

ON MAZURKIEWICZ'S SETS, THIN σ -IDEALS OF COMPACT SETS AND THE SPACE OF PROBABILITY MEASURES ON THE RATIONALS

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ABSTRACT. We shall establish some properties of thin σ -ideals of compact sets in compact metric spaces (in particular, the σ -ideals of compact null-sets for thin subadditive capacities), and we shall refine the celebrated theorem of David Preiss that there exist compact non-uniformly tight sets of probability measures on the rationals.

Both topics will be based on a construction of Stefan Mazurkiewicz from his 1927 paper containing a solution of a Urysohn's problem in dimension theory.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mazurkiewicz sets appeared in [18] as a key element of his solution of a fundamental problem of Urysohn. Embedded in the dimension theory context, this brilliant construction was subsequently somewhat forgotten.

Years later, some of its variations were rediscovered in different settings, demonstrating its usefulness in other areas of topology and measure theory.

In Section 2, we recall the original Mazurkiewicz construction, and present some of its modifications, suitable for our purposes.

We shall use Mazurkiewicz's sets in two ways.

Firstly, we shall consider regularity properties of capacities and Borel measures on a compactum (i.e., a compact metrizable space) X . Let us recall that a Borel measure μ on X is *semifinite* if each Borel set of positive μ -measure contains a Borel set of finite positive μ -measure. Let us also recall that a capacity on X is *thin* if there is no uncountable family of pairwise disjoint compact subsets of X of positive capacity, cf. [16].

We denote by $K(X)$ the space of compact subsets of X , equipped with the Vietoris topology, cf. [14].

We shall establish the following two theorems. In fact, we shall discuss this topic in a more general setting concerning σ -ideals of compact

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 03E15, 54H05, 28A33, 28A12.

Key words and phrases. space of probability measures, uniform tightness, σ -ideal of compact sets, capacity.

sets, and the theorems will be derived from some results about σ -ideals, cf. Section 3.

Theorem 1.1. *Let X be a compactum. Let μ be a non-atomic semifinite Borel measure on X such that the collection of compact μ -null sets is coanalytic in $K(X)$.*

If μ is not σ -finite, then there is a $G_{\delta\sigma}$ -set M in X such that:

- (i) $\mu(G \setminus M) = 0$ for no G_δ -set G in X containing M ,
- (ii) *there is a semifinite Borel measure $\mu' \ll \mu$ on X such that $\mu'(M) = 0$ but M is not contained in any μ' -null G_δ -set in X .*

Theorem 1.2. *Let X be a compactum. Let γ be a non-atomic subadditive capacity on X .*

If γ is not thin, then there is a $G_{\delta\sigma}$ -set M in X such that:

- (i) $\gamma(G \setminus M) = 0$ for no G_δ -set G in X containing M ,
- (ii) *there is a subadditive capacity $\gamma' \ll \gamma$ on X such that $\gamma'(M) = 0$ but M is not contained in any γ' -null G_δ -set in X .*

Secondly, we shall consider the space $P(\mathbb{Q})$ of probability measures on the rationals, equipped with the weak topology. We say that a subset A of $P(\mathbb{Q})$ is σ -uniformly tight if it covered by countably many uniformly tight sets, cf. [2], [3]. If $\mu \in P(\mathbb{Q})$, then by $\text{supp}(\mu)$ we denote the support of μ , i.e., the closure in \mathbb{Q} of the set $\{q \in \mathbb{Q} : \mu(\{q\}) > 0\}$.

We shall refine the celebrated theorem of David Preiss [23] (cf. [3, Theorem 4.8.6]) that the space $P(\mathbb{Q})$ contains a compact, non-uniformly tight set, to the following effect.

Theorem 1.3. *There exists a compact nonempty set K in $P(\mathbb{Q})$ such that*

- (i) $\text{supp}(\mu)$ is locally compact for $\mu \in K$, and $\text{supp}(\mu) \cap \text{supp}(\nu)$ is finite for distinct $\mu, \nu \in K$,
- (ii) *any nonempty open set V in K contains a compact set L such that, whenever $A \subseteq K$ is σ -uniformly tight, $L \setminus A$ contains a non-uniformly tight compact set.*

Using a reasoning from [26], we shall also show that the set K in Theorem 1.3 has the following property (a weaker version of the “1-1 or constant property”, introduced by Sabok and Zapletal [28]): any Borel function $f : K \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is either constant or injective on a Borel non- σ -uniformly tight set in K .

Proofs of Theorems 3.2 and 1.3 will be given in Sections 3 and 4, respectively, and the result concerning Borel maps on $P(\mathbb{Q})$, stated above, will be addressed in Section 5.

In comments, gathered in Section 6, we shall provide some information, and natural questions, concerning the σ -ideal generated by compact uniformly tight sets in $P(\mathbb{Q})$.

2. MAZURKIEWICZ'S SETS

2.1. **The Mazurkiewicz construction.** The following construction appeared in [18, Sections 6, 7 and 8], cf. Remark 2.1.1(B).

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous surjection of the compactum X onto an uncountable compactum Y , and let T be a copy of the Cantor set in Y .

Let

$$(1) \mathcal{F} = \{(F_1, F_2, \dots) \in K(X)^{\mathbb{N}} : F_1 \subseteq F_2 \subseteq \dots\}.$$

Since \mathcal{F} is compact, as a closed subspace of the product $K(X)^{\mathbb{N}}$, there is a continuous surjection

$$(2) t \mapsto (F_1(t), F_2(t), \dots) \text{ from } T \text{ onto } \mathcal{F}.$$

Let us notice that the mapping $t \mapsto F_k(t) \cap f^{-1}(t)$ from T into $K(X)$ is upper semi-continuous. It follows that sets

$$(3) D_0 = \emptyset \text{ and } D_k = \{t \in T : F_k(t) \cap f^{-1}(t) \neq \emptyset\} \text{ for } k = 1, 2, \dots$$

are compact.

Let

$$(4) D = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} D_k.$$

Let us notice that $D_0 \subseteq D_1 \subseteq \dots$, cf. (1), and $D_1 \neq \emptyset$, as for t such that $X = F_1(t) = F_2(t) = \dots$ we have $t \in D_1$.

