

# Equivalence of Axiom of Choice with Zorn's Lemma and Hausdorff maximality principle

Def Let  $X$  be a set.

(The power set of  $X$ , denoted  $P(X)$ ,  
is the collection of all subsets of  $X$ .

Def

$f: P(X) \rightarrow X$  is called a  
choice function for  $X$  if

$(\forall E \in P(X)) f(E) \in E$ .

Def

Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a collection of sets.  
 $f: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \bigcup \mathcal{S}$  is called a  
choice function for  $\mathcal{S}$  if  
 $(\forall S \in \mathcal{S}) f(S) \in S$ .

## (C) Axiom of choice

- (1) Every set  $X$  has a choice function.
- (2) Every collection of sets  $\mathcal{S}$  has a choice function.

These two formulations of the axiom of choice are obviously equivalent.

Def

Let  $P$  be a set.

Let  $\leq$  be a binary relation on  $P$   
(a mapping of  $P \times P$  to  $\{\text{B}, \text{F}\}$ , the set of truth values)

The  $P$  is a partially ordered set or poset  
with respect to  $\leq$  provided  $\forall a, b, c \in P$   
(reflexivity)

- (i)  $a \leq a$  (reflexivity)
- (ii)  $a \leq b \& b \leq c \Rightarrow a \leq c$  (transitivity)
- (iii)  $a \leq b \& b \leq a \Rightarrow a = b$  (symmetry)

Def Two elements  $a, b \in P$  are comparable  
if  $a \leq b$  or  $b \leq a$ .

Def A poset  $P$  is linearly ordered  
(or totally ordered) if every two  
elements are comparable.

Def

Let  $P$  be a poset.

Let  $S \subseteq P$  be a subset.

Let  $u \in P$ . We say  $u$  is an upper bound  
for  $S$  if  $\forall x \in S \quad x \leq u$ .

Def

$m \in P$  is a maximal element if  
 $\nexists x \in P$  s.t.  $x > m$ ,  
(i.e.  $m \leq x$  and  $x \neq m$ ).

## (2) Zorn's lemma

A nonempty poset which contains an upper bound  
for every linearly ordered subset  
has a maximal element.

## (H) Hausdorff Maximality Theorem

Every (nonempty) partially ordered set  $P$   
contains a maximal linearly ordered set.

## Proofs of equivalence

### $(Z) \Rightarrow (H)$

Let  $P$  be a poset, and let  $L$  be the  
poset of all linearly ordered subsets  
of  $P$  under the ordering of set inclusion.  
A linearly ordered subset of  $L$  is  
called a subchain of  $L$ .

The union of a subchain of  $L$  is in  $L$ .  
So  $L$  satisfies the hypothesis of  $(Z)$ .

So  $L$  has a maximal element  $L$ .

Such an  $L$  is a maximal linearly  
ordered set of  $P$ .

### $(H) \Rightarrow (Z)$

Let  $P$  be a poset which contains  
an upper bound for every linearly ordered subset.

Let  $M$  be a maximal linearly ordered set.

Let  $u$  be an upper bound for  $M$ .

Suppose  $u < m$ . By transitivity,  $M \cup \{m\}$   
is a linearly ordered proper superset of  $M$ .

(Equivalents of Axiom of Choice)

(C)  $\Rightarrow$  (Z) (See Isaacs p 154)

(Z)  $\Rightarrow$  (C)

Let  $X$  be a set.

Let  $P$  be the poset of all functions  $f: P(X) \rightarrow P(X)$

such that  $\emptyset \notin \text{range}(f)$

and  $f(Y) \subset Y \quad \forall Y \in P(X)$ ,

under the partial ordering

$f_1 \geq f_2$  if  $f_1(Y) \subset f_2(Y) \quad \forall Y \in P(X)$ .

Clearly  $P$  is nonempty,

since  $(Y \mapsto Y) \in P$ .

Let  $f_0$  be a maximal element of  $P$ .

Claim:  $(\forall Y \in P(X)), \#f_0(Y) = 1$ ,

where  $\#S$  denotes the cardinality

of the set  $S$ .

Suppose not. Let  $\#f_0(Y) > 1$ .

Let  $\tilde{y} \in Y$ .

Let  $\tilde{f}: Y \mapsto \begin{cases} Y & \text{if } Y \neq \tilde{Y} \\ \tilde{Y} & \text{if } Y = \tilde{Y} \end{cases}$

Then  $\tilde{f}_0 < \tilde{f}_0$ .  $\#$ .

Let  $f: P(X) \rightarrow X$ ,  
 $Y \mapsto$  the element of  $f_0(Y)$ .

Then  $f$  is a choice function

for  $X$ .

## Hausdorff maximality theorem (Rudin RA)

### Def

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a collection of sets.  
 Say -  $\Phi \subset \mathcal{F}$ , is a subchain of  $\mathcal{F}$   
 if  $\Phi$  is ordered by set inclusion.

### Def

union of  $\Phi :=$  union of all members of  $\Phi$ .

### Lemma

$\mathcal{F}$  nonempty collection of subsets of a set  $X$  such that  
 $\mathcal{F}$  is closed under unions of subchains.  
 $g: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  s.t.  $\forall A \in \mathcal{F}$  } Say  $g(A)$   
 $A \subset g(A)$  and  $\#(g(A) \setminus A) \leq 1$  is the  
 $\curvearrowleft$  cardinality "successor" of  $A$ .

Then  $\exists A \in \mathcal{F}$  st.  $g(A) = A$ .

### PF

Fix  $A_0 \in \mathcal{F}$ .

Say  $\mathcal{F}' \subset \mathcal{F}$  is a tower (over  $A_0$ ) if

(a)  $A_0 \in \mathcal{F}'$

(b)  $\mathcal{F}'$  is closed under unions of subchains.

