

## ALGEBRAIC EQUIVALENTS OF KUREPA'S HYPOTHESES

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ABSTRACT. Kurepa trees have proved to be a very useful concept with ever growing applications in diverse mathematical areas. We give a brief survey of equivalent statements in algebra, particularly in valuated vector spaces, abelian  $p$ -groups and non-abelian periodic groups. The survey is prefaced by an outline of the illustrious history of Kurepa's Hypothesis. An interesting aspect of the work in this area is the equivalence (via Kurepa's Hypotheses) of some statements in abelian group theory with statements in non-abelian group theory. This kind of relationship would be hard to establish, without Kurepa trees. The goal of the paper is to alert as well as familiarize the readers with this active research amalgam of set theory and algebra, but also to entice at least some to take part in the work.

### 1. KUREPA'S TREES AND HYPOTHESES

We first set the terminology in its modern form:

A strict partially ordered set  $(T, \leq)$  is a *tree* if for every  $x \in T$ , the set  $\{y \in T : y < x\}$  is well ordered in the induced ordering. The *height of  $x \in T$* , denoted by  $ht(x, T)$ , is the ordinal that is order equivalent to the well ordered set  $\{y \in T : y < x\}$ . If  $\alpha$  is an ordinal then  $Lev_\alpha(T) = \{x \in T : ht(x, T) = \alpha\}$  is the  $\alpha$ -th level of  $T$ . The *height of  $(T, \leq)$* , denoted  $ht(T)$ , is the least ordinal  $\tau$  such that  $Lev_\tau(T) = \emptyset$ . A *branch of  $T$*  is a maximal linearly ordered subset of  $T$ ; it is well ordered by the ordering of  $T$ . If  $b$  is a branch and  $b \cap Lev_\alpha(T) \neq \emptyset$  then the intersection is a singleton and  $b \cap Lev_\beta(T) \neq \emptyset$  for all  $\beta < \alpha$ ; the *length of  $b$*  is the least ordinal  $\lambda$  such that  $b \cap Lev_\lambda(T) = \emptyset$ . Note that this ordinal is order equivalent to  $b$ . If the length of a branch  $b$  is  $\lambda$  we shall

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refer to  $b$  as a  $\lambda$ -*branch*. In this paper,  $\kappa$  will denote a regular cardinal and  $\mathcal{B}$  will denote the set of all  $\kappa$ -branches.

A tree  $(T, \leq)$  is a  $\kappa$ -*Kurepa tree* if:

- (1)  $ht(T) = \kappa$ ;
- (2) for every  $\alpha < \kappa$ ,  $|Lev_\alpha(T)| < \kappa$ ;
- (3)  $T$  has at least  $\kappa^+$  cofinal ( $\kappa$ -)branches.

The  $\kappa$ -*Kurepa Hypothesis* ( $\kappa$ -KH) is the statement “there is a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa tree.” When  $\kappa = \omega_1$  we have Kurepa’s Hypothesis (KH).

## 2. HISTORY OF PROOFS OF THE CONSISTENCY AND INDEPENDENCE OF KH<sup>1</sup>

The outline in this section has the following goals: to provide a framework for more thorough historical investigations, to set additional terminology as well as state consistency and independence results, and to pose some questions of interest, whose answers are not at present known to the author.

[Kurepa, 1935] (his dissertation reprinted) is among the first to consider tree-like structures, called “ramification systems” (*ensemble ramifié*, or *tableau ramifié*). In [Kurepa, 1942, p143], a discussion of Souslin’s problem led the author to consideration of trees  $T$  of height  $\omega_1$ , with at most countable levels (and nodes). It was stated (among other hypotheses) that he did not know what the cardinality of the set of maximal (linearly) ordered subsets of  $T$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  may be, and it was proved that this cardinality is at least  $\aleph_1$  (but it obviously cannot exceed  $2^{\aleph_1}$ ). Unable to prove many of his conjectures, Kurepa in [Kurepa, 1935] speaks of working in the field of “many undecidable postulates and principles”, just as in [Kurepa, 1952] there is a mention of “. . . immensité inconcevable d’hypothèses montrant des possibilités logiques incroyables au sein du transfini”.

KH (or KC – Kurepa’s Conjecture as originally known) was initially (c. 1943) the statement about Kurepa families: Let  $\kappa$  be a (regular) cardinal (hence, the initial ordinal of that cardinality); a  $\kappa$ -*Kurepa family* is a family  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\kappa)$  of cardinality at least  $\kappa^+$  such that, for each  $\alpha < \kappa$ ,  $|\{\alpha \cap Y : Y \in \mathcal{F}\}| < \kappa$  [Vaught, 1965, p85]. By a *Kurepa tree* or a *Kurepa family* we shall mean an  $\omega_1$ -Kurepa tree or  $\omega_1$ -Kurepa family respectively. The existence of a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa family is equivalent to the existence of a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa tree (this was shown by Kurepa for  $\kappa = \omega_1$ ; see also [Ricabarra, 1958, spec. p. 344], where a great deal of Kurepa’s pre 1955 work had been explored).

<sup>1</sup>Dj. Kurepa died in 1993. A brief sketch of Kurepa’s life and work may be found in [Dimitrić, 1993].

[Kurepa, 1935, 1951] and [Ricabarra, 1958] (see also [denjoy, 1946, vol. III]) are the best sources on the theory of trees, before the emergence of the method of forcing, Kurepa's monograph not having lost its vitality even nowadays. Kurepa initially conjectured that the negation of KH was valid (but later changed his mind, not being perhaps fully aware of what was to come).

New light was shed on these problems with the emergence of powerful forcing methods in the 1960's, as set out in [Cohen, 1963/4, 1966] and their first applications as in [Feferman, 1965]. While looking into the Löwenheim-Skolem theorems for pairs of cardinals, [Vaught, 1963, p. 309] realized that KH implies that there exists an  $(\omega_2, \omega_1)$  algebraic structure of at most denumerable type without  $(\omega_1, \omega_0)$  elementary substructures. Moreover  $\kappa^+$ -KH is stated [Vaught, 1965, p. 85] to be equivalent to the existence of a sentence in a first order language (with equality) that has a relational structure model  $(A, U, R_\beta)$  of type  $(\kappa^{++}, \kappa)$  (i.e.  $|A| = \kappa^{++}, U \subseteq A, |U| = \kappa$ ). If  $\kappa \geq \lambda$ , the author (*ibid.*) was interested in the following gap-two, two-cardinal conjecture (under the GCH): For any countable set  $\Sigma$  of a first order language sentences, if  $\Sigma$  has a model of type  $(\kappa^{++}, \kappa)$ , then  $\Sigma$  has a model of type  $(\lambda^{++}, \lambda)$ . The affirmation of this conjecture would imply that  $\kappa^+$ -KH  $\rightarrow$   $\lambda^+$ -KH.

