

Many

~~Some~~ Combinatorial Questions About Higher Baire Spaces

Tristan van der Vlugt (TU Wien)

Vorst  

Wien, Austria

July 17, 2025

The *classical Baire space* ${}^\omega\omega$ is the set of functions $f: \omega \rightarrow \omega$. The *bounded* (or *product*) topology on ${}^\omega\omega$ is generated by basic open sets for each $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$:

$$[s] = \{f \in {}^\omega\omega \mid s \subseteq f\}.$$

Let κ be uncountable.

The *higher Baire space* ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is the set of functions $f: \kappa \rightarrow \kappa$. The *bounded* topology on ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is generated by basic open sets for each $s \in {}^{<\kappa}\kappa$:

$$[s] = \{f \in {}^\kappa\kappa \mid s \subseteq f\}.$$

If κ is regular, this is also the $<\kappa$ -box topology.

Dominating Numbers

Given $f, g \in {}^\omega\omega$, we define $f \leq^* g$ if

$$\left| \{n \in \omega \mid f(n) > g(n)\} \right| < \aleph_0.$$

A set $B \subseteq {}^\omega\omega$ is *unbounded* if no g exists with $f \leq^* g$ for all $f \in B$. A set $D \subseteq {}^\omega\omega$ is *dominating* if every $f \in {}^\omega\omega$ has some $g \in D$ such that $f \leq^* g$.

Let \mathfrak{b} be the least cardinality of an unbounded set, and let \mathfrak{d} be the least cardinality of a dominating set.

Given $f, g \in {}^\kappa \kappa$, we define $f \leq^* g$ if

$$\left| \{ \alpha \in \kappa \mid f(\alpha) > g(\alpha) \} \right| < \kappa.$$

A set $B \subseteq {}^\kappa \kappa$ is *unbounded* if no g exists with $f \leq^* g$ for all $f \in B$. A set $D \subseteq {}^\kappa \kappa$ is *dominating* if every $f \in {}^\kappa \kappa$ has some $g \in D$ such that $f \leq^* g$.

Let \mathfrak{b}_κ be the least cardinality of an unbounded set, and let \mathfrak{d}_κ be the least cardinality of a dominating set.

Theorem

For each *regular* uncountable κ choose cardinals $\beta_\kappa, \delta_\kappa, \mu_\kappa$ such that:

$$\kappa^+ \leq \text{cf}(\beta_\kappa) = \beta_\kappa \leq \delta_\kappa \leq \mu_\kappa ,$$

$$\kappa^+ \leq \text{cf}(\mu_\kappa) ,$$

$$\forall \kappa, \kappa' (\kappa < \kappa' \rightarrow \mu_\kappa \leq \mu_{\kappa'}) .$$

Then it is consistent that for all regular κ we have each of $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa = \beta_\kappa$ and $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa = \delta_\kappa$ and $2^\kappa = \mu_\kappa$.

Let κ be regular uncountable. For $f, g \in {}^\kappa\kappa$, we define $f \leq^{\text{cl}} g$ if

$\{\alpha \in \kappa \mid f(\alpha) > g(\alpha)\}$ is nonstationary.

Let $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ and $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ be the \leq^{cl} -bounding and \leq^{cl} -dominating numbers.

Theorem

$\mathfrak{b}_\kappa = \mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ and $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{\text{cl}} \leq \mathfrak{d}_\kappa \leq (\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{\text{cl}})^{\aleph_0}$, hence if $\kappa > \beth_\omega$ then $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa = \mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa = \mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ for $\kappa \leq \beth_\omega$?

Let κ, μ be cardinals. Given $f, g \in {}^\mu\kappa$, we define

$$f \leq_\lambda g \Leftrightarrow \left| \{ \alpha \in \mu \mid f(\alpha) > g(\alpha) \} \right| < \lambda,$$

$$f \leq_a g \Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha \in \mu (f(\alpha) \leq g(\alpha)),$$

$$f \leq_b g \Leftrightarrow \exists \beta \in \mu \left(\{ \alpha \in \mu \mid f(\alpha) > g(\alpha) \} \subseteq \beta \right).$$

Let $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa} := \mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}^\kappa$ and $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}^a$ and $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}^b$ be their dominating numbers.

Theorems

If $\kappa \leq \text{cf}(\mu)$, then $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa} = \mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}^a = \mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}^b$.

If κ is regular and $\kappa < \mu$, then $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa^+} \leq \mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}$.

Question

Let $\kappa < \lambda \leq \mu$, with κ, λ regular. Is $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\lambda} \leq \mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}$?

Is $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu} \leq \mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa}$ for regular μ ?

Theorem

Consistently $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa} < 2^{\mu}$ for κ regular uncountable.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa} = 2^{\mu}$ when $\max\{\kappa, 2^{<\kappa}\} < \mu$ for regular κ ? Is $\mathfrak{d}_{\omega_1\omega} = 2^{\aleph_1}$?

Theorem

If μ is inaccessible and $\kappa < \mu$, then $\mathfrak{d}_{\mu\kappa} = 2^{\mu}$.

