

GRZEGORCZYK POINTS AND FILTERS IN BOOLEAN CONTACT ALGEBRAS

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Abstract. The purpose of this paper is to compare the notion of a *Grzegorzczuk point* introduced in [19] (and thoroughly investigated in [3, 14, 16, 18]) to the standard notions of a *filter* in Boolean algebras and *round filter* in Boolean contact algebras. In particular, we compare Grzegorzczuk points to filters and ultrafilters of atomic and atomless algebras. We also prove how a certain extra axiom influences topological spaces for Grzegorzczuk contact algebras. Last but not least, we do not refrain from a philosophical interpretation of the results from the paper.

§1. Introduction. In [16, 18] we carried out an extensive analysis of one of the first systems of point-free topology by Grzegorzczuk [19], based on the notion of *separation* (the dual notion of *contact*). The two papers witnessed the formulation of representation and duality theorems for a subclass of so-called *Grzegorzczuk structures*. In particular, we established an object duality between a class of Grzegorzczuk structures that satisfy the countable chain condition and the concentric spaces (a subclass of the class of regular spaces), which satisfy the topological version of the same condition.

A particular idiosyncrasy of Grzegorzczuk's approach to point-free topology is his definition of a *point*, which is a formal reflection of the geometrical intuition of a point as a system of “shrinking” regions of space. We have devoted much attention to elucidating the idea in [14–16, 18], so we refer the reader to these works if they want to familiarize themselves with an informal (yet precise) analysis of the notion.

One of the problems that occupied us in the aforementioned works was the relation of Grzegorzczuk points to other classical point-like constructions, such as ultrafilters and maximal round filters. We have only scratched the surface of the problem, yet we demonstrated that the following two second-order sentences:

- (a) *Every Grzegorzczuk point is an ultrafilter*, and
- (b) *Every ultrafilter is a Grzegorzczuk point*

correspond to the following first-order and second-order sentences, respectively:

- (a') *Each region is separated from its complement.* (cf. Theorem 8.4)
- (b') *The structure is finite.* (cf. Theorem 9.1)

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We proved as well that every Grzegorzczuk point is a maximal round filter. For the sake of completeness of the presentation, some of these results are contained in this paper.

Here, we aim to examine how Grzegorzczuk points behave and relate to filters and ultrafilters in atomless and atomic Boolean contact algebras, which in a very natural way relate to Grzegorzczuk structures from the earlier works. To be more precise, previously we worked with *mereological fields*, which are structures that always lack the zero element and might lack the unity. In all other respects, they bear a very strong resemblance to Boolean algebras, thanks to the classical theorems to which we refer in Sections 6 and 7 of [16]. Thanks to these theorems, all results obtained in the earlier works are easily translatable into analogous results in the framework of Boolean algebras. We have also replaced the primitive binary relation of *separation* with its dual, the *contact* relation. The main reason to do so was the fact that since more or less the beginning of the twenty-first century and the seminal works of Stell [23], Düntsch & Winter [10, 11] and Dimov & Vakarelov [8, 9], Boolean contact algebras have been the standard framework for doing region-based topology. Thus, with technical results in focus and philosophical considerations aside, contact algebras are the most natural choice for the presentation of advances in the study of Grzegorzczuk point-free topology.

§2. Motivations. There are various reasons for doing region-based theories of space. Probably the main one is to describe spatial relations in terms of concepts that can be rooted in the sensory experience. Such were motivations for both Region Connection Calculus of Cohn et al. [5] and Boolean contact algebras. From the purely mathematical point of view, algebraic parts of these theories focused on finding suitable topological representations and duality theorems, most notably via the spaces of clusters as, among others, in the works of Düntsch & Winter [11] and Dimov & Vakarelov [8]. In closely related De Vries algebras from [7] maximal round filters play a crucial role in algebraization of the topological notion of compactness.

The approach taken by Grzegorzczuk [19] seems to have yet another motivation—to find spatially satisfactory construction of points in terms of regions and separation (equivalently: contact) relation. Grzegorzczuk points are, in a way, generalizations of Tarski's points as sets of concentric balls from his geometry of solids [25], and they embody the idea of a point as a system of shrinking regions of space.

From both philosophical and technical points of view, it is interesting (at least for us, as the authors of the paper) how second-order conditions expressing dependencies between various constructions of points relate to either first- or second-order properties of Boolean contact algebras. This line of research was initiated by Biacino & Gerla [3] with finding sufficient conditions for Grzegorzczuk points and Whitehead points from [26] to coincide. We believe that further investigation of dependencies between various constructions of points can bring interesting results in region-based theories of space, even more so because it is very little examined fragment of such theories.

As pointed to in the introduction, in our previous works we showed certain correspondences between statements about points of contact algebras and their properties. In particular, we found it interesting how Grzegorzczuk points relate to the standard filter constructions of Boolean contact algebras. Among these, the Fréchet filter plays a distinguished role in the class of atomic Boolean algebras, and, interestingly, its relation to Grzegorzczuk points is independent from the axioms of

Grzegorzczuk contact algebras. We venture to say that this may be interpreted as the fact that the notion of Fréchet filter is independent from the spatial intuitions behind the definition of Grzegorzczuk points. Investigating consequences of the statement “Fréchet filter is a Grzegorzczuk point” may be interpreted philosophically as answering the question *what are consequences of forcing our spatial intuitions about points into the notion of Fréchet filter?* To us as the authors, logicians with a strong predilection toward philosophical aspects of mathematical theories, it seemed a very stimulating question which is faced and solved in the paper.

It is hard to say now what, if any, fruits bears the theory of correspondences between statements about points of Boolean contact algebras and their familiar properties. However, in our opinion, it is a path that is worth studying as it may lead to new perspectives on various—both mathematical and philosophical—aspects of region-based theories of space.

§3. Boolean quasi-contact algebras. This section is a refresher of the standard notions, axioms and elementary properties of contact algebras that are essential for the key results of the paper.

A *Boolean quasi-contact algebra* (BQCA for short) is any pair $\mathfrak{R} = \langle \mathfrak{B}, \mathcal{C} \rangle$, where $\mathfrak{B} = \langle R, \sqcap, \sqcup, -, 0, 1 \rangle$ is a non-degenerate Boolean algebra¹ (BA for short) and \mathcal{C} is a binary *contact* relation on R which meets the following four axioms:²

$$\forall x \in R \ 0 \mathcal{C} x, \quad (\text{C0})$$

$$\forall x, y \in R (x \mathcal{C} y \implies y \mathcal{C} x), \quad (\text{C1})$$

$$\forall x \in R^+ \ x \mathcal{C} x, \quad (\text{C2})$$

$$\forall x, y \in R (x \leq y \implies \forall z \in R (z \mathcal{C} x \implies z \mathcal{C} y)), \quad (\text{C3})$$

where \mathcal{C} is the complement of \mathcal{C} , $R^+ := R \setminus \{0\}$ and \leq is the standard *partial order* defined by:

$$x \leq y :\iff x \sqcap y = x \iff x \sqcup y = y. \quad (\text{df}\leq)$$

Furthermore, we will use the standard *strict partial order* defined by:

$$x \lessdot y :\iff x \leq y \wedge x \neq y \iff x \leq y \wedge y \not\leq x. \quad (\text{df}\lessdot)$$

All elements of the domain R will be called *regions*; the region 0 will be called *empty*; and all regions from R^+ will be called *non-empty*. In the case $x \mathcal{C} y$ (resp. $x \not\mathcal{C} y$; $x \leq y$; $x \lessdot y$) we will say that x is *in contact with* y (resp. x is *separated from* y ; x is *part of* y ; x is *a proper part of* y). Axioms (C0)–(C3) say, respectively: 0 is separated from any region; \mathcal{C} is symmetric and reflexive on R^+ ; and if one region is part of another, then each region in contact with the first is also in contact with the other. In BAs condition (C3) is equivalent to

$$\forall x, y, z \in R (z \mathcal{C} x \vee z \mathcal{C} y \implies z \mathcal{C} x \sqcup y). \quad (3.1)$$

¹ We use [22] as the standard reference for concepts related to and results about Boolean algebras.

² What we call quasi-contact is the weak contact in the sense of [12]. Our axioms coincide with those chosen by the authors of the aforementioned paper.

