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Every topological space admits at least one compatible transitive quasi-uniformity, and among the compatible transitive quasi-uniformities there is always a finest one. It is shown that a topological space is compact if and only if its finest transitive quasi-uniformity is precompact. A  $T_1$  space  $X$  whose fine quasi-uniformity is transitive is quasi-metrizable if and only if  $X$  has a  $\sigma$ - $Q$ -base. The upper semi-continuous quasi-uniformity of any topological space is transitive and countably precompact and a space  $X$  is almost realcompact if and only if it has a compatible almost complete countably precompact transitive quasi-uniformity. Consequently a space is almost realcompact if and only if its upper semi-continuous quasi-uniformity is almost complete. The latter result is the natural analogue of the result of Shirota that a space  $X$  is realcompact if and only if it is complete in the structure  $C(X)$ .

The concept of a quasi-uniformity on a set  $X$  was introduced by L. Nachbin. If  $X$  is a nonempty set and  $\mathcal{U}$  is a filter on  $X \times X$ , then  $\mathcal{U}$  is a quasi-uniformity on  $X$  if and only if

- (i) for each  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $\Delta = \{(x, x) : x \in X\} \subset U$
- (ii) for each  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , there is a  $V \in \mathcal{U}$  such that  $V \circ V \subset U$ .

A (sub)base  $\mathcal{B}$  for  $\mathcal{U}$  is *transitive* provided that for each  $B \in \mathcal{B}$ ,  $B \circ B = B$ . A quasi-uniformity with a transitive base is called a *transitive quasi-uniformity*.

It is not true that every quasi-uniformity is transitive; indeed if a uniformity  $\mathcal{U}$  has a transitive base, then the resulting topology  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{U}}$  is 0-dimensional. It might appear reasonable to conjecture that every quasi-uniformity has either a symmetric or transitive base, but we give a simple counterexample to this conjecture as well. Nevertheless, there is some justification for the point of view that the insistence upon symmetry inherent in the axioms for a uniformity has obscured the fact that transitivity also plays an important role in general topology.

In section two we review the known methods of constructing a compatible quasi-uniformity for an arbitrary topological space; and we show that every known method may be considered as a special case of a very general method for constructing compatible quasi-uniformities which, in fact, may be used to construct every compatible transitive quasi-uniformity.

In the third section of the paper, we consider topological spaces whose fine quasi-uniformity is transitive.

The fourth section of this paper concerns precompact and totally bounded transitive quasi-uniformities. For uniform spaces the concepts of total boundedness and precompactness are equivalent; however for quasi-uniform spaces precompactness is implied by total boundedness and is in general a weaker condition. A useful property of the Pervin quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{P}$  is that for any topological space this quasi-uniformity is totally bounded. We construct a transitive quasi-uniformity which contains the Pervin quasi-uniformity and which is always precompact. It follows that the Pervin quasi-proximity class of any infinite Hausdorff space contains two precompact members. Some of §4 is devoted to translations of known results into the setting of quasi-uniform spaces. A typical result of this kind is that the locally finite covering quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{LF}$  of a Tychonoff space is precompact if and only if  $\mathcal{LF} = \mathcal{P}$ . One of the most startling translations is the result, mentioned above, that a topological space is compact if and only if every compatible transitive quasi-uniformity is precompact. This result suggests the possibility that every topological space has a compatible complete transitive quasi-uniformity. At present the best theorem along these lines appears to be that every orthocompact topological space has a compatible complete transitive quasi-uniformity.

The last section concerns complete and almost complete transitive quasi-uniformities. It follows from our results and those of [10] that a normal countably paracompact space is realcompact if and only if its upper semi-continuous quasi-uniformity is complete. Consequently for a discrete space of measurable cardinality the upper semi-continuous quasi-uniformity is not complete, whereas the finest compatible transitive quasi-uniformity is the discrete structure which is complete.

Throughout this paper, if  $\mathcal{C}$  is an open cover of a topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  and  $x \in X$ , then  $A_x^{\mathcal{C}}$  denotes  $\bigcap \{C \in \mathcal{C} : x \in C\}$ .

