

Sauer-Shelah Lemma

Ata Keskin

March 19, 2025

Abstract

The Sauer-Shelah Lemma is a fundamental result in extremal set theory and combinatorics, that guarantees the existence of a set T of size k which is shattered by a family of sets \mathcal{F} , if the cardinality of the family is greater than some bound dependent on k . A set T is said to be shattered by a family \mathcal{F} if every subset of T can be obtained as an intersection of T with some set $S \in \mathcal{F}$. The Sauer-Shelah Lemma has found use in diverse fields such as computational geometry, approximation algorithms and machine learning. In this entry we formalize the notion of shattering and prove the generalized and standard versions of the Sauer-Shelah Lemma.

Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | Definitions and lemmas about shattering | 2 |
| 2.1 | Intersection of a family of sets with a set | 2 |
| 2.2 | Definition of <i>shatters</i> , <i>VC-dim</i> and <i>shattered-by</i> | 3 |
| 3 | Lemmas involving the cardinality of sets | 5 |
| 4 | Lemmas involving the binomial coefficient | 6 |
| 5 | Sauer-Shelah Lemma | 7 |
| 5.1 | Generalized Sauer-Shelah Lemma | 8 |
| 5.2 | Sauer-Shelah Lemma | 11 |
| 5.3 | Sauer-Shelah Lemma for hypergraphs | 12 |
| 5.4 | Alternative statement of the Sauer-Shelah Lemma | 12 |

1 Introduction

The goal of this entry is to formalize the Sauer-Shelah Lemma. The result was first published by Sauer [2] and Shelah [3] independently from one another. The proof presented in this entry is based on an article by Kalai [1].

The lemma has a wide range of applications. Vapnik and Červonenkis [4] reproved and used the lemma in the context of statistical learning theory. For instance, the VC-dimension of a family of sets is defined as the size of the largest set the family shatters. In this context, the Sauer-Shelah Lemma is a result tying the VC-dimension of a family to the number of sets in the family.

2 Definitions and lemmas about shattering

In this section, we introduce the predicate *shatters* and the term for the family of sets that a family shatters *shattered-by*.

```
theory Shattering
  imports Main
begin
```

2.1 Intersection of a family of sets with a set

```
abbreviation IntF :: 'a set set  $\Rightarrow$  'a set  $\Rightarrow$  'a set set (infixl  $\langle \cap^* \rangle$  60)
  where  $F \cap^* S \equiv ((\cap) S) ' F$ 
```

```
lemma idem-IntF:
  assumes  $\bigcup A \subseteq Y$ 
  shows  $A \cap^* Y = A$ 
```

```
proof -
  from assms have  $A \subseteq A \cap^* Y$  by blast
  thus ?thesis by fastforce
qed
```

```
lemma subset-IntF:
  assumes  $A \subseteq B$ 
  shows  $A \cap^* X \subseteq B \cap^* X$ 
  using assms by (rule image-mono)
```

```
lemma Int-IntF:  $(A \cap^* Y) \cap^* X = A \cap^* (Y \cap X)$ 
```

```
proof
  show  $A \cap^* Y \cap^* X \subseteq A \cap^* (Y \cap X)$ 
  proof
    fix  $S$ 
    assume  $S \in A \cap^* Y \cap^* X$ 
    then obtain a-y where A-Y0:  $a-y \in A \cap^* Y$  and A-Y1:  $a-y \cap X = S$  by
  blast
    from A-Y0 obtain a where A0:  $a \in A$  and A1:  $a \cap Y = a-y$  by blast
    from A-Y1 A1 have  $a \cap (Y \cap X) = S$  by fast
    with A0 show  $S \in A \cap^* (Y \cap X)$  by blast
  qed
next
  show  $A \cap^* (Y \cap X) \subseteq A \cap^* Y \cap^* X$ 
  proof
```

fix S
assume $S \in A \cap^* (Y \cap X)$
then obtain a **where** $A0: a \in A$ **and** $A1: a \cap (Y \cap X) = S$ **by** *blast*
from $A0$ **have** $a \cap Y \in A \cap^* Y$ **by** *blast*
with $A1$ **show** $S \in (A \cap^* Y) \cap^* X$ **by** *blast*
qed
qed

insert distributes over (\cap^*)

lemma *insert-IntF*:

