Q & A in General Topology, Vol. 11 (1993)

PREIMAGES OF BAIRE SPACES - AN EXAMPLE

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Abstract. An answer, in the negative, is provided to a question of Noll as to whether Baire spaces are preserved under inverse images of functions that are feebly open, feebly continuous and fibre-complete.

Keywords: Baire spaces, preimage, feebly open, feebly continuous, fibre-complete.

Classification: 54E52, 54C10

The first-named Author wishes to express his appreciation to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Auckland for the hospitality he received during his sabbatical stay in New Zealand.

Let us start with some definitions which are due to Noll [2] . Given a topological space X, a pair (φ, T) consisting of a tree T of height $\aleph_0$ and a mapping φ with domain T is called a *web* on X if the following conditions are met:

(i) $\{\varphi(t) : t \in T\}$ is a π-base for X;

(ii) for fixed $t \in T$, the set $\{\varphi(s) : t <_T s \in T\}$ is a π-base for $\varphi(t)$.

Recall that a family B of open subsets of a space X is called a *π-base* for X if every nonempty open U in X contains some nonempty $V \in B$, see Oxtoby [3].

Let $f : X \to Y$ be a function. Then f is called *fibre-complete* if there exists a web (φ, T) on X such that for every $y \in Y$ and every cofinal branch (t_n) in T (i.e. $t_n <_T t_{n+1}$ for all n) having $\varphi(t_n) \cap f^{-1}(y) \neq \phi$ for every n, the intersection $\cap\{\varphi(t_n) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is nonempty.

Let X be a regular space and suppose that $f : X \to Y$ has countably compact or sequentially compact or pseudo-compact fibres. Then f is fibre-complete, see $[2, (1), p.848]$.

Following Frolik [1], we say that a function $f : X \to f(X)$ is *feebly open* (resp. *feebly continuous*) if the image (resp. inverse image) of a nonempty open set has a nonempty interior. Noll [2, (2), p.850] posed the following open question.

Question. Is the pre-image of a Baire space under a feebly open, feebly continuous and fibre-complete function, a Baire space?

The following Example answers this question in the negative.

Example. Enumerate the set of rational numbers in $(-1, 0)$ as the set $P = \{q_1, q_2, \dots\}$. Consider a countable family of closed intervals in $\mathbb{R}$ each of length 2/3: $I_1 = [1 - \frac{1}{3}, 1 + \frac{1}{3}], I_2 = [2 - \frac{1}{3}, 2 + \frac{1}{3}], \dots, I_n = [n - \frac{1}{3}, n + \frac{1}{3}]$, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $F = \cup\{[n - \frac{1}{3}, n + \frac{1}{3}] : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Let $P \cup F$ and $\mathbb{N}$ have subspace topologies induced by the usual topology on

$\mathbb{R}$. Now, we define $f : P \cup F \to \mathbb{N}$ by $f(x) = n$, if $x \in \{q_n\} \cup I_n, n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$. The function f is open (hence it is feebly open), feebly continuous and has compact fibres $f^{-1}(n), n \in \mathbb{N}$, so that f is fibre-complete.

Now the range of f (the space $\mathbb{N}$ of natural numbers) is Baire, while the domain space is not Baire since $\mathbb{Q} \cap (-1, 0)$ is of the first category, where $\mathbb{Q}$ denotes the set of rational numbers.

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Received August 10, 1992