

Rearrangement & Subseries numbers

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Given a sequence $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_n \mid n \in \omega \rangle \in {}^\omega \mathbf{R}$ with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$, we may consider the infinite series $\sum \mathbf{a} = \sum_{n \in \omega} a_n$ and the sequence of partial sums $\langle P_n \mid n \in \omega \rangle$, where $P_n = \sum_{k \leq n} a_k$. It is possible that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_n$ is equal to a real number, called its limit, in which case we say $\sum \mathbf{a}$ converges. If $\sum_{n \in \omega} |a_n|$ converges, then $\sum \mathbf{a}$ is *absolutely convergent*, or else, $\sum \mathbf{a}$ is *conditionally convergent*.

Otherwise $\sum \mathbf{a}$ *diverges*. Either $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_n$ equals ∞ or $-\infty$, in which case $\sum \mathbf{a}$ *tends to infinity*, or $\langle P_n \mid n \in \omega \rangle$ has multiple accumulation points, in which case $\sum \mathbf{a}$ *oscillates*.

Let \mathcal{S}_ω be the set of permutations (= bijections) $\pi : \omega \rightarrow \omega$, and for $\pi \in \mathcal{S}_\omega$ we will write $\sum \mathbf{a}_\pi = \sum_{n \in \omega} a_{\pi(n)}$.

Theorem *Riemann*

If $\sum \mathbf{a}$ is conditionally convergent and $r \in \mathbf{R}$, then

- there is $\pi \in \mathcal{S}_\omega$ s.t. $\sum \mathbf{a}_\pi = r$,
- there is $\rho \in \mathcal{S}_\omega$ s.t. $\sum \mathbf{a}_\rho$ tends to (\pm) infinity,
- there is $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_\omega$ s.t. $\sum \mathbf{a}_\sigma$ diverges by oscillation

In 2015, Michael Hardy asked on *MathOverflow*:

How large does a subset $C \subseteq \mathcal{S}_\omega$ have to be, such that for every conditionally convergent $\sum a$ there exists some $\pi \in C$ for which $\sum a_\pi$ does not converge to the same value as $\sum a$?

The answer turns out to be quite interesting, and became subject of a paper by Blass, Brendle, Brian, Hamkins, Hardy, and Larson (2019).

To spoil the answer to Hardy's original question:

$$\max \{ \mathfrak{b}, \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \} \leq \mathfrak{rr} \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M}),$$

where the *rearrangement number* \mathfrak{rr} is the least cardinality of such C .

Let $[\omega]^\omega$ be the set of infinite subsets of ω , and for $X \in [\omega]^\omega$ we will write $\sum_X \mathbf{a} = \sum_{n \in X} a_n$ (ordered in the natural order X inherits from ω).

Theorem

If $\sum \mathbf{a}$ is conditionally convergent and $r \in \mathbf{R}$, then

- there is $X \in [\omega]^\omega$ s.t. $\sum_X \mathbf{a} = r$,
- there is $Y \in [\omega]^\omega$ s.t. $\sum_Y \mathbf{a}$ tends to (\pm) infinity,
- there is $Z \in [\omega]^\omega$ s.t. $\sum_Z \mathbf{a}$ diverges by oscillation

Two months after Hardy's question, Rahman Mohammadpour asked on *MathOverflow* whether weakening “permutations” to “injections” in the definition of \mathfrak{rr} results in a consistently different cardinal characteristic.

The answer became subject to another paper by Brendle, Brian, and Hamkins (2019).

Let \mathfrak{f} be the least size of a family $D \subseteq [\omega]^\omega$ such that for every conditionally convergent $\sum a$ there exists some $X \in D$ such that $\sum_X a$ diverges. We have

$$\max \{ \mathfrak{s}, \text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) \} \leq \mathfrak{f} \leq \text{non}(\mathcal{M}).$$

The answer to Mohammadpour's original question is the *subrearrangement number* \mathfrak{sr} , and $\mathfrak{sr} = \min \{ \mathfrak{f}, \mathfrak{rr} \}$.

In the original paper, the authors used the symbol ß for the subseries number. This letter, the *Eszett* of the German language, commonly replaces "ss".

But cardinal characteristics are usually displayed using fraktur script! So what do we do?

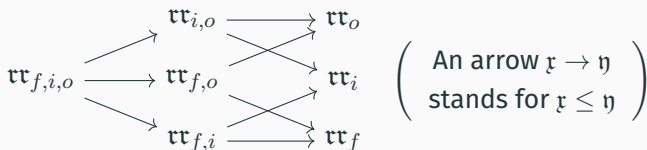
1. Import the package `yfonts`,
2. Now we have a fraktur medial s at our disposal: `f`
3. Glue it together with the fraktur `3`
4. Subseries number: `ß`.

We will define the following *convergence behaviours*:

- f “converges to a different limit”
- i “tends to infinity”
- o “oscillates”

For Γ a set of convergence behaviours, we can define a rearrangement number \mathfrak{rr}_Γ as the least cardinality of a set $C \subseteq \mathcal{S}_\omega$ such that for every $CC \sum a$ there exists $\pi \in C$ such that $\sum a_\pi$ behaves according to one of the elements of Γ .

