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$C_p(X)$ -REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN BOREL ABSORBERS*

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ABSTRACT. For each even ordinal α , we construct a countable completely regular space X_α such that the function space $C_p(X_\alpha)$ is universal for the collection \mathcal{M}_α of all absolute Borel sets of multiplicative class α and, moreover, $C_p(X_\alpha)$ is homeomorphic to the \mathcal{M}_α -absorber Ω_α .

1. INTRODUCTION.

If α is a countable ordinal greater than 1, then \mathcal{M}_α and \mathcal{A}_α denote the classes of all absolute Borel sets of the multiplicative and additive class α , respectively. In Bestvina and Mogilski [2] it was shown that in each of the classes \mathcal{M}_α and \mathcal{A}_α there exist unique maximal objects Ω_α and Λ_α which are \mathcal{M}_α -absorbers and \mathcal{A}_α -absorbers, respectively. Moreover, Ω_α and Λ_α can be represented as linear subspaces of the topological Hilbert space $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$.

There is another way of obtaining linear subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ of arbitrarily high Borel complexity. If X is a space then $C_p(X)$ denotes the space of continuous, real-valued functions on X endowed with the topology of pointwise convergence. If X is countable then $C_p(X)$ is obviously linearly homeomorphic to a linear subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$. According to Lutzer, van Mill, and Pol [16] the space $C_p(X)$ may be of arbitrarily high Borel complexity – it may even be a non-analytic set. The following theorem

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was proved by Dobrowolski, Marciszewski, and Mogilski [11] (see also [1,5,7,8,9,10]).

Theorem 1.1. *Let X be a countable, nondiscrete, completely regular space. If $C_p(X) \in \mathcal{M}_2$ then it is homeomorphic to Ω_2 .*

According to Dijkstra et al. [6] $C_p(X)$ cannot be an element of \mathcal{A}_2 and hence this theorem gives a complete classification of the spaces $C_p(X)$ of Borel class not higher than 2. Theorem 1.1 suggests the following:

Conjecture 1.2. *If $C_p(X) \in \mathcal{M}_\alpha \setminus \mathcal{A}_\alpha$ then it is homeomorphic to Ω_α .*

As we mentioned above all multiplicative classes \mathcal{M}_α , where $\alpha > 1$, are represented among spaces $C_p(X)$. Moreover, Marciszewski recently showed that if $C_p(X)$ is Borel then $C_p(X) \in \mathcal{M}_\alpha \setminus \mathcal{A}_\alpha$ for some α , improving a result of Calbrix [3,4]. The method of absorbers was employed in the proof of Theorem 1.1 and the crucial step was to show that a space $C_p(X)$, which is in $\mathcal{M}_2 \setminus \mathcal{A}_2$, is an \mathcal{M}_2 -absorber (and hence homeomorphic Ω_2). For higher Borel classes \mathcal{M}_α it is not clear how to exhibit at least one space X such that $C_p(X)$ is an \mathcal{M}_α -absorber. In this paper we prove that if α is an even ordinal then there exists a countable completely regular space X_α such that $C_p(X_\alpha)$ is homeomorphic to Ω_α .

2. BOREL ABSORBERS.

Since we are dealing with function spaces it is convenient to represent the Hilbert cube Q by $[-\infty, \infty]^{\mathbb{N}}$ and its pseudointerior s by $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$. Let Y stand for either s or Q . Let us recall that a closed subset A of Y is a Z -set if given an open cover \mathcal{U} of Y there exists a \mathcal{U} -close to the identity map $f : Y \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(Y)$ misses A . A countable union of Z -sets is called a σZ -set. Let $Y = Q$ or s and let \mathcal{C} be a collection of subsets of Y that is topological (i.e., invariant under homeomorphisms of Y) and closed hereditary. We say that a subset X of Y is a \mathcal{C} -absorber if

- (1) $X \in \mathcal{C}$,
- (2) X is contained in a σZ -set of Y ,
- (3) X is strongly \mathcal{C} -universal, i.e., for every A in Y such that $A \in \mathcal{C}$ and for every map $f : Y \rightarrow Y$ that restricts to a Z -embedding (an embedding onto a Z -set) on a closed set K , there exists a Z -embedding $g : Y \rightarrow Y$ that can be chosen arbitrarily close to f with the properties: $g|K = f|K$ and $g^{-1}(X) \setminus K = A \setminus K$.

