

## THE $\ell^1$ -INDICES OF TSIRELSON TYPE SPACES

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ABSTRACT. If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are countable ordinals such that  $\beta \neq 0$ , denote by  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$  the completion of  $c_{00}$  with respect to the implicitly defined norm

$$\|x\| = \max\{\|x\|_{S_\alpha}, \frac{1}{2} \sup \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i x\|\},$$

where the supremum is taken over all finite subsets  $E_1, \dots, E_j$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $E_1 < \dots < E_j$  and  $\{\min E_1, \dots, \min E_j\} \in S_\beta$ . It is shown that the Bourgain  $\ell^1$ -index of  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$  is  $\omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega}$ . In particular, if  $\omega_1 > \alpha = \omega^{\alpha_1} \cdot m_1 + \dots + \omega^{\alpha_n} \cdot m_n$  in Cantor normal form and  $\alpha_n$  is not a limit ordinal, then there exists a Banach space whose  $\ell^1$ -index is  $\omega^\alpha$ .

Let  $E$  be a separable Banach space not containing a copy of  $\ell^1$ . There are several measures of the complexity of  $\ell^1(n)$ 's inside  $E$ . These include the Bourgain  $\ell^1$ -index [4], the existence of so-called  $\ell^1_\alpha$ -spreading models ([2] and [9]) and the asymptotic constants as defined by Odell, Tomczak-Jaegermann, and Wagner [11]. In this paper, we concentrate on the first two measures in Tsirelson type spaces. It is easy to see that the existence of  $\ell^1_\alpha$ -spreading models implies a large  $\ell^1$ -index. In general, the implication is not reversible [8, Remark 6.6(i)]. However, suppose that  $T$  is the standard Tsirelson space constructed by Figiel and Johnson [6] (the dual of the original Tsirelson space [12]). It is known that there is a constant  $K$  such that every normalized block basic sequence in  $T$  is  $K$ -equivalent to a subsequence of the unit vector basis of  $T$  (see e.g., [5]). Using this observation, one can show that the existence of  $\ell^1$ -block trees in  $T$  with large indices leads to the existence of large  $\ell^1_\alpha$ -spreading models. The result can be used to calculate the  $\ell^1$ -index of  $T$ . In this paper, we show that a similar method can be applied to certain general Tsirelson type spaces. In particular, it is shown that if  $\omega_1 > \alpha = \omega^{\alpha_1} \cdot m_1 + \dots + \omega^{\alpha_n} \cdot m_n$  in Cantor normal form and  $\alpha_n$  is not a limit ordinal, then there exists a Banach space whose  $\ell^1$ -index is  $\omega^\alpha$ . This gives a partial answer to Question 1 in [8]. The authors have extended the method to compute the Bourgain  $\ell^1$ -indices of mixed Tsirelson spaces [10]. In particular, it is shown there that if  $\alpha$  is not of the form  $\omega^\beta$  for some limit ordinal  $\beta$ , then there exists a Banach space whose  $\ell^1$ -index is  $\omega^\alpha$ .

If  $M$  is an infinite subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ , denote the set of all finite, respectively infinite, subsets of  $M$  by  $[M]^{<\infty}$ , respectively  $[M]$ . A subset  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $[\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$  is *hereditary* if  $G \in \mathcal{F}$  whenever  $G \subseteq F \in \mathcal{F}$ .  $\mathcal{F}$  is *spreading* if whenever  $F = \{n_1, \dots, n_k\} \in \mathcal{F}$  with  $n_1 < \dots < n_k$  and  $m_1 < \dots < m_k$  satisfies  $m_i \geq n_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , then

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$\{m_1, \dots, m_k\} \in \mathcal{F}$ .  $\mathcal{F}$  is *compact* if it is compact in the product topology in  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ . A set  $\mathcal{F}$  of finite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  is called *regular* if it has all three properties. If  $E$  and  $F$  are finite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ , we write  $E < F$ , respectively  $E \leq F$ , to mean  $\max E < \min F$ , respectively  $\max E \leq \min F$  ( $\max \emptyset = 0$  and  $\min \emptyset = \infty$ ). We abbreviate  $\{n\} < E$  and  $\{n\} \leq E$  to  $n < E$  and  $n \leq E$  respectively. Given  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$ , a sequence of finite subsets  $\{E_1, \dots, E_n\}$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  is said to be  $\mathcal{F}$ -admissible if  $E_1 < \dots < E_n$  and  $\{\min E_1, \dots, \min E_n\} \in \mathcal{F}$ . If  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  are regular subsets of  $[\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$ , we let

$$\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}] = \left\{ \bigcup_{i=1}^k F_i : F_i \in \mathcal{N} \text{ for all } i \text{ and } \{F_1, \dots, F_k\} \text{ } \mathcal{M}\text{-admissible} \right\}$$

and

$$(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}) = \{M \cup N : M < N, M \in \mathcal{M} \text{ and } N \in \mathcal{N}\}.$$

We also write  $\mathcal{M}^2$  for  $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M})$ . Of primary importance are the Schreier classes as defined in [1]. Let  $\mathcal{S}_0 = \{\{n\} : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \cup \{\emptyset\}$  and  $\mathcal{S}_1 = \{F \subseteq \mathbb{N} : |F| \leq \min F\}$ . Here  $|F|$  denotes the cardinality of  $F$ . The higher Schreier classes are defined inductively as follows.  $\mathcal{S}_{\alpha+1} = \mathcal{S}_1[\mathcal{S}_\alpha]$  for all  $\alpha < \omega_1$ . If  $\alpha$  is a countable limit ordinal, choose a sequence  $(\alpha_n)$  strictly increasing to  $\alpha$  and set

$$\mathcal{S}_\alpha = \{F : F \in \mathcal{S}_{\alpha_n} \text{ for some } n \leq |F|\}.$$

