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# ON ALMOST DISCRETE SPACE

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Abstract. Let $C(X)$ be the ring of real continuous functions on a completely regular Hausdorff space. In this paper an almost discrete space is determined by the algebraic structure of $C(X)$. The intersection of essential weak ideal in $C(X)$ is also studied.

## 1. Introduction

For every topological space of $X$, let $I(X)$ be the set of all isolated points of $X$ and $D(X) = X \setminus I(X)$. A topological space $X$ is called *scattered* if each nonempty set $A \subseteq X$ contains an (in $A$) isolated point. Since $\operatorname{int}_X D(X) = X \setminus \operatorname{cl}_X I(X)$ and $D(X)$ is closed, then the $D(X)$ of every scattered space is nowhere dense.

A topological space $X$ is called *almost discrete* if $I(X)$ is dense in $X$, see [6]. Let $Y$ be the subset of plane consisting of all points $\left(\frac{m}{n}, \frac{1}{n}\right)$, where $n \gneqq 0$ and the greatest common divisor of $m$ and $n$ is 1. Clearly $Y$ is discrete. Let $X = \operatorname{cl}_{\mathbb{R}^2} Y$. Since $[0,1] \times \{0\} \subseteq X$ has no isolated points, then $X$ is almost discrete space, but it is not a scattered space.

In what follows, $X$ will denote a completely regular Hausdorff space. We denote $C(X)$ the ring of real continuous functions on a topological space of $X$. As usual, if $f \in C(X)$, its zero set $f^{\leftarrow}(0)$ is denoted by $Z(f)$, its cozero set $X \setminus Z(f)$ is denoted by $\operatorname{Coz}(f)$, and if $S \subseteq C(X)$, $Z[S] = \{Z(f) : f \in S\}$ and $\operatorname{Coz}[S] = \{\operatorname{Coz}(f) : f \in S\}$. Recall that $\beta X$ is the Stone-Čech compactification of $X$ and $\upsilon X$ is the Hewitt realcompactification of $X$. For undefined terms and notations, see [4].

Let $R$ always denote a commutative ring with identity. For $S \subseteq R$, the ideal

$$\big\{a \in R : aS = \{0\}\big\} = \big\{a \in R : ab = 0 \text{ for all } b \in S\ \big\}$$

is called the annihilator of $S$ and is also denoted by $\operatorname{Ann}(S)$ or $\operatorname{Ann}_R(S)$.

M. R. Ahmadi Zand studied $S.B.$ space that is a topological space $X$ that for every real-valued function $f$ on $X$ there exists an open dense subset $D$ of $X$ such that $f|_D$ is continuous, he showed that every dense subset and open subset of $S.B.$ space is $S.B.$ space (see [8]).

In 1995, essential ideal in $C(X)$ were studied first by F. Azarpanah (see [1]). Also he studied the countable intersection of essential ideals in $C(X)$ (see [2]).

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In view of the connection between weak ideal and ideal in rings, in this paper, we study ideal on semigroup $(C(X),\cdot)$ by using the techniques similar to those used in ring $C(X)$. We introduce the concepts Weak ideal and essential weak ideal. The study of these concepts and the union of all minimal ideal of $C(X)$ are our main objects. These objects are important tools to study almost discrete spaces.

## 2. Almost discrete space

In the theory of rings, many structure results were obtained with the help of minimal ideals, and the socle of a ring seems to be most efficient. The sum of all minimal ideals of $R$ is the *socle* of $R$, see [5]. In this article we want to study the relation between the union of all minimal ideal of $C(X)$ and the topological space of $X$.

If $x$ is an isolated point of $X$, then we define

$$I_x = \big\{f \in C(X) : \operatorname{Coz}(f) = \{x\}\big\} \cup \{0\} \subseteq C(X)$$

and put $WC_F(X) = \bigcup_{x\in I(X)} I_x$, if $I(X) \neq \emptyset$ and $WC_F(X) = \{0\}$, if $I(X) = \emptyset$. The minimal ideal in $C(X)$ is characterized in [7], it follows that for every $x \in I(X)$, $I_x$ is a minimal ideal, and $WC_F(X)$ is the union of all minimal ideal of $C(X)$. Finally we have $WC_F(X) = \big\{f \in C(X) : |\operatorname{Coz}(f)| = 0 \text{ or } 1\big\}$.

But we must begin at the beginning, with the basic definitions.