The notion of \mathcal{C} -absorber generalises concepts of [18] and [19]. Their most important property is uniqueness: if X and X' are \mathcal{C} -absorbers in Y then the pairs (Y, X) and (Y, X') are homeomorphic. Bestvina and Mogilski in [2] constructed two transfinite sequences $(\Omega_\alpha)_{1 < \alpha < \omega_1}$ and $(\Lambda_\alpha)_{1 < \alpha < \omega_1}$ of subsets in the Hilbert cube Q such that Ω_α is an \mathcal{M}_α -absorber and Λ_α is an \mathcal{A}_α -absorber for $1 < \alpha < \omega_1$. In this section we will present a slightly modified construction of \mathcal{M}_α -absorbers for even α and \mathcal{A}_α -absorbers for odd α based on the use of a special product of spaces described in [14] (see also [15] and [4]).

If X_n is a subset of Y_n for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, then the set

$$\mathbf{F}_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n = \{(x_n) \in \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n : \exists k \forall n > k \ x_n \in X_n\}$$

is called the Fréchet product (the product with respect to the Fréchet filter) of the sequence $(X_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$. If $X_n = X$ for all n , then we write $\mathbf{F}(X) = \mathbf{F}_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n$ and $X^{\mathbb{N}} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n$.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $Y = Q$ or s and let $\mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{C}_n$, where, for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, \mathcal{C}_n is a collection of subsets of Y which is topological, closed hereditary, and closed under finite intersections and unions, and $\mathcal{C}_n \subset \mathcal{C}_{n+1}$. Then:*

- (1) *If X_n is strongly \mathcal{C}_n -universal for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, then $\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n$ is strongly \mathcal{C}_δ -universal, where \mathcal{C}_δ stands for the collection of countable intersections of elements of \mathcal{C} ;*
- (2) *If X_n is strongly \mathcal{C}_n -universal then $\mathbf{F}_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n$ is strongly \mathcal{C}_σ -universal, where \mathcal{C}_σ stands for the collection of*

countable unions of elements of \mathcal{C} .

Part (1) follows from [12, Lemma 2.3] or [8, Theorem 3.1]. Part (2) is in essence a complementary formulation of the $S'_\infty(X)$ part of [8, Theorem 3.1] (where complementary means that all sets are replaced by their complements).

Let

$$\sigma = \{(x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} : x_n = 0 \text{ for all but finitely many } n\}.$$

Identifying countable products of Q with Q we construct Borel absorbers in Q as follows:

$$\Omega_2 = \sigma^{\mathbb{N}},$$

$$\Lambda_\alpha = \mathbf{F}(\Omega_{\alpha-1}),$$

if α is an odd ordinal, and

$$\Omega_\alpha = \begin{cases} (\Lambda_{\alpha-1})^{\mathbb{N}}, & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is an even nonlimit ordinal} \\ \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{\alpha_n}, & \text{if } \alpha = \lim \alpha_n \end{cases}$$

Let us point out that both Ω_α and Λ_α are subsets of s . The next result follows from Lemma 6.3 of [2] (which is based on an idea of Sikorski [17,13]) and Lemma 2.1.

Proposition 2.2. *For each even ordinal $\alpha < \omega_1$, the spaces Ω_α and $\Lambda_{\alpha+1}$ are \mathcal{M}_α -absorbers and $\mathcal{A}_{\alpha+1}$ -absorbers, respectively, in both Q and s .*

We have the following easy observation for even ordinals.

Remark 2.3. The transfinite sequence (Ω_α) , where α is an even ordinal and $1 < \alpha < \omega_1$ is defined by the choice of Ω_2 and the following recurrence relation:

$$\Omega_\alpha = \begin{cases} (\mathbf{F}(\Omega_{\alpha-2}))^{\mathbb{N}}, & \text{if } \alpha - 1 \text{ is not a limit ordinal} \\ \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{F}(\Omega_{\alpha_n}), & \text{if } \alpha = \lim \alpha_n. \end{cases}$$

3. BOREL FILTERS AND CORRESPONDING SEQUENCE SPACES

We recall that a family \mathfrak{F} of subsets of \mathbb{N} is a filter on \mathbb{N} if $\emptyset \notin \mathfrak{F}$, $A \cap B \in \mathfrak{F}$ provided $A, B \in \mathfrak{F}$ and $A \subseteq C \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, $A \in \mathfrak{F}$ implies $C \in \mathfrak{F}$. All filters \mathfrak{F} can be identified with subsets of the Cantor set $2^{\mathbb{N}}$. Hence the cartesian product and the Fréchet product of filters are filters on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ and hence subsets of $2^{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}$. We shall reduce these product filters to filters on \mathbb{N} (and subsets of $2^{\mathbb{N}}$) via some fixed bijection $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.