From (C3) and the reflexivity of \leq we obtain that in place of (C2) we can assume that C includes \leq limited to non-empty regions:

$$\forall_{x,y \in R^+} (x \leq y \implies x C y). \tag{(\leq |_{R^+} \subseteq C)}$$

So every non-empty region is in contact with 1:

$$\forall_{x \in R^+} x C 1. \tag{(3.2)}$$

We will also use two auxiliary binary relations on R : \circ and \perp . We define the first by:

$$x \circ y := \iff x \sqcap y \neq 0 \iff \exists_{z \in R^+} (z \leq x \wedge z \leq y), \tag{(df\circ)}$$

and we let the second be the complement of \circ . In the case $x \circ y$ (resp. $x \perp y$) we will say that x overlaps y (resp. x is disjoint from y). From (C3), (C1) and $(\leq |_{R^+} \subseteq C)$ we have:

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x C -y \iff \exists_{z \in R} (x C z \wedge z \perp y)), \tag{(3.3)}$$

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x \mathcal{Q} -y \implies x \leq y), \tag{(3.4)}$$

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x \circ y \implies x C y). \tag{(\circ \subseteq C)}$$

Yet another auxiliary standard relation of *non-tangential inclusion* is defined by:

$$x \ll y := \iff x \mathcal{Q} -y. \tag{(df\ll)}$$

In the case $x \ll y$ we say that x is a *non-tangential part* of y . From (3.3) it follows that:

$$x \ll y \iff \forall_{z \in R} (z C x \implies z \circ y). \tag{(df'\ll)}$$

From (C0), (C1), $(\leq |_{R^+} \subseteq C)$, (df'\ll) we obtain that every region is a non-tangential part of 1 and each non-tangential part of a given region is its (ordinary) part:

$$\forall_{x \in R} x \ll 1, \tag{(3.5)}$$

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x \ll y \implies x \leq y). \tag{(\ll \subseteq \leq)}$$

From (df'\ll), (df\circ) and the transitivity of \leq we have:

$$\forall_{x,y,u,v \in R} (u \leq x \wedge v \ll y \wedge u C v \implies x \circ y). \tag{(3.6)}$$

Furthermore, we have the following property of \ll :

$$\forall_{x,y,z,u \in R} (x \leq u \wedge u \ll y \wedge y \leq z \implies x \ll z). \tag{(3.7)}$$

It—together with $(\ll \subseteq \leq)$ and the reflexivity of \leq —gives the transitivity of \ll :

$$\forall_{x,y,z \in R} (x \ll y \wedge y \ll z \implies x \ll z). \tag{(t\ll)}$$

We will use three families of filters in BAs. The first one will be the family **Uit** of all *ultrafilters*, i.e., proper maximal filters. The second one will be the family of *principal filters* of the form $\uparrow x := \{u \in R \mid x \leq u\}$ for an $x \in R$ (the set $\uparrow x$ is called a *principal filter generated by x*). Let **PF** and **PF_{At}** be families of all principal filters and of principal filters generated by atoms, respectively. The third family will be the family of *free filters* which satisfy the following condition: there is no $x \in R$ such that for any $y \in F$ we have $x \leq y$. Every ultrafilter is free or belongs to **PF_{At}**.

Moreover, two families of filters in BQCA will play special roles in the sequel. The first one will be the family **Rnd** of so-called *round* (or *contracting*) filters which are proper filters satisfying:

- for any $x \in F$ there is a $y \in F$ such that $y \ll x$.

From $(\circ \subseteq C)$, $(df' \ll)$ and $(\ll \subseteq \leq)$ we obtain:

LEMMA 3.1. *For any round filter F we have: $\forall x \in R (\forall z \in F z C x \iff \forall z \in F z \circ x)$.*

The second one is the family **M.Rnd** of all proper maximal filters in the family **Rnd**.³

LEMMA 3.2 [18, lemma 10.6]. *If a round filter F satisfies the condition $\forall x, y \in R ((\forall z \in F z C x \wedge x \ll y) \implies y \in F)$, then F belongs to **M.Rnd**.*

It is easy to check that the structures (\mathfrak{B}, \circ) and $(\mathfrak{B}, R^+ \times R^+)$ are BQCA. We will call them *trivial BQCA*. The relation \circ is the smallest contact relation on \mathfrak{B} (cf. [10, proposition 2.2(1)]. From $(df' \ll)$, $(\circ \subseteq C)$ and **(C2)** we obtain:

$$C = \circ \iff \ll = \leq \iff \ll \text{ is reflexive.} \tag{3.8}$$

Hence all filters in (\mathfrak{B}, \circ) are round; and so **Ult** = **M.Rnd**.

§4. Boolean contact algebras. After [10], we will call a *Boolean contact algebra* (BCA for short) any BQCA satisfying

$$\forall x, y, z \in R (z C x \sqcup y \implies z C x \vee z C y), \tag{C4}$$

$$\forall x \in R \setminus \{1\} \exists y \in R^+ x \not\ll y. \tag{C5}$$

From (3.1) and (C4) we have:

$$\forall x, y, z \in R (z C x \sqcup y \iff z C x \vee z C y). \tag{4.1}$$

By means of (3.5), $(df \ll)$, **(C3)**, $(\ll \subseteq \leq)$, $(\leq \upharpoonright_{R^+} \subseteq C)$, **(C1)**, (3.2) and the antisymmetry of \leq , we can prove:

LEMMA 4.1. *In BQCA condition (C5) is equivalent to each of the following:*

$$\forall x \in R^+ \exists y \in R^+ y \ll x, \tag{(\exists \ll)}$$

$$\forall x, y \in R (\forall z \in R (z C x \implies z C y) \implies x \leq y), \tag{(C3_c)}$$

$$\forall x, y \in R (x \leq y \iff \forall z \in R (z C x \implies z C y)), \tag{(ext_{\leq})}$$

$$\forall x, y \in R (\forall z \in R (z C x \iff z C y) \implies x = y). \tag{(ext_c)}$$

REMARK 4.2. Dimov & Vakarelov [8, p. 213] analyzed *contact algebras* as structures of the form (\mathfrak{B}, C) satisfying **(C0)**–**(C2)** and (4.1). The algebras that additionally satisfy **(ext_C)** are named by them as *extensional contact algebras* (p. 215). In Lemma 2.2 of [8] the authors demonstrate that conditions **(ext_C)**, **(C5)**, $(\exists \ll)$ and **(C3_c)** are equivalent in any contact algebra. But, as the above lemma shows, BQCA are enough for this, i.e., the condition **(C4)** can be omitted in the proofs.

³ Generally, $\mathbf{Rnd} \cap \mathbf{Ult} \subseteq \mathbf{M.Rnd} \subseteq \mathbf{Rnd}$. But there are BCAs in which $\mathbf{M.Rnd} \not\subseteq \mathbf{Rnd} \cap \mathbf{Ult}$. In Section 6 we will introduce the sixth family of filters, so-called *Grzegorzczak points*.

Düntsche & Winter [11] treated *Boolean contact algebras* as structures of the form $\langle \mathfrak{B}, \mathcal{C} \rangle$ satisfying (C0)–(C4) and (C3_c). They showed that these conditions entail (C5) and (3.1) (Lemma 3.2).

It is easy to check that trivial BQCA's of the form $\langle \mathfrak{B}, \circ \rangle$ (see p. 21) are BCAs. In the sequel we will use ‘BCA^o’ as a general name for all BCAs with $\mathcal{C} = \circ$. The BQCA's of the form $\langle \mathfrak{B}, R^+ \times R^+ \rangle$ are BCAs iff $R^+ = \{1\}$ iff $\circ = \leq$ iff $R^+ \times R^+ = \circ$. So all trivial examples of BCAs are BCA^o's.

Let *At* be the set of *atoms* of a given BA. Directly from $(\exists \ll)$ and $(\ll \subseteq \leq)$ we have:

$$\forall a \in \text{At} \ a \ll a. \tag{4.2}$$

Hence, using $(\circ \subseteq \mathcal{C})$, $(\text{df}' \ll)$ and (3.7), we obtain:

$$\forall a \in \text{At} \ \forall x \in R \ (a \mathcal{C} x \iff a \circ x \iff a \leq x \iff a \ll x). \tag{4.3}$$

From this and $(\text{df}' \ll)$, (C1), and (4.1), we get a generalization of (4.2):

$$\forall a_1, \dots, a_n \in \text{At} \ a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n \ll a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n. \tag{4.4}$$

For any $x \in R$ we put: $\text{At}_x := \{a \in \text{At} \mid a \leq x\}$ and $\text{At}_x^\perp := \{a \in \text{At} \mid a \perp x\}$. It is clear that the atomicity of a given BA implies that $x = \sup \text{At}_x$. A BQCA is *atomic* iff it is based on an atomic BA. The following fact will be used in the proof of Theorem 7.8.