For instance, the original \mathfrak{rr} is equal to $\mathfrak{rr}_{f,i,o}$. We observe:



No.

Let $\pi \in \mathcal{S}_\omega$, then we call $\tau_\pi \in \mathcal{S}_\omega$ a *mixing* of π with the identity if $\tau_\pi[n] = \pi[n]$ for infinitely many n , and $\tau_\pi[k] = k$ for infinitely many k .

Theorem *Blass, Brendle, Brian, Hamkins, Hardy, and Larson 2019*

$$\mathfrak{rr}_{f,i,o} = \mathfrak{rr}_{f,o} = \mathfrak{rr}_{i,o} = \mathfrak{rr}_o.$$

Proof. It suffices to show $\mathfrak{rr}_o \leq \mathfrak{rr}_{f,i,o}$.

Let $C \subseteq \mathcal{S}_\omega$ witness $\mathfrak{rr}_{f,i,o}$ and $\sum a = r$ be CC. If there is $\pi \in C$ such that $\sum a_\pi = r' \in \mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty, -\infty\}$ and $r' \neq r$, then $\sum a_{\tau_\pi}$ has both r and r' as accumulation points, and thus oscillates.

Therefore $C \cup C'$, where $C' = \{\tau_\pi \mid \pi \in \mathcal{S}_\omega\}$, witnesses \mathfrak{rr}_o . \square

A *relational system* is a triple $\mathcal{R} = \langle R, X, Y \rangle$ where $R \subseteq X \times Y$. We call X the set of *challenges* and Y the set of *responses*. A response y *meets* the challenge x if $x R y$.

We define two cardinal characteristics:

$$\mathfrak{D}(R, X, Y) = \min \{ |D| \mid D \subseteq Y \text{ and } \forall x \in X \exists y \in D (x R y) \}$$

$$\mathfrak{B}(R, X, Y) = \min \{ |B| \mid B \subseteq X \text{ and } \forall y \in Y \exists x \in B (x \not R y) \}$$

Note that $\mathfrak{B}(R, X, Y) = \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{R}^{-1}, Y, X)$. Thus, $\mathcal{R}^\perp = \langle \mathcal{R}^{-1}, Y, X \rangle$ is called the *dual* relational system of $\mathcal{R} = \langle R, X, Y \rangle$.

If $\mathcal{R} = \langle R, X, Y \rangle$ and $\mathcal{S} = \langle S, A, B \rangle$ are relational systems, then a *Tukey connection* is a pair of maps $\rho_- : X \rightarrow A$ and $\rho_+ : B \rightarrow Y$ such that for any $x \in X$ and $b \in B$ for which $\rho_-(x) S b$ holds, also $x R \rho_+(b)$ holds. If a Tukey connection from \mathcal{R} to \mathcal{S} exists, we write this as $\mathcal{R} \preceq \mathcal{S}$.

Lemma

$$\mathcal{R} \preceq \mathcal{S} \text{ implies } \begin{cases} \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{R}, X, Y) \leq \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{S}, A, B), & \text{and} \\ \mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{R}, X, Y) \geq \mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{S}, A, B). \end{cases}$$

Let us define some more convergence behaviours:

c “converges”

ac “converges absolutely”

cc “converges conditionally”

For Γ a set of convergence behaviours, define \mathfrak{S}_Γ as the set of $a \in {}^\omega \mathbf{R}$ such that $\sum a$ behaves according to an element of Γ .

Let $R_\Gamma \subseteq \mathfrak{S}_{cc} \times \mathcal{S}_\omega$ be the relation defined by $a R_\Gamma \pi$ if and only if $a_\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_\Gamma$. Now note that $\mathfrak{rr}_\Gamma = \mathfrak{D}(R_\Gamma, \mathfrak{S}_{cc}, \mathcal{S}_\omega)$. We will write $\mathcal{R}_\Gamma = \langle R_\Gamma, \mathfrak{S}_{cc}, \mathcal{S}_\omega \rangle$.

Let $\mathfrak{rr}_\Gamma^\perp = \mathfrak{B}(R_\Gamma, \mathfrak{S}_{cc}, \mathcal{S}_\omega)$, which is the least size of a set $A \subseteq \mathfrak{S}_{cc}$ such that there is no $\pi \in \mathcal{S}_\omega$ for which $a_\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_\Gamma$ for all $a \in A$. These are the *dual rearrangement numbers*.

Theorem *Blass, Brendle, Brian, Hamkins, Hardy, and Larson 2019*

$$\mathcal{R}_o \preceq \mathcal{R}_{f,i}.$$

Proof. The maps $\rho_- : \mathfrak{S}_{cc} \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_{cc}$ the identity and $\rho_+ : \mathcal{S}_\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_\omega$ sending $\pi \mapsto \tau_\pi$ form a Tukey connection. \square

Corollary

$$\text{rr}_o \leq \text{rr}_{f,i} \text{ and } \text{rr}_o^\perp \geq \text{rr}_{f,i}^\perp.$$

We showed $\text{rr}_o \leq \text{rr}_{f,i,o}$ in a way that does not translate to a Tukey connection: we used a witness $C \subseteq \mathcal{S}_\omega$ for $\text{rr}_{f,i,o}$, and created a witness for rr_o by considering $C \cup C'$ where C' was the set of mixings of $\pi \in C$ with the identity permutation. But what choice of ρ_+ gives us $\rho_+[C] = C \cup C'$?

