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## A NOTE ON ALMOST $s$ -CONTINUITY

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**Abstract.** T. Noiri, M. B. Ahmad and M. Khan introduced the notion of almost  $s$ -continuous functions [20] since then the function studied by various authors [1,4,11] Continuing in the spirit of this papers we obtain several properties and new characterizations of almost  $s$  -continuous functions. We improve and strengthen some of the known results. The concept of *co-SR*-closed graph is introduced.

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

Almost  $s$ -continuous functions being both quasi-irresolute and almost continuous, introduced by T. Noiri, M. B. Ahmad and M. Khan [20]. In [4] Dontchev, Ganster and Reilly introduced quasi-open sets and they related ultra Hausdorffness and almost  $s$ -continuity. Note that ultra Hausdorffness implies totally disconnectedness [25]. So almost  $s$ -continuity can be considered as a tool for studying various disconnectedness properties. Almost  $s$ -continuity generate clopen sets from semi-regular sets under the inverse image so this function equivalent to  $\gamma$ -continuity introduced by Ganguly and Basu [9] in 1992.

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Quasi-open sets can be used for characterizing almost  $s$ -continuity. Since every clopen set is quasi-open this improves some of the almost  $s$ -continuity characterizations. In [1] Cho, studied net characterizations of almost  $s$ -continuity, we strengthened and extended his results using clopen sets. In the same manner using  $co$ - $SR$ -closed graphs instead of almost  $s$ -closed graphs some results of Jafari and Noiri [11] are improved. In addition using almost  $s$ -continuity and  $co$ - $SR$ -closed graphs, ultra Hausdorff spaces are characterized.

Throughout this paper  $(X, \tau)$  and  $(Y, \sigma)$  (or simply  $X$  and  $Y$ ) represent nonempty topological spaces on which no separation axioms are assumed, unless otherwise mentioned. For a subset  $S$  of  $(X, \tau)$ ,  $cl(S)$  and  $int(S)$  represent the closure of  $S$  and the interior of  $S$ , respectively. A subset  $S$  of a space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be semi-open [16] if  $S \subset cl(int(S))$ . The family of all semi-open sets of  $X$  is denoted by  $SO(X)$ . The complement of a semi-open set is said to be semi-closed. The semiclosure of  $S$ , denoted by  $scl(S)$ , is the intersection of all semi-closed sets containing  $S$ . The family of all semi-closed sets of  $X$  is denoted by  $SC(X)$ . A subset  $S$  of a space  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be semi-regular [14] if it is both semiopen as well as semi-closed. The family of all semi-regular sets of a space  $X$  and that containing a point  $x$  of  $X$  are respectively denoted by  $SR(X)$  and  $SR(X, x)$ . A point  $x \in X$  is said to be in the semi- $\theta$ -closure [14] of  $A$ , denoted by  $scl_\theta(A)$ , if  $A \cap scl(V) \neq \emptyset$  for every  $V \in SO(X, x)$ . If  $scl_\theta(A) = A$ , then  $A$  is said to be semi- $\theta$ -closed. The complement of a semi- $\theta$ -closed set is said to be semi- $\theta$ -open.

The quasi-component [25] of a point  $x \in X$  is the intersection of all clopen subsets of  $X$  which contain the point  $x$ . The quasi-topology  $\tau_q$  on  $X$  is the topology having as base clopen subsets of  $(X, \tau)$ . The closure of each point in quasi-topology is precisely the quasi-component of that point. The open (resp. closed) subsets of the quasi-topology is called quasi-open [4] (resp. quasi-closed [4]). For a space  $(X, \tau)$  the space  $(X, \tau_q)$  is called by Staum [25] the ultraregular kernel of  $X$  and denoted by  $X_q$  for simplicity. A space  $(X, \tau)$  is called ultraregular [25] if  $\tau = \tau_q$ . For a subset  $A$  of a space  $X$ , we define the quasi-interior (resp. quasi-closure) of  $A$ , denoted by  $int_q(A)$  (resp.  $cl_q(A)$ ), defined by  $int_q(A) = \cup\{U \text{ is quasi-open: } U \subset A\}$ , (resp.  $cl_q(A) = \cap\{F \text{ is quasi-closed: } A \subset F\}$ ).

