MICROSCOPIC SETS WITH RESPECT TO SEQUENCES OF FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. Consequences of replacing the geometric sequence with another in the definition of microscopic sets are considered.

The notion of a microscopic set on the real line was introduced by J. Appell in [1] at the beginning of the 21st century. Thereafter, some papers were devoted to this topic ([7], [9]–[11]). Lately, a chapter on microscopic sets was published in a monography [8].

DEFINITION 1. A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ is microscopic if for each $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a sequence of intervals $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$E \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(I_n) \leq \epsilon^n \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

The family of all microscopic sets will be denoted by $\mathcal{M}$.

A special role in this definition is played by a geometric sequence. A question about the consequences of replacing this specific sequence with another one was raised by J. Appell, E. D’Aniello and M. V äth in [3].

If we consider an arbitrary sequence here, we get a definition of a family of strong measure zero sets ([5]), denoted by $\mathcal{S}$.

DEFINITION 2. A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ is of strong measure zero if for each sequence of positive reals $\{\epsilon_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ there exists a sequence of intervals $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$E \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(I_n) \leq \epsilon_n \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Obviously, $\mathcal{S} \subsetneq \mathcal{M}$. An example of a microscopic set which is not a strong measure zero set is given in [6].

Let $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of increasing functions $f_n: (0, 1) \rightarrow (0, 1)$ such that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f_n(x) = 0$, and there exists $x_0 \in (0, 1)$ such that for every $x \in (0, x_0)$ the series $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f_n(x)$ is convergent and the sequence $(f_n(x))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is nonincreasing.

DEFINITION 3. A set $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ belongs to $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ if for each $x \in (0, 1)$ there exists a sequence of intervals $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$E \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(I_n) \leq f_n(x) \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For $f_n(x) = x^n$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)} = \mathcal{M}$.

If $\mathcal{H}$ denotes the family of all sequences of functions with properties described above, then

$$\bigcap_{(f_n) \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)} = \mathcal{S}.$$

Now, we may ask several questions. We would like to know for which sequences we get microscopic sets, when different sequences give different families of sets, under which condition $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ is a σ -ideal.

The next theorem gives a sufficient condition for getting microscopic sets.

THEOREM 4. *If there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and for every $x \in (0, 1)$ we have $x^{n+k} \leq f_n(x) \leq x^n$, then*

$$\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)} = \mathcal{M}.$$

Proof. Since the inclusion $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)} \subset \mathcal{M}$ is obvious, we have to justify only the inverse one.

Let $E \in \mathcal{M}$. Fix $x \in (0, 1)$. Since $E \in \mathcal{M}$ for $x_0 = x^{k+1}$, there exists a sequence of intervals $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$E \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(I_n) < (x_0)^n \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Therefore

$$\lambda(I_n) < (x^{k+1})^n = x^{nk+n} \leq x^{n+k} \leq f_n(x), \quad \text{so } E \in \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}. \quad \square$$

The above condition is not necessary, for example, for a sequence $f_n(x) = x^{2n}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the assumption of the above theorem is not satisfied, but $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)} = \mathcal{M}$.

More examples of sequences of functions leading to microscopic sets can be given for:

$$\begin{aligned} f_n(x) &= \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^n, & \text{where } a > 0, \\ f_n(x) &= x^{an}, & \text{where } a > 0, \\ f_n(x) &= \frac{x^n}{n^a}, & \text{where } a \geq 1, \end{aligned}$$

the family $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ is exactly the family of microscopic sets.

For reader's convenience we show that in the last case every microscopic set belongs to $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$. Let $A \in \mathcal{M}$. Fix $x \in (0, 1)$ and find $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $1/n_0 < x$. For $\epsilon := \frac{1}{n_0^{a+1}}$ there exists a sequence of intervals $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$E \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(I_n) \leq \epsilon^n \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Then

$$\lambda(I_n) \leq \epsilon^n = \frac{1}{(n_0^{a+1})^n} = \frac{1}{(n_0^a)^n n_0^n} < \frac{1}{(n_0^n)^a} x^n < \frac{x^n}{n^a}$$

since $n_0^n > n$ for $n_0 > 1$. Therefore, $a \in \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$.

