

# UNIVERSAL SUBMEASURES AND IDEALS

M. HRUŠÁK AND D. MEZA-ALCÁNTARA

ABSTRACT. The motivation for this work comes from the following general question: Given a class  $\mathcal{M}$  of ideals on  $\omega$ , is there  $I \in \mathcal{M}$  such that for every  $J \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $J$  is isomorphic to  $I \upharpoonright X$  for some  $I$ -positive set  $X$ ? We show that for the classes of  $F_\sigma$ -ideals and analytic P-ideals there are such “universal” ideals, by using well-known results from Mazur [3] and Solecki [4] which characterize ideals of these classes in terms of lower semicontinuous submeasures. The key fact is that for  $\mathbb{Z}$ -valued and  $\mathbb{Q}$ -valued submeasures on  $[\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$  there are universal submeasures.

## INTRODUCTION

By an *ideal on  $\omega$*  we mean a family  $I$  of subsets of the first infinite ordinal  $\omega$  which satisfies (1)  $\emptyset \in I$ ,  $\omega \notin I$ , (2) if  $B \in I$  and  $A \subseteq B$  then  $A \in I$ , and (3) if  $A, B \in I$  then  $A \cup B \in I$ . Every ideal on  $\omega$  can be considered as a subspace of the Cantor space  $2^\omega$ . When we say that an ideal is  $F_\sigma$ , Borel, analytic, etc, we mean it is with respect to the product topology of the Cantor space.

A *submeasure* on a set  $X$  is a real-valued function  $\varphi$  whose domain is a family of subsets of  $X$  and satisfies  $\varphi(\emptyset) = 0$  and  $\varphi(A) \leq \varphi(A \cup B) \leq \varphi(A) + \varphi(B)$ . A submeasure  $\varphi$  is *lower semicontinuous* (lsc) if for any set  $A$  in  $\text{dom}(\varphi)$ , any  $F$  finite subset of  $A$ ,  $F \in \text{dom}(\varphi)$  and  $\varphi(A) = \sup\{\varphi(F) : F \in [A]^{<\omega}\}$ .

Note that if  $\text{dom}(\varphi) = [X]^{<\aleph_0}$  then there is a unique lsc submeasure  $\bar{\varphi}$  whose domain is  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  and  $\bar{\varphi} \upharpoonright [X]^{<\aleph_0} = \varphi$ . There are two ideals naturally associated with any lsc submeasure  $\varphi$  on  $\omega$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fin}(\varphi) &= \{A \subseteq \omega : \varphi(A) < \infty\}, \text{ and} \\ \text{Exh}(\varphi) &= \{A \subseteq \omega : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(A \setminus n) = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

---

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary and Secondary: 03E15, 03E05.

*Key words and phrases*. Submeasures,  $F_\sigma$ -ideals, P-ideals.

The research of first and second authors was partially supported by PAPIIT grant IN102311 and CONACYT grant 177758.

Second author was supported by CIC-UMSNH 9.30 and PROMEP-CA-9382.

K. Mazur in [3] proved that for every  $F_\sigma$ -ideal  $\mathfrak{I}$ ,  $\mathfrak{I} = \text{Fin}(\varphi)$  for some lsc submeasure  $\varphi$ .

An ideal  $\mathfrak{I}$  on  $\omega$  is a *P-ideal* if for every countable subfamily  $\{I_n : n < \omega\}$  of  $\mathfrak{I}$ , there is  $I \in \mathfrak{I}$  such that  $|I_n \setminus I| < \infty$  for all  $n < \omega$ . S. Solecki [4] proved that for each analytic P-ideal  $\mathfrak{I}$  on  $\omega$ ,  $\mathfrak{I} = \text{Exh}(\varphi)$  for some lsc submeasure  $\varphi$ . In particular, all the analytic P-ideals are  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ . We remark that, in Mazur's (respectively, Solecki's) proof, the construction of a such a lsc submeasure was done by extending an integer-valued (resp. rational-valued) submeasure on  $[\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$ .

Set theoretic notation we use is standard and follows [2]. In particular, a natural number is identified with the set of all smaller natural numbers. .

