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A SURVEY/EXPOSITORY PAPER

DESCRIPTIVE SET THEORY AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS

A. S. KECHRIS AND A. LOUVEAU

Introduction. During the 1989 European ASL Summer Meeting in Berlin, the authors gave a series of eight lectures (short course) on the topic of the title. This survey article consists basically of the lecture notes for that course distributed to the participants of that conference. We have purposely tried in this printed version to preserve the informal style of the original notes.

Let us say first a few things about the content of these lectures. Our aim has been to present some recent work in descriptive set theory and its applications to an area of harmonic analysis. Typical uses of descriptive set theory in analysis are most often through regularity properties of definable sets, like measurability, the property of Baire, capacitability, etc., which are used to show that certain problems have solutions that behave nicely. In the theory we will present, definability itself, in fact the precise analysis of the “definable complexity” of certain sets, will be the main concern. It will be through such knowledge that we will be able to infer important structural properties of various objects which will then be used to solve analysis problems.

The first lecture provides a short historical introduction to the subject of uniqueness for trigonometric series, which is the area of harmonic analysis whose problems are the origin of this work. As is well known, it was Cantor who proved the first major result in this subject in 1870, and it was his subsequent work here that led him to the creation of set theory.

The next three lectures describe the recently developed definability theory of σ -ideals of closed sets, which is the main tool through which descriptive set theory is applied to the analysis problems we are interested in. Proofs or sketches of proofs are given here for most of the main facts, especially those that are used later on.

In the last four lectures, we first present an outline of the analytical theory of uniqueness of trigonometric series that is needed here. In order to give a bit of the flavor of the subject, we also give here some sketches of the less technical or more

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elementary arguments (including for example Cantor's proof). Finally we show how the analysis can be combined with the descriptive set theory to produce several applications to the analysis problems. We conclude with a summary of the most recent work in this area.

Lecture I. A bit of history. Classical harmonic analysis is the study of periodic phenomena, which can be represented by mathematical objects, like functions, measures, distributions etc., on the circle \mathbb{T} (identified with $\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$), and their analysis in terms of "harmonics", i.e. trigonometric series of the form $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} c_n e^{inx}$, where the coefficients c_n are complex numbers and x varies over \mathbb{R} .

This study naturally divides into *convergence* questions (of the series to the represented object), *uniqueness* questions of the series representing an object, and *computation* of the series, if uniqueness holds.

Let us give some examples:

1 (Uniform convergence). If $\sum_n |c_n| < \infty$, the partial sums $\sum_{-N}^N c_n e^{inx}$ uniformly converge on \mathbb{T} to a continuous function (the set of such functions is denoted $A(\mathbb{T})$). Moreover, for f in $A(\mathbb{T})$ its corresponding series is unique, and the n th coefficient is given by the Fourier transform

$$c_n = \hat{f}(n) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} f(x) e^{-inx} d\lambda,$$

where λ denotes the normalized Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{T} .

2 (Convergence in L^2). If $f \in L^2(\mathbb{T})$, the series $\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{inx}$ converges in L^2 to f , with uniqueness.

The notion of convergence of trigonometric series we will be interested in is pointwise convergence everywhere. Note that the limit is then of the first Baire class, but may not be integrable, so that the Fourier transform makes no sense.

Around the middle of the 19th century, Riemann and Heine posed the *uniqueness problem* for this notion of convergence: Suppose $\sum c_n e^{inx}$ and $\sum d_n e^{inx}$ are two series which converge for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ to the same function $f(x)$. Does one have necessarily $c_n \equiv d_n$?

Equivalently, if $\sum_n c_n e^{inx} = 0$ everywhere on \mathbb{R} , is c_n identically zero?

Cantor (1870): Yes.

Cantor (1872), *essentially*: Yes, even if one relaxes the hypothesis to: $\sum c_n e^{inx}$ converges to 0, except maybe on a *closed* countable set of x 's.

This last result leads naturally to the following

DEFINITION. A set $E \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ is a *set of uniqueness* if every trigonometric series $\sum c_n e^{inx}$ which converges to 0 outside the set E is in fact identically 0. Otherwise it is a *set of multiplicity*.

\mathcal{U} will denote the family of sets of uniqueness, $U = \mathcal{U} \cap K(\mathbb{T})$ the family of *closed* uniqueness sets. (Here $K(\mathbb{T}) =$ the class of closed subsets of \mathbb{T} .)

So Cantor's result can be rephrased as $K_\omega(\mathbb{T}) \subseteq U$, where $K_\omega(\mathbb{T})$ denotes the countable closed subsets of \mathbb{T} .

The U -sets are small, exceptional sets. For example, the U -sets (in fact the Borel \mathcal{U} -sets) are of Lebesgue measure 0.

This gives

$$K_\omega(\mathbb{T}) \subseteq U \subseteq \text{Lebesgue measure } 0.$$

These inclusions are proper:

Bary and Rajchman (1921–1923). There are perfect U -sets. In fact, the classical Cantor $\frac{1}{3}$ -set is a set of uniqueness.

Menshov (1916). There are closed multiplicity sets of Lebesgue measure 0 (and hence nonzero trigonometric series which converge to 0 a.e.).

In his proof, Menshov builds a probability measure μ , with closed support E of Lebesgue measure 0, such that the Fourier coefficients $\hat{\mu}(n) = \int e^{-inx} d\mu(x) \rightarrow 0$ as $|n| \rightarrow \infty$. This easily implies that $\sum \hat{\mu}(n)e^{inx}$ converges to 0 off E . So multiplicity is witnessed by the Fourier transform of a measure. This leads to the next definition.

DEFINITION. A set E is of *restricted multiplicity* if multiplicity is witnessed by (the Fourier transform of) a measure, i.e. if there is a measure $\mu \neq 0$ such that $\sum \hat{\mu}(n)e^{inx}$ converges to 0 outside E . Otherwise, it is called a *set of extended uniqueness*. The family of sets of extended uniqueness is denoted \mathcal{U}_0 , and $U_0 = \mathcal{U}_0 \cap K(\mathbb{T})$ is the family of *closed* sets of extended uniqueness.

The picture is then

$$K_\omega(\mathbb{T}) \subsetneq U \subsetneq U_0 \subsetneq \text{Lebesgue measure } 0,$$

the inequality $U \neq U_0$ being a much later result of Piatetski-Shapiro (1953).

By their very definitions, \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{U}_0 are hereditary, i.e. if $F \subseteq$ a \mathcal{U} -set E , then F is a \mathcal{U} -set, and similarly for \mathcal{U}_0 . An important closure property is the following:

Bary (1923). If $(E_n)_{n \in \omega}$ are *closed* sets in U , then $E = \bigcup_n E_n$ is a \mathcal{U} -set (and hence if E is closed, $E \in U$ —i.e. U is what is called a σ -ideal of closed sets).

By the 1920's it had become clear that the concept of a set of uniqueness was quite difficult to delineate. In her 1927 memoir on this subject, Bary [1] included some basic problems on \mathcal{U} :

1. THE UNION PROBLEM. Is the union of two (or countably many) Borel \mathcal{U} -sets a \mathcal{U} -set? (Easily true for \mathcal{U}_0 ; open even for two G_δ 's.)
2. THE INTERIOR PROBLEM. If all closed subsets of a Borel set B are of uniqueness, is B also of uniqueness? (Easily true for \mathcal{U}_0 ; open even for G_δ 's.)
3. THE CATEGORY PROBLEM. Every Borel \mathcal{U} -set (or even \mathcal{U}_0 -set) is of Lebesgue measure 0. Is every Borel \mathcal{U} -set of the first category?
4. THE CHARACTERIZATION PROBLEM. Find some “structural” criteria for deciding whether a given perfect set E is in U or not. This is a rather vague heuristic problem. Somehow its intended meaning seems to have been that of asking for geometric, analytic, or, as we will see later on, even number-theoretic properties of a perfect set E , expressed explicitly in terms of some standard specification of E , like for example its contiguous intervals, that will determine whether it is a uniqueness or multiplicity set.

We will see below how recent work has thrown some light on these and other problems in this area. But first we will discuss the descriptive theory of σ -ideals of closed sets.

Lecture II. Complexity of σ -ideals of closed sets. For any topological space A , $K(A)$ denotes the set of compact subsets of A .

For the sequel, E denotes a compact metric space, with distance d . The space $K(E)$ is then metrized as follows: Given $K \in K(E)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, the ε -neighborhood of K , denoted by $B(K, \varepsilon)$, is $\bigcup \{B(x, \varepsilon) : x \in K\} = \{y : \exists x \in K (d(x, y) < \varepsilon)\}$. One defines the Hausdorff distance δ on $K(E)$ by

$$\delta(K, L) = \inf \{ \varepsilon > 0 : K \in B(L, \varepsilon) \text{ and } L \in B(K, \varepsilon) \}$$

if $K, L \neq \emptyset$, while $\delta(K, \emptyset) = \sup(d)$ if $K \neq \emptyset$, 0 if $K = \emptyset$. We have

(i) If $S \subseteq E$ is finite with $B(S, \varepsilon/2) = E$, then $K(S)$ is a finite set in $K(E)$ with $B(K(S), \varepsilon) = K(E)$, so that $K(E)$ is totally bounded.

(ii) If (K_n) is a Cauchy sequence with $\delta(K_n, K_{n+1}) \leq 2^{-n-1}$, then $K = \bigcap_n \overline{B(K_n, 2^{-n})}$ is the limit of the sequence (K_n) , so that $K(E)$ is complete. This proves

FACT 1. $K(E)$ is a compact metric space for the Hausdorff metric δ .

The topology can also be described easily:

FACT 2. (i) If (V_n) is a basis of open sets for E closed under finite unions, the sets

$$W_{n_0, n_1, \dots, n_p} = \{K : K \subseteq V_{n_0} \text{ and } K \cap V_{n_1} \neq \emptyset \text{ and } K \cap V_{n_2} \neq \emptyset \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } K \cap V_{n_p} \neq \emptyset\}$$

form a basis for $K(E)$.

(ii) If D is dense in E , $K_{<\omega}(D) = \{\text{finite subsets of } D\}$ is dense in $K(E)$.

FACT 3. (i) For $L \in K(E)$, $K(L)$ is closed and $K(E \setminus L)$ is open.

(ii) $\cup : K(E) \times K(E) \rightarrow K(E)$ is continuous, but \cap is generally not. More generally, if $K(K(E))$ is given the Hausdorff topology too, then $\bigcup : K(K(E)) \rightarrow K(E)$ is continuous (where for $L \in K(K(E))$, we put $\bigcup L = \bigcup \{K : K \in L\}$, which is easily in $K(E)$.)

(iii) $\{ \cdot \} : E \rightarrow K(E)$ is an isometry, and \in and \subseteq are closed relations.

(iv) If $f : E \rightarrow F$ is continuous, so is $f'' : K(E) \rightarrow K(F)$.

Note that if E is perfect, $K(E) \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ is perfect too, but \emptyset is always isolated in $K(E)$. Also, if E is $\text{dim } 0$ (i.e. has a basis of clopen sets), so is $K(E)$. In fact for $E = 2^\omega$, $K(E)$ is homeomorphic to a compact subspace of $2^{\text{Seq } \omega}$ (where $\text{Seq } \omega = \omega^{<\omega}$), via the usual map which to $K \in K(E)$ associates its canonical tree $T(K) = \{s \in \text{Seq } \omega : \exists \alpha \in K (s \subseteq \alpha)\}$.

DEFINITION. Let I be a subset of $K(E)$.

I is hereditary (among closed sets) if $L \in I$ and $K \in K(E)$, $K \subseteq L \Rightarrow K \in I$.

I is an ideal (of closed sets) if I is hereditary and closed under finite unions.

I is a σ -ideal (of closed sets) if I is hereditary and closed under countable unions which are closed, i.e. if for any sequence (K_n) in I and any $K \in K(E)$, $K \subseteq \bigcup_n K_n \Rightarrow K \in I$.

I is an ∞ -ideal if I is hereditary and closed under arbitrary unions which are closed.

We will use a similar terminology for other families, like G_δ , Borel, etc.

∞ -ideals are easy to describe: If we let S_I , the support of I , be $\{x \in E : \{x\} \in I\}$, then I is an ∞ -ideal $\Leftrightarrow I = K(S_I)$.

