

DENSITY OF INDECOMPOSABLE LOCALLY FINITE GROUPS  
SH1181

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*Dedicated to my friend, Laszlo Fuchs*

ABSTRACT. We prove that for locally finite group there is an extension of the same cardinality which is indecomposable for almost all regular cardinals smaller than its cardinality, noting that a group  $G$  is called  $\theta$ -indecomposable when for every increasing sequence  $\langle G_i : i < \theta \rangle$  of groups with union  $G$  there is  $i < \theta$  such that  $G = G_i$

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We thank Alice Leonhardt for the beautiful typing. First typed February 18, 2016 as part of [Sheb]. In References [She17, 0.22=Lz19] means [She17, 0.22] has label z19 there, L stands for label; so will help if [She17] will change. The reader should note that the version in my website is usually more updated than the one in the mathematical archive. References like [Sheb, 1.3=La11] means we cite from [Sheb], Definition 1.3 which has label La18, this to help if [Sheb] will be revised. This is publication number 1181 in Saharon Shelah's list.

## § 0. INTRODUCTION

We are interested here in the class  $\mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}$  of locally finite groups; the subject naturally use finite group theory and infinite combinatorics, see the book Kegel-Wehrfritz [KW73].

Wehrfritz asked about the categoricity of the class  $\mathbf{K}_{\text{exlf}}$  of exlf (existentially closed, locally finite, see 0.2) groups in any  $\lambda > \aleph_0$ . This was answered by Macintyre-Shelah [MS76] which proved that in every  $\lambda > \aleph_0$  there are  $2^\lambda$  non-isomorphic members of  $\mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{exlf}}$ . This was disappointing in some sense: in  $\aleph_0$  the class is categorical, so the question was perhaps motivated by the hope that also general structures in the class can be understood to some extent.

A natural and frequent question on a class of structures is the existence of rigid members, i.e. ones with no non-trivial automorphism. Now any exlf group  $G \in \mathbf{K}_{\text{exlf}}$  has non-trivial automorphisms - the inner automorphisms (recalling it has a trivial center). So the natural question is about complete members where a group is called complete iff it has no non-inner automorphism.

Concerning the existence of a complete, existentially closed locally finite group of cardinality  $\lambda$ : Hickin [Hic78] proved one exists in  $\aleph_1$  (and more, e.g. he finds a family of  $2^{\aleph_1}$  such groups pairwise far apart, i.e. no uncountable group is embeddable in two of them). Thomas [Tho86] assumed G.C.H. and built one in every successor cardinal (and more, e.g. it has no Abelian or just solvable subgroup of the same cardinality). Related are Macintyre [Mac76], Giorgetta-Shelah [GS84], Shelah-Zigler [SZ79], which investigate the so called  $\mathbf{K}_{G_*}$ . Recall that we assume that  $G_*$  is a countable existentially closed group and  $K_{G_*}$  is the class of groups such that every finitely generated subgroup is embeddable into  $G_*$ .

On the existence and non-existence of universal members see Grossberg-Shelah [GS83].

The paper [ST97] investigate the group of permutation of the natural numbers, and ask: what can be the set of regular cardinals  $\theta$  such that the group is  $\theta$ -indecomposable (called there  $\theta \in \text{CF}(G)$ ); the result is that essentially there are some so called pcf restriction (on pcf see [She94]) and those essentially are all the restrictions.

Lately has finally appeared [She17] which connect to stability theory, in particular though the class  $\mathbf{K}_{\text{exlf}}$  is very unstable it has many definable complete quantifier free type. One application was to use this to build canonical extensions of a locally finite group which are existentially closed and of the same cardinality. Another was to build so called complete extension in  $\lambda$  for  $G \in \mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{exlf}}$  for many cardinals  $\lambda$ .

Here we deal more specifically with the density of so called  $\theta$ -indecomposable extensions of the same cardinality, simultaneously for almost all relevant regular cardinals  $\theta$ , essentially best possible. Observe that for a regular cardinal  $\theta$ , a group  $G$  of cardinality  $\lambda$  is trivially  $\theta$ -indecomposable if  $\theta > \lambda$  and is not so if  $\theta = \lambda$  or just  $\theta$  is equal to the cofinality of  $\lambda$ . Those are almost the only restrictions. The problematic case is  $\theta \neq \text{cf}(\mu) < \mu, \mu^+ = \lambda$  and more, see 1.5, 1.7

We prove that essentially for every locally finite group  $G$  there is a locally finite group  $H$  extending  $G$  of the same cardinality which is  $\kappa$ -indecomposable for every regular  $\kappa \neq \text{cf}(|G|)$  and sometimes  $\kappa \neq \text{cf}(\mu)$  when  $\text{cf}(\mu) < \mu, \mu^+ = \lambda$ ).

In addition of being of self interest, this helps in [Shea], in proving that: for  $\mu$  strong limit singular of cofinality  $\aleph_0$ , there is a universal locally finite group

of cardinality  $\mu$  iff there is a canonical such group. The results apply to many other classes (in general for so-called abstract elementary classes) which has enough indecomposable members.

The result here also help in [Sheb], in proving results of the form “any locally finite group of cardinality  $\lambda > \aleph_0$  can be extended to a complete one of the same cardinality (not just its successor as in earlier proofs)”.

The current work and [Shea] were original part of [Sheb] but were separated by requests. In 2019, the existence of  $\theta$ -indecomposable in  $\lambda$  (see 1.5) were considerably improved after Corson-Shelah [CS20] deal with indecomposable groups (while we are dealing with locally finite groups). The improvement was that earlier it was for many rather than all cardinals;. The aim of [CS20] was to prove the existence of strongly bounded groups

It is fitting that this work is dedicated to Laszlo: he has been the father of model Abelian group theory and much more; his book [Fuc73] made me in 1973 start to work in group theory (in particular, on Whitehead problem (in [She74], [She75] and the old better versions of the general compactness theorem in [She19]).

We thank the referee for helping to make the paper more reader friendly and Mark Poor for pointing out a problem.

The following started in Todorcevic [Tod87] and is used in the proof of 1.5.

**Claim 0.1.** 1)  $\mu^+ \rightarrow [\mu^+]_{\lambda^+}^2$  *except possibly when  $\lambda = \mu^+$ ,  $\mu$  singular limit of (possibly weakly) inaccessible.*

2) *If  $\lambda > \aleph_0$  is regular, then  $\text{Pr}_1(\lambda^+, \lambda^+, \lambda^+, \aleph_0)$ .*

3)  $\aleph_1 \rightarrow (\aleph_1; \aleph_1)_{\aleph_1}^2$ .

*Proof.* 1) By Todorcevic [Tod87] and [She88, 3.1,3.3(3)].

2) By [Shear, Ch.IV], see history and the definition of  $\text{Pr}_1$  there.