shows $\text{insert } x \text{ ' } (H \cap^* S) = (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } H) \cap^* (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } S)$

proof

show $\text{insert } x \text{ ' } (H \cap^* S) \subseteq (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } H) \cap^* (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } S)$

proof

fix $y-x$

assume $y-x \in \text{insert } x \text{ ' } (H \cap^* S)$

then obtain y **where** $0: y \in (H \cap^* S)$ **and** $1: y-x = y \cup \{x\}$ **by** *blast*

from 0 **obtain** yh **where** $2: yh \in H$ **and** $3: y = yh \cap S$ **by** *blast*

from 1 3 **have** $y-x = (yh \cup \{x\}) \cap (S \cup \{x\})$ **by** *simp*

with 2 **show** $y-x \in (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } H) \cap^* (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } S)$ **by** *blast*

qed

next

show $\text{insert } x \text{ ' } H \cap^* (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } S) \subseteq \text{insert } x \text{ ' } (H \cap^* S)$

proof

fix $y-x$

assume $y-x \in \text{insert } x \text{ ' } H \cap^* (\text{insert } x \text{ ' } S)$

then obtain $yh-x$ **where** $0: yh-x \in (\lambda Y. Y \cup \{x\}) \text{ ' } H$ **and** $1: y-x = yh-x \cap (S \cup \{x\})$ **by** *blast*

from 0 **obtain** yh **where** $2: yh \in H$ **and** $3: yh-x = yh \cup \{x\}$ **by** *blast*

from 1 3 **have** $y-x = (yh \cap S) \cup \{x\}$ **by** *simp*

with 2 **show** $y-x \in \text{insert } x \text{ ' } (H \cap^* S)$ **by** *blast*

qed

qed

2.2 Definition of *shatters*, *VC-dim* and *shattered-by*

abbreviation *shatters* :: 'a set set \Rightarrow 'a set \Rightarrow bool (**infixl** <*shatters*> 70)

where $H \text{ shatters } A \equiv H \cap^* A = \text{Pow } A$

definition *VC-dim* :: 'a set set \Rightarrow nat

where $\text{VC-dim } F = \text{Sup } \{\text{card } S \mid S. F \text{ shatters } S\}$

definition *shattered-by* :: 'a set set \Rightarrow 'a set set

where $\text{shattered-by } F \equiv \{A. F \text{ shatters } A\}$

lemma *shattered-by-in-Pow*:

shows $\text{shattered-by } F \subseteq \text{Pow } (\bigcup F)$

unfolding *shattered-by-def* **by** *blast*

lemma *subset-shatters*:

assumes $A \subseteq B$ **and** A *shatters* X
shows B *shatters* X
proof –
from *assms*(1) **have** $A \cap^* X \subseteq B \cap^* X$ **by** *blast*
with *assms*(2) **have** $Pow\ X \subseteq B \cap^* X$ **by** *presburger*
thus *?thesis* **by** *blast*
qed

lemma *supset-shatters*:
assumes $Y \subseteq X$ **and** A *shatters* X
shows A *shatters* Y
proof –
have $h: \bigcup(Pow\ Y) \subseteq Y$ **by** *simp*
from *assms* **have** $0: Pow\ Y \subseteq A \cap^* X$ **by** *auto*
from *subset-IntF*[OF 0, of Y] *Int-IntF*[of $Y\ X\ A$] *idem-IntF*[OF h] **have** $Pow\ Y \subseteq A \cap^* (X \cap Y)$ **by** *argo*
with *Int-absorb2*[OF *assms*(1)] *Int-commute*[of $X\ Y$] **have** $Pow\ Y \subseteq A \cap^* Y$
by *presburger*
then show *?thesis* **by** *fast*
qed

lemma *shatters-empty*:
assumes $F \neq \{\}$
shows F *shatters* $\{\}$
using *assms* **by** *fastforce*

lemma *subset-shattered-by*:
assumes $A \subseteq B$
shows *shattered-by* $A \subseteq$ *shattered-by* B
unfolding *shattered-by-def* **using** *subset-shatters*[OF *assms*] **by** *force*

lemma *finite-shattered-by*:
assumes *finite* $(\bigcup F)$
shows *finite* (*shattered-by* F)
using *assms rev-finite-subset*[OF - *shattered-by-in-Pow*, of F] **by** *fast*

