

Cofinitary groups and projective well-orders

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What is a (maximal) cofinitary group?

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Observation

The set of all finitary permutations is a group (the unique maximal group). However, the set of all cofinitary permutations with the identity is not a group and indeed there are many maximal cofinitary groups.

Definition

A subgroup $G \subseteq S_\omega$ is called **cofinitary** if every $g \in G \setminus \{\text{id}\}$ is cofinitary. It is called **maximal** if it is maximal with respect to inclusion.

Sizes of maximal cofinitary groups

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Theorem (Neumann)

There are cofinitary groups of size 2^{\aleph_0} .

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We have just seen that $\aleph_0 < \mathfrak{a}_g \leq 2^{\aleph_0}$, i.e. \mathfrak{a}_g is a cardinal characteristic in the usual sense. In fact:

Theorem (Brendle, Spinas, Zhang, 2000 [2])

$$\text{non}(\mathcal{M}) \leq \mathfrak{a}_g.$$

Tightness

Separating \mathfrak{a}_g from other invariants

We want to construct models in which

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Idea (Tightness)

We want to define a combinatorial strengthening of the maximality of a cofinitary group, which is preserved by a large class of forcing notions, e.g. by countable support iterations of certain proper forcings.

Tightness for other families

The idea of such a combinatorial strengthening of maximality for this purpose has already been successfully developed for other types of combinatorial families:

- 1 Maximal almost disjoint (mad) families $\rightarrow \mathfrak{a}$
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- 3 Maximal eventually different families of permutations $\rightarrow \mathfrak{a}_p$
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It turns out that the last notion of tightness may also be used in the context of cofinitary groups $\rightarrow \mathfrak{a}_g$.

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Let G be a cofinitary group. Then we say G is **tight** if G is tight as an eventually different family of permutations.

Preserving tightness

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Theorem (Fischer, Switzer, 2023 [5])

Assume F is a tight family of permutations and $\langle \mathbb{P}_\alpha, \dot{\mathbb{Q}}_\alpha \mid \alpha < \gamma \rangle$ is a countable support iteration of proper forcings such that for every $\alpha < \gamma$ we have

$$\mathbb{P}_\alpha \Vdash \dot{\mathbb{Q}}_\alpha \text{ strongly preserves the tightness of } F.$$

Then \mathbb{P}_γ strongly preserves the tightness of F .

Preserving tightness

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Theorem (Fischer, Switzer, 2023 [5])

Miller forcing, Miller partition forcing, Shelah's forcing \mathbb{Q}_I , ... all strongly preserve the tightness of every tight family of permutations.

Separating α_g from other invariants

Theorem (Fischer, S., Schrittemser, 2023 [3])

Under $MA(\sigma\text{-centered})$ every cofinitary group of size $< 2^{\aleph_0}$ can be embedded into a tight cofinitary group of size 2^{\aleph_0} .

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Theorem (Fischer, S., Schritterser, 2023 [3])

The following constellations are consistent with a tight witness for \mathfrak{a}_g :

- 1 $\mathfrak{a}_g = \mathfrak{d} = \mathfrak{a}_T < \mathfrak{c} = \aleph_2,$
- 2 $\mathfrak{a}_g < \mathfrak{d} = \mathfrak{a}_T = \mathfrak{c} = \aleph_2,$
- 3 $\mathfrak{a}_g = \mathfrak{d} < \mathfrak{a}_T = \mathfrak{c} = \aleph_2,$
- 4 $\mathfrak{a}_g = \mathfrak{i} < \mathfrak{u} = \mathfrak{c} = \aleph_2,$
- 5 ...

Optimal projective complexity

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In L there is a maximal cofinitary group with a Σ_2^1 -set of generators.

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Theorem (Kastermans, 2009 [9])

In L there is a Π_1^1 maximal cofinitary group.

Theorem (Horowitz, Shelah, 2016 [8])

ZF: *There is a Borel maximal cofinitary group.*

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Corollary (Fischer, Schritterser, Törnquist, 2017 [4])

The following constellation is consistent with a Π_1^1 witness for \mathfrak{a}_g :

$$\aleph_1 = \mathfrak{a}_g = \mathfrak{b} < \mathfrak{d} = 2^{\aleph_0}$$

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Corollary (Fischer, S., Schritterser, 2023 [3])

All models above may also contain a Δ_3^1 -definable well-order of the reals.

Coding into orbits

Constructing a cofinitary group with a Π_1^1 -set of generators

The construction in L of a tight cofinitary group with a Π_1^1 -set of generators boils down to the following inductive construction of $\langle G_\alpha \mid \alpha < \aleph_1 \rangle$:

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- 1 Given a countable cofinitary group $G_\alpha \in L_{\delta_\alpha}$ and a real number r we need to find a cofinitary $f \in S_\infty \setminus G_\alpha$, such that $G_{\alpha+1} := \langle G_\alpha \cup \{f\} \rangle$ is a cofinitary group and r can be decoded from f .

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- 3 Using the Δ_2^1 well-order in L we can make sure that f is picked uniquely in some countable $L_{\delta_{\alpha+1}}$.

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- 3 Using the Δ_2^1 well-order in L we can make sure that f is picked uniquely in some countable $L_{\delta_{\alpha+1}}$.
- 4 Finally $G := \bigcup_{\alpha < \aleph_1} G_\alpha$ should be a tight cofinitary group.

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In summary we have adapted Zhang's forcing, so that its generic real f_{gen} codes a real r and the iteration yields a tight cofinitary group.

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Previous coding techniques directly coded r into the function values of the generic real f_{gen} . However, in order to obtain a tight cofinitary group we had to come up with a more flexible coding technique.

Orbits of permutations

Given a permutation $f \in S_\omega$ we may consider the lengths of its orbits:

Definition

An orbit of f is a minimal non-empty subset of ω closed under the applications of f and f^{-1} .

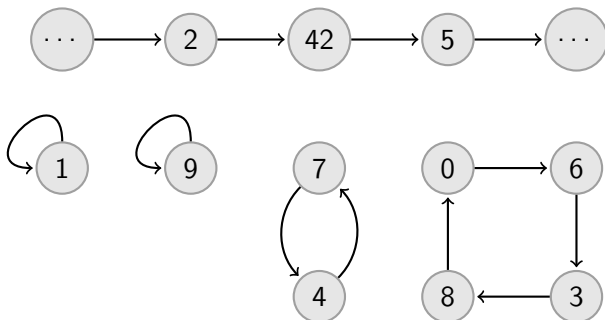
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Hence, any permutation $f \in S_\omega$ partitions ω into its finite and infinite orbits:



Orbits of the Zhang-generic

Proposition (Fischer, S., Schrittemser, 2023 [3])

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Given $f \in \omega^\omega$ let \mathcal{O}_f be the set of all orbits of f . There is a natural well-order on \mathcal{O}_f defined for $O, P \in \mathcal{O}_f$ by $O < P$ iff $\min(O) < \min(P)$.

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$$o_f(n) := (|O_n| \bmod 2),$$

where O_n is the n -th element in the well-order of \mathcal{O}_f .

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For every k the Zhang generic f_{gen} only has finitely many orbits of length k .

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Thank you for your attention!