

Steel's Programme: Evidential Framework, the Core and Ultimate-L

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- 5 Woodin's Argument



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Universism and multiversism are the *ontological* incarnation of the more general *pluralism/non-pluralism* divide.

Semantic and *proof-theoretic* forms of pluralism/non-pluralism may also be articulated.



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[Steel, 2014] instantiates proof-theoretic pluralism.



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- Woodin's set-generic multiverse (cf. [Woodin, 2011a]): (moderately) pluralist about ontology, non-pluralist about theories



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- Views the 'multiverse' as a collection of *theories* all of which 'extend' ZFC(+LCs) in mutually incompatible ways
- Reduces the issue of whether there are multiple *universes of set theory* to that of whether there are *multiple theories* (of said kind)



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- As far as (c) is concerned: we just need to take into account *set-forcing* extensions of V .



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Maximise Interpretative Power (MIP)

LCs maximise interpretive power: given any two theories T and S equiconsistent with, at least, the LCA: “there are infinitely many Woodin cardinals”, then if $Con(T) \rightarrow Con(S)$, then $Th(S) \subseteq Th(T)$, where $Th(T) = \{\varphi : T \vdash \varphi\}$.



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- Status of the claim: ‘all ‘natural’ theories extending ZFC are equiconsistent with ZFC or with ZFC+LCs’ is controversial.
- It isn't clear whether Steel wants to *represent* theories or *amalgamate* them into one theory: ZFC+LCs. If the former is the case, then the argument based on MIP doesn't seem to be really required.

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We further address them in [Bagaria and Ternullo, 2020], but I will not deal with these in this talk.



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Note: if (Amalgamation) holds (see next slide), then (Transl) also holds ([Maddy and Meadows, 2020], Theorem 10).



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- 6 (Amalgamation) If U and W are worlds, then there are posets $\mathbb{P} \in U$ and $\mathbb{Q} \in W$, and sets G and H \mathbb{P} -generic and \mathbb{Q} -generic over U and W , respectively, such that $U[G] = W[H]$.

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For M a ctm of ZFC and G , $Col(\omega, < Ord^M)$ -generic over M , let M^G be the set of countable models N such that for some $\alpha \in Ord^M$, $\mathbb{P} \in N$ and H \mathbb{P} -generic over N , $N[H] = M[G \upharpoonright \alpha]$.^a

^aBased on [Steel, 2014], p. 166, and [Maddy and Meadows, 2020], p. 28.



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Theorem

MV is complete.^a That is:

$$MV \vdash \phi \leftrightarrow (\forall M) M^G \models \phi$$

where M is a ctm of ZFC.

^aFor a proof of the theorem, see [Maddy and Meadows, 2020], Theorem 8.

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$\mathcal{C} = \text{the core.}$



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Steel's programme, alongside formulating the *MV* axioms, also envisages mathematically and philosophically making sense of Weak Absolutism (Core Universism) within *MV*.



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Axiom (Ground Axiom (GA), [Reitz, 2007])

V has not been obtained through a non-trivial forcing over any ground W (V has no proper grounds).

Prelude: the Outer Core of ZFC

Take some model V of ZFC, and let \mathbb{M} be its mantle. Suppose $\mathbb{M} \models \neg GA$. Then, one may produce the 'mantle of the mantle' $\mathbb{M}^{\mathbb{M}}$. In general, one may recursively define: $\mathbb{M}^{\alpha+1} = \mathbb{M}(\mathbb{M}^\alpha)$.



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Theorem ([Reitz and Williams, 2019])

It is consistent with ZFC that, for all $\alpha \in \text{Ord}$, the outer core of V is \mathbb{M}^α .



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Theorem ([Bagaria and Ternullo, 2020], draft version)

Let T be ZFC + “there exists a proper class of extendible cardinals”. Then, the MV_T axioms imply that the multiverse has a core, which is the mantle (and a ground) of every world in the multiverse.



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Note: the existence of a *class*, not just *one*, extendible is needed to preserve LCs in *MV*-worlds.



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Moreover, this is very speculative, but it seems improbable that consistency strength weaker LCs would be sufficient to prove the existence of the core.