Vaught's observations from 1963 were strengthened in Rowbottom's 1964 Dissertation (see addendum in [Rowbottom, 1971], pp. 41–43), where it was claimed that (if I represents the statement “there exists a strongly inaccessible cardinal”, or the cardinal itself, when no confusion arises) consistency of  $\text{ZF} + \text{I}$  implies consistency of  $\text{ZFC} + \text{CH} + \text{KH}$ . The author stated that A. Lévy had discovered independently the same results about three months earlier using forcing methods. No detailed proofs or references were given. These observations can also be described as follows: KH follows from the assumptions that  $\omega_1$  is inaccessible in  $L$  and that no ordinal between  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  is a cardinal in  $L$ , for in this case, the family  $\mathcal{F} = \{S \subseteq \omega_1 : S \in L\}$  is a Kurepa family. This is also the idea [Bukovský, 1966] uses to show that if  $\omega_\alpha$  is a (regular) strongly inaccessible cardinal and there are no cardinals between  $\omega_\alpha$  and  $\omega_{\alpha+1}$ , then  $\omega_\alpha$ -KH holds in  $\mathcal{P}(\omega_\alpha) \cap L$ .

It turned out that the assumption of the existence of a strongly inaccessible cardinal was not needed as shown by [Stewart, 1966], (a student of Rowbottom), who proves in his Masters Thesis (taking advantage of the forcing ideas developed by [Lévy, 1965]) that consistency of ZF implies consistency of  $\text{ZFC} + \text{CH} + \text{KH}$ . Solovay (unpublished; see also [Příkrý, 1968]) shows that  $\text{ZF} + \text{V} = \text{L} \vdash \text{KH}$ , (after [Jensen's, 1968] construction of a Souslin tree in  $L$  — accomplished by Drake too); in other words, KH is true in  $L$  and if  $X \subseteq \omega_1$ , then KH is

true in  $L[X]$  (see a sketch of proofs in [Jech, 1971]). Jensen has abstracted Solovay's proof into  $\diamond^+ \vdash \text{KH}$  (see e.g. [Kunen, 1980]; note that  $\text{ZF} + \text{V} = \text{L} \longrightarrow \diamond^+$ ). Jensen also introduced ineffable cardinals in order to generalize Kurepa trees: If  $\kappa$  is ineffable, then  $\kappa$ -KH does not hold. KH (and  $\neg\text{SH}$ ) was shown to be a consequence of the following statement satisfied in  $L$  [Silver, 1973, p. 164]: There exists a function  $Q$  on  $\omega_1$ , which assigns to each ordinal  $\alpha < \omega_1$  a countable collection  $Q(\alpha)$  of subsets of  $\alpha$ , such that the following holds: if  $X$  is any subset of  $\omega_1$ , there is a club  $C$  of  $\omega_1$ , such that  $X \cap \alpha$  and  $C \cap \alpha$  are both members of  $Q(\alpha)$ , for all  $\alpha \in C$ . Thus were the consistency questions regarding KH settled.

The question of independence of KH is also of interest, thus models satisfying the negation of Kurepa's Hypothesis are needed. [Silver, 1971a] was able to construct a model of  $\text{ZF} + \text{GCH} + \neg\text{KH} + \omega_2 - \text{KH}$  as follows: Start with a countable transitive model  $M$  of  $\text{ZF} + \text{V} = \text{L} + \text{I}$  ( $\text{V} = \text{L}$  may be replaced by GCH); the desired model  $M[G]$  is obtained from  $M$  by adjoining a generic sequence  $\{f_\alpha : \alpha < \text{I}\}$  of collapsing functions  $f_\alpha : \omega_1^M \xrightarrow{\text{onto}} \omega_\alpha^M$ , so that  $M[G] = \{f_\alpha : \alpha < \text{I}\}$ . One of the consequences is the independence of the above gap-two, two-cardinal conjecture (modulo I and GCH). Recast in the relative consistency language:  $\text{ZFC} + \text{I}$  is equiconsistent with  $\text{ZFC} + \neg\text{KH}$  and with  $\text{ZFC} + \text{GCH} + \neg\text{KH}$ . The negation of KH implies that  $\omega_2$  is inaccessible in  $L$ ; thus, unlike the case of consistency of KH, for the consistency of  $\neg\text{KH}$ , inaccessible cardinals are required, as was pointed out by Solovay. [Silver, 1971a] claims that even a more general result holds: If  $\kappa$  is a cardinal in some countable transitive model  $M$  of ZFC and less than an inaccessible  $\underline{I}$  in  $M$ , then a Cohen extension  $N$  of  $M$  can be found satisfying:  $\underline{\kappa}^N = \underline{\kappa}^M$ ,  $\underline{\kappa}^{+N} = \underline{\kappa}^{+M}$ , and  $\neg \underline{\kappa}^+ \text{-KH}$ ,  $\underline{\kappa}^{++} \text{-KH}$  hold in  $N$ .

Chang's conjecture is the following statement: Any relational structure  $(\omega_2, \omega_1, R_\beta)$  has an elementary substructure  $(C, C \cap \omega_1, {}^2C \cap R_\beta)$ , where  $|C| = \aleph_1$  and  $C \cap \omega_1$  is countable. Chang's conjecture implies the negation of KH, for it implies the negation of the following weaker statement: There is a cardinality  $\aleph_2$  family  $\mathcal{F}$  of functions from  $\omega_1$  to  $\omega_0$  such that, for every  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}$  with  $f \neq g$ , there is an  $\alpha \in \omega_1$ , such that,  $f(\beta) \neq g(\beta)$  for all  $\beta > \alpha$  [Silver, 1971b]. For related considerations see [Chang, 1972].

Note that if ZF is consistent, then so is  $\text{GCH} + \diamond + \neg\text{KH}$ .

### Some still open questions?

**Q1:** Can Bukovský's proof be improved by not assuming I? The affirmative answer would give consistency of  $\kappa$ -KH, for  $\kappa > \omega_1$ .

**Q2:** In Silver’s 1971a construction of the model, how does one get rid of the assumption of GCH?

**Q3:**<sup>2</sup> For a (regular) cardinal  $\kappa$ , can one get “decent” models of ZFC (without assuming I or GCH) that have  $\kappa$ -Kurepa trees with a prescribed number  $\aleph$  of  $\kappa$ -branches ( $\kappa^+ \leq \aleph \leq 2^\kappa$ )? The emphasis is on the *prescribed* number of branches, thus  $\kappa$ -KH may be assumed. If GCH is assumed, then would Silver’s above claim suffice? A note in [Jech, 1971] affirms the question for  $\kappa = \omega_1$ . [Jin, 1991] and [Jin and Shelah, 1993] may be related to this question.

