

# Modern methods of constructing the Knaster continuum

Julia Ścisłowska

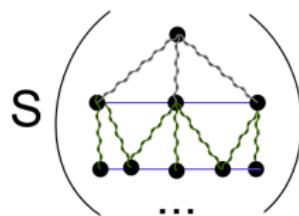
Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences of the University of Warsaw

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# CHAPTER 0

# Introduction



**Plan for today:** Describe the Knaster continuum using three limit-like constructions: inverse limit, projective Fraïssé limit, spectrum of an  $\omega$ -poset.

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**Main idea:** Describe well-known, classical topological spaces using new tools, involving abstract language of category theory and study their properties from different perspectives.

**Plan for today:** Describe the Knaster continuum using three limit-like constructions: inverse limit, projective Fraïssé limit, spectrum of an  $\omega$ -poset.

**Main idea:** Describe well-known, classical topological spaces using new tools, involving abstract language of category theory and study their properties from different perspectives.

**But why?**

- satisfying combinatorics, nice pictures
- results on spaces
  - a new continuum has been discovered [CKRY]
  - new characterizations of the pseudoarc [IS], [BK]
  - tools to study interesting properties such as e.g. homogeneity
- results on homeomorphisms groups

# Why projective Fraïssé ?

Define the **universal Knaster continuum**  $K$  to be a Knaster continuum which continuously and openly surjects onto all other Knaster continua.

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Theorem, (S. Iyer, [I-1], 2022)

The group  $\text{Homeo}(K)$  is isomorphic as a topological group to

$$U \rtimes F$$

where  $U$  is a Polish extremely amenable group and  $F$  is the free abelian group on countably many generators.

Theorem, (S. Iyer, [I-2], 2023)

The group  $\text{Homeo}(K)$  contains an open subgroup with a comeager conjugacy class.

# Why posets and spectra?

Recall that the **pseudo-arc**  $P$  is the hereditarily indecomposable chainable continuum.

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Theorem, (T.Bice, M.Malicki, [BM], 2024)

$\text{Homeo}(P)$ , the homeomorphism group of the pseudoarc, has a dense conjugacy class.

## CHAPTER 1

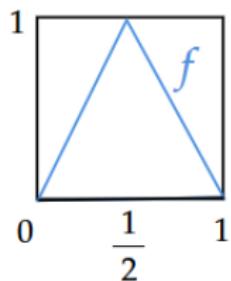
# The *continuous*, inverse limit

incarnation of the Knaster continuum

with morphisms being functions  $f : I \rightarrow I$ , for  $I =: [0, 1]$

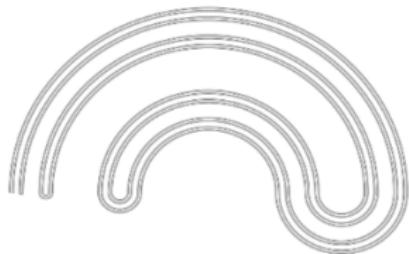
# The Knaster continuum

Recall that the **Knaster continuum** is a space homeomorphic to the inverse limit of the sequence of arcs  $\varprojlim([0, 1], f_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$ , where for each  $i$ ,  $f_i = f$  (depicted above)



# The Knaster continuum

$$\lim_{\leftarrow} \left( [0, 1] \xleftarrow{\text{ }} [0, 1] \xleftarrow{\text{ }} [0, 1] \xleftarrow{\text{ }} \dots \right) \text{ homeo } \simeq$$



# The Knaster continuum ( $K_2$ ) and its family - Knaster continua [I-1]

A (generalized) Knaster continuum is a continuum of the form

$$\varprojlim(I_n, f_n)$$

where each  $I_n = [0, 1]$  and  $f_n$  is an open, continuous surjection.

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## Special cases of (generalized) Knaster continua

- The double-splitting Knaster continuum  $K_2$  (to which we will refer as to: *the Knaster continuum*)
- The universal Knaster continuum - a (generalized) Knaster continuum which continuously and openly surjects onto all other (generalized) Knaster continua

## CHAPTER 2

# The *discrete*, projective Fraïssé-theoretic incarnation of the Knaster continuum

with morphisms being functions  $f_n : K_{n+1} \rightarrow K_n$ ,  
for  $K_n =$ : finite linear graph endowed with discrete topology

# A few definitions

- For us a **graph** is a set  $A$  equipped with a symmetric, reflexive relation  $R$ . An **epimorphism** is a map between graphs which preserves the relation and is surjective on vertices and edges.

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- A **projective Fraïssé category**,  $\mathcal{F}$ , is a countable (up to isomorphism) category of finite graphs and morphisms s.t.
  - 1 each morphism in  $\mathcal{F}$  is an epimorphism,
  - 2  $\mathcal{F}$  satisfies the joint projection property (JPP),
  - 3  $\mathcal{F}$  satisfies the projective amalgamation property (AP).

# Projective Fraïssé limits

For a projective Fraïssé category  $\mathcal{F}$ , let  $\mathcal{F}^\omega$  be all topological graphs formed as inverse limits of a sequence of structures in  $\mathcal{F}$  via morphisms in  $\mathcal{F}$ .

