

# Canonical forms of shift-invariant maps on $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$

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## Abstract

We describe a canonical form for continuous functions  $\Phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  that commute with the shift map  $X \mapsto X \setminus \{\min X\}$ . Then we investigate in which cases such a function  $\Phi$  satisfies that for every  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , there is  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$ . This will lead us to solution of Problem 8.3 of [6].

The family  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  of infinite sets of non-negative integers is a prototype of a Ramsey space described long ago in papers of Galvin-Prikry [4], Silver [12] and Ellentuck [1]. It is perhaps less known that Nash-Williams [7] proved the first infinite-dimensional version of Ramsey theorem in order to handle the shift graph on  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  (or more precisely on  $[\mathbb{N}]^{<\mathbb{N}}$ ). Recall that the shift map  $S : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  is defined by  $S(A) = A \setminus \{\min A\}$ . It is therefore quite natural to investigate how much of the infinite-dimensional Ramsey Theorem is captured by the chromatic properties of the shift graph  $([\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$ . Another motivation for the present note is the study initiated in [3] of the chromatic number theory for Borel coloring of Borel graphs. Note that the Galvin-Prikry Theorem shows that the Borel chromatic number of the shift graph  $([\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$  is infinite. A problem from [6] asks for a characterization of those Borel subsets of  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  on which the shift graph has infinite Borel chromatic number. We shall address this question here by showing that not all infinitely Borel chromatic subgraphs of  $([\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$  contain subgraphs of the form  $[X]^\infty$  for  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ . We do this by first describing a canonical form of continuous maps  $\phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  that commute with the shift

map  $S$ . Then we show that there are maps  $\phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  that commute with  $S$  whose ranges do not contain any set of the form  $[X]^\infty$ ,  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ . It turns out that the canonical form for shift-invariant continuous maps  $\phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  is in complexity somewhere between the canonical forms of arbitrary continuous maps of the form  $\psi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and  $\theta : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  described by Pudlak-Rödl [11] and Promel-Voigt [10], respectively. So it is not so surprising that we shall use some of the ideas appearing in these two papers.

Some notation. We denote by  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  the set of all infinite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ , the set of natural numbers.  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  can be seen as a subspace of the space  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$  equipped with the product topology. Given an infinite  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ ,  $[A]^\infty$  denotes the collection of infinite subsets of  $A$ . The map  $S : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  defined by  $S(A) = A \setminus \{\min A\}$  is the *shift map* on  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  and the corresponding (directed) graph  $([\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$  is the *shift graph* on  $\mathbb{N}$ . We use  $[\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$  to denote the collection of finite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ . For  $s, t \in [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$  and  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,  $s \sqsubset t$  and  $s \sqsubset A$  mean that  $s$  is an initial segment of  $t$  or, respectively, of  $A$ ; and we write  $n < s$  and  $s < t$  as abbreviations of  $n < \min s$  and  $\max s < \min t$ ; also,  $A/n = \{m \in A : n < m\}$ .

If  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}_{[s]} &= \{t \in \mathcal{F} : s \sqsubset t\} \\ \mathcal{F}_{(s)} &= \{t \setminus s : t \in \mathcal{F}_{[s]}\} \\ \mathcal{F} \upharpoonright A &= \{s \in \mathcal{F} : s \subseteq A\}\end{aligned}$$

We write  $\mathcal{F}_{[n]}$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{(n)}$  when  $s = \{n\}$ .

## 1 Uniform families and barriers

The purpose of this section is to gather some standard concepts and results related to Nash-Williams' notion of barrier on an infinite subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ , which are needed in the rest of the paper.

**Definition 1** ([7]) *A collection  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$  is called a barrier on  $\mathbb{N}$  if it is an anti-chain in the partial order given by proper end extension in  $\mathcal{B}$ , and for every  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , there is  $s \in \mathcal{B}$  such that  $s \sqsubset A$ . Analogously, we define barriers on any set  $A$  for  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , namely, an anti-chain  $\mathcal{F}$  with respect to  $\sqsubset$  such that every  $B \in [A]^\infty$  has an initial segment in  $\mathcal{F}$ .*

When we say that a collection  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$  is a barrier, without explicitly mentioning any set  $A$ , it is because it is a barrier on  $\mathbb{N}$  or it is a barrier on a set  $A$  which is determined by the context. If  $\mathcal{B}$  is a barrier and  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , we denote by  $\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(A)$  the only initial segment of  $A$  which belongs to  $\mathcal{B}$ .

**Definition 2** ([11]) Let  $\alpha$  be a countable ordinal. A family  $\mathcal{F}$  of finite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  is  $\alpha$ -uniform on  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  if

- (i)  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset\}$ , or
- (ii)  $\alpha = \beta + 1$  and for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the collection

$$\mathcal{F}_{(n)} = \{t : n < t \text{ and } \{n\} \cup t \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

is  $\alpha$ -uniform on  $A/n$ , or

- (iii)  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal and there is an increasing sequence  $\{\alpha_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  of ordinals with limit  $\alpha$  such that for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\mathcal{F}_{(n)} = \{t : n < t, \{n\} \cup t \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

is  $\alpha_n$ -uniform on  $A/n$ .

We say that  $\mathcal{F}$  is uniform on  $A$  if it is  $\alpha$ -uniform for some  $\alpha < \omega_1$ . As before, if the set  $A$  is not explicitly mentioned, it is because  $A = \mathbb{N}$  or it is determined by the context.

It is easy to verify by induction on the countable ordinals that every uniform family is a barrier.