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Theorem ([Bagaria and Ternullo, 2020], draft version)

Let φ be a Σ_2 -statement (with parameters) that can be forced by set-forcing. Assume there is a proper class of extendible cardinals. Then in some class-forcing extension of V that preserves extendible cardinals the statement φ holds in the core of its Steel's multiverse.

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And by recent results in [Asperò and Schindler, 2019], the theorem above also extends to Woodin's (*) axiom.



The Ultimate-L Conjecture

Definition ($V = \text{Ultimate-L}$ (Woodin))

The axiom $V = \text{Ultimate-L}$ asserts:

- 1 There is a proper class of Woodin cardinals, *and*
- 2 For each Σ_2 sentence φ , if φ holds in V , then there is a universally-Baire set $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ such that

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Conjecture (Ultimate-L conjecture ([Woodin, 2017]))

Ultimate-L exists.

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Theorem ([Bagaria and Ternullo, 2020], draft version)

Let T be $ZFC +$ “There exists a proper class of extendible cardinals”. If $T + “V = Ultimate-L”$ is consistent, then so is $MV_T + “C \models V=Ultimate-L”$, and $MV_T + “C \not\models V = Ultimate-L”$.



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MV_T , with $T = \text{ZFC} + \text{LCs}$, and $\text{LCs} = \text{proper class of extendibles}$, implies that there is a core.



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- ① Take $T = \text{ZFC} + \text{LCs} + V = \text{Ultimate-L}$. The theory MV_T would be inconsistent (Axiom 4 would no longer hold).
- ② Take $T = \text{ZFC} + \text{LCs} + \mathcal{C} \models V = \text{Ultimate-L}$. MV_T would imply that, if one adopts $V = \mathcal{C}$, then the core is Ultimate-L but V still need not be the core.

More on Ultimate-L and MV

Now, take T , in MV_T , to be $T = \text{ZFC} + \text{LCs} + \mathcal{C} \models V = \text{Ultimate-L}$.

As said, the Universist may now have some reasons to shift to $\text{ZFC} + \text{LCs} + V = \text{Ultimate-L}$. The theory implies $V = \mathcal{C}$, so, through using the 'translation function', one will have that:



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The arguments mentioned by [Steel, 2014], p. 169 (that it implies $V = \mathcal{C}$, provides a fine structure theory for \mathcal{C} , is compatible with all LCs) are precisely the same as the ones invoked by the Classic Universist $V = \text{Ultimate-L}$ supporter.



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Are there any other arguments on offer?



The Progression

MV_T and the core for different choices of T .



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Theory	Existence	Determinacy	Suggests $V = \mathcal{C}$
ZFC	No	/	/
ZFC+LCs	Yes	No	Yes?
ZFC+LCs+ $V=Ult-L$	Inconsistent!		
ZFC+LCs+ " $\mathcal{C} \models V=Ultimate-L$ "	Yes	Yes	Yes?
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- The only consistent strengthening of T in MV_T , through adding " $\mathcal{C} \models \text{Ultimate-L}$ " only implies that, *if* V really is the core, then it is Ultimate-L; but one should justify " $\mathcal{C} \models \text{Ultimate-L}$ " from the point of view of MV , anyway



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So, inner models would precisely encapsulate the truth of LCs. Ultimate-L, if it exists, would encapsulate the truth of *all* LCs.



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- The evidential resources invoked by the argument (truth, consistency predictions, etc.) do not seem to be available to the *MV* supporter
- At bottom, there would still be little difference between the *Universist* $V = \text{Ultimate-L}$ supporter, and the *Multiversist* MV_T supporter (with $T = \text{ZFC} + \text{LCs} + \text{"}\mathcal{C} \models \text{Ultimate-L"}$)



Further arguments

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The ‘niceness’ and successfulness of $V=Ultimate-L$ are unquestionable. However, notice that, say, “ $\mathcal{C} \models MM^{++}$ ” (or, for that matter, “ $\mathcal{C} \models FA$ ”, where FA is a forcing axiom), might be justified on the same grounds (although, arguably, there are no *canonical* models for FA s).



Concluding Scenarios for Steel's Programme (and Core Universism)

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- 3 The issue of the existence of a 'preferred universe' cannot be solved proof-theoretically (the issue is 'non-linguistic'), but should, rather, make use of further *evidential* resources



End Slide

Thanks for your attention!



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