

## APPROXIMATION THEOREMS FOR COMPACTIFICATIONS

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**Abstract.** We shall show several approximation theorems for the Hausdorff compactifications of metrizable spaces or locally compact Hausdorff spaces. It is shown that every compactification of the Euclidean  $n$ -space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is the supremum of some compactifications homeomorphic to a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . Moreover, the following are equivalent for any connected locally compact Hausdorff space  $X$ :

- (i)  $X$  has no two-point compactifications,
- (ii) every compactification of  $X$  is the supremum of some compactifications whose remainder is homeomorphic to the unit closed interval or a singleton,
- (iii) every compactification of  $X$  is the supremum of some singular compactifications.

We shall also give a necessary and sufficient condition for a compactification to be approximated by metrizable (or Smirnov) compactifications.

**1. Introduction.** Suppose that  $X$  is a non-compact completely regular space and let  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  be the class of all Hausdorff compactifications of  $X$ . For any two compactifications  $\gamma X$  and  $\delta X$  of  $X$ , we write  $\gamma X \leq \delta X$  if there is a continuous map  $f : \delta X \rightarrow \gamma X$  such that  $f|_X = \text{id}_X$ . If such a map  $f$  can be a homeomorphism (i.e.,  $\gamma X \leq \delta X$  and  $\gamma X \geq \delta X$ ), we say  $\gamma X$  is *equivalent* ( $\sim$ ) to  $\delta X$ . Identifying  $\gamma X$  and  $\delta X$  with  $\gamma X \sim \delta X$ , we may assume that the quotient  $(\mathcal{K}(X)/\sim, \leq)$  has a partially ordered structure. Throughout this paper, we identify  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  with  $\mathcal{K}(X)/\sim$ .

In this paper, we shall show the following theorem.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Every compactification of Euclidean  $n$ -space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is the supremum of compactifications that are subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .*

There have been many studies about approximating the Stone–Čech compactification  $\beta X$  by simpler compactifications. For example, it is known that  $\beta X$  is the supremum of (a) all singular compactifications having the remainder homeomorphic to a closed interval if  $X$  is locally compact non-pseudocompact (Chandler and Faulkner [2]), (b) all singular compactifications if  $X$  is locally compact 1-complemented, where a locally compact

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space  $X$  is said to be *1-complemented* (or *connected at infinity*) provided each compact set  $L_1 \subset X$  is contained in a compact set  $L_2$  such that  $X \setminus L_2$  is connected (cf. [2]), (c) all Smirnov compactifications for any metrizable space  $X$  (Woods [8]) and (d) all Higson compactifications for any locally compact separable metrizable space  $X$  (Kawamura and Tomoyasu [7]).

On the other hand, it was announced that any compactification of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) is the supremum of compactifications having closed intervals as remainders in [5]. In this paper, we shall give the following.

**THEOREM 1.2.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a non-compact locally compact Hausdorff space. Then  $X$  has no two-point compactifications if and only if every compactification of  $X$  is the supremum of a collection  $K \subset \mathcal{K}(X)$  such that each remainder of  $\gamma X \in K$  is homeomorphic to the unit closed interval or a singleton. In this case, we can take for  $K$  a collection of singular compactifications.*

**THEOREM 1.3.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a connected non-compact locally compact Hausdorff space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $X$  has no two-point compactifications,
- (ii) every compactification of  $X$  is the supremum of a collection  $K \subset \mathcal{K}(X)$  such that each remainder of  $\gamma X \in K$  is homeomorphic to the unit closed interval or a singleton,
- (iii) every compactification of  $X$  is the supremum of singular compactifications.

It is well known that every compactification of a locally compact separable metrizable space is the supremum of some metrizable compactifications. Since any metrizable compactification is a Smirnov compactification (see Fact 3.3), it also follows that every compactification of a locally compact separable metrizable space is the supremum of some Smirnov compactifications. These results are generalized as follows.

