

164. On Countably Paracompact Spaces

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This note will give a characterization of a countably paracompact space, i.e. a topological space X which has a locally finite refinement for every countable open covering.

Theorem: In order that a topological space X be countably paracompact it is necessary and sufficient that:

A. If a decreasing sequence $\{F_i\}$ of non empty closed sets F_i with vacuous intersection is given, then there exists a decreasing sequence $\{G_i\}$ of open sets such that their closure \bar{G}_i have a vacuous intersection and $G_i \supset F_i$.

Proof. If X is a countably paracompact space and given $\{F_i\}$, then

$\{X - F_i\}$ is a countable open covering of X , therefore it has a locally finite refinement \mathfrak{B} . For each open set W of \mathfrak{B} let $g(W)$ be the first $X - F_i$ containing W , and let V_i be the union of all W for which $g(W) = X - F_i$. Then V_i is open and $V_i \subset X - F_i$, $\{V_i\}$ is a locally finite covering of X .

Put: $G_i = \sum_{n=i+1}^{\infty} V_n$. Then G_i is open,

$$G_i \supset X - (V_1 + \dots + V_i) \supset X - (X - F_i) = F_i,$$

hence $G_i \supset F_i$.

For every point x of X there exists a neighborhood $u(x)$ such that it meets only a finite number of V_i , since $\{V_i\}$ is a locally finite. Therefore there exists an i such that $u(x) \cap \sum_{n=i+1}^{\infty} V_n = 0$, that is, $x \notin \bar{G}_i$. Accordingly $\pi \bar{G}_i = 0$.

Conversely let X be a space with the condition A, and let $\{U_i\}$ be a given countable open covering of X .

Put: $F_i = X - \sum_{n=1}^i U_n$. Then by the condition A there exist open sets G_i such that $G_i \supset F_i$,

$$G_1 \supset G_2 \dots \text{ and } \pi \bar{G}_i = 0.$$

Put: $X - G_i = E_i$. Then E_i is obviously closed and $E_i \subset \sum_{n=1}^i U_n$.

Finally put: $V_i = U_i - E_{i-1}$. Then V_i is clearly open and $V_i \subset U_i$. Moreover, since $V_i = U_i - E_{i-1} \supset U_i - \sum_{n=1}^{i-1} U_n$, we have $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} V_i \supset \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (U_i - \sum_{n=1}^{i-1} U_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} U_i = X$, thus $\{V_i\}$ is a refinement of $\{U_i\}$. To each point x of X , we choose the first i such that $x \notin \bar{G}_i$. Then there exists a