**Definition 2.1.** A nonempty subset $I$ of $R$ is called a *weak ideal* of $R$ if $RI \subseteq I$.

**Remark.** For a topological space of $X$, $WC_F(X)$ is a weak ideal in $C(X)$, but it is not necessarily ideal in $C(X)$.

**Definition 2.2.** A proper weak ideal $P$ in $R$ is called *prime* if for every $a, b \in R$, we have that $a \in P$ or $b \in P$ whenever $ab \in P$.

By the following proposition, for a topological space of $X$, if $WC_F(X)$ is a prime weak ideal, then $X$ is an almost discrete space.

**Proposition 2.1.** *For a topological space of $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$WC_F(X)$ is a prime weak ideal.*

(2) *$|X| = 2$.*

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Let $I(X) \geqslant 2$ and $a, b \in I(X)$ be different elements. There exists $f, g \in C(X)$ such that $f[X \setminus I(X)] = g[\{a, b\}] = \{1\}$ and $f(\{a\}) = g[X \setminus \{a, b\}] = \{0\}$. Then $fg \in WC_F(X)$, and $g \notin WC_F(X)$, it follows that $f \in WC_F(X)$. Hence $|X| = 2$. Now we suppose that $I(X) \lneqq 2$. If $X$ is a finite space, then $X = I(X)$. Hence $C(X) = WC_F(X)$ and we have a contradiction with $WC_F(X)$ is a prime weak ideal. Therefore we may suppose that $X$ is an infinite space. Let $a, b \in X \setminus I(X)$ be different elements. By complete regularity of $X$, there exists $f, g \in C(X)$ such that $f(a) = g(b) = 0$ and $f(b) = g(a) = 0$. Define $h = f^2 - g^2$, and consider $(h - |h|)(h + |h|) = 0$. Since $WC_F(X)$ is a prime weak ideal of $C(X)$, $h - |h| \in WC_F(X)$ or $h + |h| \in WC_F(X)$. If $h + |h| \in WC_F(X)$, then

$f^2 - g^2 + |h| \in M_b$ implies that $f^2 + |h| \in M_b$. But $M_b$ is absolutely convex, and therefore this would imply that $f \in M_b$, a contradiction. Thus $h - |h| \in WC_F(X)$. But $f^2 - g^2 - |h| \in M_b$ implies that $g^2 + |h| \in M_b$ and hence $g \in M_b$ a contradiction.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1) It is evident. □

**Proposition 2.2.** *For a topological space of $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$X$ is an almost discrete space.*

(2) $\operatorname{Ann}\big(WC_F(X)\big) = \{0\}$.

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Let $e \in \operatorname{Ann}(WC_F(X))$, then $I(X) \subseteq Z(e)$, it follows that $X = \operatorname{cl}_X(I(X)) \subseteq Z(e)$, i.e., $e = 0$

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1) We suppose that $x \in X \setminus \operatorname{cl}_X I(X)$ and get a contradiction. Then by complete regularity of $X$, there exists $g \in C(X)$ such that $g[\operatorname{cl}_X I(X)] = \{0\}$ and $g(x) = 1$. Hence it is clear that $0 \neq g \in \operatorname{Ann}(WC_F(X))$ and we get a contradiction. □

**Lemma 2.1.** *If $D$ is a dense subset of topological space $X$ such that for all $f \in F(X, \mathbb{R})\big(f|_D \in C(D)\big)$ then $D = I(X)$ and it is a discrete subspace of $X$.*

**Proof.** Let $f$ be an arbitrary function on $D$. We can extend $f$ to a function on $X$, say $g$, then by hypothesis $f = g|_D \in C(D)$. Thus $F(D, \mathbb{R}) = C(D)$, it follows that $D$ is a discrete subspace of $X$.

Since $D$ is a discrete subspace of $X$, for every $d \in D$ there exists an open subset $V$ of $X$ such that $V \cap D = \{d\}$. Thus

$$V \subseteq \operatorname{cl}_X V = \operatorname{cl}_X(V \cap D) = \operatorname{cl}_X\{d\} = \{d\} \subseteq V$$

it follows that $V = \{d\}$ is an open subset of $X$, this means that $D \subseteq I(X)$ and $D$ is an open subset of $X$. Since $D$ is a dense subset of $X$, therefore $I(X) \subseteq D$ and finally $D = I(X)$. □

**Proposition 2.3.** *For a topological space $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$X$ is an almost discrete space.*