### 3. VALUATED VECTOR SPACES

We now want to transfer the discussion about trees into the algebraic language. We start with a tree  $(T, \leq)$  and an arbitrary field (or a ring)  $F$ . At each level of the tree we may generate the direct sum  $\bigoplus_{x \in Lev_\alpha} Fx$ , and form the product

$$P = \prod_{\alpha < ht(T)} \bigoplus_{x \in Lev_\alpha} Fx.$$

This two-dimensional product (an  $F$ -vector space in our case) reflects the “ramified table” nature of a tree. We want to get even a closer translation by introducing valuation into  $P$ . First a few general words on valuation: A vector space  $V$  over a field  $F$ , is a *valuated vector space* with a (logarithmic) valuation  $v : V \rightarrow \text{Ord} \cup \{\infty\}$ , if the following axioms hold:  $v(a) = \infty$  iff  $a = 0$ ,  $v(ta) = v(a)$  for all scalars  $t \neq 0$ , and  $v(a + b) \geq \min\{v(a), v(b)\}$ . By  $V(\alpha)$  we mean the subspace  $V(\alpha) = \{x \in V : v(x) \geq \alpha\}$ . If  $\lambda$  is a limit ordinal then by the  $\lambda$ -*topology* on  $V$  we mean the linear topology having as a base for the neighborhoods of 0 the set  $\{V(\alpha) : \alpha < \lambda\}$ . All the topologies in this paper are of this kind. It is easy to see that if  $a, b \in V$  with  $v(a) \neq v(b)$  then  $v(a + b) = \min\{v(a), v(b)\}$ . If  $U$  and  $W$  are subspaces of  $V$  then by  $V = U \dot{\oplus} W$  we mean the valuated direct sum, i.e.,  $V = U \oplus W$  and, for all  $a \in U$  and  $b \in W$ ,  $v(a + b) = \min\{v(a), v(b)\}$ . All valuated vector spaces in this paper are subject to some cardinality restrictions in relation to the cardinality of the ground field  $F$ ; these conditions will always be ensured for countable  $F$ . For more details on valuated vector spaces see [Fuchs, 1975].

Given an abelian  $p$ -group  $A$ , its  $p$ -socle  $A[p] = \{a \in A : pa = 0\}$  is a vector space over the finite field  $Z(p)$  of the integer remainders mod  $p$ . The dimension  $\dim_{Z(p)} A[p] = r_p(A)$  is called the  $p$ -rank of

<sup>2</sup>There is an answer to this question in the Addendum at the end of this paper.

A. Another dimension of extreme importance is the following  $p$ -rank:  $f_\alpha(A) = \dim_{\mathbb{Z}(p)}(p^\alpha A)[p]/(p^{\alpha+1}A)[p]$ , called the  $\alpha$ -th Ulm invariant of  $A$ .  $p^\beta A$  is defined inductively:  $p^0 A = A$ ,  $p^{\beta+1} A = p(p^\beta A)$ , and for limit  $\beta$ ,  $p^\beta A = \bigcap_{\alpha < \beta} p^\alpha A$ . The smallest ordinal  $\lambda$  such that  $p^{\lambda+1} A = p^\lambda A$  is the  $p$ -length of  $A$ , denoted by  $l_p(A) = l(A)$ . A valuation (the *height valuation*) may be defined by the  $p$ -height of an element:

$$v(a) = h_p(a) = \begin{cases} \alpha, & \text{where } a \in p^\alpha A \setminus p^{\alpha+1} A; \\ \lambda = l(A), & \text{if } a \in p^\lambda A; \\ \infty, & \text{if } a = 0. \end{cases}$$

Thus, an  $\alpha$ -neighborhood  $A(\alpha)$  of zero consists of elements whose height is  $\geq \alpha$ , and we have  $A(\alpha) = p^\alpha A$ . Likewise the length of  $A$  is the smallest ordinal  $\alpha$  for which  $A(\alpha) = A(\alpha + 1)$ . A subgroup of  $A$  is  $\alpha$ -high, if it is maximal with respect to trivial intersection with  $A(\alpha)$ .

Returning to the ramified product, we define a valuation  $v : P \rightarrow \text{Ord} \cup \{\infty\}$  by  $v(g) = \min\{\alpha \in \kappa : g(\alpha) \neq 0\}$ . Each  $\kappa$ -branch of  $T$  may be seen as an element of  $P$  — its  $\alpha$ -th coordinate is simply its unique intersection with the  $\alpha$ -th level. If  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  is a branch, then we may form its  $\alpha$ -th section  $b_\alpha$  to be the element of  $P$  coinciding with  $b$  on indexes  $< \alpha$  and 0 from  $\alpha$  and upward. If a (valuated) vector space  $V$  is defined to be generated by all the  $\alpha$  sections ( $\alpha < ht(T) = \kappa$ ) of all the  $\kappa$ -branches of  $T$ , then the completion  $\tilde{V}$  in the  $\kappa$ -topology is of cardinality at least  $|\mathcal{B}|$ ; this is because, for every branch  $b$ ,  $\{b_i\}_{i < \kappa}$  is a Cauchy net in  $V$ , converging to  $b$  in the  $\kappa$ -topology of  $V$ . A stronger statement is in place if we concentrate on Kurepa trees:

**Theorem 1.** [Cutler and Dimitrić, 1993] *Let  $\kappa$  be an uncountable regular cardinal and  $\aleph$  a cardinal greater than  $\kappa$ . Then there is a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa tree with at least  $\aleph$   $\kappa$ -branches if and only if for every field  $F$  of cardinality  $< \kappa$ , there exists a valuated  $F$ -vector space  $V$  with the following properties:*

- (a)  $|V| = \kappa$ ,
- (b)  $V(\kappa) = 0$ ,
- (c) for every  $i < \kappa$ ,  $|V/V(i)| < \kappa$ ,
- (d) the completion  $\tilde{V}$  of  $V$  in the  $\kappa$ -topology has cardinality  $\geq \aleph$ .

*Remark:* If in the theorem above  $|\tilde{V}| = \aleph$ , then the constructed  $\kappa$ -Kurepa tree  $T$  has exactly  $\aleph$   $\kappa$ -branches. Apparently an answer to Q3 in section 2 would help us fix the cardinality of the completion, rather than have only an inequality.

The reverse implication, starting from a valuated vector space with the prescribed properties, uses the fact that the completion  $\widetilde{V}$  may be viewed as the inverse limit  $\varprojlim V/V(i)$ , and the tree  $T = \cup_{i < \kappa} V/V(i)$  is ordered via the inverse system maps.

