

APPROXIMATION BY LIGHT MAPS AND PARAMETRIC LELEK MAPS

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ABSTRACT. The class of metrizable spaces M with the following approximation property is introduced and investigated: $M \in AP(n, 0)$ if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and a map $g: \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$ there exists a 0-dimensional map $g': \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$ which is ε -homotopic to g . It is shown that this class has very nice properties. For example, if $M_i \in AP(n_i, 0)$, $i = 1, 2$, then $M_1 \times M_2 \in AP(n_1 + n_2, 0)$. Moreover, $M \in AP(n, 0)$ if and only if each point of M has a local base of neighborhoods U with $U \in AP(n, 0)$. Using the properties of $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces, we generalize some results of Levin and Kato-Matsushashi concerning the existence of residual sets of n -dimensional Lelek maps.

1. INTRODUCTION

All spaces in the paper are assumed to be metrizable and all maps continuous. By $C(X, M)$ we denote all maps from X into M . Unless stated otherwise, all function spaces are endowed with the source limitation topology.

One of the important properties of the n -dimensional cube \mathbb{I}^n or the Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n widely exploited in dimension theory is that any map from an n -dimensional compactum X into \mathbb{I}^n (resp., \mathbb{R}^n) can be approximated by maps with 0-dimensional fibers. One of the aims of this article is to introduce and investigate the class of spaces having that property. More precisely, we say that a space M has the $(n, 0)$ -approximation property (br., $M \in AP(n, 0)$) if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and a map $g: \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$ there exists a 0-dimensional map $g': \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$ which is ε -homotopic to g . Here, g' is ε -homotopic to g means that there is an ε -small homotopy $h: \mathbb{I}^n \times \mathbb{I} \rightarrow M$ connecting g and g' . It is easily seen that this definition doesn't depend on the metric generating the topology of M . If M is LC^n , then $M \in AP(n, 0)$ if and only if for every

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$\varepsilon > 0$ and $g \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$ there exists a 0-dimensional map g' which is ε -close to g . We show that the class of $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces is quite large and it has very nice properties. For example, if $M_i \in AP(n_i, 0)$, $i = 1, 2$, then $M_1 \times M_2 \in AP(n_1 + n_2, 0)$. We also prove that $M \in AP(n, 0)$ if and only if each point of M has a local base of neighborhoods U with $U \in AP(n, 0)$. Moreover, every path-connected compactum $M \in AP(n, 0)$ is a (V^n) -continuum in the sense of P. Aleksandrov [1]. In particular, according to [10], any such M is a Cantor n -manifold, as well as a strong Cantor n -manifold in the sense of Hadžiivanov [9]. All complete LC^0 -spaces without isolated points are $AP(1, 0)$, as well as, every manifold modeled on the n -dimensional Menger cube or the n -dimensional Nöbeling space has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property.

The class of $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces is very natural for obtaining results about approximation by dimensionally restricted maps. We show this by presenting such a result about n -dimensional Lelek maps. Recall that a map $g: X \rightarrow M$ between compact spaces is said to be an *n -dimensional Lelek map* [16] if the union of all non-trivial continua contained in the fibers of g is of dimension $\leq n$. For convenience, if $n \leq 0$, by an n -dimensional Lelek map we simply mean a 0-dimensional map. Every n -dimensional Lelek map g between compacta is at most n -dimensional because the components of each fiber of g is at most n -dimensional (we say that g is n -dimensional if all fibers of g are at most n -dimensional). A. Lelek [14] constructed such a map from \mathbb{I}^{n+1} onto a dendrite. M. Levin [16] improved this result by showing that the space $C(X, \mathbb{I}^m)$ of all maps from X into \mathbb{I}^m contains a dense G_δ -subset consisting of $(m - n)$ -dimensional Lelek maps for any compactum X with $\dim X = n \leq m$. Recently H. Kato and E. Matsushashi [12] established a version of the Levin result with \mathbb{I}^m replaced by more general class of spaces. This class consists of complete metric *ANR*-spaces having a piecewise embedding dimension $\leq m$.

In the present paper we generalize the result of Kato and Matsushashi in two directions. First, we establish a parametric version of their theorem and second, we show that this parametric version holds for $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces (see Section 6 where it is shown that the class of $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces contains properly the class of *ANR*'s with piecewise embedding dimensions $\leq n$). Here is our result about parametric Lelek maps (a more general version is established in Section 3; moreover we also present a version of Theorem 1.1 when M has a property weaker than $AP(n, 0)$, see Theorem 4.5).

Theorem 1.1. *Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a perfect map with $\dim_\Delta(f) \leq m$, where X and Y are metric spaces. If $M \in AP(n, 0)$ is completely*

metrizable, then there exists a G_δ -set $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ such that every simplicially factorizable map in $C(X, M)$ is homotopically approximated by maps from \mathcal{H} and for every $g \in \mathcal{H}$ and $y \in Y$ the restriction $g|_{f^{-1}(y)}$ is an $(m - n)$ -dimensional Lelek map.

Let us explain the notions in Theorem 1.1. A map $g \in C(X, M)$ is homotopically approximated by maps from \mathcal{H} means that for every function $\varepsilon \in C(X, (0, 1])$ there exists $g' \in \mathcal{H}$ which is ε -homotopic to g . Here, the maps g and g' are said to be ε -homotopic, if there is a homotopy $h: X \times \mathbb{I} \rightarrow M$ connecting g and g' such that each set $h(\{x\} \times \mathbb{I})$ has a diameter $< \varepsilon(x)$, $x \in X$.

The function space $C(X, M)$ appearing in this theorem is endowed with the source limitation topology whose neighborhood base at a given function $f \in C(X, M)$ consists of the sets

$$B_\varrho(f, \varepsilon) = \{g \in C(X, M) : \varrho(g, f) < \varepsilon\},$$

where ϱ is a fixed compatible metric on M and $\varepsilon: X \rightarrow (0, 1]$ runs over continuous positive functions on X . The symbol $\varrho(f, g) < \varepsilon$ means that $\varrho(f(x), g(x)) < \varepsilon(x)$ for all $x \in X$. Since X is metrizable, the source limitation topology doesn't depend on the metric ρ [13] and it has the Baire property provided M is completely metrizable [19].

We say that a map $g: X \rightarrow M$ is simplicially factorizable [2] if there exists a simplicial complex L and two maps $g_1: X \rightarrow L$ and $g_2: L \rightarrow M$ such that $g = g_2 \circ g_1$. In each of the following cases the set of simplicially factorizable maps is dense in $C(X, M)$ (see [2, Proposition 3]): (i) M is an ANR; (ii) $\dim X \leq k$ and M is LC^{k-1} ; (iii) X is a C -space and M is locally contractible.

The dimension $\dim_\Delta(f)$ was defined in [2]: $\dim_\Delta(f)$ of a map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is equal to the smallest cardinal number τ for which there is a map $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{I}^\tau$ such that the diagonal product $f\Delta g: X \rightarrow Y \times \mathbb{I}^\tau$ is a 0-dimensional map. For any perfect map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ between metric spaces we have: (i) $\dim(f) \leq \dim_\Delta(f)$; (ii) $\dim_\Delta(f) = \dim(f)$ if Y is a C -space, see [20] and [26]; (iii) $\dim_\Delta(f) \leq \dim(f) + 1$ if the spaces X, Y are compact, see [15].

Since every metric space admitting a perfect finite-dimensional map onto a C -space is also a C -space [11], Theorem 1.1 implies the following (here, \mathcal{H} is homotopically dense in $C(X, M)$ if every $g \in C(X, M)$ is homotopically approximated by maps from \mathcal{H}):

Corollary 1.2. *Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a perfect m -dimensional map between metric spaces with Y being a C -space. If $M \in A(n, 0)$ is completely metrizable, then in each of the following cases there exists a homotopically dense G_δ -subset $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ consisting of maps g such that $g|_{f^{-1}(y)}$ is an $(m - n)$ -dimensional Lelek map for every $y \in Y$:*

- M is locally contractible;
- X is finite dimensional and $M \in \text{LC}^{k-1}$ for $k = \dim X$.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 some preliminary results about $AE(n, 0)$ -spaces are presented. In Section 3 we establish a generalized version of Theorem 1.1. Section 4 is devoted to almost $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces. The final two sections contain some interesting properties of $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces. In Section 5 we prove that $AP(n, 0)$ -property has a local nature, as well as, $M_1 \times M_2 \in AP(n_1 + n_2, 0)$ provided each $M_i \in AP(n_i, 0)$ is completely metrizable. It is also established in this section that every path connected compactum is a (V^n) -continuum. Section 6 is devoted to the interplay of $AP(n, 0)$ -property and the general position properties $m - \overline{DD}^{\{n, k\}}$ -properties. In particular, it is shown that every point of a locally path-connected $AP(n, 0)$ -space X is a homological Z_{n-1} -point in X . Another result from this section states that every completely metrizable space possessing the disjoint $(n - 1)$ -disks property is an $AP(n, 0)$ -space.

2. PRELIMINARY RESULTS ABOUT $AP(n, 0)$ -SPACES

In this section we established some preliminary results about $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces which are going to be used in next sections.

Suppose M is a metric space and $\varepsilon > 0$. We write $d_n(M) < \varepsilon$ if M can be covered by an open family γ such that $\text{diam} U < \varepsilon$ for all $U \in \gamma$ and $\text{ord}(\gamma) \leq n + 1$ (the last inequality means that at most $n + 1$ elements of γ can have a common point). It is easily seen that if $F \subset M$ is closed and $d_n(F) < \varepsilon$, then F is covered by an open in M family γ of mesh $< \varepsilon$ and $\text{ord} \leq n + 1$. We also agree to denote by $\text{cov}(M)$ the family of all open covers of M . Let us begin with the following technical lemma.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $Z = A \cup B$ be a compactum, where A and B are closed subsets of Z . Suppose $C \subset Z$ is closed such that $\dim C \cap A \leq 0$ and $d_0(C \cap B) < \varepsilon$. Then $d_0(C) < \varepsilon$.*

Proof. Since $d_0(C \cap B) < \varepsilon$, there exists a disjoint open family $\gamma = \{W_1, \dots, W_k\}$ in B of mesh $< \varepsilon$. We extend every W_i to an open set \tilde{W}_i in Z such that $\tilde{W}_i \cap B = W_i$ and $\tilde{\gamma} = \{\tilde{W}_i : i = 1, \dots, k\}$ is a disjoint family of mesh $< \varepsilon$ (this can be done because B is closed

in Z). Observe that $C_1 = C \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{i=k} \tilde{W}_i$ is a closed subset of $C \cap A$ disjoint from B . Since $\dim C \cap A \leq 0$, there exists a clopen set C_2 in $C \cap A$ disjoint from B and containing C_1 . Obviously, C_2 is clopen in C . Moreover, $\dim C_2 \leq 0$. Hence, there exists a cover $\omega = \{V_j : j = 1, \dots, m\} \in \text{cov}(C_2)$ consisting of clopen subsets of C_2 with $\text{diam} V_j < \varepsilon$ for every j . Then $\omega_1 = \omega \cup \{\tilde{W}_i \cap C \setminus C_2\}$ is a disjoint open cover of C and $\text{mesh}(\omega_1) < \varepsilon$. So, $d_0(C) < \varepsilon$. \square

The proof of next lemma is extracted from [2, Theorem 4].

Lemma 2.2. *Let $G \subset C(X, M)$, where (M, ϱ) is a complete metric space. Suppose $(U(i))_{i \geq 1}$ be a sequence of open subsets of $C(X, M)$ such that*

- *for any $g \in G$, $i \geq 1$ and any function $\eta \in C(X, (0, 1])$ there exists $g_i \in B_\varrho(g, \eta) \cap U(i) \cap G$ which is η -homotopic to g .*

Then, for any $g \in G$ and $\varepsilon : X \rightarrow (0, 1]$ there exists $g' \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} U(i)$ and an ε -homotopy connecting g and g' . If in addition all g_i can be chosen such that $g_i|_A = g_0|_A$ for some $g_0 \in C(X, M)$ and $A \subset X$, then $g'|_A = g_0|_A$.

Proof. For fixed $g \in G$ and $\varepsilon \in C(X, (0, 1])$ let $g_0 = g$ and $\varepsilon_0 = \varepsilon/3$. We shall construct by induction a sequence $(g_i : X \rightarrow M)_{i \geq 1} \subset G$, a sequence $(\varepsilon_i)_{i \geq 1}$ of positive functions, and a sequence $(H_i : X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow M)_{i \geq 1}$ of ε_{i-1} -homotopies satisfying the conditions:

- $H_{i+1}(x, 0) = g_i(x)$ and $H_{i+1}(x, 1) = g_{i+1}(x)$ for every $x \in X$;
- $g_{i+1} \in B_\varrho(g_i, \varepsilon_i) \cap U(i+1) \cap G$;
- $\varepsilon_{i+1} \leq \varepsilon_i/2$;
- $B_\varrho(g_{i+1}, 3\varepsilon_{i+1}) \subset U(i+1)$.

Assume that, for some i , we have already constructed maps g_1, \dots, g_i , positive numbers $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_i$, and homotopies H_1, \dots, H_i satisfying the above conditions. According to the hypotheses, there exists a map $g_{i+1} \in B_\varrho(g_i, \varepsilon_i) \cap U(i+1) \cap G$ such that g_{i+1} is ε_i -homotopic to g_i . Let $H_{i+1} : X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ be an ε_i -homotopy connecting the maps g_i and g_{i+1} . Since the set $U(i+1)$ is open in $C(X, M)$, there is a positive function $\varepsilon_{i+1} \leq \varepsilon_i/2$ such that $B_\varrho(g_{i+1}, 3\varepsilon_{i+1}) \subset U(i+1)$. This completes the inductive step.

It follows from the construction that the function sequence $(g_i)_{i \geq 1}$ converges uniformly to some continuous function $g' : X \rightarrow M$. Obviously, $\varrho(g', g_i) \leq \sum_{j=i}^{\infty} \varepsilon_j \leq 2\varepsilon_i$ for every i . Hence, according to the choice of the sequences (ε_i) and (g_i) , $g' \in U(i)$ for every $i \geq 1$. So, $g' \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} U(i)$. Moreover, the ε_{i-1} -homotopies H_i compose an

ε -homotopy $H : X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow M$

$$H(x, t) = \begin{cases} H_i(x, 2^i(t - 1 + \frac{1}{2^{i-1}})) & \text{if } t \in [1 - \frac{1}{2^{i-1}}, 1 - \frac{1}{2^i}], i \geq 1; \\ g'(x) & \text{if } t = 1. \end{cases}$$

connecting $g_0 = g$ and g' .