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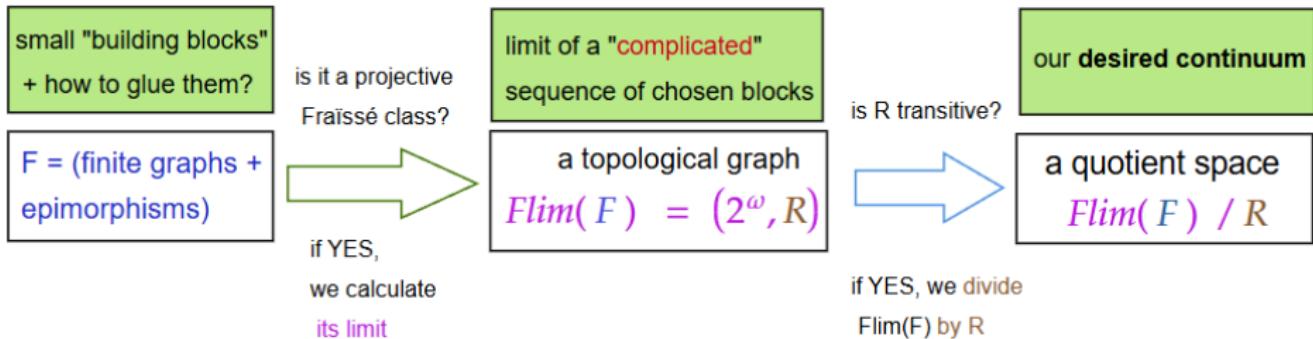
**Theorem** (T.Irwin, S.Solecki, [IS], 2006)

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a projective Fraïssé category. There exists a unique (up to isomorphism) topological graph  $\mathbb{F} \in \mathcal{F}^\omega$  so that:

- for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}$ , there is a morphism  $\mathbb{F} \rightarrow A$
- for  $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ , morphisms  $f : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow A$  and  $g : B \rightarrow A$ , there is a morphism  $h : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow B$  with  $f = g \circ h$ .

The structure  $\mathbb{F}$  in Theorem above is called the projective Fraïssé limit of the projective Fraïssé category  $\mathcal{F}$

# How to produce continua using projective Fraïssé?



# How to build the universal Knaster continuum using projective Fraïssé theory [I-1]

Objects in  $\mathcal{K}$ : paths (finite linear graphs) with distinguished endpoint



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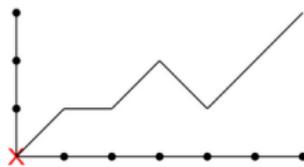
All pictures on this slide are taken from S.Iyer's presentation *Homeomorphism groups of Knaster continua*, available at: <https://logic.math.caltech.edu/slides/2022-11-30.pdf>

# How to build the universal Knaster continuum using projective Fraïssé theory [I-1]

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Epimorphisms between paths: surjective maps that preserve edge relation and distinguished endpoint (discrete analogues of continuous surjections)



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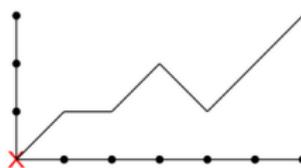
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# How to build the universal Knaster continuum using projective Fraïssé theory [I-1]

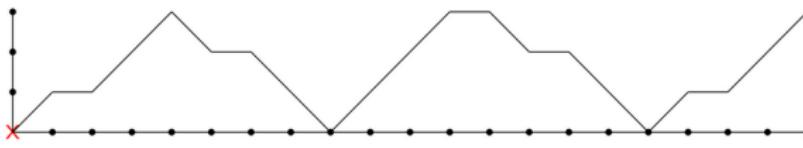
Objects in  $\mathcal{K}$ : paths (finite linear graphs) with distinguished endpoint



Epimorphisms between paths: surjective maps that preserve edge relation and distinguished endpoint (discrete analogues of continuous surjections)



Morphisms in  $\mathcal{K}$ : those epimorphisms which are *piecewise monotone* (discrete analogues of confluent continuous surjections)



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Theorem, (S.Iyer, [I-1], 2022)

- $\mathcal{K}$  is a projective Fraïssé category.
- Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be the Fraïssé limit of  $\mathcal{K}$ . Then the relation  $R^{\mathbb{K}}$  is a closed equivalence relation and  $\mathbb{K}/R^{\mathbb{K}}$  is homeomorphic to the universal Knaster continuum.

Theorem, (S.Iyer, [I-1], 2022)

A topological space  $X$  is a Knaster continuum if and only if  $X$  is homeomorphic to the quotient of some pre-continuum in  $\mathcal{K}^\omega$

## CHAPTER 3

# The *discrete*, *spectral* incarnation of the Knaster continuum

with morphisms being relations  $R_m^n : K_m \rightarrow K_n$ ,  
for  $K_n =$ : finite linear graph endowed with discrete topology

Topological space  $\implies$  poset of open sets

- Let  $X$  be a metrizable compact space.

- Then there exist a sequence  $(\mathbb{P}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , where

- each  $\mathbb{P}_n$  is a finite open cover of  $X$ ,
- for every  $n$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_n$  is refined by  $\mathbb{P}_{n+1}$ ,
- every open cover of  $X$  is refined by some  $\mathbb{P}_n$ .

