

Large Cardinals

James Hindmarch

January 2024

Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Inaccessibility	4
2.1	Sources of Large Cardinal Axioms	4
2.2	Cumulative Hierarchy	8
3	Does $IC \Leftrightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$? No.	11
3.1	Theory of Absoluteness	12
4	Is $I(\kappa)$ equivalent to $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC}$? No.	13
5	Consistency Strength Hierarchy	16
5.1	Negation of Large Cardinal Axioms	17
5.2	Weakly inaccessibles	19
6	The Measure Problem	19
6.1	Combinatorial observations about real-valued measurable cardinals	22
6.2	Combinatorics	26
7	Large Cardinals for Infinitary Logic	29
7.1	Reflection	31
8	Reflection	34
8.1	Taking the ultrapower of the universe	34
8.2	Back to the reflection theorem	40
8.3	Fundamental Theorem on Measurable Cardinals	42
8.4	Alternative View of Reflection	45
9	Embeddings	46
9.1	Witness objects	47
9.2	Getting rid of the annoying inaccessible	48
9.2.1	Problem 1: Taking ultrapowers without a set model . . .	48

9.2.2	Problems 2 and 3: Fixing the problems with quantification and elementarity	49
10 Up:	Cardinals that are too big	50
10.1	Embedding Cardinals	50
10.2	Supercompactness	51

1 Introduction

Set theory today is largely about understanding the consequences of the incompleteness phenomenon, that is to say, that for any reasonable T (i.e. the axioms are computably enumerable, the axioms are consistent, etc). Then there exists φ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} T &\not\vdash \varphi \\ T &\not\vdash \neg\varphi \end{aligned}$$

In particular, $T \not\vdash \text{Cons}(T)$. As a consequence,

$$\{\psi : T \vdash \psi\} \subsetneq \{\psi : T + \varphi \vdash \psi\},$$

that is to say

$$T <_{\text{consequence}} T + \varphi.$$

So Modern set theory is about understanding this $<_{\text{consequence}}$ relation, and other similar relations. Large cardinal axioms arise, since they are one of the most natural hierarchies to determine the basis of measuring these strengths.

The one large irony of this course is that we will not have a precise definition of “large cardinal.”

A non-definition would be that a **large cardinal property** is a formula Φ , such that $\Phi(\kappa)$ implies that κ is a very large cardinal, and that κ is so large that its existence cannot be proved in ZFC.

The underlined regions are informal, but we can make precise that we cannot prove it in ZFC. We can write:

$$\Phi C \Leftrightarrow \exists \kappa, \Phi(\kappa),$$

and say that $\text{ZFC} \not\vdash \Phi C$.

Non-Example 1.1. κ is called a **Aleph fixed point** if $\kappa = \aleph_\kappa$.

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &\neq \aleph_0 \\
1 &\neq \aleph_1 \\
&\vdots \\
\omega &\neq \aleph_\omega \\
&\vdots \\
\omega_1 &\neq \aleph_{\omega_1} \\
&\vdots \\
\aleph_\omega &\neq \aleph_{\aleph_\omega}
\end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.2 (Normal function class). If $F : \text{Ord} \rightarrow \text{Ord}$, we say that F is **normal** if:

- (a) $\alpha \leq \beta \Rightarrow F(\alpha) \leq F(\beta)$
- (b) λ a limit $\Rightarrow F(\lambda) = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} F(\alpha)$.

Proposition 1.3. *Every normal ordinal operation has arbitrarily large fixed points.*

Proof. In Logic and Set Theory.

□

Therefore, since $\alpha \rightarrow \aleph_\alpha$ is normal, there must be aleph fixed points.

Non-Example 1.4. Let $\Phi(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow (\kappa = \aleph_\kappa) \wedge \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$.

Then clearly $\Phi C \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$, so $\text{ZFC} \not\models \Phi C$. This feels like cheating, because it is. We want the size of the ordinals to be the reason that ZFC cannot prove their existence.

2 Inaccessibility

2.1 Sources of Large Cardinal Axioms

Look at ω . It is *far* bigger than any $n < \omega$. If we try to express this fact in terms of mathematical properties of ω , then we can use these as large cardinal properties. Let's consider some of these properties:

1. If $n < \omega$, then $n^+ < \omega$, where n^+ refers to the *cardinal* successor of n . In more formal terms we can write:

$$\Lambda(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha (\alpha < \kappa \rightarrow \alpha^+ < \kappa).$$

Clearly, $\Lambda(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \kappa$ is a limit cardinal. For example \aleph_ω . So $\Lambda(\kappa)$ entails neither that κ is very large or the existence of κ is unprovable.

2. If $n < \omega$, then $2^n < \omega$. Recall that 2^n is the size of the power set of n . Formally, we can write:

$$\Sigma(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha (\alpha < \kappa \rightarrow 2^\alpha < \kappa)$$

where 2^α is the cardinality of $\mathcal{P}(\alpha)$.

Similarly to the \aleph hierarchy, we can define the \beth -hierarchy by:

$$\begin{aligned} \beth_0 &:= \omega \\ \beth_{\alpha+1} &:= 2^{\beth_\alpha} \\ \beth_\lambda &:= \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \beth_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

We don't need to know the truth or falsity of the continuum hypothesis in order to prove that $\aleph_\alpha \leq \beth_\alpha$, this is fairly immediate¹.

$\Sigma(\kappa)$ is saying that κ is something we call a **strong limit** cardinal. Moreover, it is clear that κ is a strong limit if and only if $\kappa = \beth_\lambda$ for λ a limit cardinal.

3. If $s : n \rightarrow \omega$ for $n < \omega$, then $\sup(s) = \bigcup \text{ran}(s) < \omega$. I.e. we can never reach ω by taking a union of any finite number of finite sets.

Definition 2.1 (Cofinality). Let λ be a limit ordinal, and $C \subseteq \lambda$ is cofinal/unbounded if $\bigcup C = \lambda$.

$$\text{cf}(\lambda) := \min\{|C| : C \text{ is cofinal in } \lambda\}$$

We call $\text{cf}(\lambda)$ the **cofinality** of λ . Clearly $\text{cf}(\lambda) \leq |\lambda|$ for any ordinal. So if λ is a cardinal, then $\text{cf}(\lambda) \leq \lambda$.

Definition 2.2 (Singular/Regular cardinal). A cardinal κ is called **regular** if $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \kappa$. Otherwise, we call κ **singular**.

Examples. \aleph_0 is regular. \aleph_1 is regular (since countable unions of countable sets are countable). In general, $\aleph_{\alpha+1}$ is regular for each α (this is a question on Example sheet 1).

¹Since $\beth_{\alpha+1}$ cannot be mapped into \beth_α by a diagonalisation argument. And $\aleph_{\alpha+1}$ is defined as the least ordinal such that this is true.

On the other hand $\aleph_\omega = \cup\{\aleph_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. So $\text{cf}(\aleph(\omega)) = \aleph_0 < \aleph_\omega$. In fact, limit cardinals often tend to be singular. For example, \aleph_ω , \aleph_{ω_1} , and \aleph_{\aleph_ω} are all singular.

Definition 2.3 (Weakly Inaccessible/Inaccessible). A cardinal κ is called **weakly inaccessible** if it's a regular limit cardinal. We express this as $\text{WI}(\kappa)$

A cardinal κ is called **(strongly) inaccessible** if it's an uncountable regular strong limit cardinal. We express this as $\text{I}(\kappa)$.

We write IC for $\exists \kappa. \text{I}(\kappa)$ (and WIC is defined similarly).

Our goal now is to argue that WI and I are large cardinal properties in the sense of our non-definition. I.e. that they are both very large, and that $\text{ZFC} \not\vdash \text{IC}$ and $\text{ZFC} \not\vdash \text{WIC}$.

Obviously we can never prove that ZFC does not prove these things, because it *could* be inconsistent, in which case it will prove everything, however we are able to show that if it is consistent then it doesn't prove the existence of these objects.

Proposition 2.4.

$$\text{WI}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \kappa = \aleph_\kappa$$

I.e. if a cardinal is weakly inaccessible, then it is an aleph fixed point.

Proof. Suppose not, then $\kappa < \aleph_\kappa$. Fix α such that $\kappa = \aleph_\alpha$. Clearly $\alpha < \kappa$. Since κ is a limit cardinal, α must be a limit ordinal. Therefore

$$\aleph_\alpha = \cup_{\alpha < \beta} \aleph_\beta,$$

and so $\{\aleph_\beta : \beta < \alpha\}$ is cofinal in κ . Thus $\text{cf}(\kappa) \leq |\alpha| < \kappa$, so κ is singular, which implies $\neg \text{WI}(\kappa)$.

□

Proposition 2.5. *A cardinal κ is regular \Rightarrow if $\lambda < \kappa$ and $\forall \alpha < \lambda, |X_\alpha| < \kappa$, then $\bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha \neq \kappa$.*

Proof. We prove this by setting

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_0 &:= \omega \\ \alpha_{n+1} &:= \aleph_{\alpha_n} \\ \kappa &:= \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \alpha_n\end{aligned}$$

This implies that $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \aleph_0$. I don't think this quite proves the claim in the proposition, at least not immediately. But the proposition is somewhat self-evident from the definition anyway.

□

Today we will focus more on IC, rather than WIC, and prove that $\text{ZFC} \not\models \text{IC}$ (of course, assuming that ZFC is consistent).

Remark. Many things in the relationship of WI and I are unclear: 2^{\aleph_0} is not a strong limit, so it is not I. Is it possibly WI?

Remark. If GCH holds, then $\forall \alpha, 2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}$, then $\forall \alpha, \aleph_\alpha = \beth_\alpha$. In this world, being a limit is the same as being a strong limit, so $\text{I}(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \text{WI}(\kappa)$.

So, how do we go about proving that $\text{ZFC} \not\models \text{IC}$? Obviously, we assume that ZFC is consistent, but beyond that? Some ideas:

1. Well, we do it by constructing models, e.g. assume that $M \models \text{ZFC}$, then construct an $N \models \text{ZFC} + \neg \text{IC}$. However we do not know how to do this right now.
2. The other way to do this, is to say that by Gödel 2, we know that $\text{ZFC} \not\models \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$. So it is enough to prove that $\text{IC} \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$.
3. For proving $\text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$, we use Gödel's Completeness theorem, i.e. that

$$\text{Cons}(T) \Leftrightarrow \exists M (M \models T).$$

We will do option 2 today, and then we will see option 1 later with our developed techniques.

2.2 Cumulative Hierarchy

Definition 2.6 (Cumulative Hierarchy). The cumulative hierarchy is defined via:

$$\begin{aligned} V_0 &:= \emptyset \\ V_{\alpha+1} &:= \mathcal{P}(V_\alpha) \\ V_\lambda &:= \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} V_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Recall from example sheet 4 on Logic and Set Theory, that

$$\begin{aligned} (V_\omega, \in) &\models \text{all axioms of ZFC except infinity} \\ (V_{\omega+\omega}, \in) &\models \text{all axioms of ZFC except replacement} \end{aligned}$$

We call the first finite set theory, or FST, and the second ZC. Observe that for any $\alpha > \omega$, α a limit, $V_\alpha \models \text{ZC}$ (there is nothing special about $\omega + \omega$ in this respect). Note that, therefore, since Gödel's second incompleteness theorem applies to ZC, this shows that “Replacement” is something like a large cardinal axiom for ZC, since $\text{ZFC} \vdash \exists M (M \models \text{ZC})$.

But why does replacement fail in $V_{\omega+\omega}$. Well, the ordinals greater than ω in $V_{\omega+\omega}$ are given by the set:

$$\{\omega + n : n \in \omega\},$$

this set cannot live in $V_{\omega+\omega}$, since its rank is $\omega + \omega$. However, under replacement,

$$F : n \mapsto \omega + n$$

is definable by a simple formula and, applied to $\omega \in V_{\omega+1}$ gives a counterexample to replacement.

In some sense, the reason why replacement fails is because $\omega + \omega$ is *singular*, there is a set smaller than it which has the same cardinality. What happens if we look at regular cardinals, say $\alpha = \aleph_1$?

Consider $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$ which is an element of $V_{\omega+2} \subseteq V_{\omega_1}$. Moreover, there is a definable surjection from $\mathcal{P}(\omega) \rightarrow \omega_1$, which is hidden in the proof of Hartogs' Lemma, given by

$$g : A \mapsto \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } A \text{ codes a well-order of o.t. } \alpha, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus, g has cofinal range in ω_1 and therefore $V_{\omega_n} \not\models \text{Replacement}$.

Our goal now will then be to show that

$$I(\kappa) \Rightarrow V_\kappa \models \text{Replacement}.$$

Definition 2.7 (Second order replacement). A set M is said to satisfy **Second order replacement**(SOR) if for every $F : M \rightarrow M$ and every $x \in M$,

$$\{F(y) : y \in x\} \in M.$$

Since this talks about every function-class, instead of just the definable ones, this is clearly stronger than the normal axiom of replacement we use in set theory, so if $M \models \text{SOR}$, then $M \models \text{Replacement}$.

Theorem 2.8 (Zermelo's Theorem).

$$I(\kappa) \Rightarrow V_\kappa \models \text{SOR}$$

Lemma 2.9.

$$I(\kappa), \lambda < \kappa \Rightarrow |V_\lambda| < \kappa.$$

Proof. By induction,

- $|V_0| = 0 < \kappa$
- If $V_\alpha < \kappa$, then $|V_{\alpha+1}| = |\mathcal{P}(V_\alpha)| = 2^{|V_\alpha|} < \kappa$.
- If λ is a limit, and $|V_\alpha| < \kappa$ for all $\alpha < \lambda$, then

$$V_\lambda = \cup_{\alpha < \lambda} V_\alpha,$$

if $|V_\lambda| = \kappa$, then κ is a union of a smaller set, which contradicts regularity.