Instead, we need a **new proof** to show that $\text{rr}_o^\perp = \text{rr}_{f,i,o}^\perp$. Let me give a very cursory sketch of the new proof, and refer to my Master's thesis for details.

If $\mathcal{R} = \langle R, X, Y \rangle, \mathcal{S} = \langle S, A, B \rangle$ are relational systems, we can define the *composition* $\mathcal{R} \frown \mathcal{S} = \langle T, P, Q \rangle$ where $P = X \times^Y A$ and $Q = Y \times B$ and $(x, f) T (y, b)$ if $x R y$ and for $f(y) = a$ we have $a S b$.

Lemma *See e.g. Blass 2010*

$\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{R} \frown \mathcal{S}) = \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{R}) \cdot \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{S})$, and

$\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{R} \frown \mathcal{S}) = \min\{\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{R}), \mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{S})\}$.

Theorem *vdV. 2019, with much help from Brendle*

$\text{rr}_o^\perp = \text{rr}_{f,i,o}^\perp$.

Proof sketch. We first show that $\mathcal{R}_{f,i,o} \preceq \mathcal{B}$ where \mathcal{B} is a relational system with $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{B}) = \mathfrak{b}$. The proof that $\text{rr}_{f,i,o} \geq \mathfrak{b}$ from the original rearrangement number paper suffices. This proves that $\max\{\text{rr}_{f,i,o}, \mathfrak{b}\} = \text{rr}_{f,i,o}$ and $\min\{\text{rr}_{f,i,o}^\perp, \mathfrak{d}\} = \text{rr}_{f,i,o}^\perp$.

Then we show that $\mathcal{R}_o \preceq \mathcal{R}_{f,i,o} \frown \mathcal{B}$. By the above, we get $\text{rr}_o^\perp \geq \text{rr}_{f,i,o}^\perp$, which is all we need. □

Let $f, g \in {}^\omega\omega$, then we define $f \leq^* g$ (or g dominates f) if $\{n \in \omega \mid f(n) \not\leq g(n)\}$ is finite.

Let $X, Y \in [\omega]^\omega$, then we define $X \dagger Y$ (or X splits Y) if $Y \cap X$ and $Y \setminus X$ are both infinite.

Let \mathcal{M} be the σ -ideal of meagre subsets of ${}^\omega\omega$ and \mathcal{N} be the σ -ideal of Lebesgue null subsets of ${}^\omega 2$.

$$\mathfrak{d} = \mathfrak{D}(\leq^*, {}^\omega\omega, {}^\omega\omega)$$

$$\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{B}(\leq^*, {}^\omega\omega, {}^\omega\omega)$$

$$\mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{D}(\dagger, [\omega]^\omega, [\omega]^\omega)$$

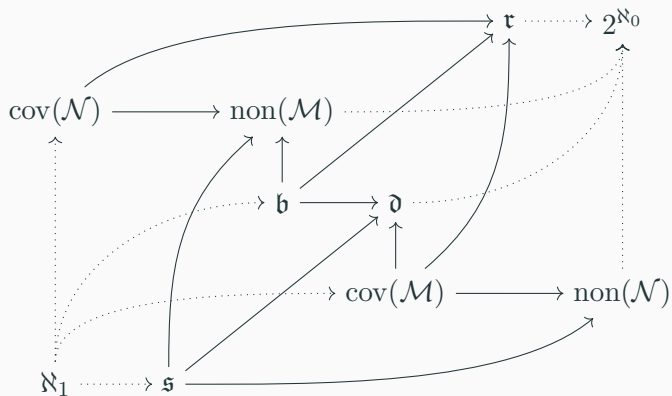
$$\mathfrak{r} = \mathfrak{B}(\dagger, [\omega]^\omega, [\omega]^\omega)$$

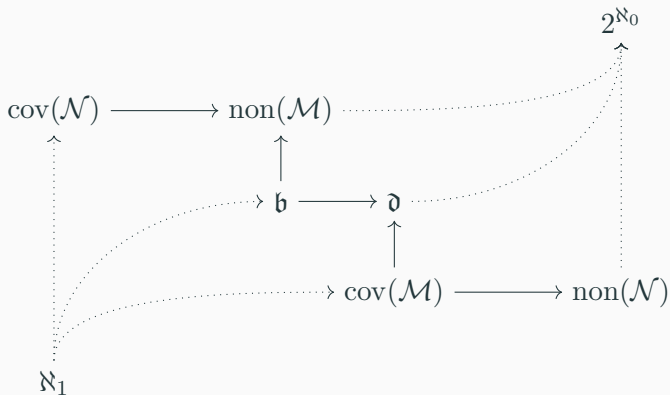
$$\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) = \mathfrak{D}(\in, {}^\omega\omega, \mathcal{M})$$