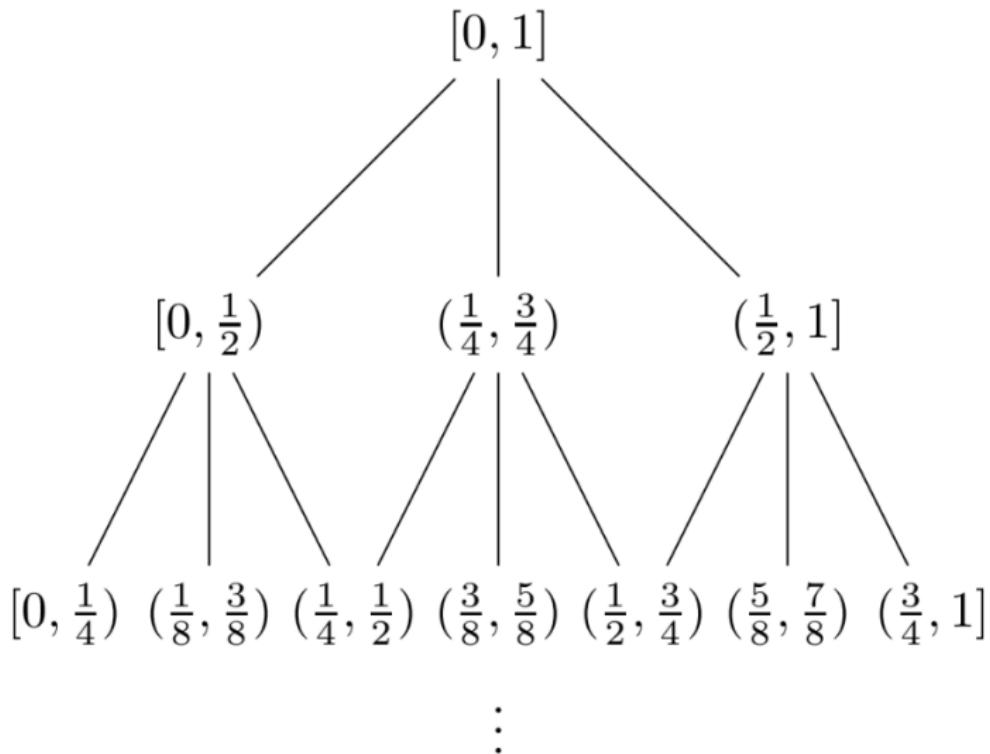
In particular,  $(\mathbb{P}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a basis of  $X$ .

- Take the disjoint union  $\mathbb{P} = \bigsqcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{P}_n$  and order  $\mathbb{P}$  by inclusion.

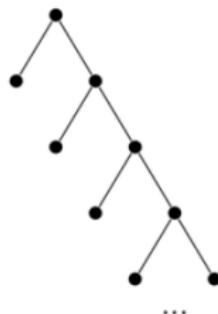
Poset of open sets  $\implies$  topological space (Theorem, [BBV-1])

Every metrizable compact space  $X$  can be reconstructed from the poset structure of any countable basis  $\{B_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  such that  $\text{diam}(B_n) \rightarrow 0$ .

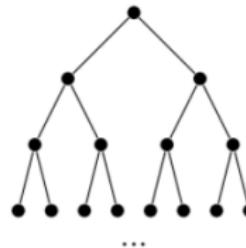
## Example: the arc



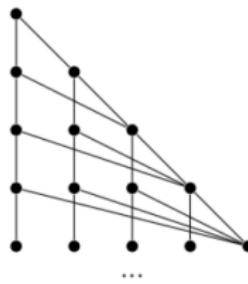
# More examples



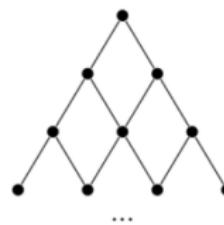
convergent sequence



Cantor space  $2^\omega$



cofinite topology on  $\omega$



discrete space  $\{0, 1\}$

# What is a spectrum?

Let  $\mathbb{P} = (\mathbb{P}_n, \sqsupseteq_n^m)$  be a  $\omega$ -poset where  $(\mathbb{P}_n)$  - levels of  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $(\sqsupseteq_n^m)$  - relations between levels of  $\mathbb{P}$ .

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- A **spectrum** of  $\mathbb{P}$ , denoted  $S\mathbb{P}$ , is a space of **minimal selectors** wrt containment:

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- For  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  we define a subbasic open set

$$p^\in = \{S \in S\mathbb{P} : p \in S\}.$$

Sets  $\{p^\in : p \in \mathbb{P}_n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  form a **basis of topology** on  $S\mathbb{P}$ .

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Intuition: Spectrum of a poset  $\rightsquigarrow$  Stone space of a Boolean algebra.

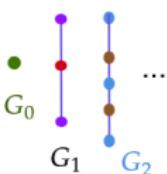
# Spectrum $S$ vs inverse limit $\varprojlim$

<u>inverse limit</u>	<u>spectrum</u>
space of <b>all threads</b>	space of <b>all minimal selectors</b>
open sets are of the form $\{f_{n,oo}^{-1}(U) : U \subseteq X_n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$	open sets are of the form $\{R_{n,oo}^{-1}(p) : p \in \mathbb{P}_n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$
$x \in X_n \iff$ basic <b>clopen</b> set in $\varprojlim(X_i, f_i)$ $x \in X_n \iff$ basic <b>closed</b> set in $\varprojlim(X_i, f_i) / \sqcap$	$p \in \mathbb{P}_n \iff$ basic <b>open</b> set in $S\mathbb{P}$
every compact metrizable space can be built this way (but we have to take a quotient space)	every compact metrizable space can be built this way (no quotient needed)

# How to produce continua using $\omega$ -posets and spectra?

small „building blocks”  
+ how to glue them?

