

## Closed ideals in the functionally countable subalgebra of $C(X)$

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Communicated by A. Tamariz-Mascarúa

### ABSTRACT

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In this paper, closed ideals in  $C_c(X)$ , the functionally countable subalgebra of  $C(X)$ , with the  $m_c$ -topology are studied. We show that if  $X$  is a  $CUC$ -space, then  $C_c^*(X)$  with the uniform norm-topology is a Banach algebra. Closed ideals in  $C_c(X)$  as a modified countable analogue of closed ideals in  $C(X)$  with the  $m$ -topology, are characterized. For a zero-dimensional space  $X$ , we show that a proper ideal in  $C_c(X)$  is closed if and only if it is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C_c(X)$ . It is also shown that every ideal in  $C_c(X)$  with the  $m_c$ -topology is closed if and only if  $X$  is a  $P$ -space if and only if every ideal in  $C(X)$  with the  $m$ -topology is closed. Also, for a strongly zero-dimensional space  $X$ , it is proved that every properly closed ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C_c^*(X)$  if and only if  $X$  is pseudocompact if and only if every properly closed ideal in  $C^*(X)$  is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C^*(X)$ . Finally, we show that if  $X$  is a  $P$ -space, then the family of  $e_c$ -ultrafilters and  $z_c$ -ultrafilter coincide.

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2020 MSC: 54C30; 54C40; 13C11.

KEYWORDS: zero-dimensional space; functionally countable subalgebra;  $m$ -topology; closed ideal;  $e_c$ -filter;  $e_c$ -ideal;  $P$ -space.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In what follows  $X$  stands for an infinite completely regular Hausdorff topological space (i.e., infinite Tychonoff space) and  $C(X)$  as usual denotes the ring of all real-valued continuous functions on  $X$ .  $C^*(X)$  designates the subring of  $C(X)$  containing all those members which are bounded over  $X$ . For

each  $f \in C(X)$ , the *zero-set* of  $f$ , denoted by  $Z(f)$ , is the set of zeros of  $f$  and  $X \setminus Z(f)$  is the *cozero-set* of  $f$  and the set of all zero-sets in  $X$  is denoted by  $Z(X)$ . An ideal  $I$  in  $C(X)$  is called a *z-ideal* if  $f \in I$ ,  $g \in C(X)$  and  $Z(f) \subseteq Z(g)$ , then  $g \in I$ . The space  $\beta X$  is the *Stone-Ćech compactification* of  $X$  and for any  $p \in \beta X$ , the maximal ideal  $M^p$  of  $C(X)$  is the set of all  $f \in C(X)$  for which  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)$ . Moreover,  $M^p$  is fixed if and only if  $p \in X$  (in which case, we put  $M^p = M_p = \{f \in C(X) : p \in Z(f)\}$ ). Whenever  $\frac{C(X)}{M^p} \cong \mathbb{R}$ , then  $M^p$  is called *real*, else *hyper-real*, see [5, Chapter 8]. We recall that a *zero-dimensional space* is a Hausdorff space with a base consisting of clopen (closed-open) sets. A Tychonoff space  $X$  is called *strongly zero-dimensional* if for every finite cover  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^k$  of  $X$  by cozero-sets there exists a finite refinement  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^m$  of mutually disjoint open sets. A Tychonoff space  $X$  is strongly zero-dimensional if and only if  $\beta X$  is zero-dimensional, see [2].

The subring of  $C(X)$  consisting of those functions with countable (resp. finite) image, which is denoted by  $C_c(X)$  (resp.  $C^F(X)$ ) is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -subalgebra of  $C(X)$ . The subring  $C_c^*(X)$  of  $C_c(X)$  consists of bounded elements of  $C_c(X)$ . So  $C_c^*(X) = C^*(X) \cap C_c(X)$ . The rings  $C_c(X)$  and  $C^F(X)$  are introduced and investigated in [3] and more studied in [1], [4], [9], [10] and [12]. A topological space  $X$  is called *countably pseudocompact*, briefly, *c-pseudocompact* if  $C_c(X) = C_c^*(X)$ . A nonempty subfamily  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $Z_c(X) := \{Z(f) : f \in C_c(X)\}$  is called a *z<sub>c</sub>-filter* if it is a filter on  $X$ . For an ideal  $I$  in  $C_c(X)$  and a *z<sub>c</sub>-filter*  $\mathcal{F}$ , we define  $Z_c[I] = \{Z(f) : f \in I\}$ ,  $\cap Z_c[I] = \cap \{Z(f) : f \in I\}$  and  $Z_c^{-1}[\mathcal{F}] = \{f \in C_c(X) : Z(f) \in \mathcal{F}\}$ . It is observed that  $\mathcal{F} = Z_c[Z_c^{-1}[\mathcal{F}]]$ . Also,  $Z_c[I]$  is a *z<sub>c</sub>-filter* on  $X$  and  $Z_c^{-1}[Z_c[I]] \supseteq I$ . If the equality holds, then  $I$  is called a *z<sub>c</sub>-ideal*. This means that if  $f \in I$ ,  $g \in C_c(X)$  and  $Z(f) \subseteq Z(g)$ , then  $g \in I$ . So maximal ideals in  $C_c(X)$  are *z<sub>c</sub>-ideals*. In the same way, for an ideal  $I$  of  $C_c^*(X)$  and a *z<sub>c</sub>-filter*  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$ ,  $E_c(I)$  is an *e<sub>c</sub>-filter* and  $E_c^{-1}(\mathcal{F})$  is an *e<sub>c</sub>-ideal*. The counterpart notions are  $E_c^{-1}(E_c(I)) \supseteq I$  and  $E_c(E_c^{-1}(\mathcal{F})) = \mathcal{F}$ , see [14]. By  $\beta_0 X$ , we mean the *Banaschewski compactification* of a zero-dimensional space  $X$ . If  $\beta X$  is zero-dimensional, then  $\beta X = \beta_0 X$ , see [13, Section 4.7] for more details. According to [1, Theorems 4.2, 4.8], for any  $p \in \beta_0 X$ , the maximal ideal  $M_c^p$  of  $C_c(X)$  is the set of all  $f \in C_c(X)$  for which  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$ , or equivalently, it is the set of all  $f \in C_c(X)$  for which  $\pi_p \in \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)$ . Moreover,  $M_c^p$  is fixed if and only if  $p \in X$  (in which case, we put  $M_c^p = M_{cp} = \{f \in C_c(X) : p \in Z(f)\}$ ). Let  $S$  be a subring of  $C(X)$  and a topological space. An ideal  $I$  of  $S$  is called a *closed ideal* if  $I = \text{cl}_S I$ , briefly,  $I = \text{cl}I$ . The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we introduce the  $m_c$ -topology on  $C_c(X)$  and derive some corollaries on the ideals of  $C_c(X)$  and  $C_c^*(X)$ . We show that if  $X$  is a *CUC-space*, then  $C_c^*(X)$  with the uniform-norm topology is a Banach algebra. It is shown that an ideal in  $C_c(X)$  is a *z-ideal* if and only if it is a *z<sub>c</sub>-ideal*. In [5], closed ideals in  $C(X)$  with the  $m$ -topology are characterized. In Section 3, the countable analogue of this characterization is given. We show that a proper ideal in  $C_c(X)$  is closed if and only if it is an intersection of maximal ideals in  $C_c(X)$ . It is also shown that every ideal

