

## Topologies Induced by $(3,j,\rho)$ -metrics, $j \in \{1,2\}$

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### Abstract

For a given  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on a set  $M$ ,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ , we define seven topologies on  $M$  induced by  $d$ , give some examples, examine the connection among them, and show that some other topologies induced by generalized metrics are special cases of the above ones.

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### 1 Introduction

The geometric properties, their axiomatic classification and the generalization of metric spaces have been considered in a lot of papers. We mention some of them: K. Menger ([13]), V. Nemytzki, P.S. Aleksandrov ([1],[15]), Z. Mamuzic ([12]), S. Gähler ([8], [9]), A.V. Arhangelskii, M. Choban, S. Nedev ([2],[4],[16], [17]), R. Kopperman ([11]), J. Usan ([18]), B.C. Dhage, Z. Mustafa, B. Sims ([5],[14]). In [6] we have introduced the notion of an  $(n,m,\rho)$ -metric, and in [7] we have examined the connection between some of the topologies induced by a  $(3,1,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  and the topologies induced by a pseudo- $o$ -metric,  $o$ -metric and symmetric as in [17].

For a given  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on a set  $M$ , we define seven topologies on  $M$  induced by  $d$ :  $\tau(G,d)$ ,  $\tau(H,d)$ ,  $\tau(D,d)$ ,  $\tau(N,d)$ ,  $\tau(W,d)$ ,  $\tau(S,d)$  and  $\tau(K,d)$ . For these topologies we have the following inclusions:  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(N,d) \subseteq \tau(D,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d)$ ,  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(H,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d)$ , and  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(S,d) \subseteq \tau(K,d)$ . For a  $(3,2,\rho)$ -metric  $d$ , these inclusions are,  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d) = \tau(K,d) \subseteq \tau(D,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d)$ .

We will illustrate, by examples, that in general, these inclusions are strict.

We show that some of the generalized metrics and their induced topologies considered in, [8], [17], [12], [5] and [14], are special cases of some of the above mentioned metrics and topologies.

Next we prove some properties, such as: a) A topological space  $(M,\tau)$  is first countable iff there is a  $(3,1,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$  such that  $\tau(N,d) = \tau(D,d) = \tau$ ; b) If  $\tau$  is the cofinite topology on  $M$ , then there is a  $(3,1,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$  such that  $\tau(D,d) = \tau(G,d) = \tau$ ; and c) A space  $(M,\tau)$  is metrizable iff there is a  $(3,2)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$  such that  $\tau(D,d) = \tau(G,d) = \tau$ .

At the end, we consider several classes of topological spaces “metrizable” via some of the above topologies, show some relations among them and state several questions.

## 2 $(3,j,\rho)$ -metrics, $j \in \{1,2\}$

The notion of an  $n$ -metric was considered by K. Menger in [13], and later S. Gähler examined this notion and the induced topologies in series of papers (two of them are [8], [9]). A generalization of this notion, i.e. the notion of an  $(n,m,\rho)$ -metric,  $n > m$ , was introduced in [6]. Here we will work only with  $(3,1,\rho)$ -metrics and  $(3,2,\rho)$ -metrics, i.e. with the case  $n=3$ , for  $m=1$  and  $m=2$ .

Let  $M$  be a nonempty set. We denote by  $M^{(3)}$  the symmetric third power of  $M$ , i.e.  $M^{(3)}$  is the factor set  $M^3/\alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is the equivalence relation on  $M^3$  defined by:

$(x,y,z)\alpha(u,v,w)$  if and only if  $(u,v,w)$  is a permutation of  $(x,y,z)$ .

Let  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+ = [0, \infty)$ . We state four conditions for such a map.

**(M0)**  $d(x,x,x) = 0$ , for any  $x \in M$ ;

**(M1)**  $d(x,y,z) \leq d(x,y,a) + d(x,a,z) + d(a,y,z)$ , for any  $x,y,z,a \in M$ ;

**(M2)**  $d(x,y,z) \leq d(x,a,b) + d(a,y,b) + d(a,b,z)$ , for any  $x,y,z,a,b \in M$ ; and

**(Ms)**  $d(x,x,y) = d(x,y,y)$ , for any  $x,y \in M$ .

For a map  $d$  as above we consider a subset  $\rho_d$  of  $M^{(3)}$  defined by:

$$\rho_d = \{(x,y,z) \mid (x,y,z) \in M^{(3)}, d(x,y,z) = 0\}.$$

If  $d$  satisfies (M0) and (M1), then  $\rho = \rho_d$  satisfies:

**(E0)**  $(x,x,x) \in \rho$ , for any  $x \in M$ ; and

**(E1)**  $(x,y,a), (x,a,z), (a,y,z) \in \rho$  implies  $(x,y,z) \in \rho$ , for any  $x,y,z,a \in M$ .

If  $d$  satisfies (M0) and (M2), then  $\rho = \rho_d$  satisfies (E0) and

**(E2)**  $(x,a,b), (a,y,b), (a,b,z) \in \rho$  implies  $(x,y,z) \in \rho$ , for any  $x,y,z,a,b \in M$ .

**Definition 2.1.** A subset  $\rho$  of  $M^{(3)}$  satisfying: (E0) and (E1), is called a **(3,1)-equivalence**; satisfying (E0) and (E2) is called a **(3,2)-equivalence**; and satisfying (E0), (E1) and (E2) is called a **3-equivalence** on  $M$ .

**Examples 2.1. a)** The set  $\Delta = \{(x,x,x) \mid x \in M\}$  (thin diagonal of  $M^{(3)}$ ) is a 3-equivalence and is a subset of any  $(3,j)$ -equivalence, for  $j \in \{1,2\}$ .

**b)** Let  $\nabla = \{(x,x,y) \mid x,y \in M\}$  (thick diagonal of  $M^{(3)}$ ). The set  $\nabla$  is a  $(3,1)$ -equivalence, but is not a  $(3,2)$ -equivalence, and if  $\nabla$  is a subset of a  $(3,2)$ -equivalence  $\rho$ , then  $\rho = M^{(3)}$ .

**c)** Another, very often used example of a  $(3,1)$ -equivalence that is not a  $(3,2)$ -equivalence is  $\text{Coll} \subseteq E^{(3)}$ , where  $E$  is the Euclidean plane, and  $(A,B,C) \in \text{Coll}$  if and only if the points  $A,B,C$  are collinear, i.e.  $A,B,C$  are points on a line. Moreover,  $\nabla \subseteq \text{Coll}$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  and  $\rho = \rho_d$  be as above.

If  $d$  satisfies **(M0)** and **(Mj)**,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ , we say that  $d$  is a **(3,j, $\rho$ )-metric** on  $M$ , and if  $d$  satisfies **(M0)**, **(M1)** and **(M2)**, we say that  $d$  is a **(3, $\rho$ )-metric** on  $M$ .