Mazurkiewicz proved in Section 6 of [18] a selection theorem which provided, for each $k \geq 1$, a Baire class 1 function $\varphi_k : D_k \rightarrow X$ such that, cf. 2.1.1(A),

$$(5) \varphi_k(t) \in F_k(t) \cap f^{-1}(t) \text{ for } t \in D_k.$$

Mazurkiewicz's set M is finally defined as follows, cf. [18, Section 8]:

$$(6) M = \bigcup_{k \geq 1} \varphi_k(D_k \setminus D_{k-1}).$$

The set M has the following property, where by a partial selector for $f : X \rightarrow Y$ we understand a subset of X intersecting every fiber of f in at most one point:

$$(M) M \text{ is a } G_{\delta\sigma}\text{-set in } X \text{ which is a partial selector for } f \text{ and each } G_{\delta}\text{-set in } X \text{ containing } M \text{ contains also some fiber } f^{-1}(y).$$

To see this, first let us note that $\varphi_k(D_k \setminus D_{k-1})$ is a G_{δ} -set in X for each $k \geq 1$. Indeed, if G_k is the graph of φ_k , then G_k is a G_{δ} -set as the graph of a Baire class 1 function and, moreover, cf. (5),

$$\varphi_k(D_k \setminus D_{k-1}) = \{x \in X : (f(x), x) \in G_k\} \setminus f^{-1}(D_{k-1}).$$

Consequently, cf. (6), M is a $G_{\delta\sigma}$ -set in X .

Next, aiming at a contradiction, assume that H is a G_{δ} -set in X containing M but no fiber of f . Then $X \setminus H = F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots$ for some $(F_1, F_2, \dots) \in \mathcal{F}$, cf. (1), such that $f(\bigcup_k F_k) = Y$. It follows that letting $t \in T$ be such that $F_k = F_k(t)$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, cf. (2), we have that $t \in D$, cf. (4). Let k be such that $t \in D_k \setminus D_{k-1}$. Then $\varphi_k(t) \in M \setminus H$, cf. (5), which is impossible.

2.1.1. *Remark.* (A) The selection theorem, established in [18, Section 6], providing a Baire class 1 selector for any upper semi-continuous mapping defined on a metric space and taking closed non-empty subsets of a Polish space as values, was rediscovered in [4] and became a standard tool in the descriptive set theory, cf. [17, Theorem XIV.4].

(B) To be more accurate, constructing his set in [18], Mazurkiewicz considered as X the closed unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n and the function $f : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ assigning to each $x \in X$ its distance from the origin. The property (M) was used by Mazurkiewicz to establish that the set M has dimension n (cf. also [24]).

2.2. **Special Mazurkiewicz sets.** To get Theorem 1.3, we shall need a special adjustment of the Mazurkiewicz construction. Before giving the details, let us make some introductory remarks, adopting the notation from the preceding section. The set

$$\mathcal{F}_0 = \{(F_1, F_2, \dots) \in \mathcal{F} : F_1 = F_2 = \dots \text{ and } f(F_1) = Y\}$$

is compact, and so is the set

$$T_0 = \{t \in T : (F_1(t), F_2(t), \dots) \in \mathcal{F}_0\}.$$

Moreover, cf. (3), $T_0 \subseteq D_1$ and hence $M \cap f^{-1}(T_0) = \varphi_1(T_0)$ is a G_δ -partial selector of f , hitting each compactum in X which is mapped by f onto Y .

This part of the Mazurkiewicz set was rediscovered by Michael [19] (with a similar justification), while investigating compact-covering mappings, and it was used by Davies [7] to provide a striking example concerning uniform tightness of collections of measures (Davies overlooked in [7] the Michael's paper and gave a direct construction of such sets in a special case, cf. also [8]).

A key element of our proof of Theorem 1.3 will be a refinement of the Davies example, based on the following special instance of the Mazurkiewicz construction.

Let $\pi : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ be the projection onto the first axis, and let

$$(6) \quad \mathcal{C} = \{C \in K(2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}) : \pi(C) = 2^{\mathbb{N}}\}$$

(this set can be identified with \mathcal{F}_0 , where $X = 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ and $f = \pi$).

Since \mathcal{C} is a compact zero-dimensional set without isolated points, it is a Cantor set, and parametrizing \mathcal{C} on $2^{\mathbb{N}}$, we can demand that

$$(7) \quad h : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \text{ is a homeomorphism.}$$

Then we let, cf. [18, Proof of Lemme 5],

$$(8) \quad \sigma(t) = \min(h(t) \cap \pi^{-1}(t)) \text{ and } M = \sigma(2^{\mathbb{N}}),$$

where the minimum is taken with respect to the lexicographical ordering on $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ (cf. [14, 2D]).

Let us notice that σ is a Baire class 1 function with the property that $(\pi \circ \sigma)(t) = t$ for $t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$. Consequently, M is a G_δ -set (cf. the argument following assertion (M) in Section 2.1).

We define

$$(9) \quad T(C) = \{t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}} : h(t) \subseteq C\}, \text{ for } C \in \mathcal{C}.$$

Since $\{F \in \mathcal{C} : F \subseteq C\}$ is compact, so is $T(C)$.

Lemma 2.1.

- (A) For each $C \in \mathcal{C}$, $T(C) \subseteq \pi(M \cap C)$ and $T(C') \subseteq T(C)$, whenever $C' \subseteq C$ belongs to \mathcal{C} .
- (B) For each nonempty open set V in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$, there is $C \in \mathcal{C}$ such that C is a finite union of closed-and-open rectangles in $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ and $T(C) \subseteq V$.

Proof. (A) If $t \in T(C)$, then $\sigma(t) \in M \cap C$, cf. (8) and (9), and hence $t = \pi(\sigma(t)) \in \pi(M \cap C)$.

(B) Since h is a homeomorphism onto \mathcal{C} , $h(V)$ is open in \mathcal{C} , and hence there are closed-and-open sets U_1, \dots, U_m in $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that whenever $F \in \mathcal{C}$ intersects all U_i and $F \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^m U_i$, then $F \in h(V)$.

Moreover, one can assume that U_i are closed-and-open rectangles in $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ and the projections $\pi(U_i)$, $\pi(U_j)$ are either identical or disjoint.

