

Embedding first countable spaces into first countable countably compact spaces

Peter Nyikos

University of South Carolina

nyikos@math.sc.edu

Various set-theoretic hypotheses allow us to embed first countable regular Hausdorff spaces into countably compact ones. The following theorem is definitive for a special class of them.

Theorem 1. *The set-theoretic axiom $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c}$ is equivalent to the statement that every locally compact, first countable Hausdorff space can be embedded into a locally compact, first countable, countably compact Hausdorff space.*

In the absence of local compactness, we seem to need another small uncountable cardinal, the splitting number \mathfrak{s} , to be brought into play. The following general theorem is a starting point.

Theorem 2. *[$\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{c}$] Every regular, first countable space X of weight $< \mathfrak{c}$ can be embedded into a regular, first countable, countably compact space. If X is 0-dimensional, the extension can be made 0-dimensional as well.*

The following is immediate from the elementary facts that weight \leq cardinality for first countable spaces and that every Tychonoff space X of cardinality $< \mathfrak{c}$ is 0-dimensional.

Corollary. *[$\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{c}$] Every first countable Tychonoff space X of cardinality $< \mathfrak{c}$ can be embedded into a Tychonoff, first countable, countably compact space.*

To replace cardinality with weight for Tychonoff spaces has thus far required a stronger accompaniment to $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{c}$ than $\mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{c}$. The stronger axiom is that there is a simple P-point on ω of cofinality