(2) *There exists an unique dense subset $D$ of $X$ such that*

$$\forall f \in F(X, \mathbb{R})\big(f|_D \in C(D)\big)\,.$$

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) It is clear that $I(X)$ is a discrete subspace of $X$. Hence if $f \in F(X, \mathbb{R})$, then $f|_{I(X)} \in C\big(I(X)\big)$. By Lemma 2.1, we are through.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1) By Lemma 2.1, $D = I(X)$ and we are through. □

**Lemma 2.2.** *If $D$ is a dense subset of $X$, then $I(X) = I(D)$.*

**Proof.** Since $D$ is a dense subset of $X$, then $I(X) \subseteq I(D) \subseteq D$. If $d \in I(D)$, then there exists an open subset $V$ of $X$ such that $D \cap V = \{d\}$, it follows that $\big(X \setminus \{d\}\big) \cap D \cap V = \emptyset$. Since $D$ is a dense subset of $X$, then $\big(X \setminus \{d\}\big) \cap V = \emptyset$ and therefore $V = \{d\}$ is an open subset of $X$. Thus $d \in I(X)$ and we conclude that $I(X) = I(D)$. □

**Proposition 2.4.** *For a topological space of $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$X$ is an almost discrete space.*

(2) *For every dense subset $D$ in $X$, $D$ is an almost discrete space.*

(3) *There exists a dense subset $D$ in $X$ such that $D$ is an almost discrete space.*

**Proof.** By Lemma 2.2, it is evident. □

By the above proposition, $X$ is an almost discrete space if and only if $\beta X$ is an almost discrete space if and only if $\upsilon X$ is an almost discrete space.

**Proposition 2.5.** *For a topological space $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$X$ is an almost discrete space.*

(2) *For every open subset $D$ in $X$, $D$ is an almost discrete subspace of $X$.*

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Let $U$ be an open subset of $X$. Then $I(U) = I(X) \cap U$ is a dense subset of $U$.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1) It is clear. □

**Proposition 2.6.** *For a topological space $X$, if every proper closed subset in $X$ is an almost discrete subspace of $X$, then $X$ is an almost discrete space.*

**Proof.** If $X$ is finite, then $X$ is discrete space, it follows that $I(X) = X$. Now we suppose that $X$ is infinite. By hypothesis $I(X) \neq \emptyset$. Let $U$ be an open subset of $X$. If $\mathrm{cl}_X(U) = X$, then by Lemma 2.2, $I(U) = I(X) \neq \emptyset$, it follows that $X$ is an almost discrete space. Therefore we may suppose that $\mathrm{cl}_X(U) \subsetneq X$. By hypothesis $V = \mathrm{cl}_X(U)$ is an almost discrete subspace of $X$, hence $U$ has an isolated point $x$ in $V$. It is clear that $x \in I(X)$. Thus $\mathrm{cl}_X I(X) = X$, i.e., $X$ is an almost discrete space. □

**Proposition 2.7.** *Let $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ be a family topological spaces and $X = \prod_{i=1}^n X_i$ be a product space. If for every $1 \leq i \leq n$, $X_i$ is an almost discrete space, then $X$ is an almost discrete space.*

**Proof.** If $I(X_i)$ and $I(X_j)$ are dense in $X_i$ and $X_j$ respectively, then $I(X_i \times X_j) = I(X_i) \times I(X_j)$ is dense in $X_i \times X_j$ and by induction on $n$, we are through. □

**Remark.** If for every $i \in \mathbb{N}$, $X_i = \{0, 1\}$ is a discrete space, then $X = \prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} X_i$ is not almost discrete space, in fact $I(X) = \emptyset$.

It is clear that every ideal of $R$ is a weak ideal and conversely is false. It is natural to ask: when $WC_F(X)$ is an ideal.

**Proposition 2.8.** *For a topological space of $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$WC_F(X)$ is an ideal of $C(X)$.*

(2) *$|I(X)| \leq 1$.*

(3) $WC_F(X) = \bigcap_{x\in D(X)} O_x$.

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Let $a, b \in I(X)$ be different points of $X$. Then we define $f, g \in C(X)$ such that $f(a) = g(b) = 1$ and $f\big[X \setminus \{a\}\big] = g\big[X \setminus \{b\}\big] = \{0\}$. Hence $\operatorname{Coz}(f^2+g^2) = \{a, b\}$ and by hypothesis $f^2+g^2 \in WC_F(X)$, i.e., $|\operatorname{Coz}(f^2+g^2)| \leq 1$ which we have a contradiction.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (3) If $I(X) = \emptyset$, then $WC_F(X) = \bigcap_{x\in D(X)} O_x = \{0\}$.

