Results on off-branch numbers

I consider the problem of extending certain invariants of subsets of natural numbers to their equivalents for subsets of larger cardinals. The two specific questions I will address are the extension of the off-branch number $\text{off}$ and its relation to other invariants; and the effect of replacing the ideal of sets of size $< \kappa$ with the ideal of non-stationary sets in cardinal invariants on $\kappa$, with particular attention to the splitting number $\mathfrak{s}(\kappa)$.

The off-branch number on $\kappa$ is $\text{off}(\kappa)$, the least number of off-branch subsets of $2^{<\kappa}$ which together with the branches of $2^\kappa$ form a mad family on $2^{<\kappa}$. The ZFC-provable inequalities I show are that $\text{a}(\kappa) \leq \text{off}(\kappa)$ and $\text{non}(\mathcal{M})(\kappa) \leq \text{off}(\kappa)$ for $\kappa$ inaccessible. The consistency results I find are that $\text{a}(\kappa) < \text{off}(\kappa)$ and $\text{non}(\mathcal{M})(\kappa) < \text{off}(\kappa)$ are possible if $\kappa$ is inaccessible, and that $\text{off}(\kappa) < 2^\kappa$ is possible if $\kappa$ is indestructibly weakly compact.

For an ideal $\mathcal{I}$ on $\kappa$, the $\mathcal{I}$-splitting number is $\mathfrak{s}_{\mathcal{I}}(\kappa)$, the least size of a family $\mathcal{S}$ of sets in $\mathcal{I}^+$ such that for every set $X \in \mathcal{I}^+$ there is a set $S \in \mathcal{S}$ with $X \cap S, X - S \in \mathcal{I}^+$. For $\mathcal{I}$ the ideal of sets of size $< \kappa$, this is the usual splitting number of $\kappa$, whose being large has been shown to be equivalent to large cardinal properties; I obtain similar results for $\mathcal{I} = \text{NS}(\kappa)$, the ideal of non-stationary subsets of $\kappa$. 

Ph. D. Thesis

John Bourke
Advisor: Marcia Groszek