One can observe an obvious sufficient condition for an inclusion between the families $\mathcal{M}_{(g_n)}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ for sequences $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, $(g_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ from the family $\mathcal{H}$:

$$\forall x \in (0, 1) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \quad g_n(x) \leq f_n(x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{M}_{(g_n)} \subset \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}.$$

The next theorem gives a not so obvious sufficient condition.

THEOREM 5. *If for every $x \in (0, 1)$ there exists $y \in (0, 1)$ such that there exists a sequence $(P_m)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ of pairwise disjoint, nonempty subsets of $\mathbb{N}$ such that*

$$g_m(y) \leq \sum_{i \in P_m} f_i(x) \quad \text{for every } m \in \mathbb{N},$$

then

$$\mathcal{M}_{(g_n)} \subset \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}.$$

Proof. Let $E \in \mathcal{M}_{(g_n)}$. Let $x \in (0, 1)$. By our assumption, there exists $y \in (0, 1)$ and a sequence $\{P_m\}$ of pairwise disjoint nonempty subsets of $\mathbb{N}$ such that $g_m(y) \leq \sum_{i \in P_m} f_i(x)$. Since $E \in \mathcal{M}_{(g_n)}$, for y there exists a sequence of intervals $(I_m)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$E \subset \bigcup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} I_m \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(I_m) \leq g_m(y).$$

Since $\lambda(I_m) \leq g_m(y) \leq \sum_{i \in P_m} f_i(x)$, we may divide the interval I_m into nonoverlapping intervals $J_i^{(m)}$, $i \in P_m$, such that

$$\lambda(J_i^{(m)}) \leq f_i(x) \quad \text{for } i \in P_m.$$

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If n belongs to none of P_m , $m \in \mathbb{N}$, then $J_n := \emptyset$. If $n \in P_m$, then $J_n := J_n^{(m)}$. Therefore,

$$E \subset \bigcup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} I_m = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} J_n \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(J_n) \leq f_n(x), \quad \text{so} \quad E \in \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}.$$

□

THEOREM 6.

$\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)} \setminus \mathcal{S} \neq \emptyset$ for every $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in \mathcal{H}$.

Proof.

Let $I := [0, 1]$. We will define by induction the sequence of open intervals $\{J_{n,i}\}$, $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^{n-1}\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, in the following way.

Let $k_1 := \min\{k : f_{2^k}(\frac{1}{k+1}) < \frac{1}{3}\}$. Put $J_{1,1} := (f_{2^{k_1}}(\frac{1}{k_1+1}), 1 - f_{2^{k_1}}(\frac{1}{k_1+1}))$. Then, of course, $\lambda(J_{1,1}) > \frac{1}{3}$.

Let $K_{1,1}$, $K_{1,2}$ denote successive components of the set $I \setminus J_{1,1}$. Obviously, $\lambda(K_{1,i}) = f_{2^{k_1}}(\frac{1}{k_1+1})$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$.

Let $k_2 := \min\{k : f_{2^k}(\frac{1}{k+1}) < \frac{1}{3}f_{2^{k_1}}(\frac{1}{k_1+1})\}$.

Let $J_{2,1}$, $J_{2,2}$ be two open intervals concentric with $K_{1,1}$ and $K_{1,2}$, respectively, such that $\lambda(J_{2,1}) = \lambda(J_{2,2}) = \lambda(K_{1,1}) - 2f_{2^{k_2}}(\frac{1}{k_2+1})$.

Let $K_{2,1}$, $K_{2,2}$, $K_{2,3}$, and $K_{2,4}$ denote successive components of the set $I \setminus (J_{1,1} \cup J_{2,1} \cup J_{2,2})$. Notice that $\lambda(K_{2,i}) = f_{2^{k_2}}(\frac{1}{k_2+1})$ for $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

Let $m \geq 2$. Assume that we have constructed the open, nonempty intervals $J_{l,1}, \dots, J_{l,2^{l-1}}$ concentric with $K_{l-1,1}, \dots, K_{l-1,2^{l-1}}$, respectively, such that $\lambda(J_{l,i}) = \lambda(K_{l-1,1}) - 2f_{2^{k_l}}(\frac{1}{k_l+1})$ for $l \in \{2, \dots, m\}$, $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^{l-1}\}$, where $k_l := \min\{k : f_{2^k}(\frac{1}{k+1}) < \frac{1}{3}f_{2^{k_{l-1}}}(\frac{1}{k_{l-1}+1})\}$, for $l \in \{2, \dots, m\}$.