**Lemma 1.** [9] *Let  $A$  be a subset of a space  $X$ .*

- (a): If  $A \in SO(X)$  then  $scl(A) \in SR(X)$  and  $scl(A) = scl_\theta(A)$ ;  
 (b): If  $A \in SR(X)$  then  $X - A \in SR(X)$ ;

**Lemma 2.** [6,14,20] Let  $A$  be a subset of a space  $X$ , the following statements are equivalent:

- (a):  $A \in SR(X)$ ;  
 (b):  $A = scl(sint(A))$ ;  
 (c):  $A = sint(scl(A))$ ;  
 (d):  $A$  is semi- $\theta$ -closed and semi- $\theta$ -open.

**Definition 3.** A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is said to be almost  $s$ -continuous [20] if for each point  $x \in X$  and each  $V \in SO(Y, f(x))$ , there exists an open set  $U$  of  $X$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset scl(V)$ .

## 2. CHARACTERIZATIONS

**Definition 4.** A subfamily  $m_X$  of the power set  $\wp(X)$  of a nonempty set  $X$  is called a minimal structure [24] (briefly  $m$ -structure) on  $X$  if  $\emptyset \in m_X$  and  $X \in m_X$ . By  $(X, m_X)$ , we denote a nonempty subset  $X$  with a minimal structure  $m_X$  on  $X$ . Each member of  $m_X$  is said to be  $m_X$ -open and the complement of  $m_X$ -open set is said to be  $m_X$ -closed. For a subset  $A$  of  $X$ , the  $m_X$ -closure of  $A$  and the  $m_X$ -interior of  $A$  are defined in [18] as  $m_X\text{-Cl}(V) = \cap\{F : A \subset F, X - F \in m_X\}$  and  $m_X\text{-Int}(V) = \cup\{U : U \subset A, U \in m_X\}$ .

**Remark 5.** Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. Then the families  $\tau$ ,  $\tau_q$ ,  $SO(X)$ ,  $PO(X)$ ,  $\alpha(X)$ ,  $\beta(X)$  ( $=\beta O(X)$ ),  $SR(X)$ ,  $\beta R(X)$  are all  $m$ -structures on  $X$ .

**Definition 6.** A function  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$ , where  $X$  and  $Y$  are nonempty sets with minimal structures  $m_X$  and  $m_Y$ , respectively, is said to be weakly  $M$ -continuous [22] ( $M$ -continuous [24]) at  $x \in X$  if for each  $V \in m_Y$  containing  $f(x)$  such that  $f(U) \subset m_X\text{-Cl}(V)$  (resp.  $f(U) \subset V$ ). A function  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  is said to be weakly  $M$ -continuous (resp.  $M$ -continuous) if it has the property at each point  $x \in X$ .

**Theorem 7.** For a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , the following are equivalent:

- (a):  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous.  
 (b): For each  $x \in X$  and each  $V \in SR(Y, f(x))$ , there exists a clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset V$ ;

- (c): For each  $x \in X$  and each  $V \in SR(Y, f(x))$ , there exists an quasi-open set  $U$  of  $X$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset V$ ;  
 (d):  $f : (X, \tau_q) \rightarrow (Y, SO(Y))$  is weakly  $M$ -continuous.  
 (e):  $f^{-1}(V) \subset \text{int}_q(f^{-1}(scl(V)))$  for every  $V \in SO(Y)$ ;  
 (f):  $cl_q(f^{-1}(\text{sint}(F))) \subset f^{-1}(F)$  for every  $F \in SC(Y)$ ;  
 (g):  $cl_q(f^{-1}(V)) \subset f^{-1}(scl(V))$  for every  $V \in SO(Y)$ .  
 (h):  $f(cl_q(A)) \subset scl_\theta(f(A))$  for each subset  $A$  of  $X$ .  
 (i):  $cl_q(f^{-1}(B)) \subset f^{-1}(scl_\theta(B))$  for each subset  $B$  of  $Y$ .

*Proof.* (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b): This is known by Theorem 3.3 of [20].

