

On the Spectrum of Characters of Ultrafilters

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Abstract We show that the character spectrum $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$ (for a singular cardinal λ of countable cofinality) may include any prescribed set of regular cardinals between λ and 2^λ .

1 Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the spectrum of characters of uniform ultrafilters. Recall that an ultrafilter U on λ is called *uniform* if the size of every member of U is λ . We need some basic definitions for describing the contents of this paper.

Definition 1 (Characters of ultrafilters) Let λ be an infinite cardinal, and let U be an ultrafilter on λ .

- (**⋈**) A base \mathcal{A} for U is a subfamily of U such that for every $B \in U$ there is some $A \in \mathcal{A}$ with the property $A \subseteq^* B$.
- (**⌚**) The character of U , denoted by $\text{Ch}(U)$, is the minimal cardinality of a base for U .
- (**⌚**) $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$ is the set of all μ 's so that $\mu = \text{Ch}(U)$ for some uniform ultrafilter U on λ .
- (**⌚**) The ultrafilter number \mathfrak{u}_λ is the minimal value of $\text{Ch}(U)$ for some uniform ultrafilter on λ .

It is known that $\mathfrak{u}_\lambda > \lambda$ for every infinite cardinal λ (see, e.g., [4, Claim 1.2]). It follows that if $2^\lambda = \lambda^+$, then $\text{Ch}(U) = \lambda^+$ for every uniform ultrafilter U . A natural question is whether $\mathfrak{u}_\lambda = \lambda^+$ is consistent with large values of 2^λ . A positive answer is supplied in [3]. It is proved there that $\mathfrak{u}_\lambda = \lambda^+$ is consistent with an arbitrarily large value of 2^λ , for some singular cardinal λ .

The proof requires a singular cardinal, limit of measurables. Let us try to describe the philosophy of the proof. We begin with a supercompact cardinal λ , making it

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singular via Prikry forcing or Magidor forcing. As mentioned above, an easy way to produce a uniform ultrafilter with a small generating base is to invoke the continuum hypothesis. But how can we enlarge 2^λ while keeping this special ultrafilter?

Well, we still employ the continuum hypothesis, but this time we apply it to a sequence of measurable cardinals below λ . We choose such a sequence, $\langle \lambda_i : i < \text{cf}(\lambda) \rangle$, so that $2^{\lambda_i} = \lambda_i^+$ for every $i < \text{cf}(\lambda)$. We choose a normal ultrafilter U_i on each λ_i , and by virtue of the continuum hypothesis on λ_i we have a small base for U_i . Now we combine these bases in such a way that enables us to elicit a base for an ultrafilter U on λ of size λ^+ .

The main point here is that the base of U is created from the small bases of the U_i 's; hence, there is no need to diminish 2^λ . The assumption $2^\lambda = \lambda^+$ can be replaced by the continuum hypothesis on each λ_i . More precisely, we need $2^{\lambda_i} = \lambda_i^+$ for every $i < \text{cf}(\lambda) = \kappa$ and some kind of approachability of λ^+ . It suffices that $\text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i, <_{J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}}) = \text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i^+, <_{J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}}) = \lambda^+$. Under these assumptions, the desired U can be created even if 2^λ is large.

Our problem now invades the realm of *pcf* theory. Is it possible to have a singular cardinal λ , limit of measurables, such that the continuum hypothesis holds on these measurables, the true cofinalities of the members of the sequence (as well as their successors) are λ^+ , yet 2^λ is large? The answer is positive, as shown in [4].

The forcing machinery employed in [4] is taken from [3]. The main component of this forcing is an iteration of a product-dominating real, and the last component can be Prikry forcing or Magidor forcing. It follows that the cofinality of λ can be any regular κ below it. The first and third authors [4] searched for λ^+ as the value of $\text{Ch}(U)$. But [3] provides us with the ability to force $\text{Ch}(U) = \mu$ for every regular cardinal μ above λ . This is done here, and it gives any single value as a possible member in $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$. Our way to control the true cofinalities is simply by determining the length of the iteration in the product-dominating real forcing.

