




## Some results on weaker forms of $\text{star}^n$ -CCC, weakly Lindelöf and $\text{star}^n$ -DCCC spaces

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### ABSTRACT

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*In this paper we provide some general results about topological spaces  $X$  satisfying any of the following properties:  $\text{star}^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$ , weakly  $\text{star}^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$  or almost  $\text{star}^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$ , for  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CCC}, W\kappa L, D\kappa\text{CCC}\}$ , where  $\kappa$  is an infinite cardinal number. The particular cases when  $\kappa = \omega$ ,  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\text{CCC}, \text{weakly Lindelöf}, \text{DCCC}\}$  are obtained. Furthermore, for the same classes of spaces defined by such  $\mathcal{P}$ , by applying Erdős-Radó's theorem and using the rank  $l$ -diagonal notion, we establish some cardinal inequalities.*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $A \subseteq X$  and  $\mathcal{U}$  be a family of subsets of  $X$ , the *star of  $A$*  with respect to the family  $\mathcal{U}$ , is defined by  $\text{St}(A, \mathcal{U}) = \bigcup\{U \in \mathcal{U} : U \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$ . Recursively,  $\text{St}^0(A, \mathcal{U}) = A$  and for each  $n \in \omega$ , with  $0 < n$ ,  $\text{St}^{n+1}(A, \mathcal{U}) = \text{St}(\text{St}^n(A, \mathcal{U}), \mathcal{U})$ . As usual, we write  $\text{St}(x, \mathcal{U})$  instead of  $\text{St}(\{x\}, \mathcal{U})$ .

Given a topological space  $X$  and a topological property  $\mathcal{P}$ , the generic notion of star- $\mathcal{P}$  property was introduced in [15] by van Mill, Tkachuk and Wilson. A space  $X$  is called star- $\mathcal{P}$ , if for every open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$ , there exists a subspace  $Y$  of  $X$  such that  $Y$  satisfies the property  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U}) = X$ . Furthermore, some star-type properties have been studied during the last decades (see [7, 13]) and more recently in [2, 24, 26]. Establishing these types of properties generically allows a better understanding of the subject and opens the possibility to consider variants of these notions. For instance, if  $\mathcal{P}$  is a topological property, we say that  $X$  is weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$  (respectively, almost star- $\mathcal{P}$ ) if for every open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$ , there exist a subspace  $Y$  of  $X$  such that  $\text{cl}(\text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U})) = X$  (respectively,  $\bigcup\{\text{cl}(\text{St}(y, \mathcal{U})) : y \in Y\} = X$ ) (see [17, 18]).

In this paper, following some ideas from [25], in Section 2, we provide some general results about star- $\mathcal{P}$ , weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$  and almost star- $\mathcal{P}$  spaces, for  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, \text{D}\kappa\text{CC}\}$ . Furthermore, in Section 3 we obtain some cardinal inequalities, using Erdős-Radó's theorem and the rank  $l$ -diagonal notion.

### 2. SOME GENERAL RESULTS

In this section, we obtain some general results about topological spaces  $X$  which satisfy any of the properties: star $^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$ , weakly star $^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$  or almost star $^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$ . Before introducing these notions, we present some basic facts. In what follows, unless otherwise stated, we consider a Hausdorff topological space  $X$  and an infinite cardinal number  $\kappa$ . All notations and terminology not explained in this paper can be found in [8, 12]. The next propositions follow immediately from definitions.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space  $X$  and  $A \subseteq X$ . For every open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$  and  $n \in \omega$ , we have that  $\text{cl}(\text{St}^n(A, \mathcal{U})) \subseteq \text{St}^{n+1}(A, \mathcal{U})$ .*

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $\mathcal{U}$  an open cover of  $X$ . For every  $x, y \in X$ , with  $x \neq y$ , and  $n \in \omega$ , the next conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $y \notin \text{St}^n(x, \mathcal{U})$ ;
- (2)  $x \notin \text{St}^n(y, \mathcal{U})$ ,
- (3)  $\text{St}^i(x, \mathcal{U}) \cap \text{St}^j(y, \mathcal{U}) = \emptyset$ , for  $i + j = n$ .

Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $l \in \omega$ . A *diagonal sequence of rank  $l$*  on  $X$  (see [3]), is a countable family  $\{\mathcal{U}_n : n \in \omega\}$  of open covers of  $X$  such that  $\{x\} = \bigcap\{\text{St}^l(x, \mathcal{U}_n) : n \in \omega\}$ , for every  $x \in X$ . A space  $X$  has a *rank  $l$ -diagonal*, where  $l \in \omega$ , if there is a diagonal sequence  $\{\mathcal{U}_n : n \in \omega\}$  on  $X$  of rank  $l$ .

The proof of the next result follows immediately from Erdős-Radó's theorem (see [21, Lemma 3.2]).

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $X$  be a space with rank  $l$ -diagonal and  $Y \subseteq X$ . If  $|Y| > 2^\kappa$ , then for every diagonal sequence  $\{\mathcal{U}_n : n \in \omega\}$  on  $X$  of rank  $l$ , there are  $n_0 \in \omega$  and  $S \subseteq Y$ , such that:*

- (1)  $|S| > \kappa$ ;
- (2)  $S$  is closed and discrete;
- (3) For any  $x, y \in S$  with  $x \neq y$ ,  $y \notin \text{St}^l(x, \mathcal{U}_{n_0})$ .

Note that in Lemma 2.3, the third condition means:

- (a) If  $l$  is even, the family  $\{\text{St}^j(s, \mathcal{U}_{n_0}) : s \in S\}$  is cellular, where  $l = 2j$ .
- (b) If  $l$  is odd, the family  $\{\text{St}^j(s, \mathcal{U}_{n_0}) : s \in S\}$  is discrete, where  $l = 2j + 1$ .

