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HANF NUMBER OF OMITTING TYPE FOR SIMPLE
FIRST-ORDER THEORIESSAHARON SHELAH¹

Abstract. Let T be a complete countable first-order theory such that every ultrapower of a model of T is saturated. If T has a model omitting a type p in every cardinality $< \aleph_\omega$, then T has a model omitting p in every cardinality. There is also a related theorem, and an example showing the \aleph_ω cannot be improved.

Let L be a first-order countable language, T a complete theory (in L), p a type (in L), that is $p = \{\varphi_n(x) : n\}$ where each $\varphi_n(x)$ is a formula from L whose only free variable is x . If M is an L -model, $a \in |M|$ (= the set of elements of M) then a realizes p if for every n , $M \models \varphi_n[a]$ (= the formula $\varphi_n[a]$ is satisfied by M). If there is no element of M which realizes p , then we say M omits p . We define $m(T, p)$ as the first cardinality in which T has no model omitting p , if there is such a cardinality, and zero otherwise. We shall prove

THEOREM 1. *Suppose that for every model M of T , and every (nonprincipal) ultrafilter D over a set I , M^I/D is a saturated model. Then $m(T, p) < \aleph_\omega$.*

(The assumption follows from: T is unidimensional; it is equivalent to: T is stable, and if $\bar{a} \in |M|$, $\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{a})$ is an equivalence relation in M , then the number of equivalence classes is $\|M\|$ or finite (see [6])).

THEOREM 2. *If T is stable, countable and complete, $m(T, p) > \aleph_\omega$, then in every cardinality \aleph_α , T has $\geq \min(|\alpha|^{\aleph_0}, 2^{|\alpha|^{-1}})$ nonisomorphic models.*

THEOREM 3. *If T is superstable, countable, complete and $m(T, p) \geq \aleph_\omega$, then there are formulas $\varphi_n(x, \bar{y})$ such that for every $\aleph_0 \leq \lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n \leq \dots$ there is a model M of T and sequences \bar{a}^n of elements of M such that $|\{c \in |M| : \models \varphi_n[c, \bar{a}^n]\}| = \lambda_n$ for every $n < \omega$.*

REMARKS. (1) We shall only sketch the proofs of Theorems 2, 3 as they are similar to that of Theorem 1.

(2) Theorem 2 is an improved version of Theorem 3 of the abstract [5], see also [7, §0].

(3) If T is not superstable, it can also be proved that it has many nonisomorphic models in every cardinality. See [6, Chapter VIII, §2].

(4) Saturated models are defined and investigated in Morley and Vaught [4] (or see [2]) where they are called universal-homogeneous models. In fact we need only the universality in Theorem 1. A model M is called universal if every model elementarily equivalent to M , of cardinality not greater than that of M , is isomorphic to an elementary submodel of M .

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(5) By Morley [3], $m(T, p) < \beth_{\omega_1}$ for any countable T . We shall generalize his proof, but use a smaller set of Skolem functions.

(6) We can replace the omitting of one type by the omitting of countably many types. Also each type may be an m -type for some $m < \omega$.

(7) The cardinality \beth_α is defined by induction: $\beth_0 = \aleph_0$, $\beth_\alpha = \sum_{\beta < \alpha} 2^{\beth_\beta}$.

Notations. Cardinals (usually infinite) shall be denoted by λ , μ , ordinals by i , j , k , l , α , β , ξ , ζ , natural numbers by m , n , q , r , and formulas by φ , ψ .

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. For every $\lambda \geq 0$ we define a first-order language L_λ whose nonlogical signs will be:

(1) the nonlogical signs of L ,

(2) an individual constant c_k for every $k < \lambda$,

(3) for every formula $\varphi = \varphi(y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ of L , a function-symbol $f_\varphi = f_\varphi(y_1, \dots, y_n)$.

(REMARK. In fact, this is defined not for every formula but for every pair $\langle \varphi, \langle y_0, \dots, y_n \rangle \rangle$ where every free variable of φ belongs to y_0, \dots, y_n . But we shall not distinguish strictly between φ and $\langle \varphi, \langle y_1, \dots, y_n \rangle \rangle$, similarly for terms.)

