

# Subsets of superstable structures are weakly benign

Bektur Baizhanov

Institute for Informatics and Control

Almaty, Kazakhstan\*

John T. Baldwin

Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science

University of Illinois at Chicago<sup>†</sup>

Saharon Shelah<sup>‡</sup>

Department of Mathematics

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Rutgers University

August 17, 2011

Baizhanov and Baldwin [1] introduce the notions of benign and weakly benign sets to investigate the preservation of stability by naming arbitrary subsets of a stable structure. They connect the notion with work of Baldwin, Benedikt, Bouscaren, Casanovas, Poizat, and Ziegler. Stimulated by [1], we investigate here the existence of benign or weakly benign sets.

**Definition 0.1** 1. *The set  $A$  is benign in  $M$  if for every  $\alpha, \beta \in M$  if  $p = \text{tp}(\alpha/A) = \text{tp}(\beta/A)$  then  $\text{tp}_*(\alpha/A) = \text{tp}_*(\beta/A)$  where the  $*$ -type is the type in the language  $L^*$  with a new predicate  $P$  denoting  $A$ .*

2. *The set  $A$  is weakly benign in  $M$  if for every  $\alpha, \beta \in M$  if  $p = \text{stp}(\alpha/A) = \text{stp}(\beta/A)$  then  $\text{tp}_*(\alpha/A) = \text{tp}_*(\beta/A)$  where the  $*$ -type is the type in language with a new predicate  $P$  denoting  $A$ .*

---

\*Partially supported by CDRF grant KM2-2246.

<sup>†</sup>Partially supported by NSF grant DMS-0100594 and CDRF grant KM2-2246.

<sup>‡</sup>This is Publication 815 in Shelah's bibliography. This research was partially supported by The Israel Science Foundation.

**Conjecture 0.2 (too optimistic)** *If  $M$  is a model of stable theory  $T$  and  $A \subseteq M$  then  $A$  is benign.*

Shelah observed, after learning of the Baizhanov–Baldwin reductions of the problem to equivalence relations, the following counterexample.

**Lemma 0.3** *There is an  $\omega$ -stable rank 2 theory  $T$  with  $ndop$  which has a model  $M$  and set  $A$  such that  $A$  is not benign in  $M$ .*

Proof: The universe of  $M$  is partitioned into two sets denoted by  $Q$  and  $R$ . Let  $Q$  denote  $\omega \times \omega$  and  $R$  denote  $\{0, 1\}$ . Define  $E(x, y, 0)$  to hold if the first coordinates of  $x$  and  $y$  are the same and  $E(x, y, 1)$  to hold if the second coordinates of  $x$  and  $y$  are the same. Let  $A$  consist of one element from each  $E(x, y, 0)$ -class and one element of all but one  $E(x, y, 1)$ -class such that no two members of  $A$  are equivalent for either equivalence relation. It is easy to check that letting  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  denote the two elements of  $R$ , we have a counterexample. In this case, the type  $p$  is algebraic. Algebraicity is a completely artificial restriction. Replace each  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  by an infinite set of points which behave exactly as  $\alpha, \beta$  respectively. We still have a counterexample. In either case,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  have different strong types. This leads to the following weakening of the conjecture.

**Conjecture 0.4 (Revised)** *If  $M$  is a model of stable theory  $T$  and  $A$  is an arbitrary subset of  $M$  then  $A$  is weakly benign.*

We give here a proof of Conjecture 0.4 in the superstable case. There are two steps. In the first we show that if  $(M, A)$  is not (weakly) benign then there is a certain configuration within  $M$ . (This uses only  $T$  stable.) The second shows that this configuration is contradicted for superstable  $T$ . Note that if  $(M, A)$  is not weakly benign, neither is any  $L^*$ -elementary extension of  $(M, A)$  so we may assume any counterexample is sufficiently saturated.

## 1 Refining a counterexample

In this section we choose a specific way in which a sufficiently saturated pair  $(M, A)$  where  $\text{Th}(M)$  is stable, fails to be weakly benign. Fix  $M$ , a  $\kappa^+$ -saturated of a stable theory  $T$  where  $\kappa = \kappa^{|T|}$  is regular.

We introduce some notation. Recall that  $A$  is *relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated* in  $M$  if every type over (a subset of)  $A$  whose domain has cardinality less than  $\kappa$  and which is realized in  $M$ , is also realized in  $A$ . First note that for any  $c \in M - A$ , there is a pair  $(M_1, A_1)$  such that  $A_1$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $A$ ;  $A_1 \cup c \subseteq M_1$  and  $M_1$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_1$ ;  $A_1$  and  $M_1$  have cardinality  $\kappa$  and  $M_1$  is  $\kappa$ -saturated. For this, choose  $A_0 \subset A$  with  $c$  independent from  $A$  over  $A_0$  and  $|A_0| < \kappa$  (which follows since  $\kappa \geq |T|^+ \geq \kappa(T)$ ). Then extend  $A_0$  to a subset  $A_1$  of  $A$  with cardinality at most  $\kappa$  which is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $A$ . Finally, let  $M_1 \prec M$  be  $\kappa$ -prime over  $A_1 \cup c$ . We have shown the following class  $\mathbf{K}_c$  is not empty.

