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Metrizable Bounded Sets in C(X) Spaces and Distinguished  $C_p(X)$  Spaces

Quite recently W. Ruess [Locally convex spaces not containing  $\ell_1$ , Funct. Approx. Comment. Math. 50 (2014) 351–358] has shown that a wide class of locally convex spaces for which all bounded sets are metrizable enjoy Rosenthal's  $\ell_1$ -dichotomy. Being motivated by this fact we show that for a Tychonoff space X the bounded sets of  $C_p(X)$  are metrizable (respectively, the bounded sets of  $C_k(X)$  are weakly metrizable) if and only if X is countable. If X is a P-space we show that every bounded set in  $C_p(X)$  is metrizable if and only if X is countable and discrete. The second part of the paper deals with distinguished  $C_p(X)$  spaces. Among other things we show that  $C_p(X)$  is distinguished if and only if the strong topology of the dual coincides with its strongest locally convex topology, and that  $C_p(X)$  is always distinguished whenever X is countable.

**Keywords**: Countable tightness, Frechet-Urysohn space, strong dual, strongest locally convex topology, distinguished space.

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