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THE STRUCTURE OF σ -IDEALS OF COMPACT SETS

A. S. KECHRIS¹, A. LOUVEAU AND W. H. WOODIN¹

ABSTRACT. Motivated by problems in certain areas of analysis, like measure theory and harmonic analysis, where σ -ideals of compact sets are encountered very often as notions of small or exceptional sets, we undertake in this paper a descriptive set theoretic study of σ -ideals of compact sets in compact metrizable spaces. In the first part we study the complexity of such ideals, showing that the structural condition of being a σ -ideal imposes severe definability restrictions. A typical instance is the dichotomy theorem, which states that σ -ideals which are analytic or coanalytic must be actually either complete coanalytic or else G_δ . In the second part we discuss (generators or as we call them here) bases for σ -ideals and in particular the problem of existence of Borel bases for coanalytic non-Borel σ -ideals. We derive here a criterion for the nonexistence of such bases which has several applications. Finally in the third part we develop the connections of the definability properties of σ -ideals with other structural properties, like the countable chain condition, etc.

In this paper we study the descriptive set theoretic properties of σ -ideals of compact sets (in compact metrizable spaces). Such σ -ideals occur very frequently in various parts of analysis, as “smallness” notions or “exceptional” sets. Usually a lot of information about these notions comes from the structural properties inherent in the special context in which these σ -ideals are studied, but it turns out that the purely descriptive set theoretic approach is enough to give nontrivial information about these objects.

The starting point of our investigations was a recent result of Solovay [S] and independently Kaufman [K1] about the σ -ideal of compact sets of uniqueness, which is shown to be a complete Π_1^1 (=coanalytic) set. A set of uniqueness is a subset of the unit circle \mathbf{T} for which every trigonometric series $\sum c_n e^{inx}$ converging to 0 outside the set is identically 0. (Other examples of σ -ideals of this kind that were known earlier are: the compact subsets of \mathbf{Q} , the countable compact subsets of \mathbf{R} , etc.) Heuristically this kind of result rules out in general potential criteria for characterizing when a compact set is in the σ -ideal if of a too simple form—here Borel, which is usually the proposed form.

In the first part of this paper we study systematically the possible complexity of σ -ideals of compact sets. As it happens there are essentially only two possibilities, within the analytic or coanalytic ones: Apart from trivial cases they must be either true G_δ sets or else true coanalytic sets. These results extend an older result of Christensen [Chr] and Saint-Raymond [StR1] on ∞ -ideals, i.e. sets of the form $\mathcal{K}(A)$ for some subset A of a compact metrizable space. (Here $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is the set of compact subsets of A .) They proved that if $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is analytic then A (and hence

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$\mathcal{K}(A)$ is a G_δ set. Our results also extend for ∞ -ideals throughout the projective hierarchy (using strong axioms of set theory), showing that the only possible classes for $\mathcal{K}(A)$, A projective, are the Π_n^1 .

Once one knows that a σ -ideal is too complicated to admit simple criteria, one can search for simple criteria for generating the σ -ideal. This is the “basis problem” that we discuss in the second part. (A basis for a σ -ideal is a subset of the ideal which generates it as a σ -ideal.) Again we show that the existence of an analytic basis for a σ -ideal of compact sets implies the existence of a G_δ basis. Of particular interest is the problem of the existence of Borel bases for true Π_1^1 σ -ideals. This turns out to be equivalent to a classification problem, namely whether the class of compact sets which are locally in the σ -ideal is Borel or not. We prove a sufficient criterion for nonexistence of Borel bases of true Π_1^1 σ -ideals, which has several applications. It can be used for example to classify completely the Π_1^1 ∞ -ideals which have a Borel basis: An ∞ -ideal $\mathcal{K}(A)$, A coanalytic, has a Borel basis iff A is the difference of two G_δ sets. It implies also for instance that any “sufficiently nice” true Π_1^1 σ -ideal which contains the 0 sets of a “continuous” capacity cannot have a Borel basis. This in turn can be used to provide interesting examples of Π_1^1 σ -ideals with no Borel bases. The problem of developing further methods for demonstrating the nonexistence of Borel bases for Π_1^1 σ -ideals is extremely interesting, especially in view of the important unsolved problem of the existence of a Borel basis for the σ -ideal of the compact sets of uniqueness.

In the third part of the paper, we relate the descriptive set theoretic properties of σ -ideals to other structural properties. One of them is the notion of thinness of σ -ideals: It corresponds (dually) to the countable chain condition. In potential theory, or more generally when capacities are involved, these notions have been extensively studied (see Dellacherie [D1]), and the link between thinness, descriptive set theoretic properties, and approximation properties was noticed by some authors, mainly Dellacherie and Feyel, see [DFM and DM]. We give here a general “abstract” treatment of thinness, generalizing the results known in the case of capacities, and showing that these results have very few relations with the particular properties of measures and capacities. We also introduce a descriptive set theoretic analog of “control”, generalizing the concept of a set of measures being controlled by a measure. (A set of measures S is controlled by a measure μ if $\forall \nu \in S (\nu \ll \mu)$.) We show for instance that controlled Π_1^1 σ -ideals are thin (i.e. satisfy the ccc) and (extending a result of Dellacherie [D3]) that they are also G_δ . This last result implies for instance that no “sufficiently nice” true Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets can contain the zero sets of a measure. This property is for instance true for the σ -ideal of sets of uniqueness. This is a well-known theorem in the theory of these sets, but the above result reveals an underlying descriptive set theoretic “phenomenon”.

Added in proof (January 1987). The methods and results of this paper have recently found several applications in the study of the σ -ideals of closed sets of uniqueness (U) and extended uniqueness (U_0); see A. S. Kechris and A. Louveau, *Descriptive set theory and the structure of sets of uniqueness*, forthcoming monograph, and G. Debs and J. Saint Raymond, *Ensembles d'unicité et d'unicité au sens large* (to appear). In particular, in relation to questions raised in our paper, it has been shown that U is calibrated (Kechris-Louveau, Debs-Saint Raymond), and that U has no Borel basis (Debs-Saint Raymond), while U_0 has a Borel basis (Kechris-Louveau).

1. Complexity of σ -ideals of compact sets.

1.1 *Preliminaries on σ -ideals.* For the rest of this paper, E is a compact metrizable space, and $\mathcal{K}(E)$ the space of compact subsets of E with the Hausdorff topology, in which the basic open nbhds have the form

$$\{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \subseteq U_0 \ \& \ K \cap U_1 \neq \emptyset \ \& \dots \ \& \ K \cap U_n \neq \emptyset\}$$

where U_0, U_1, \dots, U_n are open sets in E . Again $\mathcal{K}(E)$ is compact metrizable with the metric

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(K, L) &= \sup\{d(x, K), d(y, L) : x \in L \ \& \ y \in K\}, \text{ if } L, K \neq \emptyset, \\ &= \text{diameter}(E), \text{ otherwise,} \end{aligned}$$

where d is a metric on E . We will use freely various simple facts about this topology (see [Ku]) like for example:

(i) If $\bigcup : \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{K}(E)) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E)$ is the union function $\bigcup(L) \equiv \bigcup L \equiv \bigcup\{K : K \in L\}$, then \bigcup is continuous. Also the function $\bigcup : \mathcal{K}(E) \times \mathcal{K}(E) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E)$ given by $\bigcup(K, F) = K \cup F$ is continuous.

(ii) If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E'$ is continuous, then $\varphi'' : \mathcal{K}(E) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E')$ given by $\varphi''(K) \equiv \{\varphi(x) : x \in K\}$ is continuous.

(iii) If L is clopen in E the map $\varphi : \mathcal{K}(E) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E)$ given by $\varphi(K) = K \cap L$ is continuous.

We will sometimes restrict our attention to 0-dimensional (0-dim) spaces E , i.e. totally disconnected ones. Every such space can be always considered a subspace of the Cantor set, and moreover $\mathcal{K}(E)$ is also 0-dim (in fact $\mathcal{K}(2^\omega) - \{\emptyset\} \cong 2^\omega$).

If $I \subseteq \mathcal{K}(E)$ we say that I is *hereditary* (resp. an *ideal*, *σ -ideal*, *∞ -ideal*) if I is closed under \subseteq (and resp. finite unions, countable unions (which are compact), arbitrary unions (which are compact)). Similar terminology will be used for other families of sets, e.g. σ -ideals of G_δ sets, Borel sets, etc.

If I is hereditary and $A_I = \{x \in E : \{x\} \in I\}$, then $I \subseteq \mathcal{K}(A_I)$, where for $A \subseteq E$, $\mathcal{K}(A) = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \subseteq A\}$, and if I is an ∞ -ideal then $I = \mathcal{K}(A_I)$.

1.2 *The \forall -propagation lemma.* Let Γ be a class of sets in compact metrizable spaces. Denote by $\Gamma(E)$ the class $\Gamma(E) \equiv \Gamma \cap \mathcal{P}(E)$. Typical examples will be the classes Σ_1^0 (\equiv open), Π_1^0 (\equiv compact), Σ_2^0 ($\equiv K_\sigma$), Π_2^0 ($\equiv G_\delta$), ..., Borel, Σ_1^1 (\equiv analytic), Π_1^1 (\equiv coanalytic), Σ_2^1 (\equiv PCA), Π_2^1 (\equiv CPCA), ... sets. The dual class $\check{\Gamma}$ is defined by

$$\check{\Gamma}(E) = \{E - A : A \in \Gamma(E)\}.$$

For the rest of 1.2 we will restrict ourselves to 0-dim compact metrizable spaces. If Γ is a class of sets in such spaces we let $\forall\Gamma$ be the class defined by

$$\forall\Gamma(E) = \{A \subseteq E : \exists B \in \Gamma(E \times 2^\omega) \forall x [x \in A \Leftrightarrow \forall y \in 2^\omega (x, y) \in B]\}.$$

(Note that this notion differs from the one frequently encountered in descriptive set theory, where one works with 0-dim Polish spaces, the basic space is the Baire space ω^ω and the \forall operation is defined over this space.)

We call Γ a *Wadge class* if for some $A \subseteq 2^\omega$ and for any 0-dim E ,

$$\Gamma(E) = \{B \subseteq E : \exists \text{ continuous } \varphi : E \rightarrow 2^\omega (B = \varphi^{-1}[A])\}.$$

If Γ is a Wadge class, and $A \subseteq E_0$ a 0-dim space, we say that A is Γ -hard if for every E and $B \in \Gamma(E)$ there is a continuous $\varphi: E \rightarrow E_0$ with $B = \varphi^{-1}[A]$. If moreover $A \in \Gamma$, we call A Γ -complete. (Viewing E_0 as a subset of 2^ω , this just means that A generates Γ as a Wadge class.) Finally, we say that A is a true Γ -set if $A \in \Gamma - \check{\Gamma}$.

Note that if Γ is not self-dual, i.e. $\Gamma \neq \check{\Gamma}$ and A is Γ -complete then A is a true Γ -set. And for $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Borel}$ (resp. any Γ), Martin's Borel determinacy theorem (resp. AD) implies the converse (see e.g. [M-K]).

We now have

LEMMA 1 (THE \forall -PROPAGATION LEMMA). *Let Γ be a Wadge class in 0-dim compact metrizable spaces. If E_0 is 0-dim compact metrizable and $A \subseteq E_0$ is Γ -hard, then $\mathcal{K}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{K}(E_0)$ is $\forall\Gamma$ -hard.*

PROOF. Let $B \subseteq E$ be a $\forall\Gamma$ set, say $B = \forall B'$ with $B' \in \Gamma(E \times 2^\omega)$. Let φ be continuous, $\varphi: E \times 2^\omega \rightarrow E_0$ be such that $\varphi^{-1}[A] = B'$ and define $\psi: E \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E_0)$ by $\psi(x) = \varphi''(\{x\} \times 2^\omega)$. Then ψ is continuous and $B = \psi^{-1}[\mathcal{K}(A)]$. \square

In order to apply this lemma we need to know what are the Wadge classes of the form $\forall\Gamma$. The simplest Wadge classes are $\{\emptyset\}$, $\{\check{\emptyset}\}$, Δ_1^0 ($\equiv \Sigma_1^0 \cap \Pi_1^0 \equiv \text{clopen}$), Σ_1^0, Π_1^0 , which are all closed under \forall , hence of this form. Let D_2 be (in compact metrizable spaces) the class of differences of two Π_1^0 sets, or equivalently the class of intersections of a compact and an open set. These can be also characterized as the sets which are open in their closure, and also as the locally compact metrizable spaces (see [Ku]). The dual class \check{D}_2 consists of unions of a compact and an open set, and the ambiguous part of this class is denoted by

$$\Delta(D_2) \equiv \Delta(\check{D}_2) \equiv D_2 \cap \check{D}_2.$$

It is the smallest Wadge class containing Σ_1^0 and Π_1^0 .

PROPOSITION 2. *We have*

- (i) $\forall(\Delta(D_2)) = D_2$ ($= \forall D_2$),
- (ii) $\forall \check{D}_2 = \Pi_2^0$ ($= \forall \Pi_2^0$),
- (iii) $\forall \Sigma_2^0 = \Pi_1^1$ ($= \forall \Pi_1^1$),
- (iv) For $n \geq 1$, $\forall \Sigma_n^1 = \Pi_{n+1}^1$ ($= \forall \Pi_{n+1}^1$).

