

# Resolvable and irresolvable spaces

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- Hewitt, Ph.D Thesis, Harvard, 1942
- **Def.** A space  $X$  is **resolvable** iff  $X$  contains two **disjoint dense** subsets.
- **Def.** A space is **irresolvable** iff it is not resolvable.
- **What makes a space (ir)resolvable?**
- **Fact.** If  $X$  has an isolated point, then  $X$  is irresolvable
- Revised question: **What makes a crowded space (ir)resolvable?**

- **Are there irresolvable crowded spaces?**
- the structure of refinements of a topology
- Assume that  $\langle X, \tau \rangle$  is a crowded 0-dimensional space
- Let  $\tau' \supset \tau$  be a **maximal 0-dimensional crowded** topology on  $X$ .
- **Claim:**  $\langle X, \tau' \rangle$  is irresolvable.
- **Proof.** Assume on the contrary that  $X$  has a partition  $\{D_0, D_1\}$  into dense sets
- You can refine the topology  $\tau'$  by declaring that  $D_0$  and  $D_1$  are open!
- $\tau^* = \langle \tau' \cup \{D_0, D_1\} \rangle_{gen}$  is 0-dimensional crowded
- Contradiction:  $\tau'$  was not maximal.

- **Fact:** If  $X$  is a space, then the closed subspace

$$Res(X) = \overline{\bigcup \{Y \subset X : Y \text{ is resolvable}\}}$$

is resolvable.

- **Fact.** If  $X$  is irresolvable, then  $X \setminus Res(X)$  is a non-empty open, **hereditarily irresolvable** subspace.
- **Def.** A space is **hereditarily irresolvable (HI)** iff every **crowded subspace** is irresolvable
- **Fact.** If  $X$  is a space and every non-empty open subset of  $X$  contains a resolvable subspace, then  $X$  is resolvable.
- **Fact.** Assume that  $\mathbb{K}$  is a family of regular spaces which is closed for regular-closed subsets. If every  $X \in \mathbb{K}$  contains a resolvable subspace, then every  $X \in \mathbb{K}$  is resolvable.

- **Def.** A topological space is  **$\kappa$ -resolvable** iff  $X$  contains  $\kappa$  disjoint dense subsets.
- **Fact:** If  $X$  is a space and  $\kappa$  is a cardinal, then the closed subspace

$$Res_{\kappa}(X) = \overline{\bigcup \{Y \subset X : Y \text{ is } \kappa\text{-resolvable}\}}$$

is  $\kappa$ -resolvable.

- If  $D$  is **dense** and  $U$  is a non-empty **open** set, then  $U \cap D \neq \emptyset$ .
- **if  $X$  is  $\kappa$ -resolvable then  $\kappa \leq \min\{|U| : U \in \tau_X^+\} = \Delta(X)$ .**
- **Def.**  $\Delta(X)$  is the **dispersion character** of  $X$ .
- **Def.** A space  $X$  is **maximally resolvable** iff it is  $\Delta(X)$ -resolvable.

# The beginning

A space  $X$  is **maximally resolvable** iff it is  $\Delta(X)$ -resolvable.

**Thm.** A topological space  $X$  is **maximally resolvable** provided it is

- metric, or
- ordered, or
- compact.

## What about

- **monotonically normal** spaces?
- **Lindelöf** spaces?
- **countably compact** spaces?
- **pseudocompact** spaces?

**The expectation is that *nice* spaces should be maximally resolvable.**

- **Def.** A topological space  $X$  is **neat** iff  $|X| = \Delta(X)$ .
- Every regular space contains a regular-closed neat subspace.
- Assume that  $\mathbb{K}$  is a class of regular spaces which is **closed for regular-closed subspaces**.
  - If every neat  $X \in \mathbb{K}$  is  **$\kappa$ -resolvable**, then every  $X \in \mathbb{K}$  is  **$\kappa$ -resolvable**.
  - If every neat  $X \in \mathbb{K}$  is **maximally resolvable**, then every  $X \in \mathbb{K}$  is **maximally resolvable**.
- The class of compact (or countably compact, Lindelöf, monotonically normal, pseudocompact) spaces is closed for regular-closed subspaces.
- **it is enough to investigate the resolvability of neat spaces.**

# How to prove resolvability?

Small  $\pi$ -weight

$X$  is **neat** iff  $|X| = \Delta(X)$ .