Brendle (2022). "The higher Cichoń diagram in the degenerate case".

Jech and Příkrý (1979). "Ideals over Uncountable Sets: Application of Almost Disjoint Functions and Generic Ultra-powers".

vdV. (2025). "Cardinal Characteristics on Bounded Generalised Baire Spaces".

Let κ be regular uncountable. For $f, g \in {}^\kappa\kappa$, we define $f \neq^\infty g$ if

$$\left| \{ \alpha \in \kappa \mid f(\alpha) = g(\alpha) \} \right| < \kappa.$$

Let $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa(\neq^\infty)$ and $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa(\neq^\infty)$ be the least cardinality of respectively \neq^∞ -dominating and \neq^∞ -unbounded sets.

Theorem

If κ is successor, then $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa(\neq^\infty) = \mathfrak{b}_\kappa$.

If κ is successor and $2^{<\kappa} = \kappa$, then $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa(\neq^\infty) = \mathfrak{d}_\kappa$.

Question

If κ is successor and $\kappa < 2^{<\kappa}$, is $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa(\neq^\infty) = \mathfrak{d}_\kappa$?

Hyttinen (2006). "Cardinal Invariants and Eventually Different Functions".

Matet and Shelah (preprint). "Positive partition relations for $P_\kappa(\lambda)$ ".

The Meagre Ideal

A κ -union of nowhere dense subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$ is called κ -meagre.

Let \mathcal{M}_κ be the set of κ -meagre subsets of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

We write $\text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ for the least size of $X \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa$ with $X \notin \mathcal{M}_\kappa$.

We write $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ for the least size of $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{M}_\kappa$ with $\bigcup \mathcal{X} = {}^\kappa\kappa$.

(ω) Theorem

$\text{non}(\mathcal{M}) = \mathfrak{b}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \mathfrak{d}(\mathbb{R})$.

Theorem

$\text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) \geq \mathfrak{b}_\kappa(\mathbb{R})$ and $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) \leq \mathfrak{d}_\kappa(\mathbb{R})$ for all regular κ , with equality for inaccessible κ .

Bartoszyński (1987). “Combinatorial aspects of measure and category”.

Landver (1992). “Baire numbers, uncountable Cohen sets and perfect-set forcing”.

Blass, Hyttinen, and Zhang (preprint). “Mad families and their neighbors”.

Corollary

$\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) \leq \mathfrak{d}_\kappa$ and $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$.

Theorem

If κ is supercompact, then $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) < \mathfrak{d}_\kappa$ can be forced.

Question

Is $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) < \mathfrak{d}_\kappa$ consistent for inaccessible κ ?

Is $\text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) > \mathfrak{b}_\kappa$ consistent for inaccessible κ ?

Question

How about simultaneous consistency of these inequalities?

Stronger yet, of $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa < \text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) < \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) < \mathfrak{d}_\kappa$?

Shelah (2020). “On $\text{CON}(\mathfrak{d}_\lambda > \text{cov}_\lambda(\text{meagre}))$ ”.

vdV. (2025). “The Horizontal Direction”.

Theorem

If $\kappa < 2^{<\kappa}$ (or if κ is singular), then $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) = \text{cf}(\kappa)^+$.

Theorem

$2^{<\kappa} \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$.

Corollary

$\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) < \mathfrak{d}_\kappa(\neq^\infty) = \mathfrak{b}_\kappa(\neq^\infty) < 2^{<\kappa} \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ is consistent for accessible κ .

Question

Are $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) < \mathfrak{d}_\kappa$ or $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa < \text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ consistent for any successor $\kappa = 2^{<\kappa}$?

Landver (1992). “Baire numbers, uncountable Cohen sets and perfect-set forcing”.

Blass, Hyttinen, and Zhang (preprint). “Mad families and their neighbors”.

Matet and Shelah (preprint). “Positive partition relations for $P_\kappa(\lambda)$ ”.

Let κ be regular, $I = \langle i_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \kappa \rangle$ enumerate a club with $i_0 = 0$ and $f, g \in {}^\kappa 2$. We call (g, I) a *chopped κ -sequence* and we say that f *matches* (g, I) if there is $A \in [\kappa]^\kappa$ such that f and g agree on $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} [i_\alpha, i_{\alpha+1})$. Let \mathcal{M}_κ^c consist of all $X \subseteq {}^\kappa 2$ for which there is (g, I) not matched by any $f \in X$.

Theorem

$\mathcal{M}_\kappa^c \subseteq \mathcal{M}_\kappa$, with equality iff κ is inaccessible.

Question

Are $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) < \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa^c)$ or $\text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa^c) < \text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ consistent with κ accessible?

For (g, I) a *chopped κ -sequence*, we say that f *stat-matches* (g, I) if there is stationary $A \in [\kappa]^\kappa$ such that f and g agree on $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} [i_\alpha, i_{\alpha+1})$. Let \mathcal{M}_κ^s consist of all $X \subseteq {}^\kappa 2$ for which there is (g, I) not stat-matched by any $f \in X$.