PROOF. For (i) notice that if $A = A_0 \cup A_1$ is in $\check{D}_2(E)$, $A_0 \in \Pi_1^0, A_1 \in \Sigma_1^0$, then $B = (A_0 \times \{0\}) \cup (A_1 \times \{1\})$ is in $\Delta(D_2)$ in $E \times 2$ and $A = \exists B$.

For (ii) notice that if $A = \bigcup_n K_n$ is in $\Sigma_2^0(E)$, $K_n \in \Pi_1^0$ then $B = \bigcup_n (K_n \times \{n\})$ is in $D_2(E \times (\omega + 1))$ and $A = \exists B$.

The rest is trivial. \square

Lemma 1 together with Proposition 2(iv) solves a problem of Dellacherie about the complexity of $\mathcal{K}(A)$, $A \in \Sigma_1^1$. More generally if A is complete Σ_n^1 , $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is complete Π_{n+1}^1 . And using an appropriate level of Wadge determinacy this also holds for true Σ_n^1 sets. One can ask however the following: Can it be proved in ZFC that if A is true Σ_1^1 then $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is true Π_2^1 ?

Another corollary is the following.

COROLLARY 3. (i) *Let $E_0 = \omega \cdot 2 + 1$, $A_0 = \omega \cup \{\omega \cdot 2\}$. Then $\mathcal{K}(A_0)$ is, in $\mathcal{K}(E_0)$, a complete D_2 set.*

(ii) Let $E_1 = \omega^2 + 1$, $A_1 = E_1 - \{\omega \cdot (n + 1) : n \in \omega\}$. Then $\mathcal{K}(A_1)$ is, in $\mathcal{K}(E_1)$, a complete Π_2^0 set.

(iii) (Hurewicz [Hu]). Let $E_2 = 2^\omega$, $A_2 = \mathbf{Q} = \{\alpha \in 2^\omega : \alpha \text{ is eventually } 0\}$. Then $\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{Q})$ is, in $\mathcal{K}(E_2)$, complete Π_1^1 .

PROOF. (i) Notice that $\mathcal{K}(A_0)$ is a true D_2 set. This is because if $\mathcal{K}(A_0) = F \cup U$, $F \in \Pi_1^0$, $U \in \Sigma_1^0$, $F \cap U = \emptyset$, then for compact $K \subseteq A_0$, with $\omega \cdot 2 \in K$ we must have $K \in F$. Then $\{\omega, \omega \cdot 2\} = \lim\{n, \omega \cdot 2\}$ (in $\mathcal{K}(E_0)$), so $\{\omega, \omega \cdot 2\} \in F$, a contradiction. By Wadge Borel determinacy $\mathcal{K}(A_0)$ is a complete D_2 set.

(ii), (iii) Notice that A_1 is a true \check{D}_2 set in E_1 and \mathbf{Q} a true Σ_2^0 set in E_2 . Then use Wadge Borel determinacy, Lemma 1 and Proposition 2. \square

1.3 *Hurewicz-type results.* A Hurewicz-type result asserts that if a set (in some space) is not in a certain class Γ , it contains as a relatively closed subset a homeomorphic copy of some fixed non- Γ -set, which could be called a *Hurewicz-witness*. Typically, Hurewicz’s Theorem [Hu] says that any Π_1^1 set A in a compact metrizable space E which is not Π_2^0 contains a closed subset homeomorphic to \mathbf{Q} . In fact, one can also construct a homeomorphic copy F of 2^ω inside E such that $F \cap A$ is (through the homeomorphism) identified with \mathbf{Q} . One could also say here that the pair $(\mathbf{Q}, 2^\omega)$ is a Hurewicz-witness for non- Π_2^0 -ness. We now give a (seemingly new) proof of a sharpened and extended version of Hurewicz’s theorem.

THEOREM 4. *Assume ZF + DC (resp. +AD). Let E be compact metrizable, and let A, B be two disjoint subsets of E , with $A \in \Sigma_1^1$ (resp. arbitrary). If no Σ_2^0 set C in E separates A from B (i.e. $A \subseteq C$, $C \cap B = \emptyset$), there is a homeomorphism $\varphi : 2^\omega \rightarrow F \subseteq A \cup B$, such that $\varphi^{-1}[F \cap B] = \mathbf{Q}$.*

In particular, taking $B = E - A$ we obtain Hurewicz’s theorem. Note also that the result for $A \in \Pi_1^1$ and $B = E - A$ needs some extra hypothesis, since $\omega_1 = \omega_1^L$ and $A = C_1 \subseteq 2^\omega$ give a counterexample. For an analysis of the set theoretical hypotheses needed for these extensions and a solution to an associated problem of Saint Raymond on characterizations of Polish spaces see the forthcoming [KLSS].

PROOF. Let $E_C = 2^\omega$ and $f : E_C \rightarrow E$ a continuous surjection. Let $A' = f^{-1}[A]$, $B' = f^{-1}[B]$ and consider the following Wadge-type game: I plays $\alpha \in 2^\omega$, II plays $\beta \in 2^\omega$ and II wins iff: $(\alpha \in \mathbf{Q} \Rightarrow \beta \in B') \& (\alpha \notin \mathbf{Q} \Rightarrow \beta \in A')$. If player I has a winning strategy in this game, his strategy is a continuous function $g : E_C \rightarrow E_C$ such that $C' = g^{-1}[\mathbf{Q}]$ separates A' from B' , and thus $C = f''(C')$ is a Σ_2^0 set separating A from B , a contradiction. So, assuming AD, player II has a winning strategy, and so there is a continuous function $\varphi : E_C \rightarrow E_C$ with $\varphi''(E_C) \subseteq A' \cup B'$ and $\varphi^{-1}[B'] = \mathbf{Q}$. Composing with f we obtain continuous $\psi : E_C \rightarrow E$ with $\psi''(E_C) \subseteq A \cup B$ and $\psi^{-1}[B] = \mathbf{Q}$. Then $F = \psi''(E_C)$ is compact in E , and $\psi''(\mathbf{Q})$, $\psi''(E_C - \mathbf{Q})$ are disjoint dense subsets of F , hence F is perfect. Of course, F might not be 0-dim, but an immediate construction inside F (a la Cantor) gives a copy F' of 2^ω with $F' \cap \varphi''(\mathbf{Q})$ dense in F' and we are done.

Now to avoid AD in case A is Σ_1^1 , we argue, working in ZF + DC only, as follows: Let $P \subseteq E_C \times E_C$ be Π_2^0 and project to A' (which is now Σ_1^1). In P , consider the largest open set U whose projection πU is Σ_2^0 separable from B' . Then $P_0 = P - U \neq \emptyset$ (since A' cannot be separated from B' by a Σ_2^0 set), and $A_0 = \pi P_0$ cannot be separated from B' by a Σ_2^0 set. Let $\{U_n\}$ be a basis for the nonempty open subsets of P_0 . By maximality of U , $\overline{\pi U_n} \cap B' \neq \emptyset$, so choose

$x_n \in \overline{\pi U_n} \cap B'$. Let $B_0 = \{x_n : n \in \omega\}$ and consider the pair $P_0, B_0 \times E_C$ in $E_C \times E_C$. By the Baire category theorem P_0 cannot be separated from $B_0 \times E_C$ by a Σ_2^0 set, because if $\bigcup_n K_n$ is such a set then for some i, n $U_i \subseteq K_n$ and so $\pi U_i \subseteq \pi K_n$ and $\overline{\pi U_1} \subseteq \overline{\pi K_n} = \pi K_n$, since K_n is closed. So $x_i \in \pi K_n$ and thus $K_n \cap (B_0 \times E_C) \neq \emptyset$, a contradiction. We can play now the Wadge-type game for $P_0, B_0 \times E_C$ as above. Since this game is a Boolean combination of Π_2^0 sets (note that $P_0 \in \Pi_2^0, B_0 \in \Sigma_2^0$) it is determined, so, as above, player II wins. Composing his strategy with the project π we obtain the function φ as before. \square

Similar, but much easier, Hurewicz-type results hold at lower levels. Recall the pairs $(E_0, A_0), (E_1, A_1)$ defined in Corollary 3.

PROPOSITION 5. (i) *If a set $A \subseteq E$, in a compact metrizable space, is neither closed nor open, there is a homeomorphism $\varphi : \omega \cdot 2 + 1 \rightarrow E$ with $A_0 = \omega \cup \{\omega \cdot 2\} = \varphi^{-1}[A]$.*

(ii) *If a set $A \subseteq E$, in a compact metrizable space, is not in D_2 , there is a homeomorphism $\varphi : \omega^2 + 1 \rightarrow E$ with $A_1 = \omega^2 + 1 - \{\omega \cdot (n + 1) : n \in \omega\} = \varphi^{-1}[A]$.*

PROOF. (i) As A is not closed, it contains a discrete sequence $\{x_n\}$ converging to $x_\omega \notin A$. Similarly as $E - A$ is not closed there is a discrete sequence $\{x_{\omega+n}\}$ in $E - A$ converging to $x_{\omega \cdot 2} \in A$. Put $\varphi(\alpha) = x_\alpha$.

(ii) Since A is not in D_2 , hence not locally compact, let $x_\omega \in A$ have no compact neighborhood, and choose discrete disjoint sequences $\{x_{\omega \cdot n+m}\}$ in the ball $B(x, 1/(n+1))$ in A converging to distinct points $x_{\omega \cdot (n+1)}$ outside A . Put $\varphi(\alpha) = x_\alpha$ again. \square

Finally we quote another Hurewicz-type result due to Saint Raymond [StR2].

THEOREM 6 (SAINT RAYMOND [StR2]). *Let $E_3 = 2^\omega \times 2^\omega$ and $A_3 = \{(\alpha, \beta) \in E_3 : \alpha \notin \mathbf{Q} \text{ or } \beta \in \mathbf{Q}\}$. Then if a Borel set $A \subseteq E$, E compact metrizable, is not a difference of two Π_2^0 sets, there is a homeomorphism $\varphi : E_3 \rightarrow E$ with $\varphi^{-1}[A] = A_3$.*

1.4 Complexity of σ -ideals. We prove now the main results about the complexity of Π_1^1 σ -ideals.

In the results that follow, if Γ is a class of sets in compact metrizable spaces and $A \subseteq E_0$ is in $\Gamma(E_0)$, then we will call A Γ -complete if for any 0-dim E and $B \in \Gamma(E)$ there is a continuous $\varphi : E \rightarrow E_0$ with $B = \varphi^{-1}[A]$.

THEOREM 7. (i) *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space. Let $B \subseteq I$, and let B_σ be the class of compact sets which are countable unions of sets in B . (Thus $B_\sigma \subseteq I$.) If there exists a Σ_1^1 set C with $B_\sigma \subseteq C \subseteq I$, then there exists a Π_2^0 set H with $B_\sigma \subseteq H \subseteq I$.*

(ii) *(The Dichotomy Theorem). Every Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets is either Π_1^1 -complete or else it is Π_2^0 .*

PROOF. (i) If no such Π_2^0 set H exists we can apply Theorem 4 to $\mathcal{K}(E) - I$ and B . This gives a compact Cantor set $F \subseteq B \cup (\mathcal{K}(E) - I)$ and $F \cap B \cong \mathbf{Q}$. Consider the continuous $\varphi : \mathcal{K}(F) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E)$ given by $\varphi(L) = \bigcup L$. Then for $L \in \mathcal{K}(F)$

$$L \subseteq F \cap B \Leftrightarrow \bigcup L \in B_\sigma \Leftrightarrow \bigcup L \in I,$$

so $\varphi^{-1}[B_\sigma] = \varphi^{-1}[I] = \mathcal{K}(F \cap B) \cong \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{Q})$, which by Corollary 3 is complete Π_1^1 . Hence no Σ_1^1 set C can satisfy $B_\sigma \subseteq C \subseteq I$, and we are done.

(ii) Put $B = I$ in (i), and apply the preceding proof. \square

It remains to look at Π_2^0 σ -ideals. The following result completes the picture.

THEOREM 8. *If I is a Π_2^0 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space, then either I is Π_2^0 -complete, or else I is in D_2 . In the latter case I is an ∞ -ideal and hence is of the form $\mathcal{K}(A)$ for some A in D_2 . In particular, any Π_2^0 σ -ideal not of the form $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is complete Π_2^0 . And finally if I is in D_2 it is either D_2 -complete or else is either Σ_1^0 or Π_1^0 , i.e. of the form $\mathcal{K}(A)$ for A open or closed.*

In fact one can prove the following stronger result about *ideals* in general.

THEOREM 9. *If I is a Δ_2^0 (i.e. both Π_2^0 and Σ_2^0) ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space, then it is an ∞ -ideal, and so of the form $\mathcal{K}(A)$ for some $A \in D_2$.*

PROOF OF THEOREMS 8 AND 9. That every Π_2^0 σ -ideal which is not Π_2^0 -complete is in D_2 follows from Proposition 5(ii) and Corollary 3(ii), as in the proof of Theorem 7. Similarly if I is in D_2 but not D_2 -complete we use Proposition 5(i) and Corollary 3(i). It remains only to prove Theorem 9.