Let \mathcal{S} be the collection of projections $\pi(U_i)$, $i = 1, \dots, m$. Let us fix $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and let U_{i_1}, \dots, U_{i_k} be the rectangles U_i with $\pi(U_i) = S$. Let us split S into pairwise disjoint closed-and-open sets S_1, \dots, S_k and let us replace each rectangle U_{i_j} by the rectangle $W_{i_j} = U_{i_j} \cap (S_j \times 2^{\mathbb{N}})$, $j \leq k$.

Let $C = \bigcup_i \bigcup_j W_{i_j}$. Since $h(V)$ is nonempty, we have $\bigcup \mathcal{S} = 2^{\mathbb{N}}$. But $\pi(C) = \bigcup \mathcal{S}$, so consequently $C \in \mathcal{C}$, cf. (6). Let $F \in \mathcal{C}$ and $F \subseteq C$. Since the projections $\pi(W_{i_j})$ are pairwise disjoint, F intersects each $W_{i_j} \subseteq U_i$. Also, $F \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^m U_i$, and hence $F \in h(V)$. Since h was injective, we infer that $T(C) \subseteq V$, cf. (9). □

3. ON THIN σ -IDEALS OF COMPACT SETS

Most of our notation and terminology in this section follow [16].

Given a subset E of a compactum X we denote by $Bor(E)$ the σ -algebra of Borel sets in E .

A collection $I \subseteq K(X)$ is *hereditary* if it is closed under taking compact subsets of its elements. If I is hereditary and, moreover, closed under compact countable unions of elements of I , then I is a *σ -ideal of compact sets in X* .

A *σ -ideal on X* is a collection $J \subseteq Bor(X)$, closed under taking Borel subsets and countable unions of elements of J . We always assume that $X \notin J$.

Let I be a σ -ideal of compact sets in a compactum X .

We let $\tilde{I}_{Bor(X)} = \{B \in Bor(X) : K(B) \subseteq I\}$. The collection $\tilde{I}_{Bor(X)}$ has the *inner approximation property*, namely every Borel set not in $\tilde{I}_{Bor(X)}$ contains a compact subset not in $\tilde{I}_{Bor(X)}$. Conversely, if J is a

σ -ideal on X with the inner approximation property and we let $I = J \cap K(X)$, then I is a σ -ideal of compact sets in X and $J = \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$.

We say that I is *thin* if there is no uncountable disjoint family of compact subsets of X which are not in I , cf. [16]. If $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ is a σ -ideal on X , then I is thin if and only if $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ satisfies c.c.c.

It is well-known that if a coanalytic σ -ideal I of compact sets in a compactum X is not thin, then there is a Cantor set of pairwise disjoint compact sets not in I (cf. [16, Section 3.1, Theorem 2]). Combining this fact with properties of the Mazurkiewicz set we obtain the following observation.

Lemma 3.1. *Let I be a coanalytic σ -ideal of compact sets in a compactum X . If I is not thin, then there is a continuous map $\Phi : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow K(X)$ and a $G_{\delta\sigma}$ -set $M \subseteq \bigcup \{\Phi(t) : t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}\}$ such that*

- (i) *the compact sets $\Phi(t)$ are pairwise disjoint and not in I ,*
- (ii) *$|M \cap \Phi(t)| \leq 1$ for each t ,*
- (iii) *for any G_{δ} -set G in X containing M there is t with $\Phi(t) \subseteq G$.*

Proof. As recalled above, there is a continuous map $\Phi : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow K(X) \setminus I$ such that the sets $\Phi(t)$ are pairwise disjoint.

Let $\mathcal{K} = \{\Phi(t) : t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}\}$, $K = \bigcup \mathcal{K}$ and let $s : K \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$ associate to each $x \in K$ the unique $L_x \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $x \in L_x$.

Clearly, both \mathcal{K} and K are compact in the respective spaces and the mapping s is continuous, as for each compact set \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{K} , $s^{-1}(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup \mathcal{A}$ is compact in K .

It follows that the surjection $f = \Phi^{-1} \circ s : K \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$, associating to each $x \in K$ the unique $t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that $x \in \Phi(t)$, is also continuous.

Finally, let M be the Mazurkiewicz set for f (cf. assertion (M) in Section 2). Clearly, M satisfies conditions (ii) and (iii). □

We shall obtain Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 by specifying (to the σ -ideals of compact null sets with respect to measures and capacities) the following general theorem concerning arbitrary coanalytic σ -ideals of compact sets. It complements earlier results of Kechris, Louveau and Woodin (cf. [16, Section 3.1, Theorem 7]), concerning the relationship between thinness of σ -ideals of compact sets and their regularity properties.

Theorem 3.2. *Let I be a coanalytic σ -ideal of compact sets in a compactum X . If $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ is a σ -ideal on X containing all singletons, then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *I is thin,*
- (b) *If $J \supseteq \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ is any σ -ideal, then every set in J is contained in a G_{δ} -set in J .*

Moreover, if I is not thin, then there is a $G_{\delta\sigma}$ -set M in X such that:

- (i) *$G \setminus M \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ for no G_{δ} -set G in X containing M ,*

- (ii) *there is a σ -ideal $I' \supseteq \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ on X such that $M \in I'$ but M is not contained in any G_δ -set from I' .*

Proof. Assume first that I is not thin. Let a continuous map $\Phi : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow K(X)$ and a G_δ -set $M \subseteq \bigcup \{\Phi(t) : t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}\}$ satisfy assertions of Lemma 3.1.

Condition (i) is clearly satisfied.

To obtain condition (ii) let

$$(1) \quad I' = \{A \in \text{Bor}(X) : A \cap \Phi(t) \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)} \text{ for each } t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}\}.$$

Clearly, I' is a σ -ideal on X , $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)} \subseteq I'$ and $M \in I'$ (each $M \cap \Phi^{-1}(t)$ having at most one element). Moreover, for any G_δ -set G in X containing M there is t with $\Phi(t) \subseteq G$ (see Lemma 3.1) and hence $G \notin I'$.

We have proved that (b) \Rightarrow (a) and the “moreover” part of the assertion.

Assume now that I is thin and let $J \supseteq \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ be a σ -ideal on X . Since the σ -ideal $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ is c.c.c., so is J .

We claim that J has the inner approximation property.