Now we would like to add two distinct members μ_0 and μ_1 (or, more generally, any prescribed set of regular cardinals) to $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$. The naïve approach is to designate two distinct sequences of measurables below λ . One sequence would catch μ_0 , and the other would try to catch μ_1 . But here we are confronted with an obstacle.

If we just concatenate two iterations, each of the desired length (aiming to seize both μ_0 and μ_1), we fail. The second iteration ruins the achievements of the first one. Hence, we must find a different way to control distinct sequences of measurables and their true cofinalities.

For this, we employ in this paper the extender-based Prikry forcing. We begin with a strong cardinal λ and a large set of measurables above it. The basic step blows up 2^λ to any desired point and creates many distinct sequences of measurables with different values of true cofinalities. For every measurable μ above λ we can find a sequence of measurables below λ so that $\text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i, <_{J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}}) = \mu$ and $\text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i^+, <_{J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}}) = \mu^+$. It should be emphasized that we preserve the full generalized continuum hypothesis (GCH) below λ . Consequently, we must confine ourselves to a singular λ with countable cofinality, since 2^λ becomes large (due to Silver's theorem).

This basic step presents every successor of a measurable above λ as an element in $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$. The next step is to realize each regular cardinal χ (above λ) as a member of $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$. For this end, we collapse each successor of the measurable cardinal μ_i

to the regular cardinal χ_i while keeping the true cofinalities. At the end, every set of regular cardinals in the interval $(\lambda, 2^\lambda]$ can be realized as a set of values for $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$.

Let us indicate that an almost full characterization of $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$ appears in [9] for the case of $\lambda = \aleph_0$. Such a characterization requires two orthogonal methods. The first one is a method for inserting a member into $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$, and the second is a method for eliminating the membership of a cardinal. In our context, we supply a general way for inserting, but we (still) do not know how to eliminate.

At last, one has to admit the existence of some large cardinals in the ground model. But inasmuch as \aleph_0 is a large cardinal, it seems that there is no philosophical reason to deny the existence of other large cardinals.

Our notation is standard. We refer to [8] and [1] for *pcf* theory, [2] for general background on cardinal invariants, and [5] for the subject of Prikry-type forcings. Our notation is coherent, in general, with these monographs. In particular, we adopt the Jerusalem notation in forcing; that is, $p \leq q$ means that q is a stronger condition than p .

The relation $A \subseteq^* B$ reads A is almost included in B . If A and B are subsets of λ , then $A \subseteq^* B$ means that $|A \setminus B| < \lambda$. We use $\theta, \kappa, \lambda, \mu, \chi$ for infinite cardinals and $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \zeta$ as well as i, j for ordinals. For a sequence of cardinals $\bar{\lambda} = \langle \lambda_i : i < \kappa \rangle$ we denote $\bigcup \{ \lambda_j : j < i \}$ by $\lambda_{<i}$. If $\bar{\lambda}$ is the sequence $\langle \lambda_i : i < \kappa \rangle$, then $\bar{\lambda}^+$ denotes the sequence of the successors; that is, $\langle \lambda_i^+ : i < \kappa \rangle$. For a regular cardinal κ , J_κ^{bd} is the ideal of bounded subsets of κ .

2 The Spectrum of Characters

Let us begin with the product-dominating real forcing $\mathbb{Q}_{\bar{\theta}}$. We start with a Laver-indestructible supercompact cardinal λ , assuming that the GCH holds above λ . We choose an increasing sequence of regular cardinals $\bar{\theta}$, which steps up fast enough. The following is the basic component of the forcing notion.

Definition 2 (The $\bar{\theta}$ -dominating forcing) Let λ be a supercompact cardinal. Suppose $\bar{\theta} = \langle \theta_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda \rangle$ is an increasing sequence of regular cardinals so that $2^{|\alpha| + \aleph_0} < \theta_\alpha < \lambda$ for every $\alpha < \lambda$.