If  $d$  is a **(3,j, $\rho$ )-metric** and satisfies **(Ms)**, we say that  $d$  is a **(3,j, $\rho$ )-symmetric** on  $M$ , and if  $d$  is a **(3, $\rho$ )-metric** and satisfies **(Ms)**, we say that  $d$  is a **(3, $\rho$ )-symmetric** on  $M$ .

If  $d$  is a  $(3,j,\Delta)$ -metric on  $M$ , we say that  $d$  is a **(3,j)-metric** on  $M$ , and if  $d$  is a  $(3,\Delta)$ -metric on  $M$ , we say that  $d$  is a **3-metric** on  $M$ .

If  $d$  is a  $(3,j,\Delta)$ -symmetric on  $M$ , we say that  $d$  is a **(3,j)-symmetric** on  $M$ , and if  $d$  is a  $(3,\Delta)$ -symmetric on  $M$ , we say that  $d$  is a **3-symmetric** on  $M$ .

**Remark 2.1.** The notion of  $(n,m,\rho)$ -metrics, for the case  $n=2$  allows only the possibility  $m=1$ . A  $(2,1,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$ , for an equivalence  $\rho$  on  $M$ , is the well known notion of a pseudometric on  $M$  i.e. a map  $d: M^2 \rightarrow R_0^+$ , satisfying:

**a)**  $d(x,y)=0$  if and only if  $(x,y) \in \rho$ ; **b)**  $d(x,y)=d(y,x)$ ; and **c)**  $d(x,y) \leq d(x,u)+d(u,y)$ .

If  $\rho$  is the diagonal  $\Delta = \{(x,x) \mid x \in M\}$ , then the notion of  $(2,1,\Delta)$ -metric on  $M$  is the notion of a metric on  $M$ .

According to this, we could say: **3-pseudometric**; **3-pseudosymmetric**; **(3,j)-pseudometric**; and **(3,j)-pseudosymmetric**, for:  $(3,\rho)$ -metric;  $(3,\rho)$ -symmetric;  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric; and  $(3,j,\rho)$ -symmetric, respectively.

**Examples 2.2.** In a) and b) let  $M$  be a nonempty set.

**a)** The map  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  defined by  $d(x,x,x)=0$  and  $d(x,y,z)=1$  otherwise, is a 3-symmetric, called **discrete 3-metric**.

**b)** Let  $D: M^2 \rightarrow R_0^+$  be a pseudometric on  $M$ , let  $\alpha = \{(x,y) \mid D(x,y)=0\}$ , let  $k$  be a positive real number, and let  $\rho = \{(x,y,z) \mid x,y,z \text{ are in the same equivalence class of the equivalence } \alpha\}$ .

**b.1)** The map  $d_k: M^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  defined by:

$$d_k(x,y,z) = k \cdot (D(x,y)+D(x,z)+D(y,z))$$

is a  $(3,\rho)$ -symmetric, and  $d_k(x,x,y)=D(x,y)$ . When  $D$  is a metric,  $d_k$  is a 3-symmetric. For  $k=1/2$ , we denote  $d_k$  by  $d_D$ .

**b.2)** The map  $d_{k\max}: M^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  defined by:

$$d_{k\max}(x,y,z) = k \cdot \max\{D(x,y), D(x,z), D(y,z)\}$$

is a  $(3,\rho)$ -symmetric, and  $d_{k\max}(x,x,y) = D(x,y)$ . When  $D$  is a metric,  $d_k$  is a 3-symmetric.

**c)** Let  $E$  be the Euclidean plane, and let  $d_P: E^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  be defined by:

$$d_P(A,B,C) = \text{Perimeter of the "triangle" } ABC.$$

Since Perimeter of the triangle  $ABC$  is the sum of the lengths of the segments  $AB$ ,  $AC$  and  $BC$ , b.1) implies that  $d_P$  is a 3-symmetric on  $E$ .

**d)** Let  $E$  be the Euclidean plane, and let  $d_A: E^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  be defined by:

$$d_A(A,B,C) = \text{Area of the "triangle" } ABC.$$

It is easy to check that  $d_A$  is a  $(3,1,\text{Coll})$ -symmetric, but is not a  $(3,2,\text{Coll})$ -symmetric on  $E$  (see Example 2.1. c) for  $\text{Coll}$ ).

**e)** Let  $\rho \subseteq M^{(3)}$  be a  $(3,j)$ -equivalence on  $M$ ,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ . Then, it is easy to check that  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  defined by  $d(x,y,z) = 0$  if  $(x,y,z) \in \rho$  and  $d(x,y,z) = 1$  if  $(x,y,z) \notin \rho$  is a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $d$  be  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ ,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ . Let  $d': M^{(3)} \rightarrow R_0^+$  be defined by:

$$d'(x,y,z) = d(x,y,z)/(1+d(x,y,z)).$$

Then,  $d'$  is also a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ , and  $d'(x,y,z) < 1$  for any  $x,y,z \in M$ . Moreover, if  $d$  is a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -symmetric, then  $d'$  is also a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -symmetric.

**Proof.** Extending the well known fact that  $c/(1+c) \leq a/(1+a) + b/(1+b)$  for any  $a,b,c \in R_0^+$  with  $c \leq a+b$ , to the fact that  $c/(1+c) \leq a/(1+a) + b/(1+b) + e/(1+e)$  for any  $a,b,e,c \in R_0^+$  with  $c \leq a+b+e$ , we obtain that  $d'$  satisfies the axiom  $(M_j)$ . It is obvious that  $d'(x,y,z) = 0$  iff  $d(x,y,z) = 0$ . This shows that  $d'$  is a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ . The last part follows directly from the definition of  $d'$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.2.** Any  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$  induces a map  $D_d: M^2 \rightarrow R_0^+$  defined by:  $D_d(x,y) = d(x,x,y)$ .

It is easy to check the following facts.

**a)** For any  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric  $d$ ,  $D_d(x,x) = 0$ . ( $D_d$  is called a **distance** in [12] and a **pseudo o-metric** in [17].)

**b)** For any  $(3,j)$ -metric  $d$ ,  $D_d(x,y) = 0$  if and only if  $x=y$ . ( $D_d$  is called an **o-metric** in [17].)

**c)** For any  $(3,j)$ -symmetric  $d$ ,  $D_d(x,y) = D_d(y,x)$ . ( $D_d$  is called a **symmetric** in [17].)

**d)** For a  $(3,2,\rho)$ -metric  $d$ ,  $D_d(x,y) \leq 2D_d(z,x) + D_d(z,y)$  and  $D_d(x,y) \leq 2D_d(y,x)$ .

**e)** For any  $(3,2)$ -symmetric  $d$ ,  $D_d(x,y) = D_d(y,x) \leq 3(D_d(x,z) + D_d(z,y))/2$ . (In the literature  $D_d$  is called a **quasimetric**, a **nearmetric** or an **inframetric**.)