(b) $\Rightarrow$ (c) $\Rightarrow$ (a): These implications are clear from the definition of quasi topology.

(c) $\Rightarrow$ (d) Let  $x \in X$  and  $V \in SR(Y, f(x))$ . Then by (c) there exists a quasi-open set  $U$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset V$ . Since every semi-regular set is semi-open,  $f$  is  $M$ -continuous, hence weakly  $M$ -continuous.

(d) $\Rightarrow$ (a) Let  $x \in X$  and  $V \in SO(Y, f(x))$  then there exists a quasi-open set  $U$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset scl(V)$ . Since  $U$  is quasi open there exists an open set  $W$  in  $U$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(W) \subset scl(V)$  and by Definition 3  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous.

(c) $\Rightarrow$ (e): Let  $V \in SO(Y)$  and  $x \in f^{-1}(V)$ . Then  $f(x) \in V$  and  $scl(V) \in SR(Y, f(x))$  hence by (c), there exists a quasi-open set  $U$  of  $X$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset scl(V)$ . Then  $x \in U \subset f^{-1}(scl(V))$  and hence  $x \in \text{int}_q(f^{-1}(scl(V)))$ .

(e) $\Leftrightarrow$ (a): It follows from Theorem 3.2 of [22].

(f) $\Rightarrow$ (g): Let  $F \in SC(Y)$ , then  $Y - F \in SO(Y)$  and by (e), we have  $f^{-1}(Y - F) \subset \text{int}_q(f^{-1}(scl(Y - F)))$  i.e.,  $X - f^{-1}(F) \subset \text{int}_q(f^{-1}(scl(Y - F))) = \text{int}_q(f^{-1}(Y - \text{sint}(F))) = X - cl_q(f^{-1}(\text{sint}(F)))$  Hence we obtain  $cl_q(f^{-1}(\text{sint}(F))) \subset f^{-1}(F)$ .

(f) $\Leftrightarrow$ (a): It follows from Theorem 2.1 of [23].

(f) $\Rightarrow$ (g): Let  $V \in SO(Y)$ . Then  $scl(V)$  is semi-closed, by (e)  $cl_q(f^{-1}(V)) \subset cl_q(f^{-1}(scl(V))) = cl_q(f^{-1}(\text{sint}(scl(V)))) \subset f^{-1}(scl(V))$ .

(g) $\Leftrightarrow$ (a) It follows from Theorem 3.4 of [22].

(a) $\Rightarrow$ (h) $\Rightarrow$ (i) $\Rightarrow$ (a): It follows from Theorem 3.3 of [22].  $\square$

**Definition 8.** A filter base  $\mathcal{F}$  is said to be;

- (a):  $s$ - $\theta$ -convergent [1] to a point  $x$  in  $X$ , if for any semi-open set  $U$  containing  $x$  there exist  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $B \subset scl(U)$ ;

(b): *clopen convergent to a point  $x$  in  $X$ , if for any clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$ , there exist  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $B \subset U$ .*

**Theorem 9.** *A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is almost  $s$ -continuous if and only if for each point  $x \in X$  and each filter base  $\mathcal{F}$  in  $X$  clopen converging to  $x$  the filter base  $f(\mathcal{F})$  is  $s$ - $\theta$ -convergent to  $f(x)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $x \in X$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  is any filter base in  $X$  clopen converges to  $x$ . Since  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous for any semi-open set  $V$  containing  $f(x)$   $scl(V) \in SR(Y, f(x))$  and by Theorem 7, there exists a clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$  in  $X$  such that  $f(U) \subset scl(V)$ . Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is clopen convergent to  $x$  in  $X$  then there exists  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $B \subset U$ . It follows that  $f(B) \subset scl(V)$ . This means that  $f(\mathcal{F})$  is  $s$ - $\theta$ -convergent to  $f(x)$ .