Let $I(X) = \{a\}$. If $0 \neq f \in WC_F(X)$, then $Z(f) = X \setminus \{a\}$ is an open subset of $X$, it follows that $f \in \bigcap_{x\in D(X)} O_x$. So that if $0 \neq f \in \bigcap_{x\in D(X)} O_x$, then $D(X) \subseteq Z(f) \neq X$, i.e., $\operatorname{Coz}(f) = \{a\}$ and $f \in WC_F(X)$.

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (1) It is clear. □

By Lemma 2.2 and Proposition 2.8, the following statements are equivalent:

(1) $WC_F(X)$ is an ideal of $C(X)$.

(2) $WC_F(\beta X)$ is an ideal of $C(\beta X)$.

(3) $WC_F(\upsilon X)$ is an ideal of $C(\upsilon X)$.

## 3. Essential weak ideals of $C(X)$

An ideal of $R$ is called *essential* if it intersects every nonzero ideal nontrivially. In the theory of rings, many structure results were obtained with the help of essential ideals, and the socle of a commutative ring is the intersection of all essential ideals, see [5].

One of the main aims of this section is to show that $WC_F(X)$ is an essential weak ideal of $C(X)$ if and only if $X$ is an almost discrete space and also we study the intersection essential weak ideals of $C(X)$.

But we must begin with the basic definition, such as essential weak ideal.

**Definition 3.1.** A weak ideal of a ring $R$ is called *essential* if it intersects every nonzero weak ideal nontrivially.

**Proposition 3.1.** *If $A$ is a nonzero weak ideal in $C(X)$, then the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$A$ is essential weak ideal in $C(X)$.*

(2) $\operatorname{Ann}(A) = \{0\}$.

(3) *$\bigcap Z[A]$ is a nowhere dense subset of $X$.*

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) It is clear that $(\operatorname{Ann}(A) \cap A)^2 = \{0\}$, implies that $\operatorname{Ann}(A) \cap A = \{0\}$. Hence $\operatorname{Ann}(A) = \{0\}$.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (3) Suppose the interior of $\bigcap Z[A]$ is nonempty set. If $x \in \operatorname{int}_X \bigcap Z[A]$, then by the complete regularity of $X$, there is $g \in C(X)$ such that $g(x) = 1$ and $g\big[X \setminus \operatorname{int}_X \bigcap Z[A]\big] = \{0\}$. Thus for every $f \in A$ we have $fg = 0$, i.e., $\operatorname{Ann}(A) \neq \{0\}$, a contradiction.

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (1) Let $B$ be a nonzero weak ideal in $C(X)$ and $0 \neq g \in B$. It is clear that $X \setminus \bigcap Z[A]$ is open and dense in $X$. Then $\big(X \setminus Z[g]\big) \cap \big(X \setminus \bigcap Z[A]\big) \neq \emptyset$, it follows that there is a $f \in A$ for which $\big(X \setminus Z[g]\big) \cap \big(X \setminus Z[f]\big) \neq \emptyset$. Therefore $Z[fg] \neq X$, i.e., $0 \neq fg \in A \cap B$. Hence $A$ is essential weak ideal in $C(X)$. □

**Corollary 3.1.** *The ideal (weak ideal) $E$ is essential ideal (weak ideal) in $C(X)$ if and only if* $\operatorname{int}_X \bigcap Z[E] = \emptyset$.

**Proposition 3.2.** *For a topological space of $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$WC_F(X)$ is an essential weak ideal of $C(X)$.*

(2) *$X$ is an almost discrete space.*

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Let $G$ be a proper nonempty open subset of $X$. Then

$$I = \big\{ f \in C(X) : X \setminus G \subseteq Z(f) \big\}$$

is a nonzero ideal of $C(X)$ and by hypothesis there exists $0 \neq f \in WC_F(X) \cap I$. Hence $\operatorname{Coz}(f) \subseteq I(X) \cap G$ and we are through.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1) Let $I$ be a nonzero weak ideal and $0 \neq f \in I$, then by hypothesis

$$\operatorname{Coz}(f) \cap \Big( X \setminus \bigcap Z\big[WC_F(X)\big] \Big) = \operatorname{Coz}(f) \cap I(X) \neq \emptyset$$

this implies that there exists $g \in WC_F(X)$ such that $\operatorname{Coz}(f) \cap \operatorname{Coz}(g) \neq \emptyset$. Hence $Z(fg) \neq X$, i.e., $0 \neq fg \in WC_F(X) \cap I$. □

**Proposition 3.3.** *For a topological space of $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *$\bigcup_{x \in X} O_x$ is an essential weak ideal in $C(X)$.*

(2) *For every $0 \neq f \in C(X)$, if $f$ is not unit then there exists $0 \neq g \in C(X)$ such that* $\operatorname{int}_X Z(fg) \neq \emptyset$.