**2. Construction of quasi-uniformities.** At present, there are two general methods of constructing a compatible quasi-uniformity for an arbitrary topological space. Although we shall show that one of these methods can in fact be considered as a special case of the other, the two methods are conceptually different in that one method depends upon the construction of a transitive base while the other does not. Moreover only one method has a natural analogue in the construction of a uniformity for a completely regular space. We begin by recalling these methods of construction.

(i) *Covering quasi-uniformities.* A  $Q$ -cover of a topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is an open cover  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $X$  such that if  $x \in X$ , then  $A_x^{\mathcal{C}} \in \mathcal{T}$  [25]. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a collection of  $Q$ -covers of a topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  such that if  $x \in A \in \mathcal{A}$ , then there is  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $A_x^{\mathcal{C}} \subset A$ . For

each  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{A}$ , let  $U_{\mathcal{C}} = \bigcup \{\{x\} \times A_x^{\mathcal{C}} : x \in X\}$  and let  $\mathcal{S} = \{U_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{A}\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{S}$  is a transitive subbase for a compatible quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  [6, Theorem 1]. The quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is called the *covering quasi-uniformity for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  with respect to  $\mathcal{A}$* . If  $\mathcal{A}$  is, respectively, the collection of all ( $Q$ -covers, point finite open covers, locally finite open covers, finite open covers,) then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is the *fine transitive, point finite covering, locally finite covering, Pervin quasi-uniformity for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$*  and is denoted by  $\mathcal{FT}$ ,  $\mathcal{PFT}$ ,  $\mathcal{LFT}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}$  respectively. Since every transitive quasi-uniformity is a covering quasi-uniformity [6, Theorem 2], the fine transitive quasi-uniformity is, as the name suggests, the finest compatible transitive quasi-uniformity for a given topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ . It is shown in [26] that the Pervin quasi-uniformity is the same as the quasi-uniformity first defined by A. Császár in [4]. Moreover the quasi-uniformity defined by R. Nielsen and C. Sloyer in [22] is also the Pervin quasi-uniformity.

(ii) *Upper semi-continuous quasi-uniformities.* Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and let  $F$  be a collection of upper semi-continuous functions which contains the collection of all characteristic functions on closed sets. For each  $f \in F$  and each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $U_{(f, \varepsilon)} = \{(x, y) \in X \times X : f(y) - f(x) < \varepsilon\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{B} = \{U_{(f, \varepsilon)} : f \in F, \varepsilon > 0\}$  is a subbase for a compatible quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{U}_F$  for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  [7, Theorem 1]. If  $U$  is the collection of all upper semi-continuous functions then  $\mathcal{U}_U$  is called the *upper semi-continuous quasi-uniformity* and is denoted by  $\mathcal{USC}$ . It is clear that in general the subbase  $\mathcal{B}$  for  $\mathcal{USC}$  need not be a transitive subbase.

**Definition [18].** An *open spectrum*  $\mathbf{a}$  in a set  $X$  is a sequence  $\{A_n\}$  of open subsets of  $X$  indexed by the integers,  $\mathbb{Z}$ , such that for each  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $A_n \subset A_{n+1}$ ,  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} A_n = \emptyset$  and  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} A_n = X$ .

Each open spectrum  $\mathbf{a}$  is a  $Q$ -cover. There is an integer  $n$  such that  $A_n = X$  if and only if  $\mathbf{a}$  is a point-finite open cover. In this case we call  $\mathbf{a}$  a *point-finite open spectrum*. If  $\mathbf{a}$  is an open spectrum,  $x \in X$  and  $n$  is that integer for which  $x \in A_n - A_{n-1}$ , then  $A_x^{\mathbf{a}} = A_n$  and  $U_{\mathbf{a}} = \bigcup_{x \in X} \{x\} \times A_x^{\mathbf{a}} = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (A_n - A_{n-1}) \times A_n$ .

**THEOREM 2.1.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the collection of all open spectra in a space  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{USC}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $U$  be the collection of all upper semi-continuous functions. It suffices to show that  $\{U_{\mathbf{a}} : \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}\}$  and  $\{U_{(f, \varepsilon)} : \varepsilon > 0, f \in U\}$  are equivalent subbases. Let  $f \in U$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given; take  $x_0 \in X$ . Set  $A_n = \{x : f(x) < f(x_0) + (n + 1)\varepsilon\}$  and set  $\mathbf{a} = \{A_n\}$ . Let  $(x, y) \in U_{\mathbf{a}}$ . There is an integer  $n$  such that  $f(x_0) + (n - 1)\varepsilon \leq f(x) \leq f(x_0) + n\varepsilon$ . Then  $y \in U_{\mathbf{a}}(x) = A_x^{\mathbf{a}} = A_n$  so that  $f(y) < f(x_0) + (n + 1)\varepsilon$ . Hence  $f(y) -$

$f(x) < f(x_0) + (n+1)\varepsilon - (f(x_0) + n\varepsilon) = \varepsilon$  and  $(x, y) \in U_{(f, \varepsilon)}$ .