**Definition 3** Given a barrier  $\mathcal{B}$ , its rank is the height of the tree

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}} = \{t : \exists s \in \mathcal{B}(t \sqsubseteq s)\}$$

with the partial order of end extension. Note that the rank of a barrier is always a countable ordinal.

It can be shown by induction on the rank that every barrier on  $A$  is a uniform family on some  $B \in [A]^\infty$ . Moreover, if the rank of  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\alpha$ , there is  $B \in [A]^\infty$  such that  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\beta$ -uniform on  $B$ , for some  $\beta \leq \alpha$ .

For more information about barriers and related concepts, the reader can consult [3] or [9], from where we take the following standard facts (see also [13]).

**Proposition 1** Let  $P(\cdot, \cdot)$  be a property such that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  the following holds

- (i)  $P(n, X) \Rightarrow P(n, Y)$  for every  $Y \in [X]^\infty$ , and
- (ii)  $\exists Y \in [X]^\infty$  such that  $P(n, Y)$ .

Then, there is  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $P(n, A/n)$  holds for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Proof. Let  $A_0 \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  be such that  $P(0, A_0)$ , and let  $a_0 = \min(A_0)$ . Suppose we have defined  $A_0, \dots, A_n$  and  $a_0, \dots, a_n$ . Let  $A_{n+1} \in [A_n]^\infty$  be such that  $P(a_n, A_{n+1})$ , and put  $a_{n+1} = \min(A_{n+1}/a_n)$ . This way we obtain inductively the set  $A = \{a_0, a_1, \dots\}$  with the desired property.  $\square$

The following three propositions from [11] will be used below.

**Proposition 2** ([11]) *For every family  $\mathcal{F}$  of finite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  and every  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , there is a set  $Y \in [X]^\infty$  such that  $\mathcal{F} \upharpoonright Y = \emptyset$  or  $\mathcal{F} \upharpoonright Y$  contains a uniform family (on  $Y$ ).*

Proof. First notice that if  $\mathcal{F}$  is  $\alpha$ -uniform, then  $\mathcal{F} \upharpoonright A$  is  $\alpha$ -uniform for all  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ . This is verified by induction on the ordinal  $\alpha < \omega_1$ .

By restricting ourselves to the set of  $\subseteq$ -minimal elements of  $\mathcal{F}$ , we can assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is an anti-chain with respect to the ordering given by  $\subseteq$ .

Let

$$\hat{\mathcal{F}} = \{t : \exists s \in \mathcal{F} \quad t \subseteq s\}.$$

**Case 1.** If there is an infinite branch  $s_1 \sqsubset s_2 \sqsubset \dots$  in the tree  $\hat{\mathcal{F}}$ , since  $\mathcal{F}$  is an anti-chain,  $\mathcal{F} \upharpoonright \bigcup_i s_i = \emptyset$ .

**Case 2.** The tree  $(\hat{\mathcal{F}}, \subseteq)$  is well founded (there are no infinite branches). In this case, we work by induction on the height of the tree. Suppose inductively that we have the result for every  $\beta < \alpha$ , and that  $\hat{\mathcal{F}}$  is of height  $\alpha$ . Notice that for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the height of  $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{(n)} = \{t : n < t, \{n\} \cup t \in \hat{\mathcal{F}}\}$  is less than  $\alpha$ .

Consider the property  $P(n, X)$  given by “ $\mathcal{F}_{(n)}$  is disjoint from  $[X]^{<\infty}$  or it includes a family uniform on  $X$ ”. By the observation at the beginning of this proof,  $P$  satisfies clause (i) of Proposition 1, and by the inductive hypothesis it satisfies (ii). Therefore, there is a set  $B$  such that for every  $n$ ,  $P(n, B/n)$  holds, i.e. for every  $n \in B$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{(n)} \upharpoonright B = \emptyset$  or  $\mathcal{F}_{(n)} \upharpoonright B$  is uniform on  $B/n$ .

If  $\{n \in B : \mathcal{F}_{(n)} \upharpoonright B = \emptyset\}$  is infinite, let  $Y$  equal this set. Otherwise, let  $Y$  be an infinite subset of  $B$  such that for every  $n \in Y$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{(n)} \upharpoonright Y$  is uniform on  $Y/n$ , and let  $\alpha_n$  be the corresponding ordinal. Clearly, we can find such  $Y$  so that this sequence of ordinals is constant or strictly increasing, and in both cases  $\mathcal{F} \upharpoonright Y$  is uniform.  $\square$

**Corollary 1** ([7]) *Let  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{T}_0 \cup \mathcal{T}_1$  be a partition of a barrier  $\mathcal{B}$  into two pieces. Then there is a set  $A$  and  $i \in \{0, 1\}$  such that  $\mathcal{T}_i$  is a barrier on  $A$ .*

Proof. Applying Proposition 2 to  $\mathcal{T}_0$  we obtain a set  $A$  on which  $\mathcal{T}_0 \upharpoonright A$  is a barrier or it is empty. In the second case,  $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A$  is contained in  $\mathcal{T}_1$  and therefore  $\mathcal{T}_1$  is a barrier on  $A$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3** ([11]) *Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a barrier on  $X$ , and let  $h: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $h(s) \notin s$  for every  $s \in \mathcal{B}$ . Then, there is  $Y \in [X]^\infty$  such that  $h(s) \notin Y$  for every  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright Y$ .*