There are many different kinds of σ -ideals. Here are some examples:

1. For $A \subseteq E$, $K(A)$ and $K_\omega(A) = \{K \in K(A) : K \text{ is countable}\}$.

- 2. $I_m = \{K: K \text{ is meager (= nowhere dense)}\}$.
- 3. In measure theory: For μ a measure on E , $I_\mu = \{K: \mu(K) = 0\}$ and, more generally, for a Choquet subadditive capacity γ , a Hausdorff measure μ^h or a set H of measures, $I_\gamma = \{K: \gamma(K) = 0\}$, $I_{\mu^h} = \{K: \mu^h(K) = 0\}$, $I_H = \{K: \forall \mu \in H(\mu(K) = 0)\}$.
- 4. $J_\gamma = \{K: K \text{ is } \gamma\text{-thin}\}$, where

K is γ -thin \Leftrightarrow Every family of pairwise disjoint compact subsets of K not in I_γ is countable

and, with similar definitions,

$$J_{\mu^h} = \{K: K \text{ is } \mu^h\text{-thin}\}, \quad J_H = \{K: K \text{ is } H\text{-thin}\}.$$

- 5. In harmonic analysis, U and U_0 .
- 6. $I_c = \{K \subseteq 2^\omega: K \text{ avoids a cone of Turing degrees}\}$.
- 7. For B a separable Banach space, and $E = B_1^*$ the unit ball of its dual with the weak*-topology, $I_{\text{sep}} = \{K \subseteq B_1^*: K \text{ is norm separable}\}$.

We want to study the possible complexities of σ -ideals of closed sets. These will be measured by their descriptive Wadge class.

Recall that a *class* (or *pointclass*) is a family of sets (in Polish spaces) closed under preimages by continuous functions. If A is a set, its *Wadge class* $\Gamma(A)$ is the class generated by A , i.e. the family of continuous preimages of A . Given a class Γ , we say that A is Γ -hard if every subset B of 2^ω in Γ is a continuous preimage of A , and that A is Γ -complete if A is Γ -hard and $A \in \Gamma$. Finally A is a *true Γ -set* if $A \in \Gamma$ but $A \notin \check{\Gamma}$, the *dual class* of Γ , consisting of all complements of sets in Γ .

We want to compute all $\Gamma(I)$, I a σ -ideal of closed sets in some $K(E)$, E compact metric. Within the class $\Sigma_1^1 \cup \Pi_1^1$, this is given by

THEOREM 1 (Kechris, Louveau and Woodin [23]). *Let $I \subseteq K(E)$ be a σ -ideal in $\Sigma_1^1 \cup \Pi_1^1$. Then one of the following holds:*

- (i) I is Π_1^1 -complete.
- (ii) I is Π_2^0 -complete.
- (iii) I is \mathbf{D}_2 -complete, where \mathbf{D}_2 is the class of differences of two closed sets.
- (iv) I is Π_1^0 -complete.
- (v) I is Σ_1^0 -complete.
- (vi) I is Δ_1^0 , i.e. clopen.

Moreover, if I is not an ∞ -ideal, i.e. is not of form $K(A)$, then only (i) or (ii) can occur (the **dichotomy theorem**).

The main consequence of this result is that Π_1^1 σ -ideals fall into one of two categories: the simple ones (Π_2^0), and the complicated ones (Π_1^1 -complete).

Examples of “simple” (Π_2^0) σ -ideals include $K(A)$ for $A \in \Pi_2^0$; I_m ; I_μ ; I_γ ; I_{μ^h} ; I_H for H in Σ_2^0 ; some J_γ ’s and J_H ’s.

Examples of “complicated” (Π_1^1 -complete) σ -ideals include $K(A)$ for $A \in \Pi_1^1$, $A \notin \Pi_2^0$; $K_\omega(2^\omega)$; some I_H ’s, J_γ ’s and J_H ’s; U and U_0 ; I_{sep} ; I_c .

The proof of the theorem needs four steps:

- (1) To exhibit σ -ideals (in fact ∞ -ideals) complete in each class.
- (2) To prove “Hurewicz-type” results which will reduce any Π_1^1 σ -ideal to one of the six examples.

(3) To prove that any Δ_2^0 σ -ideal is an ∞ -ideal.

(4) To prove that any Σ_1^1 σ -ideal is Π_2^0 .

We will concentrate on (1) and (2). Let us just say that (3) can be improved to show that any Δ_2^0 ideal is an ∞ -ideal, and also any Π_2^0 -ideal is a σ -ideal. And (4) uses ideas of Christensen and Saint-Raymond, who proved that every Σ_1^1 ∞ -ideal is Π_2^0 .

Step 1. Let A be a subset of $E \times 2^\omega$, and define

$$\forall A = \{x \in E: \forall \alpha \in 2^\omega [(x, \alpha) \in A]\}.$$

If Γ is a class, define

$$\forall \Gamma = \{\forall A: A \in \Gamma\}.$$

LEMMA 2. Let Γ be a class, and $A \subseteq E$ be Γ -hard. Then $K(A)$ is $\forall \Gamma$ -hard in $K(E)$.

PROOF. Let $B \subseteq 2^\omega$ be any set in $\forall \Gamma$, and let $C \subseteq 2^\omega \times 2^\omega$ be in Γ , with $B = \forall C$. As A is Γ -hard, there exists a continuous $f: 2^\omega \times 2^\omega \rightarrow E$ with $C = f^{-1}(A)$. Define $\varphi: 2^\omega \rightarrow K(E)$ by $\varphi(x) = \{f(x, \alpha): \alpha \in 2^\omega\}$. Then φ is continuous, and one checks that $\varphi^{-1}(K(A)) = B$. —

LEMMA 3.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_1^1 &= \forall \Sigma_2^0, & \Pi_2^0 &= \forall \check{D}_2, \\ D_2 &= \forall \Delta(D_2), & \Pi_1^0 &= \forall \Pi_1^0, \\ \Sigma_1^0 &= \forall \Sigma_1^0, & \Delta_1^0 &= \forall \Delta_1^0 \end{aligned}$$

(where $\Delta(\Gamma) = \Gamma \cap \check{\Gamma}$). —

PROOF. Easy.

This lemma says that the six classes of Theorem 1 are exactly, within $\Sigma_1^1 \cup \Pi_1^1$, the classes of form $\forall \Gamma$.

LEMMA 4. (i) (Hurewicz [6]). Let D be a countable dense subset of 2^ω . Then D is Σ_2^0 -complete, and $K(D)$ is Π_1^1 -complete.

(ii) Let $A_2 = \{\omega \cdot n + p: n \in \omega, p > 0\} \cup \{\omega^2\}$ in $E_2 = \omega^2 + 1$. Then A_2 is \check{D}_2 -complete, and hence $K(A_2)$ is Π_2^0 -complete.

(iii) Let $A_3 = \omega \cup \{\omega \cdot 2\}$ in $E_3 = \omega \cdot 2 + 1$. Then A_3 is $\Delta(D_2)$ -complete, and $K(A_3)$ is D_2 -complete.

(iv) Let $A_4 = \{\omega\}$ in $E_4 = \omega + 1$. Then A_4 is Π_1^0 -complete, and $K(A_4)$ too.

(v) Let $A_5 = \omega$ in $E_5 = \omega + 1$. Then A_5 is Σ_1^0 -complete, and $K(A_5)$ too.

(vi) Finally $A_6 = \{0\}$ in $E_6 = 2$ is Δ_1^0 -complete, as is $K(A_6)$.

This lemma gives the six examples of σ -ideals we needed.

PROOF. Let us just give the proof of (i); the others are proved similarly, but are easier. By Lemmas 2 and 3, it is enough to prove that D is Σ_2^0 -complete. So let $A \subseteq 2^\omega$ be Σ_2^0 , say $A = \bigcup_n F_n$, with the F_n closed and increasing. Let T_n be the canonical tree for F_n .

Consider the following *Wadge game*: I plays bit-by-bit $\alpha \in 2^\omega$, II plays bit-by-bit $\beta \in 2^\omega$, and II wins if $\alpha \in A \leftrightarrow \beta \in D$. Clearly it is enough to show that II has a winning strategy in this game, for this gives a continuous $\varphi: 2^\omega \rightarrow 2^\omega$ with $A = \varphi^{-1}(D)$. Here is a winning strategy for II: Let $(\beta_n)_{n \in \omega}$ be an enumeration of D . As long as I plays in T_0 , II plays along β_0 . If at some stage k_0 , I plays outside T_0 , II plays $1 - \beta_0(k_0)$, and then as long as I stays in T_1 , II plays along β_{n_0} , where n_0

is least such that β_{n_0} starts with $\beta_0 \upharpoonright k_0 \hat{\ } (1 - \beta_0(k_0))$ (that n_0 exists follows from the density of D). And so on: If I leaves T_1 at stage k_1 , II plays $1 - \beta_{n_0}(k_1)$ and chooses β_{n_1} minimum extending $\beta_0 \upharpoonright k_0 \hat{\ } (1 - \beta_{n_0}(k_1)), \dots$. This strategy is clearly winning for II. \dashv

Step 2. We want to reduce any Π_1^1 σ -ideal to one of the six classes $\Pi_1^1, \Pi_2^0, \mathbf{D}_2, \Pi_1^0, \Sigma_2^0$ and \mathbf{A}_1^0 . This is done by “reducing” it to one of the six particular examples of Lemma 4. And the way to do it is by proving “Hurewicz-type results”, analogs of a theorem of Hurewicz which characterizes Π_2^0 sets among Π_1^1 sets.

THEOREM 5. *Let E be compact metric, $A \subseteq E$.*

(i) (Hurewicz [6]). *If A is Π_1^1 and not Π_2^0 , there is a copy F of 2^ω within E , with $F \cap A$ countable dense in F .*

(ii) *If A is not \mathbf{D}_2 , there is a copy F of $E_2 = \omega^2 + 1$, with $F \cap A$ a copy of A_2 .*

(iii) *If A is not Π_1^0 nor Σ_1^0 , there is a copy F of $E_3 = \omega \cdot 2 + 1$ within E , with $F \cap A$ a copy of A_3 .*

[One could write also three results for Π_1^0, Σ_1^0 , and \mathbf{A}_1^0 —but they are trivial, and of no use.]

COROLLARY 6. *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal in $K(E)$.*

(i) *If I is not Π_2^0 , I is Π_1^1 -complete.*

(ii) *If I is Π_2^0 but not \mathbf{D}_2 , I is Π_2^0 -complete.*

(iii) *If I is \mathbf{D}_2 but neither Π_1^0 nor Σ_1^0 , I is \mathbf{D}_2 -complete.*

PROOF. We will prove (i), using Hurewicz’s Theorem, 5(i). Parts (ii) and (iii) are analogous, using 5(ii) and 5(iii).

So let I be Π_1^1 and not Π_2^0 in $K(E)$. Applying 5(i), we get a continuous $\varphi: 2^\omega \rightarrow K(E)$ and a dense countable set D in 2^ω with $\varphi^{-1}(I) = D$. Define $f: K(2^\omega) \rightarrow K(E)$ by $f(K) = \bigcup \varphi''K$. As a composition of continuous functions, f is continuous. But as I is a σ -ideal, one easily checks that $K(D) = f^{-1}(I)$. As $K(D)$ is Π_1^1 -complete (Lemma 4), so is I . \dashv

It remains to prove Theorem 5. Again parts (ii) and (iii) are easy, and we will concentrate on 5(i), i.e. Hurewicz’s Theorem. It is a consequence of the following stronger form of it.

THEOREM 7 (Kechris, Louveau and Woodin [23]). *Let A_0 and A_1 be two disjoint sets in E , with $A_0 \in \Sigma_1^1$. Assume that no Σ_2^0 set C separates A_0 from A_1 (i.e. $A_0 \subseteq C$ and $C \cap A_1 = \emptyset$). Then there exists a copy F of 2^ω within $A_0 \cup A_1$, with $A_1 \cap F$ countable dense in F .*

[5(i) corresponds to the particular case $A_0 = E \setminus A, A_1 = A$.]

