

ON  $bD$ -SETS AND ASSOCIATED SEPARATION AXIOMS<sup>†</sup>

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ABSTRACT. Here, first we introduce and investigate  $bD$ -sets by using the notion of  $b$ -open sets to obtain some weak separation axioms. Second, we introduce the notion of  $gb$ -closed sets and then investigate some relations of between  $b$ -closed and  $gb$ -closed sets. We also give a characterization of  $bT_{1/2}$  spaces via  $gb$ -closed sets. We introduce two new weak homeomorphisms which are important keys between General Topology and Algebra. Using the notion of  $m_X$ -structures, we give a characterization theorem of  $m_X$ - $T_2$  spaces. Finally, we give some examples related to the digital line.

1. Introduction

It is known that open sets play a very important role in General Topology. In [38], Tong introduced the notion of  $D$ -sets by using open sets and used the notion to define some separation axioms. Later, the modifications of these notions for  $\alpha$ -open (resp. semi-open, preopen,  $\delta$ -semi-open) sets are introduced and some of their properties investigated in [6] (resp. [4], [20], [7] ) and [20], respectively. The notion of  $b$ -open sets were introduced by Andrijević [3]. The set was named as  $\gamma$ -open and  $sp$ -open by El-Atik [17] and Doncthev and Przemski [13], respectively.

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The notion of  $b$ -open sets is stronger than the notion of  $\beta$ -open sets and is weaker than the notions of semi-open sets and preopen sets. Since then, these notions has been extensively investigated in the literature (see [32], [33], [36], [14], [11], [37], [8], [9], [15]).

Here, first we introduce the notion of  $bD$ -sets as the difference sets of  $b$ -open sets. Second, we introduce the notion of  $gb$ -closed sets and investigate some relations between  $b$ -closed and  $gb$ -closed sets. We also give a characterization of  $b-T_{1/2}$  spaces via  $gb$ -closed sets. Then, we investigate some preservation theorems. We must state that we introduce new two weak homeomorphisms. It is well-known that the notion of homeomorphisms is an important key between General Topology and Algebra. By using the notion of  $m_X$ -structures, we give a characterization theorem of  $m_X-T_2$  spaces. Finally, we give some examples. Some applications of our results may relate to the digital line.

## 2. Preliminaries

Through out the paper, by  $(X, \tau)$  and  $(Y, \varphi)$  (or  $X$  and  $Y$ ) we always mean topological spaces on which no separation axioms are assumed, unless otherwise mentioned. Let  $A \subset X$ . Then  $A$  is called  $b$ -open [3] if  $A \subset Cl(Int(A)) \cup Int(Cl(A))$ , where  $Cl(A)$  and  $Int(A)$  denote the closure and interior of  $A$  in  $(X, \tau)$ , respectively. The complement  $A^c$  of a  $b$ -open set  $A$  is called  $b$ -closed [3] and the  $b$ -closure of a set  $A$ , denoted by  $bCl(A)$ , is defined by the intersection of all  $b$ -closed sets containing  $A$ . The  $b$ -interior of a set  $A$ , denoted by  $bInt(A)$ , is the union of all  $b$ -open sets contained in  $A$ . The symbols  $bCl(A)$  and  $bInt(A)$  were first used by Andrijević [3]. The family of all  $b$ -open (resp.  $b$ -closed) sets in  $(X, \tau)$  will be denoted by  $BO(X, \tau)$  (resp.  $BC(X, \tau)$ ) as in [3]. The family of all  $b$ -open sets containing  $x$  of  $X$  will be denoted by  $BO(X, x)$  as in [37]. It was shown that [3, Proposition 2.3(a)] the union of any family of  $b$ -open sets is a  $b$ -open set.

We recall some definitions used in the sequel.

**Definition 2.1.** A subset  $A$  of a space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be

- (a)  $\alpha$ -open [34] if  $A \subset Int(Cl(Int(A)))$ ,
- (b) semi-open [27] if  $A \subset Cl(Int(A))$ ,
- (c) preopen [30] if  $A \subset Int(Cl(A))$ ,
- (d)  $\beta$ -open [1] if  $A \subset Cl(Int(Cl(A)))$ .

Through out the paper, the family of all  $\alpha$ -open (resp. semi-open, preopen) sets in a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is denoted by  $\alpha(X)$  (resp.  $SO(X, \tau)$ ,  $PO(X, \tau)$ ).

**Definition 2.2.** A subset  $S$  of a topological space  $X$  is called

- (a) a  $D$ -set [38] if there are  $U, V \in \tau$  such that  $U \neq X$  and  $S = U \setminus V$ ,
- (b) an  $\alpha D$ -set [6] if there are  $U, V \in \alpha(X)$  such that  $U \neq X$  and  $S = U \setminus V$ ,
- (c) a  $sD$ -set [4] if there are  $U, V \in SO(X, \tau)$  such that  $U \neq X$  and  $S = U \setminus V$ ,
- (d) a  $pD$ -set [21] if there are  $U, V \in PO(X, \tau)$  such that  $U \neq X$  and  $S = U \setminus V$ .

Observe that every open (resp.  $\alpha$ -open, semi-open, preopen) set  $U$  different from  $X$  is a  $D$ -set (resp. an  $\alpha D$ -set, a  $sD$ -set, a  $pD$ -set) if  $S = U$  and  $V = \emptyset$ . Furthermore, since every open set is  $\alpha$ -open, then every  $\alpha$ -open set is semi-open and preopen. We have the following properties.

**Proposition 2.3.** (a) Every  $D$ -set is an  $\alpha D$ -set,  
 (b) every  $\alpha D$ -set is an  $sD$ -set, and  
 (c) every  $\alpha D$ -set is a  $pD$ -set.

In [6], Caldas et al. showed that the converses of (b) and (c) need not be true, in general. One can see related examples [4, Example 3.1] and [4, Example 3.2]. Since the notions of semi-open sets and preopen sets are independent, then one can easily obtain that the notions of  $sD$ -sets and  $pD$ -sets are independent of each other.

### 3. $bD$ -sets and associated separation axioms

**Definition 3.1.** A subset  $S$  of a topological space  $X$  is called a  $bD$ -set if there are  $U, V \in BO(X, \tau)$  such that  $U \neq X$  and  $S = U \setminus V$ .

It is true that every  $b$ -open set  $U$  different from  $X$  is a  $bD$ -set if  $S = U$  and  $V = \emptyset$ . So, we can observe the following.