Recall that for a Hausdorff space  $X$  the Hausdorff pseudo-character of  $X$ , denoted by  $H\psi(X)$ , is the smallest infinite cardinal  $\kappa$  such that for every  $x \in X$ , there is a collection  $\mathcal{B}_x$  of open neighbourhoods of  $x$  with  $|\mathcal{B}_x| \leq \kappa$  such that if  $x \neq y$ , there exist  $U \in \mathcal{B}_x$  and  $V \in \mathcal{B}_y$  with  $U \cap V = \emptyset$  (see [11]). In addition,  $d(X)$  denotes the density of  $X$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $X$  be an infinite topological space, then  $|X| \leq d(X)^{H\psi(X)}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\kappa = H\psi(X)$  and for any  $x \in X$ , let  $\{U_\alpha^x : \alpha \in \kappa\}$  be a family of open neighbourhoods of  $x$ , which satisfies the condition of Hausdorff pseudo-character of  $X$ . We put  $V_{\alpha,\beta}^x = U_\alpha^x \cap U_\beta^x$  and consider a dense subset  $D$  of  $X$  with  $|D| = d(X)$ . Now we define  $f : X \rightarrow D^{\kappa \times \kappa}$  as follows: for each  $x \in X$ , let  $f(x) = f_x$ , where  $f_x : \kappa \times \kappa \rightarrow D$  is given by  $f_x(\alpha, \beta) = d_{\alpha,\beta}^x$ , where  $d_{\alpha,\beta}^x$  is an arbitrary point in  $D \cap V_{\alpha,\beta}^x$ . We see that  $f$  is injective. Indeed, let  $x, y \in X$  with  $x \neq y$ , then there are  $U_\alpha^x$  and  $U_\beta^y$  such that  $U_\alpha^x \cap U_\beta^y = \emptyset$ , so,  $V_{\alpha,\beta}^x \cap V_{\alpha,\beta}^y = \emptyset$ . Hence,  $d_{\alpha,\beta}^x \neq d_{\alpha,\beta}^y$ , which implies that  $f_x(\alpha, \beta) \neq f_y(\alpha, \beta)$ , thus  $f(x) \neq f(y)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.5.** *Let  $X$  be an infinite topological space with rank  $l$ -diagonal, for  $l \geq 2$ . Then  $|X| \leq d(X)^\omega$ .*

In the next definition we present some notions investigated previously; for instance, the  $\text{star}^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$  property, with different terminology, was introduced in [14, Definition 20] and the almost and weakly  $\text{star}^1$ - $\mathcal{P}$  properties were defined in [2].

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a topological property and  $n \in \omega$ . We say that a topological space  $X$  is:

- $\text{star}^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$  if for any open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$ , there is  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $Y$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\text{St}^n(Y, \mathcal{U}) = X$ .
- almost  $\text{star}^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$  if given any open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$ , there is a subspace  $Y \subseteq X$  with property  $\mathcal{P}$  and such that  $\bigcup\{\text{cl}(\text{St}^n(x, \mathcal{U})) : x \in Y\} = X$ .
- weakly  $\text{star}^n$ - $\mathcal{P}$  if for every open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$ , there exists  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $Y$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\text{cl}(\text{St}^n(Y, \mathcal{U})) = X$ .

When  $n = 1$ , we write  $\text{star}$ - $\mathcal{P}$ , almost  $\text{star}$ - $\mathcal{P}$  and weakly  $\text{star}$ - $\mathcal{P}$ , respectively.

Clearly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  implies almost  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  and almost  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  implies weakly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ . Furthermore,  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ , almost  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  and weakly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  are preserved under continuous functions, when  $\mathcal{P}$  does it. Even more, all of these notions can be established in terms of basic open covers. Moreover, it is clear that  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  implies  $\text{star}^{n+1}\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ , however the reciprocal does not hold (see Examples 2.10 and 2.11). In addition, we get the following.

**Proposition 2.7.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space.*

- (1) *If  $X$  contains a dense subspace which is  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ , then  $X$  is  $\text{star}^{n+1}\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ .*
- (2) *If  $X$  contains a dense subspace which is weakly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ , then  $X$  is weakly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ .*

*Proof.* We will prove just (1). Let  $Y$  be a dense subset of  $X$  which is  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an open cover of  $X$ , then there is  $Z \subseteq Y$  which satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $Y \subseteq \text{St}^n(Z, \mathcal{U})$ . Hence,  $\text{St}^{n+1}(Z, \mathcal{U}) = X$ . □

Recall that a space  $X$  is *Menger* if for each countable family  $\{\mathcal{U}_n : n \in \omega\}$  of open covers of  $X$ , there is a family  $\{\mathcal{V}_n : n \in \omega\}$  such that  $\mathcal{V}_n$  is a finite subset of  $\mathcal{U}_n$ , for each  $n \in \omega$ , and  $\bigcup_{n \in \omega} \mathcal{V}_n$  is an open cover of  $X$ . It follows immediately from the definitions that  $\text{star}^n\text{-countable}$  implies  $\text{star}^n\text{-Menger}$  and  $\text{star}^n\text{-Menger}$  implies  $\text{star}^n\text{-Lindelöf}$ .

Recall that a *cellular family* is a collection of nonempty pairwise disjoint open sets.

**Definition 2.8.** A space  $X$  satisfies the  $\kappa$  *chain condition* (denoted by  $\kappa\text{CC}$ ) if every cellular family in  $X$  has cardinality at most  $\kappa$ .

