THE PARACOMPACTNESS OF
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by

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1. Introduction

In this paper we present an extension of the work begun in \([S_1]\) and \([D_1]\). We introduce the notion of isoparacompactness which is that all closed preparacompact subsets are paracompact. In \([S_1]\), it is shown that in the class of \(q\)-spaces many of the popular weak covering properties imply isoparacompactness. In \([D_1]\), similar results are proved for the class of Lob-spaces. It is our purpose here to study the property of isoparacompactness itself. For convenience, we assume that all spaces are at least \(T_1\). We repeat now a few relevant definitions.

Definition 1.1 \([Br]\). A \(T_2\) space \(X\) is called preparacompact (respectively, \(\kappa\)-preparacompact) if each open cover of \(X\) has an open refinement \(\mathcal{H} = \{H_\alpha : \alpha \in A\}\) such that if \(B \subseteq A\) is infinite (respectively, uncountable) and if \(p_\beta \in H_\beta\) and \(q_\beta \in H_\beta\) for each \(\beta \in B\) with \(p_\alpha \neq p_\beta\) and \(q_\alpha \neq q_\beta\) for \(\alpha \neq \beta\), then the set \(Q = \{q_\beta : \beta \in B\}\) has a limit point iff the set \(P = \{p_\beta : \beta \in B\}\) has a limit point.

The collection \(\mathcal{H}\) in 1.1 will be called a ppc-collection (respectively, \(\kappa\)-ppc-collection). The terms "\(\sigma\)-ppc-collection" and "\(\sigma\)-\(\kappa\)-ppc-collection" have the obvious meanings, namely, countable unions of these types of collections.

Definition 1.2. A space \(X\) is called isoparacompact if
each closed preparacompact subset of $X$ is paracompact.

**Definition 1.3 [D].** A space $X$ is called an *Lob-space* if for each $x \in X$ there is an open neighborhood base $\mathcal{U}_x$ which is linearly ordered by reverse subset inclusion.

**Definition 1.4 [M].** A space $X$ is called a *q-space* if at each point $x \in X$ there is a sequence $\{N(x,n) : n \in \omega\}$ of neighborhoods of $x$ such that if $x_n \in N(x,n)$ for each $n \in \omega$, then $\{x_n : n \in \omega\}$ has a cluster point.

**Definition 1.5 [N].** A space $X$ is called a *quasi-k-space* if a subset $F \subseteq X$ is closed in $X$ iff $F \cap C$ is closed in $C$ for every countably compact $C \subseteq X$.

In this paper we will use the assumption "$X$ is an Lob-space" fairly often. In every instance, this may be replaced by "$X$ is a q-space" with the result remaining valid. Occasionally, "$X$ is a quasi-k-space" may be used. The interested reader is referred to [S4]. Michael has proved that all q-spaces are quasi-k-spaces [M3], but there is no subclass relationship between the Lob-spaces and either the q-spaces or the quasi-k-spaces as can be seen from examples 3.7 and 3.8 of [D].

The following theorem summarizes the results from [S1] and [D] regarding isoparacompactness.

**Theorem 1.6.** If $X$ is a regular Lob-space, then each of the following will imply that $X$ is isoparacompact:

1. $X$ is $\theta$-refinable.
2. $X$ is $\delta\theta$-refinable.
3. $X$ is weakly $\bar{6}$-refinable.

4. $X$ is weakly $\bar{66}$-refinable.

5. Every closed subset of $X$ is irreducible.

6. Every open cover of $X$ has a $\sigma$-weakly discrete refinement.

In large part, the interest in this condition stems from the fact that all of these covering properties also imply isocompactness [Ba]. In fact, we shall see that all isopara compact spaces are isocompact. We remind the reader that a space is isocompact if each of its closed countably compact subsets is compact.

2. Properties of Isopara Compact Spaces

We open this section with the theorem to which we alluded in the preceding paragraph.

