

Obtaining Woodin's Cardinals

P.D. Welch

School of Mathematics, University of Bristol,
Bristol, BS8 1TW

&

Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences,
20 Clarkson Road, Cambridge CB3 0EH, United Kingdom

22nd October 2015

Abstract

Since the 1980's work on Projective Determinacy and $AD^{L(\mathbb{R})}$ the concept of Woodin cardinal has become to be seen as central in the theory of large cardinals and inner model theory. The use by Woodin himself of a background assumption in many arguments that the universe contains unboundedly many such cardinals again draws attention to the centrality of this concept.

As is well known the Reflection Principles dating to a more classical era only provide large cardinals consistent with $V = L$, and not the wherewithal for such theorems on absoluteness under set forcing that Woodin has proven.

We discuss here a reflection principle derived from weak sub-compactness that implies the existence of a proper class of measurable Woodin cardinals - thus providing adequate background assumptions for many of Woodin's absoluteness results in his work.

O, there has been much throwing about of brains.

Guildestern; *Hamlet II.2*

1 Introduction

This article¹ is not a history of the origins of Woodin's notion of large cardinal now named after him, which was so central in the arguments used to establish Projective Determinacy by Martin and Steel, and Woodin himself for $AD^{L(\mathbb{R})}$; this history is told elsewhere - see for example [9]. The ubiquity of Woodin cardinals is attested by the literature today not on just determinacy issues, but on so very many of the consistency results with which we gauge the strength of set theoretic objects. However it is not due to the power of infinitely many Woodin cardinals to settle the question of definable

¹"This paper was partially prepared whilst the author was a visiting fellow at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in the programme 'Mathematical, Foundational and Computational Aspects of the Higher Infinite' (HIF)."

determinacy (whether taken in the PD or $AD^{L(\mathbb{R})}$ form) or as Woodin has written [24] to give us as good as complete a theory of the hereditarily countable sets, HC, as possible, but rather the use of unboundedly many Woodin cardinals throughout the ordinals as an, again ubiquitous, background assumption for many of his, and others' work on, for example, establishing the *absoluteness* of many properties of our universe, most typically into imagined generic extensions of the universe V by set-sized forcing notions.

If a hoped for “reduction in incompleteness” over our standard axioms of ZFC is to be achieved by the adoption of new axioms, and if we are to attempt to fully justify those axioms, then arguing for an axiom that yields a proper class of Woodin cardinals is an excellent place to start. Let UW abbreviate this axiom (for Unboundedly many Woodin cardinals).

What conception of *set* or *universe of sets* can we have that will deliver this for us? That ZFC could and should be extended was famously pleaded for by Gödel in [7] which is by now a *locus classicus*:

“the axioms of set theory by no means form a system closed in itself, but, quite on the contrary, the very concept of set on which they are based suggests their extension by new axioms which assert the existence of still further iterations of the operation “set of” ”

...[The ZFC axioms may be] supplemented without arbitrariness by new axioms which only unfold the content of the concept of set”.

A discussion of the nature of *intrinsic necessity* in the words of Gödel, or of *intrinsic versus extrinsic justification* should probably now be made but I shall short-circuit this by referring the reader to Koellner's article [10] and discussion. It is not my intention to wade in here. The discussion here is about what possible “conception of set” could lead to UW.

2 The Cantorian versus the Zermelian realms

Cantor's discoveries and advances were made as a mathematician would work: in a non-formalised manner (and even that phrase is anachronistic). His viewpoint concerning the world of order types and cardinalities would be formed in an intuitive manner. In the past it was stated that Cantor's views were that of a ‘naive set theorist’, a description not as usually used, but with the emphasis on ‘naive’. Now, however we realise that in fact he was quite aware of the pitfalls of what we would call the set/class distinction. At different stages of his career he used the phrase “The Absolute Infinite” or around the time of the publication of Burali-Forti (1897) - “inconsistent multiplicities”, or later - both.

In a letter to Dedekind (1899)[5]:

A multiplicity can be of such a nature, that the assumption of the ‘togetherness’ (‘Zusammenseins’) of a multiplicity's elements leads to a contradiction, so that it is impossible to conceive the multiplicity as a unity, as a ‘finished thing’. Such multiplicities I call *absolute infinities* or *inconsistent multiplicities*.

In the passage here he is aiming for the ‘finished things’ or consistent things, to be *sets*. The multiplicity of all alephs for example, cannot constitute a finished set and so cannot be assigned a cardinal number. (See [8] for a discussion of this notion of *Zusammensein*.)

In latter day jargon we should call such ‘proper classes’. It does not show that Cantor no longer thought of the set theoretic universe as an ‘inaugmentable totality’, which he had called it earlier. (Another description was that it was an ‘absolute maximum’ ([4], pp410-411)). We cannot be entirely clear what Cantor had in mind when discussing this universe of sets in this pre-formalised manner, but it was clearly different from the view Zermelo was to come to have.²

Zermelo’s maturest picture has come down to us from his [25]. The view is that there are only sets and that these satisfy, let us say here, first order ZFC (although Zermelo was concerned to promote a second order view and eschewed the first order formulations of Skolem and others). For Zermelo the only collections are sets. For Zermelo when we do set theory our quantifiers range over a domain of discourse D say. The ‘paradoxes’ show us that the collection D cannot be a member of itself. Hence we can enlarge this domain to a larger domain of discourse D' in which D is a set. Hence we have a never ending sequence of, in his words, ‘normal domains’ which are models of second order ZF, (and hence their ordinal heights are strongly inaccessible cardinals); the sequence of these domains can be indexed by Cantor’s ordinal numbers. Zermelo talks of ‘creative advancement’ as one proceeds through these domains; and that we should talk about such a sequence of domains in some meta-theory. However this meta-theory is never laid out, much beyond the indication that the normal domains should be in a (1-1) correspondence with the Cantorian ordinals.