- **Fact.** If  $X$  is neat and  $\pi(X) \leq |X|$ , then  $X$  is maximally resolvable.
- **Proof:** Write  $\kappa = \pi(X) \leq |X| = \Delta(X) = \lambda$
- Let  $\{B_\eta : \eta < \kappa\}$  be a  $\pi$ -base
- By transfinite recursion choose distinct points  $\{d_{\xi,\eta} : \eta < \kappa, \xi < \lambda\}$  such that  $d_{\xi,\eta} \in B_\eta$ .
- Put  $D_\xi = \{d_{\xi,\eta} : \eta < \kappa\}$  for  $\xi < \lambda$ .
- $\{D_\xi : \xi < \lambda\}$  is a family of pairwise disjoint dense sets. QED
- **Fact.** Neat, compact crowded spaces are maximally resolvable.
- **Thm.** Compact spaces are maximally resolvable.



# How to prove resolvability?

## Small tightness

- **Fact.** If  $X$  is neat and  $t(X) < |X|$ , then  $X$  is maximally resolvable.
- **Proof.** Write  $\kappa = |X| = \Delta(X)$ .
- If  $A \in [X]^{<\kappa}$ , then there is  $B \subset X \setminus A$  with  $A \subset \overline{B}$  and  $|B| \leq |A| \cdot t(X)$ .
- Write  $X = \{x_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$ .
- By transfinite recursion on  $\alpha$ , construct disjoint sets  $\{D_\xi^\alpha : \xi < \alpha < \kappa\}$  such that  $\{x_i : i < \alpha\} \subset \overline{D_\xi^\alpha}$  and  $|D_\xi^\alpha| \leq |\alpha| \cdot t(X)$ .
- Let  $D_\xi = \bigcup \{D_\xi^\alpha : \xi < \alpha < \kappa\}$ .
- $\{D_\xi : \xi < \kappa\}$  is a family of pairwise disjoint dense sets.
- **Corollary:** (Neat) metric spaces with  $\Delta(X) > \omega$  are maximally resolvable.
- **Thm.** Metric spaces are maximally resolvable.

# How to prove resolvability

define dense subsets by properties

- **Fact.** Every crowded, countably compact, regular space is resolvable.
- **Proof:** Let  $X$  be a crowded, countably regular compact space.
- **Def.** A subset  $D \subset X$  is **strongly discrete (SD)** if there is a neighborhood assignment  $U : D \rightarrow \tau_X$  such that the sets  $\{U(d) : d \in D\}$  are pairwise disjoint.
- **Def.** A point  $x \in X$  is an **SD-point** iff there is an SD set  $D \subset X$  such that  $x \in D'$ .
- Let  $A = \{x \in X : x \text{ is an SD-point}\}$ .
- $A$  is dense in  $X$ .
- If  $B = X \setminus A$  is dense, then we are done.
- Assume that  $B$  is not dense. So  $A$  contains a non-empty open set  $U \in \tau_X^+$ .
- Construct  $T = \{x_s : s \in \omega^{<\omega}\} \subset U$  by induction on  $|s|$  such that for each  $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$ 
  - $\{x_{s \smallfrown n} : n < \omega\}$  is SD, and  $x_s \in \{x_{s \smallfrown n} : n < \omega\}'$ .

# Monotonically normal spaces

- **Def.** Given a space  $X$ , define the family of **marked open sets** as follows:

$$\mathcal{M}(X) = \{ \langle x, U \rangle \in X \times \tau(X) : x \in U \}$$

- **Def.** A  $T_1$  space  $X$  is **monotonically normal (MN)** if  $X$  admits a **monotone normality operator** i.e. there is function

$H : \mathcal{M}(X) \rightarrow \tau(X)$  such that

- $x \in H(x, U) \subset U$ ,
- if  $x \notin V$  and  $y \notin U$  then  $H(x, U) \cap H(y, V) = \emptyset$ .
- Metric and linearly ordered spaces are MN
- **Are the monotonically normal spaces maximally resolvable?**
- **Thm.** A dense-in-itself **monotonically normal** space is  $\omega$ -resolvable.
- **Fact.** In a crowded monotonically normal space every point is an SD-point.
- **Problem** (Ceder, Pearson 1967) **Does  $\omega$ -resolvable imply maximally resolvable?**

# A simple construction of MN spaces

$X$  dense-in-itself, monotonically normal  $\stackrel{?}{\implies} X$  maximally resolvable?