Still, the last equivalence can be improved even further (alas only one implication benefits); to this end we need the following natural property: For a limit ordinal  $\lambda$  and an uncountable cardinal  $\kappa$ , we will say that the valuated vector space  $V$  has the  $(\lambda, \kappa)$ -closure property if it is Hausdorff in the  $\lambda$ -topology and if, for every subspace  $W$  of  $V$  of cardinality  $< \kappa$ , its closure  $\overline{W}$  in the  $\lambda$ -topology is also of cardinality  $< \kappa$ . If  $V$  is Hausdorff in the  $\lambda$ -topology and is of cardinality  $< \kappa$ , then  $V$  has the  $(\lambda, \kappa)$ -closure property; also free valuated vector spaces have the  $(\lambda, \kappa)$ -closure property.

The following is a strengthened version of Theorem 1 (from the existence of a certain valuated vector space to the existence of a Kurepa family); it is proved by building up the family using (two-dimensional)  $\kappa$ -filtrations of  $V$ , and the technicalities of the proof can be found at the source.

**Theorem 2.** [Cutler and Dimitrić, 1993] *Let  $\kappa$  be an uncountable regular cardinal and  $\aleph$  a cardinal greater than  $\kappa$ . Then there is a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa family of cardinality  $\geq \aleph$  if and only if there exists a valuated vector space  $V$  of cardinality  $\kappa$ , over a field of cardinality  $< \kappa$ , with the following properties:*

- (a)  $V(\kappa) = 0$ ,
- (b) for every (limit)  $i < \kappa$ ,  $V/V(i)$  has the  $(i, \kappa)$ -closure property.
- (c) the completion  $\widetilde{V}$  of  $V$  in the  $\kappa$ -topology has cardinality  $\geq \aleph$ .

It is our hope to extend elsewhere the work on valuated vector spaces and their relationship with (not necessarily Kurepa) trees. The rest of the paper shows further applications and equivalencies. We think however that the methods used in arriving at these applications are still too complicated to be called perfectly beautiful and the aim is to further simplify them. This simplification would be realized exactly through still better understanding of the relationships between valuations and trees.

#### 4. ABELIAN $p$ -GROUPS

A well known and a relatively recently established relationship between axiomatic set theory and (abelian) group theory is that found in the problem of J. H. C. Whitehead concerning torsion-free abelian groups. The problem asks whether it is true that, if every extension of

the integers  $\mathbb{Z}$  by an abelian group  $A$  is splitting, (*i.e.*  $\text{Ext}(A, \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ ), then  $A$  has to be a free abelian group. Here  $\text{Ext}(A, \mathbb{Z})$  stands for the group of all congruence classes of exact sequences  $0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow X \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow 0$  (extensions of  $\mathbb{Z}$  by  $A$ ) — the congruence roughly defined by an isomorphism of the middle terms (this may be postulated to be a small group — *i.e.* the underlying structure is a set, not a class). Of course, if  $A$  is free, then every such extension splits. After a series of incomplete and restricted answers to Whitehead's problem (for instance, if  $A$  is countable, then it has to be free), a somewhat surprising answer was given in the 1970's by Shelah, who showed that the answer to Whitehead's problem depended on the underlying axioms of set theory; thus, in a model of  $\text{ZFC} + \text{V} = \text{L}$ , the group  $A$  has to be free, while in a model of  $\text{MA} + \neg\text{CH}$ ,  $A$  does not have to be free. This result was perhaps rather more surprising at the time to abelian group theorists than to set- and model-theorists, for long is the history of intertwining of (abelian) group theory with set theory and logic; it goes back at least as far as works of Tarski and Mal'cev in the 1950's. In fact, one may broadly say that uncountable cardinalities in algebraic structures inevitably involve, often implicitly, model theoretical questions.

The theory of abelian groups (a referential monograph: [Fuchs, 1970]) nowadays seems to be divided into mainly non-intersecting areas (this is, we think, because of the lack of better, unifying methods) of torsion-free, torsion and (genuinely) mixed groups. While Whitehead's problem involves torsion-free groups, we are in the realm of torsion groups in this paper.

For the latter class of groups, another functor plays a prominent role. It is the *torsion product*  $\text{Tor}(A, B)$  of groups  $A$  and  $B$  (see for instance [Mac Lane, 1963]). This is the abelian group generated by  $\{(a, n, b) : a \in A, b \in B, n \in \mathbb{Z}, na = 0, nb = 0\}$ , subject to the following relations:  $(a_1 + a_2, n, b) = (a_1, n, b) + (a_2, n, b)$ ,  $(a, n, b_1 + b_2) = (a, n, b_1) + (a, n, b_2)$ ,  $(a, nm, b) = (na, m, b) = (a, n, mb)$ . The name apparently comes from the fact that only the torsion elements in  $A$  and  $B$  are used for generating the product. Moreover the isomorphism  $\text{Tor}(A, B) = \bigoplus_p \text{Tor}(A_p, B_p)$ , where the summation is over all prime  $p$  and  $A_p$  is the  $p$ -primary component of  $A$ , gives us freedom to concentrate on the  $p$ -groups only when considering torsion products. Every  $p$ -group is representable as a torsion product:  $A = \text{Tor}(Z(p^\infty), A)$ . Note that by the symmetry of the definition, the torsion product is commutative and it can be shown ([Mac Lane, 1960]) that it is also associative, if the iterated torsion product is defined inductively by  $\text{Tor}(A_1, \dots, A_n) = \text{Tor}(\text{Tor}(A_1, \dots, A_{n-1}), A_n)$ , with  $\text{Tor}(A) = A$ . The latter two properties of the torsion product would persuade us to adopt

a new notation  $A \mathbb{T} B$  for the tensor product of  $A$  and  $B$ , proposed in [Keef, 1996] and suggested by C. Metelli.

One of the first and in some sense the most important results in abelian group theory comes from Frobenius and Stickelberger in 1878; it establishes that every finite abelian group is a direct sum of a finite number of cyclic groups each of order equal to a power of a prime number. This can be extended to say that every finitely generated group is a direct sum of a finite number of cyclic groups. The simplicity of the representation here stems from two aspects: the representation is by a direct sum and the summands are rather easy groups to understand. Divisible groups have this nice appearance too; they are of the form  $\{\oplus_{r_0} Q\} \oplus \{\oplus_p (\oplus_{r_p} Z(p^\infty))\}$  (where  $r_0$  and  $r_1$  are the torsion-free rank and  $p$ -rank, respectively, of the given divisible group). The group  $A$  is *divisible* if, for every  $a \in A$  and every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the linear equation  $nx = a$  has a solution in  $A$ . At the other extreme,  $A$  is *reduced*, if it does not contain a divisible subgroup. We will assume here that our groups are reduced, for the maximum divisible subgroup is always a direct summand.