- (\aleph) $p \in \mathbb{Q}_{\bar{\theta}}$ if and only if
- $p = (\eta, f) = (\eta^p, f^p)$,
 - $\ell g(\eta) < \lambda$,
 - $\eta \in \prod \{ \theta_\zeta : \zeta < \ell g(\eta) \}$,
 - $f \in \prod \{ \theta_\zeta : \zeta < \lambda \}$,
 - $\eta \triangleleft f$ (i.e., $\eta(\zeta) = f(\zeta)$ for every $\zeta < \ell g(\eta)$).
- (\beth) $p \leq_{\mathbb{Q}_{\bar{\theta}}} q$ if and only if ($p, q \in \mathbb{Q}_{\bar{\theta}}$ and)
- $\eta^p \leq \eta^q$,
 - $f^p(\varepsilon) \leq f^q(\varepsilon)$, for every $\varepsilon < \lambda$.

We iterate this forcing, and then we compose Prikry forcing (or Magidor forcing) to make λ a singular cardinal of cofinality κ . If we iterate the product-dominating real forcing along some ordinal $\delta \geq \lambda^{++}$ such that $|\delta| = |\delta|^\lambda$, then 2^λ becomes $|\delta|$ and $\text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \theta_i, < J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}) = \text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \theta_i^+, < J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}) = \text{cf}(\delta)$. The following theorem (from [3]) summarizes the pertinent properties.

Theorem 3 (Product-dominating λ -reals) Assume there is a supercompact cardinal in the ground model. Then one can force the existence of a singular cardinal

$\lambda > \text{cf}(\lambda) = \kappa$, a limit of measurables $\bar{\lambda} = \langle \lambda_i : i < \kappa \rangle$, such that $2^{\lambda_i} = \lambda_i^+$ for every $i < \kappa$, $2^\lambda \geq |\delta|$, and the true cofinality of both products $\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i / J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}$ and $\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i^+ / J_\kappa^{\text{bd}}$ is $\text{cf}(\delta)$ for some prescribed $\delta \geq \lambda^{++}$.

We employ the above theorem in order to prove that each regular μ above λ may be a member of $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$.

Claim 4 (Forcing one member) *Suppose there is a supercompact cardinal λ in the ground model, and μ is a regular cardinal above λ . Then one can force $\mu \in \text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$, upon making λ a singular cardinal.*

Proof Due to Theorem 3, we may assume that $\lambda > \text{cf}(\lambda) = \kappa$ is the limit of a sequence of measurable cardinals $\bar{\lambda} = \langle \lambda_i : i < \kappa \rangle$, and the continuum hypothesis holds for every λ_i (upon using the product-dominating real forcing). We choose a normal ultrafilter U_i on λ_i for every $i < \kappa$ and choose a fixed uniform ultrafilter E on κ .

Let $\langle A_{i,\alpha} : \alpha < \lambda_i^+ \rangle$ be a \subseteq^* -decreasing sequence of sets, which serves as a base for U_i for every $i < \kappa$. Here we use the normality of U_i . We choose any base of size λ^+ to U_i and enumerate its members by $\langle B_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda^+ \rangle$. Now we replace each B_α (apart from the first one, B_0) by the diagonal intersection of all the previous sets. By Theorem 3 we can arrange $2^\lambda \geq \mu$ and $\text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i, < E) = \text{tcf}(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i^+, < E) = \mu$. Let $\bar{f} = \langle f_\alpha : \alpha < \mu \rangle$ be cofinal in $(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i, < E)$, and let $\bar{g} = \langle g_\beta : \beta < \mu \rangle$ be cofinal in $(\prod_{i < \kappa} \lambda_i^+, < E)$.

For each $\alpha < \mu$, $\beta < \mu$, and $Y \in E$ we define the following set:

$$B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} = \{ \zeta < \lambda : \exists i \in Y, \zeta \in [\lambda_{<i}, \lambda_i) \wedge \zeta \in A_{i,g_\beta(i)} \setminus f_\alpha(i) \}.$$

We collect these sets into $\mathcal{B} = \{ B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} : \alpha, \beta < \mu, Y \in E \}$. The cardinality of \mathcal{B} is μ , and it serves as a base for a uniform ultrafilter U on λ (see the proof of [4, Main theorem]); hence, $\text{Ch}(U) \leq \mu$. Let us show that equality holds.