$G =$  (finite graphs  
+ relations)



$$\left\{ \sqsubset \frac{H}{G} \in \text{Rel}(G, H) : G, H \in \mathbf{G} \right\}$$

take a sequence from  $G$   
 $(P_n, \sqsubset \frac{m}{n})$

„open basis”  
of a space  $X$

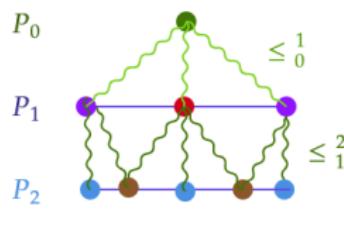
$\mathbf{P} = (P_n, \leq \frac{m}{n})$   
omega-poset

take spectrum  $S(\mathbf{P})$

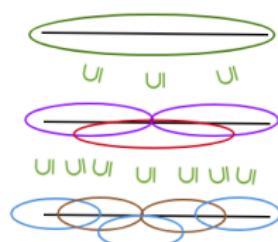
$\mathbf{SP} = X$   
our desired compactum

$\mathbf{SP} =$  spectrum  
of poset  $\mathbf{P}$

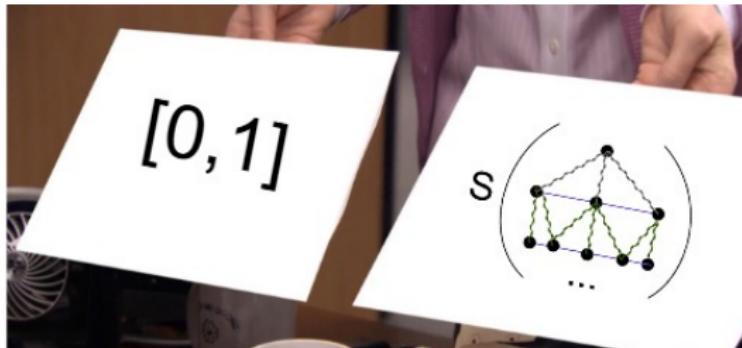
“like an inverse sequence”



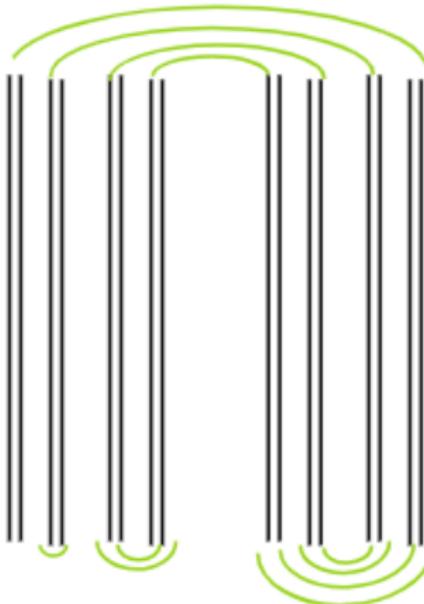
“like an inverse limit”



They are the same picture



# What about the Knaster continuum?



We define a **Fraïssé category  $\mathcal{K}_{rel}$**  of *piecewise monotone relations between paths* then take a special sequence form  $\mathcal{K}_{rel}$  and show that its induced poset gives the **Knaster continuum  $K_2$**  as a spectrum.

# What about the Knaster continuum?

Theorem (A. Bartoš, J.Ś)

- Let  $K = \varprojlim(I_n, \Delta)$ , where  $\Delta : I_{n+1} \rightarrow I_n$  is a tent map of degree 2.
- Let  $\mathbb{D}_n = \pi_n^{-1}[C_{2n}]$ , be a family of covers of  $K$ , where  $C_n$  is regular cover of  $I_n$  and  $\pi_n : K \rightarrow I_n$  is a projection.
- Let  $R_n^{n+1} : \mathbb{D}_{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_n$  be a composition of tent pattern and double splitting pattern.
- Then  $(\mathbb{D}_n, R_n^{n+1})$  is a Fraïssé sequence in  $\mathcal{K}_{rel}$ .
- Let  $\mathbb{D}$  be an induced poset of a sequence  $(\mathbb{D}_n, R_n^{n+1})$ .
- Then

$$S\mathbb{D} \xrightarrow{\text{homeo}} K.$$

# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 1

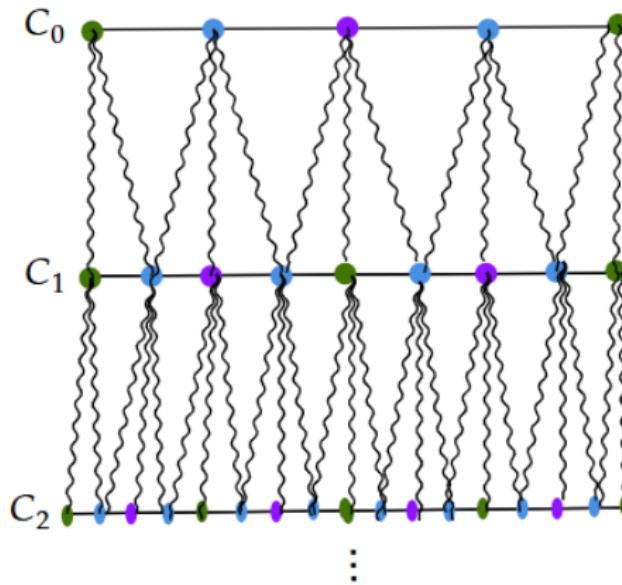
We will introduce a family of **regular covers**  $(C_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of  $I = [0, 1]$ .

