

On the Consistency Strength of Two Choiceless Cardinal Patterns

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Abstract Using work of Devlin and Schindler in conjunction with work on Prikry forcing in a choiceless context done by the author, we show that two choiceless cardinal patterns have consistency strength of at least one Woodin cardinal.

1 Introduction and preliminaries One of the most intriguing problems in large cardinals without the Axiom of Choice is to obtain a model for the theory $T_1 = \text{“ZF} + \text{DC}_\kappa + \kappa \text{ is a strong limit cardinal} + \text{Both } \kappa \text{ and } \kappa^+ \text{ are measurable cardinals”}$. It was partially with this motivation that Bull, in his 1976 thesis (published in [6]), proved the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1 *Con(ZFC + $\kappa < \lambda$ are cardinals so that κ is λ supercompact and λ is measurable) \implies Con(ZF + $\text{DC}_\kappa + \kappa$ is both a strong limit and Ramsey cardinal + κ^+ is measurable).*

For the duration of this paper, we will refer to the weakening of T_1 for which the relative consistency was obtained in Theorem 1.1 as T_2 .

It is unfortunately the case, as Bull showed in [6], that κ is not measurable in the model for Theorem 1.1. Nonetheless, Bull’s result was the starting point for many investigations into the relative consistency of sequences of consecutive large cardinals, such as those carried out and explicated in Apter [2] and [3], and Apter and Henle [5].

It is interesting to note that Bull’s technique and the generalizations thereof given in [2] and [3] require the use of supercompactness. This issue is addressed in greater detail in Apter and Hamkins [4]. This still does not address, however, the exact consistency strength of either of the theories T_1 or T_2 . Indeed, since neither of the cardinal patterns given by T_1 and T_2 follows from AD, and both of these cardinal patterns appear to have consistency strength much stronger than AD, it is quite conceivable that supercompactness will turn out to be necessary in establishing the relative consistency of both T_1 and T_2 .

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The purpose of this paper is to show that earlier work on Prikry forcing in a choiceless context given in Apter [1] combined with techniques Devlin uses to prove Theorems 1 and 2 of [7] and Schindler uses to prove Theorem 1 of [12] yield, modulo an assumption necessary to carry out certain core model arguments, that the consistency strength of a weakening of T_1 different from either of the hypotheses used in [12] is at least one Woodin cardinal. Specifically, we prove the following.

Theorem 1.2 *Suppose $V \models$ “ZF + DC + κ is a limit cardinal + Unboundedly many in κ successor cardinals $\delta < \kappa$ are regular + κ carries a shrinking filter + κ^+ is measurable + $\Omega > \kappa^+$ is inaccessible and V_Ω^{HOD} is closed under sharps”. There is then an inner model with one Woodin cardinal.*

As an immediate corollary to Theorem 1.2, we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 1.3 *Suppose $V \models$ “ZF + κ is a limit cardinal + Unboundedly many in κ successor cardinals $\delta < \kappa$ are regular + κ carries a shrinking filter + κ^+ is singular + $\Omega > \kappa^+$ is inaccessible and V_Ω^{HOD} is closed under sharps”. There is then an inner model with one Woodin cardinal.*

The referee has pointed out that it is possible to weaken the hypotheses of Theorem 1.2 to “ZF + κ is a limit cardinal + Unboundedly many in κ successor cardinals $\delta < \kappa$ are regular + κ carries a shrinking filter + κ^+ is weakly compact + $\Omega > \kappa^+$ is inaccessible and V_Ω^{HOD} is closed under sharps”. We will provide details of the referee’s proof in Section 3.

