



## ON $c$ -SPACES AND HYPERGRAPHS

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### Abstract

In this paper, we examine the  $c$ -structure generated by the edge set of a hypergraph and prove that the elements of this  $c$ -structure induced by the hypergraph are the vertex sets of the connected hypersubgraphs. Further, we try to find some interrelations between a hypergraph and the  $c$ -space induced by that hypergraph.

### 1. Introduction

The concept of connectedness has applications in the field of Digital Topology and Image Processing. A set with a  $c$ -structure on it is called  $c$ -space. In 1983, Börger [3] proposed an axiomatic approach to connectivity, known as the theory of connectivity class or  $c$ -structures. A systematic study of  $c$ -spaces was further carried out by Serra [12] and further extended by Heijmans [7], Ronse [10], Muscat and Buhagiar [8], Dugowson [6], Santhosh [11], etc. In this paper, we are trying to study the theory of  $c$ -spaces comparable with the theory of hypergraphs, which is relevant because hypergraphs too have applications in the field of image processing. Hope

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that this will help us to develop the theory of  $c$ -spaces that has more applicability in the field of image processing.

## 2. Preliminaries

A  $c$ -structure on a set  $X$  is a collection  $\mathcal{C}$  of subsets of  $X$  such that the following properties hold:

- (i)  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $\{x\} \in \mathcal{C}$  for every  $x \in X$ .
- (ii) If  $\{C_i : i \in I\}$  is a nonempty collection of members of  $\mathcal{C}$  with  $\bigcap_{i \in I} C_i \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\bigcup_{i \in I} C_i \in \mathcal{C}$ .

The set  $X$  together with a  $c$ -structure  $\mathcal{C}$ , that is,  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  is called a  $c$ -space [8] and elements of  $\mathcal{C}$  are called *connected sets* of  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ . The empty set and singleton sets of a  $c$ -structure are called *trivial connected sets* and the elements which are neither empty nor singleton of a  $c$ -space are called *non-trivial connected sets*.

For any set  $X$ , let  $\mathcal{D} = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{\{x\} : x \in X\}$ . Clearly,  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $c$ -structure on  $X$ .

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two  $c$ -spaces and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a function.  $f$  is called *c-continuous* [8] or *catenuous* [8], if it maps connected sets of  $X$  to connected sets of  $Y$ . Also, a bijection  $f$  is said to be a *c-isomorphism* or *catenomorphism* if both  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  are  $c$ -continuous.

Let  $X$  be a set and  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ . Then the intersection of all  $c$ -structures on  $X$  containing  $\mathcal{B}$  is a  $c$ -structure on  $X$ , called the *c-structure* generated by  $\mathcal{B}$  and is denoted by  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$ . It is the smallest  $c$ -structure on  $X$  containing  $\mathcal{B}$ .

The non-trivial connected sets of a  $c$ -structure generated by  $\mathcal{B}$  are characterized by the condition that any two points of such a connected set  $C$  can be joined by a finite chain of elements of  $\mathcal{B}$ . That is, for all  $x, y \in C$ ,

we can find elements  $B_i$ ,  $i = 0$  to  $n$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  such that  $B_i \subseteq C$ ,  $B_i \cap B_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n - 1$  and  $x \in B_0$ ,  $y \in B_n$  for some positive integer  $n$ .

A hypergraph [13]  $H$  is an ordered pair  $(X, \mathcal{E})$ , where  $X$  is a set and  $\mathcal{E} = \{E_i : i \in I\}$  is a family of nonempty subsets of  $X$ . The elements of  $X$  are called *vertices* and the elements of  $\mathcal{E}$  are called the *edges* or *hyper edges*.

Consider the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$ . Then a hypergraph  $H' = (X', \mathcal{E}')$  is said to be a *hypersubgraph* [1] or *strong subhypergraph* [4] of  $H$  whenever  $X' \subseteq X$  and  $\mathcal{E}' \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ .

In a hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$ , a chain [2] from the vertex  $x_1$  to the vertex  $x_{q+1}$  is an alternated vertex-edge sequence  $(x_1, E_1, x_2, E_2, \dots, E_q, x_{q+1})$  of distinct vertices and edges of  $H$  such that for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, q$ ,  $\{x_i, x_{i+1}\} \subseteq E_i$ , where  $q$  is called the *length* of the chain.