Let  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ . For each  $x \in X$ , let  $n$  be that integer for which  $x \in A_n - A_{n-1}$  and define  $f(x) = n\varepsilon$ . Let  $(x, y) \in U_{(f, \varepsilon)}$ ; then  $f(y) < f(x) + \varepsilon$ . Since  $x \in A_n - A_{n-1}$ ,  $f(y) < f(x) + \varepsilon = (n+1)\varepsilon$ . Hence  $y \in A_n$  and  $(x, y) \in (A_n - A_{n-1}) \times A_n \subset U_a$ .

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space. Then  $\mathcal{USC} \subset \mathcal{FF}$ . If  $X$  is countably compact then each open spectrum is a point-finite open spectrum and  $\mathcal{USC} \subset \mathcal{PF}$ .*

We omit the proof of the following theorem which is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.1.

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space, let  $U$  be the collection of all upper semi-continuous functions which are bounded above and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the collection of all point finite open spectra. Then  $\mathcal{U}_U = \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$ .*

If in the above theorem  $U$  is taken to be the collection of all bounded upper semi-continuous functions and  $\mathcal{A}$  is taken to be the collection of all finite open covers, then  $\mathcal{U}_U = \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  [12, Theorem 2].

**LEMMA.** *Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a quasi-uniformity on a set  $X$  and suppose that  $\mathcal{U}$  is a transitive quasi-uniformity with a countable base  $\alpha = \{U_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  such that for each positive integer  $n$ ,  $U_{n+1} \circ U_{n+1} = U_n$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}$  is the fine quasi-uniformity for  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{U}}$  and  $\alpha$  consists of a single transitive entourage.*

*Proof.* Let  $\beta$  be a transitive base for  $\mathcal{U}$  and let  $n$  be a positive integer. Since  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are bases for  $\mathcal{U}$ , there exists a positive integer  $m$  with  $m \geq n$  and  $U \in \beta$  such that  $U_m \subset U \subset U_n$ . Since  $U$  is a transitive relation on  $X$ ,  $U_m \circ U_m = U_{m-1} \subset U \subset U_n$ . It follows by induction that  $U_n = U$ . Thus each member of  $\alpha$  is a transitive relation on  $X$  so that  $\alpha = \{U_1\} = \{U\}$ . It follows that  $\mathcal{U}$  is the fine quasi-uniformity for  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{U}}$  [8, Theorem 3.3].

**EXAMPLE 2.3.** *A quasi-uniformity which has neither a symmetric nor a transitive base.* Let  $\mathbf{R}$  be the set of real numbers, for each positive integer  $n$ , let  $U_n = \{(x, y): y - x < 1/2^{n-1}\}$  and let  $\mathcal{U}$  be the quasi-uniformity on  $\mathbf{R}$  generated by the base  $\{U_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ . By the above lemma, it is evident that  $\mathcal{U}$  is not a transitive quasi-uniformity. It is also evident that  $\mathcal{U}$  is not a uniformity.

*Question.* Does there exist a method of constructing a compatible

*quasi-uniformity for a topological space such that*

- (i) *the method of construction obtains for any topological space*
- (ii) *there is a topological space for which the quasi-uniformity of the construction does not have a transitive base?*

*In particular is the fine (universal) quasi-uniformity of a topological space necessarily a transitive quasi-uniformity?*

### 3. Transitive spaces.

**DEFINITION.** A topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is a *transitive space* provided that the fine quasi-uniformity for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is the fine transitive quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{FT}$ .