Let  $C_n$  be a linear graph of length  $2^{n+2} + 1$ .



⋮

We define relations between finite sets  $C_n$  such that each element of  $C_n$  is related to 3 consecutive elements of  $C_{n+1}$  and consecutive pairs in  $C_n$  are related to exactly 1 common element in  $C_{n+1}$ .

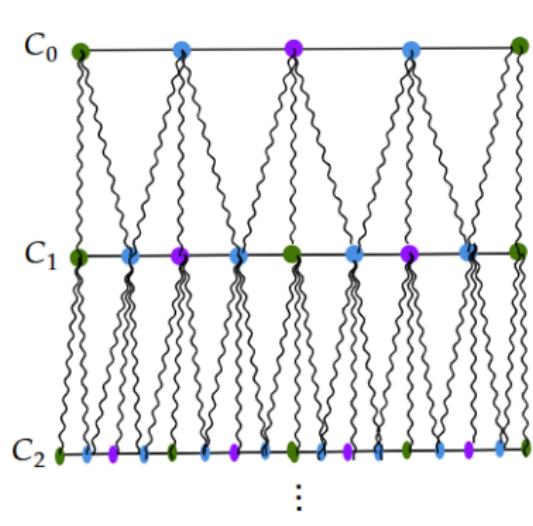
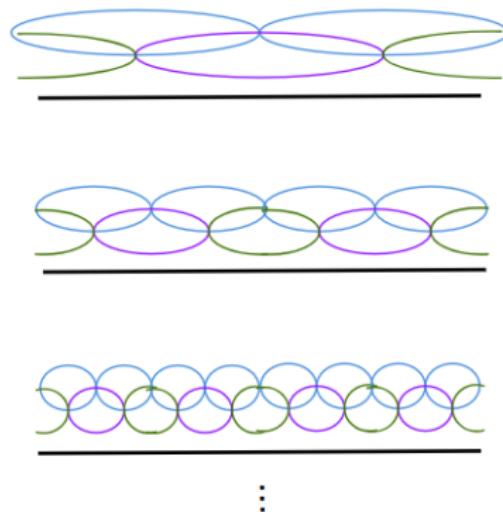


# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 3

**Definition:** graphs  $(C_n)_{n \geq 1}$  are **regular covers** of  $[0, 1]$ .

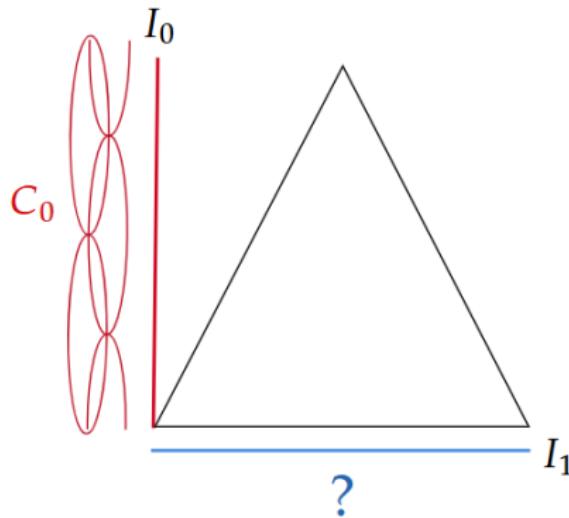
**Intuition:**

- intersection of basic sets  $\iff$  edge in graph
- containment of sets  $\iff$  order relation in poset  $C = \bigsqcup C_n$

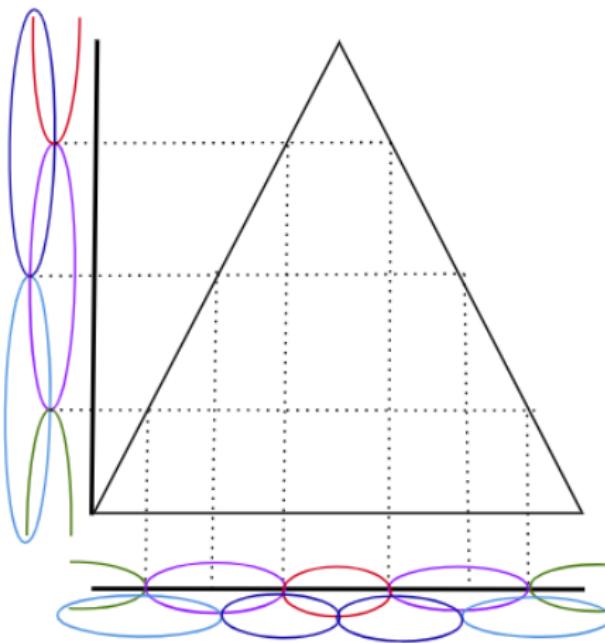


Take  $\Delta : I_1 \rightarrow I_0$ , let  $C_0$  be a cover of  $I_0$ .