Let  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  be a hypergraph. Then the vertices  $a, b \in X$  are said to be *connected* in  $H$  if there exists a chain from  $a$  to  $b$ . The hypergraph  $H$  is said to be *connected* if every pair of distinct vertices is connected in  $H$ .

Two hypergraphs  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  and  $H' = (X', \mathcal{E}')$  are said to be *isomorphic* [2] if there exists a bijection  $\phi : X \rightarrow X'$  such that, for every  $E \subseteq X$ ,  $E \in \mathcal{E}$  if and only if  $\phi(E) \in \mathcal{E}'$ .

### 3. Hypergraph Induced $c$ -spaces

The edge set  $\mathcal{E}$  of a hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  is a collection of nonempty subsets of  $X$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{E}$  cannot be a  $c$ -structure on the set  $X$ . But there always exists a smallest  $c$ -structure on  $X$  containing  $\mathcal{E}$ .

**Example 3.1.** Consider the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$ , where  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $\mathcal{E} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \{4, 5\}\}$ . Here the edge set  $\mathcal{E}$  contains neither empty set nor singleton sets, therefore  $\mathcal{E}$  is not a  $c$ -structure on  $X$ .

The  $c$ -structure on  $X$  generated by the edge set  $\mathcal{E}$  is given by  $\mathcal{C} = \langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \mathcal{D} \cup \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \{4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}\}$ .

**Definition 3.1.** Consider the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  and let  $\mathcal{C} = \langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$  be the  $c$ -structure generated by the edge set of  $H$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is called the  $c$ -structure induced by the hypergraph  $H$  and the corresponding  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  is called the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H$ .

**Remark 3.1.** Any  $c$ -space can be considered as an induced  $c$ -space of some hypergraph. For any  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ , let  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{C} - \{\emptyset\}$ . Then the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  is same as the  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ . But a  $c$ -space may be considered as an induced  $c$ -space of more than one hypergraph. Consider the following example:

**Example 3.2.** Consider the  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ , where  $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D} \cup \{\{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$ . Let  $\mathcal{E}_1 = \{\{a, b\}, \{b, c\}\}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_2 = \{\{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$  and  $\mathcal{E}_3 = \mathcal{C} - \{\emptyset\}$ . Then the hypergraphs  $H_1 = (X, \mathcal{E}_1)$ ,  $H_2 = (X, \mathcal{E}_2)$  and  $H_3 = (X, \mathcal{E}_3)$  have the property that  $\langle \mathcal{E}_1 \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E}_2 \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E}_3 \rangle = \mathcal{C}$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  be a hypergraph and let  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H$ . Then the members of  $\mathcal{C}$  are the vertex sets of the connected hypersubgraphs of  $H$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\mathcal{V}_H$  be the collection of all vertex sets of the connected hypersubgraphs of  $H$ . Suppose  $C$  is a trivial connected set of  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ . Then  $H' = (C, \emptyset)$  is a connected hypersubgraph of  $H$  and hence  $C \in \mathcal{V}_H$ . Now suppose  $C$  is a non-trivial connected set of  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ . Consider the hypersubgraph  $H' = (C, \{E_i \in \mathcal{E} : E_i \subseteq C\})$  of  $H$ . Let  $a, b \in C$ . Then there exist  $E_{k1}, E_{k2}, \dots, E_{km}$  such that  $E_{ki} \subseteq C$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $E_{ki} \cap E_{k(i+1)} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1$ ,  $a \in E_{k1}$  and  $b \in E_{km}$ . Now let  $x_i \in E_{ki} \cap E_{k(i+1)}$ . Then  $(a, E_{k1}, x_1, E_{k2}, \dots, E_{k(m-1)}, x_{m-1}, E_{km}, b)$  is a chain from  $a$  to  $b$ . Therefore,  $a$  and  $b$  are connected in  $H'$ . This is true for

every  $a, b \in C$ . Therefore,  $H'$  is a connected hypersubgraph of  $H$  and hence  $C \in \mathcal{V}_H$ . This implies  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{V}_H$ .

