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Acta Universitatis Carolinae. Mathematica et Physica, Vol. 34 (1993), No. 2, 47--49

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/701992>

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On Extensions of σ -Fields of Sets

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Received 14 April 1993

We assume Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory with the axiom of choice. The letter λ will denote arbitrary cardinal while ω denotes the first infinite cardinal. If X is a set then $|X|$ denotes the cardinality of X , $\mathcal{P}(X)$ is the power set of X ,

$$\begin{aligned} [X]^{\leq \lambda} &= \{Y \subseteq X : |Y| \leq \lambda\}, \\ [X]^{< \lambda} &= \{Y \subseteq X : |Y| < \lambda\} \quad \text{and} \\ [X]^{\lambda} &= \{Y \subseteq X : |Y| = \lambda\}. \end{aligned}$$

If $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ then: \mathcal{Q} is a partition of X if $\bigcup \mathcal{Q} = X$, $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{Q}$ and elements of \mathcal{Q} are pairwise disjoint; a set S is a selector of \mathcal{Q} if $S \subseteq \bigcup \mathcal{Q}$ and $|S \cap Y| = 1$ for every $Y \in \mathcal{Q}$. A family $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ is proper if $\mathcal{Q} \neq \mathcal{P}(X)$. An ideal \mathcal{I} on a set X is a collection of subsets of X that is closed under subset formation and finite unions. A family $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ is called a filter on X if the family $\mathcal{I} = \{X \setminus F : F \in \mathcal{F}\}$ is an ideal on X . \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{F} are called then mutually dual. A filter \mathcal{F} on X is called uniform if $|F| = |X|$ for every $F \in \mathcal{F}$. An ideal \mathcal{I} on X is called uniform if the dual filter to \mathcal{I} on X is uniform. A family $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [X]^{|X|}$ is called a pseudobasis for a filter \mathcal{F} on X if $|\mathcal{A}| \leq |X|$ and for every $F \in \mathcal{F}$ there is some $A \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $A \subseteq F$ (see [1]). A filter is called σ -filter if it is closed under countable intersections. A σ -ideal is an ideal which is closed under countable unions. Let R be the real line.

A version of the following theorem was proved in [1] in order to obtain a negative answer to a problem of Ulam (problem 34 in [4] and modified versions of it in [3] p. 15 and [5] p. 314).

Theorem A. (Grzegorek and Węglorz [1] p. 286 and p. 289). *There exists a proper σ -field \mathcal{A} of subsets of R such that:*

- (a) *all Lebesgue measurable subsets of R are in \mathcal{A} .*
- (b) *for every partition $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq [R]^{\leq \omega}$ of R there is a selector of \mathcal{Q} in \mathcal{A} .*
- (c) $[R]^{< 2^\omega} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$.

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The above Theorem A was formulated in “Added in proof” in [1]. In fact the σ -field constructed in [1] has all required in Theorem A properties (see our theorem 1.1 in [6]). The aim of the present note is the following generalisation of Theorem A.

Theorem B. (i) Let \mathcal{F} be a uniform σ -filter on R and let \mathcal{B} be a σ -field of subsets of R such that $|\mathcal{B}| \leq 2^\omega$. Then there exists a proper σ -field \mathcal{A} on R such that:

- (a) the σ -field generated by \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{F} is contained in \mathcal{A} ,
- (b) for every partition $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq [R]^{\leq \omega}$ of R there is a selector of \mathcal{Q} in \mathcal{A} ,
- (c) $[R]^{< 2^\omega} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$.

(ii) If $2^\lambda \leq 2^\omega$ for all $\lambda < 2^\omega$ then in (i) instead of “ $|\mathcal{B}| \leq 2^\omega$ ” we can assume only that “ $|\mathcal{B}| < 2^{2^\omega}$ ”.

Remark 1. Assuming additionally that the σ -filter \mathcal{F} has a pseudobasis Theorem B can be easily obtained from [1] (compare our remarks after Theorem A). To see how Theorem A follows from Theorem B put \mathcal{B} = Borel σ -field on R and \mathcal{F} = the filter dual to the ideal of the sets of the Lebesgue measure zero.

Proof of Theorem B. Let \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumptions of Theorem B. Since \mathcal{F} is uniform there exists, by a result of Węglorz [6], a uniform σ -filter \mathcal{G} on R such that $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$, $[R]^{< 2^\omega} \subseteq \mathcal{I}$, where \mathcal{I} is the ideal dual to the filter \mathcal{G} , and for every partition $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq [R]^{\leq \omega}$ of R there is a selector of \mathcal{Q} in \mathcal{G} . Let \mathcal{A} be the σ -field generated by \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{G} . It is evident that \mathcal{A} satisfies (a), (b) and (c). It remains to prove that \mathcal{A} is proper. Suppose not. Then $\mathcal{B} \Delta \mathcal{I} = \mathcal{P}(R)$, where

$$\mathcal{B} \Delta \mathcal{I} = \{(B \setminus X) \cup (X \setminus B) : B \in \mathcal{B} \text{ and } X \in \mathcal{I}\}.$$

Consider the Boolean algebra $\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}$ the set of all equivalence classes of subsets of R with the induced ordering from \subseteq , where we identify two such subsets Y and Z if their symmetric difference $Y \Delta Z$ is in \mathcal{I} . By a result of Taylor [2] we have $|\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}| > 2^\omega$ because \mathcal{I} is uniform σ -ideal. On the other hand

$$|\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}| = |\mathcal{B} \Delta \mathcal{I} / \mathcal{I}| \leq |\mathcal{B}| \leq 2^\omega.$$

Hence a contradiction.

The above reasoning works also for Theorem B (ii) because Taylor [2] proved that $2^\lambda \leq 2^\omega$ for all $\lambda < 2^\omega$ implies $|\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}| = 2^{2^\omega}$.

Observe that we can not assume in Theorem B that \mathcal{F} is only proper instead of that \mathcal{F} is uniform. Indeed. Assume $2^{\omega_1} = 2^\omega$ (here ω_1 is the first uncountable cardinal). Let $R = X_1 \cup X_2$, $X_1 \cap X_2 = \emptyset$ and $|X_2| = \omega_1$. Let \mathcal{I} be the σ -ideal on R generated by $\mathcal{P}(X_1)$ and $[X_2]^{\leq \omega}$. Let \mathcal{B} be the σ -field on R generated by $\mathcal{P}(X_2) \cup \{X_1\}$ and let \mathcal{F} be the filter dual to \mathcal{I} . We have $|\mathcal{B}| = 2^\omega$ and the σ -field generated by \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{F} is equal to $\mathcal{P}(R)$.

Remark 2. If there is a uniform σ -ideal \mathcal{I} on R such that $|\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}| < 2^{2^\omega}$ then there is a σ -field \mathcal{B} on R such that $|\mathcal{B}| = |\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}| < 2^{2^\omega}$ and $\mathcal{B} \Delta \mathcal{I} = \mathcal{P}(R)$.

Indeed. Let $\lambda = |\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}|$. Let $\langle X_t : t < \lambda \rangle$ be a selector from the family $\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}$. By a result of Comfort-Hager and Monk-Sparks (compare [2] and references there) we have $\lambda^\omega = \lambda$ because $\mathcal{P}(R)/\mathcal{I}$ is an infinite σ -complete Boolean algebra. Hence the σ -field \mathcal{B} generated by the family $\langle X_t : t < \lambda \rangle$ has cardinality $\lambda \cdot \omega_1 = \lambda$. It is evident that $\mathcal{B} \Delta \mathcal{I} = \mathcal{P}(R)$.

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