**Remark 2.3. a)** The notion of a 2-metric considered in [13] is the same as the notion of a  $(3,1,\rho)$ -metric with the additional requirement:  $\nabla \subseteq \rho$ .

**b)** The notion of a 2-metric considered in [8] is the same as the notion of a  $(3,1,\rho)$ -metric with the additional requirements:  $\nabla \subseteq \rho$  and for any  $x \neq y$  from  $M$ , there is a  $z \in M$  such that  $d(x,y,z) \neq 0$ .

c) The notion of a D-metric considered in [5] is the same as the notion of a  $(3,1)$ -metric.

d) The notion of a G-metric considered in [14] is the same as the notion of a 3-metric  $d$  with the additional requirements:

$$d(x,x,y) \leq d(x,y,z) \text{ for any } x,y,z \in M \text{ with } x \neq y; \text{ and}$$

$$d(x,y,z) \leq d(x,a,a) + d(a,y,z) \text{ for any } x,y,z,a \in M.$$

Moreover, for a G-metric  $d$ , the map  $D: M^2 \rightarrow R_0^+$  defined by  $D(x,y) = d(x,x,y) + d(x,y,y)$  is a metric on  $M$ . For a G-metric  $d$ , that is also a 3-symmetric, the map  $D_d: M^2 \rightarrow R_0^+$  defined by  $D_d(x,y) = d(x,x,y)$  is a metric on  $M$ .

### 3 Topologies induced by $(3,j,\rho)$ -metrics, $j \in \{1,2\}$

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $d$  be a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ ,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ , let  $x,y \in M$  and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We define the following  $\varepsilon$ -balls, as subsets of  $M$ :

a)  $B(x,y,\varepsilon) = \{z \mid z \in M, d(x,y,z) < \varepsilon\}$  –  $\varepsilon$ -ball with center at  $(x,y)$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ ;

b)  $L(x,\varepsilon) = \{z \mid z \in M, d(x,z,z) < \varepsilon\}$  – “litle”  $\varepsilon$ -ball with center at  $x$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ ; and

c)  $B(x,\varepsilon) = \{z \mid z \in M, \text{ there is a } v \in M \text{ such that } d(x,z,v) < \varepsilon\}$  –  $\varepsilon$ -ball with center at  $x$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ .

**Remark 3.1.** a) For  $x=y$ ,  $B(x,x,\varepsilon) = B(x,y,\varepsilon) = \{z \mid z \in M, d(x,x,z) < \varepsilon\}$ . For any  $a \in M$ ,  $a \in B(a,\varepsilon)$ ,  $a \in L(a,\varepsilon)$  and  $a \in B(a,a,\varepsilon)$ , but, it is possible for some  $x \neq a$  to have  $a \notin B(a,x,\varepsilon)$ .

b) For a pseudo  $o$ -metric  $D: M^2 \rightarrow R_0^+$ , there is only one possibility for defining  $\varepsilon$ -balls, i.e.  $B(x,\varepsilon) = \{z \mid z \in M, D(x,z) < \varepsilon\}$ .

c) For a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  there is one more possibility to define an  $\varepsilon$ -ball, as a subset of  $M^{(2)}$ , i.e.  $K(x,\varepsilon) = \{(u,v) \mid (u,v) \in M^{(2)}, d(x,u,v) < \varepsilon\}$ , but here we are not going to discuss these  $\varepsilon$ -balls. For general  $(n,m,\rho)$ -metrics, the number of possible  $\varepsilon$ -balls is much bigger and depends on  $n$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** For any  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$ ,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ , and any  $a \in M$ :

a)  $L(a,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(a,\varepsilon)$ ,  $B(a,a,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(a,\varepsilon)$  and  $B(a,x,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(a,\varepsilon)$  for any  $x \in M$ ;

b)  $B(a,\varepsilon) = \cup \{B(a,x,\varepsilon) \mid x \in B(a,\varepsilon)\}$ .

**Proof.** The inclusions in a) follow directly from the definitions. For b), the inclusion  $\cup \{B(a,x,\varepsilon) \mid x \in B(a,\varepsilon)\} \subseteq B(a,\varepsilon)$  follows from a). If  $y \in B(a,\varepsilon)$ , there is  $x \in M$  such that  $d(a,y,x) < \varepsilon$ . This implies that  $x \in B(a,\varepsilon)$  and  $y \in B(a,x,\varepsilon)$ . So  $y \in \cup \{B(a,x,\varepsilon) \mid x \in B(a,\varepsilon)\}$  and  $B(a,\varepsilon) \subseteq \cup \{B(a,x,\varepsilon) \mid x \in B(a,\varepsilon)\}$ .  $\square$

**Definition 3.2.** Let  $d$  be a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ ,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ . We define seven topologies on  $M$  induced by  $d$  as follows:

1)  $\tau(G,d)$  – the topology generated by all the  $\varepsilon$ -balls  $B(x,y,\varepsilon)$ , i.e. the topology whose base is the set of the finite intersections of all the  $\varepsilon$ -balls  $B(x,y,\varepsilon)$ ;

2)  $\tau(H,d)$  – the topology generated by all the  $\varepsilon$ -balls  $B(x,\varepsilon)$ ;

3)  $\tau(D,d)$  – the topology generated by all the  $\varepsilon$ -balls  $B(x,x,\varepsilon)$ ;

- 4)  $\tau(K,d)$  – the topology generated by all the  $\varepsilon$ -balls  $L(x,\varepsilon)$ ;  
 5)  $\tau(N,d)$  – the topology defined by:  $U \in \tau(N,d)$  iff  $\forall x \in U, \exists \varepsilon > 0$  such that  $B(x,x,\varepsilon) \subseteq U$ ;  
 6)  $\tau(S,d)$  – the topology defined by:  $U \in \tau(S,d)$  iff  $\forall x \in U, \exists \varepsilon > 0$  such that  $L(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq U$ ;  
 7)  $\tau(W,d)$  – the topology defined by:  $U \in \tau(W,d)$  iff  $\forall x \in U, \exists \varepsilon > 0$  such that  $B(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq U$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** For any  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M, j \in \{1,2\}$ :

- a)  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(N,d) \subseteq \tau(D,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d)$ ;  
 b)  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(H,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d)$ ; and  
 c)  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(S,d) \subseteq \tau(K,d)$ .

