

On Generalised β -Connectedness In Isotonic Spaces

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Abstract : The purpose of this paper is to define and study β connectedness and β separated sets in generalized β closure spaces and discuss their properties. The notion of Z connectedness and strongly connectedness in isotonic spaces are also analysed.

Keywords: Generalized β closure spaces, β connectedness, β separated sets, Z connectedness, strongly connectedness.

I. Introduction & Preliminaries

The structure of closure spaces is more general than that of topological spaces. Hammer studied closure spaces extensively and a recent study on these spaces can be found in Stadler [8,9], Harris[5],Habil and Elzenati [4].The following definition of a generalized closure space can be found in [4] and [9].Let X be a set, $\wp(X)$ be its power set and $cl: \wp(X) \rightarrow \wp(X)$ be any arbitrary set valued – function, called a closure function. We call (X, cl) , $A \subseteq X$, the closure of A and we call the pair (X, cl) a generalized closure space.

An operator $cl: P(X) \rightarrow P(X)$ is called **grounded** if $cl(\phi) = \phi$, **isotonic** if $A \subseteq B \subseteq X$ implies $cl(A) \subseteq cl(B)$, **expansive** if $A \subseteq cl(A)$ for every $A \subseteq X$, **idempotent** if $cl(cl(A)) = cl(A)$ for every $A \subseteq X$ and **additive** if $cl(A \cup B) \subseteq cl(A) \cup cl(B)$ for all subsets A and B of X .

Definition: 1.1.

- (i) The space (X, cl) is said to be **isotonic** if cl is grounded and isotonic.
- (ii) The space (X, cl) is said to be a **neighborhood space** if cl is grounded, expansive and isotonic.
- (iii) The space (X, cl) is said to be a **closure space** if cl is grounded, expansive, isotonic and idempotent.
- (iv) The space (X, cl) is said to be a **Cech closure space** if cl is grounded, expansive, isotonic and additive.
- (v) A subset A of X is said to be **closed** if $cl(A) = A$. It is open if its complement is closed.

II. Generalized β -Closure Space

Definition 2.1:

- (1) A generalized β -closure space is a pair $(X, \beta cl)$ consisting of a set X and a β -closure function βcl , a function from the power set of X to itself.
- (2) The β -closure of a subset A of X , denoted βcl , is the image of A under βcl .
- (3) The β -exterior of A is $\beta Ext(A) = X \setminus \beta cl(A)$, and the β -Interior of A is $\beta Int(A) = X \setminus \beta cl(X \setminus A)$.
- (4) A is β -closed if $A = \beta cl(A)$, A is β -open if $A = \beta Int(A)$ and N is a β -neighborhood of x if $x \in \beta Int(N)$.

Definition 2.2: We say that a β -closure function βcl defined on X is:

- (1) β -grounded if $\beta cl(\phi) = \phi$
- (2) β -isotonic if $\beta cl(A) \subseteq \beta cl(B)$ whenever $A \subseteq B$
- (3) β -enlarging if $A \subseteq \beta cl(A)$ for each subset A of X
- (4) β -idempotent if $\beta cl(A) = \beta cl(\beta cl(A))$ for each subset A of X
- (5) β -sub-linear if $\beta cl(A \cup B) \subseteq \beta cl(A) \cup \beta cl(B)$ for all $A, B \subseteq X$
- (6) β -additive if $\bigcup_{i \in I} \beta cl(A_i) = \beta cl(\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i)$ for $A_i \subseteq X$

III. β – Separated Sets

Definition 3.1:In an generalized β -closure space $(X, \beta cl)$, two subsets $A, B \subseteq X$ are called β -separated if $\beta cl(A) \cap B = A \cap \beta cl(B) = \phi$.