**THEOREM 1.4.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a non-compact metrizable space. Then a compactification  $\delta X$  of  $X$  can be realized as the supremum of some metrizable compactifications if and only if  $X$  has a metrizable compactification  $\gamma X$  such that  $\gamma X \leq \delta X$ .*

**THEOREM 1.5.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a non-compact metrizable space. Then a compactification  $\delta X$  of  $X$  can be realized as the supremum of some Smirnov compactifications if and only if  $X$  has a Smirnov compactification  $u_d X$  for an admissible metric  $d$  on  $X$  such that  $u_d X \leq \delta X$ .*

In Section 4, we shall also give an upper bound  $\kappa$  on the minimal cardinality of a collection  $K$  in Theorem 1.2 (see Corollaries 4.3 and 4.5). The

paper [6] gave the minimal cardinality to approximate  $\beta X$  by Smirnov compactifications in the case of  $X = [0, 1)$  or  $\omega$ .

**2. Compactifications and subalgebras of  $C^*(X)$ .** Throughout this paper,  $X$  is a non-compact completely regular space. We denote by  $C^*(X)$  the unital Banach algebra consisting of all bounded continuous functions from  $X$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  with the supremum norm  $\|f\| = \sup_{x \in X} |f(x)|$ .

It is well known that the partially ordered set  $(\mathcal{K}(X), \leq)$  is isomorphic to the collection  $(\mathcal{A}(X), \subset)$  consisting of all closed unital subalgebras  $A \subset C^*(X)$  which generate the topology of  $X$ , that is, the original topology of  $X$  coincides with the weak topology with respect to  $A$ . Indeed, the following function  $S : \mathcal{K}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(X)$  (cf. [1]) is an isomorphism:

$$S(\gamma X) = \{f|_X \in C^*(X) \mid f \in C^*(\gamma X)\}.$$

Note that  $S(\gamma X)$  is isomorphic to  $C^*(\gamma X)$  as a Banach algebra and coincides with all functions in  $C^*(X)$  which can be extended over  $\gamma X$ . For any  $A \in \mathcal{A}(X)$ , let  $e_A : X \rightarrow \mathbf{I}^A$  be the embedding defined by  $e_A(x) = (f(x)/\|f\|)_{f \in A}$ , where  $\mathbf{I}$  denotes the closed interval  $[-1, 1]$ . Then the order homomorphism  $T : \mathcal{A}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(X)$  defined by  $T(A) = \text{cl}_{\mathbf{I}^A} e_A(X)$  is the inverse of  $S$  (cf. Theorem 3.7 of [1]).

Since  $(\mathcal{A}(X), \subset)$  is a complete upper semilattice, so is  $(\mathcal{K}(X), \leq)$ , that is, every subset  $K \subset \mathcal{K}(X)$  has a supremum  $\sup K \in \mathcal{K}(X)$ . In particular,  $\sup \mathcal{K}(X) = \beta X$  is the Stone–Čech compactification of  $X$ . If  $X$  is locally compact, then  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  has a complete lattice structure and the infimum  $\inf \mathcal{K}(X) = \alpha X$  is the Aleksandrov one-point compactification of  $X$ .

For a subset  $D$  of any unital Banach algebra  $A$ ,  $\overline{D}$  denotes the closure of  $D$  in  $A$ , and  $\langle D \rangle$  is the smallest unital subalgebra of  $A$  containing  $D$ . The following is a key lemma (cf. Theorem 2 of [5]).