When  $\kappa = \omega$ , it is said that  $X$  satisfies the *countable chain condition* (denoted by  $\text{CCC}$ ) [23, Definition 1.1]. Furthermore, if  $Y$  is a dense subset of a space  $X$  which satisfies  $\kappa\text{CC}$ , then  $X$  is  $\kappa\text{CC}$ . The proof of the next result follows immediately.

**Proposition 2.9.** *If  $X$  is a  $\text{CCC}$  space, then  $X$  is  $\text{star}^2\text{-countable}$ .*

**Example 2.10.** There exists a  $\text{star}^2\text{-countable}$  space which is not  $\text{star}\text{-countable}$ . Indeed, in [18, Example 2.2], it was shown that the space  $X = (\beta D \times (\omega_1 + 1)) \setminus ((\beta D \setminus D) \times \{\omega_1\})$ , as a subspace of the product of  $\beta D \times (\omega_1 + 1)$ , where  $D$  is a discrete space of cardinality  $\omega_1$  and  $\beta D$  denote the Čech-Stone compactification of  $D$ , is a Tychonoff almost  $\text{star}\text{-countable}$  space  $X$  which is not  $\text{star}\text{-countable}$ . On the other hand, given that  $\beta D \times \omega_1$  is dense in  $X$  and countably compact,  $X$  is  $\text{star}^2\text{-countable}$ .

**Example 2.11.** Assuming CH, there exists a  $\text{star}^2\text{-Menger}$  space which is not  $\text{star}\text{-Menger}$ . Indeed, let  $\mathcal{K}[\mathbb{P}]$  be the space of all compact nowhere dense subsets of  $\mathbb{P}$  endowed with the Pixley-Roy topology, where  $\mathbb{P}$  is the subspace of irrational numbers. In [6, Example 2.5], it was shown that  $\mathcal{K}[\mathbb{P}]$  is a  $\text{CCC}$  space but is not  $\text{star}\text{-Menger}$ . Note that, by Proposition 2.9,  $\mathcal{K}[\mathbb{P}]$  is  $\text{star}^2\text{-Menger}$ .

**Question 2.12.** *Is there an almost  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  (weakly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ ) space which is not almost  $\text{star}\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  (weakly  $\text{star}\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ ), for some  $n \geq 2$  and some property  $\mathcal{P}$ ?*

A collection  $\mathcal{U}$  of subsets of  $X$  is *discrete* if every point of  $X$  has an open neighbourhood which intersects at most one element of  $\mathcal{U}$ . The next notion can be found in [9, Definition 2.3].

**Definition 2.13.** Let  $X$  be a topological space. We say that  $X$  satisfies the *discrete  $\kappa$  chain condition* (denoted by  $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$ ) if every discrete family of nonempty open subsets of  $X$  has cardinality at most  $\kappa$ .

If  $\kappa = \omega$  in the previous definition, we obtain the known property *discrete countable chain condition* (denoted by  $\text{DCCC}$ ) [21, Definition 2.1]. Note that  $\kappa\text{CC}$  implies  $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$ .

Recall that a space  $X$  is *weakly Lindelöf* if every open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$  contains a countable subfamily  $\mathcal{V} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$  such that  $\text{cl}(\bigcup \mathcal{V}) = X$ .

**Definition 2.14.** We say that a space  $X$  is *weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf* (denoted by  $W\kappa L$ ) if every open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $X$  contains a subfamily  $\mathcal{V} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$  such that  $|\mathcal{V}| \leq \kappa$  and  $\text{cl}(\bigcup \mathcal{V}) = X$ .

Note that a space  $X$  is weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf if and only if its weakly Lindelöf number  $wL(X) \leq \kappa$  (see [4]). It is not difficult to show that, if  $X$  is a topological space with  $d(X) \leq \kappa$ , then  $X$  is weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$ , for each  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, \text{D}\kappa\text{CC}\}$ . Furthermore, from definitions, we immediately obtain that the properties  $\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, \text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$  are closed under unions of at most  $\kappa$  many subspaces. It is not difficult to show the next result.

**Proposition 2.15.** *The following hold:*

- (1) *A weakly star- $\kappa\text{CC}$  space is weakly star-weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf.*
- (2) *A weakly star-weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf space is weakly star- $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$ .*
- (3) *A star<sup>2</sup>-weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf space is star<sup>2</sup>- $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$ .*

The authors do not know if the reciprocal implications of Proposition 2.15 hold.

*Remark 2.16.* The space  $X$  in Example 2.10 satisfies the properties weakly star-CCC and weakly star-weakly Lindelöf, however  $X$  is not star-CCC nor star-weakly Lindelöf. Indeed, it can be shown, by using the same ideas as in [19, Example 3.1, for the space  $S_2$ ], that  $X$  is not a star-weakly Lindelöf space. Furthermore, given that every CCC space is weakly Lindelöf, the space  $X$  can not be star-CCC. Moreover, given that  $\beta D \times \omega_1$  is a dense countably compact subspace of  $X$ , we have that  $\beta D \times \omega_1$  is star-finite (see [7, Theorem 2.1.4], where the star-finite property is called strongly 1-starcompact). Hence,  $X$  is weakly star-finite. Thus,  $X$  is weakly star-CCC and so, it is weakly star-weakly Lindelöf.