Proposition 3.2: In an generalized β -closure space $(X, \beta cl)$, the following two conditions are equivalent for all $A, B \subseteq X$:

1. A, B are β -separated.

2. There are $U \in N(A)$ and $V \in N(B)$ such that $A \cap V = U \cap B = \phi$.

Proof: By the definition of neighborhood if there exists U, V such that $A \subseteq \beta \text{ int}(U)$,

$B \subseteq \beta \text{ int}(V)$, $A \cap V = \phi$, and $U \cap B = \phi$. We know that $A \cap V = \phi$ implies $V \subseteq X \setminus A$ and by isotonic property $B \subseteq \beta \text{ int}(V) \subseteq \beta \text{ int}(X \setminus A)$. Then $X \setminus \beta \text{ int}(X \setminus A) \subseteq X \setminus \beta \text{ int}(V)$ implies $\beta \text{ cl}(A) \subseteq X \setminus \beta \text{ int}(V) \subseteq X \setminus B$ and thus $\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap B = \phi$. Similarly $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) = \phi$.

Now suppose A and B are β -separated. Then $\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap B = \phi$ if and only if $B \subseteq X \setminus \beta \text{ cl}(A) = \beta \text{ int}(X \setminus A)$, i.e., $X \setminus A \in N(B)$. Thus there is $V \in N(B)$ such that $A \cap V = \phi$.

Similarly we have $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) = \phi$ if and only if $X \setminus B \in N(A)$, i.e., there is $U \in N(A)$ with $U \cap B = \phi$.

Proposition 3.3: Let $(X, \beta \text{ cl})$, be an generalized β -closure space and let $A, B \subseteq Y \subseteq X$. Then A and B are β -separated in $(X, \beta \text{ cl})$ if and only if A and B are β -separated in $(Y, \beta \text{ cl}_Y)$.

Proof. Suppose $A, B \subseteq Y$ and they are β -separated in X . Then we have $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) = \phi$ implies $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) \cap Y = A \cap \beta \text{ cl}_Y(B) = \phi$. and $\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap B = \phi$ implies $\beta \text{ cl}_Y(A) \cap B = \phi$.

Conversely, If A and B are β -separated in Y . Assume $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}_Y(B) = \phi$.

We have $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}_Y(B) = A \cap Y \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) = A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) = \phi$ since $A \subseteq Y$. Hence $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) = \beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap B = \phi$.

Proposition 3.4: In neighborhood spaces let $f : (X, \beta \text{ cl}) \rightarrow (Y, \beta \text{ cl})$ be β -continuous and suppose $A, B \subseteq Y$ are β -separated. Then $f^{-1}(A)$ and $f^{-1}(B)$ are β -separated.

Proof. Suppose A and B are β -separated in Y then we have $\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap B = \phi$ and $A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(B) = \phi$ we now prove that $f^{-1}(A)$ and $f^{-1}(B)$ are β separated in X . Let us take $\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap B = \phi$. Then

$f^{-1}(\beta \text{ cl}(A)) \cap f^{-1}(B) = \phi$. Since f is β continuous, $\beta \text{ cl}(f^{-1}(A)) \subseteq f^{-1}(\beta \text{ cl}(A))$, hence

$\beta \text{ cl}(f^{-1}(A)) \cap f^{-1}(B) \subseteq f^{-1}(\beta \text{ cl}(A)) \cap f^{-1}(B)$ implies $\beta \text{ cl}(f^{-1}(A)) \cap f^{-1}(B) = \phi$.

Similarly $\beta \text{ cl}(B) \cap A = \phi$ implies $\beta \text{ cl}(f^{-1}(B)) \cap f^{-1}(A) = \phi$. Hence $f^{-1}(A)$ and $f^{-1}(B)$ are β -separated.

IV. β connectedness

Definition 4.1: A set $Y \in P(X)$ is β -connected in a generalized β closure space $(X, \beta \text{ cl})$ if it is not a disjoint union of a nontrivial β -separated pair of sets $A, Y \setminus A, A \neq \phi, Y$.

Definition 4.2: Let $(X, \beta \text{ cl})$ be a space and $x \in X$. The component $C(x)$ of x in X is the union of all β -connected subsets of X containing x .

Theorem 4.3: A set $Z \in P(X)$ is β -connected in an generalized β closure space $(X, \beta \text{ cl})$ if and only if for each proper subset $A \subseteq Z$ holds $[\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap (Z \setminus A)] \cup [\beta \text{ cl}(Z \setminus A) \cap A] \neq \phi$. This is known as Hausdorff-Lennes condition.

