

## NEW CHARACTERIZATIONS AND PROPERTIES OF ALMOST-OPEN AND ALMOST-CLOSED FUNCTIONS

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**Abstract.** In this paper several recent discoveries about regular open sets and regular closed sets are utilized to further investigate and further characterize almost-open and almost-closed functions.

### 1. Introduction

In 1937 regular open sets were introduced. Let  $(X, T)$  be space and let  $A \subset X$ . Then  $A$  is regular open, denoted by  $A \in RO(X, T)$ , iff  $A = \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))$  [23]. In the 1937 investigation it was shown that  $RO(X, T)$  is base for a topology  $T_s$  on  $X$  coarser than  $T$  and  $(X, T_s)$  was called the semiregularization space of  $(X, T)$ . The subset  $A$  is regular closed, denoted by  $A \in RC(X, T)$ , iff  $X - A$  is regular open. In 1943 and in 1961 the closure operator was used to define  $\theta$ -continuous and weakly-continuous functions, respectively. A function  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is  $\theta$ -continuous [10] (resp. weakly-continuous [13]) iff for each  $x \in X$  and each  $U \in S$  such that  $f(x) \in U$ , there exists  $V \in T$  such that  $x \in V$  and  $f(\text{Cl}(V)) \subset \text{Cl}(U)$  (resp.  $f(V) \subset \text{Cl}U$ ). In 1968 and in 1980 the interior and closure operators were used to define almost-continuous and  $\delta$ -continuous functions, respectively. A function  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-continuous [22] (resp.  $\delta$ -continuous [19]) if for each  $x \in X$  and each  $U \in S$  such that  $f(x) \in U$ , there exists  $V \in T$  such that  $x \in V$  and  $f(V) \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(U))$  (resp.  $f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(V))) \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(U))$ ). Further investigation of almost-continuous and  $\delta$ -continuous functions revealed that  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-continuous (resp.  $\delta$ -continuous) iff  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S_s)$  (resp.  $f : (X, T_s) \rightarrow (Y, S_s)$ ) is continuous [17]. Also in 1968 almost-open and almost-closed functions were introduced. A function  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open (resp. almost-closed) if for each  $A \in RO(X, T)$  (resp.  $A \in RC(X, T)$ ),  $f(A)$  is open (resp. closed) in  $Y$  [22]. Further investigation of almost-open functions showed that  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open iff  $f : (X, T_s) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is open [17].

Since 1973 the interior and closure operators have been used to define additional collections of subsets associated with a topological space. In 1963 semi open sets were introduced. Let  $(X, T)$  be a space and let  $A \subset X$ . Then  $A$  is semi open iff  $A \subset \text{Cl}(\text{Int}(A))$  [14]. In 1965 [18] semi open sets were further investigated as  $\beta$ -sets and  $\alpha$ -sets were introduced. The subset  $A$  is an  $\alpha$ -set, denoted by  $A \in \alpha(X, T)$ , iff  $A \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(A)))$ . In 1970 semi open sets were used to define semi closed sets, which were used to define the semi closure of a set. The subset  $A$  is semi closed iff  $X - A$  is semi open and the semi closure of a subset  $B$ , denoted by  $\text{scl}B$ , is the intersection of all semi closed sets containing  $B$  In [2]. In 1978 the semi closure operator was used to define feebly open sets. The subset  $A$  is feebly open, denoted by  $A \in FO(X, T)$ , iff  $A \subset \text{scl}(\text{Int}(A))$  [15]. Further investigations of feebly open sets have shown that  $FO(X, T)$  is a topology on  $X$  and  $T \subset FO(X, T) = FO(X, FO(X, T))$  [4],  $FO(X, T) = \alpha(X, T)$  [5],  $RO(X, T) = \{\text{scl}0 \mid 0 \in T\}$  [6] =  $\{\text{Ext}(0) \mid 0 \in T\}$  [7],  $RC(X, T) = \{\text{Cl}(O) \mid 0 \in T\}$  [7], and  $FO(X, T)_s = T_s$  [8]. In this paper the definitions and results above are used to further investigate and further characterize almost-open and almost-closed functions.