3) By Moore [Moo06]. □<sub>0.1</sub>

**Definition 0.2.** 1) Let  $\mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}$  be the class of locally finite groups

2) Let  $\mathbf{K}_{\lambda}^{\text{lf}}$  be the class of  $G \in \mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}$  which are of cardinality  $\lambda$

3) For a group  $G$  and a set  $A$  of elements of  $G$  let  $\text{sb}(A, G)$  be the subgroup of  $G$  generated by  $A$

4)  $K_{\text{exlf}}$ , the class of locally finite existentially closed groups, is the class of locally finite groups  $G$ , such that for every finite groups  $H_1 \subseteq H_2$  and embedding  $f_1$  of  $H_1$  into  $G$  there is an embedding  $f_2$  of  $H_2$  into  $G$  extending  $f_1$ .

5) Let  $K_{\lambda}^{\text{exlf}}$  be the class of  $G \in K_{\text{exlf}}$  of cardinality  $\lambda$ .

**Convention 0.3.** 1)  $\mathfrak{k} = (K_{\mathfrak{k}}, \leq_{\mathfrak{k}})$  denote an a.e.c., see [She09]. with  $K_{\mathfrak{k}}$  being a class of structures and  $\leq_{\mathfrak{k}}$  a partial order on it (the reader can ignore this or use  $\leq_{\mathfrak{k}}$  being a sub-structure)

2) A major case here is  $\mathfrak{k}$  being a universal class (see below).

where

**Definition 0.4.** 1) We say  $\mathbf{K}$  is a universal class when :

(a) for some vocabulary  $\tau$ ,  $\mathbf{K}$  is a class of  $\tau$ -models;

(b)  $\mathbf{K}$  is closed under isomorphisms;

(c) for a  $\tau$ -model  $M$ ,  $M \in \mathbf{K}$  iff every finitely generated submodel of  $M$  belongs to  $\mathbf{K}$ .

The following result from [She17] is quoted in this work but only superficially, however in application this is important.

**Theorem 0.5.** *Let  $\mathfrak{S}$  be as in [She17] and  $\lambda$  be any cardinal  $\geq |\mathfrak{S}|$ .*

1) *For every  $G \in \mathbf{K}_{\leq \lambda}^{\text{lf}}$  there is  $H_G \in \mathbf{K}_{\lambda}^{\text{exlf}}$  which is  $\lambda$ -full over  $G$  (hence over any  $G' \subseteq G$ ; see Definition [She17, 1.15=La33]) and  $\mathfrak{S}$ -constructible over it (see [She17, 1.19=La37]).*

2) *If  $H \in \mathbf{K}_{< \lambda}^{\text{lf}}$  is  $\lambda$ -full over  $G (\in \mathbf{K}_{< \lambda}^{\text{lf}})$  then  $H_G$  from above can be embedded into  $H$  over  $G$ , see [She17, 1.23(4)=La41(4)].*

*Notation 0.6.* 1) Let  $G, H, K$  denote groups, usually locally finite

2) Let  $\delta$  denote a limit ordinal;  $k, \ell, m, n$  natural numbers;  $i, j, \alpha, \beta, \gamma$  ordinals and  $\lambda, \mu, \kappa, \theta$  cardinals

## § 1. INDECOMPOSABILITY

Here we show the density of indecomposable locally finite groups, moreover for any  $\lambda > \aleph_0$  and locally finite group  $G$  of cardinality  $\lambda$  there is an extension  $H$  of the same cardinality which is  $\theta$ -indecomposable for almost all regular cardinals  $\theta$ , noting that for  $\theta > \lambda$  this trivially holds and for  $\theta = \text{cf}(\lambda)$  it trivially fail. The only additional exclusion is that for  $\lambda$  a successor of singular, we may exclude the singular's cofinality. This is proved in 1.5(3)(b); before this in 1.4 we show how to use a colouring  $\mathbf{c} : [\lambda]^2 \rightarrow \lambda$  to build a group extension. Lastly in 1.7 we justify the excluded cardinal.

**Definition 1.1.** 1) We say  $M$  is  $\theta$ -decomposable or  $\theta \in \text{CF}(M)$  when:  $\theta$  is regular and if  $\langle M_i : i < \theta \rangle$  is  $\subseteq$ -increasing with union  $M$ , then  $M = M_i$  for some  $i$ .  
 2) We say  $M$  is  $\Theta$ -indecomposable when it is  $\theta$ -indecomposable for every  $\theta \in \Theta$ .  
 3) We say  $M$  is  $(\neq \theta)$ -indecomposable when:  $\theta$  is regular and if  $\sigma = \text{cf}(\sigma) \neq \theta$  then  $M$  is  $\sigma$ -indecomposable.  
 4) We say  $\mathbf{c} : [\lambda]^2 \rightarrow S$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable when: if  $\langle u_i : i < \theta \rangle$  is  $\subseteq$ -increasing with union  $\lambda$  then  $S = \{\mathbf{c}\{\alpha, \beta\} : \alpha \neq \beta \in u_i\}$  for some  $i < \theta$ ; similarly for the other variants.  
 5) If we replace  $\subseteq$  by  $\leq_{\mathfrak{k}}$  where  $\mathfrak{k}$  is an a.e.c., then we write “ $\theta - \mathfrak{k}$ -indecomposable” or  $\theta \in \text{CF}_{\mathfrak{k}}(M)$ .

Note that group  $G$  may be indecomposable as a group or as a semi-group; the default choice is semi-group; but note that for locally finite groups the two are the same.

**Definition 1.2.** We say  $G$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G^+$  when the following hold:

- (a)  $\theta = \text{cf}(\theta)$ ;
- (b)  $G \subseteq G^+$ ;
- (c) if  $\langle G_i : i \leq \theta \rangle$  is  $\subseteq$ -increasing continuous and  $G \subseteq G_\theta = G^+$  then for some  $i < \theta$  we have  $G \subseteq G_i$ .

The point of the definition of indecomposable is the following observation, 1.3.

Using cases of indecomposability, see 1.5, help elsewhere to prove density of complete members of  $\mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{lf}}$  and improve characterization of the existence of universal members in e.g. cardinality  $\beth_\omega$ .

Below recall that  $\delta$  is here a limit ordinal.

**Observation 1.3.** 1) Assume  $\langle M_i : i < \delta \rangle$  is  $\leq_{\mathfrak{k}}$ -increasing with union  $M$ , each  $M_{i+1}$  is  $\theta - \mathfrak{k}$ -indecomposable or just each  $M_{2i+1}$  is  $\theta - \mathfrak{k}$ -indecomposable in  $M_{2i+2}$ . If  $\text{cf}(\delta) \neq \theta$ , then  $M$  is  $\theta - \mathfrak{k}$ -indecomposable.

2) If for  $\ell = 1, 2$  the sequence  $\langle M_i^\ell : i < \theta \rangle$  is  $\leq_{\mathfrak{k}}$ -increasing and  $\bigcup_i M_i^1 = M = \bigcup_i M_i^2$  and each  $M_i^1$  is  $\theta - \mathfrak{k}$ -indecomposable or just  $M_{2i+1}^1$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $M_{2i+2}^1$  for  $i < \theta$ , then  $\bigwedge_{i < \theta} \bigvee_{j < \theta} M_i^1 \leq_{\mathfrak{k}} M_j^2$ .