The following example shows that requiring finiteness of a family of sets is not enough, to ensure that *shattered-by* also stays finite.

lemma $\exists F::nat\ set\ set. finite\ F \wedge infinite\ (shattered-by\ F)$
proof –
let $?F = \{odd - \{True\}, odd - \{False\}\}$
have $0: finite\ ?F$ **by** *simp*

let $?f = \lambda n::nat. \{n\}$
let $?N = range\ ?f$
have *inj* $(\lambda n. \{n\})$ **by** *simp*
with *infinite-iff-countable-subset*[of $?N$] **have** *infinite-N*: *infinite* $?N$ **by** *blast*
have *F-shatters-any-singleton*: $?F$ *shatters* $\{n::nat\}$ **for** n
proof –

```

have Pow-n: Pow {n} = {{n}, {}} by blast
have 1: Pow {n} ⊆ ?F ∩* {n}
proof (cases odd n)
  case True
  from True have (odd -' {False}) ∩ {n} = {} by blast
  hence 0: {} ∈ ?F ∩* {n} by blast
  from True have (odd -' {True}) ∩ {n} = {n} by blast
  hence 1: {n} ∈ ?F ∩* {n} by blast
  from 0 1 Pow-n show ?thesis by simp
next
  case False
  from False have (odd -' {True}) ∩ {n} = {} by blast
  hence 0: {} ∈ ?F ∩* {n} by blast
  from False have (odd -' {False}) ∩ {n} = {n} by blast
  hence 1: {n} ∈ ?F ∩* {n} by blast
  from 0 1 Pow-n show ?thesis by simp
qed
thus ?thesis by fastforce
qed
then have ?N ⊆ shattered-by ?F unfolding shattered-by-def by force
from 0 infinite-super[OF this infinite-N] show ?thesis by blast
qed
end

```

3 Lemmas involving the cardinality of sets

In this section, we prove some lemmas that make use of the term *card* or provide bounds for it.

```

theory Card-Lemmas
  imports Main
begin

```

```

lemma card-Int-copy:

```

```

  assumes finite X and A ∪ B ⊆ X and ∃f. inj-on f (A ∩ B) ∧ (A ∪ B) ∩ (f '(A ∩ B)) = {} ∧ f '(A ∩ B) ⊆ X

```

```

  shows card A + card B ≤ card X

```

```

proof -

```

```

  from rev-finite-subset[OF assms(1), of A] rev-finite-subset[OF assms(1), of B] assms(2)

```

```

  have finite-A: finite A and finite-B: finite B by blast+

```

```

  then have finite-A-Un-B: finite (A ∪ B) and finite-A-Int-B: finite (A ∩ B) by blast+

```

```

  from assms(3) obtain f where f-inj-on: inj-on f (A ∩ B)

```

```

    and f-disjnt: (A ∪ B) ∩ (f '(A ∩ B)) = {}

```

```

    and f-ijm-in: f '(A ∩ B) ⊆ X by blast

```

```

  from finite-A-Int-B have finite-f-ijm: finite (f '(A ∩ B)) by blast

```

```

  from assms(2) f-ijm-in have union-in: (A ∪ B) ∪ f '(A ∩ B) ⊆ X by blast

```

from *card-Un-Int*[*OF finite-A finite-B*] **have** $\text{card } A + \text{card } B = \text{card } (A \cup B) + \text{card } (A \cap B)$.
also from *card-image*[*OF f-inj-on*] **have** $\dots = \text{card } (A \cup B) + \text{card } (f \text{ ' } (A \cap B))$ **by** *presburger*
also from *card-Un-disjoint*[*OF finite-A-Un-B finite-f-img f-disjnt*] **have** $\dots = \text{card } ((A \cup B) \cup f \text{ ' } (A \cap B))$ **by** *argo*
also from *card-mono*[*OF assms(1) union-in*] **have** $\dots \leq \text{card } X$ **by** *blast*
finally show *?thesis* .
qed

lemma *finite-diff-not-empty*:

assumes *finite Y* **and** $\text{card } Y < \text{card } X$
shows $X - Y \neq \{\}$

proof

assume $X - Y = \{\}$
hence $X \subseteq Y$ **by** *simp*
from *card-mono*[*OF assms(1) this*] *assms(2)* **show** *False* **by** *linarith*
qed

