

How to make infinite combinatorics simple?

Dániel T. Soukup

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universität
wien

Introduction

Here is ~~my only~~ the usual method for proving theorems:

enumerate the objectives \longrightarrow inductively meet these goals.

Colour the points of a topological space X with red and blue so that **both colors** appear on **any copy of the Cantor-space** in X .

- list all Cantor subspaces of X , and
- inductively declare one point red and one point blue from each.

If there are **more than c such subspaces** then, after continuum many steps, we could have accidentally covered some Cantor-subspace with red points only.

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Goals - a short tutorial

- explore a **general framework for inductive constructions**,
 - arbitrary large structures by countable/continuum sized pieces,
 - how avoid the previous types of problems?
- demonstrate the applicability through entertaining examples:
 - paradoxical decompositions of the plane, and
 - **Bernstein-decompositions** of arbitrary topological spaces.

Based on

"Infinite combinatorics plain and simple" [ArXiv: 1705.06195]

a joint paper with L. Soukup.

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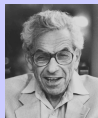
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[Sierpinski, 1919] CH holds iff

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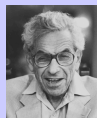
- S_0 has countable vertical segments, and
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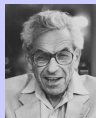
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R. O. Davies and covering without CH

Let Θ_j denote distinct directions, \mathcal{L}_j the lines in direction Θ_j .

[Davies, 1963] $2^{\aleph_0} \leq \aleph_n$ iff

(I) $\mathbb{R}^2 = S_0 \cup \dots \cup S_n$ so that $|L \cap S_i| \leq \aleph_0$ for all $L \in \mathcal{L}_i$.

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[Davies, 1963] In ZFC, \mathbb{R}^2 is the union of countably many curves i.e. $\mathbb{R}^2 = S_0 \cup S_1 \cup \dots$ so that $|L \cap S_i| \leq 1$ for all $L \in \mathcal{L}_i$.

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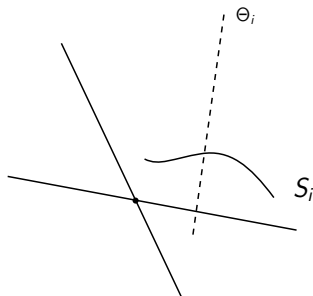
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- if you want to cover a countable $R_0 = \{r_0, r_1 \dots\}$ only then we can put $r_i \in S_i$
- what prevents us from adding an extra point r to the union of S_j 's?

r is **constructible** from Θ_i, Θ_j and previous points from S_i, S_j .

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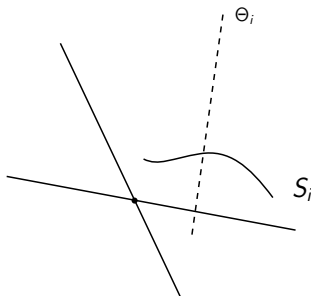


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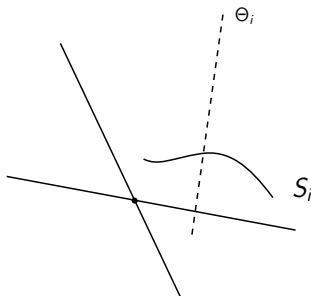


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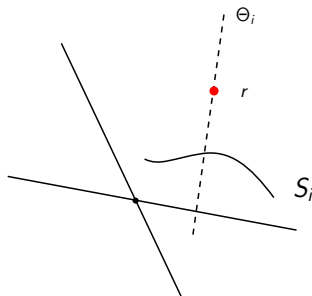


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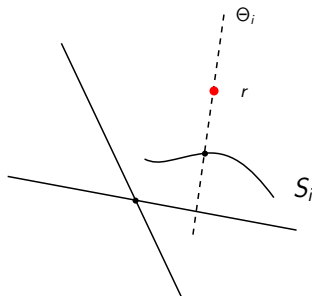


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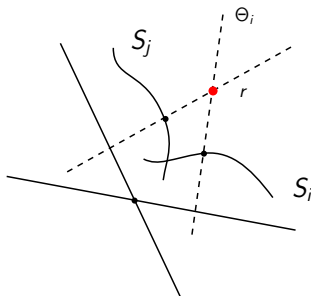


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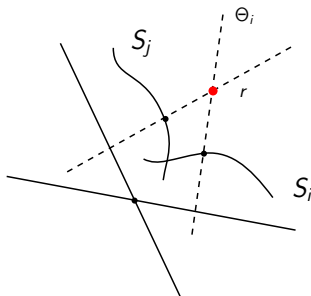


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CH implies that \mathbb{R}^2 is the union of countably many rotated graphs of functions.

