## On results of M.Elekes and G.Gruenhage

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**1.** A perfect set (P.Erdős & S.Kakutani) Choose  $\langle \mathcal{I}_n \rangle_{n \geq 1}$  as follows.  $\mathcal{I}_1 = \{[0, 1]\}$ . Given that  $\mathcal{I}_n$  is a family of (n-1)! non-overlapping closed intervals of length  $\frac{1}{n!}$ , divide each member of  $\mathcal{I}_n$  into n+1 closed intervals of equal length, discard one, and keep the rest for  $\mathcal{I}_{n+1}$ .

Set  $K_n = \bigcup \mathcal{I}_n$  for each n, so that  $\langle K_n \rangle_{n \ge 1}$  is a non-increasing sequence of compact sets and the Lebesgue measure  $\mu K_n$  of  $K_n$  is  $\frac{1}{n}$  for each  $n \ge 1$ . Set  $K = \bigcap_{n \ge 1} K_n$ , so that K is a compact Lebesgue negligible set.

**2.** Proposition (ELEKES & STEPRĀNS 04, Theorem 1.2) Let E be any uncountable analytic set in  $\mathbb{R}$ . and K the set of §1. Then there is an  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $(E + x) \cap K$  is uncountable.

**proof** It is enough to consider the case in which E is a non-empty compact set without isolated points. Construct  $\langle Q_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $\langle J_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  as follows. Start with  $Q_0 = \{q_0\}$  where  $q_0$  is any point of E. Observe that the construction of  $\mathcal{I}_5$  kept four out of five subintervals of each interval in  $\mathcal{I}_4$ , so that  $\mathcal{I}_5$  necessarily has a pair of contiguous intervals, and the interior of  $K_5$  has a component of length at least  $\frac{2}{5!}$ . There is therefore a closed interval  $J_0$ , of length  $\frac{1}{5!}$ , such that  $q_0 + J_0 \subseteq \operatorname{int} K_5$ ; we may arrange that  $q_0 + a_0$  is irrational, where  $a_0 = \min J_0.$ 

Now suppose that we have  $Q_n$  and  $J_n$ , where  $Q_n \subseteq E$ ,  $\#(Q_n) = 1 + \lfloor \frac{n}{4} \rfloor$ ,  $J_n$  is a closed interval of length

 $\frac{1}{(n+5)!}$ ,  $Q_n + J_n \subseteq \text{int } K_{n+5}$ , and  $q + a_n$  is irrational for every  $q \in Q_n$ , where  $a_n = \min J_n$ . For  $q \in Q_n$ , let  $\mathcal{J}_q$ be the set of subintervals of members of  $\mathcal{I}_{n+5}$  which were rejected when constructing  $\mathcal{I}_{n+6}$ , but meet  $q + J_n$ . As  $q + J_n$  meets just two of the intervals in  $\mathcal{I}_{n+5}$  (this is where it is useful to know that  $q + a_n$  is irrational, while every interval in  $\mathcal{I}_{n+5}$  has rational endpoints),  $\#(\mathcal{J}_q) \leq 2$  and  $\{J_n \cap (I-q) : q \in Q, I \in \mathcal{J}_q\}$  consists of at most  $2\#(Q_n)$  intervals of length at most  $\frac{1}{n+6}\mu J_n$ . It follows that  $H = J_n \setminus \bigcup \{I - q : q \in Q, I \in \mathcal{J}_q\}$ has at most 2#(Q) + 1 components and has measure at least  $(1 - \frac{2\#(Q_n)}{n+6})\mu J_n$ . As  $4\#(Q_n) + 1 \le n+5$ , one of the components of H has length greater than  $\frac{\mu J_n}{n+6}$  and there must be a closed interval  $J_{n+1}$ , of length

 $\frac{1}{(n+6)!}$ , such that  $J_{n+1} \subseteq H$  and  $q + a_{n+1}$  is irrational for every  $q \in Q_n$ , where  $a_{n+1} = \min J_{n+1}$ . Now observe that  $Q_n + J_{n+1}$  does not meet any of the subintervals of members of  $\mathcal{I}_{n+5}$  which were rejected when forming  $\mathcal{I}_{n+6}$ , so that  $Q_n + J_{n+1} \subseteq \operatorname{int} K_{n+6}$ .