in  $C_c(X)$  is closed if and only if  $X$  is a  $P$ -space if and only if every ideal in  $C(X)$  is closed. For a strongly zero-dimensional space  $X$ , we prove that every properly closed ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C_c^*(X)$  if and only if  $X$  is pseudocompact if and only if every properly closed ideal in  $C^*(X)$  is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C^*(X)$ . Finally, we show that if  $X$  is a  $P$ -space, then the family of  $e_c$ -ultrafilters and  $z_c$ -ultrafilter coincide.

## 2. SOME PROPERTIES OF IDEALS IN $C_c(X)$

The  $m$ -topology on  $C(X)$  was first introduced and studied by Hewitt [8], the generalizing work of E. H. Moore. In his article, he demonstrated that certain classes of topological spaces  $X$  can be characterized by topological properties of  $C(X)$  with the  $m$ -topology. For example, he showed that  $X$  is pseudocompact if and only if  $C(X)$  with the  $m$ -topology is first countable. Several authors have investigated the topological properties of  $X$  via properties of  $C(X)$ , for more information, one can refer to [6] and [11]. The  $m$ -topology on  $C(X)$  is defined by taking the sets of the form

$$B(f, u) = \{g \in C(X) : |f(x) - g(x)| < u(x) \text{ for all } x \in X\},$$

as a base for the neighborhood system at  $f$ , for each  $f \in C(X)$  and each positive unit  $u$  of  $C(X)$ . The  $m_c$ -topology (in brief,  $m_c$ ) on  $C_c(X)$  is determined by considering the sets of the form

$$B(f, u) = \{g \in C_c(X) : |f(x) - g(x)| < u(x) \text{ for all } x \in X\},$$

as a base for the neighborhood system at  $f$ , for each  $f \in C_c(X)$  and each positive unit  $u$  of  $C_c(X)$ . The *uniform topology*, or the  $u_c$ -topology (in brief,  $u_c$ ) on  $C_c(X)$  is defined by taking the sets of the form

$$B(f, \varepsilon) = \{g \in C_c(X) : |f(x) - g(x)| < \varepsilon \text{ for all } x \in X\},$$

as a base for the neighborhood system at  $f$ , for each  $f \in C_c(X)$  and each  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Equivalently, a base at  $f$  is given by all sets

$$B(f, u) = \{g \in C_c(X) : |f(x) - g(x)| < u(x) \text{ for all } x \in X\},$$

where  $u$  is a positive unit of  $C_c^*(X)$ . We observe that  $u_c \subseteq m_c$ . It is shown in [15] that  $u_c = m_c$  if and only if  $X$  is countably pseudocompact. The  $u_c$ -topology turns  $C_c(X)$  into a metric space with  $d(f, g) = \|f - g\| = \sup\{|f(x) - g(x)| : x \in X\}$ . Also, the  $m_c$ -topology is contained in the relative  $m$ -topology. We remind a well-known result that due to Rudin, Pelczynski and Semadeni which asserts that a compact Hausdorff space  $X$  is functionally countable (i.e.,  $C(X) = C_c(X)$ ) if and only if  $X$  is scattered. So if  $X$  is a compact scattered space or a countable space, then  $C(X) = C_c(X)$ , and thus the  $m_c$ -topology and the  $m$ -topology coincide.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $I$  be an ideal in  $C_c(X)$  (resp.  $C_c^*(X)$ ) and the topology on  $C_c(X)$  be the  $m_c$ -topology. Then:*

- (i)  *$clI$  is an ideal in  $C_c(X)$  (resp.  $C_c^*(X)$ ) and hence  $I$  is contained in a closed ideal.*
- (ii) *If  $I$  is a proper ideal, then  $clI$  is also a proper ideal and hence there is no proper dense ideal in  $C_c(X)$  (resp.  $C_c^*(X)$ ).*

