

Generalized degree structures and large cardinals

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- In $L, L[\mu]$
- In $L[\bar{\mu}]$ and beyond
- Degree structures under I_0
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Turing degrees

(\mathcal{D}, \leq_T) is the primary subject of classical recursion theory.

- Given $A, B \subseteq \omega$, $A \leq_T B$ if there is a Turing machine that correctly computes the membership of A with oracle B .

An equivalent set theoretical definition is that A is Δ_1 definable in the structure $(H(\omega), \in, B)$.

- Write $A \equiv_T B$ if $A \leq_T B$ and $B \leq_T A$. This is an equivalence relation, and the equivalent classes are the **Turing degrees**. Write $\underline{A} =$ the degree of A , $\mathcal{D} = \{\underline{A} \mid A \subseteq \omega\}$.
- A' , the Turing jump of A , is the set corresponding to the halting problem (relativized to A). It is also the Σ_1 -theory of the structure $(H(\omega), \in, A)$.

Generalizations of Turing degrees

Various variations/generalizations of Turing degrees have been studied.

- Turing reduction is the simplest form of definability reduction. The notion of Turing of degree can be naturally extended to those of higher level of definability reduction, such as **arithmetic** degrees, **hyperarithmetic** degrees, higher degrees of **projective hierarchies**, even **constructible** degrees, degrees induced by **inner model operators**, etc.
 - **Descriptive Set Theory.**
- One can also extend the notion of Turing degree on subsets of ω to subsets of large ordinals.
 - **α -recursion theory.**

Generalized degree notion

Let Γ be a reasonable fragment (or extension) of ZFC.

Definition

Let λ be an infinite cardinal. Fix a well-ordering $w : H(\lambda) \rightarrow \lambda$.
For $a, b \subset \lambda$:

- Let $M[a]$ be the minimal Γ -model of the form $L_\alpha[w][a]$, $\alpha > \lambda$.^a
- Let α_a denote the height of $M[a]$, call it a Γ -ordinal for a .
- $a \leq_\Gamma b$ if $M[a] \subseteq M[b]$. $a \equiv_\Gamma b$ if $a \leq_\Gamma b$ and $b \leq_\Gamma a$
- Write \underline{a} for the degree of a , the \equiv_Γ -equivalence class of a .
Write $(\mathcal{D}_\Gamma^\lambda, \leq_\Gamma)$ as the degree poset.
- $J_\Gamma(a)$, the Γ -jump of G , is the subset of λ coding the structure $(M[a], \in, a)$.

^aThis requires $\text{Con}(\Gamma)$.

An typical example: $\lambda = \omega$ and $\Gamma = \text{KP theory}$.

In this case, for $a \subset \omega$,

- \underline{a} is the hyperarithmetical degree of a ,
- $J_{\text{KP}}(a)$ is Δ_1 -equivalent to the hyper-jump of a , which is the complete Σ_1 -theory of $L_{\omega_1^a}[a]$. In particular, $J_{\text{KP}}(\emptyset) = \mathcal{O}$.

For this talk, let $\Gamma = \text{Z}$, i.e. ZF – Replacement.¹

We use Z-degrees to illustrate the main idea.

¹This theory suffices for our later covering argument.

Higher Degree Theory

- α -degrees were studied only in L . Our recent work on generalized degree notions reveals some interesting connections between large cardinals and degree structures at uncountable cardinals, in particular, strong limit **singular** cardinals of **countable cofinality**.
- We shall present a new type of generalized degree structure in the core model of a certain large cardinal, via which we would like to propose a new research program, **Higher Degree Theory**, to reopen the study of generalized degree structures, in particular, focusing on the connection between **large cardinals** and **the complexity of degree structures**.

We investigate degree structures in canonical inner models.

- Not much of degree structures (at uncountable cardinals) can be determined by ZFC alone.
- Forcing can create all kind of “untamed” degree structures. We would like to have a theory that is robust under forcing.
- Fine structure models provide more “controlled” settings.

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- Forcing can create all kind of “untamed” degree structures. We would like to have a theory that is robust under forcing.
- Fine structure models provide more “controlled” settings.

To differentiate these degree structures, we test them with a list of degree theoretical questions.

