

UNCOUNTABLE STANDARD MODELS  
OF  $ZFC + V \neq L$

by J. L. Bell

Dedicated to the memory of A. Mostowski

A well-known result of Cohen ([1], p.109) asserts that in  $ZF + V = L$  one can prove that there are no uncountable standard models of  $ZFC + \text{"There is a non-constructible real"}$ . It is natural to ask what the situation is for uncountable standard models of  $ZFC + \text{"There is a non-constructible set"}$ . In this paper we shall prove the following

**THEOREM.**  $ZFC + \text{"There exists a natural model } R_\alpha \text{ of } ZFC" \vdash \text{"There exist standard models of } ZFC + V \neq L \text{ of all cardinalities } < \alpha."$

This theorem has the following consequences. Let  $ZFI = ZFC + \text{"There exists an inaccessible cardinal"}$ .

**COROLLARY 1.**  $ZFI \vdash \text{"There is a standard model of } ZFC + V \neq L \text{ of any cardinality less than the first inaccessible cardinal"}$ .

Let  $KMC$  be Kelley-Morse set theory with choice. Since it is known [5] that in  $KMC$  one can prove the existence of arbitrarily large natural models of  $ZFC$ , it follows immediately from the theorem that

COROLLARY 2.  $KMC \vdash$  "There is a standard model of  $ZFC + V \neq L$  of any cardinality" .

The proof of the theorem uses the technique of Boolean-valued models of set theory as presented, e.g. in [2]. For the theory of Boolean algebras we refer the reader to [6].

As usual, we write  $ZF$  for Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory,  $ZFC$  for  $ZF +$  axiom of choice,  $V = L$  for the axiom of constructibility and  $V \neq L$  for its negation.

By a standard model of  $ZF$  we understand a model of the form  $\mathcal{M} = \langle M, \epsilon/M \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a transitive set and  $\epsilon/M = \{ \langle x, y \rangle \in M^2 : x \in y \}$ . If  $\mathcal{M}$  is a standard model of  $ZFC$  and  $B$  is a complete Boolean algebra in  $\mathcal{M}$ , we write, as usual  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$  for the  $B$ -extension of  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\|\sigma\|$  for the  $B$ -value of any sentence  $\sigma$  of set theory (which may contain names for elements of  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$ ). Well-known is the fact that  $\|\sigma\| = 1$  for any theorem  $\sigma$  of  $ZFC$ . We recall that there is a canonical map  $x \mapsto \hat{x}$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  into  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$ . We shall also need the following fact ([2], Lemma 50).

LEMMA 1. For each formula  $\varphi(x)$  of set theory (which may contain names for elements of  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$ ) there is  $t \in \mathcal{M}^{(B)}$  such that:

$$\|\exists x \varphi(x)\| = \|\varphi(t)\|.$$

Let  $B$  be a complete Boolean algebra; a subset  $P$  of  $B$  is said to be dense if  $0 \notin P$  and  $\forall x \in B [x \neq 0 \Rightarrow \exists p \in P (p \leq x)]$ . If  $\kappa$  is a cardinal,  $P$  is said to satisfy the  $\kappa$ -descending chain condition ( $\kappa$ -dcc) if for each  $\alpha < \kappa$  and each descending  $\alpha$ -sequence  $p_0 \geq p_1 \geq \dots \geq p_\xi \geq \dots$  ( $\xi < \alpha$ ) from  $P$  there is  $p \in P$  such that  $p \leq p_\xi$  for all  $\xi < \alpha$ .

LEMMA 2. Suppose that  $B$  contains a dense subset satisfying the  $\kappa$ -dcc, and let  $\{A_\xi : \xi < \kappa\}$  be a family of subsets of  $B$  such that  $\bigvee A_\xi = 1$  for each  $\xi < \kappa$ . Then there is an ultrafilter  $U$  in  $B$  such that  $U \cap A_\xi \neq \emptyset$  for all  $\xi < \kappa$ .

