

## GAPS BETWEEN COMPACTNESS DEGREE AND COMPACTNESS DEFICIENCY FOR TYCHONOFF SPACES

By

Takashi KIMURA

### 1. Introduction.

In this paper we assume that all spaces are Tychonoff. For a space  $X$ ,  $\dim X$  denotes the Čech-Lebesgue dimension of  $X$  (see [3]).

J. de Groot proved that a separable metrizable space  $X$  has a metrizable compactification  $\alpha X$  with  $\dim(\alpha X \setminus X) \leq 0$  iff  $X$  is rim-compact (see [4]). A space  $X$  is *rim-compact* if each point of  $X$  has arbitrarily small neighborhoods with compact boundary. Modified the concept of rim-compactness, he defined the *compactness degree* of a space  $X$ ,  $\text{cmp } X$ , inductively, as follows.

A space  $X$  satisfies  $\text{cmp } X = -1$  iff  $X$  is compact. If  $n$  is a non-negative integer, then  $\text{cmp } X \leq n$  means that each point of  $X$  has arbitrarily small neighborhoods  $U$  with  $\text{cmp } \text{Bd } U \leq n - 1$ . We put  $\text{cmp } X = n$  if  $\text{cmp } X \leq n$  and  $\text{cmp } X \not\leq n - 1$ . If there is no integer  $n$  for which  $\text{cmp } X \leq n$ , then we put  $\text{cmp } X = \infty$ .

By the *compactness deficiency* of a Tychonoff space (resp. a separable metrizable space)  $X$  we mean the least integer  $n$  such that  $X$  has a compactification (resp. a metrizable compactification)  $\alpha X$  with  $\dim(\alpha X \setminus X) = n$ . We denote this integer by  $\text{def}^* X$  (resp.  $\text{def } X$ ). We allow  $n$  to be  $\infty$ .

Thus, with this terminology, J. de Groot's result above asserts that  $\text{cmp } X \leq 0$  iff  $\text{def } X \leq 0$  for every separable metrizable space  $X$ . The general problem whether  $\text{cmp } X \leq n$  iff  $\text{def } X \leq n$  for arbitrary separable metrizable space  $X$  has been known as J. de Groot's conjecture, and was unsolved for a long time.

However, in 1982 R. Pol [7] constructed a separable metrizable space  $X$  such that  $\text{cmp } X = 1$  and  $\text{def } X = 2$ . In the class of separable metrizable spaces, another example  $X$  with the property that  $\text{cmp } X \neq \text{def } X$  seems to be still unknown but Pol's example above.

On the other hand, in the class of Tychonoff spaces, M. G. Charalambous [1] has already constructed a space  $X$  such that  $\text{cmp } X = 0$  and  $\text{def}^* X = n$  for each  $n = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$ . J. van Mill [6] has constructed a Lindelöf space  $X$  such that  $\text{cmp } X = 1$  and  $\text{def}^* X = \infty$ .

In this paper we construct a countably compact space  $X$  such that  $\text{cmp } X = m$  and

def\*  $X = n$  for  $m, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  with  $m < n$ .

## 2. Lemmas and the main result.

We begin with the following inductive conception, which is closely related to  $\text{cmp } X$ .

DEFINITION 2.1. For a subset  $A$  of a space  $X$  we define

$\text{ind } (A, X) = -1$  iff  $A$  is empty,

$\text{ind } (A, X) \leq n$  iff each point of  $A$  has arbitrarily small neighborhoods  
 $U$  in  $X$  with  $\text{ind } (\text{Bd}_X U \cap A, X) \leq n - 1$ ,

$\text{ind } (A, X) = n$  iff  $\text{ind } (A, X) \leq n$  and  $\text{ind } (A, X) \not\leq n - 1$ ,

$\text{ind } (A, X) = \infty$  iff  $\text{ind } (A, X) \not\leq n$  for all  $n$ .

The following lemma readily follows from induction.

LEMMA 2.2. For a closed subset  $A$  of a space  $X$   $\text{cmp } A \leq \text{cmp } X$ .

LEMMA 2.3. Let  $A \subset B \subset X \subset Y$ . Then

(1)  $\text{ind } (A, X) \leq \text{ind } (B, X)$ ,

(2)  $\text{ind } (A, X) \leq \text{ind } (A, Y)$ .