PROOF. First pick a continuous surjection $\varphi: 2^\omega \twoheadrightarrow E$, and let $B_0 = \varphi^{-1}(A_0)$ and $B_1 = \varphi^{-1}(A_1)$. Note that B_0 and B_1 satisfy the same hypotheses, for B_0 is Σ_1^1 , and if C was a Σ_2^0 set separating B_0 from B_1 , $\varphi''C$ would be a Σ_2^0 set separating A_0 from A_1 . Let $P \subseteq 2^\omega \times 2^\omega$ be Π_2^0 with $\pi P = B_0$, and consider

$$P_0 = P \setminus \bigcup \{V \text{ open in } 2^\omega \times 2^\omega: \pi(P \cap V) \text{ is } \Sigma_2^0\text{-separable from } B_1\}.$$

Then P_0 is Π_2^0 , and nonempty (otherwise B_0 would be Σ_2^0 -separable from B_1). Moreover if V is open in $2^\omega \times 2^\omega$ and $P_0 \cap V \neq \emptyset$, then $\overline{\pi(P_0 \cap V)} \cap B_1 \neq \emptyset$ (otherwise $\pi(P \cap V)$ would be Σ_2^0 -separable from B_1 , contradicting $P_0 \cap V \neq \emptyset$). Pick a basis V_n of the topology of $2^\omega \times 2^\omega$, and for each n with $P_0 \cap V_n \neq \emptyset$, pick x_n in $\pi(P_0 \cap V_n) \cap B_1$. Let $P_1 = \{(x_n, \alpha): P_0 \cap V_n \neq \emptyset \text{ and } \alpha \in 2^\omega\}$. P_1 is Σ_2^0 in $2^\omega \times 2^\omega$,

P_0 and P_1 are disjoint, and we claim that P_0 is not Σ_2^0 separable from P_1 . For otherwise, by the Baire Category Theorem, there would be an n with $P_0 \cap V_n \neq \emptyset$ and $P_0 \cap V_n$ Π_1^0 -separable from P_1 ; hence $\pi(P_0 \cap V_n) \cap \pi P_1 = \emptyset$. But x_n is in it.

Finally, consider the following Wadge-type game: I plays bit-by-bit $\varepsilon \in 2^\omega$, II plays bit-by-bit $(\alpha, \beta) \in 2^\omega \times 2^\omega$, and II wins if ε is eventually 0 and $(\alpha, \beta) \in P_1$ or ε is not eventually 0 and $(\alpha, \beta) \in P_0$.

Note that this game is a Boolean combination of Π_2^0 and Σ_2^0 sets, hence is determined. If now I has a winning strategy in this game, this gives a continuous function $f: 2^\omega \times 2^\omega \rightarrow 2^\omega$ with $C = f^{-1}\{\text{eventually 0 } \varepsilon\text{'s}\}$ a Σ_2^0 set separating P_0 from P_1 . So player II has a winning strategy in this game, which gives a continuous $g: 2^\omega \rightarrow 2^\omega \times 2^\omega$. Consider $h = \varphi \circ \pi \circ g: 2^\omega \rightarrow E$. It is continuous, and if ε is eventually 0, $h(\varepsilon) \in A_1$; if ε is not, $h(\varepsilon) \in A_0$. So if $F = h''2^\omega$, F is a closed set with $F \cap A_0$ and $F \cap A_1$ dense in F ; so F is perfect, and $F \cap A_1$ is countable dense in F . To replace F by a copy of 2^ω , one just performs a Cantor type construction within F . -1

COROLLARY 8. *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal in $K(E)$, and B a hereditary subset of I . If no Π_2^0 set separates B from $K(E) \setminus I$, then any set C with $B_\sigma \subseteq C \subseteq I$, where B_σ is the σ -ideal generated by B , must be Π_1^1 -hard.*

[Corollary 6(i) is the particular case $B = I$.]

The proof is analogous to 6(i), using Theorem 7 instead of Theorem 5(i). -1

Lecture III. Bases for Π_1^1 σ -ideals and natural Π_1^1 -ranks. In this lecture, we want to continue the study of the complicated Π_1^1 σ -ideals, i.e. those which are Π_1^1 -complete.

A good example of such a σ -ideal is $K_\omega(E)$, the σ -ideal of countable closed subsets of E , when E is uncountable.

[One can see it is Π_1^1 -complete as follows. First we can assume $E = 2^\omega$, as 2^ω continuously embeds in E . Now $K_\omega(2^\omega)$ is dense in $K(2^\omega)$, as is the set P of perfect compact sets. But easily P is Π_2^0 , and $P \cap K_\omega(2^\omega) = \{\emptyset\}$, so by the Baire Category Theorem, $K_\omega(2^\omega)$ cannot be Π_2^0 . So by the dichotomy theorem, it is Π_1^1 -complete. One can also give a direct reduction of $K(D)$ to $K_\omega(2^\omega)$, where $D = \{\alpha \in 2^\omega: \alpha \text{ is eventually 0}\}$, which is Π_1^1 -complete: Just define, for $K \subseteq 2^\omega$, $f(K) = \{\alpha: \exists \beta \in K \forall n(\alpha(n) \leq \beta(n))\}$. Then f is continuous and $K(D) = f^{-1}(K_\omega(2^\omega))$.]

Although it is complicated, $K_\omega(E)$ has two nice properties:

(i) There is a simple (in fact Π_1^0) family of sets which generates it as a σ -ideal, the family of singletons.

(ii) One can define a derivation associated to it, the Cantor-Bendixson derivation, obtained by removing from a compact set K its isolated points. Iterating the process transfinitely, one reaches at a countable step the perfect kernel of K . And K is countable iff the perfect kernel is empty. So one gets a “semi-Borel” test for membership in $K_\omega(E)$.

This is the situation we want to study in general.

DEFINITION. A *basis* for a σ -ideal I is a hereditary subset B of I such that $I = B_\sigma$ = the σ -ideal of closed sets generated by B .

Clearly any Π_1^1 σ -ideal I admits a Π_1^1 basis, namely I itself. The converse is also true. To see this, say that K is *B-perfect*, for a hereditary family $B \subseteq K(E)$, if for any

open V with $K \cap V \neq \emptyset$, $\overline{K \cap V} \notin B$ (if $B = \{\text{singletons}\}$, this is the usual notion of perfect sets). One easily checks, using the Baire Category Theorem, that any set K contains a largest B -perfect subset, namely

$$N(K) = K \setminus \bigcup \{V \text{ open: } \overline{K \cap V} \in B_\sigma\},$$

and that $K \setminus N(K)$ is covered by a countable union of sets in B .

So we get

$$K \in B_\sigma \Leftrightarrow N(K) = \emptyset.$$

LEMMA 1. *If B is a hereditary Π_1^1 family, the σ -ideal B_σ it generates is also Π_1^1 .*

PROOF. If (V_n) is a basis of the topology of E , one has

$$K \text{ is } B\text{-perfect} \Leftrightarrow \forall n \overline{K \cap V_n} \notin B,$$

so that B -perfect is Σ_1^1 if B is Π_1^1 .

Moreover

$$K \in B_\sigma \Leftrightarrow \forall L [(L \neq \emptyset \text{ and } L \subseteq K) \Rightarrow L \text{ is not } B\text{-perfect}]$$

and so B_σ is Π_1^1 . —

Can one do better, i.e. is it possible for a Π_1^1 σ -ideal to have a Borel basis? The answer is clearly yes for Π_2^0 σ -ideals, but $K_\omega(2^\omega)$ is an example of a Π_1^1 -complete σ -ideal with a Π_1^0 basis. On the other hand, if A is Π_1^1 not Borel, $K(A)$ is a Π_1^1 σ -ideal with no Borel basis [for one has, for any basis B , $x \in A \leftrightarrow \{x\} \in B$].

THEOREM 2. *The following are equivalent, for a Π_1^1 σ -ideal I :*

- (i) I admits a Borel basis.
- (ii) I admits a Σ_1^1 basis.
- (iii) I -perfect is Borel.

PROOF. Clearly (i) \Rightarrow (ii). We prove next that (ii) \Rightarrow (iii). If B is a Σ_1^1 basis, one has

$$B\text{-perfect} = I\text{-perfect}$$

so that, as I is Π_1^1 and B is Σ_1^1 , B -perfect is both Σ_1^1 and Π_1^1 , hence is Borel.

(iii) \Rightarrow (ii). For each $K \notin I$ -perfect, $\exists n (K \cap V_n \neq \emptyset \text{ and } \overline{K \cap V_n} \in I)$. Let for each n

$$C_n = \{K: K \cap V_n \neq \emptyset \text{ and } \overline{K \cap V_n} \in I\}.$$

As I is Π_1^1 , each C_n is Π_1^1 , and the C_n 's cover the Borel set $C = K(E) \setminus I$ -perfect. By Novikov's selection theorem there is a Borel function $\varphi: C \rightarrow \omega$ such that for any $K \in C$, $K \cap V_{\varphi(K)} \neq \emptyset$ and $\overline{K \cap V_{\varphi(K)}} \in I$.

Let $B = \{L: \exists K \in C (L \subseteq K \cap V_{\varphi(K)})\}$. This is a Σ_1^1 hereditary subset of I . And it is a basis for I , for if $K \in I \setminus B_\sigma$, its B_σ -perfect kernel L is nonempty and in I , hence in C . But then $L \cap V_{\varphi(L)} \neq \emptyset$ and $\overline{L \cap V_{\varphi(L)}} \in B$ by definition of B , i.e. L is not B_σ -perfect, a contradiction.

Finally (ii) \Rightarrow (i) using repeatedly the separation theorem: If B_0 is a Σ_1^1 basis for I , one can find C_0 Borel with $B_0 \subseteq C_0 \subseteq I$. Its hereditary closure B_1 is Σ_1^1 with $C_0 \subseteq B_1 \subseteq I$. So we can find C_1 Borel with $B_1 \subseteq C_1 \subseteq I$, and so on. Doing this ω times, one gets sequences B_n of Σ_1^1 hereditary sets and C_n of Borel sets with $B_n \subseteq C_n \subseteq B_{n+1} \subseteq I$, and $B = \bigcup_n B_n = \bigcup_n C_n$ is a Borel basis for I . —

A Π_1^1 -rank (or Π_1^1 -norm) on a Π_1^1 set A is a function $\varphi: A \rightarrow \omega_1$ with the property that the relations

$$(*) \quad x \in A \text{ and } (y \notin A \text{ or } \varphi(x) \leq \varphi(y))$$

and

$$(**) \quad x \in A \text{ and } (y \notin A \text{ or } \varphi(x) < \varphi(y))$$

are both Π_1^1 .

Any Π_1^1 set admits a Π_1^1 -rank (in fact many of them). And such a rank φ gives a sequence of approximations

$$A_\xi = \{x \in A: \varphi(x) \leq \xi\}$$

which are increasing Borel sets.

The ω_1 -sequence A_ξ is a strict hierarchy iff A is not Borel. Moreover, it satisfies the boundedness theorem: any Σ_1^1 subset B of A is already a subset of some A_ξ .

So in particular Π_1^1 σ -ideals admit Π_1^1 -ranks. But what we are looking for are “natural” ranks, reflecting the structure of the σ -ideal. The next result shows that this is possible when I admits a Borel basis.

If B is a hereditary family in $K(E)$, define the B -derivation d_B by

$$d_B(K) = K \setminus \bigcup \{V \text{ open}: \overline{K \cap V} \in B\}.$$

Iterating the derivation, define $K_B^0 = K$, $K_B^{\alpha+1} = d_B(K_B^\alpha)$ and $K_B^\lambda = \bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} K_B^\alpha$ for limit λ .

For each K , the sequence K_B^α decreases, hence the process stops at some ordinal $\alpha(K) < \omega_1$. Clearly $K_B^{\alpha(K)}$ is the B -perfect kernel of K , so that

$$K_B^{\alpha(K)} = \emptyset \Leftrightarrow K \in B_\sigma$$

and we can define the B -rank $\text{rk}_B(K)$, for $K \in B_\sigma$, as $\text{rk}_B(K) = \text{least } \alpha(K_B^\alpha = \emptyset)$. [For the usual Cantor-Bendixson derivation, this is the Cantor-Bendixson rank of countable closed sets.]

THEOREM 3. *Suppose I is a Π_1^1 σ -ideal with Borel basis B . Then the rank rk_B is a Π_1^1 -rank on I .*

The proof is a rather tedious computation.

Let \mathbb{Q}^+ be the nonnegative rationals, and define

$$LO = \{R \subseteq \mathbb{Q}^+: 0 \in R\},$$

$$WO = \{R \in LO: R \text{ is well ordered by the usual ordering of } \mathbb{Q}\}.$$

For $R \in WO$, let $\text{lh}(R)$ be its associated ordinal and for $p \in R$

$$\text{lh}(p, R) = \text{lh}(R \cap [0, p])$$

so that

$$\text{lh}(R) = \sup_{p \in R} (\text{lh}(p, R) + 1).$$

We make three claims:

- (a) The relation $K \notin I \vee (R \in WO \wedge \text{lh}(R) \leq \text{rk}_B(K))$ is Σ_1^1 (in $K(E) \times 2^{\mathbb{Q}^+}$).
- (b) The relation $K \notin I \vee (R \in WO \wedge \text{lh}(R) < \text{rk}_B(K))$ is Σ_1^1 .
- (c) The relation $R \in WO \wedge (L \notin I \vee \text{lh}(R) < \text{rk}_B(L))$ is Π_1^1 .