- Notation 1.1**
1. For any  $c \in M$ , let  $\mathbf{K}_c$  be the class of pairs  $(M_1, A_1)$  with  $c \in M_1 \prec M$  such that  $A_1$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $A$ ;  $A_1 \cup c \subseteq M_1$  and  $M_1$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_1$ ;  $A_1$  and  $M_1$  have cardinality  $\kappa$  and  $M_1$  is  $\kappa$ -saturated with  $|M_1| \leq \kappa$ .
  2. For any  $a, b$  in  $M$  which realize the same type over  $A$ , let  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}^1$  be the set of tuples  $\langle A_1, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle$  such that  $(M_a, A_1)$  and  $(M_b, A_1)$  are in  $\mathbf{K}_a, \mathbf{K}_b$  respectively,  $g$  is an isomorphism between  $M_a$  and  $M_b$  (subsets of  $M$ ) over  $A_1$  (taking  $a$  to  $b$ ),  $N_a$  contains  $M_a$  and is saturated with cardinality  $\kappa$ , and  $N_a$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_1$ .
  3. Let  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$  be the set of tuples  $\langle A_1, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^1$  such that  $g$  is an isomorphism between  $M_a^{\text{eq}}$  and  $M_b^{\text{eq}}$  over  $A_1^{\text{eq}}$  (taking  $a$  to  $b$ ).  $a$  and  $b$  realize the same type over  $A_1^{\text{eq}}$ , so they realize the same strong type over  $A_1$ .
  4. We will write  $K^i$  to denote either  $K^1$  or  $K^2$ . Note the only difference between them is that  $K^2$  has a more restrictive requirement on the isomorphism  $g$ .

Note that the last clause of item 2 implies that  $N_a$  is independent from  $A$  over  $N_a \cap A$  and that  $N_a \cap A = A_1 = M_a \cap A$ . Moreover, if  $\langle A_1, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}$  and  $B \subseteq A$  with  $|B| \leq \kappa$  then there is an  $\langle A'_1, M'_a, M'_b, N'_a, g' \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}$  with  $A_1 \cup B \subseteq A'_1$ . (Just include  $B$  when making the construction from the first paragraph of this section to show  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}$  is nonempty). We need a couple of other properties of  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}$ . Note that  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}$  is naturally partially ordered by coordinate by coordinate inclusion.

**Lemma 1.2** *Every increasing chain from  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}^i$  of length  $\delta$  a limit ordinal less than  $\kappa^+$  has an upper bound in  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}^i$ .*

Proof. If the cofinality of the chain is at least  $\kappa$ , just take the union (in each coordinate). We check that  $N_a^\delta, A$  are independent over  $A^\delta$ : By induction, for every  $\alpha < \beta < \delta$ ,  $\text{tp}(N_a^\alpha/A)$  does not fork over  $A_1^\beta$  (by monotonicity of nonforking). Hence if  $\delta$  is a limit ordinal,  $\text{tp}(N_a^\delta/A)$  does not fork over  $A_1^\delta$ .

But if the cofinality is smaller the union may not preserve  $\kappa$ -saturation. In this case, let  $\langle A'_1, M'_a, M'_b, N'_a, g' \rangle$  denote the union of the respective chains; each has cardinality  $\kappa$ . Choose  $A_1 \subseteq A$  with  $|A_1| = \kappa$  and such that  $A_1$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $A$  and  $A_1$  contains  $A'_1$ . Then let the bound be  $\langle A_1, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle$  where  $M_a$  is  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M'_a \cup A_1$ ,  $M_b$  is  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M'_b \cup A_1$ ,  $g$  is the induced isomorphism extending  $g'$  and  $N_a$  is any  $\kappa$ -saturated elementary extension of  $M_a \cup N'_a$  in  $M$  with  $N_a$  independent from  $A$  over  $A_1$ .  $\square_{1.2}$

**Lemma 1.3** *If  $t = \langle A_1, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^i$  and  $p \in S(M_a)$  is non-algebraic, orthogonal to  $A$  and  $p \not\perp \text{tp}(N_a/M_a)$ , then there is  $t' = \langle A'_1, M'_a, M'_b, N'_a, g' \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^i$  with  $t'$  extending  $t$  and  $\text{tp}(N_a/M'_a)$  forking over  $M_a$ .*

Proof. Since  $M$  is  $\kappa^+$ -saturated, we can find  $d \in M$  realizing  $p$  such that  $\text{tp}(d/N_a)$  forks over  $M_a$  and  $d' \in M$  realizing  $g(p)$ . Now, construct  $t'$  by letting  $A'_1 = A_1$ ,  $M'_a$  be  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_a \cup \{d\}$ ,  $M'_b$  be  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_b \cup \{d'\}$ ,  $g'$  be an extension of  $g$  taking  $d$  to  $d'$ , and  $N'_a \prec M$  any  $\kappa$ -saturated extension of  $M'_a \cup N_a$ . We need to show that  $M'_a$  and  $M'_b$  are independent from  $A$  over  $A'_1$ . For this, note that since  $p \in S(M_a)$  is orthogonal to  $A$  (*a fortiori* to  $A_1$ ) and  $A$  is independent from  $M_a$  over  $A_1$ ,  $d$  is independent from  $A$  over  $M_a$ . Since  $M'_a$  is  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_a \cup \{d\}$ , it follows that  $M'_a$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A'_1$ . An analogous argument shows  $M'_b$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A'_1$ . Since  $d \in M'_a$ , we have fulfilled the lemma.  $\square_{1.3}$

For any ordinal  $\mu$  and any sequence  $\langle \mathbf{a}_i : i < \mu \rangle$  and any finite  $w \subseteq \mu$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_w$  denotes  $\langle \mathbf{a}_i : i \in w \rangle$ . We require one further technical notion.