Although finite abelian groups have numerous applications in diverse mathematical subjects, they are not so interesting to abelian group theorists, perhaps because their structure is fully known. Thus the first class of abelian groups to look at for excitement is that of (reduced) countable groups and their direct sums — acronymed *disco* groups, as well as direct sums of cyclic groups — acronymed *discy* groups (direct sums are in a sense the simplest among the most important constructions). For a  $p$ -group  $A$ , it is a discy group if and only if it is a disco group without elements of infinite height. By a result of Kolettis from 1960, two reduced disco  $p$ -groups are isomorphic iff their Ulm invariants coincide; thus the group isomorphism is reduced to comparing the cardinal invariants.

A subgroup of a free group is again a free group. The analogous result need not be true for subgroups of disco groups. Thus it would be useful and interesting to know what conditions are needed that subgroups of disco or discy groups are again of the same type. A theorem by Kulikov states that if a  $p$ -group is of length  $\omega_0$ , then subgroups of disco are again disco. Every subgroup of a countable disco is again disco. By a result of Kaplansky, a direct summand of disco groups is again a disco group. We say that a subgroup  $B$  is *pure* in  $A$ , when, for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if the equation  $nx = b \in B$  has a solution  $x \in A$ , then it has a solution in  $B$  too. This is a familiar condition, known under different names in set theory. Yet a more general notion for  $p$ -groups is that of  $p^\alpha$ -purity ( $\alpha = \omega$  describes the above purity): a subgroup

$A$  of  $G$  is  $p^\alpha$ -pure (or  $\alpha$ -pure) in  $G$  if the short exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow G \rightarrow G/A \rightarrow 0$  represents an element of  $p^\alpha \text{Ext}(G/A, A)$ . It was shown by Richman, Walker and Hill that even under stronger conditions than purity, a subgroup of a disco group need not be of the same kind: there are balanced subgroups of disco groups that are not disco groups. An exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow B \rightarrow A \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  is called *balanced* (and  $B$  is a *balanced subgroup* of  $A$ ) if the sequence  $0 \rightarrow p^\alpha B \rightarrow p^\alpha A \rightarrow p^\alpha C \rightarrow 0$  is exact for every ordinal  $\alpha$ . Balanced projectives are called *totally projective*  $p$ -groups. There are enough balanced projectives, *i.e.* for every group  $A$  there is a balanced projective  $B$  with an exact sequence  $B \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0$ . The *balanced projective dimension* of a group  $A$  is the smallest  $n$  (or  $\infty$  if there is no such  $n$ ) with the property that there exists an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow B_n \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow B_1 \rightarrow B \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0$ , where all the  $B$ 's are balanced projective.

[Nunke, 1967b] gives conditions under which disco groups contain  $p^{\omega_1}$ -pure subgroups which are not disco groups. Among the subgroups of disco groups, the following class is singled out: A group is called  $\omega_1$ -*disco*, if it can be embedded as an  $p^{\omega_1}$ -pure subgroup in a disco group. The mentioned Nunke's conditions are in terms of non-completeness; a question arises whether an  $\omega_1$ -disco group is a disco group, if it is complete in the  $\omega_1$ -topology. Translating this question by considering the corresponding quotients we ask an equivalent question: Is there a  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group of length  $\omega_1$  with balanced projective dimension at most 1? An abelian  $p$ -group  $G$  is a  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group if  $G/p^\alpha G$  (or  $G/G(\alpha)$  — height valuation!) is a disco group for every  $\alpha < \omega_1$ . In fact the answer is 'no', for any group of length  $\omega_1$  has balanced projective dimension at least 2. A new question is therefore: Does there exist a  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group of length  $\omega_1$  with balanced projective dimension exactly 2? Answers will follow in the sequel.

Some results concerning the Tor functor are dependent on the underlying model of set theory. For instance, it may be shown (see [Keef, 1996]) that for certain classes of groups  $A$ ,  $\text{Tor}(A, A)$  is a disco group if and only if the continuum hypothesis holds.

[Nunke, 1967a] tries to solve a question as to when  $\text{Tor}(A, B)$  is a disco group, for reduced  $A, B$ . Subsequently Keef treats the remaining unsolved (more difficult) case of this question, namely when  $A$  and  $B$  have the same length (not exceeding  $\omega_1$ ). For the case of length  $\omega_1$ , [Keef, 1988] shows that a necessary condition is for  $A, B$  to be  $C_{\omega_1}$  groups and if their balanced projective dimensions are at most 1, then the  $\text{Tor}(A, B)$  is a disco group. Consequently this problem of Nunke can

be resolved by treating the above mentioned question of the existence of  $C_{\omega_1}$  groups of length  $\omega_1$  and the balanced projective dimension 2.

The results on valuated vector spaces come in handy in special situations of abelian  $p$ -groups: the above Theorems 1 and 2 are instrumental in proving two results of P. Keef, utilizing some of the techniques similar to those he used. The approach in [Cutler and Dimitrić, 1993] is such that it only deals with the socles of the groups in question whenever possible.

**Proposition 3.** [Keef, 1989b; Cutler and Dimitrić, 1993] *Kurepa's Hypothesis is equivalent to the existence of a  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group  $G$  of length  $\omega_1$  and cardinality  $> \aleph_1$  with a  $p^{\omega_1}$ -pure subgroup  $A$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  such that the closure of  $A$  in  $G$  in the  $\omega_1$ -topology has cardinality  $\kappa > \aleph_1$ .*

A group  $G$  with the properties as in the last proposition, is called a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa extension of  $A$ , whereas  $A$  is a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa subgroup of  $G$  (all for  $\kappa \geq \aleph_2$ ). It may be shown that if such an extension exists, then there is one satisfying  $|G| = \kappa$ . Thus, there exists a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa extension if and only if there exists a Kurepa family of cardinality  $\kappa$ . Note that a Kurepa family can have cardinality at most  $2^{\aleph_1}$ ; hence there is no  $\kappa$ -Kurepa extension for  $\kappa > 2^{\aleph_1}$ . The existence of  $G$  is proved with the aid of Theorem 1 and a result of F. Richman and E. Walker on valuated groups.  $A$  is constructed as the countable union of groups  $A_i$  that are in turn arrived at with the aid of a number of tools. Proposition 3 is the backbone for the proof of the result that follows. In addition, a number of definitions and results are needed. For example: Suppose that  $G$  is a  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group,  $\lambda$  is a limit ordinal, and  $\{A_i\}_{i < \lambda}$  is a filtration of  $p^{\omega_1}$ -pure subgroups of  $G$ . Then the closure of the union of the  $A_i$ 's is the union of their closures in the  $\omega_1$ -topology on  $G$ . These are some of the ingredients used to prove the following:

**Theorem 4.** [Keef, 1989b; Cutler and Dimitric, 1993] *Kurepa's Hypothesis is equivalent to the existence of a  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group of length  $\omega_1$  and balanced projective dimension 2.*

If  $A$  is an  $\omega_1$ -pure subgroup of a disco group  $G$ , then it is called *pseudo-disco*, if for  $K = G/A$ , the group  $K/K(\omega_1)$  is likewise a disco group.

