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This is a pre print version of the following article:

Original:

Agostini, C., Motto Ros, L., Schlicht, P. (2023). Generalized Polish spaces at regular uncountable cardinals. JOURNAL OF THE LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, 108(5), 1886-1929 [10.1112/jlms.12797].

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/11365/1277501> since 2024-11-07T00:07:38Z

Published:

DOI:10.1112/jlms.12797

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(Article begins on next page)

GENERALIZED POLISH SPACES AT REGULAR UNCOUNTABLE CARDINALS

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ABSTRACT. In the context of generalized descriptive set theory, we systematically compare and analyze various notions of Polish-like spaces and standard κ -Borel spaces for κ an uncountable (regular) cardinal satisfying $\kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$. As a result, we obtain a solid framework where one can develop the theory in full generality. We also provide natural characterizations of the generalized Cantor and Baire spaces. Some of the results obtained considerably extend previous work from [3, 7, 13], and answer some questions contained therein.

1. INTRODUCTION

Generalized descriptive set theory is a very active field of research which in recent years received a lot of attention because of its deep connections with other areas such as model theory, determinacy and higher pointclasses from classical descriptive set theory, combinatorial set theory, classification of uncountable structures and non-separable spaces, and so on. Basically, the idea is to replace ω with an uncountable cardinal in the definitions of the Baire space ${}^\omega\omega$ and Cantor space ${}^\omega 2$, as well as in all other topologically-related notions. For example, one considers κ -Borel sets (i.e. sets in the smallest κ^+ -algebra generated by the topology) instead of Borel sets, κ -Lindelöf spaces (i.e. spaces such that all their open coverings admit a $<\kappa$ -sized subcovering) instead of compact spaces, κ -meager sets (i.e. unions of κ -many nowhere dense sets) instead of meager sets, and so on. See [6, 1] for a general introduction and the basics of this subject.

The two spaces lying at the core of the theory are then:

- (1) the **generalized Baire space**

$${}^\kappa\kappa = \{x \mid x: \kappa \rightarrow \kappa\}$$

Date: June 21, 2023.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 03E15; Secondary 54E99.

Key words and phrases. Generalized metrics, long Choquet games, generalized Polish spaces, generalized standard Borel spaces.

We are grateful to the referee for their helpful comments. The work of the first- and second-listed authors was supported by the Gruppo Nazionale per le Strutture Algebriche, Geometriche e le loro Applicazioni (GNSAGA) of the Istituto Nazionale di Alta Matematica (INdAM) of Italy, and by project PRIN 2017 “Mathematical Logic: models, sets, computability”, prot. 2017NWTM8R. The third-listed author has received funding through EPSRC grant number EP/V009001/1, FWF grant number I4039 and the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 794020 (IMIC). For the purpose of open access, the authors have applied a ‘Creative Commons Attribution’ (CC BY) public copyright licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) version arising from this submission.

of all sequences with values in κ and length κ , equipped with the so-called **bounded topology** τ_b , i.e. the topology generated by the sets of the form

$$\mathbf{N}_s = \{x \in {}^\kappa\kappa \mid s \subseteq x\}$$

with s ranging in the set ${}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ of sequences with values in κ and length $<\kappa$;

(2) the **generalized Cantor space**

$${}^\kappa 2 = \{x \mid x: \kappa \rightarrow 2\}$$

of all binary sequences of length κ , which is a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and is thus equipped with the relative topology.

When κ is regular, these topologies are κ -**additive**, i.e. they are closed under intersections of length $<\kappa$. Since the classical Cantor and Baire spaces are second-countable, it is natural to desire that, accordingly, ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and ${}^\kappa 2$ have weight κ : this amounts to require that $\kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$ or, equivalently, that κ is regular and such that $2^{<\kappa} = \kappa$. Thus such assumption is usually adopted as one of the basic conditions to develop the theory, and this paper is no exception.

Despite the achievements already obtained by generalized descriptive set theory, there is still a missing ingredient. The success and strong impact experienced by classical descriptive set theory in other areas of mathematics is partially due to its wide applicability: the theory is developed for arbitrary completely metrizable second-countable (briefly: **Polish spaces**) and for **standard Borel spaces**, which are ubiquitous in most mathematical fields. In contrast, generalized descriptive set theory so far concentrated (with a few exceptions) only on ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and ${}^\kappa 2$, and this constitutes a potential limitation. Our goal is to fill this gap by considering various generalizations of Polish and standard Borel spaces already proposed in the literature, adding a few more natural options, and then systematically compare them from various points of view (see Figure 1). Some of these results substantially extend and improve previous work appeared in [3, 7].

Our analysis reveals that when moving to uncountable cardinals κ , there is no preferred option among the possible generalizations of Polishness. Depending on which properties one decides to focus on, certain classes behave better than others, but there is no single class simultaneously sharing all nice features typically enjoyed by the collection of (classical) Polish spaces. For example, if one is interested in maintaining the usual closure properties of the given class (e.g. products, closed and G_δ subspaces, and so on), then the “right” classes are arguably those of (κ -additive) $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces or \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces—see Definitions 2.3 and 2.5, Theorem 2.20, and Theorems 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3. On the other hand, if one is interested in an analogue of the Cantor-Bendixson theorem for perfect spaces, then one should better move to the class of (κ -additive) SC_κ -spaces—see Definition 2.2, [3, Proposition 3.1], and Theorem 3.6.

These different possibilities and behaviors are reconciled at the level of κ -Borel sets: all the proposed generalizations give rise to the same class of spaces up to κ -Borel isomorphism (Theorems 2.37 and 4.5), thus they constitute a natural and solid setup to work with. We also provide a mathematical explanation of the special role played in the theory by the generalized Cantor and Baire spaces. On the one hand they admit nice characterizations which are analogous to the ones obtained in the classical setting by Brouwer and Alexandrov-Urysohn (Theorems 3.9, 3.13, and 3.14). On the other hand, when restricting to κ -additive spaces all our classes

can be described, up to homeomorphism, as collections of simply definable subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and ${}^\kappa 2$ (Theorems 2.20, 2.30, 3.20, and 3.21).

In a sequel to this paper, we will provide many more concrete examples of (not necessarily κ -additive) Polish-like spaces, thus showing that such classes are extremely rich and not limited to simple subspaces of ${}^\kappa\kappa$. In combination with the more theoretical observations presented in this paper, we believe that our results provide a wide yet well-behaved setup for developing generalized descriptive set theory, thus opening the way to fruitful applications to other areas of mathematics.

2. POLISH-LIKE SPACES

2.1. Spaces, games, and metrics. Throughout the paper we work in ZFC and assume that κ is an uncountable regular cardinal satisfying $2^{<\kappa} = \kappa$ (equivalently: $\kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$). Unless otherwise specified, from now on all topological spaces are assumed to be regular and Hausdorff, and we will refer to them just as “spaces”. In this framework, (classical) Polish spaces can equivalently be defined as:

- (Pol. 1) completely metrizable second-countable spaces;
- (Pol. 2) strong Choquet second-countable spaces, where strong Choquet means that the second player has a winning strategy in a suitable topological game, called strong Choquet game, on the given space (see below for the precise definition).

Consider now pairs (X, \mathcal{B}) with X a nonempty set and \mathcal{B} a σ -algebra on X . Such pairs are called Borel spaces if \mathcal{B} is countably generated and separates points¹ or, equivalently, if there is a metrizable second-countable topology on X generating \mathcal{B} as its Borel σ -algebra. Standard Borel spaces can then equivalently be defined as:

- (St.Bor. 1) Borel spaces (X, \mathcal{B}) such that there is a Polish topology on X generating \mathcal{B} as its Borel σ -algebra;
- (St.Bor. 2) Borel spaces which are Borel isomorphic to a Borel subset of ${}^\omega\omega$ (or any other uncountable Polish space, including ${}^\omega 2$).

In [16], a notion of standard κ -Borel space was introduced by straightforwardly generalizing the definition given by (St.Bor. 2). Call a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) a κ -Borel space if \mathcal{B} is a κ^+ -algebra on X which separates points and admits a $\leq \kappa$ -sized basis. The elements of \mathcal{B} are then called κ -Borel sets of X . If (X, \mathcal{B}) is a κ -Borel space and $Y \subseteq X$, then setting $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright Y = \{B \cap Y \mid B \in \mathcal{B}\}$ we get that $(Y, \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright Y)$ is again a κ -Borel space. If (X, \mathcal{B}) and (X', \mathcal{B}') are κ -Borel spaces, we say that a function $f: X \rightarrow X'$ is κ -Borel (measurable) if $f^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{B}$ for all $B \in \mathcal{B}'$. A κ -Borel isomorphism between (X, \mathcal{B}) and (X', \mathcal{B}') is a bijection f such that both f and f^{-1} are κ -Borel; two κ -Borel spaces are then κ -Borel isomorphic if there is a κ -Borel isomorphism between them. Finally, a κ -Borel embedding $f: X \rightarrow X'$ is an injective function which is a κ -Borel isomorphism between (X, \mathcal{B}) and $(f(X), \mathcal{B}' \upharpoonright f(X))$. Notice that every T_0 topological space (X, τ) of weight $\leq \kappa$ can be seen as a κ -Borel space in a canonical way by pairing it with the collection

$$\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$$

of all its κ -Borel subsets, i.e. with the smallest κ^+ -algebra generated by its topology. (We sometimes remove τ from this notation if clear from the context.) If not

¹A family $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ separates points if for all distinct $x, y \in X$ there is $B \in \mathcal{B}$ with $x \in B$ and $y \notin B$.

specified otherwise, we are always tacitly referring to such κ^+ -Borel structure when dealing with κ -Borel isomorphisms and κ -Borel embeddings between topological spaces.

We are now ready to generalize (St.Bor. 2).

Definition 2.1. A κ -Borel space (X, \mathcal{B}) is **standard**² if it is κ -Borel isomorphic to a κ -Borel subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

Generalizations of (St.Bor. 1) were instead not considered in [16] because at that time no natural generalization of the concept of a Polish space was introduced yet. But clearly, once we are given a notion of a Polish-like space for κ (e.g. the ones we are going to consider below, namely SC_κ -spaces, $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces, or \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces), we can accordingly generalize (St.Bor. 1) by considering those κ -Borel spaces which admit a topology of the desired type generating \mathcal{B} as its κ^+ -algebra of κ -Borel sets. This yields to several formally different definitions: we will however show that they all coincide, so that there is no need to notationally and terminologically distinguish them at this point.

We now move to some natural generalizations of Polishness. In [3], the authors considered a natural generalization of (Pol. 2) to uncountable regular cardinals κ in order to obtain a notion of “Polish-like” spaces, called therein strong κ -Choquet spaces. Let us recall the relevant definitions. The (classical) Choquet game $G_\omega(X)$ on a topological space X is the game where two players I and II alternatively pick nonempty open sets U_n and V_n

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} \text{I} & U_0 & U_1 & \dots & \\ \hline \text{II} & V_0 & V_1 & \dots & \end{array}$$

so that $U_{n+1} \subseteq V_n \subseteq U_n$; player II wins the run if the set $\bigcap_{n \in \omega} U_n = \bigcap_{n \in \omega} V_n$ is nonempty. The strong Choquet game $G_\omega^s(X)$ is the variant of $G_\omega(X)$ where I additionally plays points $x_n \in U_n$

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} \text{I} & (U_0, x_0) & (U_1, x_1) & \dots & \\ \hline \text{II} & V_0 & V_1 & \dots & \end{array}$$

and II ensures that $x_n \in V_n \subseteq U_n$; the winning condition stays the same.

It is (almost) straightforward to generalize such games to uncountable κ 's: just let players I and II play for κ -many rounds, and still declare II as the winner of the run if the final intersection $\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} U_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha$ is nonempty. However, since $\kappa > \omega$ we now have to decide what should happen at limit levels $\gamma < \kappa$. Firstly, since the space X is not necessarily κ -additive we require U_γ, V_γ to be just open *relatively to what has been played so far*, i.e. relatively to $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} U_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha$ (this obviously applies to all rounds with index $\gamma \geq \omega$, not only to the limit ones). A more subtle issue is deciding who wins the game if at some limit $\gamma < \kappa$ we already have $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} U_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha = \emptyset$, so that the game cannot continue from that round on. Following [3], the κ -**Choquet game** $G_\kappa(X)$ and the **strong κ -Choquet game** $G_\kappa^s(X)$ on X are defined by letting I win in such situations. In other words, II has to ensure that for all limit $\gamma \leq \kappa$ (thus including, in particular, the final stage $\gamma = \kappa$), the intersection $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} U_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha$ is nonempty. This leads to the following definition.

²Our definition of a standard κ -Borel space is slightly different yet equivalent to the one considered in [16]. Indeed, the difference is that in [16, Definition 3.6] a $\leq \kappa$ -weighted topology generating the standard κ -Borel structure is singled out—see also the discussion after Corollary 4.11.

Definition 2.2. A space X is called **strong κ -Choquet** (or **SC $_{\kappa}$ -space**) if it has³ weight $\leq \kappa$ and player II has a winning strategy in $G_{\kappa}^s(X)$.

The other natural option, not yet considered so far in the literature, is to make the game more fair by deciding that I partially shares the burden of having a nonempty intersection and takes care of limit levels $\gamma < \kappa$. In other words: II wins if he can guarantee that $\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} U_{\alpha} = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_{\alpha} \neq \emptyset$, *provided that for all limit $\gamma < \kappa$ the intersection $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} U_{\alpha} = \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_{\alpha}$ is nonempty* (if this fails at some limit stage before κ , then the run terminates and II automatically wins). We call this version of the Choquet game **fair κ -Choquet game** and denote it by $fG_{\kappa}(X)$, while its further variant with player I additionally choosing points is called **strong fair κ -Choquet game** and is denoted by $fG_{\kappa}^s(X)$, accordingly.

Definition 2.3. A space X is called **strong fair κ -Choquet** (or **fSC $_{\kappa}$ -space**) if it has weight $\leq \kappa$ and player II has a winning strategy in $fG_{\kappa}^s(X)$.

Since it is more difficult for player II to win the strong κ -Choquet game than its fair variant, it is clear from the definition that every SC $_{\kappa}$ -space is in particular an fSC $_{\kappa}$ -space. Moreover, both ${}^{\kappa}\kappa$ and ${}^{\kappa}2$ are trivially SC $_{\kappa}$ -spaces (any legal strategy where II plays basic open sets is automatically winning in the corresponding strong κ -Choquet games), and thus they are also fSC $_{\kappa}$ -spaces.

Remark 2.4. Although it is not part of the rules in Choquet-like games, in the above definitions one could equivalently require the players to pick only open sets from any given basis of the topological space (possibly intersected with all previous moves, if the space is not κ -additive)—see [3, Lemma 2.5]. This restriction will turn out to be useful in some of the proofs below.

We next move to generalizations of (Pol. 1). This requires to find suitable analogues of metrics over the real line for spaces that are not necessarily first countable. One solution is to consider metrics over a structure other than \mathbb{R} . Consider a totally ordered⁴ (Abelian) group

$$\mathbb{G} = \langle G, +_{\mathbb{G}}, 0_{\mathbb{G}}, \leq_{\mathbb{G}} \rangle$$

with **degree** $\text{Deg}(\mathbb{G}) = \kappa$, where $\text{Deg}(\mathbb{G})$ denotes the coinitality of the positive cone $\mathbb{G}^+ = \{\varepsilon \in \mathbb{G} \mid 0_{\mathbb{G}} <_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon\}$ of \mathbb{G} .⁵ A **\mathbb{G} -metric** on a nonempty space X is then a function $d: X^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}^+ \cup \{0_{\mathbb{G}}\}$ satisfying the usual rules of a distance function: for all $x, y, z \in X$

- $d(x, y) = 0_{\mathbb{G}} \iff x = y$
- $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$
- $d(x, z) \leq_{\mathbb{G}} d(x, y) +_{\mathbb{G}} d(y, z)$.

Every \mathbb{G} -metric space (X, d) is naturally equipped with the (d -)topology generated by its open balls

$$B_d(x, \varepsilon) = \{y \in X \mid d(x, y) <_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon\},$$

where $x \in X$ and $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+$. If X is already a topological space, we say that the \mathbb{G} -metric d is compatible with the topology of X if the latter coincides with the

³Notice that we are deliberately allowing our spaces to have weight strictly smaller than κ . Although this might sound unnatural at first glance, it allows us to state some of our results in a more elegant form and is perfectly coherent with what is done in the classical case, where one includes among Polish spaces also those of finite weight.

⁴This means that the order $\leq_{\mathbb{G}}$ is linear and translation-invariant (on both sides).

⁵This is also called the **base number** of \mathbb{G} in [7] and the **character** of \mathbb{G} in [22].

d -topology. A topological space is called \mathbb{G} -**metrizable** if it admits a compatible \mathbb{G} -metric.

Let (X, d) be a \mathbb{G} -metric space. A sequence⁶ $(x_i)_{i < \kappa}$ of points from X is (d) -Cauchy if

$$\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+ \exists \alpha < \kappa \forall \beta, \gamma \geq \alpha (d(x_\beta, x_\gamma) <_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon).$$

The space (X, d) (or the \mathbb{G} -metric d) is Cauchy-complete if every Cauchy sequence $(x_i)_{i < \kappa}$ converges to some (necessarily unique) $x \in X$, that is,

$$\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+ \exists \alpha < \kappa \forall \beta \geq \alpha (d(x_\beta, x) <_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon).$$

We are now ready to generalize (Pol. 1).

Definition 2.5. A space X is \mathbb{G} -**Polish** if it is completely \mathbb{G} -metrizable and has weight (equivalently, density character) $\leq \kappa$.

Remark 2.6. These definitions are not new. Spaces with generalized metrics taking values in a structure different from \mathbb{R} have been introduced in [22] and have been widely studied since then, see for example [21, 18, 17]. To the best of our knowledge, the systematic study of *completely* \mathbb{G} -metrizable spaces is instead of more recent interest, and so far it has been developed mainly in [7].

Clearly, \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces are closed under closed subspaces. Moreover, the space ${}^\kappa\kappa$ (endowed with the bounded topology) is always \mathbb{G} -Polish, as witnessed by the \mathbb{G} -metric

$$(2.1) \quad d(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0_{\mathbb{G}} & \text{if } x = y \\ r_\alpha & \text{if } x \upharpoonright \alpha = y \upharpoonright \alpha \text{ and } x(\alpha) \neq y(\alpha) \end{cases}$$

where $(r_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ is a strictly decreasing sequence cointial in \mathbb{G}^+ (the choice of such a sequence is irrelevant). It follows that all closed subspaces of ${}^\kappa\kappa$, notably including ${}^\kappa 2$, are \mathbb{G} -Polish for any \mathbb{G} as above. Notice also that commutativity of the group operation is not strictly needed in order to define the metric, but it is usually required to ensure that \mathbb{G} itself form a \mathbb{G} -metric space with distance function $d(x, y) = |x -_{\mathbb{G}} y|_{\mathbb{G}}$. Sometimes it is further required that \mathbb{G} is Cauchy-complete with respect to the above metric: in this case \mathbb{G} itself would become \mathbb{G} -Polish.

We decided to work with the theory of metrics over a totally ordered Abelian group \mathbb{G} since it is arguably the most common choice in literature. However, other choices are possible. For example, Reichel in [18] studied metrics with values in a totally ordered Abelian semigroup with minimum. Coskey and Schlicht in [3] considered (ultra)metrics with values in a linear order (where the operation $+_{\mathbb{G}}$ is the *minimum* function). Or \mathbb{G} can be non-Abelian as well. All these choices would essentially lead to the same results presented here for Abelian groups: see Remark 2.22. The reason why we decided to follow the common practice of sticking to totally ordered Abelian groups is that metrics over groups grant most of the properties of standard metrics. For example, it is easy to show that for every $x \in X$ and every sequence $(r_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ cointial in \mathbb{G}^+ , the family $\{B_d(x, r_\alpha) \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$ is a local basis of x which is well-ordered by reverse inclusion \supseteq . If one wants to consider metrics taking values in less structured sets, like monoids or semigroups, this condition must be explicitly added to the axioms that define the metric (see e.g. [18]).