Indeed, $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ being c.c.c., letting $C = X \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{R}$, where \mathcal{R} is a maximal disjoint family of Borel sets from $J \setminus \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$, we get a Borel set C such that

$$(2) \quad J = \{B \in \text{Bor}(X) : B \cap C \in \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}\}.$$

Now, if $B \notin J$, then $B \cap C \notin \tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$, so by the inner approximation property of $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$, there is a compact set $K \subseteq B \cap C$ not in $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)}$ and hence also not in J (cf. (2)).

Finally, it is enough to note that the inner approximation property plus c.c.c. implies that every set $B \in J$ is contained in a G_δ -set G in J . To see this, let us just consider a maximal family \mathcal{A} of pairwise disjoint and disjoint from B compact sets not in J and let $G = X \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{A}$.

We have thus proved that (a) \Rightarrow (b), completing the proof of the theorem. □

Natural examples of σ -ideals with the inner approximation property on a compactum X are the σ -ideals of Borel null sets with respect to semifinite Borel measures or capacities on X .

Let us recall that that a Borel measure μ on X is *semifinite* if each Borel set of positive μ -measure contains a Borel set of finite positive μ -measure (σ -finite Borel measures and Hausdorff measures on Euclidean cubes are semifinite, cf. [27]). If μ is such a measure, then we let $I_\mu = \{K \in K(X) : \mu(K) = 0\}$ and $\tilde{I}_\mu = \{B \in \text{Bor}(X) : \mu(B) = 0\}$. This σ -ideal is c.c.c. if and only if the measure μ is σ -finite. The inner approximation property of \tilde{I}_μ follows from the inner regularity of finite Borel measures on Polish spaces (see [14, Theorem 17.11]).

By a *capacity on X* we mean here a function $\gamma : \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that (cf. [16, Section 3.1])

- (1) $\gamma(\emptyset) = 0$ and $A \subseteq B$ implies $\gamma(A) \leq \gamma(B)$,
- (2) $\gamma(\bigcup_n A_n) = \sup_n \gamma(A_n)$, if $A_0 \subseteq A_1 \subseteq A_2 \subseteq \dots$,
- (3) $\gamma(\bigcap_n K_n) = \inf_n \gamma(K_n)$, if $K_0 \supseteq K_1 \supseteq K_2 \supseteq \dots$ are compact sets.

If a capacity γ on X is a *subadditive* (i.e., $\gamma(A \cup B) \leq \gamma(A) + \gamma(B)$, whenever $A, B \subseteq X$, cf. [16, Section 3.1]), then the collection $I_\gamma = \{K \in K(X) : \gamma(K) = 0\}$ is a σ -ideal of compact sets and $\tilde{I}_\gamma = \{B \in \text{Bor}(X) : \gamma(B) = 0\}$ is a σ -ideal on X . If this σ -ideal is c.c.c., then we say that γ is *thin*. The inner approximation property of \tilde{I}_γ follows from the fundamental Choquet capacitability theorem (see [16, Section 3.1]).

For σ -ideals of compact sets of the form I_μ and I_γ the “moreover” part of Theorem 3.2 is specified by Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 which we are now ready to prove.

Proof of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2. We shall closely follow the first part of the proof of Theorem 3.2 letting $I = I_\mu$ ($I = I_\gamma$, respectively; let us note that in this case I is always a G_δ -set in $K(X)$, see [16, Section 3.1]) in which case we have $\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)} = \tilde{I}_\mu$ ($\tilde{I}_{\text{Bor}(X)} = \tilde{I}_\gamma$, respectively).

In both cases it is enough to show that the σ -ideal I' (cf. (1)) is of the form $\tilde{I}_{\mu'}$ ($\tilde{I}_{\gamma'}$, respectively) for a certain semifinite Borel measure μ' (subadditive capacity γ' , respectively). We achieve this by defining μ' and γ' by the formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu'(A) &= \sum_t \mu(A \cap \Phi(t)) & \text{for } A \in \text{Bor}(X), \\ \gamma'(A) &= \sup_t \gamma(A \cap \Phi(t)) & \text{for } A \subseteq X. \end{aligned}$$

Checking all the required properties of μ' and γ' is straightforward, except perhaps for property (3) of γ' which boils down to

- (4) $\sup_t \inf_n \gamma(K_n \cap \Phi(t)) \geq \inf_n \sup_t \gamma(K_n \cap \Phi(t))$, if $K_0 \supseteq K_1 \supseteq K_2 \supseteq \dots$ are compact sets.

In order to prove it, let $a = \inf_n \sup_t \gamma(K_n \cap \Phi(t))$ ($a \in [0, +\infty)$) and let us fix an arbitrary real number $b < a$. Then for each n we may choose $t_n \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that $\gamma(K_n \cap \Phi(t_n)) \geq b$ and the sequence $(t_n)_n$ is convergent in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ to t' . Let $K = \bigcap_n K_n$.

We claim that $\gamma(K \cap \Phi(t')) \geq b$; it then follows that $\gamma(K_n \cap \Phi(t')) \geq b$ for each n , which since $b < a$ was arbitrary, completes the proof of (4).

To justify the claim, suppose towards a contradiction that $\gamma(K \cap \Phi(t')) < b$. The capacity γ being lower semi-continuous (see [16, Section 3.1]), there is an open set U in X such that $K \cap \Phi(t') \subseteq U$ and $\gamma(U) < b$. There are also open sets V_1, V_2 such that $K \subseteq V_1$, $\Phi(t') \subseteq V_2$ and $V_1 \cap V_2 \subseteq U$. Consequently, there is n with $K_n \subseteq V_1$ and $\Phi(t_n) \subseteq V_2$ from which it follows that $\gamma(K_n \cap \Phi(t_n)) < b$, contradicting the choice of t_n . \square

Remark 3.3. *It is well known that if a capacity γ is strongly subadditive (i.e., $\gamma(A \cup B) \leq \gamma(A) + \gamma(B) - \gamma(A \cap B)$ for $A, B \subseteq X$), then $\gamma(A) = \inf\{\gamma(U) : A \subseteq U, U \text{ open}\}$ for all sets $A \subseteq X$, cf. [9, Théorème 15]. Dellacherie [9, Appendice I, 4] with the help of the Davies' construction (cf. Section 4.1) gave an example of a subadditive capacity γ on $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ and a γ -null G_δ -set M such that $\gamma(U) = 1$ for any open set $U \supseteq M$. If in Dellacherie's example we instead use the Mazurkiewicz $G_{\delta\sigma}$ -set M for the projection onto the first axis $\pi : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (cf. assertion (M) in Section 2), then we still have $\gamma(M) = 0$ but $\gamma(G) = 1$ for any G_δ -set $G \supseteq M$. We were unable to find in the literature any examples of a subadditive capacity γ satisfying this assertion.*

4. UNIFORMLY TIGHT COMPACTA IN $P(\mathbb{Q})$

Given a separable metrizable space E , we shall denote by $P(E)$ the space of probability Borel measures on X , equipped with the weak topology (see [14, 17.E]).