Let $I = \bigcup_n L_n$, where without loss of generality we can assume that L_n are hereditary compact subsets of $\mathcal{K}(E)$. Put as usual $A_I = \{x \in E : \{x\} \in I\}$ and consider

$$U_0 = \bigcup \{U \text{ open in } E : \mathcal{K}(A_I \cap U) \subseteq I\}.$$

Since I is an ideal, an easy compactness argument shows that $\mathcal{K}(A_I \cap U_0) \subseteq I$, i.e. U_0 is the largest open set U with $\mathcal{K}(A_I \cap U) \subseteq I$. We want to prove that actually $\mathcal{K}(A_I \cap U_0) = I$. For that it is enough to check that $I \subseteq \mathcal{K}(U_0)$. If not, then $I' = I - \mathcal{K}(U_0) \neq \emptyset$. Since I is Π_2^0 , so is I' , so since $I' \subseteq \bigcup_n L_n$, we can find by the Baire category theorem an open set V in $\mathcal{K}(E)$ and some n with $V \cap I' \neq \emptyset$ and $V \cap I' \subseteq L_n$. We may assume that for some G_0, G_1, \dots, G_k open in E , $V = \{K : K \subseteq G_0 \text{ \& } K \cap G_i \neq \emptyset, 1 \leq i \leq k\}$. Let $K_0 \in V \cap I'$, so that $K_0 \subseteq G_0$, $K_0 \subseteq A_I$ but $K_0 \not\subseteq U_0$. So $G_0 \cap (A_I - U_0) \neq \emptyset$, hence $\mathcal{K}(A_I \cap G_0) \not\subseteq I$ (else $G_0 \subseteq U_0$). We will derive a contradiction to this.

Let $K'_0 \subseteq K_0$ be finite with $K'_0 \in V$, and $K'_0 \cap (E - U_0) \neq \emptyset$. Then $K'_0 \in V \cap I'$. If now $K \subseteq A_I \cap G_0$ is finite, $K \cup K'_0 \subseteq A_I$ and thus $K \cup K'_0 \in I$ (being finite). Also $K \cup K'_0 \not\subseteq U_0$, so $K \cup K'_0 \in I'$ and clearly $K \cup K'_0 \in V$. So $K \subseteq K \cup K'_0 \in L_n$ and thus $K \in L_n$. So all finite subsets of $A_I \cap G_0$ are in L_n and since L_n is closed $\mathcal{K}(A_I \cap G_0) \subseteq L_n \subseteq I$, a contradiction. \square

In view of Theorem 8 all the Π_1^1 σ -ideals of compact sets which are not of the form $\mathcal{K}(A)$ fall in exactly one of two categories:

(A) The “simple” ones, which are Π_2^0 -complete. Typical examples are the nowhere dense compact sets or the μ -measure 0 compact sets for any continuous finite measure μ , on any perfect compact space E .

(B) The “complicated” ones, which are Π_1^1 -complete. Typical examples are the countable compact sets in a perfect compact space E or the compact sets of uniqueness in the circle \mathbf{T} .

To finish this section, let us consider the case of Σ_1^1 σ -ideals. It follows easily from the proof of Theorems 4 and 7, that if we use the determinacy of Σ_1^1 games, the Σ_1^1 σ -ideals are actually Π_2^0 . This indeed can be proved without this additional assumption, using as a key step a lemma of Saint Raymond [StR1]. (This was

the main lemma used by him to prove that $\mathcal{K}(A) \in \Sigma_1^1 \Rightarrow A \in \Pi_2^0$. Actually the hypotheses of the lemma in [StR1] are a bit stronger than the ones we use here, but one can easily check that the proof goes through with the weaker hypotheses given below.)

LEMMA 10 (SAINT RAYMOND [StR1]). *Let E be compact metrizable, and $A \subseteq E$ a Σ_1^1 set. Let P be Polish and $\varphi: P \rightarrow A$ a continuous surjection such that for any compact countable $K \subseteq A$ there is compact $L \subseteq P$ with $\varphi''(L) = K$. Then A is Polish, i.e. Π_2^0 in E .*

We now have

THEOREM 11. *Let I be a Σ_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in some compact metrizable space E . Then I is actually Π_2^0 .*

PROOF. Consider

$$J \subseteq \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{K}(E)), \quad \text{given by } L \in J \Leftrightarrow \bigcup L \in I.$$

Since I is Σ_1^1 , so is J . So let X be Polish and $f: X \rightarrow J$ a continuous surjection. Define $P \subseteq X \times \mathcal{K}(E)$ by

$$(x, K) \in P \Leftrightarrow K \in f(x).$$

Then P is closed in $X \times \mathcal{K}(E)$, so is Polish. Let $\varphi: P \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E)$ be given by $\varphi(x, K) = K$. Then φ is continuous and we will check that it satisfies the hypotheses of Saint Raymond's lemma with $\varphi''(P) = I$. It then follows that I is Π_2^0 .

So first let $K \in I$. Then $\{K\} \in J$, so for some $x \in X$, $(x, K) \in P$ and thus $\varphi''(P) \supseteq I$. Conversely, if $(x, K) \in P$ then $K \in f(x) \in J$, hence $K \subseteq \bigcup f(x) \in I$, thus $K \in I$. So $\varphi''(P) = I$. Finally, if L is a countable compact subset of I , then $\bigcup L \in I$, since I is a σ -ideal, so $L \in J$ and thus let $x_L \in X$ be such that $f(x_L) = L$. Put $L' = \{(x_L, K) : K \in L\} = \{x_L\} \times L$. Then L' is a compact subset of P , and $\varphi''(L') = L$. \square

2. Bases for σ -ideals of compact sets.

2.1 The concept of basis. Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space. A set $B \subseteq I$ is a *basis for I* if I is the σ -ideal generated by B , i.e. if for each $K \in I$ there is a sequence $\{K_n\}$, $K_n \in B$ with $K \subseteq \bigcup_n K_n$. If B is hereditary this is equivalent to $I = B_\sigma$. We say that I *admits a Γ -basis* if such a basis B can be found in the class Γ . We will be mainly interested in the problem of existence of Borel bases for Π_1^1 σ -ideals.

First an easy proposition.

PROPOSITION 1. *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in some compact metrizable space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) I admits a Σ_1^1 -basis;
- (ii) I admits a Borel basis;
- (iii) I admits a hereditary Borel basis.

PROOF. Clearly (iii) \Rightarrow (ii) \Rightarrow (i). Let now B_0 be a Σ_1^1 -basis. By separation find Borel C_0 with $B_0 \subseteq C_0 \subseteq I$. Let B_1 be the hereditary closure of C_0 . Then $B_1 \in \Sigma_1^1$ and $C_0 \subseteq B_1 \subseteq I$, hence there is Borel C_1 with $B_1 \subseteq C_1 \subseteq I$, etc.

So inductively we define $B_n \subseteq C_n \subseteq B_{n+1}$, C_n Borel and B_{n+1} hereditary. Let $B = \bigcup_n B_n = \bigcup_n C_n$. Then B is Borel, hereditary and a basis since $B_0 \subseteq B$. \square

Proposition 1 has the following converse:

If a σ -ideal I admits a Borel, in fact even a Π_1^1 hereditary basis, then it is Π_1^1 .

This follows from work of Cenzer and Mauldin, characterizing hereditary Π_1^1 subsets of $\mathcal{K}(E)$ as those sets B for which there is a Π_1^1 set $T \subseteq E^\omega$ with $K \in B \Leftrightarrow K^\omega \subseteq T$ (see [C-M or L1]), and from work of Dellacherie, Hillard and Louveau [Hi, L1]. An explicit proof of the result above—together with some generalizations can be found in [L1, Chapter 3, pp. 48–54].

However, one cannot drop the hypothesis that B is hereditary: Let $A \subseteq E$ be a true Σ_1^1 set, and let

$$I = \mathcal{K}_\omega(A) = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \text{ is countable} \& K \subseteq A\}.$$

Clearly I admits the (hereditary) Σ_1^1 -basis $B = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{\{x\} : x \in A\}$, and we will see in the next subsection that this implies that A admits a Π_2^0 -basis. But I is not Π_1^1 , and so I cannot have a hereditary Borel basis (this can be also seen directly as follows: If $C \subseteq I$ is hereditary Borel, $\{x \in E : \{x\} \in C\}$ is a Borel subset of A , so C does not generate I).

Using similar ideas, one gets counterexamples to various possible conjectures, showing in particular (in combination with the results of 2.2) that the notions of basis and hereditary basis are quite different.

Let first A be a true Π_1^1 set. Then $I = \mathcal{K}_\omega(A)$ is the simplest example of a Π_1^1 σ -ideal with no Borel basis.

Let now A be a Borel set. Then $I = \mathcal{K}_\omega(A)$ is Π_1^1 and admits a Borel basis, e.g. $B = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{\{x\} : x \in A\}$, but any hereditary Borel basis C must be of Borel complexity at least that of A , since $x \in A \Leftrightarrow \{x\} \in C$. So the complexity of hereditary Borel bases can be arbitrarily high in the Borel hierarchy. This should be compared with the result in 2.2 showing that there is always a Π_2^0 -basis (if there is a Borel one).

We will see now that the problem of the existence of a Borel basis is equivalent to a classification problem.

For a σ -ideal I of compact sets in E , let I_L (the “local” version of I) be defined by

$$K \in I_L \Leftrightarrow \exists U \text{ open in } E (K \cap U \neq \emptyset \& K \cap \bar{U} \in I).$$

For example, let $I = \mathcal{K}_\omega(2^\omega) \subseteq \mathcal{K}(2^\omega)$ be the σ -ideal of countable compact sets in 2^ω . It is well known that I is Π_1^1 -complete. (Here is a simple proof, based on Theorem 1.7: Let $\varphi : 2^\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(2^\omega)$ be defined by $\varphi(\alpha) = \{\beta \in 2^\omega : \forall n (\alpha(n) = 0 \Rightarrow \beta(n) = 0)\}$. Then φ is continuous and $\varphi^{-1}[I] = \mathbf{Q}$, so I is not Π_2^0 .) Now $\mathcal{K}(E) - I_L$ consists of exactly the perfect compact subsets of 2^ω , which is a Π_2^0 set.

We have now

THEOREM 2. *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) I admits a Borel basis;
- (ii) I_L is Borel.

PROOF. If I admits a hereditary Borel basis B then by a Baire category argument we have

$$K \in I_L \Leftrightarrow \exists U \text{ open in } E (K \cap U \neq \emptyset \& K \cap \bar{U} \in B),$$

so I_L is Borel.

Conversely if I_L is Borel, let $\{U_n\}$ be a basis for open sets for E , and for each n let $C_n = \{K : K \cap U_n \neq \emptyset \ \& \ K \cap \bar{U}_n \in I\}$. Then $C_n \in \Pi_1^1$ and $I_L \subseteq \bigcup_n C_n$. By Novikov's theorem there is a Borel function $\varphi : I_L \rightarrow \omega$ such that for $K \in I_L, K \cap U_{\varphi(K)} \neq \emptyset \ \& \ K \cap \bar{U}_{\varphi(K)} \in I$. Let $B = \{K \cap \bar{U}_{\varphi(K)} : K \in I_L\}$. Then B is Σ_1^1 and $B \subseteq I$, so it is enough to show B is a basis. So let $K \in I$ and put

$$K' = K - \bigcup \{U \text{ basic open in } E : U \cap K \text{ is covered by the union of a sequence of elements of } B\}.$$

If we show that $K' = \emptyset$, we are done. But if $K' \neq \emptyset$, then since $K' \in I$ we have that $K' \in I_L$. But then for $U = U_{\varphi(K')}$ we have that both $K \cap U$ is covered by the union of a sequence of elements in B and $K' \cap U \neq \emptyset$, a contradiction. \square

Note that by the preceding proof we can also add another equivalence, namely (iii) There is a Borel set A with $I \subseteq A \subseteq I_L \cup \{\emptyset\}$.

2.2 Π_2^0 -bases. We can view the following result as an analog of Theorem 1.11 for bases.

THEOREM 3. *Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . If I has a Σ_1^1 -basis, then it actually has a Π_2^0 -basis.*

PROOF. We can of course assume that I has a hereditary Σ_1^1 -basis B . We distinguish two cases.

Case 1. Every set in I is countable. Then $I = \mathcal{K}_\omega(A_I)$, where $A_I = \{x : \{x\} \in I\} = \{x : \{x\} \in B\}$ is Σ_1^1 in E . We have now two subcases:

(a) If A_I is uncountable, let K_0 be a copy of 2^ω inside A_I and let $P \subseteq E \times K_0$ be a Π_2^0 set projecting to $A_I - K_0$. Then $A = \{\{x\} : x \in K_0\} \cup \{\{x, y\} : x \in A_I - K_0 \ \& \ (x, y) \in P\}$ is a Π_2^0 -basis for I .

(b) If A_I is countable, say $A_I = \{x_n : n \in \omega\}$, let A consist of $\emptyset, \{x_0 \cdots x_n\}, n \in \omega$. One checks that $\bar{A} - A = \{\bar{A}_I\}$, hence A is Π_2^0 (in fact D_2) and clearly a basis for I .

Case 2. I contains some compact perfect set K_0 . Choose first a sequence $\{V_n\}$ of open sets with $\bar{V}_n \subseteq V_{n+1}$ and $\bigcup_n V_n = E - K_0$. Then choose open sets U_n with $K_0 \cap U_n \neq \emptyset, U_n \cap V_n = \emptyset$ and $U_n \cap U_m = \emptyset$ if $n \neq m$.

