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*The Consistency of Arbitrarily Large Spread Between the Bounding and the Splitting Numbers*

In 1984, S. Shelah obtained the consistency of  $\mathfrak{b} = \omega_1 < \mathfrak{s} = \omega_2$  using countable support iteration of proper forcing notions. The method can not be further generalized since subsequent iterations would collapse the continuum. However finite support iteration of c.c.c. forcing notions does not have this disadvantage and we succeed to extend the above result obtaining a model of  $\mathfrak{b} = \omega_1 < \mathfrak{s} = \mu$  for  $\mu$  arbitrary regular cardinal. The c.c.c. forcing notions which we use are closely related to the partial order used originally by S. Shelah.