Conversely, let  $x$  be a point in  $X$  and  $V$  be a semi-open set containing  $f(x)$ . If we set  $\mathcal{F} = \{U : U \text{ is clopen and } x \in U\}$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  will be a filter base which clopen converges to  $x$ . So there exists  $U \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $f(U) \subset scl(V)$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Definition 10.** *A net  $(x_i)$  in a space  $X$ ,  $\theta$ -converges (resp. clopen converges [10],  $s$ - $\theta$ -converges [1]) to  $x$  if and only if for each open (resp. clopen, semi-open, ) set  $U$  containing  $x$ , there exists  $i_0$  such that  $x_i \in cl(U)$  (resp.  $x_i \in U$ ,  $x_i \in scl(U)$ ) for all  $i \geq i_0$ .*

**Lemma 11.** *For a net  $(x_i)$  in a space  $X$ ;*

- (a): [1] if  $(x_i)$   $s$ - $\theta$ -converges to  $x$ , then  $(x_i)$   $\theta$ -converges to  $x$ ;
- (b): [2] if  $(x_i)$  converges to  $x$ , then  $(x_i)$   $\theta$ -converges to  $x$ ;
- (c): [10] if  $(x_i)$  converges or  $\theta$ -converges to  $x$ , then  $(x_i)$  clopen converges to  $x$ .

**Theorem 12.** *For a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , the following statements are equivalent:*

- (a):  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous;
- (b): For each  $x \in X$  and each net  $(x_i)$  in  $X$  which clopen converges to  $x$ , the net  $(f(x_i))$   $s$ - $\theta$ -converges to  $f(x)$ ;
- (c): For each  $x \in X$  and each net  $(x_i)$  in  $X$  which  $\theta$ -converges to  $x$ , the net  $(f(x_i))$   $s$ - $\theta$ -converges to  $f(x)$ ;
- (d): For each  $x \in X$  and each net  $(x_i)$  in  $X$  which converges to  $x$ , the net  $(f(x_i))$   $s$ - $\theta$ -converges to  $f(x)$ .

*Proof.* (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b) Let  $x \in X$  and let  $(x_i)$  be a net in  $X$  such that  $(x_i)$  clopen converges to  $x$ . Let  $V$  be a semi-open set containing  $f(x)$ . Since  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous and  $scl(V) \in SR(Y)$ , there exists a clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset scl(V)$ . Since  $(x_i)$  clopen converges to  $x$ , there exists  $i_0$  such that  $x_i \in U$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ . Hence  $f(x_i) \in scl(V)$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ .

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) Suppose that  $f$  is not *almost  $s$ -continuous*. Then there exists  $x \in X$  and  $V \in SO(Y, f(x))$  such that  $f(U) \not\subseteq scl(V)$  for all clopen neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$ . Thus for every clopen neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  we can find  $x_U \in U$  such that  $f(x_U) \notin scl(V)$ . Let  $\mathcal{N}(x)$  be the set of clopen neighborhoods of  $x$  in  $X$ . The set  $\mathcal{N}(x)$  with the relation of inverse inclusion (that is  $U_1 \leq U_2$  if and only if  $U_2 \subseteq U_1$ ) form a directed set (Theorem 1.1 of [10]). Clearly the net  $\{x_U : U \in \mathcal{N}(x)\}$  clopen converges to  $x$  in  $X$  but  $(f(x_U))_{U \in \mathcal{N}(x)}$  does not  $s$ - $\theta$ -converge to  $f(x)$ .

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (c) Let  $x \in X$  and let  $(x_i)$  be a net in  $X$  such that  $(x_i)$   $\theta$ -converges to  $x$ . By Lemma 11  $(x_i)$  clopen converges to  $x$ . By (b),  $(f(x_i))$   $s$ - $\theta$ -converges to  $f(x)$ .

For the proof of the other implications see [1].  $\square$

By Lemma 11 and Theorem 12 we have the following as corollary. This is an improvement of Corollary 3.1 of [1].

**Corollary 13.** *If a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is almost  $s$ -continuous then, for each  $x \in X$  and each net  $(x_i)$  in  $X$  which clopen converges to  $x$ , the net  $(f(x_i))$   $\theta$ -converges to  $f(x)$ .*

**Proposition 14.** [1] *A net  $(x_i)$  in a space  $X$ ,  $s$ - $\theta$ -converges to  $x$  if and only if for each semiregular set  $U$  containing  $x$ , there exists  $i_0$  such that  $x_i \in U$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ .*

By Theorem 12 and Proposition 14 we have the following extension of Corollary 3.2 of [1].