One easily gets the result from the claim, because

$$\begin{aligned}
 (*) \quad & K \in I \wedge [L \notin I \vee \text{rk}_B(K) \leq \text{rk}_B(L)] \\
 & \Leftrightarrow K \in I \wedge \forall R \{ [K \notin I \vee (R \in WO \wedge \text{lh}(R) < \text{rk}_B(K))] \\
 & \Rightarrow [R \in WO \wedge (L \notin I \vee \text{lh}(R) < \text{rk}_B(L))] \}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Using (b) and (c), (*) is then Π_1^1 .

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (**) \quad & K \in I \wedge [L \notin I \vee \text{rk}_B(K) < \text{rk}_B(L)] \\
 & \Leftrightarrow K \in I \wedge \forall R \{ [K \notin I \vee (R \in WO \wedge \text{lh}(R) \leq \text{rk}_B(K))] \\
 & \Rightarrow [R \in WO \wedge (L \notin I \vee \text{lh}(R) < \text{rk}_B(L))] \},
 \end{aligned}$$

which by (a) and (c) is also Π_1^1 .

Let us prove (a) ((b is similar). Consider the relation

$$S(R, K) \Leftrightarrow \exists h \in K(E)^{\mathcal{Q}^+} \left[\begin{aligned} & h(0) = K \wedge \forall p \in R, p > 0 \left(h(p) = \bigcap_{\substack{q \in R \\ q < p}} d_B(h(q)) \right) \\ & \wedge \forall p \in R (h(p) \neq \emptyset) \end{aligned} \right].$$

As B is Borel, the relation S is Σ_1^1 . So to get (a), it is enough to prove that

$$K \notin I \vee (R \in WO \wedge \text{lh}(R) \leq \text{rk}_B(K)) \Leftrightarrow K \notin I \vee S(R, K).$$

The direction \Rightarrow is easy: If $K \in I$ and $R \in WO$ and $\text{lh}(R) \leq \text{rk}_B(K)$, the function h defined by

$$h(p) = \begin{cases} E & \text{if } p \notin R, \\ K_B^{\text{lh}(p, R)} & \text{if } p \in R \end{cases}$$

witnesses $S(R, K)$.

Conversely, suppose $K \in I$, and let h witness $S(R, K)$. For $p \in R$, let $f(p) = \text{least } \beta (h(p) \not\subseteq K_B^{\beta+1})$. Note that as $h(p) \neq \emptyset$ but $K_B^{\text{rk}_B(K)} = \emptyset$, $f(p) < \text{rk}_B(K)$.

Now by definition of $f(p)$, $h(p) \subseteq K_B^{f(p)}$. So if $p < r$ in R , one has

$$h(r) = \bigcap_{\substack{q < r \\ q \in R}} d_B(h(q)) \subseteq d_B(h(p)) \subseteq d_B(K_B^{f(p)}) = K_B^{f(p)+1},$$

and hence $f(p) + 1 \leq f(r)$.

This shows that f is strictly increasing on R , hence $R \in WO$. And by induction on R , one must have $h(p) = K_B^{\text{lh}(p, R)} \neq \emptyset$ for all $p \in R$, so $\text{lh}(R) \leq \text{rk}_B(K)$.

The proof of (c) is a bit easier. Define

$$T(R, L) \Leftrightarrow \exists h \in K(E)^{\mathcal{Q}^+} \left[\begin{aligned} & h(0) = L \wedge \forall p \in R, p > 0 \left(h(p) = \bigcap_{\substack{q \in R \\ q < p}} d_B(h(q)) \right) \\ & \wedge \exists p \in R (d_B(h(p)) = \emptyset) \end{aligned} \right].$$

Again T is Σ_1^1 and (c) follows from the equivalence

$$R \in WO \wedge (L \notin I \vee \text{lh}(R) < \text{rk}_B(L)) \Leftrightarrow R \in WO \wedge \neg T(R, L).$$

Direction \Rightarrow . Assume $R \in WO$ but $T(R, L)$. Then if h witnesses it, one easily proves by induction on R that $h(p) = L_B^{\text{lh}(p, R)}$. So there is a $p \in R$ with $L_B^{\text{lh}(p, R)+1} = \emptyset$, so $L \in I$ and $\text{rk}_B(L) \leq \text{lh}(R)$.

Direction \Leftarrow . Assume $R \in WO$, but $L \in I$ and $\text{rk}_B(L) \leq \text{lh}(R)$. Then h defined by

$$h(p) = \begin{cases} E & \text{if } p \notin R, \\ L_B^{\text{lh}(p,R)} & \text{if } p \in R \end{cases}$$

witnesses $T(R, L)$, because $\text{rk}_B(L)$ is always a successor ordinal, hence there is a $p \in R$ with $\text{rk}_B(L) = \text{lh}(p, R) + 1$, and for this p , $d_B(h(p)) = \emptyset$. \dashv

Lecture IV. Extensions of σ -ideals of closed sets and the basis theorem. Let I be a σ -ideal of closed sets. The most immediate way to extend I to a σ -ideal of arbitrary sets is the *exterior* method.

Let

$$I_{\text{ext}} = \left\{ A \subseteq E : \exists (K_n)_{n \in \omega} \text{ in } I \left(A \subseteq \bigcup_n K_n \right) \right\}.$$

Then I_{ext} is a σ -ideal of sets, and $I_{\text{ext}} \cap K(E) = I$. Moreover, I_{ext} is clearly the smallest σ -ideal of sets extending I .

For a typical example consider I_m , the σ -ideal of nowhere dense closed sets: Its exterior extension is the σ -ideal of meager sets. Similarly the exterior extension of $K_\omega(E)$ is the σ -ideal of countable sets. However it may happen that the exterior extension is not the natural one. For example, if λ is the Lebesgue measure on 2^ω , the exterior extension of $I_\lambda = \{K : \lambda(K) = 0\}$ is *not* the σ -ideal of sets of Lebesgue measure 0—for there are dense G_δ 's of measure 0, whereas any set in $(I_\lambda)_{\text{ext}}$ is meager. This example suggests another extension, the one from the *interior*.

Let

$$I_{\text{int}} = \{A \subseteq E : K(A) \subseteq I\}.$$

Clearly I_{int} is hereditary, $I_{\text{ext}} \subseteq I_{\text{int}}$ and $I_{\text{int}} \cap K(E) = I$. But in general I_{int} is not even an ideal: For example, for $I = I_m$, I_{int} consists of the sets A with $E \setminus A$ dense in E .

DEFINITION. A σ -ideal I of closed sets is *calibrated* if for any closed set K , if there is a sequence (K_n) in I such that $K \setminus \bigcup_n K_n \in I_{\text{int}}$, then $K \in I$.

The σ -ideal I_m is *not* calibrated. On the other hand, $K_\omega(E)$, I_μ , I_γ for a sub-additive capacity γ , J_γ , I_{μ^h} for a Hausdorff measure μ^h , J_{μ^h} , and, as we will see, U and U_0 are all calibrated σ -ideals. The terminology comes from analogous “interior approximation” notions in capacity theory introduced by Dellacherie.

PROPOSITION 1. *Let I be a σ -ideal of closed sets. The following are equivalent:*

- (i) I is calibrated.
- (ii) $I_{\text{int}} \cap G_\delta$ is a σ -ideal of G_δ sets.
- (iii) $I_{\text{int}} \cap G_{\delta\sigma}$ is a σ -ideal of $G_{\delta\sigma}$ sets.

PROOF. Clearly (iii) \Rightarrow (ii) \Rightarrow (i). So assume I is calibrated, and let (H_n) be a sequence of $G_{\delta\sigma}$ sets in I_{int} , towards showing $H = \bigcup_n H_n$ is in I_{int} . Clearly without loss of generality we may assume the H_n 's are G_δ . So towards a contradiction, let $K \subseteq \bigcup_n H_n$, $K \notin I$. Write $K \setminus H_0 = \bigcup_n K_n^0$, K_n^0 compact. Using the calibration property, we get n_0 such that $K_{n_0}^0 \notin I$. Write $K_{n_0}^0 \setminus H_1 = \bigcup_n K_n^1$ with K_n^1 compact. Again there is n_1 with $K_{n_1}^1 \notin I$. Continuing this way, we get a decreasing sequence $K_{n_k}^k$ of compact subsets of K with $K_{n_k}^k \notin I$ and $K_{n_k}^k \cap H_k = \emptyset$. But then in particular $\bigcap_k K_{n_k}^k \neq \emptyset$, and is disjoint from $\bigcup_k H_k$, contradicting that $K \subseteq \bigcup_n H_n$. \dashv

The next result is the key for establishing an important interplay between descriptive set theoretic and structural properties of σ -ideals of closed sets. It relates, for calibrated σ -ideals, the existence of nontrivial bases with the category of the sets in I_{int} .

THEOREM 2 (The basis theorem, Kechris, Louveau and Woodin [23]). *Let I be a calibrated σ -ideal in $K(E)$. Assume that I admits a nontrivial basis, i.e. a basis B such that for every open $V \neq \emptyset$ in E , $B \cap K(V) \neq I \cap K(V)$. Then every G_δ (hence every Borel) set in I_{int} is meager.*

PROOF. It is clearly enough to show that if $H \subseteq E$ is a dense G_δ , H contains a compact set which is not in I (by relativizing the argument to an open set). And we may assume that $\forall x \in H(\{x\} \in I)$; otherwise the conclusion is trivially true. Also the existence of a nontrivial basis implies that any compact set in I is meager, for otherwise there is a nonempty V with $\bar{V} \in I$, hence by the Baire Category Theorem a nonempty open V' with $\bar{V}' \in B$, and, on V' , $B \cap K(V') = I \cap K(V')$.

Now if K is meager in E and V is open with $K \subseteq V$, one can pick a countable set of points $D(K, V)$ in $(H \cap V) \setminus K$, with $\overline{D(K, V)} = D(K, V) \cup K$.

Write $H = \bigcap_n \Omega_n$, with Ω_n dense open in E . We construct inductively sets $(K_s)_{s \in \omega < \omega}$ as follows:

By the hypothesis, Ω_0 contains a compact set $K_\emptyset \in I \setminus B$. Write $D(K_\emptyset, \Omega_0)$ as $\{x_n : n \in \omega\}$. Choose open sets $U_n \ni x_n$, small enough so that $\bar{U}_n \subseteq \Omega_1$, $\bar{U}_n \cap \bar{U}_m = \emptyset$ for $n \neq m$, and $\bar{U}_n \cap K_\emptyset = \emptyset$. Then let K_n be a compact subset of U_n with $K_n \in I \setminus B$. Suppose the construction of the K_s and U_s has been done for $s \in \omega^n$, and write $D(K_s, U_s) = \{x_{s'n} : n \in \omega\}$. Choose $U_{s'n} \ni x_{s'n}$ small enough so that $\bar{U}_{s'n} \subseteq \Omega_{n+1} \cap U_s$, $\bar{U}_{s'n} \cap \bar{U}_{s'm} = \emptyset$ for $m \neq n$, and $\bar{U}_{s'n} \cap K_s = \emptyset$. Then choose $K_{s'n} \subseteq U_{s'n}$, $K_{s'n} \in I \setminus B$.

Now let $K = \bigcap_n (\overline{\bigcup_{s \in \omega^n} K_s})$. This is a compact subset of E . We claim first that $K \subseteq H \cup \bigcup_{s \in \omega < \omega} K_s$. To see this, let $x \in K \setminus \bigcup_{s \in \omega < \omega} K_s$. So in particular $x \notin K_\emptyset$. But as $K \subseteq \bigcup_n \bar{K}_n \subseteq \bigcup_n \bar{U}_n = \bigcup_n \bar{U}_n \cup K_\emptyset$, it follows that for some n_0 , $x \in \bar{U}_{n_0}$. But then $x \in \bar{U}_{n_0} \cap K \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_{n \in \omega} K_{n_0 n}} \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_n \bar{U}_{n_0 n}} = \bigcup_n \bar{U}_{n_0 n} \cup K_{n_0}$. And as $x \notin K_{n_0}$, there is n_1 such that $x \in \bar{U}_{n_0 n_1}$. Continuing this way, one gets $\alpha \in \omega^\omega$ such that, for all k , $x \in \bar{U}_{\alpha|k} \subseteq \Omega_k$, hence $x \in H$.