The filter \mathfrak{F}_1 consisting of all cofinite subsets of \mathbb{N} is called the Fréchet filter and we have $\mathfrak{F}_1 \in \mathcal{A}_1 \setminus \mathcal{M}_1$. Lutzer, van Mill, Pol [16] and Calbrix [3] showed that there are filters $\mathfrak{F}_\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_\alpha \setminus \mathcal{M}_\alpha$ for every α . Using the filter \mathfrak{F}_1 Calbrix [4] constructed filters $\mathfrak{F}_\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_\alpha \setminus \mathcal{M}_\alpha$ for odd ordinals α as follows

$$\mathfrak{F}_\alpha = \begin{cases} \mathbf{F}((\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha-2})^{\mathbb{N}}), & \text{if } \alpha \text{ and } \alpha - 1 \text{ are not limit ordinals} \\ \mathbf{F}(\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathfrak{F}_{\alpha_n}), & \text{if } \alpha - 1 = \lim \alpha_n. \end{cases}$$

As was pointed out in [4], $(\mathfrak{F}_\alpha)^{\mathbb{N}} \in \mathcal{M}_{\alpha+1} \setminus \mathcal{A}_{\alpha+1}$.

Each filter \mathfrak{F} generates the following sequence spaces in $s \subset C_Q$:

$$\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}} = \{(x_n) \in s : \exists A \in \mathfrak{F} \ x_n = 0 \text{ for } n \in A\},$$

$$c_{\mathfrak{F}} = \{(x_n) \in s : \forall \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists A \in \mathfrak{F} \ |x_n| < \varepsilon \text{ for } n \in A\},$$

and

$$\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}}(\delta) = \{(x_n) \in s : \exists A \in \mathfrak{F} \ \forall n \in A \ |x_n| \leq \delta\},$$

where $\delta > 0$. Note that $c_{\mathfrak{F}}$ consists of all sequences that converge to zero with respect to the filter \mathfrak{F} . The next two lemmas are immediate consequences of our definitions.

Lemma 3.1. *Let $(\mathfrak{G}_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence of filters and let $\mathfrak{G} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathfrak{G}_n$, $\mathfrak{F} = \mathbf{F}_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathfrak{G}_n$. Then:*

$$(1) \ \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}_n};$$

$$(2) \ \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}}(\delta) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}_n}(\delta);$$

- (3) $\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{\mathfrak{O}_n}$;
- (4) $\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}}(\delta) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{\mathfrak{O}_n}(\delta)$;
- (5) $c_{\mathfrak{O}} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{\mathfrak{O}_n}$.

Lemma 3.2. *If \mathfrak{F} is a filter then*

$$c_{\mathfrak{F}} = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}}(2^{-k}).$$

As a consequence of the fact that the constructions of transfinite sequences of Borel absorbers and Borel filters described above are almost identical we obtain the following lemma.

Lemma 3.3. *We have:*

- (1) $\sigma = \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_1}$ and $\Omega_2 = (\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_1})^{\mathbb{N}}$;
- (2) *If α is an odd ordinal then $\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_\alpha} = \Lambda_\alpha$ (in particular $\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_\alpha} \in \mathcal{A}_\alpha \setminus \mathcal{M}_\alpha$);*
- (3) *If α is an even ordinal then*

$$\Omega_\alpha = \begin{cases} (\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha-1}})^{\mathbb{N}}, & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is not a limit ordinal} \\ \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha_n}}, & \text{if } \alpha = \lim \alpha_n. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 3.4. *If α is an odd ordinal then there exists a homeomorphism $h_\alpha : Q \rightarrow Q^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that*

$$h_\alpha(\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_\alpha}(2^{-k})) = \underbrace{\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_\alpha} \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_\alpha} \times \cdots \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_\alpha}}_{k \text{ times}} \times Q \times Q \times \cdots$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$.

