

NORMALITY AND COMPACTNESS ARE EQUIVALENT IN HYPERSPACES

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Introduction. Let X be a Hausdorff topological space and 2^X the space of all closed subsets of X with the finite topology [5, Definition 1.7, p. 153] or [4]. This topology is also known as the exponential or Vietoris topology and 2^X is known as the hyperspace of X . It is known that 2^X is regular if and only if 2^X is completely regular if and only if X is normal [5, Theorem 4.9, p. 163]. When is 2^X normal? It is clear that 2^X is normal if X is compact for then 2^X is compact Hausdorff. Is the converse true? Ivanova has shown in [2] that if X is a well ordered space with the order topology, then 2^X normal implies that X is compact. In [3] the author has shown that 2^{2^X} is normal if and only if X is compact. The purpose of this announcement is to indicate that, assuming CH (the continuum hypothesis), 2^X normal implies that X is compact.

1. A compactification result. Let $\mathcal{F}_n(X)$ be the subset of 2^X consisting of those subsets of X having cardinality at most n . Let $\mathcal{F}_n(X)$ have the topology it inherits from 2^X . A corollary to [1, Theorem 1, p. 371] is that for $n \geq 2$ and X completely regular, $\beta(X^n) = (\beta X)^n$ if and only if X^n is pseudocompact. Using this result we show that for X completely regular, there is a corresponding result for $\mathcal{F}_n(X)$.

THEOREM 1. *Let $n \geq 2$. If X is completely regular, then $\beta\mathcal{F}_n(X) = \mathcal{F}_n(\beta X)$ if and only if $\mathcal{F}_n(X)$ is pseudocompact if and only if X^n is pseudocompact.*

This result plays an important role in our study of the normality of hyperspaces.

2. The normality of hyperspaces. The proof of the next proposition makes strong use of Theorem 1.

PROPOSITION. *If 2^X is normal, then X is countably compact and normal. If in addition X is not compact, then there is an n such that X^n is not pseudocompact.*

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