If E is a Borel set in a compactum X , then every measure $\mu \in P(E)$ is *tight*, i.e., for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a compact set $K \subseteq E$ such that $\mu(X \setminus K) < \varepsilon$ (see [14, Theorem 17.11]).

A set $\mathcal{M} \subseteq P(E)$ is *uniformly tight*, if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a compact set $K \subseteq E$ such that $\mu(X \setminus K) < \varepsilon$ for all $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$, cf. [2, Definition 8.6.1].

A set $\mathcal{M} \subseteq P(E)$ is *σ -uniformly tight*, if it is a countable union of uniformly tight sets.

4.1. A refinement of the Davies example. Let λ be the countable product of the measure on $\{0, 1\}$ assigning $\frac{1}{2}$ to each singleton and let, for $t \in 2^\mathbb{N}$, $\lambda_t = \delta_t \otimes \lambda$ be the product of the Dirac measure at t and λ , on the product $2^\mathbb{N} \times 2^\mathbb{N}$.

Davies [7] considered the σ -compact set

$$(1) \ E = (2^\mathbb{N} \times 2^\mathbb{N}) \setminus M,$$

where M is a set described at the beginning of Section 2.2, i.e., M is a G_δ -selector for the projection $\pi : 2^\mathbb{N} \times 2^\mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2^\mathbb{N}$, hitting every compact set in $2^\mathbb{N} \times 2^\mathbb{N}$ projecting onto $2^\mathbb{N}$.

Since $\lambda_t(M) = 0$ for all $t \in 2^\mathbb{N}$, one can consider λ_t as an element of the space $P(E)$ and

$$(2) \ \Lambda : 2^\mathbb{N} \rightarrow P(E) \text{ given by } \Lambda(t) = \lambda_t \text{ for } t \in 2^\mathbb{N},$$

is a homeomorphic embedding, cf. [31, Section 8].

Davies pointed out that the compact set $\Lambda(2^\mathbb{N})$ is not uniformly tight, as for any compact set A in E , if $t \notin \pi(A)$, then $\lambda_t(A) = 0$, cf. also [31].

Picking a special set M described in (7) and (8) of Section 2.2, we shall get some additional properties of this example. We shall use the notation introduced in Section 2.2.

Let \mathcal{C} be the collection described in Section 2.2, (6), and let, cf. Section 2.2, (9),

$$(3) \mathcal{D} = \{C \in \mathcal{C} : \inf\{\lambda_t(C) : t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}\} > 0\},$$

$$(4) \mathcal{M} = \{\Lambda(T(C)) : C \in \mathcal{D}\}.$$

We shall check that the collection \mathcal{M} of compact sets in $\Lambda(2^{\mathbb{N}})$ has the following properties.

Lemma 4.1. (1) *Each nonempty open set in $\Lambda(2^{\mathbb{N}})$ contains some element of \mathcal{M} .*

(2) *Whenever $A \in \mathcal{M}$ and A_1, A_2, \dots are uniformly tight sets in $P(E)$, there is an element of \mathcal{M} contained in $A \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots)$.*

Proof. (i) Let G be a nonempty open set in $\Lambda(2^{\mathbb{N}})$, and let $V = \Lambda^{-1}(G)$.

By Lemma 2.1(B), there exists $C \in \mathcal{D}$, cf. (3), such that $T(C) \subseteq V$, and hence $\Lambda(T(C))$ is an element of \mathcal{M} contained in G , cf. (4).

(ii) Let $A \in \mathcal{M}$ and let, cf. (3), (4), for a certain $C \in \mathcal{D}$,

$$(5) \mathcal{M} = \Lambda(T(C)) \text{ and } \inf\{\lambda_t(C) : t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}\} = \delta > 0.$$

Let $A_i \subseteq P(E)$ be uniformly tight. Let us recall that if $S \subseteq P(E)$ is uniformly tight, then so is its closure in $P(E)$ (indeed, if $K_1 \subseteq K_2 \subseteq \dots$ are compact sets in E such that $m(K_i) \geq 1 - \frac{1}{i}$ for $m \in S$, then the intersection of the closed sets $\{m \in P(E) : m(K_i) \geq 1 - \frac{1}{i}\}$ is a closed uniformly tight set in $P(E)$ containing S). Therefore, we can assume that A_i are compact, i.e.,

$$(6) A_i = \Lambda(T_i) \text{ for some compact } T_i \subseteq 2^{\mathbb{N}}.$$

Uniform compactness of A_i provides a compact set $F_i \subseteq E \cap \pi^{-1}(T_i)$ such that $\lambda_t(F_i) > 1 - \frac{\delta}{2^{i+1}}$, for $t \in T_i$, and one can extend F_i to a compact set H_i in $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$(7) H_i \cap (M \cap \pi^{-1}(T_i)) = \emptyset \text{ and } \lambda_t(H_i) > 1 - \frac{\delta}{2^{i+1}}, \text{ for } t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}.$$

Indeed, let us fix F_i and let $U_1 \supseteq U_2 \dots$ be sets open in $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that $F_i = \bigcap_n U_n$. Inductively, we pick finite unions of closed-and-open rectangles W_i , $W_0 = 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$, such that $F_i \subseteq W_n \subseteq U_n \cap W_{n-1}$ and $\lambda_t(W_n) > 1 - \frac{\delta}{2^{i+1}}$, for $t \in \pi(W_n)$. Then, with $S_n = \pi(W_n) \setminus \pi(W_{n+1})$, the set $H_i = F_i \cup \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} (W_n \cap \pi^{-1}(S_n))$ has required properties.