Now let $B_n = B \cap \mathcal{K}(\bar{V}_n)$. Since B_n is Σ_1^1 in $\mathcal{K}(E)$ and $\mathcal{K}(U_n \cap K_0)$ contains a copy of 2^ω , there exists a Π_2^0 set

$$P_n \subseteq \mathcal{K}(E) \times (\mathcal{K}(U_n \cap K_0) - \{\emptyset\})$$

with $\pi P_n = B_n$. Put

$$A = \{K_0\} \cup \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : \exists n (K \subseteq U_n \cup V_n) \ \& \ \forall n [K \subseteq U_n \cup V_n \Rightarrow K \subseteq K_0 \cup \bar{V}_n \ \& \ (K \cap \bar{V}_n, K \cap K_0) \in P_n]\}.$$

First A is a Π_2^0 set: This is because the function $K \mapsto (K \cap \bar{V}_n, K \cap K_0)$ from $\mathcal{K}(K_0 \cup \bar{V}_n)$ into $\mathcal{K}(E) \times \mathcal{K}(E)$ is continuous, since \bar{V}_n and K_0 are clopen in $K_0 \cup \bar{V}_n$.

Also $A \subseteq I$: Indeed if $K \in A$, either $K = K_0 \in I$ or for some n $K = (K \cap \bar{V}_n) \cup (K \cap K_0)$ and $K \cap \bar{V}_n \in \pi P_n = B_n$, so $K \cap \bar{V}_n \in I$ and then $K \in I$.

Finally we check that A is a basis for I : Let $K \in B$. Then for each n $K \cap \bar{V}_n \in B_{n+1}$, so for some $K'_n \subseteq U_{n+1} \cap K_0, K'_n \neq \emptyset, (K \cap \bar{V}_n, K'_n) \in P_{n+1}$. We claim that $K''_n = (K \cap \bar{V}_n) \cup K'_n$ is in A , which completes the proof since $K = K_0 \cup \bigcup_n (K \cap \bar{V}_n) \subseteq K_0 \cup \bigcup_n K''_n$. Indeed, $K''_n \subseteq U_{n+1} \cup V_{n+1}$ and if $K''_n \subseteq U_m \cup V_m$, then clearly $m = n + 1$ (recall that the V_m 's are disjoint and $\emptyset \neq K'_n \subseteq U_{n+1}$); so $K''_n \subseteq K_0 \cup \bar{V}_m$ and $(K''_n \cap \bar{V}_m, K''_n \cap K_0) = (K \cap \bar{V}_n, K'_n) \in P_m$, so we are done. \square

This result is best possible, because if $A \subseteq E$ is a true Π_2^0 set, then $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is Π_2^0 but cannot have a Σ_2^0 -basis, since otherwise A would have been Σ_2^0 also.

But if a σ -ideal has a Σ_2^0 -basis then one has a further reduction.

THEOREM 4. *Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space. If I has a Σ_2^0 -basis, it has actually a D_2 -basis.*

PROOF. First note that I is Π_1^1 (by the remarks following Proposition 1) since I has a hereditary Σ_2^0 -basis B . We have again two cases:

Case 1. Every $K \in I$ is finite. Then $A_I = \{x \in E : \{x\} \in I\}$ must be discrete and so in D_2 , and therefore $I = \mathcal{K}(A_I)$ is D_2 itself.

Case 2. Some $K \in I$ is infinite. Then there is $K_0 \in I$ homeomorphic to $\omega + 1$, say $K_0 = \{x_n : n \in \omega\} \cup \{x_\omega\}$. Let $U_n = E - (\{x_m : m \geq n\} \cup \{x_\omega\})$. Then U_n is open and $U_0 = E - K_0$. Let $B' = B \cap \mathcal{K}(U_0)$. Then B' is Σ_2^0 in $\mathcal{K}(E)$, so let $B' = \bigcup_n L_n$, with L_n closed in $\mathcal{K}(E)$, and $L_n \subseteq L_{n+1}$. Put

$$A = \{K : K = \{x_\omega\} \text{ or } \exists n \exists K' \in L_n [K = K' \cup \{x_0 \cdots x_n\}]\}.$$

Clearly $A \subseteq I$ and A is a basis for I .

We prove that $A \in D_2$: First note that x_0 is contained in every element of A except $\{x_\omega\}$ so $\{x_\omega\}$ is an isolated point in A . Thus it is enough to show $A' = A - \{\{x_\omega\}\}$ is in D_2 . For that let

$$L'_n = \bigcup_{p < n} \{K \cup \{x_0 \cdots x_p\} : K \in L_p\},$$

so that L'_n is closed (in $\mathcal{K}(E)$). Then notice that

$$K \in A' \Leftrightarrow \exists n > 0 (K \subseteq U_n) \ \& \ \forall n > 0 (K \subseteq U_n \Rightarrow K \in L'_n),$$

so A' is D_2 . \square

Note again that this is best possible: If $A \subseteq E$ is a true D_2 set, $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is a D_2 σ -ideal with no \check{D}_2 -basis.

Finally we have

THEOREM 5. *Suppose I is a σ -ideal of compact sets in some compact metrizable space. If I has a \check{D}_2 -basis, it has actually a $\Delta(\check{D}_2) = \Delta(D_2)$ -basis.*

PROOF. Let B_1 in \check{D}_2 be a basis for I . Say $B_1 = F \cup U_1$, where F is closed and U_1 is open. We can assume that F is hereditary. Moreover U_1 is the union of a countable sequence $\bigcup_n V_n$, where $\emptyset \neq V_n = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \subseteq G^{(n)} \ \& \ K \cap G_1^{(n)} \neq \emptyset \ \& \ \cdots \ \& \ K \cap G_{k_n}^{(n)} \neq \emptyset\}$, with $G_i^{(n)}$ open in E .

Let $V'_n = \mathcal{K}(G^{(n)})$. Then $V_n \subseteq V'_n \subseteq I$, so if $U = \bigcup_n V'_n$, then $B = F \cup U$ is still a basis and F, U are hereditary, F is closed and U is open.

Let now $V = A_U = \{x: \{x\} \in U\}$. Then V is open in E and for each $x \in V$ there is n with $x \in G^{(n)}$ and $\mathcal{K}(G^{(n)}) \subseteq U$. So $U \subseteq \mathcal{K}(V) \subseteq I$. Let $L = E - V$, and $B' = B \cap \mathcal{K}(L) = F \cap \mathcal{K}(L)$. If $V = \emptyset$, then B' is a closed basis for I . If $V \neq \emptyset$, choose V' open, $V' \neq \emptyset$, with $\overline{V'} \subseteq V$ and let $A = B' \cup \{K: K \subseteq V \ \& \ K \cap V' \neq \emptyset\}$. Then A is a basis for I . Now

$$\overline{\{K: K \subseteq V \ \& \ K \cap V' \neq \emptyset\}} \subseteq \{K: K \cap \overline{V'} \neq \emptyset\}$$

so the closure of $\{K: K \subseteq V \ \& \ K \cap V' \neq \emptyset\}$ is disjoint from B' , thus $A \in \Delta(D_2)$ and we are done. \square

As usual this is best possible: If A is a $\Delta(D_2)$ set in E which is neither closed nor open, then $\mathcal{K}_\omega(A)$ has a $\Delta(D_2)$ -basis but not an open or closed one.

If I has an open basis then an argument as in the preceding proof shows that $I = \mathcal{K}(A_I)$ is itself open. But on the other hand $\mathcal{K}_\omega(2^\omega)$ has a closed basis (i.e. $\{\emptyset\} \cup \{\{x\}: x \in 2^\omega\}$), but is complete Π_1^1 .

We conclude with a few questions:

Q1. What can be said about ideals with closed bases? (They should be somehow simple.)

Q2. What is the exact maximum complexity of σ -ideals with Σ_1^1 ($\cdot \cdot \Pi_2^0$) bases? (They must all be Σ_2^1 .)

Q3. Say that a Π_2^0 -basis B of a σ -ideal I is *homogeneous* if for every $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, $B_K = \{K \cap L: L \in B\}$ is Π_2^0 . Which σ -ideals admit homogeneous Π_2^0 -bases?

2.3. *Which Π_1^1 σ -ideals have no Borel basis?* The search for σ -ideals with no Borel basis seems quite hard. Ordinary examples of Π_1^1 σ -ideals like the nowhere dense compact sets, the zero sets for a Radon measure, a Hausdorff measure or a capacity, are all Π_2^0 σ -ideals, while some of the standard examples of true Π_1^1 σ -ideals such as $\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{Q})$ or $\mathcal{K}_\omega(2^\omega)$ have natural Borel bases. Of course an example is $\mathcal{K}_\omega(A)$ (or $\mathcal{K}(A)$) for some true Π_1^1 set A , but one is looking for more interesting examples. For instance as we said earlier it is not known if the σ -ideal of compact sets of uniqueness has a Borel basis. (The nonexistence of a Borel basis here would have interesting implications in the theory of sets of uniqueness.)

Here is however an example of an interesting Π_1^1 σ -ideal with no Borel basis.

PROPOSITION 6. *Let $E = 2^\omega$ and let $E^\# = \{\mu: \mu(E) = 1, \mu \geq 0\}$ with the weak*-topology. To each $K \in \mathcal{K}(E^\#)$ associate the capacity γ_K defined by*

$$\gamma_K(F) = \sup\{\mu(F): \mu \in K\}.$$

Let $I = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E^\#): \gamma_K \text{ is thin}\}$. Then I is a Π_1^1 σ -ideal with no Borel basis.

(Recall that a capacity is thin if there is no uncountable family of pairwise disjoint compact sets of positive capacity.)

PROOF. Let $\varphi: \mathcal{K}(E) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E^\#)$ be defined by $\varphi(K) = K^\# = \{\mu \in E^\#: \mu(K) = 1\}$. Then φ is continuous, and we claim that $\varphi^{-1}[I] = \varphi^{-1}[I_L \cup \{\emptyset\}] = \mathcal{K}_\omega(E)$, which implies that I_L is not Borel and by Theorem 2 finishes the proof. If $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$ is countable then $\gamma_{K^\#}$ is clearly thin, so $\mathcal{K}_\omega(E) \subseteq \varphi^{-1}[I] \subseteq \varphi^{-1}[I_L \cup \{\emptyset\}]$. Assume now K is uncountable, towards showing that $K^\# \notin I_L \cup \{\emptyset\}$. Let U be open in $E^\#$ such that $K^\# \cap U \neq \emptyset$. We want to prove that $\gamma_{K^\# \cap \overline{U}}$ is not thin. Let $K_0 \subseteq K$ be a copy of 2^ω . If $\mu_0 \in K^\# \cap U$ then by the definition of the weak*-topology there is

$\varepsilon > 0$ with $\forall x \in K_0 [(\varepsilon \cdot \delta_x + (1 - \varepsilon) \cdot \mu_0) \in K^\# \cap U]$, where δ_x is the Dirac measure at x . But then $\{\{x\} : x \in K_0\}$ is an uncountable family demonstrating that $\gamma_{K^\# \cap \bar{U}}$ is not thin. \square

We proceed now to establish a sufficient criterion for nonexistence of Borel bases for Π_1^1 σ -ideals. As application we will solve completely the problem of when the ideal $\mathcal{K}(A)$, $A \in \Pi_1^1$ has a Borel basis and we will give also another interesting example of a Π_1^1 σ -ideal with no Borel basis. This criterion will look a bit technical at first sight but we will give some motivation immediately after stating it.

LEMMA 7 (*A sufficient criterion for nonexistence of Borel bases*). *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal in $\mathcal{K}(E)$, E compact metrizable and let $\{J_n\}$, $J_n \subseteq \mathcal{K}(E)$ and $D \subseteq E$ satisfy:*

(a) J_n is nonempty hereditary open in $\mathcal{K}(E)$, and $[K \in J_n \ \& \ x \in D \Rightarrow K \cup \{x\} \in J_n]$,

(b) Let $I = \{X \subseteq E : \forall K \in \mathcal{K}(X) \ \forall n (K \in J_n)\}$. If $\{K_n\}$ is a sequence of sets in I , $H \in I$ is a G_δ and $K = H \cup \bigcup_n K_n$ is compact, then $K \in I$.

Then if I is true Π_1^1 and $D = E$, or $I \cap \mathcal{K}(U)$ is true Π_1^1 for all open nonempty $U \subseteq E$ and D is dense in E , the σ -ideal I has no Borel basis.

Let us mention an immediate corollary which was an original motivation for this kind of criterion, and whose proof illustrates also the meaning of the hypotheses above.

COROLLARY 8. *Let I be a true Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets on a compact metrizable space E . Let γ be a capacity on E such that $\gamma(K \cup \{x\}) = \gamma(K)$ for $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$ and $x \in E$. Let \tilde{I}_γ be the class of null sets for the capacity γ . Assume that if $K_n \in I$, $\forall n$, H is a G_δ , $H \in \tilde{I}_\gamma$ and $K = H \cup \bigcup_n K_n$ is compact then $K \in I$. Then I has no Borel basis.*

In particular (using the terminology of 3.2) if I is a true Π_1^1 calibrated σ -ideal [i.e. $K \doteq H \cup \bigcup_n K_n$, where $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, $K_n \in I$, $H \in G_\delta$ and $\forall L \in \mathcal{K}(H)$ ($L \in I$), implies $K \in I$], then $I_\gamma = \tilde{I}_\gamma \cap \mathcal{K}(E) \subseteq I \Rightarrow I$ has no Borel basis. In other words every calibrated true Π_1^1 σ -ideal which contains the compact zero sets of some capacity as above has no Borel basis.

