THE LEFT SIDE OF CICHÓN’S DIAGRAM

MARTIN GOLDSTERN, DIEGO ALEJANDRO MEJÍA, AND SAHARON SHELAH

Abstract. Using a finite support iteration of ccc forcings, we construct a model of $\aleph_1 < \text{add}(\mathcal{N}) < \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) < b < \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) < \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = c$.

1. Introduction

How many (Lebesgue) null sets do you need to cover the real line? How many points do you need to get a non-null set? What is the smallest number of null sets that you need to get a union which is not null any more? The answers to these questions are the cardinals $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N})$, $\text{non}(\mathcal{N})$, $\text{add}(\mathcal{N})$, and similar definitions are possible for other ideals, such as the ideal $\mathcal{M}$ of meager (=first category) sets, the ideal of at most countable sets, or the ideal of $\sigma$-compact subsets of the irrationals.

The cardinal $\text{add}(\sigma\text{-compact}) = \text{non}(\sigma\text{-compact})$ is usually called $b$; it is the smallest size of a family of functions from $\omega$ to $\omega$ which is not eventually bounded by a single function. We define $\mathfrak{d} := \text{cov}(\sigma\text{-compact})$, and write $\text{cf}(I)$ for the smallest size of a basis of any ideal $I$.

Cichoń’s diagram (see [CKP85], [Fre84], [BJ95]) is the following table of 12 cardinals:

$$
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) & \rightarrow & \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) & \rightarrow & \text{cf}(\mathcal{M}) & \rightarrow & \text{cf}(\mathcal{N}) \rightarrow 2^{\aleph_0} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\aleph_1 & \rightarrow & \text{add}(\mathcal{N}) & \rightarrow & \text{add}(\mathcal{M}) & \rightarrow & \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \text{non}(\mathcal{N}) \\
\end{array}
$$

The arrows show provable inequalities between these cardinals, such as

$$\aleph_1 = \text{non(countable)} \leq \text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \leq 2^{\aleph_0} = \text{cov}(\text{countable}).$$

In addition to the inequalities indicated it is also known that $\text{add}(\mathcal{M}) = \min(b, \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}))$ and $\text{cf}(\mathcal{M}) = \max(b, \text{non}(\mathcal{M}))$.

For any two of these cardinals, say $\tau$ and $\eta$, the relation $\tau \leq \eta$ is provable in ZFC if and only if this relation can be seen in the diagram. However, the question how many of these cardinals can be different in a single ZFC-universe is still open.

Some models of partial answers to this question are constructed in [Mej13] and [FGKS15]. In this paper, we will construct a model, so far unknown, where the following strict inequalities hold:

$$\omega_1 < \text{add}(\mathcal{N}) < \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) < b < \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) < \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = 2^{\aleph_0}$$

Moreover, the values of these cardinals can be quite arbitrary.

2. Informal Overview

2.1. Increasing $\text{add}(\mathcal{N})$. Assume for simplicity that GCH holds. For any regular uncountable cardinal $\kappa$ there is a natural way to force $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa$, namely a finite support iteration $(P_\alpha, \dot{Q}_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa)$ of length $\kappa$, where in each step $\alpha$ the forcing $\dot{Q}_\alpha$ will be amoeba forcing $A$, which will

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 03E17, 03E35, 03E40.

Key words and phrases. Forcing; eventually different reals; Cichoń’s diagram; finite support iteration.

This work was partially supported by European Research Council grant 338821. The first and second authors were supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) P24725-N25 (first author), P23875-N13 and I1272-N25 (second author) and they were partially supported by the National Science Foundation under grant DMS-1101597. Publication 1066 on Shelah’s list.
add an amoeba real $\eta_\alpha$; this real will code a null set $N_\alpha$ that covers not only all reals from $V^{P_\alpha}$ but even the union of all Borel null sets whose code is in $V^{P_\alpha}$. The final model $V^{P_{\kappa_{ct}}}$ will satisfy the following:

- (as $\kappa$ is regular:) Every small (i.e., of size $< \kappa$) family of (Borel) null sets will be added before stage $\kappa$; hence its union will be covered by one of the sets $N_\alpha$. So $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \geq \kappa$.
- The union of all $N_\alpha$ contains all reals and is in particular not of measure zero; hence also $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \kappa$.

This model will of course also satisfy $2^{\aleph_0} = \kappa$. If we are given two regular cardinals $\kappa_{an}$ and $\kappa_{ct}$ (we write $\kappa_{an}$ to indicate that this cardinal is intended to be the additivity of null sets, and $\kappa_{ct}$ for the intended size of the continuum), then we can construct a ccc forcing notion $P$ satisfying

$$\kappa_{an} = \text{add}(\mathcal{N}) < 2^{\aleph_0} = \kappa_{ct}$$

as the finite support limit of a finite support iteration $(P_\alpha, Q_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa_{ct})$ as follows:

- For each $\alpha < \kappa_{ct}$ we choose a $P_\alpha$-name $X_\alpha$ of a family of Borel measure zero sets (or really: Borel codes of measure zero sets) of size $< \kappa_{an}$.
- We find a (name for a) ZFC-model $M_\alpha$ of size $< \kappa_{an}$ which is forced to include $X_\alpha$. We then let $Q_\alpha$ be the $P_\alpha$-name for $\mathcal{A} \cap M_\alpha$.
  (So $Q_\alpha$ is the $P_\alpha$-name for amoeba forcing in some small model containing $X_\alpha$, where “small” means of size $< \kappa_{an}$ in $V^{P_{\alpha}}$.)
- The generic null set $N_\alpha$ added by $Q_\alpha$ will cover the union of all measure zero sets in $X_\alpha$. If we choose the sets $X_\alpha$ appropriately (using a bookkeeping argument), we can ensure that in $V^{P_{\kappa_{ct}}}$ every union of $< \kappa_{an}$ null sets will be a null set; this shows that $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \geq \kappa_{an}$.

The union of all null sets coded in the intermediate model $V^{P_{\kappa_{an}}}$ (equivalently, the union $\bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa_{an}} N_\alpha$, where we view the $N_\alpha$ as given by Borel codes that are to be interpreted in the final model $V^{P_{\kappa_{ct}}}$) will be non-null in the final model, witnessing $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \kappa_{an}$.

This method of using small subposets of classical forcing notions is well known, see for example [JS90] and [Bre91].

2.2. Increasing $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N})$, $b$, non$(\mathcal{M})$. In a similar way we could construct a model where $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N})$ is large. The natural choice for an iterand $Q_\alpha$ would be random forcing.

If we want to get $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{cn} < \kappa_{ct} = 2^{\aleph_0}$, we could use a finite support iteration of length $\kappa_{ct}$ where each iterand $Q_\alpha$ is the random forcing $B$ from a small submodel of the intermediate model $V^{P_{\kappa_{cn}}}$. Standard bookkeeping will ensure that the resulting model satisfies $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \geq \kappa_{cn}$.

We can also ensure that the final model $V^{P_{\kappa_{ct}}}$ will not contain any random reals over the intermediate model $V^{P_{\kappa_{cn}}}$; thus we also have $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \kappa_{cn}$.

Replacing random forcing with Hechler forcing $D$, we can get a model where the cardinal $b$ has an intermediate value.

Finally, there is a canonical forcing that will increase $\text{non}(\mathcal{M})$, the forcing $E$ which adds an “eventually different real”. Since the properties of this forcing notion will play a crucial role in our arguments, we give an explicit definition.

**Definition 2.1.** The elements of the forcing notion $E$ are pairs $p = (s, \varphi) = (s^i, \varphi^i)$ where $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$ and there is some $w \in \omega$ such that $\varphi$ is a function $\varphi : \omega \rightarrow [\omega]^{\leq w}$ satisfying $s(i) \notin \varphi(i)$ for all $i \in \text{dom}(s)$. The minimal such $w$ will be called the width of $\varphi$, written $w^p = \text{width}(\varphi)$.

A function $f : \omega \rightarrow \omega$ is compatible with a condition $(s, \varphi)$ if $s$ is an initial segment of $f$, and $f(i) \notin \varphi(i)$ holds for all $i$.

Our intention is that there will be a “generic” function $g$, such that each condition $p$ forces that $g$ is compatible with $p$. Motivated by this intention, we define $(s', \varphi') \leq (s, \varphi)$ by

- $s \subseteq s'$,
- $\forall i \in \omega : \varphi(i) \subseteq \varphi'(i)$.

Letting $g$ be the name for $\bigcup \{s : (s, \varphi) \in G\}$, the following properties are easy to check:

---

1 Another way to say this is that the reals in $\omega^\omega \cap V^{P_{\kappa_{an}}}$ are not localized by a single slalom from $S(\omega, \mathcal{H})$, see Example 3.4(4)
Remark 2.2.  
(1) \((s, \varphi)\) indeed forces that \(g\) is compatible with \((s, \varphi)\).

(2) If we change the definition by requiring \(\varphi\) to be defined on \(\omega \setminus \text{dom}(s)\) only (and adding the condition \(s'(i) \notin \varphi(i)\) in the definition of \(\leq_E\)), we get an equivalent forcing notion which is moreover separative.

(3) Our forcing \(E\) is an inessential variant of usual “eventually different” forcing notion in [Mil81].

2.3. Putting things together. Assume again GCH, and let \(\aleph_1 \leq \kappa_{an} \leq \kappa_{cn} \leq \kappa_b \leq \kappa_{nm} \leq \kappa_{ct}\).