**Theorem 2.1.** Every isopara compact space is isocompact.

**Proof.** If $X$ is isopara compact and $A$ is a closed countably compact subset of $X$, then $A$ is prepara compact. Hence $A$ is para compact and countably compact, so $A$ is compact. Thus $X$ is isocompact.

We now present a group of preservation theorems. Interwoven in this presentation of the preservation of isoparakompactness will be the presentation of certain preservation theorems for prepara compactness. These have not been studied previously and are, of course, fundamental to the study of isopara compactness.

In order to prove that isopara compactness is preserved by perfect mappings, we need that prepara compactness is
inversely preserved by perfect mappings. Unfortunately, this is not true.

Example 2.2. There is a space $X$ which is preparacompact, but $X \times (\omega + 1)$ is not preparacompact.

Proof. We construct $X$ by what we think of as levels. That is $X = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} L_n$ where $L_n$ is defined as follows:

Let $L_0$ be the discrete space $2^{\omega_1} \times \{0\}$. Suppose $n \in \omega$ and $L_n$ is defined. Choose $\{A_{\alpha, n} : \alpha < 2^{\omega_1}\}$ a maximal almost disjoint collection of subsets of cardinality $\omega_1$ contained in $L_n$. [By "almost disjoint" we mean $A_{\alpha, n} \cap A_{\beta, n}$ is countable if $\alpha \neq \beta$.] The set $L_{n+1}$ will be the set $2^{\omega_1} \times \{n + 1\}$, and a subset $U$ of $\bigcup_{k \leq n+1} L_k$ will be open provided $U \cap (\bigcup_{k \leq n} L_k)$ is open and if $(\alpha, n + 1) \in U \cap L_{n+1}$ then $|A_{\alpha, n} \cap U| \leq \omega$.

The space $X = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} L_n$. Every uncountable subset of $X$ has a limit point, but all countable subsets are closed and discrete. Hence $X$ is preparacompact, $\mathcal{N}_1$-compact, and not metacompact. To see that $X \times (\omega + 1)$ is not preparacompact, we use the following lemma.

Lemma. If $Z$ is a non-metacompact space such that at each point $x \in Z$, on every one-to-one sequence of neighborhoods of $x$ there is a one-to-one choice function with closed discrete range, then $Z \times (\omega + 1)$ is not preparacompact.

Proof of Lemma. Let $\mathcal{U}$ be an open cover of $Z$ with no point finite refinement. $\mathcal{U}^* = \{U \times (\omega + 1) : U \in \mathcal{U}\}$ is an open cover of $Z \times (\omega + 1)$. Suppose $\mathcal{V}$ is an open refinement of $\mathcal{U}^*$. Choose $x \in Z$ such that $\text{ord}((x, \omega), \mathcal{V}) \geq \omega$. Choose $\{V_n : n \in \omega\} \subset \mathcal{V}$ such that $\pi_1(V_n) \neq \pi_1(V_m)$ for $n \neq m$ and
\((x, \omega) \in \bigcap_{n \in \omega} V_n\), and for \(n \in \omega\) choose \(V'_n\) open in \(Z\) and \(k_n \in \omega\) with \((x, \omega) \in V'_n \times (k_n, \omega] \subset V_n\). For each \(n \in \omega\), let \(p_n = (x, k_n + n)\). Now we have \((x, \omega) \in \{p_n : n \in \omega\} \setminus \{p_n : n \in \omega\}\).

For each \(n \in \omega\), choose \(x_n \in V'_n\) such that \(\{x_n : n \in \omega\}\) is an infinite closed discrete set, and let \(q_n = (x_n, \omega)\). Now \(\{q_n : n \in \omega\}\) is closed and discrete, so \(\mathcal{V}\) is not a ppc-collection. Hence \(\mathcal{U}^*\) has no open ppc-refinement.