*Proof.* We provide the proof for which case  $I$  is an ideal in  $C_c(X)$ . In the same way, the proof holds for the ideal  $I$  in  $C_c^*(X)$ . (i). Clearly, the result holds if  $I = C_c(X)$ . Suppose that  $I \subsetneq C_c(X)$ . Let  $f, g \in \text{cl}I$ ,  $h \in C_c(X)$  and  $u$  be a positive unit of  $C_c(X)$ . Then for some  $f' \in B(f, \frac{u}{2}) \cap I$ , and  $g' \in B(g, \frac{u}{2}) \cap I$ , we have  $f' + g' \in B(f + g, u) \cap I$ . To show that  $fh \in \text{cl}I$ , we consider the positive unit

$$u_1 = \frac{u}{(|h| + 1)(u + 1)} \in C_c(X).$$

Therefore, for some  $f_1 \in B(f, u_1) \cap I$  we have that  $|fh - f_1h| < u_1|h| < u$ . So  $f_1h \in B(fh, u) \cap I$ . Moreover, if  $f \in \text{cl}I$ , then also  $-f \in \text{cl}I$ . Thus,  $\text{cl}I$  contains both  $f + g$  and  $fh$ . So  $\text{cl}I$  is ideal. (ii). Suppose that  $I$  is a proper ideal in  $C_c(X)$  and  $\text{cl}I = C_c(X)$ . Consider the constant function  $1 \in \text{cl}I$  and  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ . Hence, the nonempty set  $B(1, \varepsilon) \cap I$  contains a nonzero element of  $C_c(X)$ ,  $f$  say. Since  $1 - \varepsilon < f(x) < 1 + \varepsilon$  for each  $x \in X$ , we have  $Z(f) = \emptyset$ , i.e.,  $f$  is a unit of  $C_c(X)$ , which is impossible (because  $f \in I$ ). Thus,  $\text{cl}I \subsetneq C_c(X)$ , and we are done.  $\square$

The next result is now immediate.

**Corollary 2.2.** *Any maximal ideal in  $C_c(X)$  (resp.  $C_c^*(X)$ ) and hence any intersection of maximal ideals in  $C_c(X)$  (resp.  $C_c^*(X)$ ) is closed.*

**Definition 2.3.** An ideal  $I$  in a commutative ring with unity  $R$  is called a  $z$ -ideal in  $R$  if for each  $a \in I$ , we have  $M_a \subseteq I$ , here  $M_a$  is the intersection of all maximal ideals in  $R$  containing  $a$ .

Evidently, each maximal ideal in  $R$  is a  $z$ -ideal. This notion of  $z$ -ideal is consistent with the notion of  $z$ -ideals in  $C(X)$ , see [5, 4A(5)].

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and  $I$  be an ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$ . Then  $I$  is a  $z$ -ideal if and only if  $g \in I$  whenever  $Z(f^\beta) \subseteq Z(g^\beta)$  with  $f \in I$  and  $g \in C_c^*(X)$ , where  $f^\beta$  is the extension of  $f$  to  $\beta X$ .*

*Proof.* ( $\Rightarrow$ ) : Let  $f \in I$ ,  $g \in C_c^*(X)$  and  $Z(f^\beta) \subseteq Z(g^\beta)$  and let  $M_f$  be the intersection of all the maximal ideals in  $C_c^*(X)$  containing  $f$ . By the assumption,  $M_f \subseteq I$ . Let  $M$  be a maximal ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  containing  $f$ . According to [9, Corollary 2.11],  $M$  has a form of  $M_c^{*p} = \{h \in C_c^*(X) : h^\beta(p) = 0\}$ , for some  $p \in \beta X$ . Now,  $Z(f^\beta) \subseteq Z(g^\beta)$  implies that  $g \in M$ . Hence,  $g \in I$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) : Let  $f \in I$  and  $g \in M_f$ . Then  $f \in M_c^{*p}$  implies that  $g \in M_c^{*p}$ , i.e.,  $Z(f^\beta) \subseteq Z(g^\beta)$ . Therefore, by the hypothesis,  $g \in I$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and  $I$  be an ideal in  $C_c(X)$ . Then  $I$  is a  $z$ -ideal if and only if it is a  $z_c$ -ideal.*

*Proof.* ( $\Rightarrow$ ) : Let  $I$  be a  $z$ -ideal in  $C_c(X)$ ,  $f \in I$  and  $Z(f) \subseteq Z(g)$  with  $g \in C_c(X)$ . We have to show that  $g \in I$ . Since  $I$  is a  $z$ -ideal, we have  $M_f \subseteq I$ , where  $M_f$  is the intersection of all the maximal ideals in  $C_c(X)$  containing  $f$ . It suffices to show that  $g \in M_f$ . So let  $M_c^p$  ( $p \in \beta_0 X$ ) be any maximal ideal in  $C_c(X)$  which contains  $f$ , we have to show that  $g \in M_c^p$  (see [1, Theorem

4.2]). Indeed  $f \in M_c^p$  implies that  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$  which further implies that  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ , by the assumption,  $Z(f) \subseteq Z(g)$ . Hence,  $g \in M_c^p$ . Thus,  $I$  becomes a  $z_c$ -ideal in  $C_c(X)$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) : Let  $I$  be a  $z_c$ -ideal in  $C_c(X)$  and  $f \in I$ . We must show  $M_f \subseteq I$ . Let  $g \in M_f$ . Then  $f \in M_c^p$  gives  $g \in M_c^p$ , where  $p \in \beta_0 X$ . Equivalently,  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \subseteq \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ . So  $Z(f) = \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \cap X \subseteq \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g) \cap X = Z(g)$ . Now, the assumption yields that  $g \in I$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.6.** *If  $I$  is a closed ideal in  $C_c(X)$ , then  $I$  is a  $z_c$ -ideal.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $Z(f) \subseteq Z(g)$ ,  $f \in I$  and  $g \in C_c(X)$ . To show that  $g \in I$ , we show that  $g \in \text{cl}I$  because  $I = \text{cl}I$ . Let  $u \in C_c(X)$  be a positive unit and let us define a function  $h : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as follows:

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{g(x) - \frac{u(x)}{2}}{f(x)} & \text{where } g(x) \geq \frac{u(x)}{2}, \\ 0 & \text{where } |g(x)| \leq \frac{u(x)}{2}, \\ \frac{g(x) + \frac{u(x)}{2}}{f(x)} & \text{where } g(x) \leq -\frac{u(x)}{2}. \end{cases}$$