A list of questions

- 1 (Post Problem). Are there **incomparable** degrees, i.e.

$$\neg(\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}) \wedge \neg(\underline{b} \leq \underline{a})?$$

- 2 (Minimal Cover). Given \underline{a} , is there a \underline{b} **minimal** w.r.t. \underline{a} , i.e.

$$\underline{a} < \underline{b} \wedge \neg\exists \underline{c}(\underline{a} < \underline{c} < \underline{b})?$$

- 3 (Posner-Robinson). Is it true for **co- λ many** $x \subset \lambda$ that

$$(\exists G)[\underline{x} \oplus \underline{G} \equiv_Z \underline{J_Z(G)}]?$$

- 4 (Degree Determinacy). Is **Det $_{\lambda}$ (Z-Deg)** true?

Here **Det $_{\lambda}$ (Z-Deg)**: *Every Z-degree invariant subset of $\mathcal{P}(\lambda)$ either contains a cone or is disjoint from a cone.*²

²A set $A \subset \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$ is **Z-degree invariant** if $\forall a \in A (\underline{a} \subset A)$. A **cone** is a set of the form $C_a = \{b \mid a \leq b\}$.

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Here **$\text{Det}_\lambda(\text{Z-Deg})$** : *Every Z-degree invariant subset of $\mathcal{P}(\lambda)$ either contains a cone or is disjoint from a cone.*²

For (\mathcal{D}, \leq_T) , the answers to 1-3 are **Yes**. Degree determinacy is false in ZFC, but true under $\text{ZF} + \text{DC} + \text{AD}$.

²A set $A \subset \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$ is **Z-degree invariant** if $\forall a \in A (\underline{a} \subset A)$. A **cone** is a set of the form $C_a = \{b \mid a \leq b\}$.

Three cases

- λ is regular.

Not very interesting.

In L -like models, such λ has the property $\lambda^{<\lambda} = \lambda$. Most recursion theoretic constructions at ω (like priority argument, recursion theoretic forcing) can be generalized to such λ .

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In L -like models, such λ has the property $\lambda^{<\lambda} = \lambda$. Most recursion theoretic constructions at ω (like priority argument, recursion theoretic forcing) can be generalized to such λ .

- $\text{cf}(\lambda) > \omega$, e.g. $\lambda = \aleph_{\omega_1}$.

Nothing interesting left.

Theorem (Sy Friedman, 81) ($V = L$)

\aleph_{ω_1} -degrees are well-ordered above any singularizing degree.^a

^aA degree that computes an ω_1 -sequence cofinal in \aleph_{ω_1} .

The key in Friedman's proof is the analysis of *stationary subsets* of $\text{cf}(\lambda)$. His argument works for most reasonable definability degree notions.

Corollary ($V =$ a fine structure extender model)

Z-degrees at singular cardinals of **uncountable cofinality** are well-ordered above any singularizing degree.

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This closes the case $\text{cf}(\lambda) > \omega$.

- $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \omega$, e.g. $\lambda = \aleph_\omega$.

Where the fun is.

Pictures in L

Both Sy Friedman and Woodin observed independently that

Theorem

($V = L$) If $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \omega$, then the Z-degrees at λ are **well-ordered** above any singularizing degree. In particular, the Z-degrees at \aleph_ω are well-ordered.

So in L , one can find only one type of degree structures at singulars of countable cofinality: **well-ordered after the least singularizing degree**.

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So in L , one can find only one type of degree structures at singulars of countable cofinality: **well-ordered after the least singularizing degree**.

A key ingredient of the argument is

Covering Lemma for L . (Jensen, 74)

Assume $\neg \exists 0^\sharp$. Then every set $x \subset \text{Ord}$ is covered by a $y \in L$, with $|y| = |x| + \omega_1$.

