

Coloring vs. Chromatic

MFO workshop in Set Theory,
Oberwolfach, 13-Feb-2017

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Bar-Ilan University

A pointer

This talk centers around a joint paper with Chris Lambie-Hanson:

[LHR16] [Reflection on the coloring and chromatic numbers](#), *submitted December 2016*.

Grab it here:



[HTTP://WWW.ASSAFRINOT.COM/PAPER/28](http://www.assafirnot.com/paper/28)

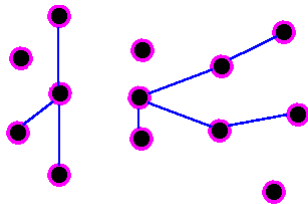
Graphs

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A graph is a pair $G = (V, E)$, where $E \subseteq [V]^2$.

Elements of V are called the vertices of G ;

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Definition

The chromatic number of G , denoted $\text{Chr}(G)$, is the least cardinal κ for which there exists a coloring $c : V(G) \rightarrow \kappa$ such that:

$$c(x) \neq c(y) \text{ for all } \{x, y\} \in E(G).$$

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Definition

The coloring number of G , denoted $\text{Col}(G)$, is the least cardinal κ for which there exists a well-ordering \triangleleft of $V(G)$ such that for all $x \in V(G)$:

$$|\{y \triangleleft x \mid \{y, x\} \in E(G)\}| < \kappa.$$

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Note that $\text{Chr}(G) \leq \text{Col}(G)$, as one can define the coloring $c : V(G) \rightarrow \kappa$ by recursion over $(V(G), \triangleleft)$.

Compactness

Compactness for the chromatic number:

Theorem (de Bruijn-Erdős, 1951)

If G is a graph, k is a some positive integer, and all finite subgraphs of G have chromatic number $\leq k$, then $\text{Chr}(G) \leq k$.

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If G is a graph, $\kappa < \chi$, χ strongly-compact, and all $(< \chi)$ -sized subgraphs of G have chromatic number $\leq \kappa$, then $\text{Chr}(G) \leq \kappa$.

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Singular compactness for the coloring number:

Theorem (Shelah, 1975)

If $G = (\theta, E)$ is a graph with θ a singular cardinal, $\aleph_0 \leq \kappa < \theta$, and all $(< \theta)$ -sized subgraphs of G have coloring number $\leq \kappa$, then $\text{Col}(G) \leq \kappa$.

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There are a few more consistent compactness phenomena (due to Foreman-Laver, Magidor, Shelah, Unger), but let us move on to incompleteness.

Incompactness for the chromatic number

Say that a graph G is almost countably chromatic ($a\omega c$) if $\text{Chr}(G') \leq \aleph_0$ for every subgraph G' of G with $|V(G')| < |V(G)|$.

Small gaps

- (Erdős-Hajnal, 1968) CH $\implies \exists a\omega c$ with $\text{Chr}(G) = \aleph_1, |V(G)| = \aleph_2$;

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Incompactness for the coloring number

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(Shelah, 1975) Suppose $\kappa < \theta$ are infinite regular cardinals and there exists a nonreflecting stationary subset of E_{κ}^{θ} .

Then there is a graph $G = (\theta, E)$ such that $\text{Col}(G \upharpoonright \gamma) \leq \kappa$ for all $\gamma < \theta$, but $\text{Col}(G) = \kappa^+$.

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No large gaps, really [LHR16]

For any infinite cardinal κ , if $G = (\theta, E)$ is a graph, and $\text{Col}(G \upharpoonright \gamma) \leq \kappa$ for all $\gamma < \theta$, then $\text{Col}(G) \leq \kappa^{++}$.

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Gap 1

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Gap 2, anyone?

Is there a consistent example of an infinite cardinal κ and a graph $G = (\theta, E)$ with $\text{Col}(G \upharpoonright \gamma) \leq \kappa$ for all $\gamma < \theta$, but $\text{Col}(G) = \kappa^{++}$?

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In February 2013, Shelah uploaded a preprint to the arXiv (Sh:1018) that claimed to address Question 1, but Kojman and Komjath found some gaps (pun intended), and the status of this paper is unclear to me.

Main questions

- 1 What's the relationship between compactness for the chromatic number and compactness for the coloring number?
- 2 All known examples of very large gaps requires the existence of a non-reflecting stationary set. Is this a coincidence?