Secondly we claim that $K \notin I$. Otherwise, by the Baire Category Theorem, there is an open V with $K \cap V \neq \emptyset$ and $\bar{K} \cap \bar{V} \in B$, as B is a basis for I .

Now notice that $K = \overline{\bigcup_s K_s}$, as at each step $K_s \subseteq \overline{\bigcup_n K_{s'n}}$. So as $K \cap V \neq \emptyset$, there is an s such that $K_s \cap V \neq \emptyset$. But then for some n , $\bar{U}_{s'n} \subseteq V$, so $K_{s'n} \subseteq K \cap V$. But $K_{s'n} \notin B$, contradicting that $\bar{K} \cap \bar{V} \in B$.

So we can apply the calibration property of I : As $K \notin I$ but for all s $K_s \in I$, $K \setminus \bigcup_s K_s$ is not in I_{int} ; hence a fortiori H is not in I_{int} . \dashv

This theorem has many applications. For example its conclusion fails for I_λ , as there is a dense G_δ of Lebesgue measure 0. So I_λ admits no nontrivial basis. More generally,

COROLLARY 3. *Let γ be a measure, or a Hausdorff measure, or a subadditive capacity on E which is continuous (i.e. such that $\gamma(K) = 0 \Rightarrow \gamma(K \cup \{x\}) = 0$ for all $x \in E$). Let I be a σ -ideal of closed sets which is calibrated and admits a nontrivial basis. Then there is a closed set K with $\gamma(K) = 0$ but $K \notin I$.*

PROOF. In any of the above cases, one can build a dense G_δ -set H with $\gamma(H) = 0$. One then uses Theorem 3 to get K inside H . ⊖

Another application (that we won't prove) is.

COROLLARY 4. *Let A be a Π_1^1 subset of E . Then $K(A)$ has a Borel basis iff A is the difference of two Π_2^0 sets.*

But the main application is

THEOREM 5 (Debs and Saint Raymond [4]). *Let I be a Π_1^1 σ -ideal in $K(E)$. Assume that the following conditions hold:*

- (i) I is calibrated.
- (ii) If L is a nonempty I -perfect set, $I \cap K(L)$ is Π_1^1 -complete.
- (iii) I admits a Borel basis.

Then

$$I_{\text{int}} \cap \Sigma_1^1 = I_{\text{ext}} \cap \Sigma_1^1.$$

The conclusion of Theorem 6 is extremely strong. In fact among our examples of σ -ideals, the only ones for which it is known to hold are $K_\omega(E)$ and, as we will see later, U_0 .

PROOF. Fix a Borel basis B for I . Let A be a Σ_1^1 subset of E not in I_{ext} , towards showing $A \notin I_{\text{int}}$. Let $H \subseteq E \times 2^\omega$ be a Π_2^0 set with $A = \pi H$, and let

$$H' = H \setminus \bigcup \{V \text{ open in } E \times 2^\omega : \pi(V \cap H) \in I\}.$$

As $A \notin I_{\text{ext}}$, $H' \neq \emptyset$. Let $F = \overline{H'}$. F is a compact metric space, and we define a new σ -ideal $J \subseteq K(F)$ by $K \in J \Leftrightarrow \pi K \in I$.

We claim that J satisfies the hypotheses of the basis theorem, i.e. is calibrated and has a nontrivial basis. This will finish the proof, for then by the basis theorem $H' \notin J_{\text{int}}$, so contains a compact set K with $\pi K \notin I$. But $\pi K \subseteq A$, as desired.

To see that J is calibrated, let $K \subseteq F$ and (K_n) in J be such that $K \setminus \bigcup_n K_n \in J_{\text{int}}$. Consider $\pi K \setminus \bigcup_n \pi K_n$. As $\pi K_n \in I$ for all n , if $\pi K \notin I$ then $\pi K \setminus \bigcup_n \pi K_n$ contains a compact $L \notin I$, by calibration of I . But then $K \cap \pi^{-1}L \subseteq K \setminus \bigcup_n K_n$ is not in J , a contradiction. So $\pi K \in I$, and $K \in J$.

To see that J admits a nontrivial basis, consider $B^* = \{K \subseteq F : \pi K \in B\}$. Clearly B^* is a basis for J . Now if V is a nonempty open subset in F , then by definition of H' , $\pi(V \cap H') \notin I_{\text{ext}}$, so $\overline{\pi V} = \overline{\pi(V \cap H)} \notin I$. Applying this to all open subsets of V , we get that $L = \overline{\pi V}$ is a nonempty I -perfect set. But then $K(L) \cap I$ is Π_1^1 -complete, and $K(L) \cap B$ is Borel. So they are different, and hence J and B^* are different on \overline{V} . As this is true for all nonempty V , B^* is a nontrivial basis for J . ⊖

Note that this theorem can be used both ways, either to infer structural properties from the existence of a Borel basis, or to prove the nonexistence of a Borel basis from structural properties. We will see applications of it both ways for the σ -ideals U and U_0 .

Lecture V. Elements of the classical theory of sets of uniqueness. The goal of this lecture is to discuss some basic facts about sets of uniqueness and achieve some familiarity with this notion. Some of the highlights are the Cantor uniqueness theorem, Rajchman's examples of perfect sets of uniqueness and Bary's theorem on countable unions of closed sets of uniqueness. (The standard references here are Bary [2] and Zygmund [37].)

First we introduce some notation and terminology:

A *trigonometric series* is an expression of the form

$$S \sim \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_n e^{inx}, \quad \text{where } c_n \in \mathbb{C}, x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

We write

$$\sum c_n e^{inx} = s \quad \text{iff} \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=-N}^N c_n e^{inx} = s.$$

$\mathbb{T} := \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$ is the *unit circle*.

λ is the *normalized Lebesgue measure* on \mathbb{T} .

$P \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ is a *set of uniqueness* if every trigonometric series converging to 0 off P is identically 0. Else P is a *set of multiplicity*. We denote by \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{M} the corresponding classes of sets.

PROPOSITION 1. *If $P \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ is a Lebesgue measurable \mathcal{U} -set, then $\lambda(P) = 0$.*

PROOF. Else there is $F \subseteq P, F$ closed with $\lambda(F) > 0$. Let $f = \chi_F$, the characteristic function of F . By standard Fourier analysis

$$S(f) \sim \sum \hat{f}(n) e^{inx} \quad (\text{the Fourier series of } f)$$

converges to 0 off F . Therefore $\hat{f} = 0$. But $\hat{f}(0) = \lambda(F)$. -1

Recall here the

CATEGORY PROBLEM. If P is a Borel \mathcal{U} -set, is P of the first category?

THEOREM 2 (Cantor, 1870). $\emptyset \in \mathcal{U}$.

The proof is based on the *Riemann theory* of trigonometric series. The key idea is to consider for each $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ with bounded c_n (i.e. $\sup |c_n| < \infty$) the following function, called the *Riemann function* of S , obtained by integrating $\sum c_n e^{inx}$ formally twice:

$$F_S(x) := \frac{c_0 x^2}{2} - \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{c_n}{n^2} e^{inx}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

(the prime means 0 is omitted). Clearly F_S is continuous.

Given $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, its *second Schwarz derivative* is given by

$$D^2F(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta^2 F(x, h)}{h^2}$$

where $\Delta^2 F(x, h) = F(x+h) + F(x-h) - 2F(x)$, if this limit exists. The key relationship of F_S to S is given by

RIEMANN'S FIRST LEMMA. *If $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ has bounded c_n , then*

$$\sum c_n e^{inx} = s \Rightarrow D^2F_S(x) = s.$$

PROOF. This lemma follows from elementary calculations using Toeplitz's theorem on regular summability methods. -1

The following can be also proved by elementary means.

SCHWARZ'S LEMMA. *If $F: (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $D^2F(x) = 0$ for all $x \in (a, b)$, then F is linear on (a, b) .*

Finally we have the basic

CANTOR-LEBESGUE LEMMA. *If $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ on a set of positive Lebesgue measure, then $c_n \rightarrow 0$.*

PROOF. Some trigonometry plus the Riemann-Lebesgue Lemma (if $f \in L^1(\mathbb{T})$, then $\hat{f}(n) \rightarrow 0$ as $|n| \rightarrow \infty$).

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. Say $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0, \forall x$. Then $c_n \rightarrow 0$; in particular c_n is bounded. So $D^2 F_S(x) = 0, \forall x$; thus F_S is linear, say \dashv

$$c_0 \frac{x^2}{2} - \sum' \frac{c_n}{n^2} e^{inx} = ax + b.$$

Put $x = \pi$ and $x = -\pi$, and subtract to get $a = 0$. Put $x = 0$ and $x = 2\pi$, and subtract to get $c_0 = 0$. So $b = -\sum' c_n e^{inx}/n^2$, and by term-by-term integration, $c_n = 0, \forall n \neq 0$. \dashv

Cantor (1872) essentially proved next that all countable closed sets are in \mathcal{U} . It was through this work that he was led to the creation of set theory. We will prove here one key step in Cantor’s proof. (The full Cantor result will be a corollary of this and later results in this lecture.)

RIEMANN’S SECOND LEMMA. Let $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ with $c_n \rightarrow 0$. Then F is “smooth”, i.e.

$$\frac{\Delta^2 F_S(x, h)}{h} = \frac{F_S(x + h) - F_S(x)}{h} - \frac{F_S(x) - F_S(x - h)}{h} \rightarrow 0$$

as $h \rightarrow 0$ (uniformly on x).

PROOF. Similar calculations to those for Riemann’s First Lemma. \dashv

THEOREM 3 (Cantor, 1872). Every finite set is in \mathcal{U} .

PROOF. For notational simplicity take a single point $x_0 \in \mathbb{T}$. Say $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ for $x \neq x_0$. As in Theorem 2 it is enough to show that F_S is linear in every interval of length 2π , say $(0, 2\pi)$. Again without loss of generality we can assume $x_0 \in (0, 2\pi)$. Then F_S is linear in $(0, x_0)$ and $(x_0, 2\pi)$. But by Riemann’s Second Lemma, F_S cannot have a corner at x_0 , so F_S is linear in $(0, 2\pi)$. \dashv

Next we will recall the so-called *Rajchman multiplication theory* (1920’s), which is very useful in localization arguments. (Rajchman was Zygmund’s teacher.)

Let $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ have bounded c_n . Let $f \in A(\mathbb{T})$, i.e. $f: \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous and $\sum |\hat{f}(n)| < \infty$. Thus $f(x) = \sum \hat{f}(n) e^{inx}$ uniformly. Define the *formal product* $S(f) \cdot S$ by

$$S(f) \cdot S \sim \sum C_n e^{inx},$$

where $C_n = \sum_k c_k \hat{f}(n - k)$, the convolution of c_n and $\hat{f}(n)$. It is easily checked that C_n is defined and bounded.

LEMMA 4. $c_n \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow C_n \rightarrow 0$.

PROOF. Elementary calculations. \dashv

If f is “nice”, say C^∞ , so that it has rapidly decreasing $\hat{f}(n)$, the formal product behaves as expected.

LEMMA 5. If $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T})$ ($:=$ the class of infinitely differential functions) and $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ has $c_n \rightarrow 0$, then $S(\varphi) \cdot \sum c_n e^{inx}$ and $\varphi(x) \sum c_n e^{inx}$ are (uniformly) equi-convergent, i.e.

$$\sum_{-N}^N C_n e^{inx} - \varphi(x) \sum_{-N}^N c_n e^{inx} \rightarrow 0$$

as $N \rightarrow \infty$, uniformly on x , where $S(\varphi) \cdot \sum c_n e^{inx} \sim \sum C_n e^{inx}$.

PROOF. Somewhat more involved but still elementary calculations. -1

Our first application of the Rajchman theory will be to produce examples of perfect \mathcal{U} -sets.

DEFINITION. A set $E \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ is an H -set if there is a nonempty interval (open arc) in \mathbb{T} and $0 < n_1 < n_2 < \dots$ with $(n_k E) \cap I = \emptyset$ (where $mE = \{mx \pmod{2\pi}; x \in E\}$).

Examples include finite sets and the Cantor 1/3-set ($n_k = 3^k, I =$ the middle third interval of $[0, 2\pi]$).