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *Let  $X = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be a countable set and let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a  $T_1$  topology for  $X$ . Then  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is a metacompact transitive space.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be the fine quasi-uniformity and let  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . For each positive integer  $i$ , let  $V_{i+1} = \text{int } U(x_{i+1}) - \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i\}$  and let  $V_1 = \text{int } U(x_1)$ . Then  $\mathcal{R} = \{V_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is a point-finite open cover of  $X$  and for each  $x_i \in X$ ,  $U_{\mathcal{R}}(x_i) = A_{x_i}^{\mathcal{R}} \subset V_i \subset U(x_i)$ . Thus  $U_{\mathcal{R}} \subset U$  and hence  $\mathcal{RF} = \mathcal{U}$ . It is evident that  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is metacompact.

Topological spaces with a finite topology are uniquely quasi-uniformizable and hence are transitive spaces [2, Theorem 3.4]. Conversely if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is  $R_1$  (in particular if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is either Hausdorff or regular) and  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  has only one compatible quasi-uniformity, then  $\mathcal{T}$  is finite [19, Theorem 2.3]. Another example of a transitive space may be found in [9, Example 2.2].

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a transitive space. Then  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  has only one compatible quasi-uniformity if and only if every  $Q$ -cover of  $X$  is finite.*

*Proof.* Since  $\mathcal{P}$  is totally bounded, by Lemma 4.1, if  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{FT}$ , then every  $Q$ -cover of  $X$  is finite. Again by Lemma 4.1, if every  $Q$ -cover of  $X$  is finite, then  $\mathcal{FT}$  is totally bounded. Since  $\mathcal{FT}$  is assumed to be the fine quasi-uniformity the result now follows from [20, Corollary 3.6].

It is shown in [20] that if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is a topological space with the property that every  $Q$ -cover of  $X$  is finite, then  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is hereditarily compact. Note, however, that the real line with the cofinite topology is an example of a space with infinitely many open sets which satisfies the conditions of Proposition 3.2.

DEFINITION [25]. A topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is *orthocompact* ("has property Q" in terms of [25]) provided that every open cover of  $X$  has an open Q-refinement.

PROPOSITION 3.3. *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be an orthocompact space. Then  $\mathcal{F}\mathcal{T}$  contains every compatible uniformity for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a compatible uniformity for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  and let  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . Let  $W$  be an open symmetric entourage such that  $W \circ W \subset U$ , let  $\mathcal{C} = \{W(x) : x \in X\}$  and let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a Q-refinement of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Then, for each  $x \in X$ ,  $U_{\mathcal{R}}(x) \subset \text{st}(x, \mathcal{C}) \subset U(x)$ . Thus  $U_{\mathcal{R}} \subset U$  so that  $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathcal{F}\mathcal{T}$ .

DEFINITION. Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a collection of open sets such that if  $x \in X$ , then  $\bigcap \{C \in \mathcal{C} : x \in C\} \in \mathcal{T}$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is a *Q-collection*. If  $\beta$  is a base for  $\mathcal{T}$  and there is a sequence  $\{\beta_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  of Q-collections such that  $\beta = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \beta_i$ , then  $\beta$  is a  $\sigma$ -Q-base for  $\mathcal{T}$ .

It is shown in [9] that if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is a topological space and  $\mathcal{T}$  has a  $\sigma$ -Q-base, then  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is quasi-metrizable. For transitive spaces a complete analogue of the Nagata-Smirnov metrization theorem obtains.

THEOREM 3.4. *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a  $T_1$  transitive space. Then  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is quasi-metrizable if and only if  $\mathcal{T}$  has a  $\sigma$ -Q-base.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is quasi-metrizable. Then  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  has a compatible quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{U}$  with a countable base  $\beta = \{\beta_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  [16, page 185]. Since  $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{U} \subset \mathcal{F}\mathcal{T}$ , there are transitive entourages  $B_1^T, B_2^T, \dots \in \mathcal{F}\mathcal{T}$  such that for each positive integer  $i$ ,  $B_i^T \subset B_i$ . Let  $\beta^T = \{B_i^T\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  and let  $\mathcal{U}^T$  be the quasi-uniformity for which  $\beta^T$  is a subbase. Clearly  $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathcal{U}^T \subset \mathcal{F}\mathcal{T}$ . Consequently  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{U}} \subset \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{U}^T} \subset \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{T}} = \mathcal{T}$ . Thus  $\beta^T$  is a countable transitive subbase for a quasi-metrizable quasi-uniformity for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ . Let  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  be the countable base generated by  $\beta^T$ . For each positive integer  $i$ , let  $\beta_i = \{U_i(x) : x \in X\}$ . Then  $\beta_i$  is an open cover of  $X$ . Let  $x \in X$  and let  $y \in A_x^{\beta_i}$ . Let  $z \in U_i(y)$  and let  $t \in X$ . Suppose that  $x \in U_i(t)$ . Then  $y \in A_x^{\beta_i} \subset U_i(t)$  so that  $z \in U_i(y) \subset U_i \circ U_i(t)$ . Consequently  $z \in A_x^{\beta_i}$  so that  $U_i(y) \subset A_x^{\beta_i}$ . It follows that  $A_x^{\beta_i} \in \mathcal{T}$ . For each positive integer  $i$ ,  $\beta_i$  is a Q-collection and hence  $\mathcal{T}$  has a  $\sigma$ -Q-base.

