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Epimorphisms and cowellpoweredness of epireflective subcategories of Top

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**Abstract.** A functor  $F_A: \text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Top}$  induced by a given epireflective subcategory  $A$  of the category  $\text{Top}$  of topological spaces is used to characterize epimorphisms in some familiar epireflective subcategories of  $\text{Top}$  and to solve for these subcategories, the problem of the cowell-poweredness. Furthermore an ordinal number  $EO_A(X)$ , for each  $X \in \text{Top}$ , is introduced and it is computed in several examples. As an application it is shown that there is no epireflective subcategory of  $\text{Top}$  which is properly contained in the subcategory  $\text{Top}_2$  of all Hausdorff spaces and whose extremal epireflective hull is  $\text{Top}_2$ .

1. In 1975 Salbany ([14]) introduced a closure operation  $[ ]_A: 2^X \rightarrow 2^X$  defined on subsets of a topological space  $X$  by a class  $A$  of topological spaces. In 1980 Giuli ([6]) used that closure operation to study epireflections in epireflective subcategories of  $\text{Top}$ . He pointed out that epimorphisms in an epireflective subcategory  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$  are precisely the continuous maps which are dense with respect to  $[ ]_A$ . Recently Dikranjan and Giuli ([4]) characterized  $[ ]_A$  for some familiar epireflective subcategories  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$ . They showed that, as in the classical case of Hausdorff spaces, the closure operation  $[ ]_A$  characterizes the spaces  $X$  of  $A$  in terms of the  $A$ -closure of the diagonal  $\Delta_X$  for  $A = \text{Top}_0, FT_2, \text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}, P(0\text{-dim})$ , (see 1.1 below).

In this paper we will use the previous closure operation to define, for each epireflective subcategory  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$ , a functor  $F_A: \text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Top}$ . Then some sufficient conditions for the cowellpoweredness of  $A$  are given and they are used to answer the question of the cowellpoweredness of some epireflective subcategories of  $\text{Top}$ . Furthermore an ordinal number  $EO_A(X)$  (called epimorphic order of  $X$  with

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respect to  $A$  is introduced for each  $X \in \text{Top}$  and in several examples it is computed. Iterations of the functor  $F_A$  and the relation with the  $A$ -reflection functor are also studied.

We will use the previous closure operation in a forthcoming paper for a new approach to the study of  $A$ -minimal and  $A$ -closed spaces ([5]).

1.1. The following subcategories of  $\text{Top}$  are symbolized as follows

$\text{Top}_i$  = the subcategory of topological spaces satisfying the  $T_i$ -axiom ( $i=0,1,2$ )

$\text{FT}_2$  = The subcategory of functionally Hausdorff spaces, i.e., spaces  $X$  such that for any two different points  $x_1, x_2$  there exists a continuous map  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ .

$\text{Top}_3$  = The subcategory of regular Hausdorff spaces.

$P(\text{Top}_3)$  = The subcategory consisting of spaces whose topology is finer than a regular Hausdorff topology.

$\text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}$  = The subcategory of Urysohn spaces, i.e., spaces such that for any two different points there exist disjoint closed nbds.

$\text{Top}_{3\frac{1}{2}}$  = The subcategory of completely regular Hausdorff spaces.

$0\text{-dim}$  = The subcategory of 0-dimensional spaces, i.e., Hausdorff spaces with a base of clopen sets.

$P(0\text{-dim})$  = The subcategory of spaces whose topology is finer than a 0-dimensional topology, i.e., spaces in which every point is the intersection of the clopen sets containing it ([12]).

We recall that a full and isomorphism-closed subcategory  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$  is said to be epireflective (respectively bireflective, extremally epireflective) in  $\text{Top}$  if for each topological space  $X$  there exist  $r_A(X)$  belonging to  $A$  and an epimorphism (respectively bimorphism, extremal epimorphism)  $r_A: X \rightarrow r_A(X)$  such that, for each  $A \in A$  and continuous map  $f: X \rightarrow A$  there exists a (unique) continuous map  $f': r_A(X) \rightarrow A$  satisfying the condition  $r_A \circ f' = f$ .  $r_A$  is called the  $A$ -reflection of  $X$ .

$A$  is epireflective in  $\text{Top}$  iff it is closed under the formation of products and subspaces (= extremal subobjects). It is extremally epireflective iff it is epireflective and contains finer topologies. It is bireflective iff it is epireflective and contains (all) indiscrete spaces.

Every class  $B$  of topological spaces admits an epireflective hull  $E(B)$  (i.e., a smallest epireflective subcategory containing  $B$ ), an

extremal epireflective hull  $P(B)$  and a bireflective hull  $I(B)$ .

All categories listed in 1.1. are epireflective in  $\text{Top}$ .  $\text{Top}_i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, 2, 2\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $\text{FT}_2$  are extremally epireflective in  $\text{Top}$ . For all categories  $A$  listed in 1.1. the subcategory  $\tilde{A} = \{X \in \text{Top} : r_0(X) \in A\}$  (where  $r_0$  is the  $\text{Top}_0$ -reflection) is bireflective in  $\text{Top}$ .

$\text{Top}_{3\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $\text{FT}_2$  and  $\tilde{\text{Top}}_{3\frac{1}{2}}$  (subcategory of completely regular spaces) are respectively the epireflective hull, the extremal epireflective hull and the bireflective hull of the real line  $\mathbb{R}$  in  $\text{Top}$ .

For general results on epireflective subcategories of  $\text{Top}$  see [7,8]

The categorical terminology is that of [10].

In what follows  $A$  will denote an epireflective subcategory of  $\text{Top}$ . For each pair of continuous maps  $(f, g: X \rightarrow Y)$ ,  $\text{Eq}(f, g)$  will denote the equalizer in  $\text{Top}$  of  $f$  and  $g$  (i.e.,  $\text{Eq}(f, g) = \{x \in X : f(x) = g(x)\}$ ).