3) If for  $\ell = 1, 2$  the sequence  $\langle M_i^\ell : i \leq \delta \rangle$  is  $\leq_{\mathfrak{k}}$ -increasing continuous and each  $M_{i+1}^\ell$  is  $\theta - \mathfrak{k}$ -indecomposable or just  $M_{2i+1}^\ell$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable in  $M_{2i+2}^\ell$  for  $i < \delta$  and  $M_\delta^1 = M_\delta^2$  and  $\theta = \text{cf}(\delta) > \aleph_0$ , then  $\{i < \delta : M_i^1 = M_i^2\}$  is a club of  $\delta$ .

4) If  $M$  is a Jonsson algebra of cardinality  $\lambda$ , then  $M$  is  $(\neq \text{cf}(\lambda))$ -indecomposable.

5) Assume  $J$  is a directed partial order,  $\langle M_s : s \in J \rangle$  is  $\subseteq$ -increasing and  $J_* := \{s \in J : M_s \text{ is } \theta\text{-}\mathfrak{k}\text{-indecomposable}\}$  is cofinal in  $J$ . Then  $\bigcup_{s \in J} M_s$  is  $\theta\text{-}\mathfrak{k}\text{-indecomposable}$  provided that:

(\*) if  $\bigcup_{i < \theta} J_i \subseteq J$  is cofinal in  $J$  and  $\langle J_i : i < \theta \rangle$  is  $\subseteq$ -increasing, then for some  $i, J_i$  is cofinal in  $J$  or at least  $\bigcup_{s \in J_i} M_s = \bigcup_{s \in J} M_s$ .

6) Assume  $G$  is a model (e.g. a group),  $\alpha_* < \theta = \text{cf}(\theta)$ ,  $G_\alpha \subseteq G \subseteq H$  for  $\alpha < \alpha_*$  and  $\bigcup \{G_\alpha : \alpha < \alpha_*\}$  generate  $G$ . If each  $G_\alpha$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $H$  then  $G$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $H$ .

7)  $G$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable iff  $G$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G$ .

8) If  $G_1 \subseteq G_2 \subseteq H_2 \subseteq H_1$  and  $G_2$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $H_2$  then  $G_1$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $H_1$ .

*Proof.* Should be clear but we elaborate, e.g.:

5) Toward contradiction let  $\langle N_i : i < \theta \rangle$  be  $\subseteq$ -increasing with union  $\bigcup_{s \in J} M_s$ . For each  $s \in J_*$  there is  $i(s) < \theta$  such that  $N_{i(s)} \supseteq M_s$ . Let  $J_j = \{i(s) : s \in J_* \text{ and } i(s) \leq j\}$  for  $i < \theta$ . Clearly  $\langle J_i : i < \theta \rangle$  is as required in the assumption of (\*), hence for some  $i < \theta$  we have  $\bigcup_{s \in J} M_s = \bigcup_{s \in J_i} M_s$ , so necessarily  $N_i \supseteq \bigcup_{s \in J} M_s$ , and thus equality holds.  $\square_{1.3}$

We turn to  $\mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}$ .

**Proposition 1.4.** 1) Assume  $I$  is a linear order and  $\mathbf{c} : [I]^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable (hence onto  $\mathcal{U}$ , see Definition 1.1(4))  $G_1 \in \mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}$  and  $a_i \in G_1 (i \in \mathcal{U})$  are<sup>1</sup> pairwise commuting and each of order 2 (or 1).

Then there are  $G_1, \bar{b}$  such that:

- (a)  $G_2 \in \mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}$  extends  $G_1$ ;
- (b)  $G_2$  is generated by  $G_1 \cup \bar{b}$  where  $\bar{b} = \langle b_s : s \in I \rangle$ ;
- (c)  $b_s$  has order 2 for  $s \in I$ ;
- (d) if  $s_1 \neq s_2$  are from  $I$  then  $a_{\mathbf{c}\{s_1, s_2\}} \in \text{sb}(\{b_{s_1}, b_{s_2}\})$  and moreover  $a_{\mathbf{c}\{s_1, s_2\}} = [b_{s_1}, b_{s_2}]$
- (e)  $G_1 \subseteq G_2$ , moreover  $G_1 \subseteq_{\mathfrak{S}} G_2$ , for  $\mathfrak{S} = \Omega[\mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}]$  (used only in [Sheb], we can use much smaller  $\mathfrak{S}$ , see [She17, Def. 0.9=La14, 1.4=La18, Claim 1.16=La34]; )
- (f)  $\text{sb}(\{a_i : i \in \mathcal{U}\}, G_1)$  (the subgroup of  $G_1$  generated by  $\{a_i : i \in \mathcal{U}\}$ ) is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G_2$ ; see Definition 1.2. ,

2) Assume  $G_1 \in \mathbf{K}_{\text{lf}}$  and  $I$  a linear order which is the disjoint union of  $\langle I_\alpha : \alpha < \alpha_* \rangle$ ,  $u_\alpha \subseteq \text{Ord}$  and  $\mathbf{c}_\alpha : [I_\alpha]^2 \rightarrow u_\alpha$  is  $\theta_\alpha$ -indecomposable for  $\alpha < \alpha_*$ ,  $\langle u_\alpha : \alpha < \alpha_* \rangle$  is a sequence of pairwise disjoint sets with union  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $0 \notin \mathcal{U}$  and  $a_\varepsilon \in G_1$  for  $\varepsilon \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $a_\varepsilon, a_\zeta$  commute for  $\varepsilon, \zeta \in u_\alpha, \alpha < \alpha_*$  and each  $a_\varepsilon$  has order 2 (or 1), and we let  $a_0 = e$ .

Let  $\mathbf{c} : [I]^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \cup \{0\}$  extend each  $\mathbf{c}_\alpha$  and be zero otherwise.

Then there are  $G_2, \bar{b}, \bar{d}$  such that:

<sup>1</sup>The demand “the  $a_i$ ’s commute in  $G_1$ ” is used in the proof of (\*)<sub>8</sub>, and the demand “ $a_{\beta_i}$  has order 2 (or 1)” is used in the proof of (\*)<sub>7</sub>.