To prove  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{V}_H$ , if possible suppose that there exists  $A \in \mathcal{V}_H$  such that  $A \notin \mathcal{C}$ . Since  $A \in \mathcal{V}_H$ , there exists a connected hypersubgraph  $H' = (A, \mathcal{E}')$  for some  $\mathcal{E}' \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ . Then for every  $x, y \in A$ , there exists a chain from  $x$  to  $y$ , say,  $(x_1, E_1, x_2, E_2, \dots, E_q, x_{q+1})$ , where  $x_1 = x, x_{q+1} = y$  and for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, q$  and  $x_k, x_{k+1} \in E_k$ . Clearly,  $E_i \subseteq A$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, q$ . Since  $x_{i+1} \in E_i \cap E_{i+1}$ ,  $E_i \cap E_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, q-1$ . That is, for every  $x, y \in A$ , there exist basis elements  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_q$  such that  $x \in E_1, y \in E_q, E_i \subseteq A$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, q$  and  $E_i \cap E_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, q-1$ . This contradicts the assumption that  $A \notin \mathcal{C}$ , therefore  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{V}_H$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.2.** In simple graphs, the members of the  $c$ -structure induced by the edge set are the vertex sets of connected subgraphs of the given graph.

**Theorem 3.2.** *If  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  and  $G = (Y, \mathcal{F})$  are two isomorphic hypergraphs, then the  $c$ -spaces induced by the hypergraphs  $H$  and  $G$  are  $c$ -isomorphic.*

**Proof.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{E})$  and  $(Y, \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{F})$  be the  $c$ -spaces induced by the hypergraphs  $H$  and  $G$ , respectively, and let  $\phi$  be the hypergraph isomorphism.

Clearly,  $\phi: X \rightarrow Y$  is a bijection. To prove  $\phi: (X, \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{F})$  is  $c$ -continuous, let  $C \in \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{E}$ . If  $C$  is a trivial connected set of  $(X, \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{E})$ , then clearly  $\phi(C) \in \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{F}$ . Now suppose  $C$  is a nontrivial connected set of  $(X, \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{E})$ . For  $y, y' \in \phi(C)$ , there exist  $x, x' \in C$  such that  $\phi(x) = y$  and  $\phi(x') = y'$ . But  $C \in \mathcal{C}_\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{C}_\mathcal{E} = \langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$  implies the existence of the elements  $E_i, i = 0$  to  $n$  in  $\mathcal{E}$  such that  $E_i \subseteq C, E_i \cap E_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n-1$  and  $x \in E_0, x' \in E_n$  for some positive integer  $n$ . Take  $F_i = \phi(E_i)$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n$ , then

$F_i \in \mathcal{F}$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n$ ,  $F_i \subseteq \phi(C)$ ,  $F_i \cap F_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n - 1$  and  $y \in F_0$ ,  $y' \in F_n$ . This implies  $\phi(C) \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}}$  and hence  $\phi$  is  $c$ -continuous. Similarly we can prove that  $\phi^{-1}$  is  $c$ -continuous. Therefore,  $\phi : (X, \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}})$  is a  $c$ -isomorphism.  $\square$

**Note 3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a  $c$ -structure on  $X$  and  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  be such that  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \mathcal{C}$ . Then  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  is a hypergraph if and only if  $B \neq \emptyset$  for each  $B \in \mathcal{B}$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  and  $(Y, \mathcal{C}')$  be two  $c$ -spaces and  $f : (X, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{C}')$  be a  $c$ -isomorphism and let  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_i : i \in I\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  be such that  $\mathcal{C} = \langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$ .

(i) Then  $\mathcal{C}' = \langle f(\mathcal{B}) \rangle$ .

(ii) If  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  is a hypergraph, then  $(Y, f(\mathcal{B}))$  is a hypergraph. Also, the hypergraphs  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  and  $(Y, f(\mathcal{B}))$  are isomorphic.