We want to construct a ccc iteration \(P\) such that \(P\) forces
\[
\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{an}, \quad \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{cn}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \kappa_b, \quad \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) = \kappa_{nm}, \quad \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = 2^{\kappa_0} = \kappa_{ct}.
\]

A naïve approach would use an iteration of length \(\kappa_{ct}\) in which all iterands are “small” versions of Amoeba forcing, random forcing, Hechler forcing and eventually different forcing. Here,

- “small Amoeba” would mean: Amoeba forcing from a model of size \(< \kappa_{an}\),
- “small random” would mean: random forcing from a model smaller than \(\kappa_{cn}\),
- “small Hechler” would mean: Hechler forcing from a model smaller than \(\kappa_b\),
- “small eventually different” would mean: eventually different forcing from a model smaller than \(\kappa_{nm}\).

If we use suitable bookkeeping, such an iteration will ensure that all the cardinals considered are at least their desired value. For example, every small family \(F\) of null sets (i.e., of Borel codes of null sets) will appear in an intermediate model, and the bookkeeping strategy will ensure that \(F\) was considered at some stage \(\alpha\). The amoeba null set added in stage \(\alpha + 1\) will cover all null sets coded in \(F\). Similar arguments work for the other cardinal characteristics. Moreover, we could explicitly add Cohen reals cofinally, or use the fact that any finite support iteration adds Cohen reals in every limit step, to conclude that \(\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) \geq \kappa_{ct}\).

That is, the final model will satisfy
\[
\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \geq \kappa_{an}, \quad \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \geq \kappa_{cn}, \quad \mathbf{b} \geq \kappa_b, \quad \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) \geq \kappa_{nm}, \quad 2^{\kappa_0} \geq \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) \geq \kappa_{ct}.
\]

Using well-known iteration theorems (see [JS90], [Bre91], [BJ95, Section 6], or the summary of [Mej13, Section 2] reviewed in Section 3) we can conclude that

- the union of the family of null sets added in the first \(\kappa_{an}\) steps still is not a null set in the final model,
- there is no random real over the model \(V^{P_{\kappa_{cn}}}\),
- the reals from the model \(V^{P_{\kappa_{nm}}}\) are still nonmeager,
- the iteration does not add more than \(\kappa_{ct}\) reals.

So we also get
\[
\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \kappa_{an}, \quad \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \kappa_{cn}, \quad \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) \leq \kappa_{nm}, \quad 2^{\kappa_0} \leq \kappa_{ct}.
\]

However, it is not immediately obvious that the reals from the model \(V^{P_{\kappa_b}}\) stay an unbounded family, or more explicitly: that the eventually different forcing does not add an upper bound to this family. Indeed, it is consistent that a small sub-po of \(E\) (even one of the form \(E \cap M\) for some model \(M\)) adds a dominating real, see [Paw92].

The full forcing \(E\), on the other hand, preserves unbounded families, see [Mil81].

A variant of this construction sketched above, where the full forcing \(E\) is used rather than small subsets of \(E\), would preserve the unboundedness of a \(\kappa_b\)-sized family and hence guarantee \(\mathbf{b} = \kappa_b\), at the cost of raising the value of \(\text{non}(\mathcal{M})\) to \(\kappa_{ct}\).

Another variant is described in [Mej13, Theorem 3]: An iteration of length \(\kappa_{ct} \cdot \kappa_{nm}\) (ordinal product) in which the full \(E\) forcings are used will yield a model of
\[
\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{an}, \quad \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{cn}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \kappa_b, \quad \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) = \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{nm}, \quad 2^{\kappa_0} = \kappa_{ct}.
\]

In this paper we want to additionally get \(\text{non}(\mathcal{M}) = \kappa_{nm} < \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \mathbf{c} = \kappa_{ct}\), so it seems necessary to use small subposets of \(E\).

The main point in the following section is to ensure that we will preserve an unbounded family of size \(\kappa_b\) in our iteration.
2.4. **Ultrafilters help us decide.** The actual construction that we will use will be given in section 6. It will be an iteration of length $\kappa_{cl} \cdot \kappa_{mn}$ (ordinal product), where in each coordinate a “small” forcing is added, as described above: an amoeba forcing of size $< \kappa_{an}$, etc.

For notational convenience we will start in a ground model where we already have an unbounded family $F = \{ f_i : i < \kappa_b \}$. Moreover we will assume that every subfamily of size $\kappa_b$ is again unbounded.

To simplify the presentation in this section, we will consider an iteration adding small $E$ reals only. We will sketch how to construct such an iteration that does not destroy the unboundedness of $F$. Adding other “small” forcings to the iteration will not be a problem, as all these forcings will be smaller than $\kappa_b$; only the small $E$ forcing notions may be of size $\geq \kappa_b$. A detailed proof is given in Main Lemma 4.6.

Now assume that our iteration $(P_\alpha, \dot{Q}_\alpha : \alpha < \delta)$ has finite support limit $P_\delta$, and that there is a $P_\delta$-name $\dot{g}$ of a function which bounds all $f_\alpha$. We can find a family of conditions $(p_i : i < \kappa)$ and natural number $m_i$ such that

$$p_i \Vdash \forall n \geq m_i : f_i(n) \leq \dot{g}(n).$$

By thinning out our family we may assume that all $m_i$ are equal, and for notational simplicity we will moreover assume they are all 0.

Moreover, we may assume that the $p_i$ form a $\Delta$-system satisfying a few extra uniformity conditions (i.e., they behave quite uniformly on the root).

We now choose a countable subset $i_0 < i_1 < \cdots$ of $\kappa$ and some $\ell$ such that $f_{i_\ell}(\ell) \geq k$ for all $k$ (this is possible, as otherwise our family $(f_{i})_{i < \kappa_b}$ would be bounded). Again assume without loss of generality $\ell = 0$, and $i_k = k$ for all $k$.

We now have a *countable* $\Delta$-system of conditions $(p_k)_{k < \omega}$ in $P_\delta$, where $p_k \Vdash g(0) \geq f_k(0)$ for all $k$.

If we can now find a $P_\delta$-name $D_\delta$ of a non-principal ultrafilter and a condition $q$ such that

$$q \Vdash_{P_\delta} \{ k : p_k \in G_\delta \} \in D_\delta,$$

then we have our desired contradiction, as already the empty condition forces that the set $\{ k : p_k \in G_\delta \}$ is finite, and in fact $f_k(0)$ is bounded by the number $g(0)$ for any $k$ in this set.

To get this ultrafilter $D_\delta$ at the end of the proof, we need some preparations when we set up the iteration. The name $D_\delta$ will of course depend on the countable sequence $(p_k)_{k < \omega}$, but not very much; we will partition the set of all such sequences into a small family $(\Lambda_{\ell} : \ell < \kappa_{mn})$ of sets, and for each element $\Lambda_{\ell}$ of this small family we will define a name for an ultrafilter that will work for all countable $\Delta$-systems (coded) in $\Lambda_{\ell}$.

2.5. **Ultrafilter limits in $E$.**

**Definition 2.3.** Let $D$ be an ultrafilter on $\omega$.

For each sequence $\bar{A} = \langle A_k \rangle_{k < \omega}$ of subsets of $\omega$ we define $\lim_D \bar{A} \subseteq \omega$ by taking the pointwise limit of the characteristic functions, or in other words:

$$n \in \lim_D \bar{A} \Leftrightarrow \{ k : n \in A_k \} \in D.$$

If $\bar{\varphi} = \langle \varphi_k \rangle_{k < \omega}$ is a sequence of slaloms (i.e., each $\varphi_k$ is a function from $\omega$ to $[\omega]^{< \omega}$), then we define $\psi := \lim_D \bar{\varphi}$ as the function with domain $\omega$ satisfying

$$\psi(n) = \lim_D \langle \varphi_k(n) \rangle_{k < \omega}.$$

In general the ultrafilter limit of a sequence of slaloms may contain infinite sets. However, the following fact gives a sufficient condition for bounding the size of the sets in the ultrafilter limit.

**Fact 2.4.** If $\bar{A} = \langle A_k \rangle_{k < \omega}$ is a sequence of subsets of $\omega$, $b \in \omega$, and all $A_k$ satisfy $|A_k| \leq b$, then also $\lim_D \bar{A}$ will have cardinality at most $b$.

Similarly, if $\bar{\varphi} = \langle \varphi_k \rangle_{k < \omega}$ is a sequence of slaloms with the property that there is a number $b$ with $|\varphi_k(n)| \leq b$ for all $k$, $n$, then also $\lim_D \bar{\varphi}$ will be a slalom consisting of sets of size $\leq b$. 

**Definition 2.5.** Let $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$, $w < \omega$, $D$ a non-principal ultrafilter on $\omega$ and $\vec{p} = \langle p_k \rangle_{k<\omega}$ a sequence of conditions in $E$ where $p_k = (s, \varphi_k)$ for some slalom $\varphi_k$ of width $\leq w$. The $D$-limit of $\vec{p}$ in $E$, is defined as the condition $(s, \lim_D \varphi_k)_{k<\omega}$.

To explain the connection between a sequence $\vec{p} = \langle p_k \rangle_{k<\omega}$ and its ultrafilter limit, we point out the following fact. A stronger version will be proved in Claim 5.3.

**Fact 2.6.** Let $M$ be a small model. Let $D$ be an ultrafilter with $D \cap M \in M$, let $Q = E \cap M$, $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$ and let $m^* < \omega$.