However these different views give us at least two broad-brush pictures of the universe of sets: a ‘potentialist’ view - Zermelo’s creative advancement, and an ‘actualist’ view - that the universe of sets is an absolute maximum and an inaugmentable totality. It is possible to discuss these views unlinked to any kind of position concerning platonism or realism.

3 Reflection

A potentialist view makes it hard to appeal to most kinds of Reflection principle. Zermelo cannot consider the whole universe, and reflect on that, since for him there is always the potential to make the universe yet larger. All that can be said here is that there are unboundedly many normal domains (which following Mirimanoff/von Neumann we should now recognise as V_κ ’s) and so a proper class of strongly inaccessible cardinals. But even this can not be obtained by an adherent of the Zermelian school as a result of *reflection*: the statement “ $\forall \alpha \in \text{On} \exists \beta > \alpha (ZF^2)^{V_\beta}$ ” expresses quantification over *all* ordinals, and this is just what cannot be done in this organic view. The statement can however be readily obtained by allowing second order reflection of the whole (‘actual’) universe (V, \in) .

²Interestingly from the same letter, recalling that ‘equivalent’ meant bijective, one has a prefiguration of Replacement: “Two equivalent multiplicities are either both “sets” or are both inconsistent”.

By allowing domains of all sets and all classes - as formalised by NBG say - we now are able to second-order quantify over all such classes and formulate reflection principles that yield Mahlo cardinals, and second order indescribability. The story of this is familiar enough, that we don't repeat this here.

The point remains that all such principles only derive cardinals consistent with $V = L$ - so we may call them *intra-constructible*.

Gödel stated that he thought all large cardinals could be obtained through reflection:

The Universe of sets cannot be uniquely characterized (i.e. distinguished from all its initial segments) by any internal structural property of the membership relation in it, which is expressible in any logic of finite or transfinite type, including infinitary logics of any cardinal number.

(Wang - [23])

Gödel again:

All the principles for setting up the axioms of set theory should be reducible to a form of Ackermann's principle: The Absolute is unknowable. The strength of the principle increases as we get stronger and stronger systems of set theory. The other principles are only heuristic principles. Hence the central principle is the reflection principle, which presumably will be understood better as our experience increases. (Wang - *ibid.*)

This seems rather sweeping and our experience with Reflection Principles seems to go against it. Both on the one hand because Reinhardt specifically noted that Third Order Reflection *with* parameters is inconsistent, and on the other, because our Reflection principles have remain stuck in the intra-constructible.

There have been specific attempts to get around this obstacle by restricting the syntax: Marshall [14] obtains higher order reflection (and large cardinals) by restricting the syntax. Tait [20] uses Relativized Cantorian Principles based on certain Existence Conditions. As motivating conditions these allow him to define certain syntactically characterised higher order classes of formulae $\Gamma_n^{(m)}$ for $m \geq 2$ (the superscript indicates that higher order *universal* quantification must be of at most order m). Tait shows that for $m = 2$, V_κ satisfying $\Gamma_n^{(m)}$ reflection implies that κ is n -ineffable (in the definition of Baumgartner), and that measurability of κ sufficed to show that V_κ satisfied Γ_n^2 -reflection for all n . This left open the question of whether such principles were extra-constructible. Koellner answered this negatively by showing that if κ is $\kappa(\omega)$ -Erdős cardinal then for every n V_κ satisfies Γ_n^2 -reflection. He further answers negatively what was asked, and left open, by Tait: the $\Gamma^{(m)}$ principles are all inconsistent for $m \geq 3$.

So, even with this syntactical constraint these classes of reflection principle are either inconsistent or are still intra-constructible.

Koellner finishes his Section 4 with a heuristic argument that any form of Reflection Principle which is consistent relative to large cardinals is consistent relative to $\kappa(\omega)$. If κ is ω -Erdős, then (V_κ, \in) has an infinite sequence of indiscernibles $I \subseteq \kappa$. Take the Skolem hull H of I in V_κ . Then any order preserving map $j_0 : I \rightarrow I$ induces

a non-identity first order elementary map $j : M \rightarrow M$, where the ZFC-model M is the transitive collapse of (the countable) H . We then have a situation similar to the (inconsistent with AC) assertion that there is a non-trivial elementary $j : V \rightarrow V$. Koellner argues that from the point of view of consistency proof “it would appear that whatever reflection is provable from $j : V \rightarrow V$ should also be provable from $j : M \rightarrow M$. Since reflection would appear to be an *entirely internal matter*, this is a reason for thinking that any conceivable reflection principle must have consistency strength below that of $\kappa(\omega)$.” (My emphasis) Well, is reflection an entirely internal matter? The view I shall be putting forward here, is that it is not. It is, or can be widened to be, a *Gesamtauffassung* that incorporates the whole, consisting of both the Cantorian sets and absolute infinities. If so, then it is not internal, and we have a hope for finding extraconstructible principles.

4 The Ackermannian realm and reflection

Another set theory, due to Ackermann was introduced [1] and studied in the 1950’s and 60’s. Ackermann’s set theory A provided for a universe with extensionally determined entities (classes) and a predicate \dot{V} for set-hood: “ $x \in V$ ”. Besides axioms for extensionality, a class construction scheme, and set completeness (“all classes that are subclasses of sets are sets”), it contained the following crucial principle:

- (Ackermann’s Main Principle) *If $X \subseteq V$ is definable using only set parameters, and not using the predicate \dot{V} , then $X \in V$. Thus if θ does not contain V :*

$$x \in V \wedge \forall t(\theta(x, t) \rightarrow t \in V) \quad \rightarrow \quad \exists z \in V \forall t(t \in z \leftrightarrow \theta(x, t))$$

Ackermann interpreted Cantor’s “*By a set we understand any collection of definite distinct objects ... into a whole*” as saying

“we must require from already defined sets that they are determined and well-differentiated, thus the [foregoing] conditions for a totality [to be a set] only turn on that it must be sufficiently sharply delimited what belongs to a totality and what does not belong to it. However now the concept of set is thoroughly open.”