**Remark 3.2.** Every proper  $b$ -open set is a  $bD$ -set. But, the converse is false as the next example shows.

**Example 3.3.** Let  $X=\{a,b,c,d\}$  and  $\tau=\{X,\emptyset,\{a\},\{a,d\},\{a,b,d\},\{a,c,d\}\}$ . Then,  $\{b\}$  is a  $bD$ -set but it is not a  $b$ -open. In really, since  $BO(X,\tau)=\{X,\emptyset,\{a\},\{a,b\},\{a,c\},\{a,d\},\{a,b,c\},\{a,b,d\},\{a,c,d\}\}$ , then  $U=\{a,b\} \neq X$  and  $V=\{a,c\}$  are  $b$ -open sets in  $X$ . For  $U$  and  $V$ , since  $S = U \setminus V = \{a,b\} \setminus \{a,c\} = \{b\}$ , then we have  $S=\{b\}$  is a  $bD$ -set but it is not  $b$ -open.

We have diagram I below.

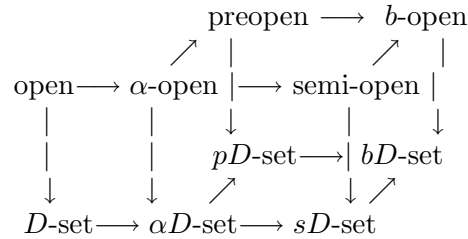


Diagram I

**Definition 3.4.** A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $b$ - $D_0$  [10] (resp.  $b$ - $D_1$  [10]) if for any pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$  there exists a  $bD$ -set of  $X$  containing  $x$  but not  $y$  or (resp. and) a  $bD$ -set of  $X$  containing  $y$  but not  $x$ .

**Definition 3.5.** A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $b$ - $D_2$  [10] if for any pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$  there exist disjoint  $bD$ -sets  $G$  and  $E$  of  $X$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively.

**Definition 3.6.** A space  $X$  is called  $b$ - $T_0$  [10] if for every pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$ , there exists a  $b$ -open set of  $X$  containing  $x$  but not  $y$  or a  $b$ -open set of  $X$  containing  $y$  but not  $x$ .

We recall that a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $b$ - $T_1$  ([2], [8], [10]) if for each pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$ , there exist  $b$ -open sets  $U$  and  $V$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, such that  $y \notin U$  and  $x \notin V$ . Additionally, in [37], Park introduced the notion of  $b$ - $T_2$  spaces as follows: A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $b$ - $T_2$  if for any pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  in  $X$ , there exist  $U \in BO(X, x)$  and  $V \in BO(X, y)$  such that  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ .

The following remark and theorem are due to [10].

**Remark 3.7.** (i) For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , the following properties hold:

- (i-1) (Caldas and Jafari [10]) (a) If  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-T_i$ , then it is  $b-D_i$ ,  $i=0,1,2$ .
  - (b) If  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-D_i$ , then it is  $b-D_{i-1}$ ,  $i=1,2$ .
  - (c) If  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-T_i$ , then it is  $b-T_{i-1}$ ,  $i=1,2$ .
- (i-2) (Caldas and Jafari [10]) (a) If  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-D_0$  if and only if it is  $b-T_0$ .
  - (b) If  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-D_1$  if and only if it is  $b-D_2$ .

(ii) In [10], the authors proved that every topological space is  $b-T_0$ .

(iii) Using Remark 3.7 (i-1)(a) or (i-2)(a) above, every topological space is  $b-D_0$ . The Sierpinski space is not  $b-D_1$ .

**Definition 3.8.** A subset  $A$  of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called a generalized  $b$ -closed (briefly  $gb$ -closed) set if  $bCl(A) \subset U$ , whenever  $A \subset U$  and  $U$  is  $b$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$ .

The following notion is due to [2].

A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called a  $B-T_{1/2}$  space if each singleton is either  $b$ -open or  $b$ -closed. The authors proved that “every topological space is  $B-T_{1/2}$ ” [2]. Here, we define the concept of “ $b-T_{1/2}$ -spaces”.

**Definition 3.9.** A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $b-T_{1/2}$  if every  $gb$ -closed set is  $b$ -closed.

It is obvious that every  $b$ -closed is  $gb$ -closed (Definition 3.7). Recall that a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called:

- a)  $b$ -symmetric [15] if for each  $x$  and  $y$  in  $X$ ,  $x \in bCl(\{y\})$  implies  $y \in bCl(\{x\})$ ;
- b)  $b-R_0$  [15] if its every  $b$ -open set contains the  $b$ -closure of each singleton.

**Theorem 3.10.** For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , the following properties hold:

- (i) (Abd El-Monsef, El-Atik and Sharkasy [2]) Let  $x$  be a point of  $(X, \tau)$ . Then,  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open or  $b$ -closed.
- (ii) A space  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-T_{1/2}$  if and only if each singleton is  $b$ -open or  $b$ -closed in  $(X, \tau)$ .

(iii) Every topological space is a  $b-T_{1/2}$ -space, i.e., a subset  $A$  is  $gb$ -closed in  $(X, \tau)$  if and only if  $A$  is  $b$ -closed.

(iv) For a space  $(X, \tau)$ , the following properties are equivalent:

(1)  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b$ -symmetric; (2)  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-T_1$ ; (3)  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-R_0$ .

(v) For each pair of distinct points  $x, y$  of  $X$ ,  $bCl(\{x\}) \neq bCl(\{y\})$ .

**Proof.** (i) This is obtained in [2; the proof of Lemma 2.3], but here we will give an alternative proof. By [22; Lemma 2], for every point  $x$  of any topological space  $(X, \tau)$ ,  $\{x\}$  is preopen or nowhere dense (i.e.,  $Int(Cl(\{x\})) = \emptyset$ ) and so  $\{x\}$  is preopen or semi-closed. Therefore,  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open or  $b$ -closed.

(ii) *Necessity* : Let  $x \in X$ . When  $\{x\} \notin BC(X, \tau)$ ,  $X \setminus \{x\} \notin BO(X, \tau)$ , then for any  $b$ -open set  $U$  satisfying a property  $X \setminus \{x\} \subset U$ , we have  $U = X$  only and so  $bCl(X \setminus \{x\}) \subset U$ . This shows that  $X \setminus \{x\}$  is  $gb$ -closed and, by assumption, the singleton  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open.

*Sufficiency* : Let  $A$  be a  $gb$ -closed set of  $(X, \tau)$ . In order to prove  $bCl(A) = A$ , let  $x \in bCl(A)$ . When  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open,  $\{x\} \cap A \neq \emptyset$  and so  $x \in A$ . When  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -closed,  $X \setminus \{x\} \in BO(X, \tau)$ . For this case, suppose that  $x \notin A$ . Since  $A \subset X \setminus \{x\}$  and  $A$  is a  $gb$ -closed, we have that  $x \in bCl(A) \subset X \setminus \{x\}$  and hence  $x \in X \setminus \{x\}$ . This contradiction shows that  $x \in A$  for a point satisfying  $x \in bCl(A)$  and  $A \in BC(X, \tau)$ . Therefore, every  $gb$ -closed set is  $b$ -closed in  $(X, \tau)$ .