1.2. - Definitions. (a) A subset  $F$  of a topological space  $X$  is said to be closed with respect to  $A$  (in short  $A$ -closed) in  $X$  if there exist  $A \in A$  and continuous maps  $f, g : X \rightarrow A$  such that  $\text{Eq}(f, g) = F$ .

b) We will define  $A$ -closure of a subset  $M$  of  $X$  as follows:

$$[M]_A^X = \bigcap \{F \subset X : M \subset F \text{ and } F \text{ is } A\text{-closed}\}$$

When no confusion is possible we write  $[M]_A$  or simply  $[M]$  instead of  $[M]_A^X$ .

c) If  $x \notin M$  and  $f, g: X \rightarrow A, A \in A$ , are continuous maps such that  $M \subset \text{Eq}(f, g)$  and  $f(x) \neq g(x)$  then,  $(f, g)$  is said to be an  $A$ -separating pair for  $(x, M)$ .

By definition  $x \notin [M]_A$  iff there exists an  $A$ -separating pair for  $(x, M)$ . The family of all  $A$ -closed sets of a topological space  $X$  trivially contains  $X$  and, by the productivity of  $A$ , it is closed under the formation of intersections (i.e., it is a Moore family). Thus the  $A$ -closure is a closure operation in the sense of Birkhoff ([2]).

Furthermore  $[0]_A = \emptyset$  for all epireflective subcategories  $A$  different from the trivial subcategory  $\text{Sgl}$  consisting of topological spaces whose underlying sets have at most one point.

Even if  $[M]_A \cup [N]_A \subset [M \cup N]_A$  for each  $M, N \subset X$ , the epireflective hull of an infinite strongly rigid space (the continuous self-maps are precisely the constant maps and the identity map ([10])) provides an example of a non-additive closure operation ([3,4]).

2. The following lemma is very useful in the sequel.

2.1. Lemma. (a) For each  $X \in \text{Top}$  and  $M \subset X$ , the following holds:

$$[M]_A^X = (r_A)^{-1} ([r_A(M)]_A^{r_A(X)}).$$

Thus  $A$ -closure is additive (thus a Kuratowski operation) for each  $X \in \text{Top}$  iff it is so for each  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ .

(b) For each  $X \in P(A)$  and  $M \subset X$ , the following hold

$$[M]_{P(A)}^X = [M]_{P(A)}^{r_A(X)} = [M]_A^{r_A(X)} = [M]_A^X.$$

Thus  $P(A)$ -closure is a Kuratowski operation iff  $A$ -closure is.

Proof. (a) By 1.2. (x) of [4]  $r_A([M]_A^X) \subset [r_A(M)]_A^{r_A(X)}$ , so

$$[M]_A^X \subset (r_A)^{-1} ([r_A(M)]_A^{r_A(X)}).$$

On the other hand, if  $x \notin [M]_A^X$  and

$(f, g: X \rightarrow A)$  is an  $A$ -separating pair for  $(x, M)$ , then  $(f', g': r_A(X) \rightarrow A)$  where  $f' \circ r_A = f$  and  $g' \circ r_A = g$ , is an  $A$ -separating pair for  $(r_A(x), r_A(M))$ , so  $x \notin (r_A)^{-1} ([r_A(M)]_A^{r_A(X)})$ .

b) For each  $X \in P(A)$ ,  $r_A: X \rightarrow r_A(X)$  is the identity on the underlying sets then, it follows from (a) that  $[M]_{P(A)}^X = [M]_{P(A)}^{r_A(X)}$ .

Furthermore  $[M]_{P(A)}^{r_A(X)} \subset [M]_A^{r_A(X)}$  follows from the inclusion  $A \subset P(A)$ .

To show that  $[M]_A^{r_A(X)} \subset [M]_{P(A)}^X$  take  $x \notin [M]_{P(A)}^X$  and a  $P(A)$ -separating pair  $(f, g: X \rightarrow Y)$  for  $(x, M)$ . Then  $(f', g': r_A(X) \rightarrow r_A(Y))$ , where  $r_A \circ f = f' \circ r_A$  and  $r_A \circ g = g' \circ r_A$ , is an  $A$ -separating pair for  $(x, M)$  in  $r_A(X)$ , so  $x \notin [M]_A^{r_A(X)}$ . For the last equality note that  $r_A: X \rightarrow r_A(X)$  is the identity on the underlying sets then (a) gives  $[M]_A^X = [M]_A^{r_A(X)}$  for every  $M \subset X$ .

For each  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$ ,  $\tau_A$  will denote the topology generated in  $X$  by the  $A$ -closure, i.e., the coarsest topology on  $X$  for which all  $A$ -closed sets are closed.  $F_A: \text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Top}$  will denote the functor which assigns to  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$  the space  $(X, \tau_A)$ . For each continuous map  $f: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  in  $\text{Top}$  the continuity of  $f = F_A(f): (X, \tau_A) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma_A)$  follows from 1.2 (x) of [4].

By 2.1 of [4] for every  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$ ,  $\tau_A$  is the initial topology on  $X$  induced by the map  $X \xrightarrow{r_A} F_A(r_A X)$ , where  $r_A$  is the  $A$ -reflection of  $X$ . This is why  $(X, \tau_A)$  is indiscrete iff  $r_A X$  is a singleton. On the other hand, if  $A \neq \text{Sgl}$ , then for each  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$ ,  $(X, \tau_A) \in \text{Top}_1$  iff  $r_A: X \rightarrow r_A X$  is injective. In particular if  $A$  is extremally epireflec-

tive, then  $(X, \tau_A) \in \text{Top}_1$  iff  $(X, \tau) \in A$ . Conditions ensuring  $(X, \tau_A) \in \text{Top}_2$  are discussed in 2.8.

Till the end of this section, we study the properties of the functor  $F_A$ . Set  $A_0 = \{X \in \text{Top} : F_A(X) = X\}$ . Clearly  $(X, \tau) \in A_0$  iff  $r_A(X, \tau) \in A_0 \cap A$  and  $X$  has the initial topology with respect to  $r_A : X \rightarrow r_A X$ .