Let $\vec{\varphi} = \langle \varphi_k \rangle_{k<\omega}$ be a sequence of slaloms of width bounded by $m^*$ and assume $\vec{\varphi} \in M$.

Then the $D$-limit $q$ of the sequence $\vec{p} = \langle p_k \rangle_{k<\omega} = \langle (s, \varphi_k) \rangle_{k<\omega}$ satisfies

- $q \in E \cap M$.
- $q$ forces in $Q$ that the set $\{ k < \omega \mid p_k \in G \}$ is infinite.

**Proof.** It is clear that $q \in E$. Since $M$ contains both the sequence $\vec{p}$ and the set $D \cap M$, we can compute $\lim_D \vec{p}$ in $M$, hence $q \in M$.

Now assume that some $q' \leq q$ forces that $\{ k < \omega \mid p_k \in G \}$ is bounded by some $k_s$, so $q$ is incompatible with all $p_k$, $k > k_s$.

For each $i \in \text{dom}(s^{q'})$ we have $s(i) \notin \varphi^q(i)$, so the set $B_i := \{ k < \omega \mid s(i) \notin \varphi_k(i) \}$ is in $D$. Let $k \in \bigcap_{i \in \text{dom}(s^{q'})} B_i$ be larger than $k_s$. Then $q'$ and $p_k$ are compatible. \qed

3. BACKGROUND ON PRESERVATION PROPERTIES

For reader’s convenience, we recall the preservation properties summarized in [Mej13, Sect. 2] which will be applied in the proof of the Main Theorem 6.1. These preservation properties were developed for fsi of ccc posets by Judah and Shelah [JS90], with improvements by Brendle [Bre91]. These are summarized and generalized in [Go93] and in [BJ95, Sect. 6.4 and 6.5].

**Context 3.1.** Fix an increasing sequence $\langle n \rangle_{n<\omega}$ of 2-place closed relations (in the topological sense) in $\omega^\omega$ such that, for any $n < \omega$ and $g \in \omega^\omega$, $\langle n \rangle^g = \{ f \in \omega^\omega \mid f(n) = g(n) \}$ is (closed) nwd (nowhere dense).

Put $\square = \bigcup_{n<\omega} \langle n \rangle$. Therefore, for every $g \in \omega^\omega$, $\langle \square \rangle^g$ is an $F_\sigma$ meager set.

For $f, g \in \omega^\omega$, say that $g \sqsubseteq \sigma$-dominates $f$ if $f \subseteq g$. $F \subseteq \omega^\omega$ is a $\square$-unbounded family if no function in $\omega^\omega$ $\square$-dominates all the members of $F$. Associate with this notion the cardinal $\mathfrak{b}_\square$, which is the least size of a $\square$-unbounded family. Dually, say that $C \subseteq \omega^\omega$ is a $\square$-dominating family if any real in $\omega^\omega$ is $\square$-dominated by some member of $C$. The cardinal $\mathfrak{d}_\square$ is the least size of a $\square$-dominating family.

Given a set $Y$, say that a real $f \in \omega^\omega$ is $\square$-unbounded over $Y$ if $f \not\subseteq g$ for every $g \in Y \cap \omega^\omega$.

It is clear that $\mathfrak{b}_\square \leq \text{non}(M)$ and $\text{cov}(M) \leq \mathfrak{d}_\square$.

Context 3.1 is defined for $\omega^\omega$ for simplicity, but in general, the same notions apply by changing the space for the domain or the codomain of $\square$ to another uncountable Polish space whose members can be coded by reals in $\omega^\omega$.

From now on, fix $\theta$ an uncountable regular cardinal.

**Definition 3.2.** (Judah and Shelah [JS90], [BJ95, Def. 6.4.4]). A forcing notion $\mathbb{P}$ is $\theta$-$\square$-good if the following property holds:\footnote{[BJ95, Def. 6.4.4] has a different formulation, which is equivalent to our formulation for $\theta$-cc posets (recall that $\theta$ is uncountable regular). See [Mej13, Lemma 2] for details.}

For any $\mathbb{P}$-name $\dot{h}$ for a real in $\omega^\omega$, there exists a nonempty $Y \subseteq \omega^\omega$ (in the ground model) of size $\theta$ such that, for any $f \in \omega^\omega$ $\square$-unbounded over $Y$, $\Vdash f \not\subseteq \dot{h}$.

Say that $\mathbb{P}$ is $\square$-good if it is $\aleph_1$-$\square$-good.

This is a standard property associated to preserve $\mathfrak{b}_\square$ small and $\mathfrak{d}_\square$ large through forcing extensions that have the property. $F \subseteq \omega^\omega$ is $\theta$-$\square$-unbounded if, for any $X \subseteq \omega^\omega$ of size $\theta$, there exists an $f \in F$ which is $\square$-unbounded over $X$. It is clear that, if $F$ is such a family, then $\mathfrak{b}_\square \leq |F|$ and $\theta \leq \mathfrak{d}_\square$. On the other hand, $\theta$-$\square$-good posets preserve, in any generic extension, $\theta$-$\square$-unbounded families of the ground model and, if $\lambda \geq \theta$ is a cardinal and $\mathfrak{d}_\square \geq \lambda$ in the
ground model, then this inequality is also preserved in any generic extension (see, e.g., [BJ95, Lemma 6.4.8]). It is also known (from [JS90]) that the property of Definition 3.2 is preserved under fsi of $\theta$-cc posets. Also, for posets $P < Q$, if $Q$ is $\theta$-$\square$-good, then so is $P$.

**Lemma 3.3** ([Mej13, Lemma 4]). Any poset of size $\theta$ is $\theta$-$\square$-good. In particular, Cohen forcing is $\square$-good.

**Example 3.4.** (1) Preserving non-meager sets: For $f, g \in \omega^\omega$ and $n < \omega$, define $f =_n g$ iff $\forall k \geq n (f(k) \neq g(k))$, so $f = g$ iff $f$ and $g$ are eventually different, that is, $\forall k < \omega(f(k) \neq g(k))$.

Recall form [BJ95, Thm. 2.4.1 and 2.4.7] that $\delta$ is $\kappa$-$\square$-good. Random forcing $B$ is also $\leq^* \square$-good because it is $\omega^\omega$-bounding. But, as discussed in Section 2, subposes of both may add dominating reals.

(2) Preserving unbounded families: For $f, g \in \omega^\omega$, define $f \leq^*_n g$ iff $\forall k \geq n (f(k) \leq g(k))$, so $f \leq^* g$ iff $\forall k < \omega (f(k) \leq g(k))$. Clearly, $\mathfrak{b}_\leq^*$ and $\mathfrak{d}_\leq^*$. Miller [Mil81] proved that $E$ is $\leq^* \square$-good.

(3) Preserving null-covering families: Let $\langle I_k \rangle_{k < \omega}$ be the interval partition of $\omega$ such that $|I_k| = 2^{k+1}$ for all $k < \omega$. For $n < \omega$ and $f, g \in 2^n$ define $\forall_n g \Leftrightarrow \forall_{k \geq n} (f(k) \neq g(I_k))$, so $f \forall_n g \Leftrightarrow \forall_{k < \omega} (f(k) \neq g(I_k))$. Clearly, $\langle \forall_n \rangle^8$ is a co-null $F_\sigma$ meager set. This relation is related to the covering-uniformity of measure because $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \leq b_\leq^*$ and $\mathfrak{d}_\leq^* \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{N})$ (see [Mej13, Lemma 7]).

It is known from [Bre91, Lemma 1*] that, given an infinite cardinal $\nu < \theta$, every $\nu$-centered forcing notion is $\theta$-$\square$-good.

(4) Preserving “union of non-null sets is non-null”: Fix $H := \{ id^{k+1}/k < \omega \}$ (where $id^{k+1}(i) = i^{k+1}$) and let $S(\omega, H) = \{ \psi : \omega \rightarrow [\omega]^{<\omega} / \exists h \in H \forall i < \omega(|\psi(i)| \leq h(i)) \}$. For $n < \omega$, $x \in \omega^\omega$ and a slalom $\psi \in S(\omega, H)$, put $x \in^*_n \psi$ iff $\forall k \geq n (x(k) \in \psi(k))$, so $x \in^* \psi$ iff $\forall k < \omega (x(k) \in \psi(k))$. By Bartoszyński’s characterization [BJ95, Thm. 2.3.9] applied to $id$ and to a function $g$ that dominates all the functions in $H$, add$(\mathcal{N}) = b_\leq^*$, and $\text{cf}(\mathcal{N}) = \mathfrak{d}_\leq^*$.

Judah and Shelah [JS90] proved that, given an infinite cardinal $\nu < \theta$, every $\nu$-centered forcing notion is $\theta$-$\leq^*$-good. Moreover, as a consequence of results of Kamburelis [Kam89], any subalgebra$^3$ of $B$ is $\leq^*$-good.

For a relation $\square$ as in Context 3.1, the following practical results present facts about adding Cohen reals that form strong $\square$-unbounded families.

**Lemma 3.5.** Let $(P_\alpha)_{\alpha < \delta}$ be a $<\alpha$-increasing sequence of ccc posets where $P_\theta = \text{limdir}_{\alpha < \theta} P_\alpha$. Assume that $P_{\alpha+1}$ adds a Cohen real $c_\alpha$ over $V^{P_\alpha}$ for all $\alpha < \theta$. Then, $P_\theta$ forces that $\langle c_\alpha / \alpha < \theta \rangle$ is a $\theta$-$\square$-unbounded family.