Proof. The existence of the homeomorphism $h_1 : Q \rightarrow Q^{\mathbb{N}}$ sending $\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_1}(2^{-k})$ onto

$$\underbrace{\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_1} \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_1} \times \cdots \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_1}}_{k \text{ times}} \times Q \times Q \times \cdots$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$ was proved in section 6 of [8].

The homeomorphisms h_α for $\alpha > 1$ are constructed inductively using the following elementary observation about products of homeomorphisms. Let k be a natural number. Assume

that $(H_i)_i$ is a sequence of homeomorphisms from Y onto Y^N and let Z_i and X_i be subsets of Y such that

$$H_i(Z_i) = \underbrace{X_i \times X_i \times \dots \times X_i}_{k \text{ times}} \times Y \times Y \times \dots$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots$. If we define the homeomorphism $H = \mathbf{P}_{n=1}^\infty H_n : Y^N \rightarrow (Y^N)^N$ by

$$\left(\left(\mathbf{P}_{n=1}^\infty H_n \right) (y) \right)_{ij} = (H_i(y_i))_j, \quad \text{for } y \in Y^N,$$

then

$$H \left(\prod_{i=1}^\infty Z_i \right) = \underbrace{\prod_{i=1}^\infty X_i \times \prod_{i=1}^\infty X_i \times \dots \times \prod_{i=1}^\infty X_i}_{k \text{ times}} \times Y^N \times Y^N \times \dots$$

and

$$H \left(\mathbf{F} \prod_{i=1}^\infty Z_i \right) = \underbrace{\mathbf{F} X_i \times \mathbf{F} X_i \times \dots \times \mathbf{F} X_i}_{k \text{ times}} \times Y^N \times Y^N \times \dots$$

Let α be an odd ordinal for which h_α has been constructed. If we define $h_{\alpha+1} = \mathbf{P}_{n=1}^\infty h_\alpha$ then

$$h_{\alpha+1}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}(2^{-k})^N) = \underbrace{\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}^N \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}^N \times \dots \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}^N}_{k \text{ times}} \times Q^N \times Q^N \times \dots$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$. Next we put $h_{\alpha+2} = \mathbf{P}_{n=1}^\infty h_{\alpha+1}$ (the role of Y is now played by Q^N). We obtain:

$$h_{\alpha+2}(\mathbf{F}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}(2^{-k})^N)) = \underbrace{\mathbf{F}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}^N) \times \mathbf{F}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}^N) \times \dots \times \mathbf{F}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_\alpha}^N)}_{k \text{ times}} \times (Q^N)^N \times (Q^N)^N \times \dots$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$.

If we use Lemma 3.1 and we identify $(Q^N)^N$ with Q as usual then we find

$$h_{\alpha+2}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_{\alpha+2}}(2^{-k})) = \underbrace{\sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_{\alpha+2}} \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_{\alpha+2}} \times \dots \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{z}_{\alpha+2}}}_{k \text{ times}} \times Q \times Q \times \dots$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, which finishes this step of the induction.

Now assume that $\alpha = \lim \alpha_n$ is a limit ordinal and that the h_{α_n} 's have been defined. If we put

$$h_{\alpha+1} = \mathbf{\tilde{P}}_{m=1}^{\infty} \left(\mathbf{\tilde{P}}_{n=1}^{\infty} h_{\alpha_n} \right)$$

then we have as above that

$$h_{\alpha+1}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha+1}}(2^{-k})) = \underbrace{\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha+1}} \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha+1}} \times \dots \times \sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha+1}}}_{k \text{ times}} \times Q \times Q \times \dots$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$. This finishes the induction.

From Proposition 3.4 we obtain

Corollary 3.5. *If α is odd then the pair $(Q, c_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha}})$ is homeomorphic to $(Q, \Omega_{\alpha+1})$.*

Proof. The homeomorphisms h_{α} from Proposition 3.4 satisfy

$$h_{\alpha}(c_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha}}) = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} h_{\alpha}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha}}(2^{-k})) = (\sigma_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha}})^{\mathbb{N}} = \Omega_{\alpha+1}.$$