(Ackermann [1] p.337)³.

Indeed Reinhardt, whilst working from the premise that Ackermann considered the concept of set itself as not sharply delimited ([17], p190-1), surmises that the intuition behind Ackermann’s Main Principle is that a sharply defined collection of sets is a set, and that, given the set x , the property ‘ t is a set such that $\theta(x, t)$ ’ is independent of the (extension of) the concept of set, but gives a sufficient condition for a collection to be sharply delimited. We therefore see that on the other hand a collection is not

³“... wir von den schon definierten Mengen verlangen müssen, dass sie bestimmt und wohlunterschieden sind, so kann es sich bei der obigen Bedingung für eine Gesamtheit nur darum handeln, dass genügend scharf abgegrenzt sein muss, was zu der Gesamtheit gehört und was nicht zu ihr gehört. Nun ist aber der Mengenbegriff durchaus offen.”

sufficiently well-differentiated if it is defined through its relationship to the concept of set.

The Ackermann quotation continues (in paraphrase) that in the Cantorian definition it is intended that a collection should be investigated only on a case by case basis as to whether it represents a set, and it is not meant that it is determined all at once for all classes whether they are sets or not.

Levy, Vaught [12] added Foundation to A calling this A^* . Then A^* is consistent relative to A , and proves the existence of the classes: $\{V\}, \{\{V\}\}, \dots, \mathcal{P}(V), \mathcal{P}\mathcal{P}(V) \dots$

Thus the classes over V in A^* advance for infinitely many types beyond. The picture is thus quite different from a first-order, or even second-order ZF . However: Levy by considering models of A^* of the form $\langle V_\alpha, \in, V_\beta \rangle$. The paper [11] showed that A^* is \mathcal{L}_\in -conservative over ZF : $A^* \vdash \sigma^V \implies ZF \vdash \sigma$.

Reinhardt in [17] proved the converse implication of this last result also; hence putting these together the set-theoretical content of A^* had always just been that of ZF . It is thus to be noted that two rather different conceptualisations - the one leading to the ZF formalisation, the other that of Ackermann's - have the same content as far as the strictly considered set part is concerned. He considered in [18] (and [19]) ideas that involved having an 'imaginary realm' beyond the Cantorian universe V which he wrote as V_Ω . He imagines having classes, say P , which are then 'projected' into the imaginary realm as jP . The difference between classes and sets is that the projection of the latter are themselves, whilst that of one of the former contains more imaginary sets and ordinals. V_Ω itself is an imaginary set in this projected universe. Going yet further, he imagines a typed hierarchy of ' Ω -classes' up to some $\lambda > \Omega$, and collecting these together as V_λ he will project V_λ into some virtual realm $V_{\lambda'}$. He formulates an extendability principle $E_0(\Omega, \lambda; \Omega', \lambda')$:

- (i) $\Omega < j\Omega = \Omega' < \lambda'$.
- (ii) $\forall x \in V_\Omega jx = x$;
- (iii) $j : (V_\lambda, \in) \rightarrow_{\Sigma_\omega} (V_{\lambda'}, \in)$.

Of course this has come down to us distilled in set-sized form as heading towards the definition of α -extendible cardinals. In all of these theories, there is formed the idea of some 'realm', 'universe' *etc.* beyond V .

We mention these Reinhardtian views of upwards projection of (V, \in) by way of a contrast to the Global Reflection Principle to come.

5 Global Reflection

If we are contemplating an *ab initio* conception of the universe of sets, then we may proceed as follows.

By "conception of the universe of sets" we mean here something like the notion of "concept of set structure" in one of Martin's versions of concept of set [15]. He writes that for him the modern, iterative concept has four important components:

- (1) the concept of extensionality
- (2) concept of 'set of x 's'
- (3) concept of transfinite iteration
- (4) concept of absolute infinity.

He is thinking of the concept of sets as the concept of ‘structuralist’s structure’ and thus does not have to add anything as to what kind of things sets are. We adopt this view here. (Martin remains silent as to which flavour of structuralism’s structure might be at play here.) A ‘set structure’ is then what is obtained by iterating the concept ‘set of x ’s’ absolutely infinitely many times.

Still again at some pre-formal stage, he then takes some Informal Axioms encapsulating set theoretical principles (Extensionality, Comprehension) and rehearses the categoricity arguments going back to Zermelo, that for any two $\mathfrak{M}_1 = (V_1, \in_1)$, $\mathfrak{M}_2 = (V_2, \in_2)$ obtained by iterating the models’ V_α function throughout all the absolute infinity of ordinals, we have an isomorphism $\pi : (V_1, \in_1) \rightarrow (V_2, \in_2)$. In short, whatever view we take of what exact set formation process takes place when we take the “set of x ’s”, we end up with isomorphic universes. We, as set theorists, thus shall pay no more attention to the mysteries of what exactly “the set of x ’s” is or what precisely \in “is”, than we do every day, and shall simply refer to the set theoretic universe as (V, \in) . But we do further remark for later that $\pi \upharpoonright \text{On}^{\mathfrak{M}_1} : \text{On}^{\mathfrak{M}_1} \cong \text{On}^{\mathfrak{M}_2}$ where $\text{On}^{\mathfrak{M}_i}$ is the absolute infinity of von Neumann ordinals in the model \mathfrak{M}_i .

We then proceed as follows. We consider the universe of sets, V , (as above, unique up to this informal isomorphism argument) as *the* universe of the domain of purely mathematical discourse: whatever mathematical objects the mathematician needs, there are (isomorphic copies of) such in V . Indeed we regard sets themselves as mathematical objects. As we know, of necessity there are entities outside of V , where the modality of ‘necessity’ here is ‘logical necessity’: logic requires that the Russell class, or the class of ordinals, or indeed V itself is not a set. We swallow the Cantorian pill that there are two kinds of entities: the mathematical-discourse sets, and the absolute infinities.