Theorem

$$\mathcal{M}_\kappa \not\subseteq \mathcal{M}_\kappa^s.$$

If we assume \diamond_{κ}^* , then $\mathcal{M}_\kappa^s \subseteq \mathcal{M}_\kappa$.

Question

What more can we say about \mathcal{M}_κ^s ?

Let $\text{cof}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ be the least size of a \subseteq -cofinal subset of \mathcal{M}_κ .
Let $\text{add}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ be the least size of $X \subseteq \mathcal{M}_\kappa$ with $\bigcup X \notin \mathcal{M}_\kappa$.

Theorem

$$\text{add}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) = \min\{\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa), \mathfrak{b}_\kappa\}.$$

$$\max\{\text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa), \mathfrak{d}_\kappa\} \leq \text{cof}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa), \text{ with equality if } 2^{<\kappa} = \kappa.$$

Theorem

$$\max\{\text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa), \mathfrak{d}_{\mu_\kappa}\} \leq \text{cof}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) \text{ where } \mu = |2^{<\kappa}|.$$

Question

Is the above inequality consistently strict?

Brendle, Brooke-Taylor, Friedman, and Montoya (2018). "Cichoń's diagram for uncountable cardinals".

Brendle (2022). "The higher Cichoń diagram in the degenerate case".

Localisation

For $h \in {}^\kappa\kappa$, an h -slalom φ is an element of $\prod_{\alpha \in \kappa} [\kappa]^{\leq |h(\alpha)|}$.

Hence, $\text{dom}(\varphi) = \kappa$ and $\varphi(\alpha) \subseteq \kappa$ with $|\varphi(\alpha)| \leq |h(\alpha)|$.

Given $f \in {}^\kappa\kappa$, we write $f \in^* \varphi$ if

$$\left| \{ \alpha \in \kappa \mid f(\alpha) \notin \varphi(\alpha) \} \right| < \kappa.$$

Let $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^h(\epsilon^*)$ be the least ϵ^* -dominating subset of $\prod_{\alpha \in \kappa} [\kappa]^{\leq |h(\alpha)|}$.

Let $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa^h(\epsilon^*)$ be the least ϵ^* -unbounded subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.

(ω) Theorem

If $h: \omega \rightarrow \omega \setminus \{0, 1\}$ has $h(n) \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then

$\mathfrak{d}_\omega^h(\epsilon^*) = \text{cof}(\mathcal{N})$ and $\mathfrak{b}_\omega^h(\epsilon^*) = \text{add}(\mathcal{N})$.

Theorem

Let κ be inaccessible and $h_0 : \alpha \mapsto |\alpha|$ and $h_1 : \alpha \mapsto 2^{|\alpha|}$.

In the κ -Sacks model $\mathfrak{d}_{\kappa}^{h_1}(\epsilon^*) < \mathfrak{d}_{\kappa}^{h_0}(\epsilon^*)$.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{b}_{\kappa}^{h_0}(\epsilon^*) < \mathfrak{b}_{\kappa}^{h_1}(\epsilon^*)$ consistent for some $h_0, h_1 \in {}^{\kappa}\kappa$?

Theorem

Let κ be inaccessible, $\kappa = 2^{<\kappa}$ and assume \diamond_{κ} holds, then there are $h_{\xi} \in {}^{\kappa}\kappa$ for each $\xi \in \kappa^+$ and a forcing notion that forces that all $\mathfrak{d}_{\kappa}^{h_{\xi}}(\epsilon^*)$ are mutually distinct cardinalities.

Brendle, Brooke-Taylor, Friedman, and Montoya (2018). “Cichoń’s diagram for uncountable cardinals”.

vdV. (2024). “Separating many localisation cardinals on the generalised Baire space”.

If $b \in {}^\kappa \kappa$, a (b, h) -*slalom* is an element of $\prod_{\alpha \in \kappa} [b(\alpha)]^{\leq |h(\alpha)|}$.

For a slalom φ we also define $f \in^\infty \varphi$ if

$$\left| \{ \alpha \in \kappa \mid f(\alpha) \in \varphi(\alpha) \} \right| = \kappa.$$

Consider $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{b,h}(\in^*)$, $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{b,h}(\in^*)$, $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{b,h}(\mathfrak{A})$, and $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{b,h}(\mathfrak{A})$.

(ω) Theorem

There is a forcing extension in which there exists

$\langle (b_\xi, h_\xi) \mid \xi \in {}^{\aleph_0} \rangle$ such that $\square_\omega^{b_\xi, h_\xi}(\circ) \neq \square_\omega^{b_{\xi'}, h_{\xi'}}(\circ)$ for all $\xi \neq \xi'$ and $\square \in \{\mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{d}\}$ and $\circ \in \{\in^*, \mathfrak{A}\}$.

Cardona, Klausner, and Mejía (2021). "Continuum Many Different Things: Localisation, Anti-Localisation and Yorioka Ideals".

Goldstern and Shelah (1993). "Many simple cardinal invariants".