From the continuity of  $h$  on the three closed sets  $(g - \frac{u}{2})^{-1}([0, \infty))$ ,  $(g + \frac{u}{2})^{-1}([0, \infty)) \cap (g - \frac{u}{2})^{-1}((-\infty, 0])$ , and  $(g + \frac{u}{2})^{-1}((-\infty, 0])$ , which their union is  $X$ , we infer that  $h \in C(X)$ . Moreover, since the ranges of  $g, u$  and  $f$  are countable, the range of  $h$  is also countable, i.e.,  $h \in C_c(X)$ . Thus,  $fh \in I$ . Furthermore, it is easy to see that  $|g(x) - f(x)h(x)| < u(x)$  for every  $x \in X$ , i.e.,  $fh \in B(g, u) \cap I$  and thus  $g \in \text{cl}I$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

The next example shows that the converse of the above proposition is not true in general.

**Example 2.7.** Consider the zero-dimensional space  $X = \mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $p = (0, 0) \in X$ , and put  $O_p = \{f \in C(X) : p \in \text{int}_X Z(f)\}$  (note,  $C_c(X) = C(X)$  because  $X$  is countable). Recall that  $O_p$  is a  $z_c$ -ideal. We now claim that  $O_p$  is not a closed ideal in  $C(X)$ . To see this, consider  $f(x, y) = \frac{|x|+|y|}{1+|x|+|y|} \in C(X)$  and let  $u$  be a fixed positive unit of  $C(X)$ . Define a function  $g$  by

$$g(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{where } f(x, y) \leq \frac{u(x, y)}{2}, \\ f(x, y) - \frac{u(x, y)}{2} & \text{where } f(x, y) \geq \frac{u(x, y)}{2}. \end{cases}$$

Obviously,  $g \in C(X)$ . Let  $G = \{(x, y) \in X : f(x, y) < \frac{u(x, y)}{2}\}$ . Then  $p \in G \subseteq Z(g)$  and therefore  $g \in O_p$ , in fact,  $g \in B(f, u) \cap O_p$ . It follows that  $f \in \text{cl}_{C(X)} O_p$ . On the other hand, the set  $Z(f) = \{p\}$  is not open in  $X$ . Hence,  $f \in \text{cl}_{C(X)} O_p \setminus O_p$ . i.e.,  $O_p$  is not a closed ideal in  $C(X)$ .

A *Banach algebra*  $B$  is an algebra that is a Banach space with a norm that satisfies  $\|xy\| \leq \|x\| \|y\|$  for all  $x, y \in B$ , and there exists a unit element  $e \in B$  such that  $ex = xe = x$ ,  $\|e\| = 1$ .

In [7, Definition 2.2], a topological space  $X$  is called a *countably uniform closed-space*, briefly, a *CUC-space*, if whenever  $\{f_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a sequence of functions of  $C_c(X)$  and  $f_n \rightarrow f$  uniformly, then  $f$  belongs to  $C_c(X)$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** *If  $X$  is a CUC-space, then  $C_c^*(X)$  with the supremum-norm topology is a Banach algebra.*

*Proof.* Let  $\{f_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a Cauchy sequence of functions in  $C_c^*(X)$ . Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we can find a natural number  $N$  such that  $\|f_n - f_m\| \leq \varepsilon$  for every  $m, n > N$ . Thus,  $|f_n(x) - f_m(x)| \leq \varepsilon$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $m, n > N$ . Let  $x \in X$  be fixed and  $a_x$  be the limit of the numerical sequence  $\{f_n(x)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  (note,  $\mathbb{R}$  is a Banach space). Now, define  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $f(x) = a_x$ . Let  $n$  be fixed, then  $|f_n(x) - \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} f_m(x)| \leq \varepsilon$  for each  $x \in X$  and each  $m > N$ . So  $\|f_n - f\| \leq \varepsilon$ . Since  $n$  is arbitrary, we get  $f_n \rightarrow f$  in the norm, uniformly. Consequently,  $f \in C(X)$ . Furthermore, our assumption implies that  $f \in C_c(X)$ . Moreover,  $\|f\| \leq \|f - f_n\| + \|f_n\|$  gives  $f$  is bounded. Hence,  $C_c^*(X)$  is a Banach space. The proof is completed by the fact that  $\|fg\| \leq \|f\|\|g\|$  for all  $f, g \in C_c^*(X)$ .  $\square$

### 3. CLOSED IDEALS IN $C_c(X)$ AND $C_c^*(X)$ (WITH THE $m_c$ -TOPOLOGY)

We need the next statement which is the counterpart of [5, 1D(1)] for  $C_c(X)$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** *If  $f, g \in C_c(X)$  and  $Z(f)$  is a neighborhood of  $Z(g)$ , then  $f = gh$  for some  $h \in C_c(X)$ .*

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $X$  be a zero-dimensional space,  $f \in C_c(\beta_0 X)$  and let  $f_0$  be the restriction of  $f$  on  $X$ . Then  $\text{int}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \subseteq \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f_0) \subseteq Z(f)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p \in \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$  and  $V$  be an open set in  $\beta_0 X$  containing  $p$ . Since  $X$  is dense in  $\beta_0 X$ , we have  $\emptyset \neq V \cap \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \cap X \subseteq V \cap Z(f_0)$ . So  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f_0)$ . For the second inclusion, since  $Z(f_0) \subseteq Z(f)$ , we have that  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f_0) \subseteq \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) = Z(f)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and  $p \in \beta_0 X$ . Then*

- (i)  $\bigcap_{f \in M_c^p} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) = \{p\}$ .
- (ii) *If  $p \in X$ , then  $\bigcap_{f \in M_{cp}} Z(f) = \{p\}$ , i.e.,  $M_{cp}$  is fixed.*