Let $K_{m,1}, \dots, K_{m,2^m}$ be successive components of the set $I \setminus \bigcup_{l=1}^m \bigcup_{i=1}^{2^{l-1}} J_{l,i}$. Notice that $\lambda(K_{m,i}) = f_{2^{k_m}}(\frac{1}{k_m+1})$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^m\}$.

Now, let $k_{m+1} := \min\{k : f_{2^k}(\frac{1}{k+1}) < \frac{1}{3}f_{2^{k_m}}(\frac{1}{k_m+1})\}$ and $J_{m+1,1}, \dots, J_{m+1,2^{m+1}}$ be open intervals concentric with $K_{m,1}, \dots, K_{m,2^m}$, respectively, such that $\lambda(J_{m+1,i}) = \lambda(K_{m,1}) - 2f_{2^{k_{m+1}}}(\frac{1}{k_{m+1}+1})$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^{m+1}\}$.

Let $K_{m+1,1}, \dots, K_{m+1,2^{m+1}}$ be successive components of the set

$$I \setminus \bigcup_{l=1}^{m+1} \bigcup_{i=1}^{2^{l-1}} J_{l,i}.$$

Obviously, $\lambda(K_{m+1,i}) = f_{2^{k_{m+1}}}(\frac{1}{k_{m+1}+1})$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^{m+1}\}$.

Let us put $M := \bigcap_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{i=1}^{2^m} K_{m,i}$.

Now, let $x \in (0, 1)$. There exists $m_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\frac{1}{k_{m_0}} < x$.

Let $I_i := K_{m_0,i}$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^{m_0}\}$ and $I_i := \emptyset$ for $i > 2^{m_0}$. Obviously, $M \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{2^{m_0}} K_{m_0,i} = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} I_i$ and $\lambda(I_i) = \lambda(K_{m_0,i}) = f_{2^{k_{m_0}}}(\frac{1}{k_{m_0}+1}) \leq f_{2^{m_0}}(\frac{1}{k_{m_0}+1}) < f_{2^{m_0}}(x) \leq f_i(x)$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^{m_0}\}$. Hence, M is a Cantor-type set from $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$. As a perfect set, M cannot be a strong measure zero set (compare [5, Corollary 8.1.5]), so $M \in \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)} \setminus \mathcal{S}$.

□

THEOREM 7. *Let $(f_n), (g_n) \in \mathcal{H}$ and let k_n be a sequence of natural numbers chosen as in the proof of the previous theorem. Suppose that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $g_n(x) < f_n(x)$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and for every $x \in (0, \delta)$. If there exists a point $x_0 \in (0, 1)$ such that $g_n(x_0) < f_{2^{k_n}}\left(\frac{1}{k_n+1}\right)$, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then*

$$\mathcal{M}_{(g_n)} \subsetneq \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}.$$

Proof. Since the inclusion $\mathcal{M}_{(g_n)} \subset \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ is obvious, we only need to show that these families are different.

Consider the set M from the proof of the previous theorem.

Let $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be any sequence of intervals such that $\lambda(I_n) \leq g_n(x_0)$.

As $\lambda(I_1) \leq g_1(x_0) < f_{2^{k_1}}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$, I_1 cannot have common points with both sets $K_{1,1}$ and $K_{1,2}$, since $f_{2^{k_1}}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) < \frac{1}{3} < \lambda(J_{1,1}) = \text{dist}(K_{1,1}, K_{1,2})$.

Put $P_0 := [0, 1]$.

Let $P_1 := K_{1,i_1}$, where $i_1 \in \{1, 2\}$ and $I_1 \cap K_{1,i_1} = \emptyset$.

Let $n \geq 2$. We assume that for $l \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ we have already chosen an interval P_l , such that $P_l := K_{l,i_l}$, where $i_l \in \{1, \dots, 2^l\}$, $I_l \cap K_{l,i_l} = \emptyset$ and $P_l \subset P_{l-1}$.