(iii) It follows from (i) and (ii) that every topological space is  $b-T_{1/2}$ .

(iv) (1)  $\implies$  (2). Let  $x \in X$ . We claim that  $bCl(\{x\}) \subset \{x\}$ . Let  $y \in bCl(\{x\})$ . Then, by (i),  $x \in bCl(\{y\})$  holds. If  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open, then  $\{x\} \cap \{y\} \neq \emptyset$  and so  $y \in \{x\}$ . If  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -closed,  $y \in bCl(\{x\}) = \{x\}$  and so  $y \in \{x\}$ . By using (i), the claim is proved. Therefore,  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-T_1$ .

(2)  $\implies$  (3). Let  $G \in BO(X, \tau)$ . For a point  $x \in G$ ,  $bCl(\{x\}) = \{x\} \subset G$ . Thus,  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-R_0$ .

(3)  $\implies$  (1). It is similar to [15].

(v) Suppose that there exists a pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $bCl(\{x\}) = bCl(\{y\})$ . Then, by using (i),  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open or  $b$ -closed.

If  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open, then  $\{x\} \cap \{y\} \neq \emptyset$ , because  $x \in bCl(\{y\})$ . Thus, we have  $x = y$ .

If  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -closed,  $\{x\} = bCl(\{x\}) = bCl(\{y\})$  and so  $\{x\} = \{y\}$ . For both cases, we have contradiction.  $\square$

For a subset  $A$  of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  and a family  $m_X$  of subsets of  $(X, \tau)$  satisfying properties  $\emptyset, X \in m_X$ , the following subset  $\Lambda_m(A)$  is defined in [11]:  $\Lambda_m(A) = \cap\{U \mid A \subset U, U \in m_X\}$ . Such a family  $m_X$  is called an  $m_X$ -structure on  $X$  [35]. For  $m_X = \tau$  (resp.  $SO(X, \tau), PO(X, \tau), BO(X, \tau)$ ), the set  $\Lambda_m(A)$  is denoted by  $\Lambda(A)$  [28] (resp.  $\Lambda_s(A)$  [5],  $\Lambda_p(A)$  [19],  $\Lambda_b(A)$  [14]).

**Corollary 3.11.** *Let  $A$  be a subset of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ .*

- (i)  $\Lambda_b(A) \subset \Lambda_s(A) \cap \Lambda_p(A)$  and  $\Lambda_s(A) \cup \Lambda_p(A) \subset \Lambda(A)$  hold.
- (ii) (a) Assume that  $BO(X, \tau)$  is a topology of  $X$ . If  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \neq X$  for a point  $x \in X$ , then  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ .  
 (b) If a singleton  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ , then  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \neq X$ .
- (iii) If  $\Lambda(\{x\}) \neq X$  for a point  $x \in X$ , then  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ .
- (iv) For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  with at least two points,  $(X, \tau)$  is a  $bD_1$ -space if and only if  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \neq X$  holds for every point  $x \in X$ .
- (v) Let  $X$  be a set with at least two points. If there exists a point  $x \in X$  such that  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) = X$ , then  $(X, \tau)$  is not  $bD_1$  (thus, it is not  $bD_2$ ).

**Proof.** (i) According to [3], since  $\tau \subset SO(X, \tau) \cap PO(X, \tau)$  and  $SO(X, \tau) \cup PO(X, \tau) \subset BO(X, \tau)$ , then we have  $\Lambda_b(A) \subset \Lambda_s(A)$ ,  $\Lambda_b(A) \subset \Lambda_p(A)$ ,  $\Lambda_s(A) \subset \Lambda(A)$  and  $\Lambda_p(A) \subset \Lambda(A)$ . This shows that we have the required implications.

(ii) (a) Since  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \neq X$  for a point  $x \in X$ , then there exists a subset  $U \in BO(X, \tau)$  such that  $\{x\} \subset U$  and  $U \neq X$ . Using Theorem 3.10(i) for the point  $x$ , then  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open or  $b$ -closed in  $(X, \tau)$ . When the singleton  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open,  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ . When the singleton  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -closed, then  $(\{x\})^c$  is  $b$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$ . Put  $U_1 = U$  and  $U_2 = U \cap (\{x\})^c$ . Then,  $\{x\} = U_1 \setminus U_2$ ,  $U_1 \in BO(X, \tau)$  and  $U_1 \neq X$ . It follows from the hypothesis that  $U_2 \in BO(X, \tau)$  and so  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set.

(b) Since  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ , then there exist two subsets  $U_1 \in BO(X, \tau)$  and  $U_2 \in BO(X, \tau)$  such that  $\{x\} = U_1 \setminus U_2$ ,  $\{x\} \subset U_1$  and  $U_1 \neq X$ . Thus, we have that  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \subset U_1 \neq X$  and so  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \neq X$ .

(iii) Since  $\Lambda(\{x\}) \neq X$ , then there exists a subset  $U \in \tau$  such that  $\{x\} \subset U$  and  $U \neq X$ . Using Theorem 3.10(i) for the point  $x$ ,  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open or  $b$ -closed in  $(X, \tau)$ . When the singleton  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open, then  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ . When the singleton  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -closed, then  $(\{x\})^c$  is  $b$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$ . Put  $U_1 = U$  and  $U_2 = U \cap (\{x\})^c$ . By [3, Proposition 2.3(b)], the set  $U_2$  is  $b$ -open. Therefore,  $\{x\} = U_1 \setminus U_2$  and  $\{x\}$  is a  $bD$ -set, because  $U_1 \in BO(X, \tau)$  and  $U_1 \neq X$ .

(iv) Necessity: Let  $x \in X$ . For a point  $y \neq x$ , there exists a  $bD$ -set  $U$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $y \notin U$ . Say  $U = U_1 \setminus U_2$ , where  $U_i \in BO(X, \tau)$  for each  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $U_1 \neq X$ . Thus, for the point  $x$ , we have a  $b$ -open set  $U_1$  such that  $\{x\} \subset U_1$  and  $U_1 \neq X$ . Hence,  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \neq X$ .

Sufficiency: Let  $x$  and  $y$  be a pair of distinct points of  $X$ . We prove that there exist  $bD$ -sets  $A$  and  $B$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, such that  $y \notin A$  and  $x \notin B$ . Using Theorem 3.10(i), we can take the subsets  $A$  and  $B$  for the following four cases for two points  $x$  and  $y$ .

