

WHAT IF  $\lambda$  IS A STRONG LIMIT SINGULAR CARDINAL ?

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1. BACKGROUND

Let  $\kappa$  denote a regular uncountable cardinal and  $\lambda$  a cardinal  $\geq \kappa$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  denote the set  $\{x \subset \lambda \mid |x| < \kappa\}$ . We refer the reader to Kanamori [6, Section 25] for basic facts about the combinatorics of  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ .

Suppose  $I$  is an ideal over  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ . Let  $I^+ = \{X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda \mid X \notin I\}$ . Let  $\mathbb{P}_I$  denote the p.o. of members of  $I^+$  ordered by  $X \leq_{\mathbb{P}_I} Y \iff X \subseteq Y$ .

**Definition 1.1.**

We say that an ideal  $I$  is precipitous if  $\Vdash_{\mathbb{P}_I}$  “ $\text{Ult}(V; G)$  is wellfounded”.

Let  $NS_{\kappa\lambda} = \{X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda \mid X \text{ is the non-stationary}\}$ .  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  is known as the non-stationary ideal over  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ . For a stationary  $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ , let  $NS_{\kappa\lambda} \mid X$  denote the ideal over  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  defined by  $Y \in NS_{\kappa\lambda} \mid X \iff Y \cap X \in NS_{\kappa\lambda}$ .

Can  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  or  $NS_{\kappa\lambda} \mid X$  be precipitous ?

**Answer.** : Yes ( sometimes assuming ... ).

**Note** The existence of a precipitous ideal has the strength of some large cardinal because it provides us with a “generic” elementary embedding of  $V$ .

**Theorem 1.2 (Foreman, Magidor, Shelah, Goldring) [3][6].**

If  $\lambda$  is regular and  $\delta$  is a Woodin cardinal  $> \lambda$ , then  $\Vdash_{\text{Coll}(\lambda, < \delta)}$  “ $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  is precipitous”. ( $\text{Coll}(\lambda, < \delta)$  is the Levy collapse of  $\delta$  to  $\lambda^+$ .)

**Question.** What if  $\lambda$  is singular ?

Burke and Matsubara [1] conjectured that  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  cannot be precipitous if  $\lambda$  is singular.

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $\delta$  be a cardinal. We say that an ideal  $I$  is  $\delta$ -saturated if  $\mathbb{P}_I$  satisfies the  $\delta$  chain condition .

**Fact.** If  $I$  is a  $\lambda^+$ -saturated  $\kappa$ -complete normal ideal over  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ , then  $I$  is precipitous.

**Note.**  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  is the minimal  $\kappa$ -complete normal ideal over  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ .

**Theorem 1.4 (Foreman-Magidor) [2].**

Unless  $\kappa = \lambda = \aleph_1$ ,  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  cannot be  $\lambda^+$ -saturated.

What about  $NS_{\kappa\lambda} \mid X$  ?

**Menas' Conjecture.** *Every stationary subset of  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  can be partitioned into  $\lambda^{<\kappa}$  disjoint stationary sets.*

It turned out that Menas' Conjecture is independent of ZFC.

**Theorem 1.5.**  $L \models$  "Menas' Conjecture holds".

**Theorem 1.6(Gitik) [5].** *Suppose that  $\kappa$  is supercompact and  $\lambda > \kappa$ . Then  $\exists$  p.o.  $\mathbb{P}$  that preserves cardinals  $\geq \kappa$  such that  $\Vdash_{\mathbb{P}} \kappa$  is inaccessible and  $\exists$  stationary  $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  such that  $X$  cannot be partitioned into  $\kappa^+$  disjoint stationary sets".*

## 2.MAIN RESULTS

**Theorem 2.1 (Matsubara-Shelah)[9].** *If  $\lambda$  is a strong limit singular cardinal then  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  is nowhere precipitous (i.e.  $NS_{\kappa\lambda} \upharpoonright X$  is not precipitous for every stationary  $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ ).*

**Theorem 2.2 [9].** *If  $\lambda$  is a strong limit singular cardinal then every stationary subset of  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  can be partitioned into  $\lambda^{<\kappa}$  disjoint stationary sets.*

One of the ingredients of the proof is the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.3.** *If  $2^{<\kappa} < \lambda^{<\kappa} = 2^\lambda$ , then*

- (i) *every stationary subset of  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  can be partitioned into  $\lambda^{<\kappa}$  disjoint stationary sets and*
- (ii)  *$NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  is nowhere precipitous.(Matsubara-Shioya).*

*Remark.*

- (1) The hypothesis of Lemma 2.3 is satisfied if  $\lambda$  is a strong limit cardinal with  $\text{cf}(\lambda) < \kappa$ .
- (2) Under the hypothesis of Lemma 2.3, if  $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  has size  $< 2^\lambda$  then  $X$  is bounded and therefore non-stationary.

For the proof of (i) see page 345 of Kanamori [8].

