

## The ideal generated by $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper, we consider the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  generated by all  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets in a topological space. Properties of this ideal and its relations with the Volterra property are explored. We show that  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is compatible with the topology for any given topological space, an analogue to the Banach category theorem. Some applications of this result and the Banach category theorem are also given.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. An *ideal*  $\mathcal{I}$  on  $X$  is a family of subsets of  $X$  such that (i)  $B \in \mathcal{I}$ , if  $B \subset A$  and  $A \in \mathcal{I}$ ; (ii)  $A \cup B \in \mathcal{I}$ , if  $A, B \in \mathcal{I}$ . If (ii) is replaced by (ii)'  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} A_n \in \mathcal{I}$  for any sequence  $\langle A_n : n < \omega \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{I}$ , then  $\mathcal{I}$  is called a  $\sigma$ -*ideal*. For any given ideal  $\mathcal{I}$  on  $X$ , the minimal  $\sigma$ -ideal containing  $\mathcal{I}$  shall be called the  $\sigma$ -*extension* of  $\mathcal{I}$ . An ideal is said to be *proper* if it is not equal to the power set  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  of  $X$ . All these notions come from the algebra of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  if some appropriate operations are introduced. Ideals in general topological spaces were considered in [12], and a more modern study can be found in [7].

One connection between an ideal and the topology on a given topological space arises through the concept of the local function of a subset with respect to the ideal.

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**Definition 1.1** ([3, 7]). *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space, and let  $\mathcal{I}$  be an ideal on  $X$ .*

$$A^*(\mathcal{I}) = \{x \in X : A \cap N \notin \mathcal{I} \text{ for every } N \in \mathcal{N}(x)\}$$

*is called the local function of  $A \subset X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{I}$ , where  $\mathcal{N}(x)$  denotes the collection of all neighbourhoods of  $x$  in  $(X, \tau)$ .*

The local function operator was used in [3] in the investigation of ideal resolvability. Observe that  $\text{cl}^*(A) = A \cup A^*(\mathcal{I})$  defines a Kuratowski closure operator, which generates a new topology  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I})$  on  $X$  finer than  $\tau$ . It can be easily checked that  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{I}) = \{U \setminus I : U \in \tau \text{ and } I \in \mathcal{I}\}$  is a base for the topology  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I})$ . For general properties of the local function operator and  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I})$ , we refer readers to [7].

Ideals have been frequently used in fields closely related to topology, such as, real analysis, measure theory, and descriptive set theory. The following ideals have been of particular interest:

- $\mathcal{I}_n$  – the ideal of all nowhere dense sets in  $(X, \tau)$ ,
- $\mathcal{I}_m$  – the  $\sigma$ -ideal of all meager sets in  $(X, \tau)$ ,
- $\mathcal{I}_b$  – some  $\sigma$ -ideal consisting of boundary sets in  $(X, \tau)$ ,
- $\mathcal{I}_0$  – the  $\sigma$ -ideal of all Lebesgue measure zero sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

For example, by using  $\mathcal{I}_b$ , Semadeni [14] established a purely topological generalization of the Carathéodory characterization of functions which are equal to Riemann-integrable functions almost everywhere. The crucial fact that Semadeni required is the following: If a set  $A$  is locally in  $\mathcal{I}_b$  (that is, for each  $x \in A$ , there is a neighbourhood of  $x$  in the subspace  $A$  which is a member of  $\mathcal{I}_b$ ) then  $A$  is a member of  $\mathcal{I}_b$ . Requirements similar to this one have been used in many other places. For instance, in Bourbaki's integration theory in locally compact spaces, it is required that a set which is locally negligible is of measure zero. Another interesting result is that if a set is locally in  $\mathcal{I}_m$  then it is a member of  $\mathcal{I}_m$ . This is the Banach category theorem, first proved by Banach for metric spaces in [1].

In [2] and [5], Cao, Gauld, Greenwood and Piotrowski studied the Volterra property. The class of Volterra spaces is closely related to the class of Baire spaces. Cao and Gauld [2] proved an analogue to the Oxtoby's Banach category theorem stated in [9], namely, the union of any family of non-weakly Volterra open subspaces is still non-weakly Volterra. Since the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_m$  plays an important role in the study of Baire and other related properties, and in particular the Banach category theorem can be formulated by using the  $\sigma$ -ideal  $\mathcal{I}_m$ , it is natural to consider which ideal might play a similar role in the study of the Volterra property, and if there exists a result analogous to the Banach category theorem for the Volterra property in terms of ideals.

