STRONGLY MEAGER AND STRONG MEASURE ZERO SETS

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Abstract. In this paper we present two consistency results concerning the existence of large strong measure zero and strongly meager sets.

1. Introduction

Let $\mathcal{M}$ denote the collection of all meager subsets of $2^\omega$ and let $\mathcal{N}$ be the collection of all subsets of $2^\omega$ that have measure zero with respect to the standard product measure on $2^\omega$.

Definition 1.1. Suppose that $X \subseteq 2^\omega$ and let $+$ denote the componentwise addition modulo 2. We say that $X$ is strongly meager if for every $H \in \mathcal{N}$, $X + H = \{x + h : x \in X, h \in H\} \neq 2^\omega$.

We say that $X$ is a strong measure zero set if for every $F \in \mathcal{M}$, $X + F \neq 2^\omega$. Let $\mathcal{SM}$ denote the collection of strongly meager sets and let $\mathcal{SN}$ denote the collection of strong measure zero sets.

For a family of sets $J \subseteq P(\mathbb{R})$ let

$$\text{cov}(J) = \min \{|A| : A \subseteq J \text{ and } \bigcup A = 2^\omega\}.$$ $\non(J) = \min \{|X| : X \notin J\}.$

Strong measure zero sets are usually defined as those subsets $X$ of $2^\omega$ such that for every sequence of positive reals $\{\varepsilon_n : n \in \omega\}$ there exists a sequence of basic open sets $\{I_n : n \in \omega\}$ with diameter of $I_n$ smaller than $\varepsilon_n$ and $X \subseteq \bigcup I_n$. The Galvin-Mycielski-Solovay theorem ([4]) guarantees that both definitions are yield the same families of sets.

Recall the following well-known facts. Any of the following sentences is consistent with ZFC,

1. $\mathcal{SN} = [2^\omega]^{\aleph_0}$, (Laver [7])
2. $\mathcal{SN} = [2^\omega]^{\aleph_1}$, (Corazza [3], Goldstern-Judah-Shelah [5])
3. $\mathcal{SM} = [2^\omega]^{\aleph_0}$, (Carlson, [2])
4. $\non(\mathcal{SN}) = 0 = 2^\aleph_0 > \aleph_1$, $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \aleph_1$ and there exists a strong measure zero set of size $2^\aleph_0$. (Goldstern-Judah-Shelah [5])

The proofs of the above results as well as all other results quoted in this paper can be also found in [1].

In this paper we will show that the following statements are consistent with ZFC:

- for any regular $\kappa > \aleph_0$, $\mathcal{SM} = [2^\omega]^{\leq \kappa}$,
- $\mathcal{SM}$ is an ideal and $\text{add}(\mathcal{SM}) \geq \text{add}(\mathcal{M})$,
• $\text{non}(\mathcal{S}N) = 2^{\aleph_0} > \aleph_1$, $\mathcal{S} = \aleph_1$ and there is a strong measure zero set of size $2^{\aleph_0}$.

2. $\mathcal{S}M$ MAY HAVE LARGE ADDITIVITY

In this section we will show that $\mathcal{S}M$ can be an ideal with large additivity. Let

$$m = \min\{\gamma : \text{MA}_\gamma \text{ fails}\}.$$ 

We will show that $\mathcal{S}M = [2^{\omega}]^n < m$ is consistent with ZFC, provided $m$ is regular. In particular, the model that we construct will satisfy $\text{add}(\mathcal{S}M) = \text{add}(M)$.

Note that if $\mathcal{S}M = [2^{\omega}]^n < m$, then $2^{\aleph_0} > m$, since Martin’s Axiom implies the existence of a strongly meager set of size $2^{\aleph_0}$. Our construction is a generalization of the construction from [2].

To witness that a set is not strongly meager we need a measure zero set. The following theorem is crucial.

**Theorem 2.1** (Lorentz). There exists a function $K \in \omega^R$ such that for every $\varepsilon > 0$, if $A \in [2^{\omega}]^{\geq K(\varepsilon)}$, then for all except finitely many $k \in \omega$ there exists $C \subseteq 2^k$ such that

1. $|C| \cdot 2^{-k} \leq \varepsilon$,
2. $(A|k) + C = 2^k$.