*Proof.* (i). Recall that  $f \in M_c^p$  if and only if  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$  (see [1, Theorem 4.2]). Therefore,  $p \in \bigcap_{f \in M_c^p} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$ . Now, we claim that the latter intersection is the singleton set  $\{p\}$ . On the contrary, suppose that this set contains an element  $q \in \beta_0 X$  distinct from  $p$ . Since  $\beta_0 X$  is zero-dimensional, by [3, Proposition 4.4], there exists  $g \in C_c(\beta_0 X)$  such that  $p \in \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$  and  $g(q) = 1$ . Let  $g_0$  be the restriction of  $g$  on  $X$ . Then by Proposition 3.2,  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g_0)$  contains  $p$  but not  $q$ . This means that  $g_0 \in M_c^p \setminus M_c^q$  which is a contradiction, so (i) holds. (ii). Clearly,  $\bigcap_{f \in M_{cp}} Z(f) = \bigcap_{f \in M_{cp}} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \cap X = \{p\}$ .  $\square$

In a similar way to Proposition 3.2 and Corollary 3.3, we get:

**Proposition 3.4.** *For a Tychonoff space  $X$  and  $f \in C^*(X)$ , we have that  $\text{int}_{\beta X} Z(f^\beta) \subseteq \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f) \subseteq Z(f^\beta)$ , where  $f^\beta$  is the extension of  $f$  to  $\beta X$ . Moreover, if  $p \in \beta X$ , then  $\bigcap_{f \in M_p} \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f) = \{p\}$ . In particular, if  $p \in X$ , then  $\bigcap_{f \in M_p} Z(f) = \{p\}$ , i.e.,  $M_p$  is fixed.*

**Proposition 3.5.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional,  $p \in \beta_0 X$  and  $\pi_p$  be its corresponding point of  $\beta X$  in characterizing of maximal ideals in  $C_c(X)$ . Then  $M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X) \subseteq M^{*\pi_p} \cap C_c^*(X)$ . Particularly, if  $X$  is strongly zero-dimensional, then  $M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X) \subseteq M^{*p} \cap C_c^*(X)$ .*

*Proof.* In view of [1, Theorems 4.2, 4.8], we have

$$M_c^p = \{f \in C_c(X) : p \in \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)\} = \{f \in C_c(X) : \pi_p \in \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)\}.$$

Let  $f \in M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X)$ . Then  $\pi_p \in \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)$  and hence  $f^\beta(\pi_p) = 0$ , by Proposition 3.4. Therefore,  $f \in M^{*\pi_p} \cap C_c^*(X)$ . The second part follows from the assumption, i.e.,  $\beta_0 X = \beta X$  and so  $\pi_p = p$ .  $\square$

*Remark 3.6.* Replacing  $T$  with  $\beta_0 X$  in [1, Proposition 3.2] implies that for any two zero-sets  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  in  $Z_c(X)$ , we get  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X}(Z_1 \cap Z_2) = \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z_1 \cap \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z_2$ .

*Remark 3.7.* ([1, Remark 4.12]) If  $X$  is zero-dimensional and  $f, g \in C_c(X)$ , then  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$  is a neighborhood of  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$  if and only if there exists  $h \in C_c(X)$  such that  $Z(g) \subseteq \text{coz}(h) \subseteq Z(f)$ .

**Proposition 3.8.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and  $I$  a proper ideal in  $C_c(X)$  and let  $V_c(I) = \{p \in \beta_0 X : M_c^p \supseteq I\}$ . Then:*

- (i)  $V_c(I) = \bigcap_{g \in I} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ .
- (ii) *If  $f \in C_c(X)$  and  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$  is a neighborhood of  $V_c(I)$ , then  $f \in I$ .*

*Proof.* (i). This is easily obtained from the fact that  $g \in M_c^p$  if and only if  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ . (ii). Suppose that

$$V_c(I) = \bigcap_{g \in I} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g) \subseteq \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f).$$

Then we have  $\bigcup_{g \in I} (\beta_0 X \setminus \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)) \supseteq \beta_0 X \setminus \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$ . Hence, the collection

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f), \beta_0 X \setminus \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g) : g \in I\}$$

is an open cover for the compact set  $\beta_0 X$ . Therefore, there is a finite number of elements of  $I$ ;  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n$  say, such that

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_0 X &= \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \cup (\beta_0 X \setminus \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)) \\ &= \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \cup \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n (\beta_0 X \setminus \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g_i)) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now, we have that

$$\left( \bigcap_{i=1}^n \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g_i) \right) \cap (\beta_0 X \setminus \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)) = \emptyset.$$

Thus,  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g_i) \subseteq \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$ . Since  $I$  is a proper ideal, the element  $g = \sum_{i=1}^n g_i^2$  of  $I$  is not a unit of  $C_c(X)$  and hence  $Z(g) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n Z(g_i) \neq \emptyset$ . From Remark 3.6 we conclude that

$$\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g) = \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} \left( \bigcap_{i=1}^n Z(g_i) \right) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g_i) \subseteq \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f).$$



This leads us  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$  is a neighborhood of  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ . In view of Remark 3.7, there exists  $h \in C_c(X)$  such that  $Z(g) \subseteq \text{coz}(h) \subseteq Z(f)$ . So  $Z(f)$  is a neighborhood of  $Z(g)$ . By Proposition 3.1, we get  $f \in I$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.9.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and  $g \in C_c(X)$ . Then for any neighborhood  $B(g, u)$  of  $g$  in the  $m_c$ -topology, there exists some  $f_u \in B(g, u)$  such that  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f_u)$  is a neighborhood of  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$  is an open set in  $\beta_0 X$ , then we set  $f_u = g$ . In general, we define a function  $f_u : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$f_u(x) = \begin{cases} g(x) - \frac{u(x)}{2} & \text{where } g(x) \geq \frac{u(x)}{2}, \\ 0 & \text{where } |g(x)| \leq \frac{u(x)}{2}, \\ g(x) + \frac{u(x)}{2} & \text{where } g(x) \leq -\frac{u(x)}{2}. \end{cases}$$