Definition 4.4 : Connectedness is closely related to separation .Two sets $A, B \in P(X)$ are β -separated if there are β -neighborhoods $N' \in N(A)$ and $N'' \in N(B)$ such that $A \cap N' = N'' \cap B = \phi$; they are β separated if there are β -neighborhoods $N' \in N(A)$ and $N'' \in N(B)$ such that $N' \cap N'' = \phi$.

Theorem 4.5: A neighborhood space $(X, \beta \text{ cl})$ is β connected if and only if there are no nonempty disjoint β -open (closed) sets H and K in X with $X = H \cup K$.

Proof : Suppose that X is β -disconnected. Then $X = H \cup K$, where H, K are β -separated, disjoint sets. Since $H \cap \beta \text{ cl}(K) = \phi$, we have $\beta \text{ cl}(K) \subseteq X \setminus H \subseteq K$ and then, by definition of expanding $\beta \text{ cl}(K) = K$. Since $\beta \text{ cl}(H) \cap K = \phi$, a similarly H is a β -closed set.

Conversely, suppose that H and K are disjoint β -open sets such that $X = H \cup K$.

Now $K = X \setminus H$, and H is an β -open set, hence K is a β -closed set. Thus $H \cap \beta \text{ cl}(K) =$

$H \cap K = \phi$. Similarly $\beta \text{ cl}(H) \cap K = \phi$. Thus H and K are β -separated and therefore X is β disconnected.

Proposition 4.6: If X and Y are β -connected in an generalized β closure space $(X, \beta \text{ cl})$ and $X \cap Y = \phi$, then $X \cup Y$ is β -connected.

Proof: We use the Hausdorff-Lennes condition

$$\begin{aligned} & [\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap (Y \cup Z) \setminus A] \cup [A \cap \beta \text{ cl}((Y \cup Z) \setminus A)] = \\ & [\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap (Y \setminus A)] \cup [\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap (Z \setminus A)] \cup [A \cap \beta \text{ cl}((Y \setminus A) \cup (Z \setminus A))] \supseteq \\ & \{ [\beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap (Y \setminus A)] \cup [A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(Y \setminus A)] \} \cup \{ [A \cap \beta \text{ cl}(Z \setminus A)] \cup \beta \text{ cl}(A) \cap (Z \setminus A) \} \end{aligned}$$

If $A \cap Y$ or $A \cap Z$ is a proper subset of Y or Z , then one of the expression is non empty .Both the expressions are empty if and only if either $A=Z$ and $A \cap Y = \phi$ or $A \cap Z = \phi$ and $A=Y$. This is impossible if $Y \cap Z \neq \phi$

Theorem 4.7: If $(X, \beta cl)$ is a neighborhood space then $\beta cl(Z)$ is β -connected whenever Z is β -connected.

Proof: Set $A' = Z \cap A$ and $A'' = A \setminus Z$. We then use the Hausdorff-Lennes condition

$$[\beta cl(A) \cap (\beta cl(Z) \setminus A)] \cup [\beta cl(\beta cl(Z) \setminus A) \cap A] \supseteq [(\beta cl(A') \cup \beta cl(A'')) \cup (Z \setminus A')] \cup [\beta cl(Z - A') \cap (A' \cup A'')] \supseteq \{ [\beta cl(A') \cap (Z \setminus A')] \cup [\beta cl(Z \setminus A') \cap A'] \} \cup [\beta cl(Z - A') \cap A'']$$

Here we have used $Z - A \subseteq (\beta cl(Z) \setminus A) \setminus A'$ which is true only if $A \subseteq \beta cl(A)$ holds. If $A' \neq \emptyset$ then the term in the braces is nonempty because Z is β connected. By assumption if $A' = \emptyset$ then $A'' \subseteq \beta cl(Z) \setminus Z$ is nonempty and hence $\beta cl(Z \setminus A') \cap A'' = \beta cl(Z) \cap A'' = \emptyset$. Thus $\beta cl(Z)$ is β -connected.