**Proof.** If  $V \in \tau(N,d)$  then  $V = \cup \{B(x,x,\varepsilon_x) \mid x \in V\}$ , the  $\varepsilon_x$  are provided by the definition. This implies  $\tau(N,d) \subseteq \tau(D,d)$ . Similarly  $\tau(S,d) \subseteq \tau(K,d)$  and  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(H,d)$ . Since each  $B(x,x,\varepsilon)$  is also a  $B(x,y,\varepsilon)$  for  $x=y$ , it follows that  $\tau(D,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d)$ . The definition and Proposition 3.1.a) imply that  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(N,d)$  and  $\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(S,d)$ . The definition and Proposition 3.1.b) imply that  $\tau(H,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** If  $d$  is a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -symmetric,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ , then  $\tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d)$  and  $\tau(D,d) = \tau(K,d)$ .

**Proof.** Follows directly from the definitions.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.4.** For any  $(3,2,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$ :

$$\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d) = \tau(K,d) \subseteq \tau(D,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d).$$

**Proof.** Using Proposition 3.2., it is enough to show that  $\tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d)$  and  $\tau(K,d) \subseteq \tau(S,d)$ .

For a  $(3,2,\rho)$ -metric  $d$  on  $M$ , for any  $x,y \in M$  and any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $d(x,x,y) \leq 2d(x,y,y)$  and  $d(x,y,y) \leq 2d(x,x,y)$ . This implies that  $B(x,x,\varepsilon) \subseteq L(x,2\varepsilon)$  and  $L(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(x,x,2\varepsilon)$ . These inclusions, together with the definitions imply that  $\tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d)$ .

Next, let  $x \in M, \varepsilon > 0$  and let  $y \in L(x,\varepsilon)$ . Let  $2\delta = \varepsilon - d(x,y,y)$ . For any  $z \in B(y,y,\delta)$ , we have that  $d(x,z,z) \leq d(x,y,y) + 2d(z,y,y) < d(x,y,y) + 2\delta = \varepsilon$ . So,  $z \in B(y,y,\delta) \subseteq L(x,\varepsilon)$ . Hence,  $L(x,\varepsilon) \in \tau(N,d)$ , and since  $\tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d)$ , the definition of  $\tau(K,d)$  implies that  $\tau(K,d) \subseteq \tau(S,d)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.1.** For any  $(3,2,\rho)$ -symmetric  $d$  on  $M$ :

$$\tau(W,d) \subseteq \tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d) = \tau(K,d) = \tau(D,d) \subseteq \tau(G,d). \square$$

The following example shows that in general, the inclusions in Proposition 3.2. are strict.

**Example 3.1.** Let  $M = \{a,b,c\}$  and let  $\rho = \Delta \cup \{(a,a,b), (b,b,c)\} \subseteq M^{(3)}$ . It can be checked that  $\rho$  is a  $(3,1)$ -equivalence on  $M$ , so by Examples 2.2.e),  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  defined by:  $d(x,y,z) = 0$  if  $(x,y,z) \in \rho$  and  $d(x,y,z) = 1$  if  $(x,y,z) \notin \rho$  is a  $(3,1,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ . Note that  $d$  is not a  $(3,2,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ . Directly from the definition of  $d$ , it

follows that for  $\varepsilon > 1$ , all the  $\varepsilon$ -balls are equal to  $M$ , and for any  $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$ , any  $\varepsilon$ -ball is equal to the ball with radius 1, i.e. the 1-ball. Using the facts that  $d(x,y,z) = 0$  only for  $(a,a,a)$ ,  $(b,b,b)$ ,  $(c,c,c)$ ,  $(a,a,b)$  and  $(b,b,c)$  the 1-balls are the following:

- a)  $B(a,1) = \{a,b\}$ ,  $B(b,1) = \{a,b,c\}$  and  $B(c,1) = \{b,c\}$ ;
- b)  $B(a,a,1) = \{a,b\}$ ,  $B(b,b,1) = \{b,c\}$  and  $B(c,c,1) = \{c\}$ ;
- c)  $B(a,b,1) = \{a\}$ ,  $B(a,c,1) = \emptyset$  and  $B(b,c,1) = \{b\}$ ; and
- d)  $L(a,1) = \{a\}$ ,  $L(b,1) = \{a,b\}$  and  $L(c,1) = \{b,c\}$ .

The definition of the topologies induced by  $d$  implies that:

- 1)  $\tau(G,d) = \mathcal{D}$  – the discrete topology on  $M$ ;
- 2)  $\tau(H,d) = \{\emptyset, \{b\}, \{a,b\}, \{b,c\}, M\}$ ;
- 3)  $\tau(D,d) = \{\emptyset, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a,b\}, \{b,c\}, M\}$ ;
- 4)  $\tau(K,d) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a,b\}, \{b,c\}, M\}$ ;
- 5)  $\tau(N,d) = \{\emptyset, \{c\}, \{b,c\}, M\}$ ;
- 6)  $\tau(S,d) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a,b\}, M\}$ ; and
- 7)  $\tau(W,d) = \{\emptyset, M\} = \mathcal{S}$  – the indiscrete topology on  $M$

**Example 3.2.** Let  $d$  be the discrete 3-metric on  $M$ , (see Example 2.2.a)). Then all the seven topologies on  $M$  induced by  $d$  are equal to the discrete topology  $\mathcal{D}$ , i.e. for any  $X \in \{W,N,S,D,K,H,G\}$ ,  $\tau(X,d) = \mathcal{D}$ .

Since we will often use similar expression as in Example 3.2., we use the following notation:

$$\mathcal{X} = \{W,N,S,D,K,H,G\}.$$

**Proposition 3.5.** Let  $D$  be a pseudometric on  $M$ , let  $d_D$  be the  $(3,\rho)$ -symmetric, defined in Example 2.2.b.1), and let  $\tau_D$  be the topology on  $M$  induced by the pseudometric  $D$ . Then for each  $X \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\tau(X,d_D) = \tau_D$ .

**Proof.** Denote by  $T(x,\varepsilon) = \{y \mid D(x,y) < \varepsilon\}$  the open ball in  $\tau_D$  with center  $x$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ . The definitions directly imply that  $B(x,x,\varepsilon) = L(x,\varepsilon) = T(x,\varepsilon)$ . So,  $\tau(X,d_D) = \tau_D$  for any  $X \in \mathcal{X} \setminus \{W,G\}$ .

Let  $y \in B(x,\varepsilon)$  and  $d_D(x,y,z) < \varepsilon$ . Then,  $2D(x,y) \leq D(x,y) + D(x,z) + D(y,z) = 2d_D(x,y,z) < 2\varepsilon$ , implies that  $y \in T(x,\varepsilon)$ . So,  $B(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq T(x,\varepsilon)$ . Conversely, let  $y \in T(x,\varepsilon)$ . Then,  $d_D(x,x,y) = D(x,y) < \varepsilon$ , implies that  $y \in B(x,\varepsilon)$ . So,  $T(x,\varepsilon) = B(x,\varepsilon)$ , and this implies that  $\tau(W,d_D) = \tau_D$ .

