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*Countable compactness and  $p$ -limits*

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**Abstract:** For  $\emptyset \neq M \subseteq \omega^*$ , we say that  $X$  is quasi  $M$ -compact, if for every  $f : \omega \rightarrow X$  there is  $p \in M$  such that  $\bar{f}(p) \in X$ , where  $\bar{f}$  is the Stone-Čech extension of  $f$ . In this context, a space  $X$  is countably compact iff  $X$  is quasi  $\omega^*$ -compact. If  $X$  is quasi  $M$ -compact and  $M$  is either finite or countable discrete in  $\omega^*$ , then all powers of  $X$  are countably compact. Assuming  $CH$ , we give an example of a countable subset  $M \subseteq \omega^*$  and a quasi  $M$ -compact space  $X$  whose square is not countably compact, and show that in a model of A. Blass and S. Shelah every quasi  $M$ -compact space is  $p$ -compact (= quasi  $\{p\}$ -compact) for some  $p \in \omega^*$ , whenever  $M \in [\omega^*]^{< \mathfrak{c}}$ . We prove that if  $\emptyset \notin \{T_\xi : \xi < 2^{\mathfrak{c}}\} \subseteq [\omega^*]^{< 2^{\mathfrak{c}}}$ , then there is a countably compact space  $X$  that is not quasi  $T_\xi$ -compact for every  $\xi < 2^{\mathfrak{c}}$ ; hence, if  $2^{\mathfrak{c}}$  is regular, then there is a countably compact space  $X$  such that  $X$  is not quasi  $M$ -compact for any  $M \in [\omega^*]^{< 2^{\mathfrak{c}}}$ . We list some open problems.

**Keywords:**  $p$ -limit,  $p$ -compact, almost  $p$ -compact, quasi  $M$ -compact, countably compact

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