In the following we show the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is such an ideal. After discussing some basic properties of  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  in Section 2, relations between the Volterra property and  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  are investigated in Section 3, and the compatibility of  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  with the topology

of any given topological space is established in Section 4. In the last section, we shall consider some applications of the Banach category theorem and its analogue.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we discuss some basic properties of the ideal generated by all  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets in a topological space, where  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets are defined as follows.

**Definition 2.1.** *A subset of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense if it is an  $F_\sigma$ -set with empty interior.*

Note that any subset with empty interior is also called a *boundary set*. In general, the family of  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets in a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is not an ideal. The smallest ideal on  $X$  that contains all  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets in  $(X, \tau)$  will be denoted by  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Sometimes,  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is also named as the ideal generated by the family of  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets. It is clear that  $\mathcal{I}_n \subset \mathcal{I}_\sigma \subset \mathcal{I}_m$ , and that the  $\sigma$ -extension of  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is precisely  $\mathcal{I}_m$ . The following two examples show that  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  may be distinct from  $\mathcal{I}_n$  and  $\mathcal{I}_m$  in a general topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , and the topology  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$  may be strictly between  $\tau$  and the discrete topology on  $X$ .

**Example 2.2.** Let  $(X, \tau)$  be the real line  $\mathbb{R}$  with the usual topology. Since  $\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma \setminus \mathcal{I}_n$ , we have  $\mathcal{I}_n \neq \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . It follows that  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) \neq \tau$ , since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ -closed, but not  $\tau$ -closed. Suppose that  $\{x\}$  is  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ -open for some  $x \in X$ , then there exists an open set  $U \in \tau$  and an  $I \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$  such that  $\{x\} = U \setminus I$ . But  $I$  is a subset of a countable union of nowhere dense sets, and since  $X$  is Baire, this gives a contradiction. Hence, we conclude that  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$  is not the discrete topology on  $X$ .  $\square$

**Example 2.3.** If  $X$  is any countably infinite set with the cofinite topology, then any open set is meager but not in  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ .  $\square$

In Example 3.8 below, we shall give a Tychonoff space  $(X, \tau)$  in which  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma \neq \mathcal{I}_m$ , and in which  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$  is neither  $\tau$  nor discrete.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space, and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . For each family  $\{E_i : i < m\}$  of  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets, there is another family  $\{G_i : i < m\}$  of  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets such that  $G_i \subset E_i$  for each  $i < m$ ,  $\bigcup_{i < m} E_i = \bigcup_{i < m} G_i$ , and for each  $k < m$ ,  $\text{int}_\tau(\bigcup_{i \leq k} G_i) \cap \text{int}_\tau(\bigcup_{i \geq k} G_i) = \emptyset$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $G_0 = E_0$ . For each  $k < m$ , let  $N_k = \text{int}_\tau(\bigcup_{i \leq k} E_i) \cap \text{int}_\tau(\bigcup_{i \geq k} E_i)$ , and  $G_i = E_i \setminus \bigcup_{k < i} N_k$  for each  $0 < i < m$  (Note that  $N_0 = \emptyset$ , and so  $G_1 = E_1$ ). Observe that for each  $i < m$ ,  $\text{int}_\tau G_i \subset \text{int}_\tau E_i = \emptyset$ , and since  $\bigcup_{k < i} N_k$  is open,  $G_i$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -set in  $X$ .

Suppose that  $x \in \bigcup_{i < m} E_i \setminus \bigcup_{i < m} G_i$ . Let  $n = \min\{i : x \in E_i\}$ . Then  $x \in E_n$  and hence  $x \in \bigcup_{k < n} N_k$ . Suppose  $x \in N_j$  and  $j < n$ , then  $x \in \text{int}_\tau \bigcup_{i \leq j} E_i$

contradicting the minimality of  $n$ . Thus  $\bigcup_{i < m} E_i = \bigcup_{i < m} G_i$ . Then, it remains to establish that for each  $k < m$ ,

$$\text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \leq k} G_i \right) \cap \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \geq k} G_i \right) = \emptyset.$$

To this end, we shall show that

$$\text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \leq k} G_i \right) \cap \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \geq k} G_i \right) \subset G_k$$

for all  $k < m$ . Suppose that  $x \in \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \leq k} G_i \right) \cap \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \geq k} G_i \right)$ . Observe that  $x \notin \bigcup_{i > k} G_i$  because for each  $i > k$ ,

$$G_i \subset E_i \setminus N_k \subset E_i \setminus \left( \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{j \leq k} G_j \right) \cap \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{j \geq k} G_j \right) \right).$$

It follows from  $x \in \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \geq k} G_i \right)$  that  $x \in G_k$ . □

The following theorem and its corollaries are useful in the sequel.