- (a)-(c) *as above*
- (d)' *if  $\varepsilon \neq \zeta \in u_\alpha$  then  $a_{\mathbf{c}\{\varepsilon,\zeta\}} = d_\alpha a'_{\mathbf{c}\{\varepsilon,\zeta\}} d_\alpha^{-1} = d_\alpha [b_\varepsilon, b_\zeta] d_\alpha^{-1}$*
- (e) *as above*
- (f)' *if  $\alpha < \alpha_*$  then  $\text{sb}(\{a_\varepsilon : \varepsilon \in u_\alpha\}, G_2)$  is  $\theta_\alpha$ -indecomposable inside  $G_2$ .*
- (g)  *$\bar{d} = \langle d_\alpha : \alpha < \alpha_* \rangle$  is a sequence of pairwise commuting and distinct elements of order 2*
- (h) *if  $\varepsilon \in u_\alpha, \zeta \in u_\beta$ , and  $\alpha \neq \beta$  the  $b_\varepsilon, b_\zeta$  commute*
- 3) *In parts (1), (2)*
- (a) *The cardinality of  $G_2$  is  $|G_1| + |I|$  (or both are finite)*
- (b) *If we omit the assumption “ $\mathbf{c}$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable” then still clauses (a)-(e) of part (1) holds.*
- (c) *Moreover, in part (1), if  $\sigma$  is a regular cardinal and  $\mathbf{c}$  is  $\sigma$ -indecomposable then  $\text{sb}(\{a_i : i \in \mathcal{U}\}, G_1)$  is  $\sigma$ -indecomposable in  $G_2$ .*
- (d) *Moreover, in part (2), if  $\alpha < \alpha_*$  and  $\mathbf{c}_\alpha$  is a  $\sigma$ -indecomposable function, then  $\text{sb}(\{a_s : s \in I_\alpha\}, G_1)$  is  $\sigma$ -indecomposable in  $G_2$ .*

*Proof.* 1) Let

$$(*)_1 \mathcal{X} = \{(u, a) : u \subseteq I \text{ is finite and } a \in G_1\}.$$

We shall choose below members  $h_c, h_s \in \text{Sym}(\mathcal{X})$  for  $c \in G_1, s \in I$ .

First,

- (\*)<sub>2</sub> for  $c \in G_1$  we choose  $h_c \in \text{Sym}(\mathcal{X})$  as follows: for  $u \in [I]^{<\aleph_0}$  and  $a \in G_1$  let  $h_c(u, a)$  be
- $(u, ac^{-1})$

Now clearly,

- (\*)<sub>3</sub> (a) indeed  $h_c \in \text{Sym}(\mathcal{X})$  for  $c \in G_1$
- (b) the mapping  $c \mapsto h_c$  is an embedding of  $G_1$  into  $\text{Sym}(\mathcal{X})$ .
- (c) so without loss of generality this embedding is the identity

Next

- (\*)<sub>4</sub> for  $t \in I$  we define  $h_t : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  by defining  $h_t(u, a)$  by induction on  $|u|$  for  $(u, a) \in \mathcal{X}$  as follows:
- (a) if  $u = \emptyset$  then  $h_t(u, a) = (\{t\}, a)$
- (b) if  $u = \{s\}$  then  $h_t(u, a)$  is defined as follows:
- ( $\alpha$ ) if  $t <_I s$  then  $h_t(u, a) = (\{t, s\}, a)$
  - ( $\beta$ ) if  $t = s$  then  $h_t(u, a) = (\emptyset, a)$
  - ( $\gamma$ ) if  $s <_I t$  then  $h_t(u, a) = (\{s, t\}, d)$  where :
    - we have  $d = aa_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}$
- (c) if  $s_1 < \dots < s_n$  list  $u \in [I]^n$  and  $k \in \{0, \dots, n\}$  and  $s \in (s_k, s_{k+1})_I$  where we stipulate  $s_0 = -\infty, s_{n+1} = +\infty$  then  $h_t(u, a)$  is equal to:
- $(u \cup \{t\}, aa_{\mathbf{c}\{s_1,t\}} \dots a_{\mathbf{c}\{s_k,t\}})$

- (d) if  $s_1 < \dots < s_n$  list  $u \in [I]^n$  and  $k \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $t = s_{k+1}$  then  
 $h_t(u, a)$  is equal to<sup>2</sup>  
 $\bullet (u \setminus \{t\}, aa_{\mathbf{c}\{s_k, t\}}^{-1}, \dots, a_{\mathbf{c}\{s_2, t\}}^{-1} a_{\mathbf{c}^{-1}\{s_1, t\}})$

Note that

- (\*)<sub>5</sub> (a)  $(*)_4(b)(\alpha)$  is the same as  $(*)_4(c)$  for  $n = 1, k = 0$   
 (b)  $(*)_4(b)(\beta)$  is the same as  $(*)_4(d)$  for  $n = 1, k = 0$   
 (c)  $(*)_4(b)(\gamma)$  is the same as  $(*)_4(c)$  for  $n = 1, k = 1$   
 (d)  $(*)_4(a)$  is the same as  $(*)_4(c)$  for  $n = 0, k = 0$ .  
 (\*)<sub>6</sub> (a) indeed  $h_a, h_s$  are permutations of  $\mathcal{X}$   
 (b) let  $G_2$  be the subgroup of  $\text{Sym}(\mathcal{X})$  generated by  $Y = \{h_a, h_s : a \in G_1, s \in I\}$   
 (c) the group  $G_2$  is locally finite

[Why? Clause (a), just check and clause (b) is a definition. For clause (c), let  $Z$  be a finite subset of  $Y$ , without loss of generality for some finite subgroup  $H$  of  $G_1$  and finite subset  $J$  of  $I$  the set  $Z$  is included in the set  $\{h_a, h_s : a \in H, s \in J\}$ . Without loss of generality  $\{\mathbf{c}\{s, t\} : s \neq t \in J\} \subseteq H$ . It suffice to prove that for every pair  $(u, a) \in \mathcal{X}$  the closure of  $\{(u, a)\}$  under  $\{h_d, h_s : d \in H, s \in J\}$  is not just finite but has at most  $2^{|J|} \times |H|$  elements. Now this closure is obviously included in the set  $\{((u \setminus v) \cup w, c) : v = J \cap u, w \subseteq J \setminus u, c \in (aH)\}$  which satisfies the inequality.]

Now clearly:

- (\*)<sub>7</sub> if  $t \in I$  then  $h_t \in \text{Sym}(\mathcal{X})$  has order 2

[It is enough to prove  $h_t(h_t(u, a)) = (u, a)$ . We divide to cases according to “by which clause of  $(*)_4$  is  $h_t(u, a)$  defined”.

If the definition is by  $(*)_4(a)$  then  $h_t(\emptyset, a) = (\{t\}, a)$  and by  $(*)_4(b)(\beta)$

$$h_t h_t(\emptyset, a) = h_t(\{t\}, a) = (\emptyset, a).$$

If the definition is by  $(*)_4(b)(\beta)$ , the proof is similar.

If the definition is by  $(*)_4(b)(\gamma)$  then recalling  $(*)_4(d)$

$$h_t(h_t(u, a)) = h_t(h_t(\{s\}, a)) = h_t(\{s, t\}, aa_{\mathbf{c}\{s, t\}}) = (\{s\}, aa_{\mathbf{c}\{s, t\}} a_{\mathbf{c}\{s, t\}}^{-1}) = (u, a)$$

If the definition is by  $(*)_4(b)(\alpha)$ , the proof is similar.

If the definition is by  $(*)_4(c)$ , then recall  $(*)_4(d)$  and compute similarly to the two previous cases, recalling  $\langle a_{\mathbf{c}\{s, t\}} : s \in I \rangle$  are pairwise commuting of order 2 (or 1).

If the definition is by  $(*)_4(d)$  - this is just like the last case.