It is clear that  $f_u \in C(X)$  and further since the range of  $g$  and  $u$  is countable, we get  $f_u \in C_c(X)$ . Moreover,  $f_u \in B(g, u)$ . To establish the conclusion, consider the function  $h$  below

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} (g(x) + \frac{u(x)}{2})(g(x) - \frac{u(x)}{2}) & \text{where } |g(x)| \leq \frac{u(x)}{2}, \\ 0 & \text{where } |g(x)| \geq \frac{u(x)}{2}. \end{cases}$$

We observe that  $h \in C_c(X)$ . Furthermore,  $Z(g) \subseteq \text{coz}(h) \subseteq Z(f_u)$ . Now, Remark 3.7 implies that  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f_u)$  is a neighborhood of  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ , and we are through.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.10.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and  $I$  a proper ideal in  $C_c(X)$  and let  $V_c(I)$  be the same as the set in Proposition 3.8 ( $V_c(I) = \bigcap_{g \in I} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ ). Let*

$$J = \{f \in C_c(X) : \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \supseteq V_c(I)\}, \text{ and } \bar{I} = \bigcap \{M_c^p : M_c^p \supseteq I\}.$$

*Then:*

- (i)  $\bar{I}$  is a closed ideal in  $C_c(X)$  containing  $I$ .
- (ii)  $J = \bar{I}$ , in other words,  $J$  is the kernel of the hull of  $I$  in the structure space of  $C_c(X)$ .
- (iii)  $V_c(I) = V_c(\bar{I})$ .
- (iv)  $\text{cl} I = \bar{I}$ .

*Proof.* (i). It follows from Corollary 2.2. (ii). Let  $f \in J$  and  $M_c^p$  ( $p \in \beta_0 X$ ) be a maximal ideal in  $C_c(X)$  containing  $I$ . Then

$$(3.1) \quad V_c(I) \supseteq V_c(M_c^p) \text{ and so } \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f) \supseteq V_c(I) \supseteq V_c(M_c^p) = \{p\}$$

(note, the last equality follows from Corollary 3.3). Therefore,  $f \in M_c^p$  and thus  $f \in \bar{I}$ , i.e.,  $J \subseteq \bar{I}$ . For the reverse inclusion, we show that if  $f \notin J$ , then  $f \notin \bar{I}$ . Since  $f \notin J$ , there exists  $q \in \beta_0 X$  such that  $q \in V_c(I) \setminus \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f)$ . Therefore,  $g \in M_c^q$  for every  $g \in I$  and hence  $I \subseteq M_c^q$ . But  $f \notin M_c^q$ . Thus,  $M_c^q$  is a maximal ideal containing  $I$  but not  $f$ . This yields that  $f \notin \bar{I}$ . (iii). Using (ii) and the definition of  $J$ , we have  $V_c(\bar{I}) = V_c(J) \supseteq V_c(I)$ . On the other hand, the inclusion  $I \subseteq \bar{I}$  implies that  $V_c(\bar{I}) \subseteq V_c(I)$ . So (iii) holds.



(iv). By (i),  $\text{cl}I \subseteq \bar{I}$ . Now, suppose that  $g \in \bar{I}$  and  $u$  is a positive unit of  $C_c(X)$ . We claim that  $B(g, u) \cap I \neq \emptyset$ . According to Lemma 3.9, there exists  $f_u \in C_c(X)$  such that  $f_u \in B(g, u)$ , and  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f_u)$  is a neighborhood of  $\text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g)$ . Now, it remains to show that  $f_u \in I$ . From (iii), we infer that  $V_c(I) = V_c(\bar{I}) \subseteq \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(g) \subseteq \text{int}_{\beta_0 X} \text{cl}_{\beta_0 X} Z(f_u)$ . Proposition 3.8(ii) now yields that  $f_u \in I$ . Therefore,  $f_u \in B(g, u) \cap I$  and so  $g \in \text{cl}I$ , i.e.,  $\bar{I} \subseteq \text{cl}I$ .  $\square$

It is known that a proper ideal in  $C(X)$  with the  $m$ -topology is closed if and only if it is an intersection of maximal ideals in  $C(X)$  (see [5, 7Q(2)]). The next theorem involves the countable analogue characterization of closed ideals in  $C_c(X)$ . Using Theorem 3.10(iv) and Corollary 2.2, we obtain:

**Theorem 3.11.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and the topology on  $C_c(X)$  be the  $m_c$ -topology. Then a proper ideal in  $C_c(X)$  is closed if and only if it is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C_c(X)$ .*

**Theorem 3.12.** *Let  $X$  be zero-dimensional and the topology on  $C_c(X)$  (resp.  $C(X)$ ) be the  $m_c$ -topology (resp. the  $m$ -topology). Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) Every ideal in  $C(X)$  is closed.
- (ii)  $X$  is a  $CP$ -space.
- (iii) Every ideal in  $C_c(X)$  is closed.
- (iv) Every prime ideal in  $C_c(X)$  is closed.

*Proof.* (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (ii). It follows from [5, 4J(9), 7Q(2)].

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). By [3, Proposition 5.3],  $X$  is a  $CP$ -space. Now, the result is obtained by [3, Theorem 5.8(7)] and Corollary 2.2.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv). It is evident.

(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). According to [3, Corollary 5.7], it is enough to show that  $X$  is a  $CP$ -space. Let  $P$  be a prime ideal in  $C_c(X)$ , then by [1, Lemma 4.11(4)],  $P$  is contained in a unique maximal ideal  $M_c^p$  of  $C_c(X)$ , where  $p \in \beta_0 X$ . Now, by the assumption and Theorem 3.11, we get  $P = M_c^p$ , i.e.,  $X$  is a  $CP$ -space.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.13.** *Let  $X$  be strongly zero-dimensional and the topology on  $C_c^*(X)$  (resp.  $C^*(X)$ ) be the  $m_c$ -topology (resp. the  $m$ -topology). Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) Every properly closed ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C_c^*(X)$ .
- (ii)  $X$  is pseudocompact.
- (iii) Every properly closed ideal in  $C^*(X)$  is an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C^*(X)$ .