⁶Notice that when speaking about Cauchy sequences and Cauchy-completeness we always refer to sequences of length $\kappa = \text{Deg}(\mathbb{G})$.

We conclude this section by addressing another natural question: is there any advantage in choosing a particular totally ordered Abelian group \mathbb{G} over the others? In the countable case, \mathbb{R} plays a key role among all the possible choices of range for the metrics: for example, every connected (real-valued) metric space does not admit a metric with range contained in \mathbb{Q} . In the uncountable case, the situation is the opposite: different choices of \mathbb{G} almost always lead to the same class of spaces, making less relevant the actual choice of the range of the metrics. For example, it is well-known that given an uncountable regular cardinal κ and two totally ordered Abelian groups \mathbb{G} and \mathbb{G}' of degree $\text{Deg}(\mathbb{G}) = \text{Deg}(\mathbb{G}') = \kappa$, a space of weight $\leq \kappa$ is \mathbb{G} -metrizable, if and only if it is \mathbb{G}' -metrizable if and only if it is κ -additive (see Theorem 2.11, which is taken from [22], but see also [21]). In Theorem 2.20 and Corollary 2.21, we show that a similar statement holds for *completely* \mathbb{G} -metrizable spaces, hence the notion of \mathbb{G} -Polish as well is independent from the choice of the actual \mathbb{G} .

The fact that there is no preferred structure for the range of our generalized metrics implies that every possible generalization-to-level- κ of the reals yields to an example of \mathbb{G} -Polish space (as long as this generalization preserves properties like being Cauchy-complete with respect to its canonical metric over itself). For example, this applies to the long reals introduced by Klaua in [11] and studied by Asperó and Tsaprounis in [2], or to the generalization of \mathbb{R} introduced in [7] using the surreal numbers. See also [4] for other examples of \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces, as well as methods to construct Cauchy-complete totally ordered fields.

2.2. Relationships. The goal of this subsection is to compare the proposed classes of Polish-like (topological) spaces; in Section 4 we will extend our analysis to encompass the various generalizations of standard (κ -)Borel spaces.

Definition 2.7. Let X be a space. A set $A \subseteq X$ is G_δ^κ if it can be written as a κ -sized intersection of open sets of X ; it is F_σ^κ if it can be written as a κ -sized union of closed sets of X or, equivalently, if its complement is G_δ^κ . A G_δ^κ set is called **proper** if it is not F_σ^κ .

It is easy to construct $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -subspaces of, say, the generalized Cantor space ${}^\kappa 2$ which are properly G_δ^κ : consider e.g.

$$(2.2) \quad \{x \in {}^\kappa 2 \mid \forall \alpha \exists \beta \geq \alpha (x(\beta) = 1)\}.$$

As in the classical case, this specific example is particularly relevant.

Fact 2.8. The generalized Baire space ${}^\kappa \kappa$ is homeomorphic to the G_δ^κ subset of ${}^\kappa 2$ from (2.2).

The following is a well-known fact, but we reprove it here for the reader's convenience.

Lemma 2.9. *Every closed subset C of a space⁷ X of weight $\leq \kappa$ is G_δ^κ in X .*

Proof. Let \mathcal{B} be a basis for X of size $\leq \kappa$. By regularity of X , for every $x \in X \setminus C$ there is $U \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in U$ and $\text{cl}(U) \subseteq X \setminus C$. Thus

$$C = \bigcap \{X \setminus \text{cl}(U) \mid U \in \mathcal{B} \wedge \text{cl}(U) \cap C = \emptyset\}. \quad \square$$

⁷Recall that all spaces are tacitly assumed to be regular Hausdorff.

Proposition 2.10. *If X is an fSC_κ -space and $Y \subseteq X$ is G_δ^κ , then Y is an fSC_κ -space as well.*

Proof. Let $O_\alpha \subseteq X$ be open sets such that $Y = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} O_\alpha$ and fix a winning strategy τ for II in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$. We define (by recursion on the round) a strategy for II in $fG_\kappa^s(Y)$ as follows. Suppose that until a certain round $\alpha < \kappa$, player I has played a sequence $\langle (U_\beta, x_\beta) \mid \beta \leq \alpha \rangle$ following the rules of $fG_\kappa^s(Y)$. Each set U_β is open in Y relatively to the intersection of all previous moves, hence it can be seen as the intersection of Y (and all previous moves of I) with some open set of X . Proceeding recursively, we can thus associate to each U_β a set $\tilde{U}_\beta \subseteq O_\beta$ such that $U_\beta = \tilde{U}_\beta \cap Y$, where \tilde{U}_β is open in X relatively to the intersection $\bigcap_{\zeta < \beta} \tilde{U}_\zeta$ of all previous sets (this can be done because each O_β is open in X). Then $\langle (\tilde{U}_\beta, x_\beta) \mid \beta \leq \alpha \rangle$ is a legal sequence of moves for I in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$. If V_α is what τ requires II to play against $\langle (\tilde{U}_\beta, x_\beta) \mid \beta \leq \alpha \rangle$ in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$, we get that $V_\alpha \cap Y \neq \emptyset$, as witnessed by x_α itself, and $V_\alpha \subseteq \tilde{U}_\alpha \subseteq O_\alpha$: so we can let II respond to I's move in the game $fG_\kappa^s(Y)$ on Y with $V_\alpha \cap Y$. By construction, the resulting strategy for II is legal with respect to the rules of $fG_\kappa^s(Y)$. Moreover, if for all limit $\gamma < \kappa$ the intersection $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} (V_\alpha \cap Y)$ is nonempty, then so is $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha$: since τ is winning in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$, this means that $\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha \neq \emptyset$, whence by $V_\alpha \subseteq O_\alpha$ we also get

$$\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} (V_\alpha \cap Y) = \left(\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha \right) \cap Y = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha \cap \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} O_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha \neq \emptyset. \quad \square$$

Recall that given an infinite cardinal ν , a topological space X is called ν -**additive** if its topology is closed under intersections of length $< \nu$. Every topological space is ω -additive, and as already noticed the generalized Baire and Cantor spaces ${}^\kappa\kappa, {}^\kappa 2$ are both κ -additive when κ is regular. Moreover, if X is regular and ν -additive for some $\nu > \omega$, then X is zero-dimensional (i.e. it has a basis consisting of clopen sets). Indeed, fix a point $x \in X$ and an open neighborhood U of it. Using regularity, recursively construct a sequence $(U_n)_{n \in \omega}$ of open neighborhoods of x such that $U_0 = U$ and $\text{cl}(U_{n+1}) \subseteq U_n$. Then $V = \bigcap_{n \in \omega} U_n = \bigcap_{n \in \omega} \text{cl}(U_n)$ contains x , it is closed, and it is also open by ν -additivity (here we use $\nu > \omega$). Thus X admits a basis consisting of clopen sets, as required. Notice also that if X has weight κ , then such a clopen basis can be taken of size κ as well.

Recall also the correspondence between closed subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and trees on κ . Given an ordinal γ and a nonempty set A , we denote by ${}^\gamma A$ the set of all sequences of length γ and values in A . We then set ${}^{<\kappa}\kappa = \bigcup_{\gamma < \kappa} {}^\gamma \kappa$, and for $s \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ we let $\text{lh}(s)$ be the length of s , that is, the unique ordinal $\gamma < \kappa$ such that $s \in {}^\gamma \kappa$. The concatenation between two sequences s, t is denoted by $s \hat{\ } t$, and to simplify the notation we just write $s \hat{\ } i$ and $i \hat{\ } s$ if $t = \langle i \rangle$ is a sequence of length 1. If $\alpha \leq \text{lh}(s)$, we denote by $s \upharpoonright \alpha$ the restriction of s to its first α -many digits. We write $s \subseteq t$ to say that s is an initial segment of t , that is, $\text{lh}(s) \leq \text{lh}(t)$ and $s = t \upharpoonright \text{lh}(s)$. The sequences s and t are **comparable** if $s \subseteq t$ or $t \subseteq s$, and **incomparable** otherwise. A set $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ is called **tree** if it is closed under initial segments. For $\alpha < \kappa$ we denote by $\text{Lev}_\alpha(T)$ the α -th level of the tree T , namely,

$$\text{Lev}_\alpha(T) = \{t \in T \mid \text{lh}(t) = \alpha\}.$$

Given $s \in T$, we also define the localization of T at s as

$$T_s = \{t \in T \mid t \text{ is comparable with } s\}.$$

The bounded topology on ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is the unique topology on such a space with the following property: a set $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ is closed if and only if there is some tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ such that $C = [T]$, where the **body** $[T]$ of the tree T is defined by

$$[T] = \{x \in {}^\kappa\kappa \mid \forall \alpha < \kappa (x \upharpoonright \alpha \in T)\}.$$

The above tree T can always be required to be **pruned**, that is, such that for all $s \in T$ and $\text{lh}(s) \leq \alpha < \kappa$ there is $s \subseteq t \in T$ such that $\text{lh}(t) = \alpha$, i.e. $\text{Lev}_\alpha(T_s) \neq \emptyset$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$. Indeed, if C is closed, then the tree $T_C = \{x \upharpoonright \alpha \mid x \in C \wedge \alpha < \kappa\}$ is pruned and such that $C = [T_C]$. Sometimes, one needs to consider a further closure property for trees. We say that the tree T is **$<\kappa$ -closed** if for all sequences $s \in {}^\gamma\kappa$ with $\gamma < \kappa$ limit, if $s \upharpoonright \alpha \in T$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$, then $s \in T$ as well. A tree T is called **superclosed** if it is pruned and $<\kappa$ -closed; this in particular implies that if $s \in T$, then $\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T] \neq \emptyset$ or, equivalently, $[T_s] \neq \emptyset$. Not all closed subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ are the body of a superclosed tree: consider e.g. the set

$$(2.3) \quad X_0 = \{x \in {}^\kappa 2 \mid |\{\alpha < \kappa \mid x(\alpha) = 0\}| < \aleph_0\}.$$

This justifies the following terminology: a closed $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ is called **superclosed** if $C = [T]$ for some superclosed tree T .

Sikorski proved in [22, Theorem (x)] that every regular κ -additive space of weight $\leq \kappa$ is homeomorphic to a subspace of ${}^\kappa 2$, and that the latter is \mathbb{G} -metrizable. We can sum up his results as follows, where we additionally use Fact 2.8 to further add item (d) to the list of equivalent conditions.

Theorem 2.11 ([22, Theorem (viii)-(x)]). *For any space X of weight $\leq \kappa$ and any totally ordered Abelian group \mathbb{G} with $\text{Deg}(\mathbb{G}) = \kappa$ the following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is κ -additive;
- (b) X is \mathbb{G} -metrizable;
- (c) X is homeomorphic to a subset of ${}^\kappa 2$;
- (d) X is homeomorphic to a subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

Since conditions (a), (c), and (d) do not refer to \mathbb{G} at all, this shows in particular that the choice of the actual group in the definition of the generalized metric is irrelevant. We are now going to prove that analogous results hold also for $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces, SC_κ -spaces, and \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces (see Theorems 2.20 and 2.30).

Proposition 2.12. *Let X be a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space. Then X is homeomorphic to a closed $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$. If furthermore X is an SC_κ -space, then C can be taken to be superclosed.*

Proof. We prove the two statements simultaneously. Let $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ be an enumeration of a clopen basis \mathcal{B} of X , possibly with repetitions. Depending on whether X is an SC_κ -space or just an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space, let σ be a winning strategy for player II in $\mathbb{G}_\kappa^s(X)$ or $f\mathbb{G}_\kappa^s(X)$. By Remark 2.4, without loss of generality we can assume that the range of σ is contained in \mathcal{B} . To simplify the notation, given an ordinal β , let $\text{Succ}(\beta)$ be the collection of all successor ordinals $\leq \beta$. Set also

$${}^{<\text{Succ}(\kappa)}\kappa = \{s \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa \mid \text{lh}(s) \in \text{Succ}(\kappa)\}.$$

We will construct a family of the form

$$\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \langle x_s, U_s, V_s, \hat{V}_s \rangle \mid s \in {}^{<\text{Succ}(\kappa)}\kappa \right\},$$

and set for every $t \in {}^{\leq \kappa} \kappa = {}^{< \kappa} \kappa \cup {}^{\kappa} \kappa$ with $\text{lh}(t) = \gamma \leq \kappa$,

$$(2.4) \quad V(t) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)} \hat{V}_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}.$$

(In particular, when $\gamma = 0$ we get $V(\emptyset) = X$ because $\text{Succ}(0) = \emptyset$.) The family \mathcal{F} will be designed so that for any $\gamma < \kappa$ and $s \in {}^{\gamma+1} \kappa$ the following properties are satisfied:

- (i) $x_s \in X$, and U_s, V_s, \hat{V}_s are all clopen in X .
- (ii) If $V(s) \neq \emptyset$, then the sequence $\langle (U_{s \upharpoonright \alpha}, x_{s \upharpoonright \alpha}), V_{s \upharpoonright \alpha} \mid \alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma+1) \rangle$ is a (partial) run in the strong (fair) κ -Choquet game on X in which II follows σ .
- (iii) Either $\hat{V}_s \subseteq B_\gamma$ or $\hat{V}_s \cap B_\gamma = \emptyset$.
- (iv) $\hat{V}_s \subseteq V_s \subseteq U_s \subseteq V(s \upharpoonright \gamma)$.
- (v) $\{\hat{V}_s \mid s \in {}^{\gamma+1} \kappa\}$ is a partition⁸ of X .

Condition (iv) implies that

$$(2.5) \quad \hat{V}_s \subseteq \hat{V}_{s \upharpoonright \alpha}$$

for every $s \in {}^{< \text{Succ}(\kappa)} \kappa$ and $\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\text{lh}(s))$. Together with condition (v), this entails that

- (v') For any $\gamma < \kappa$, successor or not, $\{V(t) \mid t \in {}^\gamma \kappa\}$ is a partition of X .

From condition (v') and (2.5) it easily follows that if $t, t' \in {}^{< \kappa} \kappa$ are such that $V(t) \cap V(t') \neq \emptyset$, then t and t' are comparable. The inclusion (2.5) also implies that if $\text{lh}(t)$ is a successor ordinal, then $V(t) = \hat{V}_t$. If instead $\gamma = \text{lh}(t) \leq \kappa$ is limit, then

$$(2.6) \quad V(t) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)} U_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)} V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$$

by condition (iv) again. Notice also that the additional properties discussed in this paragraph have a local (i.e. level-by-level) nature: for example, to have (v') at some level γ , it is enough to have conditions (iv) and (v) at all levels $\gamma' \leq \gamma$.

Given \mathcal{F} as above, one obtains the required homeomorphism of X with a (super)closed set $C \subseteq {}^{\kappa} \kappa$ as follows. Since X is Hausdorff, if $\text{lh}(t) = \kappa$ then $V(t)$ has at most one element by condition (iii). Consider the tree

$$T = \{t \in {}^{< \kappa} \kappa \mid V(t) \neq \emptyset\}.$$

It is pruned by condition (v') and the comment following it. Furthermore, if X is an SC_κ -space (i.e. σ is a winning in the game $\text{G}_\kappa^s(X)$), then T is also $< \kappa$ -closed by condition (ii) and equation (2.6).

We now prove that the (super)closed set $C = [T]$ is homeomorphic to X . Since σ is a winning strategy in the strong (fair) κ -Choquet game, the set $V(t)$ is nonempty for every $t \in [T]$ by condition (ii) and equation (2.6) again, thus it contains exactly one point: let $f: [T] \rightarrow X$ be the map that associates to every $t \in [T]$ the unique element in $V(t)$. We claim that f is a homeomorphism.

Claim 2.12.1. f is bijective.

⁸In our terminology, an indexed family $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$ of subsets of X is a partition of X if $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = X$ and $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ for distinct $i, j \in I$. In particular, some of the A_i 's might be empty and for $i \neq j$ we have $A_i = A_j$ if and only if both A_i and A_j are empty.

Proof. To see that f is injective, let $t, t' \in [T]$ be distinct and $\alpha < \kappa$ be such that $t \upharpoonright \alpha \neq t' \upharpoonright \alpha$. By condition **(v')** we have $V(t \upharpoonright \alpha) \cap V(t' \upharpoonright \alpha) = \emptyset$, and hence $f(t) \neq f(t')$ because $f(t) \in V(t) \subseteq V(t \upharpoonright \alpha)$ and $f(t') \in V(t') \subseteq V(t' \upharpoonright \alpha)$. To see that f is also surjective, fix any $x \in X$. By **(v')** again (and the comment following it), for each $\alpha < \kappa$ there is a unique t_α of length α with $x \in V(t_\alpha)$, and moreover $t_\alpha \subseteq t_\beta$ for all $\alpha \leq \beta < \kappa$. Let $t = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} t_\alpha$, so that $x \in V(t) = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V(t_\alpha) = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V(t \upharpoonright \alpha)$: then x itself witnesses $t \in [T]$, and $f(t) = x$. \square

Claim 2.12.2. f is a homeomorphism.

Proof. Observe that by definition of f , its surjectivity, and condition **(v')**,

$$(2.7) \quad f(\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T]) = V(s) = \hat{V}_s$$

for all $s \in T$ with $\text{lh}(s) \in \text{Succ}(\kappa)$. Since $\{\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T] \mid s \in T \cap {}^{<\text{Succ}(\kappa)}\kappa\}$ is a basis for the relative topology of $[T]$, and since $\{\hat{V}_s \mid s \in T \cap {}^{<\text{Succ}(\kappa)}\kappa\}$ is a basis for X by conditions **(i)**, **(iii)**, and **(v)**, then f and f^{-1} are continuous. \square

It remains to construct the required family \mathcal{F} by recursion on $\gamma < \kappa$. We assume that for every $t \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ with $\text{lh}(t) = \gamma$ and all $\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)$, the elements $x_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$, $U_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$, $V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$, and $\hat{V}_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$ have been defined so that conditions **(i)–(v)** are satisfied up to level γ (when $\gamma > 0$ this is the inductive hypothesis, while if $\gamma = 0$ the assumption is obviously vacuous because $\text{Succ}(0)$ is empty): our goal is to define $x_{t \frown i}$, $U_{t \frown i}$, $V_{t \frown i}$, and $\hat{V}_{t \frown i}$ for all t as above and $i < \kappa$ in such a way that conditions **(i)–(v)** are preserved.