So  $(*)_7$  holds indeed]

- (\*)<sub>8</sub> if  $s \neq t \in I$  then  $[h_s, h_t] = h_{a_i}$  in  $G_2$  where  $i = \mathbf{c}\{s, t\}$

<sup>2</sup>The  $a_s^{-1}$  and inverting the order are more natural but immaterial as long as we are assuming the “of order 2” and “pairwise commuting, but those are now used in fewer points.

[Why? We have to check by cases; here we use “the  $a_i$ ’s are pairwise commuting in  $G_1$  for  $i \in \mathcal{U}$ ” Without loss of generality  $s <_I t$ , we shall now checked four representative cases (the point is that for  $(u, c)$ , the members of  $u \setminus \{s, t\}$  have little influence).

First

- (\*)<sub>8.1</sub> how is  $(\emptyset, c)$  mapped?
- (a)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s h_t(\emptyset, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(a)$
  - (b)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s(\{t\}, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(b)(\alpha)$
  - (c)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}(\{s, t\}, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(b)(\gamma)$
  - (d)  $h_s^{-1}(\{s\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_4(a)$
  - (e)  $(\emptyset, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_2$
  - (f)  $h_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}(\emptyset, c)$

Second

- (\*)<sub>8.2</sub> how is  $(\{s\}, c)$  mapped?
- (a)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s h_t(\{s\}, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(b)(\gamma)$
  - (b)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s(\{s, t\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}) =$  by  $(*)_4(d)$  with  $(s_1, s_2) = (s, t), k = 0$
  - (c)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}(\{t\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}) =$  by  $(*)_4(b)(\beta)$
  - (d)  $h_s^{-1}(\emptyset, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}) =$  by  $(*)_4(a)$
  - (e)  $(\{s\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}) =$  by “every  $a_i$  has order 2”
  - (f)  $(\{s\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_2$
  - (g)  $h_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}(\{s\}, c)$

Third

- (\*)<sub>8.3</sub> how is  $(\{t\}, c)$  mapped?
- (a)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s h_t(\{t\}, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(b)(\beta)$
  - (b)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s(\emptyset, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(a)$
  - (c)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}(\{s\}, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(d)$  with  $(s_1, s_2) = (s, t), k = 1$
  - (d)  $h_s^{-1}(\{s, t\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_4(d)$  with  $(s_1, s_2) = (s, t), k = 0$
  - (e)  $(\{t\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_2$
  - (f)  $h_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}(\{t\}, c)$

Fourth and lastly

- (\*)<sub>8.4</sub> how is  $(\{s, t\}, c)$  mapped?
- (a)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s h_t(\{s, t\}, c) =$  by  $(*)_4(d)$  with  $(s_1, s_2) = (s, t), k = 1$
  - (b)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}h_s(\{s\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_4(b)(\beta)$
  - (c)  $h_s^{-1}h_t^{-1}(\emptyset, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_4(b)(\beta)$
  - (d)  $h_s^{-1}(\{t\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_4(c)$  with  $(s_1, s_2) = (s, t), k = 0$
  - (e)  $(\{s, t\}, ca_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}^{-1}) =$  by  $(*)_2$
  - (f)  $h_{\mathbf{c}\{s,t\}}(\{s, t\}, c)$

]

(\*)<sub>9</sub>  $\text{sb}(\{a_i : i \in S\}, G_1)$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G_2$ .

[Why? Because the function  $\mathbf{c}$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable by an assumption of the proposition and  $(*)_8$ .]

Together we are done proving part (1).

2) First

- (\*)<sub>11</sub> we can find a pair  $(G_2, \bar{d})$  such that (this  $G_2$  is not the final one):
- (a)  $G_2 \in \mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{lf}}$
  - (b)  $\bar{d} = \langle d_\alpha : \alpha < \alpha_* \rangle$
  - (c)  $\bar{d}$  is a sequence of members of  $G_2$ , pairwise commuting each of order 2, and letting  $d_u$  be the product  $\langle d_\alpha : \alpha \in u \rangle$  for finite  $u \subseteq \alpha_*$  we have  $d_u = e$  iff  $u = \emptyset$
  - (d) the group  $G_2$  extend  $G_1$  and is generated by  $G_1 \cup \langle d_\alpha : \alpha < \alpha_* \rangle$
  - (e) the sequence  $\langle d_u^{-1} G_1 d_u : u \in [\alpha_*]^{< \aleph_0} \rangle$  is a sequence of pairwise commuting subgroups, with the intersection of any two being  $\{e\}$
  - (f) (follows)  $G_1 \leq_{\mathfrak{S}} G_2$ , (see clause (e) of 1.4(1))

[Why? Let  $\mathcal{X} = [\alpha_*]^{< \aleph_0} \times G_1$ . For  $c \in G_1$  we define the permutation  $h_c$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  by:  $h_c(u, s) = (u, ac^{-1})$  if  $u = \emptyset$  and  $h_c(u, a) = (u, a)$  otherwise. Next for  $\alpha < \alpha_*$  we define  $h_\alpha$ , a permutation of  $\mathcal{X}$  by:  $h_\alpha((u, a)) = (u \Delta \{\alpha\}, a)$  where  $\Delta$  is the symmetric difference.

Easy to check.]

Now let  $a'_i = d_\alpha^{-1} a_i d_\alpha$  for  $i \in u_\alpha$ ; so clearly they are pairwise commuting, each of order 2 (or 1). So we can apply part (1) with  $G_2, \langle a'_i : i \in \mathcal{U} \rangle, \mathbf{c} : [I]^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \cup \{0\}$  here standing for  $G_1, \langle a_i : i \in \mathcal{U} \rangle, \mathbf{c} : [I]^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  there. We get  $G_3, \langle b'_s : s \in I \rangle$ .

Let  $\bar{b} = \bar{b}'^2$  and we shall show that the triple  $(G_2, \bar{b}, \bar{d})$  is as require, this suffice.

Clauses (a)-(c), (e) are obvious. As for clause (f), fix  $\alpha < \alpha_*$ , and let  $\langle G_{2,i} : i < \theta \rangle$  be an increasing sequence of subgroups of  $G_2$  with union  $G_2$ . Recalling  $\mathbf{c}_\alpha = \mathbf{c} \upharpoonright [I_\alpha]^2$ , as in the proof of part (1) for some  $i < \theta_\alpha$  the set  $\{a'_s : s \in I_\alpha\}$  is included in  $G_{2,i}$ . Without loss of generality  $d_\alpha \in G_{2,i}$  hence for every  $s \in I_\alpha$  we have  $a_\alpha = d_\alpha a'_s d_\alpha^{-1} \in G_{2,i}$  so we are done.

For clause (h) consider  $\varepsilon \in I_\alpha, \zeta \in I_\beta, \alpha < \beta$ , so  $\mathbf{c}\{\varepsilon, \zeta\} = 0$  hence  $a'_{\{\varepsilon, \zeta\}} = a'_0 = d_0^{-1} a_0 d_0 = d_0^{-1} e d_0 = e$  hence by clause (d) of the first part we have  $[b_\varepsilon, b_\zeta] = e$  which means that they are commuting.