In the following theorem we give explicitly  $\tau_A$  for various categories  $A$  including those listed in 1.1. First recall the notion of  $\theta$ -closure introduced by Velichko ([17]). For  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$  and  $M \subset X$ ,

$$\text{Cl}_\theta M = \{x \in X : \text{for each nbd } V \text{ of } x, \bar{V} \cap M \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Analogously one can introduce  $\theta$ -interior  $\text{Int}_\theta M = \{x \in X : \text{there exists a nbd } V \text{ of } x, \bar{V} \subset M\}$ . A subset  $M$  of  $X$  is said to be  $\theta$ -closed ( $\theta$ -open) if  $M = \text{Cl}_\theta M$  ( $M = \text{Int}_\theta M$ ). The  $\theta$ -closure is additive but not idempotent in general. The idempotent hull of  $\text{Cl}_\theta$  is  $[\ ]_{\text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}}$  since for each  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $M \subset X$ ,  $\text{Cl}_\theta M \subset [M]_{\text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}}$  and  $M$  is  $\theta$ -closed iff  $M$  is  $\text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}$ -closed (see 2.5(b) of [4]).  $\theta$ -closure was also studied by Schröder [15].

2.2. Theorem. (a) If  $A$  is bireflective (resp.  $A = \text{Top}_1$ ) then  $\tau_A$  is the discrete topology for every  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$  (resp.  $(X, \tau) \in A$ ).

(b) If  $A = \text{Top}_i$ ,  $i = 2, 3, 3\frac{1}{2}$ , or  $A = 0\text{-dim}$ , then  $\tau_A = \tau$  for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$ .

(c) If  $A = P(B)$  then for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$ ,  $\tau_A = \tau_B$ , where  $(X, \tau)$  is the  $B$ -reflection of  $(X, \tau)$ . Thus the functors  $F_A$  and  $F_B$  coincide.

(d) For  $B = \text{Top}_3, \text{Top}_{3\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $0\text{-dim}$  and  $A = P(B)$ ,  $F_A$  coincides on  $A$  with the  $B$ -reflection.

(e) For  $A = \text{Top}_0$  and  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}_0$ ,  $\tau_A$  is the topology on  $X$  having, as open base, all locally closed subsets of  $(X, \tau)$  (finite intersections of open and closed sets in  $(X, \tau)$ ). Thus  $\tau_A \geq \tau$  and  $(X, \tau_A) \in 0\text{-dim}$ .

(f) For  $A = \text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $(X, \tau) \in A$ ,  $U \in \tau_A$  iff  $U$  is  $\theta$ -open. In particular  $\tau = \tau_A$  iff  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}_3$ .

Proof. (a): By 1.10 (a) of [4] in this case the  $A$ -closure coincides with the identity operator.

(b): By 2.8 (i) of [4] in this case the  $A$ -closure coincides with the ordinary closure.

(c): It follows from 2.1 (b). (d): It follows from (b) and (c).

(e): As pointed out in 2.9 of [4] in this case the  $\text{Top}_0$ -closure coincides with the well-known front-closure ([1], [12]),

$$\text{fr cl } M = \{x \in X : \text{for each nbd } V \text{ of } x, V \cap \overline{V} \cap M \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Thus  $U \subset X$  is  $\tau_A$ -open iff for each  $x \in U$  there exists a nbd  $V$  such that  $V \cap (X \setminus U) \cap \overline{V} = \emptyset$ , i.e.  $\overline{V} \cap V \subset U$ . Clearly any  $V \cap \overline{V}$  is clopen in  $(X, \tau_A)$ , so  $(X, \tau_A) \in 0\text{-dim}$ .

(f) Obviously  $Cl_\theta$  is additive, thus  $[ ]_{Top_{2,4}}$  being its idempotent hull will be a Kuratowski operator (in fact,  $Cl_\theta([M] \cup [N]) = [M] \cup [N]$ , so  $[M] \cup [N]$  is  $\theta$ -closed, thus  $Top_{2,4}$ -closed). The last assertion is proved in 2.4 of [4].

2.3 Remarks (a). The A-closure is additive in all subcategories A of Top listed in 1.1. We do not know any example of non additive A-closure operation different from the case A=epireflective hull of a class of strongly rigid spaces.

(b) By the explicit form of  $\tau_{Top_0}$  it can be seen easily that for  $(X, \tau) \in Top_0$ ,  $\tau_{Top_0}$  is discrete iff for each  $x \in X$  there exists a  $\tau$ -nbd  $V$  such that  $\{x\} = \overline{\{x\}} \cap V$ .

The subcategory of such spaces of  $Top_0$  will be denoted by  $T_D$ .

(c) The functor  $F_{Top_0}$  preserves embeddings and finite products (more precisely, for each family  $\{(X_i, \tau_i)\}_{i \in I}$  in  $Top_0$  with  $(X, \tau) = \prod_{i \in I} (X_i, \tau_i)$ ,  $\tau_{Top_0} = \prod_{i \in I} \tau_i$  holds iff all but a finite number of the spaces  $X_i$  are singletons).

In general the functor  $F_A$  is submultiplicative, i.e., for each family  $\{(X_i, \tau_i)\}_{i \in I}$  in  $Top$ ,  $(\prod_{i \in I} \tau_i)_A \geq \prod_{i \in I} (\tau_i)_A$ . The following examples show that in general  $F_A$  does not preserve neither embeddings nor finite products.

2.4. Examples (a) Let  $(H, \tau')$  be the space given in 1.3 of [4]. Then  $F \cup \{0, 0\}$  is discrete in  $(H, \tau')$ , while  $F \cup \{0, 0\}$  is not discrete as a subspace of  $(H, \tau'_{Top_{2,4}})$  which is compact.