Case 1.  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -open and  $\{y\}$  is  $b$ -closed in  $(X, \tau)$ . Since  $\Lambda_b(\{y\}) \neq X$ , then there exists a  $b$ -open set  $V$  such that  $y \in V$  and  $V \neq X$ . Put  $A = \{x\}$  and  $B = \{y\}$ . Since  $B = V$ , then  $\{y\}^c, V$  is a  $b$ -open set with  $V \neq X$  and  $\{y\}^c$  is  $b$ -open, and  $B$  is a required  $bD$ -set containing  $y$  such that  $x \notin B$ . Obviously,  $A$  is a required  $bD$ -set containing  $x$  such that  $y \notin A$ .

Case 2.  $\{x\}$  is  $b$ -closed and  $\{y\}$  is  $b$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$ . The proof is similar to Case 1.

Case 3.  $\{x\}$  and  $\{y\}$  are  $b$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$ . Put  $A = \{x\}$  and  $B = \{y\}$ .

Case 4.  $\{x\}$  and  $\{y\}$  are  $b$ -closed in  $(X, \tau)$ . Put  $A = \{y\}^c$  and  $B = \{x\}^c$ .

For each case above, the subsets  $A$  and  $B$  are the required  $bD$ -sets. Therefore,  $(X, \tau)$  is a  $bD_1$ -space.

(v) By (iv) and Remark 3.7 (i-2)(b), (v) is obtained. □

**Remark 3.12.** (i) The converse of Corollary 3.11(iii) is not true, in general. Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space such that  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $\tau = \{X, \emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}\}$ . Then,  $\Lambda_b(\{c\}) = \{c\} \neq X$  and the singleton  $\{c\} = \{b, c\} \setminus \{b\}$  is a  $bD$ -set;  $\Lambda(\{c\}) = X$  holds.

(ii) It follows from Corollary 3.11 (i) that for a point  $x \in X$ ,  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) \neq X$  if  $\Lambda(\{x\}) \neq X$ ;  $\Lambda(\{x\}) = X$  if  $\Lambda_b(\{x\}) = X$ .



#### 4. Preservation theorems

Here, first we recall some definitions. Then, we will give several preservation theorems.

**Definition 4.1.** A function  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  is said to be

- (a)  $\alpha$ -continuous [31] if  $f^{-1}(V)$  is  $\alpha$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$ , for every open set  $V$  of  $(Y, \varphi)$ ,
- (b)  $\alpha$ -open [31] if  $f(U)$  is  $\alpha$ -open in  $(Y, \varphi)$ , for every open set  $U$  of  $(X, \tau)$ ,
- (c)  $\gamma$ -irresolute [14] if  $f^{-1}(V)$  is  $\gamma$ -open in  $X$ , for every  $\gamma$ -open set  $V$  of  $Y$ ,
- (d)  $\gamma$ -continuous [17] if  $f^{-1}(V)$  is  $\gamma$ -open in  $(X, \tau)$ , for every open set  $V$  of  $(Y, \varphi)$ .

We note that since the notion of  $b$ -open sets and the notion of  $\gamma$ -open sets are the same, then here we will use the term of  $b$ -irresolute (resp.  $b$ -continuous) functions instead of  $\gamma$ -irresolute (resp.  $\gamma$ -continuous) functions. In [10; Definition 6] the authors used the term of  $b$ -continuous functions instead of  $\gamma$ -irresolute functions.

**Theorem 4.2.** *If  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  is a  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) surjective function and  $S$  is a  $D$ -set (resp.  $bD$ -set) of  $(Y, \varphi)$ , then  $f^{-1}(S)$  is a  $bD$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $S = O_1 \setminus O_2$  be a  $D$ -set (resp.  $bD$ -set) of  $(Y, \varphi)$ , where  $O_i \in \varphi$  (resp.  $O_i \in BO(Y, \varphi)$ ), for each  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $O_1 \neq Y$ . We have that  $f^{-1}(O_i) \in BO(X, \tau)$ , for each  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $f^{-1}(O_1) \neq X$ . Hence,  $f^{-1}(S) = f^{-1}(O_1) \cap (X \setminus f^{-1}(O_2))$ . Therefore,  $f^{-1}(S)$  is a  $bD$ -set.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.3.** *If  $(Y, \varphi)$  is a  $D_1$  space ( resp.  $b-D_1$  space ) and  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  is a  $b$ -continuous ( resp.  $b$ -irresolute ) bijective function, then  $(X, \tau)$  is a  $b-D_1$  space.*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $Y$  is a  $D_1$  space (resp.  $b-D_1$  space). Let  $x$  and  $y$  be any pair of distinct points in  $X$ . Since  $f$  is injective and  $Y$  is  $D_1$  (resp.  $b-D_1$ ), then there exist  $D$ -sets (resp.  $bD$ -sets)  $S_x$  and  $S_y$  of  $Y$  containing

$f(x)$  and  $f(y)$ , respectively, such that  $f(x) \notin S_y$  and  $f(y) \notin S_x$ . By Theorem 4.2,  $f^{-1}(S_x)$  and  $f^{-1}(S_y)$  are  $bD$ -sets in  $X$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, such that  $x \notin f^{-1}(S_y)$  and  $y \notin f^{-1}(S_x)$ . This implies that  $X$  is a  $b-D_1$  space.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.4.** *A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-D_1$  if for each pair of distinct points  $x, y \in X$ , there exists a  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) surjective function  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \varphi)$ , where  $(Y, \varphi)$  is a  $D_1$  space (resp.  $b-D_1$  space) such that  $f(x)$  and  $f(y)$  are distinct.*

**Proof.** Let  $x$  and  $y$  be any pair of distinct points in  $X$ . By hypothesis, there exists a  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) surjective function  $f$  of a space  $(X, \tau)$  onto a  $D_1$  space (resp.  $b-D_1$  space)  $(Y, \varphi)$  such that  $f(x) \neq f(y)$ . It follows from Theorem 4.2 of [37] (resp. Remark 3.7(i-2)(b)) that  $D_1 = D_2$  (resp.  $b-D_1 = b-D_2$ ). Hence, there exist disjoint  $D$ -sets (resp.  $bD$ -sets)  $S_x$  and  $S_y$  in  $Y$  such that  $f(x) \in S_x$  and  $f(y) \in S_y$ . Since  $f$  is  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) and surjective, by Theorem 4.2,  $f^{-1}(S_x)$  and  $f^{-1}(S_y)$  are disjoint  $bD$ -sets in  $X$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively. So, the space  $(X, \tau)$  is  $b-D_1$ .  $\square$

The following notion is due to Hatir and Noiri [20].

