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SPAN, SURJECTIVE SPAN, AND CHAINABILITY

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The span of a metric continuum X is the supremum of the numbers $\inf\{d(x, y) : (x, y) \in Z\}$ taken over all subcontinua Z of X^2 whose first and second coordinate projections are equal. Span was introduced by A. Lelek in 1964, and it has since been an open question whether a continuum has span zero if and only if it is chainable.

We will consider a slight variation of the above definition, also introduced by Lelek, called the surjective span. We will discuss some relationships and questions concerning span zero, surjective span zero, and chainability.

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