**Theorem 15.** *For a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , the following are equivalent:*

- (a):  *$f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous;*
- (b): *If for each  $x \in X$  and, a net  $(x_i)$  in  $X$  clopen converges to  $x$  then for each  $V \in SR(Y, f(x))$ , there exists  $i_0$  such that  $f(x_i) \in V$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ ;*

- (c): If for each  $x \in X$  and, a net  $(x_i)$  in  $X$   $\theta$ -converges to  $x$  then for each  $V \in SR(Y, f(x))$ , there exists  $i_0$  such that  $f(x_i) \in V$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ ;
- (d): If for each  $x \in X$  and, a net  $(x_i)$  in  $X$  converges to  $x$  then for each  $V \in SR(Y, f(x))$ , there exists  $i_0$  such that  $f(x_i) \in V$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ .

### 3. SEPARATION AXIOMS AND $co$ - $SR$ -CLOSED GRAPHS

**Definition 16.** A space  $X$  is said to be

- (a): ultra Hausdorff [25] if every two distinct points of  $X$  can be separated by disjoint clopen sets.
- (b): semi- $T_2$  [17] if for each pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  in  $X$ , there exist semi-open sets  $U$  and  $V$  of  $X$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, such that  $U \cap V = \emptyset$  (or equivalently  $scl(U) \cap scl(V) = \emptyset$  [14]).
- (c): clopen  $T_1$  [8] ( $\equiv$  ultra  $T_1$  [13]) if for each pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$ , there exist clopen sets  $U$  and  $V$  containing  $x$  and  $y$  respectively such that  $y \notin U$  and  $x \notin V$ .
- (d): ultra  $T_0$  [13] if for each pair of distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$ , there exist a clopen set  $U$  containing one of the points  $x$  and  $y$  but not the other.

**Remark 17.** Kohli and Singh proved that [13] ultra Hausdorff, clopen  $T_1$ , and ultra  $T_0$  axioms are all equivalent.

**Definition 18.** [22] A nonempty set  $X$  is with a minimal structure  $m_X$ ,  $(X, m_X)$ , is said to be  $m$ -Hausdorff if for each distinct points  $x, y \in X$ , there exist  $U, V \in m_X$  containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, such that  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 19.** [26] If  $f : (X, \tau_q) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  is a weakly  $M$ -continuous function and  $(Y, m_Y)$  is  $m$ -Hausdorff, then  $f$  has quasi-closed point inverses in  $X$ .

**Corollary 20.** If  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is almost  $s$ -continuous and  $(Y, \sigma)$  is semi- $T_2$  then  $f$  has quasi-closed point inverses in  $X$ .

Recall that for a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , the subset  $\{(x, f(x)) : x \in X\} \subset X \times Y$  is called the graph of  $f$  and is denoted by  $G(f)$ .

**Definition 21.** A function  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  is said to have a strongly  $M$ -closed graph [22] if and only if for each  $(x, y) \in (X \times Y) - G(f)$  there exists an  $m_X$ -open set  $U$  containing  $x$  and an  $m_Y$ -open set  $V$  containing  $y$  such that  $(U \times m_Y\text{-Cl}(V)) \cap G(f) = \emptyset$ .

**Lemma 22.** [22] A function  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  has a strongly  $M$ -closed graph if and only if for each  $(x, y) \in (X \times Y) - G(f)$  there exists an  $m_X$ -open set  $U$  containing  $x$  and  $m_Y$ -open set  $V$  containing  $y$  such that  $f(U) \cap m_Y\text{-Cl}(V) = \emptyset$ .

**Definition 23.** A graph  $G(f)$  of a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is said to be co- $SR$ -closed if for each  $(x, y) \in (X \times Y) - G(f)$ , there exists a clopen set  $U$  in  $X$  containing  $x$  and  $V \in SR(Y, y)$  such that  $(U \times V) \cap G(f) = \emptyset$ .

**Remark 24.** If a function  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  has the strongly  $M$ -closed graph, then for the special case  $m_X = \tau_q$  and  $m_Y = SO(Y)$ ,  $G(f)$  has co- $SR$ -closed graph and we may state the following.