A filterbase  $\mathbf{B}$  is called  $D$ -convergent to a point  $x \in X$  if for any  $D$ -set  $A$  containing  $x$ , there exists  $B_1 \in \mathbf{B}$  such that  $B_1 \subset A$ .

**Definition 4.5.** Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. A filter base  $\mathbf{B}$  is called  $bD$ -convergent to a point  $x \in X$ , if for any  $bD$ -set  $A$  containing  $x$ , there exists  $B_1 \in \mathbf{B}$  such that  $B_1 \subset A$ .

**Theorem 4.6.** *If a function  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  is  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) and surjective, then for each point  $x \in X$  and each filterbase  $\mathbf{B}$  on  $(X, \tau)$ ,  $bD$ -converging to  $x$ , the filterbase  $f(\mathbf{B})$  is  $D$ -convergent (resp.  $bD$ -convergent) to  $f(x)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $x \in X$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  be any filterbase  $bD$ -converging to  $x$ . Since  $f$  is a  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) surjection, by Theorem 4.2, for each  $D$ -set (resp.  $bD$ -set)  $V \subset Y$  containing  $f(x)$ ,  $f^{-1}(V) \subset X$  is a  $bD$ -set containing  $x$ . Since  $\mathbf{B}$  is  $bD$ -converging to  $x$ , then there exists  $B_1 \in \mathbf{B}$  such that  $B_1 \subset f^{-1}(V)$  and hence  $f(B_1) \subset V$ . It follows that  $f(\mathbf{B})$  is  $D$ -convergent (resp.  $bD$ -convergent) to  $f(x)$ .  $\square$

Recall that a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be  $D$ -compact [20] if every cover of  $X$  by  $D$ -sets has a finite subcover.

**Definition 4.7.** A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be  $bD$ -compact if every cover of  $X$  by  $bD$ -sets has a finite subcover.

**Theorem 4.8.** Let a function  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  be  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) and surjective. If  $(X, \tau)$  is  $bD$ -compact, then  $(Y, \varphi)$  is  $D$ -compact (resp.  $bD$ -compact).

**Proof.** It is proved by using Theorem 4.2. □

Recall that a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be  $D$ -connected [20] if  $(X, \tau)$  cannot be expressed as the union of two disjoint nonempty  $D$ -sets.

**Definition 4.9.** A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be  $bD$ -connected if  $(X, \tau)$  cannot be expressed as the union of two disjoint nonempty  $bD$ -sets.

**Theorem 4.10.** If  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  is a  $b$ -continuous (resp.  $b$ -irresolute) surjection and  $(X, \tau)$  is  $bD$ -connected, then  $(Y, \varphi)$  is  $D$ -connected (resp.  $bD$ -connected).

**Proof.** It is proved by using Theorem 4.2. □

**Remark 4.11.** Theorems 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.8 and 4.10 are true for an  $\alpha$ -continuous and  $\alpha$ -open function  $f$  instead of a  $b$ -irresolute function  $f$ . For an  $\alpha$ -continuous and  $\alpha$ -open function  $f$ , the inverse image  $f^{-1}(S)$  of each  $b$ -open set  $S$  is  $b$ -open (see El-Atik [17]).

It is well known that the notion of homeomorphisms is very important in General Topology. The following definition provides two new weak forms of homeomorphisms.

**Definition 4.12.** A function  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  is called a  $br$ -homeomorphism (resp.  $b$ -homeomorphism) if  $f$  is a  $b$ -irresolute bijection (resp.  $b$ -continuous bijection) and  $f^{-1} : (Y, \varphi) \longrightarrow (X, \tau)$  is a  $b$ -irresolute (resp.  $b$ -continuous).

Now, we can give the following definition by taking the space  $(X, \tau)$ , instead of the space  $(Y, \varphi)$ .

**Definition 4.13.** For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , we define the following two collections of functions:

$$\begin{aligned} br-h(X, \tau) &= \{f \mid f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau) \text{ is a } b\text{-irresolute bijection,} \\ & f^{-1} : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau) \text{ is } b\text{-irresolute}\}; \\ b-h(X, \tau) &= \{f \mid f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau) \text{ is a } b\text{-continuous bijection,} \\ & f^{-1} : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau) \text{ is } b\text{-continuous}\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 4.14.** For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , the following properties hold:

- (i)  $h(X, \tau) \subset br-h(X, \tau) \subset b-h(X, \tau)$ , where  $h(X, \tau) = \{f \mid f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau) \text{ is a homeomorphism}\}$ .
- (ii) The collection  $br-h(X, \tau)$  forms a group under the composition of functions.
- (iii) The group  $h(X, \tau)$  of all homeomorphisms on  $(X, \tau)$  is a subgroup of  $br-h(X, \tau)$ .

**Proof.** (i) First we show that every homeomorphism  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  is a  $br$ -homeomorphism. Indeed, for a subset  $A \in BO(Y, \varphi)$ ,  $f^{-1}(A) \subset f^{-1}(Cl(Int(A)) \cup Int(Cl(A))) = Cl(Int(f^{-1}(A))) \cup Int(Cl(f^{-1}(A)))$  and so  $f^{-1}(A) \in BO(X, \tau)$ . Thus,  $f$  is  $b$ -irresolute. In a similar way, it is shown that  $f^{-1}$  is  $b$ -irresolute. Hence, we have that  $h(X, \tau) \subset br-h(X, \tau)$ .

Finally, it is obvious that  $br-h(X, \tau) \subset b-h(X, \tau)$ , because every  $b$ -irresolute function is  $b$ -continuous.

(ii) If  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  and  $g : (Y, \varphi) \longrightarrow (Z, \eta)$  are  $br$ -homeomorphisms, then their composition  $g \circ f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Z, \eta)$  is a  $br$ -homeomorphism. It is obvious that for a bijective  $br$ -homeomorphism  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$ ,  $f^{-1} : (Y, \varphi) \longrightarrow (X, \tau)$  is also a  $br$ -homeomorphism and the identity  $1 : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau)$  is a  $br$ -homeomorphism. A binary operation  $\alpha : br-h(X, \tau) \times br-h(X, \tau) \longrightarrow br-h(X, \tau)$  is well defined by  $\alpha(a, b) = b \circ a$ , where  $a, b \in br-h(X, \tau)$  and  $b \circ a$  is the composition of  $a$  and  $b$ . By using the above properties, the set  $br-h(X, \tau)$  forms a group under composition of functions.

