*\(\sigma^-\)Spaces and a Function Space Theorem of R. Pol

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1. Introduction. The following interesting theorem was recently obtained by R. Pol [8, Theorem 1 (iii)]: If X is a metrizable space with separable derived $set^{(1)}$ X', and if K is compact metrizable, then the function space K^X is Lindelöf. Pol's proof of this result is rather lengthy, and the first purpose of this note is to give a proof which is somewhat shorter and simpler. Like Pol, we shall actually prove a bit more, namely that K^X belongs to a class of Lindelöf spaces which is preserved by countable products. Although our class and Pol's are defined differently, it can be shown that they actually coincide.

We now state our theorem. For the definition of Lindelöf Σ -spaces, see section 2.

Theorem 1.1. If X is a metrizable space with separable X', and if K is compact metrizable, then K^{X} is a Lindelöf Σ -space.

Let us now generalize Theorem 1.1 to non-metrizable spaces X. It was observed by Pol [8] that, if X is any space and Y is a compact-covering ⁽⁴⁾ quotient image of X, then K^Y is homeomorphic to a closed subset of K^X . Since Lindelöf Σ -spaces are preserved by closed subsets, it follows that Theorem 1.1 remains valid if X is only assumed to be a compact-covering quotient image of a metrizable space M with separable M'. As we shall see in Theorem 4.4, this is equivalent, for regular X, to X being a k-space and an \aleph_0 '-space, where \aleph_0 '-spaces are defined as follows.

Definition 1.2. A space X is an X_0' -space if there is a countable collection \mathcal{O} of subsets of X such that, if $K \subset U$ with K compact and U open in X, then $K \subset P \cup F \subset U$ for some $P \in \mathcal{O}$ and finite $F \subset X - X'$.

Observe that, if one can always take F empty in the above definition, one obtains an \aleph_0 -space in the sense of [3], which explains the terminology. Clearly every \aleph_0 -space is an \aleph_0 -space, and if X is an \aleph_0 -space then X' is an \aleph_0 -space.

It is easily seen that every metrizable space X (more generally, every space X with a point-countable base) with separable X' is an \aleph_0 '-space. In fact, if $\mathfrak B$