We next prove that \(X\) is Hausdorff. It is easy to see that it suffices to show that if \(D\) and \(E\) are disjoint sets on level \(L_n\) each with cardinality less than or equal to \(\omega_1\), then we can get disjoint weak neighborhoods of \(D\) and \(E\) on level \(L_{n-1}\). Suppose \(D = \{d_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_1\}\) and \(E = \{e_\beta : \beta < \omega_1\}\). Let \(\{A_x : x \in L_n\}\) be the maximal almost disjoint collection in \(L_{n-1}\) which defines the weak base on \(L_n\). Let \(U_{d_0} = A_{d_0}\) and \(V_{e_0} = A_{e_0} \setminus U_{d_0}\). For \(0 < \alpha < \omega_1\), let \(U_{d_\alpha} = A_{d_\alpha} \setminus \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} V_{e_\beta}\) and \(V_{e_\alpha} = A_{e_\alpha} \setminus \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} U_{d_\beta}\). Now \(U = \bigcup_{\alpha < \omega_1} U_{d_\alpha}\) and \(V = \bigcup_{\alpha < \omega_1} V_{e_\alpha}\) do the job.

This example is clearly weakly \(\theta\)-refinable. Thus it is only the second published example of Hausdorff weakly \(\theta\)-refinable \(\aleph_1\)-compact space which is not Lindelöf [vdW]. It bears a strong similarity to the \(T_1\) example of Wicke [W]. This example also satisfies property L of Bacon [Ba] and is \(\aleph_1\)-compact, but is not Lindelöf. This answers question 3.3 of [D_2]. It also, of course, is an isocompact space which is not isoparacompact.

Failing to get the perfect preimage theorem, we settle for the following consolation prize which does have some
interesting consequences.

We first recall the following lemma which is proved in \([D_1]\). We shall need only the case for collections of finite sets in our applications here.

\textit{Lemma 2.3.} Suppose \(\mathcal{G}\) is a collection of subsets of a space \(X\), \(x \in X\), and there is a linearly ordered base at \(x\). If \(x \in \bigcup \mathcal{G}\), then either there exists \(G \in \mathcal{G}\) with \(x \in \overline{G}\) or there exists \(\mathcal{G}' \subseteq \mathcal{G}\) and a choice function \(y\) on \(\mathcal{G}'\) with \(x \in \{y(G) : G \in \mathcal{G}'\}\).

There is also a somewhat weaker version of this lemma which holds in quasi-\(k\)-spaces (and hence q-spaces) which will allow us the results we want.*

\textit{Lemma 2.3.1.} If \(X\) is a quasi-\(k\)-space and \(\mathcal{G}\) is a collection of subsets which is not closure-preserving, then there is a subset \(\mathcal{G}' \subseteq \mathcal{G}\) and a choice function \(y\) on \(\mathcal{G}'\) such that \(\{y(G) : G \in \mathcal{G}'\}\) has limit points.

Interestingly, the full strength of 2.3 cannot be obtained for q-spaces, i.e. we cannot specify what the limit points will be. We are indebted to D. K. Burke for the following example.

\textit{Example 2.4.} Let \(N\) denote the natural numbers. For \(n \in N\), we let \(B_n = \{k \in N : \frac{n(n - 1)}{2} < k \leq \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}\}\). Note that \(B_1 = \{1\}\), \(B_2 = \{2, 3\}\), \(B_3 = \{4, 5, 6\}\), \(\ldots\), and \(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n = N\). We define a filter \(t\) on \(N\) by \(U \in t\) iff there exists \(k \in N\) such that \(|B_n \setminus U| \leq k\) for every \(n \in N\). Extend \(t\) to an ultra-filter \(p\) on \(N\). Now, in the q-space \(\mathcal{B}N\), \(p\) is a limit point.

*See note added in proof.
of $N = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n$, but there is no choice function on the set 
$\{B_n : n \in N\}$ with $p$ in its closure.

**Theorem 2.5.** If $Y$ is a precompact Lefschetz space and $f : X \to Y$ is a continuous, closed, finite-to-one mapping, then $X$ is precompact.