□

Lemma 2.10.

$$l(\kappa), x \in V_\kappa \Rightarrow |x| < \kappa.$$

Suppose $x \in V_\kappa = \bigcup_{\alpha < \kappa} V_\alpha$. Then $\alpha < \kappa$

Proof. Proof of Zermelo's theorem. Suppose that $F : V_\kappa \rightarrow V_\kappa$, then we need to show that

$$R := \{F(y) : y \in x\} \in V_\kappa.$$

By Lemma 2, $|x| < \kappa$, so $|R| < \kappa$. For each $y \in x$, define $\alpha_y := \text{rank}(F(y)) < \kappa$. Consider

$$A := \{\alpha_y : y \in x\}.$$

Clearly, $|A| \leq |x| < \kappa$. Since κ is regular, A cannot be cofinal in it. So there is some $\gamma < \kappa$ such that $A \subseteq V_\gamma$. By definition $R \subseteq V_\gamma$, so $R \in V_{\gamma+1} \subseteq V_\kappa$.

□

Lecture 3 So we have proved that $l(\kappa) \Rightarrow V_\kappa \models \text{SOR}$. Therefore $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC}$. It felt as though the definition of $l(\kappa)$ were designed to make this work, since we just needed that it was an strong limit cardinal, and that it was regular, (and uncountable). So a natural question is, is this an equivalence? Firstly, we will show

Theorem 2.11 (Shepherdson). *If $V_\kappa \models \text{SOR}$, then κ is inaccessible.*

Proof. Suppose $\neg l(\kappa)$, so either

1. κ is singular or
2. there is $\lambda < \kappa$ such that $2^\lambda \geq \kappa$.

Let's look at each of these cases:

1. Then $\kappa = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \kappa_\alpha$ for $\lambda < \kappa$ and $\kappa_\alpha < \kappa$.

Consider $\{\kappa_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda\} := \mathcal{C}$, so $\mathcal{C} \notin V_\kappa$. So \mathcal{C} is cofinal in κ and $|\mathcal{C}| = \lambda$. Therefore, we have a function class

$$F : \alpha \rightarrow \kappa_\alpha$$

and $F(\lambda) = \mathcal{C} \notin V_\kappa$. So F witnesses that V_κ doesn't satisfy SOR.

2. $2^\lambda \geq \kappa$. This means that there is a surjection

$$F : \mathcal{P}(\lambda) \rightarrow \kappa.$$

Since $\lambda < \kappa$, $\mathcal{P}(\lambda) \in V_{\lambda+2} \subseteq V_\kappa$. Therefore

$$F(\mathcal{P}(\lambda)) = \kappa \notin V_\kappa.$$

So $V_\kappa \not\models \text{SOR}$.

□

There are some lingering questions:

1. Is this also equivalent to $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC}$?
2. Or even, is $\text{IC} \Leftrightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$?

Spoiler: the answer to both is no.

3 Does $\text{IC} \Leftrightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$? No.

Let's start with question 2. Assume IC , so we know that $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC}$. By model theory, we know that there is going to be a countable elementary substructure such that

$$(\mathcal{N}, \in) \preceq (V_\kappa, \in).$$

In particular $(\mathcal{N}, \in) \models \text{ZFC}$. But what does \mathcal{N} look like? The proof of downwards Löwenheim-Skolem is a Skolem hull construction. Built via:

- $\mathcal{N}_0 = \emptyset$
- $\mathcal{N}_{k+1} = \mathcal{N}_k \cup W(\mathcal{N}_k)$ where $W(\mathcal{M})$ is the set of witnesses for $\exists x. \varphi(x)$ formulae with parameters in \mathcal{N}_k .
- $\mathcal{N} := \cup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{N}_k$.

Elementariness then comes from Tarski-Vaught.

This all seems quite abstract and that we won't be able to say much about \mathcal{N} , but we can! For example, if $n \in \omega$, there is a formula φ_n such that $V_\kappa \models \varphi_n(x) \Leftrightarrow x = n$. The formula $\exists x. \varphi_n(x)$ has precisely one witness. So $\omega \subseteq \mathcal{N}$. Similarly, there are formulae: $\varphi_\omega, \varphi_{\omega+\omega}, \varphi_{\omega \cdot 3}$.

But there is also φ_{ω_1} such that

$$x = \omega_1 \Leftrightarrow V_\kappa \models \varphi_{\omega_1}(x)$$

So $\omega_1 \in \mathcal{N}$, as the unique witness of $\exists x \varphi_{\omega_1}(x)$.

But \mathcal{N} is countable, it can't *possibly* contain every ordinal below ω_1 . Similarly for ω_2, ω_3 , and so on. So this model must have gaps, i.e. it must be non-transitive.

But this (\mathcal{N}, \in) is well-founded, and extensional, so by Mostowski's collapsing theorem, there is a unique transitive \mathcal{M} such that

$$(\mathcal{M}, \in) \equiv (\mathcal{N}, \in).$$

Thus $(\mathcal{M}, \in) \preceq (\mathcal{N}, \in) \preceq (V_\kappa, \in)$. So \mathcal{M} is a transitive model of ZFC. It is a transitive countable model. It will contain all the hereditarily-finite sets, and have some height which is a countable ordinal, say α , which is given by $\alpha := \text{Ord} \cap \mathcal{M}$. The inverse of the Mostowski collapse is an elementary embedding from \mathcal{M} into V_κ . In particular, some $\beta < \alpha$ has the property

$$\mathcal{M} \models \varphi_{\omega_1}(\beta).$$

So “ x is a cardinal” cannot be absolute between \mathcal{M} and V_κ .

3.1 Theory of Absoluteness

Recall from Forcing & The Continuum Hypothesis: Δ_0 formulae are those with only bounded quantifiers (or equivalent to formulae with only bounded quantifiers). Some examples:

- “ x is an ordinal”
- “ f is a function”
- “ x is a subset of y ”
- “ x is ω ”

x is an ordinal is not Δ_0 but the axiom of foundation provides the well-foundedness in ZFC, so in the context of ZFC it *is* Δ_0^{ZFC} .

We also have Σ_1 and Π_1 , of the form $\exists x. \varphi(x)$ and $\forall x. \varphi(x)$ respectively. Some examples:

- “ x is a cardinal”
- “ x is the power set of y ”

Definition 3.1 (Absolute). φ is called **absolute** for \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N} such that $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, if $\forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{M}$

$$\mathcal{M} \models \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{N} \models \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

And \Rightarrow is upwards absolute and \Leftarrow is downwards absolute.

Theorem 3.2. • Δ_0 formulae are absolute for transitive models. (I.e., $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$ both transitive, then $\varphi \in \Delta_0$ is absolute)

• Π_1 formulae are downwards absolute for transitive models

Then our example with \mathcal{M}, V_κ shows that “ x is a cardinal” cannot be Δ_0 , since it’s not absolute for $\mathcal{M} \subseteq V_\kappa$ both transitive models.

Similarly, “ x is the power set of y ” cannot be Δ_0 , since if $p \in \mathcal{M}$ such that that

$$\mathcal{M} \models p \text{ is the power set of } \omega,$$

(which does exist(!)) then p is countable, so $V_\kappa \not\models p$ is the power set of ω . So that’s not Δ_0 either.

This implies that all arithmetical statements, and therefore by encoding all syntactic statements are Δ_0 . So $\text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$ is absolute between transitive models. (This is because we use ω as our bounded quantifier, this would not be the case in PA).

Theorem 3.3.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IC} &\Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}) \\ \text{IC} &\not\Leftarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}) \end{aligned}$$

Proof. \Rightarrow done.

Since $\text{IC} \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$, we have $\mathcal{M} \subseteq V_\kappa \subseteq V$ and $V \models \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$. \mathcal{M} is transitive, so by absoluteness $\mathcal{M} \models \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$ and $\mathcal{M} \models \text{ZFC}$, so

$$\mathcal{M} \models \text{ZFC}^* := \text{ZFC} + \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}).$$

So by Gödel’s second incompleteness theorem $\text{ZFC}^* \not\models \text{IC}$.

□

4 Is $\mathfrak{l}(\kappa)$ equivalent to $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC}$? No.

We see that our $\mathcal{M} \neq V_\alpha$ for any α . Clearly $\mathcal{M} \neq V_\omega$, but

$$|V_{\omega+1}| = |\mathcal{P}(V_\omega)| = 2^{\aleph_0}.$$

So $\alpha > \omega$ means that $|V_\alpha| \geq 2^{\aleph_0}$. But \mathcal{M} was countable, so it can't possibly be any of these.

Lecture 4

If we consider our “gappy” (non-transitive) model \mathcal{N} from last time, and then look at the witnesses which we have in \mathcal{N} . Then for each of these witnesses, consider which level of the Von-neumann hierarchy they live in. That is, define

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_0 &:= 0 \\ \alpha_{k+1} &:= \sup\{\text{rank}(x) : x \in W(V_{\alpha_k})\} \\ \alpha &:= \sup\{\alpha_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.1. *We have that*

- (A) $V_\alpha \preceq V_\kappa$,
- (B) $\alpha < \kappa$.

Proof. (A) is just Tarski-Vaught.

We need to prove (B), that we never get up to κ . First of all, we show that

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}. \alpha_k < \kappa.$$

We know that $\alpha_0 = 0 < \kappa$. Now suppose that $\alpha_k < \kappa$, then $V_{\alpha_k} < \kappa$ by Lemma 2.9.

Therefore, we have that

$$|W(V_{\alpha_k})| \leq \aleph_0 \cdot |V_{\alpha_k}^{<\omega}| = |V_{\alpha_k}| < \kappa.$$

Since we have the set of all formulae of size \aleph_0 , and they can take parameters only in finite sequences ($V_{\alpha_k}^{<\omega}$). Therefore $\alpha_{k+1} < \kappa$ by regularity of κ . But then α is a countable union of α_k , so again by regularity of κ , $\alpha < \kappa$.

□

Remark.

$$\text{cf}(\alpha) = \aleph_0.$$

So in particular α is not an inaccessible cardinal.

So this gives us the “No” answer to question 1.

Definition 4.2 (Worldly cardinal). We call α **worldly** if $V_\alpha \models \text{ZFC}$. Write $\text{Wor}(\alpha)$ for “ α is worldly.”

So what we are saying as our answer to question 1 is that

$$I(\kappa) \Rightarrow \text{Wor}(\kappa),$$

but that

$$I(\kappa) \not\Leftarrow \text{Wor}(\kappa).$$

Corollary 4.3.

$$\text{IC} \Rightarrow \text{WorC} \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$$

Theorem 4.4. $\text{Wor}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \kappa$ is a cardinal.

Proof. Observe that κ is a limit ordinal, since $\text{ZFC} \vdash \forall \alpha \exists \beta. \beta > \alpha$. That is, ZFC proves that there is no greatest ordinal, but V_κ would model that there is a greatest ordinal, which is not possible.

Suppose κ is not a cardinal, then there is a $\lambda < \kappa$ such that there is a bijection from λ to κ , in particular $\lambda < \kappa < \lambda^+$. From the proof of Hartogs’ lemma, we have that there is $R \subseteq \lambda \times \lambda$ such that

$$(\lambda, R) \equiv (\kappa, \in).$$

Where does (λ, R) live? Well, consider that $(\alpha, \beta) = \{\{\alpha\}, \{\alpha, \beta\}\} \in V_\lambda$, since these elements are always less than λ , and we only add 1 by taking sets and pairings. Also, $\lambda \times \lambda \in V_{\lambda+1}$, so $R \in V_{\lambda+1}$. Moreover, (λ, R) itself is $\{\{\lambda\}, \{\lambda, R\}\}$ which lives in $V_{\lambda+3} \subseteq V_\kappa$. So V_κ contains a well-order (λ, R) of order type κ . Therefore, since

$$\text{ZFC} \vdash \text{every well-order is isomorphic to a unique ordinal,}$$

if we have

$$V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC} + \text{there is a well-ordering of order-type } \kappa,$$

then this means that $\kappa \in V_\kappa$, which is a contradiction.

□

5 Consistency Strength Hierarchy

Fix a base theory \mathcal{B} (for our purposes $\mathcal{B} = \text{ZFC}$, but our definitions will make sense in other contexts).

Definition 5.1 (Consistency Strength). If \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{S} are extensions of \mathcal{B} , then we say

$$\mathcal{T} \leq_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{S} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{B} \vdash \text{Cons}(\mathcal{S}) \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\mathcal{T}),$$

As usual,

$$\mathcal{T} \equiv_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{S} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{T} \leq_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{S} \text{ and } \mathcal{S} \leq_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{T}$$

And

$$\mathcal{T} <_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{S} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{T} \leq_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{S} \text{ and } \mathcal{S} \not\leq_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{T}$$

We say that this is comparing theories by **consistency strength**.

Some comments on this definition:

1. If I is inconsistent, then $\mathcal{T} \leq_{\text{Cons}} I$. All inconsistent theories are equiconsistent.
2. In particular, \mathcal{T} is consistent if and only if

$$\mathcal{T} <_{\text{Cons}} I.$$

We will write \perp for an inconsistent theory.