Assume toward a contradiction that \mathcal{C} is another base for U , and $|\mathcal{C}| = \mu' < \mu$. Without loss of generality, $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ (as one can replace each member of \mathcal{C} by an element from \mathcal{B} , since \mathcal{B} is also a base for U). So \mathcal{C} is a collection of sets of the form $B_{\alpha,\beta,Y}$.

Let β_* be an ordinal which is larger than every β mentioned in any $B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} \in \mathcal{C}$ but smaller than μ . The collection $\mathcal{A}_{i,\beta_*} = \{ A_{i,\gamma} : \gamma < g_{\beta_*}(i) \}$ is not a base of U_i (for any $i < \kappa$). Choose $X_i \subseteq \lambda_i$ so that neither X_i nor $\lambda_i \setminus X_i$ is generated by \mathcal{A}_{i,β_*} (i.e., for every $A \in \mathcal{A}_{i,\beta_*}$ we have $|A \setminus X_i| = |A \cap X_i| = \lambda_i$).

Set $X = \bigcup \{ X_i : i < \kappa \}$, and assume toward a contradiction that $(B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} \subseteq^* X) \vee (B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} \subseteq^* \lambda \setminus X)$ for some $B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} \in \mathcal{C}$. Without loss of generality, $B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} \subseteq^* X$. (The opposite option is just the same.) We may assume that $B_{\alpha,\beta,Y}$ is $\bigcup \{ A_{i,g_\beta(i)} : i < \kappa \}$ (i.e., we assume that $Y = \kappa$ and $f_\alpha(i) = 0$ for every $i < \kappa$).

Let A'_i be $A_{i,g_\beta(i)} \setminus X_i$ for every $i < \kappa$. The cardinality of A'_i is λ_i , as $A_{i,g_\beta(i)} \in \mathcal{A}_{i,\beta_*}$ and $g_\beta(i) < g_{\beta_*}(i)$ (without loss of generality, for every $i < \kappa$). It follows that $|\bigcup \{ A'_i : i < \kappa \}| = \lambda$. Since $\bigcup \{ A'_i : i < \kappa \} \subseteq \lambda \setminus X$ we have $|B_{\alpha,\beta,Y} \setminus X| = \lambda$, a contradiction. \square

The main forcing notion to be used in this paper is the extender-based Prikry forcing. We follow the notation of [5], and we refer to the theorems proved there about the extender-based Prikry forcing. Some preliminary definitions and facts are in order.

Let κ be a λ -strong cardinal (i.e., there is an elementary embedding $j : \mathbf{V} \rightarrow M$, $\kappa = \text{crit}(j)$, $V_\lambda \subseteq M$, and $j(\kappa) > \lambda$). For every $\alpha < \lambda$ we define an ultrafilter U_α on κ as

$$A \in U_\alpha \iff \alpha \in j(A).$$

The idea is to generate many Prikry sequences in κ , whence U_α is related to the α th sequence for every $\alpha < \lambda$. Consequently, $2^\kappa \geq \lambda$ in the extension model. Moreover, for every regular cardinal $\alpha < \lambda$ the sequences for all the β 's below α would be cofinal in the appropriate product. (Hence, the pertinent requirement on the cofinalities is fulfilled.)

We begin by preparing a nice system of ultrafilters and embeddings in order to define the forcing with them. This system is denoted by E and is called an *extender*. For every $\alpha < \lambda$ we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{V} & \xrightarrow{j} & M \\ & \searrow \iota_\alpha & \uparrow k_\alpha \\ & & \mathbf{V}^\kappa / U_\alpha \cong N_\alpha \end{array}$$

We use the above fixed elementary embedding j and the canonical embedding ι_α of \mathbf{V} into $\mathbf{V}^\kappa / U_\alpha$. As each U_α is κ -complete, $\mathbf{V}^\kappa / U_\alpha$ is well founded, so one can collapse it onto a transitive model N_α (and we do not distinguish $\mathbf{V}^\kappa / U_\alpha$ from N_α). The mapping k_α is defined by $k_\alpha([f]) = j(f)(\alpha)$ (for every equivalence class $[f] \in \mathbf{V}^\kappa / U_\alpha$). It is routine to check that the diagram is commutative.