**Theorem 5.** [Keef, 1989b] *The following are equivalent*

- (1)  $\neg$  KH.
- (2) *Every  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group of length  $\omega_1$  has balanced projective dimension at most 1.*
- (3) *For any  $C_{\omega_1}$ -groups  $A, B$  of length  $\omega_1$ ,  $\text{Tor}(A, B)$  is a disco group.*

- (4) For every  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group  $A$  of length  $\omega_1$ , and every group  $B$ , the group  $\text{Ext}(A, B) / \text{Ext}(A, B)(\omega_1)$  is complete in the  $\omega_1$ -topology.
- (5) The class of  $\omega_1$ -disco's coincides with the class of pseudo-disco's.
- (6) An  $\omega_1$ -disco is a disco iff it is complete in its  $\omega_1$ -topology.

One of the consequences of Proposition 3 and Theorem 5 is as follows: Existence of a Kurepa tree is equivalent to the existence of a Kurepa extension, or to the existence of  $C_{\omega_1}$ -groups  $A, B$  of length  $\omega_1$  such that  $\text{Tor}(A, B)$  is not a disco group.

A slight extension of the notion of a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa subgroup is as follows: Given a  $C_{\omega_1}$ -group  $G$  of length  $\omega_1$ , we say that an  $\omega_1$ -pure subgroup  $A$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  is an  $\aleph_1$ -Kurepa subgroup if it is either an  $\aleph_2$ -Kurepa subgroup or else, a closed subgroup which is not a disco group. The notion is apparently related to the iterated Tor functor. The following chain of results is mainly proved by induction on  $n$  and by expanding groups  $G_i$  into continuous filtrations of subgroups. One can say that the possible size of the family of sets satisfying KH is to a great extent determined by the Tor functor.

**Theorem 6.** [Keef, 1989a] *Let  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  be  $C_{\omega_1}$ -groups of length  $\omega_1$ , of cardinality at most  $\aleph_n$ . Then  $\text{Tor}(G_1, \dots, G_n)$  is not a disco group iff there is a permutation  $\phi$  of the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $G_{\phi(i)}$  has an  $\aleph_i$ -Kurepa subgroup, for every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .*

**Theorem 7.** [Keef, 1989a] *For a natural number  $n$ , there is no  $\aleph_n$ -Kurepa extension if and only if, for every family of  $C_{\omega_1}$ -groups  $G_1, \dots, G_n$ , of length  $\omega_1$ , the group  $\text{Tor}(G_1, \dots, G_n)$  is a disco group.*

**Theorem 8.** [Keef, 1989a] *For a natural number  $n$ , the following are equivalent:*

- (1) *There are no  $\aleph_{n+1}$ -Kurepa extensions.*
- (2) *The balanced projective dimension of  $\text{Tor}(G_1, \dots, G_n) \leq 1$ , for any set  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  of  $C_{\omega_1}$ -groups of length  $\omega_1$ .*
- (3) *For any set  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  of  $C_{\omega_1}$ -groups of length  $\omega_1$ , the group  $\text{Tor}(G_1, \dots, G_n)$  is a disco group, and, if  $C_1, \dots, C_n$  are closed  $\omega_1$ -pure subgroups of  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  respectively, then  $\text{Tor}(C_1, \dots, C_n)$ , is likewise a disco group.*

## 5. NON-ABELIAN GROUPS

Kurepa's Hypotheses appear, perhaps not surprisingly, in the field of non-commutative groups, in extension of various characterizations of center-by-finite and finite-by-abelian groups due to [B.H. Neumann, 1955].

A group  $G$  is a *center-by-finite group* if  $|G/Z(G)| < \omega$  (each subgroup has only finitely many conjugates);  $G$  is a *finite-by-abelian group*, if  $|G'| < \omega$  (here the *commutator subgroup*  $G' = \langle [G, G] \rangle$ , where  $[S, T] = \{g^{-1}h^{-1}gh : g \in S, h \in T\}$ ).

Recall that, for  $U \leq G$  the *normalizer* is  $N_G(U) = \{h \in G : h^{-1}Uh = U\}$ ; the *centralizer* is defined by  $C_G(U) = \{h \in G : \forall u \in U \quad h^{-1}uh = u\}$  and the *center* of  $G$  is  $Z(G) = C_G(G)$ . A group is called a  $\kappa C$ -group, if  $\forall g \in G$ ,  $[G : C_G(g)] < \kappa$  (each  $g \in G$  has at most  $\kappa$  conjugates).  $\omega C$ -groups are also called *FC-groups*; in other words, in such groups, every element has finitely many conjugates. A subclass of  $\kappa C$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{Y}_\kappa$ , is the class of groups for which  $[G : N_G(U)] < \kappa$ , whenever  $U \leq G$  is generated by fewer than  $\kappa$  elements. Denote by  $\mathcal{Z}_\kappa$  the class of groups  $G$  for which  $[G : C_G(U)] < \kappa$ , whenever  $U \leq G$  is generated by fewer than  $\kappa$  elements (for  $\kappa > \omega$ , this is equivalent to saying that  $[G : C_G(U)] < \kappa$ , for  $U \leq G$  with  $|U| < \kappa$ ). Note that  $\mathcal{Z}_\kappa \subseteq \mathcal{Y}_\kappa \subseteq \kappa C$  and  $\mathcal{Y}_\omega = \mathcal{Z}_\omega = \omega C$ .

The following are equivalent for any group  $G$ :

- (1)  $G$  is center-by-finite.
- (2)  $\forall U \subseteq G \quad [G : N_G(U)] < \omega$ .
- (3) If in addition,  $G$  is an FC group, then the conditions are equivalent to  $U/U_G$  being finite, for all  $U \leq G$  ( $U_G$  denotes the largest normal subgroup contained in  $U$ ).