Proof

- Suppose $a \subset \lambda$, $a \geq_Z d$, and d singularizes λ . Then a computes a “cutoff” function.
- Work in $M[a]$. Identify subset $x \subset \lambda$ as a member of $[\lambda]^\omega$.
- $M[a]$ has no sharps, by Covering, $\exists b \in L^{M[a]} \cap \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$ s.t. $a \subset b \wedge |b| \leq \omega_1$. Then
$$\frac{a}{b} \sim \frac{z}{\omega_1}, \text{ for some } z \subset \omega_1.$$
- $M[a]$ and $L^{M[a]}$ have the same $\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)$. Thus $a \in L^{M[a]}$. In other word, $M[a] = L_{\alpha_a} \trianglelefteq L$.
- Z-degrees at λ are well-ordered above \underline{d} . ⊣

ANSWERS TO THE LIST:

Post Problem	No.
Minimal Cover	Yes. "No" for > 1 minimal covers.
Posner-Robinson	No.
Degree Determinacy	No.

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REMARK

- For inner models **between L and $L[\mu]$** , the minimal inner model for one measurable cardinal, the same argument applies, as their Covering Lemmas are of the same form. (e.g. $L[0^\sharp]$)
- A little wrinkle **in $L[\mu]$** , due to the different form of the covering lemma for $L[\mu]$. The argument for L can be adapted to yield the same picture – **well-ordered above some point** – at every singular cardinal of countable cofinality.

Pictures in $L[\mu]$

Let κ be the measurable, λ strong limit and $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \omega$.

Reorganize $L[\mu]$ as $L[E]$, by Steel's construction, using partial measures. The point is the acceptability condition, i.e. $\forall \gamma < \alpha$,

$$(L_{\alpha+1}[E] - L_{\alpha}[E]) \cap \mathcal{P}(\gamma) \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow L_{\alpha}[E] \models |\alpha| = \gamma.$$

Two cases:

- $\lambda > \kappa$. Argue as in L .
- $\lambda < \kappa$. Fix $a \subset \lambda$ above the least $L_{\alpha+1}[E]$ that singularizes λ . $M[a]$ contains no 0^\dagger . The most $K^{M[a]}$, the core model for $M[a]$, could be is either $L[\mu']$ or there is no measurable.
 - If no measurable, then $M[a] = K^{M[a]}$, by Covering as before. By Comparison, $M[a] \trianglelefteq K = L[E]$.
 - If $K^{M[a]} = L[\mu']$, then there are two cases.

Pictures in $L[\mu]$

Covering Lemma for $L[\mu]$. (Dodd-Jensen, 82)

Assume $\neg\exists 0^\dagger$, but there is an inner model $L[\mu]$. Let $\kappa = \text{crit}(\mu)$. Then for every set $x \subset \text{Ord}$, one of the following holds:

- 1 Every set $x \subset \text{Ord}$ is covered by a $y \in L[\mu]$, with $|y| = |x| + \omega_1$.
- 2 $\exists C$, Prikry generic over $L[\mu]$, s.t. every set $x \subset \text{Ord}$ is covered by a $y \in L[\mu][C]$, with $|y| = |x| + \omega_1$. Such C is unique up to finite difference.

Case 1. $M[a] \models V = L[\mu']$, argue as in L .

Case 2. Note that $\lambda < \kappa' = \text{crit}(\mu')$, and $C \subset \kappa'$ adds no new bounded subsets of κ' . It must be Case 1, as the covering set y is in $M[a]$.

By Comparison, $M[a] \trianglelefteq K = L[E]$.

Pictures in $L[\bar{\mu}]$

- A new picture starts to emerge in the canonical model for ω many measurable cardinals, $L[\bar{\mu}]$, where $\bar{\mu} = \langle \mu_n : n < \omega \rangle$ and each μ_n is a measure on κ_n and $\kappa_n < \kappa_{n+1}$, $n < \omega$.

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- The case $\lambda \neq \kappa_\omega$ is argued as in $L[\mu]$, Zermelo degrees at λ is well ordered above any singularizing degree. A new degree structure appears at $\lambda = \kappa_\omega$.

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- The case $\lambda \neq \kappa_\omega$ is argued as in $L[\mu]$, Zermelo degrees at λ is well ordered above any singularizing degree. A new degree structure appears at $\lambda = \kappa_\omega$.
- The key is the Covering. The Covering for $L[\bar{\mu}]$ is similar to that of $L[\mu]$, except that C in case 2 now is a **system of indiscernibles** $C = \langle C_n : n < \omega \rangle$ with the properties:
 - 1 Each $C_n \subset \kappa_n$ is either finite or a Prikry sequence;
 - 2 C as a whole is a uniform system of indiscernibles, i.e.

$$(\forall \bar{x} \in L[\bar{\mu}]) (\forall n < \omega) (x_n \in \mu_n) \Rightarrow |\bigcup \{C_n \setminus x_n \mid n < \omega\}| < \omega.$$

Let f_C be such that $f_C(n) = |C_n|$, $n < \omega$.