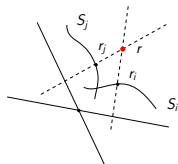
If the union of S_i 's is closed under constructibility then any new $r \in \mathbb{R}^2$ can be added to all but at most one S_i .

- use CH, to write \mathbb{R}^2 as a continuous, increasing union of countable R_α for $\alpha < \omega_1$,
- make sure that each R_α is closed under constructibility.
- if the S_i 's union is R_α then list $R_{\alpha+1} \setminus R_\alpha$ as $\{t_n : n < \omega\}$,
- put t_n into S_{2n} or S_{2n+1} , wherever we allowed. Why is this possible?
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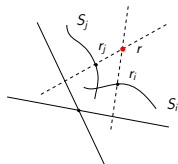


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CH implies that \mathbb{R}^2 is the union of countably many rotated graphs of functions.

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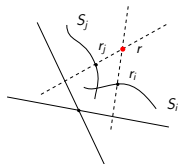


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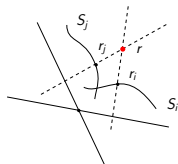


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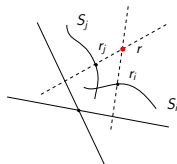


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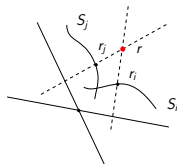


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The sequence $\langle R_\alpha \rangle_{\alpha < \omega_1}$ is called a filtration of \mathbb{R}^2 sometimes.

- any countable set is included in a countable set closed under constructibility;
- we could have closed under **all first order operations**, still countable;
- $H = H(\theta)$ and the real universe V agrees on properties of structures of size $\ll \theta$;
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We take closure using elementary submodels: $M \prec H$ iff $M \subseteq H$ and