Now, let

$$(8) H = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} H_i.$$

Then H is a compact set in $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$,

$$(9) H \cap (M \cap \pi^{-1}(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} T_i)) = \emptyset \text{ and } \lambda_t(H) > 1 - \frac{\delta}{2}, \text{ for } t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}.$$

By (5), (9) and (3),

$$(10) B = H \cap C \in \mathcal{D}.$$

From Lemma 2.1(A), $T(B) \subseteq T(C) \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} T_i$, and in effect, by (10), (5) and (6), $\Lambda(T(B))$ is an element of \mathcal{M} contained in $A \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$. \square

4.2. Transferring the Davies example into $P(\mathbb{Q})$: a proof of Theorem 1.3. Let $f : E \rightarrow F$ be a perfect map from a separable metrizable space E onto a closed subspace of a separable metrizable space F . The map f gives rise to a perfect map $P(f) : P(E) \rightarrow P(F)$ defined by $P(f)(\mu) = \mu \circ f^{-1}$, such that $P(f)(A)$ (respectively, $P(f)^{-1}(B)$) is uniformly tight, whenever A (respectively, B) is uniformly tight, cf. [2, Theorem 8.10.30].

Let $E = (2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}) \setminus M$ be the Davies' example discussed in Section 4.1. Saint Raymond [29] defined a perfect map $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ (cf. also [13] and [20]) and concluded that $P(\mathbb{Q})$ contains a compact non-uniformly tight set, thus providing a proof of the Preiss theorem, based on different ideas than the original one. We shall use this approach to prove Theorem 1.3. More precisely, we shall use the special set M , discussed in Section 2.2, and we shall appeal to the following observation.

Lemma 4.2. *Let G be a G_{δ} -set in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$. There is a continuous map $p : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that*

- (i) p embeds G homeomorphically into $2^{\mathbb{N}} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ and maps $2^{\mathbb{N}} \setminus G$ into \mathbb{Q} ,
- (ii) for any disjoint compact sets A, B in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$, $p(A) \cap p(B)$ is finite.

Proof. We shall use an idea similar to that in [10, proof of Lemma].

Let us fix a metric on $2^{\mathbb{N}}$, and let

$$(11) \quad G = H_1 \cap H_2 \cap \dots, \text{ where } H_1 \supseteq H_2 \supseteq \dots \text{ are open in } 2^{\mathbb{N}}.$$

Let us split each H_n into pairwise-disjoint closed-and-open sets $V_{n,1}, V_{n,2}, \dots$ such that

$$(12) \quad H_n = \bigcup_i V_{n,i}, \text{ diam } V_{n,i} \leq \frac{1}{n} \text{ and } \lim_i \text{diam } V_{n,i} = 0.$$

Let e_0 be the zero sequence in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ and let e_i have exactly one non-zero coordinate, at the i 'th place.

The function $p_n : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ sending $2^{\mathbb{N}} \setminus H_n$ to e_0 and $V_{n,i}$ to e_i , is continuous, and let

$$(13) \quad p = (p_1, p_2, \dots) : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times \dots$$

be the diagonal map. Fixing a bijection between $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ and \mathbb{N} , we shall identify $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times \dots$ with $2^{\mathbb{N}}$.

Clearly, p satisfies (i).

To check (ii), let us consider disjoint compact sets A, B in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ and let $\delta > 0$ be the distance between A and B . By (12), for a fixed n , only finitely many $V_{n,i}$'s intersect both A and B , and therefore $p_n(A) \cap p_n(B)$ is finite. Moreover, if $\frac{1}{n} < \delta$, no $V_{n,i}$ intersects both A and B , hence $p_n(A) \cap p_n(B) \subseteq \{e_0\}$.

It follows that, cf (13), $p(A) \cap p(B)$ is a subset of some product $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times \dots \times 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times \{e_0\} \times \{e_0\} \times \dots$ whose every projection is finite.

□

We are now ready to justify Theorem 1.3.

Let E be the space discussed in Section 2.2, and let $p : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ be the map described in Lemma 4.2 for $G = M$. The map

$$(14) \quad f = p|_E : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Q} \text{ is perfect,}$$

and let

$$(15) \quad P(f) : P(E) \rightarrow P(\mathbb{Q}) \text{ be defined by } P(f)(\mu) = \mu \circ f^{-1}.$$

We shall check that the compact set

$$(16) \quad K = P(f)(\Lambda(2^{\mathbb{N}})) \subseteq P(\mathbb{Q})$$

has the properties (i) and (ii) in Theorem 1.3.

For any $t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$, the support of the measure $P(f)(\lambda_t)$ is the set $f(\{t\} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}} \setminus M)$, and from (i) and (ii) in Lemma 4.2 we obtain property (i) in Theorem 1.3.

Let $\mathcal{N} = \{P(f)(A) : A \in \mathcal{M}\}$. Then Lemma 4.2 implies that each non-empty open set in K contains an element of \mathcal{N} and for each $S \in \mathcal{N}$ and uniformly tight sets S_1, S_2, \dots in $P(\mathbb{Q})$, there is an element of \mathcal{N} contained in $S \setminus (S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \dots)$. This yields (ii) in Theorem 1.3.

5. BOREL MAPPINGS ON $P(\mathbb{Q})$

A reasoning in [26] can be used to the following effect.

Proposition 5.1. *Let \mathcal{K} be a hereditary collection of compact sets in a compactum K such that*

- (i) *for any non-empty open set V in K there is a compact set $A \subseteq V$ such that, whenever $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{K}$, there is a compactum not in \mathcal{K} , contained in $A \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots)$.*
- (ii) *no compact set $A \notin \mathcal{K}$ can be covered by countably many elements of \mathcal{K} .*

Then any Borel map $f : K \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is either constant or injective on a Borel set in K which cannot be covered by countably many elements of \mathcal{K} .

Proof. Let I be the σ -ideal in K generated by sets in \mathcal{K} , i.e., I consists of Borel sets which can be covered by countably many elements of \mathcal{K} . Let us note that no open set in K belongs to I .

We shall derive the proposition from the following claim.

Claim 5.2. *For any Borel map $f : K \rightarrow [0, 1]$ there is a compact meager set C in $[0, 1]$ with $f^{-1}(C) \notin I$.*

To prove the claim, we shall repeat the reasoning from Section 3 of [26]. To keep the notation close to that in [26], we let $X = K$, $Y = [0, 1]$, and striving for a contradiction, let us assume that for any meager set C in Y , $f^{-1}(C) \in I$.