The interpretation of those functions is, of course, Skolem functions. Let $\{\tau^m(y_1^m, y_2^m, \dots, y_{k(m)}^m) : m < \omega\}$ be a list of the terms of L_0 such that $\tau^m = f(\tau_1, \dots, \tau_q)$ implies $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_q \in \{\tau^n : n < m\}$. Let $k_1(n) = \max_{m \leq n} k(m) < \omega$. Clearly for every m , and every permutation θ of $\{1, \dots, k(m)\}$, there is n , such that

$$\tau^m(y_{\theta(1)}^m, \dots, y_{\theta(k(m))}^m) = \tau^n(y_1^n, \dots, y_{k(n)}^n).$$

It is clear that every constant term in L_λ is equal to $\tau^m(c_{i_1}, \dots, c_{i_{k(m)}})$ for some m and $i_1 < \dots < i_{k(m)} < \lambda$. Let B_λ be the set of constant terms of L_λ , and $B(\lambda, n)$ be those of the form $\tau^n(c_{i_1}, \dots)$, where $i_1 < i_2 < \dots$.

A function F from the set B_λ to a model M of T is l -proper ($l \leq \omega$) if

(1) if $k < j < \lambda$ then $F(c_k) \neq F(c_j)$;

(2) if $\tau \in B(\lambda, n)$, $n < l$, $\tau = f_\varphi(\tau_1, \dots, \tau_m)$ then

$$M \models (\exists y_0) \varphi[y_0, F(\tau_1), \dots, F(\tau_m)] \rightarrow \varphi[F(\tau), F(\tau_1), \dots, F(\tau_m)].$$

F is strongly l -proper if in addition

(3) if $\tau \in B(\lambda, n)$, $n < l$, $i_1 < \dots < i_{k(n)} < \lambda$, $j_1 < \dots < j_{k(n)} < \lambda$ and $m < \omega$ then

$$M \models \varphi_m[F(\tau_n(c_{i_1}, \dots, c_{i_{k(n)}}))] \equiv \varphi_m[F(\tau_n(c_{j_1}, \dots, c_{j_{k(n)}}))].$$

Let $p = \{\varphi_m(x) : m < \omega\}$.

Now let s denote a sequence of length $\leq \omega$ of natural numbers. Its length will be $l(s)$, and its n th element $s_n = s(n)$. The sequence of its first n -element ($n \leq l(s)$) will be $s|n$.

A function F from B_λ to a model M of T is s -proper if

(A) It is $l(s)$ -proper,

(B) for every $i_1 < \dots < \lambda$, and $m < l(s)$, $M \models \neg \varphi_{s(m)} [F(\tau^m(c_{i_1}, \dots))]$.

LEMMA 4. If $l(s) = \omega$, and for every n there is an $(s|n)$ -proper function F_n from B_{\aleph_0} into a model M_n of T , then $m(T, p) = 0$.

PROOF OF LEMMA 4. By the compactness theorem, there is a model M of T and an s -proper function F from B_{\aleph_0} into M . By a second use of the compactness theorem,

there is a model M_1 and an s -proper function F_1 from B_λ into M_1 where λ is any cardinal. Let A be the range of F_1 , and N a submodel of M_1 whose set of elements is A . Clearly $|A| \leq \lambda$ as $|B_\lambda| = \lambda$. On the other hand by condition (1) in the definition of l -proper function, $k < j < \lambda$ implies $F_1(c_k) \neq F_1(c_j)$, hence $|A| \geq |\{c_k : k < \lambda\}| = \lambda$. So the cardinality of N is λ . By the second condition in the definition of an l -proper function, and by Tarski-Vaught test (see e.g. [2]), N is an elementary submodel of M_1 and so also a model of T . By condition (B) of the definition of s -proper function, N omits p . So we clearly prove the lemma.

LEMMA 5. Suppose $m(T, p) \geq \beth_\omega$ and for every model M of T , M^I/D is saturated. Suppose $l(s) = n$ and there is an s -proper function F from B_{\aleph_0} into a model M of T . Let N be a model of T of cardinality $\geq \lambda = \beth_{k_1(n)+1}$ which omits p . Then we can lengthen s to a sequence s' of length $n + 1$ such that there is an s' -proper function from L_{\aleph_0} into N .