**Proof.** Suppose $\mathcal{U}$ is an open cover of $X$. Well order $Y$. For each $y \in Y$, choose \{U(y,1), U(y,2), \ldots, U(y,n(y))\} $\subset \mathcal{U}$ such that $f^{-1}(y) \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{n(y)} U(y,i)$. Choose $V_y$ open in $Y$ with $f^{-1}(y)$ $\subset f^{-1}(V_y) \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{n(y)} U(y,i)$. Pick an open ppc-refinement $\mathcal{H} = \{H_a : a \in A\}$ of \{U$_y$ : $y \in Y$\}. For each $a \in A$, choose $y_a$ the first element of $Y$ with $H_a \subset V_{y_a}$. Let $G_a,i = f^{-1}(H_a) \cap U(y_a,i)$ for $a \in A, 1 \leq i \leq n(y_a)$. Now $\mathcal{G} = \{G_a,i : a \in A, 1 \leq i \leq n(y_a)\}$ is an open refinement of $\mathcal{U}$. We will prove that $\mathcal{G}$ is a ppc-collection. Suppose $p(a,i) \in G_a,i, q(a,i) \in G_a,i$ for $(a,i) \in B$ with $|B| \geq \omega$, and $p(a,i) \neq p(\beta,j)$, $q(a,i) \neq q(\beta,j)$ for $(a,i) \neq (\beta,j)$, and $\{p(a,i) : (a,i) \in B\}$ has no limit points, while $\{q(a,i) : (a,i) \in B\}$ has a limit point, say $x$. Let $B' = B \setminus \{(a,i) : f(x) = f(q(a,i))\}$. Since $X$ is $T_1$, and fibers are finite, we have that $|B'| \geq \omega$ and $x$ is a limit point of $\{q(a,i) : (a,i) \in B'\}$. Now $f(x) \notin \{f(q(a,i)) : (a,i) \in B'\} \setminus \{f(p(a,i)) : (a,i) \in B'\}$ while $\{f(p(a,i)) : (a,i) \in B'\}$ is closed, discrete and infinite. Moreover, $f(p(a,i)) \in H_a$ and $f(q(a,i)) \in H_a$ for each $(a,i) \in B'$. Now using Lemma 2.3 we can select from these sets choice functions which will contradict the ppc condition on $\mathcal{H}$. Hence $\mathcal{G}$ is a ppc-collection, and the result is proved.
Corollary 2.5.1. If $X$ is isoparacompact, $Y$ is an $L$-space and $f: X + Y$ is a continuous, closed, finite-to-one mapping, then $Y$ is isoparacompact.

Proof. Suppose $A$ is a closed preparacompact subset of $Y$. By 2.5, $f^{-1}(A)$ is a closed preparacompact subset of $X$. Hence $f^{-1}(A)$ is paracompact, and thus so is $A = f(f^{-1}(A))$.

Corollary 2.5.2. If an $L$-space $X$ is the union of the locally finite closed collection $\{F_\alpha: \alpha \in A\}$ and $F_\alpha$ is isoparacompact for each $\alpha \in A$, then $X$ is isoparacompact.

Proof. The natural mapping from the disjoint union of $\{F_\alpha: \alpha \in A\}$ onto $X$ is continuous, closed and finite-to-one. The result now follows from 2.5.

In addition to the "locally finite sum" theorem we have just obtained, we also have the "countable sum" theorem.

Theorem 2.6. If $X$ is a regular $L$-space and $X = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} F_n$ where $F_n$ is closed and isoparacompact, then $X$ is isoparacompact.

Proof. Suppose $A$ is a closed preparacompact subset of $X$. Since $F_n$ is isoparacompact, we have that $A \cap F_n$ is paracompact for each $n \in \omega$. Thus $A = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} A \cap F_n$ is a subparacompact and preparacompact $L$-space and hence $A$ is paracompact.

Corollary 2.6.1. If $A$ is an $F_\sigma$-subset of an isoparacompact $L$-space, then $A$ is isoparacompact.