The terminology we use in Theorems 1.2 and 1.3 is that given in [7] and [12]. Thus, as in [12], in a choiceless context, a cardinal δ is inaccessible if and only if for no cardinal $\alpha < \delta$ does a cofinal map $f : V_\alpha \rightarrow \delta$ exist. As in [7], the cardinal δ carries a shrinking filter \mathcal{D} if and only if whenever $A \in \mathcal{D}$ and $f : [A]^{<\omega} \rightarrow \alpha^+ < \delta$, there is $B \subseteq A$, $B \in \mathcal{D}$ so that $|f''[B]^{<\omega}| \leq \alpha$. Rowbottom’s theorem implies that if $\delta > \aleph_1$ is a measurable cardinal carrying a normal measure, then δ carries a shrinking filter, that is, the normal measure itself. However, as shown by Prikry in [11], it is possible for $\delta > \aleph_1$ to carry a shrinking filter and be singular.

To prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.3, we will need the following two lemmas. Lemma 1.4 appears as Lemma 3 of [12] and is a generalization of a theorem of Vopěnka. (Vopěnka’s original theorem can be found as Theorem 65, pp. 293–94 of Jech [8].) Lemma 1.5 is a slight strengthening of Lemma 4 of [12]. The results given in the first and second sentences of the conclusions of Lemma 1.5 are due to Steel and can be found in Schimmerling [13] and Steel [14]. The results given in the third and fourth sentences of the conclusions of Lemma 1.5 are due to Mitchell, Schimmerling, and Steel and can be found in [10] and [9].

Lemma 1.4 *Let $x \subseteq \text{HOD}[a] \subseteq V$ for some a and x . There is then a partial ordering $\mathbb{P} \in \text{HOD}[a]$ so that x is $\text{HOD}[a]$ -generic over \mathbb{P} . Further, if $x \subseteq V_\alpha^{\text{HOD}[a]}$ for some $\alpha < \delta$, where $V \models$ “ δ is inaccessible”, then \mathbb{P} can be chosen so that $\mathbb{P} \in V_\delta^{\text{HOD}[a]}$.*

Lemma 1.5 *Let $N \subseteq V$, $N \models \text{ZFC}$ be an inner model of V so that $N \models$ “ δ is inaccessible and V_δ is closed under sharps”. Suppose there is no inner model of V with a Woodin cardinal. Then the core model $K = K^N$ inside N up to δ exists and is δ iterable. Also, if $M = N^{\mathbb{P}}$ for some $\mathbb{P} \in V_\delta^N$, then $K^M = K$. Further, if $N \models$ “ $\aleph_2 \leq \alpha < \delta$ ”*

is a cardinal”, then $N \models \text{“cof}((\alpha^+)^K) \geq \alpha\text{”}$. In particular, if $N \models \text{“}\aleph_2 \leq \alpha < \delta \text{ is a singular cardinal”}$, then $N \models \text{“}(\alpha^+)^K = \alpha^+\text{”}$.

2 The proofs of Theorems 1.2 and 1.3 We turn now to the proof of Theorem 1.2.

Proof: We assume V is as in the hypotheses of Theorem 1.2. Since $V \models \text{“ZF + DC + } \kappa^+ \text{ is measurable”}$, we know that κ^+ carries a normal measure. Thus, by the work of Section 1 of [1], it is possible to define a Prikry partial ordering $\mathbb{P}_1 \in V$ so that $V_1 = V^{\mathbb{P}_1} \models \text{“The bounded subsets of } \kappa^+ \text{ are the same as in } V + \kappa^+ \text{ is a singular cardinal of cofinality } \omega\text{”}$. Hence, $(\kappa^+)^{V_1} = (\kappa^+)^V$, and since by hypothesis $V \models \text{“}\kappa \text{ carries a shrinking filter } \mathcal{D}\text{”}$, $V_1 \models \text{“}\mathcal{D} \text{ is a shrinking filter”}$ as well.

Let $\mathbb{P}_0 \in V_1$ be Prikry forcing over κ defined using \mathcal{D} . By Lemma 1.3 of [1], which does not require that \mathcal{D} be a normal measure, $V_1^{\mathbb{P}_0} = V_2 \models \text{“}\kappa^+ = (\kappa^+)^{V_1} \text{ and hence is a singular cardinal (of cofinality } \omega)\text{”}$.