THEOREM 6 (Rajchman, 1921). *Every H -set, in particular the Cantor 1/3-set, is a \mathcal{U} -set.*

PROOF. The closure of an H -set is an H -set, so it is enough to work with a closed H -set E . Let n_k and I witness it is an H -set. Let $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ off E . So by Cantor-Lebesgue $c_n \rightarrow 0$. Fix a C^∞ function φ with $\hat{\varphi}(0) = 1$ and $\text{supp}(\varphi) \subseteq I$. Put $\varphi_k(x) = \varphi(n_k x)$. Thus $\varphi_k = 0$ on E . Let $S(\varphi_k) \cdot S \sim \sum C_n^k e^{inx}$. By elementary calculations $C_n^k \rightarrow c_n$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. By Lemma 5, $\sum C_n^k e^{inx}$ and $\varphi_k(x) \cdot \sum c_n e^{inx}$ are equiconvergent. But $\varphi_k(x) = 0$ on E and $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ off E ; therefore $\sum C_n^k e^{inx} = 0, \forall x$, i.e. $C_n^k = 0$. Therefore $c_n = 0$. -1

We will finish this lecture by proving a key closure property of \mathcal{U} .

THEOREM 7 (Bary, 1923). *The union of countably many closed \mathcal{U} -sets is in \mathcal{U} .*

COROLLARY 8 (W. H. Young, 1909). *If $C \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ contains no perfect set, then $C \in \mathcal{U}$. In particular, every countable set is in \mathcal{U} .*

[PROOF OF THE COROLLARY. Else there is $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ with $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ off C but $S \neq 0$. Let $B = \mathbb{T} \setminus \{x: \sum c_n e^{inx} = 0\} \subseteq C$. Then B is Borel, so countable and in \mathcal{M} , contradicting Theorems 7 and 3.]

So we have the following picture (for Lebesgue measurable sets):

$$\text{countable} \not\subseteq \mathcal{U} \not\subseteq \text{Lebesgue measure } 0$$

(the second $\not\subseteq$ will be proved later).

The proof of Bary's Theorem needs (a special case of) a result of de la Vallée-Poussin. We will see later that a trigonometric series $\sum c_n e^{inx}$ may converge to 0 a.e. without being identically 0. However we have

THEOREM 9 (de la Vallée-Poussin, 1912). *Let $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ have for each x bounded partial sums*

$$S_N(x) = \sum_{-N}^N c_n e^{inx}.$$

If $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ a.e., then $S = 0$.

The proof is rather technical and will be omitted.

PROOF OF BARY'S THEOREM. Let $E_n \in \mathcal{U}, E_n$ closed. Put $E = \bigcup_n E_n$. Let $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ converge to 0 off E . Thus $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ a.e. Clearly $c_n \rightarrow 0$. Assuming towards a contradiction that $S \neq 0$, let

$$G = \{x: S_n(x) \text{ is unbounded}\}.$$

Then $G \subseteq E, G$ is G_δ and $G \neq \emptyset$ by Theorem 9. So G , in its relative topology, is Polish, and since $E_i \cap G = G_i$ is closed in G and $G = \bigcup_i G_i$, by the Baire Category Theorem, there is an open interval I_0 and an index i_0 with $G \cap I_0 = G_{i_0} \cap I_0 \neq \emptyset$. It is enough to show that $\sum c_n e^{inx} = 0$ on I_0 (because then $I_0 \cap G = \emptyset$).

Fix $\varphi \in C^\infty$ with $\varphi > 0$ on I_0 and $\varphi = 0$ off I_0 . Put $T = S(\varphi) \cdot S$. By Rajchman multiplication it is enough to show that T converges to 0 everywhere, or, as $E_{i_0} \in \mathcal{U}$, just off E_{i_0} . Let $x \notin E_{i_0}$. It is enough again to assume $x \in I_0 \cap E$, since T certainly converges to 0 off $I_0 \cap E$. So let $J \subseteq I_0$ be an interval with $x \in J$ and $\bar{J} \cap E_{i_0} = \emptyset$. Choose $\psi \in C^\infty$ with $\psi(x) = 1$ and $\text{supp}(\psi) \subseteq \bar{J}$. Now $T' = S(\psi) \cdot T$ converges a.e. to 0 (as S , therefore T does) and has bounded partial sums off $\bar{J} \cap G = \bar{J} \cap G_{i_0} = \emptyset$, i.e. everywhere. So, by Theorem 9, $T' = 0$ and thus T converges to 0 at x . \dashv

Recall here the

UNION PROBLEM. Is the union of two or countably many Borel \mathcal{U} -sets a \mathcal{U} -set?

This is open even for two G_δ 's. Kholshchevnikova [25] showed that the answer is positive for two disjoint G_δ 's. One needs some definability restriction, as \mathbb{T} can be written as the union of two (disjoint) sets containing no perfect subset.

Lecture VI. Elements of the modern theory. The Salem-Zygmund Theorem. The classification of U and U_0 . The modern theory of *closed* sets of uniqueness, on which we will be mainly concentrating from now on, is based on a reformulation of this concept in terms of functional analysis, originating in work of Piatetski-Shapiro.

Recall that $A = A(\mathbb{T})$ is the Banach algebra of continuous functions on \mathbb{T} with absolutely convergent Fourier series and norm $\|f\|_A = \sum |\hat{f}(n)|$. (Thus it is the same as $l^1 = l^1(\mathbb{Z})$ with convolution.) The dual of A (which is the same as l^∞) is denoted by PM —the space of *pseudomeasures*. Its norm is

$$S = \{c_n\} \in PM \mapsto \|S\|_\infty = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |c_n|.$$

The predual of A (which is the same as c_0) is denoted by PF —the space of *pseudo-functions*. Its norm is again $\|S\|_\infty$. (Note: PF is a closed subspace of PM .) The duality of PF , A and A , PM is given by

$$\langle f, S \rangle = \langle S, f \rangle := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(n) S(-n).$$

(Note: $\hat{S}(n) := \langle e^{-inx}, S \rangle = S(n)$ for $S \in PM$.)

EXAMPLES. If $f \in L^1 = L^1(\mathbb{T})$ then $\hat{f} \in PF$ (Riemann-Lebesgue). Often we identify f with \hat{f} (as $f \mapsto \hat{f}$ is 1-1).

If $\mu \in M = M(\mathbb{T})$ ($:=$ the space of (complex, Borel) measures on \mathbb{T} = dual of $C(\mathbb{T})$), then $\hat{\mu}(n) = \int e^{-inx} d\mu(x)$ are the *Fourier-Stieltjes* coefficients of μ . Then $|\hat{\mu}(n)| \leq \|\mu\|_M$, so $\hat{\mu} \in PM$ and $\|\hat{\mu}\|_\infty \leq \|\mu\|_M$. Again often we identify μ with $\hat{\mu}$ (as $\mu \mapsto \hat{\mu}$ is 1-1).

Given a trigonometric series $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ with bounded coefficients, we can identify it with the pseudomeasure $S(n) = c_n$. So $PM \equiv$ the space of trigonometric series with bounded coefficients. With this identification Rajchman multiplication looks as follows: Given $S \in PM$ and $f \in A$, one defines $f \cdot S \in PM$ by

$$\langle g, f \cdot S \rangle = \langle gf, S \rangle.$$

It is easy to see that the trigonometric series of $f \cdot S$ is exactly $S(f) \cdot S$. Thus Lemma 4 of Lecture V reads: $S \in PF, f \in A \Rightarrow f \cdot S \in PF$.

It remains to see what convergence of $S \sim \sum c_n e^{inx}$ to 0 off a given set E means in terms of the pseudomeasure S . This can be nicely done if E is closed. We need to introduce the basic notion of support of a pseudomeasure.

Given $S \in PM$ and $V \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ open, we say that S *vanishes* on V if $\langle f, S \rangle = 0$ for all $f \in A$ with $\text{supp}(f) \subseteq V$. By partition of unity and compactness arguments, there is a largest open V on which S vanishes. Its complement is called the *support* of S , $\text{supp}(S)$.

The following result relates convergence of $\sum c_n e^{inx}$ to 0 and $\text{supp}(S)$.

THEOREM 1 (Piatetski-Shapiro [32], Kahane and Salem [8]). *Let $S \in PF$, and let $E \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ be closed. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) $\sum S(n)e^{inx} = 0, \forall x \notin E$.
- (ii) $\text{supp}(S) \subseteq E$.

The proof uses the Riemann theory. From this we immediately obtain the following basic reformulation of closed sets of uniqueness (or, equivalently, multiplicity).

THEOREM 2 (Piatetski-Shapiro [32], Kahane and Salem [8]). *Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ be closed. Then E is a set of multiplicity iff E supports a nonzero pseudofunction.*

Denote $U := \mathcal{U} \cap K(\mathbb{T})$ and $M := \mathcal{M} \cap K(\mathbb{T})$, the classes of closed sets of uniqueness and multiplicity respectively. Thus

$$E \in M \Leftrightarrow \exists S \in PF(S \neq 0 \wedge \text{supp}(S) \subseteq E).$$

We introduce next the important class of sets of extended uniqueness.

DEFINITION. A *Rajchman measure* is a measure $\mu \in M(\mathbb{T})$ which is in PF (i.e. $\hat{\mu} \in PF$).

For example, λ is Rajchman. Also the Rajchman measures form a *band*, i.e. $\mu \ll \nu$ and ν Rajchman $\Rightarrow \mu$ Rajchman (Milicer-Grużewska). So, as $|\mu| \ll \mu$, μ is Rajchman iff $|\mu|$ is Rajchman. So for most purposes one restricts attention to positive or even probability Rajchman measures.

DEFINITION. A set $P \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ is called a set of *extended uniqueness* if for every probability Rajchman measure μ , $\mu(P) = 0$. Else it is called a set of *restricted multiplicity*. The corresponding classes of sets are denoted by \mathcal{U}_0 and \mathcal{M}_0 .

It is easy to see that for universally measurable P , $P \in \mathcal{U} \Rightarrow P \in \mathcal{U}_0$. So for such sets we have

$$\text{countable} \underset{(1)}{\subsetneq} \mathcal{U} \underset{(2)}{\subsetneq} \mathcal{U}_0 \underset{\dots}{\subsetneq} \text{Lebesgue measure } 0.$$

(1) (for actually closed sets) is due to Piatetski-Shapiro [32].

(2) (for actually closed sets) is due to Menshov (1916).

Put also $U_0 := \mathcal{U}_0 \cap K(\mathbb{T})$ and $M_0 := \mathcal{M}_0 \cap K(\mathbb{T})$. (Thus $K_\omega(\mathbb{T}) \subsetneq U \subsetneq U_0 \subsetneq I_\lambda$.)

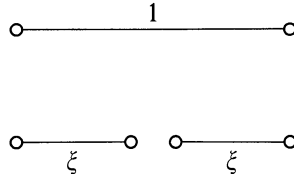
The following are also equivalent formulations of the notion of (Borel) \mathcal{U}_0 -set (or rather \mathcal{M}_0 -set).

PROPOSITION 3. *Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ be Borel. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) $E \in \mathcal{M}_0$.
- (ii) There is (probability) Rajchman measure μ with $\mu(E) \neq 0$.
- (iii) E supports a probability Rajchman measure.
- (iv) There is a (probability) measure $\mu \neq 0$ with $\sum \hat{\mu}(n)e^{inx} = 0$ off E .

We come now to the famous Salem-Zygmund Theorem, which solves positively the characterization problem for perfect symmetric sets of constant ratio of dissection.

DEFINITION. Given $0 < \xi < 1/2$, let E_ξ denote the perfect set constructed like the Cantor set on $[0, 2\pi]$ except that the ratio ξ is used instead of $1/3$ at each subdivision.



DEFINITION. A real number θ is called a *Pisot number* if $\theta > 1$ and θ is an algebraic integer all of whose conjugates have absolute value < 1 .

EXAMPLES. $2, 3, 4, \dots; (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$.

Intuitively θ can be thought as a number whose powers θ^n approach integers (look at $\theta^n + \theta_1^n + \dots + \theta_{p-1}^n$, where the θ_i are the conjugates of θ). The remarkable fact about Pisot numbers is that they form a closed set! (Salem).