**Lemma 2.17.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be spaces such that  $d(X) \leq \kappa$ . If  $Y$  satisfies the property  $\mathcal{P}$ , then  $X \times Y$  satisfies the property  $\mathcal{P}$ , for  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, \text{D}\kappa\text{CC}\}$ .*

*Proof.* When  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, \text{D}\kappa\text{CC}\}$ , the proof follows the same ideas as [20, Theorem 3.3]. Now suppose that  $\mathcal{P} = W\kappa L$ . Take a dense subset  $D = \{d_\delta : \delta < \kappa\}$  of  $X$ . Each  $\{d_\delta\} \times Y$  is  $W\kappa L$ . Then,  $D \times Y = \bigcup_{\delta < \kappa} \{d_\delta\} \times Y$  is  $W\kappa L$ . Now,  $D \times Y$  is a dense subset of  $X \times Y$ . It follows that  $X \times Y$  is  $W\kappa L$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.18.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be spaces such that  $d(X) \leq \kappa$ . If  $Y$  satisfies the property weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$ , then  $X \times Y$  satisfies the property weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$ , for  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, D\kappa\text{CC}\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, D\kappa\text{CC}\}$  and suppose that  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open cover of basic open sets of  $X \times Y$ . So,  $\{V : U \times V \in \mathcal{U}\}$  is an open cover of  $Y$ . Hence, there is  $Z \subseteq Y$  which witnesses that  $Y$  is weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$ . From Lemma 2.17,  $X \times Z$  satisfies the property  $\mathcal{P}$ . Furthermore,  $\text{St}(X \times Z, \mathcal{U})$  is dense in  $X \times Y$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.19.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be spaces such that  $d(X) \leq \kappa$ . If  $Y$  satisfies the property almost star- $\mathcal{P}$ , then  $X \times Y$  satisfies the property star<sup>2</sup>- $\mathcal{P}$ , for  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, D\kappa\text{CC}\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, D\kappa\text{CC}\}$  and suppose that  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open cover of basic open sets of  $X \times Y$  and  $D = \{d_\alpha : \alpha \in \kappa\}$  is a dense subset of  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{V}_\alpha = \{\{d_\alpha\} \times V : d_\alpha \in U, U \times V \in \mathcal{U}\}$  is an open cover of  $\{d_\alpha\} \times Y$ . Hence, there is  $\{d_\alpha\} \times W_\alpha \subseteq \{d_\alpha\} \times Y$  which witnesses that  $\{d_\alpha\} \times Y$  is almost star- $\mathcal{P}$ . Let  $Z_\alpha = X \times W_\alpha$ . By Lemma 2.17,  $Z_\alpha$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$ . So,  $Z = \bigcup\{Z_\alpha : \alpha \in \kappa\}$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$ . We claim that  $\text{St}^2(Z, \mathcal{U}) = X \times Y$ . Indeed, let  $(a, b) \in X \times Y$  and consider  $U \times V \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $(a, b) \in U \times V$ . Fix  $\alpha \in \kappa$  such that  $d_\alpha \in U$ . Then  $(d_\alpha, b) \in \text{cl}_{\{d_\alpha\} \times Y}(\text{St}((d_\alpha, y), \mathcal{V}_\alpha))$ , for some  $(d_\alpha, y) \in Z_\alpha$ . Hence, there is  $\{d_\alpha\} \times B \in \mathcal{V}_\alpha$  such that  $y \in B$  and  $(\{d_\alpha\} \times V) \cap (\{d_\alpha\} \times B) \neq \emptyset$ . Furthermore, there is  $A \subseteq X$  with  $A \times B \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $d_\alpha \in A$ . We have that  $(A \times B) \cap (U \times V) \neq \emptyset$ . Thus,  $(a, b) \in \text{St}^2((d_\alpha, y), \mathcal{U})$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Question 2.20.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be spaces such that  $d(X) \leq \kappa$  and suppose that  $Y$  satisfies the property almost star- $\mathcal{P}$ . Is it true that  $X \times Y$  satisfies the property almost star- $\mathcal{P}$ , for  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, W\kappa L, D\kappa\text{CC}\}$ ?*

The next result generalizes [25, Theorem 3.1] (see Corollary 2.22 below). Recall that a topological space  $X$  is *quasi-regular* ([16, p. 2]) if for every nonempty open set  $U$ , there is a nonempty open set  $V$  such that  $\text{cl}(V) \subseteq U$ .

**Theorem 2.21.** *Let  $X$  be a quasi-regular topological space. Then  $X$  is weakly star- $D\kappa\text{CC}$  if and only if  $X$  is  $D\kappa\text{CC}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $X$  is not  $D\kappa\text{CC}$  and let  $\mathcal{W} = \{W_\alpha : \alpha \in \kappa^+\}$  be a discrete family of nonempty open sets in  $X$ . Given that  $X$  is quasi-regular, we have that for each  $\alpha \in \kappa^+$ , there is an open subset  $V_\alpha \neq \emptyset$  which satisfies  $\text{cl}(V_\alpha) \subseteq W_\alpha$ .

Let  $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{W} \cup \{X \setminus \text{cl}(\bigcup\{V_\alpha : \alpha \in \kappa^+\})\}$ . Since the family  $\{V_\alpha : \alpha \in \kappa^+\}$  is discrete, we have that  $\bigcup\{\text{cl}(V_\alpha) : \alpha \in \kappa^+\} = \text{cl}(\bigcup\{V_\alpha : \alpha \in \kappa^+\})$ . So,  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open cover of  $X$ . Then, there exists  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $Y$  is  $D\kappa\text{CC}$  and  $\text{cl}(\text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U})) = X$ .