LEMMA 2.1. *Suppose that  $\gamma X$  is a compactification of  $X$  and  $A = S(\gamma X)$ . For any  $g \in C^*(X)$ , the compactification  $\gamma_g X = T(\overline{\langle A, g \rangle})$  can be embedded in  $\mathbf{I} \times \gamma X$ .*

*Proof.* Put  $A_g = \overline{\langle A, g \rangle}$ . Note that the map  $e : X \rightarrow \mathbf{I}^{A \cup \{g\}}$  defined by  $e(x) = \text{pr}_{A \cup \{g\}} \circ e_{A_g}$  is an embedding, where  $\text{pr}_{A \cup \{g\}} : \mathbf{I}^{A_g} \rightarrow \mathbf{I}^{A \cup \{g\}}$  is the natural projection. From the definition of the operator  $T$ ,  $\gamma_g X = \text{cl}_{\mathbf{I}^{A_g}} e_{A_g}(X)$ . Now, we show that the compactification  $\gamma'_g X = \text{cl}_{\mathbf{I}^{A \cup \{g\}}} e(X)$  is equivalent to  $\gamma_g X$ . It is clear that  $\gamma_g X \geq \gamma'_g X$  via the quotient map  $\text{pr}_{A \cup \{g\}}|_{\gamma_g X} : \gamma_g X \rightarrow \gamma'_g X$ . On the other hand, since each map  $f \in A \cup \{g\}$  has an extension  $\|f\| \text{pr}_f|_{\gamma'_g X}$  over  $\gamma'_g X$ , the closed subalgebra  $S(\gamma'_g X)$  contains  $A \cup \{g\}$ . This implies  $A_g \subset S(\gamma'_g X)$  and

$$\gamma_g X = T(A_g) \leq T(S(\gamma'_g X)) = \gamma'_g X.$$

Hence,  $\gamma_g X$  is equivalent to  $\gamma'_g X$ . Thus, we have the inclusion

$$(1) \quad \gamma_g X \sim \gamma'_g X = \text{cl}_{\mathbf{I}A \cup \{g\}} e(X) \subset \mathbf{I} \times \text{cl}_{\mathbf{I}A} e_A(X) = \mathbf{I} \times \gamma X. \blacksquare$$

In the following, we consider the one-point compactification for a locally compact space  $X$ .

**LEMMA 2.2.** *Suppose that  $X$  is non-compact locally compact having no two-point compactifications. Let  $\alpha X = X \cup \{\infty\}$  be the one-point compactification and  $A = S(\alpha X)$  a subalgebra of  $C^*(X)$ . Then the remainder of the compactification  $\alpha_g X = T(\langle A, g \rangle)$  is homeomorphic to  $\mathbf{I}$  or a singleton for each  $g \in C^*(X)$ .*

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, we may assume  $\|g\| = 1$  because  $\langle A, g \rangle = \langle A, g/\|g\| \rangle$ . Put  $e(X) = \{(g(x), x) \mid x \in X\} \subset \mathbf{I} \times \alpha X$ . Note that equation (1) in the proof of Lemma 2.1 implies  $\alpha'_g X = \text{cl}_{\mathbf{I} \times \alpha X} e(X) \sim \alpha_g X$ . Thus, it suffices to show that  $\nu X = \alpha'_g X \setminus e(X)$  is homeomorphic to  $\mathbf{I}$  or a singleton. Since  $e(X)$  is closed in  $\mathbf{I} \times X$ , we have  $\nu X = \alpha'_g X \cap (\mathbf{I} \times \{\infty\})$ . Now, we shall show if  $\nu X$  is disconnected then  $X$  has a two-point compactification. Indeed, if  $\nu X$  is disconnected, take  $t \in \mathbf{I}$  such that  $(t, \infty) \notin \nu X$ ,  $\nu X \cap ((t, 1] \times \{\infty\}) \neq \emptyset$  and  $\nu X \cap ([-1, t) \times \{\infty\}) \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $X$  is the disjoint union

$$X = g^{-1}([-1, t)) \cup g^{-1}(t) \cup g^{-1}((t, 1]).$$

As  $(t, \infty) \notin \nu X$ ,  $g^{-1}(t)$  is compact. On the other hand, the closures of  $V_+ = g^{-1}((t, 1])$  and  $V_- = g^{-1}([-1, t))$  are both non-compact. Hence, we have a two-point compactification  $\gamma X = X \cup \{\pm\infty\}$  with the topology generated by

$$\{U \mid U \text{ open in } X\} \\ \cup \{ \{+\infty\} \cup (V_+ \setminus F), \{-\infty\} \cup (V_- \setminus F) \mid F \text{ compact in } X \}.$$