[Faber and Tomkinson, 1983] generalize this result to the following:

**Theorem 9.** *For an infinite cardinal  $\kappa$  and any group  $G$  in  $\mathcal{Z}_\kappa$ , the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $|G/Z(G)| < \kappa$
- (2)  $[G : N_G(U)] < \kappa$ , for all  $U \leq G$
- (3)  $[G : N_G(A)] < \kappa$ , for all abelian  $A \leq G$
- (4)  $|U/U_G| < \kappa$ , for all  $U \leq G$
- (5)  $|A/A_G| < \kappa$ , for all abelian  $A \leq G$ .

For an uncountable cardinal  $\kappa$ , [Tomkinson, 1984, p. 149] asks a question as to whether there is an FC-group  $G$  with  $|G/Z(G)| = \kappa$ , but  $[G : N_G(U)] < \kappa$ , for all (abelian) subgroups  $U$  of  $G$ . The question is whether it is necessary to have  $G \in \mathcal{Z}_\kappa$  in the above theorem and to investigate some alternative conditions. The implications (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) and (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (4)  $\Rightarrow$  (5) are always true; (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) is a part of Neumann's original result, and the example of a group that is a semidirect extension of the Prüfer group  $Z(p^\infty)$ , by the automorphism that inverts each element, is an example that (4)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (1), at least for  $\kappa = \omega$ .

In all the considerations here, it suffices only to look into periodic FC-groups. One of the subclasses is defined as follows: A  $p$ -group  $G$  is *extraspecial*, if  $G' = Z(G) = \Phi(G) \cong C(p)$ . Here  $\Phi(G)$  denotes the *Frattini subgroup* of  $G$ , i.e. the intersection of maximal subgroups of  $G$ . Thus extraspecial means that  $G$  is two-step nilpotent and that the factor group  $G/G'$  is elementary abelian, among other things.

**Theorem 10.** [Brendle, 1993a,b] *Assume there is a Kurepa tree. Then there is an extraspecial  $p$ -group  $E$  of size  $\omega_2$ , such that for all maximal abelian subgroups  $A$  we have  $[E : A] \leq \omega_1$ . In particular, the existence of a Kurepa tree implies the existence of an extraspecial  $p$ -group of size  $\omega_2$  in  $\mathcal{Y}_{\omega_2} \setminus \mathcal{Z}_{\omega_2}$ .*

For the proof, take a Shelah-Steprāns group of size  $\omega_1$  (a specific extraspecial  $p$ -group of size  $\omega_1$  with all abelian subgroups of size  $< \omega_1$ ) and extend it semidirectly, using the Kurepa tree to define the automorphisms.

A *wide Kurepa tree* (also known as a *weak Kurepa tree*) is a tree of height  $\omega_1$  with at least  $\omega_2$  uncountable branches such that all levels have size  $\leq \omega_1$ . If CH holds, then the complete binary tree of height  $\omega_1$  is a wide Kurepa tree. To show the consistency of the non-existence of wide Kurepa trees, an inaccessible is collapsed to  $\omega_2$  (more correctly, the cardinals between  $\omega_1$  and the inaccessible are collapsed as in Mitchell's and Baumgartner's models). The Proper Forcing Axiom implies that no wide Kurepa trees exist.

**Theorem 11.** [Brendle, 1993a] *If there is an extraspecial  $p$ -group of size  $\omega_2$  in  $\mathcal{Y}_{\omega_2} \setminus \mathcal{Z}_{\omega_2}$ , then there is a weak Kurepa tree.*

The hypotheses of “extraspecial  $p$ -group” may be replaced by “(periodic) finite-by-abelian group”. Similar arguments are applied in the proof of the following:

**Proposition 12.** [Brendle, 1993a] *The following are equivalent:*

- (1) *There is a Kurepa tree.*
- (2) *There is an extraspecial  $p$ -group which is  $\mathcal{Z}_{\omega_1}$ , but not  $\mathcal{Z}_{\omega_2}$ .*
- (3) *There is an FC group which is  $\mathcal{Z}_{\omega_1}$ , but not  $\mathcal{Z}_{\omega_2}$ .*

**Proposition 13.** [Brendle, 1993a] *The following are equiconsistent:*

- (1)  $\text{ZFC} + \neg\text{KH}$ .
- (2)  $\text{ZFC} +$  for any FC-group  $G$  and  $\kappa = \omega_1$  or  $\omega_2$ , if  $|G/Z(G)| = \kappa$ , then there is an abelian subgroup  $A \leq G$ , with  $[G : N_G(A)] = \kappa$ .
- (3)  $\text{ZFC} +$  any extraspecial  $p$ -group of size  $\omega_2$  has an abelian subgroup  $A$  with  $[G : N_G(A)] = \omega_2$ .

## ADDENDUM

S. Todorčević has suggested (in a private communication) that the answer to our question Q3 above may be found through the use of the technique employed in [Todorčević, 1984, pp. 282–284]. Indeed there is an affirmative answer which we present here. The details have been worked out by J. Moore (a student of Todorčević). Note that a weak version of the GCH is assumed, thus the question still remains whether the same can be done without (this variant of) GCH. In fact the following holds:

**Theorem.** *Given a regular cardinal  $\kappa$  and an  $\aleph$  with  $\kappa^+ \leq \aleph$ . Assume that a ground model satisfies  $2^{<\kappa} = \kappa$ . Then there is a forcing construction of a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa tree with exactly  $\aleph$   $\kappa$ -branches.*

*Proof.* We will define a partial order  $(\mathcal{P}, \leq)$  as follows. Elements  $p$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  are ordered pairs of the form  $(T_p, f_p)$  satisfying

- (i)  $T_p$  is a normal subtree of  ${}^\kappa 2$  of height  $\alpha + 1$  for some limit ordinal  $\alpha < \kappa$  and of cardinality less than  $\kappa$ .
- (ii)  $f_p$  is a 1-1 function from a subset of  $\aleph$  onto the top level of  $T_p$ .
- $p \leq q$  iff
- (iii)  $T_p$  is an end extension of  $T_q$ .
- (iv)  $\text{dom}(f_q) \subset \text{dom}(f_p)$  and  $f_q(\xi) \subset f_p(\xi)$  for all  $\xi \in \text{dom}(f_q)$ .

We start with a ground model satisfying  $2^{<\kappa} = \kappa$  and show that  $(\mathcal{P}, \leq)$  is  $\kappa$ -closed (chains of length less than  $\kappa$  have a lower bound) and has the  $\kappa^+$ -c.c. (there are no antichains of size  $\kappa^+$ ). To see that our partial order is  $\kappa$ -closed, let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a chain of length less than  $\kappa$ . Define  $T = \cup_{p \in \mathcal{C}} T_p$  and  $f : \cup_{p \in \mathcal{C}} \text{dom}(f_p) \rightarrow {}^\kappa 2$  by  $f(\xi) = f_p(\xi)$  where  $\xi \in \text{dom}(f_p)$ . Note that the choice of  $p$  in our definition of  $f$  can be arbitrary by the assertion in condition (iv) coupled with the fact that  $\mathcal{C}$  is a chain. Since the cardinality of  $\mathcal{C}$  is less than  $\kappa$ ,  $(T, f)$  is in the partial order and clearly serves as a lower bound for  $\mathcal{C}$ .