Proof. Let  $J$  be a set sufficiently large so that each  $A_\xi$  can be enumerated as  $\{a_{\xi j} : j \in J\}$ . We show that there is  $f \in J^\kappa$  such that, for each  $\alpha < \kappa$ ,

$$(1) \quad \bigwedge_{\xi < \alpha} a_{\xi f(\xi)} \neq 0.$$

We define  $f$  by recursion as follows. Let  $\alpha < \kappa$  and suppose that for each  $\xi < \alpha$  we have selected  $p_\xi \in P$  and  $f(\xi) \in J$  in such a way that

$$(2) \quad p_\xi \leq a_{\xi f(\xi)} \quad \text{for all } \xi < \alpha$$

$$(3) \quad \eta \leq \xi < \alpha \Rightarrow p_\eta \geq p_\xi.$$

We show how to obtain  $p_\alpha$  and  $f(\alpha)$ . Since  $P$  satisfies the  $\kappa$ -dcc, there is  $p \in P$  such that  $p \leq p_\xi$  for all  $\xi < \alpha$ . We have

$$0 \neq p = p \wedge 1 = p \wedge \bigvee_{j \in J} a_{\alpha j} = \bigvee_{j \in J} p \wedge a_{\alpha j},$$

so there must be  $j \in J$  such that  $p \wedge a_{\alpha j} \neq 0$ , and hence, since  $P$  is dense,  $q \in P$  such that  $q \leq p \wedge a_{\alpha j}$ . We take  $f(\alpha)$  to be such a  $j \in J$ , and  $p_\alpha$  to be such a  $q \in P$ . It is now clear that (2) and (3) hold with " $\xi < \alpha$ " replaced by " $\xi \leq \alpha$ " and so by recursion we obtain  $p_\alpha$  and  $f(\alpha)$  to satisfy (2) and (3) for all  $\alpha < \kappa$ . If  $\alpha < \kappa$ ,  $\langle p_\xi : \xi < \alpha \rangle$  is a descending  $\alpha$ -sequence in  $P$  and so there is (by dcc) a  $p \in P$  such that  $p \leq p_\xi$  for all  $\xi < \alpha$ . But then, by (2), we immediately obtain (1).

To complete the proof we observe that, by (1), the set  $\{a_{\alpha f(\alpha)} : \alpha < \kappa\}$  has the finite intersection property and hence can be extended to an ultrafilter in  $B$ . This ultrafilter clearly meets the requirements of the Lemma. ■

An ultrafilter  $U$  in  $B$  is said to preserve the family of joins  $\bigvee A_\alpha$  ( $\alpha < \kappa$ ), where  $\{A_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$  is family of subsets of  $B$ , provided that for each  $\alpha < \kappa$ ,

$$\bigvee A_\alpha \in U \Rightarrow U \cap A_\alpha \neq \emptyset.$$

Lemma 2 gives the following generalization, for complete Boolean algebras, of the well-known Rasiowa-Sikorski lemma:

**COROLLARY.** Suppose that  $B$  contains a dense subset satisfying the  $\kappa$ -dcc. Then for each family  $\{A_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$  of subsets of  $B$  there is an ultrafilter in  $B$  which preserves the family of joins  $\bigvee A_\alpha$  ( $\alpha < \kappa$ ).

**Proof.** Put  $a_\alpha = \bigvee A_\alpha$  and apply Lemma 2 to the family  $\{A_\alpha \cup \{a_\alpha^* : \alpha < \kappa\}$ , where  $a_\alpha^*$  is the complement of  $a_\alpha$  in  $B$ . ■

**Remark.** I am grateful to Professor Vopěnka and others at the conference for suggesting the present version of this Corollary, which is stronger than my original version.

Now let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal and let  $X_\kappa$  be the space  $2^\kappa$  endowed with the  $\kappa$ -topology, i.e. the topology whose basic open sets are of the form

$$U(\alpha, f) = \{g \in X_\kappa : g(\xi) = f(\xi) \text{ for } \xi \leq \alpha\}$$

where  $f \in X_\kappa$  and  $\alpha < \kappa$ . We denote by  $B_\kappa$  the complete Boolean algebra of regular open subsets of  $X_\kappa$ . ( $B_\kappa$  is the algebra which, in the corresponding Boolean extension, adds a new member to  $\mathcal{P}\kappa$  but leaves  $\mathcal{P}\alpha$  undisturbed for all  $\alpha < \kappa$ .)

It is clear that the family of all sets  $U(\alpha, f)$  is dense in  $B_\kappa$  and that this family satisfies the  $\kappa$ -dcc (since  $\kappa$  is regular). Hence, by the Corollary to Lemma 2 we have

**LEMMA 3.** If  $\kappa$  is a regular cardinal, then for each family  $\{A_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$  of subsets of  $B_\kappa$  there is an ultrafilter in  $B_\kappa$  which preserves the family of joins  $\bigvee A_\alpha$  ( $\alpha < \kappa$ ).