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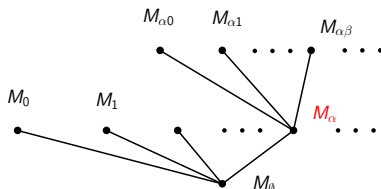
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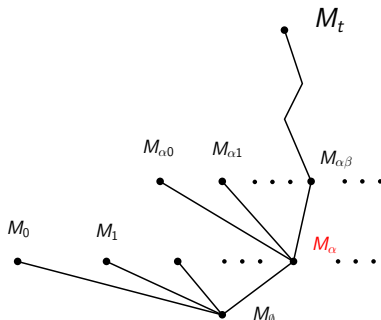
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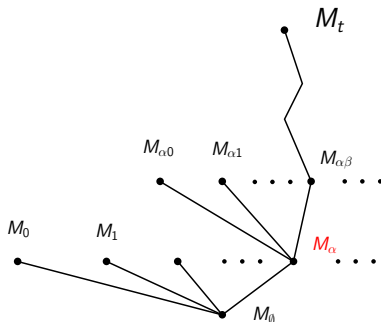
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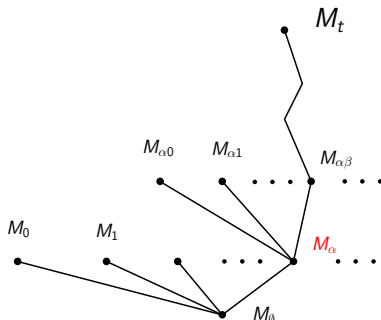
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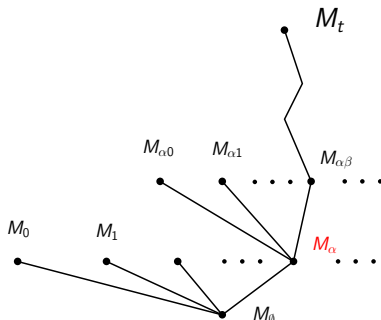
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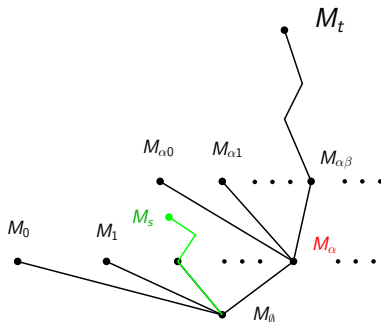
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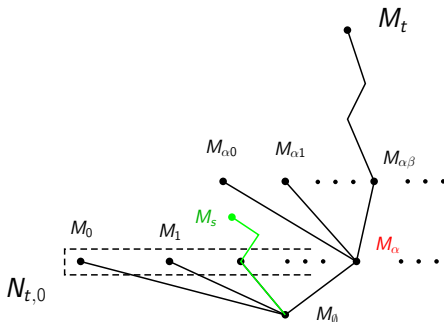
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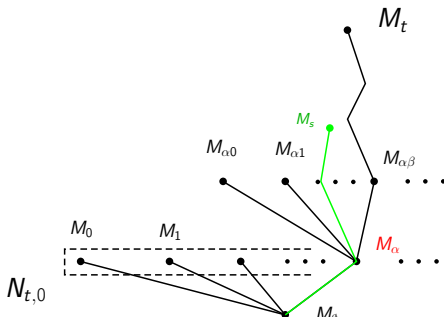
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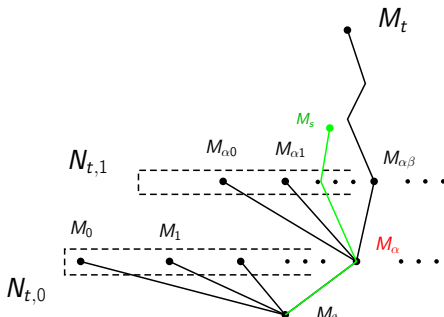
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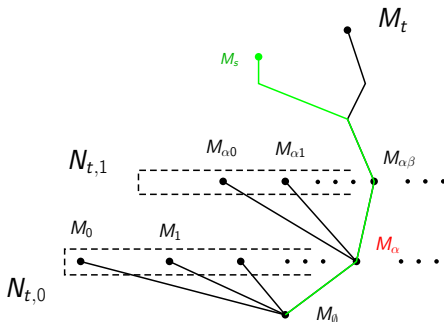
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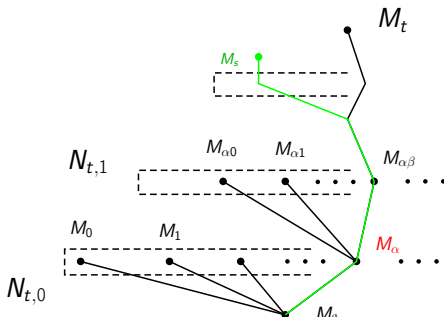
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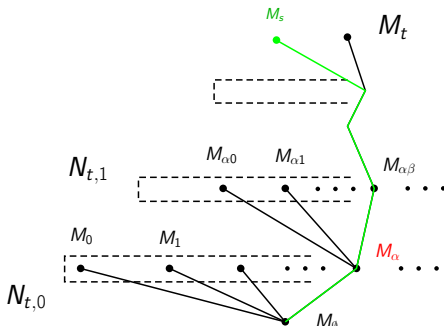
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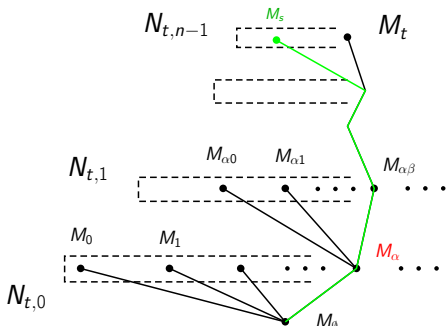
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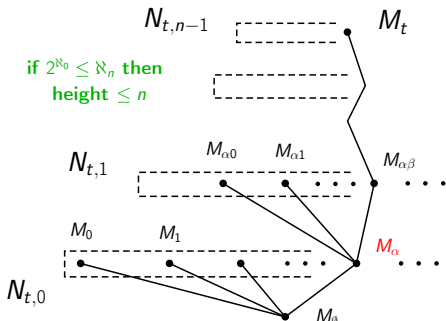
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Davies-trees in general

Theorem [Davies, Milovich]

Suppose that κ is cardinal, x is a set. Then there is $\kappa \ll \theta$ and a sequence $\langle M_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ of elementary submodels of $H(\theta)$ so that

(I) $|M_\alpha| = \omega$ and $x \in M_\alpha$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$,

(II) $\kappa \subset \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} M_\alpha$, and

(III) for every $\beta < \kappa$ there is $m_\beta \in \mathbb{N}$ and models $N_{\beta,j} \prec H(\theta)$ such that $x \in N_{\beta,j}$ for $j < m_\beta$ and

$$M_{<\beta} = \bigcup \{M_\alpha : \alpha < \beta\} = \bigcup \{N_{\alpha,j} : j < m_\beta\}.$$

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$\mathbb{R}^2 = S_0 \cup S_1 \cup \dots$ so that $|L \cap S_i| \leq 1$ for all $L \in \mathcal{L}_i$.