We claim that for each  $\alpha \in \kappa^+$ ,  $W_\alpha \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ . Indeed, fix  $\alpha \in \kappa^+$ . Given that  $\text{cl}(\text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U})) = X$ , we have that  $V_\alpha \cap \text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U}) \neq \emptyset$ ; so, there exist  $z \in V_\alpha$ ,  $y_z \in Y$  and  $W \in \mathcal{U}$  such that  $\{z, y_z\} \subseteq W$ . We assert that  $W = W_\beta$ , for some  $\beta \in \kappa^+$ . In fact, the case  $W = X \setminus \text{cl}(\bigcup\{V_\gamma : \gamma \in \kappa^+\})$  is not possible,

otherwise,  $z \in V_\alpha \cap (X \setminus \text{cl}(\bigcup\{V_\gamma : \gamma \in \kappa^+\})) \subseteq V_\alpha \cap (X \setminus \bigcup\{V_\gamma : \gamma \in \kappa^+\})$ , but  $V_\alpha \cap (X \setminus \bigcup\{V_\gamma : \gamma \in \kappa^+\}) = \emptyset$ . As  $\mathcal{U}$  is a discrete family, necessarily we have  $\alpha = \beta$ ; hence,  $y_z \in W_\alpha \cap Y$ .

From the claim above, we have that  $\{W_\alpha \cap Y : \alpha \in \kappa^+\}$  is a discrete family of nonempty open subsets in  $Y$ , which contradicts that  $Y$  is  $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$ , and the proof is complete.  $\square$

Recall that a *neighbourhood assignment* for a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is a function  $\varphi : X \rightarrow \tau$  with  $x \in \varphi(x)$ , for every  $x \in X$ . The space  $X$  is *weakly dually DCCC* [1] if for any neighbourhood assignment  $\varphi$  on  $X$ , there exists a subspace  $\text{DCCC } Y \subseteq X$  such that  $\bigcup\{\varphi(y) : y \in Y\}$  is dense in  $X$ .

**Corollary 2.22.** *Let  $X$  be a quasi-regular topological space. The following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $X$  is  $\text{DCCC}$ ;
- (2)  $X$  is weakly dually  $\text{DCCC}$ ;
- (3)  $X$  is weakly star- $\text{DCCC}$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): Follows from definitions.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3): Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an open cover of  $X$ . Clearly we can choose a neighbourhood assignment  $\varphi$  such that  $\varphi(x) \in \mathcal{U}$ , for each  $x \in X$ . Hence, there exists  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $Y$  is  $\text{DCCC}$  and  $\bigcup\{\varphi(y) : y \in Y\}$  is dense in  $X$ . Note that for any  $y \in Y$ ,  $\varphi(y) \subseteq \text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U})$ . Thus,  $X = \text{cl}(\bigcup\{\varphi(y) : y \in Y\}) \subseteq \text{cl}(\text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U}))$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): Follows from Theorem 2.21.  $\square$

**Question 2.23.** *Is there a Hausdorff  $\text{star}^2\text{-DCCC}$  space which is not  $\text{DCCC}$ ?*

We finish this section with the next result (compare with [25, Theorem 3.2]), before we recall that a space  $X$  is *developable* [24, Definition 2.7] if there is a collection of open covers  $\{\mathcal{U}_n : n \in \omega\}$  of  $X$  such that for every  $x \in X$ , the family  $\{\text{St}(x, \mathcal{U}_n) : n \in \omega\}$  is a local base at  $x$ . Moreover, a topological space  $X$  is *Baire*, if the countable intersection of open dense sets is dense.

**Theorem 2.24.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space and let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a topological property such that the following conditions hold:*

- (i)  $\mathcal{P}$  is closed under countable unions;
- (ii) If  $Y \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $Y$  is a dense subset in  $X$ , then  $X \in \mathcal{P}$ .

*Then, when  $X$  is Baire and a developable space, the properties weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$  coincide.*

*Proof.* Let  $X$  be a weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$  space. In order to prove that  $X$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$ , we show that  $X$  has a dense subset which satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$ . Consider a collection  $\{\mathcal{U}_n : n \in \omega\}$  of open covers which witnesses that  $X$  is developable. Now, given that for each  $n \in \omega$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_n$  is an open cover of  $X$ , there exists  $Y_n \subseteq X$  such that  $Y_n$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\text{cl}(\text{St}(Y_n, \mathcal{U}_n)) = X$ . Let  $Y = \bigcup\{Y_n : n \in \omega\}$ . From (i), we obtain that  $Y$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$ .

We claim that  $Y$  is dense in  $X$ . Indeed, let  $D = \bigcap_{n \in \omega} \text{St}(Y_n, \mathcal{U}_n)$ . As  $X$  is a Baire space, we have that  $D$  is dense in  $X$ . Hence, for each nonempty

open set  $W$ , there is  $d \in D \cap W$ . Thus, from the fact that  $X$  is developable, we get  $n_d \in \omega$ , such that  $d \in \text{St}(d, \mathcal{U}_{n_d}) \subseteq W$ . Given that  $D \subseteq \text{St}(Y_{n_d}, \mathcal{U}_{n_d})$ , there are  $y_d \in Y_{n_d}$  and  $V \in \mathcal{U}_{n_d}$  which satisfy  $d, y_d \in V$ ; this implies that  $y_d \in \text{St}(d, \mathcal{U}_{n_d}) \subseteq W$ . So,  $y_d \in W \cap Y$ . We conclude that  $Y$  is dense in  $X$  and by (ii),  $X$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$ .  $\square$

We say that a topological space  $X$  is  $\kappa$ -separable if its density  $d(X) \leq \kappa$ .

**Corollary 2.25.** *Consider  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\text{weakly } \kappa\text{-Lindel\"of}, \kappa\text{CC}, \kappa\text{-separable}\}$ . In the class of Baire and developable spaces, the property weakly star- $\mathcal{P}$  coincides with the property  $\mathcal{P}$ .*

### 3. SOME CARDINAL INEQUALITIES

In this section we show some cardinal inequalities for topological spaces with rank  $l$ -diagonal which satisfies  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ , weakly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  or almost  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\mathcal{P}$ , for  $\mathcal{P} \in \{\kappa\text{CC}, \text{D}\kappa\text{CC}\}$  and some  $l, n \in \omega$ . The proofs of Theorems 3.1, 3.3 and 3.6 generalize and follow, respectively, the same structure as [25, Theorems 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10].