Theorem

For κ inaccessible, there is $\langle (b_\xi, h_\xi) \mid \xi \in \kappa \rangle$ such that for any $A \in [\kappa]^{<\omega}$ it is consistent that $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{b_\xi, h_\xi}(\mathfrak{D}^\infty) \neq \mathfrak{d}_\kappa^{b_{\xi'}, h_{\xi'}}(\mathfrak{D}^\infty)$ for all distinct $\xi, \xi' \in A$.

Question

Can we get a similar result for $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{b_\xi, h_\xi}(\mathfrak{D}^\infty)$?

Question

Are there consistently 2^κ many distinct such cardinal characteristics? What about (unbounded) $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa^h(\in^*)$?

Random Forcing

Random forcing is c.c.c. and ${}^\omega\omega$ -bounding.

Shelah asked if there exists a forcing notion that is a $<\kappa$ -closed $<\kappa^+$ -c.c. forcing notion that is ${}^\kappa\kappa$ -bounding.

There are several solutions:

- Friedman and Laguzzi (2017). *"A null ideal for inaccessible"*.
- Cohen and Shelah (2019). *"Generalizing random real forcing for inaccessible cardinals"*.
- Shelah (2017). *"A parallel to the null ideal for inaccessible λ : Part I"*.

Baumhauer, Goldstern, and Shelah (2020). *"The Higher Cichoń Diagram"*.

A set $S \subseteq \kappa$ is *nowhere stationary* (nwst) if $S \cap \alpha$ is not stationary (in α) for any limit $\alpha \leq \kappa$ with $\text{cf}(\alpha) > \aleph_0$. Let \mathcal{I} denote the class of inaccessible cardinals.

We recursively define \mathbb{Q}_κ and an ideal \mathcal{N}_κ for each $\kappa \in \mathcal{I}$. For a nwst set $S \subseteq \mathcal{I} \cap \kappa$ and function $N \in \prod_{\lambda \in S} \mathcal{N}_\lambda$, we define a tree $T_N \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}2$ by recursion on the levels of T_N :

- Let $\emptyset \in T_N$.
- For $s \in {}^\alpha 2$ with $\alpha \notin S$, let $s \in T_N$ iff $s \restriction \xi \in T_N$ for all $\xi < \alpha$.
- For $s \in {}^\lambda 2$ with $\lambda \in S$, let $s \in T_N$ iff $s \notin N(\lambda)$.

Define \mathbb{Q}_κ as all trees $T \subseteq {}^{<\kappa}2$ such that there is N as above and $s \in T_N$ for which $T = (T_N)_s$. We order \mathbb{Q}_κ by inclusion, and define \mathcal{N}_κ as the ideal $\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{Q}_\kappa}$.

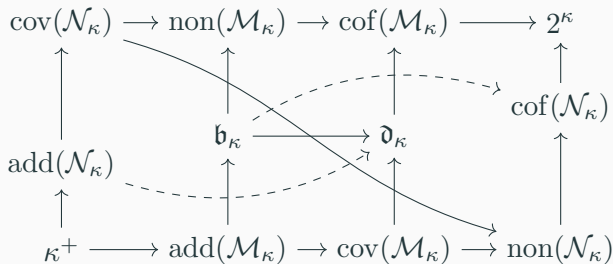
If $\kappa \in \mathcal{I}$ is *not* 1-inaccessible (= a limit of inaccessible), then \mathbb{Q}_κ is forcing equivalent to \mathbb{C}_κ . Hence $\mathcal{N}_\kappa = \mathcal{M}_\kappa$.

If κ is 1-inaccessible, then $\mathcal{N}_\kappa \neq \mathcal{M}_\kappa$ and furthermore:

- \mathbb{Q}_κ is strategically $<\kappa$ -closed and $<\kappa^+$ -c.c.
- If κ is *weakly compact*, then \mathbb{Q}_κ is ${}^\kappa\kappa$ -bounding.
- There are $A \in \mathcal{N}_\kappa$ and $B \in \mathcal{M}_\kappa$ with ${}^\kappa 2 = A \cup B$,
- If \mathbb{P} is $(\kappa, <\kappa)$ -centred and $<\kappa$ -distributive, then \mathbb{P} does not add a \mathbb{Q}_κ -generic.

However, Fubini's theorem fails for \mathcal{N}_κ , consequently $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa) \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa)$.

Let κ be an inaccessible limit of inaccessibles.



The dashed arrows require κ to be Mahlo.

Question

Can the use of Mahlo be weakened?

Question

Are $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa) \leq \text{add}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa)$ and $\text{cof}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) \leq \text{cof}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa)$?

Easier: are $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa) \leq \mathfrak{b}_\kappa$ and $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa \leq \text{cof}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa)$?

Question

Is $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa) = \mathfrak{b}_\kappa^h(\in^*)$ or $\text{cof}(\mathcal{N}_\kappa) = \mathfrak{d}_\kappa^h(\in^*)$ for some $h \in {}^\kappa\kappa$?

Question

How to add many \mathbb{Q}_κ -generics in a ${}^\kappa\kappa$ -bounding way?

Question

Generally, how can the ${}^\kappa\kappa$ -bounding property be preserved under iterated forcing?