**Proof** Proof of this lemma can be found in [8] or [1].

**Definition 2.2.** For each $n \in \omega$ let $\{C^m_n : n, m \in \omega\}$ be an enumeration of all clopen sets in $[2^{\omega}]$ of measure $\leq 2^{-n}$. For a real $r \in \omega^\omega$ and $n \in \omega$ define an open set $H^r_n = \bigcup_{m > n} C^m_{r(m)}$.

It is clear that $H^r_n$ is an open set of measure not exceeding $2^{-n}$. In particular, $H^r = \bigcap_{n \in \omega} H^r_n$ is a Borel measure zero set of type $G_\delta$.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let $\kappa > \aleph_0$ be a regular cardinal. It is consistent with ZFC that $\text{MA}_{\aleph_0} + \mathcal{S}M = [2^{\omega}]^{< \kappa}$ holds. In particular, it is consistent that $\mathcal{S}M$ is an ideal and $\text{add}(\mathcal{S}M) = \text{add}(M) > \aleph_1$.

**Proof** Fix $\kappa$ such that $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \kappa > \aleph_0$. Let $\lambda > \kappa$ be a regular cardinal such that $\lambda^{< \lambda} = \lambda$. Start with a model $V \models \text{ZFC} + 2^{\aleph_0} = \lambda$.

Suppose that $P$ is a forcing notion of size $< \kappa$. We can assume that there is $\gamma < \kappa$ such that $P = \gamma$ and $\leq, \bot \subseteq \gamma \times \gamma$.

Let $\{P_\alpha, \dot{Q}_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda\}$ be a finite support iteration such that for each $\alpha < \lambda$,

1. $\Vdash_\alpha \dot{Q}_\alpha \simeq C$, if $\alpha$ is limit,
2. there is $\gamma = \gamma_\alpha$ such that $\Vdash_\alpha \dot{Q}_\alpha \simeq (\gamma, \leq, \bot)$ is a ccc forcing notion.

By passing to a dense subset we can assume that if $p \in P_\lambda$ then $p : \text{dom}(p) \to \kappa$, where $\text{dom}(p)$ is a finite subset of $\lambda$.

By bookkeeping we can guarantee that $V^{P_\lambda} \models \text{MA}_{< \kappa}$. In particular, $V^{P_\lambda} \models [2^{\omega}]^{< \kappa} \subseteq \mathcal{S}M$.

It remains to show that no set of size $\kappa$ is strongly meager.

Suppose that $X \subseteq V^{P_\lambda} \cap 2^\omega$ is a set of size $\kappa$. Find limit ordinal $\alpha < \lambda$ such that $X \subseteq 2^\omega \cap V^{P_\alpha}$. As usual we can assume that $\alpha = 0$. Let $c$ be the Cohen real.
added at the step $\alpha = 0$. We will show that $V^{P_\lambda} \models X + H^c = 2^\omega$, which will end the proof.

Suppose that the above assertion is false. Let $p \in P_\lambda$ and let $\dot{z}$ be a $P_\lambda$-name for a real such that

$$p \Vdash_{\lambda} \dot{z} \notin X + H^c.$$

Let $X = \{x_\xi : \xi < \kappa\}$ and for each $\xi$ find $p_\xi \geq p$ and $n_\xi \in \omega$ such that

$$p_\xi \Vdash_{\lambda} \dot{z} \notin x_\xi + H^{c\xi}_{n_\xi}.$$

Let $Y \subseteq \kappa$ be a set of size $\kappa$ such that

1. $n_\xi = \bar{n}$ for $\xi \in Y$,
2. $\{\text{dom}(p_\xi) : \xi \in Y\}$ form a $\Delta$-system with root $\bar{\Delta}$,
3. $p_\xi | \bar{\Delta} = \bar{p}$, for $\xi \in Y$,
4. $p_\xi(0) = \bar{s}$, with $|\bar{s}| = \ell > \bar{n}$, for $\xi \in Y$.