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $X$  be a weakly  $\text{star}^n\text{-}\kappa\text{CC}$  and Baire topological space with rank  $2n$ -diagonal for some  $n \in \omega$ . Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ .*

*Proof.* Given that  $X$  has rank  $2n$ -diagonal, there is a countable family  $\{\mathcal{U}_l : l \in \omega\}$  of open covers of  $X$  such that for each  $x \in X$ ,  $\{x\} = \bigcap \{\text{St}^{2n}(x, \mathcal{U}_l) : l \in \omega\}$ . Hence, if  $x, y \in X$  with  $x \neq y$ , then there exists  $l \in \omega$ , such that  $y \notin \text{St}^{2n}(x, \mathcal{U}_l)$ .

Note that for any  $l \in \omega$ , there is  $Y_l \subseteq X$  such that  $Y_l$  satisfies  $\kappa\text{CC}$  and  $\text{cl}(\text{St}^n(Y_l, \mathcal{U}_l)) = X$ . Let  $D = \bigcap_{l \in \omega} \text{St}^n(Y_l, \mathcal{U}_l)$ . As  $X$  is a Baire space, we have that  $D$  is dense in  $X$ .

We claim that  $|D| \leq 2^\kappa$ . Indeed, suppose that  $|D| > 2^\kappa$ . Then, by Lemma 2.3, there exist  $m \in \omega$  and  $S \subseteq D$ , such that:  $|S| > \kappa$ ,  $S$  is closed and discrete and for any  $x, y \in S$ , with  $x \neq y$ ,  $y \notin \text{St}^{2n}(x, \mathcal{U}_m)$ . Let  $s \in S$ , since  $S \subseteq D \subseteq \text{St}^n(Y_m, \mathcal{U}_m)$ , there is  $y_s \in Y_m$  such that  $s \in \text{St}^n(y_s, \mathcal{U}_m)$ , so  $y_s \in \text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_m)$ . That is, for any  $s \in S$ ,  $\text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y_m \neq \emptyset$ . Hence,  $\{\text{St}^n(x, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y_m : x \in S\}$  is a cellular family in  $Y_m$  with  $|\{\text{St}^n(x, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y_m : x \in S\}| > \kappa$ , which contradicts that  $Y_m$  is  $\kappa\text{CC}$ . So, the claim holds.

From Corollary 2.5,  $|X| \leq |D|^\omega \leq 2^\kappa$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $X$  be a weakly star- $\kappa\text{CC}$  and Baire topological space with rank 2-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ .*

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $X$  be a  $\text{star}^2\text{-}\kappa\text{CC}$  topological space with rank 4-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $|X| > 2^\kappa$ . Since  $X$  has rank 4-diagonal, there is a countable family  $\{\mathcal{U}_n : n \in \omega\}$  of open covers of  $X$  such that for each  $x \in X$ ,  $\{x\} = \bigcap \{\text{St}^4(x, \mathcal{U}_n) : n \in \omega\}$ . Then, by Lemma 2.3, there exist  $m \in \omega$  and  $S \subseteq X$ , such that:  $|S| > \kappa$ ,  $S$  is closed and discrete and for any  $x, y \in S$ , with



$x \neq y, y \notin \text{St}^4(x, \mathcal{U}_m)$ . That is, the collection  $\{\text{St}^2(s, \mathcal{U}_m) : s \in S\}$  is a cellular family.

We claim that the collection  $\{\text{St}(s, \mathcal{U}_m) : s \in S\}$  is discrete. Otherwise, there exist  $x_0 \in X$  and  $U \in \mathcal{U}_m$  such that  $x_0 \in U$  and  $|\{s \in S : \text{St}(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap U \neq \emptyset\}| > 1$ . Let  $s_1, s_2 \in S$ , with  $s_1 \neq s_2$  such that  $U \cap \text{St}(s_i, \mathcal{U}_m) \neq \emptyset$ , for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ . Thus  $U \subseteq \text{St}^2(s_1, \mathcal{U}_m)$ , hence  $\text{St}^2(s_1, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap \text{St}(s_2, \mathcal{U}_m) \neq \emptyset$ . So,  $s_2 \in \text{St}^3(s_1, \mathcal{U}_m)$ , which is a contradiction.

From the previous claim,  $\bigcup\{\text{cl}(\text{St}(s, \mathcal{U}_m)) : s \in S\} = \text{cl}(\bigcup\{\text{St}(s, \mathcal{U}_m) : s \in S\}) = \text{cl}(\text{St}(S, \mathcal{U}_m))$ . For any  $x \in \text{cl}(\text{St}(S, \mathcal{U}_m))$ , there is  $s_x \in S$  such that  $x \in \text{cl}(\text{St}(s_x, \mathcal{U}_m)) \subseteq \text{St}^2(s_x, \mathcal{U}_m)$  (see Proposition 2.1). Let  $U_x \in \mathcal{U}_m$  such that  $x \in U_x$  and  $U_x \cap \text{St}(s_x, \mathcal{U}_m) \neq \emptyset$ . We define  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_x : x \in \text{cl}(\text{St}(S, \mathcal{U}_m))\} \cup \{X \setminus \text{cl}(\text{St}(S, \mathcal{U}_m))\}$ . As  $\mathcal{U}$  is an open cover of  $X$ , there exists  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $\text{St}^2(Y, \mathcal{U}) = X$  and  $Y$  is  $\kappa\text{CC}$ .