**Definition 1.4** *We say  $M_a$  is  $A$ -full in  $M$  if for any  $N$   $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_a A$  and for any  $C_0 \subseteq M_a$ ,  $|C_0| \leq |T|$ ,  $C_1 \subseteq A$  with  $|C_1| \leq |T|$ , and  $C_2$  with  $C_0 \subseteq C_2$ ,  $C_1 \subseteq C_2 \subseteq N$ , and  $|C_2| \leq |T|$ , there is an elementary map  $f$  taking  $C_1 C_2$  into  $M_a$  over  $C_0$  with  $f(C_1) \subseteq A$  and if  $C_2$  is independent from  $A$  over  $C_1$  then  $f(C_2)$  is independent from  $A$  over  $f(C_1)$ .*

We prove a characterization of a weakly benign pair; a similar result for benign (using  $\mathbf{K}^1$  instead of  $\mathbf{K}^2$ ) also holds. In view of the counterexample in given in the introduction, weakly benign is the interesting case.

**Lemma 1.5** *Use the notation of 1.1. Suppose  $(M, A)$  is  $\kappa^+$ -saturated where  $\kappa = \kappa^{|T|}$  is regular and  $T = \text{Th}(M)$  is stable. The following are equivalent.*

1.  $(M, A)$  is not weakly benign.
2. There exist  $A_*, M_a, N_a, M_b, g$  contained in  $M$  with  $a \in M_a$ ,  $b \in M_b$  such that:
  - (a)  $\langle A_*, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$  and  $M_a \neq N_a$ .
  - (b)  $M_a$  is  $A$ -full in  $M$ .
  - (c)  $\text{tp}(N_a/M_a)$  is orthogonal to every nonalgebraic type in  $S(M_a)$  which is orthogonal to  $A$ .
  - (d) If  $\mathbf{d} \in N_a - M_a$ , there is no  $\mathbf{d}' \in M$  which realizes  $g(\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}/M_a))$  and such that  $\mathbf{d}'$  is independent from  $A$  over  $M_b$ .

We can easily deduce from condition a) that  $N_a$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_*$  and also that  $M_a$  and  $M_b$  are isomorphic over  $A_*$  by a map  $g$  taking  $a$  to  $b$  and preserving strong types over  $A$ , i.e.  $g \upharpoonright (A^*)^{\text{eq}}$  is the identity. By general properties of orthogonality, we could rephrase item c) as:  $\text{tp}(N_a/M_a)$  is orthogonal to every nonalgebraic type in  $S(M_a)$  which is orthogonal to  $A_*$ .

Proof of Lemma 1.5: First we show that condition 2) implies condition 1). By condition 2a), there is an  $a'$  in  $N_a - M_a$ . Note that since  $A^*$  is relatively  $\kappa^+$ -saturated in  $A$  and  $M_a$  ( $M_b$ )

is independent from  $A$  over  $A^*$ ,  $M_a \cap A = M_b \cap A = A^*$ . It follows that  $g \cup (\text{id} \upharpoonright \text{acl}(A^{\text{eq}}))$  is an elementary map in  $L^{\text{eq}}$ . Let  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_i : i < \kappa \rangle$  enumerate  $M_a - A$  with  $a_0 = a$ ; denote  $g(a_i)$  by  $b_i$  so  $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_i : i < \kappa \rangle$  enumerates  $M_b$ . For any finite set of  $L$ -formulas  $\Delta$  and finite subset  $w$  of  $\kappa$ , let  $\phi_{\Delta,w}(\mathbf{x}; a', \mathbf{a}_w, \mathbf{b}_w)$  be the  $L^*$ -formula which asserts that  $x\mathbf{b}_w$  and  $a'\mathbf{a}_w$  realize the same  $\Delta$ -type over  $A$ . For any finite  $w$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_w$  and  $\mathbf{b}_w$  realize the same  $L$ -type over  $A$ .

Now, let  $q = \{\phi_{\Delta,w}(\mathbf{x}; a', \mathbf{a}_w, \mathbf{b}_w) : 0 \in w \subset_\omega \kappa, \Delta \subset_\omega L\}$ . Putting  $0 \in w$  guarantees  $a, b$  are in any relevant  $\mathbf{a}_w, \mathbf{b}_w$ . So  $q$  is a set of  $\kappa$   $L^*$ -formulas with free variable  $x$  and parameters from  $M_a \cup M_b \cup \{a'\}$ . If  $q$  is finitely satisfied in  $(M, A)$ , then  $q$  is realized in  $M$  by some  $b'$ , since  $M$  is  $\kappa^+$ -saturated as an  $L^*$ -structure. But since  $a'$  is independent from  $A$  over  $M_a$ ,  $b'$  realizes the unique nonforking extension of  $g(\text{tp}(a'/M_a))$  to  $M_b \cup A$  contradicting condition d). If  $q$  is not finitely satisfiable, there is a formula  $\phi_{\Delta,w}$  which demonstrates the  $L^*$  type of  $\mathbf{a}_w$  and  $\mathbf{b}_w$  over  $A$  are different.