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Let $0 \neq f \in C(X)$ and it is not unit. Then $fC(X) \cap \big( \bigcup_{x \in X} O_x \big) \neq \{0\}$, it follows that there exists $g \in C(X)$ such that $fg \in \bigcup_{x \in X} O_x$. Therefore there exists $x \in X$ such that $x \in \operatorname{int}_X Z(fg) \neq \emptyset$.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1) Let $I \neq \{0\}$ be a proper weak ideal in $C(X)$. If $0 \neq f \in I$, then there exists $0 \neq g \in C(X)$ and $x \in X$ such that $x \in \operatorname{int}_X Z(fg)$, it follows that $fg \in I \cap \big( \bigcup_{x \in X} O_x \big)$. Hence $\bigcup_{x \in X} O_x$ is an essential weak ideal in $C(X)$. □

In the following example we show that there exists weak ideal in $C(X)$ such that $Z[I]$ is closed under finite intersection, but it is not ideal in $C(X)$.

**Example 1.** Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\ln(x)} & x \gneqq 0 \\ x & x \leqq 0 \end{cases} \qquad \text{and} \qquad g(x) = \begin{cases} x & x \geqq 0 \\ \frac{1}{\ln(-x)} & x \lneqq 0 \end{cases}.$$

Then $\lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = -\infty$ and $\lim_{x \to 0^-} \frac{g(x)}{f(x)} = +\infty$. Thus $f \notin gC(X)$ and $g \notin fC(X)$. Let $I = fC(X) \cup gC(X)$, then $I$ is a weak ideal in $C(X)$, but $I$ is not ideal in $C(X)$, for if $f + g \in I$, then there exists $h \in C(X)$ such that $f + g = fh$ or $f + g = gh$, it follows that $g = (h-1)f \in fC(X)$ or $f = (h-1)g \in gC(X)$, which we have a contradiction. Also since $Z(ff_1) \cap Z(gg_1) = Z\big(f(f_1^2 + g_1^2)\big)$, hence $Z[I]$ is closed under finite intersection.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let $J$ be a weak ideal of $C(X)$ and $A = \bigcap_{f\in J} \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)$. If $Z[J]$ is closed under finite intersection then $O^A \subseteq J$, where $O^A = \{f \in C(X) : A \subseteq \mathrm{int}_{\beta X} \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)\}$.*

**Proof.** Let $g \in O^A$. By Lemma 1.1 in [3], there exists an open neighborhood $U$ of $A$ with $U \cap X \subseteq Z(g)$. For each $y \in \beta X \setminus U$. We can find an $f_y \in J$ so that $y \notin \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f_y)$. Since $\beta X$ is regular we may choose a neighborhood $U_y$ of $y$ disjoint from $\mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f_y)$. The $U_y$'s cover the compact set $\beta X \setminus U$ so for some $y_1, \ldots, y_n \in \beta X$, $\beta X \setminus U \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n U_{y_i}$. By hypothesis there exists $f \in J$ such that $Z(f) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n Z(f_{y_i})$ so that $\mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f_{y_i})$ and hence

$$(\beta X\setminus U)\cap \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f) \subseteq \Big(\bigcup_{i=1}^n U_{y_i}\Big)\cap\Big(\bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f_{y_i})\Big) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n \big(U_{y_i}\cap \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f_{y_i})\big) = \emptyset\,.$$

This means $Z(f) \subseteq X\cap \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f) \subseteq U\cap X \subseteq Z(g)$, it follows that $Z(f) \subseteq \mathrm{int}_X Z(g)$. By Problem $1D(1)$ in [4], there exists $h \in C(X)$ with $g = fh \in J$, so $O^A \subseteq J$. □

**Corollary 3.2.** *If $J$ is an ideal of $C(X)$ and $A = \bigcap_{f\in J} \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)$, $O^A \subseteq J \subseteq M^A$, where $M^A = \{f \in C(X) : A \subseteq \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)\}$.*

**Proof.** Since $Z[J]$ is closed under finite intersection, be Lemma 3.1, we are through. □

We need the following lemma which is proved in [3].