**Proof.** (i) Consider  $f(\mathcal{B}) = \{f(B_i) : i \in I\}$ . Since  $f$  is  $c$ -continuous and  $B_i \in \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ , we get  $f(B_i) \in \mathcal{C}'$ ,  $\forall i \in I$ . This implies  $f(\mathcal{B}) \subseteq \mathcal{C}'$ . Consider a nontrivial connected set  $C' \in \mathcal{C}'$  and let  $c'_1, c'_2 \in C'$ . Then  $C = f^{-1}(C')$  is a nontrivial connected set of  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $f^{-1}(c'_1), f^{-1}(c'_2) \in C$ . Then there exist  $B_i$ ,  $i = 0$  to  $n$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  such that  $B_i \subseteq C$ ,  $B_i \cap B_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n - 1$  and  $f^{-1}(c'_1) \in B_0$ ,  $f^{-1}(c'_2) \in B_n$  for some positive integer  $n$ . This implies  $c'_1 \in f(B_0)$ ,  $c'_2 \in f(B_n)$  and  $f(B_i) \cap f(B_{i+1}) \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n - 1$ . Therefore,  $C' \in \langle f(\mathcal{B}) \rangle$  and hence  $\mathcal{C}' = \langle f(\mathcal{B}) \rangle$ .

(ii) Consider the  $c$ -isomorphism  $f : (X, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{C}')$ . Suppose that  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  is a hypergraph. Then  $B_i \neq \emptyset$  for each  $i \in I$ . But this implies  $f(B_i) \neq \emptyset$  for every  $i \in I$ . Therefore,  $(Y, f(\mathcal{B}))$  is a hypergraph. Now consider the map  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  defined by  $\phi(x) = f(x)$ . Clearly,  $\phi$  is an isomorphism between the hypergraphs  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  and  $(Y, f(\mathcal{B}))$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.3.** By the above theorem, if we have two  $c$ -isomorphic  $c$ -spaces  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  and  $(Y, \mathcal{C}')$ , consider the collection of nonempty connected sets  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  such that  $\mathcal{C} = \langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$ . Such a collection always exists, for example  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{C} - \{\emptyset\}$ . Then the  $c$ -spaces induced by the isomorphic hypergraphs  $H = (X, \mathcal{B})$  and  $G = (Y, f(\mathcal{B}))$  are  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  and  $(Y, \mathcal{C}')$ , respectively, where  $f$  is the given  $c$ -isomorphism.

#### 4. Isolated Edge and $t$ -closed Set

Here we examine the interrelation between the isolated edges of a hypergraph and the  $t$ -closed sets of the  $c$ -space induced by that hypergraph.

**Definition 4.1** [8]. Let  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be a  $c$ -space and  $A \subseteq X$ . A point  $x \in X$  is said to *touch* the set  $A$  if there is a nonempty  $C \subseteq A$  such that  $\{x\} \cup C$  is connected. The set of all points touching the set  $A$  is denoted by  $t(A)$ . If  $A \subseteq X$  contains all of its touching points, then it is said to be  *$t$ -closed*.

**Definition 4.2** [5]. Consider the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  and let  $E \in \mathcal{E}$ . Then  $E$  is said to be an *isolated edge* if for all  $E' \in \mathcal{E}$  with  $E' \neq E$ ,  $E \cap E' \neq \emptyset$  implies that  $E' \subseteq E$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** Let  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  be a hypergraph and let  $E \in \mathcal{E}$  be an isolated edge. Then  $E$  is  $t$ -closed in the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  is the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H$ . To prove  $E$  is  $t$ -closed in the  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ , it is enough to show that  $t(E) = E$ . It is clear that  $E \subseteq t(E)$ . Let  $x$  be a touching point of  $E$ . Then there exists a nonempty subset  $C \subseteq E$  such that  $A = \{x\} \cup C \in \mathcal{C}$ . If  $x \in C$  then  $x \in E$ . If  $x \notin C$ , then take  $y \in C$  which exists since  $C$  is nonempty. Then there exists  $E_i$ ,  $i = 0$  to  $n$  in  $\mathcal{E}$  such that  $E_i \subseteq C$ ,  $E_i \cap E_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 0$  to  $n - 1$  and  $x \in E_0$ ,  $y \in E_n$  for some positive

integer  $n$ . But  $x \in E_0$  implies  $x \in E$ . Thus we get  $x \in E$  whenever  $x \in t(E)$  and hence  $E$  is  $t$ -closed.  $\square$

**Remark 4.1.** Let  $A \subseteq X$  be a  $t$ -closed set of a  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  and let  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  be such that  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \mathcal{C}$ . Then  $A$  need not be an isolated edge of the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{B})$ , whenever  $H$  is a hypergraph. Consider the following example:

**Example 4.1.** Consider the  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ , where  $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D} \cup \{\{a, b\}, \{c, d\}, \{b, c, d\}, \{a, b, c, d\}\}$ . Since  $t(\{a, b\}) = \{a, b\}$ , we have  $\{a, b\}$  is  $t$ -closed in the  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ . Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\{a, b\}, \{c, d\}, \{b, c, d\}\}$ . Clearly,  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  is a hypergraph. But  $\{a, b\}$  is not an isolated edge of the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{B})$ , since  $\{a, b\} \cap \{b, c, d\} \neq \emptyset$  and  $\{b, c, d\} \not\subseteq \{a, b\}$ .