Let us define a partial order on the ordinals of λ . We say that $\beta \leq_E \alpha$ if and only if ($\beta \leq \alpha$ and) there exists a function $f : \kappa \rightarrow \kappa$ so that $j(f)(\alpha) = \beta$. Intuitively, it means that β belongs to the range of k_α . Note that \leq_E is transitive (by composition of the pertinent functions). It is well known that \leq_E is κ^{++} -directed.

For each pair of ordinals (β, α) such that $\beta \leq_E \alpha$ we choose a projection $\pi_{\alpha\beta} : \kappa \rightarrow \kappa$ which satisfies $j(\pi_{\alpha\beta})(\alpha) = \beta$. Note that $U_\beta \leq_{\text{RK}} U_\alpha$ (as demonstrated by $\pi_{\alpha\beta}$); that is, $B \in U_\beta \iff \pi_{\alpha\beta}^{-1}(B) \in U_\alpha$. The collection of ultrafilters and projections is our extender E , and it enables us to define our forcing notion \mathbb{P} .

For adding many Prikry sequences we have at each condition $p \in \mathbb{P}$ a set of ordinals $g = g^p$, which is called the *support* of p and denoted by $\text{supp}(p)$. For each $\alpha \in g$ we assign a Prikry sequence, and g contains a \leq_E -maximal element for which we hold a U -tree. Recall that for an ultrafilter U on κ we call $T \subseteq [\kappa]^{<\omega}$ a U -tree if $\eta \in T \implies \text{Suc}_T(\eta) = \{\alpha < \kappa : \eta \frown \langle \alpha \rangle \in T\} \in U$.

The last concept that we need is the idea of a permitted ordinal. For every $\alpha \in [\kappa, \lambda)$ and $v < \kappa$, let v° be the ordinal $\pi_{\alpha\kappa}(v)$. The sequence $\langle v_0, \dots, v_{n-1} \rangle$ is \circ -increasing if $v_0^\circ < \dots < v_{n-1}^\circ$. An ordinal $v < \kappa$ is permitted for $\langle v_0, \dots, v_{n-1} \rangle$ if $v^\circ > \max\{v_j^\circ : j < n\}$.

Definition 5 (The extender-based Prikry forcing) Let κ be a strong cardinal, and let $\lambda = \text{cf}(\lambda) > \kappa^+$. We define the forcing notion \mathbb{P} as follows: a condition $p \in \mathbb{P}$ is the set $\{\langle \gamma, p^\gamma \rangle : \gamma \in g \setminus \{\max(g)\}\} \cup \{\langle \max(g), p^{\max(g)}, T \rangle\}$ such that the following hold.

1. $g \subseteq \lambda$, $|g| \leq \kappa$, and $\max(g)$ is a maximal element with respect to \leq_E , denoted by $\text{mc}(p)$.
2. p^γ is a finite \circ -increasing sequence of ordinals below κ , for every $\gamma \in g$.
3. T is a $U_{\text{mc}(p)}$ -tree whose trunk is p^{mc} , and its members are finite \circ -increasing sequences such that $p^{\text{mc}} \leq_T \eta_0 \leq_T \eta_1 \Rightarrow \text{Suc}_T(\eta_1) \subseteq \text{Suc}_T(\eta_0)$.
4. $\pi_{\text{mc}(p)\gamma}(\max(p^{\text{mc}}))$ is not permitted for p^γ whenever $\gamma \in g$.
5. $|\{\gamma \in g : \nu \text{ is not permitted for } p^\gamma\}| \leq \nu^\circ$ for every $\nu \in \text{Suc}_T(p^{\text{mc}})$.
6. $\pi_{\text{mc}(p)0}$ projects p^{mc} onto p^0 .

Let us add the definition of the order (as well as the pure order).