## 1. UNIVERSAL SUBMEASURES

We construct two submeasures on  $[\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$ . The first,  $\rho$ , integer-valued, and the other,  $\rho'$ , rational-valued as Fraïssé limits. We present a detailed construction of  $\rho$ , while  $\rho'$  can be constructed by a simple modifications to the construction of  $\rho$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** *There is an integer-valued submeasure  $\rho$  (respectively, rational-valued submeasure  $\rho'$ ) on  $[\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$  such that:*

*For every  $a \in [\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$ , every  $z \notin a$  and every integer-valued (resp. rational-valued) submeasure  $\varphi$  on  $\mathcal{P}(a \cup \{z\})$ , if  $\varphi \upharpoonright a = \rho \upharpoonright a$  (resp.  $\varphi \upharpoonright a = \rho' \upharpoonright a$ ), then there is  $l \in \omega$  such that  $\text{id}_a \cup \{(l, z)\}$  is an isomorphism from  $\langle a \cup \{l\}, \rho \upharpoonright a \cup \{l\} \rangle$  (resp.  $\langle a \cup \{l\}, \rho' \upharpoonright a \cup \{l\} \rangle$ ) onto  $\langle a \cup \{z\}, \varphi \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\{\langle s_n, \varphi_n \rangle : n \in \omega\}$  be an enumeration of the family of all pairs  $\langle s, \varphi \rangle$ , where  $s \in \omega \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\varphi$  is an integer-valued submeasure on  $\mathcal{P}(s)$ . We can assume that this enumeration satisfies the following conditions for all  $n$  and  $m$ :

- (1) if  $\max\{s_n, \varphi_n(s_n)\} < \max\{s_m, \varphi_m(s_m)\}$  then  $n < m$ , and
- (2) if  $\max\{s_n, \varphi_n(s_n)\} = \max\{s_m, \varphi_m(s_m)\}$  and  $s_n < s_m$  then  $n < m$ .

Recursively, we define:

- an increasing sequence  $\langle M_n : n < \omega \rangle$  of natural numbers, and
- an  $\subseteq$ -increasing sequence  $\langle \rho_n : n < \omega \rangle$  of submeasures on each respective  $\mathcal{P}(M_n)$ ;

satisfying that for every  $n < \omega$ , every  $a \subseteq M_n$  and every  $j \leq n$ , if  $\langle a, \rho_n \upharpoonright a \rangle \cong \langle s_j \setminus \{s_j - 1\}, \varphi_j \upharpoonright (s_j \setminus \{s_j - 1\}) \rangle$  then there is  $k < M_{n+1}$  such that  $\langle a \cup \{k\}, \rho_{n+1} \upharpoonright a \cup \{k\} \rangle \cong \langle s_j, \varphi_j \rangle$ .

Define  $M_0 = 0$ ,  $\rho_0(\emptyset) = 0$ ; and for every  $n$ , let  $\{\langle a_l, m_l, f_l \rangle : l < p_n\}$  an enumeration of the finite set of 3-tuples  $\langle a, m, f \rangle$  so that  $a \subseteq M_n$ ,  $m \leq n$  and  $f$  is an isomorphism from  $\langle s_m - 1, \varphi_m \upharpoonright s_m - 1 \rangle$  onto  $\langle a, \rho_n \upharpoonright a \rangle$ . Now we define  $M_{n+1} = M_n + p_n$  and  $\rho_{n+1} = \bigcup_{l=0}^{p_n} \rho_n^l$  where  $\rho_n^l$  is defined on  $\mathcal{P}(M_n + l + 1)$  as follows:

- (a) If  $l = 0$ , extend  $f_0$  to an isomorphism  $f'_0$  from  $\langle s_{m_0}, \varphi_{m_0} \rangle$  onto  $a_0 \cup \{M_n\}$  and define  $\rho_n^0(b) = \max\{\varphi_{m_0}(f_0'^{-1}[b]), \rho_n(b \setminus a_0)\}$  for all  $b \subseteq M_n + 1$ .
- (b) If  $0 < l < p_n$ , extend  $f_l$  to an isomorphism  $f'_l$  from  $\langle s_{m_l}, \varphi_{m_l} \rangle$  onto  $a_l \cup \{M_n + l\}$  and define  $\rho_n^l(b) = \max\{\varphi_{m_l}(f_l'^{-1}[b]), \rho_n^{l-1}(b \setminus a_l)\}$  for all  $b \subseteq M_n + l$ .