**Theorem 25.** The following properties are equivalent for a graph  $G(f)$  of a function:

- (a):  $G(f)$  is co- $SR$ -closed.
- (b): for each  $(x, y) \in (X \times Y) - G(f)$ , there exists a clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$  in  $X$  and  $V \in SR(Y, y)$  such that  $f(U) \cap V = \emptyset$ .
- (c): for each point  $(x, y) \in (X \times Y) - G(f)$ , there exists a clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$  in  $X$  and  $V \in SO(Y, y)$  such that  $f(U) \cap scl(V) = \emptyset$ .
- (d): for each point  $(x, y) \in (X \times Y) - G(f)$ , there exists a quasi-open set  $U$  containing  $x$  in  $X$  and  $V \in SO(Y, y)$  such that  $f(U) \cap scl(V) = \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 26.** If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is almost  $s$ -continuous function and  $Y$  is semi- $T_2$ , then  $G(f)$  is co- $SR$ -closed in  $X \times Y$ .

*Proof.* First suppose  $Y$  is semi- $T_2$ . Let  $(x, y) \in (X \times Y) - G(f)$ . It follows that  $f(x) \neq y$ . Since  $Y$  is semi- $T_2$ , there exist  $V \in SO(Y, f(x))$  and  $W \in SO(Y, y)$  such that  $scl(V) \cap scl(W) = \emptyset$ . Since  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous, there exists a clopen set  $U = f^{-1}(scl(V))$  in  $X$  containing  $x$  such that  $f(U) \subset scl(V)$ . Therefore  $f(U) \cap scl(W) = \emptyset$  and  $G(f)$  is co- $SR$ -closed with respect to  $X \times Y$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 27.** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  have a co- $SR$ -closed graph then the following properties hold:



- (a): if  $f$  is injective then  $X$  is ultra Hausdorff;  
 (b): if  $f$  is surjective then  $X$  is semi- $T_2$ .

*Proof.* (a) Suppose that  $x$  and  $y$  are any two distinct points of  $X$  by the injectivity of  $f$ ,  $(x, f(y)) \notin G(f)$ . Since  $G(f)$  is  $co$ - $SR$ -closed, by Theorem 25, there exist a clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$  and  $V \in SO(Y, f(y))$  such that  $f(U) \cap scl(V) = \emptyset$ . We have  $U \cap f^{-1}(scl(V)) = \emptyset$ . Therefore  $y \notin U$ . Then  $U$  and  $X - U$  are disjoint clopen sets containing  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively. Hence  $X$  is ultra Hausdorff.

(b) Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be any two distinct points of  $Y$ . Since  $f$  is surjective there exists a point  $x \in X$  such that  $f(x) = y_2$ . Since  $G(f)$  is  $co$ - $SR$ -closed and  $(x, y_1) \notin G(f)$  there exists a clopen set  $U$  containing  $x$  and  $V \in SR(Y, y_1)$  such that  $f(U) \cap V = \emptyset$ . Therefore we have  $y_2 \in f(U) \subset Y - V \in SR(Y)$  and hence  $Y$  is semi- $T_2$ .  $\square$

Note that since ultra Hausdorff spaces are totally disconnected [25] first part of the theorem characterizes totally disconnectedness.

**Definition 28.** A subset  $K$  of a nonempty set  $X$  with a minimal structure  $m_X$  is said to be  $m$ -compact [21] ( $m$ -closed [21]) relative to  $(X, m_X)$  if any cover  $\{U_i : i \in I\}$  of  $K$  by  $m_X$ -open sets, there exists a finite subset  $I_0$  of  $I$  such that  $K \subseteq \cup\{U_i : i \in I_0\}$  ( $K \subseteq \cup\{m_X - Cl(U_i) : i \in I_0\}$ ).  $(X, m_X)$  is  $m$ -closed if  $X$  is  $m$ -closed relative to  $(X, m_X)$ .

**Definition 29.** A subset  $K$  of a space  $X$  is said to be  $s$ -closed [14] relative to  $X$  if for every cover  $\{V_\alpha : \alpha \in I\}$  of  $K$  by semi-open sets of  $X$ , there exists a finite subset  $I_0$  of  $I$  such that  $K \subset \cup\{scl(V_\alpha) : \alpha \in I_0\}$ .