4. Precompact and totally bounded transitive quasi-uniformities.

DEFINITION. Let  $(X, \mathcal{U})$  be a quasi-uniform space. Then  $\mathcal{U}$  is

*precompact (countably precompact)* provided that if  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , then there is a finite (countable) subset  $F$  of  $X$  such that  $U(F) = X$ .

**DEFINITION.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{U})$  be a quasi-uniform space. Then  $\mathcal{U}$  is *totally bounded* provided that if  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , then there is finite collection  $\{A_i\}_{i=1}^n$  of subsets of  $X$  such that  $\bigcup\{A_i: 1 \leq i \leq n\} = X$  and such that for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $A_i \times A_i \subset U$ .

**LEMMA 4.1.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and let  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  be a compatible covering quasi-uniformity. A necessary and sufficient condition that  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  be totally bounded is that each member of  $\mathcal{A}$  be a finite open cover.

*Proof.* Necessity follows with minor modifications from the proof of [20, Theorem 3.3]. Now suppose that each member of  $\mathcal{A}$  is a finite open cover and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be the collection of all finite open covers. Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}} \subset \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{B}} = \mathcal{P}$  and since  $\mathcal{P}$  is totally bounded  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is totally bounded as well.

Note that if  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a precompact covering quasi-uniformity, then every member of  $\mathcal{A}$  has a finite subcover. Certainly it is possible for a collection of  $Q$ -covers,  $\mathcal{A}$ , to have the property that every member of  $\mathcal{A}$  has a finite subcover without  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$ 's being precompact. For example the collection of all  $Q$ -covers of a space  $X$  which contain  $\{X\}$  as a member generates a covering quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  which is not in general precompact.

**DEFINITION.** A collection  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $Q$ -covers of a space  $X$  is an *esplanade* for  $X$  provided that

- (i) if  $\{\mathcal{C}_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is a finite subset of  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{C}_i \in \mathcal{A}$ .
- (ii) if  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{A}$ , then  $\{A_x^{\mathcal{C}}: x \in X\} \in \mathcal{A}$ .
- (iii) if  $x \in U \in \mathcal{T}$ , there exists  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $A_x^{\mathcal{C}} \subset U$ .

We note that if  $\mathcal{A}$  is the collection of point finite (locally finite,  $Q$ ) open covers of  $X$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  is an esplanade for  $X$ , and that in general  $\mathcal{A}$  is an esplanade if and only if  $\{U_{\mathcal{C}}: \mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{A}\}$  is a base for a compatible quasi-uniformity.

**PROPOSITION 4.2.** Let  $X$  be a topological space and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an esplanade for  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is (countably) precompact if and only if every member of  $\mathcal{A}$  has a finite (countable) subcover.

*Proof.* Suppose that every member of  $\mathcal{A}$  has a finite (countable) subcover. Let  $U$  be a basic entourage of  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$ . There is a finite subcollection  $\{\mathcal{C}_i\}_{i=1}^n$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  such that  $U = \bigcap_{i=1}^n U_{\mathcal{C}_i}$ . Let  $\mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{C}_i$ .



Then  $U = \bigcap_{i=1}^n U_{\mathcal{C}_i} = U_{\mathcal{C}}$  and  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{A}$ . Thus  $\{U(x): x \in X\} = \{A_x^{\mathcal{C}}: x \in X\} \in \mathcal{A}$ . By hypothesis  $\{U(x): x \in X\}$  has a finite (countable) subcover. Thus  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is (countably) precompact.