*Proof.* By induction on  $\alpha < \omega_1$ . If the rank of  $\mathcal{B}$  is 0, the result is trivial. Suppose it holds for barriers of rank  $< \alpha$  and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be of rank  $\alpha$ . Pick  $n_0$  arbitrarily, define  $h_{n_0}$  on  $\mathcal{B}_{(n_0)}$  by  $h_{n_0}(t) = h(\{n_0\} \cup t)$ . By the inductive hypothesis, there is a set  $Y_0 \in [X]^\infty$  such that  $h_{n_0}(t) \notin Y_0$  for every  $t \in \mathcal{B}_{(n_0)} \upharpoonright Y_0$ . Note that for any such  $t$ ,  $h_{n_0}(t) \neq n_0$ . Now, let  $n_1$  be the first element of  $Y_0$  above  $n_0$ , and repeat the procedure with  $\mathcal{B}_{(n_1)}$  and  $Y_0$  to obtain  $Y_1$  such that  $h_{n_1}(t) \notin Y_1$  for every  $t \in \mathcal{B}_{(n_1)} \upharpoonright Y_1$ , and  $n_2 \in Y_1$  above  $n_1$ . Suppose we have defined  $Y_{n_i}$  and  $n_{i+1} \in Y_{n_i}$ . We apply the inductive hypothesis to  $\mathcal{B}_{(n_{i+1})} \upharpoonright Y_{n_i}$  and the function  $h_{n_{i+1}}$  defined on  $\mathcal{B}_{(n_{i+1})}$  by  $h_{n_{i+1}}(t) = h(\{n_{i+1}\} \cup t)$ , and obtain  $Y_{n_{i+1}}$  such that  $h_{n_{i+1}}(t) \notin Y_{n_{i+1}}$  for every  $t \in \mathcal{B}_{(n_{i+1})} \upharpoonright Y_{n_{i+1}}$ , and we put  $n_{i+2}$  equal to the first element of  $Y_{n_{i+1}}$  above  $n_{i+1}$ .

Let  $Z = \{n_i : i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . By construction, given  $s = \{n_{i_0}, \dots, n_{i_k}\} \in \mathcal{B}$ ,  $h(s) \notin Z \setminus n_{i_0} = Z \cap [n_{i_0}, \infty)$ . But  $h(s)$  could belong to  $\{n_0, \dots, n_{i_0-1}\}$ . Using this we define a partition of  $\mathcal{B}_{(n_{i_0})}$  into a finite number of pieces, and by Corollary 1, we can assume that  $h''\mathcal{B}_{(n_{i_0})} \cap \{n_0, \dots, n_{i_0-1}\}$  has at most one element. Thus, there is a function  $f: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright Z$ , if  $h(s) \in Z$ ,  $h(s) = f(\min s)$ . By Ramsey's Theorem, there is an infinite  $Y \subseteq Z$  such that  $f''Y \cap Y = \emptyset$ . The set  $Y$  has the required property.  $\square$

**Proposition 4** ([11]) *Let  $\mathcal{S}_1$  and  $\mathcal{S}_2$  be barriers, and  $\phi_1: \mathcal{S}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\phi_2: \mathcal{S}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  one to one functions. Then, there is  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that either*

(i)  $\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright A = \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright A$  and  $\phi_1(s) = \phi_2(s)$  for every  $s \in \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright A$ , or

(ii)  $\phi_1''\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright A \cap \phi_2''\mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright A = \emptyset$ .

*Proof.* Split  $\mathcal{S}_1$  in two parts  $\mathcal{S}_1 = \mathcal{T}_1 \cup \mathcal{T}_2$  defined as follows:

$\mathcal{T}_1 = \{s \in \mathcal{S}_1 : \exists t \in \mathcal{S}_2 \ (\phi_1(s) = \phi_2(t))\}$  and  $\mathcal{T}_2 = \mathcal{S}_1 \setminus \mathcal{T}_1$ .

By Corollary 1 there is a set  $X_0 \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $\mathcal{T}_1 \upharpoonright X_0 = \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_0$  is a barrier on  $X_0$ , or  $\mathcal{T}_2 \upharpoonright X_0 = \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_0$  is a barrier on  $X_0$ .

In the second case,  $\phi_1''\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_0 \cap \phi_2''\mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_0 = \emptyset$ . So, assume we are in the first case. For every  $s \in \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_0$  there is a unique  $t_s \in \mathcal{S}_2$  with  $\phi_2(t_s) = \phi_1(s)$ .

Split  $\mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_0$  in a similar way, namely,  $\mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_0 = \mathcal{T}'_1 \cup \mathcal{T}'_2$ , where  $\mathcal{T}'_1 = \{t \in \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_0 : \exists s \in \mathcal{S}_1 \ (\phi_1(s) = \phi_2(t))\}$ ; and  $\mathcal{T}'_2 = \mathcal{S}_2 \setminus \mathcal{T}'_1$ . As before,

we can assume that there is  $X_1 \in [X_0]^\infty$  such that  $\mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_1 = \mathcal{T}'_1 \upharpoonright X_1$  is a barrier on  $X_1$ , and for every  $t \in \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_1$ , there is a unique  $s_t \in \mathcal{S}_1$  such that  $\phi_2(t) = \phi_1(s_t)$ .

Now, partition  $\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_1$  as follows.  $\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_1 = \mathcal{R}_1 \cup \mathcal{R}_2$  where  $\mathcal{R}_1 = \{s \in \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_1 : s = t_s\}$  and  $\mathcal{R}_2 = \{s \in \mathcal{T}_1 : s \neq t_s\}$ . Using again Corollary 1, there is  $X_2 \in [X_1]^\infty$  such that  $\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_2 = \mathcal{R}_1 \upharpoonright X_2$  is a barrier on  $X_2$  or  $\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_2 = \mathcal{R}_2 \upharpoonright X_2$  is a barrier on  $X_2$ . In the first case,  $\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_2 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_2$ , and by maximality of barriers, we obtain  $\mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_2 = \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_2$ . Clearly,  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  coincide there, so we get (i) of the statement. Suppose then that the second case occurs. Working with  $\mathcal{S}_2$  in a similar way, we can assume that  $\mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_2$  is such that for every  $t \in \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_2$  we have  $t \neq s_t$ .