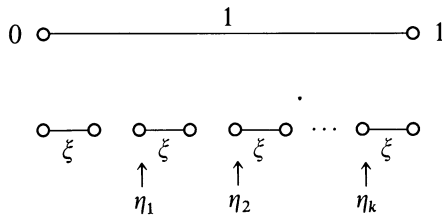
THEOREM 4 (Salem and Zygmund; see [37]). *Let $0 < \xi < 1/2$. Then*

$$E_\xi \in U \Leftrightarrow E_\xi \in U_0 \Leftrightarrow \theta = 1/\xi \text{ is Pisot.}$$

The proof proceeds by showing that if θ is Pisot, then E_ξ is a particular type of U -set called an $H^{(n)}$ -set ($H^{(1)} = H$), a concept due to Piatetski-Shapiro. Conversely, if θ is not Pisot one shows that $E_\xi \notin U_0$, by showing that the standard measure on E_ξ (coming from its identification with 2^ω) is Rajchman.

The following extension is also due to Salem and Zygmund.

Given $(\eta_0 = 0) < \eta_1 < \eta_2 < \dots < \eta_k (< \eta_{k+1} = 1)$, put $\xi = 1 - \eta_k$ and assume $\xi < \eta_{i+1} - \eta_i$ for $i < k$. The *homogeneous perfect set associated with $(\xi; \eta_1, \dots, \eta_k)$* and denoted by $E(\xi; \eta_1, \dots, \eta_k)$ is defined by performing, starting from $[0, 2\pi]$, the following dissection:



Then we have

THEOREM 5 (Salem and Zygmund; see [37]).

$$E(\xi; \eta_1, \dots, \eta_k) \in U \Leftrightarrow E(\xi; \eta_1, \dots, \eta_k) \in U_0 \\ \Leftrightarrow \theta = 1/\xi \text{ is Pisot} \wedge \eta_1, \dots, \eta_k \in \mathbb{Q}(\theta).$$

We immediately have from Theorem 4

COROLLARY 6 (Menshov, 1916). *There is a closed set E of Lebesgue measure 0 in M_0 (and hence also in M).*

PROOF. Take $E = E_\xi$ with $\theta = 1/\xi$ not Pisot. —

We can use now the second Salem-Zygmund Theorem to calculate the complexity of U and U_0 .

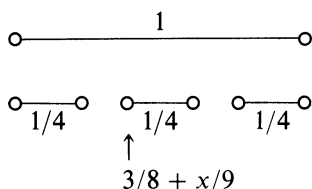
THEOREM 7 (Solovay [33], Kaufman [13]). *The sets U and U_0 are complete Π_1^1 in $K(\mathbb{T})$ (so in particular non-Borel).*

PROOF. It is not hard to calculate, using Theorems 2 and 3, that M and M_0 are Σ_1^1 .

Since U and U_0 are σ -ideals of closed sets, it is enough to show, by the dichotomy theorem, that U and U_0 are not Π_2^0 . Clearly $\mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$ is not Π_2^0 . So it is enough to find continuous $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow K(\mathbb{T})$ with

$$x \in \mathbb{Q} \Leftrightarrow f(x) \in U \Leftrightarrow f(x) \in U_0.$$

Put $f(x) = E(1/4; 3/8 + x/9, 3/4) = E_x$,



It is easy to show that f is continuous. By Salem-Zygmund,

$$E_x \in U \Leftrightarrow E_x \in U_0 \Leftrightarrow x \in \mathbb{Q},$$

since 4 is a Pisot number. (This argument actually uses a simpler case of Salem-Zygmund which is easier to prove.) —

This theorem has obvious negative implications for the characterization problem. One cannot characterize when a closed (or perfect) set E is in U or M (resp. U_0 or M_0) in terms of structural properties of E which are “explicit” enough to be expressed in terms of countable operations given any reasonable description of E , for example its sequence of contiguous intervals.

Where is the dividing line between “explicit characterizability” and the lack of it?

- (1) E_ξ : “characterizable”,
- (2) $E_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots}$ (symmetric perfect sets of variable dissection ratios): open,
- (3) general E : “uncharacterizable”.

Concerning (2) the following is open: Is $\{E_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots} \in U\}$ Borel in $K(\mathbb{T})$? We will see later, however, that $\{E_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots} \in U_0\}$ is Borel.

Lecture VII. The structure of the σ -ideals U and U_0 : Part 1. We will discuss here the basic definability and structural properties of the σ -ideals U and U_0 .

We start with the structural property we called calibration, an inner regularity property of σ -ideals. Recall that a σ -ideal I of closed sets is *calibrated* iff for any closed set E and sequence $E_n \in I$, if all closed subsets of $E \setminus \bigcup_n E_n$ are in I , so is E .

As we have seen in the first four lectures, this property plays an important role in the structure theory of σ -ideals of closed sets.

Since U_0 is the class of null sets for a class of measures, it follows by the inner regularity of measures that U_0 is calibrated. We establish now the same fact for U .

THEOREM 1 (Kechris and Louveau [20], Debs and Saint Raymond [4]). *The σ -ideal U is calibrated.*

PROOF. We need first to express the Pietski-Shapiro reformulation in dual terms. (This is actually the way Pietski-Shapiro expressed it originally.)

THEOREM 2 (Pietski-Shapiro [32]). *Let $E \in K(\mathbb{T})$. Then*

$$E \in U \Leftrightarrow J(E) \text{ is weak*}-dense \text{ in } A,$$

where $J(E) = \{f \in A : f \text{ vanishes in an (open) neighborhood of } E\}$. (The weak*-topology on A is the one induced by its duality with PF .)

PROOF. We are asserting that $E \in M \Leftrightarrow \overline{J(E)}^{w*} \neq A$, which by Hahn-Banach is equivalent to the existence of $S \in PF, S \neq 0$, with $\langle f, S \rangle = 0$ for all $f \in J(E)$, i.e. $\text{supp}(S) \subseteq E$. ⊣

The proof of Theorem 1 is a simple application of the “shrinking method”, a technique of using multiplication of a pseudomeasure S by a function f in A to shrink appropriately the support of S “without losing much of S ”. Keep in mind always the simple fact that

$$\text{supp}(f \cdot S) \subseteq \text{supp}(f) \cap \text{supp}(S).$$

The basic lemma for our application here is

LEMMA 3. *Let $S \in PF, E \in U$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. There is $f \in J(E)$ such that $\|S - f \cdot S\|_\infty < \varepsilon$ and $\text{supp}(f \cdot S) \cap E = \emptyset$.*

PROOF. By Hahn-Banach if $Z \subseteq A$ is convex, then for $S \in PF, \bar{Z}^{w*} \cdot S \subseteq \overline{Z \cdot S}$. So if $Z = J(E), 1 \in \overline{J(E)}^{w*}$ by Theorem 2, so $1 \cdot S = S \in \overline{J(E) \cdot S}$. ⊣

We complete now the proof of Theorem 1 as follows: Say $E_n \in U$ and every closed subset of $E \setminus \bigcup_n E_n$ is in U , where $E \in K(\mathbb{T})$, but $E \notin U$, towards a contradiction. Let $S \in PF, \|S\|_\infty = 1$ and $\text{supp}(S) \subseteq E$. By Lemma 3 find $S_n \in PF$ with $S_0 = S, \|S_n - S_{n+1}\|_\infty < 2^{-n-2}$ and $\text{supp}(S_{n+1}) \subseteq \text{supp}(S_n) \setminus E_n$. Then $\lim S_n = T \in PF$ and $T \neq 0$. Also $\text{supp}(T) \subseteq \bigcap_n \text{supp}(S_n) \subseteq E \setminus \bigcap_n E_n$, a contradiction. ⊣

One corollary of the calibration property is that the union of countably many $\Sigma^0_3 = G_{\delta\sigma}$ sets of interior uniqueness is also of interior uniqueness. (A set of *interior uniqueness* is one which contains no closed M -sets). Recall now the

INTERIOR PROBLEM. Is every Σ^0_3 (equivalently, an arbitrary) set of interior uniqueness a set of uniqueness?

Thus we see that a positive answer to the interior problem implies a positive answer to the union problem for Σ^0_3 sets.

We now discuss definability properties of the σ -ideals U and U_0 .

First, as U and U_0 are Π^1_1 sets, they admit Π^1_1 -ranks. We look for canonical ones.

Pietski-Shapiro has defined a canonical rank for U -sets as follows:

Recall that for $E \in U$, the ideal $J(E)$ is weak*-dense in A . Since the weak*-topology is not metrizable, weak*-closures cannot in general be obtained by just taking weak*-limits of sequences. But by results of Banach, transfinite iteration of

this process suffices. Define therefore inductively for each $E \in U$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 J^0(E) &= J(E), \\
 J^{\alpha+1}(E) &= \text{the set of weak* -limits of sequences from } J^\alpha(E), \\
 J^\lambda(E) &= \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} J^\alpha(E), \lambda \text{ limit.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then by a theorem of Banach this process terminates at a countable ordinal α_0 , and $J^{\alpha_0}(E) = \overline{J(E)}^{w*}$. So if $E \in U$ there is countable α with $J^\alpha(E) = A$. We call the least such α the *Piatetski-Shapiro rank* of E , $[E]_{PS}$.

THEOREM 4 (Solovay [34]). *The Piatetski-Shapiro rank is a Π_1^1 -rank on U .*

The original proof by Solovay used effective descriptive set theory and boundedness arguments in admissible sets. Kechris and Louveau found two other ranks on U , which they have shown to be the same as $[E]_{PS}$, one “living” in PF and the other in PM ($[E]_{PS}$ “lives” in A). The “ PF -rank” provides a straightforward proof that $[E]_{PS}$ is a Π_1^1 -rank, but the proof of its equivalence with $[E]_{PS}$ requires a fair amount of technical analytical work.

Thus we have a canonical hierarchy of U -sets with at most ω_1 levels. In fact we have exactly ω_1 levels, as follows from the fact that U is not Borel and the easy half of the following boundedness theorem.

THEOREM 5. *If X is Polish, $P \subseteq X$ is Π_1^1 and $\varphi: P \rightarrow \omega$ is a Π_1^1 -rank, then*

$$P \text{ is Borel} \Leftrightarrow \exists \alpha < \omega_1 \forall x \in P(\varphi(x) \leq \alpha).$$

(The unboundedness of the Piatetski-Shapiro rank was originally proved by a direct construction by McGehee [31].)

The “simplest” sets in the hierarchy of U -sets are those of rank 1, i.e. those for which $J(E)$ is sequentially weak*-dense in A , i.e. there is $f_n \in J(E)$ with $f_n \rightarrow^{w*} 1$. The countable closed sets have PS-rank 1, as do all $H^{(n)}$ -sets (e.g. $E_{1/3}$) as well as most explicitly constructed U -sets. Sets of PS-rank 1 are denoted by U' . By a result of Banach they can be characterized in a more “quantitative” way as follows: For $S \in PM$, let

$$R(S) = \overline{\lim} |S(n)|.$$

Thus $S \in PF \Leftrightarrow R(S) = 0$, and it is easy to see that $R(S) = \text{distance of } S \text{ from } PF$. For $E \in K(\mathbb{T})$, let

$$\eta(E) = \inf \{ R(S) : \|S\|_\infty = 1, S \in PM, \text{supp}(S) \subseteq E \}.$$

Then $E \in U' \Leftrightarrow \eta(E) > 0$.

Piatetski-Shapiro used $[E]_{PS}$ to prove a decomposition theorem of the form: Every $E \in U$ can be written as $E = \bigcup_n E_n$, where E_n are U -sets of some “simpler” type. In fact these E_n are *almost*—but not quite!— U' -sets. Can they actually be U' -sets? Every U -set known until recently had this property, but we will see later that the answer is in general negative.

We turn now to the question of a canonical Π_1^1 -rank on U_0 . Such a rank was first found by Kechris and Louveau, motivated by one of their reformulations of the PS-rank on U . This rank on U_0 will be denoted by $[E]_0$. An equivalent description of $[E]_0$ found later by Debs and Saint Raymond resembles $[E]_{PS}$: Given $E \in K(\mathbb{T})$,

let $I_{\text{neg}}(E) = \{f \in A : \text{Re}(f) \leq 0 \text{ on } E\}$. Then $E \in U_0 \Leftrightarrow \overline{I_{\text{neg}}(E)}^{w*} = A \Leftrightarrow 1 \in \overline{I_{\text{neg}}(E)}^{w*}$. Put $[E]_0^* = \text{least } \alpha \text{ such that } 1 \in I_{\text{neg}}^\alpha(E)$. Then $[E]_0 = [E]_0^*$.

The sets of rank 1 here are denoted by U'_0 . They can be also characterized as follows: For $E \in K(\mathbb{T})$, let $\eta_0(E) = \inf\{R(\mu) : \mu \text{ a probability measure supported by } E\}$. Then $E \in U'_0 \Leftrightarrow \eta_0(E) > 0$.