**Corollary 3.6.** Let $\delta \geq \theta$ be an ordinal and $P_\delta = \langle P_\alpha, \dot{Q}_\alpha \rangle_{\alpha < \delta}$ a fsi such that, for $\alpha < \delta$,

(i) $P_\alpha$ forces that $\dot{Q}_\alpha$ is $\theta$-$\square$-good and

(ii) when $\alpha < |\delta|$, $P_{\alpha+1}$ adds a Cohen real over $V^{P_\alpha}$.

Then, $P_\delta$ forces

(a) $b_\leq \leq \theta$ and

(b) $\mathfrak{d}_\leq \geq |\delta|$.

**Proof.** By (ii) and Lemma 3.5, for any $\nu \in [\theta, |\delta|]$ regular, $P_\nu$ adds a $\nu$-$\square$-unbounded family of size $\nu$ (of Cohen reals), which is preserved to be $\nu$-$\square$-unbounded in $V^{P_\delta}$ by (i). Therefore, $P_\delta$ forces $b_\leq \leq \nu \leq d_\leq$ for any regular $\nu \in [\theta, |\delta|]$, so $b_\leq \leq \theta$ and $|\delta| \leq d_\leq$.  

4. Iteration candidates

We describe, in a general way, the type of iterations and the characteristics and elements it may have in order to preserve unbounded families of a certain size. Fix, in this section, an uncountable regular cardinal $\kappa_b$ (which represents the size of an unbounded family we want to preserve).

---

$^3$Here, $B$ is seen as the complete Boolean algebra of Borel sets (in $2^\omega$) modulo the null ideal.
For our main result (Theorem 6.1), as described in the introduction, we may use a fsi alternating between small ccc posets and subposets of E and find an iteration where we can preserve an unbounded family of a desired size (κb). We describe, in general, such iterations as follows.

**Definition 4.1.** An iteration candidate \( q \) consists of

(i) an ordinal \( δ_q \) (the length of the iteration) partitioned into two sets \( S_q \) and \( C_q \) (the first set represent the coordinates where a subposet of E is used, while the second set corresponds to the coordinates where small ccc posets are used),

(ii) ordinals \( \langle Q_{q,α} / α ∈ C_q \rangle \) less that \( κ_b \) (the domains of the small ccc posets),

(iii) a fsi \( \langle P_{q,α}, Q_{q,α} / α < δ_q \rangle \) and a sequence \( \langle P'_{q,α} / α ∈ S_q \rangle \) such that

- for \( α ∈ S_q \), \( P'_{q,α} ⊆ P_{q,α} \) and \( Q_{q,α} \) is a \( P'_{q,α} \)-name for \( E^V \)

- for \( α ∈ C_q \), \( Q_{q,α} \) is a \( P_{q,α} \)-name of a ccc poset whose domain is \( Q_{q,α} \).

The subindex \( q \) may be omitted when it is obvious from the context.

For each \( α ≤ δ_q \), consider the set \( P'_{q,α} = P'_{α} \) of conditions \( p ∈ P_{α} \) that satisfy:

- if \( ϵ ∈ \text{supp}(p) ∩ C \) then \( p(ϵ) \) is an ordinal in \( Q_{α} \) (not just a name)

- if \( ϵ ∈ \text{supp}(p) ∩ S \), then \( p(ϵ) \) is of the form \( (s, ϕ) \) where \( s ∈ ω^ω \) (not just a name), \( ϕ \) is a \( P_{C} \)-name of a slalom (not just a \( P_{C} \)-name of a slalom in \( V^{P_{C}} \) and \( width(ϕ) \) is decided, that is, there is an \( n < ω \) such that \( l_{P_{C}} n = width(ϕ) \)

It is easy to prove (by induction on \( α \)) that \( P'_{α} \) is in dense in \( P_{α} \).

For \( α ≤ δ_q \), \( q|α \) denotes the iteration \( q \) restricted up to \( α \), so \( δ_{q|α} = α \). Clearly, \( q|α \) is an iteration candidate.

The beginning of the proof of Main Lemma 4.6 shows a typical argument with a \( ∆ \)-system to prove that an iteration candidate preserves an unbounded family of size \( κ_b \) (as sketched in Subsection 2.4). Therefore, in order to extend Miller’s compactness argument [Mil81] to fsi, we start by coding the relevant elements of countable \( ∆ \)-systems of iteration candidates by stem sequences, as it is described below.

**Definition 4.2.** Let \( α^* \) be an ordinal. A stem sequence \( x ∈ SS_{α^*} \) (of a countable \( ∆ \)-system) consists of

(i) a countable set of ordinals \( w_x ⊆ α^* ∪ κ_b \) (where the relevant information of the coded \( ∆ \)-system lives),

(ii) a natural number \( l_x^* \) (the size of the support of the conditions in the coded \( ∆ \)-system) partitioned into two sets \( v_x S \) and \( v_x C \) (the first set indicate the position of coordinates where a subposet of E is used, while the second set corresponds to the positions where small ccc posets are used),

(iii) a subset \( v_x \) of \( l_x^* \) (the set of positions of the coordinates of the root of the \( ∆ \)-system),

(iv) a subset \( \{α_{x,k,l} / k < ω, l < l_x^* \} \) of \( w_x \) satisfying: \( \{α_{x,k,l} / l < l_x^* \} \) is a \( ∆ \)-system with root \( ∆_x = \{α_{x,l}^* / l ∈ v_x \} \) where, for \( l ∈ v_x \) and \( k < ω \), \( α_{x,k,l} = α_{x,l}^* \); moreover, \( α_{x,k,l} / l < l_x^* \) is an increasing enumeration for each \( k < ω \) and \( ⟨α_{x,k,l} / k < ω⟩ \) is increasing\(^4\) for each \( l ∈ l_x^* \setminus v_x \),

(v) ordinals \( ⟨γ_{x,k,l} / k < ω, l ∈ v_x C⟩ \) (the sequence of ordinals used at the \( k \)-th position of the \( k \)-th condition of the \( ∆ \)-system) and \( ⟨γ_{x,l}^* / l ∈ v_x ∩ v_x C⟩ \) in \( κ_b ∩ ω^ω \) such that \( γ_{x,k,l} = γ_{x,l}^* \) for all \( l ∈ v_x ∩ v_x C \) and \( k < ω \) (that is, the ordinals used at the positions of the root are the same for all \( k \)),

(vi) a sequence \( ⟨δ_{x,l}^* / l ∈ v_x S⟩ \) of objects from \( ω^ω \) (the sequence of stems used at the \( l \)-th position of a condition, which is the same for all the conditions in the \( ∆ \)-system) and

(vii) a sequence \( n_{x} = ⟨n_{x,l}^* / l ∈ v_x S⟩ \) of natural numbers (the sequences of widths of slaloms at the \( l \)-th position of a condition in the \( ∆ \)-system).

When there is no place to confusion, we may omit the subindex \( x \) for the objects of a stem sequence.

\(^4\)This is only needed for the proof of Claim 5.5.
If $q$ is an iteration candidate of length $\delta$, then every sufficiently uniform countable $\Delta$-system $\bar{p} = (p_k)_{k<\omega}$ from $P^*_{\delta}$ will define a stem sequence. But not every stem sequence is realized by some sequence of conditions from $P^*_\delta$. In the next definition we give a sufficient condition for a stem sequence to be realized by an iteration, and we explain how this stem sequence gives partial information about a sequence of conditions.

**Definition 4.3.** A stem sequence $x \in \text{SS}_{\alpha^*}$ (as in Definition 4.2) is *legal* for an iteration candidate $q$ (as in Definition 4.1) if the following hold for each $k < \omega$ and $l < l^*$ such that $\alpha_{k,l} < \delta = \delta_q$:

1. $\alpha_{k,l} \in C$ if $l \in vC$.
2. If $l \in vC$ then $\gamma_{k,l} < Q_{\alpha_{k,l}}$.

In this case, define $P^*_q[x]$ the set of sequences $(p_k)_{k<\omega}$ of conditions in $P^*_\delta$ such that

- $\text{supp}(p_k) = \{\alpha_{k,l} / l \leq l^*\} \cap \delta$,
- if $\xi = \alpha_{k,l} \in \text{supp}(p_k) \cap C$ then $p_k(\xi) = \gamma_{k,l}$ and
- if $\xi = \alpha_{k,l} \in \text{supp}(p_k) \cap S$ then $p_k(\xi) = (s^*_\xi, \varphi_{k,l})$ where $\varphi_{k,l}$ is a $P^*_\xi$-name of a slalom of width $n^*_\xi$.

Note that $(\text{supp}(p_k))_{k<\omega}$ forms a $\Delta$-system.

In the case $\text{supp}(p_k) \cap \delta = \delta_q$ -name of a slalom in $P^*_\delta$. This limit can be found by an ultrafilter limit on the slaloms from an ultrafilter $\mathcal{D}$. This limit can be found by an ultrafilter limit on the slaloms from an ultrafilter $\mathcal{D}$. Therefore, there is an ultrafilter in the extension that contains $D$ as well as all sets of the form $A_p := \{k < \omega / p_k \in G\}$ ($G$ is the $E$-generic filter) for such a sequence $\bar{p} = (p_k)_{k<\omega}$ with limit $q$ in $G$. To extend this argument to an iteration candidate, we define a kind of ultrafilter limit of a countable $\Delta$-system that matches a given stem sequence.