LEMMA 4.3. *In any atomic BCA we have:*

$$\forall x, y \in R \ (x \mathcal{C} y \wedge x \perp y \implies \text{both } \text{At}_x \text{ and } \text{At}_y \text{ are infinite}).$$

Proof. Assume for a contradiction that $x \mathcal{C} y$, $x \perp y$ and At_x is finite. Then for some atoms a_1, \dots, a_n we have $x = a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n$. So, by (C1), (4.1) and (4.3), we have: $x \mathcal{C} y$ iff $a_1 \mathcal{C} y$ or ... or $a_n \mathcal{C} y$ iff $a_1 \leq y$ or ... or $a_n \leq y$. Therefore $x \circ y$, a contradiction. □

We say that a BA is *finite-cofinite* iff for any $x \in R$ either $x \in \{0, 1\}$ or there are $n > 0$ and $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \text{At}$ such that either $x = a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n$ or $x = \neg(a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n)$. Clearly, all finite BAs are finite-cofinite. Düntsche & Winter [10] showed that the only BCAs that can be obtained from finite-cofinite BAs are the trivial BCAs^o.

PROPOSITION 4.4 [10, proposition 2.2(2)]. *If \mathfrak{B} is finite-cofinite, then $\langle \mathfrak{B}, \circ \rangle$ is the only BCA based on \mathfrak{B} .*

Notice that every non-empty region which is not an atom has at least two non-tangential non-empty proper parts which are separated from each other:

$$\forall x \in R^+ \setminus \text{At} \ \exists u, v \in R^+ \ (u \ll x \wedge v \ll x \wedge u \mathcal{C} v \wedge u \neq x \neq v). \tag{4.5}$$

Indeed, assume that $x \in R^+ \setminus \text{At}$. Then there are $y, z \in R^+$ such that $y \perp z$ and $x = y \sqcup z$. Hence, by $(\exists \ll)$, there are $u, v \in R^+$ such that $u \ll y \leq x$ and $v \ll z \leq x$. So, by (3.6) and $(\ll \subseteq \leq)$, we have $u \mathcal{C} v$. Moreover, by (3.7), we have $u \ll x$, $v \ll x$ and $u \neq x \neq v$.

A BQCA is *atomless* iff it is based on an atomless BA.

REMARK 4.5. (i) Dimov & Vakarelov [8, definition 3.3] define another type of filters. Namely, a filter F is an *end* iff F is a round filter satisfying the following condition:

$$\forall x, y \in R \ (x \mathcal{C} y \implies \neg x \in F \vee \neg y \in F).$$

They show (Lemma 3.2(viii)) that all end filters belong to **M.Rnd**. Moreover, they prove (Proposition 3.1(iii)) that in any BCA satisfying the so-called interpolation axiom

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x \ll y \implies \exists_{z \in R} x \ll z \ll y), \tag{IA}$$

every filter from **M.Rnd** is an end.

(ii) Gruszczyński [14] proves that in any BCA satisfying (IA), a filter F belongs to **M.Rnd** if and only if F satisfies the following condition:

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (\forall_{z \in F} (x \text{ C } z \wedge y \text{ C } z) \implies x \text{ C } y). \tag{\%}$$

The following lemma will be used to obtain Proposition 4.8.

LEMMA 4.6. *In any atomless BCA, any filter F satisfying the following condition is free:*

$$\forall_{x,y \in R^+} (\forall_{z \in F} (x \leq z \wedge y \leq z) \implies x \text{ C } y).$$

PROPOSITION 4.7. *In any atomless BCA, if $F \in \text{Ult} \cup \mathbf{M.Rnd}$ then F satisfies the following condition:*

$$\forall_{x,y \in R^+} (\forall_{z \in F} (x \leq z \wedge y \leq z) \implies x \text{ O } y).$$

Proof. Suppose that in an atomless BCA for a filter F there are $x, y \in R^+$ such that (a) $x \perp y$ and (b) for any $z \in F$: $x \leq z$ and $y \leq z$. Then, by (a), either x or y does not belong to F . Assume the first possibility holds: (c) $x \notin F$. By (4.5), for some $u_1 \in R^+$ we have $u_1 \ll x$ and $u_1 \neq x$. Observe that by (b) and (3.7), u_1 is a non-tangential part of any $z \in F$. By means of (4.5) and the axiom of dependent choices we produce a sequence $\langle u_n \mid n < \omega \rangle$ such that $u_0 := x$, $u_{i+1} \ll u_i$ and $u_{i+1} \neq u_i$. The filter $\uparrow X$ generated by the set of the terms of the sequence is obviously round, and by (b) and (c) it is the case that $F \subsetneq \uparrow X$. Therefore, $F \notin \text{Ult}$ and $F \notin \mathbf{M.Rnd}$. \square

Finally, from Lemma 4.6, Proposition 4.7 and $(\text{O} \subseteq \text{C})$ we obtain:

PROPOSITION 4.8. *In any atomless BCA, all filters from **M.Rnd** are free.*⁴

§5. Pre-points. Let \mathfrak{R} be a BQCA based on a BA \mathfrak{B} . A *pre-point* of \mathfrak{R} is any non-empty set Q of non-empty regions which satisfies the following conditions:

$$\forall_{u,v \in Q} (u = v \vee u \ll v \vee v \ll u), \tag{r1}$$

$$\forall_{u \in Q} \exists_{v \in Q} v \ll u, \tag{r2}$$

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (\forall_{u \in Q} (u \text{ O } x \wedge u \text{ O } y) \implies x \text{ C } y). \tag{r3}$$

The purpose of this definition is to formally grasp the intuition that a point is a system of diminishing regions determining a unique location in space. We call it a pre-point, since if we understand a point as a perfect representation of some location in space, then it may happen that two different sets of regions represent one and the same location. Further, we will identify such pre-points to act as one point. Let \mathbf{Q} be the set of all pre-points of \mathfrak{R} .

⁴ In the primary version of the paper we proved this proposition only for atomless BCAs satisfying (IA). However, one of the reviewers suggested to us that assumption (IA) is redundant, which prompted us to look for Proposition 4.7.

Notice that by $(\ll \subseteq)$, all pre-points are chains with respect to the *part of* relation. Furthermore, by (r1), $(\ll \subseteq)$ and (df \leq), all pre-points have the finite intersection property. So each pre-point Q generates the filter $\uparrow Q := \{x \in R \mid \exists u_1, \dots, u_n \in Q \ u_1 \sqcap \dots \sqcap u_n \leq x\}$. From (r1) we have $\uparrow Q = \{x \in R \mid \exists u \in Q \ u \leq x\}$.

By (4.2) and $(\circ \subseteq C)$, all singletons composed of atoms are pre-points in all BCAs:

LEMMA 5.1. *In any BCA, for any $a \in \text{At}$ the singleton $\{a\}$ is a pre-point.*

§6. Grzegorzcyk points.

6.1. Grzegorzcyk points of BQCA. Let \mathfrak{R} be a BQCA based on a BA \mathfrak{B} . By a *Grzegorzcyk point* (*G-point* for short) of \mathfrak{R} we will mean any filter generated by a pre-point of \mathfrak{R} . Thus, for any filter F we have:

a filter F is a G-point iff there is a $Q \in \mathbf{Q}$ such that $F = \uparrow Q$.

Let **Gpt** be the set of all G-points of \mathfrak{R} . Its elements will be denoted by small gothic letters ‘p’ and ‘q’.

Every G-point is a maximal filter in **Gpt** (see [16]):

$$\forall p, q \in \mathbf{Gpt} (p \subseteq q \implies p = q).$$

Furthermore, in [18] we proved that in all BQCAs:

$$\forall x, y \in R \forall p \in \mathbf{Gpt} (\forall z \in p (x \circ z \wedge y \circ z) \implies x C y), \tag{6.1}$$

$$\forall x, y \in R (x \ll y \implies \forall p \in \mathbf{Gpt} (y \in p \vee \exists z \in p \ z \perp x)). \tag{6.2}$$

For Grzegorzcyk contact algebras, which are presented in Section 8 and which are BCAs, we obtain the converse implications (8.2) and (8.3).

