

Combinatorics, Cardinal Characteristics of the Continuum, and the Colouring Calculus

03E05, 03E17 & 03E02

Thilo Weinert

Ben-Gurion-University of the Negev

Joint work with William Chen and Chris Lambie-Hanson

10th Young Set Theory Workshop, Edinburgh,
Thursday, 13th July 2017, 11:30-12:30

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Definition (Cantor, 1878)

CH

Problem (Souslin, 1920)

Is every dense complete linear order without endpoints, for which every collection of disjoint open intervals is countable, order-isomorphic to the real line?

Definition

Souslin's Hypothesis(SH): Yes.

Definition (Jensen, 1972)

\diamond says that there is a sequence $\langle S_\alpha \mid \alpha < \omega_1 \rangle$ with $S_\alpha \subseteq \alpha$ for all $\alpha < \omega_1$ and $\forall S \subseteq \omega_1 (\{ \alpha < \omega_1 \mid S_\alpha = S \cap \alpha \} \text{ is stationary.})$

Theorem (Jensen, 1972)

$L \models \diamond$.

Corollary

ZFC + \diamond *is consistent*.

Theorem (Jensen, 1972)

$\neg(\diamond \wedge \text{SH})$.

Theorem (Jensen, 1974)

ZFC + CH + SH *is consistent*.

Corollary

ZFC + CH + $\neg \diamond$ *is consistent*.

Definition (Ostaszewski, 1976)

\clubsuit says that there is a sequence $\langle S_\alpha \mid \alpha < \omega_1 \rangle$ with $S_\alpha \subseteq \alpha$ for all $\alpha < \omega_1$ and $\forall S \subseteq \omega_1 \exists \alpha < \omega_1 (S_\alpha \subseteq S)$.

Definition (Broverman, Ginsburg, Kunen & Tall, 1978)

\spadesuit says that there is a family $F \in [[\omega_1]^\omega]^{\omega_1}$ such that $\forall S \subseteq \omega_1 \exists X \in F (X \subseteq S)$

Exercise

$$\diamond \implies \clubsuit \implies \dot{\vdash}, \text{ and } \diamond \implies \text{CH} \implies \dot{\vdash}.$$

Theorem (Devlin, 1979)

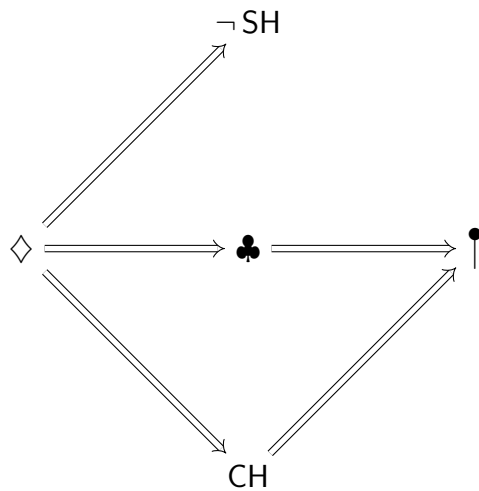
$$\diamond \iff \text{CH} \wedge \clubsuit$$

Corollary

ZFC + CH + $\neg \clubsuit$ is consistent.

Theorem (Shelah, 1980)

ZFC + \clubsuit + $\neg \text{CH}$ is consistent.



For a cardinal κ and functions $f, g \in {}^\kappa\kappa$, we write $f \geq^* g$ to express that $\{\alpha < \kappa \mid f(\alpha) < g(\alpha)\}$ is bounded.

Definition

$\mathfrak{b}_\kappa := \min \{|F| \mid F \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa \wedge \forall g \in {}^\kappa\kappa \exists f \in F (g \not\geq^* f)\}$.
 $\mathfrak{b} := \mathfrak{b}_\omega$. \mathfrak{b} is called the **unbounding number**.

Definition

$\mathfrak{d}_\kappa := \min \{|F| \mid F \subseteq {}^\kappa\kappa \wedge \forall g \in {}^\kappa\kappa \exists f \in F (f \geq^* g)\}$.
 $\mathfrak{d} := \mathfrak{d}_\omega$. \mathfrak{d} is called the **dominating number**.