Theorem 4.8: If $f : (X, \beta cl) \rightarrow (Y, \beta cl)$ is a β -continuous function between neighborhood spaces, and A is β connected in X , then $f(A)$ is β -connected in Y .

Proof : Suppose $f(A)$ is not β connected. Then $f(A) = U \cup V$, where U and V are β -separated and non-empty. Thus $f^{-1}(U)$ and $f^{-1}(V)$ are β -separated. Clearly $A' = A \cap f^{-1}(U)$ and $A'' = A \cap f^{-1}(V)$ are both non-empty and also β -separated. Further $A' \cup A'' = A$ and hence A is not β -connected.

Theorem 4.9: Let $(X, \beta cl)$ be a generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic β -enlarging βcl . Then, the following are equivalent:

- (1) $(X, \beta cl)$ is β -connected,
- (2) X cannot be a union of nonempty disjoint β open sets.

Proof : (1) \Rightarrow (2): Let X be a union of nonempty disjoint β -open sets A and B . Then, $X = A \cup B$ and this implies that $B = X \setminus A$ and A is a β -open set. Thus, B is β -closed and hence $A \cap \beta cl(B) = A \cap B = \emptyset$. Likewise, we obtain $\beta cl(A) \cap B = \emptyset$. Hence, A and B are β -closure-separated and hence X is not β -connected. This is a contradiction.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Suppose that X is not β -connected. Then $X = A \cup B$, where A, B are disjoint β -separated sets, i.e $A \cap \beta cl(B) = \beta cl(A) \cap B = \emptyset$. We have $\beta cl(B) \subset X \setminus A \subset B$. Since βcl is β -enlarging, we get $\beta cl(B) = B$ and hence, B is β -closed. By using $\beta cl(A) \cap B = \emptyset$. and similarly, it is obvious that A is β -closed. This is a contradiction.

Definition 4.10: Let $(X, \beta cl)$ be a generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl . Then, $(X, \beta cl)$ is called a T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic space if $\beta cl(\{x\}) \subset \{x\}$ for all $x \in X$.

Theorem 4.11: Let $(X, \beta cl)$ be a generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl . Then, the following are equivalent:

- (1) $(X, \beta cl)$ is β -connected,
- (2) Any β -continuous function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is constant for all T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic spaces $Y = \{0, 1\}$.

Proof : (1) \Rightarrow (2): Let X be β - connected. Suppose that $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is β - continuous and it is not constant. Then there exists a set $U \subset X$ such that $U = f^{-1}(\{0\})$ and $X \setminus U = f^{-1}(\{1\})$. Since f is β continuous and Y is T_1 - β - grounded β -isotonic space, then we have $\beta cl(U) = \beta cl(f^{-1}(\{0\})) \subset f^{-1}(\beta cl\{0\}) \subset f^{-1}(\{0\}) = U$ and hence $\beta cl(U) \cap (X \setminus U) = \emptyset$. Similarly we have $U \cap \beta cl(X \setminus U) = \emptyset$. This is a contradiction. Thus, f is constant.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Suppose that X is not β connected. Then there exist β -closure- separated sets U and V such that $U \cup V = X$. We have $\beta cl(U) \subset U$ and $\beta cl(V) \subset V$ and $X \setminus U \subset V$. Since βcl is β -isotonic and U and V are β - closure-separated, then $\beta cl(X \setminus U) \subset \beta cl(V) \subset X \setminus U$. If we consider the space $(Y, \beta cl)$ by $Y = \{0, 1\}$, $\beta cl(\emptyset) = \emptyset, \beta cl(\{0\}) = \{0\}$, $\beta cl(\{1\}) = \{1\}$ and $\beta cl(Y) = Y$, then the space $(Y, \beta cl)$ is a T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic space. We define the function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ as $f(U) = \{0\}$ and $f(X \setminus U) = \{1\}$. Let $A \neq \emptyset$ and $A \subset Y$. If $A = Y$, then $f^{-1}(A) = X$ and hence $\beta cl(X) = \beta cl(f^{-1}(A)) \subset X = f^{-1}(A) = f^{-1}(\beta cl(A))$.