Define  $h: \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by picking  $h(s) \in t_s \setminus s$  in case  $t_s \setminus s$  is non-empty, and otherwise putting  $h(s)$  be any arbitrary number not in  $s$ . Similarly, define  $g: \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by  $h(t)$  is a member of  $s_t \setminus t$  if possible, and any number not in  $t$  otherwise. By Proposition 3 there is  $X_3 \in [X_2]^\infty$  such that for every  $s \in \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_3$ ,  $h(s) \notin X_3$ , and for every  $t \in \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_3$ ,  $g(t) \notin X_3$ . Take  $s \in \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_3$  and  $t \in \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_3$ . If  $h(s) \in t_s$ , then  $t_s \not\subset X_3$  and therefore  $\phi_1(s) \neq \phi_2(t)$ . If, on the contrary,  $h(s) \notin t_s$ , it is because  $t_s \subset s$ , and in this case,  $g(t_s) \in s \setminus t_s$  (notice that  $s_{t_s} = s$ ). But this contradicts that  $s \subset X_3$ . In conclusion,  $\phi'_1 \mathcal{S}_1 \upharpoonright X_3 \cap \phi'_2 \mathcal{S}_2 \upharpoonright X_3 = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Definition 4** A function  $\phi: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is a canonical coloring of  $\mathcal{S}$  on  $X$  if  $\mathcal{S}$  is a barrier on  $X$  and there is a barrier  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $X$  and a mapping  $f: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  such that

(a)  $f(s) \subseteq s$  for every  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ ,

(b) for every  $s, t \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $\phi(s) = \phi(t)$  if and only if  $f(s) = f(t)$ .

Clause (b) is equivalent to

(b') there is a one-to-one function  $\psi: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $\phi(s) = \psi(f(s))$ .

**Theorem 1** [11] For every barrier  $\mathcal{S}$  on a set  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  and every function  $\phi: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , there is  $Y \in [X]^\infty$  such that  $\phi \upharpoonright (\mathcal{S} \upharpoonright Y)$  is a canonical on  $Y$ .

In the next section we prove a slight extension of this theorem which is of interest for our analysis of shift-invariant continuous functions.

## 2 Shift-invariant continuous functions

The function  $S : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  defined by  $S(A) = A \setminus \{\min A\}$ , will be called the shift operation on  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ . The successive iterates of the shift are defined as follows: for every  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} S^{(0)}(A) &= A, \text{ and} \\ S^{(n+1)}(A) &= S(S^{(n)}(A)). \end{aligned}$$

**Definition 5** Let  $\Phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , we say that  $\Phi$  is shift-invariant if for every  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,  $\Phi(S(X)) = S(\Phi(X))$ ; in other words, if it commutes with the shift operation.

Any shift-invariant continuous function from  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  into  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  is determined by a function defined on a barrier taking values in  $\mathbb{N}$ . We make this more precise.

For every  $s \in [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$ , let  $[s] = \{A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty : s \sqsubset A\}$ . The collection of sets  $\{[s] : s \in [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}\}$  is basis for a topology on  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , called the metric topology, which is the topology inherited from the product space  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ . Each element of the basis is clopen in this topology, and every open subset of  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  is the union of a collection of pairwise disjoint basic sets. Moreover, since for every two basic sets are either disjoint or one is contained in the other, for every open set  $\mathcal{O}$  we can select a pairwise disjoint family of basic subsets which covers it, namely, formed by the maximal basic sets contained in  $\mathcal{O}$ . We will consider continuous functions with respect to this topology. We use  $[n]$  instead of  $\{[n]\}$  to simplify notation.

**Proposition 5** For every shift-invariant continuous function  $\Phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , there is a barrier  $\mathcal{B}$  and a function  $\phi : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,  $\phi(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(A)) = \min \Phi(A)$ . Moreover, for every  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,  $\Phi(A) = \{\phi(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(A))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .

Proof. Given a continuous  $\Phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , the pre-image  $\Phi^{-1}([n])$ , for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , is an open set. Let  $\{[s_i^n] : i \in \mathbb{N}\}$  be a covering of  $\Phi^{-1}([n])$  by pairwise disjoint basic neighborhoods. The collection  $\{s_i^n : i, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  of all the finite sets corresponding in this way to all the sets  $\Phi^{-1}([n])$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  is a barrier which we call  $\mathcal{B}(\Phi)$  or simply  $\mathcal{B}$  when the  $\Phi$  is clearly determined by the context.

We define the function  $\phi : \mathcal{B}(\Phi) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by

$$\phi(s) = n \text{ if and only if } n = \min(\Phi(A))$$

for any (every)  $A \in [s]$ .

As  $\Phi$  is shift-invariant, and for each  $A$ , the function  $\phi$  determines the first element of  $\Phi(A)$ , applying  $\phi$  to the initial segments which belong to  $\mathcal{B}$  of the consecutive shifts of  $A$ , we obtain the elements of  $\Phi(A)$ , its  $k$ -th element in the increasing enumeration is  $\phi(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(k)}(A)))$ .  $\square$

We will now restate Theorem 1 in order to include some additional information about the canonization which will be useful to us.

