

Axioms of infinity of set theory

By Gaisi TAKEUTI

(Received March 7, 1960)

(Received June 7, 1960)

Mahlo, in his penetrating papers [5], [6], proposed an axiom of set theory, assuring, roughly speaking, the existence of sets with very large cardinals. Recently Lévy [3], [4] gave an elegant equivalent axiom, which he called the axiom of strong infinity. Mahlo's axiom can be also stated as follows in making use of the concept of the super-complete model introduced by Shepherdson [8]. (We remind that a set a is called super-complete if and only if

$$\forall x \forall y (x \in a \wedge (y \subseteq x \vee y \in x) \rightarrow y \in a);$$

and that a set a is said to be a model of a set theory T , if and only if the theory holds, when all quantifiers of T are restricted on a .)

Let f be a function from sets to sets. A set a will be called a *fixed point* of f , if and only if

$$\forall x (x \in a \rightarrow f(x) \in a).$$

A class A will be called *dense*, if and only if for every function there exists a fixed point of this function which is an element of A . Then Mahlo's axiom means: The class of all the super-complete models of Bernays-Gödel's set theory is dense.

To go further, let us denote with M^0 the Bernays-Gödel's set theory. In adding Mahlo's axiom to M^0 , we obtain a new set theory M^1 , with 'much more set' than in M^0 . More generally, a stronger set theory M^{i+1} is obtained in adding the axiom: The class of all the super-complete models of M^i is dense, to M^i , $i=0, 1, 2, \dots$. These M^i will be called *Mahlo's set theories*.

Let $\tilde{\mathfrak{R}}(B)$ mean that B is the class of all the super-complete models of a Mahlo's set theory. $\mathfrak{R}(A)$ (for a class A) will mean

$$\exists B \exists x (\tilde{\mathfrak{R}}(B) \wedge \forall a (a \in B \wedge x \subseteq a \wedge x \in a \rightarrow a \in A)).$$

Then we have easily

This work was done under Appointment supported by the International Cooperation Administration under the Visiting Research Scientists Program administered by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.