**Theorem 2.5.** *In a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , any subset of  $X$ , that is the union of finitely many  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets, can be expressed as the union of exactly two  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense subsets.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $A = \bigcup_{i < m} \left( \bigcup_{n < \omega} C(n, i) \right)$ , where each  $C(n, i)$  is closed, and  $\text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{n < \omega} C(n, i) \right) = \emptyset$ . For each  $i < m$ , let  $E_i = \bigcup_{n < \omega} C(n, i)$ . We will define two  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets,  $D_0$  and  $D_1$ , such that  $A = D_0 \cup D_1$ . By Lemma 2.4, we may assume that for each  $k < m$ ,

$$\text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \leq k} E_i \right) \cap \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \geq k} E_i \right) = \emptyset.$$

Now, define  $D_0 \subset X$  and  $D_1 \subset X$  by

$$D_0 = E_0 \cup (E_1 \setminus \text{int}_\tau(E_0 \cup E_1)) \cup \dots \cup (E_{m-1} \setminus \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i < m} E_i \right)),$$

and

$$D_1 = E_{m-1} \cup (E_{m-2} \setminus \text{int}_\tau(E_{m-1} \cup E_{m-2})) \cup \dots \cup (E_0 \setminus \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i < m} E_i \right)).$$

Suppose that  $x \in A$ . If  $x \in E_{m-1}$ , then  $x \in D_1$ . Now, suppose that  $x \in \left( \bigcup_{i < m-1} E_i \right) \setminus D_0$ . Then there exists some  $k < m-1$  such that  $x \in E_k$ , and hence  $x \in \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \leq k} E_i \right)$ . Thus  $x \notin \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \geq k} E_i \right)$ , and so  $x \in D_1$ . We have

shown that  $A = D_0 \cup D_1$ . Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} D_0 &= \bigcup_{n < \omega} \left\{ (E_0 \cap C(n, 0)) \cup ((E_1 \setminus \text{int}_\tau(E_0 \cup E_1)) \cap C(n, 1)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \cup \dots \cup \left( \left( E_{m-1} \setminus \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i < m} E_i \right) \right) \cap C(n, m-1) \right) \right\} \\ &= \bigcup_{n < \omega} \left\{ C(n, 0) \cup (C(n, 1) \setminus \text{int}_\tau(E_0 \cup E_1)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \cup \dots \cup \left( C(n, m-1) \setminus \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i < m} E_i \right) \right) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

and hence  $D_0$ , and similarly  $D_1$ , is an  $F_\sigma$ -set of  $(X, \tau)$ . In addition, suppose that  $W = \text{int}_\tau D_0 \neq \emptyset$ . Then, we let

$$k = \min \left\{ j < m : W \subset \text{int}_\tau \left( \bigcup_{i \leq j} E_i \right) \right\}.$$

For each  $y \in W$  and  $l \geq k$ ,  $y \notin E_l \setminus \text{int}_\tau(\bigcup_{i \leq l} E_i)$  and hence there exists  $j_y < k$  such that  $y \in E_{j_y} \setminus \text{int}_\tau(\bigcup_{i \leq j_y} E_i)$ . Hence  $W \subset \text{int}_\tau(\bigcup_{i < k} E_i)$ , contradicting the minimality of  $k$ . This implies that  $\text{int}_\tau D_0 = \emptyset$ . In a similar way, one can show  $\text{int}_\tau D_1 = \emptyset$ . Therefore,  $D_0$  and  $D_1$  are  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets of  $(X, \tau)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.6.** *For any topological space  $(X, \tau)$ ,  $I \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$  if and only if there are two  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets  $E$  and  $F$  in  $X$  such that  $I \subset E \cup F$ .*