It is clear that  $\mathcal{S}_\alpha$  is a regular family for all  $\alpha < \omega_1$ . If  $M = (m_1, m_2, \dots)$  is a subsequence of  $\mathbb{N}$ , let  $\mathcal{S}_\alpha(M) = \{\{m_i : i \in F\} : F \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha\}$ . Since  $\mathcal{S}_\alpha$  is spreading,  $\mathcal{S}_\alpha(M) \subseteq \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ .

Let  $c_{00}$  be the space of all finitely supported sequences. If  $F \in [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$  and  $a = (a_n) \in c_{00}$ , let  $Fa = (b_n) \in c_{00}$ , where  $b_n = a_n$  if  $n \in F$  and 0 otherwise; also set  $\sigma_F((a_n)) = \sum_{n \in F} |a_n|$ . Finally, if  $\mathcal{S}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{F} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\infty}$ , define an associated norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{F}}$  on  $c_{00}$  by  $\|(a_n)\|_{\mathcal{F}} = \sup_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \sigma_F((a_n))$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $\alpha, \beta$  be countable ordinals such that  $\beta \neq 0$ . Define  $\|\cdot\|_n$  and  $\|\cdot\|'_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , inductively as follows. Let  $\|\cdot\|_0 = \|\cdot\|'_0 = \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{S}_\alpha}$ . If  $x \in c_{00}$ , set

$$\|x\|_{n+1} = \max \left\{ \|x\|_n, \sup \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i x\|_n : \{E_1, \dots, E_j\} \text{ } \mathcal{S}_\beta\text{-admissible} \right\} \right\}$$

and

$$\|x\|'_{n+1} = \max \left\{ \|x\|'_n, \sup \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i x\|'_n : \{E_1, \dots, E_j\} \text{ } (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2\text{-admissible} \right\} \right\}.$$

Note that  $(\|x\|_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(\|x\|'_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  are increasing sequences majorized by the  $\ell^1$ -norm of  $x$ . Let  $\|x\|_{\tilde{T}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x\|_n$  and  $\|x\|_{\tilde{T}'} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x\|'_n$ . Denote by  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha, \beta}$  and  $\tilde{T}'_{\alpha, \beta}$  respectively the completion of  $c_{00}$  under the norms  $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{T}}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{T}'}$ . Clearly,  $\tilde{T}_{0,1}$  is the Tsirelson space constructed by Figiel and Johnson [6] and  $\tilde{T}'_{0, \beta}$  is the space denoted by  $T(\mathcal{S}_\beta, \frac{1}{2})$  in [8]. The  $\ell^1$ -index of  $\tilde{T}'_{0, \beta}$  is shown to be  $\omega^{\beta \cdot \omega}$  in [8]. Here, we use a different argument to compute the  $\ell^1$ -indices of the spaces  $\tilde{T}'_{\alpha, \beta}$ . The next proposition can be verified immediately.

**Proposition 2.** *The norms  $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{T}}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{T}}$  satisfy the implicit equations*

$$\|x\|_{\tilde{T}} = \max \left\{ \|x\|_{\mathcal{S}_\alpha}, \sup \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i x\|_{\tilde{T}} : \{E_1, \dots, E_j\} \text{ } \mathcal{S}_\beta\text{-admissible} \right\} \right\}$$

and

$$\|x\|_{\tilde{T}} = \max \left\{ \|x\|_{\mathcal{S}_\alpha}, \sup \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i x\|_{\tilde{T}} : \{E_1, \dots, E_j\} (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2\text{-admissible} \right\} \right\}$$

for all  $x \in c_{00}$ .

Proposition 4 is a close relative of Lemma 5 in [5]. It is the key observation that allows us to reduce  $\ell^1$ -block trees on  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$  to subsequences of the unit vector basis  $(e_n)$  of  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$ . The following lemma is easily established by induction.

**Lemma 3.** *Suppose that  $n_1 \leq I_1 < n_2 \leq I_2 < \dots < n_k \leq I_k$  and  $|I_j| \leq 2$  for  $1 \leq j \leq k$ . If  $\{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k\} \in \mathcal{S}_\beta$  for some  $\beta < \omega_1$ , then  $\bigcup_{j=1}^k I_j \in (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2$ .*

Obviously, the sequence of coordinate unit vectors  $(u_n)$  forms a normalized 1-unconditional basis of  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$ . The support of an element  $x = \sum a_n u_n \in \tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$  is the set  $\text{supp } x = \{n : a_n \neq 0\}$ .

**Proposition 4.** *For every  $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{T}}$ -normalized block basis  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)$  in  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$  and all  $(a_k) \in c_{00}$ ,*

$$\left\| \sum_{k=1}^p a_k x_k \right\|_{\tilde{T}} \leq 2 \left\| \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right\|_{\tilde{T}}$$

where  $i_k = \max \text{supp } x_k$ , and  $(e_n)$  is the unit vector basis of  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$ .