**Definition 4.4.** Let $q$ be an iteration candidate and $x \in \text{SS}_{\alpha^*}$ a legal stem sequence for $q$. Say that $D = (D_\alpha)_{\alpha \leq \delta}$ solves $x$ (with respect to $q$) if the following holds for each $\alpha \leq \delta$.

1. $\bar{D}_\alpha$ is a $P^*_\alpha$-name for a non-principal ultrafilter on $\omega$.
2. For $\alpha \in S$, $\models_\alpha \bar{D}_\alpha \cap P(\omega)^{V^\alpha} \in V^{P^\alpha}$.
3. $\alpha < \beta \leq \delta$ implies $\models_\beta \bar{D}_\alpha \subseteq \bar{D}_\beta$.
4. If $\alpha$ contains $\Delta X \cap \delta$ and $(p_k)_{k<\omega} \in P^*_q[x]$, then $q \models_\alpha \{k < \omega / p_k \models_\alpha \in \bar{G}_\alpha \} \in \bar{D}_\alpha$ where $q = \lim \sup \ p_k$, the $D$-limit of $(p_k)_{k<\omega}$, is defined as
   - (i) $\text{supp}(q) = \Delta X \cap \delta$,
   - (ii) if $\xi = \alpha^*_\xi \in \text{supp}(q) \cap C$ then $q(\xi) = \gamma^*_\xi$ and
   - (iii) if $\xi = \alpha^*_\xi \in \text{supp}(q) \cap S$ then $q(\xi) = (s^*_\xi, \psi_{k,l})$ where $\psi_{k,l}$ is a $P^*_\xi$-name of the $D_\xi$-limit of $(\varphi_{k,l})_{k<\omega}$ (here, $p_k(\xi) = (s^*_\xi, \varphi_{k,l})$ for each $k \in \omega$).

As each $\varphi_{k,l}$ is a $P^*_\xi$-name (because $p_k \in P^*_\delta$), by (2), $P^*_\xi$ forces $\psi_{l} \in V^{P^\xi}$ and $q(\xi) \in E \cap V^{P^\xi}$. Therefore, $q$ is a condition in $P^\alpha$. Say that $q$ is a *nice iteration candidate* if any $x \in \text{SS}_\delta$ (with $\delta = \delta_q$) legal for $q$ can be solved by some $D$.

**Remark 4.5.** In (4)(iii) of Definition 4.4, if $\varphi_{k,l}$ were just a $P^*_\xi$-name of a slalom in $V^{P^\xi}$ for each $k < \omega$, we would not be able to guarantee that $\langle \varphi_{k,l} / k < \omega \rangle$ is a sequence in $V^{P^\xi}$, so the ultrafilter limit $\psi_{l}$ and $q(\xi)$ may not be in $V^{P^\xi}$.
On the other hand, in (4), \( q \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha \) but it may not be a condition in \( \mathcal{P}_\alpha^* \) because, in (iii), \( \psi_l \) may not be a \( \mathcal{P}_l^* \)-name. However, for the nice iteration candidate constructed in Theorem 6.1, there is a \( \mathcal{P}_\alpha^* \)-name of \( \mathcal{D}_\alpha \cap V^{\mathcal{P}_\alpha^*} \) for each \( \alpha \in S \), which guarantees that, in (4), \( q \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^* \).

**Main Lemma 4.6.** Let \( B = \{ f_\eta \mid \eta < \kappa_b \} \) be an unbounded family such that, for any \( K \in [\kappa_b]^\kappa_b \), the set \( B|K := \{ f_\eta \mid \eta \in K \} \) is unbounded. Then, any nice iteration candidate preserves the unboundedness of \( B \).

**Proof.** Let \( q \) be a nice iteration candidate as in Definitions 4.1 and 4.4. Towards a contradiction, let \( p \in \mathcal{P}_\delta \) and \( \dot{q} \) be a \( \mathcal{P}_\delta \)-name for a real such that \( p \) forces that \( \dot{q} \) dominates all the functions in \( B \). For each \( \eta < \kappa_b \) choose \( m_\eta < \omega \) and \( p_\eta \leq p \) in \( \mathcal{P}_\delta^* \) such that \( p_\eta \models \delta \forall_{m \geq m_\eta} (f_\eta(m) \leq \dot{g}(m)) \). Let \( u_\eta = \text{supp}(p_\eta) \). By the Delta-system lemma, we can find \( K \in [\kappa_b]^\kappa_b \) such that \( \{ u_\eta \mid \eta \in K \} \) forms a Delta-system. Moreover, we may assume:

(a) There is an \( m^* \) such that \( m_\eta = m^* \) for all \( \eta \in K \).

(b) There is an \( l^* \) such that \( u_\eta = \{ \alpha_{\eta,l} / l \leq l^* \} \) (increasing enumeration) for all \( \eta \in K \).

(c) There is a \( v \subseteq l^* \) such that the root of the Delta-system is \( \{ \alpha_{\eta,l} / l \in v \} \) for any \( \eta \in K \).

(d) For each \( l < l^* \) with \( l \notin v \), \( \langle \alpha_{\eta,l}, \eta \in K \rangle \) is increasing.

(e) There is a \( v_S \subseteq l^* \) such that \( \text{supp}(p_\eta) \cap S = \{ \alpha_{\eta,l} / l \in v_S \} \) for all \( \eta \in K \).

(f) For each \( l \in v \setminus v_S \) there is an ordinal \( \gamma_l^* \) such that \( p_\eta(\alpha_{\eta,l}) = \gamma_l^* \) for all \( \eta \in K \). (Why?)

Recall that the forcing notions \( \mathcal{Q}_\alpha \) with \( \alpha \in C \) live on sets \( \mathcal{Q}_\alpha \) of cardinality \( < \kappa_b \).

(g) For each \( l \in v_S \) there is an \( s_l^* \in \omega^{<\omega} \) and an \( n_l^* < \omega \) such that \( p(\alpha_{\eta,l}) \) is of the form \( (s_l^*, \varphi_{n,l}) \) for all \( \eta \in K \), where \( \varphi_{n,l} \) is a \( \mathcal{P}_\alpha^* \)-name for a slalom of width \( n_l^* \).

In the ground model, we can find an increasing sequence \( \langle \eta_k \rangle_{k<\omega} \) in \( K \) and an \( m \geq m^* \) such that \( \langle f_{\eta_k}(m) / k < \omega \rangle \) is increasing. This is because there is \( m \geq m^* \) and infinitely many \( a \in \omega \) such that \( \{ \eta \in K / f_\eta(m) = a \} \) has size \( \kappa_b \) (if this were not the case, then there is a \( K' \in [\kappa_b]^\kappa_b \) such that \( B|K' \) is bounded, which contradicts the hypothesis).

Now it is easy to find a legal stem sequence \( x \in \mathcal{S}_\delta \) for \( q \) such that \( \bar{p} := \langle p_{\eta_k} \rangle_{k<\omega} \in \mathcal{P}_\delta^{\infty, \omega} \), so there is some \( \bar{D} = (\bar{D}_\alpha)_{\alpha \leq \delta} \) solving \( x \) (as in Definition 4.4). Let \( q = \lim_{\alpha} \bar{D}_\alpha \in \mathcal{P}_\delta \), so

\[
q \models \{ k < \omega / p_{\eta_k} \in \mathcal{G} \} \in \bar{D}_\delta,
\]

which implies that \( q \models \exists_{k<\omega} (f_{\eta_k}(m) \leq \dot{g}(m)) \). This last fact contradicts that \( \langle f_{\eta_k}(m) / k < \omega \rangle \) is increasing.

5. **A Method to Construct Nice Iteration Candidates**

In a very general setting, we show how to construct nice iteration candidates. We then apply this method to build the iteration for our main result.

For a nice iteration candidate, any legal stem sequence has to be solved by some sequence of names of ultrafilters. But recall from Definition 4.4(2) that we want all witnesses \( D_\alpha \) to be in \( V^{\mathcal{P}_\alpha^*} \), and in practice this will be a model of size \( \leq \kappa_{nm} \) (the value we want to force for non\((\mathcal{M})\)).

So we want to have as few such sequences of names of ultrafilters as possible, i.e., each sequence should solve many legal stem sequences. For this purpose, we use the following classical result of Engelking and Karlovič, which essentially says that a product of at most \( 2^\chi \) discrete spaces of size \( \chi \) has a dense set of size \( \chi \) in an appropriate box topology (in our applications, \( \chi \) is between \( \kappa_b \) and \( \kappa_{nm} \)).

**Theorem 5.1** (Engelking and Karlovič [EK65], see also [AY08]). Assume \( \chi^{<\delta} = \chi \), \( \delta < (2^\chi)^+ \) an ordinal and \( \langle A_\alpha \rangle_{\alpha \leq \delta} \) a sequence of sets of size \( \leq \chi \). Then there is a set \( \{ h_\epsilon / \epsilon < \chi \} \subseteq \Pi_{\alpha \leq \delta} A_\alpha \) such that, for any \( x \in \Pi_{\alpha \leq \delta} A_\alpha := \bigcup_{\beta \in [\delta]<\theta} \Pi_{\alpha \in E} A_\alpha \), there is \( \epsilon < \chi \) such that \( x \subseteq h_\epsilon \).

Moreover, \( \Pi_{\alpha \leq \delta} A_\alpha \) can be partitioned into sets \( \langle L^*_\chi \rangle_{\epsilon < \chi} \) such that

(i) if \( x \in L^*_\chi \) then \( x \subseteq h_\epsilon \) and

(ii) for all \( x, y \in L^*_\chi \), dom\( x \) and dom\( y \) have the same order type and the order-preserving isomorphism \( g : \text{dom} x \rightarrow \text{dom} y \) is the identity on \( \text{dom} x \cap \text{dom} y \).