Next let  $x,y \in M$ ,  $x \neq y$  and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . For  $\varepsilon \leq D(x,y)$ ,  $B(x,y,\varepsilon) = \emptyset$ . Let  $D(x,y) < \varepsilon$ . For  $z \in B(x,y,\varepsilon)$ , let  $\delta_z = \varepsilon - d_D(x,y,z)$ . Then, for  $u \in T(z,\delta_z)$ , we have:  
 $d_D(x,y,u) = (D(x,y) + D(x,u) + D(y,u)) / 2 \leq (D(x,y) + D(x,z) + D(z,u) + D(y,z) + D(z,u)) / 2 = d_D(x,y,z) + D(z,u) < d_D(x,y,z) + \delta_z = \varepsilon$ .

We have shown that  $u \in B(z,z,\varepsilon_z) = T(z,\varepsilon_z) \subseteq B(x,y,\varepsilon)$ . This implies that  $\tau(G,d_D) = \tau(D,d_D) = \tau_D$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.6.** Let  $d$  be a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ ,  $j \in \{1,2\}$  and let  $d'$  be the  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$  defined in Proposition 2.1. Then, for any  $X \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\tau(X,d) = \tau(X,d')$ .

**Proof.** Denote the  $\varepsilon$ -balls for  $d'$  by  $B'(x,y,\varepsilon)$ ,  $B'(x,\varepsilon)$  and  $L'(x,\varepsilon)$ . It is easy to check that:

a) for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $B(x,y,\varepsilon) \subseteq B'(x,y,\delta)$ ,  $B(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq B'(x,\delta)$  and  $L(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq B'(x,\delta)$  for  $\delta = \varepsilon/(1+\varepsilon)$ ; and

b) for any  $1 > \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $B'(x,y,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(x,y,\delta)$ ,  $B'(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(x,\delta)$  and  $L'(x,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(x,\delta)$  for  $\delta = \varepsilon/(1-\varepsilon)$ .

The conclusion follows from the definitions of the induced topologies.  $\square$

**Example 3.3.** Let  $M = A \cup B$ , for  $A$  and  $B$  disjoint equivalent subsets of  $M$ . Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a bijection, and let  $g: M \rightarrow M$  be the bijection defined by:  $g(x) = f(x)$  for  $x \in A$ , and  $g(x) = f^{-1}(x)$  for  $x \in B$ . Let  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  be defined by:

a)  $d(x,x,g(x)) = 1 = d(x,g(x),g(x))$ , for any  $x \in M$ ;

b)  $d(x,g(x),y) = 1/2$ , for any  $x \in M$  and any  $y \in M$ ,  $y \neq x$ ; and

c)  $d(x,y,z) = 0$  for all  $(x,y,z)$  not defined by a) and b).

It is easy to check that  $d$  satisfies **(M0)**, **(M1)** and **(Ms)**, and so, it is a  $(3,1,\rho)$ -symmetric

As in Example 3.1, we consider only the  $\varepsilon$ -balls for  $\varepsilon = 1$  and  $\varepsilon = 1/2$ . We have:  $B(x,1) = M$ ;  $B(x,1/2) = M \setminus \{g(x)\}$ ;  $B(x,x,1) = M \setminus \{g(x)\} = B(x,x,1/2) = L(x,1) = L(x,1/2)$ ;  $B(x,g(x),1) = M \setminus \{x,g(x)\}$ ;  $B(x,g(x),1/2) = \emptyset$ ;  $B(x,y,1) = M$  for  $y \neq x,g(x)$ ; and  $B(x,y,1/2) = M \setminus \{g(x),g(y)\}$  for  $y \neq x,g(x)$ . All this implies that:  $\tau(W,d) = \tau(N,d) = \tau(S,d) = \mathcal{S}$  and  $\tau(D,d) = \tau(K,d) = \tau(K,d) = \tau(G,d) = \tau_{\text{cof}}$  is the cofinite topology on  $M$ .

**Example 3.4.** Let  $M = \mathbb{R}$  and let  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  be defined by:  $d(x,x,x) = 0$ ;  $d(x,x,y) = 1$ , for  $y < x$ ;  $d(x,x,y) = y - x$ , for  $x < y$ ; and  $d(x,y,z) = \max\{x,y,z\} - \min\{x,y,z\} + 3/2$ , for  $x \neq y \neq z \neq x$ .

It can be checked that this  $d$  is a  $(3,1)$ -metric, that is not a  $(3,1)$ -symmetric.

The  $\varepsilon$ -balls are as follows:  $B(x,\varepsilon) = \mathbb{R}$  for  $\varepsilon > 3/2$ ;  $B(x,\varepsilon) = (x-\varepsilon, x+\varepsilon)$  – the open interval in  $\mathbb{R}$  for  $\varepsilon \leq 3/2$ ;  $B(x,x,\varepsilon) = [x, x+\varepsilon)$ ,  $L(x,\varepsilon) = (x-\varepsilon, x]$  – half open intervals in  $\mathbb{R}$ ; and for  $x < y < x+\varepsilon$ ,  $B(x,y,\varepsilon) = \{x\}$ .

This implies that:  $\tau(G,d) = \mathcal{D}$ ;  $\tau(W,d) = \tau(H,d) = \tau_D$  – the topology on  $\mathbb{R}$  induced by the metric  $D(x,y) = |x - y|$ ;  $\tau(N,d) = \tau(D,d) = \tau_L$  – the topology on  $\mathbb{R}$  generated by the half open intervals  $[a,b)$ ;  $\tau(S,d) = \tau(K,d) = \tau_R$  – the topology on  $\mathbb{R}$  generated by the half open intervals  $(a,b]$ .

In the literature, the space  $(\mathbb{R}, \tau_L)$  (i.e.  $(\mathbb{R}, \tau_R)$ ) is called Sorgenfrey line.

#### 4. $(3,j,\mathfrak{B})$ -metrizable spaces, $j \in \{1,2\}$ , $\mathfrak{B} \subseteq \mathfrak{N} = \{W,N,D,G,S,K,H\}$

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $\mathfrak{B} \subseteq \mathfrak{N}$  and  $j \in \{1,2\}$ . We say that a topological space  $(M,\tau)$  is:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) $(3,j,\rho)$ - $\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable; | 2) $(3,j,\rho)$ - $\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable; |
| 3) $(3,j)$ - $\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable;      | 4) $(3,j)$ - $\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable;      |
| 5) $(3,\rho)$ - $\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable;   | 6) $(3,\rho)$ - $\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable;   |

7)  $3\text{-}\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable;

8)  $3\text{-}\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable;

if there is a: 1)  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric; 2)  $(3,j,\rho)$ -symmetric; 3)  $(3,j)$ -metric; 4)  $(3,j)$ -symmetric; 5)  $(3,\rho)$ -metric; 6)  $(3,\rho)$ -symmetric; 7) 3-metric; and 8) 3-symmetric  $d$ ; such that  $\tau = \tau(X,d)$ , for each  $X \in \mathfrak{B}$ .

