

FINITE COMBINATIONS OF BAIRE NUMBERS

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ABSTRACT

Let κ be a regular cardinal. Consider the Baire numbers of the spaces $(2^\theta)_\kappa$ for various $\theta \geq \kappa$. Let l be the number of such different Baire numbers. Models of set theory with $l = 1$ or $l = 2$ are known and it is also known that l is finite. We show here that if $\kappa > \omega$, then l could be any given finite number.

The Baire number of a topological space with no isolated points is the minimal cardinality of a family of dense open sets whose intersection is empty. The Baire number (also called the Novák number [V]) of a partial order is the minimal cardinality of a family of dense sets that has no filter [BS] (i.e. no filter on the given partial order intersecting all these dense sets non-trivially). $Fn_\kappa(\theta, 2)$ is the collection of all partial functions $p: \theta \rightarrow 2$ such that $|p| < \kappa$, and is partially ordered by reverse inclusion. For κ regular and $\theta \geq \kappa$ we consider the spaces $(2^\theta)_\kappa$ whose points are functions from θ to 2 and a typical basic open set is $\{f: \theta \rightarrow 2 \mid p \subset f\}$ where $p \in Fn_\kappa(\theta, 2)$. We denote the Baire number of $(2^\theta)_\kappa$ by n_κ^θ . It is not hard to see that n_κ^θ is also the Baire number of $Fn_\kappa(\theta, 2)$. Let us now list some known facts (see [L] §1).

FACTS: Let κ be a regular cardinal and let $\theta \geq \kappa$. Then

1. $\kappa^+ \leq n_\kappa^\theta \leq 2^\kappa$.
2. If $2^{<\kappa} > \kappa$, then $n_\kappa^\theta = \kappa^+$.
3. If $\theta_1 \leq \theta_2$, then $n_\kappa^{\theta_2} \leq n_\kappa^{\theta_1}$ and therefore $\{n_\kappa^\theta: \theta \geq \kappa \text{ is a cardinal}\}$ is finite.
4. If $\theta_1 \leq \theta_2$ and $n_\kappa^{\theta_2} = \theta_1$, then $n_\kappa^{\theta_1} = \theta_1$.

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5. If $\theta = \aleph_\kappa^{2^\kappa}$, then θ is the unique cardinal with $\aleph_\kappa^\theta = \theta$ and for every $\theta_1 \geq \theta$, $\aleph_\kappa^{\theta_1} = \theta$.

A. Miller [M] proved that $\text{cof}(\aleph_\omega^\omega) > \omega$ but also produced a model for $\text{cof}(\aleph_\omega^{\omega_1}) = \omega$. In this model $|\{\aleph_\omega^\theta: \theta \geq \omega \text{ is a cardinal}\}| = 2$. Similar models for $\kappa > \omega$ can be found in [L]. In his above mentioned paper, Miller uses a countable support product of $F\aleph_\omega(\omega, 2)$ to increase \aleph_ω^ω without changing the value of $\aleph_\omega^{\omega_1}$ (and hence getting $\aleph_\omega^{\omega_1} < \aleph_\omega^\omega$). This idea will be used next to prove the following theorem.

THEOREM: *Let $\kappa > \omega$ be a regular cardinal. If ZFC is consistent, then for every $1 \leq l \in \omega$, ZFC is consistent with $|\{\aleph_\kappa^\theta: \theta \geq \kappa \text{ is a cardinal}\}| = l$.*

This answers ([L] 1.6) for $\kappa > \omega$. We do not know whether the Theorem is true for $\kappa = \omega$. Before we turn to the proof of the theorem, we will need the following lemma which is due to Miller. The proof of the lemma is a forcing argument that uses \diamond_κ . The use of \diamond 's in forcing arguments originated in [B]; for other such arguments see [Ka], [L] and [L1].