Very recently, Fuchino announced that for all $\kappa = \kappa^{<\kappa}$, (a) \implies (b):

- (a) $\exists G$ with $\text{Col}(G) > \kappa$, yet $\text{Col}(G') \leq \kappa$ for G' with $|V(G')| < |V(G)|$;
- (b) $\exists G$ with $\text{Chr}(G) > \kappa$, yet $\text{Chr}(G') \leq \kappa$ for G' with $|V(G')| < |V(G)|$.

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We shall focus on the possible inverse implication (a) \longleftarrow (b).

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In particular, answering Question 2 in the affirmative.

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- 2 \square_λ^* ;
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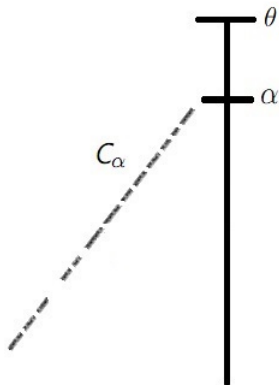
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Let us introduce yet another variation...

C-sequences

A C-sequence is a sequence $\langle C_\alpha \mid \alpha < \theta \rangle$ such that:

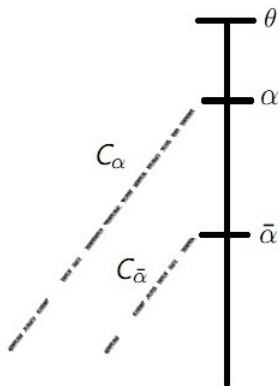
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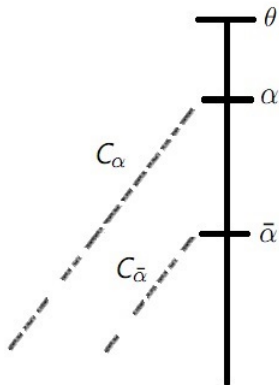
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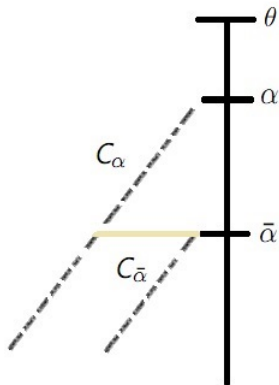
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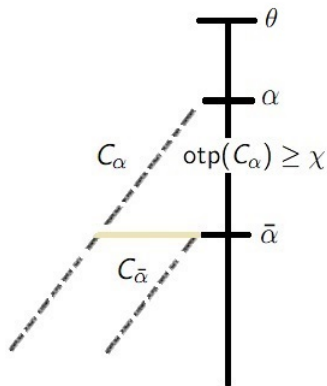
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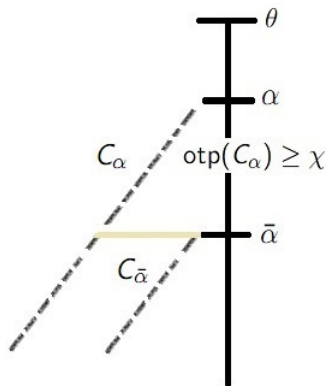
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Theorem (Shelah, 1991)

If θ is regular cardinal and $E_{\geq \aleph_2}^\theta$ admits a nonreflecting stationary set, then there is a θ -cc poset whose square is not θ -cc.

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Theorem (2014)

If $\theta > \chi$ are infinite regular cardinals, $\theta \geq \aleph_2$, and $\square(\theta, \sqsubseteq_\chi)$ holds, then there is a θ -cc poset whose square is not θ -cc.

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Theorem (Gregory, 1976)

If GCH holds and $E_{\aleph_0}^{\aleph_2}$ admits a nonreflecting stationary set, then there is an \aleph_2 -Souslin tree.

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Modulo the existence of a weakly compact cardinal, it is consistent that \aleph_2 cannot be partitioned into two fat sets.

Theorem (2017)

If $\theta > \chi$ are infinite regular cardinals and $\square(\theta, \sqsubseteq_\chi)$ holds, then any fat subset of θ may be partitioned into θ many fat sets.

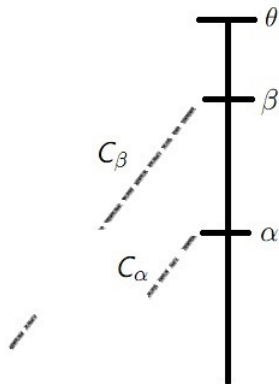
The C -sequence graph

Let $\theta > \chi$ denote infinite regular cardinals.