We will use the following basic fact (compare Lemma I.1.12 of [2]):

- Fact 1.6**
1. If  $A_1$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $A$  and  $C$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_1$ , then  $CA_1$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $CA$ .
  2. If  $A_1$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $A$  and  $D$  is  $\kappa$ -atomic over  $A_1$ ,  $D$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_1$ .

To show 1) implies 2) of Lemma 1.5, we suppose that  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  realize the same (strong)-type over  $A$  but that there is an  $a'$  such that there is no  $b' \in M$  with  $\mathbf{a}a' \equiv_{A,L} \mathbf{b}b'$ . We fix  $\langle a, b \rangle$  as the  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$  and analyze  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$  below.

**Lemma 1.7** *There is a  $t = \langle A_*, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$  such that*

- A.  $N_a \neq M_a$ ,
- B.  $\text{tp}(N_a/M_a)$  is orthogonal to every nonalgebraic type in  $S(M_a)$ , which is orthogonal to  $A$ .
- C. If  $\mathbf{d} \in N_a - M_a$ , there is no  $\mathbf{d}' \in M$  which realizes  $g(\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}/M_a))$  and such that  $\mathbf{d}'$  is independent from  $A$  over  $M_b$ .
- D.  $M_a$  is  $A$ -full.

Proof. Try to construct by induction a sequence  $\langle t_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa^+ \rangle$  where  $t_\alpha = \langle A_*^\alpha, M_a^\alpha, M_b^\alpha, N_a^\alpha, g^\alpha \rangle$  of elements of  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$  which are increasing in the natural partial order, continuous at limit ordinals of cofinality greater than  $\kappa_r(T)$ ;  $t_0$  is any element of  $\mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$  with  $a' \in N_a^0$ .

1. If  $\alpha$  is an even ordinal there are several cases.

- (a) Suppose condition B fails, i.e. for some  $d \in N_a$ ,  $p = \text{tp}(d/M_a)$  is nonorthogonal to some stationary type  $q \in S(M_a)$  which is orthogonal to  $A$ . Then by Lemma 1.3, there is  $t' = \langle A'_*, M'_a, M'_b, N'_a, g' \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$  with  $t'$  extending  $t$  and  $\text{tp}(N_a/M'_a)$  forks over  $M_a$ .
- (b) Suppose condition B holds.
- i. If  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal of cofinality  $\kappa$ , stop.
  - ii. If  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal of cofinality  $< \kappa$  or  $\alpha$  is a successor ordinal, let  $t_{\alpha+1} = t_\alpha$ .

2.  $\alpha$  is an odd successor ordinal. Choose an auxiliary  $\hat{M}_a^\alpha$   $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_a^\alpha A$ . Choose  $A_*^{\alpha+1}, M_a^{\alpha+1}, M_b^{\alpha+1}$  such that  $A_*^\alpha \subseteq A_*^{\alpha+1} \subseteq A$ ,  $|A_*^{\alpha+1}| = \kappa$  and so that

$$(M_a^{\alpha+1}, A_*^{\alpha+1}) \prec_{L_{(|T|^+, |T|^+)}} (\hat{M}_a^\alpha, A)$$

and  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  is  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_a^\alpha A_*^{\alpha+1}$ . This is possible since  $\kappa = \kappa^{|T|}$ . In particular,  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_*^{\alpha+1}$ . The  $\kappa$ -primeness allows us to easily construct  $M_b^{\alpha+1}$  and  $g_{\alpha+1}$ . Now choose  $N_a^{\alpha+1}$  to be a  $\kappa$ -saturated extension of  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  that is independent from  $A$  over  $A_*^{\alpha+1}$ .

3. If  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal choose  $t_\alpha$  by Lemma 1.2.

We cannot carry out this construction for  $\kappa^+$  steps. If we did, by clause 1) of the construction at each limit  $\alpha$  with  $\text{cf}(\alpha) = \kappa$ , clause B) fails. Thus,  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  depends on  $N_a^\alpha$  over  $M_a^\alpha$  for all such  $\alpha$ , which contradicts stability. (If we were dealing with finite sequences, the bound would be  $\kappa(T)$ ; since we deal with sets of cardinality  $\kappa$ , the bound is  $\kappa^+$ .)

Fix  $\alpha$  where the construction stops. We have constructed  $t_\alpha = \langle A_*^\alpha, M_a^\alpha, M_b^\alpha, N_a^\alpha, g^\alpha \rangle$  but for any choice of  $t_{\alpha+1} \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$ ,  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  is independent from  $N_a^\alpha$  over  $M_a^\alpha$ . Note that each member of  $t_\alpha = \langle A_*^\alpha, M_a^\alpha, M_b^\alpha, N_a^\alpha, g^\alpha \rangle$  is the union of the respective member of  $t_\beta$  over  $\beta < \alpha$ . We claim this  $t_\alpha$  is a  $t$  satisfying the conditions of the lemma.