We assert that for every  $s \in S$ , it holds that  $\text{St}^2(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ . Indeed, let  $s \in S$ . Given that  $s \in \text{St}^2(Y, \mathcal{U})$ , there are  $U, V \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $y \in Y$  such that  $y \in V, s \in U$  and  $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$ . As  $s \in U, U \subseteq \text{St}(S, \mathcal{U}_m)$ . Hence,  $V \neq X \setminus \text{cl}(\text{St}(S, \mathcal{U}_m))$ . Then,  $V = U_z$ , for some  $z \in \text{cl}(\text{St}(S, \mathcal{U}_m))$ . From which,  $V \subseteq \text{St}^2(s, \mathcal{U}_m)$  and thus,  $\text{St}^2(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ . Finally, we conclude that the collection  $\{\text{St}^2(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y : s \in S\}$  is a cellular family in  $Y$  with cardinality  $> \kappa$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $X$  be a star<sup>2</sup>-CCC topological space with rank 4-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\omega$ .*

**Question 3.5.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a star<sup>n</sup>- $\kappa\text{CC}$  topological space with rank  $2n$ -diagonal, for  $n > 2$ . Does  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$  hold?*

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $X$  be a weakly star<sup>n</sup>- $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$  Baire topological space with rank  $(2n + 1)$ -diagonal for some  $n \in \omega$ . Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\{\mathcal{U}_l : l \in \omega\}$  be a countable family of open covers which witnesses that  $X$  has rank  $(2n + 1)$ -diagonal. Now, for any  $l \in \omega$ , there is  $Y_l \subseteq X$  such that  $Y_l$  satisfies  $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$  and  $\text{cl}(\text{St}^n(Y_l, \mathcal{U}_l)) = X$ . Let  $D = \bigcap_{l \in \omega} \text{St}^n(Y_l, \mathcal{U}_l)$ . As  $X$  is a Baire space, we have that  $D$  is dense in  $X$ .

We claim that  $|D| \leq 2^\kappa$ . Indeed, suppose that  $|D| > 2^\kappa$ . Then, by Lemma 2.3, there exist  $m \in \omega$  and  $S \subseteq D$ , such that:  $|S| > \kappa$ ,  $S$  is closed and discrete and for any  $x, y \in S$ , with  $x \neq y, y \notin \text{St}^{2n+1}(x, \mathcal{U}_m)$ . Note that the collection  $\{\text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_m) : s \in S\}$  is discrete. Otherwise, there exists  $x_0 \in X$  such that for any open set  $V$  with  $x_0 \in V, |\{s \in S : V \cap \text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \neq \emptyset\}| > 1$ . Let  $U \in \mathcal{U}_m$  such that  $x_0 \in U$ . By assumption, there exist  $s_1, s_2 \in S$ , with  $s_1 \neq s_2$  such that  $U \cap \text{St}^n(s_1, \mathcal{U}_m) \neq \emptyset$  and  $U \cap \text{St}^n(s_2, \mathcal{U}_m) \neq \emptyset$ . This implies that  $s_1 \in \text{St}^{2n+1}(s_2, \mathcal{U}_m)$ , which contradicts the property of  $S$ . Given that  $S \subseteq D \subseteq \text{St}^n(Y_m, \mathcal{U}_m)$ , for any  $s \in S$ , there is  $y_s \in Y_m$  such that  $s \in \text{St}^n(y_s, \mathcal{U}_m)$ . That is,  $y_s \in \text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_m)$ , so  $\text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y_m \neq \emptyset$ . We conclude that  $\{\text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_m) \cap Y_m : s \in S\}$  is a discrete family of open sets in  $Y_m$  with cardinality greater than  $\kappa$ , which contradicts that  $Y_m$  is  $\text{D}\kappa\text{CC}$ . Therefore,  $|D| \leq 2^\kappa$ . From Corollary 2.5,  $|X| \leq |D|^\omega \leq 2^\kappa$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.7.** *Let  $X$  be a weakly star-D $\kappa$ CC, Baire topological space with rank 3-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ .*

**Corollary 3.8.** *Let  $X$  be a weakly star-weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf and Baire topological space and suppose that it has rank 3-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ . In particular, when  $X$  is a weakly Lindelöf and Baire space,  $|X| \leq 2^\omega$ .*

**Question 3.9.** *Let  $X$  be a weakly star-D $\kappa$ CC (or weakly star-weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf), Baire topological space and suppose that it has rank 2-diagonal. Can it be proven that  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ ?*

*Remark 3.10.* The results 2.15–2.22, 2.24, 2.25, 3.1, 3.2, 3.6–3.8 hold when we put almost star  $\mathcal{P}$ , instead of weakly star  $\mathcal{P}$ .

**Theorem 3.11.** *If  $X$  is a star<sup>n</sup>-D $\kappa$ CC topological space with rank  $(2n + 1)$ -diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $|X| > 2^\kappa$ . Consider a countable family  $\{\mathcal{U}_m : m \in \omega\}$  of open covers of  $X$  such that for every  $x \in X$ ,  $\{x\} = \bigcap \{\text{St}^{2n+1}(x, \mathcal{U}_m) : m \in \omega\}$ . By Lemma 2.3, there exist  $S \subseteq X$  and  $m_0 \in \omega$ , which satisfy  $|S| > \kappa$ ,  $S$  is closed and discrete and for any  $x, y \in S$ , with  $x \neq y$ ,  $y \notin \text{St}^{2n+1}(x, \mathcal{U}_{m_0})$ . Note that  $\mathcal{U} = \{\text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_{m_0}) : s \in S\}$  is a discrete family in  $X$ , as proven in Theorem 3.6.