When \( 2^\chi = \chi^+ \), we additionally have
(ii') for all \(x, y \in L^*_\alpha\), dom\(x\) and dom\(y\) have the same order type and dom\(x \cap\) dom\(y\) is an initial segment of both dom\(x\) and dom\(y\).

Fix \(\kappa_b\) as in section 4. Assume \(\kappa_b \leq \chi = \chi^{\aleph_0}\), \(\delta < (2^\chi)^+\) an ordinal and \(\delta = S \cup C\) a disjoint union. For each \(\alpha < \delta\) let \(A_\alpha = \omega^{<\omega} \times \omega\) if \(\alpha \in S\), otherwise, \(A_\alpha = \kappa_b\). Let \(\{h_\alpha \; | \; \epsilon < \chi\}\) and \(\langle L^*_\alpha \rangle_{\epsilon < \chi}\) be as in Theorem 5.1 applied to \(\theta = \aleph_1\). Therefore, we can partition \(S_\delta\) into the sets \(\langle A_\epsilon \rangle_{\epsilon < \chi}\) such that \(x \in A_\epsilon\) if \(z_x \in L^*_\epsilon\), where dom\(z_x\) = \(\{\alpha_{x,k,l} / k < \omega, l < \aleph_1\}\) and, for \(k < \omega\) and \(l < \aleph_1\), \(\langle \alpha_{x,k,l} \rangle = (S^0_k, n_{x,k,l})\), otherwise, \(z_x(\alpha_{x,k,l}) = \gamma_{x,k,l}\) when \(l \in x \cup C\).

Here, \(h_\epsilon\) is seen as a "guardrail" for the countable \(\Delta\)-systems that matches a stem sequence in \(\Lambda_\epsilon\). All conditions following the same guardrail will be compatible with each other. This is because, for an iteration candidate of length \(\delta\) where \(S\) corresponds to the coordinates where subposets of \(E\) are used, if \(\langle p_k \rangle_{k<\omega}\) is a \(\Delta\)-system that matches \(x \in \Delta_\epsilon\), the function \(h_\epsilon\) describes the behavior of each \(p_k\) that is, if \(\zeta \in \text{supp} \; p_k \cap S\), \(p_k(\zeta) = h_\epsilon(\zeta)\) and, if \(\zeta \in S\cap \text{supp} \; p_k\), then \(h_\epsilon(\zeta)\) tells the stem and the width of the slalom corresponding to \(p_k(\zeta)\). All this information depends only on \(\epsilon\) (and the coordinate \(\zeta\)) and all the \(\Delta\)-systems matching stem sequences in \(\Lambda_\epsilon\) are described by the same information.

We show a way to construct, inductively, a nice iteration candidate \(q\) with \(\delta_q = \delta\), \(S_q = S\) and \(C_q = C\) by using the guardrails \(\langle h_\epsilon \; | \; \epsilon < \chi\rangle\). Furthermore, we find \(\langle \bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha} \; | \; \epsilon < \chi, \; \alpha \leq \delta\rangle\) that, for each \(\epsilon < \chi\), \(D^{\epsilon}_{\alpha} := (\bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha})_{\alpha \leq \delta}\) solves all the legal stem sequences of \(\Lambda_\epsilon\).

**Induction basis.** When \(\delta = 0\), choose an arbitrary non-principal ultrafilter \(D^0_\delta\) for each \(\epsilon < \chi\).

**Lemma 5.2** (Successor step). Assume \(\delta = \alpha + 1\). Let \(q[\alpha]\) be a nice iteration candidate of length \(\alpha\) with \(S_{q[\alpha]} = S \cap \alpha\) and let \(\langle \bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha} \; | \; \epsilon < \chi, \; \xi \leq \alpha\rangle\) be such that, for each \(\epsilon < \chi\), \(D^{\epsilon}_{\alpha} = (\bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha})_{\alpha \leq \delta}\) solves all \(x \in SS_{\alpha+1} \cap \Lambda_\epsilon\) that are legal for \(q[\alpha]\). Let \(q\) be an iteration candidate of length \(\delta\) that extends \(q[\alpha]\) such that the following conditions hold.

(i) \(\alpha \in S_q\) iff \(\alpha \in S\).

(ii) In the case \(\alpha \in S\), \(P_\alpha\) forces \(\langle \bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha} \; | \; \epsilon < \chi\rangle\) to be such that, for each \(\epsilon < \chi\), \(D^{\epsilon}_{\alpha+1} = (\bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha})_{\alpha \leq \delta}\) solves all \(x \in SS_{\alpha+1} \cap \Lambda_\epsilon\) that are legal for \(q\).

**Proof.** It is enough to prove the following.

**Claim 5.3.** \(P_{\alpha+1}\) forces that, for any \(\epsilon < \chi\), the family

\[
\hat{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha} = \bigcup \{A_\alpha / \; \bar{p} \in P_{q[\alpha]}^x \cap \alpha \in SS_{\alpha+1} \text{ legal, } \lim\bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha} \; \bar{p} \in G\}
\]

(where \(A_\alpha := \{k < \omega / p_k \in G\}\) for any \(\bar{p} = (p_k)_{k<\omega}\) has the finite intersection property).

**Proof.** In the case \(\alpha \in C\), it is enough to prove that, if \(x \in \Lambda_\epsilon \cap SS_{\alpha+1}\) is legal for \(q\), \(\langle p_k \rangle_{k<\omega} \in P_{q[x]}^x\) and \(q\) is its \(D^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\)-limit, then \(q\) forces (with respect to \(P_{\alpha+1}\)) that \(\{k < \omega / p_k \in G\} \in D^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\). We may assume that \(\alpha \in \text{supp} \; q\) (if not, supp\(p_k \subseteq \alpha\) for all \(k < \omega\) and the claim is straightforward), so \(p_k(\alpha) = q(\alpha) = h_\epsilon(\alpha)\) for all \(k < \omega\). On the other hand, \(q[\alpha]\) forces that \(\{k < \omega / p_k[\alpha] \in G\} \in \hat{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\) (because \(q[\alpha]\) is the \(D^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\)-limit of \(\langle p_k[\alpha] \rangle_{k<\omega}\)), so the conclusion is clear.

Now, assume that \(\alpha \in S\). Let \(i^* < \omega, \; x^i \in \Lambda_\epsilon \cap SS_{\alpha+1}\) legal for \(q\) for \(i < i^*\), \(\langle p_{i,k} \rangle_{k<\omega} \in P_{q[x^i]}^x\), \(q_i = \lim\bar{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}P_{i,k}\), a \(P_\alpha\)-name \(\dot{a}\) of a set in \(\hat{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\), a fixed \(k^* < \omega\) and a condition \(r \in P_{\alpha+1}\) stronger than \(q_i\) for each \(i < i^*\). We find an \(r^* \subseteq r\) in \(P_{\alpha+1}\) and a \(k > k^*\) such that \(r^*\) forces that \(k \in \hat{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\) and \(p_{i,k} \in G\) for some \(i < i^*\). We may assume that \(r(\alpha)\) forces \(\dot{a} \subseteq \bigcap_{k<i^*} \{k < \omega / p_{k}[\alpha] \in G\}\). Without loss of generality, we assume that \(\alpha \in \text{supp} \; q_i\) for all \(i < i^*\), so, if \(h_\epsilon(\alpha) = (s, n)\), then \(p_{i,k}(\alpha) = (s, \dot{\varphi}_{i,k})\) for some \(P_\alpha\)-name of a slalom \(\dot{\varphi}_{i,k}\) of width \(n\) and \(q_i(\alpha) = (s, \dot{\psi}_i)\) where \(\dot{\psi}_i\) is a \(P_\alpha\)-name of the \(\hat{D}^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\)-limit of \(\langle \dot{\varphi}_{i,k} \rangle_{k<\omega}\) (which is forced to be in \(V^{P_{\alpha+1}}\) by (ii)). Let \(G_\alpha\) be \(P_\alpha\)-generic over \(V\) with \(r[\alpha] \in G_\alpha\). In \(V_\alpha = V[G_\alpha]\), let \(r(\alpha) = (t, \psi') \in E \cap V^{P_{\alpha+1}},\) which is stronger than \(q_i(\alpha) = (s, \psi_i)\) for all \(i < i^*\). As \(t(j) \notin \psi_i(j)\) for any \(j < |t|\), then the set \(a_i = \{k < \omega \; | \; \forall j < |t| \neg (t(j) \notin \varphi_{i,k}(j))\} \in D^{\epsilon}_{\alpha}\). So choose \(k > k^*\) in \(a\cap \bigcap_{i<i^*} a_i\) and let \(r^*(\alpha) = (t, \psi')\) where \(\psi'(j) = \psi'(j) \cup \bigcup_{i<i^*} \varphi_{i,k}(j)\) for all \(j < \omega\). Clearly, \(r^*(\alpha)\) is stronger than \(r(\alpha)\) and then \(p_{i,k}(\alpha)\) for all \(i < i^*\). Back in \(V\), let \(r'[\alpha] \leq r[\alpha] \in P_\alpha\) forcing the above statement, so \(r' = r'[\alpha] \cup \{((\alpha, r'([\alpha]))\}\) is as desired.