If we call, for any capacity γ , a set $A \subseteq E$ γ -thin if there is no uncountable family of pairwise disjoint sets in $\mathcal{K}(A)$ of positive capacity, then

$$J_\gamma = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \text{ is } \gamma\text{-thin}\}$$

is a calibrated Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets (see for example Corollary 3.4). Thus, if γ satisfies $\gamma(K \cup \{x\}) = \gamma(K)$, since clearly $I_\gamma \subseteq J_\gamma$, it follows that

$$J_\gamma \text{ is Borel} \Leftrightarrow J_\gamma \text{ has a Borel basis.}$$

Sometimes the ideal J_γ is Borel. For example the electrostatic capacity γ_0 has the strange property that $J_{\gamma_0} = I_{\gamma_0}$, so J_{γ_0} is Π_2^0 in this case. But another natural capacity gives an example where J_γ has no Borel basis.

PROPOSITION 9. Let $E = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$, and let for $A \subseteq E$, $\gamma(A) = \mu(\pi A)$. Then γ is a capacity with $\gamma(K \cup \{x\}) = \gamma(K)$ for any $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, $x \in E$ and

$$\begin{aligned} I &= J_\gamma = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \text{ is } \gamma\text{-thin}\} \\ &= \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : \mu\{x \in [0, 1] : K_x \text{ is uncountable}\} = 0\} \end{aligned}$$

is a (translation and homotheties invariant) Π_1^1 σ -ideal with no Borel basis.

PROOF. It is enough to prove that I is a true Π_1^1 set. But $\{K \subseteq [0, 1] : [0, 1] \times K \in I\} = \mathcal{K}_\omega([0, 1])$, so I cannot be Borel. \square

We prove now Corollary 8 (from the lemma):

Take $J_n = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : \gamma(K) < 1/n\}$, and $D = E$. Clearly (a) is satisfied, since $\gamma(K) = \inf_{U \supseteq K; U \text{ open}} \gamma(U)$. For (b) note that $H \in \Pi_2^0$, $H \in I \Leftrightarrow H \in \tilde{I}_\gamma$ by the capacitability theorem for Π_2^0 sets.

We finally give the

PROOF OF LEMMA 7. First let us notice that it is enough to prove the second case of this lemma. Because if I is true Π_1^1 and $D = E$, let $U_0 = \bigcup\{U \text{ open in } E : I \cap \mathcal{K}(U) \text{ is } \Pi_2^0\}$. Then $I \cap \mathcal{K}(U_0)$ is Π_2^0 , so $E' = E - U_0 \neq \emptyset$ by hypothesis. Working in $E', I' = I \cap \mathcal{K}(E')$, $J'_n = J_n \cap \mathcal{K}(E')$ and $D' = E'$ satisfy the hypotheses of the second case, so I' has no Borel basis and thus neither has I .

So let us assume $I \cap \mathcal{K}(U)$ is true Π_1^1 for all nonempty $U \subseteq E$ and D is dense in E . Let $B \subseteq I$ be Borel and hereditary. We want to prove that B is not a basis for I .

First note that for each nonempty U open in E , $I \cap \mathcal{K}(U) \neq B \cap \mathcal{K}(U)$, so there is compact $K_U \subseteq U$, $K_U \in I - B$. Also each $K \in I$ is nowhere dense (because if $\emptyset \neq U \subseteq K$, $I \cap \mathcal{K}(U) = \mathcal{K}(U)$ is open). Finally if K is nowhere dense compact in E , $U \supseteq K$ is open and D is dense in E we can find a discrete sequence of points

$$D(K, U) = \{x_n(K, U) : n \in \omega\} \subseteq (D \cap U) - K$$

such that $\overline{D(K, U)} = D(K, U) \cup K$.

We proceed now to construct for each $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$ a compact set K_s and an open set U_s satisfying the following:

- (i) $U_s \neq \emptyset$ & $K_s = K_{U_s}$ (hence $K_s \in I - B$),
- (ii) $n \neq m \Rightarrow \overline{U_s \wedge_n} \cap \overline{U_s \wedge_m} = \emptyset$,
- (iii) $\overline{U_s \wedge_n} \subseteq U_s$ & $\overline{U_s \wedge_n} \cap K_s = \emptyset$,
- (iv) $\text{diam}(U_s \wedge_n) \leq 2^{-|s|}$,
- (v) $\overline{\bigcup_n U_s \wedge_n} = (\bigcup_n \overline{U_s \wedge_n}) \cup K_s$,
- (vi) $K_s \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_n K_s \wedge_n}$,
- (vii) If K is compact and $K \subseteq \bigcup_{|s|=n+1} U_s$, then $K \in J_n$.

Let $U_\emptyset = E, K_\emptyset = K_{U_\emptyset}$. Suppose we have constructed U_s, K_s for $|s| \leq k$ satisfying (i)-(vi). For $|s| = k$, consider $D(K_s, U_s)$ and enumerate $\bigcup_{|s|=k} D(K_s, U_s)$ as $\{x_n : n \in \omega\}$. Since $x_0 \in D$ we have by (a) that $\{x_0\} \in J_k$. But as $\{x_0\} = \bigcap_N \overline{B}(x_0, 1/N)$ and J_k is open, one of the balls $\overline{B}(x_0, 1/N) \in J_k$. If x_0 is the n th point of $D(K_s, U_s)$ i.e. $x_0 = x_n(K_s, U_s)$ we choose $N = N_0$ large enough to have

$$\text{diam}(B(x_0, 1/N_0)) \leq 2^{-|s|} = 2^{-k},$$

$\overline{B}(x_0, 1/N_0) \cap K_s = \emptyset, \overline{B}(x_0, 1/N_0) \subseteq U_s$ and $\overline{B}(x_0, 1/N_0) \cap \{x_n : n \geq 1\} = \emptyset$. Let then $U_s \wedge_n = B(x_0, 1/N_0)$. Now we look at x_1 ; say $x_1 = x_m(K_t, U_t)$, with $|t| = k$.

By (a)

$$\overline{B}(x_0, 1/N_0) \cup \{x_1\} = \bigcap_N (\overline{B}(x_0, 1/N_0) \cup \overline{B}(x_1, 1/N))$$

is in J_k , so we can find $N = N_1$ so that

$$\overline{B}(x_0, 1/N_0) \cup \overline{B}(x_1, 1/N_1) \in J_k, \quad \text{diam}(B(x_1, 1/N_1)) \leq 2^{-(k+1)},$$

$$\overline{B}(x_1, 1/N_1) \cap K_t = \emptyset, \quad \overline{B}(x_1, 1/N_1) \subseteq U_t, \quad \overline{B}(x_0, 1/N_0) \cap \overline{B}(x_1, 1/N_1) = \emptyset,$$

and

$$\overline{B}(x_1, 1/N_1) \cap \{x_n : n \geq 2\} = \emptyset.$$

Let then $U_{t \wedge m} = B(x_1, 1/N_1)$. Continuing this way we construct sets $U_{s \wedge n}$ for all $|s| = k, n \in \omega$ and then we let $K_{s \wedge n} = K_{U_{s \wedge n}}$. Then (i)–(vi) are clearly satisfied. For (vii) note that if $K \subseteq \bigcup_{|s|=k+1} U_s$, then by compactness $K \in J_k$.

Let now $H = \bigcap_n \bigcup_{|s|=n} U_s$, $K = H \cup \bigcup_s K_s$. Clearly H is a Π_2^0 set and every $L \in \mathcal{K}(E), L \subseteq H$ is in $\bigcap_n J_n$ by (vii). Also $K_s \in I$, for all s . We claim now that K is compact, so that by (b) $K \in I$, but also that K cannot be covered by a sequence of elements of B , which leads to a contradiction and finishes the proof.

K is compact: In fact we have $K = \bigcap_n \overline{\bigcup_{|s|=n} U_s}$. The inclusion \subseteq is easy by (vi). If now $x \in \bigcap_n \overline{\bigcup_{|s|=n} U_s}$ but $x \notin \bigcup_s K_s$ then by (v) for each n , $x \in \overline{U_s}$ for some $|s| = n$, and by (ii), (iii) $x \in \bigcap_n \bigcup_{|s|=n} U_s = H$.

K cannot be covered by a sequence of elements in B : Suppose not. Then by the Baire category theorem there is U_0 open in E with $U_0 \cap K \neq \emptyset$ and $\overline{U_0} \cap K \in B$. Let $x \in U_0 \cap K$. If $x \in H$ then for some unique $\alpha \in \omega^\omega$, $\{x\} = \bigcap_n \overline{U_{\alpha \upharpoonright n}}$ by (ii), (iii) and (iv), hence for some $n_0, \overline{U_{\alpha \upharpoonright n_0}} \subseteq U_0$ and $K_{\alpha \upharpoonright n_0} \subseteq U_0 \cap K$, so $K_{\alpha \upharpoonright n_0} \in B$, a contradiction. If finally $x \in K_s$, there is a sequence of sets $\{\overline{S_{s \wedge n_k}} : k \in \omega\}$ converging to $\{x\}$, so for some $p, \overline{U_{s \wedge p}} \subseteq U_0$, hence $K_{s \wedge p} \subseteq U_0 \cap K$, which again gives a contradiction, and we are done. \square

We will apply now Lemma 7 to characterize the Π_1^1 sets A for which $\mathcal{K}(A)$ has a Borel basis.

THEOREM 10. *Let E be compact metrizable and $A \subseteq E$ be Π_1^1 . Then $\mathcal{K}(A)$ admits a Borel (hence Π_2^0) basis iff A is the difference of two Π_2^0 sets.*

PROOF. If $A = H \cap \bigcup_n K_n$, where $H \in \Pi_2^0$ and $K_n \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, let $B = \bigcup_n \{K : K \subseteq H \cap K_n\}$. Then B is Borel (in fact the difference of two Π_2^0 sets), and clearly is a basis for $\mathcal{K}(A)$. Suppose now $\mathcal{K}(A)$ admits a Borel basis. Then A is Borel. If A is not the difference of two Π_2^0 sets then by Saint Raymond's theorem (1.6) there is a copy F of $2^\omega \times 2^\omega$ inside E with $A \cap F$ the corresponding copy of $A_3 = \{(\alpha, \beta) : \alpha \notin \mathbf{Q} \text{ or } \beta \in \mathbf{Q}\}$. Since $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is assumed to have a Borel basis so does $\mathcal{K}(A_3)$. So it is enough to show that $I = \mathcal{K}(A_3)$ has no Borel basis.

Let $\{U_n\}$ be a decreasing sequence of open sets in $2^\omega \times 2^\omega$ with $D = \bigcap_n U_n = \{(\alpha, \beta) : \alpha \notin \mathbf{Q}\}$. Let $J_n = \mathcal{K}(U_n)$. We claim that $I, \{J_n\}$ and D satisfy the hypotheses of Lemma 7 and this will complete the proof.

First D is clearly dense in $2^\omega \times 2^\omega$. Also J_n is hereditary open and if $K \in J_n$, i.e. $K \subseteq U_n$ and $x \in D$, then $K \cup \{x\} \subseteq U_n$, so (a) is satisfied.

If now H is Π_2^0 for each $K \in \mathcal{K}(H)$, $K \in J_n$ for all n then $H \subseteq D$ and so if $L = H \cup \bigcup_n K_n$ is compact with $K_n \in I$ then $L \subseteq D \cup A_3 = A_3$, so $L \in I$.

Finally if U is nonempty and basic in $2^\omega \times 2^\omega$, then $U \cap A_3$ is homeomorphic to A_3 , hence not $\mathbf{\Pi}_2^0$, so $I \cap \mathcal{K}(U) = \mathcal{K}(U \cap A_3)$ is complete $\mathbf{\Pi}_1^1$ by 1.7 (or merely the Christensen-Saint Raymond Theorem). So Lemma 7 applies and $\mathcal{K}(A_3)$ has no Borel basis. \square

We finally study the problem of Σ_2^0 -bases. We start with the following simple

LEMMA 11. *Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . If I contains only nowhere dense sets then*

$$I - \{\emptyset\} \text{ is nonmeager in } \mathcal{K}(E) \Rightarrow I \text{ has no } \Sigma_2^0\text{-basis.}$$

PROOF. Assume I has a Σ_2^0 -basis and consider I_L . By the proof of Theorem 2 I_L is Σ_2^0 and clearly $I - \{\emptyset\} \subseteq I_L$. But $\mathcal{K}(E) - I_L$ is dense, since it contains all sets of the form $\overline{G}_1 \cup \dots \cup \overline{G}_n$, where \overline{G}_i are basic open. So I_L is meager and $I - \{\emptyset\}$. \square

Thus for a σ -ideal I which contains all singletons and only nowhere dense sets it follows that

- (i) $I - \{\emptyset\}$ is meager $\Rightarrow I$ is complete $\mathbf{\Pi}_1^1$.
- (ii) $I - \{\emptyset\}$ is nonmeager $\Rightarrow I$ has no Σ_2^0 -basis.

(For (i) just note that $I - \{\emptyset\}$ contains all singletons, therefore is dense.)

We can also use Lemma 11 to see for example the following

COROLLARY 12. *The σ -ideal of sets of uniqueness (in \mathbf{T}) does not have a Σ_2^0 -basis.*

PROOF. It is enough to show that this ideal is comeager in $\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{T})$. Here are two different arguments.

ARGUMENT 1 (DUE TO SAINT RAYMOND). We use the notation of [K-S]. Let

$$F_N = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{T}) : \exists S \in PM(K) (\forall n (|\hat{S}(n)| \leq 1) \& |\hat{S}(0)| \geq \frac{2}{3} \& \forall |n| \geq N (|\hat{S}(n)| \leq \frac{1}{2}))\},$$

where $PM(K)$ are the pseudomeasures (distributions with bounded Fourier coefficients) with support contained in K . Then the compact sets of multiplicity (\equiv not of uniqueness) are contained in $\bigcup_{N=1}^\infty F_N$, so it is enough to show that $\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{T}) - \bigcup_{N=1}^\infty F_N$ is dense, since F_N is closed. But note that this set contains all finite sets of rationals so we are done.