Given a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , and a subspace  $Y \subset X$ , let  $\tau_Y$  denote the subspace topology on  $Y$ , and let  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma(Y)$  denote the ideal generated by all  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets in the subspace  $(Y, \tau_Y)$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space, and let  $O \subset X$  be an open subspace. Then  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma(O) = \mathcal{I}_\sigma \cap \mathcal{P}(O)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma(O)$ , then by Corollary 2.6, there are two  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense subsets  $E$  and  $F$  in the subspace  $O$  such that  $I \subset E \cup F$ . Suppose that  $E = \bigcup_{n < \omega} E_n$  and  $F = \bigcup_{n < \omega} F_n$ , where  $\text{int}_O E = \text{int}_O F = \emptyset$ , and for each  $n < \omega$ ,  $E_n$  and  $F_n$  are closed subsets of the subspace  $(O, \tau_O)$ . Then, it is easy to check that  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} \text{cl}_\tau E_n \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$  and  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} \text{cl}_\tau F_n \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ , and hence  $I \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma \cap \mathcal{P}(O)$ , and so  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma(O) \subset \mathcal{I}_\sigma \cap \mathcal{P}(O)$ .

Conversely, if  $I \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma \cap \mathcal{P}(O)$ , then by Corollary 2.6,  $I \subset O$  and  $I \subset E \cup F$  for two  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets in  $(X, \tau)$ . Furthermore,  $E \cap O$  and  $F \cap O$  are two  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets in the subspace  $(O, \tau_O)$ . Hence,  $I \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma(O)$ , and thus  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma \cap \mathcal{P}(O) \subset \mathcal{I}_\sigma(O)$ .  $\square$

3. THE VOLTERRA PROPERTY AND  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ 

In this section we explore relationships between the Volterra property and the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  of a topological space  $(X, \tau)$ .

**Definition 3.1** ([5]). *A topological space is called Volterra (resp. weakly Volterra) if the intersection of every two dense  $G_\delta$ -sets is dense (resp. non-empty).*

As a consequence of Theorem 2.5, we obtain Theorem 2.3 of [2].

**Theorem 3.2** ([2]). *A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is weakly Volterra if and only if the intersection of any finitely many dense  $G_\delta$ -sets is non-empty.*

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. Then  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is proper if and only if  $(X, \tau)$  is weakly Volterra.*

*Proof.* By Corollary 2.6,  $X \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$  if and only if there exist  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense sets  $D$  and  $E$  such that  $X = D \cup E$ , if and only if  $(X \setminus D) \cap (X \setminus E) = \emptyset$ , if and only if  $X$  is not weakly Volterra.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4** ([5]). *A topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is Volterra if and only if  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  does not contain a non-empty open subset of  $(X, \tau)$ .*

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. If  $A \subset X$  and  $A^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) = X$ , then  $A$  is a Volterra subspace of  $(X, \tau)$ .*

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. If there exists a subset  $A \subset X$  such that  $A^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) = X$  then  $(X, \tau)$  is Volterra.*

Recall that a space is *resolvable* if it contains two disjoint dense subsets, and a space is *irresolvable* if it is not resolvable. A *strongly irresolvable* space is a space all of whose open subspaces are irresolvable. The notion of  $\mathcal{I}$ -resolvability, was introduced in [3], and is defined as follows: suppose  $\mathcal{I}$  is an ideal on  $X$ , a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -resolvable if there are two disjoint subsets  $A, B$  of  $X$  such that  $A^*(\mathcal{I}) = B^*(\mathcal{I}) = X$ . Observe that by definition, if a space is  $\mathcal{I}$ -resolvable for some ideal  $\mathcal{I}$  then it is resolvable, and if  $(X, \tau)$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -resolvable then it is  $\mathcal{J}$ -resolvable for any ideal  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{I}$ . In general, there is no relationship between the Volterra property and resolvability, but it turns out that the stronger property,  $\mathcal{I}$ -resolvability or strong irresolvability has an interesting relationship with the Volterra property.

The proof of the following proposition is easy, and so is omitted.

**Proposition 3.7.** *If a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is either strongly irresolvable or  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -resolvable, then it is Volterra.*

In general, the converse of Proposition 3.7 is not true.

**Example 3.8.** First, note that  $\mathbb{R}$  with the usual topology is Volterra, but is resolvable. Next, let  $X$  be any set with  $|X| = \aleph_0$ . Van Douwen showed, in [4, Example 1.9], that there exists a Tychonoff topology  $\tau$  on  $X$  such that

- $(X, \tau)$  is dense-in-itself;
- $(X, \tau)$  is hereditarily irresolvable, that is, every subspace of  $(X, \tau)$  is irresolvable; and
- there exists a nowhere dense set which is not closed in  $(X, \tau)$ .

