VERA FISCHER, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3 The consistency of $\mathfrak{b} = \kappa < \mathfrak{s} = \kappa^+$

Using a proper forcing notion, in 1984 S. Shelah obtained the consistency of $\mathfrak{b} = \omega_1 < \mathfrak{s} = \omega_2$. We obtain a σ -centered suborder of Shelah's poset which preserves the unboundedness of a given unbounded family and adds a real not split by the ground model reals. Thus under an appropriate finite support iteration of length κ^+ we obtain the consistency of $\mathfrak{b} = \kappa < \mathfrak{s} = \kappa^+$ for κ an arbitrary regular uncountable cardinal.