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Comprehensive in its selection of topics and results, this stand-alone text examines the relative strengths and consequences of the axiom of choice. Each chapter contains several problems, classified according to difficulty, and ends with some historical observations. An introduction to the use of the axiom of choice is followed by explorations of consistency, patterns of permutation and independence. The following chapters examine incorporation theorems, finished-support models, weaker versions of the axiom, and non-transferable declarations. The final sections consider unselected math, cardinal numbers in the theory set without choice, and properties that contradict the axiom of choice, including the axiom of determinacy and related topics

the Basic Committee Library List suggest that the licensee math libraries consider this book for purchase. MAA Review Contents Preface 1. Introduction 2. Use of the axiom of choice 3. Consistency of the axiom of choice 4. Permutation Models 5. Independence of the axiom of choice 6. Incorporation theorems 7. Models with finished support 8. Some weaker versions of the axiom of choice 9. Non-transferable declarations 10. Mathematics without choice 11. Cardinal numbers in set theory without choice 12. Some properties contradict the appendix 1 axiom of choice. Equivalents of the axiom chosen Appendix 2. Equivalents of the Theorem of the First Ideal Appendix 3. Various independence results Appendix 4. Various Examples Author Index Symbol List first published Mar 8 January 2008; background review Wednesday 18 March 2015 The principle of the theory of the set known as the Axiom of Choice was hailed as probably the most interesting and, despite its late appearance, the most discussed axiom of mathematics, the second after Euclid's parallel axiom, which was introduced more than two thousand years ago (Fraenkel , Bar-Hillel & Levy 1973, §II.4). The fulness of this description could lead those who are not familiar with the axiom to expect it to be as surprising as, say, the principle of constancy of the speed of light or the principle of Heisenberg uncertainty. But in fact, Axiom of choice, so it is usually said humdrum appears, even by itself obvious. Because it amounts to nothing more than the claim that, given any collection of mutually dissentless nonempty sets, it is possible to assemble a new set-a-cross set or choice-containing exactly one element from each member of the given collection. However, this seemingly innocuous principle has far-reaching mathematical consequences – many indispensable, some amazing – and has come to present itself visibly in discussions about the fundamentals of mathematics. It (or its equivalents) have been used in countless mathematical works, and a number of monographs have been dedicated exclusively to it. In 1904 Ernst Zermelo formulated Axioma (abbreviated as AC throughout this article) in terms of what he called coatings (Zermelo 1904). 1904. starts with an arbitrary set  $\mathcal{M}$  and uses the symbol  $\mathcal{M}^*$  to designate an arbitrary nonempty subset of  $\mathcal{M}$ , the collection whose collection denotes  $M$ . He continues: 'Imagine that with each subset  $\mathcal{M}^*$  there is an arbitrary element  $\{m_{-1}\}$ , which appears in  $\mathcal{M}^*$  itself; to  $\{m_{-1}\}$  to be called the distinguished element of  $\mathcal{M}^*$ '. This produces a  $\mathcal{G}$  coverage of the  $\mathcal{M}$  set of certain elements of the  $\mathcal{M}$  set. The number of these coatings is equal to the product  $\{\text{cardinalities of all } \mathcal{M}^* \text{ subsets}\}$  and is certainly different from 0. The last sentence of this quote — which states, in fact, that the coatings always exist for the collection of the unempty subsets of any set (neempty) — is the first formulation of the Axiom of Choice by Zermelo[1]. This is now usually stated in terms of choice functions: here a choice function on a  $\mathcal{H}$  collection of nonempty sets is a map  $f$  with  $\mathcal{H}$  domain so that  $f(x) \in X$  for each  $X \in \mathcal{H}$ . As a very simple example, let  $\mathcal{H} = \{\{0, 1\}\}$ , ie,  $\mathcal{H} = \{\{0\}, \{1\}, \{0,1\}\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}$  has two distinct choice functions  $f_{-1}$  and  $f_{-2}$  given by:

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A more interesting example of a choice function is provided by taking  $\mathcal{H}$  to be the set of pairs (unordered) of actual numbers and the function that assigns each pair at least element. A different choice function is achieved by assigning each pair its largest element. Clearly, many more choice functions can be defined on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Declared in terms of choice functions, Zermelo's first formulation by AC reads: AC1: Any collection of nonempty sets has a function of choice. AC1 can be reformulated in terms of indexed or variable sets. An indexed set collection  $\mathcal{S} = \{A_i : i \in I\}$  can be designed as a set of variables, with that being, as a set that varies over the index set  $I$ . Each  $A_i$  is then the value of the set of variables  $\mathcal{S}$  in the  $i$  stage. A choice function in  $\mathcal{S}$  is a map  $f : I \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$  so that  $f(i) \in A_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . A choice function on  $\mathcal{S}$  is thus a choice of an element of the  $\mathcal{S}$  variable set at each stage; in other words, a choice function in  $\mathcal{S}$  is a variable element of  $\mathcal{S}$ . AC1 is then equivalent to the statement AC2: Any indexed collection of sets has a choice function. From an informal point of view, AC2 equates to the assertion that a set of variables with an element in each stage has a variable element. AC1 can also be reformulated in terms of relationships, viz. AC3: For any relationship  $R$  between sets  $B$ ,  $\exists \{ \text{for all } x \in A \} \exists x \in B \text{ s.t. } R(x, y)$

$$\rightarrow \exists x \in B \text{ s.t. } \forall y \in A \exists x \in B \text{ s.t. } R(x, y)$$