To see that  $(\mathcal{P}, \leq)$  has the  $\kappa^+$ -c.c., let  $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{P}$  have cardinality  $\kappa^+$ . We need to show that there are two elements of  $\mathcal{A}$  which are compatible. Because of the assumption on cardinal arithmetic in our ground model, there are only  $\kappa$  many conditions  $T_p$  which satisfy (i). Thus we may find a fixed  $T$  and a subcollection  $\mathcal{A}'$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  of size  $\kappa^+$  such that all elements of  $\mathcal{A}'$  are of the form  $(T, f_p)$ . The  $\Delta$ -system lemma (see [Kunen, 1980] p. 49, Theorem 1.6) allows us to find a subcollection  $\mathcal{A}''$  of  $\mathcal{A}'$  of size  $\kappa^+$  such that the domains of the  $f_p$ 's form a  $\Delta$ -system. Let  $r$  be the root of this  $\Delta$ -system. Since  $|r| < \kappa$ , there are only  $\kappa$  many ways to define a function from this set to the top level of  $T$ . We can then pick  $f$  and  $g$  such that  $(T, f)$  and  $(T, g)$  are both in  $\mathcal{A}''$  and  $f(\xi) = g(\xi)$  for

all  $\xi \in \text{dom}(f) \cap \text{dom}(g)$ . It is easy now to extend  $(T, f)$  and  $(T, g)$  to some  $(T', h)$ .

Two well known results of forcing state that if a partial order is  $\kappa$ -closed then it preserves cardinals  $\leq \kappa$  (*ibid.*, Corollary 6.15, p.215), and if a partial order has the  $\kappa^+$ -c.c., then it preserves cardinals  $\geq \kappa^+$  (*ibid.*, Lemma 6.9, p.213) (these two statements about the partial order are made in the ground model). Thus  $(\mathcal{P}, \leq)$  preserves cardinals. Let  $G$  be a  $\mathcal{P}$ -generic filter and define  $T_G = \cup_{p \in G} T_p$ . It is clear that  $T_G$  is a  $\kappa$ -tree. Furthermore if we let  $b(\xi) = \{t \in T_G : \exists p(t \subset f_p(\xi))\}$ , then  $b(\xi) \neq b(\xi')$  for  $\xi \neq \xi'$ , and thus our tree has at least  $\aleph$  many branches (since by a density argument,  $\text{dom}(b) = \bigcup_{p \in G} \text{dom}(f_p) = \aleph$ ).

To finish the argument we need to show that the only  $\kappa$ -branches are those of the form  $b(\xi)$  for some  $\xi$ . First we prove the following:

**Claim.** If  $\dot{b}$  is a name for a branch of our generic tree and  $p = (T_p, f_p)$  forces  $\dot{b}$  is not of the form  $b(\xi)$  for some  $\xi < \aleph$  then there is a condition  $q \leq p$  such that for every  $\xi \in \text{dom}(f_p)$ ,  $q$  forces  $f_q(\xi) \not\subset \dot{b}$ .

**Proof of Claim:** Pick  $p_\xi$  inductively for each  $\xi$  in  $\text{dom}(f_p)$  such that  $p_\xi \leq p_\eta$  for all  $\eta < \xi$  in  $\text{dom}(f_p)$  and  $p_\xi$  forces  $f_{p_\xi}(\xi) \not\subset \dot{b}$ . This choice is made possible at limit stages because  $(\mathcal{P}, \leq)$  is  $\kappa$ -closed. Once we have chosen our sequence of conditions, we can find a  $q$  which serves as a lower bound for the sequence (this  $q$  obviously does the job).  $\square$

Let  $\dot{b}$  be a name for a  $\kappa$ -branch of  $T_G$  and suppose for contradiction that, on the contrary, there is a condition  $p$  such that  $p$  forces  $\dot{b} \neq b(\xi)$  for all  $\xi < \aleph$ . Now for each  $n \in \omega$  pick  $p_n$  using the above claim such that  $p_0 = p$ ,  $p_{n+1} \leq p_n$  and  $p_{n+1}$  forces  $f_{p_{n+1}}(\xi) \not\subset \dot{b}$  for all  $\xi$  in  $\text{dom}(f_{p_n})$ . Let  $f : \bigcup_{n < \omega} \text{dom}(f_{p_n}) \rightarrow {}^\kappa 2$  be defined by  $f(\xi) = \bigcup \{f_{p_n}(\xi) : \xi \in \text{dom}(f_{p_n}) \ \& \ n < \omega\}$ . Define  $T$  to be  $(\bigcup_{n < \omega} T_{p_n}) \cup \{f(\xi) : \xi \in \text{dom}(f)\}$ . There is a  $\xi$  in  $\text{dom}(f)$  such that  $(T, f)$  forces  $f(\xi) \subset \dot{b}$ , since  $p$  forces  $\dot{b}$  is a branch of  $T_G$ . We can pick an  $n$  such that  $\xi \in \text{dom}(f_{p_n})$ . But  $p_{n+1}$  forces  $f_{p_{n+1}}(\xi) \not\subset \dot{b}$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $\dot{b}$  must be of the form  $b(\xi)$  for some  $\xi < \aleph$  and we are finished.  $\square$

This result may be further generalized as in the following statement of S. Todorćević (private communication; note that GCH is again assumed in the ground model):

**Theorem.** *Suppose our ground model satisfies the GCH and that  $F$  and  $B$  are two class functions defined on the class of all regular cardinals with ranges in the class of all cardinals such that the following holds for all regular cardinals  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ :*

- (1)  $\alpha < \beta$  implies  $F(\alpha) \leq F(\beta)$ .
- (2)  $\text{cf}(F(\alpha)) > \alpha$ .

$$(3) \quad \alpha < B(\alpha) \leq F(\alpha).$$

Then, there is an Easton-type class forcing whose forcing extension satisfies the following for all regular cardinals  $\kappa$ : There is a  $\kappa$ -Kurepa tree with exactly  $B(\kappa)$  cofinal branches and  $2^\kappa = F(\kappa)$ .

*Idea of a proof.* Combine the proof of Lemma 5.4 in [Todorčević, 1981], where a finer forcing is used than above, with that of [Easton, 1970] (namely, take the products of those two forcings).

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