Thus,  $\nu X$  is a compact connected subset of  $\mathbf{I} \times \{\infty\}$  and it is homeomorphic to  $\mathbf{I}$  or a singleton.  $\blacksquare$

### 3. Singular compactifications and Smirnov compactifications.

We call a continuous map  $f$  from  $X$  to a compact space  $L$  *singular* if  $\text{cl}_X f^{-1}(U)$  is non-compact for every non-empty open set  $U$  in  $L$ . Then the *singular compactification of  $X$  induced by  $f$* , denoted by  $X \cup_f L$ , is a topological space  $X \cup L$  whose topology is generated by the following collection:

$$\{U \mid U \text{ open in } X\} \\ \cup \{V \cup (f^{-1}(V) \setminus F) \mid V \text{ open in } L, F \text{ compact in } X\}.$$

It is known that a compactification  $\gamma X$  is equivalent to some singular compactification if and only if  $\gamma X \setminus X$  is a retract of  $\gamma X$  (cf. [4]). Then we have the following lemma whose simple proof is left to the reader.

LEMMA 3.1. *In Lemma 2.2,  $\alpha_g X$  is a singular compactification for any  $g \in C^*(X)$ . ■*

For a metrizable space  $X$  and an admissible metric  $d$  on  $X$ , let  $U_d^*(X)$  be the subalgebra of  $C^*(X)$  consisting of all bounded uniformly continuous functions with respect to  $d$ . The *Smirnov* (or *Samuel*) *compactification*  $u_d X$  is defined by  $u_d X = T(U_d^*(X))$ , which is characterized by the following theorem:

THEOREM 3.2 (Theorem 2.5 of [8]). *Suppose that  $X = (X, d)$  is a metric space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\gamma X \sim u_d X$ ,
- (ii) *for any  $A, B \subset X$ ,  $\text{cl}_{\gamma X} A \cap \text{cl}_{\gamma X} B \neq \emptyset$  if and only if  $d(A, B) = 0$ .*

Note that it is well known that every compactification of a locally compact separable metrizable space is the supremum of some metrizable compactifications. The following fact implies that every compactification of a locally compact separable metrizable space is the supremum of some Smirnov compactifications.

FACT 3.3. *Every metrizable compactification is a Smirnov compactification.*

*Proof.* Let  $\gamma X$  be a metrizable compactification. Take an admissible metric  $\rho$  on  $\gamma X$ . Then  $d = \rho|_X$  is an admissible metric on  $X$ . It is obvious that  $\text{cl}_{\gamma X} A \cap \text{cl}_{\gamma X} B \neq \emptyset$  if and only if  $d(A, B) = 0$  for any  $A, B \subset X$ . By Theorem 3.2, we have  $u_d X \sim \gamma X$ . ■

The following is well known (see the proof of Theorem 3.5.5 of [3]).

THEOREM 3.4 (Tajmanov). *Suppose that  $X$  is a non-compact completely regular space. Let  $\gamma X$  and  $\delta X$  be compactifications of  $X$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\gamma X \leq \delta X$ ,
- (ii) *if  $A$  and  $B$  are closed subsets in  $X$  with  $\text{cl}_{\gamma X} A \cap \text{cl}_{\gamma X} B = \emptyset$  then  $\text{cl}_{\delta X} A \cap \text{cl}_{\delta X} B = \emptyset$ .*

The following lemma implies that  $\beta X$  is realized as the supremum of some Smirnov compactifications, which was shown by Woods [8].

