

The Katowice Problem

Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum videtur

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Outline

- 1 What's the problem?
- 2 Some proofs
- 3 Working toward $0 = 1$
- 4 A non-trivial autohomeomorphism

A basic question

All cardinals carry the discrete topology.

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Question (Marian Turzanski)

Are ω^* and ω_1^* homeomorphic?

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Equivalently: are the Boolean algebras $\mathcal{P}(\omega)/fin$ and $\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)/fin$ isomorphic?

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It turns out that Turzanski's question forms the only interesting case of the general question.

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κ^* is $\beta\kappa \setminus \kappa$

(generally we write $A^* = \overline{A} \setminus A$ for $A \subseteq \kappa$)

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The family *fin*, of finite sets, is an ideal in this algebra.

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For observe: $A^* = B^*$ iff A and B differ by a finite set.

Two results

Theorem (Frankiewicz 1977)

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Theorem (Balcar and Frankiewicz 1978)

ω_1^ and ω_2^* are not homeomorphic.*

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Let κ be minimal such that there is $\lambda > \kappa$ for which κ^* and λ^* are homeomorphic.

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Let $h : \lambda^* \rightarrow \kappa^*$ be a homeomorphism and take $A \subseteq \kappa$ such that $A^* = h[\mu^*]$.

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Note: $|A| < \mu$, so by minimality of κ we must have $|A| = \kappa$. □

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Let $h : \kappa^* \rightarrow (\kappa^+)^*$ be a homeomorphism.

For $\alpha < \kappa$ take $A_\alpha \subseteq \kappa^+$ such that $A_\alpha^* = h[\alpha^*]$ and let

$$A = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha.$$

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$$A = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha.$$

Note: $|A_\alpha| = |\alpha| < \kappa$ for all α , by minimality of κ , so $|A| \leq \kappa$. \square

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And so $|\kappa \setminus B| \leq \omega$. □

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We may rearrange the v_n to make them disjoint and even assume $v_n = \{n\} \times \omega$ for all n .

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$\langle f_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ is a κ -scale.

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But then we'd have an ω_1 -scale and an ω_2 -scale and hence a contradiction.

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If $\omega_1 \leq \kappa < \lambda$ then κ^ and λ^* are not homeomorphic*

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Corollary

If $\omega_1 \leq \kappa < \lambda$ then κ^ and λ^* are not homeomorphic, and if $\omega_2 \leq \lambda$ then ω^* and λ^* are not homeomorphic.*

So we are left with

Question

Are ω^* and ω_1^* ever homeomorphic?

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So CH implies 'no'.

An ω_1 -scale

Using the scales we get

$$\mathfrak{d} = \omega_1$$

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And so $\text{MA} + \neg\text{CH}$ implies 'no'.

A strong Q -sequence

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Such *strong Q -sequences* exist consistently (Steprāns).

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(Actually second implies third.)

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In fact, τ is non-trivial, i.e., there is no bijection $\sigma : a \rightarrow b$ between cofinite sets such that $\tau[x^*] = \sigma[x \cap a]^*$ for all subsets x of ω

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which neatly contradicts what's on the previous slide . . .

Some more details

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If the orbit of n is two-sided infinite then both $\{\sigma^k(n) : k \leq 0\}^*$ and $\{\sigma^k(n) : k \geq 0\}^*$ are τ -invariant.

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Certainly $h_\alpha \setminus c$ is infinite for our co-countably many α .

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- with $n \in v_0$ and $|m - l| \leq 1$
- use $\{\sigma^k(n) : -l/2 \leq k \leq m/2\}$ as a constituent of c .

So now . . .

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Will somebody please derive $0 = 1$ from this structure and lay the Katowice problem to rest?