ARGUMENT 2. We show that the class of compact H -sets (again see [K-S]) is comeager. Since these are all sets of uniqueness we are done. (One can prove by similar arguments here stronger facts, like for example that the class of Kronecker sets is comeager.)

Notice first that given pairwise disjoint intervals $I_1 \dots I_k$ and an interval Δ there are arbitrarily large enough n and intervals $J_1 \subseteq I_1, \dots, J_k \subseteq I_k$ such that $n \cdot (\bigcup_{i=1}^k J_i) \subseteq J$. Intervals here are say in $(0, 2\pi)$ and multiplication $n \cdot x$ is modulo 2π .

Consider now the game in which players I, II take turns in playing at each move a finite sequence $I_1 \dots I_k$ of pairwise disjoint closed intervals with the only requirement that if I played at some stage $I_1 \dots I_k$ then II must play next $J_1^1 \dots J_{n_1}^1, \dots, J_1^k \dots J_{n_k}^k$ where $J_m^i \subseteq I_i$ and $n_1, \dots, n_k \geq 1$. (Similarly for II.) If K_n is the union of the intervals played in the n th move, let $K = \bigcap_n K_n$. II wins if K is an H -set. It

is easy to see that if Π has a winning strategy in this game then the class of H -sets is comeager.

To show that Π has a winning strategy fix some interval Δ in advance and let Π play as follows: On the side Π plays (secretly) in his n th move an integer k_n . If I played in his n th move $I_1 \cdots I_k$ then Π uses the observation before to play $J_1 \cdots J_k$, $J_i \subseteq I_i$ and plays $k_n > k_{n-1}$ such that $k_n \cdot (J_1 \cup \cdots \cup J_k) \subseteq \Delta$. If K is the closed set produced at the end of the game we clearly have $k_n \cdot K \subseteq \Delta$ for all n , so $k_0 < k_1 < \cdots$ and any interval disjoint from Δ are witnesses that K is an H -set. \square

We can also characterize completely the Borel σ -ideals with Σ_2^0 -basis.

THEOREM 13. *Let I be a Borel (hence Π_2^0) σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . Then I has a Σ_2^0 -basis iff $I = \mathcal{K}(A)$, where A is Δ_2^0 in E .*

PROOF. If A is Σ_2^0 and $I = \mathcal{K}(A)$ then I clearly has a Σ_2^0 -basis.

If now I has a Σ_2^0 -basis, let $A_I = \{x : \{x\} \in I\}$. A_I is Π_2^0 as I is, and A_I is Σ_2^0 because if B is some hereditary Σ_2^0 -basis for I , $x \in A_I \Leftrightarrow \{x\} \in B$. So it remains to show that $I = \mathcal{K}(A_I)$. Let $U_0 = \bigcup \{U \text{ open in } E : U \cap A_I \text{ is a countable union of elements of } I\}$. Clearly U_0 is the largest open set in this family. We claim that $U_0 = E$. Suppose not, and let $X = E - U_0$, $I_X = I \cap \mathcal{K}(X)$. If $K \in I_X$, K must be rare in X , for if V is open and $V \cap X \subseteq K$, i.e. $V \subseteq K \cup U_0$, then by maximality of U_0 , $V \subseteq U_0$ hence $V \cap X = \emptyset$. So we can apply Lemma 11 and get that $I_X - \{\emptyset\}$ is meager in $\mathcal{K}(X)$. On the other hand, $A_I \cap X$ is dense in X , for if V open satisfies $V \cap A_I \cap X = \emptyset$, i.e. $V \cap A_I \subseteq U_0$, then again by maximality $V \subseteq U_0$, i.e. $V \cap X = \emptyset$. But then the finite subsets of $A_I \cap X$, and a fortiori I_X , form a dense subset of $\mathcal{K}(X)$. As I_X is Π_2^0 , I_X is comeager in $\mathcal{K}(X)$, a contradiction which shows $X = \emptyset$. So $U_0 = E$ and A_I is a countable union of elements of I , hence $I = \mathcal{K}(A_I)$. \square

As an immediate corollary we have

COROLLARY 14. *If E is a perfect compact metrizable space and γ a subadditive capacity (in particular a measure) with $\gamma(\{x\}) = 0, \forall x \in E$, then the σ -ideal I_γ of compact 0 sets of γ does not have a Σ_2^0 -basis. Similarly the σ -ideal of nowhere dense closed sets on a perfect E has no Σ_2^0 -basis.*

We have also

COROLLARY 15. *Let E be compact metrizable, and I a σ -ideal of compact sets on E , which is nontrivial, i.e. contains all singletons but not E . Then if I has a Σ_2^0 -basis, I is complete Π_1^1 .*

PROOF. If I has a Σ_2^0 -basis it has a hereditary Σ_2^0 -basis so I is Π_1^1 . If it is not complete then it is Π_2^0 so by Theorem 13, $I = \mathcal{K}(A_I)$ contradicting the nontriviality if I . \square

So this shows that the existence of a simple enough basis implies that the σ -ideal must be complicated. Finally note that if I is a Π_1^1 σ -ideal, $\{J_n\}$ and $D = E$ satisfy (a), (b) of Lemma 7 and $E \notin I$, then I cannot have a Σ_2^0 -basis. This is because either I is true Π_1^1 and we can use Lemma 7 or else I is Borel and we can use Theorem 13 (note that by (a), (b) $\{x\} \in I, \forall x \in E$).

3. Thinness of σ -ideals.

3.1 *Motivation and background.* The notion of thinness has been introduced and extensively studied in the theory of capacities.

Recall that a function $\gamma: \mathcal{P}(E) \mapsto \mathbf{R}^+$ is a *capacity* on the compact metrizable space E if

- (i) $\gamma(\emptyset) = 0$ and $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow \gamma(A) \subseteq \gamma(B)$.
- (ii) $\gamma(\bigcup_n A_n) = \sup_n \gamma(A_n)$, if $A_0 \subseteq A_1 \subseteq A_2 \subseteq \dots$.
- (iii) $\gamma(\bigcap_n K_n) = \inf_n \gamma(K_n)$, if $K_0 \supseteq K_1 \supseteq K_2 \supseteq \dots$ are compact sets.

In the presence of (i) property (iii) is in fact equivalent to the restriction of γ to $\mathcal{K}(E)$ being l.s.c., i.e. for $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, $\gamma(K) < t \in \mathbf{R}_+ \Rightarrow \exists$ open $U \supseteq K$, $\gamma(U) < t$. So

$$I_\gamma = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : \gamma(K) = 0\}$$

is always a $\mathbf{\Pi}_2^0$ set, and if γ is *subadditive* i.e. $\gamma(A \cup B) \leq \gamma(A) + \gamma(B)$ then I_γ is a σ -ideal.

The main result on capacities is Choquet’s theorem [Ch]: If $A \subseteq E$ is Σ_1^1 , $\gamma(A)$ is the supremum of $\{\gamma(K) : K \in \mathcal{K}(A)\}$. Note that this sup is taken over a $\mathbf{\Pi}_2^0$ set (sometimes a complete one). But in fact one can prove that if $A = \pi P$, where P is $\mathbf{\Pi}_2^0$ in $E \times 2^\omega$, the sup can be taken on $\{K : K = \pi K', \text{ for some } K' \in \mathcal{K}(P)\}$ which is a Σ_1^1 set. Therefore $\{A \in \Sigma_1^1 : \gamma(A) = 0\}$ is a $\mathbf{\Pi}_1^1$ set (in fact the relation $\gamma(A) > t$ is Σ_1^1 in the codes of Σ_1^1 sets). Moreover by the outer capacitability theorem (Dellacherie [D1]), if A is Σ_1^1 and $\gamma(A) = 0$, there is Borel $B \supseteq A$ with $\gamma(B) = 0$, i.e. A is in the hereditary closure of

$$\tilde{I}_\gamma = \{B \in \text{Borel}(E) : \gamma(B) = 0\}.$$

Associated with the capacity γ is a *thickness function* e_γ , defined by

$$e_\gamma(A) = \sup\{t \in \mathbf{R}^+ : \exists \Phi \text{ uncountable} \\ (\Phi \subseteq \mathcal{K}(A) \text{ consists of pairwise} \\ \text{disjoint sets \& } \gamma(K) > t, \forall K \in \Phi)\}.$$

A set A is γ -thin if $e_\gamma(A) = 0$, i.e. there is no uncountable family of pairwise disjoint compact subsets of A of positive capacity. If E itself is γ -thin, we call γ thin. When γ is subadditive so that \tilde{I}_γ is a σ -ideal, then we have that γ is thin \Leftrightarrow Borel $(E)/\tilde{I}_\gamma$ satisfies the countable chain condition.

The main result concerning thinness is due to Dellacherie [D1]: If $A \subseteq E$ is Σ_1^1 , then

$$e_\gamma(A) = \sup\{t \in \mathbf{R}^+ : \exists \Phi \subseteq \mathcal{K}(A) \\ (\Phi \text{ is perfect consisting of pairwise} \\ \text{disjoint sets \& } \forall K \in \Phi(\gamma(K) > t)\}.$$

It follows easily that

$$J_\gamma = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \text{ is } \gamma\text{-thin}\}$$

is a $\mathbf{\Pi}_1^1$ σ -ideal, and using the same trick as above, that the relation $e_\gamma(A) > t$ is Σ_1^1 on Σ_1^1 sets in E .

From this it follows that for a capacity γ , the following are equivalent:

- (i) γ is thin.
- (ii) If $H \subseteq E$ is $\mathbf{\Pi}_2^0$ then there is $F \subseteq H$, F in Σ_2^0 with $\gamma(H - F) = 0$ (Feyel).

- (iii) If $A \subseteq E$ is Σ_1^1 there is B Borel, $B \subseteq A$ with $\gamma(A - B) = 0$ (Dellacherie).
- (iv) For some fixed ξ , every Borel set B contains a Borel set $B' \subseteq B$ of rank $\leq \xi$ with $\gamma(B - B') = 0$ (Louveau) (see [DFM]).

The previous results can be extended to the following situations:

Give the space

$$E^+ = \{\mu \in \mathcal{M}^+(E) : \mu(E) \leq 1\}$$

the weak*-topology, for which it is compact metrizable. For $H \subseteq E^+$ let $\gamma_H : \mathcal{P}(E) \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be defined by

$$\gamma_H(A) = \sup_{\mu \in H} \mu^*(A).$$

If H is compact, γ_H is a subadditive capacity (but the converse is not true). If now H is Σ_1^1 in E^+ we call γ_H an *analytic submeasure*. In [D3] Dellacherie extends all the results quoted above to such analytic submeasures, except that in this case the σ -ideal I_{γ_H} may be complete Π_1^1 . An interesting example of such a situation occurs in the theory of sets of uniqueness. Taking $E = \mathbf{T}$ the unit circle, let $H = R^+ =$ the positive Rajchman measures $= \{\mu \in E^+ : \hat{\mu}(n) \rightarrow 0\}$. Then $I_{\gamma_{R^+}} = U_0 \equiv$ the compact extended uniqueness sets. Solovay [S] and independently Kaufman [K1] have shown that U_0 is complete Π_1^1 .

Moreover in this context one has the following.

For an analytic submeasure $\gamma = \gamma_H$ on E the following are equivalent:

- (i) γ is thin.
- (ii) There is a measure μ which controls γ , i.e. $\mu(K) = 0 \Rightarrow \gamma(K) = 0$ (Dellacherie [D2]).
- (iii) $I_\gamma = I_\mu$, for some measure μ (from a result of Mokobodzki, see [DFM]).
- (iv) $I_\gamma = \{B \in \text{Borel}(E) : \gamma(B) = 0\}$ is Borel (in the codes of Borel sets) (Louveau [L2]).

Notice that from (i), (ii) it follows that if a measure controls γ_H then I_{γ_H} is Borel (being equal to I_μ , for some μ). In particular no measure can control γ_{R^+} i.e. if μ is any measure on \mathbf{T} then there is a compact μ -measure 0 set which is not in U_0 i.e. is of restricted multiplicity. (This is a known fact—we are only making the point here that it is also a consequence of the classification of U_0 as true Π_1^1 .)

In the following subsections we will give abstract versions of almost all these results, in the context of Π_1^1 σ -ideals.

3.2 Extending σ -ideals of compact sets. Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets on a compact metrizable space E . We say that a σ -ideal of sets J extends I if $J \cap \mathcal{K}(E) = I$.

Of course there is a smallest σ -ideal extending I , namely $I_\sigma = \{A \in \mathcal{P}(E) : \exists \{K_n\} (\forall n(K_n \in I) \& A \subseteq \bigcup_n K_n)\}$ (there is an abuse of notation here since for each X we denote usually by X_σ the set $\{A : \exists \{A_n\} [\forall n(A_n \in X) \& A = \bigcup_n A_n]\}$ but this will cause no confusion here). The restriction of I_σ on $\Sigma_2^0(E)$ is the unique extension of I to $\Sigma_2^0(E)$, i.e. any σ -ideal J extending I must satisfy $J \cap \Sigma_2^0(E) = I_\sigma \cap \Sigma_2^0(E)$. Note also that if I is Π_2^0 , resp. Π_1^1 in $\mathcal{K}(E)$, $I_\sigma \cap \mathcal{K}_\sigma(E)$ is Π_2^0 , resp. Π_1^1 in the codes of Σ_2^0 sets.