Thus  $(X, \tau)$  is not  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -resolvable, and by Proposition 3.7,  $(X, \tau)$  is a Volterra space.

Note also that  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma \neq \mathcal{I}_m$  since by Proposition 3.3,  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is proper, but since  $X$  is Tychonoff, dense-in-itself and countable,  $\mathcal{I}_m$  is not proper. Furthermore,  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_m) \neq \tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ . It is clear that  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_m)$  is the discrete topology on  $X$ , whereas  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$  is not. We show in Corollary 5.4 in Section 5 that  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$  is not even regular.  $\square$

It was shown in [3, Theorem 3.3] that a space is  $\mathcal{I}_m$ -resolvable if and only if it has two disjoint dense Baire subspaces. In the light of this result, it is interesting to consider the relationship between  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -resolvability and the Volterra property. Since the relationship between Baire spaces and  $\mathcal{I}_m$  resembles that between Volterra and  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ , we might expect an analogous result. However, we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 3.9.** *If a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -resolvable, then it contains two disjoint dense Volterra subspaces.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $A$  and  $B$  are two disjoint subsets of  $X$  such that  $A^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) = B^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) = X$ . It is clear that  $A$  and  $B$  are dense in  $X$ . By Corollary 3.5,  $A$  and  $B$  are two Volterra subspaces of  $(X, \tau)$ .  $\square$

The converse of Proposition 3.9 is not in general true.

**Example 3.10** ([5]). Let  $E$  and  $O$  be the sets of all even positive integers and all odd positive integers respectively, and let  $X = E \cup O$ . For any pair  $m, n \in X$ , we define  $U_{mn} \subset X$  by letting

$$U_{mn} = \{x : x \in E \text{ and } x \geq 2m; \text{ or } x \in O \text{ and } x \geq 2n - 1\}.$$

It can easily be checked that  $\tau = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{U_{mn} : m, n \in X\}$  is a topology on  $X$ . Now, the topological space  $(X, \tau)$  enjoys the following three properties:

- $E$  and  $O$  are two disjoint dense Volterra subspaces of  $X$ .
- The space  $X$  is not weakly Volterra.
- The space  $X$  is not  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -resolvable. This follows from Proposition 3.7.  $\square$

#### 4. COMPATIBILITY OF $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ AND ITS TOPOLOGY

In this section we establish the compatibility of  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  and  $\tau$  for any topological space  $(X, \tau)$ .

**Definition 4.1.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. An ideal  $\mathcal{I}$  on  $X$  is said to be compatible with  $\tau$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{I} \sim \tau$ , if for each  $A \subset X$  and for every point  $x \in A$  there is a neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  such that  $U \cap A \in \mathcal{I}$ , then  $A \in \mathcal{I}$ .*

It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{I}_n \sim \tau$  for any topological space  $(X, \tau)$ . The next theorem is called the Banach category theorem in the literature, see [12].

**Theorem 4.2** ([12]). *For any topological space  $(X, \tau)$ ,  $\mathcal{I}_m \sim \tau$ .*

Several equivalent versions and generalizations via ideals of Theorem 4.2 are given in [11]. Also, in [11, Example 26], it is shown that there is a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  and an ideal between  $\mathcal{I}_n$  and  $\mathcal{I}_m$  on  $X$  which is not compatible with  $\tau$ . However,  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is a compatible ideal as shown below.

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. Then  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma \sim \tau$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $A \subset X$ , and for each  $x \in A$  there is an open neighborhood  $U_x$  of  $x$  such that  $A \cap U_x \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Let  $\mathfrak{S}$  be the set of all collections of non-empty open subsets of  $X$  with the following two properties:

- (i) each collection  $\mathcal{V} \in \mathfrak{S}$  is pairwise disjoint;
- (ii) For each collection  $\mathcal{V} \in \mathfrak{S}$  and each member  $V \in \mathcal{V}$ , there exists some  $x \in A$  such that  $V \subset U_x$ .