(b) Let  $A = E\{(X, \tau)\}$ , where  $(X, \tau)$  is an infinite strongly rigid space. Then  $\tau_A$  is the cofinite topology on  $X$ , so  $\Delta_X$  is not closed in  $(X \times X, \tau_A \times \tau_A)$ . On the other hand  $\Delta_X$  is the equalizer of the projections, so  $\Delta_X$  is closed in  $(X^2, (\tau_A^2)_A)$ . Thus  $(\tau \times \tau)_A > \tau_A \times \tau_A$ .

2.5 Proposition. If  $F_A$  is finitely multiplicative, then for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$ ,  $(X, \tau_A) \in Top_2$ .

Proof. Consider  $\Delta_X$  in  $(X \times X, \tau_A \times \tau_A)$ ; since  $\Delta_X$  is always A-closed in  $(X \times X, \tau \times \tau)$  and  $(\tau \times \tau)_A = \tau_A \times \tau_A$  this implies that  $\Delta_X$  is closed in  $(X \times X, \tau_A \times \tau_A)$ , so  $(X, \tau_A) \in Top_2$ .

In the following Section we show that there exists  $(X, \tau) \in Top_{2,4}$  with  $(X, \tau_{Top_{2,4}}) \notin Top_{2,4}$ . (Hence  $F_{Top_{2,4}}$  is not finitely multiplicative).

Till the end of this section we study conditions which ensure  $\tau_A \leq \tau$  or  $(X, \tau_A)$  discrete.

For  $(X, \tau) \in Top$  denote by  $I(X, \tau)$  the set of all isolated points

of  $(X, \tau)$ .

2.6 Lemma. For any epireflective subcategory  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$  and each  $(X, \tau) \in A$

$$(*) \quad I(X, \tau) \subset I(X, \tau_A).$$

Moreover,  $(*)$  holds for each  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$  iff  $A$  is bireflective or  $A = \text{Top}_0$ .

Proof. Consider first the case when  $A$  is neither bireflective nor  $\text{Top}_0$ . Then  $A \subset \text{Top}_1$ , so for every  $(X, \tau) \in A$   $(X, \tau_A) \in \text{Top}_1$  holds. Therefore each isolated point of  $(X, \tau)$  is  $\tau$ -clopen, thus also  $\tau_A$ -clopen by 1.2 (vi) of [4]. This proves  $(*)$ . Remark that  $(*)$  does not hold for Sierpinski's two-points space  $(S, \tau)$  (two points  $0, 1$  with  $\{0\}$  unique proper open set) since  $I(S, \tau) \neq \emptyset$  and  $I(S, \tau_A) = \emptyset$  (the space  $(S, \tau_A)$  is indiscrete since the reflection of  $(S, \tau)$  in  $A$  is a singleton because of  $A \subset \text{Top}_1$ ).

It remains to show that  $(*)$  holds for every  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$  if  $A$  is bireflective or  $A = \text{Top}_0$ . This is obvious in the first case since  $\tau_A$  is always discrete according to 2.2 (a). Assume  $A = \text{Top}_0$  and take an arbitrary  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$ . Then for each  $x \in I(X, \tau)$  the characteristic (continuous) map  $f: X \rightarrow S$  of the open set  $\{x\}$  and the constant at 1 form an  $A$ -separating pair for  $(x, X \setminus \{x\})$  so  $x \in I(X, \tau_A)$ .

In the following proposition we show that the converse inclusion of  $(*)$  for any space  $(X, \tau) \in A$  implies  $A \subset \text{Top}_2$ .

2.7 Proposition. For each epireflective subcategory  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$  the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a)  $A \in \text{Top}_2$ ;
- (b) for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$   $\tau_A \leq \tau$ ;
- (c) for each  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$   $\tau_A \leq \tau$ ;
- (d) for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$   $I(X, \tau) = I(X, \tau_A)$ ;
- (e) every  $(X, \tau) \in A$  is discrete whenever  $(X, \tau_A)$  is discrete.

Proof. The equivalence (a)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (b) was given in 1.10 (b) from [4]. The equivalence (b)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (c) follows from 2.1 (a). Clearly (b) implies (d) and (d) implies (e). To finish the proof we have to show (e)  $\Rightarrow$  (a).

We can assume without loss of generality that  $A$  is extremally epireflective. In fact, if  $B = P(A)$  then because of 2.2 (c) the functors  $F_A$  and  $F_B$  coincide. To show that each  $(X, \tau) \in B$  satisfies (e) consider the reflection  $(X, \sigma)$  of  $(X, \tau)$  in  $A$ . Then by 2.2 (c)  $\tau_B = \sigma_A$ . Now if  $\tau_B$  is discrete then by (e)  $(X, \sigma)$  is discrete, thus  $(X, \tau)$  is discrete too. So we can assume that  $A$  is extremally epire-



flective, i.e.,  $A=B$ .

If  $A$  is bireflective then  $A=Top$  and (e) is not verified since  $\tau_{Top}$  is always discrete. Therefore  $A \subset Top_0$ . Now  $A=Top_0$  contradicts (e) since there exists a non-discrete space  $(X, \tau) \in T_0$ , then  $\tau_{Top_0}$  is discrete.

We have shown that (e) implies  $A \subset Top_1$ . Assume there exists a space  $(X, \tau) \in A$  such that  $(X, \tau) \notin Top_2$ . Then there exist two distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  in  $X$  such that for any nbd  $V$  of  $x$  and any nbd  $U$  of  $y$  in  $(X, \tau)$

$$(**) \quad V \cap U \neq \emptyset.$$

Now set  $Y = \{p\} \cup X \setminus \{x, y\}$  and consider the following topology  $\sigma$  on  $Y$ . All points different from  $p$  are isolated, for nbds system of  $p$  take all intersections  $(**)$  added the point  $p$ . Clearly  $\sigma$  is non discrete because of  $(**)$ . Consider the maps  $f_x$  and  $f_y$  of  $Y$  into  $X$  defined by,  $f_x(u) = f_y(u) = u$  if  $u \neq p$  and  $f_x(p) = x, f_y(p) = y$ . The continuity of  $f_x$  and  $f_y$  follows directly from the definition of  $\sigma$ . On the other hand both maps are injective, hence  $(Y, \sigma) \in A$  because  $X \in A$  and  $A$  is extremally epireflective. Now the space  $(Y, \sigma)$  does not satisfy (e) since  $\sigma_A$  is discrete. In fact by 2.6  $I(Y, \sigma_A) \supset I(Y, \sigma) = Y \setminus \{p\}$  and  $(f_x, f_y)$  is an  $A$ -separating pair for  $(p, Y \setminus \{p\})$ , so  $\{p\}$  is  $\sigma_A$ -open.