When  $\mathfrak{B}=\{X\}$  we write  $X$  instead of  $\mathfrak{B}$ , and when  $\mathfrak{B}=\{X,Y\}$ , we write  $X\text{-}Y$  instead of  $\mathfrak{B}$ .

**Examples 4.1. a)** Proposition 3.5., implies that any metrizable space is  $3\text{-}\mathfrak{N}$ -symmetrizable and any pseudometrizable space is  $(3,\rho)\text{-}\mathfrak{N}$ -symmetrizable.

**b)** Example 3.2., implies that any discrete space is  $3\text{-}\mathfrak{N}$ -symmetrizable.

**c)** In [7] the following connections with notions from [17] are shown:

**c.1)** A space is  $(3,1,\rho)\text{-N}$ -metrizable iff it is pseudo-o-metrizable;

**c.2)** A space is  $(3,1)\text{-N}$ -metrizable iff it is o-metrizable; and

**c.3)** A space is  $(3,1)\text{-N}$ -symmetrizable iff it is symmetrizable.

**d)** A space is 2-metrizable as in [8] iff it is  $(3,1,\rho)\text{-G}$ -metrizable, with  $\rho$  satisfying the additional requirements as in Remark 2.3.b).

**e)** A space is D-metrizable as in [5] iff it is  $(3,1)\text{-S}$ -metrizable.

**f)** A space is G-metrizable as in [14] iff it is 3-S-symmetrizable.

**Proposition 4.1.** Any space  $(M,\tau_{\text{cof}})$  with the cofinite topology is  $(3,1,\rho)\text{-}\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable for  $\mathfrak{B}=\{D,K,H,G\}$ .

**Proof.** If  $M$  is a finite set, then the space is discrete, so it is  $(3,1,\rho)\text{-}\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable, by Example 4.1.b). If  $M$  is infinite set, then it is possible to choose disjoint subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of  $M$  and a bijection  $f:A \rightarrow B$ , such that  $M=A \cup B$ . This can be done by well ordering  $M$  and choosing  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $f$  using the order. The conclusion follows from Example 3.3.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.2.** If a space  $(M,\tau)$  is  $(3,j)\text{-D}$ -metrizable,  $j \in \{1,2\}$ , then it is  $T_1$ . Moreover, if  $(M,\tau)$  is  $(3,2)\text{-N-D}$ -metrizable, then  $(M,\tau)$  is regular.

**Proof.** Let  $d$  be a  $(3,j)$ -metric, such that  $\tau=\tau(D,d)$ , let  $x,y \in M$  and  $x \neq y$ . Since  $d$  is  $(3,j)$ -metric it follows that  $d(x,x,y) \neq 0$  and  $d(x,y,y) \neq 0$ . For  $\varepsilon = \min\{d(x,x,y), d(x,y,y)\}$ ,  $x \notin B(y,y,\varepsilon)$  and  $y \notin B(x,x,\varepsilon)$ .

Next, let  $d$  be a  $(3,2)$ -metric and  $\tau=\tau(N,d)=\tau(D,d)$ . Let  $F$  be a closed set and let  $x \notin F$ . Since  $M \setminus F$  is open, there is an  $\varepsilon > 0$ , such that  $B(x,x,\varepsilon) \subseteq B(x,x,2\varepsilon) \subseteq M \setminus F$ . For each  $y \in F$ ,  $d(x,x,y) > \varepsilon$ . Let  $\delta = \varepsilon/6$ . Using the fact that  $d$  is a  $(3,2)$ -metric, (see Remark 2.2.d)) we have the following inequalities:  $d(x,x,y) \leq 2d(x,z,z) + d(y,z,z) \leq 4d(x,x,z) + 2d(y,z,z) < 6\delta = \varepsilon$ . If for some  $y \in F$ ,  $B(x,x,\delta) \cap B(y,y,\delta) \neq \emptyset$ , we will obtain  $d(x,x,y) < \varepsilon$ . Hence, for each  $y \in F$ ,  $B(x,x,\delta) \cap B(y,y,\delta) = \emptyset$ . For  $V = \cup\{B(y,y,\delta) \mid y \in F\}$ , we have that:  $V$  and  $B(x,x,\delta)$  are open,  $F \subseteq V$ ,  $x \in B(x,x,\delta)$  and  $V \cap B(x,x,\delta) = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.3.** A space is  $(3,1,\rho)\text{-N-D}$ -metrizable iff it satisfies the  $I^{\text{st}}$  axiom of countability. Moreover, a space is  $(3,1)\text{-N-D}$ -metrizable iff it satisfies the  $I^{\text{st}}$  axiom of countability and is  $T_1$ .

**Proof.** Proposition 4.2. implies that each (3,1)-N-D-metrizable space is  $T_1$ , and directly from the definitions it follows that each (3,1, $\rho$ )-N-D-metrizable space is first countable.

Conversely, let  $(M, \tau)$  be a first countable topological space. For each  $x \in M$  we choose a countable local base  $\{U_n(x)\}$ , such that  $U_{n+1}(x) \subseteq U_n(x)$ , for each  $n$ . We define  $d: M^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  by:

- a)  $d(x, x, x) = 0$ ;
- b)  $d(x, x, y) = 0$  for  $x \neq y$  and  $y \in U_n(x)$ , for each  $n$ ;
- c)  $d(x, x, y) = 1/n$  for  $x \neq y$ , and  $y \in U_n(x)$  but  $y \notin U_{n+1}(x)$ ; and
- d)  $d(x, y, z) = 1$  for  $x \neq y \neq z \neq x$ .

1) It can be easily checked that  $d$  satisfies (M0) and (M1), and so it is a (3,1, $\rho$ )-metric on  $M$ .

2) The definition of  $d$  implies that  $B(x, x, 1/n) = U_{n+1}(x)$ , for any  $n$  and  $x \in M$ .

3) The definitions of  $\tau(N, d)$  and  $\tau(D, d)$ , and the fact that  $\{U_n(x)\}$ , is a local base at  $x$ , together with 2) imply that  $\tau = \tau(N, d) = \tau(D, d)$ , and so  $(M, \tau)$  is (3,1, $\rho$ )-N-D-metrizable.