*Proof.* With the notation as above, we prove by induction that  $\|\sum_{k=1}^p a_k x_k\|_n \leq 2 \|\sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k}\|'_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,  $(a_k) \in c_{00}$ . To establish the inequality for the case  $n = 0$ , let  $I \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ . Define  $J = \{k : I \cap \text{supp } x_k \neq \emptyset\}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_I \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k x_k \right) &= \sum_{k=1}^p |a_k| \sigma_I(x_k) \\ &\leq \sum_{k \in J} |a_k| \|x_k\|_0 \\ &\leq \sum_{k \in J} |a_k| = \sigma_L \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right), \text{ where } L = \{i_k : k \in J\}, \\ &\leq \left\| \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right\|'_0, \text{ since } L \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose the proposition holds for some  $n$ . Let  $\{E_1, \dots, E_q\}$  be  $\mathcal{S}_\beta$ -admissible. Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $E_1, \dots, E_q$  are successive integer intervals, that for all  $j$ ,  $E_j \cap \text{supp } x_k \neq \emptyset$  for some  $k$ , and that  $i_p \leq \max E_q$ . Also let  $I_k$  be the integer interval  $[i_{k-1} + 1, i_k]$  ( $i_0 \equiv 0$ ). Let  $A = \{j : E_j \not\subseteq I_k \text{ for any } k\}$  and  $B = \{j : j \notin A\}$ . For  $j \in A$ , set  $H_j = \{k : I_k \subseteq E_j\}$  and  $G_j = \{i_k : k \in H_j\}$ .

Then define  $F_j = (E_j \cap \{i_1, \dots, i_p\}) \setminus G_j$ . Note that  $F_j < G_j$  for all  $j \in A$ . If  $j \in B$ , set  $G_j = E_j \cap \{i_1, \dots, i_p\}$ .

It follows from Lemma 3 that  $(F_j)_{j \in A} \cup (G_j)_{j=1}^q$  is  $(\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2$ -admissible. Finally, let  $J = \{k : k \notin \bigcup_{j \in A} H_j, I_k \cap (\bigcup E_j) \neq \emptyset\}$ . Now

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1}^q \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n &= \sum_{j=1}^q \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{j' \in A} \sum_{k \in H_{j'}} a_k x_k + \sum_{k \in J} a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n \\
&\leq \sum_{j=1}^q \left( \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{j' \in A} \sum_{k \in H_{j'}} a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n + \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{k \in J} a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n \right) \\
&= \sum_{j \in A} \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{k \in H_j} a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n + \sum_{j=1}^q \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{k \in J} a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n \\
&\leq \sum_{j \in A} \left\| \sum_{k \in H_j} a_k x_k \right\|_n + \sum_{k \in J} |a_k| \sum_{j=1}^q \|E_j x_k\|_n \\
&\leq \sum_{j \in A} \left\| \sum_{k \in H_j} a_k x_k \right\|_n + 2 \sum_{k \in J} |a_k| \|x_k\|_{n+1} \\
&\leq 2 \left( \sum_{j \in A} \left\| \sum_{k \in H_j} a_k e_{i_k} \right\|_n' + \sum_{k \in J} |a_k| \right) \text{ by the inductive hypothesis,} \\
&= 2 \left( \sum_{j \in A} \left\| G_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n' + \sum_{k \in J} |a_k| \right).
\end{aligned}$$

If  $k \in J$ , then either  $\{i_k\} = F_j$  for some  $j \in A$  or  $\{i_k\} = G_j$  for some  $j \in B$ . Therefore

$$\sum_{k \in J} |a_k| \leq \sum_{j \in A} \left\| F_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n' + \sum_{j \in B} \left\| G_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n'.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1}^q \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n &\leq 2 \sum_{j \in A} \left\| G_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n' + 2 \sum_{j \in A} \left\| F_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n' \\
&\quad + 2 \sum_{j \in B} \left\| G_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n' \\
&= 2 \left( \sum_{j \in A} \left\| F_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n' + \sum_{j=1}^q \left\| G_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right) \right\|_n' \right) \\
&\leq 4 \left\| \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right\|_{n+1}', \text{ as } (F_j)_{j \in A} \cup (G_j)_{j=1}^q \text{ is } (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2\text{-admissible.}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^q \left\| E_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^p a_k x_k \right) \right\|_n \leq 2 \left\| \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right\|'_{n+1}$$

whenever  $\{E_1, \dots, E_q\}$  is  $\mathcal{S}_\beta$ -admissible. It follows that

$$\left\| \sum_{k=1}^p a_k x_k \right\|_{n+1} \leq 2 \left\| \sum_{k=1}^p a_k e_{i_k} \right\|'_{n+1}.$$

This completes the induction.  $\square$

Let  $\alpha, \beta$  be countable ordinals. Define the families  $(\mathcal{F}_n)$ ,  $(\mathcal{F}'_n)$ ,  $(\mathcal{G}_n)$  and  $(\mathcal{G}'_n)$  inductively as follows:  $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}'_0 = \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ ,  $\mathcal{G}_1 = \mathcal{S}_\beta$ ,  $\mathcal{G}'_1 = (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\mathcal{F}_{n+1} = \mathcal{S}_\beta[\mathcal{F}_n], \mathcal{F}'_{n+1} = (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2[\mathcal{F}'_n], \mathcal{G}_{n+1} = \mathcal{S}_\beta[\mathcal{G}_n], \text{ and } \mathcal{G}'_{n+1} = (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2[\mathcal{G}'_n].$$

It is easily verified that  $\mathcal{G}_n[\mathcal{S}_\alpha] = \mathcal{F}_n$ ,  $\mathcal{G}'_n[\mathcal{S}_\alpha] = \mathcal{F}'_n$ ,  $\mathcal{G}_n[\mathcal{S}_\beta] = \mathcal{G}_{n+1}$  and  $\mathcal{G}'_n[(\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2] = \mathcal{G}'_{n+1}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , denote the norms  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{F}_n}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{F}'_n}$  by  $\rho_n$  and  $\rho'_n$  respectively.