3. $<_{\text{Cons}}$ is more than just “proving more theorems.” If φ is such that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ZFC} &\not\vdash \varphi \\ \text{ZFC} &\not\vdash \neg\varphi \end{aligned}$$

Then it is not necessarily the case that $\text{ZFC} <_{\text{Cons}} \varphi$ or $\text{ZFC} <_{\text{Cons}} \neg\varphi$. The obvious example of such a φ is the continuum hypothesis. *But* we still have

$$\{\psi : \text{ZFC} + \varphi \vdash \psi\} \supsetneq \{\psi : \text{ZFC} \vdash \psi\}.$$

4. Gödel’s second incompleteness theorem tells us that (for nice \mathcal{T} ²) if $\mathcal{T} \neq \perp$, then

$$\mathcal{T} <_{\text{Cons}} \mathcal{T} + \text{Cons}(\mathcal{T}).$$

Remark. It is possible to have a consistent \mathcal{T} such that $\mathcal{T} + \text{Cons}(\mathcal{T})$ is inconsistent. The example is $\text{ZFC} + \neg \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}) := \text{ZFC}^\dagger$. Clearly $\text{ZFC}^\dagger \supset \text{ZFC}$, so $\text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}^\dagger) \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC})$. So therefore $\text{ZFC}^\dagger + \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}^\dagger) \Rightarrow \perp$.

²computably enumerable axioms etc.

So to summarise what we were saying before in terms of consistency strength, we have

$$\text{ZFC} <_{\text{Cons}} \text{ZFC} + \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}) <_{\text{Cons}} \text{ZFC} + \text{WorC}.$$

Where the final $<_{\text{Cons}}$ follows from the same argument that we used to show that $\text{IC} \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC} + \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}))$. And we also have

$$\text{ZFC} + \text{WorC} <_{\text{Cons}} \text{ZFC} + \text{IC}.$$

5.1 Negation of Large Cardinal Axioms

In general, the negation of large cardinal axioms are not very strong. For example, we will see that $\text{ZFC} + \neg\text{IC} \equiv_{\text{Cons}} \text{ZFC}$. We have already shown that $I(\kappa) \Rightarrow V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC}$. If κ is the least inaccessible cardinal, can $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC} + \text{IC}$? Note that “ λ is inaccessible” is a Π_1 statement, and therefore must be downwards absolute. If we have $\kappa_0 < \kappa_1$, where both are inaccessible cardinals, then we have

$$V_{\kappa_1} \models \text{ZFC} + I(\kappa_0).$$

This doesn't answer our question though. To answer our question we need the following lemma

Lemma 5.2. *If α is a limit ordinal, then the statement “ λ is inaccessible” is absolute for V_α, V .*

Lecture 5 Proof. Each of the statements “ λ is regular” and “ λ is a strong limit” are Π_1^{ZF} , and therefore downwards absolute, but not in general upwards absolute. So what we need to prove is that $I(\lambda)$ is upwards absolute, e.g. that if $V_\alpha \models I(\lambda)$, then $I(\lambda)$. Suppose not, then we have two cases:

Case 1. λ is singular, so there is a cofinal set C of size $\gamma < \lambda$, then there is a function

$$f : \gamma \rightarrow C.$$

Note that “singular” is Σ_1 , witnessed by C, γ, f . $C \in V_{\lambda+1}$ since it is a subset of λ , $\gamma \in V_\lambda$, and $f \in V_{\lambda+2}$. All of these are in V_α , since α is a limit ordinal. Therefore

$$V_\alpha \models C \text{ is a cofinal set of cardinality } < \lambda.$$

Therefore $V_\alpha \models \lambda$ is singular, so $V_\alpha \models \neg I(\lambda)$.

Case 2. λ is not a strong limit, so there is $\gamma < \lambda$ and $f : \mathcal{P}(\gamma) \rightarrow \lambda$ a surjection. Then we have that

$$\mathcal{P}(\gamma) \in V_{\gamma+2} \subseteq V_\lambda \subseteq V_\alpha,$$

and

$$f \in V_{\lambda+2} \subseteq V_\alpha.$$

Thus $V_\alpha \models f$ is a surjection from $\mathcal{P}(\gamma)$ to λ , and therefore $V_\alpha \models \lambda$ is not a strong limit. So $V_\alpha \models \mathsf{I}(\lambda)$.

□

Theorem 5.3. *Suppose $\mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC}$, and κ is the least inaccessible, then $V_\kappa \models \mathsf{ZFC} + \neg \mathsf{IC}$.*

Proof. Suppose $V_\kappa \models \mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC}$, then there is $\lambda < \kappa$ such that $V_\kappa \models \mathsf{I}(\lambda)$. By the lemma, we therefore have $\mathsf{I}(\lambda)$. This contradicts the minimality of κ .

□

Rephrasing the above, we have that

$$\mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC} \vdash \text{there is a transitive model of } \mathsf{ZFC} + \neg \mathsf{IC}.$$

For T , write $T^* := T + \mathsf{Cons}(T)$. Observe:

- (i) If $S \vdash$ there is a transitive model of T . Then $S \vdash \mathsf{Cons}(T^*)$. This comes from a bootstrapping argument, using the absoluteness of consistency statements for transitive models.
- (ii) If $S \vdash T$, then $\mathsf{Cons}(S) \Rightarrow \mathsf{Cons}(T)$.
- (iii) Gödel 2: If $T \neq \perp$, then $\mathsf{Cons}(T) \not\Rightarrow \mathsf{Cons}(T^*)$.

We can put this together to prove

Proposition 5.4.

$$\mathsf{Cons}(\mathsf{ZFC} + \neg \mathsf{IC}) \not\Rightarrow \mathsf{Cons}(\mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC})$$

Proof. Write $N := \mathsf{ZFC} + \neg \mathsf{IC}$. Suppose $\mathsf{Cons}(N) \Rightarrow \mathsf{Cons}(\mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC})$. We saw in theorem 5.3 that $\mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC} \Rightarrow$ there is a transitive model of N . Thus by (i), $\mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC} \Rightarrow \mathsf{Cons}(N^*)$. So $\mathsf{Cons}(N) \Rightarrow \mathsf{Cons}(\mathsf{ZFC} + \mathsf{IC}) \Rightarrow \mathsf{Cons}(N^*)$. But this contradicts Gödel 2.

□

5.2 Weakly inaccessibles

Observe that none of the proofs we did in lectures 2-4 work with weakly inaccessibles, since being a strong limit was very important. (Not even the proof $\text{ZFC} \not\models \text{WIC}$!)

Also, GCH (the statement that $\forall \alpha. 2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}$). GCH implies that $\forall \alpha. \aleph_\alpha = \beth_\alpha$ by induction. So, since a limit implies you are a limit of the \aleph operation, and strong limit implies you are a limit of the \beth operation, GCH says that every limit cardinal is a strong limit cardinal. This helps because in “Forcing and the continuum hypothesis,” we will show:

Theorem 5.5 ([1]). *If $\mathcal{M} \models \text{ZFC}$, there is $L \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ such that L is transitive in \mathcal{M} , and $L \models \text{ZFC} + \text{GCH}$. (With $\text{Ord} \cap L = \text{Ord} \cap \mathcal{M}$.)*

Proof. In forcing and the continuum hypothesis.

□

Corollary 5.6. *If $\mathcal{M} \models \text{ZFC} + \text{WIC}$, then $L \models \text{ZFC} + \text{IC}$. So $\text{IC} \equiv_{\text{Cons}} \text{WIC}$.*

Proof. Absoluteness of the (Π_1^{ZF}) statement $\text{WI}(\lambda)$ between transitive models, so

$$L \models \text{ZFC} + \text{GCH} + \text{WIC} \Rightarrow L \models \text{ZFC} + \text{IC}.$$

□

An interesting question is whether we can have $\text{WI}(2^{\aleph_0})$. We might see the (positive) answer at the end of the forcing course.

6 The Measure Problem

Fix $I = [0, 1] \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

Definition 6.1 (Measure). We say a function $\mu : \mathcal{P}(I) \rightarrow I$ is called a **measure** if:

- (i) $\mu(I) = 1, \mu(\emptyset) = 0$.

- (ii) Translation invariance: if $X \subseteq [0, 1]$ and $r \in \mathbb{R}$, and $X + r = \{x + r : x \in X\} \subseteq [0, 1]$, then $\mu(X) = \mu(X + r)$.
- (iii) Countable additivity: If A_n is a countable family of pairwise disjoint sets, then

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n\right) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mu(A_n).$$

Lebesgue asked whether a measure existed. Vitali answered this question in the negative: there is no such function. As a remark: Vitali's theorem is a ZFC theorem (which involves using the axiom of choice nontrivially). Solovay, 1970, proved that $\text{Cons}(\text{ZFC} + \text{IC}) \Rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZF} + \text{there is a measure})$. Shelah published a paper in 1984, titled "Can you take Solovay's inaccessible away?" The answer is no.

Lecture 6 Banach suggested that condition (ii) should be replaced by (ii')

$$\forall x \in [0, 1], \mu(\{x\}) = 0.$$

The Banach measure problem is then, does there exist a μ satisfying (i), (ii'), (iii).

First, let's show that (ii) \Rightarrow (ii'): If $\mu(\{x\}) = \varepsilon > 0$, then by translation invariance, we have that every singleton has the same measure ε . Then we just need to find $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $n \cdot \mu(\{x\}) > 1$, and so we have a contradiction.

Observe that for any ε , there can be only finitely many pairwise disjoint sets with measure $\geq \varepsilon$.

Theorem 6.2 (Banach-Kuratowski 1929). *CH implies that Banach's measure problem has answer "no."*

Note that by removing condition (ii) and replacing it with (ii'), this problem has changed from a question about the real numbers to a question purely about sets (particularly with cardinality 2^{\aleph_0}), since the problem is invariant under bijection. Therefore, whether a set permits a Banach measure is a cardinal property.

Definition 6.3 (λ -additivity). A Banach measure μ is called λ -**additive**, if for all $\gamma < \lambda$ and pairwise disjoint families of sets $\{A_\alpha : \alpha < \gamma\}$, then

$$\mu(\cup_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha) = \sup \left\{ \sum_{\alpha \in F} \mu(A_\alpha) : F \text{ a finite subset of } \gamma \right\}$$

Theorem 6.4. *If κ is the smallest cardinal that has a Banach measure, that measure is κ -additive.*

Definition 6.5 (Real-valued measurable). We call a cardinal κ **real-valued measurable**, and write $\text{RVM}(\kappa)$ if there is a κ -additive Banach measure on κ .

Our first observation about real-valued measurable cardinals is:

Proposition 6.6. *Real-valued measurable cardinals must be regular*

Proof. Suppose not, so $C \subseteq \kappa$ is a cofinal subset with $|C| = \lambda < \kappa$. Then we can write C as an increasing enumeration of λ many things:

$$C = \{\gamma_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda\}$$

Consider $C_\alpha = \{\xi : \gamma_\alpha \leq \xi < \gamma_{\alpha+1}\}$. Then we know two things:

1. $\kappa = \cup_{\alpha < \lambda} C_\alpha$
2. C_α is a pairwise disjoint family.
3. $|C_\alpha| \leq |\gamma_{\alpha+1}| < \kappa$.

We have that $C_\alpha = \cup_{x \in C_\alpha} \{x\}$. Then by (3) and κ -additivity, $\mu(C_\alpha) = 0$. Then from (1) we get that $\mu(\kappa) = 0$ using κ -additivity and (2): that C_α are pairwise disjoint.

6.1 Combinatorial observations about real-valued measurable cardinals

Lemma 6.7 (Pigeonhole principle). *If κ is regular and $\lambda < \kappa$, and $f : \kappa \rightarrow \lambda$, then there is $\alpha \in \lambda$ such that*

$$|f^{-1}(\{\alpha\})| = \kappa.$$

Proof. $\kappa = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} f^{-1}(\{\alpha\})$, and regularity means that κ cannot be a union of small sets.

□

Lemma 6.8. *All successor cardinals are regular. (example sheet 1).*

Lemma 6.9. *If μ is a Banach measure on some set S and C is a family of pairwise disjoint subsets of S with positive measure, then C is countable.*

Proof. Let $C_n := \{A \in C : \mu(A) > \frac{1}{n}\}$, then this set must be finite by the previous observation. $C = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} C_n$, so C must be countable (since it is a countable union of countable sets.)

□

Lemma 6.10 (Ulam). *For any cardinal λ , there is an assignment:*

$$\alpha < \lambda^+ \qquad \xi < \lambda$$

with

$$(\alpha, \xi) \mapsto A_\alpha^\xi \subseteq \lambda^+,$$

such that

(a) *If you fix ξ , $\{A_\alpha^\xi : \alpha < \lambda^+\}$ is a pairwise disjoint family.*

(b) *If you fix α , then $|\lambda^+ \setminus \bigcup_{\xi < \lambda} A_\alpha^\xi| \leq \lambda$.*

We call these Ulam matrices.

Proof. Fix $\gamma < \lambda^+$. Fix a surjection

$$f_\gamma : \lambda \rightarrow \gamma + 1$$

Define $A_\alpha^\xi := \{\gamma, f_\gamma(\xi) = \alpha\}$. Property (a) is obvious. For property (b), observe that $\lambda^+ \setminus \bigcup_{\xi < \lambda} A_\alpha^\xi \subseteq \alpha$.