Recall the definition of the sets $V(t)$ from equation (2.4). If $V(t) = \emptyset$, then we set $U_{t \frown i} = V_{t \frown i} = \hat{V}_{t \frown i} = \emptyset$ for all $i < \kappa$ and let $x_{t \frown i}$ be an arbitrary point in X . Assume now that $V(t) \neq \emptyset$. Notice that $V(t)$ is clopen: if $\gamma > 0$ this follows from κ -additivity of X and the fact that $\hat{V}_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$ is clopen for every $\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)$ by **(i)**, while if $\gamma = 0$ then $V(\emptyset) = X$ by definition. By condition **(ii)**, the sequence $\langle (U_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}, x_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}), V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} \mid \alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma) \rangle$ is a partial run in the corresponding Choquet-like game in which II is following σ . We let such run continue for one more round by letting I play some (U, x) with U clopen and $x \in U \subseteq V(t)$, and II reply with some $V \in \mathcal{B}$ following the winning strategy σ , so that in particular $x \in V \subseteq U$. Let $\{V_j \mid j < \delta\}$ be the collection of all those sets V that can be obtained in this way: even if there are possibly more than κ -many moves for I as above, there are at most κ -many replies of II because $|\mathcal{B}| \leq \kappa$, hence $\delta \leq \kappa$. For each $j < \delta$ we then choose one of player I's moves (U_j, x_j) yielding V_j as II's reply. In particular, $x_j \in V_j \subseteq U_j$. Let $(\hat{V}_i)_{i < \nu}$ (where $\nu \leq \kappa$) be an enumeration without repetitions of the nonempty sets in

$$\left\{ \left(V_j \setminus \bigcup_{\ell < j} V_\ell \right) \cap B_\gamma \mid j < \delta \right\} \cup \left\{ \left(V_j \setminus \bigcup_{\ell < j} V_\ell \right) \setminus B_\gamma \mid j < \delta \right\},$$

and for each $i < \nu$ let $j(i) < \delta \leq \kappa$ be such that $\hat{V}_i \subseteq V_{j(i)}$. Notice that the \hat{V}_i 's are clopen by κ -additivity again. Finally, set

$$x_{t \frown i} = x_{j(i)} \quad U_{t \frown i} = U_{j(i)} \quad V_{t \frown i} = V_{j(i)} \quad \hat{V}_{t \frown i} = \hat{V}_i$$

if $i < \nu$, and $U_{t \frown i} = V_{t \frown i} = \hat{V}_{t \frown i} = \emptyset$ with $x_{t \frown i}$ an arbitrary point of X if $\nu \leq i < \kappa$.

It is not hard to see that conditions **(i)–(iv)** are preserved by construction. As for condition **(v)**, by inductive hypothesis (or $V(\emptyset) = X$ if $\gamma = 0$) we get **(v')** at level γ , that is, $\{V(t) \mid t \in {}^\gamma \kappa\}$ is a partition of X . Thus the desired result straightforwardly

follows from the fact that the V_j 's cover $V(t)$ because in our construction player I can play any $x \in V(t)$ in her last round (paired with a suitable clopen set U such that $x \in U \subseteq V(t)$, which exists because $V(t)$ is clopen). \square

We now consider the problem of simultaneously embedding two κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces $X' \subseteq X$ into ${}^\kappa\kappa$. Applying Proposition 2.12 to X we get a closed C and a homeomorphism $f: C \rightarrow X$. If X' is a closed in X , it follows that also $C' = f^{-1}(X')$ is closed in C and hence in ${}^\kappa\kappa$. However, when X' is an SC_κ -space we would like to have that C' is superclosed. To this aim we need to modify our construction.

Proposition 2.13. *Let X be a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space and $X' \subseteq X$ be a closed SC_κ -subspace. Then there is a closed $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ and a homeomorphism $f: C \rightarrow X$ such that $C' = f^{-1}(X')$ is superclosed.*

Proof. The idea is to apply the argument from the previous proof but starting with a strategy σ that is winning for II in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ and, when ‘‘restricted’’ to X' , it is also winning in $G_\kappa^s(X')$. Let \mathcal{B} be a basis for X of size $\leq \kappa$.

Claim 2.13.1. There is a winning strategy σ for player II in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ with range in \mathcal{B} such that for any $\gamma \leq \kappa$ and for any (possibly partial) run $\langle (U_\alpha, x_\alpha), V_\alpha \mid \alpha < \gamma \rangle$ in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ where player II followed σ , one has $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $V_\alpha \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ for every $\alpha < \gamma$.

Proof of the claim. Let σ' be an arbitrary winning strategy for II in $G_\kappa^s(X')$, and let σ'' be a winning strategy for II in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ with range contained in \mathcal{B} . Define the strategy σ as follows. Suppose that at stage $\alpha < \kappa$ player I has played the sequence $\langle (U_\beta, x_\beta) \mid \beta \leq \alpha \rangle$ in the game $fG_\kappa^s(X)$.

- (1) As long as all points x_β belongs to X' , player II considers the auxiliary partial play $\langle (U_\beta \cap X', x_\beta) \mid \beta \leq \alpha \rangle$ of I in $G_\kappa^s(X')$ and she uses σ' to get her next move V'_α in the game $G_\kappa^s(X')$. Since V'_α is open in X' , there is W open in X such that $V'_\alpha = W \cap X'$: let II play any $V_\alpha \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x_\alpha \in V_\alpha \subseteq W \cap \bigcap_{\beta \leq \alpha} U_\beta$ as her next move in the game $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ (this is possible because $W \cap \bigcap_{\beta \leq \alpha} U_\beta$ is open by κ -additivity).
- (2) If α is smallest such that $x_\alpha \notin X'$, from that point on player II uses her strategy σ'' pretending that $(U_\alpha \setminus X', x_\alpha)$ was the first move of I in a new run of $fG_\kappa^s(X)$.

We claim that σ is as required, so fix any $\gamma \leq \kappa$. Let $\langle (U_\alpha, x_\alpha), V_\alpha \mid \alpha < \gamma \rangle$ be a partial run in which II followed σ and assume that $V_\alpha \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ for every $\alpha < \gamma$. By (2) this implies that $x_\alpha \in X'$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$. If $\gamma = \alpha + 1$ is a successor ordinal, then $\bigcap_{\beta < \gamma} V_\beta \cap X' = V_\alpha \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ by assumption. Assume instead that γ is limit. By $x_\alpha \in X'$ and (1), for all $\alpha < \gamma$ we have

$$(2.8) \quad U_{\alpha+1} \cap X' \subseteq V_\alpha \cap X' \subseteq V'_\alpha \subseteq U_\alpha \cap X',$$

where $V'_\alpha \subseteq X'$ is again II's reply to the partial play $\langle (U_\beta \cap X', x_\beta) \mid \beta \leq \alpha \rangle$ of I in $G_\kappa^s(X')$ according to σ' . It follows that $\langle (U_\alpha \cap X', x_\alpha), V'_\alpha \mid \alpha < \gamma \rangle$ is a (legal) partial run in $G_\kappa^s(X')$ where II followed σ' , and since the latter is winning in such game we get $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha \cap X' = \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V'_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ (the first equality follows from (2.8) and the fact that γ is limit). This also implies that σ wins $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ in all runs where $V_\alpha \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$; on the other hand, when this is not the case and $\alpha < \kappa$ is smallest such that $V_\alpha \cap X' = \emptyset$, then the tail of the run from level α on is a (legal)

run in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ in which II followed σ'' , thus II won as well. This shows that σ is winning for II in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ and concludes the proof. \square

Starting from σ as in Claim 2.13.1, argue as in the proof of Proposition 2.12 to build a family $\mathcal{F} = \{\langle x_s, U_s, V_s, \hat{V}_s \rangle \mid s \in {}^{<\text{Succ}(\kappa)}\kappa\}$ and a homeomorphism $f: C \rightarrow X$, where $C = [T]$ is the closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ defined by the tree $T = \{t \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa \mid V(t) \neq \emptyset\}$, and $f(t)$ is the unique point in $V(t)$ for all $t \in [T]$. Consider now the tree defined by

$$T' = \{t \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa \mid V(t) \cap X' \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Clearly $T' \subseteq T$. Moreover, for every $t \in T'$ we have $\mathbf{N}_t \cap [T'] \neq \emptyset$: indeed, if $t \in T'$, then there is $x \in V(t) \cap X'$, hence $f^{-1}(x) \supseteq t$ and by construction x witnesses $f^{-1}(x) \upharpoonright \alpha \in T'$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$, so $f^{-1}(x) \in \mathbf{N}_t \cap [T']$. In particular, this implies that T' is pruned. We now prove that T' is also superclosed. Let $t \in {}^\gamma\kappa$ for $\gamma < \kappa$ limit be such that $t \upharpoonright \alpha \in T'$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$. Then $\hat{V}_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ for all $\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)$, hence also $V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ by $\hat{V}_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} \subseteq V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$. By the choice of σ , it follows that $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)} V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} \cap X' \neq \emptyset$, hence $t \in T'$ since $V(t) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\gamma)} V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha}$ when t has limit length.

Finally, we want to show that $f^{-1}(X') = [T']$. Given $x \in X'$, then x itself witnesses $f^{-1}(x) \in [T']$. Conversely, if $t \in [T']$ then $V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} \cap X' \supseteq V(t \upharpoonright \alpha) \cap X' \neq \emptyset$ for all $\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\kappa)$, hence by the choice of σ again we have that $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\kappa)} V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} \cap X' \neq \emptyset$. Since $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Succ}(\kappa)} V_{t \upharpoonright \alpha} = V(t) = \{f(x)\}$, it follows that $f(x) \in X'$ as desired. \square

Proposition 2.13 allows us to considerably extend [13, Proposition 1.3] from superclosed subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ to arbitrary closed SC_κ -subspaces of a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space.

Corollary 2.14. *Let X be a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space. Then every closed SC_κ -subspace Y of X is a retract of it.*

Proof. By Proposition 2.13, without loss of generality we may assume that X is a closed subspace of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and $Y \subseteq X$ a superclosed set. By [13, Proposition 1.3] there is a retraction r from ${}^\kappa\kappa$ onto Y . Then $r \upharpoonright X$ is a retraction of X onto Y . \square

None of the conditions on Y can be dropped in the above result: every retract of a Hausdorff space is necessarily closed in it, and by [13, Proposition 1.4] the space X_0 from equation (2.3) is a closed $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -subspace of the SC_κ -space ${}^\kappa 2$ which is not a retract of it. Notice also that there are even clopen (hence strong κ -Choquet) subspaces of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ which are not superclosed, for example $\{x \in {}^\kappa\kappa \mid \exists n < \omega (x(n) \neq 0)\}$. This shows that even in the special case $X = {}^\kappa\kappa$, our Corollary 2.14 properly extends [13, Proposition 1.3].

Lemma 2.9, Proposition 2.10 and Proposition 2.12 together lead to the following characterization of κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces.

Theorem 2.15. *For any space⁹ X the following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space;
- (b) X is homeomorphic to a G_δ^κ subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$;
- (c) X is homeomorphic to a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

In particular, ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is universal for κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces, and hence also for κ -additive SC_κ -spaces.

⁹Recall that all spaces are tacitly assumed to be regular Hausdorff.

Proof. The implication from (a) to (c) is Proposition 2.12, while (c) implies (b) by Lemma 2.9. Finally, (b) \Rightarrow (a) because ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is trivially a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space, and such spaces are closed under G_δ^{fc} subspaces by Proposition 2.10. \square

From Proposition 2.12 we also get a characterization of κ -additive SC_κ -spaces. (The fact that every superclosed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is an SC_κ -space is trivial.)

Theorem 2.16. *For any space X the following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is a κ -additive SC_κ -space;
- (b) X is homeomorphic to a superclosed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

Remark 2.17. Since ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is κ -additive and the latter is a hereditary property, Theorems 2.15 and 2.16 can obviously be turned into a characterization of κ -additivity inside the classes of $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces and SC_κ -spaces, respectively.

Recall that an uncountable cardinal κ is (**strongly**) **inaccessible** if it is regular and strong limit, that is, $2^\lambda < \kappa$ for all $\lambda < \kappa$. An uncountable cardinal κ is **weakly compact** if and only if it is inaccessible and has the tree property: $[T] \neq \emptyset$ for every tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ satisfying $1 \leq |\text{Lev}_\alpha(T)| < \kappa$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$. A topological space X is κ -**Lindelöf** if all its open coverings admit a subcovering of size $< \kappa$. (Thus ω -Lindelöfness is ordinary compactness.) It turns out that the space ${}^\kappa 2$ is κ -Lindelöf if and only if κ is weakly compact [16, Theorem 5.6], in which case ${}^\kappa 2$ and ${}^\kappa\kappa$ are obviously not homeomorphic; if instead κ is not weakly compact, then ${}^\kappa 2$ is homeomorphic to ${}^\kappa\kappa$ by [8, Theorem 1]. This implies that if κ is not weakly compact, then we can replace ${}^\kappa\kappa$ with ${}^\kappa 2$ in both Proposition 2.12 and Theorem 2.15. Moreover, since one can easily show that if κ is not weakly compact then there are homeomorphisms between ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and ${}^\kappa 2$ preserving superclosed sets, for such κ 's we can replace ${}^\kappa\kappa$ with ${}^\kappa 2$ in Theorem 2.16 as well. As for weakly compact cardinals κ , the equivalence between (a) and (b) in Theorem 2.15 still holds replacing ${}^\kappa\kappa$ with ${}^\kappa 2$ by Fact 2.8, but the same does not apply to part (c) and Theorem 2.16 because for such a κ all (super)closed subsets of ${}^\kappa 2$ are κ -Lindelöf—see Theorems 3.20 and 3.21.

We now move to \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces. Our goal is to show that such spaces coincide with the κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces, and thus that the definition is in particular independent of the chosen \mathbb{G} . Along the way, we also generalize some results independently obtained in [7, Section 2.3] and close some open problems and conjectures contained therein, obtaining a fairly complete picture of the relationships among all the proposed generalizations of Polish spaces.

In the subsequent results, \mathbb{G} is a totally ordered Abelian group with $\text{Deg}(\mathbb{G}) = \kappa$. Examples of groups of this form are \mathbb{Z}^κ and \mathbb{R}^κ (and any other $(\mathbb{G}')^\kappa$ for an Abelian group \mathbb{G}') equipped with coordinate-wise operations and lexicographic orders, the “ κ -versions of the reals” proposed in [2] or in [7], or any non-standard model of the reals of degree κ .

The next lemma was essentially proved in [22, Theorem (viii)] and it corresponds to (b) \Rightarrow (a) in Theorem 2.11. We reprove it here for the reader’s convenience.

Lemma 2.18. *Every \mathbb{G} -metric space X is κ -additive, hence also zero-dimensional.*

Proof. Let $\gamma < \kappa$ and $(U_\alpha)_{\alpha < \gamma}$ be a sequence of nonempty open sets. If $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} U_\alpha \neq \emptyset$, consider an arbitrary $x \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} U_\alpha$. The family $\{B_d(x, \varepsilon) \mid \varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+\}$ is a local basis of x , so for every $\alpha < \gamma$ we may find $\varepsilon_\alpha \in \mathbb{G}^+$ such that $B_d(x, \varepsilon_\alpha) \subseteq U_\alpha$.

Since $\text{Deg}(\mathbb{G}) = \kappa > \gamma$, there is $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+$ such that $\varepsilon \leq_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon_\alpha$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$: thus $x \in B_d(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} B_d(x, \varepsilon_\alpha) \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} U_\alpha$. \square

Lemma 2.19. *Every \mathbb{G} -Polish space X is strong fair κ -Choquet.*

Proof. Fix a compatible Cauchy-complete metric d on X and a strictly decreasing sequence $(r_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ coinital in \mathbb{G}^+ . Consider the strategy τ of II in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ in which he replies to player I's move (U_α, x_α) by picking a ball $V_\alpha = B_d(x_\alpha, \varepsilon_\alpha)$ with $\varepsilon_\alpha \in \mathbb{G}^+$ small enough so that $\varepsilon_\alpha \leq_{\mathbb{G}} r_\alpha$ and $\text{cl}(V_\alpha) \subseteq U_\alpha$. In particular, we will thus have $\text{cl}(V_{\alpha+1}) \subseteq V_\alpha$. Suppose that $\langle (U_\alpha, x_\alpha), V_\alpha \mid \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ is a run in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ in which $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ for every limit $\gamma < \kappa$. Then the choice of the ε_α 's ensures that $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ is a Cauchy sequence, and thus it converges to some $x \in X$ by Cauchy-completeness of d . It follows that $x \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} \text{cl}(V_\alpha) = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha \neq \emptyset$, and thus τ is a winning strategy for player II. \square

Theorem 2.20. *For any space X the following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is \mathbb{G} -Polish;
- (b) X is a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space;
- (c) X is homeomorphic to a G_δ^κ subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$;
- (d) X is homeomorphic to a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

Proof. The equivalence of (b), (c), and (d) is Theorem 2.15, and (d) easily implies (a) (use e.g. the \mathbb{G} -metric described in equation (2.1)). The remaining implication (a) \Rightarrow (b) follows from Lemma 2.18 and Lemma 2.19. \square

As usual, when κ is not weakly compact we can replace ${}^\kappa\kappa$ with its homeomorphic copy ${}^\kappa 2$ in conditions (c) and (d) above. When κ is instead weakly compact, by Fact 2.8 we can still replace ${}^\kappa\kappa$ with ${}^\kappa 2$ in condition (c), but the same does not apply to condition (d) because of κ -Lindelöfness—see Theorem 3.20. In view of this observation, the implication (a) \Rightarrow (c) in Theorem 2.20 is just a reformulation of [7, Corollary 2.36], which is thus nicely complemented by the reverse implication (c) \Rightarrow (a) from our result.

Theorem 2.20 shows in particular that the notion of \mathbb{G} -Polish space does not depend on the particular choice of the group \mathbb{G} .

Corollary 2.21. *Let \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}' be two totally ordered (Abelian) groups, both of degree κ , and X be a space. Then X is \mathbb{G} -Polish if and only if it is \mathbb{G}' -Polish.*

For this reason, from now on will systematically avoid to specify which kind of \mathbb{G} we are considering and freely use the term “ \mathbb{G} -Polish” as a shortcut for “ \mathbb{G} -Polish with respect to a(ny) totally ordered (Abelian) group of degree κ ”.

Remark 2.22. The only property of the metric d required in the proofs of Lemma 2.18 and Lemma 2.19 is that

$$(2.9) \quad \text{For all } x \in X, \text{ the family } \{B_d(x, \varepsilon) \mid \varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+\} \text{ is a local basis of } x.$$

Hence, Theorem 2.11 and Theorem 2.20 (and Corollary 2.21) can be extended to metrics taking values in any other kind of structure, as long as condition (2.9) is still satisfied. (In particular, commutativity of \mathbb{G} is not really needed.) This includes the case of completely S -quasimetrizable spaces for a totally ordered semigroup S considered in [18], or spaces admitting a complete κ -ultrametric as defined in [3]. In particular, the concepts of (complete) metric space and (complete) ultrametric space lead to the same class of spaces in generalized descriptive set theory. This

is in strong contrast to what happens in the classical setting, where Polish ultrametric spaces form a proper subclass of arbitrary Polish spaces because admitting a compatible ultrametric implies zero-dimensionality.

Another easy corollary of Theorem 2.20 is that a G_δ^κ subset of a \mathbb{G} -Polish space is necessarily \mathbb{G} -Polish as well (see the proof of Theorem 2.26 for details). We complement this in Corollary 2.25, using an extension result for continuous functions (Proposition 2.24). These results are the natural generalization of the classical arguments in [10, Theorems 3.8 and 3.11], and already appeared in [7, Theorems 2.34 and 2.35] where, as customary in the subject, the fact that \mathbb{G} is Abelian is assumed and used. However, we fully reprove both results for the sake of completeness and to confirm that also in this case commutativity of \mathbb{G} is not required.