(c)  $\mathcal{F}'$  is closed under  $g$   
 (i.e.  $A \in \mathcal{F}' \Rightarrow g(A) \in \mathcal{F}'$ )

The family of all towers is nonempty.

Indeed,  $\{A \in \mathcal{F}: A_0 \subset A\}$  is a tower.

Let  $\mathcal{F}_0$  be the intersection of all towers.

$\mathcal{F}_0$  is a tower.

Also,  $A_0 \subset A$  if  $A \in \mathcal{F}_0$ .

Want  $\mathcal{F}_0$  is a subchain of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Let  $\Gamma = \{C \in \mathcal{F}_0: (\forall A \in \mathcal{F}_0) A \subset C \text{ or } C \subset A\}$

Want  $\Gamma = \mathcal{F}_0$ .

$(\forall C \in \Gamma)$  let  $\Phi(C)$

$= \{A \in \mathcal{F}_0: A \subset C \text{ or } g(C) \subset A\}$

Want that  $\Gamma$  is a tower.

Want that  $\Phi(C)$  is a tower.

Properties (a) and (b) are "clearly" satisfied by  $\Gamma$  and by each  $\Phi(C)$ .

Fix  $C \in \Gamma$ . Want  $g(C) \in \Gamma$ .

Let  $A \in \Phi(C)$ .

Want  $g(A) \in \Phi(C)$ .

Need  $g(A) \subset C$  or  $g(C) \subset g(A)$ .

Since  $A \in \Phi(C)$ , have 3 possibilities:

①  $A \subset C$  and  $A \neq C$ ,

②  $A = C$ , or

③  $g(C) \subset A$ .

Case  $A \subset C$ :

Then  $C$  is not a proper subset of  $g(A)$ .

Since  $C \in \mathcal{F}_0$ ,  $C \subset g(A)$  or  $g(A) \subset C$ .

So  $g(A) \subset C$ .

Case  $A = C$ : then  $g(A) = g(C)$

Case  $g(C) \subset A$ : then  $g(C) \subset g(A)$ .

So we have verified that  $g(A) \in \Phi(C)$ .

So  $\Phi(C)$  satisfies (c), so is a tower.

So  $\Phi(C) = \mathcal{F}_0$ .

So  $(\forall A \in \mathcal{F}_0)(\forall C \in \Gamma) A \subset C \text{ or } g(C) \subset A$ .

So  $g(C) \in \Gamma$ . So  $\Gamma$  satisfies (c).

So  $\Gamma$  is a tower. But  $\Gamma \subset \mathcal{F}_0$ ,

So  $\Gamma = \mathcal{F}_0$ . So by the def. of  $\Gamma$ ,

$\mathcal{F}_0$  is totally ordered.

So  $\mathcal{F}_0$  is a subchain of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

So the union  $A$  of  $\mathcal{F}_0$  is in  $\mathcal{F}_0$ .

By (c),  $g(A) \in \mathcal{F}_0$ . So  $g(A) \subset A$ .

So  $g(A) = A$ , as desired.

(C)  $\Rightarrow$  (H)

Let  $P$  be a nonempty poset.

Need  $P$  has a maximal totally ordered set.

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the collection of all

totally ordered subsets of  $P$ .

$\mathcal{F}$  contains a singleton, so is nonempty.

Call a collection of sets totally

ordered by inclusion a chain,

Note that the union of any chain of

totally ordered sets is

totally ordered.

Let  $f$  be a choice function for  $P$ .

Let  $A \in \mathcal{F}$ , let  $A^*$  be the set

of all  $x$  in the complement of  $A$

such that  $A \cup \{x\} \in \mathcal{F}$ .

Let  $g(A) = \begin{cases} A \cup f(A^*) & \text{when } A^* \neq \emptyset \\ A & \text{when } A^* = \emptyset \end{cases}$

$\mathcal{F}$  and  $g$  satisfy the hypotheses

of the Hausdorff maximality lemma,

so  $\exists A$  s.t.  $g(A) = A$ ,

i.e.  $A^* = \emptyset$ , so

$A$  is a maximal element of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Thm

$L \neq$  vector space

$H_1, H_2$  Hamel bases for  $X$ .

claim  $\#H_1 = \#H_2$ .

Pf Use transfinite induction.

Let  $L$  be the collection  
of all linear subspaces of  $X$ .

Let  $L'$  be the subset of  $L$   
for which the theorem is true.

Let  $\tilde{L} \subset L'$  be a subset of  $L$   
linearly ordered by set inclusion,

claim  $\bigcup \tilde{L}$  is in  $L'$ , so  
is an upper bound of  $\tilde{L}$ .

Need a chain of Hamel bases

$(H_\ell)_{\ell \in \tilde{L}}$  s.t.

$H_{\ell_1} \subset H_{\ell_2}$  if  $\ell_1 < \ell_2$ .

Thm

$L$  chain of linear spaces  
ordered by set inclusion.

$\mathbb{B}$ , chain of Hamel bases  $(H_L)_{L \in \mathbb{L}}$

$H_{L_1} \subseteq H_{L_2}$  if  $L_1 \subseteq L_2$

Pf Transfinite induction.

[Intuit here.]

Let  $\mathbb{H} =$  union of collection of  
Hamel bases  $(H_\ell)_{\ell \in \tilde{L}}$

s.t.  $H_{\ell_1} \subseteq H_{\ell_2}$  if  $\ell_1 < \ell_2$ .

Need to consider the  
towers of ~~all~~ chains of ~~the~~  
~~Hamel bases~~ for which  
linear spaces which have the property  
that