□

Theorem 6.11.

$$\text{RVM}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \text{WI}(\kappa)$$

Proof. Already know that $\text{RVM}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \kappa$ is regular. So towards a contradiction, assume $\kappa = \lambda^+$. Let $(A_\alpha^\xi ; \alpha < \lambda^+, \xi < \lambda)$ be an Ulam matrix for λ . By (b), $|\lambda^+ \setminus \bigcup_{\xi < \lambda} A_\lambda^\xi| \leq \lambda$. Write $Z := \lambda^+ \setminus \bigcup_{\xi < \lambda} A_\lambda^\xi$.

Then by κ -additivity $\mu(Z) = 0$, so $\mu(\bigcup_{\xi < \lambda} A_\alpha^\xi) = 1$. Therefore, by κ -additivity, we must have some ξ_α such that $\mu(A_{\alpha}^{\xi_\alpha}) > 0$. Write now:

$$\begin{aligned} f : \lambda^+ &\rightarrow \lambda \\ \alpha &\mapsto \xi_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

So by pigeonhole principle, there is a set $A \subseteq \lambda^+$ of size λ^+ , and ξ such that $\forall \alpha \in A, \xi_\alpha = \xi$. So (by property (a) of Ulam matrices) $\{A_\alpha^\xi : \alpha \in A\}$ is a size λ^+ collection of pairwise disjoint sets with positive measure. This is impossible by lemma 3.

□

Definition 6.12 (Ulam). A Banach measure μ is called **two-valued** if $\text{ran}(\mu) = \{0, 1\}$.

Two-valued measures correspond directly to ultrafilters. Recall that

Definition 6.13 (Filter). F is a filter on S if

- $\emptyset \notin F$.
- $A \subseteq B, A \in F \Rightarrow B \in F$.
- $A, B \in F \Rightarrow A \cap B \in F$.
- $A \in F$ or $S \setminus A \in F$. (**ultra**).
- $\forall x \in S, \{x\} \notin F$. (**non-principal**)
- If $\forall \gamma < \lambda, \{A_\alpha; \alpha < \gamma\} \subseteq F$, then $\cap_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha \in F$. (**λ -complete**)

We have, if μ is a two-valued Banach measure on S , then $F = \{A : \mu(A) = 1\}$ is a two-valued, λ -complete, nonprincipal ultrafilter on S .

Remark. This links the search for a Banach measure on $[0, 1]$ to the question of whether $\text{WI}(2^{\aleph_0})$ can hold. Also remember Banach-Kuratowski (CH implies there is no Banach measure since CH implies 2^{\aleph_0} is \aleph_1 , and hence not WI).

So the existence of a two-valued banach measure correspond to the existence of an ultrafilter, which is nonprincipal (by property (b) of Banach measures), and \aleph_1 -complete (by property (c) of Banach measures).

Lecture 7

Definition 6.14 (Measurable). We say that a cardinal, κ , is measurable, if there is a κ -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter on κ . ω satisfies this, so we also require κ uncountable.

Remark. We call a cardinal κ **Ulam-measurable** if there is an \aleph_1 -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter on κ . Then the least Ulam measurable cardinal is measurable (Example sheet 2).

Theorem 6.15.

$$\mathcal{M}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \mathcal{I}(\kappa)$$

Proof. Regularity already done in the $\text{RVM}(\kappa)$ case. So assume towards contradiction that $\exists \lambda < \kappa$ such that $2^\lambda \geq \kappa$. Now fix an injection

$$f : \kappa \rightarrow B_\lambda$$

where $B_\lambda = \{f \mid f : \lambda \rightarrow 2\}$. Now also, fix an $\alpha < \lambda$, then for each $\gamma < \kappa$, it is either the case that:

$$f(\gamma)(\alpha) = 0,$$

or

$$f(\gamma)(\alpha) = 1.$$

Now define $A_0^\alpha = \{\gamma : f(\gamma)(\alpha) = 0\}$, and define similarly $A_1^\alpha = \{\gamma : f(\gamma)(\alpha) = 1\}$. Then $A_0^\alpha \cup A_1^\alpha = \kappa$ and $A_0^\alpha \cap A_1^\alpha = \emptyset$. So there is exactly one number $b \in \{0, 1\}$ such that $A_b^\alpha \in U$, the ultrafilter that we recover from the two-valued measure.

Define the function $c(\alpha) := b$ iff $A_b^\alpha \in U$. Clearly $c \in B_\lambda$. Write $X_\alpha := A_{c(\alpha)}^\alpha \in U$ for all α . Then by κ -additivity, we have

$$\bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha \in U$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha &\Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha < \lambda. \gamma \in X_\alpha = A_{c(\alpha)}^\alpha \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha < \lambda. f(\gamma)(\alpha) = c(\alpha) \\ &\Leftrightarrow f(\gamma) = c. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha \subseteq \{f^{-1}(c)\}$, so it contains at most one element. Therefore

$\bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha \notin U$, since otherwise U is either principal, or not κ -complete. This gives a contradiction

□

Clearly, in general, ultrafilters are not κ^+ -complete, except for principal ultrafilters (since if you take any number of intersections, the principal element will always remain in the set). If $\{\alpha\} \notin U$ for any $\alpha \in \kappa$, then $\kappa = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \{\alpha\}$.

Definition 6.16 (Diagonal Intersection). If $(A_\alpha : \alpha \leq \kappa)$, write the diagonal intersection:

$$\bigtriangleup_{\alpha \leq \kappa} A_\alpha := \left\{ \xi \in \kappa : \xi \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \xi} A_\alpha \right\}$$

Definition 6.17 (Normal filter). A filter on κ is called **normal** if it's closed under diagonal intersections.

Theorem 6.18. $M(\kappa)$ implies that there is a κ -complete normal nonprincipal ultrafilter on κ .

Proof. Example Sheet 2.

□

6.2 Combinatorics

Theorem 6.19 (Ramsey's (Infinite) Theorem). Let $[\mathbb{N}]^2$ be the set of all two element subsets of \mathbb{N} . (In general $[X]^n$ is the set of n -element subsets of X .) A two-colouring map is a function of the form

$$c : [\mathbb{N}]^2 \rightarrow \{\text{red, blue}\}.$$

Then (infinite) Ramsey's theorem says that for every colouring c , there is $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ which is infinite such that $c \upharpoonright [X]^2$ is **monochromatic** (or homogeneous).

Remark. Everything here is invariant under bijections, so of course it is a cardinal property. We didn't use anything about e.g. the additive structure of the naturals.

Erdős came up with a nice notation for this:

Definition 6.20 (Erdős' Arrow Notation). For every n colouring $c : [\kappa]^n \rightarrow m$, we write:

$$\kappa \rightarrow (\lambda)_m^n$$

to mean that there is a monochromatic subset $X \subseteq \kappa$ of size λ , of the colouring c , i.e. so that $|c[[X]^n]| = 1$.

Example. In this notation, Ramsey's theorem becomes:

$$\aleph_0 \rightarrow (\aleph_0)_2^2$$

Definition 6.21 (Weakly Compact). A cardinal κ is called **Weakly compact** $W(\kappa)$ if

$$f : \kappa \rightarrow (\kappa)_2^2$$

Remark. The name will be explained later.

Theorem 6.22 (Erdős). *Every weakly compact cardinal is inaccessible.*

$$W(\kappa) \Rightarrow I(\kappa)$$

Proof. We will start by showing κ is regular. Suppose not, then

$$\kappa = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha,$$

for $\lambda < \kappa$, and $|X_\alpha| < \kappa$, and X_α pairwise disjoint. Now define a coloring:

$$c : \{\gamma, \delta\} \mapsto \begin{cases} \text{Red} & \gamma \text{ and } \delta \text{ lie in the same } X_\alpha \\ \text{Blue} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

We have a set H which is monochromatic for c . Then if it's coloured Red, one of the two X_α is large; Blue implies that λ is large. So κ must be regular.

Now we show that κ is a strong limit. We want to assume $2^\lambda \geq \kappa$ for $\lambda < \kappa$ and arrive at a contradiction. Define $B_\lambda = \{f \mid f : \lambda \rightarrow 2\}$. Then we can order B_λ lexicographically, according to $1 > 0$, and the ordering of λ . Then it is a

combinatorial fact that $(B_\lambda, \leq_{\text{lex}})$ is a totally ordered set such that there are no increasing or decreasing chains of length $\kappa > \lambda$. (Example sheet number 2). If $2^\lambda \geq \kappa$, there is a family of pairwise distinct elements of B_λ of length κ : $\{f_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\} \subseteq B_\lambda$. Then define for $\{\alpha, \beta\} \in [\kappa]^2$ that:

$$c(\alpha, \beta) = \begin{cases} \text{Red} & \text{if } \alpha < \beta \Leftrightarrow f_\alpha \leq_{\text{lex}} f_\beta \\ \text{Blue} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

If H is a monochromatic subset for c , then if it is red, f_α form a \leq_{lex} -increasing sequence of length κ . If it is blue, then f_α , forms a \leq_{lex} decreasing sequence of length κ . These both contradict the combinatorial fact, so we arrive at a contradiction.

□

Lecture 8 So far, we have:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{M}(\kappa) & \Longrightarrow & \mathbf{RVM}(\kappa) \\ & & \Downarrow \\ \mathbf{W}(\kappa) & & \\ \Downarrow & & \\ \mathbf{I}(\kappa) & \Longrightarrow & \mathbf{WI}(\kappa) \\ \Downarrow & & \\ \mathbf{Wor}(\kappa) & & \end{array}$$

Then we also have $\mathbf{RVM}(\kappa)$ and $\mathbf{M}(\kappa)$ are equiconsistent with a variant of Gödel's constructible universe. We have a similar thing for $\mathbf{I}(\kappa)$ and $\mathbf{WI}(\kappa)$, which are not necessarily equivalent, but equiconsistent. We are clearly missing something, which we will now prove:

Theorem 6.23.

$$\mathbf{M}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \mathbf{W}(\kappa)$$

Proof. Fix some colouring $f : [\kappa]^2 \rightarrow 2$. Fix α so that

$$\begin{aligned} X_0^\alpha &= \{\beta : f(\{\alpha, \beta\}) = 0\} \\ X_1^\alpha &= \{\beta : f(\{\alpha, \beta\}) = 1\} \end{aligned}$$

Then $X_0^\alpha \cup X_1^\beta = \kappa \setminus \{\alpha\}$, which must have measure 0. So there is exactly one $i \in \{0, 1\}$ such that $X_i^\alpha \in U$, the ultrafilter given by the measure. Let $c : \kappa \rightarrow 2$ be such that $X_{c(\alpha)}^\alpha \in U$. Then define

$$\begin{aligned} X_0 &= \{\alpha : c(\alpha) = 0\} \\ X_1 &= \{\alpha : c(\alpha) = 1\} \end{aligned}$$

So exactly one of X_0 and X_1 is in U .

So we claim that if $X_i \in U$, then there is H with $|H| = \kappa$ which is monochromatic for i . (This is clearly symmetric, so we will show this when $i = 0$.) Assume that $X_0 \in U$, then define

$$Z[\alpha] = \begin{cases} X_0^\alpha & \text{if } c(\alpha) = 0. \\ \kappa & \text{if } c(\alpha) = 1. \end{cases}$$

Clearly, $Z_\alpha \in U$ for all α . Then

$$\bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} Z_\alpha \in U$$

by normality. Then define

$$H = X_0 \cap \bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} Z_\alpha \in U$$

so $|H| = \kappa$. Fix $\gamma < \delta$, $\gamma, \delta \in H$. Then we have $\gamma, \delta \in X_0$, so $c(\gamma) = c(\delta) = 0$. Also $Z_\gamma = X_0^\gamma$, and $Z_\delta = X_0^\delta$. Then $\delta \in \bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} Z_\alpha$, so by the definition of diagonal intersection, $\delta \in \bigcap_{\xi < \delta} Z_\xi \subseteq Z_\gamma = X_0^\gamma$. But then $f(\{\gamma, \delta\}) = 0$.

□

7 Large Cardinals for Infinitary Logic

Recall the compactness theorem for first-order logic: For any first order language L_S and $\Phi \subseteq L_S$, Φ is satisfiable iff $\forall \Phi_0 \subseteq \Phi$ such that $|\Phi_0| < \lambda'_0$ we have that Φ_0 is satisfiable. This cannot work for languages with infinite length conjunctions and disjunctions. For example, if we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{=n} &:= \text{“There are exactly } n \text{ elements”} \\ \varphi_{\geq n} &:= \text{“There are at least } n \text{ elements”} \end{aligned}$$

Then we can define $\varphi_F = \bigvee_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \varphi_{=n}$, and $\Psi = \{\varphi_{\geq n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Then $\Psi \cup \varphi_F$ is finitely satisfiable, but not satisfiable.

Definition 7.1 ($\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\kappa}$ languages). Fix

1. Variables ³
2. S of standard (finite arity) function, relation, constant symbols.
3. Logical symbols $\wedge, \vee, \neg, \exists, \forall$.
4. Infinitary logical symbols:

$$\bigwedge_{\alpha < \lambda} \quad \bigvee_{\alpha < \lambda} \quad \exists^\lambda \quad \forall^\lambda$$

for $\lambda < \kappa$.

The syntax is as expected, if φ_α are L_S -formulas for $\alpha < \lambda$, then so are $\bigwedge_{\alpha < \lambda} \varphi_\alpha$ and $\bigvee_{\alpha < \lambda} \varphi_\alpha$. If \bar{v} is a sequence of variables of length λ , then $\exists^\lambda \bar{v} \varphi$, $\forall^\lambda \bar{v} \varphi$ are formulas.