Let us check that  $\rho = \bigcup_n \rho_n$  works. Let  $a$  be a finite subset of  $\omega$ , and suppose  $z \notin a$  and  $\varphi$  a submeasure on  $\mathcal{P}(a \cup \{z\})$  so that  $\rho \upharpoonright a = \varphi \upharpoonright a$ . Let  $m$  be so that  $\langle a, \rho \upharpoonright a \rangle \cong \langle s_m, \varphi_m \rangle$ , witnessed by a function  $h$ . Clearly  $h' = h \cup \{(z, s_m)\}$  induces a submeasure  $\psi$  on  $s_m$ , which makes  $h'$  an isomorphism. By (2), there is  $k > m$  so that  $\langle s_m + 1, \psi \rangle = \langle s_k, \varphi_k \rangle$ . Take  $N = \max(a \cup \{k\}) + 1$ . Then  $a \subseteq M_N$  and consequently, there is  $l < p_N$  such that  $id_a \cup \{(l, z)\}$  is an isomorphism from  $\langle a \cup \{l\}, \rho \upharpoonright a \cup \{l\} \rangle$  onto  $\langle a \cup \{z\}, \varphi \rangle$ .

An easy modification to the construction of  $\rho$  enables us to construct  $\rho'$ : In conditions (1) and (2) for the ordering on submeasures, replace  $\varphi_n(s_n)$  for  $\max\{j : (\exists a \subseteq s_n)(\varphi_n(a) = q_j)\}$ , where  $\{q_j : j \in \omega\}$  is a fixed enumeration of the non-negative rational numbers with  $q_0 = 0$ . This modification works because again,  $\langle s_n - 1, \rho_n \upharpoonright s_n - 1 \rangle = \langle s_k, \rho_k \rangle$  for some  $k < n$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.2.** *There is a lsc submeasure  $\bar{\rho}$  on  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$  such that for all lsc submeasures  $\varphi$ , if  $\varphi(a) \in \mathbb{N}$  for all  $a \in [\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$  then there is  $X \subseteq \omega$  such that  $\langle \omega, \varphi \rangle \cong \langle X, \bar{\rho} \upharpoonright X \rangle$ .*

*Analogously, there is a lsc submeasure  $\bar{\rho}'$  on  $\omega$  such that for all lsc submeasures  $\varphi$ , if  $\varphi(a) \in \mathbb{Q}$  for all  $a \in [\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$  then exists  $X \subseteq \omega$  such that  $\langle \omega, \varphi \rangle \cong \langle X, \bar{\rho}' \upharpoonright X \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* Consider  $\bar{\rho}$  and  $\bar{\rho}'$  as the unique lower semicontinuous extensions to  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$  of the submeasures  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  from the previous lemma.  $\square$

**Remark 1.3.** From the proof of Lemma 1.1, it is easy to see that the class  $\mathcal{K}$  (respectively,  $\mathcal{K}'$ ) of all the integer (resp, rational)-valued submeasures on finite sets is a *Fräissé class* [1], i.e., satisfies:

- (1) *heredity*: If  $\varphi$  is a submeasure on  $a$  and  $b \subseteq a$  then  $\varphi \upharpoonright b$  is a submeasure on  $b$ ,

- (2) *joint embedding property*: If  $\varphi, \psi$  are submeasures on finite sets  $a$  and  $b$ , then there is a submeasure  $\chi$  on a set  $c$  and embeddings  $f$  and  $g$  from  $\langle a, \varphi \rangle$  and  $\langle b, \psi \rangle$  into  $\langle c, \chi \rangle$ ,
- (3) *amalgamation property*: If  $f : a \rightarrow c$  and  $g : a \rightarrow d$  are embeddings of  $\langle a, \varphi \rangle$  in  $\langle c, \chi \rangle$  and  $\langle d, \rho \rangle$  respectively, then there is a submeasure  $\psi$  on a set  $b$  and embeddings  $f'$  and  $g'$  from  $c$  and  $d$  to  $b$ , respectively, so that  $f' \circ f = g' \circ g$ , and
- (4)  $\mathcal{K}$  contains, up to isomorphism, only countably many submeasures and contains submeasures of arbitrarily large finite cardinalities.

In particular,  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  are *Fraïssé structures*, i.e. they are countable, *locally finite* (finitely generated substructures are finite) and *ultrahomogeneous*: If  $f$  is an isomorphism from  $\langle a, \rho \upharpoonright a \rangle$  onto  $\langle b, \rho \upharpoonright b \rangle$  (resp, replacing  $\rho$  with  $\rho'$ ), then  $f$  is extendable to an automorphism of  $\langle \omega, \rho \rangle$  (resp,  $\rho'$ ). Moreover,  $\rho$  (resp,  $\rho'$ ) is the *Fraïssé limit* of  $\mathcal{K}$  (resp,  $\mathcal{K}'$ ), i.e., each submeasure in  $\mathcal{K}$  (resp,  $\mathcal{K}'$ ) is embedded in  $\rho$  (resp,  $\rho'$ ). Fraïssé limits are unique up to isomorphisms, and satisfy the following Ramsey property (see [1]):