3. Expandability Conditions

Considerable success has been enjoyed, particularly by Smith [S₂], [S₃], Smith and Krajewski [SK], and Junnila [J],
in using expandability conditions to characterize certain strong separation axioms and covering properties. In this section, we investigate the uses of expandability conditions which are based on ppc-collections.

Definition 3.1. A space $X$ is called (discretely) ppc-expandable iff whenever $\{F_\alpha : \alpha \in A\}$ is a (discrete) locally finite collection of closed subsets of $X$, there is an open ppc-collection $\{H_\alpha : \alpha \in A\}$ with $F_\alpha \subseteq H_\alpha$ for each $\alpha \in A$. [We are assuming a one-to-one indexing of $\{F_\alpha : \alpha \in A\}$.]

The analogous meaning is given to $\sigma$-ppc-expandable and $\sigma$-$\sigma$-ppc-expandable and their discrete versions.

Theorem 3.2. Every preparacompact Lob-space is ppc-expandable.

Proof. Suppose $J = \{F_\alpha : \alpha \in A\}$ is a locally finite collection of closed subsets of the preparacompact Lob-space $X$. For each $x \in X$, choose $U_x$ open which meets only finitely many elements of $J$. The collection $\{U_x : x \in X\}$ is an open cover of $X$, and we pick an open ppc-refinement $\mathcal{H} = \{H_i : i \in I\}$. For each $\alpha \in A$, we let $G_\alpha = \bigcup\{H \in \mathcal{H} : H \cap F_\alpha \neq \emptyset\}$. The collection $\{G_\alpha : \alpha \in A\}$ is open, and $F_\alpha \subseteq G_\alpha$ for each $\alpha \in A$. Suppose $p_\alpha \in G_\alpha$ for each $\alpha \in A' \subseteq A$ and that $\{p_\alpha : \alpha \in A'\}$ has a limit point. For each $\alpha \in A'$, choose $i_\alpha \in I$ such that $p_\alpha \in H_{i_\alpha}$ and $H_{i_\alpha} \cap F_\alpha \neq \emptyset$. Since each element of $\mathcal{H}$ can meet only finitely many elements of $J$, we have that $\{i_\alpha : \alpha \in A'\}$ is infinite. Let $B_\alpha = \{p_\beta : i_\beta = i_\alpha\}$ for each $\alpha \in A'' \subseteq A'$, where $A''$ is chosen so that $\alpha_1 \neq \alpha_2$ implies $B_{\alpha_1} \cap B_{\alpha_2} = \emptyset$ and $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A''} B_\alpha = \{p_\beta : \beta \in A'\}$. By Lemma 2.3 we choose $p_\alpha \in B_\alpha$ for each $\alpha \in A''$ such that $A''$ is
infinite and \( \{ p_\alpha : \alpha \in A" \} \) has a limit point. Now choose \( q_\alpha \in H_i \cap F_\alpha \) for each \( \alpha \in A" \), and \( \{ q_\alpha : \alpha \in A" \} \) is closed and discrete which contradicts the ppc-condition on \( \{ H_i : i \in I \} \). Thus every choice function on \( \{ G_\alpha : \alpha \in A \} \) has closed discrete range, so this is a ppc-expansion of \( J \).

One easily sees that without the Lob-space assumption the above proof will work if \( J \) is taken to be a discrete collection. Thus we have the following result.

**Theorem 3.3.** Every preparacompact space is discretely ppo-expandable.

We next recall another lemma from \([D_1]\). As was the case in 2.3, a slightly different version holds for q-spaces and quasi-k-spaces, \([S_1]\), \([S_4]\). Strangely, unlike 2.3, in this case we have the stronger result with q-space.

**Lemma 3.4.** Let \( X \) be an Lob-space and let \( \mathcal{G} = \{ G_\alpha : \alpha \in A \} \) be an \( \mathcal{K} \)-ppo-collection of subsets of \( X \). If there exists a discrete collection \( \{ D_\beta : \beta \in B \subseteq A \} \) of non-empty subsets of \( X \) such that \( D_\beta \subseteq G_\beta \) for each \( \beta \in B \), then \( \{ G_\beta : \beta \in B \} \) is either countable or closure preserving.