Definition: For the cardinals κ, θ, λ , let $Q_\kappa(\theta, \lambda)$ be the product of λ many copies of $F\aleph_\kappa(\theta, 2)$ with support of cardinality $\leq \kappa$. A condition $q \in Q_\kappa(\theta, \lambda)$ is a function with $\text{dom}(q) \in [\lambda]^{\leq \kappa}$ and such that for every $\alpha \in \text{dom}(q)$, $q(\alpha) \in F\aleph_\kappa(\theta, 2)$. The partial ordering is defined by putting $q \leq p$ if and only if $\text{dom}(q) \supset \text{dom}(p)$ and for every $\alpha \in \text{dom}(p)$, $q(\alpha) \supset p(\alpha)$. If $\{q_\alpha: \alpha < \gamma\} \subset Q_\kappa(\theta, \lambda)$ have a lower bound in $Q_\kappa(\theta, \lambda)$, then let us denote the largest lower bound by $\bigwedge_{\alpha < \gamma} q_\alpha$.

LEMMA: *Let $\kappa > \omega$ be a regular cardinal such that \diamond_κ holds. Let $\lambda, \theta \geq \kappa$ be cardinals. Let $Q = Q_\kappa(\theta, \lambda)$. Then forcing with Q over V has the following property: for every function $f: \kappa \rightarrow V$ in the extension there is a set $A \in V$ such that $(|A| = \kappa)^V$ and $\text{range}(f) \subset A$ (in particular, forcing with Q preserves κ^+).*

Proof of the lemma: Assume that

$$q_0 \Vdash_Q \text{“}\tau: \kappa \rightarrow V\text{”}.$$

Let M be an elementary substructure of the universe such that $|M| = \kappa$, M is closed under sequences of length $< \kappa$ (i.e. for every $\alpha \in \kappa$, ${}^\alpha M \subset M$), and such that $q_0, Q, \lambda, \theta, \kappa, \tau$ are all in M . Notice that every set in M that has cardinality $\leq \kappa$ is also a subset of M . Therefore, if $q \in Q \cap M$, then $q \subset M$.

Let $L = \{\lambda_\xi: \xi < \kappa\} = M \cap \lambda$, and $T = \{\theta_\xi: \xi < \kappa\} = M \cap \theta$. For every $\xi < \kappa$, let $L_\xi = \{\lambda_\delta: \delta < \xi\}$, and $T_\xi = \{\theta_\delta: \delta < \xi\}$. Notice that $L_\xi, T_\xi \in M$.

For every $\alpha \in \kappa$ we define a function $B_\alpha: Q \rightarrow \wp(\alpha \times \alpha)$ as follows:

$$(\xi, \eta) \in B_\alpha(q) \iff [\lambda_\xi \in \text{dom}(q) \wedge \theta_\eta \in \text{dom}(q(\lambda_\xi)) \wedge q(\lambda_\xi)(\theta_\eta) = 1].$$

Notice that for every $\alpha \in \kappa$, $B_\alpha \in M$ (because $L_\alpha, T_\alpha \in M$).

Now, let us fix a \diamond_κ -sequence $I = \{I_\xi: \xi < \kappa\}$ on $\kappa \times \kappa$. Notice that for every $\xi < \kappa$, $I_\xi \in M$. We are now ready to construct a decreasing sequence $\{q_\alpha: \alpha < \kappa\} \subset Q \cap M$, below q_0 , that satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) $\alpha < \beta \implies q_\beta \leq q_\alpha$.
- (2) $(\forall \alpha < \kappa) L_\alpha \subset \text{dom}(q_\alpha)$.
- (3) $\alpha < \beta \implies q_\beta \upharpoonright L_\alpha = q_\alpha \upharpoonright L_\alpha$.
- (4) If $\alpha \in \kappa$ is a limit ordinal, then $q_\alpha = \bigwedge_{\beta < \alpha} q_\beta$. (Notice that $q_\alpha \in Q \cap M$ because $\{q_\beta: \beta < \alpha\} \in M$.)
- (5) Given q_α let us define $q_{\alpha+1}$.