3. It is well known that  $Top_2$  is a cowellpowered category, i.e., the class of all  $Top_2$ -epimorphisms (i.e. dense continuous maps) with domain a fixed Hausdorff space has a representative set ([7]). In 1975 Herrlich [9] first produced an example of a non cowellpowered epireflective subcategory of  $Top$ : the epireflective hull of a proper class of strongly rigid spaces such that the continuous maps between them are precisely the identities or the constant maps.

In 1983 Schröder showed that  $Top_{2^{1/2}}$  is not cowellpowered ([16]). He produced for each ordinal number  $\beta$  a Urysohn space  $Y_\beta$  of cardinality  $\aleph_0 \cdot card(\beta)$  and an embedding  $e_\beta : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow Y_\beta$ , where  $\mathbb{Q}$  is the space of rational numbers with the usual topology, such that  $e_\beta$  is a  $Top_{2^{1/2}}$ -epimorphism.

In what follows we shall show that all remaining categories listed in 1.1 are cowellpowered. The following proposition given in [4] and [6] will be used.

3.1 Proposition.  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is an  $A$ -epimorphism iff  $f(X)$  is  $A$ -dense in  $Y$ , i.e.,  $[f(X)]_A = Y$ .

3.2 Lemma. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be epireflective subcategories of  $Top$  and let

$F:A \rightarrow B$  be a functor satisfying the following conditions:

(1)  $F$  preserves epimorphisms, i.e., for each  $A$ -epimorphism  $f:X \rightarrow Y$  the map  $F(f):F(X) \rightarrow F(Y)$  is a  $B$ -epimorphism;

(2)  $F$  is a concrete functor, i.e., if  $U:Top \rightarrow Set$  is the forgetful functor then  $UF=U$ .

Then  $A$  is cowellpowered whenever  $B$  is cowellpowered.

Proof. Trivial.

3.3 Corollary. Let  $B$  be a cowellpowered epireflective subcategory of  $Top$ , then so is  $P(B)$ .

Proof. For  $A=P(B)$  and  $F=r_B$  -the  $B$ -reflection- apply 3.2. Clearly  $F$  satisfies (2), on the other hand, by 2.1.(b),  $f:X \rightarrow Y$  is an epimorphism in  $A$  iff  $f=F(f):F(X) \rightarrow F(Y)$  is an epimorphism in  $B$ . Thus  $F$  satisfies also (1).

3.4 Corollary. If  $A$  is an epireflective subcategory of  $Top$  such that for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$ ,  $(X, \tau_A) \in Top_2$ , then  $A$  is cowellpowered.

Proof. For  $B=Top_2$  and  $F=F_A$  we apply 3.2. Obviously (2) holds; on the other hand for each epimorphism  $f:X \rightarrow Y$  in  $A$   $f(X)$  is  $A$ -dense in  $Y$  by virtue of 3.1. Therefore  $f(X)$  is dense in  $F(Y)$  hence  $f:F(X) \rightarrow F(Y)$  is an epimorphism in  $B=Top_2$  and  $Top_2$  is cowellpowered.

For all subcategories of  $Top$  listed in 1.1 except  $Top_{2\frac{1}{2}, \tau_A}$  is Hausdorff so all they are cowellpowered.

3.5 Corollary. If  $A$  is an epireflective subcategory of  $Top$  such that  $F_A$  is finitely multiplicative then  $A$  is cowellpowered.

Proof. By virtue of 2.5,  $A$  satisfies the condition in 3.4, so  $A$  is cowellpowered.

Some familiar extremally epireflective subcategories of  $Top$  are the extremal epireflective hull of a proper epireflective subcategory (e.g.  $FT_2=P(Top_{3\frac{1}{2}})$ ).  $Top_2$  does not have that property as the following proposition shows.

3.6 Proposition. If  $A$  is an extremally epireflective subcategory of  $Top$  and for every  $(X, \tau) \in A$ ,  $\tau_A = \tau$ , then there does not exist a proper epireflective subcategory  $B \subset A$  such that  $P(B)=A$ .

Proof. Since  $\tau_A = \tau$  for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$ , by virtue of proposition 2.7,  $A \subset Top_2$ . Assume there exists an epireflective subcategory  $B$  of  $Top$  such that  $A=P(B)$ .

By 2.2 (c), for each  $(X, \tau) \in A$  with  $B$ -reflection  $r_B(X, \tau)=(X, \sigma)$ ,  $\tau_A = \sigma_B$  holds. Since  $B \subset A \subset Top_2$ ,  $\sigma_B \leq \sigma$ , thus we get  $\tau = \tau_A = \sigma_B \leq \sigma$ .

On the other hand always  $\tau \geq \epsilon$  holds, so for each  $(X, \tau) \in A, r_B(X, \tau) = (X, \tau)$ .  
Therefore  $B=A$ .

3.7 Question. Does there exist such a B as in 3.6 for  $A=Top_{2\frac{1}{2}}$ ? By virtue of 3.3 such a B will not be cowellpowered.