If n+1 is not a multiple of 4, so that  $\lfloor \frac{n+1}{4} \rfloor = \lfloor \frac{n}{4} \rfloor$ , set  $Q_{n+1} = Q_n$ . Otherwise, take a loneliest member q of  $Q_n$  (that is, one for which the distance from q to  $Q_n \setminus \{q\}$  is maximal) and choose  $q' \in E \setminus Q$  such that  $|q'-q| \leq 2^{-n}$  and  $q'+J_{n+1} \subseteq \operatorname{int} K_{n+6}$ ; set  $Q_{n+1} = Q_n \cup \{q'\}$ . Continue. At the end of the construction, let x be the single point of  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} J_n$ , and set  $Q = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} Q_n$ . Then  $Q \subseteq E$ 

has no isolated points and  $x + Q \subseteq K$ . So  $(E + x) \cap K \supseteq \overline{Q} + x$  is uncountable.

3. Proposition (ELEKES & STEPRANS 04, Theorem 2.1) Suppose that, in the construction of §1, the discarded intervals are always the right-hand ones of each group, so that  $K = \{\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{k_n}{n!} : 0 \le k_n \le n-2\}$ for each  $n \geq 3$ <sup>1</sup>. Let cf  $\mathcal{N}$  be the cofinality of the Lebesgue null ideal  $\mathcal{N}$ . Then there is a set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , with cardinality at most  $cf \mathcal{N}$ , such that  $A + K = \mathbb{R}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See Erdős & Kakutani 57.

**proof** (ELEKES & STEPRĀNS 04) Define  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  by setting  $\alpha(0) = 0$ ,  $\alpha(n) = \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor$  for  $n \geq 1$ . As in FREMLIN 08, 522L, set

$$\mathcal{S}^{(\alpha)} = \{ S : S \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}, \, \#(S[\{n\}]) \le \alpha(n) \text{ for every } n \in \mathbb{N} \} \}$$

for  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $S \in \mathcal{S}^{(\alpha)}$ , say that  $f \subseteq^* S$  if  $\{n : n \in \mathbb{N}, (n, f(n)) \notin S\}$  is finite. Say that  $f \subseteq S$  if  $(n, f(n)) \in S\}$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For  $S \in \mathcal{S}^{(\alpha)}$  set  $S' = \{(n, i) : (n, i) \in S, i \leq n-1\} \cup \{(0, 0)\}$  and

$$Q_S = \{\sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n!} : f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}, f \subseteq S'\}.$$

Then there is an  $x_S \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $x_S + Q_S \subseteq K$ . **P** For each  $n \geq 4$ ,  $S'[\{n\}]$  is a subset of  $\{0, \ldots, n-1\}$  with less than  $\frac{n}{2}$  members, so there is a  $j_n < n$  such that neither  $j_n$  nor  $j_n - 1$  belongs to  $S'[\{n\}]$ ; allow  $j_n = 0$ , but only if there is no alternative, in which case n is odd and  $S'[\{n\}] = \{1, 3, \ldots, n-2\}$ , so that  $n - 1 \notin S'[\{n\}]$ . Set  $j'_n = n - 1 - j_n$ . Now set  $x_S = \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{j'_n}{n!}$ . In this case, if  $f \subseteq S', j'_n + f(n)$  is neither  $j'_n + j_n = n - 1$  or  $j'_n + j_n - 1 = n - 2$ ; at the same time,  $j'_n + f(n) \leq 2n - 3$ , because either  $j_n > 0$  or f(n) < n - 1. So

$$x_S + \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n!} = \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{j'_n + f(n)}{n!} = \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{k_n}{n!}$$

where, for each  $n \ge 4$ ,  $k_n < n$  is one of  $j'_n + f(n)$ ,  $j'_n + f(n) + 1$ ,  $j'_n + f(n) - n$  or  $j'_n + f(n) - n + 1$ , while  $k_3$  is either 0 or 1. But this means that  $0 \le k_n \le n-2$  for every n, so that  $x_S + \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n!} \in K$ . As f is arbitrary, we have a suitable  $x_S$ . **Q** 

Observe next that, by 522L and 522M of FREMLIN 08,  $(\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}, \subseteq^*, \mathcal{S}^{(\alpha)}) \cong_{\mathrm{GT}} (\mathcal{N}, \subseteq, \mathcal{N})$ . There is therefore a set  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{S}^{(\alpha)}$ , of size cf  $\mathcal{N}$ , such that for every  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  there is a  $T \in \mathcal{T}$  such that  $f \subseteq^* \mathcal{T}$ . We may suppose that  $S \in \mathcal{T}$  whenever  $T \in \mathcal{T}, S \in \mathcal{S}^{(\alpha)}$  and  $S \triangle T$  is finite; in which case, we see that for every  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ there is a  $T \in \mathcal{T}$  such that  $f \subseteq T$ . Set  $A_0 = \{-x_T : T \in \mathcal{T}\}$ . If  $z \in [0, \frac{1}{6}]$ , there is an  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  such that f(0) = f(1) = f(2) = f(3) = 0, f(n) < n for every  $n \ge 4$ , and  $z = \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n!}$ . Let  $T \in \mathcal{T}$  be such that  $f \subseteq T$ ; then  $z \in Q_T$  so  $x_T + z \in K$  and  $z \in A_0 + K$ .