Fix a subset $X' = \{x_{\xi_j} : j < K(2^{-\ell})\} \subseteq Y$ and let $\bar{m} \in \omega$ be such that $C^{\xi_j}_{\bar{m}} + X' = 2^\omega$.

Define condition $p^*$ as

$$p^*(\beta) = \begin{cases} p_{\xi_j} & \text{if } \alpha \neq \beta \& \beta \in \text{dom}(p_{\xi_j}), j < K(2^{-\ell}) \\ \bar{s}^{\bar{m}} & \text{if } \alpha = \beta. \end{cases}$$

On one hand $p^* \Vdash_{\lambda} C^{\xi_j}_{\bar{m}} \subseteq H^{\xi_j}_{\bar{n}}$, so $p^* \Vdash_{\lambda} X' + H^{c\xi}_{n_\xi} = 2^\omega$. On the other hand, $p^* \geq p_{\xi_j}, j \leq K(2^{-\ell})$, so $p^* \Vdash_{\lambda} \dot{z} \notin X' + H^{c\xi}_{n_\xi}$. Contradiction.

To finish the proof we show that $V^{P_\lambda} \models \text{add}(M) = \kappa$. First note that $\text{MA}_{<\kappa}$ implies that $\text{add}(M) \geq \kappa$ in $V^{P_\lambda}$. The other inequality is a consequence of the general theory. Recall that (see [1])

1. $\text{add}(M) = \min\{\text{cov}(M), b\}$

Suppose that $F \subseteq \omega^\omega$ is an unbounded family of size $\geq \kappa$.

2. if $P$ is a forcing notion of cardinality $< \kappa$ then $F$ remains unbounded in $V^P$.
3. if $\{P_\alpha, Q_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$ is a finite support iteration such that $\|P_\alpha | Q_\alpha\| < \kappa$ then $V^{P_\alpha} \models F$ is unbounded.

From the results quoted above follows that $\text{add}(M) \leq b \leq \kappa$ in $V^{P_\lambda}$, which ends the proof. □

3. Strong measure zero sets

In this section we will discuss models with strong measure zero sets of size $2^{\aleph_0}$.

We start with the definition of forcing that will be used in our construction.

**Definition 3.1.** The infinitely equal forcing notion $\text{EE}$ is defined as follows: $p \in \text{EE}$ if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. $p : \text{dom}(p) \rightarrow 2^{<\omega}$,
2. $\text{dom}(p) \subseteq \omega$, $|\omega \setminus \text{dom}(p)| = \aleph_0$,
3. $p(n) \in 2^n$ for all $n \in \text{dom}(p)$.

For $p, q \in \text{EE}$ and $n \in \omega$ we define:

1. $p \geq q \iff p \supseteq q$, and
2. $p \geq_n q \iff p \geq q$ and the first $n$ elements of $\omega \setminus \text{dom}(p)$ and $\omega \setminus \text{dom}(q)$ are the same.
It is easy to see (see [1]) that \( EE \) is proper (satisfies axiom A), and strongly \( \omega^\omega \) bounding, that is if \( p \models \tau \in \omega \) and \( n \in \omega \) then there is \( q \geq_p p \) and a finite set \( F \subseteq \omega \) such that \( q \models \tau \in F \).

In [5] it is shown that a countable support iteration of \( EE \) and rational perfect set forcing produces a model where there is a strong measure zero set of size \( 2^{\aleph_0} \). In particular, one can construct (consistently) a strong measure zero of size \( 2^{\aleph_0} \) without Cohen reals. The remaining question is whether such a construction can be carried out without unbounded reals.

**Theorem 3.2 ([5]).** Suppose that \( \{ P_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_2 \} \) is a countable support iteration of proper, strongly \( \omega^\omega \)-bounding forcing notions. Then

\[
V^{P_{<\omega}} \models SN \subseteq [R]^{\aleph_1}. \quad \square
\]

The theorem above shows that using countable support iteration we cannot build a model with a strong measure zero set of size \( \delta \). Since countable support iteration seems to be the universal method for constructing models with \( 2^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_2 \) the above result seems to indicate that a strong measure zero set of size \( \delta \) cannot be constructed at all. Strangely it is not the case.