Maximal Almost Disjoint Families

We call $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ *almost disjoint* (AD) if $|A \cap B| < \kappa$ for all distinct $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$. If $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ is AD and no $\mathcal{A} \subsetneq \mathcal{A}' \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ is AD, we call \mathcal{A} *maximal AD* (MAD).

Define \mathfrak{a}_κ as the least size of a MAD family on $[\kappa]^\kappa$.

Theorem

$\mathfrak{b}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{a}_\kappa$ for all regular κ .

Question

Is $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa < \mathfrak{a}_\kappa$ consistent for all regular κ ?

(ω) Theorem

It is consistent that $\mathfrak{b} \leq \mathfrak{d} < \mathfrak{a}$.

Theorem

For κ supercompact, it is consistent that $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa < \mathfrak{d}_\kappa < \mathfrak{a}_\kappa$.

(ω) Question *Roitman*

Is $\mathfrak{d} < \mathfrak{a}$ consistent with $\mathfrak{d} = \omega_1$?

Theorem

Let κ be regular, then $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa = \kappa^+$ implies $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa = \kappa^+$.

In fact, $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa = \kappa^+$ implies $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa = \kappa^+$.

Raghavan and Shelah (in preparation). "Boolean Ultrapowers and Iterated Forcing".

Blass, Hyttinen, and Zhang (preprint). "Mad families and their neighbors".

Raghavan and Shelah (2019). "Two Results on Cardinal Invariants at Uncountable Cardinals".

Define $\text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}_\kappa) = \{|A| \mid A \in [\kappa]^\kappa \text{ is MAD}\}$.

We call a set of cardinals B a κ -Blass spectrum if

- $\kappa^+ \in B$ and $B \cap \kappa^+ = \emptyset$,
- $\sup(B \cap \lambda) \in B$ for all λ ,
- $\lambda^+ \in B$ for all $\lambda \in B$ with $\text{cf}(\lambda) \leq \kappa$,
- $\lambda \in B$ for all $\lambda \geq \kappa^+$ with $\lambda \leq |B|$.

Theorem

Assume GCH, let κ be regular and B a κ -Blass spectrum, then $\text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}_\kappa) = B$ holds in a cofinality-preserving extension.

Blass (1993). "Simple Cardinal Characteristics of the Continuum".

Fischer (2015). "Maximal Cofinitary Groups Revisited".

(ω) Theorem

Let B be a set of uncountable cardinals, closed under singular limits such that $\sup(B) = \sup(B)^{\aleph_0} = \sup(B)^{<\min(B)} \in B$ and $\min(B)^{<\min(B)} = \min(B)$, then there is a c.c.c. forcing that forces $\text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}) = B$.

Note that if B is as above, then $\min(B)$ is regular, thus the above theorem is not optimal (see slide #28).

Question

Can we generalise the consistent values for $\text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}_\kappa)$ beyond Blass spectra?

Theorem

Assume GCH. Let $C = \{\aleph_0\} \cup \{\kappa^+ \mid \kappa \text{ is regular}\}$. If B_κ is a κ -Blass spectrum for each $\kappa \in C$, then there is a cardinal-preserving forcing notion that forces $\text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}_\kappa) = B_\kappa$ for all $\kappa \in C$.

Theorem

Assume GCH. Let E be an *Easton function* such that $\lambda, \kappa \in \text{dom}(E)$ and $\lambda < \kappa$ implies $E(\lambda) \leq \kappa^+$, then $\forall \kappa \in E(\text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}_\kappa) = \{\kappa^+, E(\kappa)\})$ is consistent.

Question

Can we weaken the assumptions in these Theorems?

(ω) Theorem

It is consistent that \mathfrak{a} has countable cofinality.

Question

Is it consistent that \mathfrak{a}_κ is singular?

Question

Is $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa \neq \mathfrak{a}_\lambda$ consistent with $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \text{cf}(\lambda) < \kappa < \lambda$?

Question

Is $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa \neq \mathfrak{a}_\lambda$ for consistent for $\aleph_0 < \text{cf}(\lambda) = \kappa < \lambda$?

Brendle (2003). "The almost-disjointness number may have countable cofinality".

Brendle (2013). "Some problems concerning mad families".

Theorem

Let κ be singular, then $\kappa \in \text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}_\kappa)$ if $\lambda^{\text{cf}(\kappa)} < \kappa$ for all $\lambda < \kappa$.

Let \mathcal{C}_κ collect all cofinal sequences of regular cardinals in κ .

For each $s = \langle \kappa_\xi \mid \xi \in \text{cf}(\kappa) \rangle \in \mathcal{C}_\kappa$ let \mathfrak{b}_κ^s be the least size of a \leq^* -unbounded set in $\prod_{\xi \in \text{cf}(\kappa)} \kappa_\xi$. Let $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{\text{sup}} = \sup\{\mathfrak{b}_\kappa^s \mid s \in \mathcal{C}_\kappa\}$.