**Proposition 5.** For all  $a \in c_{00}$  and all  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,  $\|a\|_{\tilde{T}} \geq \frac{1}{2^n} \rho_n(a)$ .

*Proof.* The proof is by induction on  $n$ . The case  $n = 0$  is clearly true by definition. Suppose the result holds for some  $n$ . Let  $E \in \mathcal{F}_{n+1}$ . Then  $E = \bigcup_{i=1}^j E_i$ , where  $E_1, \dots, E_j \in \mathcal{F}_n$ ,  $E_1 < \dots < E_j$ , and  $\{E_1, \dots, E_j\}$  is  $\mathcal{S}_\beta$ -admissible. For any  $a = (a_k) \in c_{00}$ ,

$$\sum_{k \in E} |a_k| = \sum_{i=1}^j \sum_{k \in E_i} |a_k| \leq \sum_{i=1}^j \rho_n(E_i a) \leq 2^n \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i a\|_{\tilde{T}} \leq 2^{n+1} \|a\|_{\tilde{T}}.$$

Since  $E \in \mathcal{F}_{n+1}$  is arbitrary, the result follows.  $\square$

**Proposition 6.** For all  $a \in c_{00}$  and all  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,

$$\|a\|_{\tilde{T}} \leq \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\rho'_i(a)}{2^i} + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i a\|_{\tilde{T}} : \{E_1, \dots, E_j\} \text{ } \mathcal{G}'_{n+1}\text{-admissible} \right\}.$$

*Proof.* The proof is by induction on  $n$ . The case  $n = 0$  follows immediately from the definition of  $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{T}}$ . Assume the result holds for some  $n$ . Let  $a \in c_{00}$ . Suppose  $\{E_1, \dots, E_j\}$  is  $\mathcal{G}'_{n+1}$ -admissible. Let  $I = \{i : \|E_i a\|_{\tilde{T}} = \rho'_0(E_i a)\}$  and  $J = \{1, 2, \dots, j\} \setminus I$ . For each  $i \in I$ , choose  $D_i \subseteq E_i$ ,  $D_i \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ , such that  $\rho'_0(E_i a) = \sum_{k \in D_i} |a_k|$ . Now  $D = \bigcup_{i \in I} D_i \in \mathcal{G}'_{n+1}[\mathcal{S}_\alpha] = \mathcal{F}'_{n+1}$ . Hence

$$(1) \quad \sum_{i \in I} \|E_i a\|_{\tilde{T}} = \sum_{k \in D} |a_k| \leq \rho'_{n+1}(a).$$

On the other hand, for each  $i \in J$ , there exist  $(\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2$ -admissible sets  $\{E_1^i, \dots, E_{k_i}^i\}$ ,  $E_1^i \cup \dots \cup E_{k_i}^i \subseteq E_i$  such that

$$\|E_i a\|_{\tilde{T}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p=1}^{k_i} \|E_p^i a\|_{\tilde{T}}.$$

Now

$$\{\min E_p^i : i \in J, 1 \leq p \leq k_i\} \in \mathcal{G}'_{n+1} \left[ (\mathcal{S}_\beta)^2 \right] = \mathcal{G}'_{n+2}.$$

Hence  $(E_p^i)_{i \in J, 1 \leq p \leq k_i}$  is  $\mathcal{G}'_{n+2}$ -admissible. Thus

$$(2) \quad \sum_{i \in J} \|E_i a\|_{\approx_T} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in J} \sum_{p=1}^{k_i} \|E_p^i a\|_{\approx_T} \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|F_i a\|_{\approx_T} : \{F_1, \dots, F_\ell\} \text{ } \mathcal{G}'_{n+2}\text{-admissible} \right\}.$$

From the inductive hypothesis and inequalities (1) and (2) we get

$$\|a\|_{\approx_T} \leq \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\rho'_i(a)}{2^i} + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \left( \rho'_{n+1}(a) + \frac{1}{2} \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|F_i a\|_{\approx_T} \right\} \right) \\ = \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \frac{\rho'_i(a)}{2^i} + \frac{1}{2^{n+2}} \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|F_i a\|_{\approx_T} \right\},$$

where both suprema are taken over all  $\mathcal{G}'_{n+2}$ -admissible sets  $\{F_1, \dots, F_\ell\}$ . This completes the induction.  $\square$

Endow  $[\mathbb{N}]^{<\omega_1}$  with the product topology inherited from  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ . If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a closed subset of  $[\mathbb{N}]^{<\omega_1}$ , let  $\mathcal{F}'$  be the set of all limit points of  $\mathcal{F}$ . Define a transfinite sequence of sets  $(\mathcal{F}^{(\alpha)})_{\alpha < \omega_1}$  as follows:  $\mathcal{F}^{(0)} = \mathcal{F}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}^{(\alpha+1)} = (\mathcal{F}^{(\alpha)})'$  for all  $\alpha < \omega_1$ ;  $\mathcal{F}^{(\alpha)} = \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} \mathcal{F}^{(\beta)}$  if  $\alpha$  is a countable limit ordinal.