Lemma 2.23. *Let \mathbb{G} be a totally ordered (non-necessarily Abelian) group such that \mathbb{G}^+ has no minimum. Then for every $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+$ and every $n \in \omega$ there is $\delta \in \mathbb{G}^+$ with¹⁰ $n\delta \leq_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon$.*

Proof. It is clearly enough to prove the result for $n = 2$. Let $\varepsilon' \in \mathbb{G}^+$ be such that $0_{\mathbb{G}} <_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon' <_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon$ and set $\delta = \min\{\varepsilon', -\varepsilon' +_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon\}$. Since $\leq_{\mathbb{G}}$ is translation-invariant on both sides we get

$$\delta +_{\mathbb{G}} \delta \leq_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon' +_{\mathbb{G}} (-\varepsilon' +_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon) = \varepsilon. \quad \square$$

Proposition 2.24. *Let X be a \mathbb{G} -metrizable space, and (Y, d) be a Cauchy-complete \mathbb{G} -metric space. Let $A \subseteq X$ be any set and $f: A \rightarrow Y$ be continuous. Then there is a G_δ^κ set $B \subseteq X$ and a continuous function $g: B \rightarrow Y$ such that $A \subseteq B \subseteq \text{cl}(A)$ and g extends f , i.e. $g \upharpoonright A = f$.*

Proof. Given any $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+$, let O_ε be the collection of those $x \in X$ admitting an open neighborhood U such that $d(f(y), f(z)) <_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon$ for all $y, z \in U \cap A$. By definition, each O_ε is open in X , and since $f: A \rightarrow Y$ is continuous then $A \subseteq O_\varepsilon$ for all $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+$ (here we are implicitly using Lemma 2.23). Fix a strictly decreasing sequence $(r_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ coinital in \mathbb{G}^+ , and set

$$B = \text{cl}(A) \cap \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} O_{r_\alpha},$$

so that $A \subseteq B \subseteq \text{cl}(A)$ and B is G_δ^κ by Lemma 2.9. Fix $x \in B$, and for every $\alpha < \kappa$ fix an open neighborhood U_α^x of x witnessing $x \in O_{r_\alpha}$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $U_\beta^x \subseteq U_\alpha^x$ if $\alpha \leq \beta < \kappa$ (if not, then $\tilde{U}_\beta^x = \bigcap_{\zeta \leq \beta} U_\zeta^x$ is as desired by κ -additivity of X). Since $x \in B \subseteq \text{cl}(A)$, for each $\alpha < \kappa$ we can pick some $y_\alpha \in U_\alpha^x \cap A$. The sequence $(f(y_\alpha))_{\alpha < \kappa}$ is d -Cauchy by construction, thus it converges to some $y \in Y$ by Cauchy-completeness of d : set $g(x) = y$. By uniqueness of limits, it is easy to check that the map g is well-defined (i.e. the value $g(x)$ is independent of the choice of the U_α^x 's and y_α 's), and that $g(x) = f(x)$ for all $x \in A$. It remains to show that g is also continuous at every $x \in B$. Given any $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{G}^+$, we want to find an open neighborhood U of x such that $g(U \cap B) \subseteq B_d(g(x), \varepsilon)$. Let U_α^x and y_α be as in the definition of $g(x)$. Using Lemma 2.23, find $\delta \in \mathbb{G}^+$ such that $3\delta \leq_{\mathbb{G}} \varepsilon$. Let α be large enough so that $d(f(y_\alpha), g(x)) < \delta$ and $r_\alpha < \delta$, so that $f(U_\alpha^x \cap A) \subseteq B_d(g(x), 2\delta)$. We claim that $U = U_\alpha^x$ is as required. Indeed, if

¹⁰As customary, we denote by $n\delta$ the finite sum $\underbrace{\delta +_{\mathbb{G}} \dots +_{\mathbb{G}} \delta}_{n \text{ times}}$.

$z \in U \cap B$, then when defining $g(z)$ we may without loss of generality pick U_α^z so that $U_\alpha^z \subseteq U_\alpha^x$: it then follows that

$$g(z) \in \text{cl}(f(U_\alpha^z \cap A)) \subseteq \text{cl}(f(U_\alpha^x \cap A)) \subseteq \text{cl}(B_d(g(x), 2\delta)) \subseteq B_d(g(x), \varepsilon),$$

as required. \square

Corollary 2.25. *Let X be a \mathbb{G} -metrizable space, and let $Y \subseteq X$ be a completely \mathbb{G} -metrizable subspace of X . Then Y is a G_δ^κ subset of X .*

Proof. Apply Proposition 2.24 with $A = Y$ and f the identity map from Y to itself. The resulting $g: B \rightarrow Y$ coincides with the identity map on B on a dense subset of their common domain: since both functions are continuous, they coincide. It follows that $B = g(B) \subseteq Y$, hence $B = Y$ and Y is G_δ^κ . \square

In [7] it is asked whether the reverse implication holds, i.e. whether G_δ^κ subsets of \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces need to be \mathbb{G} -Polish as well (see the discussion in the paragraph after [7, Theorem 2.10]): our Theorem 2.20 already yields a positive answer, and thus it allows us to characterize which subspaces of a \mathbb{G} -Polish space are still \mathbb{G} -Polish.

Theorem 2.26. *Let X be \mathbb{G} -Polish and $Y \subseteq X$. Then Y is \mathbb{G} -Polish if and only if Y is G_δ^κ in X .*

Proof. One direction follows from Corollary 2.25. For the other direction, since X is homeomorphic to a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ by Theorem 2.20, every G_δ^κ subspace $Y \subseteq X$ is homeomorphic to a G_δ^κ subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$. Using again Theorem 2.20, it follows that Y is \mathbb{G} -Polish as well. \square

By Theorem 2.20, Theorem 2.26 admits a natural counterpart characterizing $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -subspaces of κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces.

To complete the description of how our classes of spaces relate to each other, we just need to characterize those spaces which are in all of them and thus have the richest structure (this includes e.g. the generalized Cantor and Baire spaces). To this aim, we need to introduce one last notion inspired by [3, Definition 6.1] and [7].

Definition 2.27. A \mathbb{G} -metric d on a space X is called **spherically complete** if the intersection of every *decreasing* (with respect to inclusion) sequence of open balls is nonempty. If in the definition we consider only sequences of order type κ (respectively, $<\kappa$ or $\leq\kappa$) we say that the metric is **spherically κ -complete** (respectively, **spherically $<\kappa$ -complete** or **spherically $\leq\kappa$ -complete**).

Remark 2.28. Let (X, d) be a \mathbb{G} -metric space.

- (i) If the space X has weight $\leq \kappa$, then the metric d is spherically complete if and only if it is spherically $\leq\kappa$ -complete. For the non trivial direction, fix a decreasing sequence $(\varepsilon_i)_{i<\kappa}$ coinital in \mathbb{G}^+ and consider an arbitrary decreasing chain of balls $B_\alpha = B_d(x_\alpha, r_\alpha)$ for $\alpha < \lambda$ with λ a regular cardinal greater than κ . If for all $i < \kappa$ there is $\alpha_i < \lambda$ such that $r_{\alpha_i} < \varepsilon_i$, then by spherically κ -completeness we have $\bigcap_{i<\kappa} B_{\alpha_i} = \{x\}$ for some x . It follows that $B_\alpha = \{x\}$ for all $\alpha \geq \sup_{i<\kappa} \alpha_i$, hence $\bigcap_{\alpha<\lambda} B_\alpha = \{x\} \neq \emptyset$. The remaining case is when there is $\delta \in \mathbb{G}^+$ such that $r_\alpha \geq \delta$ for all $\alpha < \lambda$. If $\bigcap_{\alpha<\lambda} B_\alpha = \emptyset$, then we could recursively construct an increasing sequence $(\alpha_\beta)_{\beta<\lambda}$ of ordinals $< \lambda$ such that $x_{\alpha_\beta} \notin B_{\alpha_{\beta'}}$ for all $\beta < \beta' < \lambda$. By the case assumption, we

thus have $d(x_{\alpha_\beta}, x_{\alpha_{\beta'}}) \geq \delta$ for all distinct $\beta, \beta' < \lambda$, contradicting the fact that X has weight $\leq \kappa < \lambda$.

- (ii) If d is spherically κ -complete, then it is also Cauchy-complete (independently of the weight of the space). Thus if d is spherically complete, then it is both spherically $<\kappa$ -complete and Cauchy-complete.
- (iii) The converse does not hold: there are examples of \mathbb{G} -metric spaces (X, d) of weight κ such that d is both Cauchy-complete and spherically $<\kappa$ -complete, yet it is not spherically κ -complete. For example, consider the subspace $X = \{x_\alpha \in {}^\kappa 2 \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$ of ${}^\kappa 2$, where $x_\alpha(\alpha) = 1$ and $x_\alpha(\beta) = 0$ for all $\beta \neq \alpha$. Fix a decreasing sequence $(r_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ coinital in \mathbb{G}^+ and some $s \in \mathbb{G}^+$. The ultrametric on X defined by $d(x_\alpha, x_\beta) = s + \max\{r_\alpha, r_\beta\}$ for distinct $\alpha, \beta < \kappa$ is discrete and hence trivially Cauchy-complete. Moreover, it is $<\kappa$ -spherically complete. But the decreasing sequence $(B_d(x_\alpha, s + r_\alpha))_{\alpha < \kappa}$ has empty intersection. Thus for a given \mathbb{G} -metric d being Cauchy-complete and spherically $<\kappa$ -complete is strictly weaker than being spherically ($\leq \kappa$ -)complete.

Definition 2.29. A \mathbb{G} -Polish space is **spherically ($<\kappa$ -)complete** if it admits a compatible Cauchy-complete metric which is also spherically ($<\kappa$ -)complete.

In [7], spherically $<\kappa$ -complete \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces are also called strongly κ -Polish spaces. Although in view of Remark 2.28(iii) this seems to be the weakest among the two possibilities considered in Definition 2.29, it will follow from Theorem 2.30 that they are indeed equivalent: if a space of weight $\leq \kappa$ admits a compatible Cauchy-complete spherically $<\kappa$ -complete \mathbb{G} -metric, then it also admits a (possibly different) compatible Cauchy-complete \mathbb{G} -metric which is (fully) spherically complete. We point out that the implication (c) \Rightarrow (a) already appeared in [7, Theorem 2.45], although with a different terminology.

Theorem 2.30. *For any space X the following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is a κ -additive SC_κ -space;
- (b) X is both an SC_κ -space and \mathbb{G} -Polish;
- (c) X is a spherically $<\kappa$ -complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space;
- (d) X is a spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space;
- (e) X is homeomorphic to a superclosed subset of ${}^\kappa \kappa$.

Proof. Item (b) implies (a) because all \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces are κ -additive (Lemma 2.18), while (a) implies (e) by Theorem 2.16. Moreover, any superclosed subset of ${}^\kappa \kappa$ is trivially spherically complete with respect to the \mathbb{G} -metric on ${}^\kappa \kappa$ defined in equation (2.1), thus (e) implies (d), and (d) obviously implies (c). Finally, to prove that (c) implies (b), recall that every \mathbb{G} -Polish space X is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space by Theorem 2.20. Fix a compatible spherically $<\kappa$ -complete \mathbb{G} -metric on X and a winning strategy τ for II in $f\text{G}_\kappa^s(X)$, and observe that by Remark 2.4 we can assume that τ requires II to play only open d -balls V_α because the latter form a basis for the topology of X . Then τ is also winning in $\text{G}_\kappa^s(X)$ because spherically $<\kappa$ -completeness implies that $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ for every limit $\gamma < \kappa$. \square

Theorems 2.20 and 2.30 allow us to reformulate our Corollary 2.14 on retractions in terms of \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces. (Again, we have that none of the conditions on Y can be dropped, see the comment after Corollary 2.14.)

Corollary 2.31. *If X is \mathbb{G} -Polish, then all its closed subspaces Y which are also spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish (possibly with respect to a different \mathbb{G} -metric) are retracts of X .*

Moreover, using the results obtained so far, one can easily observe that the classes of SC_κ -spaces and \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces are incomparable with respect to inclusion. On the one hand, there are \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces which are not SC_κ -spaces: in [7, Theorem 2.41] it is observed that Sikorski’s κ - \mathbb{R} is such an example, but it is also enough to consider any closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ which is not strong κ -Choquet, such as the space X_0 defined in equation (2.3). Conversely, there are SC_κ -spaces which are not \mathbb{G} -Polish (to the best of our knowledge, examples of this kind were not yet provided in the literature): just take any non- κ -additive SC_κ -space, such as ${}^\kappa\kappa$ equipped with the order topology induced by the lexicographical ordering.

In a different direction, Theorem 2.30 allows us to characterize inside one given class those spaces which happen to also belong to a different one in a very natural way. For example, among SC_κ -spaces we can distinguish those that are also \mathbb{G} -Polish by checking κ -additivity. Conversely, working in the class of \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces we can isolate those spaces X in which player II wins the strong κ -Choquet game $G_\kappa^s(X)$ by checking spherical completeness.

Figure 1 sums up the relationship among the various classes of (regular Hausdorff) spaces of weight $\leq \kappa$ considered so far. At the end of Section 3 we will further enrich this picture by distinguishing the class of κ -Lindelöf spaces—see Theorems 3.20 and 3.21.

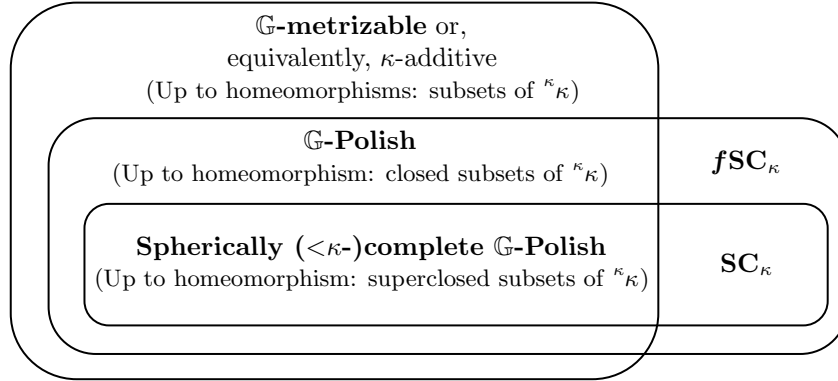


FIGURE 1. Relationships among different Polish-like classes.

Despite the fact that the classes we are considering are all different from each other, we now show that one can still pass from one to the other by changing (and sometimes even refining) the underlying topology, yet maintaining the same notion of κ -Borelness.

Proposition 2.32. *Let (X, τ) be an fSC_κ -space (respectively, SC_κ -space). Then there is $\tau' \supseteq \tau$ such that $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau') = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$ and (X, τ') is a κ -additive fSC_κ -space (respectively, SC_κ -space).*

Proof. It is enough to let τ' be the topology generated by the $< \kappa$ -sized intersections of τ -open sets. Arguing as in [3, Proposition 4.3 and Lemma 4.4], player II still

has a winning strategy in the relevant Choquet-like game on (X, τ') . Moreover the weight of (X, τ') is still $\leq \kappa$ because we assumed $\kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$. Finally, κ -Borel sets do not change because by definition $\tau \subseteq \tau' \subseteq \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$. \square

This allows us to strengthen [3, Theorem 3.3] and extend it to $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces.

Corollary 2.33. *If X is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space, then there is a pruned tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ and a continuous bijection $f: [T] \rightarrow X$. Moreover, if X is an SC_κ -space then T can be taken to be superclosed.*

Proof. Refine the topology τ of X to a topology $\tau' \supseteq \tau$ as in Proposition 2.32. Then use Theorem 2.12 to find a pruned (superclosed, if X was SC_κ) tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ and a homeomorphism $f: [T] \rightarrow (X, \tau')$. Since f remains a continuous bijection when stepping back to τ , we get that T and f are as required. \square

By Proposition 2.32 (together with Theorem 2.20), every $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space, and thus every SC_κ -space, can be turned into a \mathbb{G} -Polish space sharing the same κ -Borel structure by suitably refining its topology. In contrast, it is not always possible to *refine* the topology τ of an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space X to turn it into an SC_κ -space, even if we start with a κ -additive (hence \mathbb{G} -Polish) one and we further allow to change its κ -Borel structure. Indeed, as shown in the next example, there are κ -additive strong fair κ -Choquet (i.e. \mathbb{G} -Polish) spaces (X, τ) such that for every topology $\tau' \supseteq \tau$, the space (X, τ') is not an SC_κ -space.

Example 2.34. Consider a closed (hence \mathbb{G} -Polish) subspace $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ which is not a continuous image of ${}^\kappa\kappa$. Such a set exists by [13, Theorem 1.5]: we can e.g. let C be the set of well-orders on κ (coded as elements of ${}^\kappa 2 \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ via the usual Gödel pairing function). If one could find a refinement τ' of the bounded topology τ on C such that (C, τ') is an SC_κ -space (recall that any SC_κ -space has weight $\leq \kappa$ by definition), then (C, τ') would be a continuous image of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ by [3, Theorem 3.5] and thus so would be (C, τ) , contradicting the choice of C .

Nevertheless, if we drop the requirement that τ' refines the original topology τ of X , then we can get a result along the lines above. This is due to the next technical lemma, which will be further extended in Section 4 (see Corollary 4.3).

Lemma 2.35. *Every closed set $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ is κ -Borel isomorphic to a superclosed set $C' \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$.*

Proof. If C has $\leq \kappa$ -many points, then any bijection between C and $C' = \{\alpha \hat{\ } 0^{(\kappa)} \mid \alpha < |C|\}$, where $0^{(\kappa)}$ is the constant sequence with length κ and value 0, is a κ -Borel isomorphism between C and the superclosed set C' , hence we may assume without loss of generality that $|C| > \kappa$. Let $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ be a pruned tree such that $C = [T]$. Let $L(T)$ be the set of sequences $s \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ of limit length such that $s \notin T$ but $s \upharpoonright \alpha \in T$ for all $\alpha < \text{lh}(s)$. (Clearly, the set $L(T)$ is empty if and only if C is already superclosed). Set $C' = [T']$ with

$$T' = T \cup \{s \hat{\ } 0^{(\alpha)} \mid s \in L(T) \wedge \alpha < \kappa\},$$

where $0^{(\alpha)}$ denotes the sequence of length α constantly equal to 0. The tree T' is clearly pruned and $<\kappa$ -closed, hence C' is superclosed. Notice also that $C' \setminus C = \{s \hat{\ } 0^{(\kappa)} \mid s \in L(T)\}$ has size $\leq \kappa$. Pick a set $A \subseteq C$ of size κ and fix any bijection

$g: A \rightarrow A \cup (C' \setminus C)$. Since both C and C' are Hausdorff, it is easy to check that the map

$$f: C \rightarrow C', \quad x \mapsto \begin{cases} g(x) & \text{if } x \in A \\ x & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is a κ -Borel isomorphism. □

Combining this lemma with Proposition 2.32 and Theorem 2.15 we thus get

Proposition 2.36. *Let (X, τ) be an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space. Then there is a topology τ' on X such that $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau') = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$ and (X, τ') is a κ -additive SC_κ -space (equivalently, a spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space).*

As a corollary, we finally obtain:

Theorem 2.37. *Up to κ -Borel isomorphism, the following classes of spaces are the same:*

- (1) $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces;
- (2) SC_κ -spaces;
- (3) \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces;
- (4) κ -additive SC_κ -spaces or, equivalently, spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces.

Theorem 2.37 shows that, as we already claimed after Definition 2.1, we can consider any class of Polish-like spaces to generalize (St.Bor. 1): they all yield the same notion, and it is thus not necessary to formally specify one of them. Furthermore, in Section 4 we will prove that the class of κ -Borel spaces obtained in this way coincide with the class of all standard κ -Borel spaces as defined in Definition 2.1, so we do not even need to introduce a different terminology.