Theorem

Let κ be singular, then $\min\{\mathfrak{b}_{\text{cf}(\kappa)}, \mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{\text{sup}}\} \leq \mathfrak{a}_\kappa$, and thus consistently $\kappa < \mathfrak{a}_\kappa$. Also, if $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa \leq \lambda < \mathfrak{b}_\kappa^{\text{sup}}$, then $\lambda \in \text{spec}(\mathfrak{a}_\kappa)$.

Erdős and Hechler (1973). "On maximal almost-disjoint families over singular cardinals".

Kojman, Kubiś, and Shelah (2004). "On two problems of Erdős and Hechler: New methods in singular madness".

Theorem

If $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \aleph_0 < \kappa$ then $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa < \mathfrak{a}$ is consistent.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa = \kappa$ consistent for singular κ ?

Question

Is $\mathfrak{b}_{\text{cf}(\kappa)} \neq \mathfrak{a}_\kappa$ consistent for singular κ ?

Brendle (in preparation). "Mad families on Singular cardinals".

Montoya (submitted). "Maximal Almost Disjoint Families at Singular Cardinals".

Other Maximal Combinatorial Families

Let $S(\kappa)$ be the set of bijections in ${}^\kappa\kappa$ and let

$$S_{<\kappa}(\kappa) = \{\text{id}_\kappa\} \cup \{f \in S(\kappa) \mid f \not\equiv \text{id}_\kappa\}.$$

- \mathfrak{a}_κ^e is the least size of a maximal AD subset of ${}^\kappa\kappa$.
- \mathfrak{a}_κ^p is the least size of a maximal AD subset of $S(\kappa)$.
- \mathfrak{a}_κ^g is the least size of a maximal AD subgroup of $S_{<\kappa}(\kappa)$.

Theorem

For κ regular, $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa \leq \min\{\mathfrak{a}_\kappa^e, \mathfrak{a}_\kappa^p, \mathfrak{a}_\kappa^g\}$.

Question

Are \mathfrak{a}_κ^e , \mathfrak{a}_κ^p and \mathfrak{a}_κ^g consistently different?

Is $\mathfrak{a}_\kappa < \max\{\mathfrak{a}_\kappa^e, \mathfrak{a}_\kappa^p, \mathfrak{a}_\kappa^g\}$ consistent?

(ω) Theorem

$\text{non}(\mathcal{M}) \leq \min\{\mathfrak{a}_e, \mathfrak{a}_p, \mathfrak{a}_g\}.$

Theorem

For κ regular, $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa(\neq^\infty) \leq \mathfrak{a}_\kappa^e$. Hence $\text{non}(\mathcal{M}_\kappa) \leq \mathfrak{a}_\kappa^e$ holds for inaccessible κ .

Question

For κ regular, is $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa(\neq^\infty) \leq \min\{\mathfrak{a}_\kappa^p, \mathfrak{a}_\kappa^g\}$?

Brendle, Spinas, and Zhang (2000). "Uniformity of the Meager Ideal and Maximal Cofinitary Groups".

Blass, Hyttinen, and Zhang (preprint). "Mad families and their neighbors".

Call $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ an *independent* family if for every disjoint $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C} \in [\mathcal{A}]^{<\omega}$ we have $|\bigcap \mathcal{B} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{C}| = \kappa$. Call $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ *strongly independent* if $|\bigcap \mathcal{B} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{C}| = \kappa$ for all disjoint $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C} \in [\mathcal{A}]^{<\kappa}$.

Let \mathfrak{i}_κ be the least size of a maximal independent family in $[\kappa]^\kappa$.

Theorem

If κ is regular, $2^\kappa \in \text{spec}(\mathfrak{i}_\kappa)$ and $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{i}_\kappa$.

Assume GCH and let κ be measurable, then there is a forcing extension in which $\kappa^+ = \mathfrak{i}_\kappa < 2^\kappa$.

Question

Does the consistency of $\mathfrak{i}_\kappa < 2^\kappa$ imply κ is measurable?

Is $\kappa^+ < \mathfrak{i}_\kappa < 2^\kappa$ consistent for measurable κ ?

Theorem

The existence of a maximal strongly independent family on $[\omega_1]^{\omega_1}$ is equiconsistent with a measurable cardinal.

Theorem

Assume GCH and a proper class of measurables, then a measurable-preserving (class) forcing forces the existence of a maximal strongly independent family for each measurable.

Question

Is the least size of a maximal strongly independent family in $[\kappa]^\kappa$ related to \mathfrak{i}_κ ?

Kunen (1983). “Maximal σ -Independent Families”.

Ryan-Smith (preprint). “Proper classes of maximal θ -independent families from large cardinals”.

A family $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ has the κ -intersection property (κ -IP) if $|\bigcap \mathcal{B}| = \kappa$ for all $\mathcal{B} \in [\mathcal{A}]^{<\kappa}$. A *pseudointersection* of \mathcal{A} is a set $B \in [\kappa]^\kappa$ such that $B \subseteq^* A$ for all $A \in \mathcal{A}$, where $B \subseteq^* A$ iff $B \setminus b \subseteq A$ for some $b \in [B]^{<\kappa}$. A κ -tower is a maximal family with the κ -IP that is well-ordered by \subseteq^* .