We show now that $V_2 \models \text{“}\kappa \text{ is a singular cardinal of cofinality } \omega\text{”}$. Clearly, the standard density arguments yield $V_2 \models \text{“cof}(\kappa) = \omega\text{”}$, so it suffices to prove $V_2 \models \text{“}\kappa \text{ is a cardinal”}$. We do this by using the argument Devlin employs in the proof of Theorem 1 of [7]. Specifically, we show forcing with \mathbb{P}_0 preserves that every regular successor cardinal below κ is a cardinal. Since $V_1 \models \text{“}\kappa \text{ is a limit cardinal and unboundedly many in } \kappa \text{ successor cardinals } \delta < \kappa \text{ are regular”}$, this will yield that forcing with \mathbb{P}_0 over V_1 preserves that κ is a cardinal. Therefore, if $\delta = \lambda^+ < \kappa$ is the least V_1 -regular successor cardinal so that for some $p = \langle s_0, S_0 \rangle \in \mathbb{P}_0$, $p \Vdash \text{“}\delta \text{ isn't a cardinal”}$, then we can assume without loss of generality that $p \Vdash \text{“}f : \lambda \rightarrow \delta \text{ is a surjection”}$.

For each $s \in [S_0]^{<\omega}$, let $T_s = \{\beta < \delta : \text{for some condition } q = \langle s_0 \hat{\ } s, A \rangle \text{ extending } p \text{ and some } \alpha < \lambda, q \Vdash \text{“}f(\alpha) = \beta\text{”}\}$. Note that if $\langle t, A \rangle, \langle t, B \rangle \in \mathbb{P}_0$, $\langle t, A \cap B \rangle$ extends both of these conditions. Thus, T_s is well defined and has cardinality at most λ . Therefore, by our hypothesis that δ is regular in V_1 , $F : [S_0]^{<\omega} \rightarrow \delta$ given by $F(s) = \sup(T_s)$ is such that $F(s)$ defines an ordinal below δ . Since \mathcal{D} is a shrinking filter in both V and V_1 , this means that for some $S_1 \subseteq S_0$, $S_1 \in \mathcal{D}$, $|F''[S_1]^{<\omega}| \leq \lambda$ and $\gamma = \sup(F''[S_1]^{<\omega}) < \delta$. However, $p' = \langle s, S_1 \rangle$ extends p and $p' \Vdash \text{“}f''\lambda \subseteq \gamma + 1 < \delta\text{”}$, a contradiction. Thus, all regular successor cardinals $\delta < \kappa$ in V and V_1 remain cardinals in V_2 .

We continue by using a modification of the argument employed by Schindler in the proof of Theorem 1 of [12]. We assume that there is no inner model of V_2 with a Woodin cardinal, which immediately implies that there is no inner model of either V_1 or V with a Woodin cardinal. Let t_1 and t_2 be the cofinal ω sequences present in V_2 through κ and κ^+ respectively, and let $M = \text{HOD}^{V_2}$.

Note that Ω remains inaccessible in V_2 . This is since $\mathbb{P}_1 * \mathbb{P}_0 \in V_\Omega$ and every $x \in V_\Omega^{V_2}$ has a name $\dot{x} \in V_\Omega$ which then implies that there are no $p \in \mathbb{P}_1 * \mathbb{P}_0$, τ , and $\alpha < \Omega$ with $p \Vdash \text{“}\tau : V_\alpha^{V_2} \rightarrow \Omega \text{ is a cofinal map”}$. Further, by the homogeneity of $\mathbb{P}_1 * \mathbb{P}_0$, M is a definable inner model of V , since a set x of ordinals is ordinal definable in V_2 if and only if there is a formula φ and an ordinal sequence $\vec{\alpha}$ such that $\xi \in x \iff \Vdash_{\mathbb{P}_1 * \mathbb{P}_0} \varphi(\xi, \vec{\alpha})$.