*proof of (ii).*

Consider the following game  $G_\omega$  between two players, **Nonempty** and **Empty**.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Nonempty} & X_1 & X_2 & \dots & X_n & \dots & \\ \text{Empty} & Y_1 & Y_2 & \dots & Y_n & \dots & \end{array}$$

**Nonempty** and **Empty** alternately choose stationary sets  $X_n, Y_n \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$  respectively so that  $X_n \supseteq Y_n \supseteq X_{n+1}$  for  $n=1,2,3,\dots$

After  $\omega$  moves, **Empty** wins  $G_\omega$  if  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n = \emptyset$

**Fact.**  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  is nowhere precipitous iff **Empty** has a winning strategy in  $G_\omega$ .

For the proof of this fact, see [4]. Let  $\langle f_\alpha \mid \alpha < 2^\lambda \rangle$  enumerate functions from  $\lambda^{<\omega}$  into  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ .

For a function  $f : \lambda^{<\omega} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda$ , let

$$\underbrace{C(f)}_{\text{club set generated by } f} = \{s \in \mathcal{P}_\kappa\lambda \mid \bigcup f'' s^{<\omega} \subseteq s\}$$

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**Fact.**  $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda$  is stationary iff  $\forall \alpha < 2^\lambda$   $C(f_\alpha) \cap X \neq \emptyset$ .

We now describe **Empty**'s strategy. Suppose **Nonempty** plays  $X_1$ . Choose a sequence  $\langle s_\alpha^1 \mid \alpha < 2^\lambda \rangle$  from  $X_1$  by induction on  $\alpha$  as follow: Pick an element from  $X_1 \cap C(f_0)$  and call it  $s_0^1$ .

Given  $\langle s_\alpha^1 \mid \alpha < \beta \rangle$  for some  $\beta < 2^\lambda$ , pick  $s_\beta^1 \in X_1 \cap C(f_\beta) \setminus \underbrace{\{s_\alpha^1 \mid \alpha < \beta\}}_{\text{non-stationary}}$ .

Let **Empty** play  $Y_1 = \{s_\alpha^1 \mid \alpha < 2^\lambda\}$ . Now suppose **Nonempty** plays  $X_n$  immediately following **Empty**'s move  $Y_{n-1} = \{s_\alpha^{n-1} \mid \alpha < 2^\lambda\}$ .

Choose  $\langle s_\alpha^n \mid \alpha < 2^\lambda \rangle$  a sequence from  $X_n$  as follows:

Pick  $s_0^n \in (X \cap C(f_\beta)) \setminus \underbrace{(\{s_\alpha^{n-1} \mid \alpha \leq \beta\} \cup \{s_\alpha^n \mid \alpha < \beta\})}_{\text{non-stationary}}$ .

Let **Empty** play  $Y_n = \{s_\alpha^n \mid \alpha < 2^\lambda\}$ .

**Claim.** *This is a winning strategy for Empty*

*proof:* We want to show that  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n = \emptyset$ .

Suppose otherwise, say  $t \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n$ . For each  $n < \omega$ ,  $\exists ! \alpha_n < 2^\lambda$  such that  $t = s_{\alpha_n}^n$ .

It is easy to see that  $\alpha_n > \alpha_{n+1}$  for each  $n$ . ( $s_\beta^n \notin \{s_\alpha^n \mid \alpha \leq \beta\}$  etc ...)

We now prove Theorem 2.2 assuming Theorem 2.1 and Lemma 2.3 (i).

*proof of Theorem 2.2.* : Let  $\lambda$  be a strong limit singular cardinal . If  $\text{cf}(\lambda) < \kappa$  then by Lemma 2.3 (i) we are done.

Assume  $\text{cf}(\lambda) \geq \kappa$ . In this case  $\lambda^{<\kappa} = \lambda$ . So it is enough to show that  $NS_{\kappa\lambda} \mid X$  is not  $\lambda$ -saturated for every stationary  $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda$ .

But this is a consequence of  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  being nowhere precipitous . In fact we know that  $NS_{\kappa\lambda} \mid X$  cannot be  $\lambda^+$ -saturated for every stationary  $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda$ .

*proof of Theorem 2.1.* : We now tamper with the definition of  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda$ .

From now on we let  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda = \{s \subseteq \lambda \mid |s| < \kappa, s \cap \kappa \in \kappa\}$ . This set is club in  $\{s \subseteq \lambda \mid |s| < \kappa\}$ . The following is the advantage of this change:

$X \subseteq \mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda$  is stationary iff  $\forall f : \lambda^{<\omega} \rightarrow \lambda$   $C[f] \cap X \neq \emptyset$

where  $C[f] = \{s \in \mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda \mid s \text{ is closed under } f\}$ .

Let  $\lambda$  be a strong limit singular cardinal. By Lemma 2.3 (ii) we may assume that  $\text{cf}(\lambda) \geq \kappa$ . Let  $\langle \lambda_i \mid i < \text{cf}(\lambda) \rangle$  be a continuous increasing sequence of strong limit singular cardinals converging to  $\lambda$ . Let  $T = \{i < \text{cf}(\lambda) \mid \text{cf}(i) < \kappa\}$ .