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- let $\mathbb{R}^2 \cap M_\alpha \setminus M_{<\alpha} = \{t_n\}_{n \in \omega}$, find $i_0 < i_1 < \dots$ so $t_n \in S_{i_n}$ **works**;
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- [R. O. Davies, 1960s] various paradoxical coverings of \mathbb{R}^2 ,
- [S. Jackson, R. D. Mauldin, 2002] There is a subset of \mathbb{R}^2 which intersects each isometric copy of $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ in exactly one point,
- [D. Milovich, 2008] Base properties of compact spaces, Freese-Nation property, and developed nicer Davies-trees,
- implicitly, in many other proofs...
- various other applications in our new paper:
 - refining almost disjoint families of $[\kappa]^\omega$,
 - conflict-free colourings of almost disj. $\mathcal{A} \subset [\omega_m]^\omega$,
 - subgraph structure of uncountably chromatic graphs.

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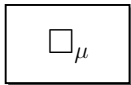


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high Davies-trees

Countable models \rightarrow enumeration in type ω ,
 \rightarrow deal with finite pieces one at a time.

M is countably closed if $x \subseteq M$, $|x| \leq \omega$ implies $x \in M$.

- for any $x \subseteq H(\theta)$ there is a countably closed $M \prec H(\theta)$ of size $|x|^\omega$;
- **c.c. models of size \mathfrak{c}** are very useful in various situations:
 - [Arhangel'skii, 1969] Any compact, first countable space has size $\leq \mathfrak{c}$;
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Can we make Davies-trees from countably closed models of size \mathfrak{c} ?

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High Davies-trees

We say that a **high Davies-tree for κ over x** is a sequence $\langle M_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ of elementary submodels of $H(\theta)$ for some large enough regular θ such that

- (I) $[M_\alpha]^\omega \subset M_\alpha$, $|M_\alpha| = \mathfrak{c}$ and $x \in M_\alpha$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$,
- (II) $[\kappa]^\omega \subset \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} M_\alpha$, and
- (III) for each $\beta < \kappa$ there are $N_{\beta,j} \prec H(\theta)$ with $[N_{\beta,j}]^\omega \subset N_{\beta,j}$ and $x \in N_{\beta,j}$ for $j < \omega$ such that

$$M_{<\beta} = \bigcup \{M_\alpha : \alpha < \beta\} = \bigcup \{N_{\beta,j} : j < \omega\}.$$

Note that $\kappa^\omega = \kappa$ if there is a high Davies-tree for κ .

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Existence of high Davies-trees

A high Davies-tree for κ over x
is a sequence $\langle M_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ s.t.

- (I) $x \in M_\alpha \prec H(\theta)$ is c.c. of size c ,
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Theorem [DS, LS]

There are high Davies-tree **for any uncountable κ if $V = L$** .

Existence of high Davies-trees

A high Davies-tree for κ over χ
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Main Theorem [DS, LS]

There are high Davies-tree for κ if $\kappa^\omega = \kappa$ and

$$\mu^\omega = \mu^+, \mu \text{ is } \omega\text{-inaccessible and } \square_\mu \text{ holds}$$

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Remark: **no high Davies-trees for $\kappa \geq \aleph_\omega$** if $(\aleph_{\omega+1}, \aleph_\omega) \rightarrow (\aleph_1, \aleph_0)$.

Coloring topological spaces

A **Bernstein-decomposition** of X is a map $f : X \rightarrow \mathfrak{c}$ so that $f[C] = \mathfrak{c}$ for all $C \subseteq X$ homeomorphic to the Cantor set.

Which topological spaces have a Bernstein-decomposition?

[Bernstein, 1908] Any topological space of size $\leq \mathfrak{c}$ admits a Bernstein-decomposition.

[Nesetril, Pelant, Růdl, 1977] There is a T_1 topology Y (on \mathbb{R}^2) so that $Y \rightarrow (\text{Cantor})_{\mathfrak{c}}^1$.