For clause A note  $N_a^\alpha \neq M_a^\alpha$  since  $a' \in N_a^\alpha$  and  $a'$  cannot be in the domain of  $g^\alpha$  by the original choice of  $a'$ . Since the construction stopped clause B, holds.

For clause C, we must show that if  $\mathbf{d} \in N_a - M_a$ , there is no  $\mathbf{d}' \in M$  which realizes  $g(\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}/M_a))$  and such that  $\mathbf{d}'$  is independent from  $A$  over  $M_b$ . Fix  $\mathbf{d} \in N_a - M_a$ ; if such a  $\mathbf{d}'$  exists, choose  $M_a^{\alpha+1}, M_b^{\alpha+1}$  contained in  $M$  prime over  $M_a^\alpha \mathbf{d}$  and  $M_b^\alpha \mathbf{d}'$  respectively. We easily extend  $g^\alpha$  to  $g^{\alpha+1}$  mapping  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  to  $M_b^{\alpha+1}$ . By the construction,  $A_*^\alpha$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated in  $A$ . So,  $M_a^\alpha \cup \{\mathbf{d}\}$  and  $A$  are independent over  $A_*^\alpha$  by monotonicity, as  $N_a^\alpha$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_*^\alpha$ . Now by Fact 1.6 1),  $M_a^\alpha \cup \{\mathbf{d}\}$  is relatively  $\kappa$ -saturated inside  $M_a^\alpha \cup \{\mathbf{d}\} \cup A$ . Whence, by Fact 1.6 2)  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  and  $A$  are independent over  $M_a^\alpha \cup \{\mathbf{d}\}$ . By transitivity of nonforking,  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  and  $A$  are independent over  $A_*^\alpha$ . Similarly, since  $\mathbf{d}'$  is independent from  $A$  over  $M_b$ ,  $M_b^{\alpha+1}$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_*^\alpha$ . But now,  $N_a^\alpha$  depends on  $M_a^{\alpha+1}$  over  $M_a^\alpha$  because  $d \in (M_a^{\alpha+1} \cap N_a^\alpha) - M_a^\alpha$  and we have violated the choice of  $\alpha$ .

Finally we verify clause D:  $M_a$  is  $A$ -full. Choose  $N$ , which is  $\kappa$ -prime over  $AM_a$ . Then  $N$  can be embedded over  $AM_a$  into  $\hat{M}_a^\alpha = \cup_{i < \alpha} \hat{M}_a^i$ . By the Tarski union of chains theorem (using clause 2) of the construction),  $(M_a^\alpha, A \cap M_a^\alpha) \prec_{L_{|T|^+, |T|^+}} (\hat{M}_a^\alpha, A)$ . Let  $C_0, C_1, C_2 \subseteq N$  satisfy the hypotheses of the definition of  $A$ -full. The elementary submodel condition easily allows us to define the required function  $f$ .  $\square_{1.7}$

And thus, we have proved Lemma 1.5.  $\square_{1.5}$

## 2 The Superstable Case

The aim of this section is to prove that if  $M$  is a model of a superstable theory and  $A \subset M$ , then  $(M, A)$  is weakly benign. This is a generalization of a result of Bouscaren [3], who showed, in our terminology that every *submodel* of a superstable structure is benign.

**Theorem 2.1** *If  $M$  is a model of a superstable theory and  $A \subset M$ , then  $(M, A)$  is weakly benign.*

*Proof.* We work in  $\mathcal{M}^{\text{eq}}$ . Without loss of generality, assume  $(M, A)$  is  $\kappa^+$ -saturated for a regular  $\kappa$  satisfying  $\kappa^{|T|} = \kappa$ . By Lemma 1.5 if  $(M, A)$  is not weakly benign, there exist  $A_*, M_a, N_a, M_b, g$  contained in  $M$  satisfying the conditions of Lemma 1.5 and with  $\langle A_*, M_a, M_b, N_a, g \rangle \in \mathbf{K}_{a,b}^2$ .

Since  $M_a$  is properly contained in  $N_a$ , we can choose  $\mathbf{c} \in M_a$  and  $\phi(x, \mathbf{c})$  to have minimal  $D$ -rank among all formulas with  $\phi(N_a, \mathbf{c}) \neq \phi(M_a, \mathbf{c})$ . Then for any  $d^* \in \phi(N_a, \mathbf{c}) \setminus \phi(M_a, \mathbf{c})$ ,  $p^* = \text{tp}(d^*/M_a)$  is regular. Without loss of generality again, we can fix  $d^*$ , which does not fork over  $\mathbf{c}$  and so that  $p^*$  has the same  $D$ -rank as  $\phi(x, \mathbf{c})$  and  $\text{tp}(d^*/\mathbf{c})$  is stationary. By clause c) of Lemma 1.5,  $p^*$  is not orthogonal to  $A_*$ . So, there is a  $q' \in S(M_a)$  which does not fork over  $A_*$  and is nonorthogonal and so non-weakly orthogonal to  $p^*$ . Fix  $C \subseteq A_*$  with  $|C| \leq |T|$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  is independent from  $A_*$  over  $C$ . Without loss of generality  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}^*/A_*\mathbf{c}) \not\perp^w q \upharpoonright (A_*\mathbf{c})$  and  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}^*/C\mathbf{c}) \not\perp^w q \upharpoonright (C\mathbf{c})$ . Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{p : p \text{ is regular, stationary, and nonorthogonal to } p^*\}$ .  $\mathcal{P}$  is based on  $B = \text{acl}^{\text{eq}}(C)$ , i.e. every automorphism of  $\mathcal{M}$  fixing  $B$  maps  $\mathcal{P}$  to itself.