LEMMA 3.5. *Let  $X = (X, d)$  be a metric space. Then  $u_{d'} X$  is equivalent to  $\gamma X = T(\overline{\langle U_d^*(X), g \rangle})$  for any  $g \in C^*(X)$ , where  $d'$  is the metric on  $X$  defined by  $d'(x, y) = d(x, y) + |g(x) - g(y)|$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $g$  and each member of  $U_d^*(X)$  are uniformly continuous with respect to the metric  $d'$ , it is clear that  $U_d^*(X) \subset \overline{\langle U_d^*(X), g \rangle} \subset U_{d'}^*(X)$ . This implies  $u_d X \leq \gamma X \leq u_{d'} X$ . To see  $u_{d'} X \leq \gamma X$ , by Theorem 3.4 it suffices to check that  $\text{cl}_{\gamma X} A \cap \text{cl}_{\gamma X} B = \emptyset$  for any closed subsets  $A$  and  $B$  in  $X$  with

$\text{cl}_{u_{d'}X} A \cap \text{cl}_{u_{d'}X} B = \emptyset$ . Assume to the contrary that  $\text{cl}_{u_{d'}X} A \cap \text{cl}_{u_{d'}X} B \neq \emptyset$  and there is  $x \in \text{cl}_{\gamma X} A \cap \text{cl}_{\gamma X} B$ . Then  $\varepsilon = d'(A, B) > 0$  by Theorem 3.2. Let  $\pi = \text{pr}_{U_d^*(X)}|_{\gamma X} : \gamma X \rightarrow u_d X$  be the quotient map and  $N(x)$  the open neighborhood system of  $x$  in  $\gamma X$ . For every  $V \in N(x)$ ,  $\pi(x)$  is in  $\text{cl}_{u_d X} \pi(A \cap V) \cap \text{cl}_{u_d X} \pi(B \cap V)$  since  $x \in \text{cl}_{\gamma X} (A \cap V) \cap \text{cl}_{\gamma X} (B \cap V)$ . Note that  $\pi(A \cap V) = A \cap V$  and  $\pi(B \cap V) = B \cap V$ . Thus,  $\pi(x) \in \text{cl}_{u_d X} (A \cap V) \cap \text{cl}_{u_d X} (B \cap V)$  and  $d(A \cap V, B \cap V) = 0$  by Theorem 3.2. Hence, we can take  $a_V \in A \cap V$  and  $b_V \in B \cap V$  such that  $d(a_V, b_V) < \varepsilon/2$ . Then the nets  $(a_V)_{V \in N(x)}$  and  $(b_V)_{V \in N(x)}$  converge to  $x$  in  $\gamma X$  and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{V \in N(x)} g(a_V) &= \lim_{V \in N(x)} \|g\| \text{pr}_g(a_V) = \|g\| \text{pr}_g(x) \\ &= \lim_{V \in N(x)} \|g\| \text{pr}_g(b_V) = \lim_{V \in N(x)} g(b_V). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, there is  $V_0 \in N(x)$  such that  $|g(a_{V_0}) - g(b_{V_0})| < \varepsilon/2$  and so

$$d'(a_{V_0}, b_{V_0}) = d(a_{V_0}, b_{V_0}) + |g(a_{V_0}) - g(b_{V_0})| < \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 = \varepsilon = d'(A, B).$$

This is a contradiction. ■

**4. Generators for Banach algebras.** Recall that  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  is the collection of all compactifications of  $X$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *Let  $\gamma X$  and  $\delta X$  be compactifications of a completely regular space  $X$  with  $\delta X \geq \gamma X$ . Then there exists a collection  $K \subset \mathcal{K}(X)$  such that  $\sup K = \delta X$  and each member of  $K$  can be embedded in  $\mathbf{I} \times \gamma X$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $A = S(\gamma X)$  and  $B = S(\delta X)$  be subalgebras of  $C^*(X)$ . Take any set  $D \subset B$  satisfying  $\overline{\langle D \rangle} = B$ . For any  $g \in D \setminus S(\gamma X)$ ,  $\gamma_g X = T(\overline{\langle A, g \rangle})$  can be embedded in  $\mathbf{I} \times \gamma X$  by Lemma 2.1. Let  $K = \{\gamma_g X \mid g \in D \setminus S(\gamma X)\}$  be a collection of compactifications. Since  $T$  is an isomorphism between complete upper semilattices, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta X &= T(B) = T(\sup\{\overline{\langle A, g \rangle} \mid g \in D \setminus S(\gamma X)\}) \\ &= \sup\{T(\overline{\langle A, g \rangle}) \mid g \in D \setminus S(\gamma X)\} \\ &= \sup\{\gamma_g X \mid g \in D \setminus S(\gamma X)\} = \sup K. \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

For a set  $D$ ,  $\text{card } D$  denotes the cardinal of  $D$ . From the proof of Proposition 4.1, the following corollaries are derived.