**Definition 7** ([11]). Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\omega_1}$  be regular. Define  $\iota(\mathcal{F})$  to be the unique countable ordinal  $\alpha$  such that  $\mathcal{F}^{(\alpha)} = \{\emptyset\}$ .

Let  $F \in \mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}]$ ,  $F \neq \emptyset$ , where  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  are regular families. There exists a largest  $k \in F$  such that  $F \cap [1, k] \in \mathcal{N}$ . Set  $F_1 = F \cap [1, k]$ . If  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_{n-1}$  have been defined and  $F \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} F_i \neq \emptyset$ , set  $F_n = \left( F \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} F_i \right) \cap [1, k']$ , where  $k'$  is the largest integer in  $F$  such that  $\left( F \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} F_i \right) \cap [1, k'] \in \mathcal{N}$ . Since  $F$  is finite, there exists an  $n$  such that  $F = \bigcup_{i=1}^n F_i$ . Now  $F \in \mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}]$  implies that there exists an  $\mathcal{M}$ -admissible collection  $\{G_1, \dots, G_m\}$  such that  $F = \bigcup_{j=1}^m G_j$  and  $G_j \in \mathcal{N}$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$ . By the choice of  $F_i$  and the fact that  $\mathcal{N}$  is hereditary, it is easy to see that  $\min G_i \leq \min F_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Thus  $\{F_1, \dots, F_n\}$  is  $\mathcal{M}$ -admissible, as  $\mathcal{M}$  is spreading. We call  $(F_i)_{i=1}^n$  the standard representation of  $F$  (as an element of  $\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}]$ ).

*Remark 8.* Suppose that  $(F_i)_{i=1}^n$  and  $(G_i)_{i=1}^m$  are the standard representations of  $F$  and  $G$  respectively. If  $\ell, k \in \mathcal{N}$  are such that  $F \cap [1, \ell] = G \cap [1, \ell]$  and  $\max F_k \leq \ell$ , then by construction,  $F_i = G_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

**Lemma 9.** Let  $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\omega_1}$  be regular. Suppose that  $\iota(\mathcal{N}) = \alpha$ . Then

$$(\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha)} = \left( \mathcal{M}^{(1)} \right) [\mathcal{N}].$$

*Proof.* Let  $F \in (\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}]$ . Then  $F$  can be written as  $F = \bigcup_{i=1}^n F_i$ , where  $F_1 < F_2 < \dots < F_n$ ,  $F_1, \dots, F_n \in \mathcal{N}$  and  $\{\min F_1, \dots, \min F_n\} \in \mathcal{M}^{(1)}$ . In particular, there exists  $k_0 > \max F$  such that  $\{\min F_1, \dots, \min F_n, k\} \in \mathcal{M}$  for all  $k \geq k_0$ . Therefore,

$$(3) \quad \text{for all } G \in \mathcal{N}, \min G \geq k_0, F \cup G \in \mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}].$$

Note that as  $\mathcal{N}$  is spreading,

$$(4) \quad \iota(\{G \in \mathcal{N} : \min G \geq k_0\}) = \iota(\mathcal{N}) = \alpha.$$

From (3),

$$(\{F \cup G : G \in \mathcal{N}, \min G \geq k_0\})^{(\alpha)} \subseteq (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha)}.$$

But from (4),  $F \in (\{F \cup G : G \in \mathcal{N}, \min G \geq k_0\})^{(\alpha)}$ . Hence  $F \in (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha)}$ .

Conversely, we prove by induction that  $(\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\gamma)} \subseteq ((\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}], \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma)})$  for all  $\gamma \leq \alpha$ . The cases where  $\gamma = 0$  is clear.

Suppose the claim is true for some  $\gamma < \alpha$ . Let  $F \in (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\gamma+1)}$  with standard representation  $(F_i)_{i=1}^n$  as an element of  $\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}]$ . Choose a sequence  $(G_k)$  in  $(\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\gamma)} \subseteq ((\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}], \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma)})$  that converges nontrivially to  $F$ . We may assume that  $G_k \cap [1, \min F_n] = F \cap [1, \min F_n]$  for all  $k$ . Now we may write  $G_k = P_k \cup Q_k$ , where  $P_k < Q_k$ ,  $P_k \in (\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}]$  and  $Q_k \in \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma)}$ . Let  $P = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} F_i$ . Note that  $P \in (\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}]$ . We consider two cases.

**Case 1.** There exists  $k$  such that  $\min F_n \in P_k$ .

In this case,  $P \cap [1, \max F_{n-1}] = F \cap [1, \max F_{n-1}] = G_k \cap [1, \max F_{n-1}] = P_k \cap [1, \max F_{n-1}]$ . It is clear that  $(F_i)_{i=1}^{n-1}$  is the standard representation of  $P$  as an element of  $(\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}]$ . By Remark 8, the standard representation of  $P_k$  as an element of  $(\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}]$  has the form  $(F_1, \dots, F_{n-1}, P_k^n, \dots, P_k^m)$ . In particular,

$$\{\min F_1, \dots, \min F_{n-1}, \min F_n\} = \{\min F_1, \dots, \min F_{n-1}, \min P_k^n\} \in \mathcal{M}^{(1)}.$$

Thus  $F = \bigcup_{i=1}^n F_i \in (\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}] \subseteq ((\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}], \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma+1)})$ , as required.