If $A = \{0\}$, then $f^{-1}(A) = U$ and hence $\beta cl(U) = \beta cl(f^{-1}(A)) \subset U = f^{-1}(A) = f^{-1}(\beta cl(A))$. If $A = \{1\}$, then $f^{-1}(A) = X \setminus U$ and hence

$\beta cl(X \setminus U) = \beta cl(f^{-1}(A)) \subset X \setminus U = f^{-1}(A) = f^{-1}(\beta cl(A))$. Hence, f is β continuous. Since f is not constant, this is a contradiction.

Theorem 4.12: Let $f : (X, \beta cl) \rightarrow (Y, \beta cl)$ and $g : (Y, \beta cl) \rightarrow (Z, \beta cl)$ be β continuous functions. Then, $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$ is β continuous.

Proof : Suppose that f and g are β continuous. For all $A \subset Z$ we have $\beta cl(g \circ f)^{-1}(A) = \beta cl(f^{-1}(g^{-1}(A))) \subset f^{-1}(\beta cl(g^{-1}(A))) \subset f^{-1}(g^{-1}(\beta cl(A)))$

$= (\text{gof})^{-1}(\beta\text{cl}(A))$. Hence, $\text{gof} : X \rightarrow Z$ is β continuous.

Theorem 4.13: Let $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ and $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be generalized β -closure spaces with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl and $f : (X, \beta\text{cl}) \rightarrow (Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be a β continuous function onto Y . If X is β connected, then Y is β connected.

Proof : Let us suppose that $\{0, 1\}$ is a generalized β -closure spaces with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl and $g : Y \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is a β continuous function. Since f is β continuous, $\text{gof} : X \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is β continuous. Since X is β -connected, gof is constant and hence g is constant. Therefore Y is β connected.

Definition 4.14: Let $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be a generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl and more than one element. A generalized β -closure space $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl is called $Y - \beta$ connected if any β -continuous function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is constant.

Theorem 4.15: Let $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be a generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic β -enlarging βcl and more than one element. Then every $Y - \beta$ connected generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic is β connected.

Proof : Let $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ be a $Y - \beta$ connected generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl . Suppose that $f : X \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is a β continuous function, where $\{0, 1\}$ is a T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic space. Since Y is a generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic β -enlarging βcl and more than one element, then there exists a β continuous injection

$g : \{0, 1\} \rightarrow Y$. $\text{gof} : X \rightarrow Y$ is β continuous. Since X is $Y - \beta$ connected, then gof is constant. Thus, f is constant and hence, by theorem 5.11 X is β connected.

Theorem 4.16: Let $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ and $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be generalized β -closure spaces with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl and $f : (X, \beta\text{cl}) \rightarrow (Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be a β continuous function onto Y . If X is $Z - \beta$ connected, then Y is $Z - \beta$ connected.

Proof : Suppose that $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ is a β continuous function. Then $\text{gof} : X \rightarrow Z$ is β continuous. Since X is $Z - \beta$ connected, then gof is constant. This implies that g is constant. Thus, Y is $Z - \beta$ connected.

5. Strongly \square Connected Spaces

Definition 5.1: A generalized β -closure space $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ is strongly β connected if there is no countable collection of pairwise β -closure-separated sets $\{A_n\}$ such that $X = \cup A_n$.

Theorem 5.2: Every strongly β connected generalized β closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl is β connected.

Theorem 5.3: Let $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ and $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be generalized β -closure spaces with β -grounded β -isotonic βcl and $f : (X, \beta\text{cl}) \rightarrow (Y, \beta\text{cl})$ be a β -continuous function onto Y . If X is strongly β connected, then Y is strongly β -connected.

Proof : Suppose that Y is not strongly β -connected. Then, there exists a countable collection of pairwise β -closure-separated sets $\{A_n\}$ such that $Y = \cup A_n$. Since $f^{-1}(A_n) \cap \beta\text{cl}(f^{-1}(A_m))$

$\subset f^{-1}(A_n) \cap f^{-1}(\beta\text{cl}(A_m)) = \phi$ for all $n \neq m$, then the collection $\{f^{-1}(A_n)\}$ is pairwise β -closure-separated. This is a contradiction. Hence, Y is strongly β -connected.