PROOF. (1) is easy by induction.

(2). We proceed by induction on  $\text{ind } (A, Y) = n$ . Obviously, (2) holds for  $n = -1$ . Let  $n \geq 0$  and assume that (2) holds for every  $k$  with  $k < n$ . Suppose that  $\text{ind } (A, Y) = n$ . For each  $x \in A$  and each neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  in  $X$  there are neighborhoods  $U'$  and  $V'$  of  $x$  in  $Y$  such that  $U = U' \cap X$ ,  $V' \subset U'$  and  $\text{ind } (\text{Bd}_Y V' \cap A, Y) \leq n - 1$ . Let  $V = V' \cap X$ . The induction hypothesis implies that  $\text{ind } (\text{Bd}_Y V' \cap A, X) \leq \text{ind } (\text{Bd}_Y V' \cap A, Y) \leq n - 1$ . Since  $\text{Bd}_X V \cap A \subset \text{Bd}_Y V' \cap A$ , by (1), we have  $\text{ind } (\text{Bd}_X V \cap A, X) \leq n - 1$ . Hence we have  $\text{ind } (A, X) \leq n$ , therefore  $\text{ind } (A, X) \leq \text{ind } (A, Y)$ .

For every space  $X$  we set  $R(X) = \{x \in X \mid x \text{ has no neighborhood with compact closure}\}$ .

LEMMA 2.4. For every space  $X$  we have  $\text{cmp } X \leq \text{ind } (R(X), X) + 1$ .

PROOF. We shall apply induction with respect to  $\text{ind } (R(X), X) = n$ . Obviously, the lemma holds for  $n = -1$ . Let  $n \geq 0$  and assume that the lemma holds for every  $k$  with  $k < n$ . Suppose that  $\text{ind } (R(X), X) = n$ . We shall prove that  $\text{cmp } X \leq n + 1$ . To prove this, we only consider points of  $R(X)$ , because  $X \setminus R(X)$  is locally compact and open in  $X$ . Let  $x \in R(X)$  and  $U$  a neighborhood of  $x$  in  $X$ . Then we take a neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$  in  $X$  such that  $V \subset U$  and  $\text{ind } (\text{Bd}_X V \cap R(X), X) \leq n - 1$ . Since  $R(\text{Bd}_X V) \subset \text{Bd}_X V \cap R(X)$ , by lemma 2.3, we have  $\text{ind } (R(\text{Bd}_X V), \text{Bd}_X V) \leq \text{ind } (\text{Bd}_X V \cap R(X), X) \leq n - 1$ . By induction hypothesis, we have  $\text{cmp } \text{Bd}_X V \leq n$ . Hence we have  $\text{cmp } X \leq n + 1$ .

As usual, an ordinal  $\alpha$  is the space of all ordinals less than  $\alpha$  with order topology. For each ordinal  $\alpha$  we denote by  $[0, \alpha]$  the long segment for  $\alpha$ . That is,  $[0, \alpha] = (\alpha \times [0, 1)) \cup \{\alpha\}$  as the set, where  $[0, 1)$  is the half-open unit interval, with order topology with respect to an order  $<$  as follows; for  $(\beta, t), (\gamma, s) \in \alpha \times [0, 1)$   $(\beta, t) < (\gamma, s)$  iff  $(\beta < \gamma)$  or  $(\beta = \gamma$  and  $t < s)$  and for all  $(\beta, t) \in \alpha \times [0, 1)$   $(\beta, t) < \alpha$ .

Then the space  $[0, \alpha]$  is compact and connected. For ordinals  $\alpha_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ , we have  $\dim \prod_{i=1}^n [0, \alpha_i] = \text{ind } \prod_{i=1}^n [0, \alpha_i] = n$ . For any points  $\beta, \gamma \in [0, \alpha]$  with  $\beta < \gamma$  we define  $[\beta, \gamma] = \{\delta \in [0, \alpha] \mid \beta \leq \delta \leq \gamma\}$ . Similarly, we define  $(\beta, \gamma)$  and  $(\beta, \gamma)$ .