lemma *obtain-difference-element*:

fixes $F :: 'a \text{ set set}$
assumes $2 \leq \text{card } F$
obtains x **where** $x \in \bigcup F$ $x \notin \bigcap F$

proof –

from *assms card-le-Suc-iff*[*of 1 F*] **obtain** $A F'$ **where** $0: F = \text{insert } A F'$ **and**
 $1: A \notin F'$ **and** $2: 1 \leq \text{card } F'$ **by** *auto*

from 2 *card-le-Suc-iff*[*of 0 F'*] **obtain** $B F''$ **where** $3: F' = \text{insert } B F''$ **by**
auto

from 1 3 **have** *A-noteq-B*: $A \neq B$ **by** *blast*
from 0 3 **have** *A-in-F*: $A \in F$ **and** *B-in-F*: $B \in F$ **by** *blast+*
from *A-noteq-B* **have** $(A - B) \cup (B - A) \neq \{\}$ **by** *simp*
with *A-in-F B-in-F* **that** **show** *thesis* **by** *blast*

qed

end

4 Lemmas involving the binomial coefficient

In this section, we prove lemmas that use the term for the binomial coefficient *choose*.

theory *Binomial-Lemmas*

imports *Main*

begin

lemma *choose-mono*:

assumes $x \leq y$
shows $x \text{ choose } n \leq y \text{ choose } n$

proof –
have *finite* $\{0..<y\}$ **by** *blast*
with *finite-Pow-iff*[*of* $\{0..<y\}$] **have** *finiteness*: *finite* $\{K \in \text{Pow } \{0..<y\}. \text{card } K = n\}$ **by** *simp*
from *assms* **have** $\text{Pow } \{0..<x\} \subseteq \text{Pow } \{0..<y\}$ **by** *force*
then **have** $\{K \in \text{Pow } \{0..<x\}. \text{card } K = n\} \subseteq \{K \in \text{Pow } \{0..<y\}. \text{card } K = n\}$ **by** *blast*
from *card-mono*[*OF finiteness this*] **show** *?thesis unfolding binomial-def* .
qed

lemma *choose-row-sum-set*:

assumes *finite* $(\bigcup F)$
shows $\text{card } \{S. S \subseteq \bigcup F \wedge \text{card } S \leq k\} = (\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i)$
proof (*induction k*)
case *0*
from *rev-finite-subset*[*OF assms*] **have** $S \subseteq \bigcup F \wedge \text{card } S \leq 0 \iff S = \{\}$ **for** *S* **by** *fastforce*
then **show** *?case* **by** *simp*
next
case (*Suc k*)
let $?FS = \{S. S \subseteq \bigcup F \wedge \text{card } S \leq \text{Suc } k\}$
and $?F\text{-}Asm = \{S. S \subseteq \bigcup F \wedge \text{card } S \leq k\}$
and $?F\text{-}Step = \{S. S \subseteq \bigcup F \wedge \text{card } S = \text{Suc } k\}$

from *finite-Pow-iff*[*of* $\bigcup F$] *assms* **have** *finite-Pow-Un-F*: *finite* $(\text{Pow } (\bigcup F))$..
have $?F\text{-}Asm \subseteq \text{Pow } (\bigcup F)$ **and** $?F\text{-}Step \subseteq \text{Pow } (\bigcup F)$ **by** *fast+*
with *rev-finite-subset*[*OF finite-Pow-Un-F*] **have** *finite-F-Asm*: *finite* $?F\text{-}Asm$
and *finite-F-Step*: *finite* $?F\text{-}Step$ **by** *presburger+*

have *F-Un*: $?FS = ?F\text{-}Asm \cup ?F\text{-}Step$ **and** *F-disjoint*: $?F\text{-}Asm \cap ?F\text{-}Step = \{\}$
by *fastforce+*
from *card-Un-disjoint*[*OF finite-F-Asm finite-F-Step F-disjoint*] *F-Un* **have** $\text{card } ?FS = \text{card } ?F\text{-}Asm + \text{card } ?F\text{-}Step$ **by** *argo*
also **from** *Suc* **have** $\dots = (\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i) + \text{card } ?F\text{-}Step$ **by** *argo*
also **from** *n-subsets*[*OF assms, of Suc k*] **have** $\dots = (\sum_{i \leq \text{Suc } k}. \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i)$ **by** *force*
finally **show** *?case* **by** *blast*
qed