**Theorem 3.3.** It is consistent that \( \text{non}(SN) = 2^{\aleph_0} > \delta = \aleph_1 \) and there are strong measure zero sets of size \( 2^{\aleph_0} \).

**Proof** Suppose that \( V \models \text{CH} \) and \( \kappa = \kappa^{\aleph_0} > \aleph_1 \). Let \( P \) be a countable support product of \( \kappa \) copies of \( EE \). The following facts are well-known (see [6])

1. \( P \) is proper,
2. \( P \) satisfies \( \aleph_2 \)-cc,
3. \( P \) is \( \omega^\omega \)-bounding,
4. for \( f \in V[G] \cap \omega^\omega \) there exists a countable set \( A \subseteq \kappa \), \( A \in V \) such that \( f \in V[G[A] \).

It follows from (3) that \( V^P \models \delta = \aleph_1 \). Moreover, (1) and (2) imply that \( 2^{\aleph_0} = \kappa \) in \( V^P \).

For a set \( X \subseteq \omega^\omega \) let \( \text{supp}(X) \subseteq \kappa \) be a set such that \( X \in V[G|\text{supp}(X)] \).

Note that \( \text{supp}(X) \) is not determined uniquely, but we can always choose it so that \( |\text{supp}(X)| = |X| + \aleph_0 \).

**Lemma 3.4.** Suppose that \( X \subseteq \omega^\omega \cap V^P \) and \( \text{supp}(X) \neq \kappa \). Then \( V^P \models X \in SN \)

Note that this lemma finishes the proof. Clearly the assumptions of the lemma are met for all sets of size \( < \kappa \) and also for many sets of size \( \kappa \).

**Proof** We will use the following characterization (see [1]):

**Lemma 3.5.** The following conditions are equivalent.

1. \( X \subseteq \omega^\omega \) has strong measure zero.
2. For every \( f \in \omega^\omega \) there exists \( g \in (2^{<\omega})^\omega \) such that \( g(n) \in 2^{f(n)} \) for all \( n \) and \( \forall x \in X \exists n \in X \exists f(n) = g(n). \quad \square \)

Suppose that \( X \subseteq V^P \cap \omega^\omega \) is given and \( \text{supp}(X) \neq \kappa \). Let \( \alpha^* \in \kappa \setminus \text{supp}(X) \). We will check condition (2) of the previous lemma.

Fix \( f \in V^P \cap \omega^\omega \). Since \( P \) is \( \omega^\omega \)-bounding we can assume that \( f \in V \). Consider a condition \( p \in P \). Fix \( \{ k_n : n \in \omega \} \) such that \( k_n \geq f(n) \) and \( k_n \notin \text{dom}(p(\alpha^*)) \) for
Let \( p_f \geq p \) be any condition such that \( \omega \setminus \{k_n : n \in \omega\} \subseteq \text{dom}(p_f(\alpha^*)) \). We will check that
\[
p_f \models \forall x \in X \exists n \ x \downharpoonright f(n) = \dot{G}(\alpha^*)(k_n) \upharpoonright f(n),
\]
where \( \dot{G} \) is the canonical name for the generic object. Take \( x \in X \) and \( r \geq p_f \).
Find \( n \) such that \( k_n \notin \text{dom}(r(\alpha^*)) \). Let \( r' \geq r \) and \( s \) be such that
1. \( \text{supp}(r') \subseteq \text{supp}(X) \)
2. \( r' \geq r|\text{supp}(X) \),
3. \( r' \models x \downharpoonright f(n) = s \).
Let
\[
r''(\beta) = \begin{cases} 
  r'(\beta) & \text{if } \beta \neq \alpha^* \\
  r'(\alpha^*) \cup \{(k_n, s)\} & \text{if } \beta = \alpha^*. 
\end{cases}
\]
It is easy to see that \( r'' \models x \downharpoonright f(n) = \dot{G}(\alpha^*)(k_n) \upharpoonright f(n) \). Since \( f \) and \( x \) were arbitrary we are done. \( \square \)

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