## 2. Almost-Open Functions

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $(X, T)$  be a space, Then  $RO(X, T) = \{O \in T \mid O = \text{scl}O\}$ .*

*Proof.* If  $O \in RO(X, T)$ , then  $O = \text{scl}U$  for some  $U \in T$  and  $\text{scl}O = \text{scl}(\text{scl}U) = \text{scl}U = O$ . If  $O \in T$  such that  $O = \text{scl}O$ , then  $O \in \{\text{scl}U \mid U \in T\} = RO(X, T)$ . Thus  $RO(X, T) = \{O \in T \mid O = \text{scl}O\}$ .

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . Then the following are equivalent: (a)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open, (b)  $f : (X, FO(X, T)) \rightarrow (S, S)$  is almost-open, (c)  $f : (X, T_s) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open, (d) for each  $O \in T$ ,  $f(\text{scl}O) \in S$ . (e) for each  $O \in T$ ,  $f(\text{Ext}(O)) \in S$ , and (f) for each  $A \subset Y$ ,  $f^{-1}(\text{Cl}(A)) \subset \text{Cl}_{T_s}(f^{-1}(A))$ .*

The proof is straightforward using the results above and the facts that  $(T_s)_s = T_s$  [3] and that  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is open iff for each  $A \subset Y$ ,  $f^{-1}(\text{Cl}(A)) \subset \text{Cl}(f^{-1}(A))$  [21] and is omitted.

In [1] it was shown that the restriction of an almost-open function to an open set or to a closed set may fail to be almost-open. In [20] restrictions of almost-open functions were further investigated and motivated the results below.

In 1981 the interior and closure operators were used to define pre-open sets. If  $(X, T)$  is a space and  $A \subset X$ , then  $A$  is pre-open, denoted by  $A \in PO(X, T)$ , iff  $A \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))$  [16].

**THEOREM 2.3.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces and let  $F : X \rightarrow Y$ . Then  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open iff for each  $A \in PO(X, T)$  and each  $B \subset Y$  such that  $A = f^{-1}(B)$ ,  $f \setminus_A : (A, T_A) \rightarrow (B, S_B)$  is almost-open.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open. Let  $U \in RO(A, T_A)$ . Then  $U = A \cap O$  for some  $O \in RO(X, T)$  [11],  $f(O) \in S$ , and  $f \setminus_A(U) = f(A \cap O) = B \cap f(O) \in S_B$ . Clearly, since  $X \in PO(X, T)$  and  $X = f^{-1}(Y)$ , the converse statement is true.

The results above raised questions about almost-open images of pre-open sets, which led to the discoveries below.

**THEOREM 2.4.** *Let  $(X, T)$  be a space. Then  $RO(X, T) = \{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \mid A \in PO(X, T)\} = \{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \mid A \subset X\}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $T \subset PO(X, T)$  and for each  $U \in T$ ,  $\text{scl} U = \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(U))$  [9], then  $RO(X, T) = \{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(U)) \mid U \in T\} \subset \{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \mid A \in PO(X, T)\} \subset \{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \mid A \subset X\}$ . If  $A \subset X$ , then  $\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))))$  and since  $\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \subset \text{Cl}(A)$ , then  $\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \subset \text{Cl}(A)$ , which implies  $\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) = \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)))) = \text{scl}(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \in RO(X, T)$  and  $\{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \mid A \subset X\} \subset RO(X, T)$ . Thus  $RO(X, T) = \{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \mid A \in PO(X, T)\} = \{\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) \mid A \subset X\}$ .

**COROLLARY 2.1.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . Then the following are equivalent: (a)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open, (b) for each  $A \in PO(X, T)$ ,  $f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \in S$ , and (c) for each  $A \subset X$ ,  $f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \in S$ .*

**THEOREM 2.5.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces, let  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  be continuous and almost open, and let  $A \in PO(X, T)$ . Then  $f(A) \in PO(Y, S)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $A \in PO(X, T)$ , then  $A \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))$ , since  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open, then  $f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \in S$ , and since  $f$  is continuous, then  $f(\text{Cl}(A)) \subset \text{Cl}(f(A))$ . Then  $f(A) \subset f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \subset \text{Cl}(f(A))$ , which implies  $f(A) \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(f(A)))$  and  $f(A) \in PO(Y, S)$ .

The following example shows that continuous in Theorem 2.5 can not be replaced by almost-continuous even if almost-open is replaced by the stronger condition of open.