Covering Lemma for $L[\bar{\mu}]$

Fix an $f : \omega \rightarrow \omega \cup \{\omega\}$ with infinite support.

Lemma (Covering Lemma for $L[\bar{\mu}]$)

Assume the sharp of $L[\bar{\mu}]$ does not exist and there is an inner model containing ω measurable cardinals. Let $L[\bar{\mu}]$ be such that $\lambda = \sup_{n < \omega} \kappa_n$ is as small as possible, where each $\kappa_n = \text{crit}(\mu_n)$. Then one of the following two statements holds:

- 1** For every set x of ordinals there is a set $y \in L[\bar{\mu}]$ with $x \subseteq y$ and $|y| = |x| + \omega_1$.
- 2** There is a $(\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mu}}^f, L[\bar{\mu}])$ -generic system of indiscernibles $C \subseteq \lambda$ such that $f_C = f$ and for every set $x \subset \text{Ord}$ there is a set $y \in L[\bar{\mu}, C]$ such that $x \subseteq y$ and $|y| = |x| + \omega_1$. Furthermore, the system C is unique up to finite differences.

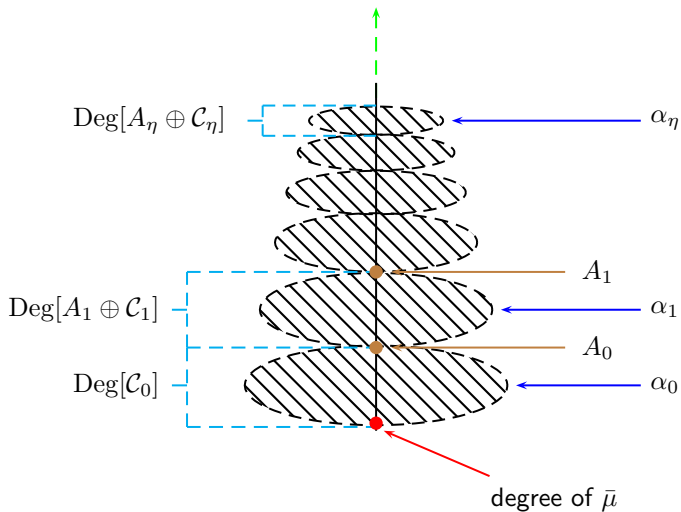
For our next theorem, only the case $\forall n f(n) = 1$ is needed.

Theorem

Assume $V = L[\bar{\mu}]$, where $\bar{\mu} = \langle \mu_n : n < \omega \rangle$ is a sequence of measures s.t. $\kappa_\omega = \sup \text{crit}(\mu_n)$ is least possible. Suppose $\lambda > \omega$ and $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \omega$.

- 1 If $\lambda \neq \kappa_\omega$, then the Z-degrees at λ are wellordered above any singularizing degree;
- 2 If $\lambda = \kappa_\omega$, consider Z-degrees at λ above $\bar{\mu}$, viewing $\bar{\mu}$ as a subset of λ . For $\eta < \lambda^+$, let β_η denote the η -th Z-ordinal (for \emptyset), and $B =_{\text{def}} \{\beta_\eta \mid \eta < \lambda^+ \wedge \beta_\eta > \lim_{\xi < \eta} \beta_\xi\}$. Then
 - 1 $B = \{\alpha_a \mid a \subset \lambda\}$. Define $\underline{a} \preceq \underline{b} \Leftrightarrow \alpha_a \leq \alpha_b$, for $a, b \subset \lambda$. Then \preceq **prewellorders** the Z-degrees at λ above $\bar{\mu}$.
 - 2 For $\eta < \lambda^+$, let α_η = the η -th member of B , let A_η be a subset of λ that codes the sequence $\langle \alpha_\xi : \xi < \eta \rangle$, and \mathcal{C}_η be the set of all $(\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mu}}, L_{\alpha_\eta}[\bar{\mu}])$ -generic sequences. Then the Z-degrees at λ (above $\bar{\mu}$) with Z-ordinal α_η are exactly the degrees induced by

$$A_\eta \oplus \mathcal{C}_\eta = \{(A_\eta, C) \mid C \in \mathcal{C}_\eta \cup \{\emptyset\}\}.$$



Proof of 2.

