

# Idempotents in Stone-Čech compactifications and homogeneous maximal spaces

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Let  $G$  be an infinite group and let  $\beta G$  be the Stone-Čech compactification of  $G$  as a discrete semigroup. We take the points of  $\beta G$  to be the ultrafilters on  $G$ . Being a compact right topological semigroup,  $\beta G$  has idempotents. Every idempotent  $p \in \beta G$  determines a left translation invariant Hausdorff topology  $\mathcal{T}_p$  on  $G$  with a neighborhood base at the identity  $e \in G$  consisting of subsets  $A \cup \{e\}$  where  $A \in p$ . An idempotent  $p \in \beta G$  is *regular* if  $p$  is uniform (= for every  $A \in p$ ,  $|A| = |G|$ ) and the topology  $\mathcal{T}_p$  is regular. We show that for every infinite group  $G$ , there exists a regular idempotent in  $\beta G$ . As a consequence we obtain that for every infinite cardinal  $\kappa$ , there exists a homogeneous regular maximal space of dispersion character  $\kappa$ , which is the answer to an old difficult question. Another consequence tells us that there exists a translation invariant regular maximal topology on the real line of dispersion character  $\mathfrak{c}$  stronger than the natural topology.