By Zorn's lemma, there is a maximal collection  $\mathcal{V} \in \mathfrak{S}$ . Decompose  $A$  as

$$A = (A \cap (\bigcup \mathcal{V})) \cup (A \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{V}).$$

Since  $\{U_x : x \in A\}$  is an open cover of  $A$ , by the maximality of  $\mathcal{V}$ , we have  $A \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{V} \subset \overline{\bigcup \mathcal{V}} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{V}$ . Furthermore, following from the fact

$$\overline{\bigcup \mathcal{V}} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{I}_n \subset \mathcal{I}_\sigma,$$

we have  $A \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Thus, in order to show  $A \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ , it will suffice to show  $A \cap (\bigcup \mathcal{V}) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ .

For each  $V \in \mathcal{V}$ ,  $A \cap V \subset A \cap U_x$  for some  $x \in A$ . Since  $A \cap U_x \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ , then  $A \cap V \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . By Lemma 2.7,  $A \cap V \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma(V) \cap \mathcal{I}_\sigma(\bigcup \mathcal{V})$ . Now, for each  $V \in \mathcal{V}$ , by Corollary 2.6, there are closed sets  $D(V, n, i)$  in the subspace  $(V, \tau_V)$  such that for each  $i < 2$ ,  $\text{int}_V (\bigcup_{n < \omega} D(V, n, i)) = \emptyset$  and

$$A \cap V \subset \bigcup_{i < 2} (\bigcup_{n < \omega} D(V, n, i)).$$

Since  $\mathcal{V}$  is a pairwise disjoint family of non-empty open sets, each  $D(V, n, i)$  is closed in the subspace  $\bigcup \mathcal{V}$ , the set  $D(n, i) = \bigcup \{D(V, n, i) : V \in \mathcal{V}\}$  is also closed in the subspace  $\bigcup \mathcal{V}$ . Thus, for each  $i < 2$ ,  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} D(n, i)$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -set in  $\bigcup \mathcal{V}$ . For any fixed  $i < 2$ , suppose that there is some non-empty open subset  $W$  of  $\bigcup \mathcal{V}$  such that  $W \subset \bigcup_{n < \omega} D(n, i)$ . Then there exists some  $V \in \mathcal{V}$  such that  $W \cap V \neq \emptyset$  and  $W \cap V \subset \bigcup_{n < \omega} D(V, n, i)$ . This is a contradiction, because  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} D(V, n, i)$  has empty interior in the subspace  $V$ . Therefore, for each  $i < 2$ ,  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} D(n, i)$  is  $\sigma$ -nowhere dense in  $\bigcup \mathcal{V}$ . Furthermore, following from the fact that  $A \cap (\bigcup \mathcal{V}) \subset (\bigcup_{n < \omega} D(n, 0)) \cup (\bigcup_{n < \omega} D(n, 1))$ , we obtain  $A \cap (\bigcup \mathcal{V}) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma(\bigcup \mathcal{V})$ . Finally, by Lemma 2.7,  $A \cap (\bigcup \mathcal{V}) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Therefore,  $A \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.4** ([2]). *In any topological space  $(X, \tau)$ , the union of any family of open non-weakly Volterra subspaces is not weakly Volterra.*



*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a family of open non-weakly Volterra subspaces of  $(X, \tau)$ . For any  $x \in \bigcup \mathcal{V}$ , select  $V_x \in \mathcal{V}$  such that  $x \in V_x$ . Moreover, it can be shown easily that an open set  $G$  is not a weakly Volterra subspace if and only if  $G \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . So,  $V_x$  is an open neighborhood of  $x$  such that  $V_x \cap (\bigcup \mathcal{V}) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Therefore, by Theorem 4.3,  $\bigcup \mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . This implies that  $\bigcup \mathcal{V}$  is not a weakly Volterra subspace of  $(X, \tau)$ .  $\square$

### 5. APPLICATIONS

In this section, we shall give some applications of the Banach Category Theorem and Theorem 4.3.

#### 5.1. Feeble continuity of the inversion of a para-topological group.

Recall that a group with a topology is called a *paratopological group* if its multiplication is jointly continuous. In addition, if its inversion is also continuous, then it is called a *topological group*. The Sorgenfrey line is an example of a paratopological group which is not a topological group. Bouziad observed that if the inversion of a paratopological group is quasi-continuous, then it is a topological group (see [8, Lemma 4]). The problem arising here is whether the inversion of a paratopological group can have some weak form of continuity under certain circumstances. For example, Guran [6] asked the following question:

**Problem 5.1** ([6]). Let  $(G, \cdot, \tau)$  be a Baire regular paratopological group. Must the inversion of  $(G, \cdot, \tau)$  be feebly continuous?