Thus  $A_0 + K \supseteq [0, \frac{1}{6}]$ ; setting  $A = A_0 + \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\#(A) \leq \operatorname{cf} \mathcal{N}$  and  $A + K = \mathbb{R}$ .

4. Translates of the Cantor set: Proposition The union of fewer than  $\mathfrak{c}$  translates of the Cantor set C always has inner measure 0.

**proof (a)** Let L be a compact set of positive Lebesgue measure. Write B for  $\{3^n k : n, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . For  $n \geq 1$  and j < 9 let  $D_{nj}$  be the closed set of those  $z \in \mathbb{R}$  such that the fractional part of z has a j in the *n*th place of (one of) its 9-ary expansions. (Take an expansion of a negative number to be of the form  $m + 0 \cdot d_1 d_2 \ldots$  where  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $d_1, d_2, \ldots < 9$ .) Note that if  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $n \geq 1$  then C + t does not meet every  $D_{nj}$ . **P** Let J be a component of  $[0, 1] \setminus C$  of length  $3 \cdot 9^{-n}$ , then  $J + 9 \cdot 9^{-n}k$  does not meet C for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Now there must be a  $j \leq 8$  such that J + t covers one of the intervals comprising  $D_{nj}$ , in which case  $D_{nj} \subseteq \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} (J + t + 9 \cdot 9^{-n}k)$  is disjoint from C + t. **Q** 

Choose  $n_i$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $y(\sigma)$ , for  $\sigma \in 9^i = \prod_{j < i} 9$ , as follows.  $y(\emptyset)$  is to be any density point of  $L \setminus B$ . Given that  $y(\sigma)$  is a density point of  $L \setminus B$  for every  $\sigma \in 9^i$ , let  $n_i \ge 1$  be such that  $n_i > n_j$  for every j < iand, setting  $A_{\sigma} = [y(\sigma), y(\sigma) + 10 \cdot 9^{-n_i}]$  for  $\sigma \in 9^i$ , the 9-ary expansions of any  $y \in A_{\sigma}$  agree with those of  $y(\sigma)$  down to the  $n_j$ th place for every j < i, and moreover  $\mu(A_{\sigma} \setminus L) < \frac{1}{90}\mu A_{\sigma}$ . Now  $A_{\sigma}$  must include an interval  $I_{\sigma j}$  of  $D_{n_i j}$  for each j < 9, and  $\mu(I_{\sigma j} \cap L) > 0$ , so we can find a density point  $y_{\sigma^- < j>}$  of  $L \setminus B$ contained in  $I_{\sigma j}$  for each j. Continue. Observe that the effect of this construction is that if  $i < \#(\sigma)$  then  $y_{\sigma} \in D_{n_i,\sigma(i)}$ .

(b) (Compare GRUENHAGE & LEVY 02) There is a family  $\mathcal{R}$  of subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ , of cardinal  $\mathfrak{c}$ , which is independent in the sense that  $\bigcap_{i\leq n} R_i \setminus \bigcup_{j\leq m} S_j$  is infinite whenever  $R_0, \ldots, R_n, S_0, \ldots, S_m$  are distinct elements of  $\mathcal{R}$ . **P** By FREMLIN 03, 491P, we can actually find such a family for which the asymptotic density of  $\bigcap_{i\leq n} R_i \setminus \bigcup_{j\leq m} S_j$  is  $2^{-m-n-2}$  whenever  $R_0, \ldots, R_n, S_0, \ldots, S_m$  are distinct elements of  $\mathcal{R}$ . **Q** 

Index  $\mathcal{R}$  as  $\langle R_{j\xi} \rangle_{j<8,\xi<\mathfrak{c}}$ . For  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$ , define  $x_{\xi} \in 9^{\mathbb{N}}$  by setting  $x_{\xi}(i) = \#(\{j : i \in R_{j\xi}\})$  for each i. Now set  $z_{\xi} = \lim_{n \to \infty} y(x_{\xi} \mid n)$  for each  $\xi$ . Then  $z_{\xi} \in L \cap D_{n_i, x_{\xi}(i)}$  for every  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ .

If  $\xi_0, \ldots, \xi_8 < \mathfrak{c}$  are distinct, then there is an  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  such that, for j < 8 and m < 9,  $i \in R_{j\xi_m} \iff j < m$ ; so that  $x_{\xi_m}(i) = m$  for each m, and  $z_{\xi_m} \in D_{n_im}$ . Thus if  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  the translate C + t cannot contain all the  $z_{\xi_m}$ . Turning this round, we see that  $\{\xi : z_{\xi} \in C + t\}$  has at most 8 members, for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . So if we have any set  $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  of cardinal less than  $\mathfrak{c}$ , there is a  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$  such that  $z_{\xi} \in L \setminus (Q + C)$ .

As L is arbitrary, the result is proved.

**Remark** Gruenhage's result that  $\mathbb{R}$  is not covered by fewer than  $\mathfrak{c}$  translates of C has been strengthened by DARJI & KELETI 03. I do not know whether their methods can be applied to the refinement here. See §7 below for a case essentially identical to the one of this proposition.

**5.** Corollary There is a set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  such that A has full outer measure for  $\mu$  but  $\#(C \cap (A+t)) < \mathfrak{c}$  for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . If the uniformity non  $\mathcal{N}$  of Lebesgue measure is  $\mathfrak{c}$ , then  $\nu(C \cap (A+t)) = 0$  for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\nu$  is the usual measure on the Cantor set C.

**proof** Enumerate  $\mathbb{R}$  as  $\langle t_{\xi} \rangle_{\xi < \mathfrak{c}}$  and the compact sets of non-zero Lebesgue measure as  $\langle L_{\xi} \rangle_{\xi < \mathfrak{c}}$ . By Proposition 4, we can choose  $a_{\xi} \in L_{\xi} \setminus \bigcup_{\eta < \xi} C + t_{\eta}$  for each  $\xi$ ; now set  $A = \{a_{\xi} : \xi < \mathfrak{c}\}$ .

6. Proposition (M.Elekes) If the covering number and cofinality of the Lebesgue null ideal are equal, there is a set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  such that A has full outer measure for  $\mu$  but  $\#(C \cap (A + t)) \leq 8$  for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**proof (a)** Take the sets  $D_{nj}$ , for  $n \ge 1$  and  $j \le 8$ , as in the proof of §4. Set  $\kappa = cf\mathcal{N} = \operatorname{cov}\mathcal{N}$ , where  $\mathcal{N}$  is the Lebesgue null ideal. Let  $\langle E_{\xi} \rangle_{\xi < \kappa}$  enumerate a coinitial subset of  $\Sigma \setminus \mathcal{N}$ , where  $\Sigma$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra of Lebesgue measurable sets. (Recall that  $\operatorname{ci}(\Sigma \setminus \mathcal{N}) = \operatorname{cf}\mathcal{N}$ , see FREMLIN 08, 524Pb.) Then there is a family  $\langle x_{\xi} \rangle_{\xi < \kappa}$  such that

 $x_{\xi} \in E_{\xi}$  for every  $\xi < \kappa$ , if  $\eta_0 < \eta_1 < \ldots < \eta_k < \kappa$  and  $j_0, \ldots, j_k \le 8$  then there are infinitely many  $n \ge 1$  such that  $x_{\eta_i} \in D_{nj_i}$  for every  $i \le k$ .

**P** Choose  $x_{\xi}$  inductively; the inductive hypothesis will of course be that

if  $\eta_0 < \eta_1 < \ldots < \eta_k < \xi$  and  $j_0, \ldots, j_k \leq 8$  then there are infinitely many  $n \geq 1$  such that  $x_{\eta_i} \in D_{nj_i}$  for every  $i \leq k$ .