Definition 6 (The forcing order and the pure order) Assume $p, q \in \mathbb{P}$. We say that $p \leq q$ if and only if the following hold.

1. $\text{supp}(p) \subseteq \text{supp}(q)$.
2. $\gamma \in \text{supp}(p) \Rightarrow p^\gamma \trianglelefteq q^\gamma$.
3. $q^{\text{mc}(p)} \in T^p$.
4. If $\gamma \in \text{supp}(p)$ and $i \in \text{dom}(q^{\text{mc}(p)})$ is the largest ordinal such that $q^{\text{mc}(p)}(i)$ is not permitted for p^γ , then $q^\gamma \setminus p^\gamma = \pi''_{\text{mc}(p)\gamma}((q^{\text{mc}(p)} \setminus p^{\text{mc}(p)}) \upharpoonright \ell g(q^{\text{mc}} \setminus (i + 1)))$.
5. $\pi_{\text{mc}(q)\text{mc}(p)}$ projects $T^q_{q^{\text{mc}}}$ into $T^p_{p^{\text{mc}}}$.
6. For every $\gamma \in \text{supp}(p)$ and $\nu \in \text{Suc}_{T^q}(q^{\text{mc}})$, if ν is permitted for q^γ , then $\pi_{\text{mc}(q)\gamma} = \pi_{\text{mc}(p)\gamma}(\pi_{\text{mc}(q)\text{mc}(p)}(\nu))$.

We say that $p \leq^* q$ if and only if $p \leq q$ and $p^\gamma = q^\gamma$ for every $\gamma \in \text{supp}(p)$.

Now we can prove the following theorem.

Theorem 7 (Controlling true cofinalities) Suppose there is a strong cardinal λ and $\langle \mu_i : i \leq i(*) \rangle$ is an increasing sequence of measurables above λ in the ground model. Then there is a forcing notion \mathbb{P} so that the following hold in the forcing extension $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}}$.

- (a) No cardinal is collapsed by \mathbb{P} .
- (b) $\lambda > \text{cf}(\lambda) = \aleph_0$.
- (c) $\theta < \lambda \Rightarrow 2^\theta = \theta^+$.
- (d) $2^\lambda \geq \mu_{i(*)}^+$.
- (e) For every $i < i(*)$ and every measurable $\mu_i > \lambda$, there exists a sequence of measurables $\langle \lambda_{i,n} : n < \omega \rangle$ so that $\text{tcf}(\prod_{n \in \omega} \lambda_{i,n}, <_{J_\omega^{\text{bd}}}) = \mu_i$ and $\text{tcf}(\prod_{n \in \omega} \lambda_{i,n}^+, <_{J_\omega^{\text{bd}}}) = \mu_i^+$.

Proof Let \mathbb{P} be the extender-based Prikry forcing with respect to λ and $\mu_{i(*)}$. The forcing notion \mathbb{P} satisfies the λ^{++} -c.c.; hence, cardinals above λ^+ are preserved. It also satisfies the Prikry property, so by the completeness of the pure order \leq^* we conclude that every cardinal below λ , as well as λ itself, is preserved. It is also known that λ^+ is not collapsed, so (a) holds.

Each Prikry sequence shows that $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \aleph_0$ in the generic extension; hence, (b) holds. By the Prikry property (and the completeness of \leq^*), no bounded subsets of λ are added, so if one begins with GCH in the ground model, then (c) holds in $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}}$. We shall prove, herein, that the generic object adds a scale of $\mu_{i(*)}$ -many Prikry sequences; hence, we get (d).

Let $G \subseteq \mathbb{P}$ be a generic set, and let $\alpha < \mu_{i(*)}$. Set $G^\alpha = \bigcup \{p^\alpha : p \in G\}$. Given two ordinals $\alpha < \beta$ we shall prove that $G^\alpha(n) < G^\beta(n)$ for almost every $n \in \omega$.