4. In this section we consider iterations of the functor  $F_A: Top \rightarrow Top$  defined in section 2. Let A be epireflective subcategory of Top; then for each ordinal number  $\alpha$  we define a topology  $\tau_{A^\alpha}$  on X in the following way:  $\tau_{A^0} = \tau$  and  $\tau_{A^{\alpha+1}} = (\tau_{A^\alpha})_A$  for any  $\alpha$ ; if  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal  $\tau_{A^\alpha} = \inf_{\beta < \alpha} \tau_{A^\beta}$ . It is easy to check that setting  $F_{A^\alpha}(X, \tau) = (X, \tau_{A^\alpha})$  we get a functor  $F_{A^\alpha}: Top \rightarrow Top$ . By virtue of 2.7 if  $A \subset Top_2$ , for each  $(X, \tau) \in Top$ , the topologies  $\tau_{A^\alpha}$  form a decreasing chain, so there will exist an ordinal number  $\alpha$  such that  $\tau_{A^{\alpha+1}} = \tau_{A^\alpha}$ .

4.1 Definition. Let  $A \subset Top_2$  and  $(X, \tau) \in Top$ ; the smallest ordinal  $\alpha$ , such that  $\tau_{A^{\alpha+1}} = \tau_{A^\alpha}$  will be called epimorphic order of  $(X, \tau)$  with respect to A and will be denoted by  $EO_A(X, \tau)$ .

In particular  $EO_A(X) = 0$  iff  $X \notin A_0$ , otherwise  $EO_A(X) = 1 + EO_A(F_A(X))$  with easy check.

Epimorphic order can be defined in a similar way also for categories A such that  $\tau \leq \tau_A$  for each  $(X, \tau) \in Top$ .

4.2 Examples. Let  $(X, \tau)$  be an infinite strongly rigid space and  $A = E\{(X, \tau)\}$ ; then  $\tau_A$  is the cofinite topology on X, so  $r_A(X, \tau_A)$  is a singleton, therefore  $(X, \tau_{A^2})$  is indiscrete, so  $EO_A(X, \tau) = 2$ .

(b) Let  $B \subset B_0$  and  $A = P(B)$ , then  $EO_A(X, \tau) = 0$  iff  $r_A(X, \tau) \in B$  and X has the initial topology with respect to  $X \rightarrow r_A(X, \tau)$ , otherwise  $EO_A(X, \tau) = 1$ .

(c) Let  $(Y_\beta, \tau_\beta)$  be the Urishon space constructed in [16] for an ordinal  $\beta$  satisfying  $1 < \beta \leq \omega + 1$ ; then  $EO_{Top_{2\frac{1}{2}}}(Y_\beta, \tau_\beta) = 2$  while  $EO_{Top_{2\frac{1}{2}}}(Y_1, \tau_1) = 1$ . Moreover  $F_{Top_2^2}(Y_\beta, \tau_\beta) \in 0\text{-dim}$  for these ordinals.

(d) If A is bireflective and  $X \notin Top$  then  $EO_A(X) = 0$  iff X is discrete, otherwise  $EO_A(X) = 1$ .

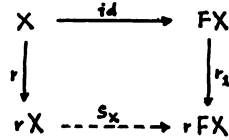
(e) For  $A = Top_1$ ,  $EO_A(X) = 0$  iff  $r_{Top_1}(X)$  is discrete and X has the initial topology with respect to  $X \rightarrow r_{Top_1}(X)$ , otherwise  $EO_A(X) = 1$ .

(f) For  $A = Top_0$  and  $X \in Top$ ,  $EO_A(X) = 0$  iff  $r_{Top_0}(X)$  is discrete and X has the initial topology with respect to  $X \rightarrow r_{Top_0}(X)$ ;  $EO_A(X) = 1$  iff  $r_{Top_0}(X)$  is non discrete and belongs to  $T_D$ ,  $EO_A(X) = 2$  iff  $r_{Top_0}(X) \notin T_D$ .

We have no examples of epimorphic order greater than 2.

In order to calculate easier the epimorphic order we have to know better the interrelation between the functors  $F_A$  and  $r_A$ . In what follows we omit the index  $A$  for brevity,  $A$  is always contained in  $Top_2$  and  $[ ]_A$  is a  $K$ . sp.

For each  $X \in Top$  consider the diagram



By the definition of  $r$  there exists a unique continuous map  $S_x : rX \rightarrow rFX$  which makes commutative the diagram.

4.3 Lemma. The map  $S_x : rX \rightarrow rFX$  defined above is continuous when we consider on  $rX$  the topology generated by the  $A$ -closure, i.e.  $S_x : FrX \rightarrow rFX$  is continuous.

Proof. We have to show that for each closed set  $M$  in  $rFX$ ,  $S_x^{-1}(M)$  is  $A$ -closed in  $rX$ . By the continuity of  $r_1$ ,  $r_1^{-1}(M)$  is closed in  $FX$ . By 2.1 (a)

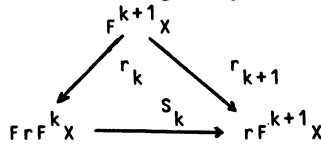
$$[r_1^{-1} M]^X = r^{-1}([r(r_1^{-1} M)]^{rX}) = r_1^{-1} M ;$$

on the other hand  $r_1 = S_x r$ , so  $r(r_1^{-1} M) = S_x^{-1}(M)$ , thus  $r_1^{-1} M = r^{-1}([S_x^{-1} M]^{rX})$ .

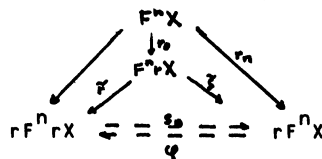
Applying  $r$  we get  $S_x^{-1} M = [S_x^{-1} M]$  which proves the continuity of  $S_x : FrX \rightarrow rFX$ .

4.4 Proposition. For each natural number  $n$  and each  $X \in Top$ ,  $rF^n rX$  is naturally isomorphic to  $rF^n X$ .