(iii) For any  $a, b \in h(X, \tau)$ , we have  $\alpha(a, b^{-1}) = b^{-1} \circ a \in h(X, \tau)$  and  $1_X \in h(X, \tau) \neq \emptyset$ . Thus, using (i) and (ii), it is obvious that the group  $h(X, \tau)$  is a subgroup of  $br-h(X, \tau)$ .  $\square$

For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , we can construct a new group  $br-h(X, \tau)$  satisfying the property: if there exists a homeomorphism  $(X, \tau) \cong (Y, \varphi)$ , then there exists a group isomorphism  $br-h(X, \tau) \cong br-h(Y, \varphi)$ .

**Corollary 4.15.** *Let  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  and  $g : (Y, \varphi) \longrightarrow (Z, \eta)$  be two functions between topological spaces.*

(i) *For a  $br$ -homeomorphism  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$ , there exists an isomorphism, say  $f_* : br-h(X, \tau) \longrightarrow br-h(Y, \varphi)$ , defined by  $f_*(a) = f \circ a \circ f^{-1}$ , for any element  $a \in br-h(X, \tau)$ .*

(ii) *For two  $br$ -homeomorphisms  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  and  $g : (Y, \varphi) \longrightarrow (Z, \eta)$ ,  $(g \circ f)_* = g_* \circ f_* : br-h(X, \tau) \longrightarrow br-h(Z, \eta)$  holds.*

(iii) *For the identity function  $1_X : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau)$ ,  $(1_X)_* = 1 : br-h(X, \tau) \longrightarrow br-h(X, \tau)$  holds, where 1 denotes the identity isomorphism.*

**Proof.** Straightforward.  $\square$

**Remark 4.16.** (i) The following example shows that  $h(X, \tau)$  is a proper subgroup of  $br-h(X, \tau)$ . Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space, where  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $\tau = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, X\}$ . We note that  $BO(X, \tau) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, X\}$ . It is shown that  $h(X, \tau) = \{1_X\}$  and  $br-h(X, \tau) = \{1_X, h_a\}$ , where  $1_X$  is the identity on  $(X, \tau)$  and  $h_a : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau)$  is a bijection defined by  $h_a(a) = a$ ,  $h_a(b) = c$  and  $h_a(c) = b$ .

(ii) The following example shows that  $br-h(X, \tau)$  is a proper subset of  $b-h(X, \tau)$ . Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space, where  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $\tau = \{\emptyset, \{a, b\}, X\}$ . Then,  $BO(X, \tau) = P(X) \setminus \{\{c\}\}$ . There exists an element  $h_b \in b-h(X, \tau)$  such that  $h_b \notin br-h(X, \tau)$ , where  $h_b : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (X, \tau)$  is a bijection defined by  $h_b(b) = b$ ,  $h_b(a) = c$  and  $h_b(c) = a$ .

(iii) The converse of Corollary 4.15(i) is not always true. Let  $X = Y = \{a, b, c\}$ ,  $\tau = \{\emptyset, \{a, b\}, X\}$  and  $\varphi = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, Y\}$ . Let  $f : (X, \tau) \longrightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  be a bijection between topological spaces defined by

$f(a) = b, f(b) = c$  and  $f(c) = a$ . Then, it is shown that  $f_* : br-h(X, \tau) \rightarrow br-h(Y, \varphi)$  is an isomorphism and the function  $f$  is not a *br-homeomorphism*. Indeed,  $BO(X, \tau) = P(X) \setminus \{\{c\}\}$ ,  $BO(Y, \varphi) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, Y\}$ ,  $br-h(X, \tau) = \{1_X, h_b\}$ ,  $br-h(Y, \varphi) = \{1_Y, h_a\}$ , where  $h_b$  (resp.  $h_a$ ) is defined in (ii) (resp. (i)). Moreover,  $f_*(h_b) = h_a$  holds and for a set  $\{a\} \in BO(Y, \varphi)$ ,  $f^{-1}(\{a\}) = \{c\} \notin BO(X, \tau)$  and so  $f$  is not a *br-homeomorphism*.

### 5. Some properties of $b-T_2$ spaces

Since the notion of  $b$ -open sets and the notion of  $\gamma$ -open sets are the same, then in this paper we will use the term of  $b$ -open functions instead of  $\gamma$ -open functions. Recall that a function is called  $\gamma$ -open [14] if the image of every  $\gamma$ -open set is  $\gamma$ -open.

In the following theorems, for a non-empty topological space  $(Y, \varphi)$ , we consider a family  $m_Y$  of subsets of  $(Y, \varphi)$  such that  $m_Y \in \{SO(Y, \varphi), PO(Y, \varphi), BO(Y, \varphi)\}$ . Namely, the family  $m_Y$  is only one element of  $\{SO(Y, \varphi), PO(Y, \varphi), BO(Y, \varphi)\}$ . We recall that  $(Y, m_Y)$  is called  $m_Y-T_2$  [36] if for each pair of distinct points  $x, y \in Y$ , there exist  $U, V \in m_Y$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, such that  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ . A topological space  $(Y, \varphi)$  is called semi- $T_2$  [29] (resp. pre- $T_2$  [23],  $b-T_2$  [37]) if  $(Y, m_Y)$  is  $m_Y-T_2$ , where  $m_Y = SO(Y, \varphi)$  (resp.  $PO(Y, \varphi)$ ,  $BO(Y, \varphi)$ ). A function  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  is called  $M$ -open [11], if for each set  $A \in m_X$ ,  $f(A) \in m_Y$ . For topological spaces  $(X, \tau)$ ,  $(Y, \varphi)$  with  $m_X$ -structure and  $m_Y$ -structure, respectively, here we call, a function  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \varphi)$  to be  $(m_X, m_Y)$ -open if  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  is  $M$ -open in the sense of [11] given above.