\(\square\)
Choose $\dot{D}_\alpha^{\alpha+1}$ a $P_{\alpha+1}$-name of an ultrafilter containing the set of the claim.

\textbf{Lemma 5.4 (Limit step).} Assume $\delta$ is a limit ordinal, $q$ is an iteration candidate of length $\delta$ and $(\dot{D}_\alpha^{/}/ \varepsilon < \chi, \alpha < \delta)$ a sequence of $P_\delta$-names such that, for each $\alpha < \delta$ and $\varepsilon < \chi$, $D_\alpha^{\varepsilon}$ solves all $x \in SS_\delta \cap \Lambda_\varepsilon$ that are legal for $q|\alpha$. Then, there are $P_\delta$-names $\langle \dot{D}_\varepsilon^{/}/ \varepsilon < \chi \rangle$ such that, for each $\varepsilon < \chi$, $D_\delta^{\varepsilon} = D_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon} \cap (\dot{D}_\varepsilon^{/})$ solves all $x \in SS_\delta \cap \Lambda_\varepsilon$ that are legal for $q$ (here, $D_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon} = (\dot{D}_\varepsilon^{/})_{\alpha < \delta}$).

\textbf{Proof.} If $\delta$ has uncountable cofinality, let $\dot{D}_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon}$ be a $P_\delta$-name of the ultrafilter $\bigcup_{\varepsilon < \delta} \dot{D}_\varepsilon^{/}$. So assume that $\delta$ has countable cofinality.

\textbf{Claim 5.5.} $P_\delta$ forces that, for any $\varepsilon < \chi$, the family

\[ \bigcup_{\alpha < \delta} \dot{D}_\alpha^{/} \cup \{ A_\bar{p}/ \bar{p} \in P^{\infty}_{q,x}, x \in \Lambda_\varepsilon \cap SS_\delta \text{ legal, } \lim_{D_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon}} \bar{p} \in \dot{G} \} \]

has the finite intersection property.

\textbf{Proof.} Let $\{ x^i / i < i^* \}$ be a finite subset of $\Lambda_\varepsilon \cap SS_\delta$ of legal stem sequences for $q$, $\langle p_{i,k} \rangle_{k < \omega} \in P^{\infty}_{q,x}$, for each $i < i^*$, $q_i = \lim_{D_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon}} p_{i,k}$ and $\dot{\alpha}$ a $P_\varepsilon$-name of a set in $\bigcup_{\varepsilon < \delta} \dot{D}_\varepsilon^{/}$. Let $p \in P_\delta$ be a condition stronger than $q_i$ for all $i < i^*$ and let $k^* < \omega$ be arbitrary. We want to find $p^* \leq p$ and $k > k^*$ such that $p^*$ is stronger than $p_{i,k}$ for all $i < i^*$ and forces $k \in \dot{\alpha}$.

As in the notation of Definition 4.2, for each $i < i^*$ let $w_i = w_i^x$, $l_i^* = l_i^x$, $v_i \in S = v_i$, and so on. For the nontrivial case, we assume that $\supp_{l_i^*, k < \omega} \langle \alpha_{i,k,l} \rangle = \delta$. For each $i < i^*$, let $u_i = \{ l < l_i^* \} / \supp_{l < \omega} \langle \alpha_{i,k,l} \rangle = \delta$ (note that this is an interval of the form $[l_i^*, l_i^*]$ where $l_i^*$ is below the root $\Delta_x = \supp q_i$).

By hypothesis, find $p^* \leq p$ in $P_\alpha$ and $k > k^*$ such that $p^*$ is stronger than $p_{i,k}$ for all $i < i^*$ and forces $k \in \dot{\alpha}$. Moreover, $k$ can be found so that $\alpha_{i,k,l} \alpha > \alpha$ for any $i < i^*$ and $l \in u_i$. Thus, because $E$ is $\sigma$-centered and each $z^x_{i,k} \subseteq h_i$, there is a condition $p^* \leq p' \in P_\delta$ stronger than $p_{i,k}$ for all $i < i^*$. Indeed, $\supp p^* = \supp p' \cup \bigcup_{i < i^*} \supp p_{i,k}$ so $p^*(\zeta) = p'(\zeta)$ for $\zeta \in \supp p^*, p'(\zeta) = p_{i,k}(\zeta) = h_i(\zeta)$ for $\zeta \in \supp p_{i,k} \cap v_i \gamma, \alpha > \alpha$ and $p^*(\zeta) = (s_\zeta, \psi_\zeta)$ for $\zeta \in (\bigcup_{i < i^*} \supp p_{i,k} \cap v_i \gamma)$ and $h_i(\zeta) = (s_\zeta, n_\zeta)$ is a $P_\varepsilon$-name of the slalom given by $\psi(j) = \bigcup (\hat{\psi}_{i,k,l}(j) / \alpha_{i,k,l} = \zeta, l < l_i^*, i < i^*)$. $p^*$ is as desired because, if $\zeta = \alpha_{i,k,l} = \alpha_{i', k', l'}$, then $p_{i,k}(\zeta) = p_{i', k'}(\zeta) = h_i(\zeta)$ and, when $\zeta \in S$, $p_{i,k}(\zeta) = (s_{i', l'}, \hat{\psi}_{i', k', l})$, $p_{i', k'}(\zeta) = (s_{i', l'}, \hat{\psi}_{i', k', l'})$ and $s_{i', l'} = s_{i', l'} = s_\zeta$.

Choose $\dot{D}_\delta^{/}$ a $P_\varepsilon$-name of an ultrafilter that contains the set of the previous claim.

\textbf{Remark 5.6.} In Lemma 5.2, if all the $\dot{D}_\alpha^{/}$ ($\varepsilon < \chi$) are (forced to be) equal to some ultrafilter $\dot{D}_\alpha$, then Claim 5.3 can be similarly proven without fixing $\varepsilon$, that is, $P_{\alpha+1}$ forces that $\dot{D}_\alpha \cup \{ A_\bar{p}/ \bar{p} \in P^{\infty}_{q,x}, x \in SS_{\alpha+1} \text{ legal, } \lim D_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon} \bar{p} \in \dot{G} \}$ has the finite intersection property. Nevertheless, in Lemma 5.4 when $\delta$ is a limit of countable cofinality, the corresponding statement for Claim 5.5 may not be true when all the $\dot{D}_\varepsilon^{/}$ are the same for each $\alpha < \delta$ so, at that point, it becomes necessary to have to alter the definition of ultralimits of filters for each $\varepsilon < \chi$ and Theorem 5.1 must be used to have as few sequences as possible (each one with respect to a guardrail $h_j$).

For instance, let $\delta = \omega$ and $\varepsilon < \chi$ such that $h_\varepsilon$ and $h_\varepsilon'$ are incompatible everywhere, that is, for each $m < \omega$, if $A_m = \kappa_a$ then $\varepsilon m h_\varepsilon(m) \downarrow \kappa_{\varepsilon^m} h_\varepsilon'(m)$ and, when $A_m = \omega^{< \kappa} \times \omega$, the first coordinates of both $h_\varepsilon(m)$ and $h_\varepsilon'(m)$ are incompatible. If $x \in \Delta_\varepsilon \cap SS_\varepsilon$ and $x' \in \Delta_\varepsilon' \cap SS_\varepsilon'$ are legal for $q$ such that $l_i^\varepsilon = l_i^\varepsilon' = 1$ and $\alpha_{*x, k, 0} = \alpha_{*x', k, 0} = k$, if $\langle p_k \rangle_{k < \omega} \in P^{\infty}_{q, x}$ and $\langle p_k' \rangle_{k < \omega} \in P^{\infty}_{q, x'}$, then $\lim D_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon} p_k = \lim D_\varepsilon^{\varepsilon'} p_k'$ is the trivial condition and it is clear that $P_\varepsilon$ forces $\{ k < \omega / p_k \in \dot{G} \} \cap \{ k < \omega / p_k' \in \dot{G} \} = \emptyset$.

\footnote{This is the only place where we need $(\alpha_{i,k,l} / k < \omega$ increasing.}
6. Proof of the main result

To prove our main result, we construct a nice iteration candidate with the book-keeping arguments described in Subsection 2.3. Thanks to Main Lemma 4.6, we can guarantee that $b$ is the value we want in the extension.

**Main Theorem 6.1.** Let $\kappa_{an} \leq \kappa_{cn} \leq \kappa_b \leq \kappa_{nm} = \kappa_{nm}^0$ be regular uncountable cardinals and $\kappa_{ct} = \kappa_{ct}^{<\kappa_{nm}} \leq 2^\chi$ where $\kappa_b \leq \chi = \chi^\kappa_b \leq \kappa_{nm} < \kappa_{ct}$. Assume $b = \varnothing = \kappa_b$. Then, there is a ccc poset that forces

$$\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{an} \leq \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) = \kappa_{cn} \leq b = \kappa_b \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) = \kappa_{nm} < \text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = c = \kappa_{ct}. $$

Note that, assuming GCH, if $\kappa_{an} \leq \kappa_{cn} \leq \kappa_b \leq \kappa_{nm}$ are regular uncountable cardinals and $\kappa_{ct} > \kappa_{nm}$ is a cardinal of cofinality $\geq \kappa_{nm}$, it is not hard to construct a model, by forcing, that satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem with $\chi = \kappa_b$.