Let \mathfrak{p}_κ be the least size of a family \mathcal{A} with the κ -IP, but without a pseudointersection. Let \mathfrak{t}_κ be the least size of a κ -tower.

Define $\mathfrak{p}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ and $\mathfrak{t}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ as above, but restricting to *club* sets in $[\kappa]^\kappa$.

Theorem

$$\mathfrak{p}_\kappa^{\text{cl}} = \mathfrak{t}_\kappa^{\text{cl}} = \mathfrak{b}_\kappa.$$

(ω) Theorem

$$\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{t}.$$

Theorems

Let κ be regular uncountable and $\kappa = \kappa^{<\kappa}$.

If $\mathfrak{p}_\kappa = \kappa^+$ or if $\text{cf}(2^\kappa) \leq \kappa^{++}$, then $\mathfrak{p}_\kappa = \mathfrak{t}_\kappa$.

Furthermore, either $\mathfrak{p}_\kappa = \mathfrak{t}_\kappa$ or there is a club-supported $(\mathfrak{p}_\kappa, \lambda)$ -gap of slaloms for some $\lambda < \mathfrak{p}_\kappa$.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{p}_\kappa = \mathfrak{t}_\kappa$?

Malliaris and Shelah (2016). “Cofinality spectrum theorems in model theory, set theory, and general topology”.

Garti (preprint). “Pity on λ ”.

Fischer, Montoya, Schilhan, and Soukup (2022). “Towers and gaps at uncountable cardinals”.

Splitting Families

For $X, Y \in [\kappa]^\kappa$, we say X splits Y if $|Y \cap X| = |Y \setminus X| = \kappa$. Let \mathfrak{s}_κ be the least size of a family $\mathcal{S} \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ for which each $Y \in [\kappa]^\kappa$ is split by some $X \in \mathcal{S}$. Let \mathfrak{r}_κ be the least size of a family $\mathcal{R} \subseteq [\kappa]^\kappa$ such that no $X \in [\kappa]^\kappa$ splits all $Y \in \mathcal{R}$.

Theorem

$\kappa \leq \mathfrak{s}_\kappa$ if and only if κ is inaccessible.

Theorem

$\kappa^+ \leq \mathfrak{s}_\kappa$ if and only if κ is weakly compact.

Motoyoshi (1992). "On the cardinalities of splitting families of uncountable regular cardinals".

Suzuki (1998). "About splitting numbers".

Zapletal (1997). "Splitting Number at Uncountable Cardinals".

Theorem *Kamo, '90s*

If κ is supercompact, there is a forcing extension in which κ is supercompact and $\kappa^{++} \leq \mathfrak{s}_\kappa$.

Theorem

If $\kappa^{++} \leq \mathfrak{s}_\kappa$ for κ regular, then κ is measurable with $o(\kappa) = \kappa^{++}$ in some inner model.

Theorem

Let $\kappa < \kappa^+ < \lambda$ be regular (with $\lambda \neq \mu^+$ for singular μ).

If GCH holds and $o(\kappa) = \lambda$, then $\mathfrak{s}_\kappa = \lambda$ is consistent.

If 0^\sharp fails and $\mathfrak{s}_\kappa \geq \lambda$, then $o(\kappa) \geq \lambda$ holds in an inner model.

Zapletal (1997). "Splitting Number at Uncountable Cardinals".

Ben-Neria and Gitik (2015). "On the splitting number at regular cardinals".

Question

Let $\kappa^+ < \lambda$. Is $\mathfrak{s}_\kappa = \lambda$ equiconsistent with the existence of a measurable κ with $o(\kappa) = \lambda$?

(ω) Theorem

It is consistent that \mathfrak{s} is singular (of uncountable cofinality).

Question

Can \mathfrak{s}_κ be singular for regular uncountable κ ?

Ben-Neria and Gitik (2015). "On the splitting number at regular cardinals".

Dow and Shelah (2018). "On the cofinality of the splitting number".

(ω) Theorem

It is consistent that $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{r} = \mathfrak{u} < \mathfrak{s}$.

Theorem

If κ is regular uncountable, then $\mathfrak{s}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{b}_\kappa$.

Theorem

If $\kappa > \beth_\omega$ be regular, then $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{r}_\kappa$. So, $\mathfrak{s}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{b}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{d}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{r}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{u}_\kappa$.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{r}_\kappa$ for all regular uncountable κ ?

Blass and Shelah (1987). "There may be simple P_{\aleph_1} - and P_{\aleph_2} -points and the Rudin-Keisler ordering may be downward directed".

Raghavan and Shelah (2017). "Two inequalities between cardinal invariants".

Raghavan and Shelah (2019). "Two Results on Cardinal Invariants at Uncountable Cardinals".

Define $\mathfrak{s}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ and $\mathfrak{r}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ by weakening “ X splits Y ” to “ X *stationarily* splits Y ”, that is, $Y \cap X$ and $Y \setminus X$ are both stationary.

Theorem

$\kappa \leq \mathfrak{r}_\kappa^{\text{cl}}$ and $\kappa^+ < \mathfrak{r}_\kappa^{\text{cl}} < 2^\kappa$ is consistent.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{r}_\kappa^{\text{cl}} = \kappa$ consistent?