PROOF OF LEMMA 5. Let D be a (nonprincipal) ultrafilter on ω (on ultrafilters and ultraproducts e.g. [2]). Let $N_1 = N^\omega/D$. By our assumptions N_1 is saturated. By the compactness theorem, there is a model M_1 of T such that there is an s -proper function F from B_λ to M_1 . By the downward Löwenheim-Skolem theorem we can assume the cardinality of M_1 is λ , and hence it is isomorphic to an elementary submodel of N_1 . So there exists an s -proper function F' from B_λ into N_1 . By changing F' a little, we can assume in addition that for every $\tau = f_\varphi(\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n)$ where $\varphi = \varphi(x, y, \dots, y)$ it holds that $N_1 \models (\exists x)\varphi(x, \tau_1, \dots, \tau_n) \rightarrow \varphi(\tau, \tau_1, \dots, \tau_n)$. Let $F'(\tau) = \langle a_\tau^0, a_\tau^1, \dots, a_\tau^m, \dots \rangle_{m < \omega}/D$.

We define the function F_m from L_λ into N by $F_m(\tau) = a_\tau^m$.

Let us define an equivalence relation E among the increasing sequences of length $k_1(n)$ of ordinals $\langle \lambda : \langle i_1, \dots, i_{k_1(n)} \rangle E \langle j_1, \dots, j_{k_1(n)} \rangle$ if

(I) for every $r < \omega$, $F_r(c_{i_1}) = F_r(c_{i_2})$ iff $F_r(c_{j_1}) = F_r(c_{j_2})$,

(II) for every $m < n + 1, q < \omega$ and $r < \omega$,

$$N \models \varphi_q[F_r(\tau^m(c_{i_1}, \dots, c_{i_{k(m)}}))] \Leftrightarrow N \models \varphi_q[F_r(\tau^m(c_{j_1}, \dots, c_{j_{k(m)}}))],$$

(III) if $r < \omega, m < n + 1, \tau = \tau^m(c_{i_1}, \dots, c_{i_{k(m)}}), \tau = f_\varphi(\tau_1, \dots, \tau_p)$, and w.l.o.g. $\tau_q = \tau_q(c_{i_1}, \dots)$, and $\tau^* = \tau^m(c_{j_1}, \dots), \tau_q^* = \tau_q(c_{j_1}, \dots)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} N \models (\exists y)\varphi[y, F_r(\tau_1), \dots] \rightarrow \varphi[F_r(\tau), F_r(\tau_1), \dots] \\ \Leftrightarrow N \models (\exists y)\varphi[y, F_r(\tau_1^*), \dots] \rightarrow \varphi[F_r(\tau^*), \dots]. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see the number of equivalence classes is $\leq 2^{\aleph_0}$. By Erdős, Hajnal and Rado [1] there is an infinite subset I of λ , such that any two increasing sequences of ordinals from I , of length $k_1(n)$ are E -equivalent. By renaming the c_i 's we can assume the natural numbers belong to I . Let F'_r be F_r restricted to B_{\aleph_0} . Now by Los' theorem for every $m < n$

$$\{r : r < \omega, N \models \neg \varphi_{s(m)}[F_r(\tau^m(c_1, \dots, c_{k(m)}))]\} \in D.$$

This implies there are r 's for which F'_r satisfies condition (B) for being s -proper. By looking on the one hand at conditions (1), (2), for F to be strongly $(n + 1)$ -proper, and conditions (A) and (B) for being s -proper, and on the other hand conditions (I), (II), (III) in the definition of E , it is easy to see the set of r 's for which

F'_r is $(n + 1)$ -proper and s -proper, belongs to D . Let r_0 be such r . As F'_r is a function into N which omits p , there is m_0 such that

$$N \models \neg \varphi_{m_0}[F_{r_0}(\tau^n(c_1, \dots, c_{k(n)}))].$$

Define $s' = \langle s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}, m_0 \rangle$. Clearly F_{r_0} is an s' -proper function from L_{\aleph_0} into N . So we prove Lemma 5.