*Proof.* A maximal ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  is of the form  $M_c^{*p} = \{f \in C_c^*(X) : f^\beta(p) = 0\}$ , where  $p \in \beta X$ . Also,  $M_c^{*p} = M^{*p} \cap C_c^*(X)$ , see [9, Corollaries 2.10, 2.11].

(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Suppose that  $X$  is not pseudocompact, so  $C_c^*(X) \subsetneq C_c(X)$ , by [9, Theorem 6.3]. Hence,  $C_c(X)$  contains an unbounded element,  $f$  say. So for some  $p \in \beta X$  and the maximal ideal  $M_c^p$  of  $C_c(X)$ , we have  $|M_c^p(f)|$  is infinitely

large ([9, Proposition 2.4]). In other words,  $M_c^p$  is hyper-real, i.e.,  $\mathbb{R} \subsetneq \frac{C_c(X)}{M_c^p}$ . Hence, by [9, Corollary 2.13],  $M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X)$  is not a maximal ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$ . Using Proposition 3.5, we infer that

$$(3.2) \quad M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X) \subsetneq M^{*p} \cap C_c^*(X).$$

Furthermore, since the maximal ideal  $M_c^p$  is closed in  $C_c(X)$  (Corollary 2.2), the ideal  $M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X)$  is also closed in  $C_c^*(X)$ . We now claim that the latter closed ideal cannot be an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C_c^*(X)$ . Otherwise,

$$(3.3) \quad M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X) = \bigcap_{q \in A \subseteq \beta X} (M^{*q} \cap C_c^*(X)),$$

for a subset  $A$  of  $\beta X$ . Notice that by (3.2),  $A \neq \emptyset$  since  $p \in A$ . Now, we claim that  $A = \{p\}$ . On the contrary, suppose that  $A$  contains an element  $q$  distinct from  $p$ . We can take  $f \in C_c(\beta X)$  such that  $Z(f)$  is a neighborhood of  $p$  and  $f(q) = 1$  (note, by the assumption,  $\beta X$  is zero-dimensional). Let  $f_0$  be the restriction of  $f$  on  $X$ . Then the compactness of  $\beta X$  gives  $f$  and hence  $f_0$  are bounded, i.e.,  $f_0 \in C_c^*(X)$ . By density of  $X$  in  $\beta X$ , we get  $f = f_0^\beta$ , where  $f_0^\beta$  is the extension of  $f_0$  to  $\beta X$ . Due to Proposition 3.2, we infer that  $p \in \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f_0)$ , since  $p \in \text{int}_{\beta X} Z(f)$ . Hence,  $f_0 \in M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X)$ . On the other hand, since  $q \notin Z(f)$ , we have that  $f_0 \notin M^{*q}$ . Therefore,  $f_0 \in M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X) \setminus (M^{*q} \cap C_c^*(X))$ , which contradicts the equation in (3.3). So  $A = \{p\}$  and hence  $M_c^p \cap C_c^*(X) = M^{*p} \cap C_c^*(X)$ . But this also contradicts (3.2). Thus, if  $X$  is not pseudocompact, then there exists a closed ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  which is not an intersection of maximal ideals of  $C_c^*(X)$ , and we are done.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Since  $X$  is pseudocompact,  $C(X) = C^*(X)$  gives  $C_c(X) = C_c^*(X)$ . Now, it follows from Theorem 3.11.

(ii)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (iii). It follows from [5, 7Q(3)]. □

We end the article with some results on  $e_c$ -filters on  $X$  and  $e_c$ -ideals in  $C_c^*(X)$ , for more details, see [14, Section 2]. Let  $p \in \beta X$  and  $f^\beta$  be the extension of  $f \in C^*(X)$  to  $\beta X$ . Let us recall that

$$M_c^{*p} = \{f \in C_c^*(X) : f^\beta(p) = 0\} = M^{*p} \cap C_c^*(X), \text{ and } O_c^{*p} = O_c^p \cap C_c^*(X),$$

where

$$M^{*p} = \{f \in C^*(X) : f^\beta(p) = 0\}, \text{ and } O_c^p = \{f \in C_c(X) : p \in \text{int}_{\beta X} \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)\}.$$

**Lemma 3.14.** *Let  $X$  be strongly zero-dimensional and  $p \in \beta X$ . Then*

$$E_c(M_c^{*p}) = Z_c[O_c^p] = Z_c[O_c^{*p}] = E_c(O_c^{*p}).$$

*Proof.* By the hypothesis,  $\beta X = \beta_0 X$ . To get the result, we show the following chain of inclusions holds.

$$(3.4) \quad E_c(M_c^{*p}) \subseteq Z_c[O_c^p] \subseteq Z_c[O_c^{*p}] \subseteq E_c(O_c^{*p}) \subseteq E_c(M_c^{*p}).$$

To establish the first inclusion, let  $E_\varepsilon^c(f) := \{x \in X : |f(x)| \leq \varepsilon\} \in E_c(M_c^{*p})$ , where  $f \in M_c^{*p}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then  $f^\beta(p) = 0$ . Notice that  $E_\varepsilon^c(f) = Z((|f| - \varepsilon) \vee 0)$

and

$$(3.5) \quad \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z((|f| - \varepsilon) \vee 0) = \text{cl}_{\beta X} E_\varepsilon^c(f) = \{q \in \beta X : |f^\beta(q)| \leq \varepsilon\}.$$