end

5 Sauer-Shelah Lemma

theory *Sauer-Shelah-Lemma*

imports *Shattering Card-Lemmas Binomial-Lemmas*
begin

5.1 Generalized Sauer-Shelah Lemma

To prove the Sauer-Shelah Lemma, we will first prove a slightly stronger fact that every family F shatters at least as many sets as $\text{card } F$. We first fix an element $x \in \bigcup F$ and consider the subfamily $F0$ of sets in the family not containing it. By induction, $F0$ shatters at least as many elements of F as $\text{card } F0$. Next, we consider the subfamily $F1$ of sets in the family that contain x . Again, by induction, $F1$ shatters as many elements of F as its cardinality. The number of elements of F shattered by $F0$ and $F1$ sum up to at least $\text{card } F0 + \text{card } F1 = \text{card } F$. When a set $S \in F$ is shattered by only one of the two subfamilies, say $F0$, it contributes one unit to the set *shattered-by* $F0$ and to *shattered-by* F . However, when the set is shattered by both subfamilies, both S and $S \cup \{x\}$ are in *shattered-by* F , so S contributes two units to *shattered-by* $F0 \cup \text{shattered-by } F1$. Therefore, the cardinality of *shattered-by* F is at least equal to the cardinality of *shattered-by* $F0 \cup \text{shattered-by } F1$, which is at least $\text{card } F$.

lemma *sauer-shelah-0*:

fixes $F :: 'a \text{ set set}$
shows $\text{finite } (\bigcup F) \implies \text{card } F \leq \text{card } (\text{shattered-by } F)$
proof (*induction* F *rule: measure-induct-rule*[of card])
case (*less* F)
note $\text{finite-}F = \text{finite-UnionD}$ [OF *less*(2)]
note $\text{finite-sh}F = \text{finite-shattered-by}$ [OF *less*(2)]
show ?*case*
proof (*cases* $2 \leq \text{card } F$)
case *True*
from *obtain-difference-element*[OF *True*]
obtain $x :: 'a$ **where** $x\text{-in-Union-}F: x \in \bigcup F$
and $x\text{-not-in-Int-}F: x \notin \bigcap F$ **by** *blast*

Define $F0$ as the subfamily of F containing sets that don't contain x .

let $?F0 = \{S \in F. x \notin S\}$
from $x\text{-in-Union-}F$ **have** $F0\text{-psubset-}F: ?F0 \subset F$ **by** *blast*
from $F0\text{-psubset-}F$ **have** $F0\text{-in-}F: ?F0 \subseteq F$ **by** *blast*
from $\text{subset-shattered-by}$ [OF $F0\text{-in-}F$] **have** $\text{sh}F0\text{-subset-sh}F: \text{shattered-by } ?F0 \subseteq \text{shattered-by } F$.
from $F0\text{-in-}F$ **have** $\text{Un-}F0\text{-in-Un-}F: \bigcup ?F0 \subseteq \bigcup F$ **by** *blast*

$F0$ shatters at least as many sets as $\text{card } F0$ by the induction hypothesis.

note $\text{IH-}F0 = \text{less}(1)$ [OF psubset-card-mono [OF $\text{finite-}F$ $F0\text{-psubset-}F$] *rev-finite-subset*[OF $\text{less}(2)$ $\text{Un-}F0\text{-in-Un-}F$]]

Define $F1$ as the subfamily of F containing sets that contain x .

let $?F1 = \{S \in F. x \in S\}$
from $x\text{-not-in-Int-}F$ **have** $F1\text{-psubset-}F: ?F1 \subset F$ **by** *blast*
from $F1\text{-psubset-}F$ **have** $F1\text{-in-}F: ?F1 \subseteq F$ **by** *blast*
from $\text{subset-shattered-by}$ [OF $F1\text{-in-}F$] **have** $\text{sh}F1\text{-subset-sh}F: \text{shattered-by } ?F1 \subseteq \text{shattered-by } F$.

from $F1$ -in- F **have** $Un-F1$ -in- $Un-F$: $\bigcup ?F1 \subseteq \bigcup F$ **by** *blast*

$F1$ shatters at least as many sets as $card\ F1$ by the induction hypothesis.