If  $\mathbf{c}'' \in M$  realizes  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{c}/A^{\text{eq}})$  and  $d''\mathbf{c}''$  realizes  $r = \text{tp}(d^*\mathbf{c}/B)$ , then  $\text{tp}(d''/\mathbf{c}'')$  is regular and nonorthogonal to  $p^*$ . We can find  $\langle \mathbf{c}_i : i < \omega \rangle$  in  $M_a$  with  $\mathbf{c}_0 = \mathbf{c}$  which are indiscernible over  $B$  and which are based on  $B$ . The  $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_i)$  are regular, pairwise nonorthogonal, and all nonorthogonal to  $\mathcal{P}$  and each  $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_i)$  is not weakly orthogonal to  $q' \upharpoonright (B\mathbf{c}_i)$ . Note  $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_i) \subset p^*$ . Let  $r_i \in S(M)$  denote the nonforking extension of  $r(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_i)$  to  $S(M)$ . By Section V.4 of [4], there is a  $q \in S(B)$ , which is  $\mathcal{P}$ -simple and  $k < \omega$  such that  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q) > 0$  and  $q(\mathcal{M}) \subseteq \text{acl}(B \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i \cup \bigcup_{i < k} r(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{c}_i))$ . (This  $q$  is actually  $q'/E$  for an appropriate definable (over  $B$ ) equivalence relation; compare V.4.17(8) of [4].)

Let  $q^+$  denote the unique nonforking extension of  $q$  to  $S(M)$ ,  $p_a^+$  denote the unique nonforking extension of  $p^*$  to  $S(M)$ , and  $p_b^+$  denote the unique nonforking extension of  $g(p^*)$

to  $S(M)$ . Clearly,  $p_a^+ \upharpoonright (M_a \cup A)$  is a nonforking extension of the stationary type  $p^*$  and is realized by  $\mathbf{d}^*$ ; so it is equivalent to  $p_a^+ \upharpoonright \text{acl}(M_a \cup A)$ .

**Remark 2.2** Note  $(g \cup \text{id}_A)(p_a^+ \upharpoonright (M_a \cup A)) = p_b^+ \upharpoonright (M_b \cup A) \sim p_b^+ \upharpoonright \text{acl}(M_b \cup A)$  is omitted in  $M$ .

We use the next lemma several times.

**Lemma 2.3** If  $A^{\text{eq}} \subseteq N_1 \subseteq N_2 \subseteq M$  and  $N_1, N_2$  are  $|T|^+$ -saturated then

$$w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(N_2), N_1) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(N_2), q(N_1)A^{\text{eq}}).$$

Proof. Fix  $\mathbf{b} \in N_1$  and choose  $D \subseteq q(N_1)A^{\text{eq}}$  with  $|D| \leq |T|$  such that  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{b}/q(N_1)A^{\text{eq}})$  does not fork over  $D$ . If  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{b}/q(N_2)A^{\text{eq}})$  forks over  $D$ , there are finite  $\mathbf{d}_1 \subseteq q(N_2)$  and  $\mathbf{d}_2 \subseteq A^{\text{eq}}$  such that  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{b}/BDD_1\mathbf{d}_2)$  forks over  $D$ . But there is a  $\mathbf{d}' \in q(N_1)$  realizing  $\text{stp}(\mathbf{d}_1/D\mathbf{b}\mathbf{d}_2)$ , which contradicts  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{b}/q(N_1)A^{\text{eq}})$  does not fork over  $D$ .

So  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{b}/q(N_2)A^{\text{eq}})$  does not fork over  $q(N_1)A^{\text{eq}}$ . Since  $\mathbf{b}$  was arbitrary in  $N_1$ ,  $\text{tp}(N_1/q(N_2)A^{\text{eq}})$  does not over  $q(N_1)A^{\text{eq}}$ . By symmetry of forking,  $\text{tp}(q(N_2)/N_1A^{\text{eq}})$  does not fork over  $q(N_1)A^{\text{eq}}$ . Since  $A^{\text{eq}} \subseteq N_1$  we finish.  $\square_{2.3}$

The proof now proceeds by a series of claims. The key idea is that  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), A^{\text{eq}})$  can be calculated as either  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(M_b) \cup A^{\text{eq}}) + w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_b), A^{\text{eq}})$  or as  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(M_a) \cup A^{\text{eq}}) + w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A^{\text{eq}})$ . We will calculate both ways to obtain a contradiction. We begin with the  $M_a$  side.

**Claim 2.4** If  $\dim(r_0 \upharpoonright A_*\mathbf{c}_0, M_a)$  is finite, then  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_* \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i)$  is finite.