**COROLLARY 4.2.** *In Proposition 4.1, we can take  $K \subset \mathcal{K}(X)$  such that each member of  $K$  is  $T(\overline{\langle A, g \rangle})$  for some  $g \in C^*(X)$ , where  $A$  is the subalgebra of  $C^*(X)$  defined by  $A = S(\gamma X)$ . ■*

**COROLLARY 4.3.** *In Proposition 4.1, the minimal cardinality of a collection  $K \subset \mathcal{K}(X)$  satisfying  $\sup K = \delta X$  has an upper bound*

$$\kappa = \min\{\text{card}(D \setminus S(\gamma X)) \mid D \subset S(\delta X), \overline{\langle D \rangle} = S(\delta X)\}. \quad \blacksquare$$

For any unital Banach algebra  $A$ ,  $\text{gen}(A)$  denotes the minimal cardinality of a subset of  $A$  which generates  $A$ , that is,

$$\text{gen}(A) = \min\{\text{card } D \mid D \subset A, \overline{\langle D \rangle} = A\}.$$

In Corollary 4.3, it is obvious that  $\kappa \leq \text{gen}(S(\delta X)) = \text{gen}(C^*(\delta X))$ . Let  $Y$  be a completely regular space. We denote by  $\text{emb}(Y)$  the minimal dimension of Tikhonov cubes containing  $Y$  as a subspace:

$$\text{emb}(Y) = \min\{\text{card } D \mid \exists e : Y \hookrightarrow \mathbf{I}^D \text{ an embedding}\}.$$

Then the following proposition yields  $\text{gen}(S(\delta X)) = \text{emb}(\delta X)$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.4.** *If  $L$  is a compact Hausdorff space, then  $\text{emb}(L) = \text{gen}(C^*(L))$ .*

*Proof.* To see  $\text{emb}(L) \geq \text{gen}(C^*(L))$ , take an embedding  $e : L \hookrightarrow \mathbf{I}^{\text{emb}(L)}$ . Let  $D = \{\text{pr}_\lambda \circ e \in C^*(L) \mid \lambda \in \text{emb}(L)\}$ , where  $\text{pr}_\lambda : \mathbf{I}^{\text{emb}(L)} \rightarrow \mathbf{I}$  is the projection to the  $\lambda$ th coordinate. Since  $e$  is an embedding,  $D$  separates the points of  $L$ . Hence,  $\overline{\langle D \rangle} = C^*(L)$  by the Stone–Weierstrass Theorem. This implies  $\text{gen}(C^*(L)) \leq \text{card } D = \text{emb}(L)$ .

To see  $\text{emb}(L) \leq \text{gen}(C^*(L))$ , let  $D$  be a subset of  $C^*(L)$  with  $\overline{\langle D \rangle} = C^*(L)$ . Then  $D$  separates the points of  $L$ . Hence, the map

$$e : L \rightarrow \mathbf{I}^D, \quad e(x) = (f(x)/\|f\|)_{f \in D},$$

is an embedding. This implies  $\text{emb}(L) \leq \text{card } D = \text{gen}(C^*(L))$ . ■

**COROLLARY 4.5.** *In Corollary 4.3,  $\kappa \leq \text{emb}(\delta X)$ . ■*

We say that a unital Banach algebra  $A$  is *countably* (resp. *finitely*) *generated* if there exists a countable (resp. finite) subset  $D \subset A$  such that  $\overline{\langle D \rangle} = A$ . The following is a direct consequence of the previous proposition.