**Theorem 1.4.** *For all  $A \subseteq \omega$ , either  $\langle A, \rho \upharpoonright A \rangle \cong \langle \omega, \rho \rangle$  or  $\langle \omega \setminus A, \rho \upharpoonright \omega \setminus A \rangle \cong \langle \omega, \rho \rangle$ .  $\square$*

## 2. UNIVERSAL IDEALS

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a class of ideals on  $\omega$ . We say that an ideal  $\mathfrak{I} \in \mathcal{M}$  is *universal* for  $\mathcal{M}$  if for every ideal  $\mathfrak{J} \in \mathcal{M}$  there is an  $\mathfrak{I}$ -positive set  $X$  such that  $\mathfrak{J} \cong \mathfrak{I} \upharpoonright X$ . We say that  $\mathfrak{I} \in \mathfrak{M}$  is *Fraïssé-universal* for  $\mathcal{M}$  if, moreover, for every  $A \subseteq \omega$ , either  $\mathfrak{I} \upharpoonright A \cong \mathfrak{I}$  or  $\mathfrak{I} \upharpoonright (\omega \setminus A) \cong \mathfrak{I}$ .

An immediate consequence of the last theorem is that there are Fraïssé-universal ideals for the class of  $F_\sigma$ -ideals and the class of analytic P-ideals.

**Theorem 2.1.** (1) *There is a Fraïssé-universal  $F_\sigma$ -ideal.*  
(2) *There is an Fraïssé-universal analytic P-ideal.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathfrak{J}$  be an  $F_\sigma$ -ideal. By Mazur's theorem, there is a lsc submeasure  $\varphi$  such that  $\mathfrak{J} = \text{Fin}(\varphi)$ . From Mazur's proof, we can assume  $\varphi \upharpoonright [\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$  only takes integer values. Then there is  $X \in \text{Fin}(\rho)^+$  so that  $\varphi \upharpoonright [\omega]^{<\aleph_0} \cong \rho \upharpoonright [X]^{<\aleph_0}$ . Finally, the unique lower semicontinuous extension of  $\rho \upharpoonright [X]^{<\aleph_0}$  is  $\rho \upharpoonright \mathcal{P}(X)$  and is isomorphic to  $\varphi$ . Hence,  $\mathfrak{J} \cong \text{Fin}(\rho \upharpoonright [X]^{<\aleph_0})$ . The proof of the second part is analogous.  $\square$

We pose the following general question:

**Question 2.2.** *For which families  $\mathcal{M}$  of definable ideals on  $\omega$  is there a (Fraïssé)-universal ideal  $\mathbb{I}$ ? In particular:*

- (1) *Is there a (Fraïssé)-universal  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -ideal?*
- (2) *Is there a (Fraïssé)-universal analytic ideal?*

Let us remark that there is no universal ideal  $\mathbb{I}$  for the class of all Borel ideals: If a Borel ideal  $\mathbb{I}$  is say  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  then all restrictions are at most  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ . As there are Borel ideals of arbitrarily high Borel complexity the claim follows.

Our last question is motivated by [1]:

**Question 2.3.** *Is the automorphism group of  $\langle \omega, \rho \rangle$  (resp.  $\langle \omega, \rho' \rangle$ ) extremely amenable?*

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Alexander Kechris, Vladimir Pestov and Stevo Todorčević, *Fraïssé limits, Ramsey theory and topological dynamics of isomorphism groups*, Geometric and Functional Analysis **15** (2005), no. 1, 106–189.
- [2] Kenneth Kunen, *Set theory: An introduction to independence proofs*, North Holland, 1983.
- [3] Krzysztof Mazur,  *$F_\sigma$ -ideals and  $\omega_1\omega_1^*$ -gaps in the Boolean algebras  $P(\omega)/I$* , Fundamenta Mathematicae, **138** (1991), no. 2, 103–111.
- [4] Sławomir Solecki, *Analytic Ideals and their Applications*, Annals of Pure and Applied Logic, **99**(1999), 51–72.

CENTRO DE CIENCIAS MATEMÁTICAS, UNAM, APARTADO POSTAL 61-3, XANGARI, 58089, MORELIA, MICHOACÁN, MÉXICO.

*E-mail address:* michael@matmor.unam.mx

FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS FÍSICO-MATEMÁTICAS, UMSNH, EDIFICIO B, CIUDAD UNIVERSITARIA, MORELIA, MICHOACÁN, MÉXICO, 58060.

*E-mail address:* dmeza@fismat.umich.mx