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If there is a **high Davies-tree for κ over X** ,
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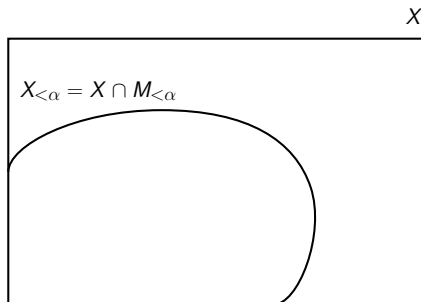
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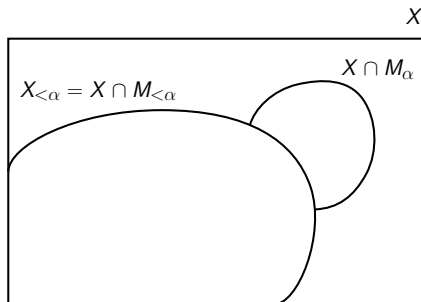
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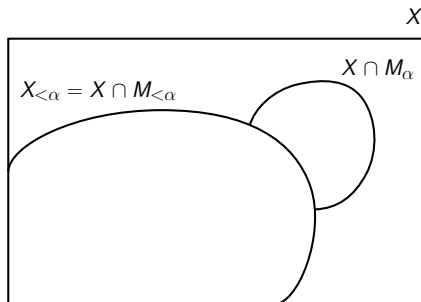
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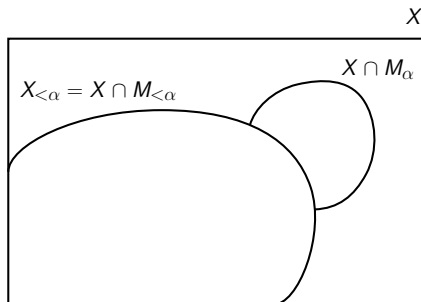
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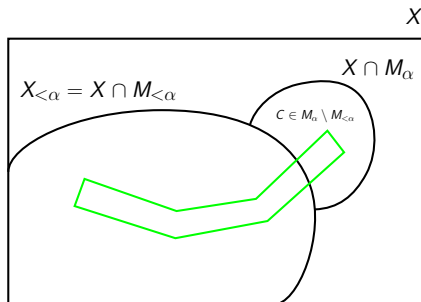
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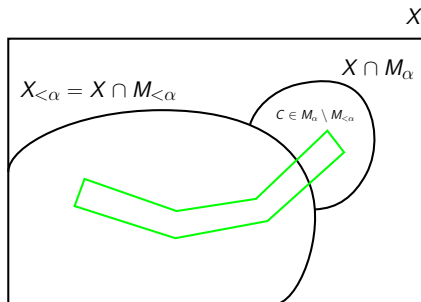
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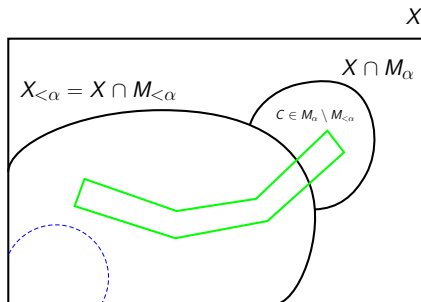
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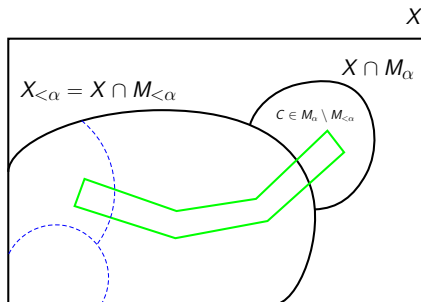
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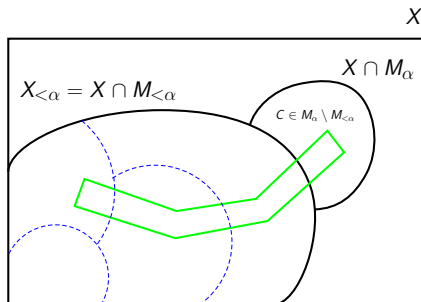
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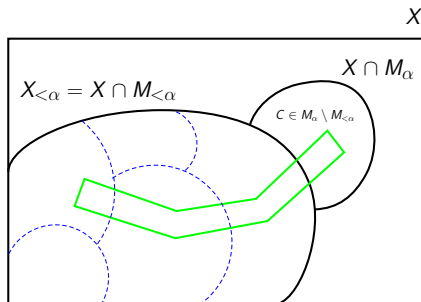
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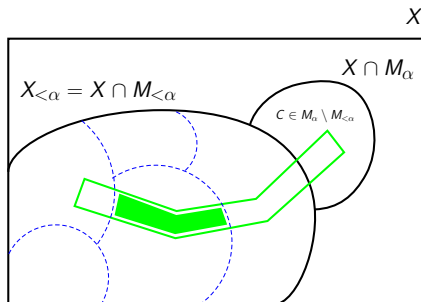
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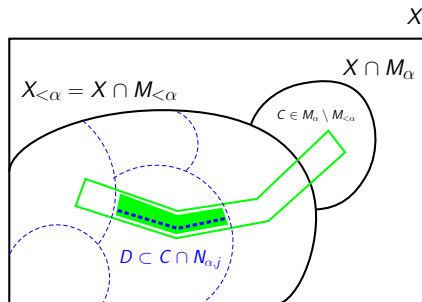
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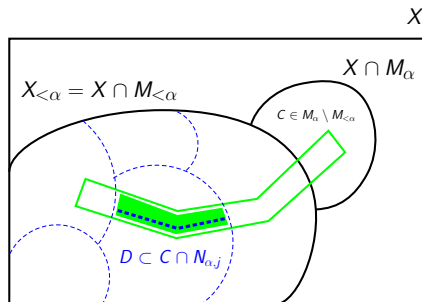
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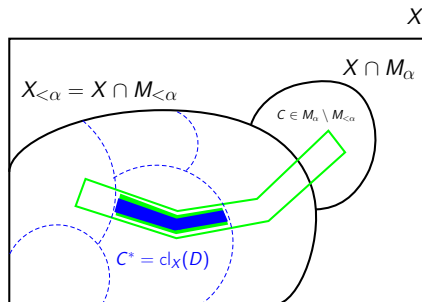
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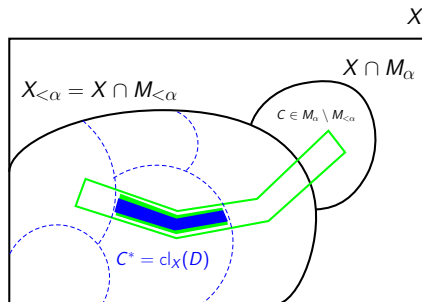
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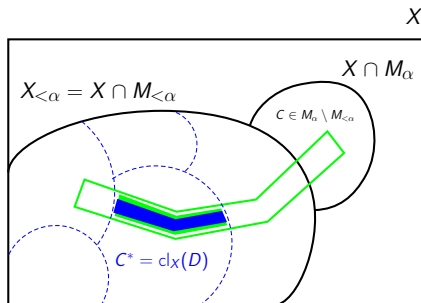
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Let $\{C_\xi : \xi < \mathfrak{c}\}$ list $C \in M_\alpha \setminus M_{<\alpha}$ s.t. $|C \cap X_{<\alpha}| \leq \omega$, each \mathfrak{c} times.