It follows from our construction that $g'|A = g_0|A$ if $g_i|A = g_0|A$ for all $i \geq 1$. \square

Proposition 2.3. *Let M be a completely metrizable space with the $AP(n, 0)$ -property and X be an n -dimensional compactum. Then*

$$\mathcal{E} = \{g \in C(X, M) : \dim g \leq 0\}$$

is a G_δ -subset of $C(X, M)$ such that every simplicially factorizable map is homotopically approximated by maps from \mathcal{E} .

Proof. We fix a metric on X and a complete metric ρ on M . For every $\varepsilon > 0$ let $C(X, M; \varepsilon)$ be the set all maps $g \in C(X, M)$ with $d_0(g^{-1}(a)) < \varepsilon$ for every $a \in M$. It is easily seen that $C(X, M; \varepsilon)$ is open in $C(X, M)$ and $\mathcal{E} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} C(X, M; 1/i)$. So, \mathcal{E} is a G_δ -subset of $C(X, M)$.

Claim. *For every simplicially factorizable map $h \in C(X, M)$ and positive numbers η and δ there exists a simplicially factorizable map $h' \in C(X, M; \eta)$ which is δ -homotopic to h .*

To prove the claim, fix a simplicially factorizable map $h \in C(X, M)$ and positive numbers δ, η . Then there exists a simplicial complex L and maps $q_1 : X \rightarrow L, q_2 : L \rightarrow M$ with $h = q_2 \circ q_1$. We can assume that L is finite and $q_2(L) \subset \cup \gamma$, where $\gamma = \{B_\rho(y, \delta/4) : y \in g(X)\}$. Because L is an ANR and $\dim X \leq n$, there is a polyhedron K with $\dim K \leq n$ and two maps $f : X \rightarrow K, \alpha : K \rightarrow L$ such that f is an η -map and q_1 and $\alpha \circ f$ are $q_2^{-1}(\gamma)$ -homotopic. So, h and $q_2 \circ \alpha \circ f$ are $\delta/2$ -homotopic. Moreover, there is a cover $\omega \in \text{cov}(K)$ such that $\text{diam} f^{-1}(W) < \eta$ for every $W \in \omega$. Let θ be a Lebesgue number of ω . It remains to find a map $h^* : K \rightarrow M$ which is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to $q_2 \circ \alpha$ and $h^* \in C(K, M; \theta)$ (then $h' = h^* \circ f$ would be a simplicially factorizable map δ -homotopic to h and $h' \in C(X, M; \eta)$).

To find such a map $h^* : K \rightarrow M$, let $\{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_m\}$ be an enumeration of the simplexes of K and $K_i = \bigcup_{j=1}^{j=i} \sigma_j$. We are going to construct by induction maps $h_i : K \rightarrow M, i = 0, \dots, m$, satisfying the following conditions:

- $h_0 = q_2 \circ \alpha$;
- $h_i|K_i$ belongs to $C(K_i, M; \theta), 1 \leq i \leq m$;
- h_i and h_{i+1} are $(\delta/2m)$ -homotopic, $i = 0, \dots, m - 1$.

Let $\mathcal{V} = \{B_\rho(y, \delta/4m) : y \in M\} \in \text{cov}(M)$ and assume that h_i has already been constructed. Since $h_i|_{K_i} \in C(K_i, M; \theta)$, every fiber $h_i^{-1}(y) \cap K_i$ of $h_i|_{K_i}$, $y \in h_i(K_1)$, is covered by a finite open and disjoint family $\Omega(y)$ in K_i with $\text{mesh}(\Omega(y)) < \theta$. Using that $h_i|_{K_i}$ is a perfect map, we find a cover $\mathcal{V}_i \in \text{cov}(M)$ such that \mathcal{V}_i is a star-refinement of \mathcal{V} and if $St(y, \mathcal{V}_i) \cap h_i(K_i) \neq \emptyset$ for some $y \in M$, then there is $z \in h_i(K_i)$ with $h_i^{-1}(St(y, \mathcal{V}_i)) \cap K_i \subset \Omega(z)$. Since M has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property, there exists a 0-dimensional map $p_i: \sigma_{i+1} \rightarrow M$ which is \mathcal{V}_i -homotopic to $h_i|_{\sigma_{i+1}}$. By the Homotopy Extension Theorem, p_i can be extended to a map $h_{i+1}: K \rightarrow M$ being \mathcal{V}_i -homotopic to h_i . Then h_{i+1} is $(\delta/2m)$ -homotopic to h_i . To show that $h_{i+1}|_{K_{i+1}}$ belongs to $C(K_{i+1}, M; \theta)$, we observe that $h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_{i+1} = (h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i) \cup (h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap \sigma_{i+1})$, $y \in M$. According to our construction, we have $h_i(h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i) \subset St(y, \mathcal{V}_i)$. Hence, $h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i$ is contained in $\Omega(z)$ for some $z \in h_i(K_i)$. Therefore, $d_0(h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i) < \theta$. Since $h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap \sigma_{i+1}$ is 0-dimensional, Lemma 2.1 implies that $d_0(h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_{i+1}) < \theta$. Obviously the map $h^* = h_m$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to $q_2 \circ \alpha$ and $h^* \in C(K, M; \theta)$. This completes the proof of the claim.

To finish the proof of the proposition, we apply Lemma 2.2 with G being the set of all simplicially factorizable maps from $C(X, M)$ and $U(i) = C(X, M; 1/i)$, $i \geq 1$ (we can apply Lemma 2.2 because of the claim). Hence, for every simplicially factorizable map $g \in C(X, M)$ and a positive number ε there exists a map $g' \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} U(i)$ which is ε -homotopic to g . Finally, we observe that $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} U(i)$ consists of 0-dimensional maps. \square

Proposition 2.4. *Let M be a completely metrizable space with the $AP(n, 0)$ -property, X a compactum and Z an F_σ -subset of X with $\dim Z \leq n - 1$. Then there exists a G_δ -subset $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ with the following properties:*

- Z is contained in the union of trivial components of the fibers of g for all $g \in \mathcal{H}$;
- for every simplicially factorizable map $g \in C(X, M)$ and every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $g' \in \mathcal{H}$ which is ε -homotopic to g .

Proof. We represent Z as the union of an increasing sequence $(Z_i)_{i \geq 1}$ with all Z_i being closed in Z . For every $\varepsilon > 0$ let

$$\mathcal{H}(Z_i, \varepsilon) = \{g \in C(X, M) : F(g, \varepsilon) \cap Z_i = \emptyset\},$$

where

$$F(g, \varepsilon) = \cup\{C : C \text{ is a component of a fiber of } g \text{ with } \text{diam} C \geq \varepsilon\}.$$

It is easily seen that each $\mathcal{H}(Z_i, \varepsilon)$ is open in $C(X, M)$. So, the set $\mathcal{H} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}(Z_i, 1/i)$ is G_δ and Z is contained in the union of trivial components of the fibers of g for every $g \in \mathcal{H}$.

To prove the second item of our proposition, we first consider the particular case when X is a polyhedron and Z is a (compact) subpolyhedron of X .

Claim 1. Suppose that, in addition to hypotheses of Proposition 2.4, X is a polyhedron and Z is a subpolyhedron of X . Then, for every $g_0 \in C(X, M)$ and $\delta > 0$ there exists $g \in \mathcal{H} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}(Z, 1/i)$ which is δ -homotopic to g_0 .

The proof of Claim 1 is a slight modification of the proof of [12, Theorem 2.2]. Let $g_0 \in C(X, M)$ and $\delta > 0$. We take an open neighborhood W of Z in X , a retraction $r: W \rightarrow Z$ and a function $\alpha: X \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ such that $\alpha^{-1}(0) = Z$, $\alpha^{-1}(1) = X \setminus W$. Since X is a compact ANR, we can choose W so small that $g_0|_W$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to $(g_0 \circ r)|_W$. Next, denote by $\pi: Z \times \mathbb{I} \rightarrow Z$ the projection and consider the map $\varphi: W \rightarrow Z \times \mathbb{I}$, $\varphi(x) = (r(x), \alpha(x))$. Obviously, $(g_0 \circ r)|_W = (g_0 \circ \pi \circ \varphi)|_W$. So, $(g_0 \circ \pi \circ \varphi)|_W$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to $g_0|_W$. Because Z is a polyhedron, so is $Z \times \mathbb{I}$. Hence, every map from $C(Z \times \mathbb{I}, M)$ is simplicially factorizable. Moreover, $\dim Z \times \mathbb{I} \leq n$ and $M \in AP(n, 0)$. Therefore, by Proposition 2.3, there exists a 0-dimensional map $h: Z \times \mathbb{I} \rightarrow M$ which is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to the map $g_0 \circ \pi$. Then $(h \circ \varphi)|_W$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to $(g_0 \circ \pi \circ \varphi)|_W$. Consequently, $(h \circ \varphi)|_W$ is δ -homotopic to $g_0|_W$. By the Homotopy Extension Theorem, there exists a map $g \in C(X, M)$ such that g is δ -homotopic to g_0 and $g|_{\bar{U}} = (h \circ \varphi)|_{\bar{U}}$, where U is an open neighborhood of Z in X with $\bar{U} \subset W$.

To finish the proof of Claim 1, it remains to show that $g \in \mathcal{H}$. Let C be a subcontinuum of $g^{-1}(y)$ for some $y \in M$ and let $Z \cap C \neq \emptyset$. We are going to prove that $C \subset Z$. Otherwise, there would be a subcontinuum $C' \subset C \cap U$ such that $C' \cap Z \neq \emptyset$ and $C' \setminus Z \neq \emptyset$. Then $g(C') = h(\alpha(C')) = y$ and, according to the definition of α , $\varphi(C')$ is a non-degenerate continuum in $h^{-1}(y)$. Since h is 0-dimensional, this is a contradiction. Hence, $C \subset Z$. Using again that $\dim(h) \leq 0$, we conclude that $\varphi(C)$ is a point. On the other hand $\varphi(C) = C \times \{0\} \subset Z \times \mathbb{I}$. Therefore, C should be a trivial continuum.

Now, consider the general case of Proposition 2.4.

Claim 2. Let $g_0 \in C(X, M)$ be a simplicially factorizable map and δ, η positive numbers. Then for any i there exists a simplicially factorizable map $g \in \mathcal{H}(Z_i, \eta)$ which is δ -homotopic to g_0 .

Since g_0 is simplicially factorizable, there exist a finite simplicial complex L and maps $q_1: X \rightarrow L$, $q_2: L \rightarrow M$ with $g_0 = q_2 \circ q_1$. Let $\mathcal{V} = \{B_\varrho(y, \delta/4) : y \in M\} \in \text{cov}(M)$ and $\mathcal{W} = q_2^{-1}(\mathcal{V}) \in \text{cov}(L)$. Next, choose a finite cover $\mathcal{U} \in \text{cov}(X)$ of X with $\text{mesh}(\mathcal{U}) < \eta$ such that:

- at most n elements of the family $\gamma = \{U \in \mathcal{U} : U \cap Z_i \neq \emptyset\}$ can have a common point;
- there exists a map $h: \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow L$ such that $h \circ f_{\mathcal{U}}$ is \mathcal{W} -homotopic to q_1 , where $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U})$ is the nerve of \mathcal{U} and $f_{\mathcal{U}}: X \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U})$ is the natural map.

Then $q_2 \circ h \circ f_{\mathcal{U}}$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to g_0 and the subpolyhedron K of $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U})$ generated by the family γ is of dimension $\leq n - 1$. So, according to Claim 1, there exists a map $g_1: \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow M$ such that g_1 is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to $q_2 \circ h$ and K is contained in the union of trivial components of the fibers of g_1 . Since all fibers of $f_{\mathcal{U}}$ are of diameter $< \eta$ and $f_{\mathcal{U}}(Z_i) \subset K$, the map $g = g_1 \circ f_{\mathcal{U}}$ belongs to $\mathcal{H}(Z_i, \eta)$. Moreover, g is obviously simplicially factorizable and δ -homotopic to g_0 . This completes the proof of Claim 2.

Finally, the proof of Proposition 2.4 follows from Lemma 2.2 (with G being the set of all simplicially factorizable maps from $C(X, M)$ and $U(i) = \mathcal{H}(Z_i, 1/i)$ for every $i \geq 1$) and Claim 2. \square

3. PARAMETRIC LELEK MAPS

In this section we are going to prove a more general version of Theorem 1.1. For a space M and a point $z \in M$ let $n_{(z, M)}$ be the supremum of all n such that z has a neighborhood U in M with $U \in AP(n, 0)$.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a perfect map between metrizable spaces with $\dim \Delta(f) \leq m$ and M completely metrizable. Then there is a G_δ -set $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ such that any simplicially factorizable map in $C(X, M)$ can be homotopically approximated by maps from \mathcal{H} and every $g \in \mathcal{H}$ has the following property: each $z \in M$ has a neighborhood G_z such that for every $y \in Y$ the restriction $g|_{(f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(\overline{G}_z))}$ is an $(m - n_{(z, M)})$ -dimensional Lelek map from $f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(\overline{G}_z)$ into \overline{G}_z .*

Everywhere in this section $f: X \rightarrow Y$ will be a fixed perfect map such that $\dim \Delta(f) \leq m$. We also fix a metric d on X and suppose (M, ϱ) is a given complete metric space and $\mu = \{W_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$, $\mu_1 = \{G_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$ are locally finite open covers of M with $\overline{G}_\nu \subset W_\nu$ and $W_\nu \in AP(n_\nu, 0)$ for every $\nu \in \Lambda$, where $0 \leq n_\nu \leq m$. Obviously, $n_\nu \leq n_{(z, M)}$ for all $z \in W_\nu$. Hence, it suffices to find a G_δ -set $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ such that any simplicially factorizable map in $C(X, M)$ can be homotopically approximated by maps from \mathcal{H} and for every $g \in \mathcal{H}$,

$y \in Y$ and $\nu \in \Lambda$ the restriction $g|(f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu))$ is an $(m - n_\nu)$ -dimensional Lelek map from $f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu)$ into \overline{G}_ν .

To this end, for every $y \in Y$, $\varepsilon > 0$, $\nu \in \Lambda$ and $g \in C(X, M)$ we denote by $F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)$ the union of all continua C of diameter $\geq \varepsilon$ such that $C \subset f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(z_C)$ for some $z_C \in \overline{G}_\nu$. Note that each $F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)$ is compact as a closed subset of $f^{-1}(y)$. Then, for a fixed $\eta > 0$, let $\mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ be the set of all $g \in C(X, M)$ such that $d_{m-n_\nu}(F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)) < \eta$ for every $\nu \in \Lambda$. The last inequality means that $F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)$ can be covered by an open family γ in X such that $\text{mesh}(\gamma) < \eta$ and no more $m - n_\nu + 1$ elements of γ have a common point. If $V \subset Y$, then $\mathcal{H}(V, \varepsilon, \eta)$ denotes the intersection of all $\mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$, $y \in V$.