The semantics are: we say that $\mathcal{M} \models \bigwedge_{\alpha < \lambda}$ if and only if for all $\alpha < \lambda$, $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi_\alpha$. We say $\mathcal{M} \models \exists^\lambda \bar{v} \varphi$ if and only if there is $a : \lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$, such that $\mathcal{M} \frac{a(0)a(1)\dots a(\xi)\dots}{v_0 v_1 \dots v_\xi \dots} \models \varphi$

Definition 7.2 (Compactness). We say that a $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\kappa}$ language **satisfies compactness** if for all $\Phi \subseteq L_S$, Φ is satisfiable if and only if $\forall \Phi_0 \subseteq \Phi$, $\Phi_0 < \kappa$, then Φ_0 is satisfiable.

Observe that $\mathcal{L}_{\omega\omega}$ is ordinary first-order logic, so every $\mathcal{L}_{\omega\omega}$ model satisfies compactness. (Like a lot of our large cardinal axioms, this one also comes from properties of ω .)

Definition 7.3 (Strongly compact). We say a cardinal κ is called **strongly compact**, written $\text{SC}(\kappa)$ if every $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\kappa}$ language is compact.

Theorem 7.4 (Keisler-Tarski). $\text{SC}(\kappa) \Rightarrow$ every κ -complete filter on κ can be extended to a κ -complete ultrafilter on κ .

Proof. Design \mathcal{L} according to the following: for each $A \subseteq \kappa$, take a constant symbol c_A , there are 2^κ many symbols. Then \mathcal{L}^* is defined as \mathcal{L} plus an extra constant symbol c . Now define $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{P}(\kappa), \in \{A : A \subseteq \kappa\})$ where c_A is interpreted by A . Let $\Phi := \text{Th}_{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{M})$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M} &\models \forall x (x \in c_\alpha \rightarrow \text{"}x \text{ is an ordinal"}) \\ \mathcal{M} &\models \forall x (\text{"}x \text{ is an ordinal"} \rightarrow x \in c_A \vee x \in c_{\kappa \setminus A})\end{aligned}\quad (*)$$

$\mathcal{L}^* \supseteq \Phi^* = \Phi \cup \{c \in c_A : A \in F\}$. Then we claim that Φ^* is κ -satisfiable: If A_α , $\alpha < \kappa$ are subsets of κ such that $c \in c_{A_\alpha}$ show up in Φ^* ; then any element of $\eta \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} A_\alpha$ can be chosen as the interpretation of c . By κ -completeness of F , $\bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} A_\alpha$ is non-empty. So interpret c by η . By $\text{SC}(\kappa)$, we get that Φ^* is satisfiable, so $\mathcal{M} \models \Phi^*$. Then $U := \{A : \mathcal{M} \models c \in c_A\}$. Then we claim U is a κ -complete ultrafilter extending \mathcal{F} :

- $F \subseteq U$ is true by design.
- U is ultra, since for every A , either A or $\kappa \setminus A$ is in U by $(*)$.
- U is κ -complete. If $\{A_\alpha : \alpha < \lambda\} \subseteq U$, then let $A := \bigcap_{\alpha < \lambda} A_\alpha$. Now $\mathcal{M} \models \forall x (x \in c_A \Leftrightarrow \bigwedge_{\alpha < \lambda} x \in c_{A_\alpha})$, therefore $A \in U$.

Corollary 7.5. $\text{SC}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \text{M}(\kappa)$

Proof. Let $F := \{A \subseteq \kappa : |\kappa \setminus A| < \kappa\}$. This is a κ complete filter on κ . If $U \supseteq F$, then U must be nonprincipal, so by Keisler-Tarski, extend F to a κ -complete ultrafilter which is nonprincipal.

□

Lecture 9

7.1 Reflection

Definition 7.6 (Keisler extension property, KEP). A cardinal κ has the **Keisler extension property** (written $\text{KEP}(\kappa)$) if there is $\kappa \in X \supsetneq V_\kappa$ transitive such that $V_\kappa \preceq X$.

Proposition 7.7. If $\text{I}(\kappa)$ and $\text{KEP}(\kappa)$, then there is $\lambda < \kappa$ such that $\text{I}(\lambda)$.

Proof. Fix some X as in the Keisler extension property. We know that κ being inaccessible means that $X \models I(\kappa)$, because $\kappa \in X$ and I is (downwards) absolute for transitive models of ZFC. We also know that $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC}$. But then by elementarity, $X \models \text{ZFC}$.

Putting these together, we obtain that $X \models \text{ZFC} + \text{IC}$. But then, again by elementarity, $V_\kappa \models \text{ZFC} + \text{IC}$. Therefore, $V_\kappa \models \exists \lambda. I(\lambda)$. So take this $\lambda < \kappa$ such that $V_\kappa \models I(\lambda)$. By absoluteness of inaccessible cardinals for von Neumann ranks, we get that $I(\lambda)$.

□

We say that this is a reflection, because what goes on in X is reflected in what goes on in V_κ , as a result of the elementary equivalence between them (and absoluteness properties of inaccessible cardinals).

We can improve this argument, if we fix $\alpha < \kappa$, then by the argument from the proof $X \models \exists \lambda > \alpha. I(\lambda)$. Then by elementarity, this also reflects in V_κ , since $\alpha \in V_\kappa$. So from $\text{KEP}(\kappa)$ and $I(\kappa)$ we get (since α was arbitrary), that $\{\lambda < \kappa : I(\lambda)\}$ is cofinal in κ .

Corollary 7.8. *Let $A := \exists \kappa. I(\kappa) \wedge \text{KEP}(\kappa)$. Then*

$$\text{ZFC} + \text{IC} <_{\text{Cons}} \text{ZFC} + A.$$

Proof. We need to prove $\text{ZFC} + A \vdash \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC} + \text{IC})$. But we've just proved that

$$\text{ZFC} + A \vdash \exists \lambda_0, \lambda_1. \lambda_0 < \lambda_1 \wedge I(\lambda_0) \wedge I(\lambda_1).$$

But $V_{\lambda_1} \models \text{ZFC} + \text{IC}$, so $\text{Cons}(\text{ZFC} + \text{IC})$.

□

Remark. This is our general technique to prove $<_{\text{Cons}}$. If Φ, Ψ are large cardinal properties with the appropriate amount of absoluteness so that everything works, then we show that $\text{ZFC} + \Phi(\kappa) \vdash \{\lambda < \kappa : \Psi(\lambda)\}$ is cofinal.. Then $\text{ZFC} + \Phi \vdash \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC} + \Psi)$.

Theorem 7.9.

$$\text{SC}(\kappa) \Rightarrow \text{KEP}(\kappa).$$

Immediate Corollary: $\text{ZFC} + \text{IC} <_{\text{Cons}} \text{ZFC} + \text{SCC}$.

Proof. An idea is to take elementary diagrams (but this won't work immediately, because the model we get might not even be well-founded, so we wouldn't even be able to Mostowski collapse it to make it nice). Instead, we take the “elementary diagram” expressed as $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\kappa}$ sentences.

So fix V_κ and add c_x - constant symbols for every $x \in V_\kappa$. Then set L to be the language with \in and $\{c_x : x \in V_\kappa\}$ (without any $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\kappa}$ sentences). And set

$$\gamma = (V_\kappa, \in, \{x : x \in V_\kappa\}).$$

Then $\text{Th}(\gamma)$ is the elementary diagram of V_κ , so if $\mathcal{M} \models \text{Th}(\gamma)$, then $V_\kappa \subseteq \mathcal{M}$. Let L_κ be the $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\kappa}$ -language with some symbols. Consider

$$\psi := \forall^\omega \bar{v} \bigwedge_{i \in \omega} v_{i+1} \notin v.$$

This expresses well-foundedness (assuming AC). Now if

$$\Phi := \text{Th}_{L_\kappa}(\gamma),$$

then $\psi \in \Phi$, since V_κ actually is well-founded. Thus if $\mathcal{M} \models \Phi$, then \mathcal{M} is a well-founded model containing V_κ . Then by taking the Mostowski collapse, we get a transitive model containing V_κ .

But we need it to be bigger than V_κ , we don't want to have just recreated V_κ with extras steps. To ensure this, extend L_κ to L_κ^+ with one extra constant c . Then

$$\Phi^+ = \Phi \cup \{c \text{ is an ordinal}\} \cup \{c \neq c_x : x \in V_\kappa\}.$$

Any model of Φ^+ is (by previous) also a transitive superset of V_κ that contains an ordinal $\geq \kappa$. So by transitivity κ is in the model.

Now we need to show that Φ^+ is satisfiable. We will do this by showing that it is κ -satisfiable using $\text{SC}(\kappa)$. Let $\Phi_0 \subseteq \Phi^+$ of size $< \kappa$. Since $|V_\kappa| = \kappa$, there is some ordinal $\alpha < \kappa$ such that $c \neq c_\alpha \in \Phi_0$. Take γ together with interpretation $c \mapsto \alpha$. This is a model of Φ_0 .

□

If we analyse the proof that we've just given, we can notice that we only required $\text{SC}(\kappa)$ for languages with at most κ many symbols. If we define

$WC(\kappa)$ by “Every $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\kappa}$ -language with at most κ many symbols satisfies κ -compactness.” Then this theorem that we’ve proved shows $WC(\kappa) \Rightarrow KEP(\kappa)$.

Fact without proof: $WC(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow W(\kappa)$.

(Don’t worry about the $SC(\kappa) \Rightarrow M(\kappa)$ proof also working with $WC(\kappa)$ cardinals, for that we needed terms for everything in the filter, i.e. 2^κ -many symbols, so this wouldn’t work with $WC(\kappa)$.)

Lecture 10

8 Reflection

8.1 Taking the ultrapower of the universe

In order to avoid proper classes, let’s take the ultrapower of a (very nice) *set universe*. That is, our universe will be a set, and not a class. Later, we will briefly explain how the techniques we use could also apply to a proper class universe.

We want our universe to be as nice as possible, and the nicest possible universes that we have seen look like V_λ . So we will assume that $\kappa < \lambda$, and κ is measurable, and λ is inaccessible. So in particular, $V_\lambda \models ZFC + MC^4$.

Now, fix U to be a κ -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter on κ and form the ultrapower by U . That means $f : \kappa \rightarrow V_\lambda$ and $f \sim_U g$ if and only if $\{\alpha : f(\alpha) = g(\alpha)\} \in U$. Denote \sim_U -equivalence classes by $[f]$. Then

$$V_\lambda^\kappa/U := \{[f] : f : \kappa \rightarrow V_\lambda\},$$

and we write that $[f]E[g] \Leftrightarrow \{\alpha : f(\alpha) \in g(\alpha)\} \in U$.

We can embed V_λ into V_λ^κ/U by, for each $x \in V_\lambda$, taking the constant function $c_x : \kappa \rightarrow V_\lambda$, given by $c_x(\alpha) = x$ for all $\alpha < \kappa$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} l : V_\lambda &\rightarrow V_\lambda^\kappa/U \\ x &\mapsto [c_x] \end{aligned}$$

is an elementary embedding (using Łoś’ theorem). Therefore

$$(V_\lambda, \in) \equiv (V_\lambda^\kappa/U, E).$$

In particular $[c_\kappa]$ is a measurable cardinal in V_λ^κ/U , so the ultrapower models $ZFC + MC$.

⁴So, because this is a set universe, this is slightly stronger than $ZFC + MC$, since we suppose the existence of an inaccessible above it (Why not use a worldly cardinal above it? Because cofinality works better this way.)

Remark. (1). Suppose $V_\lambda^\kappa/U \models [f]$ is an ordinal.. Then by Loś' theorem,

$$X := \{\alpha : f(\alpha) \text{ is an ordinal.}\} \in U.$$

If we define

$$f'(\alpha) = \begin{cases} f(\alpha), & \alpha \in X \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

then $f \sim_U f'$, so $[f] = [f']$. So, without loss of generality, we could assume that $f : \kappa \rightarrow \lambda$ (since λ was inaccessible, f cannot be cofinal, so there is $\gamma < \lambda$ such that $f : \kappa \rightarrow \gamma$). Note also that, for example $(f+1)(\alpha) = f(\alpha) + 1$, since we have

$$\{\alpha : (f+1)(\alpha) \text{ is the successor of } f(\alpha)\} = \kappa \in U.$$

So by Loś again, $[f+1]$ is the successor of $[f]$.

Remark. (2). If $f : \kappa \rightarrow V_\lambda$ is arbitrary, then $\{\text{rank}(f(\alpha)) : \alpha \in \kappa\}$ cannot be cofinal in λ , so there is some γ such that $f \in V_\gamma$. Note also that $[f]$ is unbounded in V_λ because we could change the “unimportant” values to η for any η instead of 0, which is what we usually do.

Remark. (3). Given f , by remark 2, assume $f \in V_\gamma \subsetneq V_\lambda$. If $[g]E[f]$, then

$$X := \{\alpha : g(\alpha) \in f(\alpha)\} \in U.$$

Now define

$$g'(\alpha) = \begin{cases} g(\alpha), & \alpha \in X \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then $g' \sim_U g$, and $g' \in V_\gamma$. Therefore

$$|\{[g] : [g]E[f]\}| \leq |V_\gamma| < \lambda.$$

Lemma 8.1. V_λ^κ/U is well-founded.

