

# Descriptive and combinatorial set theory at singular cardinals and their successors

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# Generalising the Baire space

The Baire space  ${}^\omega\omega$  is identified with the product  $\omega^\omega$  and is given the usual product topology.

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A natural generalisation of the product topology is to fix some cardinal  $\lambda \leq \kappa$  and to take basic open sets of the form  $N(f) = \{g : g \upharpoonright \text{dom}(f) = f\}$  for  $f$  a partial function from  $\kappa$  to  $\kappa$  with  $|\text{dom}(f)| < \lambda$ .

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# The generalised Baire space descriptively

Descriptive set theory of generalised spaces took longer to develop.

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These authors have developed a rich theory, mostly concentrating on the case  $\kappa$  regular, in particular successor of regular or inaccessible. Often, the generalised Baire space does not allow direct generalisations of theorems about the Baire space and new techniques and expectations have to be made.

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### Definition

A set  $A \subseteq \kappa^\omega$  is  $\Pi_1^1$  if there is an open set  $B \subseteq \kappa^\omega \times \kappa^\omega$  (in the product topology) such that for every  $f \in {}^\omega \kappa$

$$f \in A \iff \forall g ((f, g) \in B). \quad (1)$$

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$$f \in A \iff \forall g ((f, g) \in B). \quad (1)$$

A set is  $\Sigma_1^1$  if its complement is  $\Pi_1^1$  and it is  $\Delta_1^1$  if it is both  $\Pi_1^1$  and  $\Sigma_1^1$ .

# Covering and boundedness

We shall present two results, from our paper with Väänänen (JML, 2011), corresponding to what is known about the Baire space.

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## Theorem (Representation Theorem)

*A set  $A$  is  $\Pi_1^1$  in the space  $\kappa^\omega$  iff there exists a tree on  ${}^\omega \kappa \times {}^\omega \kappa$  such that  $f \in A \iff T(f) \in \mathcal{TO}$ .*

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We say  $A$  is represented by  $T$ .

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We say  $A$  is represented by  $T$ .

## Theorem (Boundedness Theorem)

*Suppose that  $A$  is  $\Pi_1^1$  in  $\kappa^\omega$  and represented by the tree  $T$ . Then  $A$  is  $\Delta_1^1$  if and only if there is  $g \in \mathcal{TO}$  such that  $\forall f \in A (T(f) \leq T(g))$ .*

# Cofinalities

One may feel that the above theorems are easy because we deal with countable cofinality, so there is a natural notion of well-founded trees.

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**Observation** There is a  $\kappa$ -Souslin tree.

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**Observation** There is a  $\kappa$ -Souslin tree.

**Proof.**

Let  $\langle \kappa_n : n < \omega \rangle$  be an increasing sequence in  $\kappa$ . A disjoint rooted union of the ordinals  $\kappa_n$  ( $n < \omega$ ) provides an example. □

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In fact our descriptive set theory theorem works for any cofinality in place of  $\omega$ , with natural replacement of well-founded by "with no branches of length ...".

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Mekler and Väänänen (FM 1993) proved that under CH boundedness holds in  ${}^{\omega_1}\omega_1$ .

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# Cardinal invariants

Let  $\kappa$  be singular, for simplicity again  $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \omega$  and let  $\langle \kappa_n : n < \omega \rangle$  be a sequence of regular cardinals increasing to  $\kappa$  with  $\kappa_0 = 0$ .

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For  $\alpha < \kappa$  let  $\mathbf{k}(\alpha)$  be the unique  $k$  such that  $\alpha \in [\kappa_k, \kappa_{k+1})$ .



# Cardinal invariants

Let  $\kappa$  be singular, for simplicity again  $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \omega$  and let  $\langle \kappa_n : n < \omega \rangle$  be a sequence of regular cardinals increasing to  $\kappa$  with  $\kappa_0 = 0$ . Consider the space  ${}^\kappa \kappa$  of functions, which we can now partially order by letting  $f \leq_\kappa^* f'$  if  $\{\alpha < \kappa : f(\alpha) > f'(\alpha)\}$  is bounded in  $\kappa$ . The cardinal invariants of this space are denoted by  $d(\kappa)$  etc. It turns out that one can connect this space with the Baire space and show that certain of the cardinal invariants are the same as their analogues in the Baire space.

For  $\alpha < \kappa$  let  $\mathbf{k}(\alpha)$  be the unique  $k$  such that  $\alpha \in [\kappa_k, \kappa_{k+1})$ . We use these to code  ${}^\kappa \kappa$  into the Baire space.

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For  $f \in {}^\kappa \kappa$  let  $g_f \in {}^\omega \omega$  be given by  $g_f(n) = \mathbf{k}(f(\kappa_n))$ . For  $g \in {}^\omega \omega$  let  $f^g \in {}^\kappa \kappa$  be given by letting for all  $\alpha$ ,

$$f^g(\alpha) = \kappa_{n+1} \text{ iff } g(\mathbf{k}(\alpha)) = n.$$

# Dominating

We observe some basic properties of the above operations.

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## Lemma

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$$d(\kappa) = d.$$

We note that generalised cardinal invariants for regular cardinals can behave quite wildly, this is well documented in works by various authors.

# Comfort's question and its consequences

What are the topological properties of the space  $\kappa^{\kappa}$  or  $2^{\kappa}$  with various box products?

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## Theorem

*Modulo large cardinals, it is consistent to have a singular cardinal  $\kappa$  with countable cofinality such that the density of the countably supported box product space is  $\kappa^+ < 2^\kappa$ .*

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# Consequences of Gitik-Shelah

One of the consequences was to suggest a new method, which we developed in a paper with Shelah (JSL 2003), later taken on in a series of paper with coworkers including Cummings, Komjath, Magidor and Morgan.

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We start from a supercompact cardinal  $\kappa$ , force  $2^\kappa$  large while at the same time obtaining a normal measure  $\mathcal{D}$  on it generated by a small number of sets (this was also done by Gitik and Shelah)

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# What is this good for?

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This type of extension is convenient for:

- 1 get consistency results about the successor of  $\kappa$  (as done in the above works, various results about graphs) and

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This type of extension is convenient for:

- 1 get consistency results about the successor of  $\kappa$  (as done in the above works, various results about graphs) and
- 2 get consistency results about cardinal invariants at a large cardinal, obtained by Garti and Shelah and Brooke-Taylor, V. Fischer, S. Friedman and Montoya.

For example, what can be said about the generalised Baire space at  $\lambda = \kappa^+$ ?

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# Recent progress

Our work at the successor of a singular has been made more difficult by the fact that the individual forcing that needs to be iterated in our techniques is quite complicated and the only iteration theorems known about iterating  $\theta^+$ -cc forcing at  $\theta$  regular uncountable involve showing a very strong combinatorial form of the chain condition (just  $\theta^+$ -cc is not enough).

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In our ongoing work with Cummings and Neeman we have developed a new iteration method at such cardinals, provided that  $\theta$  has some large cardinal properties (as it does in our applications, where it is supercompact).

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