Case (i): There exist $r \leq q_\alpha$ such that for every $\xi < \alpha$, $\text{dom}(r(\lambda_\xi)) = T_\alpha$, and $B_\alpha(r) = I_\alpha$, and r decides $\tau \upharpoonright \alpha$. In this case, the same is true in M . Hence there are $r_\alpha, t_\alpha \in M$ such that $r_\alpha \leq q_\alpha$, and for every $\xi < \alpha$, $\text{dom}(r_\alpha(\lambda_\xi)) = T_\alpha$, and $B_\alpha(r_\alpha) = I_\alpha$, and

$$r_\alpha \Vdash_Q \text{“}\tau \upharpoonright \alpha = t_\alpha\text{”}.$$

Let $q_{\alpha+1}$ be defined as follows: $q_{\alpha+1} = (q_\alpha \upharpoonright L_\alpha) \cup (r_\alpha \upharpoonright (\text{dom}(r_\alpha) \setminus L_\alpha))$.

Case (ii): \neg (case (i)). Let $q_{\alpha+1} \leq q_\alpha$ be any extension in M that satisfies (2) and (3), and let $t_\alpha = \emptyset$.

Finally, define $q = \bigwedge_{\alpha < \kappa} q_\alpha$. By (1) and (3) of the construction, $q \in Q$. By (2), $\text{dom}(q) = L$. Let $A = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} \text{range}(t_\alpha)$. We claim that

$$q \Vdash_Q \text{“}\text{range}(\tau) \subset A\text{”}.$$

Assume not. Let $s \leq q$, and $\delta \in \kappa$ be such that $s \Vdash_Q \text{“}\tau(\delta) \notin A\text{”}$. Let us define a decreasing sequence $\{s_\alpha: \alpha < \kappa\}$ in Q that satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) $s_0 = s$.
- (2) $(\forall \alpha < \kappa) s_\alpha$ decides $\tau \upharpoonright \alpha$.
- (3) If $\alpha < \kappa$ is a limit ordinal, then $s_\alpha = \bigwedge_{\beta < \alpha} s_\beta$.
- (4) $(\forall \alpha < \kappa)(\forall \xi < \kappa) T_\alpha \subset \text{dom}(s_\alpha(\lambda_\xi))$.

Now let $B = \{(\xi, \eta) \in \kappa \times \kappa: s_{\eta+1}(\lambda_\xi)(\theta_\eta) = 1\}$. Notice that for every $\alpha < \kappa$, $B \cap \alpha \times \alpha = B_\alpha(s_\alpha)$. Let $C = \{\alpha < \kappa: (\forall \xi < \alpha) \text{ dom}(s_\alpha(\lambda_\xi)) = T_\alpha\}$; C is a club. In addition, $S = \{\alpha < \kappa: B \cap \alpha \times \alpha = I_\alpha\}$ is stationary. Pick $\alpha \in C \cap S$ such that $\alpha > \delta$. Then s_α witnesses that case (i) of part (5) in the construction of $\{q_\alpha: \alpha < \kappa\}$ holds (i.e. $r = s_\alpha$). So, we are given $r_\alpha, t_\alpha \in M$ such that $r_\alpha \leq q_\alpha$, and $r_\alpha \Vdash_Q \text{“}\tau \upharpoonright \alpha = t_\alpha\text{”}$. Hence

$$r_\alpha \Vdash_Q \text{“}\tau(\delta) \in A\text{”}.$$

But $s_\alpha \leq r_\alpha$, and $s_\alpha \leq s$, and this implies the desired contradiction. ■

Proof of the theorem: Since the theorem is trivial for $l = 1$, let us assume that $l \geq 2$. Start with a model V of ZFC + GCH + \diamond_κ . Let

$$\kappa \leq \theta_1 < \theta_2 < \dots < \theta_l$$

be cardinals with $\theta_i \neq \kappa^+$, and $\theta_i = \theta_{i-1}^+$, and such that if $\theta_i \neq \kappa$, then $\text{cof}(\theta_i) > \kappa$. Let

$$\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_l = \theta_l$$

be cardinals with $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2^+$ and such that $\text{cof}(\lambda_i) > \kappa^+$.