note $IH-F1 = less(1)[OF\ psubset-card-mono[OF\ finite-F\ F1-psubset-F]\ rev-finite-subset[OF\ less(2)\ Un-F1-in-Un-F]]$

from $shF0$ -subset- shF $shF1$ -subset- shF

have $shattered-subset$: $(shattered-by\ ?F0) \cup (shattered-by\ ?F1) \subseteq shattered-by\ F$ **by** *simp*

There is a set with the same cardinality as the intersection of $shattered-by\ F0$ and $shattered-by\ F1$ which is disjoint from their union and is also contained in $shattered-by\ F$.

have f -copies-the-intersection:

$\exists f. inj-on\ f\ (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1) \wedge$
 $(shattered-by\ ?F0 \cup shattered-by\ ?F1) \cap (f\ ' (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1)) = \{\}$ \wedge
 $f\ ' (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1) \subseteq shattered-by\ F$

proof

have x -not-in- $shattered$: $\forall S \in (shattered-by\ ?F0) \cup (shattered-by\ ?F1). x \notin S$
unfolding $shattered-by-def$ **by** *blast*

This set is precisely the image of the intersection under $insert\ x$.

let $?f = insert\ x$

have 0 : $inj-on\ ?f\ (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1)$

proof

fix $X\ Y$

assume $x0$: $X \in (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1)$ **and** $y0$: $Y \in (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1)$

and 0 : $?f\ X = ?f\ Y$

from x -not-in- $shattered\ x0$ **have** $X = ?f\ X - \{x\}$ **by** *blast*

also from 0 **have** $\dots = ?f\ Y - \{x\}$ **by** *argo*

also from x -not-in- $shattered\ y0$ **have** $\dots = Y$ **by** *blast*

finally show $X = Y$.

qed

The set is disjoint from the union.

have 1 : $(shattered-by\ ?F0 \cup shattered-by\ ?F1) \cap ?f\ ' (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1) = \{\}$

proof (*rule ccontr*)

assume $(shattered-by\ ?F0 \cup shattered-by\ ?F1) \cap ?f\ ' (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1) \neq \{\}$

then obtain S **where** 10 : $S \in (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cup shattered-by\ ?F1)$

and 11 : $S \in ?f\ ' (shattered-by\ ?F0 \cap shattered-by\ ?F1)$ **by** *auto*

from 10 x -not-in- $shattered$ **have** $x \notin S$ **by** *blast*

with 11 **show** *False* **by** *blast*

qed

This set is also in $shattered-by\ F$.

have 2: $?f \text{ ' } (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0 \cap shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1) \subseteq shattered\text{-}by \ F$
proof
fix $S\text{-}x$
assume $S\text{-}x \in ?f \text{ ' } (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0 \cap shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1)$
then obtain S **where** 20: $S \in shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0$
and 21: $S \in shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1$
and 22: $S\text{-}x = ?f \ S$ **by** *blast*
from $x\text{-}not\text{-}in\text{-}shattered \ 20$ **have** $x\text{-}not\text{-}in\text{-}S$: $x \notin S$ **by** *blast*

from 22 *Pow-insert*[of $x \ S$] **have** $Pow \ S\text{-}x = Pow \ S \cup ?f \text{ ' } Pow \ S$ **by** *fast*
also from 20 **have** $\dots = (?F0 \ \cap^* \ S) \cup (?f \text{ ' } Pow \ S)$ **unfolding** *shattered-by-def* **by** *blast*
also from 21 **have** $\dots = (?F0 \ \cap^* \ S) \cup (?f \text{ ' } (?F1 \ \cap^* \ S))$ **unfolding** *shattered-by-def* **by** *force*
also from *insert-IntF*[of $x \ S \ ?F1$] **have** $\dots = (?F0 \ \cap^* \ S) \cup (?f \text{ ' } ?F1 \ \cap^* \ (?f \ S))$ **by** *argo*
also from 22 **have** $\dots = (?F0 \ \cap^* \ S) \cup (?F1 \ \cap^* \ S\text{-}x)$ **by** *blast*
also from 22 **have** $\dots = (?F0 \ \cap^* \ S\text{-}x) \cup (?F1 \ \cap^* \ S\text{-}x)$ **by** *blast*
also from *subset-IntF*[OF $F0\text{-}in\text{-}F$, of $S\text{-}x$] *subset-IntF*[OF $F1\text{-}in\text{-}F$, of $S\text{-}x$]
have $\dots \subseteq (F \ \cap^* \ S\text{-}x)$ **by** *blast*
finally have $Pow \ S\text{-}x \subseteq (F \ \cap^* \ S\text{-}x)$.
thus $S\text{-}x \in shattered\text{-}by \ F$ **unfolding** *shattered-by-def* **by** *blast*
qed