In the light of (r2) and (3.7) we have **Gpt** \subseteq **Rnd**. Hence, by (6.2) and Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2, for any BQCA we obtain the following fact:

PROPOSITION 6.1. *Every G-point in a BQCA belongs to **M.Rnd**.⁵*

Hence, in the light of Lemma 3.1, condition (6.1) is equivalent to the following (cf. condition (%)):

$$\forall p \in \mathbf{Gpt} \forall x, y \in R (\forall z \in p (x C z \wedge y C z) \implies x C y). \tag{6.1'}$$

Now we will consider BQCAs which are complete.

PROPOSITION 6.2. 1. *In any complete BQCA, every G-point being an ultrafilter is principal and generated by an atom, i.e., **Gpt** \cap **Ult** \subseteq **PF_{At}**.*

2. *In any atomless complete BQCA, no G-point is an ultrafilter, i.e., **Gpt** \cap **Ult** = \emptyset .*

Proof. *Ad 1.* Every ultrafilter is free or belongs to **PF_{At}**. Every G-point is generated by a chain. But no free ultrafilter in a complete BA is generated by a chain (see, e.g., [21, lemma 43]). *Ad 2.* Directly from point 1. □

⁵ In [14, 18] it was proven only for GCAs.

6.2. G-points of BCAs. In the general case of BCAs, from Lemma 5.1 and Proposition 6.1 we obtain:

PROPOSITION 6.3. *In any BCA, every principal filter generated by an atom is a G-point being an ultrafilter and belongs to $\mathbf{M.Rnd}$, i.e., $\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} \subseteq \mathbf{Gpt} \cap \mathbf{Ult} \cap \mathbf{M.Rnd} = \mathbf{Gpt} \cap \mathbf{Ult}$.*

Hence we have:

COROLLARY 6.4. *In any BCA, every principal ultrafilter is a G-point generated by an atom, i.e., $\mathbf{PF} \cap \mathbf{Ult} \subseteq \mathbf{Gpt} \cap \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}$.*

Moreover, by Propositions 6.2(1) and 6.3, for complete BCAs we have:

COROLLARY 6.5. *In any complete BCA, $\mathbf{Gpt} \cap \mathbf{Ult} = \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} = \mathbf{Gpt} \cap \mathbf{Ult} \cap \mathbf{M.Rnd}$.*

From Propositions 6.1 and 6.3 for atomic BCAs we obtain:

PROPOSITION 6.6. *In any atomic BCA, every G-point being a principal filter is generated by an atom, i.e., $\mathbf{Gpt} \cap \mathbf{PF} \subseteq \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}$.*

Proof. By Proposition 6.1, if $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Gpt}$ then $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{M.Rnd}$. Moreover, for some $a \in \text{At}$ we have $a \leq x$. Hence $\uparrow x \subseteq \uparrow a$. But, $\uparrow a \in \mathbf{Gpt}$, by Proposition 6.3. Therefore $x = a$. \square

For atomless BCAs, by Propositions 6.3 and 4.8, we obtain:⁶

THEOREM 6.7. *Every G-point of an atomless BCA is a free filter.*

Finally, we consider the case of BCAs° . Firstly, since all filters in BCAs° are round, from Proposition 6.1 we get:

LEMMA 6.8. *In any BCA° , $\mathbf{Gpt} \subseteq \mathbf{M.Rnd} = \mathbf{Ult}$.*

Secondly, there are, however, BCA° 's in which $\mathbf{Gpt} \subsetneq \mathbf{M.Rnd}$:

PROPOSITION 6.9. *In any infinite complete atomic BCA° , $\mathbf{Gpt} \subsetneq \mathbf{M.Rnd} = \mathbf{Ult}$.*

Proof. Every infinite complete atomic BA has a free ultrafilter. But, by Proposition 6.2(1), no free ultrafilter is a G-point. Hence $\mathbf{Gpt} \subsetneq \mathbf{Ult} = \mathbf{M.Rnd}$, by Lemma 6.8. \square

From finite-cofinite BAs we only get BCAs° (see Proposition 4.4). Hence from Propositions 6.3 and 6.9, Corollary 6.5 and Lemma 6.8, respectively, we get:

COROLLARY 6.10. 1. *In any finite BCA, $\mathbf{Gpt} = \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} = \mathbf{Ult} = \mathbf{M.Rnd}$.*

2. *In any infinite finite-cofinite BCA, $\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} \subseteq \mathbf{Gpt} \subseteq \mathbf{Ult} = \mathbf{M.Rnd}$.*

§7. The Fréchet filter vs. G-points. As we have seen in any BCA each principal ultrafilter is a G-point generated by an atom (cf. Corollary 6.4). In the case of finite BCAs we have $\mathbf{Gpt} = \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} = \mathbf{Ult}$ (cf. Corollary 6.10.(1)). We will now answer the following two questions: *Are there any other G-points than principal ultrafilters in infinite atomic algebras?* and *In which infinite atomic BCAs the Fréchet filter can or cannot be a G-point?* The subclass of BCAs which will serve to answer those question corresponds to a certain subclass of GCAs.

Let \mathfrak{B} be an infinite atomic BA. Then the set cAt of all coatoms has a finite intersection property and generates the so-called *Fréchet* (or *cofinite*) filter F_c , which is free. We will use the following properties of F_c .

⁶ We can also use (6.1), $(\leq \uparrow_{\mathbf{R}^+} \subseteq \mathbf{C})$ and Lemma 4.6.

LEMMA 7.1. *For any $x \in F_c$ there are $a_1, \dots, a_n \in At$ ($n > 0$) such that $x = -(a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n)$.*

From Lemma 7.1 and Proposition 4.4 we obtain:

COROLLARY 7.2. *If $F_c \in \mathbf{Ult}$, then \mathfrak{B} is finite-cofinite, and so $\langle \mathfrak{B}, \circ \rangle$ is the only BCA based on \mathfrak{B} .*

The following two lemmas are analogous to the facts given in [4], where the completeness of a Boolean algebra \mathfrak{B} is assumed and the fact that \mathfrak{B} is isomorphic to the algebra of sets over At is used.

LEMMA 7.3. *Let \mathfrak{B} have countably many atoms: a_1, a_2, \dots . Then F_c is generated by the chain $C_c := \{-a_1 \sqcap \dots \sqcap -a_n \mid n \in \omega\}$.*

Proof. If $x \in F_c$ then for some $k > 0$ and $a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_k} \in At$ we have $-a_{i_1} \sqcap \dots \sqcap -a_{i_k} \leq x$. Hence $C_c \ni -a_1 \sqcap \dots \sqcap -a_{\max\{i_1, \dots, i_k\}} \leq -a_{i_1} \sqcap \dots \sqcap -a_{i_k} \leq x$. So $F_c \subseteq \uparrow C_c$. Furthermore, if for some $n \in \omega$ we have $-a_1 \sqcap \dots \sqcap -a_n \leq x$, then $-x \leq a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n$, which means that $-x$ is composed of finitely many atoms, i.e., $x \in F_c$. So also $\uparrow C_c \subseteq F_c$. □

The proof of the lemma below is after [4], yet omits the completeness assumption.

LEMMA 7.4. *If \mathfrak{B} has uncountably many atoms, then F_c is not generated by a chain.*

Proof. Assume for a contradiction that F_c is generated by a chain C . Then $C \subseteq F_c$. Hence, by Lemma 7.1, for any $x \in C$ there are $n > 0$ and $a_1, \dots, a_n \in At$ such that $-x = a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n$. Therefore the set At_x^\perp is finite.

Furthermore, since C is a chain, for all $x, y \in C$ such that $x \neq y$ either $At_x^\perp \subsetneq At_y^\perp$ or $At_y^\perp \subsetneq At_x^\perp$. Thus, the function $C \ni x \mapsto \text{Card}(At_x^\perp) \in \omega$ is injective; and so C and $\bigcup_{x \in C} At_x^\perp$ are countable. Hence for some $a_0 \in At$ we have $a_0 \notin \bigcup_{x \in C} At_x^\perp$, i.e., for any $x \in C$ we have $x \not\leq -a_0$. However, for all $a \in At$ it is the case that $-a \in F_c$. Therefore, since F_c is generated by C , for some $x_a \in C$ we have $x_a \leq -a$; a contradiction. □

Furthermore, let us remind that:

LEMMA 7.5. *F_c is included in any free filter in \mathfrak{B} .*

Now we will show two classes of BCAs in which F_c is not a G-point. From them we will also get two classes of GCAs in which $F_c \notin \mathbf{Gpt}$ (see Section 10). Keep in mind that whether F_c is generated by the chain depends on whether \mathfrak{B} has countably many atoms.