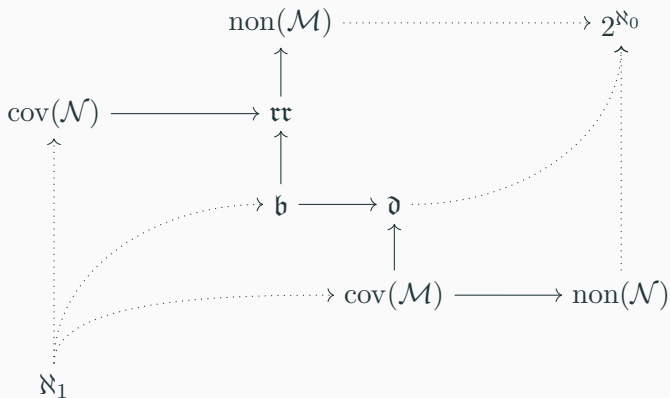
$$\text{non}(\mathcal{M}) = \mathfrak{B}(\in, {}^\omega\omega, \mathcal{M})$$

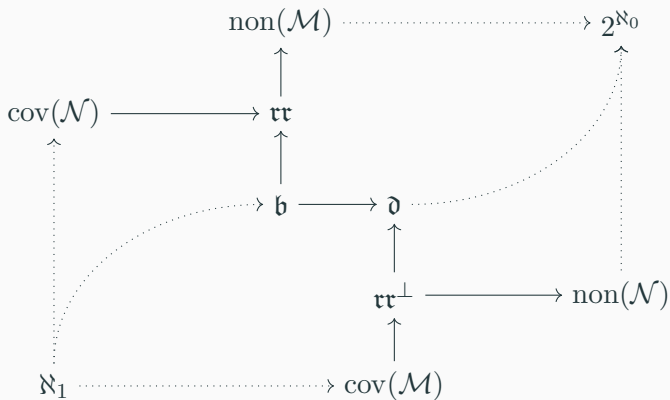
$$\text{cov}(\mathcal{N}) = \mathfrak{D}(\in, {}^\omega 2, \mathcal{N})$$

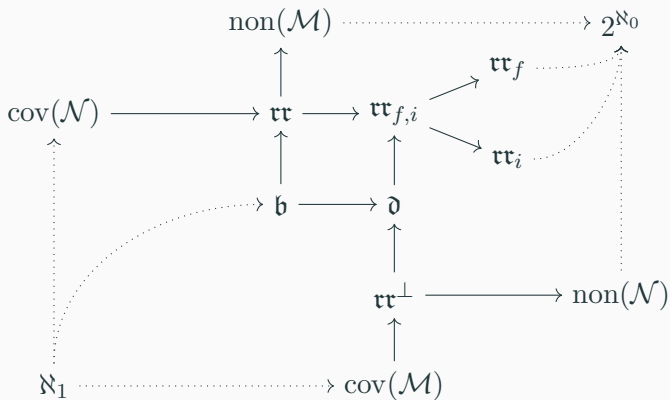
$$\text{non}(\mathcal{N}) = \mathfrak{B}(\in, {}^\omega 2, \mathcal{N})$$