Lemma 3.2. *For every $y \in Y$ and every $g \in \mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ there exists a neighborhood V_y of y in Y and $\delta_y > 0$ such that if $y' \in V_y$ and $\varrho(h(x), g(x)) < \delta_y$ for all $x \in f^{-1}(y')$, then $h \in \mathcal{H}(y', \varepsilon, \eta)$.*

Proof. Since μ_1 is locally finite and $f^{-1}(y)$ is compact, for every $y \in Y$ and $g \in C(X, M)$ there exists a neighborhood $O_g(y)$ of $g(f^{-1}(y))$ such that the family $\Lambda_g(y) = \{\nu \in \Lambda : O_g(y) \cap G_\nu \neq \emptyset\}$ is finite.

Assume the lemma is not true for some $y \in Y$ and $g \in \mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$. Then there exists a local base of neighborhoods V_i of y , points $y_i \in V_i$ and functions $g_i \in C(X, M)$ such that $g_i|f^{-1}(y_i)$ is $1/i$ -close to $g|f^{-1}(y_i)$ but $g_i \notin \mathcal{H}(y_i, \varepsilon, \eta)$. It is easily seen that for some k and all $i \geq k$ we have $g_i(f^{-1}(y_i)) \subset O_g(y)$. Consequently, for every $i \geq k$ there exists $\nu(i) \in \Lambda_g(y)$ such that $d_{m-n_{\nu(i)}}(F_{\nu(i)}(g_i, \varepsilon, y_i)) \geq \eta$ (because $g_i \notin \mathcal{H}(y_i, \varepsilon, \eta)$). So, each $F_{\nu(i)}(g_i, \varepsilon, y_i)$ doesn't have any open cover of mesh $< \eta$ and order $\leq m - n_{\nu(i)} + 1$. Since the family $\Lambda_g(y)$ is finite, there exists $\nu(0) \in \Lambda_g(y)$ with $\nu(i) = \nu(0)$ for infinitely many i . Without loss of generality, we may suppose that $\nu(i) = \nu(0)$ for all $i \geq k$. This implies that $g_i(f^{-1}(y_i)) \cap \overline{G} \neq \emptyset$, $i \geq k$, where $G = G_{\nu(0)}$. Consequently, $g(f^{-1}(y)) \cap \overline{G} \neq \emptyset$. Since $g \in \mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$, $F_{\nu(0)}(g, \varepsilon, y)$ can be covered by an open family γ in X of order $\leq m - n_{\nu(0)} + 1$ and $\text{mesh}(\gamma) < \eta$. Let $U = \cup \gamma$. To obtain a contradiction, it suffices to show that $F_{\nu(i)}(g_i, \varepsilon, y_i) \subset U$ for some $i \geq k$. Indeed, otherwise for every $i \geq k$ there would exist points $x_i \in F_{\nu(i)}(g_i, \varepsilon, y_i) \setminus U$, $z_i \in \overline{G}$, and a component C_i of $f^{-1}(y_i) \cap g_i^{-1}(z_i)$ containing x_i with $\text{diam} C_i \geq \varepsilon$. Using that $P = f^{-1}(\{y_i\}_{i=k}^\infty \cup \{y\})$ is a compactum, we can suppose that $\{x_i\}_{i=k}^\infty$ converges to a point $x_0 \in f^{-1}(y)$, $\{z_i\}_{i=k}^\infty$ converges to a point $z_0 \in \overline{G}$ and $\{C_i\}_{i=k}^\infty$ (considered as a sequence in the space of all closed subsets of P equipped with the Vietoris topology) converges to a closed set $C \subset f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(z_0)$. It is easily seen that C is connected

and $\text{diam}C \geq \varepsilon$. Hence, $C \subset F_{\nu(0)}(g, \varepsilon, y) \subset U$. So, $x_i \in C_i \subset U$ for some i , a contradiction. \square

Now, we are in a position to show that the sets $\mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ are open in $C(X, M)$.

Proposition 3.3. *For any closed set $F \subset Y$ and any $\varepsilon, \eta > 0$, the set $\mathcal{H}(F, \varepsilon, \eta)$ is open in $C(X, M)$.*

Proof. Let $g_0 \in \mathcal{H}(F, \varepsilon, \eta)$. Then, by Lemma 3.2, for every $y \in F$ there exist a neighborhood V_y and a positive $\delta_y \leq 1$ such that $h \in \mathcal{H}(y', \varepsilon, \eta)$ provided $y' \in V_y$ and $h|_{f^{-1}(y')}$ is δ_y -close to $g_0|_{f^{-1}(y')}$. The family $\{V_y \cap Y : y \in F\}$ can be supposed to be locally finite in F . Consider the set-valued lower semi-continuous map $\varphi: F \rightarrow (0, 1]$, $\varphi(y) = \cup\{(0, \delta_z] : y \in V_z\}$. By [21, Theorem 6.2, p.116], φ admits a continuous selection $\beta: F \rightarrow (0, 1]$. Let $\bar{\beta}: Y \rightarrow (0, 1]$ be a continuous extension of β and $\alpha = \bar{\beta} \circ f$. It remains only to show that if $g \in C(X, M)$ with $\varrho(g_0(x), g(x)) < \alpha(x)$ for all $x \in X$, then $g \in \mathcal{H}(F, \varepsilon, \eta)$. So, we take such a g and fix $y \in F$. Then there exists $z \in F$ with $y \in V_z$ and $\alpha(x) \leq \delta_z$ for all $x \in f^{-1}(y)$. Hence, $\varrho(g(x), g_0(x)) < \delta_z$ for each $x \in f^{-1}(y)$. According to the choice of V_z and δ_z , $g \in \mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$. Therefore, $\mathcal{H}(F, \varepsilon, \eta)$ is open in $C(X, M)$. \square

To prove Theorem 3.1 it suffices to show that if $g \in C(X, M)$ is a simplicially factorizable map and $\delta \in C(X, (0, 1])$, then for any $\varepsilon, \eta > 0$ there exists a simplicially factorizable map $g_{\varepsilon\eta} \in \mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ which is δ -homotopic to g . Indeed, since any set $\mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ is open, Lemma 2.2 would imply that every simplicially factorizable map is homotopically approximated by simplicially factorizable maps from $\mathcal{H} = \bigcap_{i,j=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}(Y, 1/i, 1/j)$. But for every $g \in \mathcal{H}$, $y \in Y$, $\nu \in \Lambda$ and $i \geq 1$ we have $d_{m-n_\nu}(F_\nu(g, 1/i, y)) = 0$. So, $\dim F_\nu(g, 1/i, y) \leq m - n_\nu$. Then $\dim F_\nu(g, y) \leq m - n_\nu$, where $F_\nu(g, y) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_\nu(g, 1/i, y)$. On the other hand, $F_\nu(g, y)$ is the union of all non-trivial continua contained in the fibers of $g|_{g^{-1}(\bar{G}_\nu) \cap f^{-1}(y)}$. Therefore, \mathcal{H} consists of maps g such that $g|_{g^{-1}(\bar{G}_\nu) \cap f^{-1}(y)}: g^{-1}(\bar{G}_\nu) \cap f^{-1}(y) \rightarrow \bar{G}_\nu$ is $(m - n_\nu)$ -dimensional Lelek map for every $\nu \in \Lambda$ and $y \in Y$.

Next proposition shows that all simplicially factorizable maps in $C(X, M)$ can be homotopically approximated by simplicially factorizable maps from $\mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ provided the set $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is homotopically dense in $C(N, M)$, where $p: N \rightarrow L$ is any perfect m -dimensional PL -map between two simplicial complexes N, L equipped with the CW -topology and $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is the set of all maps $q: N \rightarrow M$ such that $q|_{q^{-1}(\bar{G}_\nu) \cap p^{-1}(z)}: q^{-1}(\bar{G}_\nu) \cap p^{-1}(z) \rightarrow \bar{G}_\nu$ is an $(m - n_\nu)$ -dimensional

Lelek map for every $\nu \in \Lambda$ and $z \in L$. Here, $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is homotopically dense in $C(N, M)$ if for any $h \in C(N, M)$ and $\alpha \in C(N, (0, 1])$ there exists $h' \in \mathcal{H}_p(L)$ such that h' is α -homotopic to h . Recall that $p: N \rightarrow L$ is a *PL-map* (resp., a simplicial map) if p maps every simplex σ of N into (resp., onto) some simplex of L and p is linear on σ .

Proposition 3.4. *Let X, Y, f and M satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 3.1. Suppose the set $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is homotopically dense in $C(N, M)$ for any perfect m -dimensional *PL-map* $p: N \rightarrow L$. Then for any simplicially factorizable map $g \in C(X, M)$ and any $\delta \in C(X, (0, 1])$, $\varepsilon, \eta > 0$ there exists a simplicially factorizable $h \in \mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ such that h is δ -homotopic to g .*

Proof. For fixed $\delta \in C(X, (0, 1])$ and a simplicially factorizable map $g \in C(X, M)$ we are going to find simplicially factorizable $h \in \mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ such that $\varrho(g(x), h(x)) < \delta(x)$ for all $x \in X$, where ε and η are arbitrary positive reals. Since g is simplicially factorizable, there exists a simplicial complex D and maps $g_D: X \rightarrow D$, $g^D: D \rightarrow M$ with $g = g^D \circ g_D$. The metric ϱ induces a continuous pseudometric ϱ_D on D , $\varrho_D(x, y) = \varrho(g^D(x), g^D(y))$. By [5] and [23], D being a stratifiable *ANR* is a neighborhood retract of a locally convex space. Hence, we can apply [2, Lemma 7.1] to find an open cover \mathcal{U} of X satisfying the following condition: if $\alpha: X \rightarrow K$ is a \mathcal{U} -map into a paracompact space K (i.e., $\alpha^{-1}(\omega)$ refines \mathcal{U} for some $\omega \in \text{cov}(K)$), then there exists a map $q': G \rightarrow D$, where G is an open neighborhood of $\overline{\alpha(X)}$ in K , such that g_D and $q' \circ \alpha$ are $\delta/2$ -homotopic with respect to the metric ϱ_D . Let \mathcal{U}_1 be an open cover of X refining \mathcal{U} with $\text{mesh}\mathcal{U}_1 < \min\{\varepsilon, \eta\}$ and $\inf \delta(U) > 0$ for all $U \in \mathcal{U}_1$.

Next, according to [2, Theorem 6], there exists an open cover \mathcal{V} of Y such that: for any \mathcal{V} -map $\beta: Y \rightarrow L$ into a simplicial complex L we can find an \mathcal{U}_1 -map $\alpha: X \rightarrow K$ into a simplicial complex K and a perfect m -dimensional *PL-map* $p: K \rightarrow L$ with $\beta \circ f = p \circ \alpha$. We can assume that \mathcal{V} is locally finite. Take L to be the nerve of the cover \mathcal{V} and $\beta: Y \rightarrow L$ the corresponding natural map. Then there are a simplicial complex K and maps p and α satisfying the above conditions. Hence, the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & K \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\ Y & \xrightarrow{\beta} & L \end{array}$$

Since K is paracompact, the choice of the cover \mathcal{U} guarantees the existence of a map $q_D: G \rightarrow D$, where $G \subset K$ is an open neighborhood of $\overline{\alpha(X)}$, such that g_D and $h_D = q_D \circ \alpha$ are $\delta/2$ -homotopic with respect to ϱ_D . Then, according to the definition of ϱ_D , $h' = g^D \circ q_D \circ \alpha$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to g with respect to ϱ . Replacing the triangulation of K by a suitable subdivision, we may additionally assume that no simplex of K meets both $\overline{\alpha(X)}$ and $K \setminus G$. So, the union N of all simplexes $\sigma \in K$ with $\sigma \cap \overline{\alpha(X)} \neq \emptyset$ is a subcomplex of K and $N \subset G$. Moreover, since N is closed in K , $p: N \rightarrow L$ is a perfect m -dimensional PL -map. Therefore, we have the following commutative diagram, where $q = g^D \circ q_D$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{h'} & M \\
 \downarrow f & \searrow \alpha & \nearrow q \\
 Y & & N \\
 & & \downarrow p \\
 & & L \\
 & \searrow \beta &
 \end{array}$$

Now, we shall construct a continuous function $\delta_1: N \rightarrow (0, 1]$ with $\delta_1 \circ \alpha \leq \delta$. Since α is a \mathcal{U}_1 -map, there is an open cover \mathcal{V}_1 of N such that the cover $\alpha^{-1}(\mathcal{V}_1) = \{\alpha^{-1}(V) : V \in \mathcal{V}_1\}$ refines \mathcal{U}_1 . Because $\inf \delta(U) > 0$ for any $U \in \mathcal{U}_1$, $\inf \delta(\alpha^{-1}(V)) > 0$ for any $V \in \mathcal{V}_1$. We can assume that \mathcal{V}_1 is locally finite and consider the lower semi-continuous set-valued map $\varphi: N \rightarrow (0, 1]$ defined by $\varphi(z) = \cup\{(0, \inf \delta(\alpha^{-1}(V))]\} : z \in V \in \mathcal{V}_1\}$. Then, by [21, Theorem 6.2, p. 116], φ admits a continuous selection $\delta_1: N \rightarrow (0, 1]$. Obviously, $\delta_1(z) \leq \inf \delta(\alpha^{-1}(z))$ for all $z \in N$. Hence, $\delta_1 \circ \alpha \leq \delta$.

Since, according to our assumption, $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is homotopically dense in $C(N, M)$, there exists a map $q_1 \in \mathcal{H}_p(L)$ such that q_1 is $\delta_1/2$ -homotopic to q . Let $h = q_1 \circ \alpha$. Then h and $q \circ \alpha$ are $\delta/2$ -homotopic because $\delta_1 \circ \alpha \leq \delta$. On the other hand, $q \circ \alpha = h'$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to g . Hence, g and h are δ -homotopic. Moreover, h is obviously simplicially factorizable.