The sweeping results obtained so far allow us to improve some results from the literature and solve some open problems contained therein, so let us conclude this section with a brief discussion on this matter. In [7, Theorem 2.51] it is proved that, in our terminology, if X is a spherically $<\kappa$ -complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space and κ is weakly compact, then every SC_κ -subspace $Y \subseteq X$ is G_δ^κ in X . By Theorem 2.20 and Corollary 2.25, we actually have that every SC_κ -subspace Y of a \mathbb{G} -metrizable space X is G_δ^κ in X : hence the further hypotheses on κ and X required in [7, Theorem 2.51] are not necessary. Furthermore, in [7, Lemma 2.47] the converse is shown to hold assuming that X is a \mathbb{G} -metric SC_κ -space (which through κ -additivity implies that X is \mathbb{G} -Polish by Theorem 2.30) and Y is spherically $<\kappa$ -complete. Theorems 2.26 and 2.30 show that we can again weaken the hypotheses on X by dropping the requirement that X be a SC_κ -space: if X is \mathbb{G} -Polish and $Y \subseteq X$ is spherically $<\kappa$ -complete and G_δ^κ , then Y is a SC_κ -space. Finally, Theorem 2.30 shows that [7, Theorem 2.53] and [3, Proposition 3.1] deal with the same phenomenon: if X is a κ -perfect SC_κ -space, then there is a continuous injection f from the generalized Cantor space into X , and if furthermore X is κ -additive, then f can be taken to be a homeomorphism on the image. The latter fact will be slightly improved in Theorem 3.6, where we show that in the latter case the range of f can be taken to be superclosed.

Summing up the results above, one can now complete and improve the diagram from [7, p. 25], which corresponds to Arrows 1–7 of Figure 2 (although [7] sometimes requires additional assumption on the space Y or on the cardinal κ , see the discussion below).

Here is a list of our improvements:

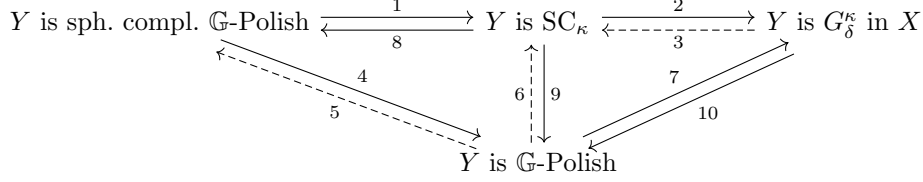


FIGURE 2. Properties of subspaces $Y \subseteq X$ for X a \mathbb{G} -Polish space. A line means implication without further assumptions, while a dotted line means that the implication holds under the further assumption that Y is spherically complete or, equivalently, an SC_κ -space.

- First of all, the ambient space X can be any \mathbb{G} -Polish space, and need not be spherically complete as assumed in [7].
- The new Arrows 8 and 9 hold because by \mathbb{G} -metrizability Y is κ -additive, and hence a spherically $<\kappa$ -complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space.
- Arrow 10 holds as well by Theorem 2.26.
- The implication Arrow 2 holds unconditionally (κ does not need to be weakly compact, as originally required in [7]).
- The requirement that, in our terminology, Y be spherically $<\kappa$ -complete cannot instead be dropped in the implication Arrow 3: indeed, there are even closed subsets of $X = {}^\kappa\kappa$ which are not homeomorphic to a superclosed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$, and hence they are not strong κ -Choquet. Thus in this case the hypothesis in [7] were already optimal.
- We now obtained that Arrows 5 and 6, which were forbidden in [7], hold when additionally requiring that Y be spherically $<\kappa$ -complete (the same hypothesis as in Arrow 3): taking into account Galeotti's counterexamples, such a hypothesis cannot be dropped.

3. CHARACTERIZATIONS OF ${}^\kappa\kappa$ AND ${}^\kappa 2$

The (classical) Cantor and Baire spaces play a central role in classical descriptive set theory. It is remarkable that they admit a purely topological characterization (see [10, Theorems 7.4 and 7.7]).

Theorem 3.1.

- (1) (Brouwer) Up to homeomorphism, the Cantor space ${}^\omega 2$ is the unique nonempty perfect compact metrizable zero-dimensional space.
- (2) (Alexandrov-Urysohn) Up to homeomorphism, the Baire space ${}^\omega\omega$ is the unique nonempty Polish zero-dimensional space such that all its compact subsets have empty interior.

Our next goal is to find analogous characterizations of the generalized Baire and Cantor spaces. To this aim, we first have to generalize the above mentioned topological notions to our setup.

First of all, we notice that a special feature of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and ${}^\kappa 2$ which is not shared by some of the other SC_κ -spaces is κ -additivity: since this condition already implies that the space be zero-dimensional, the latter will always be absorbed by κ -additivity and will not explicitly appear in our statements. As for compactness, it is natural to replace it with the property of being κ -Lindelöf. Notice that this

condition may play a role in the characterization of ${}^{\kappa}2$ only when κ is weakly compact, as otherwise ${}^{\kappa}2$ is not κ -Lindelöf. However, this is not a true limitation, because if κ is not weakly compact, then the spaces ${}^{\kappa}2$ and ${}^{\kappa}\kappa$ are homeomorphic, and thus the characterization of ${}^{\kappa}\kappa$ takes care of both. In view of the Hurewicz dichotomy [10, Theorem 7.10], which in [12] has been analyzed in detail in the context of generalized descriptive set theory, we will also consider K_{κ} -sets, i.e. sets in a topological space which can be written as unions of κ -many κ -Lindelöf sets.

We now come to perfectness. The notion of an isolated point may be transferred to the generalized context in (at least) two natural ways:

- keeping the original definition: a point x is **isolated** in X if there is an open set $U \subseteq X$ such that $U = \{x\}$;
- allowing short intersections of open sets (see e.g. [3, Section 3]): a point x is **κ -isolated** in X if there are $<\kappa$ -many open sets whose intersection is $\{x\}$.

A topological space is then called **(κ) -perfect** if it has no (κ) -isolated points.

If we restrict the attention to κ -additive spaces, as we do in this section, the two notions coincide. However, the notion of κ -perfectness is in a sense preferable when the space X is not κ -additive because it implies that X has weight at least κ and that all its nonempty open sets have size $\geq \kappa$ (use the regularity of κ and the fact that all our spaces are Hausdorff). If we further require X to be strong κ -Choquet, we get the following strengthening of the last property.

Lemma 3.2. *Let X be an SC_{κ} -space. If X is κ -perfect, then every open set $U \subseteq X$ has size 2^{κ} .*

Proof. If X is κ -perfect, then so is every open $U \subseteq X$. Since U is strong κ -Choquet as well, there is a continuous injection from ${}^{\kappa}2$ into U by [3, Proposition 3.1], hence $|U| = 2^{\kappa}$. \square

In the statement of Lemma 3.2 one could further replace the open set U with a $<\kappa$ -sized intersection of open sets. The lemma is instead not true for arbitrary fSC_{κ} -spaces, even when requiring κ -additivity (and thus it does not work for arbitrary \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces either). For a counterexample, consider the closed subspace X_0 of ${}^{\kappa}2$ defined in equation (2.3): by Theorem 2.20, X_0 is a κ -additive fSC_{κ} -space (equivalently, a \mathbb{G} -Polish space), it is clearly κ -perfect, yet it has size κ .

In the next lemma we crucially use the fact that we assumed $\kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$.

Lemma 3.3. *If Y is a T_0 -space of size $> \kappa$, then Y has weight $\geq \kappa$.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{B} be any basis of Y . Then the map sending each point of Y into the set of its basic open neighborhoods is an injection into $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{B})$. Thus if there is such a \mathcal{B} of size $\nu < \kappa$ then $|Y| \leq 2^{\nu} \leq \kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$. \square

A tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ is **splitting** if for every $s \in T$ there are incomparable $t, t' \in T$ extending s (without loss of generality we can further require that $\text{lh}(t) = \text{lh}(t')$). We now show that the splitting condition captures the topological notion of perfectness for κ -additive SC_{κ} -spaces. (Notice that the equivalence between items (a) and (e) in Lemma 3.4 may be seen as the analogue of Theorem 2.16 for (κ) -perfect κ -additive SC_{κ} -spaces.)

Lemma 3.4. *Let X be a nonempty κ -additive SC_{κ} -space. The following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is (κ) -perfect;

- (b) every nonempty open subset of X has size $> \kappa$;
- (c) every nonempty open subspace of X has weight κ ;
- (d) every superclosed $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ such that X is homeomorphic to $[T]$ is splitting;
- (e) there is a splitting superclosed¹¹ tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ with $[T]$ homeomorphic to X .

Proof. The implication (a) \Rightarrow (b) follows from Lemma 3.2, while the implication (b) \Rightarrow (c) follows from Lemma 3.3 and the fact that X has weight (at most) κ . In order to prove (c) \Rightarrow (d), notice that if $s \in T$ then $\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T] \neq \emptyset$ because T is superclosed. Thus s must have two incomparable extensions, since otherwise $\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T]$ would be a nonempty open set of weight (and size) 1. The implication (d) \Rightarrow (e) follows from Theorem 2.16, which ensures the existence of a superclosed $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ with $[T]$ homeomorphic to X : such a T is then necessarily splitting by condition (d). Finally, for the implication (e) \Rightarrow (a) notice that if T is splitting and superclosed, then for every two incomparable extensions $t, t' \in T$ of a given $s \in T$ we have $\mathbf{N}_t \cap [T] \neq \emptyset$ and $\mathbf{N}_{t'} \cap [T] \neq \emptyset$ but $\mathbf{N}_t \cap \mathbf{N}_{t'} = \emptyset$, hence $|\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T]| > 1$ for all $s \in T$. \square

Remark 3.5. Notice that if κ is inaccessible, then the splitting condition on the superclosed tree T in items (d) and (e) above can be strengthened to

$$(3.1) \quad \forall s \in T \forall \nu < \kappa \exists \alpha < \kappa (\alpha > \text{lh}(s) \wedge |\text{Lev}_\alpha(T_s)| \geq \nu).$$

Notice also that if $\alpha < \kappa$ witnesses (3.1) for given $s \in T$ and $\nu < \kappa$, then every $\alpha \leq \alpha' < \kappa$ witnesses the same fact because T is pruned.

Lemma 3.4 allows us to prove the following strengthening of [3, Proposition 3.1] and [7, Theorem 2.53], answering in particular [3, Question 3.2] for the case of κ -additive spaces.

Theorem 3.6. *Let X be a nonempty κ -additive SC_κ -space. If X is (κ) -perfect, then there is a superclosed $C \subseteq X$ which is homeomorphic to ${}^\kappa 2$.*

Proof. By Lemma 3.4 we may assume that $X = [T]$ with $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ superclosed and splitting. Recursively define a map $\varphi: {}^{<\kappa}2 \rightarrow T$ by setting $\varphi(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ and then letting $\varphi(t \hat{\ } 0)$ and $\varphi(t \hat{\ } 1)$ be incomparable extensions in T of the sequence of $\varphi(t)$. At limit levels we set $\varphi(t) = \bigcup_{\alpha < \text{lh}(t)} \varphi(t \upharpoonright \alpha)$, which is still an element of T because the latter is $<\kappa$ -closed.

By construction, φ is a tree-embedding from ${}^{<\kappa}2$ into T , i.e. φ is monotone and preserves incomparability. Moreover, $\text{lh}(\varphi(t)) \geq \text{lh}(t)$ for every $t \in {}^{<\kappa}2$. Let T' be the subtree of T generated by $\varphi({}^{<\kappa}2)$, that is

$$T' = \{s \in T \mid s \subseteq \varphi(t) \text{ for some } t \in {}^{<\kappa}2\}.$$

It is easy to see that T' is pruned. We now want to check that it is also $<\kappa$ -closed by showing that if $s \notin T'$ for some s of limit length, then there is $\alpha < \text{lh}(s)$ such that $s \upharpoonright \alpha \notin T'$. (We present a detailed argument because the claim uses in an essential way that ${}^{<\kappa}2$ is finitely splitting, and would instead fail if e.g. ${}^{<\kappa}2$ is replaced by ${}^{<\kappa}\omega$.) Set $A = \{t \in {}^{<\kappa}2 \mid \varphi(t) \subseteq s\}$. Since φ preserves incomparability, all sequences in A are comparable and thus the sequence $\bar{t} = \bigcup \{t \mid t \in A\} \in {}^{<\kappa}2$ is well-defined and such that $\varphi(\bar{t}) \subsetneq s$ (here we use that φ is defined in a continuous way at limit levels and $s \notin T'$). Since $s \notin T'$, the sequences $\varphi(\bar{t} \hat{\ } 0)$ and $\varphi(\bar{t} \hat{\ } 1)$ are both incomparable with s by the choice of \bar{t} , and since $\text{lh}(s)$ is limit there is

¹¹This is a bit redundant: if T is splitting and $<\kappa$ -closed, then it is automatically pruned.

$\text{lh}(\varphi(\bar{t})) < \alpha < \text{lh}(s)$ such that the above sequences are incomparable with $s \upharpoonright \alpha$ as well:¹² we claim that such α is as required. Given an arbitrary $t \in {}^{<\kappa}2$, we distinguish various cases. If t is incomparable with \bar{t} , then $\varphi(t)$ is incomparable with $\varphi(\bar{t})$ and thus with $s \upharpoonright \alpha$ as well because by construction $\varphi(\bar{t}) \subseteq s \upharpoonright \alpha$. If $t \subseteq \bar{t}$, then by monotonicity of φ we have that $\varphi(t) \subseteq \varphi(\bar{t}) = s \upharpoonright \text{lh}(\varphi(\bar{t}))$ and thus $\varphi(t)$ is a proper initial segment of $s \upharpoonright \alpha$ by $\alpha > \text{lh}(\varphi(\bar{t}))$. Finally, if t properly extends \bar{t} , then $t \supseteq \bar{t} \hat{\ } i$ for some $i \in \{0, 1\}$: but then $\varphi(t) \supseteq \varphi(\bar{t} \hat{\ } i)$ is incomparable with $s \upharpoonright \alpha$ again. So in all cases we get that $s \upharpoonright \alpha \not\subseteq \varphi(t)$, and since t was arbitrary this entails $s \upharpoonright \alpha \notin T'$, as required.

This shows that T' is a superclosed subtree of T . Moreover, φ canonically induces the function $f_\varphi: {}^\kappa 2 \rightarrow C = [T']$ where

$$f_\varphi(x) = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} \varphi(x \upharpoonright \alpha),$$

which is well-defined by monotonicity of φ and $\text{lh}(\varphi(x \upharpoonright \alpha)) \geq \alpha$. Moreover f_φ is a bijection because φ is a tree-embedding, and by construction $f_\varphi(\mathbf{N}_t) = \mathbf{N}_{\varphi(t)} \cap C$ for all $t \in {}^{<\kappa}2$. Since $\{\mathbf{N}_{\varphi(t)} \cap C \mid t \in {}^{<\kappa}2\}$ is clearly a basis for C , this shows that f_φ is a homeomorphism between ${}^\kappa 2$ and C . \square

The previous theorem can be turned into the following characterization: a topological space contains a closed homeomorphic copy of ${}^\kappa 2$ if and only if it contains a nonempty closed $(\kappa\text{-})$ perfect κ -additive SC_κ -subspace.

Finally, we briefly discuss κ -Lindelöf sets and K_κ -sets. The Alexandrov-Urysohn characterization of the Baire space (Theorem 3.1(2)) implicitly deals with Baire category. In fact, compact sets are closed, thus requiring that they have empty interior is equivalent to requiring that they are nowhere dense. The latter notion makes sense also in the generalized setting, but the notion of meagerness needs to be replaced with κ -meagerness, where a subset $A \subseteq X$ is called κ -**meager** if it can be written as a union of κ -many nowhere dense sets. A topological space is κ -**Baire** if no nonempty open subset of X is κ -meager. It is not difficult to see that if κ is regular, then ${}^\kappa \kappa$ is κ -Baire (see e.g. [6, 1]), so the next lemma applies to it.

Lemma 3.7. *Suppose that X is a κ -additive κ -Baire space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *all κ -Lindelöf subsets of X have empty interior;*
- (b) *all K_κ subsets of X have empty interior.*

Proof. The nontrivial implication (a) \Rightarrow (b) follows from the fact that if $A = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha \subseteq X$ with all A_α 's κ -Lindelöf, then A is κ -meager because in a κ -additive (Hausdorff) space all κ -Lindelöf sets are necessarily closed and thus, by (a), each A_α is nowhere dense; thus the interior of A , being κ -meager as well, must be the empty set. \square

Finally, observe that if a space X can be partitioned into κ -many nonempty clopen sets, then it is certainly not κ -Lindelöf. The next lemma shows that the converse holds as well if X is κ -additive and of weight at most κ .

Lemma 3.8. *Let X be a nonempty κ -additive space of weight $\leq \kappa$. If X is not κ -Lindelöf, then it can be partitioned into κ -many nonempty clopen subsets.*

¹²Here is where we use that there are finitely many (in fact, two) extensions of \bar{t} of length $\text{lh}(\bar{t}) + 1$.

Proof. Since X is zero-dimensional of weight $\leq \kappa$ but not κ -Lindelöf, there is a clopen covering $\{U_\alpha \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$ of it which does not admit a $< \kappa$ -sized subcover. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $U_\alpha \not\subseteq \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} U_\beta$. Then the sets $V_\alpha = U_\alpha \setminus \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} U_\beta$ form a κ -sized partition of X . Since by κ -additivity the V_α 's are clopen, we are done. \square

We are now ready to characterize the generalized Baire space ${}^\kappa\kappa$ in the class of SC_κ -spaces (compare it with Theorem 3.1(2)).

Theorem 3.9. *Up to homeomorphism, the generalized Baire space ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is the unique nonempty κ -additive SC_κ -space for which all κ -Lindelöf subsets (equivalently: all K_κ -subsets) have empty interior.*

Proof. Clearly, ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is a κ -additive SC_κ -space. Moreover, every κ -Lindelöf subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ has empty interior as otherwise for some $s \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$ the basic clopen set \mathbf{N}_s would be κ -Lindelöf as well, which is clearly false because $\{\mathbf{N}_{s \frown \alpha} \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$ is a κ -sized clopen partition of \mathbf{N}_s . By Lemma 3.7 and the fact that ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is κ -Baire we get that the K_κ -subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ have empty interior too.

Conversely, let X be any nonempty κ -additive SC_κ -space all of whose κ -Lindelöf subsets have empty interior. By Theorem 2.16 we may assume that $X = [T]$ for some superclosed tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$: our aim is to define a homeomorphism between ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and $[T]$. We recursively define a map $\varphi: {}^{<\kappa}\kappa \rightarrow T$ by setting $\varphi(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ and $\varphi(t) = \bigcup_{\alpha < \text{lh}(t)} \varphi(t \upharpoonright \alpha)$ if $\text{lh}(t)$ is limit (this is still a sequence in T because the latter is $< \kappa$ -closed). For the successor step, assume that $\varphi(t)$ has already been defined. Notice that $\mathbf{N}_{\varphi(t)} \cap [T]$ is open and nonempty (because T is superclosed), hence it is not κ -Lindelöf by assumption. By Lemma 3.8 there is a κ -sized partition of $\mathbf{N}_{\varphi(t)} \cap [T]$ into nonempty clopen sets, which can then be refined to a partition in nonempty sets of the form $\{\mathbf{N}_{t_\alpha} \cap [T] \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$, so that in particular $t_\alpha \in T$: set $\varphi(t \frown \alpha) = t_\alpha$. It is now easy to see that the function

$$f_\varphi: {}^\kappa\kappa \rightarrow X, \quad x \mapsto \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} \varphi(x \upharpoonright \alpha)$$

induced by φ is a homeomorphism between ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and X . \square

Theorem 3.9 can be used to get an easy proof of the fact that ${}^\kappa 2$ is homeomorphic to ${}^\kappa\kappa$ when κ is not weakly compact, i.e. when ${}^\kappa 2$ is not κ -Lindelöf itself. Indeed, ${}^\kappa 2$ is clearly a nonempty κ -additive SC_κ -space, so it is enough to check that all its κ -Lindelöf subsets have empty interior. But for zero-dimensional spaces this is equivalent to the fact that every nonempty open subspace is not κ -Lindelöf, which in this case is true because all basic open subsets of ${}^\kappa 2$ are homeomorphic to it, and thus they are not κ -Lindelöf.