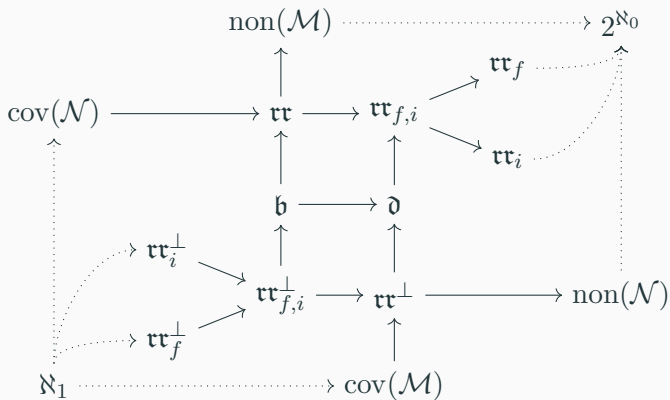


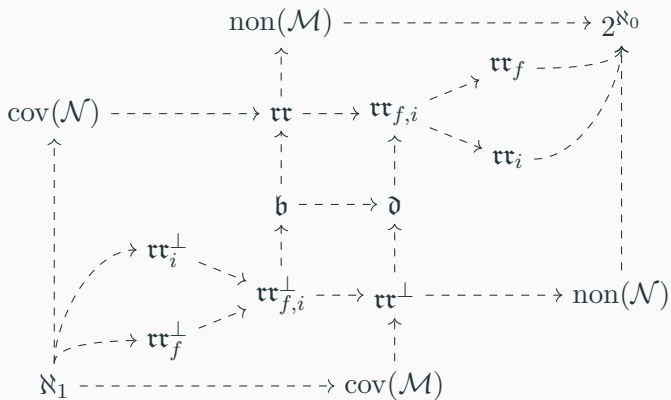


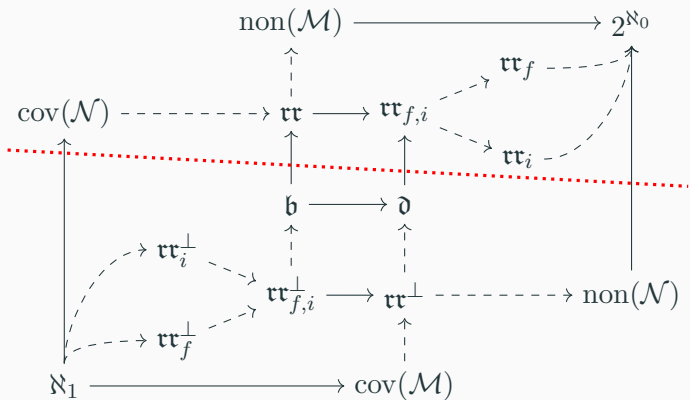




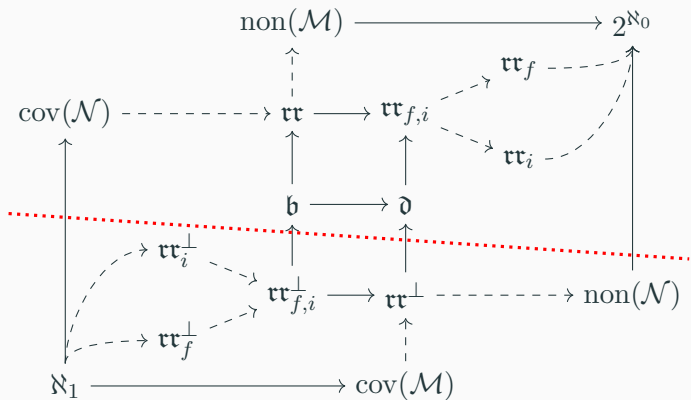




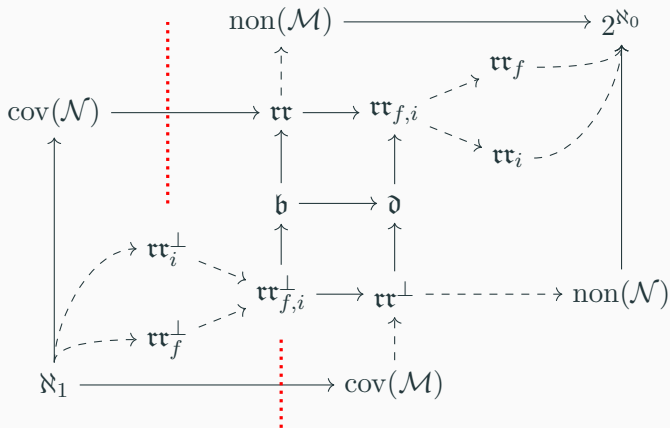




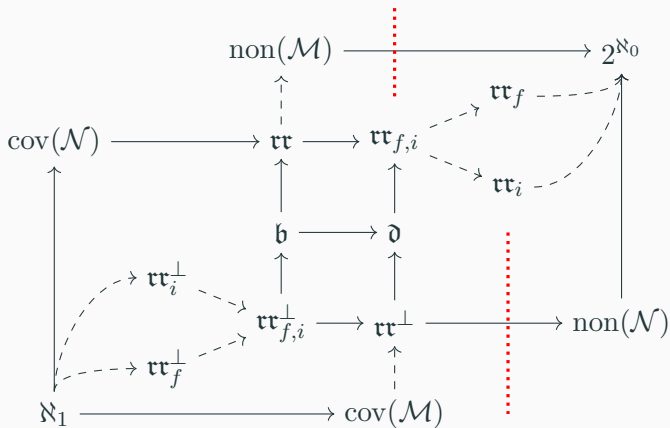
Random model



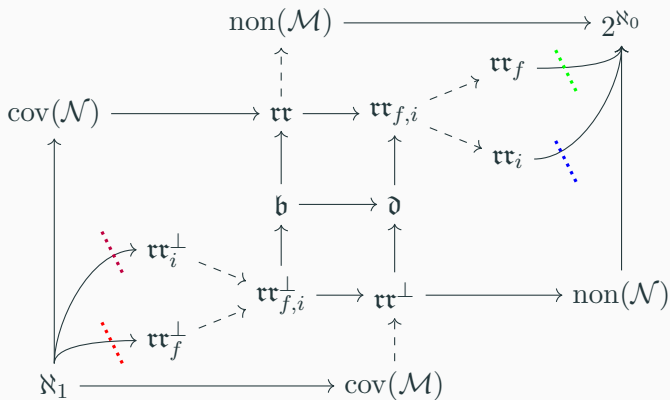
Short random model



Hechler model



Short Hechler model



Models using \mathbb{P}_I and \mathbb{I}_X

Question

Are \mathfrak{r}_{fi} , \mathfrak{r}_f and \mathfrak{r}_i consistently different (and similar for the duals)?

Question

Are $\mathfrak{r} < \text{non}(\mathcal{M})$ and $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) < \mathfrak{r}^\perp$ consistent?