4. FUNCTION SPACES $C_p(X)$ WHICH ARE BOREL ABSORBERS.

First we describe the spaces X_{α} . If \mathfrak{F} is a filter on \mathbb{N} , then $X_{\mathfrak{F}}$ denotes the space $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ topologized by isolating the points of \mathbb{N} and using the family $\{A \cup \{\infty\}\}_{A \in \mathfrak{F}}$ as a neighbourhood base at ∞ . If α is an even ordinal we let

$$X_{\alpha} = \begin{cases} X_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha-1}}, & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is not a limit ordinal} \\ X_{\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathfrak{F}_{\alpha_n}}, & \text{if } \alpha = \lim \alpha_n. \end{cases}$$

Calbrix [3] observed that $C_p(X_{\alpha}) \in \mathcal{M}_{\alpha} \setminus \mathcal{A}_{\alpha}$. $C_p(X_{\alpha})$ is a subset of the Hilbert cube $\tilde{Q} = Q \times [-\infty, \infty]$. We prove¹

Theorem 4.1. *If α is an even ordinal then the pair $(\tilde{Q}, C_p(X_{\alpha}))$ is homeomorphic to (Q, Ω_{α}) and hence it is an \mathcal{M}_{α} -absorber.*

¹A similar result was proved independently by Cauty, Dobrowolski and Marciszewski.

Proof. Let α be an even countable ordinal. If α is not a limit then $(\tilde{Q}, C_p(X_\alpha))$ is homeomorphic to $(\tilde{Q}, c_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha-1}} \times \mathbb{R})$, cf. the proof of [8, Theorem 6.5]. By Corollary 3.5 the pair $(\tilde{Q}, c_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha-1}} \times \mathbb{R})$ is homeomorphic to $(\tilde{Q}, \Omega_\alpha \times \mathbb{R})$ and by [8, Lemma 6.4] $(\tilde{Q}, \Omega_\alpha \times \mathbb{R})$ is homeomorphic to (Q, Ω_α) . If $\alpha = \lim \alpha_n$, then $(\tilde{Q}, C_p(X_\alpha))$ is homeomorphic to $(\tilde{Q}, c_{\mathfrak{F}} \times \mathbb{R})$, where $\mathfrak{F} = \prod_{n=1}^\infty \mathfrak{F}_{\alpha_n}$. By Lemma 3.1 $c_{\mathfrak{F}}$ is equal to $\prod_{n=1}^\infty c_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha_n}}$. Since by Corollary 3.5 each $(Q, c_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha_n}})$ is homeomorphic to (Q, Ω_{α_n+1}) the product $(Q^{\mathbb{N}}, \prod_{n=1}^\infty c_{\mathfrak{F}_{\alpha_n}})$ is homeomorphic to $(Q^{\mathbb{N}}, \prod_{n=1}^\infty \Omega_{\alpha_n+1})$. Since both $\prod_{n=1}^\infty \Omega_{\alpha_n+1}$ and $\Omega_\alpha = \prod_{n=1}^\infty \Omega_{\alpha_n}$ are \mathcal{M}_α -absorbers we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{Q}, C_p(X_\alpha)) &\cong (\tilde{Q}, c_{\mathfrak{F}} \times \mathbb{R}) \\ &\cong \left(Q^{\mathbb{N}} \times [-\infty, \infty], \left(\prod_{n=1}^\infty \Omega_{\alpha_n+1} \right) \times \mathbb{R} \right) \\ &\cong (\tilde{Q}, \Omega_\alpha \times \mathbb{R}) \cong (Q, \Omega_\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

It is possible to start the construction of the \mathfrak{F}_α 's with an arbitrary sequence $(\mathfrak{G}_i)_i$ of $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -filters instead of just the Fréchet filter. Then the basis step in the proof of Proposition 3.4 becomes

$$h_2 \left(\prod_{i=1}^\infty \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}_i}(2^{-k}) \right) = \underbrace{\prod_{i=1}^\infty \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}_i} \times \prod_{i=1}^\infty \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}_i} \times \cdots \times \prod_{i=1}^\infty \sigma_{\mathfrak{G}_i}}_{k \text{ times}} \times Q^{\mathbb{N}} \times Q^{\mathbb{N}} \times \cdots ,$$

which follows from [9, Proposition 3.1]. The result is a rich collection of spaces $C_p(X)$ that are topologically characterised by their Borel complexity, i.e. the α such that $C_p(X) \in \mathcal{M}_\alpha \setminus \mathcal{A}_\alpha$.

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