LEMMA. 2.5. *Let  $m \geq 1$  and  $Y_m = (\omega_1 \times [0, \omega_1]^{m+1}) \cup ((\omega_1, \omega_1, \omega_1) \times [0, \omega_1]^{m-1})$  be the subspace of  $(\omega_1 + 1) \times [0, \omega_1]^{m+1}$ . Then  $\text{cmp } Y_m = m$ .*

PROOF. Since  $R(Y_m) = \{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \omega_1)\} \times [0, \omega_1]^{m-1}$ , we have  $\text{ind } (R(Y_m), Y_m) = m - 1$ . By Lemma 2.4,  $\text{cmp } Y_m \leq m$ . Thus we only show that  $\text{cmp } Y_m \geq m$ . We proceed by induction on  $m$ .

Step 1. Suppose that  $m = 1$ .

Let  $\{y\} = R(Y_1) = \{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \omega_1)\}$  and  $U = ((\omega_1 + 1) \times (1, \omega_1]^2) \cap Y_1$ . Then  $U$  is a neighborhood of  $y$  in  $Y_1$ . Assume that there is a neighborhood  $V$  of  $y$  in  $Y_1$  such that  $V \subset U$  and  $\text{Bd } V$  is compact. Let  $p: (\omega_1 + 1) \times [0, \omega_1]^2 \rightarrow \omega_1 + 1$  be the projection. Then we have  $p(\text{Bd } V) \subset \omega_1$ . Since  $p(\text{Bd } V)$  is compact, we can take an ordinal  $\alpha < \omega_1$  such that  $p(\text{Bd } V) \subset \alpha$ . On the other hand, there is an ordinal  $\beta < \omega_1$  such that  $(\gamma, \omega_1, \omega_1) \in V$  for every  $\gamma$  with  $\beta < \gamma < \omega_1$ . Pick up an ordinal  $\gamma$  with  $\max\{\alpha, \beta\} < \gamma < \omega_1$ . Then  $\gamma \notin p(\text{Bd } V)$ ,  $(\gamma, 0, 0) \notin V$  and  $(\gamma, \omega_1, \omega_1) \in V$ . This contradicts the connectedness of  $\{y\} \times [0, \omega_1]^2$ . Thus  $\text{Bd } V$  is not compact for every neighborhood  $V$  of  $y$  in  $Y_1$  with  $V \subset U$ . Hence  $\text{cmp } Y_1 = 1$ .

Step 2. Assume that  $\text{cmp } Y_k = k$  for every  $k$  with  $k < m$ .

Let  $Z = ((\omega_1 + 1) \times [0, \omega_1]^m \times [0, 1]) \cap Y_m$ ,  $U = ((\omega_1 + 1) \times [0, \omega_1]^m \times [0, 1/2)) \cap Y_m$  and  $x = (\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1, 0)$ . Then  $Z$  is closed in  $Y_m$  and  $U$  is a neighborhood of  $x$  in  $Z$ . For each neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$  in  $Z$  with  $V \subset U$  we set

$$t = \sup \{s \in [0, 1] \mid (\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1, s) \in V\}.$$

Let  $p: (\omega_1 + 1) \times [0, \omega_1]^{m+1} = (\omega_1 + 1) \times \prod_{i=1}^{m+1} [0, \omega_1]_i \rightarrow [0, \omega_1]_{m+1}$  be the projection and  $A = p(\{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1)\} \times [0, 1]) \cap V$ . For each  $x \in (\{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1)\} \times [0, 1]) \cap V$  we take  $\alpha_{ix} < \omega_1, i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ , and an open subset  $U_x$  of  $[0, 1]$  such that  $x \in V_x = ((\omega_1 + 1) \setminus \alpha_{0x}) \times \prod_{i=1}^m [\alpha_{ix}, \omega_1] \times U_x \cap Z \subset V$ . Since  $(\{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1)\} \times [0, 1]) \cap V$  is Lindelöf, we can take a countable subset  $\{x(n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  such that  $\{V_{x(n)} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  covers  $(\{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1)\} \times [0, 1]) \cap V$ . Let  $\alpha_i = \sup \{\alpha_{ix(n)} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  for each  $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ . Then  $\alpha_i < \omega_1$  and  $((\omega_1 + 1) \setminus \alpha_0) \times \prod_{i=1}^m [\alpha_i, \omega_1] \times A \cap Z \subset V$ . Let  $W = Z \setminus \text{Cl}_Z V$ . Then, similarly, we can take an ordinal  $\beta_i < \omega_1$  for each  $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$  such that  $((\omega_1 + 1) \setminus \beta_0) \times \prod_{i=1}^m [\beta_i, \omega_1] \times B \cap Z \subset W$ , where  $B = p(\{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1)\} \times [0, 1]) \cap W$ . Let us set  $\gamma_i = \max\{\alpha_i, \beta_i\}$  for each  $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ . Then  $((\omega_1 + 1) \setminus \gamma_0) \times \prod_{i=1}^m [\gamma_i, \omega_1] \times \{t\} \cap Z$  is homeomorphic to