**Theorem 2** *Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a barrier on a set  $X$ , and  $\phi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . We can find a set  $Y \in [X]^\infty$  and  $\mathcal{T}, f, \psi$  as given by Theorem 1 such that  $\mathcal{T}, f, \psi$  canonize  $\phi$  on  $Y$  with the following additional property: if  $\mathcal{B}_0 = \{s \cap \min f(s) : s \in \mathcal{B}\}$  then, for every  $t_0, t_1 \in \mathcal{B}_0 \upharpoonright Y$ , and every  $k$  above  $t_0, t_1$ , if for  $i \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $s_i$  is the unique extension of  $t_i$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  of the form  $t_i \cup t'$  for some initial segment  $t'$  of  $Y/k$ , then  $f(s_0) = f(s_1)$ .*

*Proof.* The proof of Theorem 1 given in [11], which goes by induction on  $\omega_1$ , gives the additional property we desire. We reproduce it here for completeness.

We can assume that  $\mathcal{B}$  is uniform on  $X$ . For  $\mathcal{B}$  of rank 0 the result is trivial, so suppose the result has been proved for every  $\beta < \alpha$ , and that  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\alpha$ -uniform on  $X$ . Define for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\phi_n(s) = \phi(\{n\} \cup s)$$

for every  $s \in \mathcal{B}_{(n)}$ . By the inductive hypothesis we can find  $\mathcal{T}_n, f_n$  and  $\psi_n$ , the corresponding family and functions which canonize  $\phi_n$ , such that the property in the statement regarding the family  $\mathcal{B}_0$  is satisfied for each  $n$ . By a simple diagonalization, we can assume that for each  $n$ , the function  $\phi_n$  is canonized by  $\mathcal{T}_n, f_n$  and  $\psi_n$  on  $(n, \infty)$ . We can also assume that the ranks of the  $\mathcal{T}_n$  are all equal or form an increasing sequence.

We will prove that restricting ourselves to some infinite set, for every  $n < m$  the following holds,

$$\text{either } \mathcal{T}_n \upharpoonright (m, \infty) = \mathcal{T}_m, \text{ and } \psi_n \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}_m = \psi_m, \text{ or} \quad (1)$$

$$\psi_n''(\mathcal{T}_n) \cap \psi''(\mathcal{T}_m) = \emptyset.$$

For this, it is enough to verify that the property  $P(m, Y)$  defined by “for every  $n < m$  (1) holds relativized to  $Y$ ” satisfies the hypothesis of Proposition 1; hypothesis (i) clearly holds, and hypothesis (ii) follows from Proposition 4.



Thus, we may assume that for every  $n < m \in X$  (1) holds, and using Ramsey's Theorem (for pairs), we can assume that the same part of the alternative always holds; and we proceed considering two cases.

**Case 1.** For every  $n < m$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_n \upharpoonright (m, \infty) = \mathcal{T}_m$ , and  $\psi_n \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}_m = \psi_m$ .

In this case, define  $Y = X \setminus \{n_0\}$  where  $n_0$  is the first element of  $X$ , and  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}_{n_0}$ ,  $f(s) = f_{n_0}(s \setminus \{n_0\})$  for  $s \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $n = \min s$ ,  $\psi = \psi_{n_0}$ .

Clearly,  $\mathcal{T}$  is a barrier on  $Y$ ,  $f(s) \subseteq s$  for every  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright Y$ , and  $\psi$  is one to one. Also,

$$\phi(s) = \phi_{(n)}(s \setminus \{n\}) = \psi_n(f_n(s \setminus \{n\})) = \psi_{n_0}(f_{n_0}(s \setminus \{n_0\})) = \psi(f(s)),$$

for every  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright Y$  and  $n = \min s$ .

In this case, the inductive hypothesis gives immediately the additional property we are seeking.

**Case 2.** For every  $n < m$ ,  $\psi_n''(\mathcal{T}_n \upharpoonright (m, \infty)) \cap \psi_m''(\mathcal{T}_m) = \emptyset$ .

In this case, the minimal element of each  $s$  plays a role in the canonization. Define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T} &= \{\{n\} \cup t : t \in \mathcal{T}_n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}, \\ f(s) &= \{n\} \cup f_n(s \setminus \{n\}) \text{ for every } s \in \mathcal{B} \text{ with } \min s = n, \\ \psi(t) &= \psi_n(t \setminus \{n\}) \text{ for } n = \min t. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that  $\mathcal{T}$  is uniform, since  $\mathcal{T}_n$  is uniform for each  $n$  and we have that the sequence  $\{\alpha_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is constant or strictly increasing. It is also clear that for every  $s$ ,  $f(s) \subseteq S$ .

To show that  $\psi$  is one-to-one we need some additional work. For every  $n < m$  and every  $u \subseteq (n, m]$ , define a set  $\mathcal{T}_{n,(u),m}$  and a mapping  $\psi_{n,(u),m}$  as follows

$$\begin{aligned} v \in \mathcal{T}_{n,(u),m} &\text{ if and only if } m < \min v \text{ and } u \cup v \in \mathcal{T}_n; \\ \text{and } \psi_{n,(u),m}(v) &= \psi_n(u \cup v) \text{ for every } v \in \mathcal{T}_{n,(u),m}. \end{aligned}$$

It should be clear that  $\mathcal{T}_{n,(u),m}$  is a uniform family. As before, we can find a set  $X$  such that for every  $n, m \in X$  with  $n < m$  and  $u \subseteq (n, m] \cap X$ , one of the two following conditions holds when we restrict ourselves to  $X$ ,

