

- DILIP RAGHAVAN, *Bounding, splitting, and almost disjointness.*

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A famous (still) open problem in the theory of cardinal invariants of the continuum asks whether $\mathfrak{d} = \aleph_1$ implies $\mathfrak{a} = \aleph_1$. A variation of this question is “does $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{s} = \aleph_1$ already imply that $\mathfrak{a} = \aleph_1$?”. We will shed some light on this question by examining when it is possible to destroy a MAD family without increasing either \mathfrak{b} or \mathfrak{s} . This is joint work with J. Brendle.