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation,  $R \subset X \times X$ , in a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  and  $(X/R, \Psi)$  an identification space. Let  $(m_X, m_{X/R}) = (SO(X, \tau), SO(X/R, \Psi))$  (resp.  $(PO(X, \tau), PO(X/R, \Psi))$ ,  $(BO(X, \tau), BO(X/R, \Psi))$ ).*

*Assume that:*

- (a) *the identification function  $\rho : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (X/R, \Psi)$  is  $(m_X, m_{X/R})$ -open, and*
- (b) *for each point  $(x, y) \in (X \times X) \setminus R$ , there exist subsets  $U_x, U_y \in m_X$  such that  $x \in U_x, y \in U_y$  and  $U_x \times U_y \subset (X \times X) \setminus R$ .*

Then,  $(X/R, m_{X/R})$  is  $m_{X/R}$ - $T_2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\rho(x)$  and  $\rho(y)$  be distinct members of  $X/R$ . Since  $x$  and  $y$  are not equivalent, then  $(x, y) \in (X \times X) \setminus R$ . By assumption, there exists two subsets  $U_x \in m_X, U_y \in m_X$  such that  $x \in U_x, y \in U_y$  and  $U_x \times U_y \subset (X \times X) \setminus R$ . Then, we have that  $U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset$ , because  $\{(z, z) \in X \times X \mid z = z\} \subset R$ . By the further assumption,  $\rho(U_x)$  and  $\rho(U_y)$  are the required subsets containing  $\rho(x)$  and  $\rho(y)$ , respectively, i.e.,  $\rho(U_x), \rho(U_y) \in m_{X/R}$  and  $\rho(U_x) \cap \rho(U_y) = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 5.2.** For a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  and each family  $m_X \in \{SO(X, \tau), PO(X, \tau), BO(X, \tau)\}$ , the following properties are equivalent:

- (1)  $(X, m_X)$  is  $m_X$ - $T_2$ .
- (2) For distinct points  $x$  and  $y \in X$ , there exists a subset  $U \in m_X$  such that  $x \in U, y \notin m_X$ - $Cl(U)$ , where  $m_X$ - $Cl(U)$  is defined by  $\cap\{F \mid U \subset F, X \setminus F \in m_X\}$ .
- (3) For each  $x \in X, \cap\{m_X$ - $Cl(U) \mid U \in m_X, x \in U\} = \{x\}$ .
- (4) For each pair  $(x, y) \in (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ , there exist two subsets  $U_x, V_y \in m_X$  such that  $x \in U_x, y \in V_y$  and  $U_x \times V_y \subset (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ , where  $\Delta = \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\}$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $\implies$  (2). Let  $x, y \in X$  with  $x \neq y$ . Then, there exist two subsets  $U, V \in m_X$  such that  $x \in U, y \in V$  and  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ . It is obvious that  $y \notin V^c, m_X$ - $Cl(U) \subset m_X$ - $Cl(V^c) = V^c$  and therefore  $y \notin m_X$ - $Cl(U)$ .

(2)  $\implies$  (3). Assume that  $y \notin \{x\}$ . There exists a subset  $U \in m_X$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $y \notin m_X$ - $Cl(U)$ . So, we have that  $y \notin \cap\{m_X$ - $Cl(U) \mid U \in m_X, x \in U\}$ .

(3)  $\implies$  (4). Let  $(x, y) \in (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ . Since  $y \notin \cap\{m_X$ - $Cl(U) \mid U \in m_X, x \in U\}$ , then there exists a subset  $U \in m_X$  such that  $x \in U, y \in (m_X$ - $Cl(U))^c$  and  $(m_X$ - $Cl(U))^c \in m_X$  ([36, Lemma 3.2, Lemma 3.1(6), Remark 3.1(2)]). Set  $U_x = U$  and  $U_y = (m_X$ - $Cl(U))^c$ . Then, it is shown that  $x \in U_x, y \in U_y$  and  $U_x, U_y \in m_X$ . Besides, we have that  $(U_x \times U_y) \cap \Delta = \emptyset$ , because  $U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset$ . Therefore, we have  $U_x \times U_y \subset (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ .

(4)  $\implies$  (1). Let  $x \neq y$ . Then  $(x, y) \in (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ , and by (4) there exist two subsets  $U_x, U_y \in m_X$  such that  $(x, y) \in U_x \times U_y \subset (X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ . Hence, we have that  $(U_x \times U_y) \cap \Delta = \emptyset$ , i.e.,  $U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

## 6. Applications

Here, we are able to apply Theorems 5.1 and 5.2 to investigate properties on the digital line using alternative construction [26; p. 908] of digital lines. In Example 6.2 (a)-(d), we use Theorem 5.1 to prove the  $b-T_2$ ness of the digital line. Moreover, in Example 6.3, we use Theorem 5.2 to observe an alternative proof on the non-pre- $T_2$ ness of the digital line. We recall the Khalimsky line or so called the digital line  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  is the set of the integers  $\mathbb{Z}$  with the topology  $\kappa$  having  $S = \{\{2m - 1, 2m, 2m + 1\} \mid m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  as a subbase ([24],[25],[26]; eg.,[12],[18],[17]). In  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$ , for examples, each singleton  $\{2m + 1\}$  is open and each singleton  $\{2m\}$  is closed, where  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . A subset  $U$  is open in  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  if and only if whenever  $x \in U$  and  $x$  is an even integer, then  $x - 1, x + 1 \in U$ . A subset  $\{2m - 1, 2m, 2m + 1\}$  is the smallest open set containing  $2m$ , where  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . It is shown directly that  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  is semi- $T_2$  ([17; Theorem 2.3]) and so it is  $b-T_2$ . However, it is not pre- $T_2$  ([17; Theorem 4.8(ii)]) and so it is not  $T_2$ , because  $\kappa = PO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  holds([18; Theorem 2.1(i)(a)]).

**Example 6.1.** Let  $(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$  be the Euclidan line and  $q : (\mathbb{R}, \epsilon) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  a function defined by  $q(x) = 2n + 1$  for every point  $x$  with  $2n < x < 2n + 2$ ,  $q(2n) = 2n$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  ([26; p. 908]). Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation in  $(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$  defined by  $R = (\cup\{V(2n, 2n + 2) \times V(2n, 2n + 2) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}) \cup (\cup\{(2n, 2n) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\})$ , where  $V(2n, 2n + 2) = \{t \in \mathbb{R} \mid 2n < t < 2n + 2\}$ . For points  $t$  and  $x$  of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $t$  is equivalent to  $x$  if and only if  $(t, x) \in R$ . We denote the set of all equivalence classes by  $\mathbb{R}/R = \{[t] \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ , where  $[t] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid (x, t) \in R\}$  is an equivalence class including  $t$ . Then, the projection  $p : (\mathbb{R}, \epsilon) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  is well defined by  $p(t) = [t]$ , for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ;  $\Psi$  is the identification topology induced by the function  $p$ ; a subset  $U_1$  of  $\mathbb{R}/R$  is open in  $(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  (i.e.,  $U_1 \in \Psi$ ) if and only if  $p^{-1}(U_1)$  is open in  $(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ . It is shown that  $p(t) = [q(t)]$ , for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$

- (a) The digital line  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  and  $(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  are homeomorphic.
- (b) For  $m_{\mathbb{R}} = SO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$  (resp.  $BO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ ) and  $R$  above, one of the assumptions in Theorem 5.1, i.e., (b), holds.
- (c) The function  $p : (\mathbb{R}, \epsilon) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  is  $(SO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon), SO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi))$ -open,  $(PO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon), PO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi))$ -open and  $(BO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon), BO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi))$ -open.
- (d) The digital line  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  is semi- $T_2$  and also  $b-T_2$ .



