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jointness preserving shifts on continuous func-
tion spaces.

ABSTRACT. We study disjointness preserving (quasi-) n -shift operators on $C_0(X)$, where X is locally compact and Hausdorff. When $C_0(X)$ admits such a quasi- n -shift T , there is a countable subset of $X_\infty = X \cup \{\infty\}$ equipped with a tree-like structure, called vp-tree, with exactly n joints such that the action of T on $C_0(X)$ can be implemented as a shift on the vp-tree. If T is even an n -shift, then the vp-tree is dense in X and thus X is separable. By analyzing the structure of the vp-tree, we show that every (quasi-) n -shift on c_0 can always be written as a product of n (quasi-)shifts. Although it is not the case for general $C_0(X)$ as shown by our counter examples, we can do so after dilation.