Theorems

$\kappa \leq \mathfrak{s}_{\kappa}^{\text{cl}}$ if and only if κ is inaccessible.

$\kappa^+ \leq \mathfrak{s}_{\kappa}^{\text{cl}}$ if and only if κ is ineffable.

$\kappa^{++} \leq \mathfrak{s}_{\kappa}^{\text{cl}}$ implies κ is measurable and in some inner model $o(\kappa) = \kappa^{++}$ holds.

Question

How do $\mathfrak{s}_{\kappa}^{\text{cl}}$ and $\mathfrak{r}_{\kappa}^{\text{cl}}$ relate to \mathfrak{s}_{κ} and \mathfrak{r}_{κ} ?

Question

Are $\mathfrak{b}_{\kappa} < \mathfrak{s}_{\kappa}^{\text{cl}}$ and $\mathfrak{r}_{\kappa}^{\text{cl}} < \mathfrak{d}_{\kappa}$ consistent?

Ultrafilters

Let u_κ be the least size of a base for a uniform ultrafilter on κ .

Theorem

If $\kappa > \beth_\omega$ is regular then $\mathfrak{d}_\kappa \leq \mathfrak{r}_\kappa \leq u_\kappa$.

Theorem *Carlson, '80s; Woodin*

Let κ be supercompact, $\kappa < \text{cf}(\lambda)$, then there is a cardinal preserving extension such that $u_\kappa = \kappa^+ < 2^\kappa = \lambda$.

Theorem

Let κ be supercompact, then there is a forcing extension with a cardinal $\lambda > \text{cf}(\lambda) = \kappa$ (that is a limit of measurable cardinals), such that $u_\lambda = \lambda^+ < 2^\lambda$ with 2^λ arbitrarily large.

Džamonja and Shelah (2003). "Universal graphs at the successor of a singular cardinal".

Garti and Shelah (2014). "Partition calculus and cardinal invariants".

Garti and Shelah (2012). "The Ultrafilter Number for Singular Cardinals".

Question

What is the consistency strength of $\mathfrak{u}_\kappa < 2^\kappa$ for measurable κ ?

Question *Kunen, '70s*

Is $\mathfrak{u}_{\omega_1} < 2^{\aleph_1}$ consistent?

κ -Mathias forcing $\mathbb{M}_\kappa^\mathcal{F}$ (guided by a filter \mathcal{F} on κ) is the forcing notion with conditions (s, F) , where $s \in [\kappa]^{<\kappa}$ and $F \in \mathcal{F}$ and $s \subseteq \min(F)$, ordered by $(s', F') \leq (s, F)$ if $s \subseteq s'$ and $F' \cup s' \setminus s \subseteq F$.

Theorem

If $\kappa = \kappa^{<\kappa}$ is regular uncountable, $\mathbb{M}_\kappa^\mathcal{F}$ adds a κ -Cohen generic.

Theorem

(Modulo some ε) Every Laver-like forcing on ${}^\kappa\kappa$ adds a κ -Cohen generic.

Question

Does every $<\kappa$ -closed forcing notion that adds a dominating κ -real also add a κ -Cohen generic?

A κ -complete ultrafilter on κ is *Canjar* if $\mathbb{M}_\kappa^\mathcal{F}$ does not add a dominating κ -real.

Question

Does there exist a κ -complete Canjar ultrafilter on (measurable) κ ?

Theorem

Let κ be supercompact and $\kappa < \lambda \leq \mu$ where λ is regular and $\mu^\kappa = \mu$. Then $\mathfrak{u}_\kappa = \lambda \leq 2^\kappa = \mu$ holds in a forcing extension with the same cardinals.

In the above model, also $\mathfrak{b}_\kappa, \mathfrak{d}_\kappa, \mathfrak{a}_\kappa, \mathfrak{s}_\kappa, \mathfrak{r}_\kappa$, the cardinal invariants of \mathcal{M}_κ and (with assumptions) \mathfrak{p}_κ and \mathfrak{t}_κ are all λ .

Question

Is $\mathfrak{i}_\kappa = \lambda$ in the above model?

Question

How to obtain the consistency of, e.g., $\mathfrak{u}_\kappa < \mathfrak{a}_\kappa, \mathfrak{i}_\kappa$ etc.

Theorem

Assume there is a measurable cardinal μ and $\kappa = 2^{<\kappa} < \mu$, then there exists a forcing extension where $\mathfrak{u}_{2^\kappa} < 2^{2^\kappa}$.

Theorem

Assume there is a supercompact cardinal, then there is a forcing extension in which $\mathfrak{u}_{\aleph_{\omega+1}} < 2^{\aleph_{\omega+1}}$.

Question

Is $\mathfrak{u}_\kappa < \kappa^{++} = 2^\kappa$ consistent for accessible κ ?

Question

What is the consistency strength of the above results?

The most recent version of these slides can probably be found
at: <https://tvdvlugt.nl/hbsquestions.pdf>