No such uniqueness holds in general for $\Pi_2^0(E)$. We say however that a σ -ideal J of Π_2^0 sets (resp. of Borel sets, etc.) has the *inner approximation property* if for every Π_2^0 (resp. Borel, etc.) set $H \subseteq E$,

$$H \notin J \Rightarrow \exists K \in \mathcal{K}(E) (K \subseteq H \& K \notin J).$$

For example the σ -ideals \tilde{I}_γ for γ a subadditive capacity or a submeasure have this property. We now have the following

PROPOSITION 1. *Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . Then the following are equivalent.*

- (i) *There is a σ -ideal I of Π_2^0 sets extending I and having the inner approximation property.*
- (ii) *$\tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0} = \{H \in \Pi_2^0(E) : \forall K \in \mathcal{K}(H) (K \in I)\}$ is a σ -ideal.*
- (iii) *If $F \in I_\sigma \cap \Sigma_2^0(E)$, $H \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$ and $K = F \cup H \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, then $K \in I$.*

In this case, $\tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$ is the unique σ -ideal of Π_2^0 sets extending I and having the inner approximation property.

DEFINITION. We say that a σ -ideal I of compact sets in a compact metrizable space is *calibrated* if it satisfies (any of) the conditions of Proposition 1.

Thus the σ -ideals I_γ for γ a subadditive capacity or a submeasure are calibrated. We conjecture that the σ -ideal of closed sets of uniqueness is also calibrated. On the other hand the σ -ideal of nowhere dense closed sets of 2^ω is not calibrated.

We prove now Proposition 1.

PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1. Clearly (ii) \Rightarrow (i). To see that (i) \Rightarrow (ii) note that if $I \subseteq \Pi_2^0(E)$ extends I , then $I \subseteq \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$ and if I has the inner approximation property $\tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0} \supseteq I$. Moreover (ii) \Rightarrow (iii) is obvious. So it remains only to prove (iii) \Rightarrow (ii).

Assume (iii) and let $\{H_n\}$ be a sequence of Π_2^0 sets in $\tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$. Let $H \subseteq \bigcup_n H_n$, $H_n \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$. We want to prove $H \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$, and for that it is enough to prove that if $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, $K \subseteq \bigcup_n H_n$ then $K \in I$. Assume not, towards a contradiction. Let $E - H_n = \bigcup_p K_n^p$, with $K_n^p \in \mathcal{K}(E)$. Then $K = (K \cap H_0) \cup \bigcup_p (K \cap K_0^p)$ and $K \cap H_0 \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$, so by (iii) there is p_0 with $K \cap K_0^{p_0} \notin I$. Now $K \cap K_0^{p_0} = (K \cap K_0^{p_0} \cap H_1) \cup \bigcup_p (K \cap K_0^{p_0} \cap K_1^p)$, so again there is p_1 with $K \cap K_0^{p_0} \cap K_1^{p_1} \notin I$, etc. So we can construct a sequence $\{p_i\}$ with $K \cap \bigcap_{i < n} K_i^{p_i} \notin I$, all n . Thus $K \cap \bigcap_{i < n} K_i^{p_i} \neq \emptyset$, all n and so $K \cap \bigcap_{i \in \omega} K_i^{p_i} \neq \emptyset$. This contradicts $K \subseteq \bigcup_n H_n$. \square

3.3 Thinness and approximation properties. Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets on a compact metrizable space E . A set $A \subseteq E$ is *I-thin* if there is no uncountable family $\Phi \subseteq \mathcal{K}(A)$ of pairwise disjoint sets which are not in I . In case of $I = I_\gamma$ as 3.1 this corresponds to the usual concept of thinness. We say that I is *thin* if E is I -thin.

One can prove for this abstract notion an analog of the result for thickness functions.

THEOREM 2. *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . Let $A \subseteq E$ be Π_2^0 . If A is not I -thin there is a continuous function $\varphi: 2^\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(A)$ such that (i) $\forall \alpha \in 2^\omega (\varphi(\alpha) \notin I)$ & (ii) $\forall \alpha, \beta \in 2^\omega (\alpha \neq \beta \Rightarrow \varphi(\alpha) \cap \varphi(\beta) = \emptyset)$.*

Such a φ will be called a thickness witness for A .

The proof of this theorem follows easily from the following lemma of Mokobodzki (unpublished, see [DFM]), independently rediscovered and used for other purposes by many authors (Burgess-Mauldin [BM], Louveau [L2]).

LEMMA 3. Let P be a Polish space, R a Σ_2^0 symmetric reflective relation on P . Let $A \subseteq P$ be Σ_1^1 . If there is an uncountable subset of A consisting of pairwise not in R elements, there exists such a perfect set.

PROOF. Let first Q be Polish and $\varphi: Q \rightarrow A$ a continuous surjection. Define R' on Q by $(x, y) \in R' \Leftrightarrow (\varphi(x), \varphi(y)) \in R$. Then $Q, R', A' = Q$ satisfy the hypotheses of the lemma, and if $F \subseteq Q$ is perfect and consists of pairwise not in R' elements, so does $\varphi''(F)$ relative to P, R . So we may assume $A = P$. If there is an uncountable subset of P of pairwise not in R elements, there is an uncountable dense in itself such set, say $D \subseteq P$. Let $R = \bigcup_n R_n$ where each R_n is symmetric, reflexive and closed in P^2 and $R_0 \subseteq R_1 \subseteq R_2 \subseteq \dots$. Now perform the usual construction à la Cantor, using balls centered at points in D , of decreasing diameter, and insuring at the n th step that for pairs (x, y) where x, y are in different balls, $(x, y) \notin R_n$. This gives the desired perfect set. \square

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. Apply Lemma 3 to $\mathcal{K}(A), \{K \in \mathcal{K}(A) : K \notin I\}$, and the closed relation $R = \{(K, K') \in \mathcal{K}(A)^2 : K \cap K' \neq \emptyset\} \cup \{(\emptyset, \emptyset)\}$. \square

Note that we never used the fact that I is a σ -ideal.

COROLLARY 4. Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . Then

- (i) If $J_I = \{K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : K \text{ is } I\text{-thin}\}$, then J_I is a Π_1^1 σ -ideal.
- (ii) If I is calibrated, so is J_I .

PROOF. (i) By Theorem 2 $K \notin J_I \Leftrightarrow K$ has a thickness witness, and this is Σ_1^1 .

If $K_n \in J_I$ for all n , and $K = \bigcup_n K_n$ is not I -thin, then let $\{K_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in 2^\omega}$ be a thickness witness for K . Let $D_n = \{\alpha \in 2^\omega : K_n \cap K_\alpha \notin I\}$. Then D_n is countable, so let $\alpha_0 \notin \bigcup_n D_n$, i.e. $K_{\alpha_0} \cap K_n \in I$ for all n , therefore $K_{\alpha_0} \in I$, a contradiction.

(ii) Suppose $H \in \widetilde{(J_I)}_{\Pi_2^0}, K_n \in J_I$ and $K = H \cup K_n$ is not I -thin. Let $\{K_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in 2^\omega}$ be a thickness witness for K . Again $D = \bigcup_n D_n = \{\alpha : \exists n (K_n \cap K_\alpha \notin I)\}$ is countable. If $\alpha \notin D$, then $K_\alpha = (K_\alpha \cap H) \cup \bigcup_n (K_n \cap K_\alpha)$ is not in I but for all n $K_\alpha \cap K_n \in I$. Since I is calibrated there is $K'_\alpha \subseteq K_\alpha \cap H$ with $K'_\alpha \notin I$. So H is not I -thin contradicting Theorem 2, which implies that then H must contain a closed non- I -thin set. \square

A stronger result can be proved if the ideal I has a stronger calibration property.

DEFINITION. Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . We say that I is *strongly calibrated* if for every $K \notin I$ and any $P \in \Pi_2^0, P \subseteq E \times 2^\omega$ with $\pi P = K$ there is $K' \in \mathcal{K}(P)$ with $\pi K' \notin I$. (Notice that it is equivalent to have $P \in \Sigma_1^1$.)

This concept essentially comes from [D1]. Note first that strongly calibrated \Rightarrow calibrated. (If $K = H \cup \bigcup_n K_n, K_n \in I, H \in \widetilde{\Pi_2^0}$, let $P = H \times \{0\} \cup \bigcup_n (K_n \times \{n\})$. If $K \notin I$ let K' be as in the definition of “strongly calibrated” and let $K^* = \pi(K' \cap (E \times \{\emptyset\}))$. Then $\pi K' \subseteq \bigcup_n K_n \cup K^*$ so $K^* \notin I$. But $K^* \subseteq H$, a contradiction.) Note also that I_γ , for a capacity or submeasure γ , is strongly calibrated.

We have now the following

COROLLARY 5. Let I be a strongly calibrated σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . Then

- (i) J_I is strongly calibrated.

(ii) If $A \in \Sigma_1^1$ is not I -thin then A contains a thickness witness and

$$J_I = \{A \in \Sigma_1^1(E) : A \text{ is } I\text{-thin}\}$$

is a σ -ideal of Σ_1^1 sets extending J_I .

PROOF. (i) Let $K \notin J_I$, $P \subseteq E \times 2^\omega$, $\pi P = K$. Let $\{K_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in 2^\omega}$ be a thickness witness for P . Then if $K'_\alpha = (K_\alpha \times 2^\omega) \cap P$, $\pi K'_\alpha = K_\alpha$, so choose $K^*_\alpha \subseteq K'_\alpha$ with $\pi K^*_\alpha \notin I$. As in the proof of Theorem 2 it follows that there is $\varphi: 2^\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(P)$ with $\pi\varphi(\alpha) \cap \pi\varphi(\beta) = \emptyset$ if $\alpha \neq \beta$ and $\pi\varphi(\alpha) \notin I$. This completes clearly the proof.

(ii) If $A \in \Sigma_1^1$, $P \subseteq E \times 2^\omega$ is Π_2^0 with $\pi P = A$ then we have as before

$$A \in J_I \Leftrightarrow \exists F \in \mathcal{K}(P) \exists L \left[L \in \mathcal{K}(K(F)) \ \& \ L \text{ is perfect} \right.$$

$$\left. \& \forall K \forall K' (K \in L \ \& \ K' \in L \ \& \ K \neq K' \Rightarrow \pi K \cap \pi K' = \emptyset) \ \& \ \pi \left(\bigcup L \right) \notin I \right]$$

which is clearly Σ_1^1 .

Suppose now $\{A_n\}$ are I -thin Σ_1^1 sets and let $\{P_n\}$ be Π_2^0 sets in $E \times 2^\omega$ with $\pi P_n = A_n$. Let $P = \bigcup_n (P_n \times \{n\})$ in $E \times 2^\omega \times (\omega + 1)$ (viewed as a subset of $E \times 2^\omega$). Then $\pi P = \bigcup_n A_n = A$. So if A is not I -thin, we have as before a thickness witness $L \subseteq \mathcal{K}(P)$. For each $K \in L$ let $K_n = K \cap (E \times 2^\omega \times \{n\})$. For each n , all but countably many of the πK_n must be in I , since A_n is I -thin. But this easily contradicts that for $K \in L$, $\pi K \notin I$. So A is I -thin. \square

It is an interesting question to find out for a given I whether $I = J_I$ i.e. whether every compact I -thin set is actually in I . This does not happen for example if I is thin (and does not contain all compact sets), e.g. if $I = I_H$ for a controlled Σ_1^1 -submeasure H . For capacities γ we have mentioned in §2.3 that $J_{\gamma_0} = I_{\gamma_0}$ if γ_0 is the electrostatic capacity, but $J_\gamma \neq I_\gamma$ for the capacity in Proposition 2.9. For nonthin submeasures an interesting case is $H = R^+$ = the positive Rajchman measures. Kaufman [K2] has shown that $J_{\gamma_{R^+}} = I_{\gamma_{R^+}} = U_0$. It follows that the σ -ideal $I_{\gamma_{R^+}}$ of Σ_1^1 $I_{\gamma_{R^+}}$ -thin sets is exactly the σ -ideal of Σ_1^1 zero sets for γ_{R^+} , i.e. the class of Σ_1^1 extended uniqueness sets. The case $I = U$ = the σ -ideal of compact uniqueness sets is also of particular interest. Kaufman [K2] has also shown that $J_U = U$ in this case as well.

We discuss now approximation properties. Recall that for each σ -ideal of sets I on E we denote $\tilde{I} = \{A \subseteq E : \mathcal{K}(A) \subseteq I\}$, $\tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0} = \tilde{I} \cap \Pi_2^0$, $\tilde{I}_{\text{Borel}} = \tilde{I} \cap \text{Borel}$, etc.

PROPOSITION 6. Let I be a thin σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . Then

(i) If $H \subseteq E$ is Π_2^0 , there is Σ_2^0 $F \subseteq H$ with $H - F \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$.

(ii) If \tilde{I}_{Borel} is a σ -ideal, then for any $A \subseteq E$ in Π_1^1 there exist Borel sets B_1, B_2 such that $B_1 \subseteq A \subseteq B_2$ and $(B_2 - B_1) \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Borel}}$.

PROOF. (i) Let $\{K_n\}$ be a maximal family of pairwise disjoint compact subsets of H which are not in I (since I is thin this is countable). Let $F = \bigcup_n K_n$. Then by maximality, $H - F \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$. (Note that we only used the thinness of H here.)