For clause (d)', let  $\varepsilon \neq \zeta \in u_\alpha$  so  $a'_\alpha = d_\alpha^{-1} a_\alpha d_\alpha$  and  $[b_\varepsilon, b_\zeta] = a'_\alpha$ . Together clause (d)' holds

Lastly clause (g) holds by (\*)<sub>11</sub>.

3) By the proofs of parts (1) and (2). □<sub>1.4</sub>

Our main result is 1.5, in particular part (3).

**Theorem 1.5.** 1) If  $G_1 \in \mathbf{K}_{\leq \lambda}^{\text{lf}}$  then for some  $G_2 \in \mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{lf}}$  extending  $G_1$  and  $a_\alpha^\ell \in G_2$  for  $\ell \in \{0, 1, 2\}, \alpha < \lambda$  we have:

- ⊕ (a)  $\text{sb}(\{a_\alpha^\ell : \ell \in \{0, 1, 2\}, \alpha < \lambda\}, G_2)$  includes  $G_1$
- (b) if  $\ell \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  then  $\langle a_\alpha^\ell : \alpha < \lambda \rangle$  is a sequence of pairwise distinct commuting elements of order 2 of  $G_2$
- (c)  $G_2$  is generated by  $\{a_\alpha^\ell : \alpha < \lambda, \ell \in \{0, 1, 2\}\}$ .
- (d)  $G_1 \leq_{\mathfrak{S}} G_2$ , like clause (e) of 1.4(1)

2) If  $\lambda \geq \mu$  and  $\mathbf{c} : [\lambda]^2 \rightarrow \mu$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable and  $G_1 \in \mathbf{K}_{\leq \mu}^{\text{lf}}$  then there is  $G_2 \in \mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{lf}}$  extending  $G_1$  such that  $G_1$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G_2$  and  $G_1 \leq_{\mathfrak{S}} G_2$ , like clause (e) of 1.4(1).

3) If  $\lambda \geq \aleph_1$  and we let  $\Theta = \Theta_\lambda = \{\text{cf}(\lambda)\}$  except that  $\Theta = \Theta_\lambda = \{\text{cf}(\lambda), \partial\}$  when  $(c)_{\lambda, \partial}$  below holds, then (a), (b) holds

- (a) some  $\mathbf{c} : [\lambda]^2 \rightarrow \lambda$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable for every  $\theta = \text{cf}(\theta) \notin \Theta$

- (b) for every  $G_1 \in \mathbf{K}_{\leq \lambda}^{\text{lf}}$  there is an extension  $G_2 \in \mathbf{K}_{\lambda}^{\text{exlf}}$  which is  $\theta$ -indecomposable for every regular  $\theta \notin \Theta$  ( and  $G_1 \leq_{\mathfrak{S}} G_2$ , see clause (e) of 1.4(1))
- (c) $_{\lambda, \partial}$  for some  $\mu, \lambda = \mu^+, \mu > \partial = \text{cf}(\mu)$  and  $\mu = \sup\{\theta < \mu : \theta \text{ is a regular Jonsson cardinal}\}$ .

*Remark 1.6.* 1) 1) Note that given  $\lambda \geq \aleph_1$  the demand (c) $_{\lambda, \partial}$  determine  $\partial$  and implies  $\lambda > \aleph_{\omega}$

2) We intend to sharpen (c) $_{\lambda, \partial}$  in [Sheb]

*Proof.* 1) Without loss of generality the group  $G_1$  is generated by its set of elements of order 2 (see [KW73] or [She17], but for clause (d) of 1.4(1) only the later). Let  $\bar{a} = \langle a_i : i < \lambda \rangle$  list the elements of  $G_1$  of order 2, possibly with repetitions.

Let  $\alpha_* = \lambda, I = \lambda \times \{1, 2\}$  lexicographically ordered,  $I_{\alpha} = \{\alpha\} \times \{1, 2\}$ ,  $a'_{1+\alpha} = a_{\alpha}, u_{\alpha} = \{1 + \alpha\}, \mathcal{U} = \{1 + \alpha : \alpha < \alpha_*\}, \mathbf{c}_{\alpha} \{(\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 2)\} = 1 + \alpha$  and apply 1.4(2) getting  $G_2$  and  $\langle b_s : s \in I \rangle$  and  $\langle d_{\alpha} : \alpha < \lambda \rangle$ . Letting  $a_{\alpha}^{\ell} = b_{(\alpha, \ell)}$  for  $\alpha < \lambda, \ell \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $a_{\alpha}^0 = d_{\alpha}$  we are done.

In particular:

Clause (a) of  $\oplus$

It holds by clause (d)' of 1.4(2)

Clause (b) of  $\oplus$

We split the proof by cases. First if  $\ell = 1, 2$  then  $\langle a_{\alpha}^{\ell} : \alpha < \lambda \rangle = \langle b_{(\alpha, \ell)} : \alpha < \lambda \rangle$  is a sequence of pairwise commuting elements of order 2 (or 1) by clause (h) of 1.4(2).

Second, if  $\ell = 0$  then  $\langle a_{\alpha}^{\ell} : \alpha < \lambda \rangle = \langle d_{\alpha} : \alpha < \lambda \rangle$  is a sequence of pairwise commuting elements of order 2 (or 1) by clause (g) of 1.4(2)

Clause (c) of  $\oplus$

By our choices.

Clause (d) of  $\oplus$

By 1.4(2)(e).

2) Let  $G'_0 = G_1$ , by part (1) with  $\mu$  here for  $\lambda$  there is  $G'_1 \in \mathbf{K}_{\mu}^{\text{lf}} \leq_{\mathfrak{S}}$ -extending  $G'_1$  with  $\langle a_{\alpha}^{\ell} : \ell \in \{0, 1, 2\}, i < \mu \rangle$  as there. Next choose  $G'_2 \in \mathbf{K}_{\lambda}^{\text{lf}} \leq_{\mathfrak{S}}$ -extending  $G'_1$ .

Now the pair  $(G'_2, \langle a_i^1 : i < \mu \rangle)$  satisfies the assumptions in 1.4(1) hence there is  $G'_3 \in \mathbf{K}_{\lambda}^{\text{lf}} \leq_{\mathfrak{S}}$ -extending  $G'_2$  such that  $H_1 = \text{sb}(\{a_i^1 : i < \mu\}), G'_2$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable in  $G'_3$ . Similarly there is  $G'_4 \in \mathbf{K}_{\lambda}^{\text{lf}} \leq_{\mathfrak{S}}$ -extending  $G'_3$  such that  $H_2 = \text{sb}(\{a_i^2 : i < \mu\}), G'_2$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G'_4$  and  $H_0 = \text{sb}(\{a_i^0 : i < \mu\}), G'_2$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G'_4$ . Now  $H = \text{sb}(H_0 \cup H_1 \cup H_2, G'_2)$  include  $G'_1$  and recalling the previous sentences, by 1.3(6), it is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G'_4$  but  $G_1 = G'_1 \subseteq H$  hence by 1.3(8) also  $G_1$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable inside  $G'_4$ , so letting  $G_2 = G'_4$  we are done.