Hence,  $p \in \text{int}_{\beta X} \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z((|f| - \varepsilon) \vee 0)$ , in other words,  $(|f| - \varepsilon) \vee 0 \in O_c^p$ . Here, we are going to show the last equality in (3.5). Let  $q \in \beta X$  such that  $|f^\beta(q)| \leq \varepsilon$ . Since  $X$  is dense in  $\beta X$ , there exists a net  $(x_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \subseteq X$  converging to  $q$  and so  $f(x_\lambda) = f^\beta(x_\lambda) \rightarrow f^\beta(q)$ . Moreover,  $|f(x_\lambda)| \rightarrow |f^\beta(q)|$ . Now, let  $V$  be an open set in  $\beta X$  containing  $q$ . Then for some  $\lambda_0 \in \Lambda$  and each  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ , we have  $x_\lambda \in V$ . Furthermore,  $|f^\beta(q)| \leq \varepsilon$  yields that  $|f(x_\lambda)| \leq \varepsilon$ . Hence,  $V \cap E_\varepsilon^c(f) \neq \emptyset$ , i.e.,  $q \in \text{cl}_{\beta X} E_\varepsilon^c(f)$ .

The second inclusion in (3.4) follows from the fact that  $Z(f) = Z(\frac{f}{1+|f|})$ , where  $f \in O_c^p$  (and thus  $\frac{f}{1+|f|} \in O_c^{*p}$ ). To verify the third inclusion, we let  $f \in O_c^{*p}$  and show that  $Z(f) \in E_c(O_c^{*p})$ . Since  $p$  does not belong to the closed set  $F := \beta X \setminus \text{int}_{\beta X} \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(f)$  and  $\beta X$  is zero-dimensional, by [3, Proposition 4.4], there is some  $g \in C_c(\beta X) = C_c^*(\beta X)$  such that  $p \in \text{int}_{\beta X} Z(g)$  and  $g(F) = \{1\}$ . Let  $g_0$  be the restriction of  $g$  on  $X$ . Then by Proposition 3.2,  $p \in \text{int}_{\beta X} \text{cl}_{\beta X} Z(g_0)$ . So  $g_0 \in O_c^{*p}$  and hence  $E_\varepsilon^c(g_0) \in E_c(O_c^{*p})$  for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$  be fixed. Since  $X$  is dense in  $\beta X$ , the open set  $\{q \in \beta X : |g(q)| < \varepsilon\}$  intersects  $X$  nontrivially (since it contains  $p$ ). Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \emptyset \neq \{q \in \beta X : |g(q)| \leq \varepsilon\} \cap X &= \{x \in X : |g_0(x)| \leq \varepsilon\} \\ &= E_\varepsilon^c(g_0) \subseteq (\beta X \setminus F) \cap X \subseteq Z(f). \end{aligned}$$

Now, since the  $z_c$ -filter (in fact, the  $e_c$ -filter)  $E_c(O_c^{*p})$  contains  $E_\varepsilon^c(g_0)$  and  $E_\varepsilon^c(g_0) \subseteq Z(f)$ , we infer that  $Z(f) \in E_c(O_c^{*p})$ , and we are done.

Finally, the last inclusion in (3.4) follows from the inclusion  $O_c^{*p} \subseteq M_c^{*p}$  and the fact that  $E_c$  preserves the order, see [14, Corollary 2.1].  $\square$

**Theorem 3.15.** *Let  $X$  be a  $P$ -space and  $\mathcal{F}$ , an  $e_c$ -filter on  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}$  is an  $e_c$ -ultrafilter if and only if it is a  $z_c$ -ultrafilter.*

*Proof.* ( $\Rightarrow$ ): By [5, 4K(7), 6M(1), 16O], every  $P$ -space is strongly zero-dimensional (see also [15, Proposition 2.12]). By [5, 7L], we have  $O^p = M^p$  for every  $p \in \beta X$ . Therefore,  $O_c^p = O^p \cap C_c(X) = M^p \cap C_c(X) = M_c^p$  (note,  $\beta X = \beta_0 X$ ). Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an  $e_c$ -ultrafilter on  $X$ . Then  $E_c^{-1}(\mathcal{F})$  is a maximal ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$ , see [14, Proposition 2.14]. Therefore,  $E_c^{-1}(\mathcal{F}) = M_c^{*p}$  for some  $p \in \beta X$ . By Lemma 3.14, we have

$$\mathcal{F} = E_c(E_c^{-1}(\mathcal{F})) = E_c(M_c^{*p}) = Z_c[O_c^p] = Z_c[M_c^p].$$

Since  $M_c^p$  is a maximal ideal in  $C_c(X)$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $z_c$ -ultrafilter.

( $\Leftarrow$ ): Suppose that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $z_c$ -ultrafilter. Then  $Z_c^{-1}[\mathcal{F}]$  is a maximal ideal in  $C_c(X)$ . So  $Z_c^{-1}[\mathcal{F}] = M_c^p$  for some  $p \in \beta X$ . Therefore,

$$\mathcal{F} = Z_c[Z_c^{-1}[\mathcal{F}]] = Z_c[M_c^p] = E_c(M_c^{*p}).$$

Since  $M_c^{*p}$  is a maximal ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  is an  $e_c$ -ultrafilter.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.16.** *For a strongly zero-dimensional space  $X$  and  $p \in \beta X$ ,  $M_c^{*p}$  is the only  $e_c$ -ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  containing  $O_c^{*p}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $J$  be an  $e_c$ -ideal in  $C_c^*(X)$  which contains  $O_c^{*p}$ . Then  $E_c^{-1}(E_c(O_c^{*p})) \subseteq E_c^{-1}(E_c(J)) = J$ . By Lemma 3.14,  $E_c(M_c^{*p}) = E_c(O_c^{*p})$  and therefore

$$M_c^{*p} = E_c^{-1}(E_c(M_c^{*p})) = E_c^{-1}(E_c(O_c^{*p})) \subseteq J.$$

So  $M_c^{*p} = J$ , and we are through.  $\square$

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. *The author is grateful to the referee for useful comments and recommendations towards the improvement of the paper.*

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