As opposed to U' and U , it turned out that U'_0 is a (Borel of course) basis for U_0 .

THEOREM 6 (Kechris and Louveau [20]). *Every U_0 -set is a countable union of U'_0 -sets.*

Thus in particular one has, according to results in the first four lectures, a Cantor-Bendixson type rank $\text{rk}_{U'_0}$ on U_0 corresponding to the basis U'_0 . This turns out to be equal to $[E]_0$ again.

The idea of the proof of Theorem 6 is the following: By simple manipulations it is enough to show that if $E \in K(\mathbb{T})$ has the property that every nonempty portion $V \cap E$ (V open) of E supports probability measures with arbitrarily small $R(\mu)$, then $E \in M_0$. Given such an E , one shows by standard weak*-approximation arguments that for each $\varepsilon > 0$ the probability measures supported by E with $R(\mu) < \varepsilon$ are weak*-dense in the probability measures supported by E . Then one constructs inductively, by appropriate “iterating and averaging” procedures, a sequence μ_1, μ_2, \dots of probability measures on E and a sequence $0 < n_1 < n_2 < \dots$ such that

$$\sup\{|\hat{\mu}_k(m)| : |m| \geq n_i\} < 2^{-i}, \quad \forall k \geq i.$$

Then if μ is a weak*-limit of a subsequence of the μ_k 's, $\hat{\mu}$ is in PF and a probability measure supported by E .

In conclusion, we have seen that both U and U_0 have canonical Π_1^1 -ranks. This gives for each one of them a canonical hierarchy consisting of ω_1 distinct levels. The sets U' and U'_0 of rank 1 receive particular attention because of their “simplicity” and because most explicit examples belong there. The class U'_0 forms a Borel basis for U_0 , but as we will see in the next lecture the class U' does not form a Borel basis for U .

One can also use these Π_1^1 -ranks to show that U and U_0 are even “locally” non-Borel.

THEOREM 7 (Debs and Saint Raymond [4], Kaufman [14], [15], Kechris and Louveau [20]). *Let I be U or U_0 . Then for each $E \in K(\mathbb{T}) \setminus I$, the σ -ideal $K(E) \cap I$ is Π_1^1 -complete.*

This can be proved for example by showing that the canonical Π_1^1 -rank on I is unbounded in $K(E) \cap I$. The construction is based on a key “shrinking argument” due to Kaufman.

Lecture VIII. The structure of the σ -ideals U and U_0 . Part 2: Applications. The Borel basis problem for U and U_0 was raised in the paper of Kechris, Louveau and Woodin discussed in the first four lectures. Although U and U_0 are not Borel and therefore not “simply characterizable”, there are other examples of classes of thin sets (e.g. the countable closed ones) which although they form a non-Borel class, can still be decomposed into “simply characterizable” (i.e. Borel) components (e.g. singletons).

We have seen in the preceding lecture that the Borel basis problem admits a positive solution for U_0 . Soon after this was established, Debs and Saint Raymond solved this problem negatively for U .

THEOREM 1 (Debs and Saint Raymond [4]). *The σ -ideal U of closed uniqueness sets has no Borel basis.*

We will sketch the ideas of the proof. The key result from analysis that is used is a deep result of Körner [26] on the existence of so-called Helson sets of multiplicity. For our purposes here this result can be considered as a very strong form of Piatetski-Shapiro’s result that $U \not\subseteq U_0$. We will state Körner’s Theorem in a weaker version which is sufficient for Theorem 1.

DEFINITION. Define the class U'_1 of closed sets as follows: For $E \in K(\mathbb{T})$ let $I(E)$ be the class of functions in A which vanish on E (not in a neighborhood of E). Then let

$$E \in U'_1 \Leftrightarrow \exists \{f_n\} (f_n \in I(E) \ \& \ f_n \rightarrow^{w*} 1).$$

One can see that $U' \subseteq U'_1 \subseteq U'_0$. (These sets first came up in the Piatetski-Shapiro decomposition theorem mentioned earlier: If $E \in U$, then $E = \bigcup_n E_n$, where $E_n \in U \cap U'_1$.)

Now one has

THEOREM 2 (Körner [26]). $U'_1 \not\subseteq U$.

(It turns out also that $U'_0 \not\subseteq (U'_1)_\sigma$ (Piatetski-Shapiro).)

Thus there are M -sets which are in U'_1 , and thus they are “almost” U' -sets. The proof of Körner’s Theorem was originally very complicated. Kaufman [12] found another proof (using some of the ideas in Piatetski-Shapiro’s proof that $U \not\subseteq U_0$), which is much simpler although still very subtle. It is based on a “shrinking argument” and works within any given M -set.

Fix now $E \in M$, $E \in U'_1$. By a simple argument we can actually assume that $E \cap V \in M$ for every nonempty portion $E \cap V$ of E (V open). Recall now the basis theorem from the first four lectures:

If I is a σ -ideal in $K(E)$ with basis B and I is calibrated, while for each nonempty portion $E' = E \cap V$ of E we have $B \cap K(E') \neq I \cap K(E')$, then every dense G_δ of E is not in I_{int} .

Applying this to $I = K(E) \cap U$, which we already know is calibrated, we see that if it had a Borel basis B , then $B \cap K(E') \neq I \cap K(E')$, as $I \cap K(E')$ is not Borel (by Theorem 7 of Lecture VII) while $B \cap K(E')$ is, so every dense G_δ in E is not in U_{int} .

So it is enough to show that there is a dense G_δ set G in E which is in U_{int} . This can be done as E is “almost” a U -set. To construct G , fix a dense sequence $\{x_p\}$ in E . Fix also, as $E \in U'_1$, a sequence $f_n \in I(E)$ with $f_n \rightarrow^{w*} 1$. It is a general fact about A that if $f \in A$, $a \in \mathbb{T}$ and $f(a) = 0$, then for $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $g \in A$ with $g = 0$ in a neighborhood of a and $\|f - fg\|_A < \varepsilon$. Using this, for each fixed n , define inductively on p a function $f_{n,p} \in I(E)$ and an open neighborhood $V_{n,p}$ of x_p with

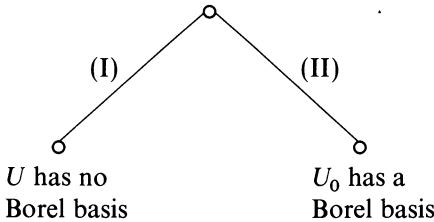
$$f_{n,p} = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \bigcup_{q \leq p} V_{n,q},$$

$$\|f_{n,p} - f_n\|_A \leq 2^{-n}, \quad \|f_{n,p} - f_{n,p-1}\|_A \leq 2^{-p}.$$

Put $V_n = \bigcup_p V_{n,p}$ and $h_n = \lim_p f_{n,p}$. Then $h_n = 0$ on $V_n \supseteq \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ and $\|h_n - f_n\|_A \leq 2^{-n}$; thus $h_n \rightarrow^{w*} 1$ as well. Put $G = \bigcap_n (E \cap V_n)$. Then G works, as for each closed $F \subseteq G$ the sequence h_n vanishes on $V_n \supseteq F$ and $h_n \rightarrow^{w*} 1$, so actually $F \in U'$.

We can summarize now the basic structural and definability properties of the σ -ideals U and U_0 :

- (A) They are calibrated σ -ideals,
- (B) They are Π_1^1 but locally non-Borel,
- (C)



(This is the first structural difference between U and U_0 .)

We discuss now various applications of this theory.

(I) (1) The fact that U has no Borel basis has clear negative implications for the characterization problem: One cannot even decompose U -sets into “simply characterizable” components.

(2) On the other hand, the non-basis result can be used to prove existence theorems. For example, the U' -sets form a Borel class, so there are U -sets which are not countable unions of U' -sets. This gives the first new examples of U -sets in a long time, since every U -set known until recently was known to be a countable union of U' -sets. In particular, as $U' \supseteq \bigcup_n H^{(n)}$ one has U -sets which are not unions of $H^{(n)}$ -sets even with varying n . (For fixed n this is a difficult theorem of Piatetski-Shapiro [32], with a totally different proof. The general result was conjectured by Piatetski-Shapiro in [32].)

(II) (1) Since U_0 is a basis for U_0 , it follows easily that every perfect symmetric set $E_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots}$ which is in U_0 is actually in U_0' . Then

$$\{E_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots} \in U_0\} = \{E_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots} \in U_0'\}$$

is a Borel class. This perhaps suggests that there could be a characterization of the $E_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots}$ in U_0 . This is however an open problem. (We repeat here that it is not known if $\{E_{\xi_1, \xi_1, \dots} \in U\}$ is Borel or not.)

(2) The σ -ideal U_0 satisfies now all the hypotheses of the basis theorem and the theorem of Debs and Saint Raymond following that (these were discussed in the fourth lecture), so we have the following solution of the category problem.

THEOREM 3 (Debs and Saint Raymond [4]). *Every \mathcal{U}_0 -set $P \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ with the Baire property is of the first category. In fact if $P \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ is Σ_1^1 and in \mathcal{U}_0 , there is a sequence $F_n \in \mathcal{U}_0$ with $P \subseteq \bigcup_n F_n$.*

For $P \in \Pi_1^1$, $P \in \mathcal{U}_0$ we know that P is of the first category, but one cannot prove in ZFC that $P \subseteq \bigcup_n F_n$ with $F_n \in \mathcal{U}_0$! This can be proved, however, assuming $\forall x \in \mathbb{R} (\aleph_1^{L[x]} < \aleph_1)$. It is not known if this covering property is equiconsistent with ZFC or requires large cardinal hypotheses.

(3) One can see now several old and new results of the theory of uniqueness for

trigonometric series as immediate consequences of the fact that Borel \mathcal{M}_0 -sets are of the first category. Here is a sampler:

(i) *Menshov's Theorem*. There are M_0 -sets of Lebesgue measure 0. To see this, recall the standard fact that there is a dense G_δ set $G \subseteq \mathbb{T}$ of measure 0. Then $G \in \mathcal{M}_0$, so by regularity G contains an M_0 -set. So Menshov's Theorem can be seen as a consequence of the "orthogonality" of measure and category!

(ii) *Ivashev-Musatov's [7] and Kaufman's [11] Theorem*. There are M_0 -sets of h -Hausdorff measure 0 (for any h), within any M_0 -set. Same proof.

(iii) *Lyons' solution [28] of the Kahane-Salem problem [9]*. Let P be the set of nonnormal, say in base 10, numbers. Thus, by Borel's theorem, P has Lebesgue measure 0. However, $P \in M_0$. For the proof, it is easy to check that P is comeager.

We conclude with a summary of further developments concerning descriptive set theory and harmonic analysis:

(1) Kechris and Louveau [20] (see also [21]) found a simple analytical proof of the Debs and Saint Raymond covering theorem for $\Sigma_1^1 U_0$ -sets (and therefore its corollaries). The method is applicable in related contexts and leads to the following:

(A) It connects the union problem for G_δ -sets to harmonic synthesis problems, and in particular it shows surprisingly that a counterexample (which is the most likely possibility) would have to use Körner's Theorem!

(B) It allows characterization of closed sets within which a "metric" condition in the form of Hausdorff h -measure 0 implies uniqueness, answering a question of Kaufmann (Dougherty and Kechris [5]).

(2) Methods of descriptive set theory have been applied to Lyons' work on (A) (Lyons [27]) the characterization of Rajchman measures by their null sets (i.e. μ is a Rajchman measure iff it annihilates every U_0 -set) (Louveau and Mokobodzki; see [20]) and (B) (Lyons [29]) the failure of the so-called *Rajchman conjecture* (i.e. μ is a Rajchman measure iff it annihilates every H -set) (Kechris and Lyons [24], Kaufman [17]).

(3) One can analyze the gap between U and U_0 by providing a transfinite hierarchy of classes filling this gap and relating it to definability problems concerning harmonic synthesis (Lyons [30], Kechris, Louveau and Tardivel [22]).

(4) One can establish that U_0 is "hereditarily" Π_1^1 -complete (Kechris [19]).

(5) Descriptive set theoretic studies of other types of exceptional sets or application of descriptive set theoretic methods to harmonic analysis are also the subject of Kaufman [16]–[18], Tardivel [35], [36], S. Kahane [10] and Becker, Kahane and Louveau [3]. (The last paper classifies certain well-known classes of thin sets as being actually Σ_2^1 -complete!)

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