- If  $\kappa$  is an infinite cardinal, and  $F$  is an **ultrafilter** on  $\kappa$  define the space  $T_F$  as follows
- The underlying set is the everywhere  $\kappa$ -branching tree of height  $\omega$ :  $\kappa^{<\omega}$ .
- $U \subset \kappa^{<\omega}$  is **open** iff for each  $t \in U$  the set  $\{\alpha < \kappa : t \restriction \alpha \in U\} \in F$ .
- $T_F$  is monotonically normal:  $H(t, V) = \{u \in V : [t, u] \subset V\}$
- $T_F$  is  $\omega$ -resolvable: if  $I \subset \omega$  is infinite, then  $\{s \in \kappa^{<\omega} : |s| \in I\}$  is dense in  $T_F$ .

Natural conjecture : **If  $U$  is a uniform ultrafilter on  $\omega_1$  then  $T_F$  is not  $\omega_1$ -resolvable**

# Consistent counterexamples

Ceder - Pearson: Does  $\omega$ -resolvable imply maximally resolvable?

$X$  dense-in-itself, monotonically normal  $\stackrel{?}{\implies} X$  maximally resolvable?

Conjecture: If  $F$  is a uniform ultrafilter on  $\omega_1$  then  $T_F$  is **not**  $\omega_1$ -resolvable

- Thm (Juhász-S-Szentmiklóssy) If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a uniform ultrafilter on some  $\kappa < \aleph_\omega$ , then  $T_{\mathcal{F}}$  is maximally resolvable.
- Thm (Juhász-S-Szentmiklóssy) Assume that  $\kappa = cf(\kappa) \geq \lambda$ . Then the following are equivalent.
  - Every MN space with  $|X| = \Delta(X) = \kappa$  is  $\lambda$ -resolvable.
  - For every uniform ultrafilter  $F$  on  $\kappa$ , the space  $T_F$  is  $\lambda$ -resolvable.
- Corollary. Every MN space with  $|X| < \aleph_\omega$  is maximally resolvable.
- Thm: (Juhász-Magidor) The following are equiconsistent:
  - There is a MN space that is **not maximally resolvable**.
  - There is a MN space  $X$  with  $|X| = \Delta(X) = \aleph_\omega$  that is **not**  $\omega_1$ -resolvable.
  - There is a **measurable cardinal**.

- Since there are countable irresolvable spaces, and countable spaces are clearly Lindelöf, the following question of Malyhin is the natural one:
- Is it true that every Lindelöf space with  $\Delta(X) > \omega$  is resolvable?
- Pavlov: Any Lindelöf space  $X$  with  $\Delta(X) > \omega_1$  is  $\omega$ -resolvable.
- Filatova: Any regular Lindelöf space  $X$  with  $\Delta(X) = \omega_1$  is 2-resolvable.
- Juhász, S, Szentmiklóssy: *a Lindelöf space with  $|X| = \Delta(X) = \omega_1$  is maximally resolvable.*
- Open: Is it true that every regular Lindelöf space of uncountable dispersion character is maximally resolvable?

- E. G. Pytkeev proved that **crowded countably compact regular spaces are  $\omega_1$ -resolvable**
- different proof working for crowded countably compact  $\pi$ -regular spaces.
- However, no one of these proofs can reach either  $2^\omega$ -resolvability or maximal resolvability.
- **Is it true that the countably compact, crowded regular spaces are maximally resolvable?**

# Resolvability of pseudocompact (feebly compact) spaces

- a tougher problem: weaken countably compact to pseudocompact.
- **Thm.** A crowded pseudocompact space  $X$  is  $2^\omega$ -resolvable provided
  - (1)  $c(X) = \omega$  (J. van Mill, 2016)
  - (2)  $c(X) \leq 2^\omega$  (A. H. Ortiz-Castillo and Y. F. Tomita (2018))
  - (3) every complete, crowded metric space  $M$  with density  $\leq c(X)$  has a “**Bernstein coloring**”, i.e. a coloring  $f : M \rightarrow 2^\omega$  such that  $f''C = 2^\omega$  provided  $C \subset M$  is a topological copy of the Cantor set. (Juhász, S, Szentmiklóssy)
- Hajnal, Juhász and Shelah: the failure of (3) is a large cardinal assumption.
- Hence, **it is consistent that every crowded pseudocompact space is  $2^\omega$ -resolvable.**
- **Is it true that every pseudocompact, regular spaces  $X$  is resolvable ( $2^\omega$ -resolvable)?**
- **Is it true (or just consistent) that every pseudocompact, regular spaces  $X$  is maximally resolvable?**



## Between pseudocompactness and countably compactness

**What can we say about resolvability of spaces with property  $P$ , where  $P$  is a property strictly stronger than pseudocompactness, but strictly weaker than countable compactness?**

A zoo of spaces.

