

# Axiomatic Potentialism

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# Overview

- 1 Background
- 2 Warm Up: Height Potentialism
- 3 Height and Width Potentialism

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- Still deeper roots in mathematics in general.

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- The model-theoretic side has seen thorough examination in the recent literature
- Here we will be focused on axiomatic potentialism, and on relations between potentialist axiom systems and their first order counterparts.



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Instantiation requires assumption of existence.

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Proof: use mirroring.

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This is essentially what Button calls ‘near-synonymy’.

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- $M$  interprets  $ZFC^-$  under the translation  $\varphi \mapsto \varphi^{\diamond}$ .
- $M$  proves  $\neg Pow^{\diamond}$ .
- $M$  proves  $V = HC^{\diamond}$  and hence  $SOA^{\diamond}$ .

# Some basic facts

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- $M$  proves  $V = HC^\diamond$  and hence  $SOA^\diamond$ .
- $M$  proves the universal possibility of forcing.
- e.g., it proves it is possible for the continuum to exist and have a cardinality at least as great as any  $\aleph$  number whose existence is provable in ZFC.



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But then the rigidity/extensionality imply  $w = z$  after all, so we have a contradiction.

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Amounts to ‘restricting’ ourselves to parameters that exist at the world of evaluation.

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- The  $\Gamma$ -PSP implies no formula in  $\Gamma$  defines a well-order of the reals.
- $\Gamma$ -definable sets are thus ‘regular’ or ‘well behaved’.

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- Our interpretation for  $\diamond_{\uparrow}$  will involve holding  $r$  fixed and climbing transitive sets in  $L[r]$ ;
- while our interpretation for  $\diamond_{\leftarrow}$  will involve allowing new reals to be added but not extending the height of the transitive set parameter.



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## Theorem

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Since (all sets are countable) $^\diamond$ , the result follows.

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The exact details of  $\diamond_{\leftarrow}$  are incidental anyway; if we formulate the theory with just  $\diamond$  and  $\diamond_{\uparrow}$ , we will get near synonymy.

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- You get more large cardinals in inner models.
- In the modal theory, this corresponds to the  $\Diamond_{\uparrow}$ -possibility of large cardinals.

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- But I am not convinced that there are decisive reasons for taking one of these theories, rather than the other, to hold only in inner models.
- The potentialist perspective enshrined in  $M$ , and the regularity perspective in  $T$ , provide two tightly equivalent ways of fleshing out the alternative viewpoint.

# Thanks!