There exists a G_δ -set G in X , dense in X such that $f|_G : G \rightarrow Y$ is continuous. Since every compact set in I must have empty interior, $V \notin \mathcal{I}$ for any nonempty relatively open V in G . Thus, (1) and (2) in Section 3 of [26] are satisfied.

Let us check that the assertion of Claim 3.1 of [26] holds true in our situation. This requires a minor modification of the arguments.

In Case 1, i.e., if the set $\check{f}_U(d)$ is not in I , then either it is boundary (and then we can take $L = \check{f}_U(d)$) or otherwise, by (i), it contains a compact set $A \notin I$ (and then we can just take $L = A$).

In Case 2, i.e., if $\check{f}_U(d) \in I$ for all $d \in D$, then, \bar{U} having non-empty interior, using (i) we find a boundary compactum $L \subseteq \bar{U} \setminus \bigcup_{d \in D} \check{f}_U(d)$, $L \notin \mathcal{K}$ so, consequently, $L \notin I$ by (ii).

The rest of the proof in Section 3 in [26] does not require any change, and we reach in this way a contradiction ending the proof of the claim.

Combining the claim with the reasoning leading to [25, Theorem 3.2] we get the assertion of Proposition 5.1. □

We would like to apply Proposition 5.1 to the compactum K defined in Theorem 1.3 and to the collection \mathcal{K} of compact uniformly tight sets in K to the following effect:

- any Borel map $f : K \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is either constant or injective on a Borel non- σ -uniformly tight set in K .

In view of Theorem 1.3(ii), it is enough to check that \mathcal{K} satisfies assertion (ii) of Proposition 5.1. The latter will be an immediate consequence of a result we are about to prove in a more general setting.

Given a separable metrizable space E , we shall denote by $P_t(E)$ the space of tight probability Borel measures on E , equipped with the weak topology; if E is a Borel subset of a separable, completely metrizable space, then $P_t(E) = P(E)$ – the space of all probability Borel measures on E , cf. Section 4.1.

The following result extends a theorem of Hoffman-Jørgensen [11] and Choquet [6] that countable compact sets in $P_t(E)$ are uniformly tight (which in turn generalized the classical Le Cam theorem about convergent sequences in $P_t(E)$, cf. [2, Theorem 8.6.4]). Its proof is rather standard but we did not find a handy reference in the literature, so we decided to include a proof for readers' convenience.

Proposition 5.3. *Let L be a compact set of tight probability Borel measures on a separable metrizable space E . If L is a countable union of compact uniformly tight sets, then L is uniformly tight.*

We shall derive this result from the following lemma.

Lemma 5.4. *Let $L \subseteq P_t(E)$ be a compact set such that for some compact $A \subseteq L$ which is uniformly tight, all compact sets in L disjoint from A are uniformly tight. Then L is uniformly tight.*

Proof. Let $\varepsilon > 0$, and let $C \subseteq E$ be a compact set such that

$$(1) \mu(C) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{8} \text{ for all } \mu \in A.$$

The key observation is the following

Claim 5.5. *If U is an open set in E containing C , then there exists a relatively open subset W of L containing A such that $\nu(U) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ for all $\nu \in W$.*

To justify the claim, for each $\mu \in A$, let us pick an open subset U_μ of E such that $C \subseteq U_\mu \subseteq \overline{U_\mu} \subseteq U$ and $\mu(\overline{U_\mu} \setminus U_\mu) = 0$. Then

$$W_\mu = \left\{ \nu \in P_t(E) : |\nu(U_\mu) - \mu(U_\mu)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{8} \right\}$$

is an open neighbourhood of μ in $P_t(E)$.

By compactness of A , there are $\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k \in A$ such that $W_{\mu_1}, \dots, W_{\mu_k}$ cover A , and let

$$W = L \cap (W_{\mu_1} \cup \dots \cup W_{\mu_k}).$$

If $\nu \in W$, then $\nu \in W_{\mu_i}$ for some $i \leq k$, and then, cf. (1),

$$\nu(U) \geq \nu(U_{\mu_i}) \geq \mu_i(U_{\mu_i}) - \frac{\varepsilon}{8} > \mu_i(C) - \frac{\varepsilon}{8} > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$$

which ends the proof of the claim.

Using this observation one can inductively define open subsets U_1, U_2, \dots of E such that

$$(2) U_1 \supseteq \overline{U_2} \supseteq U_2 \supseteq \overline{U_3} \supseteq U_3 \dots \supseteq C,$$

and relatively open in L sets

$$(3) W_1 \supseteq W_2 \supseteq W_3 \dots \supseteq A,$$

such that

$$(4) \text{dist}(C, E \setminus U_k) \rightarrow 0, \bigcap_i W_i = A,$$

and

$$(5) \mu(U_i) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{4} \text{ for all } \mu \in W_i.$$

By the assumption,

$$(6) B_i = L \setminus W_i \text{ is uniformly tight, } i = 1, 2, \dots$$

and let $D_i \subseteq E$ be a compact set such that

$$(7) \mu(D_i) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{4} \text{ for all } \mu \in B_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$$

By (4), the set

$$(8) D = C \cup D_1 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \overline{D_{i+1} \cap U_i}$$

is compact.

Let $\mu \in L \setminus A$.

If $\mu \notin W_1$, then $\mu(D) \geq \mu(D_1) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$, by (6) and (7).

If $\mu \in W_1$, let us pick i such that $\mu \in W_i \setminus W_{i+1}$, cf. (4). Then $\mu \in B_{i+1}$, cf. (6), and by (5) and (7), $\mu(E \setminus U_i) < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ and $\mu(D_{i+1}) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$. It follows that

$$\mu(\overline{D_{i+1} \cap U_i}) \geq \mu(D_{i+1}) - \mu(E \setminus U_i) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

In effect, by (1) and (8), $\mu(D) > 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ for all $\mu \in L$, completing the proof of Lemma 5.4. \square

We are now ready to complete the proof of Proposition 5.3.

Proof of Proposition 5.3. Let a compact set $L \subseteq P_t(E)$ be a countable union of compact uniformly tight sets.