Recall that a mapping  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \mu)$  is *feebly continuous* if for every non-empty open set  $V \subset Y$ ,  $\text{int}_\tau(f^{-1}(V)) \neq \emptyset$ . The general answer to Question 5.1 is negative as shown by Ravsky in [13]. Next, we shall show that the answer is affirmative under some mild restriction. To this end, we need to recall a definition. A family  $\mathcal{N}$  of non-empty subsets in a topological space  $(X, \tau)$  is called a  $\pi$ -*network* of  $(X, \tau)$  if for each non-empty open set  $U \in \tau$ , there exists some  $N \in \mathcal{N}$  such that  $N \subset U$ .

**Proposition 5.2.** *Let  $(G, \cdot, \tau)$  be a Baire paratopological group. If  $(G, \tau)$  has a countable  $\pi$ -network, the inversion of  $(G, \cdot, \tau)$  is feebly continuous.*

*Proof.* Let  $U \subset G$  be a non-empty open set. Pick a point  $y \in U$ . Since the multiplication is jointly continuous at  $(e, y)$ , one can choose open sets  $V$  and  $W$  in  $(G, \tau)$  such that  $e \in V$ ,  $y \in W$  and  $V \cdot W \subset U$ . It follows that  $W^{-1} \cdot V^{-1} \subset U^{-1}$ . Now, observe that  $(W^{-1})^*(\mathcal{I}_m)$  is a closed set of  $G$ . Let  $g \in (W^{-1})^*(\mathcal{I}_m)$ . Since  $g \cdot V$  is an open set containing  $g$ , by the construction of  $(W^{-1})^*(\mathcal{I}_m)$ ,  $(g \cdot V) \cap W^{-1} \notin \mathcal{I}_m$ . In particular,  $(g \cdot V) \cap W^{-1} \neq \emptyset$ , which implies  $g \in W^{-1} \cdot V^{-1}$ . Thus,  $(W^{-1})^*(\mathcal{I}_m) \subset W^{-1} \cdot V^{-1} \subset U^{-1}$ . Let  $\mathcal{N} = \{N_n : n < \omega\}$  be a countable  $\pi$ -network for  $(G, \tau)$ , and let

$$G_n = \{h \in G : N_n \subset h \cdot W\}$$

for each  $n < \omega$ . It can easily be checked that  $G = \bigcup_{n < \omega} G_n$ . Since  $G$  is Baire, there exists  $n_0 < \omega$  such that  $G_{n_0} \notin \mathcal{I}_m$ . Select any point  $g_0 \in N_{n_0}$ . Then,

$G_{n_0} \subset g_0 \cdot W^{-1}$ . It follows that  $g_0 \cdot W^{-1} \notin \mathcal{I}_m$  and hence,  $W^{-1} \notin \mathcal{I}_m$ . On the other hand, by the Banach category theorem,  $W^{-1} \cap (G \setminus (W^{-1})^*(\mathcal{I}_m)) \in \mathcal{I}_m$ . Thus, we can conclude that  $(W^{-1})^*(\mathcal{I}_m) \notin \mathcal{I}_m$ , otherwise,  $W^{-1} \in \mathcal{I}_m$ , which gives a contradiction. Consequently,

$$\emptyset \neq \text{int}_\tau((W^{-1})^*(\mathcal{I}_m)) \subset \text{int}_\tau(W^{-1} \cdot V^{-1}) \subset \text{int}_\tau(U^{-1}),$$

and therefore the inversion of  $G$  is feebly continuous. □

**5.2. Pointwise  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -continuity.** Let  $X, Y$  be topological spaces, and  $\mathcal{I}$  an ideal on  $X$ . According to [10], a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is called *pointwise  $\mathcal{I}$ -continuous*, if for every  $x \in X$  and every neighborhood  $V$  of  $f(x)$ , there exists a neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  in  $X$  such that  $U \setminus f^{-1}(V) \in \mathcal{I}$ .