(ii) Let A be Π_1^1 in E , and let $x \mapsto T_x \subseteq \omega^\omega$ be a Borel function associating to each $x \in E$ a tree T_x on ω such that $x \in A \Leftrightarrow T_x$ is well-founded. Let $A_\xi = \{x : |T_x| < \xi\}$, and $A_{\leq \xi} = \{x : |T_x| \leq \xi\}$, where $\xi < \omega_1$ and $|T|$ is the rank of the well-founded tree T . Since the A_ξ 's are pairwise disjoint, and I is thin, we

must have $A_\xi \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Borel}}$, for all $\xi \geq \xi_0$ (some $\xi_0 < \omega_1$). Similarly for $u \in \omega^{<\omega}$ let $A_\xi^u = \{x: |T_x^u| = \xi\}$ where $T_x^u = \{v: u \hat{\sim} v \in T_x\}$. Again $A_\xi^u \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Borel}}$ for $\xi \geq \xi_0^u$. Let $\xi_1 = \sup_u \xi_0^u < \omega_1$. Then let $B_1 = A_{\leq \xi_1}$ and $B_2 = B_1 \cup \bigcup_u A_{\xi_1}^u$. Then $B_1 \subseteq A \subseteq B_2$, since if $x \in A - B_1$, then $|T_x| > \xi_1$ so for some $u \in T_x$, $|T_x^u| = \xi_1$. Since \tilde{I}_{Borel} is a σ -ideal, $B_2 - B_1 \subseteq \bigcup_u A_{\xi_1}^u$ is in \tilde{I}_{Borel} . \square

Proposition 5 admits a kind of converse, which generalizes the Dellacherie-Feyel results on capacities.

THEOREM 7. (i) *Let I be a calibrated Π_2^0 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space E . If*

(*) *For each Π_2^0 $H \subseteq E$ there is Σ_2^0 $F \subseteq H$ with $H - F \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$,*

then I is thin.

(ii) *Suppose I is a σ -ideal of compact sets in E such that \tilde{I}_{Borel} is a σ -ideal and is Π_1^1 in the codes of Borel sets. If*

(**) *For each Σ_1^1 set $A \subseteq E$ there exist Borel sets B_1, B_2 with $B_1 \subseteq A \subseteq B_2$ and $B_2 - B_1 \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Borel}}$,*

then I is thin.

PROOF. (i) If I is not thin let $\varphi: 2^\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(E)$ be a thickness witness for E . If $H \subseteq 2^\omega$ is Π_2^0 , let $H' = \bigcup_{\alpha \in H} \varphi(\alpha)$. Then H' is Π_2^0 in E , so by (*) there is Σ_2^0 $F' \subseteq H'$ with $H' - F' \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$. Then we claim that

$$\alpha \in H \Leftrightarrow F' \cap \varphi(\alpha) \notin I_\sigma \cap \Sigma_2^0(E).$$

Granting this, we have that it is Σ_2^0 , since I is Π_2^0 and thus the relation $F' \cap \varphi(\alpha) \in I_\sigma$ is also Π_2^0 . But H was arbitrary Π_2^0 , and we have a contradiction.

To prove the claim note that if $\alpha \in H$, then $\varphi(\alpha) \subseteq F' \cup (H' - F')$, so since I is calibrated and $H' - F' \in \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$ we have that $F' \cap \varphi(\alpha) \notin I_\sigma$. If $\alpha \notin H$ now, then $\varphi(\alpha) \cap F' \subseteq \varphi(\alpha) \cap H' = \emptyset$, so $\varphi(\alpha) \cap F' \in I_\sigma$.

(ii) The proof is similar. Using again a thickness witness for E , and taking a Σ_1^1 set $A \subseteq 2^\omega$ we get that $A' = \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} \varphi(\alpha)$ is Σ_1^1 , hence by (**) there are Borel B'_1, B'_2 with $B'_1 \subseteq A' \subseteq B'_2$ and $B'_2 - B'_1 \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Borel}}$. Using that \tilde{I}_{Borel} is a σ -ideal, we get that

$$\alpha \in A \Leftrightarrow \varphi(\alpha) - B'_2 \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Borel}},$$

which by hypothesis is Π_1^1 , and leads to a contradiction. \square

3.4 Controlling σ -ideals. Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets on E , and A a collection of Π_2^0 subsets on E . We say that A is *compatible* with I if the least σ -ideal of Π_2^0 sets I containing I and A extends I , i.e. satisfies $I \cap \mathcal{K}(E) = I$.

LEMMA 8. *A set $A \subseteq \Pi_2^0(E)$ is compatible with I iff for each $H \in A$, $F \in I_\sigma \cap \Sigma_2^0(E)$, $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$,*

$$K \subseteq H \cup F \Rightarrow K \in I.$$

PROOF. The condition is clearly necessary, as such a K must be in I . Conversely, if the condition is fulfilled, a capacitability argument as in Proposition 1 gives the result. \square

For example, I is calibrated iff $\tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$ is compatible with I . Similarly condition (b) in Lemma 2.7 can be read: $(\bigcap \tilde{J}_n)_{\Pi_2^0}$ is compatible with I . In case of a Σ_1^1 submeasure γ and a measure μ , the σ -ideal $I_\mu = \{H \in \Pi_2^0(E) : \mu(H) = 0\}$ is compatible with $I_\gamma = \{K : \gamma(K) = 0\}$ iff μ controls the submeasure γ . More generally if I, I' are calibrated σ -ideals of compact sets then $I \subseteq I' \Leftrightarrow \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$ is compatible with I' .

DEFINITION. A σ -ideal of compact sets I on a compact metrizable space E is said to be *controlled* if there is $A \subseteq \Pi_2^0(E)$ such that $\emptyset \in A$, A is compatible with I and A is Σ_1^1 in the codes of Π_2^0 sets. Such an A is called a *control set* for I .

For example, if μ is a control measure for the Σ_1^1 submeasure γ , then I_μ is a control set for I_γ . Also, if the Σ_1^1 submeasure γ satisfies $A = \{H \in \Pi_2^0(E) : \gamma(H) = 0\}$ is Borel in the codes, then A controls γ . On the other hand, for E uncountable, $\{\emptyset\}$ is not a control set since the relation $H = \emptyset$ is a true Π_1^1 relation in the codes of Π_2^0 sets.

The next results can be thought of as abstract definability versions of the standard facts about controlled (by measures) submeasures.

THEOREM 9. *Let I be a controlled Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space. Then I is thin.*

This extends half of Dellacherie’s result on control by measures.

THEOREM 10. *Let I be a controlled Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets in a compact metrizable space. Then I is Π_2^0 .*

Here is an immediate corollary.

COROLLARY 11 (UPWARD PRESERVATION OF BORELNESS). *Let I, I' be two calibrated Π_1^1 σ -ideals of compact sets in a compact metrizable space, with $I \subseteq I'$. Then*

$$\tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0} \text{ is Borel in the codes } \Rightarrow I' \text{ is Borel } (\cdot : \Pi_2^0).$$

In particular if μ is a measure and $I_\mu \subseteq I'$ then I' is Π_2^0 , i.e. any calibrated Π_1^1 σ -ideal containing the 0-sets of some measure is Π_2^0 . This can be rephrased as follows.

If I is a calibrated true Π_1^1 σ -ideal and μ is any measure, then there is a compact set of μ -measure 0 which is not in I .

So this can be viewed as an abstract definability version of the standard result in the theory of sets of uniqueness which says that for any measure μ there is a perfect set of μ -measure 0 which is a set of restricted multiplicity (the case $\mu =$ Lebesgue measure is of course the famous construction of Menshov).

We prove now these two theorems.

PROOF OF THEOREM 9. Assume E is not I -thin, towards a contradiction. Let φ be a thickness witness for E . If A is a control set for I , we have for each Π_2^0 subset H of 2^ω ,

$$H = \emptyset \Leftrightarrow \bigcup_{\alpha \in H} \varphi(\alpha) \in A.$$

But the relation on the left side is complete Π_1^1 , while the one on the right is Σ_1^1 by hypothesis, a contradiction. \square

Note that in this proof we only needed that A has the property: $K \subseteq G \in A \Rightarrow K \in I$, for all $K \in \mathcal{K}(E)$, i.e. $A \subseteq \tilde{I}_{\Pi_2^0}$.

PROOF OF THEOREM 10. We will need first a lemma on increasing families of Π_2^0 sets, which is an unpublished result of Choquet, and that we independently rediscovered.

LEMMA 12 (CHOQUET). *Let A be a Π_1^1 set in a Polish space P , $\{A_\xi\}_{\xi < \omega_1}$ an increasing family of Π_2^0 sets with $A = \bigcup_\xi A_\xi$. Then A is Π_2^0 in P .*

REMARK. By Hausdorff's well-known construction $\{A_\xi\}$ need not be eventually constant.

PROOF. One can use Hurewicz's Theorem: If A is not Π_2^0 , A must contain a copy D of \mathbb{Q} as a relatively closed subset. But D is countable, so for some $\xi < \omega_1$, $D = D \cap A_\xi = D \cap A$ is relatively closed in A_ξ . Since A_ξ (being Π_2^0) is Polish this is impossible. (This quick proof was noticed by Saint Raymond.)

One can also give a direct proof: Let $B = P - A$, and let Q be Polish, $\varphi : Q \rightarrow B$ a continuous surjection. Let $U \subseteq Q$ be the largest open subset of Q such that $\varphi''(U)$ is contained in a Σ_2^0 set disjoint from A . We want to show $U = Q$ (and so $\varphi''(U) = B$). So, by contradiction, let $Q' = Q - U \neq \emptyset$, and let $\{V_n\}$ be a basis for nonempty open sets in Q' . By an easy Baire category argument, there exists for each ξ an integer n with $\overline{\varphi(V_n)} \cap A_\xi = \emptyset$. Let n_ξ be the least such. There must be n_0 such that $n_\xi = n_0$ for cofinally many ξ 's and since the A_ξ 's are increasing $\overline{\varphi(V_{n_0})} \cap \bigcup_\xi A_\xi = \emptyset$, hence $V_{n_0} \cup U$ contradicts the maximality of U . \square

We continue the proof of Theorem 10 now: Let A control I , and let $B \subseteq I$ be Borel. Consider

$$B' = \left\{ K \in \mathcal{K}(E) : \exists \{K_n\} \left[\forall n (K_n \in B) \ \& \ \left(K - \bigcup_n K_n \right) \in A \right] \right\}.$$

As A is Σ_1^1 in the codes, B' is Σ_1^1 . Also since $\emptyset \in A$, $B_\sigma \subseteq B'$ and since A is compatible with I , $B' \subseteq I$. By Theorem 1.7 (i), there is a Π_2^0 set C with $B \subseteq C \subseteq I$. Applying this to the components $\{B_\xi\}_{\xi < \omega_1}$ of I , we easily get an increasing family of Π_2^0 sets $\{C_\xi\}_{\xi < \omega_1}$ with union I , so I is Π_2^0 . \square

Related to Theorems 9 and 10 are two natural questions.

Q1. *Is every calibrated thin Π_1^1 σ -ideal of compact sets necessarily Π_2^0 ?*

Q2. *Is every calibrated thin Π_2^0 σ -ideal of compact sets necessarily controlled?*

Question 2 is some kind of weak version of the Maharam conjecture for control by measures (which is itself open). In the context of measures, a partial answer is given by the (second half) of the result of Dellacherie we quoted in 3.1. The same proof gives a similar partial result in the abstract frame.

Say that a σ -ideal of Borel sets I on E is *regular* if $I = I \cap \mathcal{K}(E)$ is controlled, and *normal* if it is the intersection of regular σ -ideals. (This is the abstract version of γ being a supremum of measures.)

THEOREM 13. *Let I be a normal σ -ideal of Borel sets on a compact metrizable space E , with the inner approximation property. If $I \cap \mathcal{K}(E) = I$ is thin, then I is controlled (hence I is regular).*

PROOF. The hypotheses imply that Borel $(E)/I$ has the c.c.c. As the countable intersection of regular σ -ideals is regular (by taking as control set the intersection of control sets), the result follows from the next lemma.

LEMMA 14 (MOKOBODZKI [DFM]). *Let $I = \bigcap_{x \in X} I_x$ be a σ -ideal of Borel sets, and suppose $\text{Borel}(E)/I$ has the c.c.c. Then for some countable $Y \subseteq X$, $I = \bigcap_{x \in Y} I_x$.*

PROOF. Since $\text{Borel}(E)/I$ is a complete Boolean algebra, families of Borel sets admit ess. suprema modulo I . For each $x \in X$, let B_x be an ess. supremum mod I of I_x . Then $B_x \in I_x$, and if A is Borel and $A - B_x \in I_x$, $A - B_x \in I$. Let now $B = \bigcup_n B_{x_n}^c$ be an ess. supremum mod I of $\{B_x^c : x \in X\}$, and let $Y = \{x_n : n \in \omega\}$. We claim that $I = \bigcap_{x \in Y} I_x$. If $A \in \bigcap_{x \in Y} I_x$, then for each n , $A \cap B_{x_n}^c \in I_{x_n}$, hence $A \cap B_{x_n}^c \in I$. So it is enough to show $B^c \in I$. If not, there is $x \in X$ with $B^c \notin I_x$, hence $B^c - B_x = B_x^c - B \notin I_x$, and a fortiori $B_x^c - B \notin I$, contradicting the choice of B . \square

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