It remains to show that $h \in \mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$. To this end, we fix $y \in Y$ and $\nu \in \Lambda$, and consider the set $F_\nu(h, \varepsilon, y)$. Recall that $F_\nu(h, \varepsilon, y)$ is the union of all continua of diameter $\geq \varepsilon$ such that $C \subset f^{-1}(y) \cap h^{-1}(a_C)$ for some $a_C \in \overline{G}_\nu$. For any such continuum C we have $\alpha(C) \subset p^{-1}(\beta(y)) \cap q_1^{-1}(a_C)$. Since the diameters of all fibers of α are $< \varepsilon$ (recall that α is an \mathcal{U}_1 -map), $\alpha(C)$ is a non-trivial continuum in $p^{-1}(\beta(y)) \cap q_1^{-1}(a_C)$. Therefore, $\alpha(C) \subset F_\nu(q_1, \beta(y))$, where

$F_\nu(q_1, \beta(y))$ denotes the union of all non-trivial continua which are contained in the fibers of the restriction $q_{y\nu} = q_1|_{(p^{-1}(\beta(y)) \cap q_1^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu))}$. Actually, we proved that $\alpha(F_\nu(h, \varepsilon, y)) \subset F_\nu(q_1, \beta(y))$. Since $q_1 \in \mathcal{H}_p(L)$, $q_{y\nu}: p^{-1}(\beta(y)) \cap q_1^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu) \rightarrow \overline{G}_\nu$ is $(m - n_\nu)$ -dimensional Lelek map. Consequently, $\dim F_\nu(q_1, \beta(y)) \leq m - n_\nu$. So, there exists an open cover γ of $F_\nu(q_1, \beta(y))$ of order $\leq m - n_\nu + 1$ (such a cover γ exists because $F_\nu(q_1, \beta(y))$ is metrizable as a subset of the metrizable compactum $p^{-1}(\beta(y))$). We can suppose that γ is so small that $\alpha^{-1}(\gamma)$ refines \mathcal{U}_1 . But $\text{mesh}(\mathcal{U}_1) < \eta$. Consequently, $\alpha^{-1}(\gamma) \cap F_\nu(h, \varepsilon, y)$ is an open cover of $F_\nu(h, \varepsilon, y)$ of order $\leq m - n_\nu + 1$ and $\text{mesh} < \eta$. This means that $d_{m-n_\nu}(F_\nu(h, \varepsilon, y)) < \eta$. Therefore, we found a simplicially factorizable map $h \in \mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ which is δ -homotopic to g . \square

In next two lemmas we suppose that $p: N \rightarrow L$ is an m -dimensional PL -map between finite simplicial complexes. As everywhere in this section, (M, ρ) is a complete metric space possessing two locally finite open covers $\mu = \{W_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$ and $\mu_1 = \{\overline{G}_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$ such that $\overline{G}_\nu \subset W_\nu$, $W_\nu \in AP(n_\nu, 0)$ and $0 \leq n_\nu \leq m$ for every $\nu \in \Lambda$. For given $\varepsilon, \eta > 0$ and $y \in L$ we denote by $\mathcal{H}_p(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ the set of $g \in C(N, M)$ such that $d_{m-n_\nu}(F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)) < \eta$ for every $\nu \in \Lambda$. As usual, $F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)$ is the union of all continua $C \subset p^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(z_C)$ with $z_C \in \overline{G}_\nu$ and $\text{diam} C \geq \varepsilon$. If $B \subset L$, then $\mathcal{H}_p(B, \varepsilon, \eta)$ stands for the intersection of all $\mathcal{H}_p(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$, $y \in B$.

Lemma 3.5. *Let $B \subset L$ be a subcomplex of L and $g_0 \in C(N, M)$ be a map such that $g_0 \in \mathcal{H}_p(B) = \bigcap_{i \geq 1} \mathcal{H}_p(B, 1/i, 1/i)$. Then, for every $\varepsilon > 0$, $q \geq 1$ and $g \in C(N, M)$ with $g|_{p^{-1}(B)} = g_0|_{p^{-1}(B)}$ there exists a map $g_q \in C(N, M)$ extending $g_0|_{p^{-1}(B)}$ such that g_q is ε -homotopic to g and $g_q \in \mathcal{H}_p(y, 1/q, 1/q)$ for all $y \in L$.*

Proof. We fix q and $g \in C(N, M)$ with $g|_{p^{-1}(B)} = g_0|_{p^{-1}(B)}$. Then, by Lemma 3.2, for every $y \in B$ there exists a neighborhood V_y in L and $\delta_y > 0$ such that any $h \in C(N, M)$ belongs to $\mathcal{H}_p(V_y, 1/q, 1/q)$ provided $h|_{p^{-1}(V_y)}$ is δ_y -close to $g|_{p^{-1}(V_y)}$ (we can apply Lemma 3.2 because $g|_{p^{-1}(B)} = g_0|_{p^{-1}(B)}$ yields $g \in \mathcal{H}_p(y, 1/q, 1/q)$ for every $y \in B$). Let $\{V_{y(i)}\}_{i \leq s}$ be a finite subfamily of $\{V_y : y \in B\}$ covering B and $V = \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq s} V_{y(i)}$.

Since μ is locally finite in M , $g(N)$ meets only finitely many $W_j = W_{\nu(j)}$, $j = 1, \dots, k$. For any $j \leq k$ let $P_j = g^{-1}(\overline{G}_j)$ and U_j^1, U_j^2 be open subsets of N such that $P_j \subset U_j^1 \subset \overline{U_j^1} \subset U_j^2 \subset \overline{U_j^2} \subset g^{-1}(W_j)$. We also choose $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ satisfying the following condition:

- If $h \in C(N, M)$ with $\varrho(g(x), h(x)) < \varepsilon_0$ for every $x \in N$, then $\{\nu \in \Lambda : h(N) \cap W_\nu \neq \emptyset\}$ is contained in $\{\nu(j) : j = 1, \dots, k\}$, and for all j we have $h^{-1}(\overline{G}_j) \subset U_j^1$ and $h(\overline{U}_j^2) \subset W_j$.

Let $\delta_0 = \min\{\varepsilon, \varepsilon_0, \delta_{y(i)} : i \leq s\}$. Considering suitable subdivisions of N and L , we can suppose that p is a simplicial map and the following conditions hold:

- Every simplex $\sigma \in L$ intersecting the set $L \setminus V$ does not meet B ;
- Every simplex $\tau \in N$ intersecting the set \overline{U}_j^1 does not meet $N \setminus U_j^2$, $j = 1, \dots, k$.

Let $L_0 = \cup\{\sigma \in L : \sigma \cap L \setminus V \neq \emptyset\}$ and $N_j = \cup\{\tau \in N : \tau \cap \overline{U}_j^1 \neq \emptyset\}$, $1 \leq j \leq k$. Obviously L_0 is a subpolyhedron of L disjoint from B and containing $L \setminus V$. Moreover, each N_j is a subpolyhedron of N such that $\overline{U}_j^1 \subset N_j \subset U_j^2$. Now, for every $j \leq k$ consider the map $p_j = p|_{N_j} : N_j \rightarrow p(N_j)$. Since p is m -dimensional, by [20] or [25], there exists an $(n_{\nu(j)} - 1)$ -dimensional sigma-compact set $Z_j = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} Z_{ij} \subset N_j$ such that each Z_{ij} is compact and $\dim p_j^{-1}(y) \setminus Z_j \leq m - n_{\nu(j)}$ for all $y \in p(N_j)$. Denote

$$T_{ij} = \{h \in C(N, M) : F^j(h, 1/q) \cap Z_{ij} = \emptyset\},$$

where $F^j(h, 1/q)$ is the union of all continua $C \subset N_j$ of diameter $\geq 1/q$ which are contained in fibers of the map $h|_{N_j}$. It is easily seen that T_{ij} are open in $C(N, M)$.

Claim. For any $h \in B_\varrho(g, \delta_0)$, $\eta > 0$ and $i, j \geq 1$ there exists $h_{ij} \in T_{ij} \cap B_\varrho(h, \eta) \cap B_\varrho(g, \delta_0)$ which is η -homotopic to h .

Indeed, $h \in B_\varrho(g, \delta_0)$ and $\delta_0 \leq \varepsilon_0$ imply that $h(N_j) \subset W_j$ and $h(N) \cap W_\nu = \emptyset$ if $\nu \neq \nu(j)$ for all j . Let $\eta_1 = \min\{\eta, \delta_0 - \varrho(g(x), h(x)) : x \in N\}$. Since $h|_{N_j}$ is simplicially factorizable (as a map whose domain is a polyhedron), $W_j \in AP(n_j, 0)$ and Z_{ij} is a compact subset of N_j with $\dim Z_{ij} \leq n_j - 1$, according to Proposition 2.4, there is a map $h' : N_j \rightarrow W_j$ which is η_1 -homotopic to $h|_{N_j}$ and the union of all non-trivial components of the fibers of h' is disjoint from Z_{ij} . By the Homotopy Extension Theorem, h' admits an extension $h_{ij} \in C(N, M)$ with h_{ij} being η_1 -homotopic to h . Obviously, $h_{ij} \in T_{ij}$ and $h_{ij} \in B_\varrho(g, \delta_0)$.

The above claim allows us to apply Lemma 2.2 for the set $B_\varrho(g, \delta_0)$ and the sequence $\{T_{ij}\}_{i,j \geq 1}$ to obtain a map $h_1 \in C(N, M)$ such that $h_1 \in \bigcap_{i,j=1}^\infty T_{ij}$ and h_1 is δ_0 -homotopic to g . Let $h_2 : p^{-1}(L_0 \cup B) \rightarrow M$ be defined by $h_2(x) = g_0(x)$ if $x \in p^{-1}(B)$ and $h_2(x) = h_1(x)$ if $x \in p^{-1}(L_0)$. Obviously, h_2 is δ_0 -homotopic to g . Since $L_0 \cup B$ is a subpolyhedron of L and p is a simplicial map, $p^{-1}(L_0 \cup B)$ is a subpolyhedron of N . Then, by the Homotopy Extension Theorem, there

exists a map $g_q \in C(N, M)$ extending h_2 with g_q being δ_0 -homotopic to g .

It remains only to show that $g_q \in \mathcal{H}_p(y, 1/q, 1/q)$ for all $y \in L$. This is true if $y \in V$. Indeed, then y belongs to some $V_{y(i)}$. Since $g_q|_{V_{y(i)}}$ is δ_0 -close to $g|_{V_{y(i)}}$ and $\delta_0 \leq \delta_{y(i)}$, $g_q \in \mathcal{H}_p(y, 1/q, 1/q)$ according to the choice of $V_{y(i)}$ and $\delta_{y(i)}$. If $y \in L_0$, then $g_q|_{p^{-1}(y)} = h_1|_{p^{-1}(y)}$. Since h_1 is δ_0 -close to g and $\delta_0 \leq \varepsilon_0$, $h_1^{-1}(\overline{G}_j) \subset U_j^1 \subset N_j$ for every $j \leq k$. So, $p^{-1}(y) \cap g_q^{-1}(\overline{G}_j) = p^{-1}(y) \cap h_1^{-1}(\overline{G}_j) = p_j^{-1}(y) \cap g_q^{-1}(\overline{G}_j)$, $j \leq k$. On the other hand, $h_1 \in \bigcap_{i,j=1}^{\infty} T_{ij}$ implies that every restriction $h_1|_{h_1^{-1}(\overline{G}_j)}: h_1^{-1}(\overline{G}_j) \rightarrow \overline{G}_j$ has the following property: the union of all non-trivial components of the fibers of $h_1|_{h_1^{-1}(\overline{G}_j)}$ is contained in $N_j \setminus Z_j$. Hence, the union of all non-trivial components of the fibers of $g_q|_{p^{-1}(y) \cap g_q^{-1}(\overline{G}_j)}$ is contained in $p_j^{-1}(y) \setminus Z_j$. Since $\dim p_j^{-1}(y) \setminus Z_j \leq m - n_{\nu(j)}$, every $g_q|_{p^{-1}(y) \cap g_q^{-1}(\overline{G}_j)}$ is an $(m - n_{\nu(j)})$ -dimensional Lelek map. But $g_q(N)$ doesn't meet any \overline{G}_ν except for $\nu \in \{\nu(j) : j = 1, \dots, k\}$. Therefore, $g_q \in \mathcal{H}_p(y, 1/i, 1/i)$ for every $i \geq 1$. \square

Lemma 3.6. *Let $B \subset L$ be a subcomplex of L and $g_0 \in C(N, M)$ be a map such that $g_0 \in \mathcal{H}_p(B) = \bigcap_{i \geq 1} \mathcal{H}_p(B, 1/i, 1/i)$. Then, for every $\delta > 0$ there exists $\overline{g}_0 \in \mathcal{H}_p(L)$ which is δ -homotopic to g_0 and $\overline{g}_0|_{p^{-1}(B)} = g_0|_{p^{-1}(B)}$*

Proof. Each set $\mathcal{H}_p(L, 1/i, 1/i)$ is open in $C(N, M)$ according to Proposition 3.3. So, by Lemma 3.5, we can apply Lemma 2.2 (with $U(i)$ being in our case $\mathcal{H}_p(L, 1/i, 1/i)$ and $A = p^{-1}(B)$) to find a map $\overline{g}_0 \in \bigcap_{i \geq 1} \mathcal{H}_p(L, 1/i, 1/i)$ which is δ -homotopic to g_0 and $\overline{g}_0|_{p^{-1}(B)} = g_0|_{p^{-1}(B)}$. Finally, $\overline{g}_0 \in \mathcal{H}_p(L)$ because $\mathcal{H}_p(L) = \bigcap_{i \geq 1} \mathcal{H}_p(L, 1/i, 1/i)$. \square

Next proposition completes the proof of Theorem 3.1. We suppose that $p: N \rightarrow L$ is a perfect m -dimensional PL -map between simplicial complexes, (M, ρ) a complete metric space and $\mu = \{W_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$, $\mu_1 = \{G_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$ are locally finite open covers of M with $\overline{G}_\nu \subset W_\nu$ and $W_\nu \in AP(n_\nu, 0)$ for every $\nu \in \Lambda$, where $n_\nu \leq m$ are integers. If $B \subset A \subset L$, denote by $\mathcal{H}_p(A, B)$ the set of the maps $g \in C(p^{-1}(A), M)$ such that $g|_{g^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu) \cap p^{-1}(y)}: g^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu) \cap p^{-1}(y) \rightarrow \overline{G}_\nu$ is $(m - n_\nu)$ -dimensional Lelek map for every $\nu \in \Lambda$ and $y \in B$. When $A = B$, we write $\mathcal{H}_p(B)$ instead of $\mathcal{H}_p(A, B)$.