**Theorem 30.** [19] Let  $f : (X, m_X) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  be a function. Assume that  $m_X$  is a base for a topology. If the graph  $G(f)$  is strongly  $M$ -closed, then  $m_X - Cl(f^{-1}(K)) = f^{-1}(K)$  whenever the set  $K \subseteq Y$  is  $m$ -closed relative to  $(Y, m_Y)$ .

**Corollary 31.** [26] If a function  $f : (X, \tau_q) \rightarrow (Y, m_Y)$  has a strongly  $M$ -closed graph, then  $f^{-1}(K)$  is quasi-closed in  $(X, \tau_q)$  for each set  $K$  which is  $m$ -closed relative to  $(Y, m_Y)$ .

**Corollary 32.** If a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  has  $co$ - $SR$ -closed graph, then  $f^{-1}(K)$  is quasi-closed in  $X$  for every subset  $K$  which is  $s$ -closed relative to  $Y$ .

**Theorem 33.** *If a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  has a co-SR-closed graph and  $Y$  is  $s$ -closed then  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous.*

*Proof.* Let  $V \in SR(Y)$ , then by Lemma 1,  $Y - V \in SR(Y)$ . By the  $s$ -closedness of  $Y$  it follows from Theorem 1 of [15],  $Y - V$  is  $s$ -closed. By Corollary 32,  $f^{-1}(Y - V) = X - f^{-1}(V)$  is quasi-closed, hence  $f^{-1}(V)$  is quasi open. Set  $U = f^{-1}(V)$ , then  $f(U) \subset V$ , and by Theorem 7,  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous.  $\square$

**Corollary 34.** *Let  $Y$  be an  $s$ -closed semi- $T_2$  space. The following are equivalent for a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ :*

- (a):  $f$  is almost  $s$ -continuous;
- (b):  $G(f)$  is co-SR-closed;
- (c): for each  $K$ ,  $s$ -closed relative to  $Y$ ,  $f^{-1}(K)$  is quasi-closed in  $X$ .

*Proof.* This is a direct consequence of Theorems 26, 33 and Corollary 32.  $\square$

**Definition 35.** *A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called countably  $rs$ -compact [5] (resp. countably  $S$ -closed [3], mildly countably compact [25]) if every countable cover of  $X$  by semi-regular (resp. regular closed, clopen) sets has a finite subcover.*

**Definition 36.** *A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $rs$ -Lindelöf [7] (resp.  $rc$ -Lindelöf [12]) if every cover of  $X$  by semi-regular (resp. regular closed) sets has a countable subcover.*

**Definition 37.** *For any infinite cardinal  $\kappa$ , a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $\kappa$ -extremally disconnected [5] ( $\kappa$ -e.d.) if the boundary of every regular open set has cardinality (strictly) less than  $\kappa$ .*

**Theorem 38.** *Let  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  be an almost  $s$ -continuous surjection, then the following properties hold:*

- (a): *If  $X$  is mildly countably compact, then  $Y$  is countably  $S$ -closed and  $\aleph_0$ -e.d. (almost extremally disconnected).*
- (b): *If  $X$  is mildly Lindelöf, then  $Y$  is  $rc$ -Lindelöf and  $\omega_1$ -e.d. (the boundary of every regular open set is at most countable).*

*Proof.* (a) Let  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  be an almost  $s$ -continuous surjection. If  $X$  is mildly countably compact, then  $Y$  is countably  $rs$ -compact by Theorem 2.6 of [4]. Then  $Y$  is both countably  $S$ -closed and  $\aleph_0$ -e.d. (almost extremally disconnected) by Theorem 3.13 of [5].

(b) Let  $f: (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  be an almost  $s$ -continuous surjection. If  $X$  is mildly Lindelöf, then  $Y$  is  $rs$ -Lindelöf. by Theorem 2.6 of [4]. Then  $Y$  is  $rc$ -Lindelöf and  $\omega_1$ -e.d. by Theorem 3.14 of [5].  $\square$

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