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#### TAUTNESS FOR ALEXANDER-SPANIER COHOMOLOGY

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#### E. H. SPANIER

The purpose of this note is to give a straightforward unified proof of the tautness of Alexander–Spanier cohomology in the cases where it is known to be valid and to give a necessary condition that every closed (arbitrary) subspace be taut with respect to zero dimensional cohomology.

Let F denote a contravariant functor from the category of topological spaces to the category of abelian groups. A subspace A of a topological space X is said to be *taut with respect to* F if the canonical map  $\lim_{X \to F} \{F(U)\} \to F(A)$  is an isomorphism (the direct limit is taken over the family of all neighborhoods of A in X, the family being directed downward by inclusion). The subspace A is *taut* in X if it is taut with respect to the Alexander-Spanier cohomology theory  $\overline{H}$  for every dimension and every coefficient group (for notation and terminology dealing with  $\overline{H}$  see [6]).

This concept of tautness has proved to be important. In [6] and [7] it is shown that a closed subspace of a paracompact Hausdorff space is taut, and this is used to deduce a strong excision property for  $\overline{H}$ . This tautness property is also used in [6] to derive the continuity property for  $\overline{H}$ . In [4] it is shown that an arbitrary subspace of a metric space is taut with respect to Čech cohomology, and this is used to obtain a general duality in spheres. Since the Čech cohomology is isomorphic to  $\overline{H}$  [3], every subspace of a metric space is taut. In [2] it is shown that every neighborhood retract of X is taut in X, and this is used to prove a generalized homotopy property for compact spaces. In [1] tautness is considered for sheaf cohomology and used in proving the Vietoris-Begle mapping theorem.

We shall prove a simple lemma which gives a sufficient condition for tautness. This sufficient condition is enough to establish tautness in all the various cases where it is known.

Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a collection of subsets of X and A a subset of X. The star of A with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$ , denoted by st $(A, \mathcal{U})$ , is defined to be the union of those elements of  $\mathcal{U}$  whose intersection with A is nonempty. An open covering of A in X is a collection  $\mathcal{U}$  of open sets of X such that  $A \subset st(A, \mathcal{U})$ .

The following seems to be the main fact underlying tautness (see [2] and [6]).

LEMMA. Let A be a subspace of X and suppose that for every open covering  $\mathcal{U}$  of A in X there are an open covering  $\mathcal{V}$  of A in X and a function (not necessarily continuous)  $f: st(A, \mathcal{V}) \rightarrow A$  such that:

(1) f(a) = a for all  $a \in A$ .

(2) For each  $V \in \mathcal{V}$  with  $V \cap A \neq \emptyset$  there is  $U \in \mathcal{U}$  such that  $V \cup f(V) \subset U$ .

Then A is taut in X.

Proof. (Recall the notation is as in [6].) An arbitrary q-dimensional cohomology class of A is represented by a q-cochain  $\varphi \in C^q(A)$  such that  $\delta \varphi = 0$  on  $\mathcal{U}^{q+2} \cap A^{q+2}$  where  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open covering of A in X. Choose  $\mathcal{V}$  and f with respect to this  $\mathcal{U}$  to satisfy (1) and (2). Then  $f^*\varphi \in C^q(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V}))$  is a q-cochain such that  $\delta f^*\varphi = f^*\delta\varphi$ , and, by (2), the latter vanishes on  $\{V \in \mathcal{V} \mid V \cap A \neq \emptyset\}^{q+2}$ . Thus,  $f^*\varphi$ represents an element of  $\overline{H}^q(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V}))$ , and, by (1), its restriction to A is the element of  $\overline{H}^q(A)$  represented by  $\varphi$ . Therefore, the canonical map  $\lim_{q \to 0} \{\overline{H}^q(U)\} \to \overline{H}^q(A)$  is an epimorphism. Let U be a neighborhood of A. An element of  $\overline{H}^q(U)$  whose restriction to A is 0 is represented by a q-cochain  $\varphi \in C^q(U)$  such that  $\delta\varphi = 0$  on  $\mathcal{U}_1^{q+2}$  where  $\mathcal{U}_1$  is an open covering of U and such that there is a (q-1)-cochain  $\varphi' \in C^{q-1}(A)$  with  $\varphi \mid A = \delta\varphi'$  on  $\mathcal{U}_2^{q+1} \cap A^{q+1}$  where  $\mathcal{U}_2$  is an open covering of A in X. Let  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_1 \cap U_2 \mid U_1 \in \mathcal{U}_1 \text{ and} U_2 \in \mathcal{U}_2\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open covering of A in X such that  $\delta\varphi = 0$  on  $\mathcal{U}_q^{q+2}$  and  $\varphi \mid A = \delta\varphi'$  on  $\mathcal{U}_q^{q+1} \cap A^{q+1}$ . Let  $\mathcal{V}$  and f satisfy (1) and (2) with respect to this  $\mathcal{U}$ . It follows from (1) and (2) using the Fundamental