**Proposition 5.3.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space, and  $Y$  a regular topological space. Then a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is pointwise  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -continuous if and only if  $f|_{X_0} : X_0 \rightarrow Y$  is continuous for some closed  $X_0 \subset X$  with  $X \setminus X_0 \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ .*

*Proof.* Sufficiency is in [10, Theorem 2]. For necessity, let

$$X_0 = X \setminus \bigcup \{G : G \text{ is open in } X \text{ and } G \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma\}.$$

By Theorem 4.3,  $X_0 \subset X$  is closed and  $X \setminus X_0 \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Furthermore, by [10, Lemma 4],  $f|_{X_0} : X_0 \rightarrow Y$  is continuous. □

**Corollary 5.4.** *Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a Volterra space. If the topology  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$  is regular then  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) = \tau$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (X, \tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma))$  be the identity mapping. It is clear that  $f$  is pointwise  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -continuous. By Proposition 5.3, there is a closed set  $X_0 \subset X$  such that  $X \setminus X_0 \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Since  $(X, \tau)$  is Volterra, by Lemma 3.4,  $X \setminus X_0 = \emptyset$ . Thus  $f$  is continuous, which implies that  $\tau^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) = \tau$ . □

**5.3. Continuity of additive mappings.** Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space. A subset  $A \subset X$  is said to be  *$\mathcal{I}_\sigma$ -modulo* to a subset  $B \subset X$  provided that  $(A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Let

$$\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) = \{A \subset X : A \text{ is } \mathcal{I}_\sigma\text{-modulo to some open set of } X\}.$$

It can be easily checked that  $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$  satisfies the following properties:

- $\tau \subset \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ ;
- if  $A \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ , then  $X \setminus A \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ ;
- if  $A \subset X$  is closed, then  $A \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ ; and
- if  $A, B \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ , then  $A \cup B \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma)$ .

**Proposition 5.5.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be an additive mapping from a linear topological space  $X$  into a linear topological space  $Y$ , and let  $A \subset X$ . If  $A \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) \setminus \mathcal{I}_\sigma$  and  $f|_A : A \rightarrow Y$  is continuous, then  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is continuous.*

*Proof.* By the additivity of  $f$ , it will suffice to show that  $f$  is continuous at  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $X$ . To do this, let  $V$  be an arbitrary neighborhood of  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $Y$ . Choose an open neighborhood  $W$  of  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $Y$  such that  $W - W \subset V$ . It is clear that  $f^{-1}(W) - f^{-1}(W) \subset f^{-1}(V)$ . Since  $A \notin \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ , from Theorem 4.3, there must be a point  $x_0 \in A$  such that  $A \cap N \notin \mathcal{I}_\sigma$  for every open neighborhood  $N$  of  $x_0$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $x_0 = \mathbf{0}$ . Now, as  $f|_A : A \rightarrow Y$  is continuous at  $\mathbf{0}$ , there is an open neighborhood  $O$  of  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $X$  such that  $f(A \cap O) \subset W$ . Put  $B = A \cap O$ . Then  $B \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{I}_\sigma) \setminus \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ .

Next, we show that  $B - B$  is a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $X$ . To this end, let  $U \subset X$  be an open subset with  $(B \setminus U) \cup (U \setminus B) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Since  $B \notin \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ ,  $U$  must be non-empty, and thus  $U - U$  is a non-empty open neighborhood of  $\mathbf{0}$ . Now, take an arbitrary point  $x \in U - U$ . Then  $(x+U) \cap U$  is a non-empty open subset of  $X$ . Moreover, we claim that  $(x+U) \cap U \notin \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ , otherwise  $(x+U) \cap U$  would be a weakly Volterra subspace of  $X$ . As

$$X = \bigcup \{n \cdot ((x+U) \cap U) : n \in \mathbb{N}\},$$

by Corollary 4.4, the space  $X$  itself is not weakly Volterra. From Proposition 3.3,  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is not proper, otherwise  $B \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . This is a contradiction, verifying the claim. In addition, from the previous claim and since

$$(U \setminus B) \cup ((x+U) \setminus (x+B)) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma,$$

and

$$((x+U) \cap U) \setminus ((x+B) \cap B) \subset (U \setminus B) \cup ((x+U) \setminus (x+B)),$$

we conclude that  $(x+B) \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , and thus  $x \in B - B$ . Hence,  $U - U \subset B - B$ , which implies that  $B - B$  is a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $X$ .

Finally, since  $B - B \subset f^{-1}(W) - f^{-1}(W) \subset f^{-1}(V)$ , we conclude that  $f^{-1}(V)$  is a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $X$ . Hence,  $f$  is continuous at  $\mathbf{0}$ .  $\square$

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