Because all G-points are generated by chains, in the light of Lemma 7.4 we obtain:

PROPOSITION 7.6. *There is no atomic BQCA with uncountably many atoms such that:*

$$F_c \in \mathbf{Gpt}. \tag{pF_c}$$

Moreover, we have the following generalization of model 6.18 from [14]:

PROPOSITION 7.7. *There is no infinite complete atomic BCA^o that satisfies (pF_c).*

Proof. Let $\mathfrak{R} = \langle \mathfrak{B}, \circ \rangle$ be based on an infinite complete atomic BA. If \mathfrak{R} has uncountably many atoms, then we use Proposition 7.6. Otherwise, F_c is free and generated by a chain, by Lemma 7.3. Hence $F_c \notin \mathbf{Ult}$, because no free ultrafilter in a complete BA is generated by a chain (see, e.g., [21, lemma 43]). But $\mathbf{Gpt} \subseteq \mathbf{Ult}$, by Lemma 6.8. Thus, we have $F_c \notin \mathbf{Gpt}$. □

In consequence, there are BCAs that do not satisfy (pF_c) . In Theorem 7.9 we will construct a certain class of BCAs satisfying (pF_c) . Moreover, in Theorem 10.1 we will show that elements of the class are also GCAs. Now we will focus on some properties of infinite atomic BCAs in which F_c is a G-point.

THEOREM 7.8. *Let \mathfrak{A} be an infinite atomic BCA satisfying (pF_c) . Then:*

1. \mathfrak{A} has countably many atoms.
2. For all $x, y \in R$: $x C y$ iff either $x \circ y$ or both At_x and At_y are infinite.⁷
3. F_c is the only G-point of \mathfrak{A} being a free filter.
4. $Gpt = PF_{At} \cup \{F_c\}$ and Gpt is countable.
5. $F_c \in Ult$ iff $Gpt \subseteq Ult$ iff \mathfrak{A} is a BCA° .
6. If $F_c \in Ult$, then $Gpt = Ult$ and \mathfrak{A} is incomplete and finite-cofinite.

Proof. *Ad 1.* Directly from Proposition 7.6.

Ad 2. The “ \Rightarrow ”-part we obtain directly from Lemma 4.3. For the “ \Leftarrow ”-part assume that At_x and At_y are infinite. Then, by Lemma 7.1, for any $z \in F_c$ we have: $z \circ x$ and $z \circ y$. Hence, since $F_c \in Gpt$, by condition (r3), we have $x C y$.

Ad 3. By Lemma 7.5, F_c is included in any free filter. In consequence, if F_c belongs to Gpt , then its maximality in the set of G-points excludes any free filter from the set Gpt . In other words, none of the other G-points is a free filter.

Ad 4. By our assumption and Proposition 6.3, we have $PF_{At} \cup \{F_c\} \subseteq Gpt$. In virtue of point 2, since \mathfrak{A} is atomic, all G-points different from F_c belong to PF_{At} . Thus, also $Gpt \subseteq PF_{At} \cup \{F_c\}$. So, by point 1, Gpt is countable.

Ad 5. It is obvious that $PF_{At} \subseteq Ult$. So if $F_c \in Ult$ then $Gpt \subseteq Ult$, by point 3. Moreover, if $Gpt \subseteq Ult$ then $F_c \in Ult$, also by point 3. Hence \mathfrak{A} is a BCA° , by Corollary 7.2. Finally, if \mathfrak{A} is a BCA° then $Gpt \subseteq Ult$, by Lemma 6.8. So $F_c \in Ult$, by our assumption.

Ad 6. Suppose that $F_c \in Ult$. Then $Gpt \subseteq Ult$, by point 5. For the converse inclusion assume that $U \in Ult$. But each ultrafilter in a given BA either belongs to PF_{At} or is free. In the first case, $U \in Gpt$, by point 3. In the second case, by Lemma 7.5, we have $F_c \subseteq U$. So $U = F_c \in Gpt$. Thus, we also obtain that $Ult \subseteq Gpt$.

Finally, since $F_c \in Gpt \cap Ult$, by Proposition 6.2(1), \mathfrak{A} is incomplete (we can also use point 5 and Proposition 7.7). Furthermore, \mathfrak{A} is finite-cofinite, by Corollary 7.2. \square

Below we describe a construction of BCAs which satisfy (pF_c) . The construction is a generalization of model 6.19 from [14].

THEOREM 7.9. *Let \mathfrak{B} be an infinite atomic BA with countably many atoms. For all $x, y \in R$ we put:*

$$x C y := \iff \text{either } x \circ y \text{ or both } At_x \text{ and } At_y \text{ are infinite.}$$

Then:

1. For all $x, y \in R$ we have:

$$x \ll y \iff (x \leq y \wedge At_x \text{ is finite}) \vee (x \leq y \wedge At_{-y} \text{ is finite}).$$

2. $\langle \mathfrak{B}, C \rangle$ is a BCA.

⁷ This point was suggested by one of the reviewers. Obviously, in the case when $F_c \in Ult$, by point 5, we obtain that $C = \circ$.

3. For the chain C_c from Lemma 7.3 and $x \in R$ we have:

$$x \text{ overlaps with each member of } C_c \iff At_x \text{ is infinite.} \quad (\dagger)$$

4. C_c is a pre-point and F_c is a G-point of $\langle \mathfrak{B}, C \rangle$.

Proof. Ad 1. For all $x, y \in R$: $x \ll y$ iff $x \mathcal{C} - y$ iff $x \perp -y$ and either At_x or At_{-y} is finite iff either both $x \leq y$ and At_x is finite, or both $x \leq y$ and At_{-y} is finite.

Ad 2. It is obvious that $\langle \mathfrak{B}, C \rangle$ satisfies (C0)–(C2) and (C4). Moreover, from point 1 we have $(\exists \ll)$. For (C3) suppose that $x \leq y$ and $z \mathcal{C} x$. If $z \circ x$, then $z \circ y$. If both At_z and At_x are infinite, then At_y is also infinite; and so $z \mathcal{C} y$.

Ad 3. Condition (\dagger) is obvious.

Ad 4. Let $At := \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$. For any $x \in C_c$ the set At_x is finite, since for some $n \in \omega$ we have $-x = a_0 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n$. For (r1) suppose that $u, v \in C_c$ and $u \neq v$. Then $u \leq v$ or $v \leq u$. Thus $u \ll v$ or $v \ll u$, by point 1. For (r2) notice that in the case $u \in C_c$ for some $n \in \omega$ we have: $v := -a_1 \sqcap \dots \sqcap -a_n \sqcap -a_{n+1} \leq -a_1 \sqcap \dots \sqcap -a_n = u$. So $v \in C_c$ and $v \ll u$, by point 1. For (r3) suppose that x and y overlap with each element of C_c . Then, by (\dagger) , At_x and At_y are infinite. So $x \mathcal{C} y$.

To round off the proof we use Lemma 7.3. □

Thus, directly from Theorems 7.8 and 7.9 we obtain the following characterization of infinite atomic BCAs having the Fréchet filter as a G-point:

COROLLARY 7.10. *Let $\langle \mathfrak{B}, C \rangle$ be an infinite atomic BCA. Then $F_c \in \mathbf{Gpt}$ if and only if \mathfrak{B} has countably many atoms and for all $x, y \in R$:*

$$x \mathcal{C} y \iff \text{either } x \circ y \text{ or both } At_x \text{ and } At_y \text{ are infinite.}$$

REMARK 7.11. (i) For any set X , let $P(X)$ be the power set algebra of X . Any given atomic BA is monomorphic to $P(At)$. Namely, it is isomorphic to the field of sets $\{At_x \mid x \in R\}$. If a BA is complete, it is isomorphic to $P(At)$. Thus, any atomic BA with countably infinitely many atoms is isomorphic to a dense subalgebra of $P(\omega)$. Moreover, if such a BA is complete, then it is isomorphic to $P(\omega)$.

(ii) With reference to Theorems 7.8 and 7.9, let us observe that we can distinguish three kinds of infinite atomic BAs with countably many atoms:

1. finite-cofinite—they are incomplete and isomorphic to the finite-cofinite algebra of sets on ω (shortly: $FC(\omega)$);
2. complete—they are isomorphic to $P(\omega)$;
3. incomplete, but not finite-cofinite—each is isomorphic to a dense subalgebra of $P(\omega)$. This type includes, for example, the Borel algebra of the space of rational numbers with the standard topology (see, e.g., [22, p. 21]).