One of the most useful properties of the Pervin quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{P}$  is that  $\mathcal{P}$  is always totally bounded. Nevertheless total boundedness is sometimes of overwhelming strength so that is desirable to have a method of constructing a compatible quasi-uniformity for an arbitrary topological space which is always precompact but which is not necessarily totally bounded. We will show that if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is a topological space and  $\mathcal{A}$  is the collection of all point-finite open spectra, then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is precompact. Note that since  $\mathcal{A}$  is not an esplanade Proposition 4.2 is not applicable.

In the following Lemma, we will consider only point-finite open spectra. Let  $N$  denote the set of all positive integers and let the point-finite open spectrum  $a_n$  be given by  $a_n = \{A(n, j): j \in N\}$ . Set  $\mathcal{A}_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^n a_i$ . For convenience, for each  $n$ , suppose  $A(n, 1) = X$  and for each  $n, j$ ,  $A(n, j) \supset A(n, j+1)$ . (I.e. relabel these spectra by the positive integers.)

**LEMMA.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space. For each positive integer  $n$ , for each finite collection  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  of point-finite open spectra and for each  $Y \subset X$ , the open collection  $\{A_{y_i}^{\mathcal{A}_n}: y \in Y\}$  contains a finite subcover of  $Y$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is by induction on  $n$ . Case  $n = 1$ . Let a subspace  $Y$  and a point-finite open spectrum  $a_1$  in  $X$  be given. Set  $M = \inf \{j: \text{for some } y \in Y, y \in A(1, j) - A(1, j+1)\}$ . Then if  $y \in A(1, M) - A(1, M+1)$ ,  $A_y^{\mathcal{A}_1} = A(1, M) \supset Y$ .

Let a subspace  $Y$  and a collection  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, a_{n+1}\}$  of point-finite open spectra in  $X$  be given. Then by the inductive hypothesis, there exist  $y_i \in Y$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) such that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^m A_{y_i}^{\mathcal{A}_n} \supset Y$ . For each  $i$ , there exists a  $j(i)$  such that  $y_i \in A(n+1, j(i)) - A(n+1, j(i)+1)$ . Set  $M = \text{greatest } j(i)$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{i=1}^m A_{y_i}^{\mathcal{A}_{n+1}} &= \bigcup_{i=1}^m (A_{y_i}^{\mathcal{A}_n} \cap A(n+1, j(i))) \supset \bigcup_{i=1}^m (A_{y_i}^{\mathcal{A}_n} \cap A(n+1, M)) \\ &\supset Y \cap A(n+1, M). \end{aligned}$$

Once again by the inductive hypothesis, for each  $k < M$ , there exist  $y(k, i)$ , ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, M_k$ ) with

$$y(k, i) \in (A(n+1, k) - A(n+1, k+1)) \cap Y$$

such that

$$\bigcup_{t=1}^{m_k} A_{y_t}^{\mathcal{A}_n}(k, t) \supset (A(n+1, k) - A(n+1, k+1)) \cap Y.$$

Hence for each  $k$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{t=1}^{m_k} A_y^{\mathcal{S}_{n+1}}(k, t) &= \bigcup_{t=1}^{m_k} (A_y^{\mathcal{S}_{n+1}}(k, t) \cap A(n+1, k)) \\ &\supset Y \cap (A(n+1, k) - A(n+1, k+1)). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $Y = Y \cap A(n+1, M) \cup \bigcup_{k < m} (Y \cap (A(n+1, k) - A(n+1, k+1)))$ ,  $\{A_{y(k,t)}^{\mathcal{S}_{n+1}}; k = 1, 2, \dots, M-1; t = 1, 2, \dots, m_k\} \cup \{A_{y_i}^{\mathcal{S}_{n+1}}; i = 1, \dots, m\}$  is the required finite subcover of  $\{A_y^{\mathcal{S}_{n+1}}; y \in Y\}$ .