Proof. Suppose it weren't, then we would have $\{f_n : n \in \omega\}$, a strictly decreasing sequence. Then $[f_{n+1}]E[f_n]$. So by definition of ultrapowers, we have:

$$X_n := \{\alpha : f_{n+1}(\alpha) \in f_n(\alpha)\} \in U.$$

Then κ -completeness implies that

$$X := \bigcap_{n \in \omega} X_n \in U.$$

Pick $\alpha \in X$. Then $\{f_n(\alpha) : n \in \omega\}$ is a decreasing \in -sequence in V_λ . This is a contradiction since we know V_λ is well-founded.

□

By lemma 8.1 and Mostowski, we find M transitive such that

$$\pi : (V_\lambda^\kappa / U, E) \cong (M, \in).$$

Put l (the elementary embedding from V_λ into V_λ^κ / U) and π together, define $j := \pi \circ l$. Then $j : (V_\lambda, \in) \rightarrow (M, \in)$. And

$$\begin{aligned} j(x) &= \pi \circ l(x) \\ &= \pi(l(x)) \\ &= \pi([c_x]). \end{aligned}$$

In general, for $f : \kappa \rightarrow V_\lambda$, write $(f) = \pi([f])$ (the Mostowski collapse of the equivalence class of f). What does M look like in relation to V_λ ?

Attempts to answer the above question

- (1) First, could it be some transitive set that extends above V_λ ? No.

Lemma 8.2. $M \subseteq V_\lambda$

Proof. Note that ES1 Q8 proved that $V_\lambda = H_\lambda$ for λ inaccessible (which it is here). Since M is transitive, if $\forall x \in M, |x| < \lambda$, then $M \subseteq H_\lambda$. But remark 3 shows precisely that this is the case.

□

- (2) What if M were a transitive set that extends above V_κ (but remains contained below V_λ)? No.

Lemma 8.3. $\text{Ord} \cap M = \lambda$.

Proof. By remark 1 (or just elementarity), if $\alpha < \lambda$, then $j(\alpha)$ is an ordinal. Note that j is order preserving ($\alpha < \beta \Rightarrow j(\alpha) < j(\beta)$). Therefore, j is an order-preserving embedding from λ into $\text{Ord} \cap M \subseteq \lambda$, so it must be unbounded in λ , so by transitivity, $\text{Ord} \cap M = \lambda$.

□

- (3) So M must contain all of the ordinals less than λ . So could it be that it is a transitive set which extends all the way up to λ in ordinals, but misses some of the elements of V_κ ? No.

Lemma 8.4. $j \upharpoonright V_\kappa = \text{Id} \upharpoonright V_\kappa$. In particular, $V_\kappa \subseteq M$.

Proof. We prove this by \in -induction on V_κ . Suppose $x \in V_\kappa$ such that $\forall y \in x, j(y) = y$. Then we want to prove that $j(x) = x$.

□

- (\supseteq) Take $z \in x$. By elementarity $z = j(z) \in j(x)$. Therefore $z \in j(x)$ as desired.
- (\subseteq) Take $z \in j(x)$. Then we can find some f such that $z = (f)$. So $(f) \in c_x$ in another way to phrase $z \in j(x)$. This rephrasing means:

$$\{\alpha : f(\alpha) \in c_x(\alpha)\} = \{\alpha : f(\alpha) \in x\} \in U.$$

This set can be written as:

$$\bigcup_{y \in x} \{\alpha : f(\alpha) = y\}.$$

This is a union of $|x|$ many sets, i.e. a union of $< \kappa$ many sets. Then by κ -completeness, one of these sets must be in U , since the union is in U and it is a union of $< \kappa$ many things. Therefore $\{\alpha : f(\alpha) = y\} \in U$. So $f \sim_U c_y$. Therefore, $(f) = j(y)$ and $j(y) = y$ by the inductive hypothesis. So z is y for some $y \in x$, therefore $z \in x$.

□

- (4) So, the answer to our questions mean M contains all of V_κ and is a subset of V_λ . Then the only question remaining is, does it equal V_λ .

Lecture 11

Lemma 8.5. $j \neq \text{Id}$. More concretely, there is an object in V_λ which does not get mapped to itself, specifically $j(\kappa) > \kappa$.

Proof. We know that $j(\kappa) = c_\kappa$. Also, by lemma 8.4, for each $\alpha < \kappa$, $j(\alpha) = c_\alpha = \alpha$. Consider

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Id} : \kappa &\rightarrow \kappa \\ \gamma &\mapsto \gamma \end{aligned}$$

Then $c_\alpha < (\text{Id}) \Leftrightarrow \{\gamma : c_\alpha(\gamma) < \text{id}(\gamma)\} \in U$. But this set is $\{\gamma : \alpha < \gamma\}$. By a size argument, this must be in U , so $\alpha < \text{Id}$. (This uses nonprincipality of the ultrafilter).

Similarly, we have $(\text{Id}) < (c_\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \{\gamma : \text{Id}(\gamma) < c_\kappa(\gamma)\}$. And this set is the set of ordinals that are less than κ , so it is just κ , and therefore must be in the ultrafilter, so $(\text{Id}) < j(\kappa)$.

Then we have for all $\alpha < \kappa$, that

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &< (\text{Id}) < j(\kappa) \\ \kappa &\leq (\text{Id}) < j(\kappa) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $j(\kappa) > \kappa$.

□

Remark.

1. This implies $j \upharpoonright V_{\kappa+1} \neq \text{Id}$.
2. It also shows that some elements of M come from functions that are non-constant, and specifically non-constant on a set which *is* in the ultrafilter.
3. $\{j(x) : x \in V_\lambda\} \subsetneq M$. So there is a copy of V_λ sitting inside M , but which is not all of M . This copy is also not transitive (which follows, I think, from the $j(\kappa) > \kappa$ thing).
4. If $f : \kappa \rightarrow \kappa$ such that $\forall \gamma. \text{Id}(\gamma) < f(\gamma)$, then $(\text{Id}) < (f)$. In particular, you could take $f_2 : \gamma \mapsto \gamma \cdot 2$, or $f_3 : \gamma \mapsto \gamma \cdot 3$, and we would be able to say $(\text{Id}) < (f_2) < (f_3)$.
5. At the moment, we do not know whether $(\text{Id}) = \kappa$. We'll try to figure out a function that grows slower than the identity. Try $f(\gamma) = \gamma - 1$, but we can't do this with ordinals obviously. So we try next

$$f(\gamma) = \begin{cases} \gamma - 1, & \text{if } \gamma \text{ successor,} \\ \gamma, & \text{if } \gamma \text{ a limit} \end{cases}$$

Whether this function is less than the identity depends on whether $\{\alpha : \alpha \text{ is a limit}\}$ is in the ultrafilter or not. We'll discuss this more in lecture 12.

Definition 8.6. If $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow M$ is any elementary embedding, $M \subseteq V_\lambda$ is transitive, we call μ the **critical point** of j , which we write as $\mu = \text{crit}(j)$ if $j \neq \text{Id}$ and $\mu = \min\{\alpha : j(\alpha) > \alpha\}$.

Note that in this terminology, $\kappa = \text{crit}(j)$ where j is the Mostowski collapse of the ultrapower embedding.

Observations about M:

M is closed under finite intersections, i.e. if $A, B \in M$, then $A \cap B \in M$.

$V_\kappa \in M$: we claim that $W := \{y \in M : M \models \text{rank}(y) < \kappa\}$ is equal to V_κ . Clearly, since $M \models \text{ZFC}$, W is just M 's version of V_κ , and so $W \in M$ (because V_κ is in V_λ).

To prove that $W = V_\kappa$, if $x \in V_\kappa$, then $\text{rank}(x) = \alpha < \kappa$. Then by lemma 8.4, $j(x) = x$. So by elementarity, $\text{rank}(x) = \text{rank}(j(x)) = j(\alpha) = \alpha$, with the last equality coming from lemma 8.4. Therefore $V_\kappa \subseteq W$.

For inclusion the other way, suppose that $M \models \text{rank}(y) = \gamma$ for some $\gamma < \kappa$. Then wlog there is (f) such that $y = (f)$, and $f : \kappa \rightarrow V_{\gamma+1}$. But then $|V_{\gamma+1}| < \kappa$. Thus, by the argument in lemma 8.4, there is some x in $V_{\gamma+1}$ such that $\{\alpha : f(\alpha) = x\} \in U$. Then $f \sim_U c_x$, so $(f) = j(x) = x \in V_\kappa$.

□

Lemma 8.7. $V_{\kappa+1} \subseteq M$. Note that $j \restriction V_{\kappa+1} \neq \text{Id}$, so this does not follow from lemma 8.44.

Proof. We claim that for any $A \in V_{\kappa+1}$ (so $A \subseteq V_\kappa$), we have that $A = j(A) \cap V_\kappa$. Note that by the observation, $V_\kappa \in M$ and M is closed under intersections.

Take $x \in A \subseteq V_\kappa$. Then $x \in A$, so by elementarity $j(x) \in j(A)$, so $x \in j(A) \cap V_\kappa$.

Now take $x \in j(A) \cap V_\kappa$. Since $x \in V_\kappa$, $j(x) = x$. Therefore, $j(x) \in j(A)$. Then by elementarity, we must also have $x \in A$.

□

Lemma 8.8. $V_\lambda \models j(\kappa)$ has at most 2^κ many elements.

Proof. Remember that if $f \in V_\gamma$, then $|f| \leq |V_\gamma|$. If $(f) \in j(\kappa) = c_\kappa$, then we can assume that f is a function from $\kappa \rightarrow \kappa$. There are only 2^κ many such functions.

□

In particular, $V_\lambda \models j(\kappa)$ not a strong limit cardinal.

Lemma 8.9. $M \neq V_\lambda$.

Proof. $M \models j(\kappa)$ is measurable by elementarity. So M thinks that $j(\kappa)$ is a strong limit. Therefore M and V_λ must be different.

□

This isn't very constructive, but actually we can (and will, see ES3) show that the ultrafilter we need is missing from M , you get this by showing lemma 8.4 for arbitrary $N \subseteq V_\lambda$ transitive such that $u \in N$. This will imply that $V_{\kappa+2} \not\subseteq M$, so that is where something is missing.

Lecture 12 So, does $M \models \kappa$ is measurable. Certainly not by UM but maybe some other $U' \in V_{\kappa+2}$ which is κ -complete and non-principal.

8.2 Back to the reflection theorem

Remember the Keisler extension property, which says that if X is an elementary transitive extension of V_κ , and Φ is any property such that $X \models \Phi(\kappa)$, then $X \models \exists \mu. (\alpha < \mu \wedge \Phi(\mu))$. Then by elementarity, V_κ models the same thing. Then the set $C_\Phi = \{\gamma < \kappa : \Phi(\gamma)\} \subseteq \kappa$ is cofinal in κ .

If Φ is any property such that $M \models \Phi(\kappa)$, then for all $\alpha < \kappa$, we have that

$$M \models \exists \mu (\alpha = j(\alpha) < \mu < j(\kappa) \wedge \Phi(\mu)).$$

Then by elementarity,

$$V_\lambda \models \exists \mu (\alpha < \mu < \kappa \wedge \Phi(\mu)).$$

And $C_\Phi = \{\gamma < \kappa : \Phi(\gamma)\}$ is cofinal in κ .

Examples.

1. Let $\Phi = I$ (inaccessibility). Then by absoluteness $M \models I(\kappa)$, so $C_I = \{\gamma < \kappa : I(\gamma)\}$ is cofinal. Thus every measurable cardinal is the κ^{th} inaccessible (which we already knew (apparently)).
2. Let $\Phi = W$ (weak compactness). Then we can prove that $M \models W(\kappa)$. Fix a colouring $c : [\kappa]^2 \rightarrow 2$ in M and find $H \in [\kappa]^\kappa$ in M which is monochromatic for c . By $W(\kappa)$ in V_λ , have H homogeneous as above in V_λ . But $H \subseteq \kappa$, so it lives in $V_{\kappa+1}$, therefore it must also live in M , since M contains $V_{\kappa+1}$.

Then, by reflection, we get that $C_W = \{\gamma < \kappa : W(\gamma)\}$ is cofinal in κ .

Remark. We say a property Φ is called β -**stable** if for all transitive models M and all κ , we have $\Phi(\kappa)$ and $V_{\kappa+\beta} \subseteq M \Rightarrow M \models \Phi(\kappa)$. We have just shown that weak compactness is 1-stable *and* that 1-stable properties of measurable cardinals reflect at a measurable. Measurability is a 2-stable property. being a κ -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter is absolute. Then $M(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \exists U. (U \in V_{\kappa+2} \wedge \Xi(U))$.

3. Suppose $M \models \kappa$ is measurable. Then by the same argument as before, $C_M := \{\gamma < \kappa : M(\gamma)\}$ is cofinal in κ . Therefore κ is the κ^{texth} measurable cardinal. This is because M is seeing κ as measurable!

Definition 8.10 (Surviving). κ is called **surviving**, written $\text{Surv}(\kappa)$ if there are $\lambda > \kappa$ such that $I(\lambda)$, and U is a κ -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter on κ , M a transitive model such that $M \cong V_\lambda^\kappa / U$, and j an elementary embedding derived from U , and

$$M \models \kappa \text{ is measurable.}$$

Then by the above, the first surviving cardinal is the κ^{th} measurable.

Corollary 8.11.

$$\text{MC} <_{\text{Cons}} \text{SurvC}$$

Proof. Let κ be surviving, so $\text{Surv}(\kappa)$. By previous, find $\lambda_0 < \lambda_1 < \kappa$ such that $M(\lambda_0), M(\lambda_1)$, therefore $I(\lambda_1)$ since measurable implies inaccessible. Then

$$V_{\lambda_1} \models \text{ZFC} + M(\lambda_0),$$

by 2-stability of M , and $V_{\lambda_0+2} \subseteq V_{\lambda_1}$.