$Y_{m-1}$  and contained in  $\text{Bd}_Z V$  as a closed subset. By Lemma 2.2, we have  $\text{cmp Bd}_Z V \geq m-1$ , therefore  $\text{cmp } Y_m \geq \text{cmp } Z \geq m$ . Hence we have  $\text{cmp } Y_m = m$ . This completes the proof of Lemma 2.5.

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $Z_n = \Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i] \setminus \{(\omega_2, \omega_3, \dots, \omega_{n+1})\}$  be the subspace of  $\Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$ . Since  $\Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$  is pseudocompact, by Glicksberg's theorem, we have  $\beta \Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i] = \Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$ , where  $\beta Y$  is the Stone-Čech compactification of a space  $Y$ . Thus  $\beta Z_n = \Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$ . Namely,  $Z_n$  has the only compactification  $\Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$ .

LEMMA. 2.6. *Let  $X$  contain  $Z_n$  as a closed subset. Then for every perfect image  $Y$  of  $X$  we have  $\dim Y \geq n$ .*

PROOF. Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a perfect surjection and  $\beta f: \beta X \rightarrow \beta Y$  the Stone extension of  $f$ . Then  $\text{Cl}_{\beta X} Z_n$  is a compactification of  $Z_n$ . As described above,  $\text{Cl}_{\beta X} Z_n$  is homeomorphic to  $\Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$ . Let  $z = (\omega_2, \omega_3, \dots, \omega_{n+1})$ . Then  $\text{Cl}_{\beta X} Z_n = Z_n \cup \{z\}$  and  $z \in \beta X \setminus X$ .

Claim 1. For each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n+1$ , there is an ordinal  $\alpha_i < \omega_i$  such that  $\beta f(A_i) \cap \beta f(B_i) = \phi$ , where

$$A_i = \Pi_{j=2}^{i-1} [\alpha_j, \omega_j] \times \{\alpha_i\} \times \Pi_{j=i+1}^{n+1} [\alpha_j, \omega_j]$$

and

$$B_i = \Pi_{j=2}^{i-1} [\alpha_j, \omega_j] \times \{\omega_i\} \times \Pi_{j=i+1}^{n+1} [\alpha_j, \omega_j].$$

Proof of Claim 1. Since  $f$  is perfect,  $\beta f(z) \notin \beta f(Z_n)$  (see [3, 3.7.15]). Thus for each  $\alpha < \omega_j$  we take an ordinal  $\alpha_i^j(\alpha) < \omega_i$  such that

$$\beta f(\Pi_{i=2}^{j-1} [\alpha_i^j(\alpha), \omega_i] \times \{\alpha\} \times \Pi_{i=j+1}^{n+1} [\alpha_i^j(\alpha), \omega_i]) \cap \beta f(\Pi_{i=2}^{j-1} [\alpha_i^j(\alpha), \omega_i] \times \{\omega_j\} \times \Pi_{i=j+1}^{n+1} [\alpha_i^j(\alpha), \omega_i]) = \phi.$$

Let  $\alpha_i^j = \sup \{\alpha_i^j(\alpha) \mid \alpha < \omega_j\}$ . If  $j < i$ , then  $\alpha_i^j < \omega_i$ .

We define, by downward induction on  $i$ , an ordinal

$$\alpha_i = \max \{\alpha_i^2, \dots, \alpha_i^{i-1}, \alpha_i^{i+1}(\alpha_{i+1}), \dots, \alpha_i^{n+1}(\alpha_{n+1})\}.$$

Then  $\alpha_i < \omega_i$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n+1$ . Since  $\alpha_i \geq \alpha_i^j(\alpha_j)$ , we have  $\beta f(A_i) \cap \beta f(B_i) = \phi$ .