Since  $\mathcal{U}_{m_0}$  is an open cover of  $X$ , by hypothesis, there exists  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $Y$  is D $\kappa$ CC and  $\text{St}^n(Y, \mathcal{U}_{m_0}) = X$ . We claim that for every  $s \in S$ ,  $Y \cap \text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_{m_0}) \neq \emptyset$ . Indeed, let  $s_0 \in S$ . Given that  $\text{St}^n(Y, \mathcal{U}_{m_0}) = X$ , there is  $U_i \in \mathcal{U}_{m_0}$  such that  $s_0 \in U_1$ ,  $U_i \cap U_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  and  $U_n \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ . So,  $Y \cap \text{St}^n(s_0, \mathcal{U}_{m_0}) \neq \emptyset$ . Hence, we conclude that  $\{Y \cap \text{St}^n(s, \mathcal{U}_{m_0}) : s \in S\}$  is a discrete family in  $Y$  with cardinality greater than  $\kappa$ , which contradicts that  $Y$  is D $\kappa$ CC. So  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ . □

**Corollary 3.12.** *If  $X$  is a star-DCCC topological space with rank 3-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\omega$ .*

**Corollary 3.13.** *Let  $X$  be a star<sup>2</sup>-DCCC topological space and suppose that it has rank 5-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\omega$ .*

From Proposition 2.15, we obtain the following.

**Corollary 3.14.** *Let  $X$  be a star<sup>2</sup>-weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf topological space and suppose that it has rank 5-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ . In particular, when  $X$  is weakly Lindelöf with rank 5-diagonal,  $|X| \leq 2^\omega$ .*

**Question 3.15.** *Let  $X$  be a weakly star-D $\kappa$ CC (or weakly star-weakly  $\kappa$ -Lindelöf) topological space. Can it be proven that  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ , if  $X$  has rank  $l$ -diagonal, for some  $l < 5$ ?*

The next result was proved in [5] for  $\kappa = \omega$  and its proof follows the same ideas. Furthermore, from Theorem 2.21 it follows that, in the class of normal spaces, the properties star-DCCC and DCCC are equivalent. Hence, Theorem 3.16 coincides with [21, Theorem 3.4].

**Theorem 3.16.** *If  $X$  is a  $\text{star-D}\kappa\text{CC}$  and normal space with rank 2-diagonal. Then  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$ .*

**Question 3.17.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a  $\text{star}^n\text{-D}\kappa\text{CC}$  and normal space with rank  $2n$ -diagonal, for  $n > 1$ . Does  $|X| \leq 2^\kappa$  hold?*

We finish this paper with the next result (compare with [22, Theorem 5.4]). Recall that the *extent* of a space  $X$  is defined by  $e(X) = \sup\{|A| : A \text{ is a closed subset of } X \text{ and } A = A \setminus A^d\} + \omega$ , where  $A^d$  denotes the set of all limit points of  $A$ . Moreover, if  $X$  is a space and  $A \subseteq X$ , a family  $\mathcal{U}$  is an *open expansion* of  $A$  if  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_a : a \in A\}$  and  $U_a$  is an open neighbourhood of  $a$  for any  $a \in A$ .

**Theorem 3.18.** *If  $X$  is a  $\text{star-DCCC}$  and normal space with  $H\psi(X) = \omega$ . Then  $e(X) \leq 2^\omega$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $e(X) > 2^\omega$ . That is, there exists a closed and discrete subset  $E$  of  $X$  such that  $|E| > 2^\omega$ . We take, for every  $x \in X$ , the collection  $\mathcal{B}_x = \{B_m^x : m \in \omega\}$  of open neighbourhoods of  $x$  satisfying the condition for Hausdorff pseudo-character. Suppose that for each  $m \in \omega$ ,  $B_{m+1}^x \subseteq B_m^x$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{P}_m = \{\{x, y\} \in [E]^2 : B_m^x \cap B_m^y = \emptyset\}$ , for every  $m \in \omega$ . It can be shown that  $[E]^2 = \bigcup\{\mathcal{P}_m : m \in \omega\}$ . So, by Erdős-Radó's theorem (see [10, Theorem 2.3]), there exist  $m_0 \in \omega$  and a subset  $S$  of  $E$ , with  $|S| > \omega$  such that  $[S]^2 \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{m_0}$ . Note that  $S$  is a closed and discrete subset of  $X$ . Even more,  $\{B_{m_0}^s : s \in S\}$  is a disjoint open expansion of  $S$ . By [21, Lemma 3.3], there exists a discrete open expansion  $\mathcal{V} = \{V_s : s \in S\}$  of  $S$  such that  $s \in V_s \subseteq B_{m_0}^s$ , for each  $s \in S$ .

Now, we consider the open cover of  $X$ ,  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_x : x \in X\}$ , where  $U_x = V_x$ , if  $x \in S$  and when  $x \notin S$ ,  $U_x$  is an open neighbourhood of  $x$  which witnesses that  $\mathcal{V}$  is a discrete family and  $U_x \cap S = \emptyset$ . Hence, there exists  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $Y$  is DCCC and  $\text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U}) = X$ . We claim that for every  $s \in S$ ,  $V_s \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ . Indeed, let  $s \in S$ . Since  $\text{St}(Y, \mathcal{U}) = X$ , there is  $U \in \mathcal{U}$  such that  $s \in U$  and  $U \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ . Note that  $U = V_s$  and the claim follows. Thus,  $\{V_s \cap Y : s \in S\}$  is a discrete family in  $Y$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $e(X) \leq 2^\omega$ .  $\square$

**Question 3.19.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a  $\text{star}^n\text{-D}\kappa\text{CC}$  and normal space such that  $H\psi(X) = \kappa$ , for  $n > 1$  and  $\kappa > \omega$ . Does  $e(X) \leq 2^\kappa$  hold?*

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