What will be the preimage  $\Delta^{-1}[C_0]$ ?

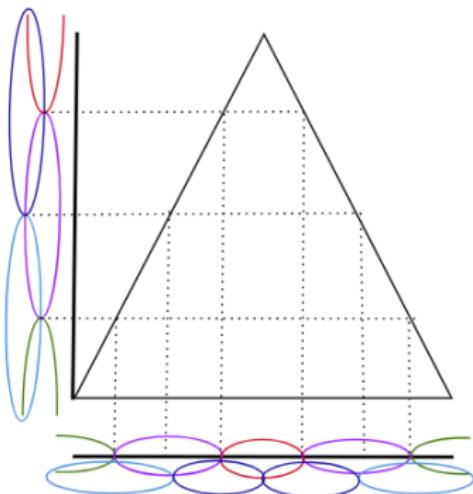


# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 5

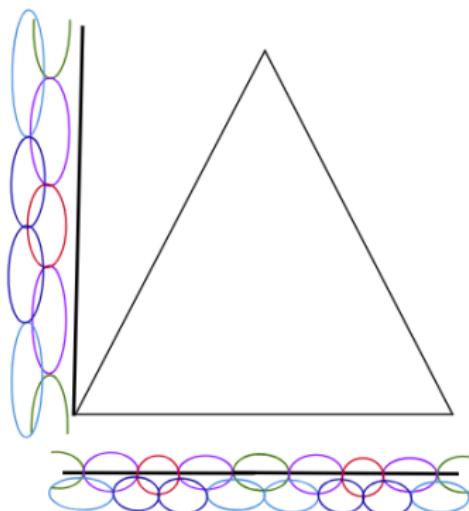


$$C_1 = \Delta^{-1}[C_0]$$

# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 6