We now turn to

**Proof of the Theorem.** Let  $R_\alpha$  be a natural model of ZFC. By [4],  $\alpha$  is a limit cardinal, and so by the downward Löwenheim-Skolem theorem it will be enough to show that there is a standard model of  $ZFC + \forall \neq L$  for each regular cardinal  $< \alpha$ . So let  $\mathcal{M} = \langle R_\alpha, \epsilon/R_\alpha \rangle$  and let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal  $< \alpha$ . Put  $B = B_\kappa$ . Then  $B$  is a complete Boolean algebra in  $\mathcal{M}$  and so we can form the  $B$ -extension  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$  of  $\mathcal{M}$ .



Using Lemma 1, for each formula  $\varphi(v_0, \dots, v_n)$  of the language of set theory (without parameters from  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$ ) we let

$$f_\varphi : (\mathcal{M}^{(B)})^n \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^{(B)}$$

be a Skolem function for  $\varphi(v_0, \dots, v_n)$  in  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$ , i.e. such that, for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{M}^{(B)}$

$$(1) \quad \|\exists v_0 \varphi(v_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)\| = \|\varphi(f_\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n), x_1, \dots, x_n)\|.$$

Let  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{M}^{(B)}$  be the closure of the set  $\{\xi : \xi < \kappa\}$  under the  $f_\varphi$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  has cardinality  $\kappa$  and, using (1) we have

$$(2) \quad \text{for any formula } \varphi(v_0, \dots, v_n) \text{ and any } a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}, \\ \text{there is } a_0 \in \mathcal{A} \text{ such that} \\ \|\exists v_0 \varphi(v_0, a_1, \dots, a_n)\| = \|\varphi(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n)\|.$$

Let  $\text{Ord}(x)$  be the formula "x is an ordinal". It is well-known that, for any  $x \in \mathcal{M}^{(B)}$ , we have  $\|\text{Ord}(x)\| = \bigvee_{\xi < \alpha} \|x = \xi\|$ . Using Lemma 3, let  $U$  be an ultrafilter in  $B$  which preserves the joins

$$(3) \quad \|\text{Ord}(a)\| = \bigvee_{\xi < \alpha} \|a = \xi\| \quad (a \in \mathcal{A}).$$

Let  $\mathcal{A}/U$  be the quotient of  $\mathcal{M}^{(B)}$  by  $U$ , i.e.

$$\mathcal{A}/U = \langle \{a^U : a \in \mathcal{A}\}, \in_U \rangle$$

where  $a^U$  is the equivalence class of  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  under the relation  $\sim_U$  defined by  $a \sim_U a' \iff \|a = a'\| \in U$  and  $\in_U$  is defined by  $a^U \in_U a'^U \iff \|a \in a'\| \in U$ . Using (2), it is easy to show by induction on complexity of formulas that for any formula  $\varphi(v_0, \dots, v_n)$  of set theory and any  $a_0, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}$ ,

$$\mathcal{A}/U \models \varphi[a_0^U, \dots, a_n^U] \iff \|\varphi(a_0, \dots, a_n)\| \in U.$$

It follows that  $\mathcal{A}/U$  is a model of ZFC. Also, the  $\xi^U$  for  $\xi < \kappa$  are all distinct, so  $\mathcal{A}/U$  has cardinality  $\kappa$ . Since  $B$  is atomless,

we have  $\|V \neq L\| = 1$ , so  $\mathcal{A}/U$  is also a model of  $V \neq L$ . Finally, since  $U$  preserves the joins (3), it quickly follows that the map  $\xi \mapsto \xi^U$  is order-preserving from (true) ordinals onto the ordinals of  $\mathcal{A}/U$ , so that the ordinals of  $\mathcal{A}/U$  are well-ordered. The usual rank argument now implies that  $\in_U$  is a well-founded relation, so that  $\mathcal{A}/U$  is isomorphic to a standard model which meets the requirements of the theorem. This completes the proof. ■

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. Since  $B_\kappa$  is known to preserve cardinals, it is not hard to see that for a definable cardinal  $\kappa$  (e.g.  $\aleph_0, \aleph_1, \dots, \aleph_\omega$ , etc.) the proof of the theorem yields a standard model  $\mathcal{N}$  of cardinality  $\kappa^+$  such that

$$\mathcal{N} \models \text{ZFC} + \nexists \kappa \subseteq L + \nexists \kappa^+ \notin L.$$

Notice that in any theory consistent with  $\text{ZF} + V = L$  one cannot prove the existence of a standard model  $\mathcal{N}$  of cardinality  $\kappa^+$  such that  $\mathcal{N} \models \text{ZFC} + \nexists \kappa \notin L$ , because in  $\text{ZF} + V = L$  one can prove that, for any such model,  $\mathcal{N} \models \nexists \kappa \subseteq L$ .