Proposition 3.7. *Let $p: N \rightarrow L$ and (M, ρ) be as above. Then the set $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is homotopically dense in $C(N, M)$.*

Proof. As usual, the simplicial complexes N and L are equipped with the CW -topology. But when consider a diameter of any subset of N

we mean the diameter with respect to the standard metric generating the metric topology of N . According to the notations in this section, for every sets $B \subset A \subset L$ and $\varepsilon, \eta > 0$, let $\mathcal{H}_p(A, B, \varepsilon, \eta)$ be the set of all $g \in C(p^{-1}(A), M)$ such that any $d_{m-n_\nu}(F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)) < \eta$ for all $y \in B$ and $\nu \in \Lambda$. Although the domain of g is the set A (not the whole space N), we use the same notation $F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)$ to denote the union of all continua $C \subset p^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(z_C)$ with $z_C \in \overline{G}_\nu$ and $\text{diam} C \geq \varepsilon$. Let us also denote by $\mathcal{H}_p(A, B)$ the set of the maps $g \in C(p^{-1}(A), M)$ such that $g|_{g^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu) \cap p^{-1}(y)} : g^{-1}(\overline{G}_\nu) \cap p^{-1}(y) \rightarrow \overline{G}_\nu$ is an $(m - n_\nu)$ -dimensional Lelek map for every $\nu \in \Lambda$ and $y \in B$. This means that $\dim F_\nu(g, y) \leq m - n_\nu$ for any $y \in B$ and $\nu \in \Lambda$, where $F_\nu(g, y) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_\nu(g, 1/i, y)$. It is easily seen that $\mathcal{H}_p(A, B) = \bigcap_{i \geq 1} \mathcal{H}_p(A, B, 1/i, 1/i)$.

Now, let us finish the proof of Proposition 3.7. Fix $g \in C(N, M)$ and $\delta \in C(N, (0, 1])$. We are going to find $h \in \mathcal{H}_p(L)$ which is δ -homotopic to g . To this end, let $L^{(i)}$, $i \geq 0$, denote the i -dimensional skeleton of L and $L^{(-1)} = \emptyset$. We put $h_{-1} = g$ and construct inductively a sequence $(h_i : N \rightarrow M)_{i \geq 0}$ of maps such that

- $h_i|_{p^{-1}(L^{(i-1)})} = h_{i-1}|_{p^{-1}(L^{(i-1)})}$;
- h_i is $\frac{\delta}{2^{i+2}}$ -homotopic to h_{i-1} ;
- $h_i \in \mathcal{H}_p(L, L^{(i)})$.

Assuming that the map $h_{i-1} : N \rightarrow M$ has been constructed, consider the complement $L^{(i)} \setminus L^{(i-1)} = \sqcup_{j \in J_i} \overset{\circ}{\sigma}_j$, which is the discrete union of open i -dimensional simplexes. Since $h_{i-1}|_{\sigma_j}$ belongs to $\mathcal{H}_p(\sigma_j, \sigma_j^{(i-1)})$ for any simplex $\sigma_j \in L^{(i)}$, we can apply Lemma 3.6 to find a map $g_j : p^{-1}(\sigma_j) \rightarrow M$ such that

- g_j coincides with h_{i-1} on the set $p^{-1}(\sigma_j^{(i-1)})$;
- g_j is $\frac{\delta}{2^{i+2}}$ -homotopic to h_{i-1} ;
- $g_j \in \mathcal{H}_p(\sigma_j, \sigma_j)$.

Next, define a map $q_i : p^{-1}(L^{(i)}) \rightarrow M$ by the formula

$$q_i(x) = \begin{cases} h_{i-1}(x) & \text{if } x \in p^{-1}(L^{(i-1)}); \\ g_j(x) & \text{if } x \in p^{-1}(\sigma_j). \end{cases}$$

It can be shown that q_i is $\frac{\delta}{2^{i+2}}$ -homotopic to $h_{i-1}|_{p^{-1}(L^{(i)})}$. Since $p^{-1}(L^{(i)})$ is a subpolyhedron of N , we can apply the Homotopy Extension Theorem to find a continuous extension $h_i : N \rightarrow M$ of the map

q_i which is $\frac{\delta}{2^{i+2}}$ -homotopic to h_{i-1} . Moreover, $h_i \in \mathcal{H}_p(L, L^{(i)})$ because $h_{i-1} \in \mathcal{H}_p(L, L^{(i-1)})$ and $g_j \in \mathcal{H}_p(\sigma_j, \sigma_j)$ for any j . This completes the inductive step.

Then the limit map $h = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} h_i : N \rightarrow M$ is well-defined, continuous and δ -homotopic to g (the last two properties of h hold because h has this properties for any simplex from N and because of the definition of the CW -topology on N). Finally, since $h|_{p^{-1}(L^{(i)})} = h_i|_{p^{-1}(L^{(i)})}$ and $h_i \in \mathcal{H}_p(L, L^{(i)})$ for every i , $h \in \mathcal{H}_p(L)$. \square

4. ALMOST $AE(n, 0)$ -SPACES

We already observed that if M is an LC^n -space, then $M \in AP(n, 0)$ if and only if M has the following property:

- for every map $g \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$ and every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a 0-dimensional map $g' \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$ which is ε -close to g .

Any space having the above property will be referred as *almost $AP(n, 0)$* . Obviously, every LC^{n-1} almost $AP(n, 0)$ -space has the $AP(n-1, 0)$ -property.

We are going to establish an analogue of Theorem 3.1 for almost $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces.

Lemma 4.1. *Every complete LC^{n-1} -space M admits a complete metric ϱ generating its topology and satisfying the following condition: If Z is an n -dimensional space, $A \subset Z$ its closed set and $h : Z \rightarrow M$, then for every function $\alpha : Z \rightarrow (0, 1]$ and every map $g : A \rightarrow M$ with $\varrho(g(z), h(z)) < \alpha(z)/8$ for all $z \in A$ there exists a map $\bar{g} : Z \rightarrow M$ extending g such that $\varrho(\bar{g}(z), h(z)) < \alpha(z)$ for all $z \in Z$.*

Proof. We embed M in a Banach space E as a closed subset. Since the Hilbert cube is the image of the n -dimensional Menger compactum under an n -invertible map [7], we can find a metric space $E(n)$ with $\dim E(n) \leq n$ and a perfect n -invertible surjection $p : E(n) \rightarrow E$. Here, p is n -invertible means that every map from at most n -dimensional space into E can be lifted to a map into $E(n)$.

Since $M \in LC^{n-1}$, there exist a neighborhood W of M in E and a map $q : p^{-1}(W) \rightarrow M$ extending the restriction $p|_{p^{-1}(M)}$. For every open $U \subset M$ let $T(U) = W \setminus p(q^{-1}(M \setminus U))$. Obviously, $T(U) \subset W$ is open, $T(U) \cap M = U$ and $q(p^{-1}(T(U))) = U$. The family \mathcal{T} has the following properties: (i) for any $z \in M$ and its neighborhood U in M there is a neighborhood $V \subset U$ of z with $(U, V) \in \mathcal{T}$; (ii) for any $(U, V) \in \mathcal{T}$ and open sets $U', V' \subset M$ we have $(U', V') \in \mathcal{T}$ provided $U \subset U'$ and $V' \subset V$. By [6, Proposition 2.3], there exists a complete

metric ϱ on M such that for every $z \in M$ and $r \in (0, 1)$ the pair of open balls $(B_\varrho(z, r), (B_\varrho(z, r/8)))$ belongs to \mathcal{T} .

Suppose we are given an n -dimensional space Z , its closed subset $A \subset Z$ and two maps $h: Z \rightarrow M$ and $g: A \rightarrow M$ such that $\varrho(g(z), h(z)) < \alpha(z)/8$ for all $z \in A$, where $\alpha \in C(Z, (0, 1])$. Consider the set-valued map $\phi: Z \rightarrow E$, $\phi(z) = g(z)$ if $z \in A$ and $\phi(z) = \overline{\text{conv}(B_\varrho(h(z), \alpha(z)/8))}$ if $z \notin A$. Then ϕ is lower semi-continuous and has closed and convex values in E . So, by the Michael convex-valued selection theorem [18], ϕ has a continuous selection g_1 . Next, we lift g_1 to a map $g_2: Z \rightarrow E(n)$. According to the definition of \mathcal{T} , every $p^{-1}(\overline{\text{conv}(B_\varrho(h(z), \alpha(z)/8)))}$ is contained in $q^{-1}(B_\varrho(h(z), \alpha(z)))$. Hence, $\bar{g} = q \circ g_2$ is the required extension of g . \square

We also need the following lemma whose proof is similar to that one of Lemma 2.2.

Lemma 4.2. *Let $G \subset C(X, M)$, where (M, ϱ) is a complete metric space. Suppose $(U(i))_{i \geq 1}$ is a sequence of open subsets of $C(X, M)$ such that*

- *for any $g \in G$, $i \geq 1$ and any function $\eta \in C(X, (0, 1])$ there exists $g_i \in B_\varrho(g, \eta) \cap U(i) \cap G$ which is η -close to g .*

Then, for any $g \in G$ and $\varepsilon: X \rightarrow (0, 1]$ there exists $g' \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} U(i)$ which is ε -close to g . If in addition all g_i can be chosen such that $g_i|_A = g_0|_A$ for some $g_0 \in C(X, M)$ and $A \subset X$, then $g'|_A = g_0|_A$.

Next two propositions are analogues of Proposition 2.3 and Proposition 2.4.

Proposition 4.3. *Let M be a complete LC^{n-1} almost $AP(n, 0)$ -space. Then for every n -dimensional compactum X there exists a dense G_δ -subset $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ of 0-dimensional maps.*

Proof. First of all, let us note that since $\dim X \leq n$ and M is LC^{n-1} , the set of all simplicially factorizable maps from $C(X, M)$ is dense in $C(X, M)$. Analyzing the proof of Proposition 2.3 and using Lemma 4.2 instead of Lemma 2.2, one can see that it suffices to establish the following claim:

Claim. *If K is a finite n -dimensional polyhedron, then every map $g: K \rightarrow M$ can be approximated by a 0-dimensional map $g': K \rightarrow M$.*

Since the sets $C(K, M; \eta)$ consisting of maps $g \in C(K, M)$ with $d_0(g^{-1}(g(x))) < \eta$, $\eta > 0$, are open in $C(K, M)$, according to Lemma 4.2, it is enough to show that for every $g \in C(K, M)$ and $\eta > 0$ there exists $g' \in C(K, M; \eta)$ which is η -close to g . To this end, we equipped M with a complete metric satisfying the hypotheses of Lemma 4.1 and

fix $0 < \eta \leq 1$ and $g \in C(K, M)$. Since $M \in AP(n-1, 0)$, there exists a 0-dimensional map $h: K^{(n-1)} \rightarrow M$ which is $\varepsilon/16$ -close to $g|K^{(n-1)}$. Here, $K^{(n-1)}$ is the $(n-1)$ -dimensional skeleton of K . By Lemma 4.1, h can be extended to a map $\bar{h} \in C(K, M)$ with $\varrho(\bar{h}(x), g(x)) < \eta/2$ for all $x \in K$. Let σ_j , $j = 1, \dots, k$, be all n -dimensional simplexes of K . Then $K \setminus K^{(n-1)}$ is a disjoint union of the open simplexes $\overset{\circ}{\sigma}_j$. Let $K_i = K^{(n-1)} \bigcup_{j=1}^{j=i} \sigma_j$, $i = 1, \dots, k$. We are going to construct by induction maps $h_i: K \rightarrow M$, $i = 0, \dots, k$, satisfying the following conditions:

- $h_0 = \bar{h}$;
- $h_i|K_i$ belongs to $C(K_i, M; \eta)$, $1 \leq i \leq k$;
- h_i and h_{i+1} are $(\eta/2k)$ -close, $i = 0, \dots, k-1$.

Assume that h_i has already been constructed. Since $h_i|K_i$ belongs to $C(K_i, M; \eta)$, every fiber $h_i^{-1}(y) \cap K_i$ of $h_i|K_i$, $y \in h_i(K_i)$, is covered by a finite open and disjoint family $\Omega(y)$ in K_i with $\text{mesh}(\Omega(y)) < \eta$. Using that $h_i(K_i)$ is compact, we find $0 < \delta_i < \eta/2k$ such that if $\varrho(y, h_i(K_i)) < \delta_i$ for some $y \in M$, then there is $z \in h_i(K_i)$ with $h_i^{-1}(B_\varrho(y, \delta_i)) \cap K_i \subset \Omega(z)$. Since M is almost $AP(n, 0)$, there exists a 0-dimensional map $p_i: \sigma_{i+1} \rightarrow M$ which is $\delta_i/8$ -close to $h_i|_{\sigma_{i+1}}$. By Lemma 4.1, p_i can be extended to a map $h_{i+1}: K \rightarrow M$ being δ_i -close to h_i . To show that $h_{i+1}|K_{i+1}$ belongs to $C(K_{i+1}, M; \eta)$, we observe that $h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_{i+1} = (h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i) \cup (h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap \sigma_{i+1})$, $y \in M$. According to our construction, we have $h_i(h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i) \subset B_\varrho(y, \delta_i) \cap h_i(K_i)$. Hence, $h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i \subset h_i^{-1}(B_\varrho(y, \delta_i)) \cap K_i \subset \Omega(z)$ for some $z \in h_i(K_i)$. Therefore, $d_0(h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_i) < \eta$. Since $h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap \sigma_{i+1}$ is 0-dimensional, Lemma 2.1 implies that $d_0(h_{i+1}^{-1}(y) \cap K_{i+1}) < \eta$. Obviously $h_k \in C(K, M; \eta)$ and h_k is $\eta/2$ -close to \bar{h} . Hence, $g' = h_k$ is η -close to g . This completes the proof of the claim. \square

Proposition 4.4. *Let M be a complete LC^{n-1} almost $AP(n, 0)$ -space. Then for every n -dimensional compactum X and its F_σ -subset Z with $\dim Z \leq n-1$ there exists a dense G_δ -subset $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ of maps g such that Z is contained in the union of trivial components of the fibers of g .*

Proof. Following the proof of Proposition 2.4 and using Lemma 4.2 and Proposition 4.3 instead of Lemma 2.2 and Proposition 2.3, respectively, it suffices to prove the following analogue of Claim 1 from Proposition 2.4.

Claim. *Suppose X is a finite n -dimensional polyhedron and Z a subpolyhedron of X with $\dim Z \leq n-1$. Then for every $g_0 \in C(X, M)$ and $\delta > 0$ there exists $g \in \mathcal{H} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}(Z, 1/i)$ which is δ -close to g_0 .*

Here, $\mathcal{H}(Z, 1/i)$ is the set of all $g \in C(X, M)$ with $F(g, 1/i) \cap Z = \emptyset$. We follow the proof of Claim 1, Proposition 2.4 and use the same notations. The first difference is that we take W to be a neighborhood of Z in X such that $g_0|W$ and $(g_0 \circ r)|W$ are $\delta/16$ -close. Then, $(g_0 \circ \pi \circ \varphi)|W$ is $\delta/16$ -close to $g_0|W$. Next, we use by Proposition 4.3 to choose a 0-dimensional map $h: Z \times \mathbb{I} \rightarrow M$ which is $\delta/16$ -close to $g_0 \circ \pi$. So, $(h \circ \varphi)|W$ is $\delta/8$ -close to $g_0|W$. Finally, take a neighborhood U of Z in X with $\bar{U} \subset W$, and use Lemma 4.1 to find an extension $g \in C(X, M)$ of $(h \circ \varphi)|\bar{U}$ with g being δ -close to g_0 . Then $g \in \mathcal{H}$. \square

We can establish now an analogue of Theorem 3.1 for almost $AE(n, 0)$ -spaces. If $z \in M$ with M being metrizable, we denote by $w_{(z, M)}$ the maximum of all k such that z has a neighborhood U in M with U being almost $AP(k, 0)$.

