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TAUTNESS FOR ALEXANDER-SPANIER COHOMOLOGY Edwin Spanier

# TAUTNESS FOR ALEXANDER-SPANIER COHOMOLOGY 

E. H. Spanier


#### Abstract

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 $\lim _{\rightarrow}\{F(U)\} \rightarrow F(A)$ 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 $\bar{H}$ for every dimension and every coefficient group (for notation and termintology dealing with $\bar{H}$ 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 $\bar{H}$. This tautness property is also used in [6] to derive the continuity property for $\bar{H}$. 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 $\bar{H}$ [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 $\mathscr{U}$ be a collection of subsets of $X$ and $A$ a subset of $X$. The star of $A$ with respect to $\mathscr{U}$, denoted by $\operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{U})$, is defined to be the union of those elements of $\mathscr{U}$ whose intersection with $A$ is nonempty. An open covering of $A$ in $X$ is a collection $\mathscr{U}$ of open sets of $X$ such that $A \subset \operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{U})$.

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 $\mathscr{U}$ of $A$ in $X$ there are an open covering $\mathscr{V}$ of $A$ in $X$ and a function (not necessarily continuous) $f: \operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V}) \rightarrow A$ such that $:$
(1) $f(a)=a$ for all $a \in A$.
(2) For each $V \in \mathscr{V}$ with $V \cap A \neq \varnothing$ there is $U \in \mathscr{U}$ 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 $\mathscr{U}^{q+2} \cap A^{q+2}$ where $\mathscr{U}$ is an open covering of $A$ in $X$. Choose $\mathscr{V}$ and $f$ with respect to this $\mathscr{U}$ to satisfy (1) and (2). Then $f^{*} \varphi \in C^{q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V}))$ is a $q$-cochain such that $\delta f^{*} \varphi=f^{*} \delta \varphi$, and, by (2), the latter vanishes on $\{V \in \mathscr{V} \mid V \cap A \neq \varnothing\}^{q+2}$. Thus, $f^{*} \varphi$ represents an element of $\bar{H}^{q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V})$ ), and, by (1), its restriction to $A$ is the element of $\bar{H}^{q}(A)$ represented by $\varphi$. Therefore, the canonical map $\lim _{\rightarrow}\left\{\bar{H}^{q}(U)\right\} \rightarrow \bar{H}^{q}(A)$ is an epimorphism.

Let $U$ be a neighborhood of $A$. An element of $\bar{H}^{q}(U)$ whose restriction to $A$ is 0 is represented by a $q$-cochain $\varphi \in C^{q}(U)$ such that $\delta \varphi=0$ on $\mathscr{U}_{1}^{q+2}$ where $U_{1}$ is an open covering of $U$ and such that there is a ( $q-1$ )-cochain $\varphi^{\prime} \in C^{q-1}(A)$ with $\varphi \mid A=\delta \varphi^{\prime}$ on $U_{2}^{q+1} \cap A^{q+1}$ where $\mathscr{U}_{2}$ is an open covering of $A$ in $X$. Let $\mathscr{U}=\left\{U_{1} \cap U_{2} \mid U_{1} \in \mathscr{U}_{1}\right.$ and $\left.U_{2} \in \mathscr{U}_{2}\right\}$. Then $\mathscr{U}$ is an open covering of $A$ in $X$ such that $\delta \varphi=0$ on $\mathscr{U}^{q+2}$ and $\varphi \mid A=\delta \varphi^{\prime}$ on $\mathscr{U}^{q+1} \cap A^{q+1}$. Let $\mathscr{V}$ and $f$ satisfy (1) and (2) with respect to this $\mathscr{U}$. It follows from (1) and (2) using the Fundamental Lemma 9.1 of [5] that $\varphi \mid \operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V})$ and $f^{*}(\varphi \mid A)$ represent the same element of $\bar{H}^{q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V}))$. Since $\quad f^{*}(\varphi \mid A)=f^{*} \delta \varphi^{\prime}=\delta f^{*} \varphi^{\prime} \quad$ on $\{V \in \mathscr{V} \mid V \cap A \neq \varnothing\}^{q+1}$, we see that $f^{*}(\varphi \mid A)$ represents 0 in $\bar{H}^{q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V}))$. Therefore, $\varphi \mid \operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V})$ represents 0 in $\bar{H}^{q}(\operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V}))$, and the canonical map $\lim _{\rightarrow}\left\{\bar{H}^{q}(U)\right\} \rightarrow \bar{H}^{q}(A)$ 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 $\{\operatorname{st}(V, \mathscr{V}) \mid V \in \mathscr{V}$ and $V \cap A \neq \varnothing$ is a refinement of $\mathscr{U}$. If $f: \operatorname{st}(A, \mathscr{V}) \rightarrow A$ 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 $V^{\prime} \in \mathscr{V}$ with $x$ and $f(x)$ both in $V^{\prime}$, then $\mathscr{V}$
and $f$ satisfy (1) and (2) of the Lemma with respect to $\mathscr{U}$ (see Lemma 1 on p. 316 of [6]). Therefore, $A$ is taut in $X$.

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

The following result is a necessary condition for tautness of every closed (arbitrary) subspace with respect to $\bar{H}^{0}$. 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 $\bar{H}^{0}$, 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 $\bar{E} \cap F=\varnothing=$ $E \cap \bar{F}$ 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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