**Lemma 3.4.1.** Let \( X \) be a q-space and let \( \mathcal{G} = \{ G_\alpha : \alpha \in A \} \) be an \( \mathcal{K} \)-ppo-collection of subsets of \( X \). If there exists a discrete collection \( \{ D_\beta : \beta \in B \subseteq A \} \) of non-empty subsets of \( X \) such that \( D_\beta \subseteq G_\beta \) for each \( \beta \in B \), then \( \{ G_\beta : \beta \in B \} \) is either countable or locally finite.

**Lemma 3.4.2.** Let \( X \) be a quasi-k-space and let \( \mathcal{G} = \{ G_\alpha : \alpha \in A \} \) and \( \mathcal{H} = \{ H_\alpha : \alpha \in A \} \) be \( \mathcal{K} \)-ppo-collections such
that\( \overline{C}_\alpha \subseteq H_\alpha \) for each \( \alpha \in A \). If there exists a discrete collection \( \{D_\beta : \beta \in B \subseteq A\} \) of non-empty subsets of \( X \) such that \( D_\beta \subseteq G_\beta \) for each \( \beta \in B \), then \( \{G_\beta : \beta \in B\} \) is either countable or closure preserving.

In these lemmas, if "\( \alpha \)-ppc" is replaced by "ppc" we have no need to consider countability in our conclusions.

It is also clear that to get our results for the quasi-k-space case a bit of regularity will be needed.

We will now break for a moment with our comments preceding 1.6 and spotlight a theorem of q-spaces. The reason for this is the strength of 3.4.1 as opposed to 3.4, from which the result easily follows:

**Theorem 3.5.** If \( X \) is a ppc-expandable q-space, then \( X \) is expandable.

For Lob-spaces, we have only the following:

**Theorem 3.5.1.** If \( X \) is a ppc-expandable Lob-space, then every locally finite collection of closed sets can be expanded to a closure preserving collection of open sets.

We again use lemma 3.4 to obtain the next pair of theorems. Since the proofs are so similar, we shall do them together.

**Theorem 3.6.** If \( X \) is a regular discretely ppc-expandable Lob-space, then \( X \) is collectionwise Hausdorff.

**Theorem 3.7.** If \( X \) is a normal discretely ppc-expandable Lob-space, then \( X \) is collectionwise normal.
Proof. Let \( \{D_\alpha : \alpha \in A\} \) be a discrete collection of closed sets (for 3.6 these will be singletons). We expand to an open ppc-collection \( \{H_\alpha : \alpha \in A\} \). For each \( \alpha \in A \), we use normality in 3.7 and regularity in 3.6 to obtain an open set \( V_\alpha \) with \( D_\alpha \subseteq V_\alpha \) and \( V_\alpha \cap \left( \bigcup_{\beta \neq \alpha} D_\beta \right) = \emptyset \). Let \( G_\alpha = V_\alpha \cap H_\alpha \) for each \( \alpha \in A \). Then \( \{G_\alpha : \alpha \in A\} \) is an open ppc-collection and by the lemma is closure preserving. For \( \alpha \in A \), let \( U_\alpha = G_\alpha \setminus \bigcup_{\beta \neq \alpha} G_\beta \), then \( \{U_\alpha : \alpha \in A\} \) separates \( \{D_\alpha : \alpha \in A\} \).

We note that in 3.6 and 3.7 we could use "\( K \)-ppc" in the place of "ppc" since countable collections can be picked apart inductively using just the regularity or normality.

By using the approach presented in §3 of [S4], one can obtain the following characterization of paracompactness.

**Theorem 3.8.** Suppose \( X \) is a regular Loeb-space. Then \( X \) is paracompact iff \( X \) is weakly \( \theta \)-refinable and discretely \( K \)-ppc-expandable.