Theorem 4.5. *Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a perfect map between metrizable spaces with $\dim X \leq n$ and M is a complete LC^{n-1} -space. Then there is a dense G_δ -set $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ consisting of maps g satisfying the following condition: each $z \in M$ has a neighborhood G_z such that for every $y \in Y$ the restriction $g|(f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(\bar{G}_z))$ is an $(n - w_{(z, M)})$ -dimensional Lelek map from $f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(\bar{G}_z)$ into \bar{G}_z .*

Proof. We follow the notations and the proof of Theorem 3.1. We fix locally finite open covers $\mu = \{W_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$ and $\mu_1 = \{G_\nu : \nu \in \Lambda\}$ of M with $\bar{G}_\nu \subset W_\nu$ and W_ν being almost $AP(w_\nu, 0)$ for every $\nu \in \Lambda$, $w_\nu \leq n$. It suffices to find a dense G_δ -set $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ such that for every $g \in \mathcal{H}$, $y \in Y$ and $\nu \in \Lambda$ the restriction $g|(f^{-1}(y) \cap g^{-1}(\bar{G}_\nu))$ is an $(n - w_\nu)$ -dimensional Lelek map. For every $y \in Y$, $\varepsilon, \eta > 0$, $\nu \in \Lambda$ we denote by $\mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ the set of all $g \in C(X, M)$ such that $d_{n-w_\nu}(F_\nu(g, \varepsilon, y)) < \eta$ for every $\nu \in \Lambda$. If $F \subset Y$, let $\mathcal{H}(F, \varepsilon, \eta)$ be the intersection of all $\mathcal{H}(y, \varepsilon, \eta)$, $y \in F$. A statement analogical to that one of Lemma 3.2 holds and, as in Proposition 3.3, we can show that any $\mathcal{H}(F, \varepsilon, \eta)$ is open in $C(X, M)$, where $F \subset Y$ is closed.

Since $\dim X \leq n$, we can suppose that the simplicial complex K in Proposition 3.4 is n -dimensional. So, we can apply Proposition 3.4 in the present situation to show that any $\mathcal{H}(Y, \varepsilon, \eta)$ is dense in $C(X, M)$ provided for any perfect PL map $p: N \rightarrow L$ with $\dim N \leq n$ the set $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is dense in $C(N, M)$. Here, $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is the set of all maps $q: N \rightarrow M$ such that $q|q^{-1}(\bar{G}_\nu) \cap p^{-1}(z)$ is an $(n - w_\nu)$ -dimensional Lelek map for every $\nu \in \Lambda$ and $z \in L$. Hence, it remains to show that $\mathcal{H}_p(L)$ is dense in $C(N, M)$ for any PL -map $p: N \rightarrow L$ with $\dim N \leq n$. And this follows from the proof of Lemma 3.5, Lemma 3.6 and Proposition 3.7 with the only difference that now we replace

the application of Lemma 2.2, Proposition 2.3 and Proposition 2.4 by Lemma 4.2, Proposition 4.3 and Proposition 4.4, respectively. \square

Corollary 4.6. *Let M be a complete LC^{n-1} -space such that each point $z \in M$ has a neighborhood which is almost $AP(n, 0)$. Then for every perfect map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ between metric spaces with $\dim X \leq n$ there is a dense G_δ -set $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ consisting of maps g such that every restriction $g|_{f^{-1}(y)}$, $y \in Y$, is a 0-dimensional map.*

Any manifold M modeled on the n -dimensional Menger cube has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property, see Corollary 6.5 below. So, Theorem 1.1 holds for such a space M . But Theorem 1.1 does not provide any information about the density of the set \mathcal{H} in $C(X, M)$ except that every simplicially factorizable map in $C(X, M)$ can be approximated by maps from \mathcal{H} . Next proposition shows that, in this special case, the set \mathcal{H} is dense in $C(X, M)$ with respect to the uniform convergence topology.

Proposition 4.7. *Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a perfect map between metrizable spaces with $\dim \Delta(f) \leq m$ and M be a manifold modeled on the n -dimensional Menger cube. Then there is a G_δ -set $\mathcal{H} \subset C(X, M)$ dense in $C(X, M)$ with respect to the uniform convergence topology such that for any $g \in \mathcal{H}$ and $y \in Y$ the restriction $g|_{f^{-1}(y)}$ is an $(m - n)$ -dimensional Lelek map.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{H} be the set from the proof of Theorem 3.1. To show that \mathcal{H} is dense in $C(X, M)$ equipped with the uniform convergence topology, we used an idea from the proof of [12, Corollary 2.8]. For fixed $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a polyhedron $P \subset M$ and maps $u: M \rightarrow P$ and $v: P \rightarrow M$ such that u is a retraction, v is 0-dimensional, $v \circ u$ is $\varepsilon/2$ -close to the identity id_M and P is of piecewise embedding dimension n . Since every ANR of piecewise embedding dimension n has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property (see [12, Proposition 2.1]), according to Theorem 3.1, for every $g \in C(X, M)$ there is $g': X \rightarrow P$ such that g' is δ -close to $u \circ g$ and $g'|_{f^{-1}(y)}$ is an $(m - n)$ -dimensional Lelek map for all $y \in Y$. Here $\delta > 0$ is chosen such that $\text{dist}(v(x), v(y)) < \varepsilon/2$ for any $x, y \in P$ which are δ -close. Then $v \circ g'$ is ε -close to g and since v is 0-dimensional, $v \circ g' \in \mathcal{H}$. \square

5. PROPERTIES OF $AP(n, 0)$ -SPACES

In this section we investigate the class of $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces.

Lemma 5.1. *Let K be a polyhedron of dimension $\leq n$ and $L \subset K$ a subpolyhedron. Suppose (X, ϱ) is a complete metric space possessing the $AP(n, 0)$ -property and $g_0 \in C(K, X)$ with $\dim g_0^{-1}(g_0(x)) \leq 0$ for*

all $x \in L$. Then for every $\delta > 0$ there exists a 0-dimensional map $g: K \rightarrow X$ which is δ -homotopic to g_0 and $g|L = g_0|L$.

Proof. We already observed in Section 2 that all sets $C(K, X, \varepsilon)$, $\varepsilon > 0$, consisting of maps $h \in C(K, X)$ with $d_0(h^{-1}(h(x))) < \varepsilon$ for every $x \in K$ are open in $C(K, X)$. Since every map from $C(K, X)$ is simplicially factorizable, $C(K, X, \varepsilon)$ are homotopically dense in $C(K, X)$ according to Proposition 2.3.

Claim 1. For every $x \in L$ and $j \geq 1$ there exist $\varepsilon_x > 0$ and a neighborhood U_x of x in K satisfying the following condition: If $h \in C(K, X)$ and $Z \subset K$ with $\varrho(g_0(y), h(y)) < \varepsilon_x$ for all $y \in Z \cup \overline{U}_x$, then $d_0(h^{-1}(h(y)) \cap Z) < 1/j$ for any $y \in \overline{U}_x$.

The proof of this claim is similar to the proof of Lemma 3.2 below.

Claim 2. Let $h \in C(K, X)$ with $h|L = g_0|L$. Then, for every $\eta > 0$ and $j \geq 1$ there exists $h_j \in C(K, X, 1/j)$ such that $h_j|L = g_0|L$ and h_j is η -homotopic to h .

We fix j and $\eta > 0$. Choose finitely many points $x(i) \in L$, $i \leq k$, positive reals $\varepsilon_{x(i)}$ and neighborhoods $U(x_i)$ in K satisfying the hypotheses of Claim 1 such that $L \subset U = \bigcup_{i \leq k} U(x_i)$. Taking a smaller neighborhood, if necessarily, we can suppose that $\varrho(g_0(x), h(x)) < \eta_1/2$ for all $x \in \overline{U}$, where $\eta_1 = \min\{\eta, \varepsilon_{x(i)} : i \leq k\}$. Consider a triangulation T of K such that $\sigma \in T$ and $\sigma \cap K \setminus U \neq \emptyset$ imply $\sigma \cap L = \emptyset$. Now, let N be the subpolyhedron of K given by $N = \cup\{\sigma \in T : \sigma \cap K \setminus U \neq \emptyset\}$. Obviously, N and L are disjoint. Since $X \in AP(n, 0)$ and $\dim N \leq n$, by Proposition 2.3, there exists a 0-dimensional map $g_N \in C(N, X)$ which is $\eta_1/2$ -homotopic to $h|N$ (we can apply Proposition 2.3 because $h|N$ is simplicially factorizable as a map with a polyhedral domain). The map $h': N \cup L \rightarrow X$, $h'|N = g_N$ and $h'|L = g_0|L$, is $\eta_1/2$ -homotopic to $h|(N \cup L)$. So, by the Homotopy Extension Theorem, h' admits an extension $h_j: K \rightarrow X$ which is $\eta_1/2$ -homotopic to h . It remains only to show that $d_0(h_j^{-1}(h_j(x))) < 1/j$ for any $x \in K$. To this end, observe that $\varrho(g_0(x), h_j(x)) < \eta_1$ for all $x \in \overline{U}$. Because $K = N \cup \overline{U}$, for every $x \in K$ we have $h_j^{-1}(h_j(x)) = (h_j^{-1}(h_j(x)) \cap N) \cup (h_j^{-1}(h_j(x)) \cap \overline{U})$. Since $h_j|N = g_N$ and g_N is 0-dimensional, $\dim h_j^{-1}(h_j(x)) \cap N \leq 0$. On the other hand, $h_j^{-1}(h_j(x)) \cap \overline{U} = h_j^{-1}(h_j(y)) \cap \overline{U}$ for some $y \in \overline{U}$. So, there exists $m \leq k$ with $y \in \overline{U}_{x(m)}$. Since $h_j|_{\overline{U}}$ is η_1 -close to $g_0|_{\overline{U}}$, $\varrho(g_0(z), h_j(z)) < \varepsilon_{x(m)}$ for all $z \in \overline{U}$. Hence, according to the choice of $U_{x(m)}$ and $\varepsilon_{x(m)}$, $d_0(h_j^{-1}(h_j(y)) \cap \overline{U}) < 1/j$. Therefore, $d_0(h_j^{-1}(h_j(x)) \cap \overline{U}) < 1/j$. Finally, by Lemma 2.1, $d_0(h_j^{-1}(h_j(x))) < 1/j$. This completes the proof of Claim 2.

We are in a position to complete the proof of Lemma 5.1. Because of Claim 2, we can apply Lemma 2.2 (with G being in our case the set $\{h \in C(K, X) : h|L = g_0|L\}$ and $U(j) = C(K, X, 1/j)$) to obtain a map $g \in \bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} C(K, X, 1/j)$ such that $g|L = g_0|L$ and g is δ -homotopic to g_0 . Obviously, $g \in \bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} C(K, X, 1/j)$ yields $\dim g \leq 0$. \square

Proposition 5.2. *For any space X we have:*

- (1) *If X has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property, then every open subset of X also has this property.*
- (2) *If X is completely metrizable, then X has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property if and only if it admits a cover by open subsets with that property.*

Proof. To prove the first item, suppose U is an open subset of $X \in AP(n, 0)$, $\mathcal{U} \in \text{cov}(U)$ and $g \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, U)$. Let $\mathcal{U}' = \mathcal{U} \cup \{X \setminus g(\mathbb{I}^n)\}$. Since $X \in AP(n, 0)$, there is a 0-dimensional map $g' \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$ such that g' is \mathcal{U}' -homotopic to g . Then $g'(\mathbb{I}^n) \subset U$ and there exists a \mathcal{U} -homotopy $h: \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow U$ joining g and g' .

According to Michael's theorem on local properties [17], the second item will be established if we show that: (i) A space has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property provided X is a discrete sum of spaces with the same property; (ii) A completely metrizable space has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property provided it is a union of two open subspaces with this property. Condition (i) trivially follows from the definition. Let us check condition (ii).

Suppose X is a completely metrizable space and $X = X_0 \cup X_1$ is the union of two open subspaces $X_1, X_2 \subset X$ with the $AP(n, 0)$ -property. Fix an open cover \mathcal{U} of X and a map $g: \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X$ and choose two open sets $W_1, W_2 \subset X$ such that $X = W_1 \cup W_2$ and $W_i \subset \bar{W}_i \subset X_i$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Next, find a complete metric ϱ on X such that

- $\varrho(X \setminus W_1, X \setminus W_2) \geq 1$;
- $B_{\varrho}(\bar{W}_i, 1) \subset X_i$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$ and
- each set of diameter < 1 in (X, ϱ) lies in some $U \in \mathcal{U}$.

Let $V = V_1 \cap V_2$, where $V_i = B_{\varrho}(\bar{W}_i, 1/2)$, $i = 1, 2$, and choose a triangulation T of \mathbb{I}^n such that for any simplex $\sigma \in T$ we have $\text{diam}g(\sigma) < 1/4$. Now, consider the polyhedra

$$K_i = \cup\{\sigma \in T : g(\sigma) \cap \bar{W}_i \neq \emptyset\}, i \in \{1, 2\}$$

and

$$L_2 = \cup\{\sigma \in T : g(\sigma) \cap \bar{W}_2 \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Obviously, $g(K_i) \subset V_i \subset \overline{V}_i \subset X_i$, $i = 1, 2$. So, $g(K_0) \subset V$, where $K_0 = K_1 \cap K_2$. Moreover, we have

$$K_2 \subset g^{-1}(V_2) \subset \overline{g^{-1}(V_2)} \subset L_2 \subset g^{-1}(X_2)$$

and

$$K_0 \subset g^{-1}(V) \subset L_2.$$

Choose now positive $\delta \leq \min\{\varrho(g(L_2), X \setminus X_2), \varrho(g(K_1), X \setminus X_1), 1/2\}$ such that

$$h^{-1}(h(K_0)) \subset g^{-1}(V)$$

for any $h \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$ which is δ -close to g .