Theorem 5.4: Let $(X, \beta\text{cl}_X)$ and $(Y, \beta\text{cl}_Y)$ be generalized β -closure spaces. Then, the following are equivalent for a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$

(1) f is β -continuous,

(2) $f^{-1}(\beta\text{Int}(B)) \subseteq \beta\text{Int}(f^{-1}(B))$ for each $B \subseteq Y$.

Theorem 5.5: Let $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ be a generalized β -closure space with β -grounded β -isotonic β -additive βcl . Then $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ is strongly β -connected if and only if $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ $Y - \beta$ -connected for any countable T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic space $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$.

Proof : (\Rightarrow): Let $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ be strongly β -connected. Suppose that $(X, \beta\text{cl})$ is not $Y - \beta$ -connected for some countable T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic space $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$. There exists a β continuous function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ which is not constant and hence $K = f(X)$ is a countable set with more than one element. For each $y_n \in K$, there exists $U_n \subseteq X$ such that $U_n = f^{-1}(\{y_n\})$ and hence $Y = \cup U_n$.

Since f is β -continuous and Y is β -grounded, then for each $n \neq m$, $U_n \cap \beta\text{cl}(U_m) = f^{-1}(\{y_n\}) \cap \beta\text{cl}(f^{-1}(\{y_m\})) \subset f^{-1}(\{y_n\}) \cap f^{-1}(\beta\text{Cl}(\{y_m\})) \subset f^{-1}(\{y_n\}) \cap f^{-1}(\{y_m\}) = \phi$. This contradicts the strong β -connectedness of X . Thus, X is

$Y - \beta$ connected.

(\Leftarrow): Let X be $Y - \beta$ connected for any countable T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic space $(Y, \beta\text{cl})$. Suppose that

X is not strongly β -connected. There exists a countable collection of pairwise β -closure-separated sets $\{U_n\}$ such that $X = \cup U_n$. Consider the space $(Z, \beta cl)$, where Z is the set of integers and $\beta cl : P(Z) \rightarrow P(Z)$ is defined by $\beta cl(K) = K$ for each $K \subset Z$. Clearly $(Z, \beta cl)$ is a countable T_1 - β -grounded β -isotonic space. Put $U_k \in \{U_n\}$. We define a function

$f: X \rightarrow Z$ by $f(U_k) = \{x\}$ and $f(X \setminus U_k) = \{y\}$ where $x, y \in Z$ and $x \neq y$. Since $\beta cl(U_k) \cap U_n = \emptyset$ for all $n \neq k$, then $\beta cl(U_k) \cap \cup_{n \neq k} U_n = \emptyset$ and hence $\beta cl(U_k) \subset U_k$. Let

$\emptyset \neq K \subset Z$. If $x, y \in K$ then $f^{-1}(K) = X$ and $\beta cl(f^{-1}(K)) = \beta cl(X) \subset X = f^{-1}(K)$

$= f^{-1}(\beta cl(K))$. If $x \in K$ and $y \notin K$, then $f^{-1}(K) = U_k$ and $\beta cl(f^{-1}(K)) = \beta cl(U_k) \subset U_k$

$= f^{-1}(K) = f^{-1}(\beta cl(K))$. If $y \in K$ and $x \notin K$ then $f^{-1}(K) = X \setminus U_k$. On the other hand, for all $n \neq k$, $U_k \cap \beta cl(U_n) = \emptyset$ and hence $U_k \cap \cup_{n \neq k} \beta cl(U_n) = \emptyset$. This implies that

$U_k \cap \beta cl(\cup_{n \neq k} U_n) = \emptyset$. Thus, $\beta cl(X \setminus U_k) \subset X \setminus U_k$. Since $\beta cl(K) = K$ for each $K \subset Z$, we have $\beta cl(f^{-1}(K)) = \beta cl(X \setminus U_k) \subset X \setminus U_k = f^{-1}(K) = f^{-1}(\beta cl(K))$. Hence we obtain that f is β -continuous. Since f is not constant, this is a contradiction with the Z - β connectedness of X . Hence, X is strongly β -connected.

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