Start by taking  $x_0 \in E_0$  such that  $\{n : n \ge 1, x_0 \in D_{nj}\}$  is infinite for every  $j \le 8$ ; this is possible because  $\langle D_{nj} \cap [0,1] \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is stochastically independent for every j, so that for each j the set  $\{x : x \in D_{nj} \text{ for} infinitely many n\}$  is conegligible. When we come to choose  $\xi$ , for  $\xi > 0$ , then for each pair  $\boldsymbol{\eta} = (\eta_0, \ldots, \eta_k)$ ,  $\boldsymbol{j} = (j_0, \ldots, j_k)$ , where  $k \in \mathbb{N}, \eta_0 < \ldots < \eta_k < \xi$  and  $j_0, \ldots, j_k \le 8$ , set

$$I_{\boldsymbol{\eta},\boldsymbol{j}} = \{n : n \ge 1, x_{\eta_i} \in D_{nj_i} \text{ for every } i \le k\}.$$

For any  $j \leq 8$ ,

$$F_{\boldsymbol{\eta},\boldsymbol{j},\boldsymbol{j}} = \{x : \{n : n \in I_{\boldsymbol{\eta},\boldsymbol{j}}, x \in D_{nj}\} \text{ is infinite}\}$$

is conegligible. Because  $\#(\xi) < \operatorname{cov} \mathcal{N}$ , we can therefore find an  $x_{\xi} \in E_{\xi}$  such that  $x_{\xi} \in F_{\eta,j,j}$  whenever  $\eta_0 < \ldots < \eta_k < \xi$  and  $j_0, \ldots, j_k, j \leq 8$  (by FREMLIN 08, 524Pc, or otherwise,  $E_{\xi}$  cannot be covered by fewer than  $\operatorname{cov} \mathcal{N}$  negligible sets), and the induction will proceed. **Q** 

(b) Set  $A = \{x_{\xi} : \xi < \kappa\}$ . Because A meets every  $E_{\xi}$ , A has full outer measure. If  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\eta_0 < \ldots < \eta_8 < \kappa$ , then there is an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x_{\eta_i} \in D_{ni}$  for every  $i \leq 8$ ; but there is an  $i \leq 8$  such that C + t does not meet  $D_{ni}$  (see part (a) of the proof of §4), so  $x_{\eta_i} \notin C + t$ . This shows that  $\#(A \cap (C+t)) \leq 8$  for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ; of course it follows that  $\#(C \cap (A+t)) \leq 8$  for every t.

**7.** Proposition (a) Set  $K = \{\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} 5^{-i-1} \epsilon_i : \epsilon_i \in \{0, 1, 3, 4\}$  for every  $i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , the 'middle fifth Cantor set'. Then the union of fewer than  $\mathfrak{c}$  translates of K always has inner Lebesgue measure 0.

(b) Set  $K' = \{\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} 5^{-i-1} \epsilon_i : \epsilon_i \in \{0, 4\}$  for every  $i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , the 'middle three-fifths Cantor set'. Then there is a set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , of full outer Lebesgue measure, such that K' meets every translate of A in at most one point.

(c) (M.Elekes) There are a Radon probability measure  $\tilde{\nu}$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  and a set A of full outer Lebesgue measure such that  $\nu(A + t) = 0$  for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**proof (a)** A triffing variation on the method used in §4 deals with this case also. Let L be a compact set of positive Lebesgue measure. Write B for  $\{5^nk : n, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . For  $n \ge 1$  and j < 25 let  $D_{nj}$  be the closed set of those  $z \in \mathbb{R}$  such that the fractional part of z has a j in the nth place of (one of) its 25-ary expansions. Note that if  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $n \ge 1$  then K + t does not meet every  $D_{nj}$ . Choose  $n_i$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $y(\sigma)$ , for  $\sigma \in 25^i$ , as follows.  $y(\emptyset)$  is to be any density point of  $L \setminus B$ . Given that  $y(\sigma)$  is a density point of  $L \setminus B$  for every  $\sigma \in 25^i$ , let  $n_i \ge 1$  be such that  $n_i > n_j$  for every j < i and, setting  $A_{\sigma} = [y(\sigma), y(\sigma) + 26 \cdot 25^{-n_i}]$  for  $\sigma \in 25^i$ , the 9-ary expansions of any  $y \in A_{\sigma}$  agree with those of  $y(\sigma)$  down to the  $n_j$ th place for every j < i, and moreover  $\mu(A_{\sigma} \setminus L) < \frac{1}{650}\mu A_{\sigma}$ , for every  $\sigma \in 25^i$ . Now, for each  $\sigma \in 25^i$ ,  $A_{\sigma}$  must include an interval  $I_{\sigma j}$  of  $D_{n_i j}$  for each j < 25, and  $\mu(I_{\sigma j} \cap L) > 0$ , so we can find a density point  $y_{\sigma^- < j^>}$  of  $L \setminus B$  contained in  $I_{\sigma j}$  for each j. Continue. Observe that the effect of this construction is that if  $i < \#(\sigma)$  then  $y_{\sigma} \in D_{n_i,\sigma(i)}$ .