However we depart from von Neumann, who seemingly treated both kinds of entities in an equally ‘mathematical’ spirit (see [21], [22]) when developing his functions-as-classes theory: his classes were subject to mathematical laws. We draw a firmer conceptual line, and do not treat the absolute infinities in such a mathematico-functional manner.

In a paper with Leon Horsten we have recently discussed the possible interpretations of classes prior to a development of a formal theory of them. We rule out a theory of classes as plurals: a plural, which in any case is a linguistic construct, is not supposed to add anything more ontologically to the objects we have, namely sets. However we do have more, V is not just “some sets so that $x = x$ ”. We accept that classes are entities that enter into structural arguments, which do not have to have any *prima facie* description as a plurality. However a *mereological* description of absolute infinities, as being *parts* of V , the absolute infinity of all sets, allows us to give sufficient substance to these entities without tying them to any language, or syntax. We may take over a theory of mereology, such as Lewis [13] and apply this to V together with its parts. (We have to make some adjustments: Lewis is dubious about \emptyset and the $x \mapsto \{x\}$ map; but we shall ignore these and treat our theory of parts as one which identifies sets x also as ‘small’ parts.) Thus we take sets and the set elementhood relation as a given: we are not trying to alter our conception of sets. Lewis thinks that the parthood relation goes some way to help us understand the set-elementhood relation, but we are not committing ourselves to what exactly this latter relation is.

We may thus think of second order quantifiers, if later we come to formalise our notions, as ranging over the parts of V . It should be not associating the parts of V with any particular linguistic structure: whereas pluralities could be interpreted in some minimal NBG model sitting above (V, \in) , a mereological view can sit happily with a Kelley-Morse formal theory of classes, but on its own is not restricting the absolute infinities that there are. How could it?

One should also note that there is no hierarchy of “super-parts” of collections or “collections of parts” or any such that threatens to build a ramified hierarchy of classes beyond On : the power set operation that collects together all the subsets of a *set* into a set is a mathematical operation applied to sets. Our acceptance of a power set operation does not require us to countenance a “power-absolute-infinity” operation. To insist that we must consider such an operation, if we posit it for sets, is similar to insisting that if our (physical, space-time) universe is finite then “there must be something beyond it”.

We denote by \mathcal{C} the collection of parts of V . We identify parts of V that are parts of sets, as themselves sets. The other parts of V are the absolute infinities. Then (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) is the realm of ‘Cantorian discourse’. Admittedly \mathcal{C} inherits the ineffability of the notion of absolute infinity. Initially then \mathcal{C} would have been populated with examples of absolute infinities that we are familiar with and had been defined by the early researchers. But we do not insist on restricting to this definability. (We cash in the remark we made earlier that two possible notions of “set of x ’s” led to isomorphic universes $\mathfrak{A}_1 = (V_1, \in_1)$, $\mathfrak{A}_2 = (V_2, \in_2)$ with an isomorphism π between them, which in particular restricted to an isomorphic map between the absolute infinity of \mathfrak{A}_1 ’s ordinals with those of \mathfrak{A}_2 . The same argument shows that ‘parts of \mathfrak{A}_1 ’ carry over to parts of \mathfrak{A}_2 . So clearly we may extend the isomorphism to $\pi : (V_1, \in_1, \mathcal{C}_1) \rightarrow (V_2, \in_2, \mathcal{C}_2)$. In other words two differing notions of “set of” cannot lead to essentially differing models when their parts are also included. Moreover we view the content of our set, and class, theoretical ideas to be captured by this isomorphism type.)

We want to invert the Reinhardtian approach and stand it on its head: instead of projecting into some ‘virtual realm’, we *reflect* the structure (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) to some set-sized part of itself. The approach taken is that we regard (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) as absolutely indistinguishable from one of its initial segments. However it is also possible to see the indistinguishability as the endpoint of a spectrum of more limited reflection properties which we outline first.

Definition 1 (*Limited Global Reflection*) *There is $\kappa \in \text{On}$, there is $j \neq \text{id}$, with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$, and $D \subseteq V_{\kappa+1}$ so that:*

$$j : (V_\kappa, \in, D) \longrightarrow_{\Sigma_\omega^0} (V, \in, \mathcal{C}).$$

Here we consider that $\longrightarrow_{\Sigma_\omega^0}$ denotes an embedding that preserves truth of formulae of the usual first order language \mathcal{L}_\in , but augmented with second order free variable symbols $\dot{A}, \dot{B} \dots$, (let us call it \mathcal{L}_\in^+ , and in order to explicitly distinguish languages, we shall write, for example, ‘ Σ_n^0 ’ for formulae at that level of complexity in \mathcal{L}_\in^+) with the interpretation of the second order variables to range over the collections \mathcal{C}, D of parts of V , or $V_{\kappa+1}$ respectively.

As $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$ we have: (i) $j \upharpoonright V_\kappa = \text{id} \upharpoonright V_\kappa$; (ii) if $\kappa \in D$ then $j(\kappa) = \text{On} \in \mathcal{C}$. We thus have:

$$\varphi(x, X)^{(V_\kappa, \in, D)} \leftrightarrow \varphi(x, j(X))^{(V, \in, \mathcal{C})}$$

The strength of such a principle depends on the nature of D , which is the non-trivial part of the domain of j .

- If $D \subset P(\kappa)^L$ then in general we shall not have a reflection property that is extra-constructible. Indeed, several ‘classical’ reflection properties can be expressed in this way.

- However if $D \supseteq P(\kappa)^L$ then we can define in the usual way an L -ultrafilter on κ :

$$X \in U \leftrightarrow (X \in L \wedge \kappa \in j(X)) \quad (1)$$

By standard arguments this is an amenable normal ultrafilter, and we may define a wellfounded ultrapower $\text{Ult}((L, \in), U)$ which is isomorphic to L itself. In other words, we have some non-identity embedding $j_0 : L \rightarrow L$, *i.e.* 0^\sharp exists.