*Example 2.1.* Let  $X = \{a, b\}$ , let  $T = \{\emptyset, X\}$ , let  $S = \{\emptyset, X, \{a\}\}$ , and let  $f : X \rightarrow X$  be the identity function. Then  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-continuous and open,  $\{b\} \in PO(X, T)$ , but  $f(\{b\}) \notin PO(X, S)$ .

**THEOREM 2.6.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces, let  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  be almost-continuous and almost-open, and let  $A \in PO(X, T)$ , then  $f(A) \in PO(Y, S_s)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $A \in PO(X, T)$ , then  $A \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))$ , since  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-open, then  $f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \in S$ , and since  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S_s)$  is continuous, then  $f(\text{Cl}(A)) \subset \text{Cl}_{S_s}(f(A))$ . Then  $\text{scl} f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \in S_s$  and since  $\text{scl} U = \text{scl}_{S_s} U$  for each  $U \in S$  [6], then  $\text{scl} f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) = \text{scl}_{S_s} f(\text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A))) \subset \text{scl}_{S_s} f(\text{Cl}(A)) \subset \text{Cl}_{S_s}(f(A))$ , which implies  $f(A) \subset \text{Int}_{S_s}(\text{Cl}_{S_s}(f(A)))$  and  $f(A) \in PO(Y, S_s)$ .

Further investigation of almost-continuous, almost-open functions led to the following discoveries.

In 1968 [22], where almost-continuous functions were introduced, an example was given showing that  $\theta$ -continuous need not imply almost-continuous, but the question of whether or not almost-continuous implies  $\theta$ -continuous was unresolved. Below the 1968 question is resolved.

**THEOREM 2.7.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces and let  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  be almost-continuous. Then  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is  $\theta$ -continuous.*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in X$  and let  $V \in S$  such that  $f(x) \in V$ . Since  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S_s)$  is continuous, then for each  $A \subset Y$ ,  $\text{Cl}(f^{-1}(A)) \subset f^{-1}(\text{Cl}_{S_s}(A))$ . Since  $\text{Cl}_S(U) = \text{Cl}_{S_s}(U)$  for each  $U \in S$  [2] and  $\text{scl}V \in S_s \subset S$ , then  $\text{Cl}_{S_s}(\text{scl}V) = \text{Cl}_S(\text{scl}V) = \text{Cl}_S(V)$ . Then  $x \in f^{-1}(\text{scl}V) \in T$  and  $f(\text{Cl}(f^{-1}(\text{scl}V))) \subset f(f^{-1}(\text{Cl}_S(V))) \subset \text{Cl}_S(V)$ .

**THEOREM 2.8.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces and let  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  be almost-open. Then the following are equivalent (a)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-continuous, (b)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is  $\theta$ -continuous, and (c)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is  $\delta$ -continuous.*

*Proof.* Clearly, from earlier results, (c) implies (a) and (a) implies (b). (b) implies (c): Let  $V \in S_s$ . Let  $x \in f^{-1}(V)$ . Then  $f(x) \in V$  and there exists  $W \in RO(Y, S)$  such that  $f(x) \in W \subset V$ . Let  $U \in T$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $f(\text{Cl}(U)) \subset \text{Cl}(W)$ . Then  $x \in \text{scl}U \in RO(X, T)$ ,  $f(\text{scl}U) \in S$ , and  $f(\text{scl}U) \subset f(\text{Cl}(U)) \subset \text{Cl}(W)$ , which implies  $f(\text{scl}U) \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(W)) = \text{scl}W = W \subset V$ . Thus  $f^{-1}(V) \in T_s$ .

In [22], it was indicated that almost-continuous implies weakly-continuous. The following example shows that weakly-continuous is not an equivalent condition in Theorem 2.8.

*Example 2.2.* Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$ , let  $T = \{\emptyset, X, \{c\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}\}$ , let  $S = \{\emptyset, X, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}\}$ , and let  $f : X \rightarrow X$  be the identity function. Then  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (X, S)$  is weakly-continuous and almost-open, but not almost-continuous.

Combining results above with the fact that weakly-continuous and open implies almost-continuous [22] gives the following corollary.

**COROLLARY 2.2.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces and let  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  be open. Then the following are equivalent: (a)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-continuous, (b)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is  $\theta$ -continuous, (c)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is  $\delta$ -continuous, and (d)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is weakly-continuous.*

Example 2.1 shows that continuity is not an equivalent condition in Corollary 2.2.

