# The generic choice of a cut 

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## Cuts



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- Reverse mathematics

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Plan

- Topological definition
- The opposite of being special
- Functions under which the cut is closed
- Model theoretic properties


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The space $\mathscr{C}$ consists of all $Y$-cuts, and the basic open sets are

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Proposition (Kotlarski 1984)
$\mathscr{C}$ is homeomorphic to the Cantor space $2^{\omega}$.

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There is a smallest one amongst the comeagre sets in $\mathscr{C}$ that are invariant under the automorphisms of $M$.

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Definition (Kaye 2008)
The set of generic cuts is this smallest comeagre set.

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## Example

$\mathbb{N}$ is a special cut over every $c \in M$.


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Theorem (Kaye-W 2010)


A $Y$-cut $I$ is generic if and only if

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A generic cut can move about freely in its neighbourhood.

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- Let $c \in M$. A function $F: M \rightarrow M$ is definable over $c$ if there is $\varphi(x, y, z) \in \mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{A}}$ such that for all $x, y \in M$,

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There are no important changes near a generic cut.

## The theory of $Y$-cuts

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Normal Form Lemma
Every $\exists$ formula in $\mathscr{L}_{\text {cut }}$ is equivalent over PA $_{Y}$ to

$$
\exists x \in \mathbb{I} \quad F(x, \bar{z})>\mathbb{I}
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for some Skolem function $F$.

## Existential closedness

Definition
An existentially closed model of a theory $T$ is a model $\mathfrak{M} \models T$ such that for all $\exists$ formula $\varphi(\bar{z})$ and all $\bar{c} \in \mathfrak{M}$,
if there is a model of $T$ extending $\mathfrak{M}$ satisfying $\varphi(\bar{c})$, then $\mathfrak{M} \models \varphi(\bar{c})$.

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Theorem (Kaye-W 2010 \& $2013^{+}$, W)
A $Y$-cut $I$ is generic if and only if the following hold.
(a) $(M, I)$ is an existentially closed model of $\mathrm{PA}_{Y}$.

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Theorem (Kaye-W 2010 \& $2013^{+}$, W)
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(b) For every $c \in M$,

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\left\{(\min x>I)(\varphi(x, c)): \varphi \in \mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{A}} \text { for which the min exists }\right\}
$$

is bounded below in $M \backslash I$.

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$$
\ulcorner\varphi\urcorner \in C \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad(M, I) \models \varphi(c) .
$$

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Genericity is a robust notion!