3) For proving it:

(\*) $_1$  it suffices to prove clause (a).

Why? So we are given  $G_1 \in \mathbf{K}_{\leq \lambda}^{\text{lf}}$ . Let  $\Theta' = \{\theta \leq \lambda : \theta = \text{cf}(\theta)\} \setminus \Theta$  and  $\sigma = \text{cf}(\lambda)$  so it is a regular cardinal  $\leq \lambda$ . Let  $\partial = |\Theta'|$  so it is a cardinal  $\leq \lambda$  and let  $\langle \theta_{\varepsilon} : \varepsilon < \partial \rangle$  list  $\Theta'$ . We choose  $G_{2,i}$  by induction on  $i \leq \partial\sigma$  ( $\partial\sigma$  is ordinal product) such that:

- (\*) $_{1.1}$  (a)  $G_{2,i} \in \mathbf{K}_{\lambda}^{\text{exlf}}$   
 (b)  $\langle G_{2,j} : j \leq i \rangle$  is increasing continuous  
 (c)  $G_{2,0}$  extends  $G_1$

- (d) if  $i = \delta j + \varepsilon, \varepsilon < \partial$  then  $G_{2,i}$  is  $\theta_\varepsilon$ -indecomposable inside  $G_{2,i+1}$
- (d)  $G_i \leq_{\mathfrak{C}} G_{i+1}$  see clause (e) of 1.4(1))

We can carry the induction, e.g. for  $i = \partial j + \varepsilon + 1$  by 1.5(2), well for having  $G_i \in \mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{exlf}}$  we use 0.5, (recalling 1.3(8)). By 1.3,  $G_2 := G_{2,\partial\sigma}$  is as required.

We shall now prove clause (a) by induction on  $\lambda$ .

Case 1:  $\lambda = \partial^+, \partial$  regular

Recall 0.1(1).

Case 2:  $\lambda$  a limit cardinal and  $\lambda > \theta$

Let  $\langle \lambda_i : i < \text{cf}(\lambda) \rangle$  be an increasing sequence of regular cardinals with limit  $\lambda$ , now let:

- (\*)<sub>2</sub> (a)  $\mathbf{c}_{i+1} : [\lambda_i^{++}]^2 \rightarrow \lambda_i^{++}$
- (b)  $\langle \mathbf{c}_j : j \leq i \rangle$  is  $\subseteq$ -increasing
- (c)  $\mathbf{c}_i$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable, for every regular  $\theta \neq \lambda_i^{++}$ .

Arriving to  $i$  use Case 1 knowing that  $\mathbf{c}_i \upharpoonright [\bigcup_{j < i} \lambda_j^{++}]^2$  does not matter.

Now  $\mathbf{c} = \cup \{ \mathbf{c}_i : i < \text{cf}(\lambda) \}$  is as required by 1.3(8), and 1.3(5).

Case 3:  $\lambda = \mu^+, \mu > \kappa = \text{cf}(\mu) \neq \theta$  and  $\mu > \theta$

Let  $\langle \lambda_i : i < \kappa \rangle$  be an increasing sequence of cardinals  $> \theta$  with limit  $\mu$ , each a successor of regular.

Let  $\mathbf{c}_i : [\lambda_i]^2 \rightarrow \lambda_i$  witness  $\lambda_i \not\rightarrow [\lambda_i]_{\lambda_i}^2$ .

Let  $\lambda_{<i} = \cup \{ \lambda_j : j < i \}$ .

For  $\varepsilon < \lambda$  let  $f_\varepsilon$  be a one-to-one function from  $\mu(1 + \varepsilon)$  onto  $\mu$ . Now define  $\mathbf{c} : [\lambda]^2 \rightarrow \lambda$  such that:

- (\*)<sub>3</sub> (a) if  $\alpha \neq \beta$  belongs to the interval  $[\mu(1 + \varepsilon) + \lambda_{<i}, \mu(1 + \varepsilon) + \lambda_i]$  then  $\mathbf{c}\{\alpha, \beta\} = f_\varepsilon^{-1}(\mathbf{c}_i\{\alpha - \mu(1 + \varepsilon), \beta - \mu(1 + \varepsilon)\})$ .
- (b) if not then  $\mathbf{c}\{\alpha, \beta\} = 0$ .

Then

- (\*)<sub>4</sub> it suffices to prove  $\mathbf{c}$  witness the desired conclusion.

So let  $\theta$  be a regular cardinal not from  $\Theta$ , without loss of generality  $\theta < \lambda$ ; hence  $\theta < \mu$  so for some  $i(*) < \kappa$  we have  $\theta < \lambda_{i(*)}$ .

- (\*)<sub>5</sub> let  $h : \lambda \rightarrow \theta$  and we should prove that for some  $\varepsilon < \theta, \{ \mathbf{c}\{\alpha, \beta\} : h(\alpha), h(\beta) < \varepsilon \}$  is equal to  $\lambda$ .

Now for each  $\gamma < \lambda$  and  $i < \kappa$ , we define a function  $h_{\gamma,i} : \lambda_i \rightarrow \theta$  by:

- (\*)<sub>6</sub>  $h_{\gamma,i}(\alpha) = h((1 + \gamma)\mu + \alpha)$  for  $\alpha < \lambda_i$ .

By the choice of  $\mathbf{c}_i$ :

- (\*)<sub>7</sub> for  $\gamma < \lambda, i < \kappa$  there is  $\varepsilon_{\gamma,i} < \theta$  such that the set  $\{ \mathbf{c}_i(\{\alpha, \beta\}) : \alpha, \beta < \lambda \text{ and } h_{\gamma,i}(\alpha), h_{\gamma,i}(\beta) < \varepsilon_{\gamma,i} \}$  is equal to  $\lambda_i$ .

[Why  $\varepsilon_{\gamma,i}$  exists? By the choice of  $\mathbf{c}_i$ .]

- (\*)<sub>8</sub> for each  $\gamma < \lambda$  there is  $\varepsilon_\gamma < \theta$  such that  $\kappa = \sup \{ i < \kappa : \varepsilon_{\gamma,i} \leq \varepsilon_\gamma \}$ .

[Why? Because  $\kappa, \theta$  are regular cardinals and  $\kappa \neq \theta$ .]

(\*)<sub>9</sub> there is  $\varepsilon < \theta$  such that  $\lambda = \sup\{\gamma < \lambda : \varepsilon_\gamma \leq \varepsilon\}$ .

[Why  $\varepsilon$  exists? Because  $\lambda$  is a regular cardinal  $> \theta$ .]

Now by the choices of the  $f_\gamma$ 's and of  $\mathbf{c}$  we can finish.

Case 4:  $\lambda = \mu^+, \mu > \kappa = \text{cf}(\mu) = \theta$  but  $\mu$  not a limit of Jonsson cardinals.