For each  $i \in T$ , let  $E_i = \{s \in \mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda \mid \text{sup}(s) = \lambda_i, \lambda_i \notin s\}$

**Note.**

- (i)  $|E_i| = 2^{\lambda_i}$
- (ii)  $\bigcup_{i \in T} E_i$  is club in  $\mathcal{P}_\kappa \lambda$ .

For each  $i \in T$ , let  $\langle f_\epsilon^i \mid \epsilon < 2^{\lambda_i} \rangle$  enumerate all of the functions whose domain  $\subseteq \lambda_i^{<\omega}$  and range  $\subseteq \lambda_i$ .

**Definition 2.4.**  $C^i[f_\epsilon^i] = \{s \in E_i \mid s^{<\omega} \subseteq \text{dom}(f_\epsilon^i) \text{ and } s \text{ is close}$

To show  $NS_{\kappa\lambda}$  is nowhere precipitous we will present a win  
**Empty** in  $G_\omega$ .

Suppose  $W_1$  is **Nonempty**'s first move in  $G_\omega$ . For each  $i \in T$ , we  
a "local game" where each player alternately chooses subsets of  $E_i$ .  
**Nonempty**'s first move is  $W_1 \cap E_i$ .

**Local game  $G(i)$**

For each  $i \in T$ , define a game  $G(i)$  as follows:

**Nonempty** and **Empty** alternately choose  $X_n, Y_n \subseteq E_i$  resp  
 $1, 2, \dots$ , so that  $X_n \supseteq Y_n \supseteq X_{n+1}$  and  $\forall \epsilon < 2^{\lambda_i}$  ( $|C^i[f_\epsilon^i] \cap$   
 $C^i[f_\epsilon^i] \cap Y_n \neq \emptyset$ ).

**Empty** wins  $G(i)$  iff  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n = \emptyset$ .

Just as in the proof of Lemma 2.3 (ii) we can show that **Empt**  
strategy, say  $\tau_i$  in  $G_i$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 G_\omega & \text{Nonempty} & W_1 & & W_2 & & \\
 & \text{Empty} & \downarrow & \bigcup_{i \in T} \tau_i(\langle W \cup E_i \rangle) & \downarrow & \bigcup_{i \in T} & \\
 G(i) & & W_1 \cap E_i & \uparrow & W_2 \cap E_i & & \\
 (i \in T) & & & \tau_i(\langle W \cap E_i \rangle) & & & 
 \end{array}$$

The following lemma tells us that we can combine  $\tau_i$ 's for  $i \in T$   
for  $G_\omega$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** *Suppose  $W \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{\kappa\lambda}$  is stationary. If  $U \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{\kappa\lambda}$  satis*  
*condition (#) then  $U$  is stationary.*

(#) For each  $i \in T$ ,  $\forall \epsilon < 2^{\lambda_i}$  ( $|C^i[f_\epsilon^i] \cap W| = 2^{\lambda_i} \longrightarrow C^i[f_\epsilon^i] \cap U \neq$

Now we describe **Empty**'s (combined) strategy  $\sigma$  in  $G_\omega$ . Supr  
plays  $W_1$ .

Let **Empty** play  $\bigcup_{i \in T} \tau_i(\langle W_1 \cap E_i \rangle) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sigma(\langle W_1 \rangle)$ .

Suppose

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 W_1 & & W_2 & & \dots & & W_n \\
 & \sigma(\langle W_1 \rangle) & & \sigma(\langle W_1, W_2 \rangle) & & \dots & 
 \end{array}$$

is the run of the game  $G_\omega$  so far.

Let

$$\sigma(\langle W_1, W_2, \dots, W_n \rangle) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup_{i \in T} \tau_i(\langle W_1 \cap E_i, W_2 \cap E_i, \dots, W_n \cap E_i \rangle)$$

Lemma 2.5 guarantees that  $\sigma$  provides **Empty** a legal move i.e. st  
of **Nonempty**'s last move. This  $\sigma$  is a winning strategy for **Emp**  
The proof of Lemma 2.5 depends upon the following lemma whos  
theory.

**Lemma 2.6.** *Suppose  $U \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{\kappa\lambda}$ . If  $\forall i \in T$   $|U \cap E_i| < 2^{\lambda_i}$ , then  $U$  is*

To prove the last lemma, we need the following fact from pcf theo

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**pcf Fact.**  $\exists$  club  $C \subseteq cf(\lambda)$  such that  $pp(\lambda_i) = 2^{\lambda_i}$  for every  $i \in C$ .

See Shelah “Cardinal Arithmetic” [12] Conclusion 5.13 page 414 and Hotz, Steffens, Weitz “Introduction to Cardinal Arithmetic” [7] Theorem 9.1.3 page 271.

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