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,(u),m} = \mathcal{T}_m \text{ and } \psi_{n,(u),m} = \psi_m, \text{ or} \quad (2)$$

$$\psi_{n,(u),m}'' \mathcal{T}_{n,(u),m} \cap \psi_m'' \mathcal{T}_m = \emptyset. \quad (3)$$

Given  $s, t \in \mathcal{T}$ ,  $s \neq t$ , we consider the following cases,

(i) if  $\min s = n = \min t$ , then  $\psi(s) = \psi_n(s \setminus \{n\}) \neq \psi(t \setminus \{n\}) = \psi(t)$ , the inequality holds since  $\psi_n$  is one to one;

(ii) if  $n = \min s < \min t = m$ , and  $s \setminus \{n\} \subseteq (m, \infty)$ , we have that  $\psi(s) \neq \psi(t)$  by the assumption of Case 2;

(iii) if  $\min s = n < \min t = m$  and  $s \cap (n, m]$  is non-empty, let  $u = s \cap (n, m]$ .  $\mathcal{T}_{n,(u),m}$  is uniform on  $X/m$  and

$$\text{rank}(\mathcal{T}_{n,(s),m}) < \text{rank}(\mathcal{T}_n) \leq \text{rank}(\mathcal{T}_m)$$

which implies we must have (3). We conclude that  $\psi$  is one-to-one.

The functions  $\psi$  and  $f$  behave as desired since for every  $s \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $\min s = n$ ,

$$\phi(s) = \phi_{(n)}(s \setminus \{n\}) = \psi_n(f_n(s \setminus \{n\})) = \psi(\{n\} \cup f_n(s \setminus \{n\})) = \psi(f(s)).$$

To verify that the additional property in the statement of the theorem holds, notice that since  $\min s$  belongs to  $f(s)$  for every  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright Y$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_0$  consists only of the empty set and thus, for every  $k$ , there is a unique element of  $\mathcal{B}$  (extending the empty set) which is an initial segment of  $Y/k$ .  $\square$

### 3 Images of shift-invariant continuous functions.

From now on, let  $\Phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  be a shift-invariant continuous function, and  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}(\Phi)$ . Let  $\phi : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be the function obtained from  $\Phi$  as in Proposition 5, that is, the function mapping a finite set  $s \in \mathcal{B}$  to the first element of  $\Phi(A)$  for any  $A$  with  $s \sqsubset A$ . Let  $Y$  be a set where the family  $\mathcal{T}$  and the functions  $f, \psi$  canonize  $\phi$  as given by Theorem 2. We can assume without loss of generality that  $Y = \mathbb{N}$ .

**Lemma 1** *Given  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , if there is  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$ , then there is  $B \in [A]^\infty$  such that the family  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(B))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is pairwise disjoint.*

*Proof.* Let  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$ . It is clear that there is  $\bar{X} \in [X]^\infty$  such that  $\{\psi^{-1}(i) : i \in \bar{X}\}$  is pairwise disjoint. Take  $B \in [A]^\infty$  such that  $\Phi(B) = \bar{X}$ . Then, since the function  $\psi$  is one-to-one,  $B$  is the desired subset of  $A$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 6** *If the barrier  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}(\Phi)$  is of finite rank, then there is a set  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  with the property that for every  $B \in [A]^\infty$ , the set  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(B)))\}$  is not pairwise disjoint if and only if the rank of the corresponding family  $\mathcal{T}$  is  $> 1$ .*

Proof. Suppose  $\mathcal{B}$  is of finite rank, say,  $\mathcal{B} = [\mathbb{N}]^n$ . By Corollary 1, there is  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  and  $i_1, \dots, i_k < n$  such that for every  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A$ , if  $s$  is written in increasing order as  $s = \{s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$  then  $f(s) = \{s_{i_1}, \dots, s_{i_k}\}$  (see also [2]). In other words,  $f(s)$  occupies always the same position within  $s$  (for  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A$ ). If for every  $s \in \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright A$ ,  $f(s)$  has more than one element, then for every  $B \in [A]^\infty$ ,  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(Sh^n(B))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is not pairwise disjoint.

Conversely, if for every  $s \in \mathcal{B}$ ,  $f(s)$  always picks one element of  $s$ , then given  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , the family  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(Sh^n(X))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is pairwise disjoint, because it is a collection of singletons none of them can come from two different shifts of  $A$ .  $\square$

Notice that if the rank of  $\mathcal{T}$  is 1, then there is a set  $A$  with  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$  for some  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ .

The case when the barrier  $\mathcal{B}$  is of infinite rank is more complex. In some cases, which will be characterized below, it is possible to find a very thin set  $A$  with  $\Phi''[A]^\infty$  containing a set of the form  $[X]^\infty$ .

The collection  $\{D \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty : \{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(D))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \text{ is pairwise disjoint}\}$  is a Borel subset of  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , and therefore, by the Galvin-Prikry Theorem [4], there is  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[A]^\infty$  is contained in this set or in its complement. So, we need only to consider the following two cases:

- (i) for every  $D \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(D))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a pairwise disjoint family.
- (ii) for every  $D \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(D))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is not pairwise disjoint.