Claim 2.  $\dim Y \geq n$ .

Proof of Claim 2. Assume that  $\dim Y = \dim \beta Y < n$ . Since  $\beta f(A_i)$  and  $\beta f(B_i)$  are disjoint closed subsets of  $\beta Y$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n+1$ , we take a partition  $L_i$  in  $\beta Y$  between  $\beta f(A_i)$  and  $\beta f(B_i)$  such that  $\bigcap_{i=2}^{n+1} L_i = \phi$  (cf. [2, 3.3.6]). Let  $X' = \Pi_{i=2}^{n+1} [\alpha_i, \omega_i]$  and  $M_i = \beta f^{-1}(L_i) \cap X'$ . Then  $M_i$  is a partition in  $X'$  between  $A_i$  and  $B_i$  such that  $\bigcap_{i=2}^{n+1} M_i = \phi$ . Since  $X'$  is compact, for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n+1$ , we take a finite collection  $\{\beta_i^j \mid 0 \leq j \leq m_i\}$  of ordinals such that

- (1)  $\alpha_i = \beta_i^0 < \dots < \beta_i^j < \dots < \beta_i^{m_i} = \omega_i$ ,
- (2)  $\bigcap_{i=2}^{n+1} \text{St}(M_i, \mathcal{A}) = \phi$ ,  $\text{St}(M_i, \mathcal{A}) \cap \text{St}(A_i, \mathcal{A}) = \phi$  and  $\text{St}(M_i, \mathcal{A}) \cap \text{St}(B_i, \mathcal{A}) = \phi$ ,

where  $\mathcal{A} = \{\prod_{i=2}^{n+1} [\beta_i^{j(i)-1}, \beta_i^{j(i)}] \mid (j(2), \dots, j(n+1)) \in \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} \{1, \dots, m_i\}\}$ .

Then for each  $i=2, 3, \dots, n+1$ , there is a continuous mapping  $f_i: [\alpha_i, \omega_i] \rightarrow [0, 1] = I_i$  such that  $f_i(\beta_i^j) = j/m_i$  and  $f_i([\beta_i^{j-1}, \beta_i^j]) = [(j-1)/m_i, j/m_i]$ . Let  $g = \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} f_i: \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} [\alpha_i, \omega_i] \rightarrow \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} I_i$  be the product mapping defined by  $g((t_i)_{i=2}^{n+1}) = (f_i(t_i))_{i=2}^{n+1}$ . Since  $\text{St}(M_i, \mathcal{A})$  is a partition in  $X'$  between  $A_i$  and  $B_i$ , there are disjoint open subsets  $U_i$  and  $V_i$  of  $X'$  such that  $A_i \subset U_i$ ,  $B_i \subset V_i$  and  $X' \setminus \text{St}(M_i, \mathcal{A}) = U_i \cup V_i$ . Let  $K_i^j = I_2 \times \dots \times I_{i-1} \times \{j\} \times I_{i+1} \times \dots \times I_{n+1}$  for each  $i=2, 3, \dots, n+1$  and each  $j=0, 1$ . Let  $N_i = g(X' \setminus U_i) \cap g(X' \setminus V_i)$  for each  $i=2, 3, \dots, n+1$ . Then  $N_i$  is a partition in  $\prod_{i=2}^{n+1} I_i$  between  $K_i^0$  and  $K_i^1$ , and  $\bigcap_{i=2}^{n+1} N_i = \phi$ . This is a contradiction (cf. [2, 1.8.1]).

Now we construct a space, which is mentioned in the introduction.

**EXAMPLE. 2.7.** For  $m, n \in N \cup \{\infty\}$  with  $m < n$  there exists a countably compact space  $X$  such that  $\text{cmp } X = m$  and  $\text{def}^* X = n$ .

Case 1.  $n \in N$ .

Let  $X = (\omega_1 \times \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]) \cup ((\omega_1, \omega_1, \omega_1) \times [0, \omega_1]^{m-1} \times \{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1)\}) \cup \{(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_{n+1})\}$  be the subspace of  $(\omega_1 + 1) \times \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$ .