For a cardinal κ and $x, y \subseteq \kappa$, we say that x **splits** y if both $y \cap x$ and $y \setminus x$ have cardinality κ .

Definition

The **splitting number** \mathfrak{s}_κ is the minimal size of a subfamily F of $\wp(\kappa)$ having the property that for every $y \in \wp(\kappa)$ there is an $x \in F$ splitting y .

$$\mathfrak{s} := \mathfrak{s}_\omega.$$

Definition

The **reaping(refining(unsplitting)) number** \mathfrak{r}_κ is the minimal size of a subfamily F of $\wp(\kappa)$ for which there is no single $x \in \wp(\kappa)$ splitting all $y \in F$.

$$\mathfrak{r} := \mathfrak{r}_\omega.$$

A **tower** is a sequence $\langle F_\alpha \mid \alpha < \gamma \rangle$ of infinite sets of natural numbers such that for $\alpha < \beta < \gamma$ the set $F_\beta \setminus F_\alpha$ is finite. It is **extendible** if there is an infinite set R of natural numbers such that for all $\alpha < \gamma$ the set $R \setminus F_\alpha$ is finite.

Definition

\mathfrak{t} is the minimal length of an unextendible tower.

Definition

For an ideal I on a set X ,

- the **covering number**, $\text{cov}(I)$ denotes the minimal number of sets in I needed to cover all of X .
- the **additivity number**, $\text{add}(I)$ denotes the minimal number of sets in I whose union lies outside of I .

Theorem (Truss, 1983)

$$\blacktriangleright \implies \min(\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}), \text{cov}(\mathcal{N})) = \aleph_1.$$

Theorem (Miyamoto, 1994, unpublished)

$$\blacktriangleright \wedge \text{SH} \implies \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \aleph_1.$$

Definition (Fuchino, Shelah & Soukup, 1997)

\blacktriangleright is the minimal size of a family $F \subseteq [\omega_1]^\omega$ such that for every $S \in [\omega_1]^{\omega_1}$ there is an $X \in F$ with $X \subseteq S$.

Theorem (Juhász unpublished; Fuchino, Shelah & Soukup, 1997)

$\text{ZFC} + \clubsuit + \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \aleph_2$ is consistent.

Theorem (Brendle, Malliaris & Shelah, 2006 & 2013)

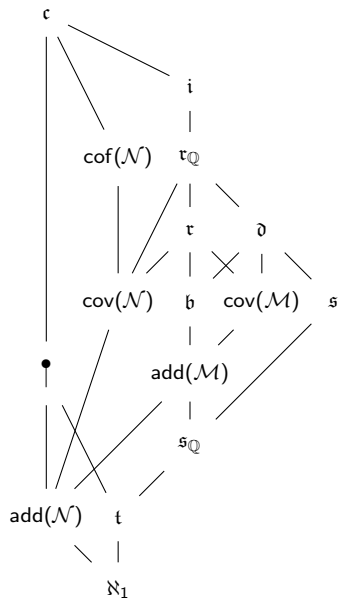
$\mathfrak{t} \leq \dot{\mathfrak{t}}$.

Theorem (Brendle, 2006)

$\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \dot{\mathfrak{t}}$.

Theorem (Brendle, 2006)

$\text{ZFC} + \clubsuit + \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) = \aleph_2$ is consistent.



Notation (Erdős & Rado, 1956)

$$\alpha \longrightarrow (\beta_0, \dots, \beta_k)^n$$

says that for every colouring χ of the n -tuples of a set X of size α with $\text{ran}(\chi) = k + 1$, there is an $i \leq k$ and a subset $H \subseteq X$ of size β_i such that $\chi[[H]^n] = \{i\}$.

Notation

$\alpha \longrightarrow (\beta)_k^n$ abbreviates $\alpha \longrightarrow \underbrace{(\beta, \dots, \beta)}_{k \text{ times}}^n$.

Theorem (Sierpinski, 1933)

$$\omega_1 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1)_2^2.$$

Theorem (Erdős & Rado, 1956)

$r(\omega m, n) = \omega r(I_m, L_n)$ for all natural numbers m and n .

