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A NOTE ON η_1 -spaces

by

HAROLD BENNETT, SHELDON DAVIS AND DAVID LUTZER

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we study some topological properties of η_1 -spaces, i.e., topological spaces that use the open-interval topology of the η_1 -sets that were introduced by Hausdorff more than a century ago. We focus on paracompactness, normality of products, topological completeness of various kinds, and certain generalized metric properties such as the existence of a small diagonal. In many cases, we find an intimate relation between topological properties of small η_1 -spaces (i.e. having cardinality 2^{ω}) and the Continuum Hypothesis (CH). For example, we show that (CH) is equivalent to the statement that if X is an η_1 -space of cardinality 2^{ω} , then X^n is hereditarily paracompact and monotonically normal and is homeomorphic to X for every finite $n \ge 1$, and we show that CH is equivalent to the statement that every η_1 -space of cardinality 2^ω is real compact. In addition, we investigate the role of Hušek's small diagonal property, showing that an η_1 -space X has a small diagonal if and only if each subset $S \subseteq X$ with $|S| \leq \omega_1$ is closed. Consequently, under CH, no η_1 -space with cardinality 2^{ω} can have a small diagonal, and we show that that if CH fails, then is is undecidable whether each ultrapower $\mathbb{R}^{\omega}/\mathcal{U}$ must have a small diagonal. Under CH, we show that any finite power of any GO-modification of a small η_1 -set is both monotonically normal and paracompact, and is homeomorphic to its square. We pose several questions about the topology of small η_1 -spaces in models where the Continuum Hypothesis fails.

In memoriam: We dedicate this paper to the memory of our friend and colleague Phillip Zenor whose work has deeply influenced our research.

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25

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