- $X$  is countably compact
- $X$  contains a dense subset  $D$  such that every  $A \in [D]^\omega$  has an accumulation point  
( $D$  is **relatively countably compact in  $X$** )
- $X$  contains dense subsets  $\{D_n : n < \omega\}$  such that if  $a_n \in D_n$  for  $n < \omega$ , then  $A = \{a_n : n < \omega\}$  has an accumulation point.
- Player II has a winning strategy in the following game:  
in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  turn of the game Player I chooses  $U_n \in \tau_X^+$ , then Player II selects  $a_n \in U_n$ .  
Player II wins iff  $A = \{a_n : n < \omega\}$  has an accumulation point.
- if  $\{U_n : n < \omega\} \subset \tau_X^+$ , then there are points  $a_n \in U_n$  for  $n < \omega$  such that  $A = \{a_n : n < \omega\}$  has an accumulation point.  
( $X$  is **sequentially pseudocompact**)

- Any product of infinitely many non-singleton spaces is  $2^\omega$ -resolvable
- What about the product of two crowded spaces?
- **Fact.** If  $X$  and  $Y$  are neat,  $|X| = \Delta(X) = |Y| = \Delta(Y)$ , then  $X \times Y$  is resolvable:
- **Proof:** Write  $X = \{x_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$  and  $Y = \{y_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$ .
- Let  $A = \{\langle x_\alpha, y_\beta \rangle : \alpha < \beta < \kappa\}$  and  $B = \{\langle x_\alpha, y_\beta \rangle : \beta \leq \alpha < \kappa\}$ .
- $A$  and  $B$  are dense subsets in  $X \times Y$
- **Problem: Assume that  $|X| = \Delta(X) = |Y| = \Delta(Y)$ . Is it true that  $X \times Y$  is 3-resolvable?**

- **Fact.** If  $X$  is  $\kappa$ -resolvable, then  $X \times Y$  is  $\kappa$ -resolvable.
- **Thm.** If  $X$  is  $\kappa$ -resolvable, and  $|Y| = \Delta(Y) = \kappa^+$ , then  $X \times Y$  is  $\kappa^+$ -resolvable.
- Problem(Ceder and Pearson): **Is the product of a maximally resolvable space with any other space maximally resolvable?**
- Eckertson gave a consistent counterexample modulo the existence of a measurable cardinal.
- We also gave two counterexamples with some additional properties. Both constructions used the existence of a measurable cardinal.
- **Do we really need large cardinals to construct counterexamples for Ceder-Pearson problem?**
- The intuition is that the answer should be no.
- Answering Malyhin's question we proved that the following are equiconsistent:
  - there are two crowded 0-dimensional  $T_2$  -spaces whose product is irresolvable.
  - the existence of a measurable cardinal

- **Thm (Ceder and Pearson):** there is an  $n$ -resolvable, but not  $n + 1$  resolvable space for each  $1 \leq n < \omega$ .
- **Hint.** Construct a space  $X_n$  which is the disjoint union of  $n$  dense, HI subsets.
- Then  $X_n$  is not  $n+1$ -resolvable.
- **Thm: (Illanes)** If a space  $X$  is  $n$ -resolvable for each  $n \in \omega$ , then  $X$  is  $\omega$ -resolvable as well.
- **Problem (Ceder and Pearson):** Is there a space  $X$  with  $\Delta(X) > \omega$  such that  $X$  is  $\omega$ -resolvable, but not  $\omega_1$ -resolvable? (maximally resolvable)
- Assume that a space  $X$  is the union of countable many dense, HI subspaces. Is it true that  $X$  is not  $\omega_1$ -resolvable?
- consistent counterexamples (El'kin, Malykhin, Eckertson, and Hu)
- Juhász-S-Szentmiklóssy:  **$\mathcal{D}$ -forced spaces.**

# Stepping up in resolvability

- **Def.** If  $X$  is a topological space,  $\mathcal{D}$  is a family of subsets of  $X$ , we define the notion of  **$\mathcal{D}$ -mosaic** as follows: if  $\mathcal{U}$  is a maximal cellular family of open sets, and  $D_U \in \mathcal{D}$  for each  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , then the set

$$M(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{U}) = \bigcup \{U \cap D_U : U \in \mathcal{U}\} \text{ is a } \mathcal{D}\text{-mosaic.}$$