- Fix an $a \subset \lambda = \kappa_\omega$, the real coding the theory of $L[\bar{\mu}]$ is not in $M(a)$, so one can apply the Covering for $L[\bar{\mu}]$ within $M[a]$.
 - 1 a is covered by a set $y \in (L[\bar{\mu}])^{M[a]}$ with $|y| = |a| + \aleph_1$,
 - 2 a is covered by a set $y \in (L[\bar{\mu}][C_a])^{M[a]}$ with $|y| = |a| + \aleph_1$, where C_a is $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mu}}$ -generic over $L_{\alpha_a}[\bar{\mu}]$. Such C_a is “unique”.
- Case 1: $M[a] = (L[\bar{\mu}])^{M[a]} = L_{\alpha_a}[\bar{\mu}]$,
Case 2: $M[a] = (L[\bar{\mu}][C_a])^{M[a]} = L_{\alpha_a}[\bar{\mu}, C_a]$, for some C_a .
- In both cases, α_a is a β_η for some $\eta < \lambda^+$. By the minimality of $M[a]$, $\beta_\eta > \lim_{\xi < \eta} \alpha_\xi$. Thus $B \supseteq \{\alpha_a \mid a \subset \lambda\}$.
- For $\eta < \lambda^+$, as β_η is the least Zermelo ordinal above $\lim_{\xi < \eta} \beta_\xi = \lim_{\xi < \eta} \alpha_\xi$, $M[A_\eta] = L_{\beta_\eta}[\bar{\mu}]$. This proves 2-1.
- But then Case 1 gives $M[a] = M[A_\eta]$, for some η ; and Case 2 gives $M[a] = M[A_\eta, C_a]$, for some η . This proves 2-2. \dashv

Moreover,

Theorem

Assume $V = L[\bar{\mu}]$, and $\bar{\mu}, \bar{\kappa}, \lambda$ be as before. The following are definable over the degree structure $(\mathcal{D}_Z^\lambda, <_Z)$:

- 1 $\mathcal{I} = \{\underline{A}_\eta \mid A_\eta \subset \lambda \text{ codes } \langle \alpha_i : i < \eta \rangle, \eta < \lambda^+\}$.
- 2 $\mathcal{R} = \{(\underline{a}, \underline{b}) \mid a, b \subset \lambda, \alpha_a = \alpha_b\}$

³In fact, one can embed $([\omega]^\omega, \subseteq^*)$. It's unknown if one can have 2^λ many.

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ANSWERS TO THE LIST. (at $\lambda = \sup_n \kappa_n$)

Post Problem	Yes. $\exists 2^\omega$ many pairwise incomp. degrees. ³
Minimal Cover	No.
Posner-Robinson	No.
Degree Determinacy	No.

³In fact, one can embed $([\omega]^\omega, \subseteq^*)$. It's unknown if one can have 2^λ many.

Two more properties

Corollary ($V = L[\bar{\mu}]$)

- 1 There are infinite descending chains of Z-degrees at λ .
- 2 There is no infinite sequence $\langle a_i : i < \omega \rangle$ above the degree of $\bar{\mu}$ such that $J_Z(a_{i+1}) \leq_Z a_i$.

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- 2 There is no infinite sequence $\langle a_i : i < \omega \rangle$ above the degree of $\bar{\mu}$ such that $J_Z(a_{i+1}) \leq_Z a_i$.

- (1) implies that $(\mathcal{D}_Z^\lambda, \leq_Z)$ is illfounded.
- For (\mathcal{D}, \leq_T) , both types of infinite descending sequences of Turing degrees exist, i.e. (1) is true, (2) is false.
- Both are false for the aforementioned wellordered degree structures.