from 0 1 2 **show** $inj\text{-}on \ ?f \ (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0 \cap shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1) \wedge$
 $(shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0 \cup shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1) \cap (?f \text{ ' } (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0 \cap shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1)) = \{\}$ \wedge
 $?f \text{ ' } (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0 \cap shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1) \subseteq shattered\text{-}by \ F$ **by** *blast*
qed

have $F0\text{-}union\text{-}F1\text{-}is\text{-}F$: $?F0 \cup ?F1 = F$ **by** *fastforce*
from $finite\text{-}F$ **have** $finite\text{-}F0$: $finite \ ?F0$ **and** $finite\text{-}F1$: $finite \ ?F1$ **by** *fastforce+*
have $disjoint\text{-}F0\text{-}F1$: $?F0 \cap ?F1 = \{\}$ **by** *fastforce*

We have the following lower bound on the cardinality of *shattered-by* F :
from $F0\text{-}union\text{-}F1\text{-}is\text{-}F$ *card-Un-disjoint*[OF $finite\text{-}F0 \ finite\text{-}F1 \ disjoint\text{-}F0\text{-}F1$]

have $card \ F = card \ ?F0 + card \ ?F1$ **by** *argo*
also from *IH-F0*
have $\dots \leq card \ (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0) + card \ ?F1$ **by** *linarith*
also from *IH-F1*
have $\dots \leq card \ (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F0) + card \ (shattered\text{-}by \ ?F1)$ **by** *linarith*
also from *card-Int-copy*[OF $finite\text{-}shF \ shattered\text{-}subset \ f\text{-}copies\text{-}the\text{-}intersection$]
have $\dots \leq card \ (shattered\text{-}by \ F)$ **by** *argo*
finally show *?thesis* .
next

If F contains less than 2 sets, the statement follows trivially.
case *False*

hence $\text{card } F = 0 \vee \text{card } F = 1$ **by force**
thus *?thesis*
proof
 assume $\text{card } F = 0$
 thus *?thesis* **by auto**
next
 assume *asm*: $\text{card } F = 1$
 hence $F\text{-not-empty}$: $F \neq \{\}$ **by fastforce**
 from *shatters-empty*[*OF F-not-empty*] **have** $\{\{\}\} \subseteq \text{shattered-by } F$ **unfolding**
shattered-by-def **by fastforce**
 from *card-mono*[*OF finite-shF this*] *asm* **show** *?thesis* **by fastforce**
 qed
qed
qed

5.2 Sauer-Shelah Lemma

The generalized version immediately implies the Sauer-Shelah Lemma, because only $(\sum_{i \leq k} n \text{ choose } i)$ of the subsets of an n -item universe have cardinality less than $k + 1$. Thus, when $(\sum_{i \leq k} n \text{ choose } i) < \text{card } F$, there are not enough sets to be shattered, so one of the shattered sets must have cardinality at least $k + 1$.

corollary *sauer-shelah*:

fixes $F :: 'a \text{ set set}$
assumes *finite* $(\bigcup F)$ **and** $(\sum_{i \leq k} \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i) < \text{card } F$
shows $\exists S. (F \text{ shatters } S \wedge \text{card } S = k + 1)$
proof –
 let $?K = \{S. S \subseteq \bigcup F \wedge \text{card } S \leq k\}$
 from *finite-Pow-iff*[*of F*] *assms*(1) **have** *finite-Pow-Un*: *finite* $(\text{Pow } (\bigcup F))$ **by**
fast

 from *sauer-shelah-0*[*OF assms*(1)] *assms*(2) **have** $(\sum_{i \leq k} \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i) < \text{card } (\text{shattered-by } F)$ **by** *linarith*
 with *choose-row-sum-set*[*OF assms*(1), *of k*] **have** $\text{card } ?K < \text{card } (\text{shattered-by } F)$ **by** *presburger*