## 5. $\alpha$ -generated $c$ -space and $\alpha$ -uniform Hypergraphs

In this section, we analyze the relation of  $\alpha$ -generated  $c$ -spaces and  $\alpha$ -uniform hypergraphs.

**Definition 5.1** [9]. Let  $X$  be any set and  $\alpha$  be any cardinal with  $\alpha \leq |X|$ . Then a  $c$ -structure  $\mathcal{C}$  on  $X$  is said to be  $\alpha$ -generated if there is a subcollection  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| \leq \alpha\}$  such that  $\mathcal{C} = \langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$ .

**Definition 5.2** [2]. Consider the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  and let  $|E| = r$  for all  $E \in \mathcal{E}$ . Then the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  is called  $r$ -uniform.

**Theorem 5.1.** Let  $H = (X, \mathcal{E})$  be an  $\alpha$ -uniform hypergraph. Then the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H$  is  $\alpha$ -generated.

**Proof.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H$ . To prove  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  is  $\alpha$ -generated, it is enough to show that there exists  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| \leq \alpha\}$  such that  $\mathcal{C} = \langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$ . Take  $\mathcal{B} = \{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| = \alpha\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{E}$  and hence  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E} \rangle = \mathcal{C}$ .  $\square$



**Remark 5.1.** Converse of the above result is not true. That is, if the  $c$ -space induced by the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{B})$  is  $\alpha$ -generated, then  $H$  need not be  $\alpha$ -uniform. This is shown by the following example:

**Example 5.1.** Consider the  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ , where  $X = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 10\}$  and

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D} \cup \{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 6, 7\}, \{4, 9\}, \{5, 6\}, \{8, 9, 10\}, \{3, 5, 6, 7\}, \{4, 8, 9, 10\}\}.$$

Then  $\mathcal{B} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 6, 7\}, \{4, 9\}, \{5, 6\}, \{8, 9, 10\}\}$  generates  $\mathcal{C}$ . Here  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  is 3-generated, but the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{B})$  is not 3-uniform.

**Note 5.1.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be a  $c$ -space such that  $\mathcal{C} \neq \mathcal{D}$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) there exists  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| \leq 2\}$  such that  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \mathcal{C}$ ,
- (ii) there exists  $\mathcal{B}' \subseteq \{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| = 2\}$  such that  $\langle \mathcal{B}' \rangle = \mathcal{C}$ .

**Note 5.2.** Consider a 2-generated  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  with  $\mathcal{C} \neq \mathcal{D}$ . Then  $\{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| = 2\} \neq \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 5.2.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be a 2-generated  $c$ -space. Then there exists  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  with  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \mathcal{C}$  such that the hypergraph  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  is 2-uniform.

**Proof.** Consider the 2-generated  $c$ -space  $(X, \mathcal{C})$ . If  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D}$ , take  $\mathcal{B} = \emptyset$ . Then  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{C}$  and clearly the hypergraph  $H = (X, \mathcal{B})$  is 2-uniform. Now suppose that  $\mathcal{C} \neq \mathcal{D}$ . Since  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  is 2-generated, there exists  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| \leq 2\}$  such that  $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = \mathcal{C}$ . Then there exists  $\mathcal{B}' \subseteq \{A \in \mathcal{C} : |A| = 2\}$  such that  $\langle \mathcal{B}' \rangle = \mathcal{C}$  and clearly  $\mathcal{B}' \neq \emptyset$ . But the hypergraph  $(X, \mathcal{B}')$  is 2-uniform.  $\square$

**Remark 5.2.** Since 2-uniform hypergraphs are graphs, we can say that corresponding to every 2-generated  $c$ -space, there exists a graph such that the  $c$ -structure induced by that graph coincides with the given  $c$ -structure.

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