Let $Q_i = Q_\kappa(\theta_i, \lambda_i)$. Let us force with

$$P = Q_1 \times \dots \times Q_{l-1}.$$

By the GCH, the partial orders $F\eta_\kappa(\theta_i, 2)$ all have the κ^+ .c.c. ([K] VII 6.10). Therefore, P is (isomorphic to) a product of κ^+ .c.c. partial orders with support of size $\leq \kappa$. Now use a delta system lemma and the Erdős–Rado theorem $((2^\kappa)^+ \rightarrow (\kappa^+)_\kappa^2)$ to show that P is κ^{++} .c.c. ([K] VIII(B7)), and hence P preserves cardinals $\geq \kappa^{++}$. Clearly, P is κ -closed and therefore cardinals $\leq \kappa$ are preserved. Finally, by the Lemma, κ^+ is preserved as well.

Let G be a P -generic filter over V . Let $\theta \neq \kappa^+$ be a cardinal with $\kappa \leq \theta \leq \theta_l$. Let i be the minimal such that $\theta \leq \theta_i$. Let us show that

$$(*) \quad \mathfrak{n}_\kappa^\theta = \lambda_i.$$

Notice that $(*)$ suffices for the proof of the theorem since it in particular shows that $\mathfrak{n}_\kappa^{\theta_i} = \theta_i$ and therefore by fact 5, $(*)$ implies that

$$(\forall \theta \geq \theta_i) \mathfrak{n}_\kappa^\theta = \lambda_i.$$

In the remaining case where $\theta = \kappa^+$, (*) implies that $n_\kappa^{\kappa^+} = \lambda_1$ or $n_\kappa^{\kappa^+} = \lambda_2$. Therefore, (*) implies that $\{n_\kappa^\theta: \theta \geq \kappa \text{ is a cardinal}\} = \{\lambda_i: 1 \leq i \leq l\}$.

Let us first show that $n_\kappa^\theta \geq \lambda_i$. By fact 4, we may assume that $1 \leq i < l$. Notice that since P is κ -closed, $F n_\kappa(\theta, 2)$ is absolute and has cardinality $\theta^{<\kappa} \leq \theta_i < \lambda_i$. By the product lemma, we may view forcing with P as forcing with the product $\prod\{Q_j: 1 \leq j < l \text{ and } j \neq i\} \times Q_i$. Now, by the definition of Q_i and since $\theta \leq \theta_i$, it is easy to see that any collection of $< \lambda_i$ many dense subsets of $F n_\kappa(\theta, 2)$ in $V[G]$, has a filter.

Finally we show that $n_\kappa^\theta \leq \lambda_i$. Notice that if $i = 1$, then this is clear because $(2^\kappa = \lambda_1)^{V[G]}$ (to see this use a counting nice names argument ([K] VII)). So let us assume that $i > 1$ and hence $\theta \geq \kappa^{++}$. In addition we may assume that θ is regular (otherwise, if θ is singular, then it suffices to prove that $n_\kappa^{\theta^{++}} \leq \lambda_i$ since $n_\kappa^\theta \leq n_\kappa^{\theta^{++}}$).

Let us now view forcing with P as forcing with $S \times R$, where

$$S = Q_i \times \cdots \times Q_{l-1}$$

and

$$R = Q_1 \times \cdots \times Q_{i-1}.$$

Notice that if $i = l$, then $R = P$ and S is the trivial partial order. Let H be an S -generic filter over V , and K be an R -generic filter over $V[H]$ such that $V[H \times K] = V[G]$. For every $a: \theta \rightarrow 2$ with $|a| = \kappa$ let us define

$$D_a = \{t \in F n_\kappa(\theta, 2): (\exists \xi \in \text{dom}(a)) t(\xi) \neq a(\xi)\}.$$

In $V[H]$, define $\mathcal{D} = \{D_a \mid a: \theta \rightarrow 2 \text{ and } |a| = \kappa\}$. \mathcal{D} is a collection of dense subsets of $F n_\kappa(\theta, 2)$ and $|\mathcal{D}| = \lambda_i$ (because $(2^\kappa = \theta^\kappa = \lambda_i)^{V[H]}$). Let us show that \mathcal{D} has no filter in $V[G]$.