Proof. If  $u$  is a finite subset of  $\omega$ , since the  $r_i$  are regular, it is easy to show that for each  $i$ ,  $\dim(r_i \upharpoonright (A_*\mathbf{c}_i), M_a)$  is finite iff  $\dim(r_i \upharpoonright (A_* \cup \mathbf{c}_i \cup_{j \in u} \mathbf{c}_j), M_a)$  is finite. Since the  $r_i \upharpoonright (A_*\mathbf{c}_i\mathbf{c}_j)$  are regular and pairwise not weakly orthogonal

$$\dim(r_i \upharpoonright A_*\mathbf{c}_i\mathbf{c}_j, M_a) = \dim(r_j \upharpoonright A_*\mathbf{c}_i\mathbf{c}_j, M_a).$$

The previous two sentences imply:  $\dim(r_i \upharpoonright A_*\mathbf{c}_i, M_a)$  is finite iff  $\dim(r_j \upharpoonright A_*\mathbf{c}_j, M_a)$  is finite. So if  $\dim(r_0 \upharpoonright A_*\mathbf{c}_0, M_a)$  is finite then  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(\bigcup_{i < k} r_i(M_a, \mathbf{c}_i), A_* \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i)$  is finite; whence  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_* \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i)$  is finite.  $\square_{2.4}$

Now we drop the  $\bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i$  in the conclusion.

**Claim 2.5**  $\dim(r_0 \upharpoonright A_*\mathbf{c}_0, M_a)$  is finite implies  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_*)$  is finite.

Proof. Find  $\mathbf{d} \subseteq q(M)$  such that  $\bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i$  is independent from  $A_* \cup q(M)$  over  $A_* \cup \mathbf{d}$ . Now, as  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}/A_*)$  is  $\mathcal{P}$ -simple,  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_*) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_* \mathbf{d}) + w_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{d}, A_*)$ . The second term is finite and  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_* \mathbf{d}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_* \mathbf{d} \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i)$  by the independence. But,  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_* \mathbf{d} \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_* \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i) - w_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{d}, A_* \cup \bigcup_{i < k} \mathbf{c}_i)$ . Now the first of the last two terms is finite by Claim 2.4 (since  $\dim(r_0 \upharpoonright A_* \mathbf{c}_0, M_a)$  is finite) and the second by the finiteness of  $\mathbf{d}$  so  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_*)$  is finite.  $\square_{2.5}$

**Claim 2.6**  $\dim(r_0, M_a)$  is finite.

Note that  $p_a^+ \upharpoonright (B\mathbf{c}_0) = r_0 \upharpoonright (B\mathbf{c}_0)$ . Choose by induction  $\mathbf{a}_\alpha \in M_a$  so that  $\mathbf{a}_\alpha$  realizes  $p_a^+ \upharpoonright A_*^{\text{eq}} \cup g(\mathbf{c}_0) \cup \{\mathbf{a}_\beta : \beta < \alpha\}$  for as long as possible to construct:  $\mathbf{I} = \langle \mathbf{a}_\alpha : \alpha < \alpha^* \rangle$ . Clearly  $\alpha^* < |M_a|^+$ , but in fact  $\alpha^*$  is finite. As, since  $M_a$  is independent from  $A$  over  $A_*$ ,  $\mathbf{I}$  is a set of indiscernibles over  $A$ . Since  $M$  is  $\kappa^+$ -saturated, if  $\mathbf{I}$  is infinite  $\langle g(\mathbf{a}_\alpha) : \alpha < \alpha^* \rangle$  can be extended to a set  $\mathbf{J}$  of indiscernibles over  $A$  contained in  $M_b$  with cardinality  $\kappa^+$ . Then all but at most  $\kappa$  members of  $\mathbf{J}$  realize  $p_b^+ \upharpoonright (M_b \cup A)$  contradicting Remark 2.2 that  $p_b^+ \upharpoonright (M_b \cup A)$  is omitted in  $M$ .  $\square_{2.6}$

Now, easily we have

**Claim 2.7**  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_*) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A^{\text{eq}})$  is finite.

The equality holds by the independence of  $M_a$  and  $A$  over  $A_*$ . The finiteness follows from Claim 2.6 and Claim 2.5.  $\square_{2.7}$

The next claim involves both  $M_a$  and  $M_b$ .

**Claim 2.8** Suppose  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_*)$  is finite and  $N \prec M$  is  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_b A$ . Then  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(N), q(M_b)A) = 0$ .

Proof. Since  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_*)$  is finite, and  $A, M_a$  are independent over  $A_*$ , we can choose finite  $D \subseteq q(M_a)$  with  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A_*) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(D, A_*) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(D, A)$ .