**THEOREM 4.3.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the collection of all point-finite open spectra for  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is precompact.*

*Proof.* Let  $U$  be a basic entourage of  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$ . There exists  $\{a_i\}_{i=1}^n \subset \mathcal{A}$  such that  $U = \bigcap_{i=1}^n U_{a_i}$ . By the preceding lemma there is a finite set  $F \subset X$  such that  $U(F) = [\bigcap_{i=1}^n U_{a_i}](F) = X$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.4.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be an orthocompact space. Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) *Every compatible quasi-uniformity is countably precompact*
- (ii)  *$(X, \mathcal{T})$  is Lindelöf.*

It is known that a  $T_1$  topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  admits a compatible totally bounded non-archimedean quasi-metric if and only if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  satisfies the second axiom of countability [9, Theorem 3.3]. Nevertheless the authors have been unable to understand why an orthocompact  $T_1$  space which admits a compatible totally bounded non-archimedean quasi-metric necessarily satisfies (i) of Proposition 4.4.

By Proposition 4.2, the point-finite covering quasi-uniformity  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{F}$  of a topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is precompact if and only if every point-finite open cover has a finite subcover. If  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is countably compact, then  $\mathcal{L}\mathcal{F}$  is totally bounded and if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is a regular space then  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{F}$  is precompact if and only if  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is countably compact [14, Theorem 2]. It is shown in [2] that a topological space is countably compact if and only if  $\mathcal{U}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{C}$  is precompact. A considerably simpler proof of this result follows from Theorem 2.1.

**PROPOSITION 4.5.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space. Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  *$(X, \mathcal{T})$  is countably compact.*
- (ii) *Every countable Q-cover has a finite subcover.*
- (iii)  *$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{C}$  is precompact.*
- (iv) *Every upper semi-continuous function is bounded above.*

*Proof.* Throughout the proof let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the collection of all open spectra and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be the collection of all point-finite open spectra. It is evident that (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii): If every countable  $Q$ -cover has a finite subcover, then every open spectrum is a point-finite open spectrum. In this case  $\mathcal{USC} = \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{B}}$  which is precompact by Theorem 4.3. (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv): By Theorem 2.1,  $\mathcal{USC} = \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Evidently, if  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{A}}$  is precompact, then each  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  is a point-finite open spectrum. Let  $f$  be an upper semi-continuous function. Then  $\{f^{-1}(-\infty, n) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is an open spectrum. Consequently  $f$  is bounded above. (iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). [15, Theorem 1].

**PROPOSITION 4.6.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a Tychonoff space. Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\mathcal{LF}$  is precompact.
- (ii)  $\mathcal{LF}$  is totally bounded.
- (iii)  $\mathcal{LF} = \mathcal{P}$ .
- (iv)  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is pseudocompact.
- (v) Every locally finite open cover has finite subcover.
- (vi) Every locally finite open cover is finite.

*Proof.* (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (v): Proposition 4.2. (iv)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (v)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (vi): [17, Theorem 1]. (vi)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (ii): Lemma 4.1. (ii)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (iii):  $\mathcal{LF}$  is a member of the Pervin quasi-proximity class since  $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathcal{LF}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$  is the unique totally bounded member of its quasi-proximity class [12, Theorem 1].

In a normal Hausdorff space pseudocompactness is equivalent to countable compactness. Thus in a normal Hausdorff space, the conditions of the previous propositions are equivalent.

The full strength of total boundedness is not apparent in the previous propositions. We have included the next result in order to point out that total boundedness can sometimes be a much stronger condition than precompactness.

**PROPOSITION 4.7.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a Hausdorff space. Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\mathcal{USC}$  is totally bounded.
- (ii) Every upper semi-continuous function is bounded.
- (iii) Every point finite open cover is finite.
- (iv)  $\mathcal{PF}$  is totally bounded.
- (v)  $X$  is a finite set.

*Proof.* (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (ii): [12, Theorem 2] and [13, Corollary 3]. (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii): [15, Theorem 2]. (iii)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (iv): Lemma 4.1. (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (v): Each infinite Hausdorff space has countably infinite pairwise disjoint collection  $\mathcal{C}$  of open sets. Then  $\mathcal{C} \cup \{X\}$  is an infinite point finite open cover.

The equivalence of Proposition 4.5 (i) and 4.5 (ii) suggests the possibility that a topological space is compact (Lindelöf) if and only if every  $\mathcal{Q}$ -cover of  $X$  has a finite (countable) subcover. For the Lindelöf property, the matter is to the authors' knowledge unresolved. For compactness, a better result is already in the literature.

