

# A dichotomy for countable unions of smooth Borel equivalence relations

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- We say that  $E$  **continuously embeds** into  $F$ , denoted by  $E \sqsubseteq_c F$ , if there is a continuous embedding from  $E$  to  $F$ .

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which is exhaustive in the sense that every Borel equivalence relation is either bireducible with one of the elements of this initial segment, or is strictly greater than  $\mathbb{E}_0$ .

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## Proposition (Folklore)

*The relation  $\mathbb{E}_1$  is not essentially countable.*

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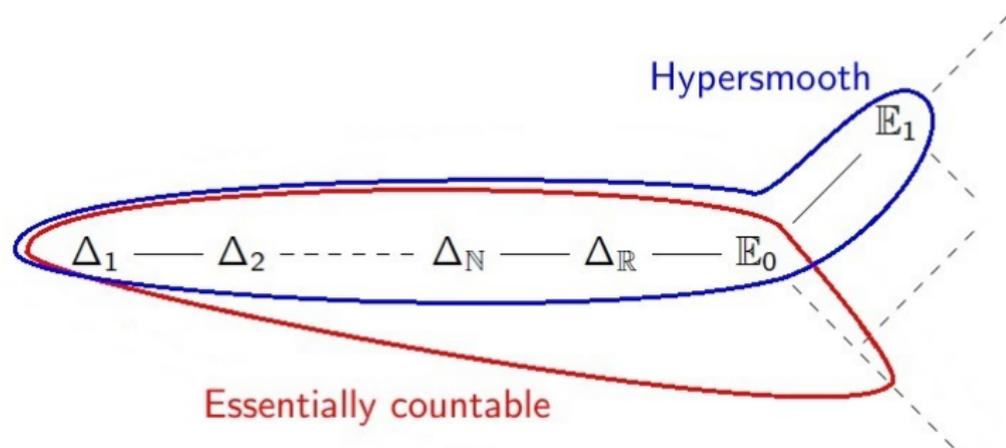
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There are other examples, for instance the disjoint union of  $\mathbb{E}_1$  and of a non-hypersmooth countable Borel equivalence relation.

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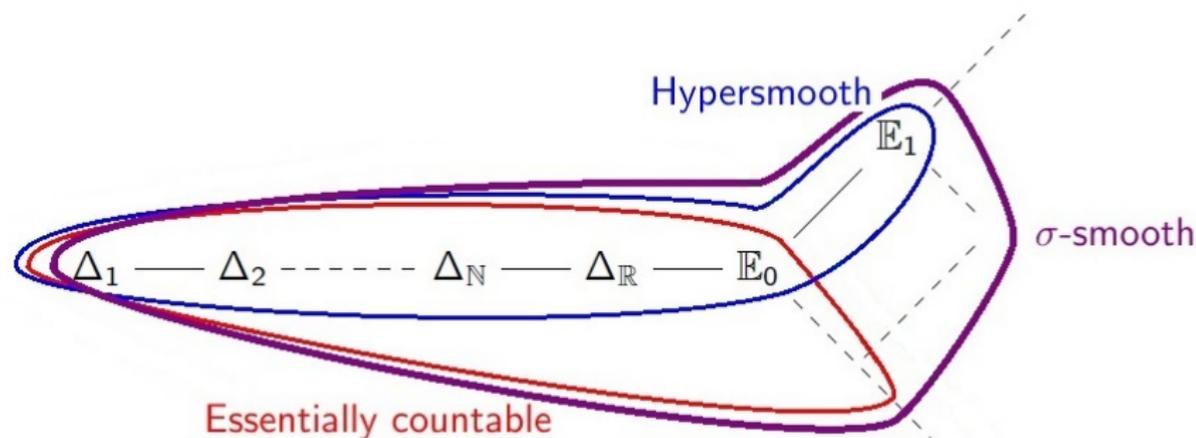
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A Borel equivalence relation  $E$  on a Polish space  $X$  is said to be **idealistic** if there is an  $E$ -invariant assignment  $x \mapsto \mathcal{I}_x$  mapping each point in  $X$  to a  $\sigma$ -ideal on  $X$  in such a way that:

- $\forall x \in X, [x]_E \notin \mathcal{I}_x$ ;
- for every  $x \in X$  and every uncountable family  $(B_i)_{i \in I}$  of pairwise disjoint Borel subsets of  $X$ , one of the  $B_i$ 's is in  $\mathcal{I}_x$
- For every Polish space  $Y$  and every Borel set  $R \subseteq X \times Y \times X$ , the set  $\{(x, y) \in X \times Y \mid R_{x,y} \in \mathcal{I}_x\}$  is Borel.

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## Conjecture ((Almost) Kechris–Louveau)

Let  $E$  be a Borel equivalence relation on a Polish space. Then exactly one of the following two conditions holds:

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Kechris–Louveau’s dichotomy solves this conjecture in the special case of hypersmooth Borel equivalence relations. Our dichotomy solves it in the special case of  $\sigma$ -smooth Borel equivalence relations.

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Denote by  $\mathcal{F}^{\leq B}$  the family of all equivalence relations on Polish spaces that are Borel reducible to an element of  $\mathcal{F}$ , and by  $\sigma(\mathcal{F})$  the class of all equivalence relations on Polish spaces that can be expressed as countable unions of subequivalence relations belonging to  $\mathcal{F}$ .

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If we take for  $\mathcal{F}$  the class of all idealistic potentially  $F_\sigma$  equivalence relations on Polish spaces, then we get that the Kechris–Louveau conjecture is satisfied by all equivalence relations that can be expressed as a countable union of subequivalence relations that are Borel reducible to idealistic potentially  $F_\sigma$  equivalence relations on Polish spaces.

**Thank you for your attention!**