Now assume for contradiction that  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(N), q(M_b)A) > 0$ . Let  $N' \prec M$  be  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_a \cup A$ , so there is  $g^+ \supseteq g \cup \text{id}_A$  which is an isomorphism from  $N'$  onto  $N$ . Then there is a finite  $D_2 \subseteq q(N')$  with  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(D_2, M_a A) > 0$ . Choose  $C_0 \subseteq M_a$ ,  $|C_0| \leq |T|$  with  $DB \subseteq C_0$  and  $C_1 \subseteq A$  with  $|C_1| \leq |T|$  so that  $D_2$  is independent from  $M_a A$  over  $C_0 C_1$  and is the unique nonforking extension of  $\text{tp}(D_2/C_0 C_1)$  to  $S(M_a A)$  which is realized in  $M$ . Recall that  $M_a$  is  $A$ -full and apply the Definition 1.4 of  $A$ -full with  $C_0 C_1 D_2$  playing the role of  $C_2$  to obtain an embedding  $f$ . Then,  $f(D_2) \subseteq q(M_a)$  and  $f(D_2)$  is independent from  $C_0 A$  over  $C_0 f(C_1)$ . Thus,

$$w_{\mathcal{P}}(f(D_2), AD) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(D_2, AD) \geq w_{\mathcal{P}}(D_2, q(M_a)A) > 0.$$

This implies  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A) \geq w_{\mathcal{P}}(Df(D_2), A) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(D, A) + w_{\mathcal{P}}(f(D_2), AD) > w_{\mathcal{P}}(D, A)$ , which contradicts our original choice of  $D$ .  $\square_{2.8}$

**Claim 2.9**  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(M_b)A) = 0$

Let  $N \prec M$  be  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_b \cup A$ , so  $p_b^+ \upharpoonright (M_b \cup A)$  has a unique extension in  $S(N)$ . If  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), N) > 0$  then for some  $\mathbf{b} \in q(M)$ ,  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{b}, N) > 0$  so  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{b}/N) \not\perp p_b^+$ ; recall  $p_b^+$  is parallel to  $p_b^+ \upharpoonright N$ . So  $p_b^+ \upharpoonright N$  is realized in  $M_b$  contradicting Remark 2.2. Now  $0 = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), N)$  which equals  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(N)A^{\text{eq}})$  by Lemma 2.3. Since  $A^{\text{eq}} \subseteq N_b \subseteq N \subseteq M$ ,

$$w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(M_b)A^{\text{eq}}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(N)A^{\text{eq}}) + w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(N), q(M_b)A^{\text{eq}}) = 0 + 0 = 0.$$

The first 0 was noted in the previous sentence and the second is Claim 2.8.  $\square_{2.9}$

Now calculating with respect to  $M_b$ , we have:

**Claim 2.10**  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), A^{\text{eq}}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_b), A^{\text{eq}})$  is finite.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), A^{\text{eq}}) &= w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(M_b)A^{\text{eq}}) + w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_b), A^{\text{eq}}) \\ &= 0 + w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_b), A^{\text{eq}}) < \omega. \end{aligned}$$

The first equality holds by additivity [4] and Lemma 2.3, the second by Claim 2.9, and the third by the last observation.  $\square_{2.10}$

Now we analyze using  $M_a$ .

**Claim 2.11**  $w_{\mathcal{P}}((q(M), q(M_a) \cup A) \geq 1$ .

Proof.  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{d}^*, M_a \cup A) \geq 1$  since  $\mathbf{d}^*$  is independent from  $A$  over  $M_a$ . Let  $N$  be  $\kappa$ -prime over  $M_a A^{\text{eq}}$ . As  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}^*/M_a A^{\text{eq}})$  has all its restrictions to set of size less than  $\kappa$  realized in  $M_a A^{\text{eq}}$ ,  $\text{tp}(\mathbf{d}^*/N)$  does not fork over  $M_a A^{\text{eq}}$ . Thus,  $\mathbf{d}^*$  realizes  $p_a^+ \upharpoonright N$ . Since  $p_a^+ \upharpoonright N$  is not orthogonal to  $q^+ \upharpoonright N$ , there is  $\mathbf{b} \in q^+(M)$  which depends on  $\mathbf{b}$  over  $N$ . So  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{b}, N) > 0$  whence  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), N) > 0$ . By monotonicity,  $w_{\mathcal{P}}((q(M), q(M_a) \cup A_*) \geq w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(N)A^{\text{eq}})$ . But, by Lemma 2.3,  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(N)A^{\text{eq}}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), N) > 0$ .  $\square_{2.11}$

Now we have

$$w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), A^{\text{eq}}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), q(M_a)A^{\text{eq}}) + w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A^{\text{eq}}) \geq 1 + w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A^{\text{eq}}) < \omega. \quad (1)$$

Here, the first equality is by [4] and Lemma 2.3 and the second by Claim 2.11. The finiteness comes from Claim 2.7. Since  $g \cup \text{id}_{A^{\text{eq}}}$  is an elementary map,  $w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A^{\text{eq}}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_b), A_*)$ . We substitute in Equation 1, using Claim 2.10:

$$w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A^{\text{eq}}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M), A^{\text{eq}}) = w_{\mathcal{P}}(q(M_a), A^{\text{eq}}) + 1,$$

or subtracting,  $0 = 1$  so we finish.

## References

- [1] B. Baizhanov and J.T. Baldwin. Local homogeneity. to appear JSL.
- [2] J.T. Baldwin. *Fundamentals of Stability Theory*. Springer-Verlag, 1988.
- [3] E. Bouscaren. Dimensional order property and pairs of models. *Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, 41:205–231, 1989.
- [4] S. Shelah. *Classification Theory and the Number of Nonisomorphic Models*. North-Holland, 1991. second edition.