Choose a condition $q \in G$ so that $\alpha, \beta \in \text{supp}(q)$. Let γ be $\text{mc}(q)$, and set

$$A_\gamma = \{v < \kappa : \pi_{\gamma\alpha}(v) < \pi_{\gamma\beta}(v)\}.$$

Since $\alpha < \beta$ we know that $A_\gamma \in U_\gamma$. Note that $q^\alpha \subseteq G^\alpha$ and $q^\beta \subseteq G^\beta$, and, without loss of generality, $n_0 = \text{lg}(q^\alpha) = \text{lg}(q^\beta)$. We shall prove that $n_0 \leq n \Rightarrow G^\alpha(n) < G^\beta(n)$.

First we intersect $T_{q_{\text{mc}}}^q$ at every level with A_γ . Using property (4) of the order $\leq_{\mathbb{P}}$ we know that if $q \leq r$, then $r^\alpha \setminus q^\alpha = \pi''_{\gamma\alpha}(r^\gamma \setminus q^\gamma)$ and $r^\beta \setminus q^\beta = \pi''_{\gamma\beta}(r^\gamma \setminus q^\gamma)$. Inasmuch as $r^\gamma \in T_{q_{\text{mc}}}^q$ we have

$$v \in r^\gamma \setminus q^\gamma \Rightarrow \pi_{\gamma\alpha}(v) < \pi_{\gamma\beta}(v),$$

which amounts to $G^\alpha(n) < G^\beta(n)$ whenever $n \geq n_0$. It follows that at least $\mu_{i(*)}^+$ -many distinct Prikry sequences are added, so $2^\lambda \geq \lambda^{\aleph_0} \geq \mu_{i(*)}^+$.

For proving (e), fix any measurable μ_i , suppose that it corresponds to the ordinal $\beta < \mu_{i(*)}^+$, and let $\langle \lambda_n : n \in \omega \rangle$ be the associated Prikry sequence through U_β . Assume \dot{t} is a name for a sequence in $\prod_{n \in \omega} \lambda_n$. We have to show that there exists some ordinal $\alpha < \beta$ and a condition $q \in \mathbb{P}$ so that q forces $t <_{J_{\text{bd}}^\omega} \langle G^\alpha(n) : n \in \omega \rangle$. As each Prikry sequence (in the diagonal Prikry forcing used above) adds a dominating family (see [5, Section 1.3]) we are done. \square

So far we know that each μ_i^+ enters the spectrum of characters. The last forcing that we shall employ is the Lévy collapse from [6]. Suppose $\lambda > \kappa = \text{cf}(\kappa)$, and suppose λ is a regular cardinal which satisfies $\lambda^{<\kappa} = \lambda$. We define the forcing notion $\text{Levy}(\kappa, \lambda)$. A condition in $\text{Levy}(\kappa, \lambda)$ is a partial function $f : \kappa \rightarrow \lambda$ such that $|\text{dom } f| < \kappa$. The order is inclusion.

$\text{Levy}(\kappa, \lambda)$ is λ^+ -c.c. (provided that $\lambda^{<\kappa} = \lambda$) and κ -complete; hence, cardinals below κ or above λ are preserved. The completeness of $\text{Levy}(\kappa, \lambda)$ also gives the preservation of true cofinalities, as demonstrated in the following.

Claim 8 (Preservation of tcf by the Lévy collapse) *Suppose \mathbb{P} is a λ^+ -c.c. forcing notion, $\kappa = \text{cf}(\lambda) < \lambda$, $\lambda < \chi < \mu$, and $\chi = \text{cf}(\chi)$, $\mu^{<\chi} = \mu$ in $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}}$. Let \mathbb{R} be $\text{Levy}(\chi, \mu)$. Assume further that $\bar{\lambda}$ is an increasing sequence of regular cardinals which tends to λ , and assume $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}} \models \text{tcf}(\prod \bar{\lambda}, <_J) = \mu$ for some ideal J on κ . Then $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{R}} \models \text{tcf}(\prod \bar{\lambda}, <_J) = \chi$.*

Moreover, denote $\mathbb{R}_i = \text{Levy}(\chi_i, \mu_i^+)$ for every $i < i()$, let $\mathbb{R} = \prod \{\mathbb{R}_i : i < i(*)\}$ with Easton support, and assume $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}} \models \text{tcf}(\prod \bar{\lambda}_i, <_J) = \mu_i^+$ for every $i < i(*)$. Then $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{R}} \models \text{tcf}(\prod \bar{\lambda}_i, <_J) = \chi_i$.*

Proof By the regularity of χ we know that \mathbb{R} is χ -complete. It follows that forcing with \mathbb{R} does not add bounded subsets of χ to the universe. In particular, no new function in $(\prod \bar{\lambda}_i, <_J)$ is added, as $\lambda < \chi$.