Question

Are there any cardinal characteristics that form ZFC provable upper bounds to \mathfrak{r}_f and \mathfrak{r}_i ? Or lower bounds to \mathfrak{r}_i^\perp and \mathfrak{r}_f^\perp ?

Consider the least size of a family $\mathcal{X} \subseteq [\omega]^\omega$ such that for every $a \in \mathfrak{S}_{cc}$ there is some $X \in \mathcal{X}$ such that $\sum_X a$ converges.

Clearly $\mathcal{X} = \{\omega\}$ witnesses the above. But what if every $X \in \mathcal{X}$ must be *coinfinite*? This change is significant, and implies that $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) \leq |\mathcal{X}|$.

Note that if $X \subseteq \omega$ is cofinite, then $\sum a$ converges / diverges to infinity / oscillates exactly when $\sum_X a$ does. To change the convergence behaviour, we can ignore the cofinite sets.

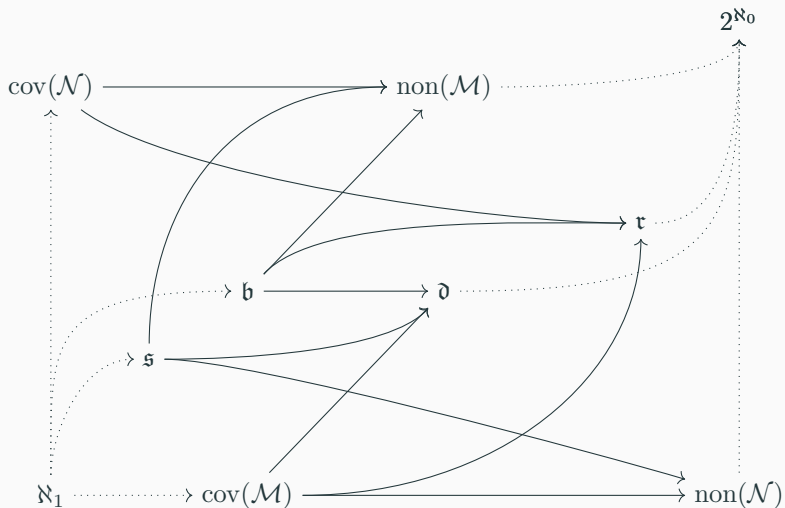
Therefore, we should define subseries numbers using the set $[\omega]_\omega^\omega = \{X \in [\omega]^\omega \mid \omega \setminus X \text{ is infinite}\}$ instead of $[\omega]^\omega$.

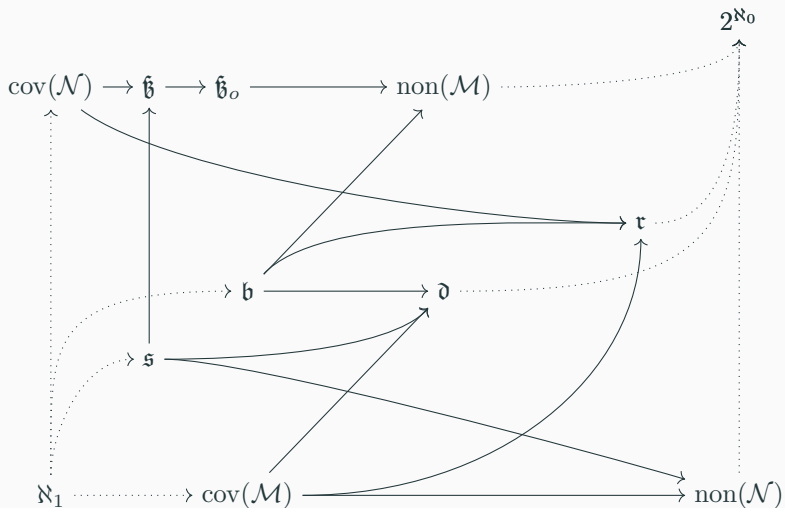
For Γ a set of convergence behaviours, we define the relation $S_\Gamma \subseteq \mathfrak{S}_{cc} \times [\omega]^\omega$ by $a S_\Gamma X$ if and only if $\sum_X a$ behaves according to Γ . We define $\mathfrak{h}_\Gamma = \mathfrak{D}(S_\Gamma, \mathfrak{S}_{cc}, [\omega]^\omega)$.

