\partial H_v \subseteq L_x \cup L_y$ . Assume for the moment that  $\partial H_v \subseteq L_x$ . Then by (\*) we know there exists  $w \in M - (L_x \cup L_y \cup H_v)$ . Now an application of Claim 2 and a recollection of the definition of  $H_v$ , we find a contradiction. Therefore,  $\overline{H'_v}$  is a continuum between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$ . By Result 2 we know there exists a subcontinuum  $H_0$  of  $\overline{H'_v}$  which is irreducible between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$ . Now if we assume  $H_0 \neq \overline{H'_v}$  and combine this with Claim 2 and the definition of C.C. we are lead to a contradiction. We thus see that the claim holds.

Theorem 1 says that there exist two points  $v_0$  and  $w_0 \in M - (L_x \cup L_y)$  which are cut by  $x$  and  $y$ . Therefore by Claim 3,  $\overline{H'_v}$  and  $\overline{H'_w}$  will serve as the  $H$  and  $K$  in the definition of Condition 2 if we can show that

$$M = L_x \cup \overline{H'_v} \cup L_y \cup \overline{H'_w}.$$

But if there were  $r \in M - (L_x \cup \overline{H'_{v_0}} \cup L_y \cup \overline{H'_{w_0}})$ , then we could apply Claim 2, Claim 3 in reference to  $H_r$ , and the fact that  $v_0$  and  $w_0 \notin H_r$  to arrive at a contradiction to  $M$  being C.C. This then completes the sufficiency part of this theorem.

To establish the necessity half of this theorem, we will assume that  $M$  is not C.C. but it does satisfy Condition 2 and deduce that it is of the form expressed in 2.

Lemma 6 shows that Condition 2 implies (2) of Theorem 1, and so assuming  $M$  is not C.C. means that there exists  $x$  and  $y \in M$  such that  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$  and yet  $\{x\} \cup \{y\}$  cut no two points of  $M - (L_x \cup L_y)$ .

Since  $L_x \cap L_y = \emptyset$  we know that there exist two continua  $H$  and  $K$  which are irreducible between  $L_x$  and  $L_y$  and  $M = L_x \cup H \cup L_y \cup K$ . Letting  $t \in \text{Int}(H)$  and  $z \in \text{Int}(K)$  we see by the above comments that there exist a continuum  $C$  such that  $t, z \in C$  and  $x, y \notin C$ . So by Lemma 8,  $L_r = H$  for each  $r \in \text{Int}(H)$ , therefore using the fact that  $\overline{\text{Int}(H)} = H$  (Result 3), we see that  $H$  is indecomposable. Analogous comments hold for  $K$ . Also we know from Lemma 8 that  $H \cap K \neq \emptyset$ .

Now  $L_r = H$  for each  $r \in \text{Int}(H)$  implies by Lemma 5 that  $x \in \text{Int}(L_x)$  and  $y \in \text{Int}(L_y)$ . It is not difficult to see that  $\overline{\text{Int}(L_x)} = L_x$  and  $\overline{\text{Int}(L_y)} = L_y$ . So to finish the proof we only need show that for each  $r \in \text{Int}(L_x)$ ,  $L_r = L_x$ . Clearly  $L_r \subseteq L_x$ . Therefore,  $L_r \cap L_y = \emptyset$ . Let  $H'$  and  $K'$  be the continua associated with  $L_r$  and  $L_y$  mentioned in the statement of Condition 2. Clearly we can take  $K \subseteq K'$  and  $H \subseteq H'$ . Letting  $t \in \text{Int}(K)$  and  $v \in \text{Int}(H)$  we know that  $L_t \cap L_v \neq \emptyset$ , by Lemma 5  $r$  and  $y \notin L_t \cap L_v$ , and so by Lemma 8

$$H' = L_v = H \quad \text{and} \quad K' = L_t = K$$

But  $M = H \cup L_r \cup K \cup L_x$  and so  $\text{Int}(L_x) \subseteq L_r$  which implies  $L_x \subseteq L_r$ . This then completes the proof of the theorem.

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## Dilating mappings, implicit functions and fixed point theorems in finite-dimensional spaces

by

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It is the purpose of this paper to investigate some properties of non-linear mappings of a finite-dimensional Euclidean spaces into itself. The argument presented here consists in a combination of two facts: Borsuk's theorem on  $\varepsilon$ -mappings in the narrow sense and Banach's contraction principle. By means of this method several theorems concerning non-linear mappings of finite-dimensional Banach spaces into themselves are obtained. In particular, an implicit function theorem for dilating mappings, a generalization of the contraction principle and some results concerning the non-linear eigenvalue problem are included.

Let  $f$  be a continuous transformation of a finite-dimensional Euclidean space  $X$  into itself. The transformation  $f$  is called an  $\varepsilon$ -mapping in the narrow sense if it has the following property:

(B) there exist two positive numbers  $\eta$  and  $\varepsilon$  such that the condition

$$\|f(x') - f(x'')\| < \eta, \quad x', x'' \in X$$

implies

$$\|x' - x''\| < \varepsilon.$$

In paper [1] K. Borsuk proved the following

**THEOREM.** *If  $f(x)$  has property (B), then  $f$  is a mapping onto, i.e.  $f(X) = X$ .*

**Implicit functions.** In order to make use of Borsuk's theorem let us observe that if the mapping  $f$  possesses the following property: there exists a positive number  $c$  such that

$$c\|x_1 - x_2\| \leq \|f(x_1) - f(x_2)\|$$

for arbitrary  $x_1, x_2$  of  $X$ , then  $f$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -mapping in the narrow sense and, consequently,  $f(X) = X$ . Moreover,  $f$  is a homeomorphism of  $X$  onto itself.

After this remark we shall prove the following implicit function theorem.