Theorem (Hajnal, 1960)

$$\text{CH} \implies \omega_1 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1, \omega + 2)^2.$$

Theorem (Hajnal, 1971)

$$\text{GCH} \implies (\kappa^+)^2 \not\rightarrow ((\kappa^+)^2, 3)^2 \text{ for regular } \kappa.$$

Theorem (Erdős & Hajnal, 1971)

$\text{GCH} \implies \kappa^+ \kappa \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 3)^2$ for cardinals κ .

Theorem (Erdős & Hajnal, 1971)

$(\kappa^+)^2 \longrightarrow (\alpha, 3)^2$ for all cardinals κ and all $\alpha < (\kappa^+)^2$.

Theorem (Baumgartner, 1972)

$r(\kappa m, n) = \kappa r(l_m, L_n)$ for all cardinals κ and all $m, n < \omega$.

Theorem (Baumgartner & Hajnal, 1973)

$\forall n < \omega \forall \alpha < \omega_1 (\omega_1 \longrightarrow (\alpha)_n^2)$.

Theorem (Baumgartner, 1975)

$$\omega_1^2 \longrightarrow (\omega_1^2, 3)^2 \implies \text{SH.}$$

Theorem (Todorcevic, 1983)

$$\forall \alpha < \omega_1 : \omega_1 \longrightarrow (\omega_1, \alpha)^2 \text{ is consistent.}$$

Theorem (Erdős, Hajnal, Mate & Rado, 1984)

$$\text{If } \kappa \text{ is regular and uncountable, then } \kappa \longrightarrow (\kappa, \omega + 1)^2.$$

Theorem (Takahashi, 1987)

$$\mathfrak{h} = \aleph_1 \implies \omega_1^2 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1^2, 3)^2.$$

Theorem (Takahashi, 1987)

$$\mathfrak{p} = \aleph_1 = \mathfrak{d} \implies \omega_1 \omega \not\rightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 3)^2.$$

Theorem (Baumgartner & Hajnal, 1987)

If κ is regular and $2^\kappa = \kappa^+$, then $(\kappa^+)^2 \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 4)^2$.

Theorem (Baumgartner & Hajnal, 1987)

$$\omega_1^2 \longrightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 3, 3)^2.$$

Theorem (Baumgartner, 1989)

$$\text{MA}_{\aleph_1} \implies \forall n < \omega : \omega_1 \omega \longrightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, n)^2$$

Theorem (Todorćević, 1989)

$$\mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1 \implies \omega_1 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1, \omega + 2)^2.$$

Theorem (J. Larson, 1998)

If κ is regular and $\mathfrak{d}(\kappa) = \kappa^+$, then $\kappa^+ \kappa \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 3)^2$.

Theorem (J. Larson, 1998)

If κ is regular and $\mathfrak{d}(\kappa) = \kappa^+$, then $(\kappa^+)^2 \not\rightarrow ((\kappa^+)^2, 3)^2$.

Theorem (Raghavan & Todorćević, 2016)

$\forall \alpha < \omega_1(\mathfrak{b} \rightarrow (\mathfrak{b}, \alpha)^2)$ is consistent, relative to the existence of a measurable cardinal.

Notation

$$\binom{\alpha}{\beta} \longrightarrow \binom{\gamma}{\delta}$$

says that for all sets A of size α , B of size β and every colouring $\chi : A \times B \rightarrow 2$ there are $C \subseteq A$ of size γ and $D \subseteq B$ of size δ such that $|\chi[C \times D]| = 1$.

Theorem (Garti & Shelah, 2014)

If κ is regular and $\kappa < \lambda < \mathfrak{s}_\kappa$, then

$$\binom{\lambda}{\kappa} \longrightarrow \binom{\lambda}{\kappa} \iff \text{cf}(\lambda) \neq \kappa.$$

Theorem (Garti & Shelah, 2014)

If κ is regular and $\mathfrak{r}_\kappa < \text{cf}(\lambda) < 2^\kappa$, then

$$\binom{\lambda}{\kappa} \longrightarrow \binom{\lambda}{\kappa}.$$

Theorem (Lambie-Hanson & W., 2016)

$$\mathfrak{b}_\kappa = \kappa^+ = \overset{\bullet}{|}_\kappa \implies \kappa^+ \kappa \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 3)^2 \text{ for regular } \kappa.$$

Theorem (Chen & W., 2016)

$$\overset{\bullet}{|}_\kappa = \kappa^+ \implies \kappa^+ \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+, \omega + 2)^2.$$

Statement (J. Larson, 1998)

It would be interesting to know if the hypothesis (for $(\kappa^+)^2 \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 4)^2$) can be weakened to the existence of a short scale in $\kappa^+ \kappa^+$.