CONTINUATION OF THE PROOF OF THEOREM 1. We define by induction on n : s_{n-1} , F_n , M_n such that: M_n is a model of T , F_n is an $\langle s_m : m < n \rangle$ -proper function from B_{\aleph_0} into M_n .

For $n = 0$, M_0 will be any infinite model of T , and F_0 any function from B_{\aleph_0} into M_0 , such that $r \neq q$ implies $F_0(c_r) \neq F_0(c_q)$.

If M_n , F_n and $\langle s_m : m < n \rangle$ are defined, by Lemma 5 we can define M_{n+1} , F_{n+1} and s_n such that M_{n+1} is a model of T , and F_{n+1} is an $\langle s_m : m < n + 1 \rangle$ -proper function from B_{\aleph_0} into M_{n+1} . By Lemma 4, Theorem 1 follows.

SKETCH OF THE PROOF OF THEOREM 2. For simplicity, we shall sketch only a proof of:

(*) if $m(T, p) > \beth_\omega$, T is countable, complete and superstable, then $\lambda \geq \aleph_0$ where λ is from [6, V5.8]. The conclusion follows by [6, V5.8].

Assume T and p do not satisfy (*).

Let M be a model of T of cardinality $\geq \beth_\omega$ which omits p . Clearly $N = M^\omega/D$ is \aleph_1 -saturated (where D is any nonprincipal ultrafilter over ω). Hence, by Shelah [6, V, §5; IV, §4], there are in N sets A , and $\{a_i^\xi : i < \alpha_\xi\}$ for $\xi < \xi_0 < \aleph_0$ such that:

- (1) $|A| \leq 2^{\aleph_0}$,
- (2) for each $\xi < \xi_0$, $\{a_i^\xi : i < \alpha_\xi\}$ is an indiscernible set over $A \cup \{a_i^\zeta : i < \alpha_\zeta, \xi < \zeta\}$,
- (3) $\{a_i^\xi : i < \alpha_\xi\}$ is a maximal indiscernible set over $A \cup \{a_i^\zeta : i < \alpha_\zeta, \xi < \zeta\}$,
- (4) N is the \aleph_1 -primary model over $A \cup \{a_i^\xi : i < \alpha_\xi, \xi < \xi_0\}$.

The last demand means that the set of elements of N is $\{b_i : i < \beta_0\}$ and, for every $i < \beta_0$, b_i realizes an \aleph_1 -isolated type over $B_i = A \cup \{a_j^\xi : j < \alpha_\xi, \xi < \xi_0\} \cup \{b_j : j < i\}$. That means that there is $B^i \subset B_i$, $|B^i| \leq \aleph_0$, such that if $\varphi(x, \bar{y})$ is a formula, \bar{b} a sequence from B_i , then there is a formula $\psi(x, \bar{y})$ and sequence \bar{c} from B^i , such that $N \models \varphi[b_i, \bar{b}]$ implies $N \models \psi[b_i, \bar{c}] \wedge (\forall x) [\psi(x, \bar{c}) \rightarrow \varphi(x, \bar{b})]$.

Now let n_1 be the first such that $\alpha_\xi < \beth_\omega$ implies $\alpha_\xi < \beth_{n_1}$ (exists as we assume $\lambda \leq \aleph_0$).

Now examining carefully the proof of Theorem 1, it clearly suffices to show: for every sequence s , $l(s) < \omega$, that:

(A) If there is an s -proper function from B_λ to M , then there is an s -proper function from B_λ to N .

(B) If there is an s -proper function F into N from B_λ , $\lambda > \beth_{n_1+2k_1(l(s))+2}$, and $\mu < \beth_\omega$, then there is an s -proper function from B_μ into N .

(C) If there is an s -proper function from B_λ into N , $\lambda \geq \beth_{n+k_1(l(s))+1}$, then there is an s -proper, strongly $(l(s) + 1)$ -proper function from B_{\beth_n} into M (for any $n < \omega$). By (A), (B), (C) we can easily define s_m by induction, such that for every $n < \omega$, there is an $\langle s_m : m < n \rangle$ -proper function from $B_{\beth_{n_1+2k_1(n)+1}}$ into M . Now (A) is self-evident, and (C) follows from the proof of Lemma 5.