Assume, by way of contradiction, that $F \in V[G]$ is a filter for \mathcal{D} . Assume without loss of generality that

$$\Vdash_{S \times R} \text{“} F \text{ is a filter for } \mathcal{D}\text{”}.$$

Let τ be a P -name for $\bigcup F$. It suffices to find $(s, r) \in S \times R$ and an S -name π such that

$$s \Vdash_S \text{“} [\pi: \theta \rightarrow 2 \text{ and } |\pi| = \kappa \text{ and } r \Vdash_R \text{“} \pi \subset \tau\text{”}]\text{”}.$$

We now work in V . For every $\xi \in \theta$, let $(s_\xi, r_\xi) \in S \times R$ and $u_\xi \in 2$ be such that

$$(s_\xi, r_\xi) \Vdash \tau(\xi) = u_\xi.$$

Consider $\{r_\xi: \xi \in \theta\}$. Since $\theta \geq \kappa^{++}$ and θ is regular, we may use the delta system lemma to get $X \in [\theta]^\theta$ such that $\{\text{dom}(r_\xi): \xi \in X\}$ form a delta system with a root Δ . Now, since $|Fn_\kappa(\theta_{i-1}, 2)| = \theta_{i-1} < \theta$ and $|\Delta| \leq \kappa$, there exists $Y \in [X]^\theta$ such that $\{r_\xi: \xi \in Y\}$ all agree on Δ (i.e. $(\forall \xi, \eta \in Y) r_\xi \upharpoonright \Delta = r_\eta \upharpoonright \Delta$).

Consider $\{s_\xi: \xi \in Y\}$. Since S is κ^{++} .c.c. there exists $s' \in S$ and a name σ with

$$s' \Vdash_S \text{“}\sigma = \{\xi \in Y: s_\xi \in \Gamma\} \text{ and } |\sigma| = \theta\text{”},$$

where Γ is the canonical name for the S -generic filter. By the Lemma, there exists $A \in [Y]^\kappa$ and $s \leq s'$ such that

$$s \Vdash_S \text{“}|\sigma \cap A| = \kappa\text{”}.$$

Let π be an S -name for the function whose domain is $\sigma \cap A$ and such that for every $\xi \in \sigma \cap A$, $\pi(\xi) = u_\xi$. Let $r = \bigcup \{r_\xi: \xi \in A\}$. Then $r \in R$ (because $A \subset Y$ and $A \in V$), and

$$s \Vdash_S \text{“}[\pi: \theta \rightarrow 2, \text{ and } |\pi| = \kappa, \text{ and } r \Vdash_R \text{“}\pi \subset \tau\text{”}]\text{”}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Remark 1: If $\kappa = \omega$, then it is known that P (defined as in the proof of the Theorem but for $\kappa = \omega$) collapses ω_1 ([K] VIII(E4) and [M] p. 280), and (assuming CH) is \aleph_2 .c.c. What one needs in order to get the argument of the Theorem to go through for the case $\kappa = \omega$, is the following: if σ is a set in the extension that is unbounded in $(\omega_2)^V$, then there exists a countable set A in V such that $A \cap \sigma$ is infinite. This is false by the following Proposition.

PROPOSITION: *Let $\lambda \geq \omega$, and $\theta > \omega$ be cardinals. Let $Q = Q_\omega(\theta, \lambda)$. Then forcing with Q adds a set $\sigma \subset \theta$, that is unbounded in θ , and such that if A is a countable (in V) ground model subset of θ , then $A \cap \sigma$ is finite.*

Proof: For every $n \in \omega$, let g_n be the n 'th generic function (i.e. $g_n: \theta \rightarrow 2$, and $g_n(\alpha) = 1$ if and only if there exists p in the Q -generic filter such that $p(n)(\alpha) = 1$). Let σ be the set defined in the extension by $\sigma = \{\alpha \in \theta: (\forall n \in \omega) g_n(\alpha) = 1\}$. Since $\theta \geq (\omega_1)^V$, and the supports of members of Q are countable, it is not hard

to see that σ is unbounded in θ . Now let $p \in Q$, and $A \in [\theta]^{\aleph_0}$. Let us find $q \leq p$ such that $q \Vdash \lceil A \cap \sigma \rceil < \aleph_0$. We may assume that $\text{dom}(p) \supset \omega$.