If in such BAs we introduce the relation C from Theorem 7.9, we obtain BCAs in which F_c is a G-point. For the first type of BAs, we get $C = \circ$, $F_c \in \mathbf{Ult}$ and $\mathbf{Gpt} = \mathbf{Ult}$; but for the other two types, $\circ \subsetneq C$ and $F_c \notin \mathbf{Ult}$ (cf. Proposition 4.4 and Theorem 7.8).

By Theorems 7.8 and 7.9, the above three types of BAs constitute all infinite atomic BAs satisfying (pF_c) .

It is often walking on thin ice when trying to infer philosophical conclusions from mathematical results. Nevertheless, we venture to sketch a spatial perspective on Corollary 7.10. The notion of Fréchet filter is one of the central concepts of the theory of atomic Boolean algebras. As is well-known, there are algebras whose Stone spaces of

points contain the filter, and in the case a BA has the Fréchet filter, it is a subset of every point (ultrafilter) of the Stone space. The notion of a *Grzegorzczuk point* is motivated by geometrical intuitions about the pre-theoretical concept of *point*. Thus, the sentence “the Fréchet filter is a Grzegorzczuk point” might be viewed as saying that the Fréchet filter of a BA satisfies the geometrical intuitions about points. Corollary 7.10 shows that the class of algebras whose Fréchet filter meets those intuitions is relatively narrow, and as such, it testifies to a kind of limitation result about the dependency between the spatial, region-based motivations and purely algebraic constructions. Most of the Boolean algebras have Fréchet filters that do not follow the idea of a point embodied in the definition of Grzegorzczuk’s.

§8. Grzegorzczuk contact algebras. We extend the axioms for the class of BQCAs with the following second-order postulates:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall x,y \in R (x \circ y \implies \exists Q \in \mathcal{Q} \exists u \in Q u \leq x \sqcap y), & \quad (G_{\circ}) \\ \forall x,y \in R (x \text{ C } y \wedge x \perp y \implies \exists Q \in \mathcal{Q} \forall u \in Q (u \circ x \wedge u \circ y)), & \quad (G_{\perp}) \end{aligned}$$

called *Grzegorzczuk axioms*, introduced in [16, Proposition 6.1] and equivalent to the single axiom from [19]. Every BQCA which satisfies (G_{\circ}) and (G_{\perp}) is called a *Grzegorzczuk contact algebra* (GCA in short).

It has been demonstrated in [16, Theorem 6.4] that $(C0)$ – $(C3)$ together with (G_{\circ}) and (G_{\perp}) entail $(C4)$ and $(C3_{\circ})$.⁸ All other conditions from Lemma 4.1, i.e., $(C5)$, (\exists_{\ll}) , (ext_{\leq}) and (ext_{C}) , hold as well. (We also get (\exists_{\ll}) from the reflexivity of \circ on R^+ , (G_{\circ}) , $(r2)$ and (3.7).) Therefore,

PROPOSITION 8.1. *Every GCA is a BCA.*

Notice that in virtue of Lemma 5.1, we have that:

LEMMA 8.2. *All atomic BCAs satisfy (G_{\circ}) .*

All GCAs with $\text{C} = \circ$ will be called GCAs° . In this case we get (G_{\perp}) in a trivial way. Thus, we obtain:

PROPOSITION 8.3. *Every atomic BCA° is a GCA° and vice versa.*

Thanks to Proposition 6.9 we obtain examples of GCAs° in which $\mathbf{Gpt} \subsetneq \mathbf{M.Rnd}$ (all infinite complete atomic BCAs°).⁹

In any GCA, by (G_{\circ}) , the definition of \mathbf{Gpt} and the reflexivity of \circ on R^+ , we have:

$$\forall x \in R^+ \exists p \in \mathbf{Gpt} x \in p. \tag{8.1}$$

The following properties of G-points of \mathfrak{A} play an important role in the analysis of GCAs (see [14, 18]):

$$\forall x,y \in R (x \circ y \iff \exists p \in \mathbf{Gpt} (x \in p \wedge y \in p)), \tag{8.1}$$

⁸ The first proof that $(C4)$ holds for Grzegorzczuk structures can be found in [3], proposition 4.1, yet for a system with a different set of axioms. For a detailed comparison see [17].

⁹ See also model 6.15 from [14] and other models given in [16, 18] in which we have $\mathbf{Gpt} \subsetneq \mathbf{M.Rnd}$ and which are atomless.

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x \text{ C } y \iff \exists_{p \in \mathbf{Gpt}} \forall_{z \in p} (z \text{ O } x \wedge z \text{ O } y)), \tag{8.2}$$

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x \ll y \iff \forall_{p \in \mathbf{Gpt}} (y \in p \vee \exists_{z \in p} z \perp x)), \tag{8.3}$$

$$\forall_{x,y \in R} (x \ll y \iff \forall_{p \in \mathbf{Gpt}} (y \in p \vee -x \in p)). \tag{8.4}$$

We get that all points of a given GCA are ultrafilters if and only if it is trivial (and so each of its region is separated from its complement):

THEOREM 8.4. *In any GCA:*

$$\mathbf{Gpt} \subseteq \mathbf{Ult} \text{ iff } \forall_{x \in R} x \mathcal{Q} - x \text{ iff } \ll \text{ is reflexive iff } \text{C} = \text{O} \text{ iff } \mathfrak{R} \text{ is a } \mathbf{GCA}^\circ.$$

Proof. From (df \ll) and (8.4) we obtain:

$$\forall_{x \in R} x \mathcal{Q} - x \text{ iff } \ll \text{ is reflexive iff } \forall_{p \in \mathbf{Gpt}} \forall_{x \in R} (x \in p \vee -x \in p).$$

So we use (3.8), Lemma 6.8 and a property of ultrafilters. □

§9. G-points, ultrafilters, principal filters and atoms of GCAs. Due to the seminal duality established by Stone [24] for BAs, ultrafilters are candidates for points of GCAs and therefore a question how they relate to G-points comes to mind in a natural way. A partial answer, formulated in [14, 18], boils down to the following theorem which is closely related to Corollary 6.10.(1). The proof of the theorem refers to two non-trivial properties of BAs: *any infinite BA has a free ultrafilter and an infinite antichain and no free ultrafilter in a complete BA is generated by a chain* (for the latter see, e.g., [21, Lemma 43]).

THEOREM 9.1. *If \mathfrak{R} is a complete GCA, the following conditions are equivalent:*

- a. \mathfrak{R} is finite,
- b. \mathbf{Gpt} is finite,
- c. $\mathbf{Ult} \subseteq \mathbf{Gpt}$,
- d. $\mathbf{Ult} = \mathbf{Gpt}$.

In Remark 7.11, we showed that $\langle \mathbf{FC}(\omega), \text{O} \rangle$ is an example of an infinite incomplete atomic \mathbf{BCA}° (and so also \mathbf{GCA}°) in which we have $\mathbf{Gpt} = \mathbf{Ult}$.

In the sequel, we will consider the relationship between atoms and principal filters in GCAs. To begin with, we show that we can strengthen Proposition 6.3.

LEMMA 9.2. *For any $x \in R$: $x \in \text{At}$ iff $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{M.Rnd}$.*

Proof. The “ \Rightarrow ”-part we obtain directly from Propositions 6.3 and 8.1. For the “ \Leftarrow ”-part, assume that $x \notin \text{At}$. Then for some $y \in R^+$ we have $y \leq x$. Moreover, by (8.1), for some $p_0 \in \mathbf{Gpt}$ we have $y \in p_0$. Hence $\uparrow x \subsetneq p_0$. Therefore, $\uparrow x$ is not maximal in the family of all round filters, since $p_0 \in \mathbf{Rnd}$. Thus, we have $\uparrow x \notin \mathbf{M.Rnd}$. □

Furthermore, we obtain the following theorem which previously appeared in [14, 18] and which is a strengthening of Proposition 6.3 and Corollary 6.4 for GCAs:

THEOREM 9.3. *In any GCA, for any $x \in R$: $x \in \text{At}$ iff $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Gpt}$ iff $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Ult}$.*

Proof. Obviously: $x \in \text{At}$ iff $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Ult}$. From Propositions 6.3 and 8.1 for any $x \in \text{At}$ we have $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Gpt}$. So if $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Ult}$ then $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Gpt}$. Let $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Gpt}$. Then $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{M.Rnd}$, by Proposition 6.1. Hence $x \in \text{At}$, by Lemma 9.2. So also $\uparrow x \in \mathbf{Ult}$. □

From the above theorem we have the following generalization of Proposition 6.6:

COROLLARY 9.4. *In any GCA, $\mathbf{PF} \cap \mathbf{Ult} = \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} = \mathbf{Gpt} \cap \mathbf{PF}$.*

§10. G-points and free filters in infinite atomic GCAs. This section is devoted to GCAs based on an infinite atomic BAs. In this case condition (\mathbf{pF}_c) is independent from the axioms of GCAs.