$$C_1 = \Delta^{-1}[C_0]$$

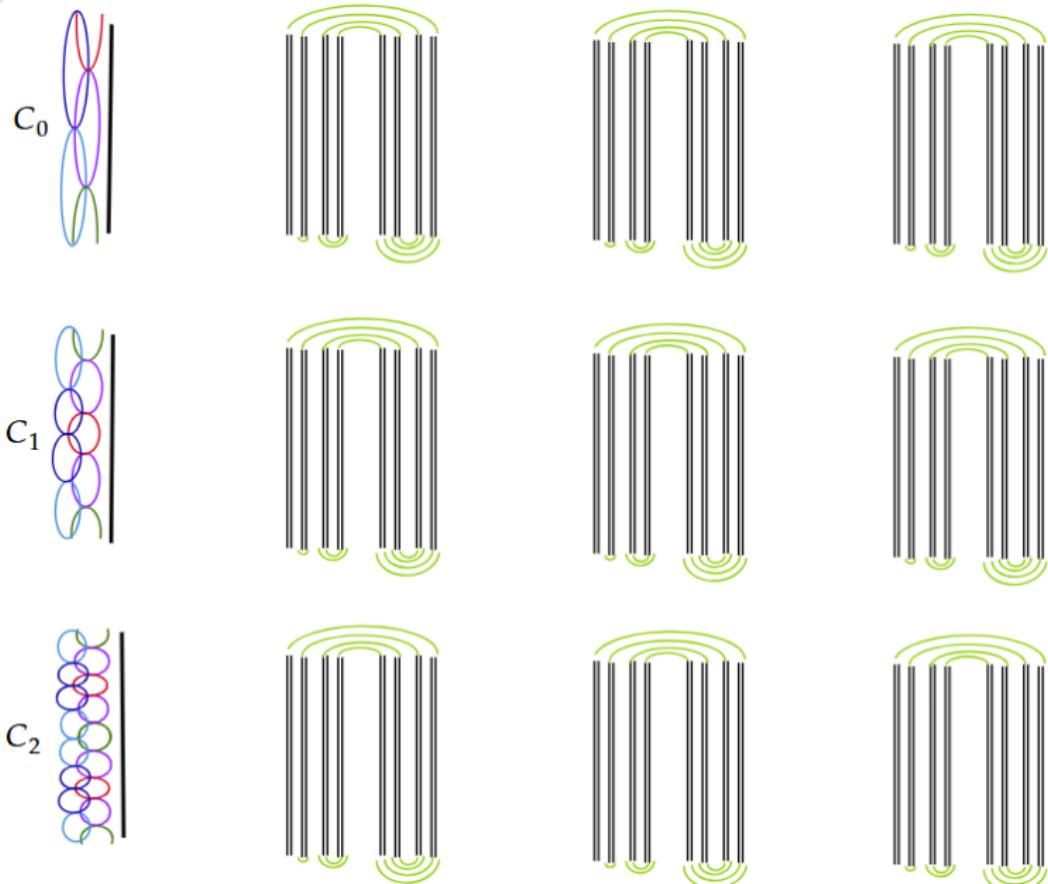


$$C_2 = \Delta^{-1}[C_1]$$

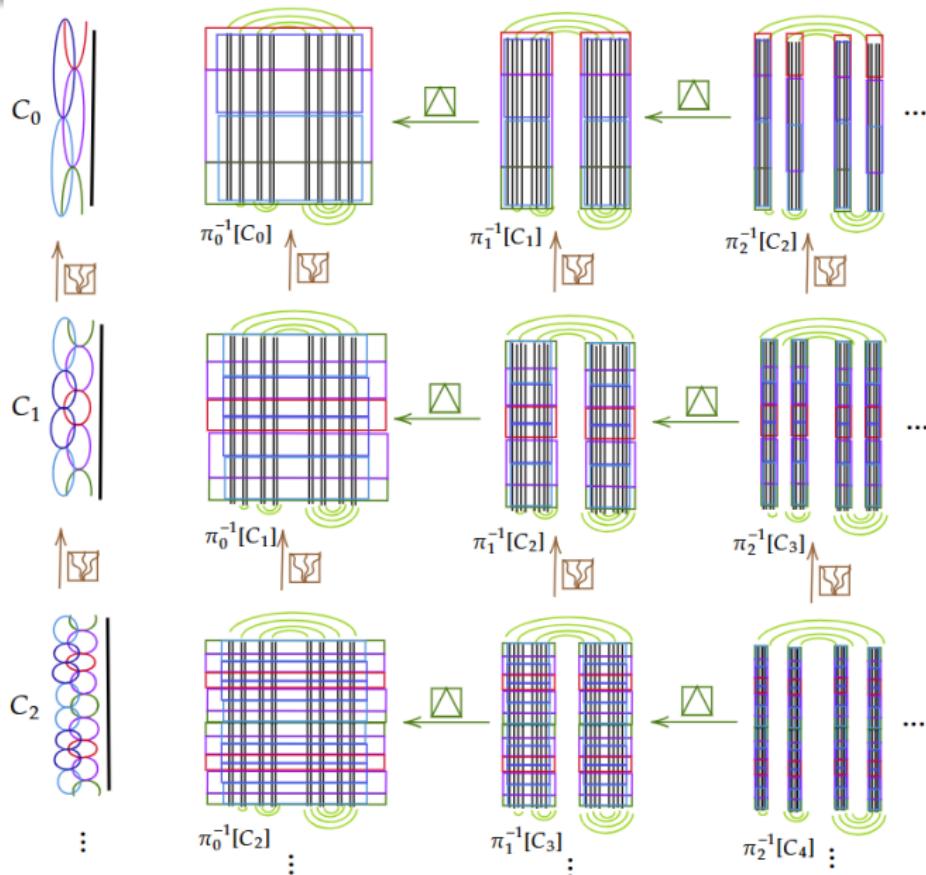
*in general,*

$$C_{n+1} = \Delta^{-1}[C_n]$$

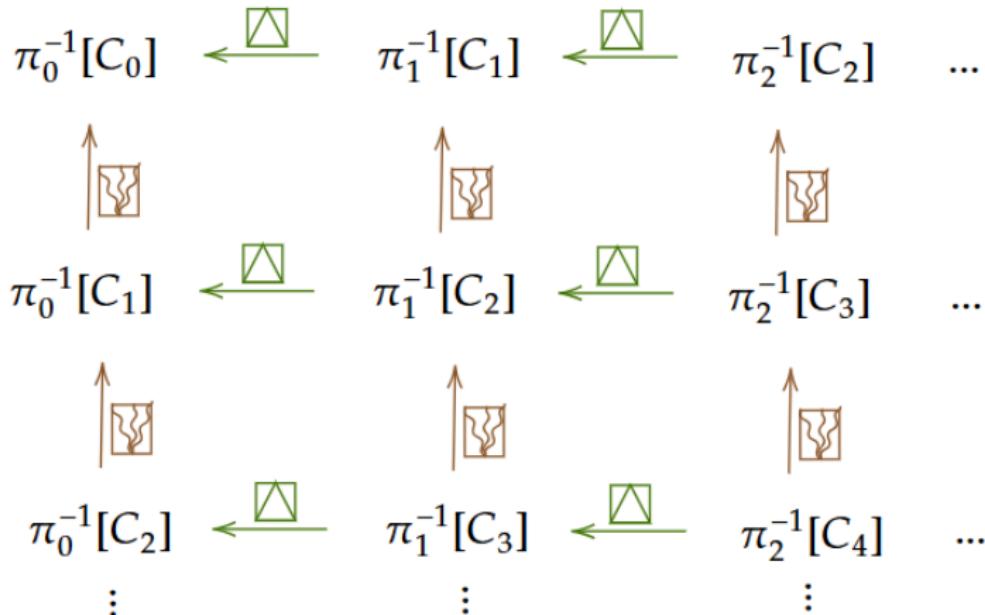
# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 7