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Theorem (Chen & W., 2017)

$\mathfrak{d}_\kappa = \kappa^+ \implies (\kappa^+)^2 \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 4)^2$ for regular κ .

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Theorem (Chen & W., 2017)

$\mathfrak{d}_\kappa = \kappa^+ \implies (\kappa^+)^2 \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 4)^2$ for regular κ .

Theorem (Chen & W., 2017)

$\mathfrak{b}_\kappa = \kappa^+ = \mathfrak{i}_\kappa \implies (\kappa^+)^2 \not\rightarrow (\kappa^+ \kappa, 4)^2$ for regular κ .

	$\omega_1 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1, \omega + 2)^2$	$\omega_1^2 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1^2, 3)^2$	$\omega_1 \omega \not\rightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 3)^2$	$\omega_1^2 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 4)^2$
CH	Hajnal 1960			
$\mathfrak{d} = \aleph_1 = \overset{\bullet}{\uparrow}$				
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$\mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1 = \overset{\bullet}{\uparrow}$				
$\overset{\bullet}{\uparrow} = \aleph_1$				
$\mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1$				
ZFC				

	$\omega_1 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1, \omega + 2)^2$	$\omega_1^2 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1^2, 3)^2$	$\omega_1 \omega \not\rightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 3)^2$	$\omega_1^2 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 4)^2$
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$\mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1 = \overset{\bullet}{\uparrow}$	\mathfrak{O}	\mathfrak{O}	Lambie-Hanson W. 2016	Chen W. 2017
$\overset{\bullet}{\uparrow} = \aleph_1$	Chen W. 2016	Takahashi 1987	?	?
$\mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1$	Todorcevic 1987	?	?	?
ZFC	Todorcevic 1983	?	Baumgartner 1989	Baumgartner 1989

Question

Is $ZFC + \exists \alpha < \omega_1^2 (\omega_1^2 \not\rightarrow (\alpha, 3, 3)^2)$ consistent?

Question (Baumgartner & Hajnal, 1987)

Is $ZFC + \omega_1^2 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 3, 3, 3)^2$ consistent?

Question (Jean Larson)

Is $ZFC + \omega_1^2 \longrightarrow (\omega_1^2, 3)^2$ consistent?

Question

Is $ZFC + \mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1 + \omega_1^2 \longrightarrow (\omega_1^2, 3)^2$ consistent?

Question

Is $ZFC + \mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1 + \omega_1 \omega \longrightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 3)^2$ consistent?

Question

Is $ZFC + \mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1 + \omega_1 \omega \longrightarrow (\omega_1 \omega, 3)^2$ consistent?

Question

Is $\text{ZFC} + \mathfrak{b} = \aleph_1 + \omega_1^2 \longrightarrow (\omega_1\omega, 4)^2$ consistent?

Question

Is $\text{ZFC} + \mathfrak{b}^\bullet = \aleph_1 + \omega_1^2 \longrightarrow (\omega_1\omega, 4)^2$ consistent?

Question

Is $\text{ZFC} + \exists \kappa (\kappa \text{ is regular, } \mathfrak{b}_\kappa = \kappa^+ \text{ and } \kappa^+ \longrightarrow (\kappa^+, \kappa + 2)^2)$ consistent?

Question

Is $ZFC + MA_{\aleph_1} + \exists \alpha < \omega_1 : \omega_1 \not\rightarrow (\omega_1, \alpha)^2$ consistent?

Question (Brendle, 2006)

Is $ZFC + \clubsuit + \mathfrak{s} > \aleph_1$ consistent?

Question

Is $ZFC + \clubsuit + \mathfrak{s}_{\mathbb{Q}} > \aleph_1$ consistent?

Question (Juhász, ?)

Is $ZFC + \clubsuit + SH$ consistent?

Thank you for listening!