**Proof.** (a) A continuous bijection  $f : (\mathbb{Z}, \kappa) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  is well defined by  $f(q(x)) = p(x)$ . Then,  $f \circ q = p$  and the inverse  $f^{-1}$  is continuous.

(b) In Theorem 5.1, let  $(X, \tau) = (\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$  and  $R = (\cup\{V(2n, 2n + 2) \times V(2n, 2n + 2) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}) \cup \{(2n, 2n) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . We need the following notations:  $V(2n, +\infty) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 2n < x\}$ ,  $V[2n, +\infty) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 2n \leq x\}$ ,  $V(-\infty, 2n) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x < 2n\}$  and  $V(-\infty, 2n] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \leq 2n\}$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . It is shown that  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus R = [\cup\{(V[2n, +\infty) \times V(-\infty, 2n)) \cup (V(2n, +\infty) \times V(-\infty, 2n]) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}] \cup [\cup\{(V(-\infty, 2n] \times V(2n, +\infty)) \cup (V(-\infty, 2n) \times V[2n, +\infty)) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}]$ . Let  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus R$ . Then, there exist subsets such that  $(x, y) \in V[2n, +\infty) \times V(-\infty, 2n)$ ,  $(x, y) \in V(2n, +\infty) \times V(-\infty, 2n]$ ,  $(x, y) \in V(-\infty, 2n] \times V(2n, +\infty)$  or  $(x, y) \in V(-\infty, 2n) \times V[2n, +\infty)$ . Since  $V[2n, +\infty)$ ,  $V(-\infty, 2n)$ , then  $V(2n, +\infty)$  and  $V(-\infty, 2n]$  are semi-open and also  $b$ -open in  $(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ , the condition (b) of Theorem 5.1 holds for  $m_{\mathbb{R}} = SO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$  and also  $m_{\mathbb{R}} = BO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ .

(c) It is obvious that the function  $q : (\mathbb{R}, \epsilon) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  is open and continuous and  $f \circ q = p$  holds. First, let  $A \in SO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ . Then, there exists an open subset  $U$  such that  $U \subset A \subset Cl(U)$ . Using  $f$  in the proof of (a) above,  $f(q(U)) \in \Psi$  and  $f(q(U)) \subset f(q(A)) \subset f(Cl(q(U))) = Cl(f(q(U)))$ . Thus, we have that  $p(U) \in \Psi$  and  $p(U) \subset p(A) \subset Cl(p(U))$ , i.e.,  $p(A) \in SO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$ .

Second, let  $B \in PO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ . Then, there exists an open subset  $V$  such that  $B \subset V \subset Cl(B)$ . It is shown similarly as above that  $p(V) \in \Psi$  and  $p(B) \subset p(V) \subset Cl(p(B))$ . Namely,  $p(B) \in PO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$ .

Finally, let  $S \in BO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ . It is well known that  $S = sInt(S) \cup pInt(S)$  holds [3; Proposition 2.1]. Since  $sInt(S) \in SO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$  and  $pInt(S) \in PO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ , we have that  $p(sInt(S)) \in SO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  and  $p(pInt(S)) \in PO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$ .

Then, we have that  $p(S) = p(sInt(S)) \cup p(pInt(S)) \subset Cl(Int(p(sInt(S)))) \cup Int(Cl(p(pInt(S)))) \subset Cl(Int(p(S))) \cup Int(Cl(p(S)))$ . Namely,  $p(S) \in BO(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$ .

(d) By (b) and (c), all assumptions of Theorem 5.1 are satisfied for  $m_{\mathbb{R}} = SO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$  (resp.  $m_{\mathbb{R}} = BO(\mathbb{R}, \epsilon)$ ). Thus,  $(\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  is semi- $T_2$  (resp.

$b-T_2$ ). Since  $f : (\mathbb{Z}, \kappa) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}/R, \Psi)$  is a homeomorphism, then we prove that

$(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  is semi- $T_2$  (resp.  $b-T_2$ ). □

**Example 6.2.** (a) The digital line is not pre- $T_2$  ([17; Theorem 4.8(ii)]). Using Theorem 5.2 (3), we have an alternative proof of the property above. Let  $(X, \tau) = (\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  and  $m_X = PO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  in Theorem 5.2. Then, the condition (3) of Theorem 5.2 is not satisfied. Indeed, let a point  $x = 2n \in \mathbb{Z}$  for some integer  $n$ , and  $U_x$  be any preopen set  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  such that  $x \in U_x$ . By using [17; Lemma 3.3], it is shown that  $\{2n - 1, x, 2n + 1\} \subset U_x$ . Thus, we have that  $\cap\{pCl(U) \mid U \in PO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa), x \in U\} \supset pCl(\{2n - 1, x, 2n + 1\}) \supset \{2n - 1, x, 2n + 1\} \neq \{x\}$ . Therefore, by Theorem 5.2,  $(\mathbb{Z}, PO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa))$  is not  $PO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$ - $T_2$ . Namely, the digital line is not pre- $T_2$ .

(b) Using Theorem 5.2 (3), for  $m_X = SO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$ , we have an alternative proof of (d) in Example 6.2 above. Let  $x = 2n$  and  $y = 2m + 1$  for some integers  $n$  and  $m$ . Then,  $\{x, 2n + 1\}$ ,  $\{2n - 1, x\}$  and  $\{y\}$  are semi-open sets of  $(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$  (e.g., [18]). Since  $sCl(\{x, 2n + 1\}) = \{x, 2n + 1\}$ , then  $sCl(\{2n - 1, x\}) = \{2n - 1, x\}$ ,  $\cap\{sCl(U) \mid U \in SO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa), x \in U\} \subset sCl(\{x, 2n + 1\}) \cap sCl(\{2n - 1, x\}) = \{x, 2n + 1\} \cap \{2n - 1, x\} = \{x\}$ . Moreover,  $\cap\{sCl(U) \mid U \in SO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa), y \in U\} \subset sCl(\{y\}) = \{y\}$  holds. Therefore, we conclude that  $\cap\{sCl(U) \mid U \in SO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa), z \in U\} = \{z\}$  holds for any point  $z \in \mathbb{Z}$ . By Theorem 5.2, it is obtained that  $(\mathbb{Z}, SO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa))$  is  $SO(\mathbb{Z}, \kappa)$ - $T_2$ . Namely, the digital line is semi- $T_2$  and also it is  $b$ - $T_2$ .

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