Proof. For any natural  $k < n$  the above lemma applied to the space  $Y = F^k X$  provides a natural continuous map  $S_k : FrF^k X \rightarrow rF^{k+1} X$  which makes commutative the following diagram



where  $r_k$  and  $r_{k+1}$  are the corresponding reflections. Applying the functor  $F^{n-k-1}$  we get the commutative diagram



where  $\tilde{r}$  is the A-reflection. By the definition of the reflection there exists a unique continuous map  $S_n: rF^n rX \rightarrow rF^n X$  such that  $S_n \circ r = S$ . Let us see that  $S_n$  is an isomorphism. Again by the properties of the reflection there exists a unique continuous map  $\varphi: rF^n X \rightarrow rF^n rX$  such that  $\varphi \circ r = \tilde{r}$ . Consider now the composition  $\psi = \varphi \circ S_n \circ \tilde{r} \circ r$ ; by the definition of  $S_n$  and  $\varphi$  we get  $\psi = \varphi \circ S_n \circ r = \varphi \circ r = \tilde{r}$ . Thus the restriction of  $\varphi \circ S_n$  on  $\tilde{r} r (F^n X)$  is the identity. Since  $\tilde{r} r$  is an epimorphism this gives  $\varphi \circ S_n = \text{id}$  on  $rF^n rX$ . In the same way one proves that  $S_n \circ \varphi$  is the identity on  $rF^n X$ .

4.5 Remark. Consider the semigroup  $\Sigma$  of all functors  $\text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Top}$  generated by  $r$  and  $F$ . By the definition of  $r$ ,  $r = r^2$  holds. On the other hand 4.4 shows that, for any  $n$ , there is an equivalence between  $rF^n r$  and  $nF^n$ . Let  $\Sigma_1$  be the quotient of  $\Sigma$  with respect to the equivalence of functors. Then the functors  $F^m$  and  $F^n rF^t$  with  $m, n$  and  $t$  non-negative integers ( $F^0$  is the identity functor) represent all elements of  $\Sigma_1$  (\*). The multiplication is given by

$$(F^n \circ rF^t) \circ F^m = F^n \circ rF^{t+m}, \quad F^m \circ (F^n \circ rF^t) = F^{m+n} \circ rF^t, \quad (F^n \circ rF^t) \circ (F^{n'} \circ rF^{t'}) = F^n \circ rF^{t+n'+t'}$$

It was mentioned in section 2 that for any  $X \in \text{Top}$   $FrX \rightarrow FrX$  is initial. Proposition 4.4 enables us to show it for any natural  $n$ .

4.6 Corollary. For any  $X \in \text{Top}$  and for any positive integer  $n$ ,  $F^n X \rightarrow F^n rX$  is initial.

Proof; By the definition of  $F^n X$ ,  $F^n X \xrightarrow{f} FrF^{n-1} X$  is initial. By 4.4,  $rF^{n-1} X$  is naturally isomorphic to  $rF^{n-1} rX$ .

Consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^{n-1} X & \xrightarrow{f} & rF^{n-1} X \\ \downarrow r & & \downarrow S_{n-1} \\ F^{n-1} rX & \xrightarrow{r_1} & rF^{n-1} rX \end{array}$$

where  $S_{n-1}$  is the natural isomorphism given in 4.4,  $r$  and  $r_1$  are reflections.

Applying the functor  $F$  we get the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^n X & \xrightarrow{f} & FrF^{n-1} X \\ \downarrow r & & \downarrow S_{n-1} \\ F^n rX & \xrightarrow{r_1} & FrF^{n-1} rX \end{array}$$

(\*)  $\Sigma_1$  is finite for all categories listed in 1.1 except may be  $\text{TOP}_{24}$  (See 4.2)

with the same underlying sets and maps. Now  $r_1 r = S_{n-1}^{of}$  is initial, therefore  $r$  is initial too.

4.7 Remark. (a) The assertion of the above corollary is no valid for  $n=0$  (see (4.12 (b))).

(b) We do not know whether 4.6 is true for infinite ordinals. A positive answer would imply the validity of the following corollary for arbitrary non-zero ordinals.

4.8 Corollary. Let  $n$  be a positive integer and  $X \in \text{Top}$  with  $rX \in A_0$ . Then  $EO_A(X)=n$  iff  $EO_A(rX)=n$ .

Proof. By 4.6  $EO_A(X) \leq EO_A(rX)$  since  $F^{n+1} rX = F^n rX$  would imply  $F^{n+1} X = F^n X$ . Since  $X \rightarrow rX$  is surjective, different topologies on  $rX$  give rise to different initial topologies on  $X$ , i.e.,  $F^{n+1} X = F^n X$  would imply  $F^{n+1} rX = F^n rX$ , thus  $EO_A(rX) \leq EO_A(X)$ .

It may happen  $rX \in A_0$ , i.e.,  $EO_A(rX)=0$  and  $EO_A(X)=1$  if  $X \rightarrow rX$  is not initial. The above corollary permits easier calculation of the epimorphic order.

4.9 Example. Let  $(Y_\beta, \tau_\beta)$  denotes the Urishon space constructed for the ordinal  $\beta$  in [15]. If  $\beta > \omega+1$  one can see that  $Z = F_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}}(Y_\beta, \tau_\beta)$  is not even Hausdorff. However for every  $\beta > \omega+1$  the Hausdorff reflection of  $Z$  is already Urisohn, i.e.  $r_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}} Z = r_{\text{Top}2} Z$ . Moreover there exist a continuous bijection  $F_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}}(Y_{\omega+1}, \tau_{\omega+1}) \xrightarrow{\varphi} rZ$  such that  $rZ \xrightarrow{\varphi^{-1}} F_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}}(Y_{\omega+1}, \tau_{\omega+1})$  is continuous and not open. Since  $EO_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}}(Y_{\omega+1}, \tau_{\omega+1})=2$  this implies  $EO_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}}(rZ)=1$ . By corollary

ri 4.8  $EO_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}}(Z)=1$ , so by the definitions of epimorphic order

$EO_{\text{Top}2^{1/2}}(Y_\beta, \tau_\beta)=2$  for  $\beta > \omega+1$ .