**Case 2.** Suppose  $\min F_n \notin P_k$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

In this case,  $G_k \cap [\min F_n, \infty) \subseteq Q_k$  for all  $k$ . Hence  $G_k \cap [\min F_n, \infty) \in \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma)}$  for all  $k$ . Furthermore,  $G_k \cap [\min F_n, \infty)$  converges to  $F \cap [\min F_n, \infty) = F_n$  nontrivially. Thus  $F_n \in \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma+1)}$ . Therefore  $F = P \cup F_n \in ((\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}], \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma+1)})$ , as required.

Suppose  $\gamma \leq \alpha$  is a limit ordinal and the result holds for all  $\eta < \gamma$ . Let  $F \in (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\gamma)}$  have standard representation  $(F_i)_{i=1}^n$  as an element of  $\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}]$ . By the inductive hypothesis, for each  $\eta < \gamma$ ,  $F = P_\eta \cup Q_\eta$ , where  $P_\eta < Q_\eta$ ,  $P_\eta \in (\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}]$  and  $Q_\eta \in \mathcal{N}^{(\eta)}$ . By the argument in Case 1 above, if there exists  $\eta$  such that  $\min F_n \in P_\eta$ , then  $F \in (\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}] \subseteq ((\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}], \mathcal{N}^{(\eta)})$ . Otherwise,  $F_n \subseteq Q_\eta \in \mathcal{N}^{(\eta)}$  for all  $\eta < \gamma$ . Hence  $F = \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} F_i\right) \cup F_n \in ((\mathcal{M}^{(1)})[\mathcal{N}], \mathcal{N}^{(\gamma)})$ . This completes the induction.  $\square$

**Proposition 10.** Let  $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N} \subseteq [\mathbb{N}]^{<\omega_1}$  be regular. Suppose that  $\iota(\mathcal{N}) = \alpha$ . Then for all  $\beta < \omega_1$ ,  $(\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha, \beta)} = (\mathcal{M}^{(\beta)})[\mathcal{N}]$ .

*Proof.* The proof is by induction on  $\beta$ . The case  $\beta = 0$  is clear. Suppose the result is true for some  $\beta$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha \cdot (\beta+1))} &= (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha)} \\ &= \left( (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha \cdot \beta)} \right)^{(\alpha)} \\ &= \left( (\mathcal{M}^{(\beta)})[\mathcal{N}] \right)^{(\alpha)} \text{ by the inductive hypothesis,} \\ &= \left( (\mathcal{M}^{(\beta)})^{(1)}[\mathcal{N}] \right) \text{ by Lemma 9,} \\ &= (\mathcal{M}^{(\beta+1)})[\mathcal{N}]. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose the proposition is true for all  $\beta < \beta_0$ , where  $\beta_0 < \omega_1$  is some limit ordinal. Clearly,

$$(\mathcal{M}^{(\beta_0)})[\mathcal{N}] \subseteq \bigcap_{\beta < \beta_0} (\mathcal{M}^{(\beta)})[\mathcal{N}] = \bigcap_{\beta < \beta_0} (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha \cdot \beta)} = (\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}])^{(\alpha \cdot \beta_0)}.$$

On the other hand, let  $F \in \bigcap_{\beta < \beta_0} (\mathcal{M}^{(\beta)})[\mathcal{N}]$  have standard representation  $(F_i)_{i=1}^n$  as an element of  $\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{N}]$ . It is clear that  $(F_i)_{i=1}^n$  is also the standard representation of  $F$  as an element of  $(\mathcal{M}^{(\beta)})[\mathcal{N}]$  for any  $\beta < \beta_0$ . In particular,  $\{\min F_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \in \mathcal{M}^{(\beta)}$  for all  $\beta < \beta_0$ . Hence  $\{\min F_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \in \mathcal{M}^{(\beta_0)}$ . It follows that  $F \in (\mathcal{M}^{(\beta_0)})[\mathcal{N}]$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

It is well known that  $\iota(\mathcal{S}_\gamma) = \omega^\gamma$  for all  $\gamma < \omega_1$  ([1, Proposition 4.10]). The indices of  $\mathcal{F}_n$  and  $\mathcal{F}'_n$  can be computed readily with the help of Proposition 10.

**Corollary 11.**  $\iota(\mathcal{F}_n) = \omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot n}$  and  $\iota(\mathcal{F}'_n) = \omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot n} \cdot 2$ .