2. Both P. Vopěnka and J. Paris have pointed out that the assumption in the theorem that there exists a natural model of ZFC can be substantially weakened (thereby yielding, of course, a weaker conclusion). In fact one can prove the following

(\*)  $\text{ZFC} + \text{"There exists an uncountable standard model of ZFC"}$   
 $\vdash \text{"There exists an uncountable standard model of ZFC} + V \neq L\text{"}$ .

The proof of (\*) can be based on the following Lemma (which I have recently noticed resembles a result implicit in [3]):

**LEMMA.** Let  $\kappa$  be a regular uncountable cardinal and let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a standard model of ZFC such that (i)  $|\mathcal{M}| = \kappa$ , (ii)  $\kappa \in \mathcal{M}$  and (iii)  $\{x \subseteq \kappa : |x| < \kappa\} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ . Then there is a standard model  $\mathcal{N}$  of ZFC such that  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$  and  $\mathcal{N} \models \nexists \kappa \notin L$ .

**Proof.** (Sketch). Let  $B = B_\kappa^{(\mathcal{M})}$ , i.e. the Boolean algebra  $B$  constructed in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Since every subset of  $\kappa$  of cardinality  $< \kappa$  is in  $\mathcal{M}$ , it quickly follows that  $B$  has a dense subset satisfying the  $\kappa$ -dcc (consider the set of  $U(\alpha, f)$  constructed in  $\mathcal{M}$ ). Hence, by the Corollary to Lemma 2 and the fact that  $|\mathcal{M}| = \kappa$ , there is an

$\mathcal{M}$ -generic ultrafilter  $U$  in  $B$ . Then  $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{M}[U]$  meets the requirements of the lemma.

Now we can prove (\*) á la Vopěnka and Paris. Suppose that there is an uncountable standard model  $\mathcal{M}$  of ZFC. If  $\mathcal{M} \models V \neq L$  then we are done, so assume  $\mathcal{M} \models V = L$ . There are now two cases to consider.

Case (a):  $\omega_1 \in \mathcal{M}$ . We work in  $L$  until further notice, with the proviso that  $\omega_1$  is always the true  $\omega_1$ , not  $\omega_1^{(L)}$ . By the Löwenheim-Skolem theorem we may assume  $|\mathcal{M}| = \omega_1$ . It is now easy to see that (inside  $L$ ), conditions (i) through (iii) of the above Lemma are satisfied by  $\mathcal{M}$  (with  $\kappa = \omega_1$ ). Therefore, applying the Lemma inside  $L$ , there is a standard model  $\mathcal{N}$  of  $ZFC + V \neq L$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$ , so that  $\omega_1 \in \mathcal{N}$ . But the property of being a standard model of  $ZFC + V \neq L$  is  $L$ -absolute, so, emerging from  $L$  into the real world,  $\mathcal{N}$  is truly a standard model of  $ZFC + V \neq L$ . Since  $\omega_1 \in \mathcal{N}$ , we have  $|\mathcal{N}| \geq \omega_1$  and (\*) follows.

Case (b):  $\omega_1 \notin \mathcal{M}$ . By the downward Löwenheim-Skolem theorem we may assume  $|\mathcal{M}| = \omega_1$ . It is clear that every member of  $\mathcal{M}$  is countable, since if  $x$  were an uncountable member of  $\mathcal{M}$  it could (by AC in  $\mathcal{M}$ ) be put into one-one correspondence with an ordinal of  $\mathcal{M}$  which would have to be uncountable, contradicting the assumption that  $\omega_1 \notin \mathcal{M}$ . It follows that there are only countably many subsets of  $\omega$  in  $\mathcal{M}$ , and so by the usual forcing argument we can find a generic extension  $\mathcal{N}$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  which is a standard model of  $ZFC + V \neq L$ .

Thus in either case we have the conclusion of (\*), completing the proof.

Notice that an argument similar to that used in case (a) also proves the following:

$ZFC + \text{"There exists an (uncountable) model of ZFC containing a regular uncountable cardinal } \kappa \text{"} \vdash \text{"There exists a standard model of } ZFC + V \neq L \text{ of cardinality } \kappa \text{"}$ .

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