Picture in $L[\mathcal{U}]$

Theorem (Yang)

Assume $\bar{\kappa} = \langle \kappa_n : n < \omega \rangle$ is a sequence of measurable cardinals s.t. each κ_{n+1} carries κ_n many normal measures. Let $\lambda = \sup_n \kappa_n$. Then there is a minimal Z-degree cover for \underline{W} , where $W \subset \lambda$ codes relevant information, in particular, the matrix \mathcal{U} of measures.

- One can find this structure in Mitchell's model for $o(\kappa) = \kappa$.

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- One can find this structure in Mitchell's model for $o(\kappa) = \kappa$.

ANSWERS TO THE LIST:

Post Problem	Yes. $\exists 2^\lambda$ many pairwise incomp. degrees.
Minimal Cover	Yes. $\exists 2^\lambda$ many minimal covers for \mathcal{W} .
Posner-Robinson	very likely to be "No".
Degree Determinacy	very likely to be "No".

For the descending chain questions, Yes to the first one, unknown for the second.

Picture from I_0

Definition

$I_0(\lambda)$ is the following assertion: There exists an elementary embedding $j : L(V_{\lambda+1}) \rightarrow L(V_{\lambda+1})$ such that $\text{crit}(j) < \lambda$.

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Theorem

Assume ZFC + $I_0(\lambda)$. Then

- 1 For almost all (co- λ many) $X \subset \lambda$,

$$(\exists G \subset \lambda) [\underline{x} \oplus \underline{G} \equiv_{\mathbb{Z}} \underline{J_{\mathbb{Z}}(G)}].$$

- 2 Suppose in V_λ , $\kappa_0 =_{\text{def}} \text{crit}(j)$ is supercompact, and its supercompactness is indestructible by κ_0 -directed posets.^a

Then

$$L(V_{\lambda+1}) \models \neg \text{Det}_\lambda(\mathbb{Z}\text{-Deg}).$$

^aLet us call this $I_0^*(\lambda)$. $\exists \lambda I_0^*(\lambda)$ is equiconsistent with $\exists \lambda I_0(\lambda)$

ANSWERS TO THE LIST:

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Minimal Cover	Yes. $\exists 2^\lambda$ many minimal covers.
Posner-Robinson	Yes.
Degree Determinacy	almost "No".

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Minimal Cover	Yes. $\exists 2^\lambda$ many minimal covers.
Posner-Robinson	Yes.
Degree Determinacy	almost “No”.

If replace $I_0(\lambda)$ by $I_0^*(\lambda)$, then the last one is “No”.

A table

	\mathcal{D}_T^ω	$(\mathcal{D}_Z^{N_\omega})^L$	$(\mathcal{D}_{\geq Z\bar{\mu}}^\lambda)^{L[\bar{\mu}]}$	$(\mathcal{D}_{\geq Z\mathcal{U}}^\lambda)^{L[\mathcal{U}]}$	$I_0^*(\lambda)$
Post	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
Min-Cov	✓	-	×	✓	✓
P-R	✓	×	×	?	✓
Deg-Det	*	×	×	?	×

*: independent of ZF.

?: unknown.

-: ✓ for one minimal cover, × for multiple minimal covers.

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Min-Cov	✓	-	×	✓	✓
P-R	✓	×	×	?	✓
Deg-Det	*	×	×	?	×
WF	✓	×	✓	✓	?
Des-chain-2	✓	×	×	?	?

*: independent of ZF.

?: unknown.

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REMARK

- The diversities of the types of degree structures at singular cardinals of countable cofinality reflects the strength of large cardinals carried in the model.
- Among (fine structure) inner models, the “richness” of the degree structures seems correlated to the location of λ in these inner models, rather than to the strength of a particular inner model.

An example

Example

Assume ZFC + GCH and there is a measurable cardinal κ of Mitchell order $o(\kappa) = \kappa^{++}$ plus a measurable cardinal $\kappa' > \kappa$.

By results of Woodin and Gitik, with a small forcing, one can arrange that in the generic extension

- $\kappa = \aleph_\omega$,
- GCH is true below \aleph_ω ,
- $2^{\aleph_\omega} = \aleph_{\omega+2}$
- κ' is measurable.

As every degree has only \aleph_ω many predecessors in the degree partial ordering, the Zermelo degree at \aleph_ω cannot be well ordered in the generic extension, in contrast to the picture in $L[\mu]$.

THANK YOU!