- As D is reckoned to be larger and larger, then the strength of the principle increases: if some other definable inner model M has $D \supseteq P(\kappa)^M$ then again we shall be able to define an ultrapower of the M : $\text{Ult}((M, \in), U)$ if U is defined in the same way. Such a model may then also be seen to be non-rigid.

The logical limit, and principle of main interest here, is when D becomes maximal at the end of this spectrum, *i.e.* to become $V_{\kappa+1}$. Unlike the pitfall that was waiting for Reinhardt, this principle when extended to the limit can be shown consistent relative to large cardinals.

Definition 2 (GRP - Global Reflection Principle) *There is $\kappa \in \text{On}$, there is $j \neq \text{id}$, $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$, so that:*

$$j : (V_\kappa, \in, V_{\kappa+1}) \longrightarrow_{\Sigma_\omega^0} (V, \in, \mathcal{C}).$$

Some points are then clear: κ is strongly inaccessible; as there is a wellordering W of V_κ in $V_{\kappa+1}$, then $j(W)$ is a wellordering of V . Thus we must have global choice holding in V .

- GRP is equivalent to the principle obtained by weakening Σ_ω^0 by Σ_1^0 (but not by the usual self-strengthening argument of Gaifman, because that requires the range of the map j to be cofinal - which does not apply here).

As soon as we have $D = V_{\kappa+1}$, we have that the ultrafilter U defined at (1) is a normal measure in V . Hence κ is measurable, and by the supposed elementarity, and by simple reflection arguments, we immediately have a proper class of measurable cardinals. But we easily have more.

Theorem 1 GRP implies there is a proper class of Shelah cardinals.

Proof: Recall that μ is Shelah if $\forall f \in {}^\mu \mu \exists N, j (j : V \rightarrow N \wedge V_{j(f)(\mu)} \subseteq N)$. We show that κ is Shelah in the statement of GRP and this easily implies by elementarity that there is a proper class of such.

Let $f \in {}^\kappa \kappa \subseteq V_{\kappa+1}$, be arbitrary. Then $j(f) : \text{On} \rightarrow \text{On}$; $j(f) \text{``} \kappa \subseteq \kappa$. Take $\lambda > \kappa$ a sufficiently large inaccessible, so that $j(f)(\kappa) < \lambda$, and consider the “ λ -strong” extender derived from j :

For $a \in [\lambda]^{<\omega}$: $E_a =_{\text{df}} \{z \in \mathcal{P}([\kappa]^{|a|}) : a \in j(z)\}$; $\mathcal{E} = \langle E_a : a \in [\lambda]^{<\omega} \rangle$.

This has the following properties:

(1) \mathcal{E} is a (κ, λ) -extender such that $\text{Ult}((V, \in), \mathcal{E})$ is wellfounded; with $k_{\mathcal{E}} : V \rightarrow \text{Ult}((V, \in), \mathcal{E})$, and if $l : \text{Ult}((V, \in), \mathcal{E}) \cong N$, is the unique transitivity collapse map, then setting $j_{\mathcal{E}} = l \circ k_{\mathcal{E}}$, $j_{\mathcal{E}} : V \rightarrow N$ and, $j_{\mathcal{E}}(f)(\kappa) = j_{\mathcal{E}}(f)(\kappa) < \lambda$, and $V_{\lambda} = (V_{\lambda})^N$.

As $j_{\mathcal{E}}(f)(\kappa) = k_{\mathcal{E}}(f)(\kappa) < \lambda$, then $V_{j_{\mathcal{E}}(f)(\kappa)} \subseteq N$ follows; hence we have the Shelah property for this f . Q.E.D.

Clearly stronger properties can be argued for, but in any case we have UW :

Corollary 1 GRP implies there is a proper class of measurable Woodin cardinals.

6 Is GRP a reflection principle?

Instead of viewing GRP as a limiting principle as the class domain grows larger until it contains all of $P(\kappa)$, one could view it outright as asserting in a strong form that (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) , that is V together with all its parts, is indistinguishable from one of its initial segments and its parts: $(V_{\kappa}, \in, V_{\kappa+1})$. We view V together with its parts, and its initial segments and their parts, as being so rich, that there is a κ such that (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) and $(V_{\kappa}, \in, V_{\kappa+1})$ can stand in this relationship. The latter is a simulacrum of the former. The map j that is asserted to exist mediates that indistinguishability through being a truth preserving elementary embedding.

If this viewpoint is viable, then we are taking the whole of (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) and reflecting this to a $(V_{\kappa}, \in, V_{\kappa+1})$. It is not a syntactic, formula-by-formula reflection, whether first or second order, or something expressed in some logic. In these senses it is not a reflection principle such as Gödel may have had in mind. It is not the viewpoint that says “nothing we can say in whatever logic/language pins down (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) , or is only true in (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) ” (such a viewpoint would be too weak for our purposes). To assert GRP is to assert that there is a j doing the work of linking these collections of parts together, those of V_{κ} and those of V . One cannot argue for GRP using the iterative conception of set alone, but using this conception together with that of absolute infinities and with the reflective idea involving \mathcal{C} .

Of course the interceding map j is a second order object, and by elementary arguments, cannot be a definable class of (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) . So when we come to formalise our principle GRP this will require the admission that impredicative objects such as j should be part of the discussion. There is no sense that the j of GRP has ‘come from somewhere’ or is ‘canonical’ in any way (it certainly cannot be definable). Friedman and Honzik ([6], Sect. 2) raise this non-canonicity as somehow a defect of GRP: “However, in our opinion, such strong forms of reflection seem to be too “uncanonical” to count as true formalization of (Reflection)”. However their paper is concerned with something quite different from reflection of an ‘actualised’ universe (V, \in) ; it is not a potentialist version either. It seeks to gain some insight into possible new axioms

or hypotheses (such as the “Inner Model Hypothesis[#]”) that may then be offered for consideration as true of V , by looking at countable transitive models, pretending that V is one of them, and thereby possibly “sharp-generating” this c.t.m. by iteration of an external premouse. Hence our viewpoint and this procedure are quite different (and at odds with each other). Perhaps the externally provided iteration maps $\tilde{\pi}$ when restricted to the c.t.m. V are deemed more ‘canonical’? (Although, if so, one may counter this canonicity, by remarking that the externally posited ‘premouse’, and so its maps, are not unique either.) However this is a rather sophisticated approach that applies to countable transitive models ‘ V ’, and does not really touch (in this author’s view) a Cantorian view of V as an inaugmentable totality of sets together with a *pre-formal* conception of reflection.