 from *finite-diff-not-empty*[*OF finite-subset*[*OF - finite-Pow-Un*] *this*]
 obtain S **where** $S \in \text{shattered-by } F - ?K$ **by** *blast*
 then **have** $F\text{-shatters-}S$: $F \text{ shatters } S$ **and** $S \subseteq \bigcup F$ **and** $\neg(S \subseteq \bigcup F \wedge \text{card } S \leq k)$ **unfolding** *shattered-by-def* **by** *blast+*
 then **have** *card-S-ge-Suc-k*: $k + 1 \leq \text{card } S$ **by** *simp*
 from *obtain-subset-with-card-n*[*OF card-S-ge-Suc-k*] **obtain** S' **where** $\text{card } S' = k + 1$ **and** $S' \subseteq S$ **by** *blast*
 from *this*(1) *supset-shatters*[*OF this*(2) $F\text{-shatters-}S$] **show** *?thesis* **by** *blast*
 qed

5.3 Sauer-Shelah Lemma for hypergraphs

If we designate X to be the set of hyperedges and S the set of vertices, we can also formulate the Sauer-Shelah Lemma in terms of hypergraphs. In this form, the statement provides a sufficient condition for the existence of an hyperedge of a given cardinality which is shattered by the set of edges.

corollary *sauer-shelah-2*:

fixes $X :: 'a \text{ set set}$ **and** $S :: 'a \text{ set}$

assumes *finite* S **and** $X \subseteq \text{Pow } S$ **and** $(\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } S \text{ choose } i) < \text{card } X$

shows $\exists Y. (X \text{ shatters } Y \wedge \text{card } Y = k + 1)$

proof –

from *assms(2)* **have** $0: \bigcup X \subseteq S$ **by** *blast*

then have $(\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } (\bigcup X) \text{ choose } i) \leq (\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } S \text{ choose } i)$

by (*simp add: assms(1) card-mono choose-mono sum-mono*)

then show *?thesis*

using 0 *assms finite-subset sauer-shelah* **by** *fastforce*

qed

5.4 Alternative statement of the Sauer-Shelah Lemma

We can also state the Sauer-Shelah Lemma in terms of the *VC-dim*. If the VC-dimension of F is k then F can consist at most of $(\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i)$ sets which is in $\mathcal{O}(\text{card } (\bigcup F) \uparrow^k)$.

corollary *sauer-shelah-alt*:

assumes *finite* $(\bigcup F)$ **and** $\text{VC-dim } F = k$

shows $\text{card } F \leq (\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i)$

proof (*rule ccontr*)

assume $\neg \text{card } F \leq (\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i)$ **hence** $(\sum_{i \leq k}. \text{card } (\bigcup F) \text{ choose } i) < \text{card } F$ **by** *linarith*

then obtain S **where** F *shatters* S **and** $\text{card } S = k + 1$

by (*meson assms(1) sauer-shelah*)

then have $\S: k + 1 \in \{\text{card } S \mid S. F \text{ shatters } S\}$

by *simpmetis*

have *finite* $\{A. F \text{ shatters } A\}$

by (*metis <finite (bigcup F)> finite-shattered-by shattered-by-def*)

then have *bdd-above* $\{\text{card } A \mid A. F \text{ shatters } A\}$

by *simp*

then have $k + 1 \leq \text{Sup } \{\text{card } A \mid A. F \text{ shatters } A\}$

by (*smt (verit, best) § cSup-upper*)

then have $k + 1 \leq \text{VC-dim } F$

by (*simp add: VC-dim-def*)

then show *False*

using *assms(2)* **by** *auto*

qed

end

References

- [1] G. Kalai. Extremal combinatorics iii: Some basic theorems, Sep 2008.
- [2] N. Sauer. On the density of families of sets. *Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series A*, 13(1):145–147, 1972.
- [3] S. Shelah. A combinatorial problem; stability and order for models and theories in infinitary languages. *Pacific Journal of Mathematics*, 41(1):247 – 261, 1972.
- [4] V. N. Vapnik and A. J. Červonenkis. The uniform convergence of frequencies of the appearance of events to their probabilities. *Teor. Verojatnost. i Primenen.*, 16:264–279, 1971.