Definition

Given a C -sequence $\vec{C} = \langle C_\alpha \mid \alpha < \theta \rangle$, define a graph $G(\vec{C}) := (\theta, E)$ by:

$$E := \{ \{\alpha, \beta\} \in [\theta]^2 \mid \alpha \in C_\beta, \min(C_\alpha) > \sup(C_\beta \cap \alpha) \geq \min(C_\beta) \}.$$



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Theorem ([LHR16])

If \vec{C} is coherent, then $G(\vec{C})$ is awc.

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Theorem ([LHR16])

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Assume $\text{GCH} + \square(\theta, \sqsubseteq_\chi)$, and $\theta = \lambda^+$.

► λ is singular $\implies \exists \sqsubseteq_\chi$ -coherent C -sequence \vec{C} with $\text{Chr}(G(\vec{C})) = \lambda^+$.

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- ▶ $\exists S \subseteq \theta$ $\text{Refl}(S) \implies \exists \sqsubseteq_\chi$ -coherent C -sequence \vec{C} with $\text{Chr}(G(\vec{C})) = \lambda^+$.

Corollaries

Let $\mathcal{E}(\chi, \theta)$ stand for the assertion that there exists an \sqsubseteq_χ -coherent C -sequence $\vec{C} = \langle C_\alpha \mid \alpha < \theta \rangle$ with $\text{Chr}(G(\vec{C})) = \theta$. Then:

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Theorem ([LHR16])

Assuming large cardinal axioms, the following are consistent:

- 1 χ is a supercompact, and $\mathcal{E}(\chi, \theta)$ holds for all regular $\theta > \chi$;

Recall (de Bruijn-Erdős, 1951)

If χ is strongly-compact, then $\mathcal{E}(\kappa, \theta)$ fails whenever $\theta > \chi > \kappa$.

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Theorem (Fuchino, Sakai, L. Soukup, Usuba, 2012)

$\text{FRP}(\aleph_2)$ holds iff any \aleph_2 -sized graph of uncountable coloring number contains an \aleph_1 -sized subgraph of uncountable coloring number.

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Theorem ([LHR16])

$(\aleph_{\omega+1}, \aleph_\omega) \rightarrow (\aleph_1, \aleph_0)$ implies that if $\aleph_0 \leq \kappa < \theta = \text{cf}(\theta) \leq \aleph_{\omega+1}$, and $G = (\theta, E)$ is a graph such that $\text{Col}(G \upharpoonright \gamma) \leq \kappa$ for all $\gamma < \theta$, then $\text{Col}(G) \leq \kappa^+$.

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- 4 RC, and $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_2, \theta)$ holds for all regular $\theta > \aleph_2$;

Theorem (Todorcevic, 1983)

RC holds iff any tree whose comparability graph is uncountably chromatic has an \aleph_1 -sized subtree whose comparability graph is uncountably chromatic.

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- 4 RC, and $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_2, \theta)$ holds for all regular $\theta > \aleph_2$;
- 5 $\Delta_{\aleph_{\omega^2}, \aleph_{\omega^2+1}}$ together with $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_0, \aleph_{\omega^2+1})$;

Theorem (Magidor-Shelah, 1994)

$\Delta_{\chi, \theta}$ implies that for every infinite $\kappa < \chi$, every θ -sized graph of coloring number $> \kappa$, has a $(< \theta)$ -sized subgraphs of coloring number $> \kappa$.

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Let $\mathcal{E}(\chi, \theta)$ stand for the assertion that there exists an \sqsubseteq_χ -coherent C -sequence $\vec{C} = \langle C_\alpha \mid \alpha < \theta \rangle$ with $\text{Chr}(G(\vec{C})) = \theta$. Then:

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- 5 $\Delta_{\aleph_{\omega^2}, \aleph_{\omega^2+1}}$ together with $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_0, \aleph_{\omega^2+1})$;
- 6 $\Delta_{\theta, \mu}$ holds for all regular $\mu \geq \theta$, θ is inaccessible, and $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_0, \theta)$ holds;
- 7 $\text{Refl}(E_{\aleph_0}^{\aleph_2})$ together with $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_0, \aleph_2)$;
- 8 $\text{Refl}(\aleph_{\omega+1})$ together with $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_0, \aleph_{\omega+1})$;
- 9 $\text{Refl}(\theta)$ with $\mathcal{E}(\aleph_0, \theta)$, where θ is the least inaccessible cardinal.