- **Fact.** if  $\mathcal{D}$  is a family of dense sets, then  $M(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{U})$  is dense.
- **Thm.** Assume that
  - $X = \langle \kappa, \tau \rangle$  is a homeomorphic to a dense subset of  $D(2)^{2^\kappa}$ , and
  - $\mathcal{D}$  is a family of  $\tau$ -dense subsets of  $X$ .Then we can modify the topology  $\tau$  to obtain a topology  $\tau'$  such that
  - $X' = \langle \kappa, \tau' \rangle$  is homeomorphic to a dense subset  $D(2)^{2^\kappa}$ ,  $X'$  is **nodec**, and
  - a set  $A \subset \kappa$  is  $\tau'$ -dense iff it contains a  $\mathcal{D}$ -mosaic.
- **Corr.** For each infinite cardinal  $\lambda$  there is 0-dimensional  $T_2$  space  $X$  which is  $\lambda$ -resolvable, but not  $\lambda^+$ -resolvable.
- **Proof**  $X \subset D(2)^{2^\lambda}$  dense,  $|X| = \lambda$ ,  $X = \bigcup \{D_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda\} \subset \text{Dense}(X)$ , pairwise disjoint.

$\forall \lambda \geq \omega$  there is 0-dimensional  $T_2$  space  $X$  which is  $\lambda$ -resolvable, but not  $\lambda^+$ -resolvable.

- Natural question: Assume that  $\lambda$  is a limit cardinal and a space  $X$  is  $\mu$ -resolvable for each  $\mu < \lambda$ . Should  $X$  be  $\lambda$ -resolvable as well?
- Illanes: YES provided  $\lambda = \omega$ .
- Bashkara Rao: YES provided  $cf(\lambda) = \omega$
- Juhász, S, Szentmiklóssy: NO provided  $\lambda$  is regular (that is, inaccessible).
- Assume that  $\lambda$  is a singular cardinal with  $cf(\lambda) > \omega$  and  $X$  is a topological space that is  $\mu$ -resolvable for all  $\mu < \lambda$ . Is it true then that  $X$  is also  $\lambda$ -resolvable?

# Resolvability in c.c.c generic extensions

Adrienne Stanley, S

- Every crowded space  $X$  is  $\omega$ -resolvable in  $V^{Fn(|X|,2)}$ .
- What we can say about  $\lambda$ -resolvability for  $\lambda > \omega$ ?
- A topological space is **monotonically  $\omega_1$ -resolvable** if there is a function  $f : X \rightarrow \omega_1$  such that for each  $\alpha < \omega_1$ :

$$\{x \in X : f(x) \geq \alpha\} \subset^{dense} X.$$

- **Thm.** (Adrienne Stanley, S) TFAE:
  - $X$  is  $\omega_1$ -resolvable in some c.c.c. generic extension;
  - $X$  is monotonically  $\omega_1$ -resolvable;
  - $X$  is  $\omega_1$ -resolvable in the Cohen-generic extension  $V^{Fn(\omega_1,2)}$ .
- **Thm.** (St, S) If  $X$  is c.c.c., and  $\omega_1 \leq \Delta(X) \leq |X| < \aleph_\omega$ , then  $X$  is monotonically  $\omega_1$ -resolvable.
- **Thm.** (St, S) It is consistent, modulo the existence of a measurable cardinal, that there is a space  $Y$  with  $|Y| = \Delta(Y) = \aleph_\omega$  which is not monotonically  $\omega_1$ -resolvable.

- **Natural question: is it true that crowded spaces from the ground model**

# Versions of resolvability

## Base resolvability

- **Thm.** (A. H. Stone): Every partially ordered set  $(P, \leq)$  without maximal elements can be partitioned into two cofinal subsets.
- **Corr.** Every  $\pi$ -base of a crowded space can be decomposed into two  $\pi$ -bases.
- **Def.** A space  $X$  is **base resolvable** if every base of  $X$  can be decomposed into two bases.
- **Thm.** Every crowded metric space is base resolvable.
- **Thm.** (D. Soukup) Crowded Lindelöf spaces are base resolvable
- **Thm.** (S) It is consistent that there is a first countable, 0-dimensional,  $T_2$  space which is not base-resolvable.
- **ZFC example?**
- What about linearly ordered spaces? (Hereditarily) separable spaces? Paracompact spaces?



Thank you.