The interval I_n satisfies a condition

$$\lambda(I_n) \leq g_n(x_0) < f_{2^{k_n}}\left(\frac{1}{k_n+1}\right) = \lambda(K_{n,i})$$

for $i \in \{1, \dots, 2^n\}$ and by the construction of M , precisely by the way of defining k_n , we have $\lambda(K_{n,i}) < \lambda(J_{l,j})$, where $J_{l,j}$ is a gap between the intervals $K_{n,i}$ and $K_{n,i'}$ contained in P_{n-1} , so one of them has no common points with I_n . We denote it by P_n .

Therefore, we have inductively constructed a descending sequence of closed intervals P_n , such that $\lambda(P_n) = f_{2^{k_n}}\left(\frac{1}{k_n+1}\right)$ and $P_n \cap I_n = \emptyset$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. By Cantor Theorem, there exists a point $x \in \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} P_n$. Of course $x \in M$ and $x \notin \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n$, so $M \notin \mathcal{M}_{(g_n)}$. □

THEOREM 8. *For every $(f_n) \in \mathcal{H}$, there exists $(g_n) \in \mathcal{H}$ such that*

$$\mathcal{S} \subsetneq \mathcal{M}_{(g_n)} \subsetneq \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}.$$

Proof. Suffice it to put $g_n(x) := f_n(x)f_{2^{k_n}}\left(\frac{1}{k_n+1}\right)$, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, where k_n is chosen as in the proof of Theorem 6. Then $(g_n) \in \mathcal{H}$ and (g_n) satisfies the condition from Theorem 7, since for every $x \in (0, 1)$

$$g_n(x) = f_n(x)f_{2^{k_n}}\left(\frac{1}{k_n+1}\right) < f_{2^{k_n}}\left(\frac{1}{k_n+1}\right).$$

Therefore, by Theorem 6 and Theorem 7, we are done. □

Remark 9. If $f_2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) < \frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{f_{2^l}\left(\frac{1}{\frac{1}{l+1}}\right)}{f_{2^{l-1}}\left(\frac{1}{\frac{1}{l}}\right)} < \frac{1}{3}$ for $l \geq 2$, then $k_n = n$ and for such a sequence (f_n) the condition from the Theorem 7 is as follows

$$\exists x_0 \in (0,1) \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \quad g_n(x_0) < f_{2^n} \left(\frac{1}{n+1} \right). \quad (*)$$

The sequence $f_n(x) = x^n$ satisfies assumptions from the above remark, so for the sequence $g_n(x) = \frac{x^n}{(n+1)^{2^n}}$ (see the proof of Theorem 8), we have

$$\mathcal{M}_{(g_n)} \subsetneq \mathcal{M}.$$

Another sequence satisfying condition $(*)$ for $f_n(x) = x^n$ is the sequence $g_n(x) = x^{n^n}$, more precisely, for $x_0 = \frac{1}{4}$ and for every $n > 2$, we have

$$g_n(x_0) < \left(\frac{1}{n+1} \right)^{2^n}, \quad \text{so } \mathcal{M}_{(x^{n^n})} \subsetneq \mathcal{M}.$$

The next theorem gives a sufficient condition for a family $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ to be a σ -ideal.

THEOREM 10. *Let $f_n \in \mathcal{H}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If there exists a bijection $\Phi: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that for a fixed $k \in \mathbb{N}$ a function $\Phi_k(n) := \Phi(n, k)$ is increasing and for every $x > 0$ and for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} f_n^{-1}(f_{\Phi(n,k)}(x)) > 0$, then $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ is a σ -ideal.*

Proof. Suffice it to show that a countable sum of sets from $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ belongs to $\mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$. Let $\{A_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of sets, such that $A_k \in \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Fix $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x > 0$. A sequence $\{f_n^{-1}(f_{\Phi(n,k)}(x))\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is monotonous, so denoting $a_k := \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} f_n^{-1}(f_{\Phi(n,k)}(x))$, we have $f_n^{-1}(f_{\Phi(n,k)}(x)) \geq a_k > \frac{a_k}{2}$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. By monotonicity of f_n , we get

$$f_{\Phi(n,k)}(x) \geq f_n \left(\frac{a_k}{2} \right).$$

For $\frac{a_k}{2}$ there exists a cover $\{I_n^{(k)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of the set A_k such that $\lambda(I_n^{(k)}) < f_n \left(\frac{a_k}{2} \right)$. Arrange intervals $\{I_n^{(k)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}, k \in \mathbb{N}}$ in a sequence $\{I_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $m = \Phi(n, k)$. Then $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} A_k \subset \bigcup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} I_m$ and

$$\lambda(I_m) = \lambda(I_{\Phi(n,k)}) = \lambda(I_n^{(k)}) < f_n \left(\frac{a_k}{2} \right) \leq f_{\Phi(n,k)}(x) = f_m(x).$$