Assume that $x \subseteq \Omega$ is bounded and ordinal definable in V_2 . Work for the time being in V . By the preceding paragraph, $x \in V_\Omega$, so by Lemma 1.4, $x \in \text{HOD}^{\mathbb{Q}}$ for

some $\mathbb{Q} \in V_\Omega^{\text{HOD}}$. Thus, since the V_Ω of every small generic extension of HOD is closed under sharps, we are now able to infer that $V_2 \models$ “ Ω is inaccessible and V_Ω^{HOD} (as computed in V_2) is closed under sharps”. Therefore, $M \models$ “ Ω is inaccessible and V_Ω is closed under sharps”, so by Lemma 1.5, $K = K^M$ inside M up to Ω exists and is Ω iterable in M .

We claim now that $(\kappa^+)^K = (\kappa^+)^V = (\kappa^+)^{V_1} = (\kappa^+)^{V_2}$. If not, then let $f : \kappa \rightarrow (\kappa^+)^K$, $f \in V_2$ be a bijection. By Lemma 1.4, $M[\langle t_1, f \rangle]$ is a generic extension of M via a partial ordering which is an element of V_Ω^M . Hence, Lemma 1.5 implies that inside $M[\langle t_1, f \rangle]$ and up to Ω , $K = K^M = K^{M[\langle t_1, f \rangle]}$. Since κ is a singular cardinal in $M[\langle t_1, f \rangle]$, another application of Lemma 1.5 then yields that $(\kappa^+)^K = (\kappa^+)^{M[\langle t_1, f \rangle]}$. On the other hand, it is, of course, the case that $M[\langle t_1, f \rangle] \models$ “ $(\kappa^+)^K < \kappa^+$ ”. From this contradiction, we therefore know that $(\kappa^+)^K = \kappa^+$, and so $M[\langle t_2, t_1 \rangle] \models$ “ZFC + $(\kappa^+)^K = \kappa^+ + \kappa^+$ is a singular cardinal”. This final contradiction proves Theorem 1.2. \square

As indicated in Section 1, Theorem 1.3 is an immediate corollary of Theorem 1.2. Instead of choosing t_2 as being Prikry generic for the measurable cardinal κ^+ , one simply chooses t_2 as being a cofinal sequence through κ^+ witnessing that κ^+ is singular. The remaining details of the proof of Theorem 1.3 are then virtually identical to the proof of Theorem 1.2, as readers can easily verify for themselves.

3 Concluding remarks In conclusion, we remark that in the first version of this paper, we asked if the hypotheses of Theorem 1.2 could be weakened so that the assumptions of DC were dropped and κ^+ were just assumed to be weakly compact and not measurable. As we mentioned in Section 1, the referee has provided a proof that this is indeed possible. Here are the details: Let \mathbb{P}_0 be as in the proof of Theorem 1.2. Force with \mathbb{P}_0 over V . By the arguments given in the proof of Theorem 1.2, K can be constructed in $\text{HOD}^{V^{\mathbb{P}_0}}$, and we will as before have that $(\kappa^+)^K = (\kappa^+)^V = (\kappa^+)^{V^{\mathbb{P}_0}}$. Thus, $(\kappa^+)^V$ is a successor cardinal in K . On the other hand, by the local definability of K (see [14], §6) and the homogeneity of \mathbb{P}_0 , it will be the case that x is a set of ordinals in K if and only if there is a formula φ and an ordinal sequence $\vec{\alpha}$ such that $\xi \in x \iff \Vdash_{\mathbb{P}_0} \varphi(\xi, \vec{\alpha})$. This implies that K is a definable inner model of V . This means we can then use Lemma 1(d) of [12] to infer that $(\kappa^+)^V$, which by hypothesis is weakly compact, is inaccessible in K . This contradiction proves the improved version of Theorem 1.2.

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