with respect to this  $\mathcal{U}$ . It follows from (1) and (2) using the Fundamental Lemma 9.1 of [5] that  $\varphi | \operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V})$  and  $f^*(\varphi | A)$  represent the same element of  $\overline{H^q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V}))$ . Since  $f^*(\varphi | A) = f^*\delta\varphi' = \delta f^*\varphi'$  on  $\{V \in \mathcal{V} | V \cap A \neq \emptyset\}^{q+1}$ , we see that  $f^*(\varphi | A)$  represents 0 in  $\overline{H^q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V}))$ . Therefore,  $\varphi | \operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V})$  represents 0 in  $\overline{H^q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V}))$ , and the canonical map  $\lim_{\to} \{\overline{H^q}(U)\} \rightarrow \overline{H^q}(A)$  is a monomorphism.

THEOREM 1. In each of the following cases A is taut in X. (1) A is compact and X is Hausdorff.

(2) A is closed and X is paracompact Hausdorff.
(3) A is arbitrary and every open subset of X is paracompact Hausdorff.

(4) A is a neighborhood retract of X.

**Proof.** In each of the first three cases it is easy to verify that if  $\mathscr{U}$  is any open covering of A in X there is an open covering  $\mathscr{V}$  of A in X such that the collection  $\{\operatorname{st}(V, \mathscr{V}) \mid V \in \mathscr{V} \text{ and } V \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$  is a refinement of  $\mathscr{U}$ . If  $f: \operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V}) \to A$  is defined so that f(a) = a for  $a \in A$  and so that for every  $x \in \operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V})$  there is  $V' \in \mathscr{V}$  with x and f(x) both in V', then  $\mathscr{V}$ 

and f satisfy (1) and (2) of the Lemma with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$  (see Lemma 1 on p. 316 of [6]). Therefore, A is taut in X.

In the fourth case let  $r: N \to A$  be a retraction of an open neighborhood N of A to A. If  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open covering of A in X let  $\mathcal{V} = \{U \cap r^{-1}(U \cap A) | U \in \mathcal{U}\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{V}$  is an open covering of A in X. Define  $f: \operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V}) \to A$  by  $f = r | \operatorname{st}(A, \mathcal{V})$ . Then  $\mathcal{V}$  and f satisfy (1) and (2) of the Lemma with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$  and so A is taut in X.

The following result is a necessary condition for tautness of every closed (arbitrary) subspace with respect to  $\overline{H}^0$ . It can be used to provide examples where tautness fails to hold.

### THEOREM 2. If X is a space such that every closed (arbitrary) subspace is taut with respect to $\overline{H}^0$ , then X is normal (completely normal).

**Proof.** We present the proof in the completely normal case, the normal case being analogous. To show X is completely normal it suffices to show that if E and F are subsets of X such that  $\overline{E} \cap F = \emptyset = E \cap \overline{F}$  then E and F can be separated by open sets in X. Given such E and F let  $A = E \cup F$ . Then A is a subspace of X and E and F are both open and closed in A. Let  $\varphi$  be the 0-cocycle on A which is 0 on E and 1 on F. Assuming A is taut in X, there is an open neighborhood W of A in X and a 0-cocycle  $\psi$  on W such that  $\psi \mid A = \varphi$ . Since a 0-cocycle is a locally constant function,  $U = \{x \in W \mid \psi(x) = 0\}$  and  $V = \{x \in W \mid \psi(x) = 1\}$  are disjoint open sets in W, hence in X, which separate E and F.

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