Therefore, $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} A_k \in \mathcal{M}_{(f_n)}$. □

It is known that if $\mathcal{I}$ is a σ -ideal containing all singletons and $\mathcal{G}_\delta$ -generated then a family $\mathcal{I}^* := \{A \subset \mathbb{R} : \exists B \in \mathcal{F}_\sigma \cap \mathcal{I} A \subset B\}$ is also a σ -ideal ([4]). We do not know if $\mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$ is a σ -ideal, but we can prove that $\mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}^*$ —a family of sets which can be covered by F_σ sets from $\mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$ is a σ -ideal.

LEMMA 11. *Let $A_k \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$ and A_k be compact for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Then,*

$$\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} A_k \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}.$$

Proof. Let $x \in (0, 1)$. For $x_1 := x$ there exists a cover $\{I_n^{(1)}\}$ of A_1 such that $\lambda(I_n^{(1)}) < (x_1)^{2^n}$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. By compactness of A_1 , we can choose a finite subcover $\{I_n^{(1)}\}_{n=1}^{n_1}$. For $x_2 := x^{2^{n_1}}$ there exists a cover $\{I_n^{(2)}\}$ of A_2 such that $\lambda(I_n^{(2)}) < (x_2)^{2^n}$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. By compactness of A_2 , we can choose a finite subcover $\{I_n^{(2)}\}_{n=1}^{n_2}$. And so on, for $x_k := (x_{k-1})^{2^{n_{k-1}}}$ we find a finite cover $\{I_n^{(k)}\}_{n=1}^{n_k}$ of A_k such that $\lambda(I_n^{(k)}) < (x_k)^{2^n}$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Now, for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $t \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\sum_{i=0}^t n_i < k \leq \sum_{i=0}^{t+1} n_i$, where $n_0 := 0$, and there exists $l \in \{1, \dots, n_{t+1}\}$ such that $k = n_0 + \dots + n_t + l$. Let $J_k = I_l^{(t+1)}$. Then, $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} A_k \subset \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J_k$ and

$$\lambda(J_k) = \lambda(I_l^{(t+1)}) < (x_{t+1})^{2^l} = (x^{2^{n_1+n_2+\dots+n_t}})^{2^l} = x^{2^{n_1+n_2+\dots+n_t+l}} = x^{2^k},$$

so $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} A_k \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$. $\square$

LEMMA 12. *If $A_n \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}^*$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then there exists a sequence of compact sets $\{D_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$ such that*

$$\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n \subset \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} D_k.$$

Proof. Since $A_n \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}^*$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ then, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $B_n \in \mathcal{F}_\sigma \cap \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$ such that $A_n \subset B_n$. Then, $B_n = \bigcup_{l \in \mathbb{N}} B_l^{(n)}$, where $B_l^{(n)}$ is closed, hence it is a countable union of compact sets $D_t^{(l,n)}$ for $t \in \mathbb{N}$, so

$$\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{t \in \mathbb{N}} D_t^{(l,n)} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} D_k.$$

Obviously, $\{D_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$. $\square$

THEOREM 13. $\mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}^*$ is a σ -ideal.

Proof. It suffices to show that $\mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}^*$ is closed under a countable union. Let $A_n \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}^*$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. By Lemma 12, there exists a sequence $\{D_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $D_k \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$ and D_k is compact for $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n \subset \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} D_k$ and for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$. By Lemma 11, we have $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} D_k \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}$ and, of course, $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} D_k \in \mathcal{F}_\sigma$, so $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n \in \mathcal{M}_{(x^{2^n})}^*$. $\square$

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Received January 2, 2014

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