**Theorem 3** *Let  $\Phi: [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  be a shift-invariant continuous function, and let  $\mathcal{B}, \phi, \mathcal{T}, f$ , and  $\psi$  be the corresponding barriers and functions defined as above. If for every  $D \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  the family  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(D))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is not pairwise disjoint, then for no  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  there is  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$ .*

Proof. The theorem follows from Lemma 1.  $\square$

**Theorem 4** *Let  $\Phi: [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  be a shift-invariant continuous function, and let  $\mathcal{B}, \phi, \mathcal{T}, f$ , and  $\psi$  be the corresponding barriers and functions defined as above. If for every  $D \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  the family  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(D))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is pairwise disjoint, then for every  $A \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  there is  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$ .*

Proof. Assume that for every  $D \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  the family  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(D))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is pairwise disjoint. Consider the collection of finite sets given by

$\mathcal{B}_0 = \{s \cap \min f(s) : s \in \mathcal{B}\}$ . We can assume that the empty set is not an element of  $\mathcal{B}_0$ , since by using the Galvin-Prikry theorem again, it can be assumed that the first element of  $s$  is  $f(s)$  for every  $s \in \mathcal{B}$ , or for no  $s$  this happens. The first case cannot occur since it contradicts the hypothesis of the theorem.

Let  $A$  be a given set in  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , listed in increasing order by  $A = \{a_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Our objective is to find a set  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$ .

Define by induction a subset  $A' \in [A]^\infty$  as follows. Let  $a'_0 = a_0$ . Suppose we have defined  $a'_n$ , then let  $a'_{n+1}$  be the first element of  $A$  such that for every  $s \subseteq A \cap a'_n + 1$ , if  $t$  is the only initial segment of  $A/a'_n$  such that  $s \cup t \in \mathcal{B}$ , then  $a'_{n+1} \geq \min f(s \cup t)$ . Let  $A' = \{a'_0, a'_1, \dots\}$ . We have that for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and every  $s \subseteq \{a'_0, \dots, a'_n\}$ , for every  $k > n$ , there is a finite subset  $t$  of  $A \cap (a'_n, a'_k)$  such that  $s \cup t \in \mathcal{B}_0$ .

We may assume that  $A'$  satisfies the conclusions of Theorem 2, in particular, that if  $s_0, s_1 \in \mathcal{B}_0$ , and  $t_0, t_1$  are the corresponding extensions within  $A'/\max(s_0 \cup s_1)$  to elements of  $\mathcal{B}$ , then  $f(t_0) = f(t_1)$ .

Let  $X' = \Phi(A')$ , we will define a subset  $X \subseteq X'$  and show that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[A]^\infty$ . The set  $X$  will be obtained inductively thinning out  $X'$ .

Let  $X' = \{x_i : i \in \mathbb{N}\}$  be listed increasingly. To simplify notation let, for each  $k$ ,  $\iota(k)$  denote  $\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(k)}(A'))$ , and  $mf(k) = \min(f(\iota(k)))$ . Let also  $\iota_0(k) = \iota(k) \cap mf(k)$ , in words,  $\iota(k)$  is the only element of  $\mathcal{B}$  which is an initial segment of the  $k$ -th shift of  $A'$ , and  $\iota_0(k)$  is the portion of  $\iota(k)$  below  $f(\iota(k))$  (which is a set in  $\mathcal{B}_0$ );  $mf(k)$  is the first element of  $f(\iota(k))$ .

The set  $X$  will have the following properties. If  $X$  is listed increasingly by  $X = \{x_{i_k} : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , then for any  $k$ :

- (i)  $\iota(i_0) < \iota(i_1) < \dots < \iota(i_k)$ , and
- (ii)  $i_{k+1}$  is such that  $\iota(i_{k+1})$  is above  $\mathcal{R}(i_0, \dots, i_k)$ , where  $\mathcal{R}$  is defined below.

Given  $\{i_0, \dots, i_k\}$ , for every set  $a \subseteq A \cap \max \iota(k) + 1$  there is a unique end extension  $E(a)$  of  $a$  within  $A'/\max \iota(k)$  which is in  $\mathcal{B}$ . Put  $\mathcal{R}(i_0, \dots, i_k) = \cup\{E(a) : a \subseteq A \cap \max \iota(k) + 1\}$ .

To define  $X$ , put  $i_0 = 0$ . Recall that  $x_0 = \psi f(\iota(0))$ ;  $i_1$  is the first  $i$  such that  $\iota(i)$  is above  $\mathcal{R}(i_0)$ , in particular,  $\iota(i_1)$  is above  $\iota(0)$ . Suppose we have defined  $i_0, \dots, i_k$ . Then,  $i_{k+1}$  is the first  $i$  such that  $\iota(i)$  is above  $\mathcal{R}(i_0, \dots, i_k)$ . This completes the definition of  $X = \{x_{i_k} : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .

Given  $Y \in [X]^\infty$ , we want to find a set  $D \in [A]^\infty$  such that  $\Phi(D) = Y$ . By our hypothesis,  $\{f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(A')))) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a pairwise disjoint family, and the set  $X$  is listed in increasing order by  $\{\psi(f(\iota(i_k))) : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . We want  $D \in [A]^\infty$  satisfying

$$f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(D))) = f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(j_n)}(A')))$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $Y = \{x_{j_n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is listed in increasing order. The set  $D$  will not necessarily be a subset of  $A'$ , although it will be a subset of  $A$ . Notice that  $\{j_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a subsequence of  $\{i_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , the sequence of indices of elements of  $X$ .

To construct  $D$ , we will produce an infinite sequence of its initial segments. Put  $D_0 = \iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(j_0)}(A'))$  as an initial segment of  $D$ .

Suppose we have defined the initial segments  $D_0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq D_k$ , so that for every  $m \leq k$ ,  $D_m$  without its first  $m$  elements is in  $\mathcal{B}$ , and

$$f(D_m \setminus \{\text{first } m \text{ elements of } D_m\}) = f(\iota(j_m)),$$

and  $x_{j_{m+1}}$ , the next element in  $X$  after  $x_{j_m}$ , is such that  $\iota(j_{m+1})$  is above  $D_m$ . Recall that  $\psi(f(\iota(j_m))) = x_{j_m}$ .