**COROLLARY 4.6.** *Suppose that  $L$  is a compact Hausdorff space. Then  $L$  is separable (resp. finite-dimensional separable) metrizable if and only if  $C^*(L)$  is countably (resp. finitely) generated. ■*

**THEOREM 4.7.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a completely regular space. Then  $X$  is separable (resp. finite-dimensional separable) metrizable if and only if there exists a compactification  $\gamma X$  of  $X$  such that  $C^*(\gamma X)$  is countably (resp. finitely) generated.*

*Proof.* To show the “if” part, suppose that  $C^*(\gamma X)$  is countably (resp. finitely) generated. By Corollary 4.6,  $\gamma X$  is separable (resp. finite-dimensional separable) metrizable, thus so is  $X$ .

To show the “only if” part, assume that  $X$  is separable (resp. finite-dimensional separable) metrizable. Then  $X$  can be embedded in the Hilbert cube  $\mathbf{I}^{\mathbb{N}}$  (resp. the  $n$ -cube  $\mathbf{I}^n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ). Let  $\gamma X$  be the closure of  $X$  in  $\mathbf{I}^{\mathbb{N}}$  (resp.  $\mathbf{I}^n$ ). Then  $C^*(\gamma X)$  is countably (resp. finitely) generated by Corollary 4.6. ■

In particular, if  $X$  is locally compact (finite-dimensional) separable metrizable, then so is  $\alpha X$ . Thus, we have the following corollary.

**COROLLARY 4.8.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a locally compact Hausdorff space. Then  $X$  is separable (resp. finite-dimensional separable) metrizable if and only if  $C^*(\alpha X)$  is countably (resp. finitely) generated. ■*

**5. The proof of approximation theorems.** Now, we shall show the statements in Section 1. The following is a direct consequence of Proposition 4.1.

**THEOREM 5.1.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a non-compact locally compact Hausdorff space. If  $\mathbf{I} \times \alpha X$  is homeomorphic to a subspace of a topological space  $Y$ , then every compactification of  $X$  is the supremum of compactifications homeomorphic to a subspace of  $Y$ . ■*

In particular, if  $X = \mathbb{R}^n$  then the one-point compactification  $\alpha X$  is homeomorphic to the  $n$ -dimensional sphere  $\mathbb{S}^n$ . Since  $\mathbf{I} \times \mathbb{S}^n$  can be embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , Theorem 1.1 follows from Theorem 5.1 above.

*Proof of Theorem 1.2.* It is clear that the “only” if part follows from Lemma 2.2 and Corollary 4.2. On the other hand, it is obvious that no two-point compactification of  $X$  can be the supremum of compactifications having the remainder homeomorphic to  $\mathbf{I}$  or one-point. This yields the “if” part. The representability by singular compactifications is due to Lemma 3.1. We have completed the proof. ■

*Proof of Theorem 1.3.* From Theorem 1.2, we have (i) $\Leftrightarrow$ (ii) and (i) $\Rightarrow$ (iii). Now we shall show (iii) $\Rightarrow$ (i). Assume to the contrary that  $X$  has a two-point compactification  $\gamma X$ . Since  $\gamma X$  is the supremum of some singular compactifications, we have a singular map  $f : X \rightarrow L$  and the singular compactification  $X \cup_f L \leq \gamma X$  whose remainder  $L$  is a two-point set. This contradicts the connectedness of  $X$ . ■

*Proof of Theorems 1.4 and 1.5.* Let  $\gamma X$  be a metrizable (resp. Smirnov) compactification with  $\gamma X \leq \delta X$  and  $A = S(\gamma X)$  a subalgebra of  $C^*(X)$ . It follows from Lemma 2.1 (resp. Lemma 3.5) that  $T(\overline{\langle A, g \rangle})$  is also a metrizable (resp. Smirnov) compactification for any  $g \in C^*(X)$ . Thus, we have the result from Corollary 4.2. ■

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