It is easy to see that  $X$  is countably compact.

Since  $R(X) = ((\omega_1, \omega_1, \omega_1) \times [0, \omega_1]^{m-1} \times \{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_1)\}) \cup \{(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_{n+1})\}$ , we have  $\text{ind}(R(X), X) = m - 1$ . By Lemma 2.4, we have  $\text{cmp } X \leq m$ . Since  $X$  contains  $Y_m$  as a closed subspace, by Lemmas 2.2 and 2.5 we have  $\text{cmp } X \geq m$ . Hence  $\text{cmp } X = m$ .

Next, since  $\beta X = (\omega_1 + 1) \times \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} [0, \omega_i]$ , we have  $\text{dim}(\beta X \setminus X) = n$ . Thus  $\text{def}^* X \leq n$ . For each compactification  $\alpha X$  of  $X$  there is a perfect surjection  $f: \beta X \setminus X \rightarrow \alpha X \setminus X$ , and  $\beta X \setminus X$  contains a closed subset homeomorphic to  $Z_n$ . Thus, by Lemma 2.6, we have  $\text{dim}(\alpha X \setminus X) \geq n$ . Hence  $\text{def}^* X = n$ .

Case 2.  $n = \infty$ .

Let  $X = (\omega_1 \times \prod_{i=2}^{\infty} [0, \omega_i]) \cup ((\omega_1, \omega_1, \omega_1) \times [0, \omega_i]^{m-1} \times \{(\omega_1, \omega_1, \dots)\}) \cup \{(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots)\}$  be the subspace of  $(\omega_1 + 1) \times \prod_{i=2}^{\infty} [0, \omega_i]$ . Then, similarly,  $X$  is countably compact,  $\text{cmp } X = m$  and  $\text{def}^* X = n$ .

### 3. Statements.

We define  $\text{Cmp } X$  of a space  $X$  by the following;  $\text{Cmp } X = 0$  if  $\text{cmp } X \leq 0$ , and for  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\text{Cmp } X \leq n$  if each closed subset of  $X$  has arbitrarily small neighborhoods  $U$  with  $\text{Cmp } \text{Bd } U \leq n - 1$ .  $\text{Cmp } X$  was defined by J. de Groot for the case  $X$  is separable and metrizable.

It can be prove that  $\text{cmp } X \leq \text{Cmp } X$  for every space  $X$  and  $\text{cmp } X \leq \text{Cmp } X \leq \text{def } X$  for every separable metrizable space  $X$  (see [4]). For Pol's example  $X$  in [7] shows that  $\text{cmp } X = 1$  and  $\text{Cmp } X = \text{def } X = 2$ . Thus it is unknown whether there is a separable metrizable space  $X$  with  $\text{Cmp } X < \text{def } X$ . It would be interesting to have a separable metrizable space  $X$  such that  $\text{cmp } X = k$ ,  $\text{Cmp } X = m$  and  $\text{def } X = n$  for  $k, m, n \in N \cup \{\infty\}$

with  $k \leq m \leq n$ .

Obviously,  $\text{def}^* X \leq \text{def} X$  for every separable metrizable space  $X$ . We do not know whether there is a separable metrizable space  $X$  with  $\text{def}^* X < \text{def} X$  as well as the value of  $\text{def}^* X$  for Pol's example  $X$  in [7].

In Example 2.7 we have constructed a space  $X$  with  $\text{cmp} X = m$  and  $\text{def}^* X = n$  for  $m, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  with  $m < n$ . However, in general,  $\text{cmp} X$  need not be less than or equal to  $\text{def}^* X$  [5, VII.25]. It would be interesting to have a space  $X$  such that  $\text{cmp} X = k$ ,  $\text{Cmp} X = m$  and  $\text{def}^* X = n$  for  $k, m, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  with  $k \leq m$ .

**Added in proof.** The author constructed a separable metrizable space  $X$  such that  $\text{def} X - \text{com} X = n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus in the class of separable metrizable spaces the gap between  $\text{cmp} X$  and  $\text{def} X$  can be arbitrarily large.

### References

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Institute of Mathematics  
University of Tsukuba  
Ibaraki, 305, Japan