Now consider  $\iota(j_{k+1}) = \iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(j_{k+1})}(A'))$ , by inductive hypothesis it is above  $D_k$ .

Let  $s'$  be  $D_k$  with its first  $k+1$  elements removed, and finally let  $s = s' \cup \iota_0(j_{k+1})$ . By construction of  $A'$ , there is an end extension  $t$  of  $s$  which is in  $\mathcal{B}_0$ , obtained adding to  $s$  some elements from  $A$  lying above  $\iota_0(j_{k+1})$  and below  $mf(j_{k+1})$ . Note that these elements from  $A$  are above  $D_k$ .

By Theorem 2, the only element  $r \in \mathcal{B}$  which extends  $t$  within the set  $A'/mf(j_{k+1})$ , is such that  $f(r) = f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(j_{k+1})}(A')))$ ; we let  $D_{k+1} = D_k \cup r$  be the next initial segment of  $D$ . This ends the inductive definition of  $D$ . For every  $k$ ,  $\psi(f(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(k)}(D)))) = x_{j_k}$ , and thus  $\Phi(D) = Y$ .  $\square$

## 4 Borel chromatic numbers

Let  $X$  be a set. Any binary relation  $R \subseteq X^2$  on  $X$  which is symmetric and irreflexive determines a graph  $\mathcal{G} = (X, R)$ : the elements of  $X$  are the vertices of  $\mathcal{G}$ , and for  $x, y \in X$ ,  $\{x, y\}$  is an edge of  $\mathcal{G}$  if  $xRy$ .

A coloring of  $\mathcal{G}$  is a map  $c : X \rightarrow K$  such that  $xRy \Rightarrow c(x) \neq c(y)$ . If the cardinality of  $K$  is  $k$ , we say that  $c$  is a  $k$ -coloring. The chromatic number of  $\mathcal{G}$  is the smallest cardinal  $k$  for which  $\mathcal{G}$  admits a  $k$ -coloring.

If  $X$  is a standard Borel space (i.e. a completely metrizable separable space, together with its  $\sigma$ -algebra of Borel sets), the Borel chromatic number of  $\mathcal{G} = (X, R)$  is the smallest cardinal  $k$  for which there is a Borel coloring  $c : X \rightarrow K$  where  $K$  is a set (of colors) of cardinality  $k$ .

If  $F : X \rightarrow X$  is a Borel function, the graph  $\mathcal{G}_F = (X, F)$  is defined saying that  $\{x, y\}$  is an edge if  $y = F(x)$ .

The graph  $([\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$ , where  $S$  is the shift function given by  $F(A) = A \setminus \{\min(A)\}$ , provides an example of a graph with chromatic number 2,

and Borel chromatic number  $\aleph_0$ . Since this graph is acyclic, choosing a vertex in each connected component, a 2-coloring can be obtained: for each connected component, give the selected vertex a color and then alternate the two colors as moving away from it. By the Galvin-Prikry Theorem ([4]), the Borel chromatic number of this graph is  $\aleph_0$  (see [6, 8]). The same is true for any graph of the form  $([X]^\infty, S)$ , where  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ .

If  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  is a Borel set, then by results of [6], the Borel chromatic number of the induced graph  $(\mathcal{A}, S)$  can only take the values 1, 2, 3, or  $\aleph_0$  (depending on the Borel set  $\mathcal{A}$ ). Question 8.3 of [6] asks whether the Borel chromatic number of  $(\mathcal{A}, S)$  is  $\aleph_0$  if and only if there is a set  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ . Clearly, if there is a set  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ , then the Borel chromatic number of  $(\mathcal{A}, S)$  is  $\aleph_0$ , so the content of the question is whether the converse holds. Namely, is it true that for any Borel subset  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ , if the Borel chromatic number of  $(\mathcal{A}, S)$  is  $\aleph_0$  then there is  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ ? Using Theorem 3 we give a negative answer.

It is enough to find a one-one continuous function  $\Phi : [\mathbb{N}]^\infty \rightarrow [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  which commutes with the shift and satisfies the conditions of theorem 3.

For example, let  $\mathcal{B} = [\mathbb{N}]^2$  and let  $\varphi : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be  $\varphi(\{n, m\}) = 2^n(2m+1)$  (where  $n < m$ ). There is a unique continuous  $\Phi$  commuting with the shift corresponding to  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\varphi$  in the following way: for every  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ ,

$$\Phi(X)(n) = \varphi(\iota_{\mathcal{B}}(S^{(n)}(X))).$$

It is easy to verify that  $\Phi$  is one-one, and therefore  $\Phi''[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  is a Borel set (see, for example, [5] 15.1). Notice that this  $\Phi$  is canonized by  $\mathcal{B}$  itself and the identity function  $Id : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ . The hypothesis of Theorem 3 is satisfied, and thus there is no  $X \in [\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  such that  $[X]^\infty \subseteq \Phi''[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$ .  $\Phi$  commutes with the shift, so  $\Phi''[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  is closed under the shift, since if  $Y = \Phi(A)$ , then  $S(Y) = \Phi(S(A))$ . Therefore, the Borel chromatic number of the graph  $(\Phi''[\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$  must be  $\aleph_0$ , otherwise, given a finite Borel coloring of  $(\Phi''[\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$ , taking pre-images by  $\Phi$  we would get a finite coloring of  $([\mathbb{N}]^\infty, S)$ , a contradiction.

The problem of characterizing those Borel subsets  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $[\mathbb{N}]^\infty$  for which the graph  $(\mathcal{A}, S)$  has infinite Borel chromatic number remains open.

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