

Stationary reflection

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July 28, 2018

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Theorem

For every cardinal λ there is an ultrafilter U on $\{x \subseteq \lambda \mid x \text{ is finite}\}$ such that for all $\alpha < \lambda$, $\{x \mid \alpha \in x\} \in U$.

Compactness at uncountable cardinals

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Let κ be an uncountable cardinal.

Theorem (Folklore)

If κ satisfies a higher version of the Infinite Ramsey theorem, then κ is the κ^{th} inaccessible cardinal.

Cardinals satisfying this higher version of Ramsey's theorem are called weakly compact.

Theorem (Mitchell-Silver)

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Theorem (Solovay)

If for every cardinal λ , there is a κ -complete ultrafilter U on $\{x \subseteq \lambda \mid |x| < \kappa\}$ such that for all $\alpha < \lambda$, $\{x \mid \alpha \in x\} \in U$, then for all regular cardinals μ , the set $\{f \mid f : \alpha \rightarrow \mu \text{ for some } \alpha < \kappa\}$ has size μ .

Cardinals κ as in the hypothesis are called strongly compact.

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- Some compactness properties arise as the generalization of compactness properties of ω .
- Some compactness properties are consistent at small cardinals while others imply that a given cardinal is quite large.
- Some compactness properties have strong structural influence on the universe of set theory.

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For example:

Question

Can one construct a version of Aronszajn's tree on ω_1 on ω_2 ?

The theorem of Mitchell and Silver above shows that it is impossible using the axioms of ZFC assuming the consistency of a weakly compact cardinal.

Further, the theorem shows that the weakly compact cardinal is necessary in the sense that if we have a model of ZFC with no such trees on ω_2 , then there is also a model of ZFC with a weakly compact cardinal.

A sequence increasing sequence $\langle \alpha_\beta \mid \beta < \gamma \rangle$ is cofinal in an ordinal δ if the set $\{\alpha_\beta \mid \beta < \gamma\}$ is unbounded in δ .

The cofinality of δ is the least ordinal γ for which there is a cofinal sequence of length γ as above.

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Examples/Definitions:

- $\text{cf}(\omega_\omega) = \omega$ as witnessed by $\langle \omega_n \mid n < \omega \rangle$.
- If μ is a cardinal, then the next cardinal greater than μ is denoted μ^+ . Using the axiom of choice, $\text{cf}(\mu^+) = \mu^+$.
- A cardinal λ is regular if $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \lambda$ and singular otherwise.

Stationary sets

Let μ be an ordinal.

A set $C \subseteq \mu$ is *club* in μ if it is closed (for all $\alpha < \mu$ if $C \cap \alpha$ is unbounded in α , then $\alpha \in C$) and unbounded.

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Facts and examples: Let $\kappa < \lambda$ be regular cardinals.

- The club subsets of λ form a λ -complete filter.
- The set $\{\alpha < \lambda \mid \text{cf}(\alpha) = \kappa\}$ is stationary. We call this set S_{κ}^{λ} .

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Definition

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- We might ask that collections of stationary sets reflect at a common point.

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- We might focus on stationary subsets of S_{κ}^{λ} for some κ .
- We might ask that collections of stationary sets reflect at a common point.

A stationary set which does not reflect at any α is called *non-reflecting*.

Motivation

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Theorem (Todorćević)

If there is a non-reflecting stationary subset of S_ω^λ , then there is a graph of size λ of chromatic number at least ω_1 all of whose subgraphs of smaller cardinality are countably chromatic.

Theorem

If there is a non-reflecting stationary subset of S_ω^λ , then there is a non-metrizable locally compact topological space all of whose smaller cardinality subspaces are metrizable.

Theorem (Shelah-Harrington)

It is consistent that every stationary subset of $S_\omega^{\omega_2}$ reflects if and only if it is consistent that there is a Mahlo cardinal.

A cardinal κ is Mahlo if the set of inaccessible cardinals below κ is stationary.

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Theorem (Magidor)

It is consistent that every pair of stationary subsets of $S_\omega^{\omega_2}$ reflect at common point if and only if it is consistent that there is a weakly compact cardinal.

Consistency results

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For the remainder of the talk we'll aim to get a singular strong limit cardinal κ of cofinality ω where every stationary subset of κ^+ reflects.

Let κ be an uncountable cardinal.

Proposition

If there is a nonprincipal κ -complete normal ultrafilter on κ , then every stationary subset of κ reflects.

An ultrafilter U on κ is normal if for every sequence $\langle A_\alpha \mid \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ from U , the set $\{\alpha \mid \alpha \in A_\beta \text{ for all } \beta < \alpha\} \in U$.

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Proof.