□

8.3 Fundamental Theorem on Measurable Cardinals

Theorem 8.12 (Fundamental Theorem on measurable cardinals). *Suppose λ is inaccessible, $\kappa < \lambda$, then TFAE*

- (i) κ is measurable.
- (ii) There is M transitive with $V_{\kappa+1} \subseteq M$ and $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow M$ elementary such that $j \neq \text{Id}$. and $\kappa = \text{crit}(j)$.

Proof.

- (i) \Rightarrow (ii) Done. This is what we've been showing this whole time.
- (ii) \Rightarrow (i) Define the ultrafilter which makes κ measurable. Define this via

$$U = U_\kappa := \{A \subseteq \kappa : \kappa \in j(A)\}.$$

And since j is elementary, $A \subseteq \kappa \Rightarrow j(A) \subseteq j(\kappa)$, so this is not the empty set.

Then we need to prove that U is a κ -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter.

- (a) To show $\kappa \in U$, $\kappa \in U \Leftrightarrow \kappa \in j(\kappa)$. That's true since $j(\kappa) > \kappa$. (Since $\kappa = \text{crit}(j)$).
- (b) $\emptyset \notin U$. $\emptyset \in U \Leftrightarrow \kappa \in j(\emptyset) = \emptyset$. That's false.
- (c) If $A \in U$, and $B \supseteq A$, then $B \in U$. Then $A \in U \Leftrightarrow \kappa \in j(A)$. By elementarity, $j(B) \supseteq j(A)$. Therefore $\kappa \in j(B)$, and so $B \in U$.
- (d) Suppose A is not in U , then $\kappa \notin j(A)$. Then we want to show that $\kappa \setminus A \in U$ which is true if and only if $\kappa \in j(\kappa \setminus A) = j(\kappa) \setminus j(A)$. $\kappa \in j(\kappa)$, so $\kappa \setminus A \in U$.
- (e) Our definition looks very like a principal filter, however, interestingly we can show that it is a non-principal ultrafilter. Fix $\alpha \in \kappa$, and show that $\{\alpha\} \notin U$ which is true if and only if $\kappa \notin j(\{\alpha\}) = \{j(\alpha)\}$, but $\alpha < \kappa$, so $j(\alpha) = \alpha$, and $\kappa \notin \{\alpha\}$ clearly.

- (f) Now to show U is κ -complete. Fix $\{A_\alpha : \alpha < \gamma\} \subseteq U$. That is, $\kappa \in j(A_\alpha)$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$. Then we want to show

$$\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha \in U.$$

This holds if and only if $\kappa \in j(\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha)$. But we have $\beta \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha$ is just a formula that says \bar{A} is a sequence of objects A_α , and the α^{th} element of this sequence is A_α , and β is an element of each A_α in this sequence. Therefore, β is in $j(\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha)$ if and only if for all elements of the sequence $j(\bar{A})$, β is in that element. Clearly $j(\bar{A})$ is a sequence of subsets of $j(\kappa)$ of length $j(\gamma)$. But $j(\gamma) = \gamma$. Since A_α is the α^{th} element of this sequence, $j(A_\alpha)$ is the $j(\alpha)^{\text{th}}$ element of $j(\bar{A})$. But $j(\alpha) = \alpha$. So $j(\bar{A}) = \{j(A_\alpha) : \alpha < \gamma\}$. That means that $j(\bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha) = \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} j(A_\alpha)$. But κ lives in each of these sets by elementarity.

□

Lecture 13 So, in this proof we have shown that if \bar{A} is a sequence of subsets of κ of length γ , then $j(\bar{A})$ is a sequence of subsets of $j(\kappa)$ of length $j(\gamma)$. Also, if A_α is the α^{th} element of \bar{A} , then $j(A_\alpha)$ is the $j(\alpha)^{\text{th}}$ element of $j(\bar{A})$. In the proof, $\gamma < \kappa$, so $j(\gamma) = \gamma$, and for all $\alpha < \gamma$, $j(\alpha) = \alpha$. So $j(\bar{A}) = \{j(A_\alpha) : \alpha < \gamma\}$.

If $\gamma = \kappa$, then $j(A_\alpha)$ is a sequence of length $j(\kappa) > \kappa$, for $\alpha < \kappa$, the $j(\alpha)^{\text{th}}$ element of $j(\bar{A})$ is $j(A_\alpha)$. Beyond κ , however, we have no clue what the elements of $j(\bar{A})$ look like.

Proposition 8.13. *For arbitrary j with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$, U_j is a normal ultrafilter. I.e. for all \bar{A} such that $A_\alpha \in U$ and length κ ,*

$$\bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha \in U.$$

Proof. Suppose that $A_\alpha \in U_j \Leftrightarrow \kappa \in j(A_\alpha)$. Then $\bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha \in U_j$ if and only if $\kappa \in j(\bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha)$.

Then we analyse what $j(\bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha)$ is. Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \xi \in \bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha &\Leftrightarrow \xi \in \bigcap_{\alpha < \xi} A_\alpha \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha < \xi (\xi \in A_\alpha) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha < \xi (\xi \in \alpha^{\text{th}} \text{ element of } \bar{A}.) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \xi \in j\left(\bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha\right) &\Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha < \xi (\xi \in j(\alpha)^{\text{th}} \text{ element of } j(\bar{A}).) \\ \kappa \in j\left(\bigtriangleup_{\alpha < \kappa} A_\alpha\right) &\Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha < \kappa (\kappa \in j(\alpha)^{\text{th}} \text{ element of } j(\bar{A}).) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall \alpha < \kappa (\kappa \in j(A_\alpha)) \end{aligned}$$

And for $\alpha < \kappa$, $j(\alpha) = \alpha$. And κ is in the α^{th} element of $j(\bar{A})$, which is $j(A_\alpha)$. Therefore this is the case, so it is a normal ultrafilter.

□

Remark.

1. This provides an alternative proof of the existence of a normal ultrafilter on a measurable cardinal.
2. This means that $j \mapsto U_j$ and $U \mapsto j_U$ are in general not inverses of each other. If U is not normal, then $U_{j_U} \neq U$, since U_{j_U} is always normal.
3. We can also show

Proposition 8.14. *If U is a κ -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter on κ , then TFAE:*

- (i) U is normal.
- (ii) $(\text{Id}) = \kappa$.

Proof. Example Sheet 3. But the main point of the argument was done with the alternative characterisation of normal ultrafilters on sheet 2.

□

8.4 Alternative View of Reflection

Suppose U is normal, κ -complete, nonprincipal. Then if $M \models \Phi(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{M} \models \Phi(\text{Id})$, then by Los' Theorem, $\{\alpha < \kappa : \Phi(\text{Id}(\alpha))\} \in U$, which is the set of $\alpha < \kappa$ such that $\Phi(\alpha)$. So Φ reflects not just on a set of size κ , but also on an ultrafilter set. In particular, if $\mathcal{M} \models \kappa$ is measurable, and U is normal (so κ is “surviving”), then $\{\alpha : \alpha \text{ is measurable}\} \in U$. If U is not normal, we can take U_{j_U} (this could change whether $\mathcal{M} \models \text{M}(\kappa)$, so have to be careful).

Characterize “surviving”:

Theorem 8.15. κ is surviving \Leftrightarrow there is a normal ultrafilter on κ such that $C := \{\alpha : \alpha \text{ is measurable}\} \in U$.

Proof.

\Rightarrow As we just argued.

\Leftarrow Suppose $C \in U$, then for each $\alpha \in C$, we can find an α -complete nonprincipal ultrafilter on α , call it U_α . Then

$$f : \alpha \mapsto \begin{cases} U_\alpha, & \text{if } \alpha \in C. \\ \emptyset, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then $\{\alpha : f(\alpha) \text{ is an Id}(\alpha)\text{-complete ultrafilter on Id}(\alpha)\} = C$ is in U if and only if $M \models (f)$ is an (Id)-complete non-principal ultrafilter on (Id). So $M \models (f)$ witnesses that κ is measurable.

□

This shows that “being surviving” is a 2-stable property: If N is transitive such that $V_{\kappa+2} \subseteq N$, then κ is surviving $\Leftrightarrow N \models \kappa$ is surviving.

Definition 8.16 ($<_M$, the Mitchell Order). If U, U' are two normal ultrafilters on κ , we write $U <_M U'$ if $C = \{\alpha : \alpha \text{ is measurable}\} \in U$, and there is a sequence of ultrafilters U_α on $\alpha \in C$ such that $A \in U'$ if and only if $\{\alpha : A \cap \alpha \in U_\alpha\} \in U$.

This is known as the **Mitchell ordering of normal ultrafilters**.

Then κ is surviving if and only if there are U, U' normal on κ such that $U <_M U'$. This is more or less what we just proved with the observation that $h(\alpha) = A \cap \alpha$ has the property that $(h) = A$.

Note that talking about sequences of Mitchell-ordered ultrafilters is also 2-stable.

9 Embeddings

Definition 9.1 (Embedding axiom). A large cardinal axiom Φ is called an **embedding axiom** if $\Phi(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow$ there is M transitive and $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow M$ elementary with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$, plus additional properties.

Therefore $M(\kappa)$ is the simplest embedding axiom. All larger large cardinal axioms that we consider in this course from now on will be embedding axioms.

Definition 9.2 (β -strong embeddings). An embedding $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow M$ is called **β -strong** if $V_{\kappa+\beta} \subseteq M$, with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$.

A cardinal κ is called **β -strong** if there is a β -strong embedding with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$.

It is clear that if Φ is β -stable, then Φ is preserved by a β -strong embedding.

Corollary 9.3. *If Φ is β -stable and κ is β -strong with $\Phi(\kappa)$, then κ is the κ^{th} cardinal with property Φ .*

Proof. Omitted. Follows from earlier discussion about β -stable cardinals.

□

Note that κ is measurable means that κ is 2-strong. But κ is 2-strong implies that $\{\alpha : \alpha \text{ is measurable}\}$ and $\{\alpha : \alpha \text{ is surviving}\}$ have size κ .

If we write $\beta - \mathbf{S}(\kappa)$ for κ is β -strong, then $\mathbf{SurvC} <_{\mathbf{Cons}} 2 - \mathbf{SC}$. This also gives an example of $j_{U_j} \neq j$. If j is 2-strong, then j cannot be the ultrapower embedding of any ultrafilter, since these are never 2-strong.

Lecture 14 Recall that we say a large cardinal property Φ is β -stable if for all M transitive such that $V_{\kappa+\beta} \subseteq M$, $\Phi(\kappa) \Rightarrow M \models \Phi(\kappa)$.

For a non-trivial embedding j , we say that j is β -strong if $\kappa = \text{crit}(j)$ and $V_{\kappa+\beta} \subseteq M$. Also, we say that a cardinal κ is β -strong if there is a β -strong j with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$.

Informally, β -strong embedding reflect any β -stable property of κ to an unbounded subset of κ .

9.1 Witness objects

Definition 9.4 (Witness objects of rank β). A large cardinal property Φ is said to have **witness objects of rank β** if there is a formula Φ which is downwards absolute for transitive models, and

$$\Phi(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \forall x \exists y. (y \in V_{\kappa+\beta} \wedge \Phi(x, y, \kappa))$$

Examples.

- Weak compactness is rank 1, by the formula:

$$\forall c \exists H. (H \in V_{\kappa+1} \wedge H \text{ is homogeneous for } c)$$

- Measurability by the formula:

$$\exists U. (U \text{ is a } \kappa \text{ complete n.p. ultrafilter on } \kappa)$$

and obviously U lives in $V_{\kappa+2}$.

Observe that if Φ has witness objects of rank β , then Φ is β -stable. Some examples of properties and witness objects

Property	Stability	Witness objects
Inaccessibility	0-stable	-
Weak Compactness	1-stable	Homogeneous sets in $V_{\kappa+1}$
Measurability	2-stable	An ultrafilter in $V_{\kappa+2}$
Surviving	2-stable	A pair $U <_M U'$ of ultrafilters in $V_{\kappa+2}$.

Observe that if β -strong cardinals have witness objects, they can't be of rank β .

9.2 Getting rid of the annoying inaccessible

All of the “taking ultrapowers of the universe” section was only about set-sized universe (which we got by assuming that there is an inaccessible $\lambda > \kappa$). Why did we assume this?

- **Problem 1:** The definition of ultrapowers requires a set model.
- **Problem 2:** In the fundamental theorem of measurable cardinals, we quantified over j and M . If these are proper classes instead of set models, then how could we do this?
- **Problem 3:** Also in the fundamental theorem of ultrapowers, we used the word “elementary”. We can only define this for set models because we can define a truth function, what does it mean when we're talking about classes?

9.2.1 Problem 1: Taking ultrapowers without a set model

We took $V_\lambda^\kappa / \sim_U$. What if we try this with V^κ / \sim_U . Clearly V^κ is the proper class of all functions f with $\text{dom}(f) = \kappa$. The definition of \sim_U still makes sense as a relation, because for any functions, they will live somewhere. However, equivalence classes of this relation will be proper classes, since

$$[f]_U = \{g \in V^\kappa : f \sim_U g\}.$$

This V^κ / \sim_U is no longer a standard class, because it is a class of classes. Even in Gödel-Bernays, members of classes are sets, never classes.