Firstly, there are GCAs that do not satisfy (\mathbf{pF}_c) . Indeed, in the light of Proposition 8.1 and Propositions 7.6 and 7.7, respectively, we get that: *no atomic GCA with uncountably many atoms or complete atomic GCA° with infinitely many atoms fulfills (\mathbf{pF}_c) .*

Secondly, we show that there are GCAs satisfying (\mathbf{pF}_c) . They are given by the construction we used in Theorem 7.9.

THEOREM 10.1. *Let \mathfrak{B} be an infinite atomic BA with countably many atoms. For all $x, y \in R$ we put:*

$$x \text{ C } y \text{ :} \iff \text{ either } x \circ y \text{ or both } \text{At}_x \text{ and } \text{At}_y \text{ are infinite.}$$

Then $\langle \mathfrak{B}, \text{C} \rangle$ satisfies conditions 1–4 from Theorem 7.9 and moreover:

5. $\langle \mathfrak{B}, \text{C} \rangle$ is a GCA satisfying (\mathbf{pF}_c) .

Proof. From point 2 and Lemma 8.2 we have that $\langle \mathfrak{B}, \text{C} \rangle$ satisfies (\mathbf{G}_c) . For (\mathbf{G}_\perp) , if $x \text{ C } y$ and $x \perp y$, then At_x and At_y are infinite, by point 2 and Lemma 4.3. Now we use (\dagger) . \square

Finally, notice that in any infinite atomic GCAs in which (\mathbf{pF}_c) holds, the filter F_c has all properties from Theorem 7.8.

§11. Topological spaces of G-points for infinite atomic GCAs. This section shows how the relation between G-points and ultrafilters influences the topological spaces of G-points.

Let $\mathfrak{R} = \langle \mathfrak{B}, \text{C} \rangle$ be a GCA. For any region x of \mathfrak{R} we put $\mathbf{Ult}(x) := \{U \in \mathbf{Ult} \mid x \in U\}$. It is well-known that the family $\{\mathbf{Ult}(x) \mid x \in R\}$ is a topological basis on \mathbf{Ult} . By the *Stone space* of \mathfrak{B} we mean—in the standard way—the topological space $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$ in which points are ultrafilters of \mathfrak{B} and the topology is introduced via the basis $\{\mathbf{Ult}(x) \mid x \in R\}$.¹⁰

Furthermore, for any region x of \mathfrak{R} we define the set of all its internal G-points:

$$\mathbf{Irl}(x) := \{\mathfrak{p} \in \mathbf{Gpt} \mid x \in \mathfrak{p}\}. \quad (\text{dfIrl})$$

Of course, $\mathbf{Irl}(0) = \emptyset$ and $\mathbf{Irl}(1) = \mathbf{Gpt}$. Moreover, for all $x, y \in R$: if $x \circ y$, then $\mathbf{Irl}(x \sqcap y) = \mathbf{Irl}(x) \cap \mathbf{Irl}(y)$; $x \leq y$ iff $\mathbf{Irl}(x) \subseteq \mathbf{Irl}(y)$ (see [18, p. 826]). It is routine to verify that the family $\mathcal{B}_{\mathfrak{R}} := \{\mathbf{Irl}(x) \mid x \in R\}$ is a topological basis on \mathbf{Gpt} . Let $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}} := \langle \mathbf{Gpt}, \mathcal{B}_{\mathfrak{R}} \rangle$ be the topological space introduced via $\mathcal{B}_{\mathfrak{R}}$. One can prove that every set from $\mathcal{B}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is regular open in $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$, and so $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is semi-regular. Moreover, $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is *concentric*, i.e., it is a T_1 -space and each point $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathbf{Gpt}$ has a local basis $\mathcal{B}_{\mathfrak{R}}^{\mathfrak{p}}$ satisfying the following

¹⁰ For topological spaces and Stone spaces see, e.g., [2, 13], [22, chap. 3] and [1], respectively.

condition:

$$\forall_{U,V \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathfrak{R}}^p} (U = V \vee \text{Cl } U \subseteq V \vee \text{Cl } V \subseteq U). \tag{R1}$$

It is known that every topological space having the same properties as $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is also a regular space (see [14, 16, 18] for details).¹¹

In [18, p. 839] it is shown that: the base $\mathcal{B}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ consists of clopen sets if and only if \mathfrak{R} is a GCA° . Thus, in the general case, the base of $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ does not have to consist of clopen sets. However, below in Proposition 11.3 we can prove that for any infinite atomic GCA \mathfrak{R} satisfying (pF_c) , $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is a continuous image of a certain Boolean space (i.e., a Hausdorff, compact and zero-dimensional space).

Given a topological space $\mathcal{T} = \langle S, \mathcal{O} \rangle$, its *compactification* is a pair $\langle \mathcal{K}, e \rangle$ such that: $\mathcal{K} = \langle K, \mathcal{K} \rangle$ is a compact space, $e: S \rightarrow K$ is an embedding (an injective continuous map) of \mathcal{T} into \mathcal{K} (so e is a homeomorphism between S and $e[S]$) and the set $e[S]$ is dense in \mathcal{K} . Moreover, we say that \mathcal{K} is a compactification of \mathcal{T} iff e is the identity map.

The following lemma will be used in the proof of the last theorem of the paper.

LEMMA 11.1. *Let $\mathcal{T}_1 = \langle S_1, \mathcal{O}_1 \rangle, \mathcal{T}_2 = \langle S_2, \mathcal{O}_2 \rangle$ and $\mathcal{K} = \langle K, \mathcal{K} \rangle$ be topological spaces such that:*

- $\langle \mathcal{K}, e \rangle$ is a compactification of \mathcal{T}_1 for some $e: S_1 \rightarrow K$,
- $e': S_1 \rightarrow S_2$ is an embedding of \mathcal{T}_1 into \mathcal{T}_2 ,
- $f: K \rightarrow S_2$ is a continuous surjection such that for any $p \in S_1, f(e(p)) = e'(p)$.

Then $\langle \mathcal{T}_2, e' \rangle$ is a compactification of \mathcal{T}_1 .

Proof. \mathcal{T}_2 is compact as a continuous image of the compact space \mathcal{K} . Therefore, it remains to show that $e'[S_1]$ is dense in \mathcal{T}_2 . Let $p \in S_2 \setminus e'[S_1], V \in \mathcal{O}_2$ and $p \in V$. Thus, for some $k \in K \setminus e[S_1]$ we have $f(k) = p$ and $f^{-1}[V] \in \mathcal{K}$. So, $f^{-1}[V] \cap e[S_1] \neq \emptyset$ and $\emptyset \neq f[f^{-1}[V] \cap e[S_1]] \subseteq f[f^{-1}[V]] \cap f[e[S_1]] \subseteq V \cap e'[S_1]$. \square

The following proposition is standard:

PROPOSITION 11.2. *If \mathfrak{R} is infinite and atomic, then $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$ is (unique up to homeomorphism) the Stone–Čech compactification of $\langle \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \rangle$.*

Now we prove:

PROPOSITION 11.3. *Let $\mathfrak{R} = \langle B, C \rangle$ be an infinite atomic GCA satisfying (pF_c) . Then $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is a continuous image of $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$ under the function $f: \mathbf{Ult} \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpt}$ ($= \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} \cup \{F_c\}$) defined via:*

$$f(U) := \begin{cases} U & \text{if } U \in \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \\ F_c & \text{if } U \text{ is free.} \end{cases}$$

Furthermore, if $F_c \in \mathbf{Ult}$, then f is the identity map.

¹¹ Lemma A2 in [16] showed that every concentric topological space is regular. Moreover, it is obvious that every concentric space has a linearly ordered base at each its point, i.e., is a lob-spaces (see, e.g., [6, p. 37]). Motivated by one of the reviewers, in Appendix A we prove that all regular lob-spaces are concentric. The result is not directly related to the problems discussed in the paper, yet it is novel and relevant for the theory of GCAs.