We next move to the characterization(s) of ${}^\kappa 2$. When κ is not weakly compact, Theorem 3.9 already does the job, but we are anyway seeking a generalization along the lines of Brouwer's characterization of ${}^\omega 2$ from Theorem 3.1(1) (thus involving perfectness and suitable compactness properties). Since ${}^\kappa 2$ is κ -Lindelöf if and only if κ is weakly compact, we distinguish between the corresponding two cases and first concentrate on the case when κ is not weakly compact. In this situation, there is no space at all sharing all (natural generalizations of) the conditions appearing in Theorem 3.1(1).

Proposition 3.10. *Let κ be a non weakly compact cardinal. Then there is no nonempty κ -additive (κ) -perfect κ -Lindelöf SC_κ -space.*

Proof. Suppose towards a contradiction that there is such a space X . By Theorem 3.6, we could then find a homeomorphic copy $C \subseteq X$ of ${}^\kappa 2$ with C closed in X . But then C , and hence also ${}^\kappa 2$, would be κ -Lindelöf, contradicting the fact that κ is not weakly compact. \square

Proposition 3.10 seems to suggest the we already reached a dead end in our attempt to generalize Brouwer’s theorem for non-weakly compact cardinals. However, this is quite not true: we are now going to show that relaxing even just one of the conditions on the space give a compatible set of requirements. For example, if we restrict the attention to κ -Lindelöf SC_κ -spaces, then κ -additivity and κ -perfectness cannot coexists by Proposition 3.10, but they can be satisfied separately. Indeed, the space

$$X = \{x \in {}^\kappa 2 \mid x(\alpha) = 0 \text{ for at most one } \alpha < \kappa\}$$

is a κ -additive κ -Lindelöf SC_κ -space, while endowing ${}^\kappa 2$ with the product topology (rather than the bounded topology) we get a κ -perfect κ -Lindelöf (in fact, compact) SC_κ -space. If instead we weaken the Choquet-like condition to being just a $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space, then we have the following example.

Proposition 3.11. *There exists a nonempty κ -additive (κ) -perfect κ -Lindelöf $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space.*

Proof. Consider the tree $T_0 = \{s \in {}^{<\kappa} 2 \mid |\{\alpha \mid s(\alpha) = 0\}| < \omega\}$ and the space $X_0 = [T_0]$ from equation (2.3), which is clearly a κ -additive (κ) -perfect $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space. Suppose towards a contradiction that X_0 is not κ -Lindelöf, and let \mathcal{F} be a κ -sized clopen partition of X_0 in nonempty pieces, which exists by Lemma 3.8. Without loss of generality, we may assume that each set in \mathcal{F} is of the form $\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T_0]$ for some $s \in T_0$. Set $F = \{s \in T_0 \mid \mathbf{N}_s \cap [T_0] \in \mathcal{F}\}$: then F is a maximal antichain in T_0 , i.e. distinct $s, t \in F$ are incomparable and for each $x \in [T_0]$ there is $s \in F$ such that $s \subseteq x$. By definition, each sequence $s \in F$ has only a finite number of coordinates with value 0: for each $n \in \omega$, let F_n be the set of those $s \in F$ that have exactly n -many zeros. Since $|F| = \kappa$ and $\{F_n \mid n \in \omega\}$ is a partition of F , there exists some n such that $|F_n| = \kappa$: let ℓ be the smallest natural number with this property, and set $F_{<\ell} = \bigcup_{n < \ell} F_n$. Then $|F_{<\ell}| < \kappa$ and $\gamma = \sup\{\text{lh}(s) \mid s \in F_{<\ell}\} < \kappa$ by regularity of κ .

We claim that there is $s \in F_\ell$ such that $s(\beta) = 0$ for some $\gamma \leq \beta < \text{lh}(s)$. If not, the map $s \mapsto \{\alpha < \gamma \mid s(\alpha) = 0\}$ would be an injection (because F is an antichain) from F_ℓ to $\{A \subseteq \gamma \mid |A| = \ell\}$, contradicting $|F_\ell| = \kappa$. Given now s as above, let $x = (s \upharpoonright \gamma) \hat{\ } 1^{(\kappa)}$. Then $x \in X_0$ and $|\{\alpha < \kappa \mid x(\alpha) = 0\}| < \ell$, thus there is $t \in F_{<\ell}$ such that $x \in \mathbf{N}_t \cap [T_0]$. Since $t \in F_{<\ell}$ implies $\text{lh}(t) \leq \gamma$, this means that $t \subseteq x \upharpoonright \gamma = s \upharpoonright \gamma \subseteq s$, contradicting the fact that F is an antichain. \square

The remaining option is to drop the condition of being κ -Lindelöf. In a sense, this is the most promising move, as we are assuming that κ is not weakly compact and thus ${}^\kappa 2$, the space we are trying to characterize, thus not satisfy such a property. Indeed, we are now going to show that dropping such a (wrong) requirement, we already get the desired characterization.

Lemma 3.12. *Suppose that κ is not weakly compact and X is a κ -additive SC_κ -space. Then X is (κ) -perfect if and only if every κ -Lindelöf subsets of X has empty interior.*

Proof. It is clear that if all κ -Lindelöf subsets of X have empty interior, then X has no isolated point because if $x \in X$ is isolated then $\{x\}$ is open and trivially κ -Lindelöf. Suppose now that X is perfect but has a κ -Lindelöf subset with nonempty interior. By zero-dimensionality, it would follow that there is a nonempty clopen set $O \subseteq X$ which is κ -Lindelöf. But then O would be a nonempty κ -additive perfect κ -Lindelöf SC_κ -space, contradicting Proposition 3.10. \square

Lemma 3.12 allows us to replace the last condition in the characterization of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ from Theorem 3.9 with (κ) -perfectness. Together with the fact that ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is homeomorphic to ${}^\kappa 2$ when κ is not weakly compact, this leads us to the following analogue of Theorem 3.1(1) (which of course can also be viewed as an alternative characterization of ${}^\kappa\kappa$).

Theorem 3.13. *Let κ be a non weakly compact cardinal. Up to homeomorphism, the generalized Cantor space ${}^\kappa 2$ (and hence also ${}^\kappa\kappa$) is the unique nonempty κ -additive (κ) -perfect SC_κ -space.*

We now move to the case when κ is weakly compact. In contrast to the previous situation, the condition of being κ -Lindelöf obviously becomes relevant (and necessary) because ${}^\kappa 2$ now has that property—this is the only difference between Theorem 3.13 and Theorem 3.14.

Theorem 3.14. *Let κ be a weakly compact cardinal. Up to homeomorphism, the generalized Cantor space ${}^\kappa 2$ is the unique nonempty κ -additive (κ) -perfect κ -Lindelöf SC_κ -space.*

Proof. For the nontrivial direction, let X be any nonempty perfect κ -additive κ -Lindelöf SC_κ -space. By Lemma 3.4 we may assume that $X = [T]$ for some splitting superclosed tree $T \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$. Notice that the fact that X is κ -Lindelöf entails that $|\text{Lev}_\alpha(T)| < \kappa$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$: this will be used in combination with the strong form of the splitting condition from equation (3.1) in Remark 3.5 to prove the following claim.

Claim 3.14.1. For every $\alpha < \kappa$ there is a nonzero $\beta < \kappa$ such that $|\text{Lev}_{\alpha+\beta}(T_t)| = |\beta 2|$ for all $t \in \text{Lev}_\alpha(T)$.

Proof. Recursively define a sequence of ordinals $(\gamma_n)_{n \in \omega}$, as follows. Set $\gamma_0 = 0$. Suppose now that the γ_i have been defined for all $i \leq n$, and set $\bar{\gamma}_n = \sum_{i \leq n} \gamma_i$. Then choose $\gamma_{n+1} < \kappa$ large enough to ensure

- (1) $\gamma_{n+1} \geq \max\{2^{|\gamma_n|}, |\text{Lev}_{\alpha+\bar{\gamma}_n}(T)|\}$;
- (2) $|\text{Lev}_{\alpha+\bar{\gamma}_n+\gamma_{n+1}}(T_s)| \geq |\gamma_n|$ for all $s \in \text{Lev}_{\alpha+\bar{\gamma}_n}(T)$.

Such a γ_{n+1} exists because $|\text{Lev}_{\alpha+\bar{\gamma}_n}(T)| < \kappa$ (because X is κ -Lindelöf) and $2^{|\gamma_n|} < \kappa$ (because κ is inaccessible). Set $\beta = \sum_{n \in \omega} \gamma_n = \sup_{n \in \omega} \bar{\gamma}_n$. By construction, $|\beta 2| = \prod_{n \in \omega} 2^{|\gamma_n|} = \prod_{n \in \omega} |\gamma_n|$. On the other hand for every $t \in \text{Lev}_\alpha(T)$ we have

$$\prod_{n \in \omega} |\gamma_n| \leq |\text{Lev}_{\alpha+\beta}(T_t)| \leq |\text{Lev}_{\alpha+\beta}(T)| \leq \prod_{n \in \omega} |\gamma_n|,$$

where the first inequality follows from (2) while the last one follows from (1). \square

Using Claim 3.14.1 we can easily construct a club $0 \in C \subseteq \kappa$ such that if $(\alpha_i)_{i < \kappa}$ is the increasing enumeration of C and β_i is such that $\alpha_{i+1} = \alpha_i + \beta_i$, then there is a bijection $\varphi_t: \text{Lev}_{\alpha_{i+1}}(T_t) \rightarrow {}^{\beta_i}2$ for every $i < \kappa$ and $t \in \text{Lev}_{\alpha_i}(T)$.

Define $\varphi: T \rightarrow {}^{<\kappa}2$ by recursion on $\text{lh}(s)$ as follows. Set $\varphi(\emptyset) = \emptyset$. For an arbitrary $s \in T \setminus \{\emptyset\}$, let $j < \kappa$ be largest such that $\alpha_j \leq \text{lh}(s)$ (here we use that C is a club). If $\alpha_j < \text{lh}(s)$, set $\varphi(s) = \varphi(s \upharpoonright \alpha_j)$. If instead $\alpha_j = \text{lh}(s)$, then we distinguish two cases. If $j = i + 1$ we set $\varphi(s) = \varphi(s \upharpoonright \alpha_i) \hat{\ } \varphi_{s \upharpoonright \alpha_i}(s)$; if j is a limit ordinal (so that $\text{lh}(s)$ is a limit as well), we set $\varphi(s) = \bigcup_{\beta < \text{lh}(s)} \varphi(s \upharpoonright \beta)$.

It is clear that φ is \subseteq -monotone and for all $\alpha \in C$ the restriction of φ to $\text{Lev}_\alpha(T)$ is a bijection with ${}^\alpha 2$. It easily follows that

$$f_\varphi: [T] \rightarrow {}^\kappa 2, \quad x \mapsto \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} \varphi(x \upharpoonright \alpha)$$

is a homeomorphism, as required. \square

The proof of the nontrivial direction in Theorem 3.14 just requires κ to be inaccessible (and not necessarily weakly compact). The stronger hypothesis on κ in the statement is indeed due to the other direction: if κ is not weakly compact, then ${}^\kappa 2$ is not κ -Lindelöf and, indeed, by Proposition 3.10 there are no spaces at all as in the statement.

Remark 3.15. It is easy to check that the function f_φ constructed in the previous proof preserves superclosed sets, that is, it is such that $C \subseteq [T]$ is superclosed if and only if $f_\varphi(C) \subseteq {}^\kappa 2$ is superclosed. This follows from the fact that if S is a superclosed subtree of T , then the \subseteq -downward closure of $\varphi(S)$ is a superclosed subtree S' of ${}^\kappa 2$; conversely, if $S' \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}2$ is a superclosed tree, then $S = \{t \in T \mid \varphi(t) \in S'\}$ is a superclosed subtree of T .

In view of Theorem 2.30, most of the characterizations provided so far can equivalently be rephrased in the context of \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces. For example, the following is the characterization of the generalized Cantor and Baire spaces in terms of \mathbb{G} -metrics.

Theorem 3.16.

- (1) *Up to homeomorphism, the generalized Cantor space ${}^\kappa 2$ is the unique nonempty (κ) -perfect (κ -Lindelöf, if κ is weakly compact) spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space.*
- (2) *Up to homeomorphism, the generalized Baire space ${}^\kappa \kappa$ is the unique nonempty spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space for which all κ -Lindelöf subsets (equivalently: all K_κ -subsets) have empty interior.*

In this section we studied in detail the κ -Lindelöf property in relation with the generalized Cantor space: it turns out that this property has important consequences for other spaces as well. For example, as it happens in the classical case, compactness-like properties always bring with them some form of completeness.

Proposition 3.17. *Let X be a space of weight $\leq \kappa$. If X is κ -Lindelöf, then it is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space.*

Proof. Define a strategy σ for II such that when I plays a (relatively) open set U and a point $x \in U$, then σ answers with any (relatively) open set V satisfying $x \in V$ and $\text{cl}(V) \subseteq U$ (such a V exists by regularity). Suppose that $\langle (U_\alpha, x_\alpha), V_\alpha \mid \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ is a run of the strong fair κ -Choquet game played accordingly to σ in

which player I ensured $\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} V_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ for all limit $\gamma < \kappa$. If $\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha = \emptyset$, then the family $\{X \setminus \text{cl}(V_\alpha) \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$ would be an open cover of X because $\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} \text{cl}(V_\alpha) = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} U_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha = \emptyset$, and thus it would have a subcover of size $< \kappa$ because X is κ -Lindelöf. But then there would be $\delta < \kappa$ such that $\bigcap_{\alpha < \delta'} \text{cl}(V_\alpha) = \emptyset$ for all $\delta \leq \delta' < \kappa$. Considering any limit ordinal $\gamma < \kappa$ with $\gamma \geq \delta$, we then would get $\bigcap_{\alpha < \delta'} V_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha < \delta'} \text{cl}(V_\alpha) = \emptyset$, against our assumptions on the given run. \square

The following is the analogue in our context of the standard fact that compact metrizable spaces are automatically Polish.

Corollary 3.18. *Every κ -Lindelöf \mathbb{G} -metrizable space is \mathbb{G} -Polish.*

Proof. Choose a strictly decreasing sequence $(\varepsilon_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ that is cointial in \mathbb{G}^+ . By κ -Lindelöfness, for each $\alpha < \kappa$ there is a covering \mathcal{B}_α of X of size $< \kappa$ consisting of open balls of radius ε_α . It follows that $\mathcal{B} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ is a basis for X of size $\leq \kappa$. By Proposition 3.17 the space X is then strong fair κ -Choquet, and since \mathbb{G} -metrizability implies κ -additivity we get that X is \mathbb{G} -Polish by Theorem 2.20. \square

Using Proposition 3.17, many statements of Section 2 can be reformulated for the special case of weakly compact cardinals and κ -Lindelöf spaces. For example, the next proposition is a reformulation of Proposition 2.12 in this special case.

Proposition 3.19. *Let X be a κ -additive κ -Lindelöf space of weight $\leq \kappa$ (in which case X is automatically an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space by Proposition 3.17). Then X is homeomorphic to a closed set $C \subseteq {}^\kappa 2$. If furthermore X is an SC_κ -space, then C can be taken to be superclosed.*

Proof. First notice that if κ is not weakly compact, then the result trivially holds by Proposition 2.12 since in this case ${}^\kappa 2$ and ${}^\kappa \kappa$ are homeomorphic (via a homeomorphism which preserves superclosed sets). Thus we may assume that κ is weakly compact. By Theorems 2.15 and 2.16 we can further assume that $X = [T]$ for some (superclosed, in the case of an SC_κ -space) tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa} \kappa$. Since X is κ -Lindelöf, by [12, Lemma 2.6(1)] the set $[T]$ is bounded, i.e. there is $y \in {}^\kappa \kappa$ such that $x(\alpha) \leq y(\alpha)$ for all $x \in [T]$ and $\alpha < \kappa$. We can assume $y(\alpha) > 0$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$. Consider the space $Z = \{z \in {}^\kappa \kappa \mid \forall \alpha < \kappa (z(\alpha) \leq y(\alpha))\}$. It is clearly a nonempty κ -additive κ -perfect SC_κ -space. Moreover, since by definition it is bounded by y and κ is weakly compact, by [12, Lemma 2.6(1)] and the fact that Z is closed in ${}^\kappa \kappa$ it follows that Z is also κ -Lindelöf. By Theorem 3.14 there is a homeomorphism $h: Z \rightarrow {}^\kappa 2$, which moreover preserves superclosed subsets of Z by Remark 3.15. Since by definition $X \subseteq Z$, it follows that $h(X)$ is a (super)closed subset of ${}^\kappa 2$ homeomorphic to X , as required. \square

Using Proposition 3.19, we can restate Theorems 2.20 and 2.30 for the special case of κ -Lindelöf spaces, further refining the picture given in Figure 1 with one more dividing line, namely κ -Lindelöfness.

Theorem 3.20. *For any space X the following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is a κ -Lindelöf κ -additive space of weight $\leq \kappa$;
- (b) X is a κ -Lindelöf \mathbb{G} -metrizable space;
- (c) X is a κ -Lindelöf \mathbb{G} -Polish space;
- (d) X is a κ -Lindelöf κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space.

If κ is weakly compact, the above conditions are also equivalent to:

(e) X is homeomorphic to a closed subset of ${}^\kappa 2$.

Theorem 3.21. *For any space X the following are equivalent:*

- (a) X is a κ -Lindelöf κ -additive SC_κ -space;
- (b) X is a κ -Lindelöf spherically $<\kappa$ -complete \mathbb{G} -metrizable space;
- (c) X is a κ -Lindelöf spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish space.

If κ is weakly compact, the above conditions are also equivalent to:

- (d) X is homeomorphic to a superclosed subset of ${}^\kappa 2$.

4. CHARACTERIZATIONS OF STANDARD κ -BOREL SPACES

In this section we deal with the κ -Borel structure of topological spaces, and show how standard κ -Borel spaces (Definition 2.1) are exactly the κ -Borel spaces obtained from Polish-like spaces in any of the classes considered so far by forgetting their topology. For the sake of definiteness, throughout the section we work with $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces and SC_κ -spaces, but all results can be reformulated in terms of \mathbb{G} -Polish and spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces—see Section 2.

We start by proving some results about changes of topology, which might be of independent interest. The next proposition shows how to change the topology of an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space while preserving its κ -Borel structure. This generalizes [10, Theorem 13.1] to our setup.

Proposition 4.1. *Let $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ be a family of κ -Borel subsets of an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space (X, τ) . Then there is a topology τ' on X such that:*

- (1) τ' refines τ ;
- (2) each B_α is τ' -clopen,
- (3) $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau') = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$, and
- (4) (X, τ') is a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space.

Proof. Let \mathcal{A} be the collection of those $A \subseteq X$ for which there is a topology τ' which satisfies (1)–(4) above (where in (2) the set B_α is replaced by A). Notice that \mathcal{A} is trivially closed under complements. We first show that \mathcal{A} contains all closed subsets of X .

Claim 4.1.1. Let C be a closed subset of an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space (X, τ) . Then there is a topology τ' which satisfies (1)–(4) above (where in (2) the set B_α is replaced by C).

Proof of the Claim. Let $\bar{\tau}$ be the smallest topology generated by $\tau \cup \{C\}$. Then $\bar{\tau} \supseteq \tau$ and C is $\bar{\tau}$ -clopen. Moreover, $\bar{\tau} \subseteq \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$ (and hence $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \bar{\tau}) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$) because each $\bar{\tau}$ -open set is of the form $(U \cap C) \cup (V \setminus C)$ for some $U, V \in \tau$. This also shows that the identity map is a homeomorphism between $(X, \bar{\tau})$ and the sum of the spaces C and $X \setminus C$ (endowed with the relative topologies inherited from X). Since both C and $X \setminus C$ are $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces by Theorem 2.15, and since the class of $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces is trivially closed under ($\leq \kappa$ -sized) sums, then X is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space as well. Applying Proposition 2.32 to $(X, \bar{\tau})$ we then get a topology $\tau' \supseteq \bar{\tau} \supseteq \tau$ which satisfies all of (1)–(4). \square

Claim 4.1.2. Let $(A_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ be a family of sets in \mathcal{A} . Then there is a topology τ'_∞ simultaneously witnessing $A_\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$.