Indeed Peter Koellner has suggested that perhaps a “resemblance” property is a better name. Whatever one thinks of the nomenclature, GRP is different from other properties that are sometimes termed resemblance. We consider some such forms now for a differential comparison; these are forms which assert that there is some reflection or accumulation point κ so that anything that occurs above κ in some sense has an occurrence below. One such is the Vopenka principle:

Definition 3 (*Vopenka’s Principle*) *If $\langle \mathcal{M}_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{On} \rangle$ is a proper class of first order structures each in V of the same signature, then there is $\alpha < \beta$ and an elementary embedding $j : \mathcal{M}_\alpha \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\beta$.*

Notice that this is a *richness* principle of V that claims of any such class of structures that we have such a triple α, β, j . We can tie it closer to the structure of V by taking the \mathcal{M}_α of the form $(V_{f(\alpha)}, \in, \{\alpha\}, R_\alpha)$ where $\alpha < f(\alpha)$ for some increasing function $f : \text{On} \rightarrow \text{On}$; and where $R_\alpha \subseteq V_{f(\alpha)}$. The presence of $\{\alpha\}$ makes all the difference as then if we have α, β, j as in Vopenka’s Principle, then we must have $j(\alpha) = \beta$, and thus j is not simple identity. Hence VP is a strong property which implies that the class of extendible cardinals is Mahlo in On (see [16]).

A more extensive study of VP like principles where the target structures have certain elementarity properties in V is given in Joan Bagaria’s paper [2]:

Definition 4 (i) $C^{(n)} =_{\text{df}} \{\alpha \mid (V_\alpha, \in) \prec_{\Sigma_n} (V, \in)\}$;
(ii) κ is a $C^{(n)}$ -measurable cardinal if it is the critical point of an elementary embedding $j : V \rightarrow M$, with M transitive, and $j(\kappa) \in C^{(n)}$;
(iii) κ is a $C^{(n)}$ -extendible cardinal if for all λ there exists μ, j with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$; $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow_{\Sigma_\omega} V_\mu$ with $j(\kappa) \in C^{(n)}$.

As [2] analyzes, if κ is measurable then it is $C^{(n)}$ -measurable, and the prefix in this sense adds nothing; whilst, $C^{(n)}$ -extendibility is a genuine strengthening of extendibility.

One final definition before we can state Bagaria’s categorization. This is now a form of resemblance where κ is some kind of ‘reflection point’ or ‘cut point’ in the universe V :

Definition 5 $\text{VP}(\kappa, \Sigma_n)$ holds iff for every proper class C of structures of the same type τ such that both τ and the parameters of some Σ_n -definition of C , if any, belong to H_κ , then C reflects below κ , i.e. ,

$\forall B \in C \exists A \in C \cap H_\kappa (A \text{ is elementarily embeddable into } B).$

Theorem 2 (Bagaria [2], 4.15) *The following are equivalent:*

- (i) VP;
- (ii) For all n there is a proper class of κ so that $\text{VP}(\kappa, \Sigma_n)$;
- (iii) $\forall n \exists \kappa (\kappa \text{ is } C^{(n)}\text{-extendible}).$

We thus see that VP can be given an equivalence in terms of a proper class of reflection or cut points for any kind of definable class whatsoever.

This in fact brings out parallels with a much earlier paper of Magidor's on supercompacts:

Theorem 3 (Magidor [16]) *Let κ be the first supercompact cardinal; then κ is the least cardinal so that $\text{VP}(\kappa, \Sigma_2)$.*

We have mentioned the details of these definitions to see that the kind of reflection they represent is some form of *internal* reflection of the ramified layers V_α rather than the idea of reflection of the whole of universe (V, \in) which cannot be pinned down in ways mentioned by Ackermann and Gödel. So there is a qualitative difference between GRP and such principles.

However it is easily noted that:

Theorem 4 $\text{Con}(\text{ZFC} + \exists \kappa (\kappa \text{ is } 1\text{-extendible})) \longrightarrow \text{Con}(\text{NBG} + \text{GRP}).$

But the arrow is not reversible. GRP thus falls just sort of those embeddings j that are discontinuous at the successor of the critical point: j^{κ^+} is bounded in $j(\kappa^+)$. Hence GRP is consistent, or can be made consistent with Global Square, and \square_λ everywhere, by a class forcing. (For these methods see [3].) It is thus a reflection principle that marks off this threshold.

7 Strengthening GRP?

Whilst the last theorem indicates what the strength of the basic GRP is, the motivation for *top-down* reflection rather than upwards projection came originally from a weakening of the notion of subcompactness:

Definition 6 κ is subcompact if for any $A \subseteq H_{\kappa^+}$, there are $j, \mu < \kappa$, and $B \subseteq H_{\mu^+}$ with

$$j : (H_{\mu^+}, B) \longrightarrow_e (H_{\kappa^+}, A).$$

To strengthen GRP we may ask for many j 's and κ 's. Or else, more interestingly, we may increase the elementarity of j to be (partially or fully) second order reflecting, that is, to preserve for example Σ_n^1 -formulae with now quantification over the second-order variables of L^+ - such an extended language we shall call $L_{\mathcal{C}}^2$. Then if $j : (V_\kappa, \in, V_{\kappa+1}) \longrightarrow_{\Sigma_\omega^1} (V, \in, \mathcal{C})$ we shall conclude that all instances of impredicative

comprehension - which are true in $(V_\kappa, \in, V_{\kappa+1})$, being a Kelley-Morse (KM) model - will also hold in (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) .