Pick $y_\xi \in C_\xi \setminus (X_{<\alpha} \cup \{y_\zeta : \zeta < \xi\})$.



Let $f_{\alpha+1}(y_\xi) = \nu$ if C_ξ is the ν^{th} -time we see C_ξ . □

Further applications

See "Infinite combinatorics plain and simple" at [ArXiv: 1705.06195] for more.

If \exists **high Davies-trees for $\kappa + \text{CH}$** holds then

- $\langle [\kappa]^\omega, \subset \rangle$ has the **weak Freese-Nation property**,
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Some open problems in the neighbourhood

There is $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \omega$ such that there are

- no monochromatic rational distances [Komjáth], or
- no monochromatic triangles with non-zero rational area [Schmerl].

Folklore: there are \mathfrak{c} points in the Hilbert-space ℓ^2 so that any two distinct points have rational distance.

[Komjáth] Are there \mathfrak{c} points in ℓ^2 so that **any three form a triangle with non-zero rational area**?

A **2-point set** $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ is such that $|A \cap \ell| = 2$ for every line $\ell \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.

[Sierpinski/Erdős] Is there a **Borel 2-point set**?

Fremlin is offering £34 for “communicating a solution to him”.

Efimov's problem pays £13, or £10 under MA + $\mathfrak{c} > \aleph_1$.

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