Proof of the Claim. For each $\alpha < \kappa$ let τ'_α be a topology witnessing $A_\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$. Define τ'_∞ as the smallest κ -additive topology containing $\bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} \tau'_\alpha$. Then (1)–(3) are obvious, since τ'_∞ refines each $\tau'_\alpha \supseteq \tau$ and $\tau'_\infty \subseteq \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$. (The last inclusion holds because τ'_∞ is generated by sets of the form $\bigcap_{\beta < \gamma} U_\beta$ with $\gamma < \kappa$ and $U_\beta \in \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ for \mathcal{B}_α a $\leq \kappa$ -sized basis for τ'_α : each of these κ -many sets is thus κ -Borel with respect to τ by the properties of the chosen topologies τ'_α .) To prove (4), for each $\alpha < \kappa$ fix a closed $C_\alpha \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ and a homeomorphism $h_\alpha: C_\alpha \rightarrow (X, \tau'_\alpha)$ as given by Theorem 2.15. Endow ${}^\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa)$ with the κ -supported product topology, i.e. the topology generated by the sets $\prod_{\alpha < \kappa} U_\alpha$, where each U_α is open in the bounded topology of ${}^\kappa\kappa$, and only $< \kappa$ -many of them differ from ${}^\kappa\kappa$. Then $\prod_{\alpha < \kappa} C_\alpha$ is closed in ${}^\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa)$, and since the maps h_α are continuous, the set

$$\Delta = \left\{ (x_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa} \in \prod_{\alpha < \kappa} C_\alpha \mid \forall \alpha, \beta < \kappa \left(h_\alpha(x_\alpha) = h_\beta(x_\beta) \right) \right\}$$

is closed as well. It is then easy to check that the map $h: \Delta \rightarrow (X, \tau'_\infty)$ sending $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa} \in \Delta$ to $h_0(x_0)$ is a homeomorphism. Therefore the desired result follows from Theorem 2.15 and the fact that the spaces ${}^\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa)$ and ${}^\kappa\kappa$ are clearly homeomorphic. \square

Claim 4.1.2 in particular reduces our task of proving the theorem for a whole family $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ to showing that $B \in \mathcal{A}$ for every single κ -Borel set $B \subseteq X$. To this aim, by Claim 4.1.1 and closure of \mathcal{A} under complements it is enough to show that \mathcal{A} is closed under intersections of length $\leq \kappa$. So let $A = \bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha$ be such that $A_\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ for every $\alpha < \kappa$. By Claim 4.1.2, there is a topology τ'_∞ simultaneously witnessing $A_\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$. Then A is closed in the κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space (X, τ'_∞) . Therefore Claim 4.1.1 applied to A , viewed as a subset of (X, τ'_∞) , yields the desired topology $\tau' \supseteq \tau'_\infty \supseteq \tau$. \square

Proposition 4.1 provides an alternative proof of [13, Lemma 1.11]: Every κ -Borel subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is a continuous injective image of a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$. To see this, let $B \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ be κ -Borel, and let τ' be the topology obtained by applying Proposition 4.1 with $B_\alpha = B$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$. Let D be a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and $h: (D, \tau_b) \rightarrow ({}^\kappa\kappa, \tau')$ be a homeomorphism as given by Proposition 2.12. Then $C = h^{-1}(B)$ is closed in D and hence in ${}^\kappa\kappa$. Moreover, the map $h': (D, \tau_b) \rightarrow ({}^\kappa\kappa, \tau_b)$ obtained by composing h with the identity function $({}^\kappa\kappa, \tau') \rightarrow ({}^\kappa\kappa, \tau_b)$ is still a continuous bijection because $\tau' \supseteq \tau_b$. Therefore, $h' \upharpoonright C$ is a continuous injection from the closed set $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ onto B . Notice also that, by construction, h' is actually a κ -Borel isomorphism because $\text{Bor}_\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa, \tau') = \text{Bor}_\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa, \tau_b)$. More generally, the same argument shows that [13, Lemma 1.11] can be extended to arbitrary $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces.

Corollary 4.2. *For every κ -Borel subset B of an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space there is a continuous κ -Borel isomorphism from a closed $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ onto B .*

The space C in the previous corollary is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space by Theorem 2.15, hence applying Theorem 2.37 we further get

Corollary 4.3. *Each κ -Borel subset B of an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space is κ -Borel isomorphic to a κ -additive SC_κ -space.*

The following is the counterpart of Proposition 4.1 in terms of functions and can be proved by applying it to the preimages of the open sets in any $\leq \kappa$ -sized basis for the topology of Y .

Corollary 4.4. *Let (X, τ) be an fSC_κ -space and Y be any space of weight $\leq \kappa$. Then for every κ -Borel function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ there is a topology τ' on X such that:*

- (1) τ' refines τ ;
- (2) $f: (X, \tau') \rightarrow Y$ is continuous,
- (3) $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau') = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$, and
- (4) (X, τ') is a κ -additive fSC_κ -space.

Finally, combining the results obtained so far we get that all the proposed generalizations of (St.Bor. 1) and (St.Bor. 2) give rise to the same class of spaces. In particular, up to κ -Borel isomorphism such class coincide with any of the classes of Polish-like spaces we analyzed in the previous sections. (Notice also that Theorem 4.5 substantially strengthens [3, Corollary 3.4].)

Theorem 4.5. *A κ -Borel space (X, \mathcal{B}) is standard if and only if there is a topology τ on X such that*

- (1) (X, τ) is an fSC_κ -space, and
- (2) $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau) = \mathcal{B}$.

Moreover, condition (1) can equivalently be replaced by

- (1') (X, τ) is a κ -additive SC_κ -space.

Remark 4.6. Since κ -additive SC_κ -spaces and fSC_κ -spaces form, respectively, the smallest and largest class of Polish-like spaces considered in this paper, in Theorem 4.5 we can further replace those classes with any of the other ones: κ -additive fSC_κ -spaces, SC_κ -spaces, \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces, spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces, and so on.

A natural question is whether Proposition 4.1 can be extended in some way or another. As in the classical case, the answer is mostly negative and thus Proposition 4.1 is essentially optimal. In fact:

- (a) We cannot in general consider more than κ -many (even closed, or open) subsets, since this could force τ' to have weight greater than κ —think about turning more than κ -many singletons into clopen sets.
- (b) We obviously cannot turn a set which is not κ -Borel into a clopen (or even just κ -Borel) one pretending to maintain the same κ -Borel structure. Notice however that, in contrast to the classical case, one can consistently have that there are non- κ -Borel sets $B \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ for which there is a κ -additive fSC_κ topology $\tau' \supseteq \tau_b$ turning B into a τ' -clopen set, so that all conditions in Proposition 4.1 except for (3) are satisfied with respect to such B (see Corollary 5.10 for more details and limitations).
- (c) By Example 2.34, we cannot require that the topology τ' be SC_κ (instead of just fSC_κ). The same remains true if we consider a single κ -Borel set B (instead of a whole family $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$), we start from the stronger hypothesis that (X, τ) is already a κ -additive SC_κ -space, and we weaken the conclusions by dropping condition (3) and relaxing condition (2) to “ B is τ' -open” (or “ B is τ' -closed”).

As it is clear from the discussion, in the last item the problem arises from the fact that there is a tension between condition (1) and our desire to strengthen condition (4) from fSC_κ to SC_κ . However, we are now going to show that if we drop the problematic condition (1), then it is possible to obtain the desired strengthening, at least when we just consider a few κ -Borel sets at a time.

Proposition 4.7. *For every κ -Borel subset B of an fSC_κ -space (X, τ) there is a topology τ'' on X such that:*

- (1) B is τ'' -clopen,
- (2) $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau'') = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$, and
- (3) (X, τ'') is a κ -additive SC_κ -space (hence so are its subspaces B and $X \setminus B$ because they are τ'' -open).

Proof. By Corollary 4.3, there are κ -additive SC_κ topologies τ_1 and τ_2 on, respectively, B and $X \setminus B$ such that $\text{Bor}_\kappa(B, \tau_1) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau) \upharpoonright B$ and $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X \setminus B, \tau_2) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau) \upharpoonright (X \setminus B)$. Let τ'' be the topology on X construed as the sum of (B, τ_1) and $(X \setminus B, \tau_2)$: then τ'' is as required. \square

The proof of Proposition 4.7 can easily be adapted to work with κ -many *pairwise disjoint* κ -Borel subsets of X . This in turn implies that the proposition can e.g. be extended to deal with $<\kappa$ -many κ -Borel sets simultaneously, even when such sets are not pairwise disjoint. Indeed, if $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \nu}$ with $\nu < \kappa$ is such a family, then for each $s \in {}^\nu 2$ we can set

$$C_s = \{x \in X \mid \forall \alpha < \nu (x \in B_\alpha \iff s(\alpha) = 1)\}.$$

Since $2^\nu \leq \kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$, the family $(C_s)_{s \in {}^\nu 2}$ is a partition of X into $\leq \kappa$ -many κ -Borel sets, and any topology τ'' working simultaneously for all the C_s will work for all sets in the family $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \nu}$ as well. In contrast, Proposition 4.7 cannot be extended to arbitrary κ -sized families of κ -Borel sets, even when we restrict to $X = {}^\kappa \kappa$. Indeed, let $C \subseteq {}^\kappa \kappa$ be as in Example 2.34 and let $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ be an enumeration of $\{C\} \cup \{\mathbf{N}_s \cap C \mid s \in {}^{<\kappa} \kappa\}$. Then $(B_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa}$ is a family of Borel subsets of ${}^\kappa \kappa$ such that there is no SC_κ topology τ'' on ${}^\kappa \kappa$ making each B_α a τ'' -open subset of ${}^\kappa \kappa$, since otherwise $\tau'' \upharpoonright C$ would be an SC_κ topology on C refining $\tau_b \upharpoonright C$.

From a different perspective, it might be interesting to understand which subspaces of a Polish-like space inherit a standard κ -Borel structure from their super-space. Of course this includes all κ -Borel sets, as standard κ -Borel spaces are closed under κ -Borel subspaces, and we are now going to show that no other set has such property. We begin with a preliminary result which is of independent interest, as it shows that if a (regular Hausdorff) topology of weight $\leq \kappa$ induces a standard κ -Borel structure, then it can be refined to a Polish-like topology with the same κ -Borel sets.

Proposition 4.8. *Let (X, τ) be a space of weight $\leq \kappa$. Then $(X, \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau))$ is a standard κ -Borel space if and only if there is a topology $\tau' \supseteq \tau$ such that (X, τ') is a κ -additive fSC_κ -space and $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau')$.*

Proof. The backward implication follows from Theorem 4.5. For the forward implication, suppose that $(X, \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau))$ is standard κ -Borel. By Theorem 4.5, there is a topology $\hat{\tau}$ such that $(X, \hat{\tau})$ is an fSC_κ -space and $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \hat{\tau}) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$. The identity function $i: (X, \hat{\tau}) \rightarrow (X, \tau)$ satisfies the hypothesis of Corollary 4.4, hence there is a κ -additive fSC_κ topology τ' such that $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau') = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \hat{\tau}) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$ and $i: (X, \tau') \rightarrow (X, \tau)$ is continuous, which implies $\tau \subseteq \tau'$. \square

Theorem 4.9. *Let (X, \mathcal{B}) be a standard κ -Borel space, and let $A \subseteq X$. Then $(A, \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A)$ is a standard κ -Borel space if and only if $A \in \mathcal{B}$.*

Proof. Since (X, \mathcal{B}) is standard κ -Borel, by definition it is κ -Borel isomorphic to a κ -Borel subset $B \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$. Given $A \in \mathcal{B}$, the subspace $(A, \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A)$ is then κ -Borel isomorphic to a set in $\text{Bor}_\kappa(B) \subseteq \text{Bor}_\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa)$, hence $(A, \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A)$ is standard κ -Borel.

Conversely, assume that $(A, \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A)$ is standard κ -Borel. Let τ be a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ topology on X with $\mathcal{B} = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$, as given by Theorem 4.5, and use Proposition 4.8 to refine the topology $\tau \upharpoonright A$ on A (which obviously generates $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A$) to a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ topology τ_A on A such that $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A = \text{Bor}_\kappa(A, \tau_A)$. Let \mathcal{B} be a clopen basis for (A, τ_A) of size $\leq \kappa$. Since $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \text{Bor}_\kappa(A, \tau_A) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau) \upharpoonright A$, for every $U \in \mathcal{B}$ we can find $C_U \in \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$ such that $U = C_U \cap A$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that the family $\mathcal{C} = \{C_U \mid U \in \mathcal{B}\}$ is closed under complements. Define $\hat{\tau}$ to be the smallest κ -additive topology on X containing $\tau \cup \mathcal{C}$. Then $\hat{\tau}$ is Hausdorff because it refines τ , it is zero-dimensional (and hence regular) because τ is zero-dimensional and \mathcal{C} is closed under complements, and it has weight at most $(\kappa + |\mathcal{C}|)^{<\kappa} = \kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$. Hence, by Theorem 2.11 we have that the space $(X, \hat{\tau})$ is \mathbb{G} -metrizable. Furthermore, $\text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \hat{\tau}) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$ because $\tau \subseteq \hat{\tau} \subseteq \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau)$, and A is a \mathbb{G} -Polish subspace of $(X, \hat{\tau})$ because by construction $\hat{\tau} \upharpoonright A = \tau_A$ and τ_A is a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ topology. Therefore, by Corollary 2.25 we have that A is a G_δ^κ subset of $(X, \hat{\tau})$, so in particular $A \in \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \hat{\tau}) = \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau) = \mathcal{B}$. \square

Corollary 4.10. *Let X, Y be standard κ -Borel spaces. If $A \subseteq X$ is κ -Borel and $f: A \rightarrow Y$ is a κ -Borel embedding, then $f(A)$ is κ -Borel in Y .*

Corollary 4.10 is the analogue of the classical fact that an injective Borel image of a Borel set is still Borel (see [10, Section 15.A]). Notice however that in the generalized version the hypothesis on f is stronger: we need it to be a κ -Borel embedding, and not just an injective κ -Borel map. This is mainly due to the fact that in the generalized context we lack the analogue of Luzin's separation theorem. Indeed, one can even prove [13, Corollary 1.9] that there are non- κ -Borel sets which are continuous injective images of the whole ${}^\kappa\kappa$, hence our stronger requirement cannot be dropped.

We finally come to the problem of characterizing which topologies induce a standard κ -Borel structure. Of course this class is larger than the collection of all $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ topologies, even when restricting to the κ -additive case. Indeed, the relative topology on any κ -Borel non- G_δ^κ subspace $B \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ generates a standard κ -Borel structure, yet it is not $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ itself because of Theorems 2.20 and 2.26. On the other hand, if a space (X, τ) is homeomorphic to a κ -Borel subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$, then it clearly generates a standard κ -Borel structure by definition. Theorems 2.11 and 4.9 allow us to reverse the implication, yielding the desired characterization in the case of κ -additive topologies. (For the nontrivial direction, use the fact that by Theorem 2.11 every κ -additive space of weight $\leq \kappa$ is, up to homeomorphism, a subspace of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.)

Corollary 4.11. *Let (X, τ) be a κ -additive space of weight $\leq \kappa$. Then $(X, \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau))$ is a standard κ -Borel space if and only if (X, τ) is homeomorphic to a κ -Borel subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ (or, equivalently, of ${}^\kappa 2$).*

In [16, Definition 3.6], the author considered *topological* spaces (X, τ) with weight $\leq \kappa$ such that the induced κ -Borel structure is κ -Borel isomorphic to a κ -Borel subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$. By Corollary 4.11 it turns out that when τ is regular Hausdorff and κ -additive, a space (X, τ) satisfies [16, Definition 3.6] if and only if it is homeomorphic (and not just κ -Borel isomorphic) to a κ -Borel subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

5. FINAL REMARKS AND OPEN QUESTIONS

In the classical setup, Polish spaces are closed under countable sums, countable products, and G_δ subspaces. Moving to the generalized context, all classes considered so far are trivially closed under sums of size $\leq \kappa$. However, by Theorem 2.30 the class of SC_κ -spaces is already lacking closure with respect to closed subspaces (even when restricting the attention to κ -additive spaces or, equivalently, to spherically complete \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces). In view of Proposition 2.10, the class of $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces is a more promising option. Indeed, since such class is also straightforwardly closed under $\leq \kappa$ -products, where the product is naturally endowed by the $< \kappa$ -supported product topology, we easily get:

Theorem 5.1. *The class of $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces is closed under G_δ^κ subspaces and $\leq \kappa$ -sized sums and products.*

Moving to \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces, by Theorem 2.26 we still have closure under G_δ^κ subspaces. However, it is then not transparent how to achieve closure under $\leq \kappa$ -sized products. The naïve attempt of mimicking what is done in the classical case would require to first develop a theory of convergent κ -indexed series in some suitable group \mathbb{G} , and then use it to try to define the complete \mathbb{G} -metric on the product. Theorem 2.20 provides an elegant bypass to these difficulties and directly leads us to the following theorem.

Theorem 5.2. *The class of \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces (equivalently: κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces) is closed under G_δ^κ -subspaces and $\leq \kappa$ -sized sums and products.*

Proof. For $\leq \kappa$ -sized products, just notice that both the property of being κ -additive and the property of being strong fair κ -Choquet are straightforwardly preserved by such an operation. \square

Moreover, we also get the analogue of Sierpiński's theorem [10, Theorem 8.19]: the classes of \mathbb{G} -Polish spaces and $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces are both closed under continuous open images. (Notice that a similar result holds for SC_κ -spaces, as observed in [3, Proposition 2.7].)

Theorem 5.3. *Let X be \mathbb{G} -Polish, and Y be a space of weight $\leq \kappa$. If there is a continuous open surjection f from X onto Y , then Y is \mathbb{G} -Polish.*

The same is true if we replace \mathbb{G} -Polishness by the (weaker) property of being an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space.

Proof. By Theorem 2.20, it is enough to show that the properties of being strong fair κ -Choquet and being κ -additive are preserved by f . The former is straightforward. For the latter, let $(U_\alpha)_{\alpha < \nu}$ be a sequence of open subsets of Y , for some $\nu < \kappa$. If $\bigcap_{\alpha < \nu} U_\alpha \neq \emptyset$, let y be arbitrary in $\bigcap_{\alpha < \nu} U_\alpha$ and, using surjectivity of f , let $x \in X$ be such that $f(x) = y$. Since $x \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \nu} f^{-1}(U_\alpha)$ and the latter set is open by κ -additivity of X , there is $V \subseteq X$ open such that $x \in V \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha < \nu} f^{-1}(U_\alpha)$. It follows that $f(V)$ is an open neighborhood of y such that $f(V) \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha < \nu} U_\alpha$, as desired. \square

There is still one interesting open question related to $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -subspaces of a given space of weight $\leq \kappa$. By Corollary 2.25, if X is also κ -additive and $Y \subseteq X$ is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -subspace of it, then Y is G_δ^κ in X . We do not know if the same remains true if we drop κ -additivity. The following corollary is the best result we have in

this direction: it follows from Theorem 2.11 and the fact that by $\kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$ and the proof of Proposition 2.32, every (regular Hausdorff) topology of weight $\leq \kappa$ can be naturally refined to a κ -additive one in such a way that the new open sets are F_σ^κ in the old topology.