Let $A^* = \{\alpha \in A : (\exists n \in \omega) \alpha \notin \text{dom}(p(n))\}$. Notice that $A \setminus A^*$ is finite. For every $K \in [\omega]^{<\aleph_0}$ define $a(K) = \{\alpha \in A^* : (\forall n \notin K) \alpha \in \text{dom}(p(n))\}$; $a(K)$ is finite. Fix $\{\alpha_i : i \in \omega\}$ an enumeration of A^* .

We now construct $\{q_i : i \in \omega\} \subset Q$, $\{n_i : i \in \omega\} \subset \omega$, and $\{F_i : i \in \omega\}$ finite subsets of A^* that satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) $q_0 \leq p$ and for every $i \in \omega$, $q_{i+1} \leq q_i$.
- (2) For every $i \in \omega$, $q_i \upharpoonright (\lambda \setminus \{n_k : k \leq i\}) = p \upharpoonright (\lambda \setminus \{n_k : k \leq i\})$.
- (3) For every $i \in \omega$, $F_i \subset F_{i+1}$, and $F_i \supset a(\{n_k : k \leq i\})$.
- (4) $\bigcup_{i \in \omega} F_i = A^*$.
- (5) $i < j \implies q_j \upharpoonright \{n_k : k \leq i\} = q_i \upharpoonright \{n_k : k \leq i\}$.
- (6) For every $i \in \omega$ and every $\alpha \in F_i$, $q_i \Vdash \lceil \alpha \notin \sigma \rceil$.

STAGE 0: Pick $n_0 \in \omega$ with $\alpha_0 \notin \text{dom}(p(n_0))$. Let $F_0 = a(\{n_0\}) \cup \{\alpha_0\}$. Define $q_0(n_0)$ by:

$$q_0(n_0)(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 0 & \alpha \in F_0 \\ p(n_0)(\alpha) & \alpha \notin F_0 \text{ and } \alpha \in \text{dom}(p(n_0)). \end{cases}$$

STAGE $i+1$: If $\alpha_{i+1} \in F_i$, then $n_{i+1} = n_i$, $F_{i+1} = F_i$, and $q_{i+1} = q_i$. Otherwise, by (3), $\alpha_{i+1} \notin a(\{n_k : k \leq i\})$. Therefore, we can pick $n_{i+1} \notin \{n_k : k \leq i\}$ such that $\alpha_{i+1} \notin \text{dom}(p(n_{i+1}))$. By (2), $\alpha_{i+1} \notin \text{dom}(q_i(n_{i+1}))$ as well. Let $F_{i+1} = F_i \cup a(\{n_k : k \leq i+1\}) \cup \{\alpha_{i+1}\}$. Define $q_{i+1}(n_{i+1})$ by:

$$q_{i+1}(n_{i+1})(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 0 & \alpha \in F_{i+1} \setminus F_i \\ q_i(n_{i+1})(\alpha) & \alpha \notin F_{i+1} \setminus F_i \text{ and } \alpha \in \text{dom}(q_i(n_{i+1})). \end{cases}$$

Notice that $\alpha \in F_{i+1} \setminus F_i$ implies that either $\alpha = \alpha_{i+1}$, or $\alpha \in a(\{n_k : k \leq i+1\}) \setminus a(\{n_k : k \leq i\})$, and in either of these cases $\alpha \notin \text{dom}(q_i(n_{i+1}))$.

Finally, let $q = \bigwedge_{i \in \omega} q_i$. By (2) and (5), $q \in Q$ and clearly, $q \leq p$. By (4) and (6), $q \Vdash \lceil A^* \cap \sigma = \emptyset \rceil$. ■

Remark 2: In the extension of the above Proposition we also have: σ is an unbounded subset of θ , and if $x \in [\sigma]^{\aleph_0}$, then $(\omega_1)^V$ is countable in $V[x]$. This is true because Q is \aleph_2 .c.c., and thus there is $X \in V$ with $|X| = \aleph_1$ and $X \supset x$. Now one can enumerate X , in V , in type $(\omega_1)^V$, and x must be unbounded in

this enumeration since otherwise it would be contained in a countable ground model set.

Finally, we would like to mention that the Lemma implies that, the Proposition, stated for $\kappa > \omega$ (rather than ω), is false.

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