Proof. The proof is trivial if $F_c \in \mathbf{Ult}$, because then we have $\mathbf{Gpt} = \mathbf{Ult}$, and so $f(U) = U$ for any $U \in \mathbf{Ult}$. In other cases, to show that f is continuous it is enough to prove that for any $x \in R$, the set $f^{-1}[\mathbf{Irl}(x)]$ is open in $\mathcal{S}_{\mathfrak{R}}$. We consider three cases.

Let x be finite, i.e., $x = a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n$, for some $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \text{At}$. Then $\mathbf{Irl}(x) = \{\uparrow a_1, \dots, \uparrow a_n\} = \mathbf{Ult}(x) = f^{-1}[\mathbf{Irl}(x)]$.

Let x be cofinite, i.e., $x = -(a_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_n)$, for some $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \text{At}$. Then again we have $f^{-1}[\mathbf{Irl}(x)] = \mathbf{Ult}(x)$, since for any free ultrafilter U we have: $U \in f^{-1}[\mathbf{Irl}(x)]$ iff $U \in \mathbf{Ult}(x)$. Indeed, assume that $U \in f^{-1}[\mathbf{Irl}(x)]$, i.e., for some $p \in \mathbf{Irl}(x)$: $p = f(U)$. Then $x \in f(U)$. Furthermore, $f(U) = F_c$, since U is free. So $f(U) \in \mathbf{Irl}(x)$. The other way round, if $f(U) \in \mathbf{Irl}(x)$, then $x \in f(U) = F_c$, since U is free. Finally, because $F_c \subseteq U$ (see Lemma 7.5), we have $x \in U$, as required.

Let x be neither finite nor cofinite. Then $F_c \notin \mathbf{Ult}$ and $\mathbf{Irl}(x) = \{\uparrow a \mid a \in \text{At}_x\}$, because $x \notin F_c$ (see Lemma 7.5). Therefore, $f^{-1}[\mathbf{Irl}(x)] = \mathbf{Irl}(x) \subseteq \mathbf{Ult}(x)$. Yet the principal ultrafilters correspond to isolated points of $\mathcal{S}_{\mathfrak{R}}$; and so $f^{-1}[\mathbf{Irl}(x)]$ must be open in $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$. □

Thanks to Lemma 11.1 and Propositions 11.2 and 11.3 we have the following theorem which is a stronger version of Theorem 6.33 from [14]:

THEOREM 11.4. *Let $\mathfrak{R} = \langle \mathfrak{B}, C \rangle$ be an infinite atomic GCA satisfying (pF_c) . Then:*

1. $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is compact.
2. $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is the one-point compactification of the discrete space $\langle \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \rangle$ with F_c as the “point at infinity.”
3. $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{R}} = \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \cup \{X \cup \{F_c\} \mid X \subseteq \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} \text{ and } \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} \setminus X \text{ is finite}\}$.
4. $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is homeomorphic to the Stone space $\mathcal{S}(\text{FC}(\mathfrak{B}))$ of the subalgebra $\text{FC}(\mathfrak{B})$ of \mathfrak{B} composed of all its finite-cofinite elements.¹²

Proof. *Ad 1.* In the light of Proposition 11.3, $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is compact as a continuous image of the compact space $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$.

Ad 2. Of course, $\text{id}: \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpt}$ is an embedding of $\langle \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \rangle$ into $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$. By Proposition 11.2, $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$ is a compactification of $\langle \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \rangle$. By Proposition 11.3, $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is a continuous image of $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$ under the function $f: \mathbf{Ult} \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpt}$. Thus, since f is the identity map on \mathbf{PF}_{At} , $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ is a compactification of $\langle \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \rangle$, by Lemma 11.1.

Furthermore, $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ has the unique G-point F_c which does not belong to \mathbf{PF}_{At} , and therefore $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ must be the one-point compactification of $\langle \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \rangle$.

Ad 3. Directly from point 2.

Ad 4. F_c is the only free ultrafilter in $\text{FC}(\mathfrak{B})$, which entails that $\mathcal{S}(\text{FC}(\mathfrak{B}))$ is exactly the one-point compactification of $\langle \mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}, \wp(\mathbf{PF}_{\text{At}}) \rangle$. See also point 3. □

With respect to Remark 7.11(ii), note that in the light of Theorem 11.4(4), there are non-isomorphic GCAs \mathfrak{R}_1 and \mathfrak{R}_2 which have homeomorphic spaces $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}_1}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{R}_2}$, respectively. For example, it is true for $\langle \text{FC}(\omega), \circ \rangle$ and $\langle \mathbf{P}(\omega), C \rangle$, where C is such as in Theorem 7.9 (see Proposition 8.3 and Theorem 10.1). Namely, in both cases, the dual spaces are homeomorphic to $\mathcal{S}(\text{FC}(\omega))$. This may be a reason to question the usefulness of the theorem. However, the primary objective of representation theorems is to find

¹² This fact and Proposition 11.3 are consistent with the well-known fact that $\mathcal{S}(\text{FC}(\mathfrak{B}))$ is a continuous image of $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{B})$.

a familiar set-theoretical construction to which the initial structure can be reduced. Concerning this, the theorem does a good job, so to say. The representation theorems in the spirit of Stone [24], Düntsch & Winter [11] and Dimov & Vakarelov [8] were presented by us in our earlier works [16, 18] where we produced object duality theorems for the class of Grzegorzczak contact algebras that satisfy an algebraic version of the countable chain condition.¹³ In the context of this paper, we are only interested in the much narrower class of Grzegorzczak contact algebras. The results obtained, including the representation theorem above, broaden the understanding of Grzegorzczak point-free topology, so far a largely neglected system of a region-based theory of space.

§A. concentric topological spaces and lob-spaces. In this appendix, we prove that all regular lob-spaces are concentric, and in consequence, a topological space is concentric if and only if it is a regular lob-space.

Let $\mathcal{T} = \langle S, \mathcal{O} \rangle$ be a topological space. We call \mathcal{T} a *lob-space* provided that for each $p \in S$ there is a linearly ordered base \mathcal{B}^p at p (see, e.g., [6, definition 1.1]), i.e., \mathcal{B}^p satisfies the trichotomy condition:

$$\forall U, V \in \mathcal{B}^p (U = V \vee U \subsetneq V \vee V \subsetneq U).$$

Furthermore, \mathcal{T} is *concentric* iff it is a T_1 -space and for any $p \in S$ there is a base \mathcal{B}^p at p such that:

$$\forall U, V \in \mathcal{B}^p (U = V \vee \text{Cl } U \subseteq V \vee \text{Cl } V \subseteq U). \quad (\text{C})$$

Obviously, all concentric spaces are lob-spaces. Now we prove that all regular lob-spaces are concentric.

THEOREM A.1 *A topological space is concentric if and only if it is a regular lob-space.*

Proof. For the “ \Rightarrow ”-part see Lemma A2 in [16].

For the “ \Leftarrow ”-part suppose that $\mathcal{T} = \langle S, \mathcal{O} \rangle$ is a regular lob-space and $p \in S$. Then \mathcal{T} is a T_1 -space and there is a base \mathcal{B}^p at p satisfying the trichotomy condition and such that for any $B \in \mathcal{B}^p$ there is a $U \in \mathcal{O}$ such that $p \in U \subseteq \text{Cl } U \subseteq B$.

For some ordinal α , let $\langle W_\beta \mid \beta < \alpha \rangle$ be a coinital subset of $\langle \mathcal{B}^p, \subseteq \rangle$ such that for all $\beta < \delta < \alpha$ we have $W_\delta \subsetneq W_\beta$.¹⁴ For every $\beta < \alpha$ there is a δ such that $\beta \leq \delta < \alpha$ and $\text{Cl } W_\delta \subseteq W_\beta$. Indeed, for W_β there is an open set U such that $p \in U \subseteq \text{Cl } U \subseteq W_\beta$. Yet $\langle W_\beta \mid \beta < \alpha \rangle$ is a base at p , so there is a $\delta < \alpha$ such that $W_\delta \subseteq U$, and in consequence $\text{Cl } W_\delta \subseteq W_\beta$, so $\beta \leq \delta$. Thus, there is a monotone coinital subsequence $\langle W_\beta \mid \beta < \alpha \rangle$ that satisfies (C), as required. \square

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¹³ We have not been able to eliminate it so far.

¹⁴ See, e.g., [20], exercise on p. 68 and Counting Theorem on p. 80.

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