**THEOREM 4.8.** [1, Theorem 7.1]. *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space. Then  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is compact if and only if every open cover which is well-ordered by set inclusion has a finite subcover.*

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a topological space. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is compact.
- (ii) Every compatible quasi-uniformity is precompact.
- (iii) Every compatible transitive quasi-uniformity is precompact.

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  be a countably compact space which is not compact. Then  $\mathcal{USC} \subsetneq \mathcal{FT}$ . If  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is regular, then  $\mathcal{PF} \subsetneq \mathcal{FT}$ .*

**5. Complete and almost complete quasi-uniformities.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{U})$  be a quasi-uniform space and let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a filter on  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}$  is *Cauchy* provided that if  $V \in \mathcal{U}$ , there is  $p \in X$  such that  $V(p) \in \mathcal{F}$ . The space  $(X, \mathcal{U})$  is *complete* provided that every Cauchy filter converges and the space  $(X, \mathcal{U})$  is *almost complete* provided that every open Cauchy filter has a cluster point. A collection of subsets  $\mathcal{C}$  has a cluster point provided that  $\bigcap \{\bar{A} : A \in \mathcal{C}\} \neq \emptyset$ . A filter  $\mathcal{F}$  on a topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  has the *countable subcollection intersection property* (C.C.I.P.) if every countable subcollection has a cluster point. The space is *almost realcompact* if every open ultrafilter with C.C.I.P. has a cluster point. We refer to [5] and [10] for general properties of almost complete and almost realcompact spaces. The following lemma is an immediate consequence of Theorem 2.1.

**LEMMA.** *For any topological space,  $\mathcal{USC}$  is a countably precompact transitive quasi-uniformity.*

**THEOREM 5.1.** *A topological space is almost realcompact if and only if there is a compatible almost complete countably precompact transitive quasi-uniformity.*

*Proof.* Suppose first that  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is an almost realcompact topological space. By the previous lemma it suffices to show that  $\mathcal{USC}$  is almost complete. Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a  $\mathcal{USC}$ -Cauchy open ultrafilter. The

filter  $\mathcal{F}$  has the C.C.I.P. if and only if every upper semi-continuous function into the nonnegative real numbers is bounded on some  $F \in \mathcal{F}$  [11, Theorem 1]. Let  $f$  be such a function and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then there is  $p \in X$  such that  $U_{f,\varepsilon}(p) \in \mathcal{F}$ . Evidently  $f$  is bounded on  $U_{(f,\varepsilon)}(p)$ . Thus  $\mathcal{F}$  has C.C.I.P. and is a convergent filter.

Now let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an almost complete countably precompact transitive quasi-uniformity and let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an open ultrafilter which has the C.C.I.P. Let  $V \in \mathcal{U}$ . There is  $U = U \circ U \in \mathcal{U}$  such that  $U \subset V$ , and there is a countable subset  $A$  of  $X$  such that  $U(A) = X$ . Suppose that for  $x \in A$ ,  $U(x) \notin \mathcal{F}$ . Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is an open ultrafilter it follows that for each  $x \in A$ ,  $X - \overline{U(x)} \in \mathcal{F}$ . Since  $\mathcal{F}$  has C.C.I.P., there is  $z \in \bigcap \{X - \overline{U(x)} : x \in A\}$ . There exists  $x \in A$  such that  $z \in U(x)$ . Then  $U(z) \subset U(x)$  which contradicts the assumption that  $z \in X - \overline{U(x)}$ . Thus  $\mathcal{F}$  is a Cauchy filter and so  $\mathcal{F}$  converges.

**COROLLARY.** *A topological space is almost realcompact if and only if  $\mathcal{USC}$  is almost complete.*

It is known that every normal countably paracompact almost realcompact space is realcompact. If  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  is a realcompact space, then the structure  $C(X)$  is a complete uniformity and since  $C(X) \subset \mathcal{USC}$ ,  $\mathcal{USC}$  is also complete.

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  be a normal countably paracompact space. Then  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  is realcompact if and only if  $\mathcal{USC}$  is complete.*

Let  $(X, \mathcal{D})$  be a discrete space of measurable cardinality. Then the fine (quasi-)uniformity is  $\mathcal{FF}$  and is complete, whereas  $\mathcal{USC}$  is the structure  $C(X)$  and is not complete.

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