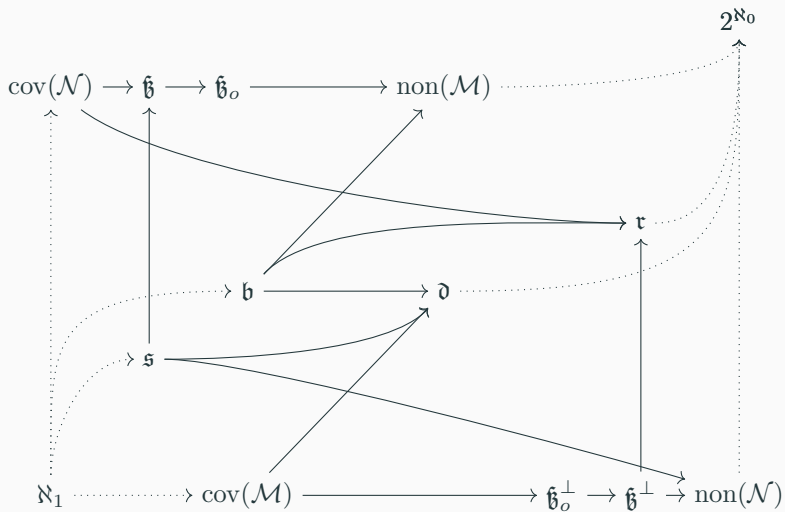
Our main interests will be $\mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{h}_{i,o}$, \mathfrak{h}_i , \mathfrak{h}_o , \mathfrak{h}_c , \mathfrak{h}_{cc} and \mathfrak{h}_{ac} and their dual cardinal characteristics.

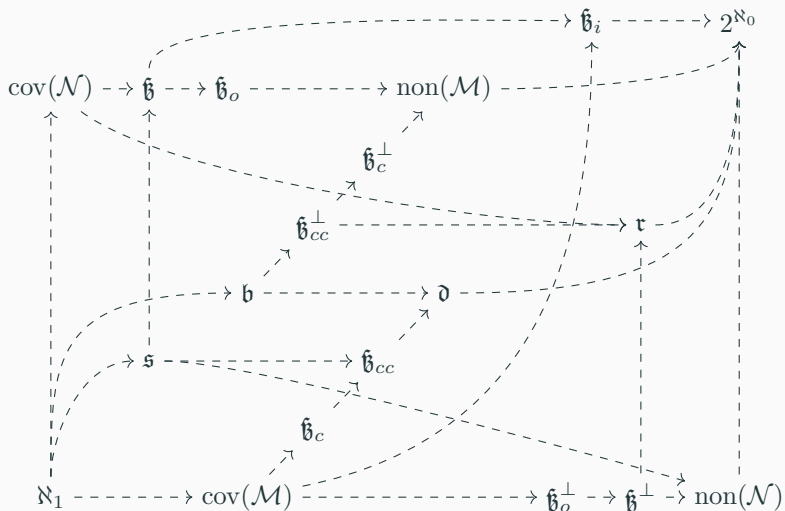
The subseries numbers \mathfrak{h} , \mathfrak{h}_i and \mathfrak{h}_o were originally studied by Brendle, Brian, and Hamkins (2019) and defined using $[\omega]^\omega$. It is, however, easy to prove that our definition results in the same cardinal characteristics.

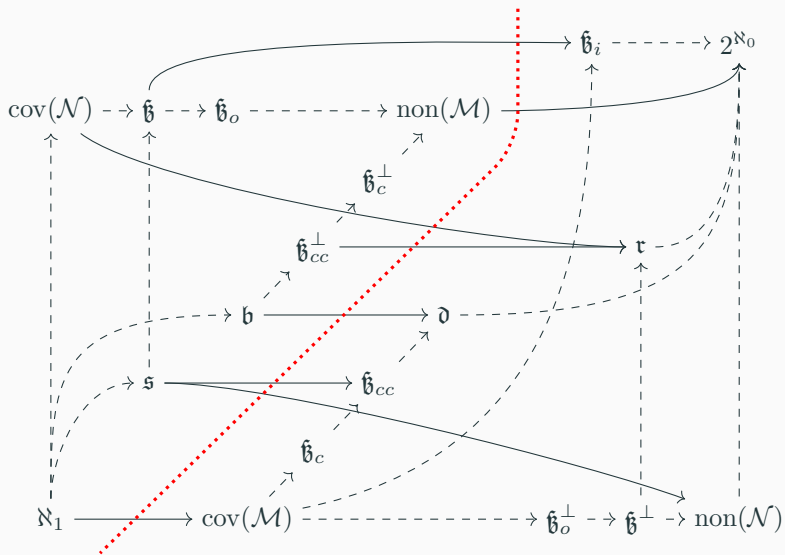
The cardinals \mathfrak{h}_c , \mathfrak{h}_{cc} and \mathfrak{h}_{ac} were introduced in my Master's thesis and are subject of the preprint vdV. (2025).