**Proof.** We construct a nice iteration candidate $q$ of length $\delta_q = \kappa_{ct} \cdot \kappa_{nm}$ (ordinal product) that forces our desired statement. Let $\kappa_{ct} = S' \cup C'$ be a partition where each $S'$ and $C'$ has size $\kappa_{ct}$ and also let $C' = C'_0 \cup C'_1 \cup C'_2 \cup C'_3$ be a partition where each $C'_i$ has size $\kappa_{ct}$. Let $S = S_q = \bigcup_{\beta < \kappa_{nm}} (\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta + S')$. Let $S_i = \bigcup_{\beta < \kappa_{nm}} (\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta + C'_i)$ for $i < 4$ and $C = C_q = C_0 \cup C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3$.

We construct $q$ by recursion using the method in Section 5. The induction basis and the limit step are clear by Lemma 5.4, so we only have to describe what we do in the successor step in such a way that Lemma 5.2 can be applied. Assume we have constructed our iteration up to $\alpha < \kappa_{ct} \cdot \kappa_{nm}$ and that $(\mathcal{D}_\xi^\mathcal{E} / \epsilon < \chi, \xi \leq \alpha)$ is as in Lemma 5.2. $\alpha$ is of the form $\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta + \zeta$ for some (unique) $\beta < \kappa_{nm}$ and $\zeta < \kappa_{ct}$. Consider:

(i) $\{\dot{A}_{\beta, \xi} / \xi \in C'_0\}$ lists the $P_{\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta}$-names of all ccc posets whose domain is an ordinal $< \kappa_{an}$.

(ii) $\{\dot{B}_{\beta, \xi} / \xi \in C'_1\}$ lists the $P_{\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta}$-names of all subalgebras of random forcing $B^{V_{\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta}}$ of size $< \kappa_{cn}$.

(iii) $\{\dot{C}_{\beta, \xi} / \xi \in C'_2\}$ lists the $P_{\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta}$-names of all $\sigma$-centered subposets of Hechler forcing $D^{V_{\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta}}$ of size $< \kappa_b$.

(iv) $\{\dot{D}_\xi / \xi \in S'\}$ lists the $P_{\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta}$-names for all sets of size $< \kappa_{nm}$ of slaloms of finite width in $V_{\kappa_{ct} \cdot \beta}$.

If $\alpha \in C$, let

$$\dot{Q}_\alpha = \begin{cases} 
\dot{A}_{\beta, \xi} & \text{if } \xi \in C'_0,
\dot{B}_{\beta, \xi} & \text{if } \xi \in C'_1,
\dot{D}_{\beta, \xi} & \text{if } \xi \in C'_2,
\dot{C} & \text{(Cohen forcing) if } \xi \in C'_3.
\end{cases}$$

If $\alpha \in S$, we need to construct $P'_\alpha$ and we want\(^6\) it to have size $\leq \kappa_{nm}$. Given $\epsilon < \chi$ and $\check{a}$ a (nice) $P'_\alpha$-name of a subset of $\omega$, choose a maximal antichain $A'_\epsilon$ that decides either $\check{a} \in D'_\alpha$ or $\omega \setminus \check{a} \in D'_\alpha$. Therefore, by closing under this and other simpler operations, we can find $P'_\alpha < P_\alpha$ of size $\leq \kappa_{nm}$ such that $\dot{F}_\zeta$ is a $P'_\alpha$-name and, for any $\epsilon < \chi$ and a (nice) $P'_\alpha$-name $\check{a}$ of a subset of $\omega$, $A'_\epsilon \subseteq P'_\alpha$ (because $\kappa_{nm}^0 = \kappa_{nm}$), which implies that there is a $P'_\alpha$-name of $D'_\alpha \cap V_{P_\alpha}$. Let $\dot{Q}_\alpha = E^{V_{P_\alpha}}$, which adds a real that evades eventually all the slaloms from $\dot{F}_\zeta$. It is clear that Lemma 5.2 applies, which finishes the construction.

From the results already proved or cited, it is easy to check that $P_\delta$ forces $\kappa_{an} \leq \text{add}(\mathcal{N})$, $\kappa_{cn} \leq \text{cov}(\mathcal{N})$, $\kappa_b \leq b$ and $\kappa_{nm} \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M})$. The relations $\text{add}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \kappa_{an}$ and $\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \leq \kappa_{cn}$ in the extension are consequences of Corollary 3.6(a) applied to the pairs $(\theta, \Box) = (\kappa_{nm}, \epsilon^*)$ (see Example 3.4(4)) and $(\theta, \Box) = (\kappa_{cn}, \check{\theta})$ (see Example 3.4(3)), respectively. The crucial inequality $b \leq \kappa_b$ is a consequence of Lemma 4.6 (applied to a scale $(f_\alpha)_{\alpha < \kappa_0}$ that lives the ground model, which exists because, there, $b = \varnothing = \kappa_b$). Besides, $\leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M}) \leq \kappa_{nm}$ holds in the extension because of the $\kappa_{nm}$-cofinal many Cohen reals added along the iteration. It is also clear that $c \leq \kappa_{ct}$ is forced.

---

\(^6\)See Remark 6.2, which explains why we only require $|P'_\alpha| \leq \kappa_{nm}$ rather than the strict inequality that the reader might have expected.
Finally, by Corollary 3.6(b) applied to the pair \((\theta, \sqsubseteq) = (\kappa_{nm}^+, =)\) (see Example 3.4(1)), \(\operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \theta_n \geq \kappa_{ct}\).

\[\operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \theta_n \geq \kappa_{ct}.\]

**Remark 6.2.** If we further assume that \(\chi < \kappa_{nm}\) and \(\mu^{\kappa_{nm}} < \kappa_{nm}\) for all \(\mu < \kappa_{nm}\), then we can similarly construct a nice iteration candidate of length \(\kappa_{ct}\) forcing the same as in Theorem 6.1. In the argument of this, for \(\alpha \in S\), we can construct \(\mathbf{P}_\alpha\) of size \(< \kappa_{nm}\), so we can force \(\operatorname{non}(\mathcal{M}) \leq \kappa_{nm}\) by Corollary 3.6(a) applied to \((\theta, \sqsubseteq) = (\kappa_{nm}, =)\). However, this is less general because \(\kappa_{nm}\) is not allowed to be a successor of a cardinal with countable cofinality.

**Remark 6.3.** A similar proof of Theorem 6.1 can be performed using bounded versions of \(E\) to ease the compactness arguments, but it has the disadvantage that we are restricted to \(2^\chi = \chi^+ = \kappa_{ct}\) and \(\chi = \kappa_{nm}\). The argument is similar but much more difficult, we point out the differences with the presented argument.

1. Fix \(b : \omega \to \omega\) as a fast increasing function with \(b(0) > 0\). Let \(E^b\) be the poset whose conditions are pairs \((s, \varphi)\) where \(s\) is a finite sequence below \(b\) and \(\varphi\) is a slalom of width at most \(|s|\). The order is similar to \(E\). Like \(E\), this poset adds an eventually different real \((\omega)\) and does not add dominating reals (moreover, it is \(\leq^*\)-good), however, it is not \(\sigma\)-centered.

2. In all the arguments, everything related to \(E\) should be respectively modified to the context of \(E^b\).

3. In Definition 4.2, we additionally have to include Borel functions that code the names of slaloms corresponding to the coordinates of subposets of \(E^b\) of the conditions of the countable \(\Delta\)-system that is coded. In this case, those codes should be called blueprints. Moreover, \(n^*_l \leq |s^*_l|\) for all \(l < l^*\).

4. \(2^\chi = \chi^+ = \kappa_{ct}\) is assumed because we need (iii) of Theorem 5.1 in this case. Guardrails \(h_{3b}\) should also talk about the Borel functions included in the blueprints of \(\Lambda\), by further assuming \(\chi = \kappa_{ct}\) in the ground model, so the last part of the proof of Claim 5.5 could be argued.

5. In the construction of the iteration for the main result, we have to guarantee that the used subposets of \(E^b\) don’t add random reals nor destroy a witness of \(\operatorname{add}(\mathcal{N})\) that we want to preserve, that is, that they are both \(\kappa_{mn} \in^*\)-good and \(\kappa_{cn} \in^\ast\)-good. For this, a notion of \((\pi, \rho)\)-linkedness, defined in [KO14], justifies the desired preservation (for \(\kappa_{mn} \in^*\)-goodness, see [BM14, Section 5]).

7. Questions

**Question 7.1.** Is there a model of \(n_1 < \operatorname{add}(\mathcal{N}) < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{N}) < b < \non(\mathcal{M}) < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{M}) < c\)? or just a model of \(b < \non(\mathcal{M}) < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{M}) < c\)?

A ZFC model of \(n_1 < \operatorname{add}(\mathcal{N}) = \non(\mathcal{M}) < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \operatorname{cf}(\mathcal{N}) < c\) was constructed in [Mej13, Thm. 11] by a matrix iteration (a technique to construct fsi’s in a non-trivial way). The difficulty to answer Question 7.1 lies in the fact that there are no known easy fsi constructions that force \(\non(\mathcal{M}) < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{M}) < c\).

**Question 7.2.** Is there a model of \(n_1 < \operatorname{add}(\mathcal{N}) < b < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{N}) < \non(\mathcal{M}) < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{M}) < c\)? or just a model of \(b < \operatorname{cov}(\mathcal{N}) < \non(\mathcal{M})\)?

As pointed out by Judah and Shelah [JS93] (see also [Paw92]), subalgebras of random forcing may add dominating reals, so there are similar difficulties as those described in Section 2 for subposets of \(E\). It seems that sophisticated techniques as in [She00] may help to deal with this problem.

**References**