Suppose otherwise. Then there is a stationary S such that for all $\alpha < \kappa$ there is a club C_α in α which is disjoint from S .

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Let $C = \{\gamma \mid \{\alpha \mid \gamma \in C_\alpha\} \in U\}$. It is clear that C is closed using the κ -completeness of U . It remains to show C is unbounded.

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If not, then for all large enough γ the set $A_\gamma = \{\alpha \mid \gamma \notin C_\alpha\} \in U$. By normality, $\{\alpha \mid \text{for all } \gamma < \alpha, \alpha \in A_\gamma\} \in U$.

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It follows that this set is nonempty, so let α be an element. It follows that for all $\gamma < \alpha$, $\gamma \notin C_\alpha$ and so C_α is empty, a contradiction. □

Similarly, if there is a κ -complete, normal ultrafilter U on $\{x \subseteq \kappa^+ \mid |x| < \kappa\}$ such that for all $\alpha < \kappa^+$, $\{x \mid \alpha \in x\} \in U$, then every stationary subset of $S_{<\kappa}^{\kappa^+}$ reflects.

Similarly, if there is a κ -complete, normal ultrafilter U on $\{x \subseteq \kappa^+ \mid |x| < \kappa\}$ such that for all $\alpha < \kappa^+$, $\{x \mid \alpha \in x\} \in U$, then every stationary subset of $S_{<\kappa}^{\kappa^+}$ reflects.

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How do you change cofinality to ω ?

$$\langle \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \rangle \geq \\ \langle \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n, \alpha_{n+1} \rangle$$

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$$\langle \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n, A \rangle \geq \langle \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n, \alpha_{n+1}, B \rangle$$

This forcing is called Prikry forcing.

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There are forcings to destroy the stationarity of nonreflecting sets, but it is not clear that destroying the stationarity of $(S_{\kappa}^{\kappa^+})^V$ will give full stationary reflection.

Ideas from the proof

Work over iterated ultrapowers. Let U be a normal measure on κ .

- We can form the ultrapower of V by U and derive an associated elementary embedding $j : V \rightarrow M$ where M is the transitive collapse of the ultrapower.

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Theorem (Dehornoy, Bukovsky)

$$M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle] = \bigcap_{n < \omega} M_n.$$

- If we let \mathbb{Q} be the forcing to destroy the “bad” stationary subset of $j_\omega(\kappa^+)$ in $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle]$, then as a poset over V , \mathbb{Q} is equivalent to adding a Cohen subset of κ^+ .

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- Unfortunately, C is not in $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid m < \omega \rangle][H]$. It is only in $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid m < \omega \rangle][H][\langle \overline{j_{n,\omega} " H} \mid n < \omega \rangle]$.

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Theorem

Let \mathcal{H} be the sequence $\langle \overline{j_{n,\omega} " H} \mid n < \omega \rangle$. Then $H \in M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$ and stationary reflection holds at $j_\omega(\kappa^+)$ in $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$.

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- For each n , S can be pulled back to a set S_n of bounded cofinality in $M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$.

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- It follows that $H \in M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$.
- \mathcal{H}_n is equivalent to adding a Cohen subset of $j_n(\kappa^+)$ over M_n , so we can assume that $M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$ satisfies bounded stationary reflection.
- If S is stationary set in $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$, then it consists of points of some fixed cofinality below $j_\omega(\kappa)$.
- For each n , S can be pulled back to a set S_n of bounded cofinality in $M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$.
- If S does not reflect, then each of the S_n will be nonstationary as witnessed by a club C_n using bounded stationary reflection in $M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$.

Why?

- $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$ is a Prikry type extension of M_ω .
- There are generics \mathcal{H}_n over M_n such that $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}] = \bigcap_{n < \omega} M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$.
- It follows that $H \in M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$.
- \mathcal{H}_n is equivalent to adding a Cohen subset of $j_n(\kappa^+)$ over M_n , so we can assume that $M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$ satisfies bounded stationary reflection.
- If S is stationary set in $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$, then it consists of points of some fixed cofinality below $j_\omega(\kappa)$.
- For each n , S can be pulled back to a set S_n of bounded cofinality in $M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$.
- If S does not reflect, then each of the S_n will be nonstationary as witnessed by a club C_n using bounded stationary reflection in $M_n[\mathcal{H}_n]$.
- It follows that pushing the C_n forward to $M_\omega[\langle j_n(\kappa) \mid n < \omega \rangle][\mathcal{H}]$ and taking the intersection gives a club disjoint from S , which finishes the proof.

Question

Is it consistent that there is a singular cardinal κ of uncountable cofinality where the singular cardinal hypothesis fails and every stationary subset of κ^+ reflects?