Let us prove (B). In the description of N as an \aleph_1 -primary model in (4) above, we can assume $b_j \in B_i \Rightarrow B^j \subseteq B^i$ and $b_i \notin B_i$. We expand N by the following relation, functions and constants:

- (i) an individual constant a for each $a \in A \cup \{a_\xi^j: j < \alpha_\xi, \xi < \xi_0 \text{ and } \alpha_\xi < \beth_\omega\}$,
- (ii) a one-place relation $P_\xi = \{a_\xi^j: j < \alpha_\xi\}$ for each $\xi < \xi_0$ and a one-place relation $Q = \{b_i: i < \beta_0\}$, $Q_0 = A$,
- (iii) a two-place relation $< = \{\langle b_j, b_i \rangle: j < i < \beta_0\}$,
- (iv) one-place function symbols G_n , such that $B_i = \{G_n(b_i): n < \omega\}$,
- (v) the functions f_φ defined naturally (i.e. to “commute” with F).

We get a model N^* . By [1], the sequence $\langle F(c_i): i < \lambda \rangle$ has a subsequence of length ω_1 , all of whose increasing subsequences of length $\leq 2k_1(l(s)) + 1$ realizes the same type in N^* (notice w.l.o.g. $k(n) \leq 1$). So we assume $\langle F(c_i): i < \omega_1 \rangle$ is such a subsequence and now we lengthen it naturally.

PROOF OF THEOREM 3. Left to the reader who should use [6, IX, 2.3].

LEMMA 6. *In Theorem 1, we cannot replace \beth_ω by a smaller cardinal, even if T is also superstable.*

PROOF. On $V = \{\eta: \eta \text{ a sequence of ones and zeros of length } \omega\}$ we define additions $\eta_1 + \eta_2 = \eta_3$ iff for each n , $\eta_1(n) + \eta_2(n) = \eta_3(n) \pmod 2$. Note that V is an abelian group, and in it $\eta = -\eta$ so subtraction is addition. Let k be a fixed natural number. Let us define a model \bar{M} :

$$|M| = V \cup V^{k+1},$$

$$P = V \text{ (a one-place relation),}$$

$$P_n = \{\eta \in V: \eta(n) = 0\} \cup \{\langle \eta_0, \dots, \eta_k \rangle: \eta_k(n) = 0\},$$

$$0 \text{ the sequence of zeros of length } \omega,$$

$$+ \text{ a two-place function: on } V \text{ as above,}$$

$$\langle \eta_0, \dots, \eta_k \rangle + \eta = \eta + \langle \eta_0, \dots, \eta_k \rangle = \langle \eta_0, \dots, \eta_{k-1}, \eta_k + \eta \rangle$$

and 0 otherwise.

$$F_l \text{ a one-place function, for } l < k, F_l(\eta) = \eta, F_l(\langle \eta_0, \dots, \eta_k \rangle) = \eta_l,$$

$$E \text{ an equivalence relation, } \langle \eta_0, \dots, \eta_k \rangle E \langle \eta^0, \dots, \eta^k \rangle \text{ iff } \eta_l = \eta^l \text{ for each } l < k.$$

Now $T = \text{Th}(\bar{M})$ is countable, complete, has elimination of quantifiers and is superstable and unidimensional. Let us define a type

$$p = \{P(x_l), F_m(y_l) = x_{l+i(m,l)}, \neg P(y_l): l \leq k, m < k, i(m, l) \text{ is } 0 \text{ if } m < l \text{ and } 1 \text{ otherwise}\} \cup \{P_n(y_l) \equiv P_n(y_{l+1}): n < \omega, l < k\} \cup \{\bigwedge_{l < m \leq k} x_l \neq x_m\}.$$

Now T has a model of cardinality λ omitting p iff $\lambda \nrightarrow (k+1)_{\aleph_0}^k$, iff $\lambda \leq \beth_{k+1}$.

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