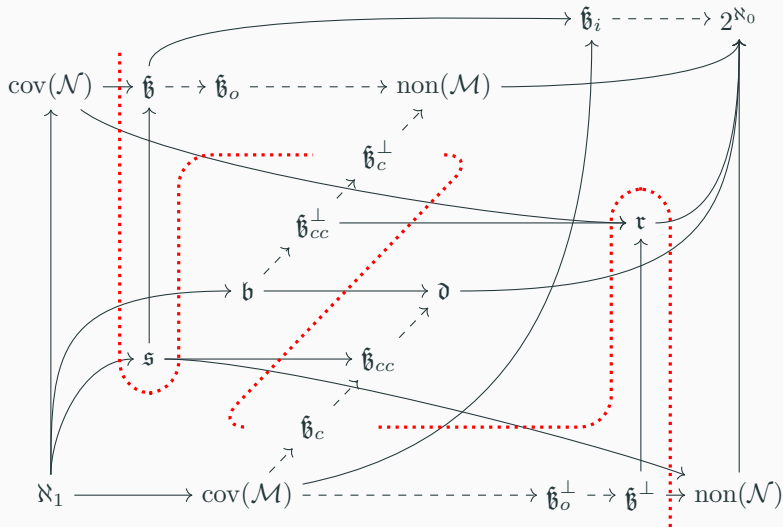








Cohen model



Blass-Shelah model

Remember that \mathfrak{b}_i^\perp is the least number of a set $A \subseteq \mathfrak{S}_{cc}$ such that there exists no $X \in [\omega]_\omega^\omega$ for which $\sum_X a$ tends to infinity for all $a \in A$.

It is easy to see that $\mathfrak{b}_i^\perp > 2$. Consider for $a, b \in \mathfrak{S}_{cc}$ the sets

$X^{++} = \{n \mid a_n > 0, b_n > 0\}$	$X^{+-} = \{n \mid a_n > 0, b_n \leq 0\}$
$X^{-+} = \{n \mid a_n \leq 0, b_n > 0\}$	$X^{--} = \{n \mid a_n \leq 0, b_n \leq 0\}$

At least one cell per row gives a subseries of $\sum a$ tending to infinity.

At least one cell per column gives a subseries of $\sum b$ tending to infinity.

A case-by-case analysis shows we can make both $\sum a$ and $\sum b$ tend to infinity with one subset.

Will Brian (2018) showed that $\mathfrak{b}_i^\perp > 3$, using a more complicated case-by-case argument. Surprisingly, Fedor Nazarov showed on *MathOverflow* (and Brian repeated the argument in his paper) that:

Theorem *Nazarov*

$$\mathfrak{b}_i^\perp = 4.$$

That is, there exist four CC series such that for any $X \in [\omega]_\omega^\omega$, at least one of the four series will diverge by oscillation (and thus not tend to infinity).

For this reason, it is hard to build a forcing notion that forces $\mathfrak{b}_i < \mathfrak{c}$. Indeed, the consistency of $\mathfrak{b}_i < \mathfrak{c}$ is an open problem.

Remember that $\tau_o = \tau_{i,o}$. Can we prove $\mathfrak{b}_o = \mathfrak{b}_{i,o}$? This is also an open problem, but there is a partial solution.

Theorem *Brendle, Brian, and Hamkins 2019, vdV. 2019*

$$\mathfrak{b}_o \leq \max\{\mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{b}\} \text{ and } \mathfrak{b}_o^\perp \geq \min\{\mathfrak{b}^\perp, \mathfrak{d}\}.$$

As with the rearrangement number, the original proof cannot be translated to a Tukey connection. However, there exists a Tukey connection with two sequential compositions that shows that $\mathfrak{b}_o \leq \max\{\mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{s}\}$. Since $\mathfrak{s} \leq \mathfrak{b}$ (and dually $\tau \geq \mathfrak{b}^\perp$), this provides a dualisable proof of the above theorem.

Theorem *vdV. (2025+)*

$$\mathcal{S} = \langle \dagger, [\omega]_{\omega}^{\omega}, [\omega]_{\omega}^{\omega} \rangle \preceq \mathcal{S}_{cc} = \langle \mathcal{S}_{cc}, \mathfrak{S}_{cc}, [\omega]_{\omega}^{\omega} \rangle.$$

Proof. We let $\rho_+ : [\omega]_{\omega}^{\omega} \rightarrow [\omega]_{\omega}^{\omega}$ be the identity. Given $X \in [\omega]_{\omega}^{\omega}$ assume without loss that $0 \in X$, and let $\langle I_n \mid n \in \omega \rangle$ be an interval partition of ω such that $X = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} I_{2n}$. For $i \in \omega$ let $n \in \omega$ such that $i \in I_n$ and $s_n = |I_n|$, then we define $a_i = \frac{(-1)^n}{s_n \cdot n}$, and see that $\mathbf{a} \in \mathfrak{S}_{cc}$. We let $\rho_-(X) = \mathbf{a}$.

Let $Y \in [\omega]_{\omega}^{\omega}$ and $\sum_Y \mathbf{a}$ be CC. If $Y \cap X$ is finite, then $a_i > 0$ for finitely many $i \in Y$, contradicting that $\sum_Y \mathbf{a}$ is CC. If $Y \setminus X$ is finite, then $a_i < 0$ for finitely many $i \in Y$, also a contradiction. Thus X splits Y . □

Question

Is $\mathfrak{b}_i = \mathfrak{c}$ provable?

Question

Is $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{b}_o$ or $\mathfrak{b}^\perp = \mathfrak{b}_o^\perp$ provable?

Question

Is $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) < \mathfrak{b}_o^\perp$ consistent?

Question

Are any of $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M}) < \mathfrak{b}_c$ or $\mathfrak{b}_c < \mathfrak{b}_{cc}$ or $\mathfrak{b}_{cc} < \mathfrak{d}$ consistent?

References

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