Since $X_2 \in AP(n, 0)$ and L_2 is a polyhedron of dimension $\leq n$, by Proposition 2.3, there exists a 0-dimensional map $g_2: L_2 \rightarrow X_2$ which is δ -homotopic to $g|L_2$. Next, by the Homotopy Extension Theorem, g_2 can be extended to a map $\overline{g}_2 \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$ δ -homotopic to g . According to the choice of δ , $\overline{g}_2(L_2) \subset X_2$, $\overline{g}_2(K_1) \subset X_1$ and $(\overline{g}_2)^{-1}(\overline{g}_2(K_0)) \subset g^{-1}(V) \subset L_2$. Hence, the restriction $g_0 = \overline{g}_2|K_1$ is a map from K_1 into X_1 and, for every $x \in K_0$, we have $g_0^{-1}(g_0(x)) \subset g_2^{-1}(g_2(x))$. The last inclusion implies that $\dim g_0^{-1}(g_0(x)) \leq 0$ for all $x \in K_0$ because g_2 is 0-dimensional. Since $X_1 \in AP(n, 0)$, we can apply Lemma 5.1 (for the polyhedra $K_0 \subset K_1$ and the map g_0) to obtain a 0-dimensional map $g_1 \in C(K_1, X_1)$ such that $g_1|K_0 = g_0$ and g_1 is $1/2$ -homotopic to g_0 . Finally, consider the map $g_{12} \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$ defined by $g_{12}|K_1 = g_1$ and $g_{12}|K_2 = g_2|K_2$. Since both g_1 and g_2 are 0-dimensional, so is g_{12} . Moreover, g_{12} is 1-homotopic to g because $\delta \leq 1/2$. So, according to the choice of ϱ , g_{12} is \mathcal{U} -homotopic to g . \square

Proposition 5.3. *If X and Y are complete metric spaces such that $X \in AP(n, 0)$ and $Y \in AP(m, 0)$, then $X \times Y \in AP(n + m, 0)$.*

Proof. Let ϱ_X and ϱ_Y be complete metrics on X and Y , respectively. We fix $g \in C(\mathbb{I}^{n+m}, X \times Y)$ and consider the complete metric $\varrho = \max\{\varrho_X, \varrho_Y\}$ on $X \times Y$. It suffices to show that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a 0-dimensional map $h \in C(\mathbb{I}^{n+m}, X \times Y)$ which is ε -homotopic to g . Let $g_X = \pi_X \circ g$ and $g_Y = \pi_Y \circ g$, where π_X and π_Y are the projections from $X \times Y$ onto X and Y , respectively. We represent \mathbb{I}^{n+m} as the union $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n+m+1} A_i$ with each A_i being a 0-dimensional G_δ -subset of \mathbb{I}^{n+m} . Then $Z_X = \mathbb{I}^{n+m} \setminus \bigcup_{i=n+1}^{n+m+1} A_i$ is an F_σ -subset of \mathbb{I}^{n+m} which is contained in $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$. So, $\dim Z_X \leq n - 1$. Since $X \in AE(n, 0)$ and every map from $C(\mathbb{I}^{n+m}, X)$ is simplicially factorizable, Proposition 2.4 yields the existence of a map $h_X \in C(\mathbb{I}^{n+m}, X)$ such that h_X is ε -homotopic to g_X and $F(h_X) = \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty F(h_X, 1/j) \subset \mathbb{I}^{n+m} \setminus Z_X$. Obviously, $F(h_X)$ is an F_σ -set in \mathbb{I}^{n+m} with $F(h_X) \subset \bigcup_{i=n+1}^{n+m+1} A_i$. Hence, $Z_Y = F(h_X) \setminus A_{n+m+1}$ is also

an F_σ -set in \mathbb{I}^{n+m} with $\dim F_Y \leq m - 1$. Now, since $Y \in AE(m, 0)$, we may apply again Proposition 2.4 to obtain a map $h_Y \in C(\mathbb{I}^{n+m}, Y)$ which is ε -homotopic to g_Y and $F(h_Y) = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} F(h_Y, 1/j) \subset \mathbb{I}^{n+m} \setminus Z_Y$. Then the diagonal product $h = h_X \Delta h_Y: \mathbb{I}^{n+m} \rightarrow X \times Y$ is ε -homotopic to g . It remains only to show that h is 0-dimensional. If C is a non-trivial component of a fiber of h , then $C \subset F(h_X) \cap F(h_Y) \subset F(h_X) \setminus Z_Y \subset A_{m+n+1}$. Since A_{m+n+1} is 0-dimensional, C should be a point. Therefore, all components of the fibers of h are trivial, i.e. $\dim h = 0$. \square

Finally, we are going to show that every arc-wise connected $AP(n, 0)$ -compactum is a continuum (V^n) in the sense of P. Aleksandrov. Recall that a compact metric space (M, ϱ) is a (V^n) -continuum [1] if for any pair of disjoint closed subsets A and B of M both having non-empty interior there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $d_{n-2}(C) > \varepsilon$ for every partition C in M between A and B . It is easily seen that this is a topological property, i.e., it doesn't depend on the metric ϱ . Obviously, every continuum (V^n) is a Cantor n -manifold (a compactum which is not disconnected by any $(n - 2)$ -dimensional closed subset). Moreover, any (V^n) continuum has a stronger property [10]: it cannot be decomposed into a countable union of proper closed subsets F_i with $\dim F_i \cap F_j \leq n - 2$. The compacta with the last property are called strong Cantor n -manifolds [9].

Proposition 5.4. *Every path-connected compactum $M \in AP(n, 0)$ is a continuum (V^n).*

Proof. Let A and B be disjoint closed subsets of M with non-empty interior and ϱ be a metric on M . Since M is path-connected, we can choose a map $g: \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$ such that $g(\mathbb{I}^n) \cap \text{Int}(A) \neq \emptyset \neq g(\mathbb{I}^n) \cap \text{Int}(B)$. Then there exists a 0-dimensional map $g_1: \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$ which so close to g that $g_1(\mathbb{I}^n)$ meets both $\text{Int}(A)$ and $\text{Int}(B)$. So, $A_1 = g_1^{-1}(A)$ and $B_1 = g_1^{-1}(B)$ are disjoint closed subsets of \mathbb{I}^n with non-empty interior. Since \mathbb{I}^n is a continuum (V^n) [1], there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $d_{n-2}(C_1) > \varepsilon$ for every partition $C_1 \subset \mathbb{I}^n$ between A_1 and B_1 . Because g_1 is 0-dimensional, every $y \in M$ has a neighborhood W_y such that $g_1^{-1}(W_y)$ splits into a finite disjoint family of open subsets of \mathbb{I}^n each of diameter $< \varepsilon$. Let δ be the Lebesgue number of the cover $\{W_y : y \in M\}$. Then $d_{n-2}(C) \geq \delta$ for any partition $C \subset M$ between A and B . Indeed, otherwise there would be a partition C and an open family γ_C in M of order $\leq n + 1$ such that γ_C covers C and $\text{diam}(W) < \delta$ for every $W \in \gamma_C$. Hence, $g_1^{-1}(\gamma_C)$ is an open family in \mathbb{I}^n of order $\leq n + 1$ and covering $g_1^{-1}(C)$. Moreover, each $g_1^{-1}(W)$, $W \in \gamma_C$,

splits into a finite disjoint open family consisting of sets with diameter $< \varepsilon$. Therefore, $d_{n-2}(g_1(C)) < \varepsilon$. This a contradiction because $g_1(C)$ is a partition in \mathbb{I}^n between A_1 and B_1 . \square

6. $AP(n, 0)$ -SPACES AND GENERAL POSITION PROPERTIES

The parametric general position properties were introduced in [2]. We say that a space M has the $m\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$ -property, where $m, n, k \geq 0$ are integers or ∞ , if for any open cover \mathcal{U} of M and any two maps $f : \mathbb{I}^m \times \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$, $g : \mathbb{I}^m \times \mathbb{I}^k \rightarrow M$ there exist maps $f' : \mathbb{I}^m \times \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$, $g' : \mathbb{I}^m \times \mathbb{I}^k \rightarrow M$ which are \mathcal{U} -homotopic to f and g , respectively, and $f'(\{z\} \times \mathbb{I}^n) \cap g'(\{z\} \times \mathbb{I}^k) = \emptyset$ for all $z \in \mathbb{I}^m$. It is clear that this is exactly the well known disjoint n -disks property provided $m = 0$, $n = k$ and M is LC^m . When $m = 0$, we simply write $\overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$ instead of $0\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$.

Lemma 6.1. *Let M be completely metrizable having the $\overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$ -property. Suppose X is a compactum and $A, B \subset X$ closed disjoint subsets with $\dim A \leq n$ and $\dim B \leq k$. Then every simplicially factorizable map $g : X \rightarrow M$ can be homotopically approximated by maps $g' \in C(X, M)$ such that $g'(A) \cap g'(B) = \emptyset$.*

Proof. Let $g \in C(X, M)$ be simplicially factorizable and $\delta > 0$. As in Claim 2 from the proof of Proposition 2.4, we can find a finite open cover \mathcal{U} of X such that:

- at most $n + 1$ elements of the family $\gamma_A = \{U \in \mathcal{U} : U \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$ intersect;
- at most $k + 1$ elements of the family $\gamma_B = \{U \in \mathcal{U} : U \cap B \neq \emptyset\}$ intersect;
- $\cup \gamma_A \cap \cup \gamma_B = \emptyset$;
- there exists a map $h : \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow M$ such that $h \circ f_{\mathcal{U}}$ is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to g , where $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U})$ is the nerve of \mathcal{U} and $f_{\mathcal{U}} : X \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U})$ is the natural map.

Let K_A and K_B be the subpolyhedra of $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U})$ generated by the families γ_A and γ_B , respectively. Then $\dim K_A \leq n$, $\dim K_B \leq k$ and $K_A \cap K_B = \emptyset$. For any simplexes $\sigma \in K_A$ and $\tau \in K_B$ let

$$G(\sigma, \tau) = \{p \in C(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U}), M) : p(\sigma) \cap p(\tau) = \emptyset\}.$$

Obviously, each $G(\sigma, \tau)$ is open in $C(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U}), M)$. Using $M \in \overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$ and the Homotopy Extension Theorem, one can show that all $G(\sigma, \tau)$ are homotopically dense in $C(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{U}), M)$. So, by Lemma 2.2, there exists $h' \in \bigcap \{G(\sigma, \tau) : \sigma \in K_A, \tau \in K_B\}$ which is $\delta/2$ -homotopic to h . Then $g' = h' \circ f_{\mathcal{U}}$ is δ -homotopic to g and $g'(A) \cap g'(B) = \emptyset$. \square

Proposition 6.2. *For a space X we have:*

- (1) *If X is LC^0 , then X has the $\overline{DD}^{\{0,0\}}$ -property if and only if X has no isolated point;*
- (2) *If X is completely metrizable and $X \in \overline{DD}^{\{0,0\}}$, then X has the $AP(1, 0)$ -property.*

Proof. For the first item, see [2, Proposition 7]. To proof the second item, we fix countably many closed 0-dimensional subsets P_i of \mathbb{I} consisting of irrational numbers such that $\dim \mathbb{I} \setminus \bigcup_{i \geq 1} P_i = 0$. For every rational $t \in Q$ and $i \geq 1$ let $U_i(t) = \{g \in C(\mathbb{I}, M) : g(t) \notin g(P_i)\}$. By Lemma 6.1, each $U_i(t)$ is homotopically dense in $C(\mathbb{I}, M)$. On the other hand, obviously all $U_i(t)$ are open in $C(\mathbb{I}, M)$. Therefore, by Lemma 2.2, the set $U = \bigcap \{U_i(t) : t \in Q, i \geq 1\}$ is homotopically dense in $C(\mathbb{I}, X)$. Moreover, for every $g \in U$ and $x \in \mathbb{I}$ we have the following: if $g^{-1}(g(x)) \cap Q \neq \emptyset$, then $g^{-1}(g(x)) \subset \mathbb{I} \setminus \bigcup_{i \geq 1} P_i$; if $g^{-1}(g(x)) \cap Q = \emptyset$, then $g^{-1}(g(x)) \subset \mathbb{I} \setminus Q$. Hence, U consists of 0-dimensional maps. \square

Next corollary of Propositions 5.3 and 6.2 provides more examples of $AP(n, 0)$ -spaces.

Corollary 6.3. *If M_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$, are completely metrizable LC^0 -spaces without isolated points, then $\prod_{i=1}^n M_i$ has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property.*

Here is a characterization of the $\overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$ -property.

Proposition 6.4. *A completely metrizable space M has the $\overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$ -property, where $n \leq k \leq \infty$, if and only if M satisfies the following condition (n, k) :*

- *If X is a compactum and $A \subset B \subset X$ its σ -compact subsets with $\dim A \leq n$ and $\dim B \leq k$, then any simplicially factorizable map $g \in C(X, M)$ can be homotopically approximated by maps $h \in C(X, M)$ such that $h^{-1}(h(x)) \cap B = x$ for all $x \in A$.*

Proof. Suppose $M \in \overline{DD}^{\{n,k\}}$ and let $A \subset B \subset X$ be two σ -compact subsets of a compactum X with $\dim A \leq n$ and $\dim B \leq k$. Then $A = \bigcup_{p \geq 1} A_p$ and $B = \bigcup_{m \geq 1} B_m$, where A_p and B_m are compact sets of dimension $\dim A_p \leq n$ and $\dim B_m \leq k$. For every $p, i \geq 1$ let $\omega_i(p) = \{A_{pj}(i) : j = 1, 2, \dots, s(p, i)\}$ be a family of closed subsets of A_p such that $\omega_i(p)$ covers A_p and $\text{mesh}(\omega_i(p)) < 1/i$. We also choose sequences $\{B_{mq}(p, i, j)\}_{q=1}^{\infty}$ of closed sets $B_{mq}(p, i, j) \subset B_m$ with $B_m \setminus A_{pj}(i) = \bigcup_{q=1}^{\infty} B_{mq}(p, i, j)$, where $p, i \geq 1$ and $j = 1, 2, \dots, s(p, i)$. Then the sets

$$G(p, i, j, m, q) = \{g \in C(X, M) : g(A_{pj}(i)) \cap g(B_{mq}(p, i, j)) = \emptyset\}$$

are open in $C(X, M)$ and the intersection G of all $G(p, i, j, m, q)$ consists of maps g with $g^{-1}(g(x)) \cap B = x$ for any $x \in A$. Hence, according to Lemma 2.2, every simplicially factorizable map is homotopically approximated by maps from G provided the following is true: For any simplicially factorizable map $g \in C(X, M)$, $\varepsilon > 0$ and (p, i, j, m, q) with $p, i, m, q \geq 1$ and $1 \leq j \leq s(i, p)$, there exists a simplicially factorizable map $g(p, i, j, m, q) \in G(p, i, j, m, q)$ which is ε -homotopic to g . Since $M \in \overline{DD}^{\{n, k\}}$ and any couple $A_{pj}(i), B_{mq}(p, i, j)$ consists of disjoint closed sets in X of dimension $\leq n$ and $\leq k$, respectively, the last statement follows from Lemma 6.1. Hence M satisfies condition (n, k) .