If j is Σ_ω^1 -elementary more can be said about the range of j : for example Σ_1^1 -elementarity shows that the class of Shelah cardinals is stationary in (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) . We may go further and formalise second order satisfaction, as follows.

We may for any $n \in \omega$ define a Σ_n^1 formula $\text{Sat}_n(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k, Y_1, \dots, Y_m)$ so that, provably in NBG + Global Choice (the latter holds if GRP does, and is needed to define Skolem functions):

$$\forall h \in {}^\omega V \forall X_1, \dots, \forall X_m \\ [\text{Sat}_n(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner, k, m, \langle h_0, \dots, h_{k-1} \rangle, \langle X_1, \dots, X_m \rangle) \leftrightarrow \varphi(\vec{h}, X_1, \dots, X_m)]$$

for any Σ_n^1 formula $\varphi(v_1, \dots, v_k, Y_1, \dots, Y_m)$ with the v_i to be interpreted as sets, and the Y_i as classes. Let Sat be the amalgamation of these Sat_n predicates.

Definition 7 (GRP⁺): There is $\kappa \in \text{On}$, there is $j \neq \text{id}$, $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$,

$$j : (V_\kappa, \in, V_{\kappa+1}, \text{Sat}^{V_\kappa}) \longrightarrow_{\Sigma_1^1} (V, \in, \mathcal{C}, \text{Sat}).$$

We thus require j to be Σ_1^1 -elementary in the full second order language $L_{\in, \dot{S}}^2$ with a predicate \dot{S} for Sat . It is easy to argue that subcompactness of some λ then yields a model of GRP⁺.

Proposition 1 Assume GRP⁺. Then there is a commuting system $\langle \mu_\alpha, j_{\alpha\beta} \rangle_{\alpha \leq \beta \in \text{On}}$ of embeddings $j_{\alpha\beta} : (V_{\mu_\alpha}, \in, V_{\mu_\alpha+1}, \dot{S}) \longrightarrow_{\Sigma_1^0} (V_{\mu_\beta}, \in, V_{\mu_\beta+1}, \dot{S})$, with each $j_{\alpha\beta}$, $\alpha < \beta$, witnessing the simple GRP at μ_β . Thus each $j_{\alpha\beta} \upharpoonright \mu_\alpha = \text{id} \upharpoonright \mu_\alpha$ and $j_{\alpha\beta}(\mu_\alpha) = \mu_\beta$. Moreover for $\alpha \in \text{On}$, there are maps $j_\alpha : (V_{\mu_\alpha}, \in, V_{\mu_\alpha+1}, \dot{S}) \longrightarrow_{\Sigma_1^0} (V, \in, \mathcal{C}, \dot{S})$ also witnessing GRP in the universe.

This is obtained in a way very similar to the following from a subcompact.

Proposition 2 Let κ be subcompact. Then there is a commuting system $\langle \mu_\alpha, j_{\alpha\beta} \rangle_{\alpha \leq \beta \leq \kappa}$ of embeddings $j_{\alpha\beta} : (V_{\mu_\alpha+1}, \in) \longrightarrow_e (V_{\mu_\beta+1}, \in)$ with, $\mu_\kappa = \kappa$; each $j_{\alpha\beta} \upharpoonright \mu_\alpha = \text{id} \upharpoonright \mu_\alpha$, and $j_{\alpha\beta}(\mu_\alpha) = \mu_\beta$, and thus with each $j_{\alpha+1, \beta}$, $\alpha < \beta$, witnessing the 1-extendibility of $\mu_{\alpha+1}$.

Proof: For $\lambda \in \text{Card}$ let Sat_λ be the satisfaction relation for (H_λ, \in) . Then we view Sat_λ as a subset of H_λ . Let κ be subcompact as above, and let $A = \text{Sat} = \text{Sat}_{\kappa^+}$. Then $\text{Sat} \subseteq H_{\kappa^+}$, and applying the definition of subcompactness there are $\mu < \kappa$ and j , and $\overline{\text{Sat}}$ with

$$j : (H_{\mu^+}, \overline{\text{Sat}}) \longrightarrow_e (H_{\kappa^+}, \text{Sat}).$$

(1) $\overline{\text{Sat}} = \text{Sat}_{\mu^+}$.

Pf: Suppose $H_{\mu^+} \models \varphi(x) \leftrightarrow \neg \overline{\text{Sat}}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner, x)$. Apply j to get a contradiction. Q.E.D.(1)

Definition 8 $(H_{\kappa^+}, \text{Sat}) \models \text{“ran}(k) \prec_e (V, \in)\text{”} \iff_{\text{df}}$

$$\forall x \in \text{ran}(k) \forall \ulcorner \varphi \urcorner \equiv \ulcorner \exists z \psi(z, v_1) \urcorner \\ \exists z \text{Sat}(\ulcorner \psi \urcorner, \langle z, j(x) \rangle) \longrightarrow \exists z \in \text{ran}(k) \text{Sat}(\ulcorner \psi \urcorner, \langle z, j(x) \rangle).$$

We thus use Tarski-Vaught to formalise the notion of being an elementary submodel of V . Note that $j \subseteq H_{\mu^+} \times H_{\kappa^+}$ and $|j| = |H_{\mu^+}| < \kappa$ and so $j \in H_{\kappa^+}$. Clearly, by the elementarity of j :

(2) $(H_{\kappa^+}, \text{Sat}) \models \text{“ran}(j) \prec_e (V, \in)\text{”}$ indeed:

$(H_{\kappa^+}, \text{Sat}) \models \text{“There are } k, \kappa_0, \text{ with } k : (H_{\kappa_0^+}, \in) \longrightarrow (V, \in) \text{ and } \text{ran}(k) \prec_e (V, \in), \text{ and thus } k \text{ is an elementary map.”}$

But by invoking j we have:

(3) $(H_{\mu^+}, \text{Sat}_{\mu^+}) \models \text{“There are } k, \kappa_0, \text{ with } k : (H_{\kappa_0^+}, \in) \longrightarrow (V, \in) \text{ and } \text{ran}(k) \prec_e (V, \in), \text{ and thus } k \text{ is an elementary map.”}$

This gives us two links in a chain of models we are looking for in the Proposition. Suppose there are no chains of length κ of the kind sought. Let $C = \langle \mu_\alpha, j_{\alpha\beta} \rangle_{\alpha \leq \beta \leq \tau}$ be a maximal such commuting chain with the properties: (i) there is a final model $(V_{\mu_\tau+1}, \in)$, and (ii) with a final map $j_\tau : (V_{\mu_\tau+1}, \in) \longrightarrow (V_{\kappa+1}, \in)$. Suppose $\tau < \kappa$ (for otherwise we are done). For each $\alpha < \tau$ we have that $(H_{\kappa^+}, \text{Sat}) \models \text{“ran}(j_\tau \circ j_{\alpha\tau}) \prec_e (V, \in)\text{”}$ By elementarity of j we have in fact that, C is similarly a 1-extendible chain, but now that there is some $\bar{j}_\tau : (V_{\mu_\tau+1}, \in) \longrightarrow (V_{\mu+1}, \in)$, i.e., with the chain also maximal such, but with target $(V_{\mu+1}, \in)$. However this is a contradiction since $(H_{\kappa^+}, \text{Sat})$ now sees that C can be extended one more link (namely via \bar{j}_τ), and this reflects into H_{μ^+} , so C is not a maximal chain going up to $(V_{\mu+1}, \in)$. Q.E.D.

8 Conclusion

The strengthenings of GRP considered in the last section go beyond the kind of position outlined earlier: the purely mathematical objects reside in V , it is the parts of V that form the proper classes of \mathcal{C} . We reflect, in as much that there should be an initial segment V_κ together with its parts, that is a simulacrum of (V, \in, \mathcal{C}) with a witnessing function j mediating this reflection. We classify Σ_n^0 statements as mathematical; the second order expressions quantifying over parts are mereological: these are about the parts of V . However if j is required to reflect structural statements or other commitments about the parts of V as well, in other words if j is supposed to be *mereologically reflecting*, then this can be construed as a step beyond the pure Cantorian picture we have argued for.

References

- [1] W. Ackermann. Zur Axiomatik der Mengenlehre. *Mathematische Annalen*, 131:336–345, 1956.
- [2] J. Bagaria. $C^{(n)}$ -cardinals. *Archive for Mathematical Logic*, 51:213–240, 2012.

- [3] A. Brooke-Taylor and S-D. Friedman. Subcompact cardinals, square and stationary reflection. *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, 197(1):453–473, October 2013.
- [4] G. Cantor. Mitteilungen zur Lehre vom Transfiniten VII 1887. In E. Zermelo, editor, *Abhandlungen mathematischen und philosophischen Inhalts*. Julius Springer Verlag, 1932.
- [5] G. Cantor. Letter to Dedekind. In J. van Heijenoort, editor, *From Frege to Gödel*, pages 113–117. Harvard University Press, 1967.
- [6] S-D. Friedman and R. Honzik. On strong forms of reflection in set theory. *Mathematical Logic Quarterly*.
- [7] K. Gödel. What is Cantor’s continuum problem? Oxford University Press, 1990.
- [8] K. Hauser. Cantor’s Absolute in metaphysics and mathematics. *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 53(2):161–188, 2013.
- [9] A. Kanamori. *The Higher Infinite*. Omega Series in Logic. Springer Verlag, New York, 1994.
- [10] P. Koellner. On reflection principles. *Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, 157:206–219, 2009.
- [11] A. Levy. On Ackermann’s set theory. *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, 24:154–166, 1959.
- [12] A. Levy and R.L. Vaught. Principles of partial reflection in the set theories of Zermelo and Ackermann. *Pacific Journal of Mathematics*, 11:1045–1062, 1961.
- [13] D. Lewis. *Parts of Classes*. Basil Blackwell, 1986.
- [14] V. Marshall. Higher order reflection principles. *JSL*, 54(2):474–489, 1989.
- [15] D. A. Martin. Completeness or Incompleteness of Basic Mathematical Concepts. *EFI Harvard Workshop Papers*, 2012.
- [16] M. Magidor. On the role of supercompact and extendible cardinals in logic. *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, 10:147–157, 1971.
- [17] W. Reinhardt. Ackermann’s set theory equals ZF. *Annals of Mathematical Logic*, 2:189–249, 1970.
- [18] W. Reinhardt. Remarks on reflection principles, large cardinals, and elementary embeddings. In T. Jech, editor, *Axiomatic Set Theory*, volume 13 part 2 of *Proceedings of Symposia in Pure Mathematics*, pages 189–205, Providence, Rhode Island, 1974. American Mathematical Society.
- [19] W. Reinhardt. Set existence principles of Shoenfield, Ackermann and Powell. *Fundamenta Mathematicae*, 84:5–34, 1974.
- [20] W. W. Tait. Constructing cardinals from below. In W. W. Tait, editor, *The Provenance of Pure Reason: essays in the philosophy of mathematics and its history*, pages 133–154. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005.
- [21] J. von Neumann. Eine Axiomatisierung der Mengenlehre. *J. reine angewandte Mathematik*, 154:219–240, 1925.
- [22] J. von Neumann. Die Axiomatisierung der Mengenlehre. *Mathematische Zeitschrift*, 27:669–752, 1928.
- [23] H. Wang. *A Logical Journey: From Gödel to Philosophy*. MIT Press, Boston, USA, 1996.
- [24] W.H. Woodin. The Continuum Hypothesis, Part I. *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*, pages 567–576, July 2001.
- [25] E. Zermelo. Über Grenzzahlen und Mengenbereiche: Neue Untersuchungen über die Grundlagen der Mengenlehre. *Fundamenta Mathematicae*, 16:29–47, 1930.