Corollary 5.4. *Let X be a space of weight $\leq \kappa$, and $Y \subseteq X$ be an fSC_κ -subspace of it. Then Y is a $\leq \kappa$ -sized intersection of F_σ^κ subsets of X .*

It is then natural to ask whether the above computation can be improved.

Question 5.5. In the same hypotheses of Corollary 5.4, is Y a G_δ^κ subset of X ? What if we assume that X be fSC_κ ?

In the literature on generalized descriptive set theory, the notion of an analytic set is usually generalized as follows.

Definition 5.6. A subset of a space¹³ of weight $\leq \kappa$ is κ -**analytic** if and only if it is a continuous image of a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$. A set is κ -**coanalytic** if its complement is κ -analytic, and it is κ -**bianalytic** if it is both κ -analytic and κ -coanalytic.

Although the definition works for a larger class of spaces, in this paper we will concentrate on subsets of fSC_κ -spaces. Analogously to what happens in the classical case, one can then prove that Definition 5.6 is equivalent to several other variants: for example, a set $A \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ is κ -analytic if and only if it is the projection of a closed $C \subseteq ({}^\kappa\kappa)^2$, if and only if¹⁴ it is a κ -Borel image of some set $B \in \text{Bor}_\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa)$ (see [1, Corollary 7.3] and [16, Proposition 3.11]). As explained in [13, Theorem 1.5], a major difference from the classical setup is instead that we cannot add among the equivalent reformulations of κ -analyticity that of being a continuous image of the whole ${}^\kappa\kappa$ —this condition defines a properly smaller class when κ is uncountable (and, as usual, $\kappa^{<\kappa} = \kappa$).

The reason for using Definition 5.6 instead of directly generalizing [10, Definition 14.1] is precisely that we were still lacking an appropriate notion of generalized Polish-like space. We can now fill this gap.

Proposition 5.7. *Let X be an fSC_κ -space. For any $A \subseteq X$, the following are equivalent:*

- (a) A is κ -analytic (i.e. a continuous image of a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$);
- (b) A is a continuous image of a \mathbb{G} -Polish space;
- (c) A is a continuous image of an fSC_κ -space.

Proof. The implications (a) \Rightarrow (b) and (b) \Rightarrow (c) follow from Theorem 2.20. For the remaining implication (c) \Rightarrow (a), suppose that Y is an fSC_κ -space and that $g: Y \rightarrow X$ is continuous and onto A . Use Proposition 2.32 to refine the topology τ of Y to a topology τ' such that (Y, τ') is κ -additive and still fSC_κ . Notice that $g: (Y, \tau') \rightarrow X$ is still continuous because $\tau' \supseteq \tau$. Use Theorem 2.20 again to find a closed set $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ and a homeomorphism $f: C \rightarrow (Y, \tau')$: then $g \circ f$ is a continuous surjection from C onto A . □

¹³Since fSC_κ -spaces have been introduced in the present paper, the definition of κ -analytic sets given in the literature is of course usually restricted to the spaces ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and ${}^\kappa 2$ and their powers. The only exception is [16], where it is given for all $\leq \kappa$ -weighted topologies generating a standard κ -Borel structure (see [16, Definitions 3.6 and 3.8]).

¹⁴This reformulation involves only κ -Borel sets and functions, thus the notion of a κ -analytic set is independent on the actual topology. This allows us to naturally extend this concept to subsets of arbitrary (standard) κ -Borel spaces.

Clearly, in Proposition 5.7(c) we can equivalently consider κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces. We instead cannot restrict ourselves to SC_κ -spaces, even when further requiring κ -additivity. Indeed, by Theorem 2.30 and [13, Proposition 1.3] every such space is a continuous image of the whole ${}^\kappa\kappa$: it follows that the collection of all continuous images of κ -additive SC_κ -spaces coincides with the collection of continuous images of ${}^\kappa\kappa$, and it is thus strictly smaller than the class of all κ -analytic sets by the mentioned [13, Theorem 1.5].

A variant of Definition 5.6 considered in [13] is the class I_{cl}^κ of continuous *injective* images of closed subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ (clearly, all such sets are in particular κ -analytic). When $\kappa = \omega$ the class I_{cl}^κ coincides with Borel sets, but when $\kappa > \omega$ the class I_{cl}^κ is strictly larger than $\text{Bor}_\kappa({}^\kappa\kappa)$ by [13, Corollary 1.9]. Moreover, if $V = \mathbb{L}[x]$ with $x \subseteq \kappa$, then by [13, Corollary 1.14] all κ -analytic subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ belong to I_{cl}^κ . This result can be extended to κ -analytic subsets of arbitrary $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces.

Corollary 5.8. *Assume that $V = \mathbb{L}[x]$ with $x \subseteq \kappa$, and let X be an arbitrary $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space. Then every κ -analytic $A \subseteq X$ is a continuous injective image of a closed subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.*

Proof. By Corollary 2.33 there is a closed $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ and a continuous bijection $f: C \rightarrow X$. Notice that $f^{-1}(A)$ is κ -analytic in C because the class of κ -analytic sets is easily seen to be closed under continuous preimages, hence it is κ -analytic in ${}^\kappa\kappa$ as well. By [13, Corollary 1.14] there is a continuous injection from some closed $D \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ onto $f^{-1}(A)$, which composed with f gives the desired result. \square

We are now going to show that the class I_{cl}^κ can be characterized through changes of topology.

Theorem 5.9. *Let (X, τ) be an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space and $A \subseteq X$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) $A \in I_{\text{cl}}^\kappa$;
- (b) *there is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ topology τ' on A such that $\tau' \supseteq \tau \upharpoonright A$.*

Proof. Suppose first that $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ is closed and $f: C \rightarrow X$ is a continuous injection with range A . Let τ' be obtained by pushing forward along f the (relative) topology of C , so that (A, τ') and C are homeomorphic. Then (A, τ') is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space by Theorem 2.20, and τ' refines $\tau \upharpoonright A$ because f was continuous.

Conversely, if (A, τ') is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space then by Theorem 2.20 again there is a closed $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ and a homeomorphism $f: C \rightarrow (A, \tau')$. Since $\tau' \supseteq \tau \upharpoonright A$, it follows that C and f witness $A \in I_{\text{cl}}^\kappa$. \square

This also allows us to precisely determine to what extent the technique of change of topology discussed in Section 4 can be applied to non- κ -Borel sets.

Corollary 5.10. *Let (X, τ) be an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space.*

- (1) *Let $A \subseteq X$. If there is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ topology $\tau' \supseteq \tau$ on X such that A is τ' -clopen (or even just $A \in \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau')$), then A is κ -bianalytic.*
- (2) *If $V = \mathbb{L}[x]$ with $x \subseteq \kappa$, then for all κ -bianalytic $A \subseteq X$ there is a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ topology $\tau' \supseteq \tau$ on X such that A is τ' -clopen.*

Proof. For part (1) observe that since A is τ' -clopen, then by Proposition 2.10 both A and $X \setminus A$ are $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces when endowed with the relativization of τ' . Therefore by Theorem 5.9 they are in I_{cl}^κ , and thus κ -analytic. If instead of A being τ' -clopen

we just have $A \in \text{Bor}_\kappa(X, \tau')$, use Proposition 4.1 to further refine τ' to a suitable τ'' turning A into a τ'' -clopen set, and then apply the previous argument to τ'' instead of τ' .

We now move to part (2). By Corollary 5.8, under our assumption all κ -analytic subsets of X are in I_{cl}^κ . It follows that for every κ -bianalytic set $B \subseteq X$ there is a continuous bijection $f: C \rightarrow X$ with $C \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ closed and $f^{-1}(B)$ clopen relatively to C : just fix $f_0: C_0 \rightarrow B$ and $f_1: C_1 \rightarrow X \setminus B$ witnessing $B \in I_{\text{cl}}^\kappa$ and $X \setminus B \in I_{\text{cl}}^\kappa$, respectively, let C be the sum of C_0 and C_1 , and set $f = f_0 \cup f_1$. Pushing forward the topology of C along f we then get the desired τ' (the fact that $\tau' \supseteq \tau_b$ follows again from the continuity of f). \square

Corollary 5.10 justifies our claim that there might be non- κ -Borel sets that can be turned into clopen sets via a nice change of topology (see item (b) on page 33). Indeed, when κ is uncountable there are κ -bianalytic subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ which are not κ -Borel (see e.g. [6, Theorem 18]), and Corollary 5.10(2) applies to them.

Having extended the notion of a κ -analytic set to arbitrary $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces, it is natural to ask whether the deep analysis carried out in [13] can be transferred to such wider context. Some of the results have already been explicitly extended in this paper, see e.g. Corollaries 2.14, 4.2, and 5.8, which extend, respectively, [13, Proposition 1.3, Lemma 1.11, and Corollary 1.14]. Other results naturally transfer to our general setup using the ideas developed so far.

Question 5.11. Which other results from [13] hold for κ -analytic subsets of arbitrary $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces? For example, for which $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces X is there a closed $C \subseteq X$ which is not a continuous image of the whole ${}^\kappa\kappa$, or a non- κ -Borel set $A \subseteq X$ which is an injective continuous image of ${}^\kappa\kappa$?

Similar questions can be raised about the analogue of the Hurewicz dichotomy for κ -analytic subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ studied in [12].

We now move to generalizations of the perfect set property.

Definition 5.12. Let X be a space. A set A has the κ -**perfect set property** (κ -PSP for short) if either $|A| \leq \kappa$ or A contains a closed set homeomorphic to ${}^\kappa 2$.

The κ -Borel version of the κ -PSP would then read as follows: either $|A| \leq \kappa$ or A contains a κ -Borel set which is κ -Borel isomorphic to ${}^\kappa 2$. However, for most applications it is convenient to consider a slightly stronger reformulation.

Definition 5.13. Let X be a space. A set A has the **Borel κ -perfect set property** (Bor_κ -PSP for short) if either $|A| \leq \kappa$ or there is a *continuous* κ -Borel embedding $f: {}^\kappa 2 \rightarrow A$ with $f({}^\kappa 2) \in \text{Bor}_\kappa(X)$.

By Corollary 4.10, if the κ -Borel structure of X is standard then the fact that $f({}^\kappa 2) \in \text{Bor}_\kappa(X)$ follows from the other conditions. Notice also that the Bor_κ -PSP is in general strictly weaker than the κ -PSP. For example, consider the space $X = {}^\kappa 2$ equipped with the *product* topology. It is a κ -perfect SC_κ -space, hence X itself and all its open subsets have the Bor_κ -PSP (see Corollary 5.14 below). However, X is compact: thus its clopen subsets cannot contain a closed homeomorphic copy of the generalized Cantor space, which clearly is not compact, and thus they do not have the κ -PSP.

In Definitions 5.12 and 5.13 we are of course allowing the special case $A = X$. With this terminology, Theorem 3.6 asserts that the κ -PSP holds for all κ -additive

κ -perfect SC_κ -spaces. From this and Proposition 2.32, we can easily infer the following fact, which is just a more precise formulation of [3, Proposition 3.1]. (Of course here we are also using that if τ is κ -perfect, then the topology from the proof of Proposition 2.32 is still κ -perfect.)

Corollary 5.14. *If X is a nonempty κ -perfect SC_κ -space, then there is a continuous κ -Borel embedding from ${}^\kappa 2$ into X (with a κ -Borel range, necessarily). In particular, the Bor_κ -PSP holds for κ -perfect SC_κ -spaces.*

It is instead independent of ZFC whether the (Borel) κ -perfect set property holds for (κ -additive) $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces. Indeed, if there is a κ -Kurepa tree T with $< 2^\kappa$ -many branches, then no κ -PSP-like property can hold for $[T]$ because of cardinality reasons. Moreover, this statement is also independent from ZFC + GCH. To see this, suppose that GCH holds and T is a *slim* κ -Kurepa tree, that is, a κ -Kurepa tree such that $|\text{Lev}_\alpha(T)| \leq |\alpha|$ for all infinite $\alpha < \kappa$. In L , such trees exist for uncountable regular κ if and only if κ is not ineffable [9, Section 2, Theorems 9 & 10]. Since T is κ -Kurepa, $[T]$ has more than κ -many branches. If there were a continuous κ -Borel embedding $f: {}^\kappa 2 \rightarrow [T]$, then by [12, Lemma 2.9] the tree T would contain a splitting superclosed subtree T' . By an argument similar to Claim 3.14.1, we could then find $\alpha < \kappa$ such that $|\text{Lev}_\alpha(T')| > |\alpha|$, contradicting the fact that $T \supseteq T'$ is slim. An analogous argument works for *stationary slim* κ -Kurepa trees as in [14, Section 1.2], with the upshot that the existence of such trees is consistent with κ being supercompact [6, Section IV.2.3].

On the other hand, in [20] the third author constructed a model of ZFC where all “definable” subsets of ${}^\kappa \kappa$ (including e.g. all κ -analytic sets and way more) have the Bor_κ -PSP: combining Proposition 2.32 with Theorem 2.20 we then get that such property holds for arbitrary $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces and their “definable” subsets. Indeed, the same reasoning combined with Proposition 4.8 can be used to show that *if* the Bor_κ -PSP holds for all closed subsets of, say, ${}^\kappa \kappa$, then it automatically propagates to all κ -Borel subsets of all $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces. Moreover, we can even just start from superclosed sets (equivalently, up to homeomorphism, from κ -additive SC_κ -spaces). Indeed, if $C = [T] \subseteq {}^\kappa \kappa$ is closed, then arguing as in the proof of Lemma 2.35 we can construct a superclosed set $C' = [T']$ such that $C \subseteq C'$, $|C'| \leq \max\{|C|, \kappa\}$, and all points in $C' \setminus C$ are isolated in C' . It follows that if the Bor_κ -PSP holds for C' then it holds also for C because if $f: {}^\kappa 2 \rightarrow C'$ is a continuous injection then $f({}^\kappa 2) \subseteq C$ (use the fact that ${}^\kappa 2$ is perfect). Summing up we thus have:

Theorem 5.15. *The following are equivalent:*

- (a) *the Bor_κ -PSP holds for superclosed subsets of ${}^\kappa \kappa$;*
- (b) *the Bor_κ -PSP holds for closed subsets of ${}^\kappa \kappa$;*
- (c) *the Bor_κ -PSP holds for all (κ -additive) $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces;*
- (d) *the Bor_κ -PSP holds for all κ -Borel subsets of all $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces.*

The Borel κ -perfect set property for $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces has important consequences for their classification up to κ -Borel isomorphisms.

Corollary 5.16. *Suppose that the Bor_κ -PSP holds for (super)closed subsets of ${}^\kappa \kappa$. If X is an $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space with $|X| > \kappa$, then X is κ -Borel isomorphic to ${}^\kappa 2$. In particular, any two $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces X, Y are κ -Borel isomorphic if and only if $|X| = |Y|$.*

In particular, if the $\text{Bor}_\kappa\text{-PSP}$ holds for (super)closed subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ then up to κ -Borel isomorphism the generalized Cantor space ${}^\kappa 2$ is the unique $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space of size $> \kappa$.

Proof. By our assumption and Theorem 5.15, ${}^\kappa 2$ is κ -Borel isomorphic to a κ -Borel subsets of X . Conversely, X is κ -Borel isomorphic to a κ -Borel subset of ${}^\kappa 2$ by Theorem 4.5 and the fact that ${}^\kappa 2$ and ${}^\kappa\kappa$ are κ -Borel isomorphic. Thus the result follows from the natural κ -Borel version of the usual Cantor-Schröder-Bernstein argument. \square

Using the same arguments and Corollary 5.14 we also obtain that when restricting to κ -perfect SC_κ -spaces the conclusions of Corollary 5.16 hold unconditionally—see [3, Corollary 3.7].

Without the $\text{Bor}_\kappa\text{-PSP}$, the κ -Borel isomorphism types of $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -spaces are not necessarily uniquely determined by their cardinality. For instance, suppose that T is a slim κ -Kurepa tree in a model of GCH , so that $[T]$ is a κ -additive $f\text{SC}_\kappa$ -space with the same size of ${}^\kappa 2$ (by $2^\kappa = \kappa^+$). Suppose towards a contradiction that there exists a κ -Borel isomorphism $f: {}^\kappa 2 \rightarrow [T]$. Since f is continuous on a comeager subset of ${}^\kappa 2$, there is an injective continuous map $g: {}^\kappa 2 \rightarrow [T]$. As in the paragraph after Corollary 5.14, this contradicts the fact that T is slim.

When dealing with topological game theory, one often wonders about what kind of winning strategies the players have at disposal in the given game. In this context, one can differentiate between perfect information strategies, that need to know all previous moves in order to be able to give an answer, and tactics, that instead rely only on the last move to determine the answer. The two notions do not coincide in general: there are games where a player has a winning strategy, but not a winning tactic. For example, [5] describes a topological space where player II has a winning strategy but no winning tactic in the classical strong Choquet game (see also [15]). Debs' example can easily be adapted to show that there exists a (non- κ -additive) topological space of weight κ where player II has a winning strategy but not a winning tactic in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ (or in $G_\kappa^s(X)$), or that there is a κ -additive topological space of weight $> \kappa$ with the same property. In contrast, Proposition 2.12 implies that for κ -additive spaces of weight $\leq \kappa$ the two notions of winning tactic and winning strategy can be used interchangeably.

Corollary 5.17. *Let X be a κ -additive space of weight $\leq \kappa$. Then II has a winning strategy in $fG_\kappa^s(X)$ (resp. $G_\kappa^s(X)$) if and only if she has a winning tactic.*

Proof. For the nontrivial direction, by Proposition 2.12 we can restrict the attention to (super)closed subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$, so let $X = [T]$ for some pruned tree $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$. Then any function $\sigma: \tau \rightarrow \tau$ that associate to every nonempty open set $U \subseteq [T]$ a basic open set $\mathbf{N}_s \cap [T] \subseteq U$ for some $s \in T$ is a winning tactic for II in $fG_\kappa^s([T])$. Indeed, the answers $N_{s_\alpha} \cap [T]$ of σ at every round α are such that $s_\alpha \subseteq s_\beta$ for any $\alpha < \beta < \kappa$. Hence, if the game does not stop before κ -many rounds, then the final intersection $\bigcap_{\alpha < \kappa} \mathbf{N}_{s_\alpha} \cap [T]$ is nonempty, since it contains $s = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} s_\alpha$ (or any sequence extending s , if s has length $< \kappa$). A similar argument shows that if T is superclosed, then the tactic described above is winning also for $G_\kappa^s([T])$. \square

For more details about perfect information strategies and tactics, and for some interesting problems in the field, see for example [19].

In this paper we generalized metrics by allowing values in structures different from \mathbb{R} . Another possible generalization of metric spaces is given by uniform spaces. In this context we have a notion of completeness as well, which is however strictly weaker than the notions we considered so far. Indeed, all \mathbb{G} -metrizable spaces of weight $\leq \kappa$ (that is, by Theorem 2.11, all subspaces of ${}^\kappa\kappa$) are paracompact and Hausdorff, and this entails that they are completely uniformizable. It follows that any non- G_δ^κ subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is a completely uniformizable space of weight $\leq \kappa$ which is not fSC_κ and, more generally, that the class of completely uniformizable spaces of weight $\leq \kappa$ properly extends the class of all κ -additive spaces with weight $\leq \kappa$ (recall that we are tacitly restricting to regular Hausdorff spaces). Thus by Theorem 4.9 such a class contains spaces which are not even κ -Borel isomorphic to an fSC_κ -space (that is, they are not standard κ -Borel): this seems to rule out the possibility of developing a decent (generalized) descriptive set theory in such a generality. Nevertheless, from the topological perspective it would still be interesting to know whether this property also extends the class of non- κ -additive fSC_κ -spaces or at least SC_κ -spaces.

Question 5.18. Is every fSC_κ -space completely uniformizable?

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