Let  $S = \{\delta < \lambda : \text{cf}(\delta) = \theta, \delta \text{ divisible by } \mu \text{ for transparency}\}$  and let  $\bar{C}$  be such that:

- $\boxplus_1$  (a)  $\bar{C} = \langle C_\delta : \delta \in S \rangle$   
 (b) (α)  $C_\delta$  is a club of  $\delta$   
 (β)  $C_\delta$  is of order type  $\kappa$  if  $\kappa > \aleph_0$  and  $\mu$  if  $\kappa = \aleph_0$   
 (γ)  $0 \in C_\delta$   
 (δ) each  $\alpha \in C_\delta \setminus \{0\}$  is a limit ordinal  
 (c) if  $E$  is a club  $\lambda$  then for some  $\delta \in S \cap E$  we have:  
 • for every  $\sigma < \mu$  we have  $\mu = \sup\{\alpha \in \text{nacc}(C_\delta) : \text{cf}(\alpha) > \sigma \text{ and } \alpha \in C; \text{ moreover, } \alpha = \sup(E \cap \alpha)\}$

[Why such  $\bar{C}$  exists? See [She94, Ch.III,§1].]

$\boxplus_2$  choose

- (a)  $\bar{e} = \langle e_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda \rangle, e_\alpha$  a club of  $\alpha$  of order type  $\text{cf}(\alpha)$   
 (b)  $\mathbf{c}_\partial : [\partial]^{< \aleph_0} \rightarrow \partial$  witness  $\partial \not\rightarrow [\partial]_\partial^{< \aleph_0}$  for  $\partial$  a regular non-Jonsson cardinal from  $(\partial_*, \mu)$  for some  $\partial_* \in [\theta, \mu]$   
 (c)  $\bar{f} = \langle f_\alpha : \alpha \in [\mu, \lambda) \rangle, f_\alpha$  is a function from  $\mu$  onto  $\alpha$ .

Now a major point is the choice of  $\mathbf{c} : [\lambda]^2 \rightarrow \lambda$ :

$\boxplus_3$  we choose  $\mathbf{c} : [\lambda]^2 \rightarrow \lambda$  such that if (A) then (B) where:

- (A) (a)  $\delta_2 \in S$  and  $\delta_1 \in S \cap \delta_2$   
 (b)  $\beta = \min\{\beta : \delta_1 < \beta \in C_{\delta_2}\}$  so necessarily  $\beta \in \text{nacc}(C_2)$ ; recalling  $\text{nacc}(C) = \{\alpha \in C : \alpha > \sup(C \cap \alpha)\}$   
 (c)  $\text{cf}(\beta) > \partial_*$   
 (d)  $u = \{\gamma \in e_\beta : \text{for some } \alpha \in C_{\delta_1}, \gamma = \text{suc}_{e_\beta}(\alpha)\}$ ; recalling  $\text{suc}_e(\alpha) = \min\{\beta \in e : \beta > \alpha\}$   
 (e)  $\text{otp}(u)$  is  $\zeta + n, \zeta$  is zero or a limit ordinal  
 (f)  $\gamma_0 < \dots < \gamma_{n-1}$  list the last  $n$  members of  $u$   
 (g)  $\partial = \text{cf}(\beta)$   
 (B)  $\mathbf{c}(\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}) = f_{\delta_2}(\mathbf{c}_\partial(\{\text{otp}(e_\beta \cap \gamma_\ell) : \ell < n\}))$ .

Now

$\boxplus_4$  there is indeed  $\mathbf{c}$  as in  $\boxplus_3$ .

[Why? The point is proving that for any  $\delta_1 < \delta_2$  from  $S$ , at most one case of (A) of  $\boxplus_3$  holds, i.e. there is at most one sequence pair  $(\beta, \langle \gamma_\ell : \ell < n \rangle)$  as there. But this is obvious from the way  $\boxplus_3(A)$  is stated.]

So it suffices to prove:

- ⊞<sub>5</sub>  $\mathbf{c}$  is  $\theta$ -indecomposable, moreover it witnesses  $\lambda \not\rightarrow [\lambda]_\lambda^2$
- ⊞<sub>6</sub> let  $h : \lambda \rightarrow \theta$  and it suffices to prove  $(\exists \zeta < \theta)[\lambda = \{\mathbf{c}\{\alpha, \beta\} : \alpha \neq \beta < \lambda \text{ and } h(\alpha), h(\beta) < \zeta\}]$ .

Let

- ⊞<sub>6.1</sub> (a) let  $\chi = [2^\lambda]^+ :<^*_\chi$  a well ordering of  $\mathcal{H}(\chi)$
- (b)  $\bar{M} = \langle M_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda \rangle$  is  $\prec$ -increasing continuous
- (c)  $M_\alpha \prec (\mathcal{H}(\chi), \in, <^*_\chi)$  and  $M_\alpha$  has cardinality  $\leq \mu$  for  $\alpha < \lambda$
- (d)  $\mathbf{c}, \bar{e}, \bar{C}$  and  $h$  belong to  $M_0$  hence to  $M_\alpha$  for  $\alpha < \lambda$
- (e)  $\bar{M} \upharpoonright (\alpha + 1) \in M_{\alpha+1}$ .

Next

- ⊞<sub>6.2</sub> (a) let  $E_1 = \{\alpha < \lambda : M_\alpha \cap \lambda = \alpha\}$
- (b) let  $E_2 = \{\delta \in E_2 : \text{otp}(E_1 \cap \delta) = \delta\}$ .

Now

- ⊞<sub>7</sub> there is  $\delta_2$  such that:
  - (a)  $\delta_2 \in E_2 \cap S$
  - (b) for every  $\sigma < \mu$  we have:
    - $\delta_2 = \sup(A_\sigma)$  where  $A_\sigma = \{\alpha \in \text{nacc}(C_{\delta_2}) : \alpha \in E_2 \text{ and } \text{cf}(\alpha) > \sigma\}$ .

The rest is as in [She03]. □<sub>1.5</sub>

Can we eliminate the exceptional  $\theta$  in 1.5(3)(b)? By the following claim we cannot, at least as long as the following famous open problem is unresolved (it is whether every successor of singular cardinality a Jonsson algebra).

**Claim 1.7.** 1) If  $\lambda = \mu^+$ ,  $\mu$  singular and  $\lambda$  is a Jonsson cardinal, then every  $G \in \mathbf{K}_\lambda^{\text{lf}}$  is  $\text{cf}(\mu)$ -decomposable.  
 2) Moreover this holds for every model  $M$  with universe  $\lambda$  and vocabulary of cardinality  $< \mu$ .

*Proof.* Easy and it will not be used; in short let  $M$  be a model with countable vocabulary and universe  $\lambda$  coding enough set theory. By the assumption on  $\lambda$  there is a proper elementary submodel  $N$  of  $M$  of cardinality  $\lambda$ . For  $\alpha < \mu$  let  $N_\alpha$  be the Skolem hull of  $N \cup \alpha$  inside  $M$ . We know that each  $N_\alpha$  is not equal to  $M$ , is not decreasing with  $\alpha$  and the union of  $\langle N_\alpha : \alpha < \mu \rangle$  is equal to  $M$ . □<sub>1.7</sub>

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