For the moreover case, the fact that  $(M, \tau)$  is  $T_1$ , together with the definition of  $d$ , implies that  $\rho = \Delta$ . So,  $d$  is a (3,1)-metric on  $M$  and  $(M, \tau)$  is (3,1)-N-D-metrizable.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.1.** Any topological space  $(M, \tau)$ , with  $M$  a finite set, is (3,1, $\rho$ )-N-D-metrizable.  $\square$

The above Proposition 4.2., together with the Urison Metrization Theorem (see e.g. [10]), implies that any (3,2)-N-D-metrizable topological space having a countable base is metrizable. But, this is a consequence of the following stronger property that any (3,2)-N-D-metrizable topological space is metrizable.

**Proposition 4.4.** Let  $(M, \tau)$  be a (3,2, $\rho$ )-N-D-metrizable topological space. Then:

- a) Any open cover of  $M$  has an open  $\sigma$ -discrete refinement;
- b)  $(M, \tau)$  has a  $\sigma$ -discrete base; and
- c) If  $\rho = \Delta$ , then  $(M, \tau)$  is metrizable.

**Proof.** Let  $d$  be a (3,2, $\rho$ )-metric, such that  $\tau = \tau(N, d) = \tau(D, d)$ , and let  $D = D_d$ , where  $D_d$  is defined in Remark 2.2. The proof is almost the same as the proof that any pseudometric space  $(X, D)$  has a  $\sigma$ -discrete base (for example as in [10]), but we have to be careful how to use  $D$ . We use the standard notations:

$$D(x, A) = \inf\{D(x, a) \mid a \in A\} \text{ and } D(A, B) = \inf\{D(a, b) \mid a \in A, b \in B\}.$$

Note that in general  $D(A, B) \neq D(B, A)$ , but it is always  $D(A, B) \leq 2 \cdot D(B, A)$ .

a) Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an open cover of  $M$ . For  $U \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $U_n = \{x \mid D(x, M \setminus U) \geq 5^{-n}\}$ . The definition implies that  $U_n \subseteq U_{n+1} \subseteq U$ , for any  $n$ .

a.1) Let  $x \in U_n$ ,  $y \in M \setminus U_{n+1}$ . Then, there is  $z \in M \setminus U$ , such that  $D(y, z) < 5^{-n-1}$  and  $D(x, z) \geq 5^{-n}$ . The inequalities

$$5^{-n} \leq D(x, z) \leq 2D(y, x) + D(y, z) \leq 4D(x, y) + D(y, z) < 4D(x, y) + 5^{-n-1}$$

imply that  $D(x, y) > 5^{-n-1}$ . This shows that  $D(U_n, M \setminus U_{n+1}) \geq 5^{-n-1}$ .

Next, choose a well ordering  $<$  on  $\mathcal{U}$  and let  $U_n^* = U_n \setminus \cup \{V_{n+1} \mid V < U\}$ . It is obvious that if  $V < U$ , then  $U_n^* \subseteq M \setminus V_{n+1}$ .

a.2) Let  $V < U$ , let  $x \in V_n^* \subseteq V_n$  and let  $y \in U_n^*$ . Since  $V < U$ ,  $U_n^* \subseteq M \setminus V_{n+1}$  implies that  $y \in M \setminus V_{n+1}$ . Now, a.1) implies that  $D(x,y) \geq 5^{-n-1}$ . All this implies that for any  $U, V \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $2 \cdot D(U_n^*, V_n^*) \geq 5^{-n-1}$ .

Next, let  $U_n^\sim = \{x \mid D(x, U_n^*) \geq 5^{-n-3}\}$ .

a.3) Let  $z \in M \setminus U$ . Then, for any  $y \in U_n^*$ ,  $D(y,z) \geq 5^{-n}$ , and so  $2 \cdot D(z,y) \geq 5^{-n}$ , i.e.  $D(z,y) \geq 5^{-n-1}$ . All this implies that  $U_n^\sim \subseteq U$ .

a.4) Let  $x \in U_n^\sim$ . There is a  $v \in U_n^*$  with  $D(x,v) < 5^{-n-3}$ . Let  $2 \cdot \delta = 5^{-n-3} - D(x,v)$ . Then, for  $y \in B(x,x,\delta)$ , we have:

$$D(y,v) \leq 2 \cdot D(x,y) + D(x,v) = 2 \cdot d(x,x,y) + D(x,v) < 2 \cdot \delta + D(x,v) = 5^{-n-3}.$$

With this, we have shown that  $U_n^\sim$  is open.

a.5) We will show that  $D(U_n^\sim, V_n^\sim) \geq 5^{-n-2}$ , for any  $U, V \in \mathcal{U}$ . Let  $x \in U_n^\sim$  and  $y \in V_n^\sim$ . Then, there are  $a \in U_n^*$  and  $b \in V_n^*$  such that  $D(x,a) < 5^{-n-3}$  and  $D(y,b) < 5^{-n-3}$ . A simple calculation, show that:

$$D(a,b) \leq 2 \cdot D(y,a) + D(y,b) \leq 2 \cdot (2 \cdot D(x,y) + D(x,a)) + D(y,b) < 4 \cdot D(x,y) + 3 \cdot 5^{-n-3};$$

$$D(b,a) \leq 2 \cdot D(y,b) + D(y,a) \leq 2 \cdot D(y,b) + 2 \cdot D(x,y) + D(x,a) < 4 \cdot D(x,y) + 3 \cdot 5^{-n-3}.$$

Now, a.2) implies that  $5^{-n-1} < 4 \cdot D(x,y) + 3 \cdot 5^{-n-3}$ . All this implies that  $D(U_n^\sim, V_n^\sim) \geq 5^{-n-2}$ .

Next, let  $\mathcal{V}_n = \{U_n^\sim \mid U \in \mathcal{U}\}$ .

a.6) Let  $x \in M$ . If  $y, z \in B(x,x,5^{-n-3})$ , then  $D(y,z) \leq 2 \cdot D(x,y) + D(x,z) < 3 \cdot 5^{-n-3} < 5^{-n-2}$ . This implies that  $\mathcal{V}_n$  is a discrete family of sets, i.e. any point  $x$  has a neighborhood intersecting at most one member of  $\mathcal{V}_n$ .

a.7) Let  $x \in M$ . Using the well ordering on  $\mathcal{U}$ , let  $U$  be the smallest open set in  $\mathcal{U}$  such that  $x \in U$ . Then, there is an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $B(x,x,5^{-n}) \subseteq U$ . This implies that  $x \in U_n$  and since  $U$  is the smallest, it follows that  $x \in U_n^*$ . So,  $D(x, U_n^*) = 0$ , i.e.  $x \in U_n^\sim$ .

Now, let  $\mathcal{V}_\mathcal{U} = \cup \{\mathcal{V}_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Then, a.3), a.4), a.6) and a.7) imply that  $\mathcal{V}_\mathcal{U}$  is an open  $\sigma$ -discrete refinement of  $\mathcal{U}$ .