The above example justifies the following definition.

4.10 Definition. Let  $\beta$  be an ordinal number, denote by  $A^{(\beta)}$  the category of all spaces  $X \in A$  such that  $F_A^\gamma(X) \in A$  for each  $\gamma \leq \beta$ .

Set  $A^{(\infty)} = \bigcap_{\beta} A^{(\beta)}$ , i.e.,  $A^{(\infty)}$  is the category of all spaces  $X \in A$  such that  $F_A^\gamma(X) \in A$  for each  $\gamma \leq EO_A(X)$ .

For example in 4.9  $Y_\beta \notin \text{Top}2^{(1)}$ ; for  $A$  as in 4.2 (b)  $A^{(\infty)} = A$ .

4.11 Theorem. Let  $A$  be an epireflective subcategory of  $\text{Top}$ , then:

(a)  $A_0$  is bireflective in  $\text{Top}$ .

(b)  $A \cap A_0$  is bireflective in  $A$ , thus  $A \cap A_0 \subset A^{(\infty)} \subset P(A \cap A_0)$ .

(c) If  $A$  is extremally epireflective then, for each ordinal  $\beta$ ,

$A^{(\mathcal{P})}$  and  $A^{(\infty)}$  are extremally epireflective; in particular  $A^{(\infty)} = P(A \cap A_0)$ .

Proof. (a) For any  $X \in \text{Top}$  define  $r_{A_0}(X) = F_{A_0}^{\alpha}(X)$ , where  $\alpha = E0_A(X)$ . Now for every  $Y \in A_0$  and any map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  applying  $F_{A_0}^{\alpha}$  we get  $f = F_{A_0}^{\alpha}(f): F_{A_0}^{\alpha}(X) \rightarrow F_{A_0}^{\alpha}(Y) = Y$ . Thus  $r_{A_0}$  is a bireflection of  $\text{Top}$  in  $A_0$ .

(b) Follows from (a).

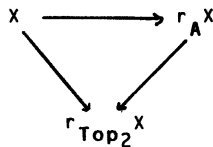
(c) Let  $Y \in A^{(\mathcal{P})}$ , then  $F^{\mathcal{P}}(Y) \in A$ . For any subspace  $X$  of  $Y$  applying to the embedding  $i: X \rightarrow Y$  the functor  $F^{\mathcal{P}}$  we get  $i = F^{\mathcal{P}}(i) \rightarrow F^{\mathcal{P}}(Y)$ . Since  $A$  is extremally epireflective this implies  $F^{\mathcal{P}}(X) \in A$ . For any family  $\{X_i\}$  of spaces in  $A^{(\mathcal{P})}$ ,  $F^{\mathcal{P}}(X_i) \in A$ , therefore  $F^{\mathcal{P}}(\prod_i X_i)$ , having a topology finer than that of  $\prod_i F^{\mathcal{P}}(X_i)$ , belongs to  $A$ . Therefore  $A^{(\mathcal{P})}$  is extremally epireflective.

The rest is obvious.

4.12 Remark. Analogous theorem can be proved for categories  $A$  which satisfy  $\tau \leq \tau_A$  for each  $(X, \tau) \in \text{Top}$ . In such a case  $A_0$  is a coreflective subcategory of  $A$  and the coreflection is given by  $F^{\alpha}(X) \rightarrow X$  where  $\alpha = E0_A(X)$ .

(b) In 4.9  $Z \rightarrow r_{\text{Top}_2}(Z)$  is not initial (this shows that in general  $FX \rightarrow rFX$  is not initial).

(c) Since  $A_0$  is a bireflective subcategory of  $\text{Top}$ ,  $\text{Top} = P(A_0)$  holds. On the other hand always  $A \neq \text{Top}$ . In fact, assume  $A \subset A_0$ , then by 2.7  $A \subset \text{Top}_2$ . Since  $X \in A_0$  iff  $r_A X \in A_0$  and  $X \rightarrow r_A X$  is initial, it suffices to find  $X \in \text{Top}$  such that  $X \rightarrow r_A X$  is not initial. Now  $A \subset \text{Top}_2$  provides the following commutative diagram



this is why a space  $X$  such that  $X \rightarrow rX$  is not initial, will do (take, for example, the space  $Z$  from (b)).

The following theorem characterizes the categories  $A$  satisfying  $A^{(\infty)} = A$ .

4.13 Theorem. For an extremally epireflective subcategory  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$  the following conditions are equivalent:

(a) there exists an epireflective subcategory  $B$  of  $\text{Top}$  such that  $B \subset A_0$  and  $A = P(B)$ .

(b)  $A^{(\infty)} = A$ .

Proof. (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b) is obvious since, for any  $(X, \tau) \in A$ ,  $(X, \tau_A) \in B \subset A$ . On the other hand (b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) follows from 4.11 with  $B = A \cap A_0$ .

4.14 Remarks. (a) By 4.2 (b) both conditions in 4.13 imply  $EO_A(X) \leq 1$  for any  $X \in \text{Top}$ . We do not know whether the converse is also true. Observe that if  $EO_A(X) \leq 1$  for every  $X \in A$ , then by 4.8  $EO_A(X) \leq 1$  for every  $X \in \text{Top}$ .

(b) In general for any extremally epireflective subcategory  $A$  of  $\text{Top}$ ,  $A^{(\infty)} = P(A \cap A_0)$  according to 4.11 (c), thus for  $X \in A$ ,  $EO_{A^{(\infty)}}(X) = 1$  iff  $X \notin A_0$ . On the other hand it may happen  $EO_A(X) > EO_{A^{(\infty)}}(X)$  (take for example  $X = Y_\omega$  as in 4.2 (c); then for  $A = \text{Top}_{2\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $A \cap A_0 = \text{Top}_3$ , therefore  $A^{(\infty)} = P(\text{Top}_3)$  and  $X \in A$ ,  $EO_A(X) = 2 > EO_{A^{(\infty)}}(X) = 1$ ).

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