Before proceeding further, let us recall the relevant terminology concerning trees. A *tree* on a set  $X$  is a subset  $T$  of  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} X^n$  such that  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in T$  whenever  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \in T$ . These are the only kind of trees we will consider. A tree  $T$  is *well-founded* if there is no infinite sequence  $(x_n)$  in  $X$  such that  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in T$  for all  $n$ . Given a well-founded tree  $T$ , we define the *derived tree*  $D(T)$  to be the set of all  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in T$  such that  $(x_1, \dots, x_n, x) \in T$  for some  $x \in X$ . Inductively, we let  $D^0(T) = T$ ,  $D^{\alpha+1}(T) = D(D^\alpha(T))$ , and  $D^\alpha(T) = \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} D^\beta(T)$  if  $\alpha$  is a limit ordinal. The *order* of a well-founded tree  $T$  is the smallest ordinal  $o(T)$  such that  $D^{o(T)}(T) = \emptyset$ . If  $E$  is a Banach space and  $1 \leq K < \infty$ , an  $\ell^1$ - $K$  tree on  $E$  is a tree  $T$  on  $S(E) = \{x \in E : \|x\| = 1\}$  such that  $\|\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i\| \geq K^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i|$  whenever  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in T$  and  $(a_i) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . If  $E$  has a basis  $(e_i)$ , a *block tree* on  $E$  is a tree  $T$  on  $E$  so that every  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in T$  is a finite block basis of  $(e_i)$ . An  $\ell^1$ - $K$ -block tree on  $E$  is a block tree that is also an  $\ell^1$ - $K$  tree. The index  $I(E, K)$  is defined to be  $\sup\{o(T) : T \text{ is an } \ell^1\text{-}K \text{ tree on } E\}$ . If  $E$  has a basis  $(e_i)$ , the index  $I_b(E, K)$  is defined similarly, with the supremum taken over all  $\ell^1$ - $K$ -block trees. The Bourgain  $\ell^1$ -index of  $E$  is the ordinal  $I(E) = \sup\{I(E, K) : 1 \leq K < \infty\}$ . The index  $I_b(E)$  is defined similarly. Bourgain proved that if  $E$  is a separable Banach space not containing a copy of  $\ell^1$ , then  $I(E) < \omega_1$  [4]. More on these and related indices can be found in [8] and [3].

**Proposition 12.** *Let  $T$  be a well-founded block tree on some basis  $(e_i)$ . Define*

$$\mathcal{F}(T) = \{\{\max \text{supp } x_i : i = 1, \dots, n\} : (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in T\}$$



and

$$\mathcal{G}(T) = \{G : \exists F \in \mathcal{F}(T), f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \text{ strictly increasing, such that } G \subseteq f(F)\}.$$

Then  $\iota(\mathcal{G}(T)) \geq o(T)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\xi = o(T)$ . The proof is by induction on  $\xi$ . If  $o(T) = 1$ , then  $\mathcal{G}(T) \supseteq \{\{k\} : k \geq n\}$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Therefore  $(\mathcal{G}(T))^{(1)} \supseteq \{\emptyset\}$  and hence  $\iota(\mathcal{G}(T)) \geq 1 = o(T)$ .

Suppose the proposition holds for some  $\xi < \omega_1$ . Let  $T$  be a well-founded block tree with  $o(T) = \xi + 1$  such that  $\mathcal{G}(T)$  is compact. For each  $(x) \in T$ , let

$$T_x = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : (x, x_1, \dots, x_n) \in T\}.$$

According to [4, Proposition 4],  $o(T) = \sup_{(x) \in T} \{o(T_x) + 1\}$ . Therefore, there exists  $(x_0) \in T$  such that  $o(T_{x_0}) = \xi$ . By the inductive hypothesis,  $\iota(\mathcal{G}(T_{x_0})) \geq \xi$ . Let  $k_0 = \max \text{supp } x_0$ . Then  $G \in \mathcal{G}(T_{x_0})$  implies  $\{k_0\} \cup G \in \mathcal{G}(T)$ . Thus  $\{k_0\} \in (\mathcal{G}(T))^{(\xi)}$ . Since  $(\mathcal{G}(T))^{(\xi)}$  is spreading,  $\{k\} \in (\mathcal{G}(T))^{(\xi)}$  for all  $k \geq k_0$ . It follows that  $\emptyset \in (\mathcal{G}(T))^{(\xi+1)}$ . Hence  $\iota(\mathcal{G}(T)) \geq \xi + 1 = o(T)$ .

Suppose  $o(T) = \xi_0$ , where  $\xi_0$  is a countable limit ordinal and the proposition holds for all  $\xi < \xi_0$ . Since  $o(T) > \xi$  for all  $\xi < \xi_0$ , by the inductive hypothesis,  $\iota(\mathcal{G}(T)) > \xi$  for all  $\xi < \xi_0$ . Hence  $\iota(\mathcal{G}(T)) \geq \xi_0 = o(T)$ . This completes the induction.  $\square$

If  $(x_k)_{k=1}^n$  and  $(y_k)_{k=1}^n$  are sequences in possibly different normed spaces and  $0 < K < \infty$ , we write  $(x_k)_{k=1}^n \succeq^K (y_k)_{k=1}^n$  to mean  $K \|\sum_{k=1}^n a_k x_k\| \geq \|\sum_{k=1}^n a_k y_k\|$  for all  $(a_k) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ .

**Theorem 13.**  $I(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) = I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) = \omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega}$ .

*Proof.* If  $I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) > \omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega}$ , then  $I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}, K) > \omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega}$  for some  $K > 1$ . Hence there exists an  $\ell^1$ - $K$ -block tree  $T$  on  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$  such that  $o(T) = \xi > \omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega}$ . Given  $F \in \mathcal{F}(T)$ , there exists  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in T$  such that  $F = \{\max \text{supp } x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ . According to Proposition 4,  $(e_k)_{k \in F} \succeq^2 (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ , where  $(e_k)_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is the unit vector basis of  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$ . Since  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in T$ ,  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \succeq^K \ell^1(|F|)$ -basis. Therefore,  $(e_k)_{k \in F} \succeq^{2K} \ell^1(|F|)$ -basis for all  $F \in \mathcal{F}(T)$ . Since it is clear that  $\|\sum a_k e_{f(k)}\|_{\tilde{T}} \geq \|\sum a_k e_k\|_{\tilde{T}}$  for all  $(a_k) \in c_{00}$  whenever  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is strictly increasing, it follows that  $(e_k)_{k \in G} \succeq^{2K} \ell^1(|G|)$ -basis for all  $G \in \mathcal{G}(T)$ . By Proposition 12,  $(\mathcal{G}(T))^{(\omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega} + 1)} \neq \emptyset$ . Thus by [7, Corollary 1.2], there exists  $L \in [\mathbb{N}]$  such that  $\mathcal{S}_{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega} \cap [L]^{<\infty} \subseteq \mathcal{G}(T)$ . Hence, for all  $(a_k) \in c_{00}$  and all  $G \in \mathcal{S}_{\alpha+\beta \cdot \omega} \cap [L]^{<\infty}$ ,

$$(5) \quad \left\| \sum_{k \in G} a_k e_k \right\|_{\tilde{T}} \geq \frac{1}{2K} \sum_{k \in G} |a_k|.$$