We solve this using **Scott's Trick**:

Scott's trick say that if $C \neq \emptyset$ is a class, then there is α minimal such that $C \cap V_\alpha \neq \emptyset$.

Therefore, if we define

$$\text{scott}(C) := C \cap V_\alpha$$

for α minimal, then

$$[f]_U \neq [g]_U \Rightarrow \text{scott}([f]_U) \neq \text{scott}([g]_U).$$

Then Scott's idea is to define V^κ/U as

$$\{\text{scott}([f]_U) : \text{dom}(f) = \kappa\}$$

Here, all the definitions work. Then in order to get a transitive M , we need a class version of Mostowski's theorem. but first we need to define a notion that allows the proof to go through:

Definition 9.5 (Set-like). E is **set-like** if for all $x \in C$:

$$\{y \in C : yEx\}$$

is a set.

Now for the theorem:

Theorem 9.6 (Class Version of Mostowski). *If C is a proper class, $E \subseteq C \times C$, a binary relation on C that is well-founded, extensional and **set-like** then there is a unique transitive class T such that*

$$(T, \in) \cong (C, E).$$

Proof. The proof of this theorem is virtually identical to the set version, only you use “set-like” at the appropriate moment.

□

9.2.2 Problems 2 and 3: Fixing the problems with quantification and elementarity

The fundamental theorem of measurable cardinals says that

$$M(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \exists j, \exists M. (j : V_\lambda \rightarrow M) \wedge \text{crit}(j) = \kappa \wedge j \text{ is elementary.}$$

The quantifiers $\exists j$, and $\exists M$, are the second problem. Then the statement j is elementary is the third. To fix these problems, we just have to get our hands dirty with class theory.

Standard class theories are:

- NBG (von Neumann-Bernays-Gödel)
- KM (Kelly-Morse)

NBG is the “minimal” class theory, where classes are the things that can be made by formulae, so all of the classes are definable (more info in Forcing and the Continuum Hypothesis Sheet 2). Kelly-Morse class theory presupposes the existence of an inaccessible cardinal, and says that the things that are sets in that model which aren’t sets in our original theory are classes, so there are undefinable classes by a simple countability argument.

Either of these resolve the quantification problem, since we can quantify over our classes in a 2-sorted language, and everything is all fine. But this doesn't immediately solve the problem about elementarity, since we still can't define a truth function, according to logic (Tarski's undefinability).

So, elementarity simply cannot be expressed as a single formula anymore, instead it becomes a schema. This causes additional problems with the quantification (since we would get a different embedding for every formula). One possible solution is to extend our language by a symbol c_j , which we could then have a schema of properties about that would all hold for c_j . Another trick is to observe that Σ_1 elementarity is enough for elementarity. If interested, see Kanamori page 45.

Lecture 15

10 Up: Cardinals that are too big

10.1 Embedding Cardinals

After showing we can get rid of the inaccessible, we will go back to using it in order not to introduce weird metamathematical considerations.

Let $\kappa = \text{crit}(j)$ where $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow M$ is elementary, along with the usual other properties of j and M .

Example. β -strong cardinals, i.e. cardinals so that $V_{\kappa+\beta} \subseteq M$. These cardinals increase consistency strength considerably, since e.g. measurables and surviving cardinals have witness objects in $V_{\kappa+2}$, so 2-strength means that these properties reflect to an unbounded subset of κ .

Remark. Obviously, cardinals of 2-strength cannot have witness objects of rank $\kappa + 2$. However, witness objects for strength do exist, they are called **extenders**, and if μ is the least \beth -fixed point bigger than $|V_{\kappa+\beta}|$, then the witness object for β -strength has rank μ^5 .

Definition 10.1 (Strong Cardinal). A cardinal κ is called **strong** if it is β -strong for all $\beta < \lambda$. Where λ is the inaccessible above κ , as we have been using it.

Remark. The precise quantifiers for this definition are:

$$\forall \beta, \exists j. (V_{\kappa+\beta} \subseteq M).$$

⁵This bound is probably overkill, but it is sufficient.

And we will end up switching the quantifiers around later. This notion of strong cardinals means that they do not have a single witness object of a fixed rank (because if they did, then strength would reflect strength).

10.2 Supercompactness

Definition 10.2 (Supercompactness). We say that a model M is closed under μ -sequences if

$$M^\mu \subseteq M.$$

Theorem 10.3. *If κ is measurable and $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow M$ is the ultrapower embedding, then M is closed under κ -sequences, but not under κ^+ -sequences.*

Proof. First we will show that M is closed under κ -sequences. Suppose $S := \{(f_\alpha) : \alpha < \kappa\} \in M^\kappa$, then we need to show that $S \in M$.

Find h such that $(h) = \kappa$, then we define $g(\xi)$ to be a function with domain $h(\xi)$ and $\forall \alpha \in h(\xi). g(\xi)(\alpha) = f_\alpha(\xi)$. Observe that $\{\xi : \text{dom}(g(\xi)) = h(\xi)\} = \kappa \in U$. By Łoś, $\text{dom}((g)) = (h) = \kappa$. Then

$$\{\xi : \alpha \in \text{dom}(g(\xi)) \Rightarrow g(\xi)(\alpha) = f_\alpha(\xi)\} = \kappa \in U.$$

Then Łoś again gives that $\alpha \in \text{dom}(g) = \kappa \Rightarrow (g)(\alpha) = f_\alpha$. So $(g) = S$.

Second we need to show that M is not κ^+ -closed. Let $T := \{j(\alpha) : \alpha < \kappa^+\} \in M^{\kappa^+}$. Then we claim that $T \notin M$.

Subclaim: T is unbounded in $j(\kappa^+) = j(\kappa)^+$ (by elementarity).

If $(f) < j(\kappa^+) = (c_{\kappa^+})$ then w.l.o.g. $f : \kappa \rightarrow \kappa^+$. Since κ^+ is regular, there must be some $\alpha < \kappa^+$ such that $f : \kappa \rightarrow \alpha$. So $(f) < (c_\alpha) = j(\alpha) \in T$. But $j(\kappa^+) = j(\kappa)^+$ is regular, so can't have small unbounded subsets. But $|T| = \kappa^+ < j(\kappa^+)$. Thus $T \notin M$.

□

Definition 10.4 (μ -supercompact). An embedding j is called μ -supercompact if $M^\mu \subseteq M$.

Then we say that a cardinal κ is **μ -supercompact** if there is a μ -supercompact embedding with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$.

Observe that κ is measurable implies that κ is κ -supercompact (but the embedding from the measure is not κ^+ supercompact).

Definition 10.5 (Supercompact Cardinals). A cardinal κ is called simply **supercompact** if

$$\forall \mu. \kappa \text{ is } \mu\text{-supercompact.}$$

Importantly, the quantifiers are $\forall \mu, \exists j. M^\mu \subseteq M$.

Remark. There is a link between supercompactness and strength, if κ is 2^κ -supercompact, then κ is 2-strong. This is because being 2-strong is equivalent to $V_{\kappa+2} \subseteq M$, and $|V_{\kappa+1}| = \mathcal{P}(V_{\kappa+1})$, and $|V_{\kappa+1}| = 2^\kappa$. So for every $A \in V_{\kappa+2}$, A is a 2^κ -sequence of elements of M , so $A \in M$, so $V_{\kappa+2} \subseteq M$.

In general, if κ is $|V_{\kappa+\beta}|$ -supercompact, then κ is $\beta + 1$ -strong.

Corollary 10.6. κ is supercompact $\Rightarrow \kappa$ is strong.

Proof. Omitted

□

This seems like strength is stronger than supercompactness, because we need a lot of supercompactness to get a relatively small amount of strength. However, this is not the case. It is much harder to go from strength to supercompactness, because strength is a “local” property. From knowing that there is some subset $V_{\kappa+\beta}$ in M , it is hard to say anything about sequences that could be much higher than $V_{\kappa+\beta}$. So in fact supercompactness is stronger than strength.

Now, we will switch the quantifiers.

Definition 10.7 (Reinhardt). We say that a cardinal κ is **Reinhardt** if

$$\exists j, \forall \beta < \lambda. V_{\kappa+\beta} \subseteq M.$$

This is equivalent to saying $M = V_\lambda$.

In other words, there is $j : V_\lambda \rightarrow V_\lambda$ such that j is elementary and $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$.

Theorem 10.8 (Kunen). $\text{ZFC} \Rightarrow$ *There are no Reinhardt cardinals.*⁶

Proof. Find the least j -fixed point above κ , using our usual construction

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_0 &= \kappa \\ \kappa_{i+1} &= j(\kappa_i) \\ \hat{\kappa} &= \bigcup_{i \in \omega} \kappa_i \end{aligned}$$

We'll show that $V_{\hat{\kappa}+1} \not\subseteq M$. For this, we'll need a combinatorial lemma, and for this lemma, we need a definition:

Definition 10.9 (ω -Jónsson). For any cardinal δ , we say that $f : [\delta]^\omega \rightarrow \delta$ is **ω -Jónsson** if for every $X \subseteq \delta$ such that $|X| = \delta$, we have $\{f(A) : A \in [X]^\omega\} = \delta$.

Lemma 10.10 (Erdős-Hajnal, 1966). *Every cardinal δ has an ω -Jónsson function.*

Proof. Omitted

□

Lemma 10.11 (Kunen's Lemma). *Under the previous assumptions about κ , $V_{\hat{\kappa}+1} \not\subseteq M$.*

Proof. Towards a contradiction, assume $V_{\hat{\kappa}+1} \subseteq M$. And let

$$f : [\hat{\kappa}]^\omega \rightarrow \hat{\kappa}$$

be ω -Jónsson for $\hat{\kappa}$. We get immediately that

$$M \models j(f) \text{ is } \omega\text{-Jónsson for } j(\hat{\kappa}) = \hat{\kappa}. \quad (*)$$

Define $X := \{j(\alpha) : \alpha \in \hat{\kappa}\} \in V_{\hat{\kappa}+1}$. We claim that $X \notin M$, which finishes the proof.

Clearly $|X| = \hat{\kappa}$, but also since we assumed $V_{\hat{\kappa}+1} \subseteq M$, we also have

$$M \models |X| = \hat{\kappa}. \quad (**)$$

Now, apply the definition of ω -Jónssons to $(*)$ and $(**)$ and get

$$M \models \{j(f)(A) : A \in [X]^\omega\} = \hat{\kappa}.$$

Let's understand $j(f)(A)$ for $A \in [X]^\omega$ a bit better. Well, the set $A = \{j(\alpha_i) : i \in \omega\}$ for some $\{\alpha_i : i \in \omega\} \in [\hat{\kappa}]^\omega$. Call this set of α_i 's a . Then $j(a) = \{j(\alpha_i) : i \in \omega\} = A$.

Aside: In general, if $g(x) = y$, then $j(g)$ is a function, $j(x)$ is in the domain of $j(g)$, and $j(y)$ is the image of $j(x)$ under $j(g)$, since everything is elementary. Thus

$$j(g)(j(x)) = j(y) = j(g(x)).$$

Returning to $j(f)(A)$, from the aside we know that this is

$$\begin{aligned} j(f)(A) &= j(f)(j(a)) \\ &= j(f(a)) \in X \end{aligned} \quad (\text{since } f(a) \in \hat{\kappa})$$

We therefore proved that

$$M \models \hat{\kappa} = \{j(f)(A) : A \in [X]^\omega\} \subseteq X.$$

Together, we have that $M \models \hat{\kappa} \subseteq X$. This is clearly false, since $\kappa = \text{crit}(j)$, so κ cannot live in X .

□

□

This proves Kunen's theorem. Let's analyse what happened in this proof.

Remark.

1. The Erdős-Hajnal result needs AC, and it is not known whether the proof works without AC (i.e. whether ZF with a Reinhardt cardinal is inconsistent).
2. There is no need for λ to be inaccessible, for any α , if $j : V_\alpha \rightarrow M$, with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa$, such that $\hat{\kappa} \leq \alpha$, since we need $\hat{\kappa} \in V_\alpha$, and in fact $\hat{\kappa} + 2 \leq \alpha$ since we need the Jónsson function for $\hat{\kappa}$ is in V_α , then we have $V_{\hat{\kappa}+1} \not\subseteq M$. We get a corollary from this:

Corollary 10.12. *For any ordinal δ , there is no*

$$j : V_{\delta+2} \rightarrow V_{\delta+2}$$

which is elementary with $\text{crit}(j) = \kappa < \delta + 2$.

Proof. Observe that if $\hat{\kappa} < \delta + 2$, then $\hat{\kappa} < \delta + 1$ since that is definable in $V_{\delta+2}$ as “the largest ordinal”, and since δ is the predecessor of the largest ordinal, $\hat{\kappa}$ can also not be δ . Thus also $j(\kappa) < \delta$ by elementarity. By induction $\kappa_i < \delta$, and so $\hat{\kappa} \leq \delta$, so $\hat{\kappa} + 2 \leq \delta + 2$. So by the second remark $V_{\hat{\kappa}+1} \subseteq V_{\delta+2}$. This gives a contradiction.

□

What about $j : V_{\delta+1} \rightarrow V_{\delta+1}$ or $j : V_\delta \rightarrow V_\delta$? The first is called I1, and the second is (unfortunately) called I3 (there is an I2 in between which we won't talk about). By restriction, I1 implies I3 (the nontriviality cannot occur at a rank δ set first, since the critical point must be below δ). However, so far these have not been proven inconsistent.

The big picture:



Up to measurable are “small” large cardinals, between measurable and strong are medium large cardinals, and above that are large large cardinals.