One can inductively construct a transfinite sequence of compact sets

$$F_0 = L \supseteq F_1 \supseteq \dots \supseteq F_\xi \supseteq \dots \supseteq F_\alpha$$

where $0 \leq \alpha < \omega_1$, such that

- (9) $F_0 = L$,
- (10) $F_\xi \setminus F_{\xi+1}$ is uniformly tight for $\xi < \alpha$,
- (11) $F_\lambda = \bigcap_{\xi < \lambda} F_\xi$ for limit $\lambda \leq \alpha$,
- (12) F_α is uniformly tight.

We start with $F_0 = L$.

At the successor step, if F_ξ is uniformly tight, then we complete the construction by letting $\alpha = \xi$. Otherwise, since F_ξ is covered by countably many uniformly tight compacta, the Baire category theorem yields a relatively open set $U_\xi \subsetneq F_\xi$ whose closure is uniformly tight, and we let $F_{\xi+1} = F_\xi \setminus U_\xi$.

We shall now check by induction on $\alpha < \omega_1$ the following fact.

Claim 5.6. *If $\alpha < \omega_1$ and a compactum $L \subseteq P_t(E)$ admits a sequence $(F_\xi)_{\xi \leq \alpha}$ satisfying conditions (9)–(12), then L is uniformly tight.*

If $\alpha = 0$, then there is nothing to do, so let us assume that $\alpha > 0$ and the claim holds true for all $\beta < \alpha$. Let $(F_\xi)_{\xi \leq \alpha}$ be a sequence satisfying conditions (9)–(12) for a given compactum $L \subseteq P_t(E)$. To prove that L is uniformly tight, it suffices to check that each compact set in L disjoint from F_α is uniformly tight, and then Lemma 5.4 provides readily the assertion.

So let S be any compact subset of $L \setminus F_\alpha$. Let us consider two cases.

Case 1. α is a limit ordinal. Then $F_\alpha = \bigcap_{\xi < \alpha} F_\xi$, cf. (11). By compactness, there is $\beta < \alpha$ such that $S \cap F_\beta = \emptyset$.

Case 2. $\alpha = \beta + 1$. Then, by (10) and (12), F_β is uniformly tight.

In each case $(F_\xi \cap S)_{\xi \leq \beta}$ witnesses that S admits a shorter sequence satisfying conditions (9)–(12), so by the inductive assumption, S is uniformly tight. \square

6. COMMENTS

6.1. The σ -ideal of uniformly tight sets in $P(\mathbb{Q})$. (A) We say that a σ -ideal I of compact sets in a compactum X is *calibrated* (cf. [16]) if for any compact set $A \notin I$,

- (*) whenever $A_1, A_2, \dots \in I$, there is a compactum not in I , contained in $A \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots)$.

Let K be the compactum in $P(\mathbb{Q})$ constructed in the proof of Theorem 1.3 and let $I_{ut}(K)$ be the collection of compact uniformly tight sets in K . By Proposition 5.3, $I_{ut}(K)$ is a σ -ideal of compact sets in K , cf. Section 3. Moreover, if we let $J_{ut}(K)$ be the collection of all Borel uniformly tight sets in K , then J_{ut} is a σ -ideal on K , generated by compact sets (the latter follows from the fact that the closure of a uniformly tight set is always a compact uniformly tight set, which constitutes a part of the Prokhorov theorem, cf. [21, Theorem 6.7])

Theorem 1.3(ii) combined with Proposition 5.3 show that every open set in K contains a compact set $A \notin I_{ut}(K)$ with property (*) for $I = I_{ut}(K)$. However, we do not know if $I_{ut}(K)$ is calibrated. If this were indeed the case we would have the “1-1 or constant” property for Borel sets in K , cf. [28], which would considerably strengthen the assertion formulated in Section 5 just before Proposition 5.3.

Let us notice that the reasoning in Section 4 shows in fact that, in the following game involving two players, the second player always has a winning strategy: the first player chooses compact uniformly tight sets A_1, A_2, \dots in $P(\mathbb{Q})$, the response of the second player to the move A_i of the first player is a compact set K_i in $P(\mathbb{Q})$ disjoint from A_i , and the second player wins if $\bigcap_i K_i$ is not uniformly tight.

(B) Refining the construction in Section 4 one can show that the σ -ideal $I_{ut}(K)$ is not analytic. We do not know, what is the exact descriptive complexity of this σ -ideal (in particular, whether it is co-analytic).

6.2. The supports of measures. Given a separable metrizable space E , a theorem of Balkema [1] (cf. also [31]) asserts that any compact set K in $P_t(E)$ whose elements have compact supports, is uniformly tight.

The measures in the non-uniformly tight compactum K in $P(\mathbb{Q})$, constructed in the proof of Theorem 1.3, have locally compact supports. Moreover, identifying (as we did) \mathbb{Q} with the set of points in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ with finite supports, one can see that for any $\mu \in K$, the closure $\overline{\text{supp}(\mu)}$ of $\text{supp}(\mu)$ in $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ adds at most one point and, in particular, $\overline{\text{supp}(\mu)}$ is a compact scattered subset of $2^{\mathbb{N}}$. Consequently, the collection $\mathcal{A} = \{\overline{\text{supp}(\mu)} : \mu \in K\}$ is an analytic set in $K(2^{\mathbb{N}})$ consisting of scattered sets, and by a classical Hurewicz’s theorem [12], there is $\alpha < \omega_1$ such that for any $\mu \in K$, the Cantor-Bendixson index of $\overline{\text{supp}(\mu)}$ is bounded by α . We do not know, what is the minimal possible bound α in this situation.

6.3. Any Mazurkiewicz's function is strongly non- σ -continuous.

Let us recall that a function $f : T \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ on a subset T of $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ is σ -continuous, if T can be decomposed into countably many sets T_i such that each restriction $f|_{T_i} : T_i \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ is continuous, cf. [30], [22].

Let $F \subseteq 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ be a compact set with the following property: for each compact $C \subseteq 2^{\mathbb{N}} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ with $\pi(C) = 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ there is $t \in \pi(F)$ such that $(\{t\} \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}) \cap F \subseteq C$ (such "diagonal" compacta F appear in the Mazurkiewicz construction discussed in Section 2).

Then for any $f : \pi(F) \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ whose graph is contained in F and every perfect set $L \subseteq 2^{\mathbb{N}}$, the restriction $f|_{f^{-1}(L)}$ is not σ -continuous.

This can be verified by a reasoning similar to that used in the proof of property (2) in Lemma 4.1.

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