This result leads one to wonder if others of the properties listed in 1.6 can be used with a discrete ppc-expandability condition to characterize paracompactness. Certain of these questions remain open, and we shall defer discussion of them to a later section. Our next example answers this question in the negative for irreducibility.

**Example 3.9.** There is a machine \( \mathcal{J} \) such that if \( X \) is any space, \( \mathcal{J}(X) \) is an irreducible space and \( X \) can be embedded in \( \mathcal{J}(X) \) as a closed subspace. Moreover, \( \mathcal{J} \) preserves cardinality (if infinite), character, separation, closed sets being \( G_\delta \)'s, collectionwise normality, collectionwise
Hausdorffness, Lobo-space and q-space.

Proof. For any space $X$, $\mathcal{G}(X)$ is obtained from the product space $X \times (\omega + 1)$ by isolating the points of $X \times \omega$. Clearly, $X$ is homeomorphic to $X \times \{\omega\}$.

We now show that $\mathcal{G}(X)$ is irreducible. Suppose $\mathcal{U}$ is an open cover of $\mathcal{G}(X)$. For each $x \in X$, choose $n_x \in \omega$ and $U_x$ open in $X$ such that $U_x \times [n_x, \omega]$ is contained in some member of $\mathcal{U}$. Let $A_n = \{x: n_x = n\}$. Let $H_0 = \{(U_x \times [n_x + 1, \omega]) \cup ((x, n_x)): x \in A_0\}$. For $n > 0$, let $H_n = \{(U_x \times [(n_x + 1, \omega)] \cup ((x, n_x)): x \in A_n \text{ and } (x, \omega) \notin \bigcup_{k<n} H_k\}$. Let $H_\omega = \{x: x \in \mathcal{G}(X) \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \omega} H_n\}$. Now $\mathcal{G} = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} H_n$ is an irreducible open refinement of $\mathcal{U}$.

The verifications for the remaining properties are routine, and we omit them. This may not be a new construction. The result that every space can be embedded as a closed subspace of an irreducible space was observed by E. K. van Douwen in 1976. We have not seen the construction he used, and do not know if it has appeared in print. It would seem that van Douwen's construction must have been similar to this one.

Example 3.9.1. $\mathcal{G}(\omega_1)$ is irreducible, collectionwise normal but not paracompact.

Example 3.9.2. Assume Axiom $\clubsuit$ (which is true in the model $L$, hence is consistent with ZFC). Let $S$ be deCaux's space [dC]. Then $\mathcal{G}(S)$ is irreducible, weakly $\theta$-refinable, collectionwise normal, and not paracompact.

4. Questions

Question 4.1. Must every weakly $\theta$-refinable,
preparacompact Lob-space be paracompact?

The example $\Gamma$ of van Douwen and Wicke [vDW] shows that the answer to this is in the negative for $\mathcal{H}$-preparacompact. Also, example 2.2 shows that the answer to this is in the negative if the Lob-space assumption is dropped.

Question 4.2. Must every preparacompact Lob-space which satisfies property $L$ [Ba] be paracompact?

Again, example 2.2 answers this in the negative for the non-Lob-space case.

Question 4.3. Must every $\delta\theta$-refinable, ppc-expandable Lob-space be paracompact?

If the expandable condition is replaced by the corresponding covering property, then the answer to 4.3 is in the affirmative, see [Thm. 3.4, D₁]. If the "$\delta\theta$" is replaced by "weakly $\overline{\theta}$," then the answer is again in the affirmative, see 3.8.

Question 4.4. Is $\delta\theta$-paracompactness inversely preserved by perfect mappings?

One could obtain a positive answer to this by getting a positive answer to the following.

Question 4.5. Is the perfect image of a preparacompact space necessarily preparacompact?

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Added in Proof: Lemma 2.3.1 is correct as stated for q-spaces. Jim Bodine has pointed out that it is trivially false for quasi-k-spaces and that in this case the sets $G \in \mathcal{G}'$ must be closed.