**b)** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $\mathcal{U}_n$  be the open cover  $\{B(x,x,1/n) \mid x \in M\}$ , and let  $\mathcal{V}_n$  be its  $\sigma$ -discrete refinement provided by **a)**. The definitions of  $\tau(N,d)$  and  $\tau(D,d)$  imply that  $\mathcal{U} = \cup \{\mathcal{U}_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a base for  $\tau = \tau(N,d) = \tau(D,d)$ . Since each  $\mathcal{V}_n$  is a  $\sigma$ -discrete refinement of  $\mathcal{U}_n$ , it follows that  $\mathcal{V} = \cup \{\mathcal{V}_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a  $\sigma$ -discrete refinement of  $\mathcal{U}$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{V}$  is a  $\sigma$ -discrete base for  $\tau$ .

**c)** For  $\rho = \Delta$ , Proposition 4.3., implies that  $(M, \tau)$  is  $T_1$  and regular. The Bing Metrization Theorem implies that  $(M, \tau)$  is metrizable.  $\square$

**Remark 4.1.** In its original form, the Bing Metrization Theorem is Theorem 3. in [3], where a topological space is assumed to be  $T_1$ .

Theorem 3. [3] A necessary and sufficient condition that a regular topological space be metrizable is that it be perfectly screenable.

We use the Bing Metrization Theorem as stated in [10].

A necessary and sufficient condition that a  $T_1$  and regular topological space be metrizable is that it has a  $\sigma$ -discrete base.

**Corollary 4.2. a)** A topological space is metrizable iff it is (3,2)-N-D-metrizable.

**b)** A topological space is (3,2)-N-D-metrizable iff it is 3- $\mathfrak{N}$ -metrizable.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.5. a)** A space is (3,1, $\rho$ )-N-D-symmetrizable iff it is (3,1, $\rho$ )- $\mathfrak{N}$ -symmetrizable.

**b)** A space is (3,1)-N-D-symmetrizable iff it is (3,1)- $\mathfrak{N}$ -symmetrizable.

**Proof.** a) Let  $(M,\tau)$  be (3,1, $\rho$ )-N-D-symmetrizable space, and  $d$  be a (3, $j,\rho$ )-symmetric such that  $\tau=\tau(N,d)=\tau(D,d)$ . Let  $d':M^{(3)}\rightarrow R_0^+$  be defined by:  $d'(x,y,z)=\max\{d(x,x,y),d(x,x,z),d(y,y,z)\}$ . Directly from the definition follows that  $d'$  satisfies (M0) and that  $d'(x,x,y)=d(x,x,y)$ . The proof that  $d'$  satisfies (M1) is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} d'(x,y,u)+d'(x,u,z)+d'(u,y,z) &\geq d(x,x,y)+d(x,x,z)+d(y,y,z) \\ &\geq \max\{d(x,x,y),d(x,x,z),d(y,y,z)\}=d'(x,y,z). \end{aligned}$$

We will denote the  $\varepsilon$ -balls for  $d'$  by  $B'(x,\varepsilon)$ ,  $B'(x,y,\varepsilon)$  and  $L'(x,\varepsilon)$ . The definition of  $d'$  implies that:  $B'(x,\varepsilon)=B(x,x,\varepsilon)=L(x,\varepsilon)=B'(x,x,\varepsilon)=L'(x,\varepsilon)$ , and  $B'(x,y,\varepsilon)=B(x,x,\varepsilon)\cap B(y,y,\varepsilon)$ , for  $B'(x,y,\varepsilon)\neq\emptyset$ . All this implies that for each  $X\in\mathfrak{N}$ ,  $\tau=\tau(N,d)=\tau(D,d)=\tau(X,d')$ .

**b)** The definition of  $d'$  in a) implies that if  $\rho=\Delta$ , then  $d'$  is a (3,1)-symmetric.  $\square$

For any  $\mathfrak{B}\subseteq\mathfrak{N}$  and  $j\in\{1,2\}$ , we consider the following eight classes of topological spaces:

- $\mathcal{C}(o,\mathfrak{B},j)$  – the class of all the (3, $j,\rho$ )- $\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable topological space;
- $\mathcal{C}(o,s,\mathfrak{B},j)$  – the class of all the (3, $j,\rho$ )- $\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable topological space;
- $\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{B},j)$  – the class of all the (3, $j$ )- $\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable topological space;
- $\mathcal{C}(s,\mathfrak{B},j)$  – the class of all the (3, $j$ )- $\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable topological space;
- $\mathcal{C}(o,\mathfrak{B})$  – the class of all the (3, $\rho$ )- $\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable topological space;
- $\mathcal{C}(o,s,\mathfrak{B})$  – the class of all the (3, $\rho$ )- $\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable topological space;
- $\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{B})$  – the class of all the 3- $\mathfrak{B}$ -metrizable topological space; and
- $\mathcal{C}(s,\mathfrak{B})$  – the class of all the 3- $\mathfrak{B}$ -symmetrizable topological space.

There are some obvious relations among these classes, and some of them are characterized by some of the above propositions. For example: a)  $\mathcal{C}(o,N-D,1)$  is the class of all the first countable spaces; b)  $\mathcal{C}(N-D,1)$  is the class of all the first countable and  $T_1$  spaces; c)  $\mathcal{C}(o,N,1)$  is the class of pseudo-o-metrizable space as in [17]; d)  $\mathcal{C}(N-D,2)=\mathcal{C}_m=\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{N},2)=\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{N})=\mathcal{C}(s,\mathfrak{N})$ , where  $\mathcal{C}_m$  is the class of all the metrizable spaces; and d)  $\mathcal{C}(o,s,N-D,1)=\mathcal{C}(o,s,\mathfrak{N},1)$ . In general, we do not have good characterizations of these classes. The class  $\mathcal{C}_m$  is a subclass of each of the above classes. We state several questions:

**Question 4.1.** Is  $\mathcal{C}(o,s,N-D,1)$  the class of all the first countable spaces having a  $\sigma$ -discrete base? Is  $\mathcal{C}(s,N-D,1)$  the class of all the first countable and  $T_1$  spaces having a  $\sigma$ -discrete base?

Let  $d$  be a  $(3,j,\rho)$ -metric on  $M$ , and for  $a,b \in M$ , let  $F_{ab}:M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $F_{ab}(x)=d(a,b,x)$ .

In general,  $F_{ab}$  is not continuous for any of the induced topologies on  $M$  by  $d$ .

**Question 4.2.** What conditions on  $d$  would imply the continuity of  $F_{ab}$ ?

For  $a \in M$ , the multivalued map  $F_a$  defined by  $F_a(x)=\{d(a,x,y) \mid y \in M\}$  is l.s.c. (lower semi continuous) for the induced topologies  $\tau(G,d)$  and  $\tau(H,d)$ .

**Question 4.3.** What additional requirements on  $d$  would imply the existence of a continuous selection for  $F_a$ ?

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