Suppose now that M satisfies condition (n, k) . To show that $M \in \overline{DD}^{\{n, k\}}$, let $f: \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow M$ and $g: \mathbb{I}^k \rightarrow M$ be two maps. If $k < \infty$, we denote by X the disjoint sum $\mathbb{I}^n \uplus \mathbb{I}^k$ and consider the map $h: X \rightarrow M$, $h|_{\mathbb{I}^n} = f$ and $h|_{\mathbb{I}^k} = g$. Since h is simplicially factorizable (as a map with a polyhedral domain) and M has the (n, k) -property, for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a map $h_1 \in C(X, M)$ such that $h_1^{-1}(h_1(x)) = x$ for all $x \in \mathbb{I}^n$ and h_1 is ε -homotopic to h . Then the maps $f_1 = h_1|_{\mathbb{I}^n}$ and $g_1 = h_1|_{\mathbb{I}^k}$ are ε -homotopic to f and g , respectively, and $f_1(\mathbb{I}^n) \cap g_1(\mathbb{I}^k) = \emptyset$. So, $M \in \overline{DD}^{\{n, k\}}$. If $n < k = \infty$, we choose $k(1) < \infty$ such that $n \leq k(1)$ and the map $g' = g \circ r_{k(1)}$ is $\varepsilon/2$ -homotopic to g , where $r_{k(1)}: \mathbb{I}^\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{I}^{k(1)}$ is the retraction of \mathbb{I}^∞ onto $\mathbb{I}^{k(1)} \subset \mathbb{I}^\infty$ defined by $r_{k(1)}((x_1, x_2, \dots)) = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{k(1)}, 0, 0, \dots)$. Then the map $h: \mathbb{I}^n \uplus \mathbb{I}^\infty \rightarrow M$, $h|_{\mathbb{I}^n} = f$ and $h|_{\mathbb{I}^\infty} = g'$, is simplicially factorizable. Hence, as in the previous case, we can use the (n, ∞) -property of M to show that $M \in \overline{DD}^{\{n, \infty\}}$. If $n = k = \infty$, we homotopically approximate both f and g by maps $f' = f \circ r_{n(1)}$ and $g' = g \circ r_{k(1)}$, respectively, and proceed as in the first case. \square

Corollary 6.5. *Every completely metrizable space $M \in \overline{DD}^{\{n-1, n-1\}}$ has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property. In particular, every manifold modeled on the n -dimensional Menger cube or the n -dimensional Nöbeling space has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property.*

Proof. Let $\mathbb{I}^n = A \cup B$, where $B = \mathbb{I}^n \setminus A$ is 0-dimensional and $A = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i$ is σ -compact with $\{A_i\}$ being a sequence of closed $(n-1)$ -dimensional subsets of \mathbb{I}^n . Since $C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$ consists of simplicially factorizable maps, by Proposition 6.4, every map in $C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$ is homotopically approximated by maps $g \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$ such that $g^{-1}(g(x)) \cap A = x$ for all $x \in A$. Let us show that any such g is 0-dimensional. Indeed, since for every $x \in \mathbb{I}^n$ the intersection $g^{-1}(g(x)) \cap A$ can have

at most one point, $g^{-1}(g(x)) = (g^{-1}(g(x)) \cap A) \cup (g^{-1}(g(x)) \cap B)$ is 0-dimensional.

The second part of the corollary follows from the fact that any n -dimensional Menger manifold, as well as any manifold modeled on the n -dimensional Nöbeling space, is a complete LC^{n-1} -space with the disjoint n -disks property [4]. So, any such a space has the $\overline{DD}^{\{n-1, n-1\}}$ -property. \square

The following notions were introduced in [2] and [3]. Let A be a closed subset of a space X . We say that A is:

- a (homotopical) Z_n -set in X if for any an open cover \mathcal{U} of X and a map $f : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X$ there is a map $g : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X$ such that $g(\mathbb{I}^n) \cap A = \emptyset$ and g is \mathcal{U} -near (\mathcal{U} -homotopic) to f ;
- homological Z_n -set in X if $H_k(U, U \setminus A) = 0$ for all open sets $U \subset X$ and all $k < n + 1$.

Here, $H_*(U, U \setminus A) = 0$ are the relative singular homology groups with integer coefficients. Each homotopical Z_n -set in X is both a Z_n -set and a homological Z_n -set in X . The converse is not always true.

Theorem 6.6. *Let X be a locally path-connected $AP(n, 0)$ -space. Then every $x \in X$ is a homological Z_{n-1} -point in X .*

Proof. By [3, Corollary 8.4], it suffices to check that $(x, 0)$ is a homotopical Z_n -point in $X \times [-1, 1]$ for every $x \in X$. Given a map $f : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X \times [-1, 1]$ we are going to homotopically approximate f by a map $g : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X \times [-1, 1]$ with $(x, 0) \notin g(\mathbb{I}^n)$. Let $f = (f_1, f_2)$ where $f_1 : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X$ and $f_2 : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow [-1, 1]$ are the components of f . Since $X \in AP(n, 0)$, there is a 0-dimensional map $g_1 : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X$ that approximates f_1 . Because $Z = g_1^{-1}(x)$ is a 0-dimensional subset of \mathbb{I}^n and $\{0\}$ is a Z_0 -set in $[-1, 1]$, the map f_2 can be approximated by a map $g_2 : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow [-1, 1]$ such that $0 \notin f_2(Z)$. Then for the map $g = (g_1, g_2) : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X \times [-1, 1]$ we have $(x, 0) \notin g(\mathbb{I}^n)$. \square

Proposition 6.7. *If $X \in AP(n, 0)$ and $Y \in \infty\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{0,0\}}$, then $X \times Y \in 0\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{n,n\}}$.*

Proof. Let $f = (f_X, f_Y) : \mathbb{I}^n \oplus \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X \times Y$ be a given map. Since $X \in AP(n, 0)$, we homotopically approximate the first component f_X by a 0-dimensional map $g_X : \mathbb{I}^n \oplus \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X$. Next, use $\infty\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{0,0\}}$ -property of Y to homotopically approximate the second component f_Y by a map $g_Y : \mathbb{I}^n \oplus \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow Y$ that is injective on the fibers of g_X . Then the map $g = (g_X, g_Y) : \mathbb{I}^n \oplus \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow X \times Y$ is injective, witnessing that $X \times Y$ has the $0\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{n,n\}}$ -property. \square

Corollary 6.8. *If X, Y are two locally path-connected spaces both possessing the $AP(\infty, 0)$ -property and Y contains a dense set of homotopical Z_2 -points, then $X \times Y$ has the $0\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{\infty, \infty\}}$ -property.*

Proof. By Theorem 6.6, each point of Y is a homological Z_∞ -point. Taking into account that Y has a dense set of homotopical Z_2 -points and applying Theorem 26(4,5) of [2], we conclude that the space $Y \in \infty\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{0,0\}}$. Finally, by Proposition 6.7, $X \times Y \in 0\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{\infty, \infty\}}$. \square

We say that a space X has the $AP(\infty, 0)$ -property if $X \in AP(n, 0)$ for every $n \geq 1$.

Corollary 6.9. *If X, Y are two compact AR 's with $AP(\infty, 0)$, then $X \times Y \times \mathbb{I}$ is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube.*

Proof. Theorem 6.6 implies that every $y \in Y$ is a homological Z_∞ -point in Y . Then, according to [2, Theorem 26(5)], $Y \in 0\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{1,1\}}$. Consequently, by [2, Theorem 10(5)], each point of Y is a homotopical Z_1 -point in Y . Now, applying the Multiplication Formula for homological Z -sets [2, Theorem 17(1)], we conclude that each point of $Y \times \mathbb{I}$ is a homotopical Z_2 -point. Therefore, Corollary 6.8 yields that the product $X \times (Y \times \mathbb{I})$ has the $0\text{-}\overline{DD}^{\{\infty, \infty\}}$ -property. Being a compact AR , this product is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube according to the Toruńczyk characterization theorem of Q -manifolds. \square

In light of the preceding corollary it is interesting to remark that a compact space $X \in AR \cap AP(\infty, 0)$ need not be homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube. To present such an example, we first prove that the $AP(n, 0)$ -property is preserved by a special type of maps.

A map $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is called an elementary cell-like map if:

- (1) π is a fine homotopy equivalence, i.e., for every open cover \mathcal{U} of Y there exists a map $s : Y \rightarrow X$ with $\pi \circ s$ being \mathcal{U} -homotopic to the identity of Y ;
- (2) the non-degeneracy set $N_\pi = \{y \in Y : |\pi^{-1}(y)| \neq 1\}$ is at most countable;
- (3) each fiber $\pi^{-1}(y)$, $y \in N_\pi$, is an arc.

Proposition 6.10. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ be an elementary cell-like map between metric spaces such that X is complete every $x \in \pi^{-1}(N_\pi)$ is a homotopical Z_n -point in X . Then $Y \in AP(n, 0)$ provided $X \in AP(n, 0)$.*

Proof. Suppose $X \in AP(n, 0)$. To prove that $Y \in AP(n, 0)$, fix an open cover γ of Y and a map $f : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow Y$. Let γ_1 be an open cover of Y which is star-refinement of γ . Since π is a fine homotopy equivalence,

there is a map $s : Y \rightarrow X$ such that $\pi \circ s$ is γ_1 -homotopic to the identity map of Y . Let $D = \{x_i : i \geq 1\} \subset f^{-1}(N_\pi)$ be a sequence such that $f^{-1}(y) \setminus D$ is 0-dimensional for every $y \in N_f$. Then the sets $W_i = \{g \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, X) : x_i \notin g(\mathbb{I}^n)\}$ are open in $C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$ equipped with the uniform convergence topology. Moreover, each W_i is homotopically dense in $C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$ because x_i is a homotopical Z_n -point in X . We also consider the sets $U_i = \{g \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, X) : d_0(g^{-1}(x)) < 1/i \text{ for all } x \in X\}$. Since $X \in AP(n, 0)$ and all maps from $C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$ are simplicially factorizable, it follows from Proposition 2.3 that any U_i is open and homotopically dense in $C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$. This easily implies that the intersections $V_i = W_i \cap U_i$ are open and homotopically dense in $C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$. Consequently, by Lemma 2.2 (with G being $C(\mathbb{I}^n, X)$), there exists a map $g \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} V_i$ which is $\pi^{-1}(\gamma_1)$ -homotopic to $s \circ f$. Obviously, g is 0-dimensional, $g(\mathbb{I}^n) \subset X \setminus D$ and $f_1 = \pi \circ g : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow Y$ is γ_1 -homotopic to $\pi \circ s \circ f$. Then f_1 is γ -homotopic to f because $\pi \circ s \circ f$ is γ_1 -homotopic to f . Hence, $Y \in AP(n, 0)$. \square

Singh [22] constructed an elementary cell-like map $f : Q \rightarrow X$ from the Hilbert cube Q onto a compact $X \in AR$ such that $X \times \mathbb{I}$ is homeomorphic to Q but X contains no proper ANR -subspace of dimension ≥ 2 . By the preceding proposition, Singh's space has the $AP(\infty, 0)$ -property. Thus we have:

Corollary 6.11. *There is a compact $X \in AR$ with $X \in AP(\infty, 0)$ such that $X \times \mathbb{I}$ is homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube but X contains no proper ANR -subspace of dimension ≥ 2 .*

Now, we consider the spaces with piecewise embedding dimension n . According to [12], a map $h : P \rightarrow M$ from a finite polyhedron P is said to be a piecewise embedding if there is a triangulation T of P such that h embeds each simplex $\sigma \in T$ and $h(P)$ is an ANR . For a space M , the piecewise embedding dimension $ped(M)$ is the maximum k such that for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and any map $g : P \rightarrow M$ from a finite polyhedron P with $\dim P \leq k$ there exists a piecewise embedding $g' : P \rightarrow M$ which is ε -close to g . If $y \in M$, then $ped_y(M)$ is the maximum of all $ped(U)$, where U is a neighborhood of y in M . Obviously, $ped(M) \leq \min\{ped_y(M) : y \in m\}$.

As we noted, by [12, Proposition 2.1], every complete ANR -space M with $ped(M) \geq n$ has the $AP(n, 0)$ -property. But there are even compact ANR 's having the $AP(n, 0)$ -property with $ped \leq n - 1$. For example, according to Corollary 6.3, any product $M = \prod_{i=1}^{i=n} M_i$ of dendrites with dense set of endpoints is an $AP(n, 0)$. On the other

hand, by [24, Theorem 3.4], $\text{ped}(M) \leq n - 1$. Next proposition also shows that the property $\text{ped} = n$ is quite restrictive.

Proposition 6.12. *If (M, ϱ) is a complete space and $\text{ped}_y(M) = n + 1$, then y is a Z_n -point in M .*

Proof. Since $\text{ped}_y(M) = n + 1$, there exists a neighborhood U_y in M with $\text{ped}(U_y) = n + 1$. It is easily seen that if y is a Z_n -point in U_y , it is also a Z_n -point in M . So, we can suppose that $U_y = M$, and let $\varepsilon > 0$ and $g \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$. We identify \mathbb{I}^n with the set $\{(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{I}^{n+1} : x_{n+1} = 0\}$ and let $\pi : \mathbb{I}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}^n$ be the projection. Since $\text{ped}(M) = n + 1$, there exists a triangulation T of \mathbb{I}^{n+1} and a map $g_1 \in C(\mathbb{I}^{n+1}, M)$ which is $\varepsilon/2$ -close to $g \circ \pi$ and $g_1|_\sigma$ is an embedding for all $\sigma \in T$. Hence, $g_1^{-1}(y)$ consists of finitely many points. Moreover, there is $\delta > 0$ such that for any δ -close points x', x'' in \mathbb{I}^{n+1} we have $\varrho(g_1(x'), g_1(x'')) < \varepsilon/2$. Since each $x \in \mathbb{I}^{n+1}$ is a Z_n -point in \mathbb{I}^{n+1} , $g_1^{-1}(y)$ is a Z_n -set in \mathbb{I}^{n+1} . Hence, there exists a map $h : \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{I}^{n+1}$ such that h is δ -close to $\text{id}_{\mathbb{I}^n}$ and $h(\mathbb{I}^n) \subset \mathbb{I}^{n+1} \setminus g_1^{-1}(y)$. Then $g_1 \circ h \in C(\mathbb{I}^n, M)$ is ε -close to g and $y \notin g_1 \circ h(\mathbb{I}^n)$. \square

Finally, let us complete the paper with the following question:

Question 1. *Let $X \in AR$ be a compact space such that $X \in \overline{DD}^{\{2,2\}} \cap AP(\infty, 0)$. Is X homeomorphic to the Hilbert cube?*

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