Again take a fully independent family  $\mathcal{R}$  of subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  of cardinal  $\mathfrak{c}$ , and index it as  $\langle R_{j\xi} \rangle_{j<24,\xi<\mathfrak{c}}$ . For  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$ , define  $x_{\xi} \in 25^{\mathbb{N}}$  by setting  $x_{\xi}(i) = \#(\{j : i \in R_{j\xi}\})$  for each i. Now set  $z_{\xi} = \lim_{n \to \infty} y(x_{\xi} \upharpoonright n)$  for each  $\xi$ . Then  $z_{\xi} \in L \cap D_{n_i, x_{\xi}(i)}$  for every  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ .

If  $\xi_0, \ldots, \xi_{24} < \mathfrak{c}$  are distinct, then there is an  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  such that, for j < 24, m < 25,  $i \in R_{j\xi_m} \iff j < m$ ; so that  $x_{\xi_m}(i) = m$  for each m, and  $z_{\xi_m} \in D_{n_im}$ . Thus if  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  the translate K + t cannot contain all the  $z_{\xi_m}$ , and  $\{\xi : z_{\xi} \in K + t\}$  has at most 24 members, for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . So if we have any set  $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  of cardinal less than  $\mathfrak{c}$ , there is a  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$  such that  $z_{\xi} \in L \setminus (Q + K)$ , and Q + K cannot cover L. As L is arbitrary, the result is proved.

(b) The point is that  $K' - K' \subseteq K + (K - 1)$ . **P** Setting  $F_{nj} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} 5^{-n-1} [j + 5k, j + 5k + 1]$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $K' = [0,1] \cap \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (F_{n0} \cup F_{n4})$ , while  $K = [0,1] \cap \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (F_{n0} \cup F_{n1} \cup F_{n3} \cup F_{n4})$  and  $K - 1 = [-1,0] \cap \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (F_{n0} \cup F_{n1} \cup F_{n3} \cup F_{n4})$ . Since

$$F_{n0} - F_{n0} \subseteq F_{n0} \cup F_{n4},$$
  

$$F_{n0} - F_{n4} \subseteq F_{n0} \cup F_{n1},$$
  

$$F_{n4} - F_{n0} \subseteq F_{n3} \cup F_{n4},$$
  

$$F_{n4} - F_{n4} \subseteq F_{n0} \cup F_{n4}$$

for every n,

$$K' - K' \subseteq [-1,1] \cap \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (F_{n0} \cup F_{n1} \cup F_{n3} \cup F_{n4}) \subseteq K \cup (K-1).$$
 **Q**

Now let  $\langle L_{\xi} \rangle_{\xi < \mathfrak{c}}$  run over the non-negligible compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Choose  $\langle x_{\xi} \rangle_{\xi < \mathfrak{c}}$  such that

 $x_{\xi} \in L_{\xi} \setminus \bigcup_{\eta < \xi} ((K + x_{\eta}) \cup (K + x_{\eta} - 1))$ 

for every  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$ ; this is possible by (a). Then  $x_{\xi} \notin (K' - K') + x_{\eta}$ , that is,  $x_{\xi} - K'$  and  $x_{\eta} - K'$  are disjoint, whenever  $\eta < \xi$ ; turning this round, no translate of K' can contain  $x_{\xi}$  for more than one  $\xi$ . So we can set  $A = \{x_{\xi} : \xi < \mathfrak{c}\}.$ 

(c) We have only to take the set A of (b) and the image  $\tilde{\nu}$  of the usual measure on  $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  under the function  $z \mapsto \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 4 \cdot 5^{-n-1} z(n)$ .

**8 Remark** Recall that in any Polish group X, a set D is said to be **Haar null** if there are a universally measurable set  $E \supseteq D$  and a non-zero Radon measure  $\nu$  on X such that  $\nu(xEy) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in X$  (FREMLIN 03, 444Ye). If X is locally compact, then the Haar null sets are just those which are neglible for the Haar measures on X. Now the set A of §7(b)-(c) above is such that  $\tilde{\nu}(x + A + y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , but is not Haar null. If either non  $\mathcal{N} = \mathfrak{c}$  or  $\operatorname{cov} \mathcal{N} = \operatorname{cf} \mathcal{N}$ , as in §§5-6, then we get an example witnessed by the usual measure on the Cantor set.

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