Choose  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $2^m > 2K$ . According to Corollary 11,  $\iota(\mathcal{F}'_i) = \omega^{\alpha+\beta \cdot i} \cdot 2$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . Applying [7, Corollary 1.2], we obtain  $M \in [L]$  such that  $\mathcal{F}'_i \cap [M]^{<\infty} \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\alpha+\beta \cdot m+1}$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . By [11, Proposition 3.6], there exists

$F \in \mathcal{S}_{\alpha+\beta,\omega}(M) \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\alpha+\beta,\omega} \cap [M]^{<\infty}$  and  $(a_j)_{j \in F} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^+$  such that  $\sum a_j = 1$  and if  $G \subseteq F$  with  $G \in \mathcal{S}_{\alpha+\beta,m+1}$ , then  $\sum_{j \in G} a_j < \frac{1}{8K}$ . Consider  $x = \sum_{j \in F} a_j e_j \in \tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$ . If  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $I \in \mathcal{F}'_i$ , then  $I \cap F \in \mathcal{F}'_i \cap [M]^{<\infty} \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\alpha+\beta,m+1}$ . Hence  $\sigma_I(x) = \sigma_{I \cap F}(x) < \frac{1}{8K}$ . It follows that  $\rho'_i(x) \leq \frac{1}{8K}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . By Proposition 6,

$$\begin{aligned} \|x\|_{\tilde{T}} &\leq \sum_{i=0}^m \frac{\rho'_i(x)}{2^i} + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}} \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^j \|E_i x\|_{\tilde{T}} : \{E_1, \dots, E_j\} \text{ } \mathcal{G}'_{m+1}\text{-admissible} \right\} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=0}^m \frac{\frac{1}{8K}}{2^i} + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}} \|x\|_{\ell^1} < \frac{1}{2K}, \end{aligned}$$

contrary to (5). This proves that  $I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) \leq \omega^{\alpha+\beta\cdot\omega}$ . On the other hand, according to Proposition 5, for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\|a\|_{\tilde{T}} \geq \frac{1}{2^n} \|a\|_{\mathcal{F}_n}$  for any  $a \in c_{00}$ . By Corollary 11,  $\iota(\mathcal{F}_n) = \omega^{\alpha+\beta\cdot n}$ . Therefore, there exists an  $\ell^1$ - $2^n$ -block basis tree  $T_n$  on  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}$  with  $o(T_n) = \omega^{\alpha+\beta\cdot n}$ . Hence  $I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}, 2^n) \geq \omega^{\alpha+\beta\cdot n}$ . Thus  $I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) = \sup_K I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}, K) \geq \omega^{\alpha+\beta\cdot\omega}$ . We conclude that  $I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) = \omega^{\alpha+\beta\cdot\omega}$ . As  $I(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) \geq I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) \geq \omega^\omega$ , it follows from [8, Corollary 5.13] that  $I(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta}) = I_b(\tilde{T}_{\alpha,\beta})$ .  $\square$

For the final corollary, recall that the Schreier space  $X_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha < \omega_1$ , is the completion of  $c_{00}$  with respect to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{S}_\alpha}$ .

**Corollary 14.** *Suppose  $\alpha$  is a countable ordinal whose Cantor normal form is  $\omega^{\alpha_1} \cdot m_1 + \dots + \omega^{\alpha_k} \cdot m_k$ . If  $\alpha_k$  is not a limit ordinal, then there exists a Banach space  $X$  such that  $I(X) = \omega^\alpha$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\alpha_k = 0$ , then  $\alpha$  is a successor ordinal and  $\iota(X_{\alpha-1}) = \omega^\alpha$  ([3]). If  $\alpha_k$  is a successor ordinal, let  $\gamma = \omega^{\alpha_1} \cdot m_1 + \dots + \omega^{\alpha_k} \cdot (m_k - 1)$  and  $\eta = \omega^{\alpha_k - 1}$ . By Theorem 13,  $I(\tilde{T}_{\gamma,\eta}) = \omega^{\gamma+\eta\cdot\omega} = \omega^\alpha$ .  $\square$

*Remark 15.* The following analog of Proposition 4 for the space  $X_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha < \omega_1$ , holds obviously: If  $(x_i)_{i=1}^p$  is a normalized block basis of the unit vector basis  $(e_k)$  of  $X_\alpha$  and  $k_i = \max \text{supp } x_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq p$ , then  $\|\sum_{i=1}^p a_i x_i\| \leq \|\sum_{i=1}^p a_i e_{k_i}\|$  for all  $(a_i) \in c_{00}$ . Therefore the arguments in Proposition 12 and Theorem 13 can be used to compute  $I_b(X_\alpha)$  (with respect to the basis  $(e_k)$ ).

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