Since $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}} \models \text{tcf}(\prod \bar{\lambda}_i, <_J) = \mu$ and μ becomes χ in $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{R}}$ we have $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{R}} \models \text{tcf}(\prod \bar{\lambda}_i, <_J) = \chi$. The same holds for the product $\mathbb{R} = \prod \{\mathbb{R}_i : i < i(*)\}$ with Easton support. \square

Recall that, in Theorem 4, $\kappa = \text{cf}(\lambda)$ may be uncountable. In the main theorem below we insert many cardinals into $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$, but the cofinality of λ must be countable.

Theorem 9 (Main theorem) *Suppose λ is supercompact, and suppose $\langle \mu_i : i < i(*) \rangle$ is a sequence of measurable cardinals above λ . Let $\langle \chi_i : i < i(*) \rangle$ be an increasing sequence of regular cardinals above λ such that $\chi_i \leq \mu_i$ for every $i < i(*)$. Then one can force $\{\chi_i : i < i(*)\} \subseteq \text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$.*

Proof First observe that $\mu_i^+ \in \text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$ after forcing with the extender-based Prikry forcing \mathbb{P} of Theorem 7. Indeed, for each μ_i^+ we have (in the forcing extension) a sequence $\bar{\lambda}_i$ so that $\text{tcf}(\prod_{n \in \omega} \lambda_n, <_{\text{Jbd}}) = \mu_i$ and $\text{tcf}(\prod_{n \in \omega} \lambda_n^+, <_{\text{Jbd}}) = \mu_i^+$. It follows from Claim 4 that μ_i^+ is realized as a member of $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$.

In order to incorporate the χ_i 's we collapse the μ_i 's. Without loss of generality, $\chi_i \leq \mu_i$ for every $i < i(*)$. (One has to choose for every $i < i(*)$ a measurable cardinal $\mu > \chi_i$ and rename the sequence of measurables.) For every $i < i(*)$ let \mathbb{R}_i be Levy(χ_i, μ_i^+). Let \mathbb{R} be the product $\prod\{\mathbb{R}_i : i < i(*)\}$ with Easton support. We claim that the following holds in $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{R}}$ for every $i < i(*)$:

$$\exists \bar{\lambda}_i, \quad \text{tcf}\left(\prod \bar{\lambda}_i\right) \leq \text{tcf}\left(\prod \bar{\lambda}_i^+\right) = \chi_i.$$

This assertion follows from Claim 8. By working in $\mathbf{V}^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{R}}$, Claim 4 now gives $\chi_i \in \text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$ for every $i < i(*)$, and so we are done. \square

The extender-based Prikry forcing can be used for violating the singular cardinals hypothesis on \aleph_ω . One has to interlace Lévy collapses in the forcing conditions, as shown in [5]. Moreover, the pcf structure (manifested in Theorem 7) remains similar; in particular, the Prikry sequences form a scale (see [7]). However, the combinatorial argument of Claim 4 involves the normality of the ultrafilters, so we may ask the following.

Question *Is it forceable that $\text{Sp}_\chi(\aleph_\omega) \supseteq \{\chi_i : i < i(*)\}$ for every increasing sequence of regular cardinals $\langle \chi_i : i < i(*) \rangle$ above \aleph_ω ?*

We conclude with another problem. As mentioned in the Introduction, the above methods provide a tool for possessing a cardinal in $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$. We are also interested in the other side of the coin.

Question *Assume $\lambda > \text{cf}(\lambda)$. Is it possible that $\text{Sp}_\chi(\lambda)$ is not a convex set?*

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