**Lemma 3.2.** *For a topological space of $X$, if $A \subseteq \beta X$,*

$$\bigcap_{f\in O^A} \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f) = \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} A = \bigcap_{f\in M^A} \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)$$

*and if $O^A \subseteq M^B$, $\mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} B \subseteq \mathrm{cl}_{\beta X} A$.*

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let $\lambda$ be a cardinal number and $X$ be a compact space. If every intersection of a family $\mathcal{A}$ of essential weak ideals in $C(X)$ with $|\mathcal{A}| \leq \lambda$ is an essential ideal in $C(X)$, then every union of a family $\mathcal{V}$ of nowhere dense subset in $X$ with $|\mathcal{V}| \leq \lambda$ is nowhere dense subset of $X$.*

**Proof.** Let $\{V_i\}_{i\in I}$ be a family of nowhere dense subset of $X$ with $|I| \leq \lambda$ and $V = \bigcup_{i\in I} V_i$. By Lemma 3.2, $\bigcap Z[O^{V_i}] = \mathrm{cl}_X V_i$. Since $\mathrm{int}_X \mathrm{cl}_X V_i = \emptyset$, by Corollary 3.1, $O^{V_i}$ is an essential weak ideal of $C(X)$. So that by our hypothesis $E = \bigcap_{i\in I} O^{V_i} = O^V$ is an essential weak ideal of $C(X)$, hence again by Lemma 3.2 and Corollary 3.1, $\bigcap Z[E] = \mathrm{cl}_X V$ and $\mathrm{int}_X \mathrm{cl}_X V = \emptyset$, it follows that $V$ is nowhere dense subset of $X$. □

**Proposition 3.5.** *Let $\lambda$ be a cardinal number and $X$ be a compact space. If every union of a family $\mathcal{V}$ of nowhere dense subset in $X$ with $|\mathcal{V}| \leq \lambda$ is nowhere dense subset of $X$, then every intersection of a family $\{A_i\}_{i\in I}$ of essential weak ideals in $C(X)$ with $|I| \leq \lambda$ such that for every $i \in I$, $Z[A_i]$ is closed under finite intersection is an essential ideal in $C(X)$.*

**Proof.** Let $\{A_i\}_{i\in I}$ be a family of essential weak ideals in $C(X)$ with $|I| \leq \lambda$ such that for every $i \in I$, $Z[A_i]$ is closed under finite intersection. We put for each $i \in I$, $V_i = \bigcap Z[A_i]$ and $V = \bigcup_{i\in I} V_i$. Hence by Corollary 3.1, for each $i \in I$, $\operatorname{int}_X \operatorname{cl}_X V_i = \operatorname{int}_X \bigcap Z[A_i] = \emptyset$, i.e., $V_i$ is a nowhere dense subset of $X$. By Lemma 3.1, $O^{V_i} \subseteq A_i$ and hence $O^V = \bigcap_{i\in I} O^{V_i} \subseteq \bigcap_{i\in I} A_i$. Now we have by Lemma 3.2, $\bigcap Z[O^V] = \operatorname{cl}_X V$ and since by our hypothesis $V$ is nowhere dense subset of $X$, then $O^V$ is an essential weak ideal of $C(X)$, it follows that $\bigcap_{i\in I} A_i$ is an essential weak ideal of $C(X)$. □

The following result the consequence of Proposition 3.4 and 3.5.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let $\lambda$ be a cardinal number. For a compact space $X$, the following statements are equivalent:*

(1) *If $\{A_i\}_{i\in I}$ is a family of essential ideals in $C(X)$ and $|I| \leq \lambda$, then $\bigcap_{i\in I} A_i$ is essential ideal in $C(X)$.*

(2) *If $\{V_i\}_{i\in I}$ is a family of nowhere dense subset of $X$ and $|I| \leq \lambda$, then $\bigcup_{i\in I} V_i$ is nowhere dense subset of $X$.*

By the above proposition, for a compact space $X$, every countable intersection of essential ideals in $C(X)$ is an essential ideal in $C(X)$ if and only if every first category subset of $X$ is nowhere dense subset in $X$.

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