### 3. Almost-Closed Functions

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $(X, T)$  be a space and let  $A \in T$ . Then  $\text{scl}A = \text{Ext}(\text{Ext}(A))$  and  $RC(X, T) = \{\text{Cl}(\text{Ext}(O)) \mid O \in T\}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $X = \text{Ext}(A) \cup \text{Fr}(\text{Ext}(A)) \cup \text{Ext}(\text{Ext}(A))$ , where  $\text{Ext}(A)$ ,  $\text{Fr}(\text{Ext}(A))$ , and  $\text{Ext}(\text{Ext}(A))$  are mutually disjoint sets,  $\text{scl}A \in T$ , and  $\text{scl}A \subset$

$\text{Cl}(A) = X - \text{Ext}(A)$ , then  $\text{scl}A \subset \text{Ext}(\text{Ext}(A)) \subset \text{Int}(\text{Cl}(A)) = \text{scl}A$ , which implies  $\text{scl}A = \text{Ext}(\text{Ext}(A))$ .

Let  $C \in RC(X, T)$ . Let  $U \in T$  such that  $C = \text{Cl}(U)$ . Then  $C = \text{Cl}(U) = \text{Cl}(\text{scl}U) = \text{Cl}(\text{Ext}(\text{Ext}(U)))$ . Thus  $RC(X, T) \subset \{\text{Cl}(\text{Ext}(O)) \mid O \in T\}$  and since  $\{\text{Cl}(\text{Ext}(O)) \mid O \in T\} \subset \{\text{Cl}(V) \mid V \in T\} = RC(X, T)$ , then  $RC(X, T) = \{\text{Cl}(\text{Ext}(O)) \mid O \in T\}$ .

The results above can be combined with the fact that  $RO(X, T) = RO(X, T_S) = RO(X, FO(X, T))$  [8] to obtain the following characterizations of almost-closed functions.

**COROLLARY 3.1.** *Let  $(X, T)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be spaces and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . Then the following are equivalent: (a)  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-closed, (b)  $f : (X, T_S) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-closed, (c)  $f : (X, FO(X, T)) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is almost-closed, (d) for each  $O \in T$ ,  $f(\text{Cl}(O)) = \text{Cl}(f(\text{Cl}(O)))$ , (e) for each  $O \in T$ ,  $f(\text{Cl}(\text{Ext}(O))) = \text{Cl}(f(\text{Cl}(\text{Ext}(O))))$ , and (f) for each  $A \in PO(X, T)$  and each  $B \subset Y$  such that  $A = f^{-1}(B)$ ,  $f|_A : (A, T_A) \rightarrow (B, S_B)$  is almost-closed.*

The following example shows that if  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is continuous and closed, and  $A \in PO(X, T)$ , then  $f(A)$  need not be pre-open in  $(Y, S)$  or  $(Y, S_S)$ .

*Example 3.1.* Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$ , let  $T = \{\emptyset, X, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}\}$ , and let  $f : X \rightarrow X$  defined by  $f = \{(a, a), (b, c), (c, c)\}$ . Then  $f : (X, T) \rightarrow (X, S)$  is continuous and closed,  $\{b\} \in PO(X, T)$ , and  $f(\{b\}) \notin PO(X, T) = PO(X, T_S)$ .

The example given in [12] shows that a continuous, closed function need not be  $\delta$ -continuous. The following example shows that a  $\theta$ -continuous, closed function need not be almost-continuous.

*Example 3.2.* Let  $X = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j\}$ , let  $T$  be the topology on  $X$  with base  $\{X, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b, c, d, e\}, \{f\}, \{g\}, \{f, g, h, i, j\}\}$ , let  $Y = \{a, b, c, f, g, h\}$ , let  $S$  be the topology on  $Y$  with base  $\{Y, \{a\}, \{a, c\}, \{f\}, \{f, h\}\}$  and let  $k : X \rightarrow Y$  defined by  $k = \{(a, a), (b, b), (c, c), (d, b), (e, g), (f, f), (g, g), (h, h), (i, b), (j, g)\}$ . Then  $k : (X, T) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is  $\theta$ -continuous and closed, but not almost-continuous.

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