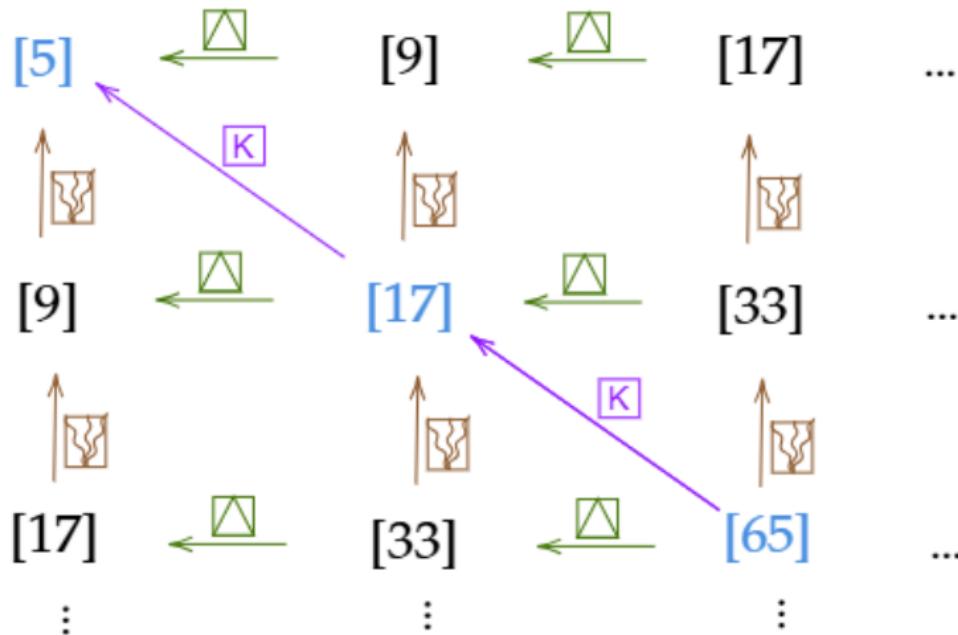
# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 8



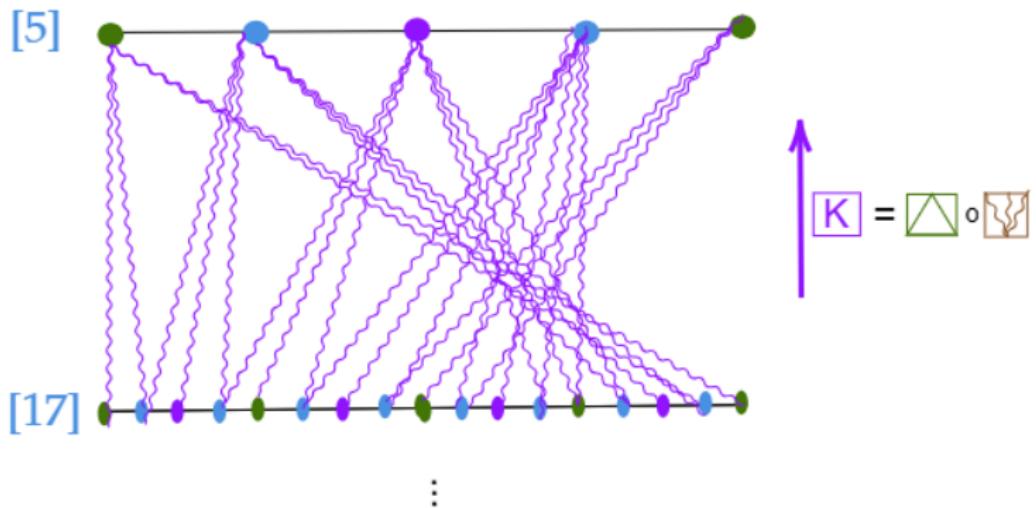
# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 9



# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 10



# Knaster continuum as a spectrum - part 11



## Theorem (BBV-2)

Let  $X$  be a non-empty compact metric space and let  $(G_n)$  be a sequence of minimal open covers of  $X$  such that

- 1  $G_n$  consolidates  $G_{n+1}$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
- 2  $G_n \cap G_{n+1} = \emptyset$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
- 3  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \max\{\text{diam}(g) : g \in G_n\} = 0$ .

Endow every  $G_n$  with the edge relation

$$g \sqcap g' \iff g \cap g' \neq \emptyset,$$

and let, for  $m \leq n$ ,  $\sqsubset_n^m \subseteq G_m \times G_n$  be the restriction of the inclusion relation on  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ . Let  $\mathbb{P}$  denote the poset  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} G_n$  with inclusion as the order relation.

Then

$$S\mathbb{P} \xrightarrow{\text{homo}} X$$

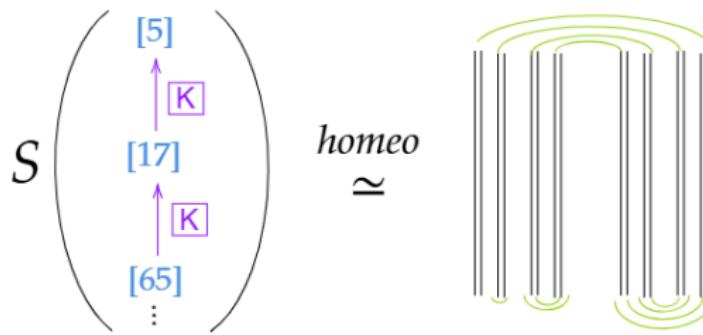
# What's the recipe for the Knaster continuum?

Knaster continuum as a spectrum

Use this theorem for a sequence

$$\pi_n^{-1}(C_{2n})$$

where  $C_n$  is the  $n$ -th regular cover of the interval  $I = [0, 1]$  and  $\pi_n : K \rightarrow I_n$  is a projection.



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Děkuju!