Finally it is easy to prove to be equivalent (in established ordinary theories) to:

AC4: Any surjective function has a reverse right. In a 1908 paper, Zermelo introduced a modified form of AC. Let's call a cross-sectional set (or choice) for a family of sets  $\mathcal{H}$  any subset  $T \subseteq \bigcup_{X \in \mathcal{H}} X$  for which each intersection  $T \cap X$  for  $X \in \mathcal{H}$  has exactly one element. As a very simple example, let  $\mathcal{H} = \{\{0\}, \{1\}, \{2, 3\}\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}$  has two transverse  $\{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $\{0, 1, 3\}$ . A more substantial example is provided by allowing  $\mathcal{H}$  to be the collection of all lines in the Euclidean plane parallel to the  $x$ -axis. Then the  $T$  set of points on the  $y$ -axis is a transverse for  $\mathcal{H}$ . Declared in terms of transverses, then, the second formulation (1908) of The AC's Zermelo equates to the assertion that any family of non-mutual sets has a transverse. [3] Zermelo states that the purely objective nature of this principle is immediately obvious. In making this claim, Zermelo wanted to point out that, in this form, the principle makes no use to the possibility of making choices. Zermelo may also consider the following combination justification of the principle. Considering a family  $\mathcal{H}$  of nonempty sets disarticulation to each other, call a subset  $S \subseteq \bigcup_{X \in \mathcal{H}} X$  a selector for  $\mathcal{H}$  if  $S \cap X \neq \emptyset$  for all  $X \in \mathcal{H}$ . There are clear selectors for  $\mathcal{H}$ ;  $\bigcup_{X \in \mathcal{H}} X$  is an example. Now we can imagine taking a  $S$  selector for  $\mathcal{H}$  and thinning each intersection  $S \cap X$  for  $X \in \mathcal{H}$  until it contains only one item. The result is a cross for  $\mathcal{H}$ . This argument, duly refined, produces a precise derivation of AC in this formulation of the set-theoretical principle known as Zorn (see below). Let's call Zermelo's 1908 combination axiom of choice: LAC: Any collection of mutually disjunction nonempty sets has a transverse. It should be noted that AC1 and for finished collections of sets are both demonstrable (by induction) in the theories of the ordinary set. But in the case of an infinite collection, even when each of its members is finite, the question of the existence of a function of choice or a transverse is problematic. For example, after already mentioned, it is easy to come up with a choice function for the collection of pairs of real numbers (simply choose the smaller item of each pair). But it is not at all obvious to produce a function of choice for collecting pairs of arbitrary sets of real numbers. Zermelo's original purpose in introducing AC was to establish a central principle of Cantor's set theory, namely, that each set admits a good order and thus can also be attributed a number Zermelo's introduction of the axiom in 1904, as well as the use it used, provoked considerable criticism from mathematicians at the time. The main objection raised was to some have seen it as extremely unconstructive, even idealistic: while the axiom affirms the possibility of making a number - perhaps even an innumerable number - of arbitrary choices, it does not provide any indication of how the latter are actually to be performed, by how otherwise put, the functions of choice must be defined. This was particularly unacceptable to the mathematicians of a constructive bent, would be the so-called French empiricists Baire, Borel and Lebesgue, for whom a mathematical object could be asserted to exist only if it could be defined in such a way as to characterise it in a unique way. Zermelo's response to his critics came in two works in 1908. In the first of these, after mentioned above, he reformulated the AC in terms of transverses; in the second (1908a) he made explicit the additional hypotheses necessary to carry out the proof of the theorem of ordering. These hypotheses were the first explicit presentation of an axiom system for set theory. As the debate over the Axiom of Choice began to last, it became apparent that the evidence of a number of significant mathematical theorems made essential use of it, thus leading many mathematicians to treat it as an indispensable tool of their trade. Hilbert, for example, came to regard AC as an essential principle of mathematics[5] and used it in defense of classical mathematical reasoning against attacks by intuitionists. Indeed, its  $\epsilon$  operators are essentially only functions of choice (see entry on the epsilon calculation). Although the usefulness of the AC is rapidly becoming clear, doubts about its solidity remain. These doubts were reinforced by the fact that they had certain striking counterintuitive consequences. The most spectacular of these was the paradoxical decomposition of the sphere by Banach and Tarski (Banach and Tarski 1924): any solid sphere can be divided into several pieces that can be reassembled to form two solid spheres of the same size; and any solid sphere can be divided into infinitely several pieces, so as to allow them to be reassembled to form a solid sphere of arbitrary dimensions. (See Car 1993.) It was not until the mid-1930s that the question of AC solidity was finally worked out with Kurt Gödel's proof of coherence with the other axioms of set theory. Here is a brief timeline of AC:[6] 1904/1908 Zermelo introduces axioms of the theory of the set, explicitly formulates the AC and uses it to prove the well-ordered theorem, thus raising a storm of controversy. 1904 Russell recognizes AC as a multiplier axiom: the product of arbitrary nonzero cardinal numbers is non-zero. 1914 Hausdorff derives from the AC the existence of immeasurable sets in the paradoxical form that  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a sphere is congruent with the  $\frac{1}{3}$  of it (Hausdorff 1914). Fraenkel introduces the permutation method to establish AC independence from an atom set theory system (Fraenkel 1922). 1924 Building on by Hausdorff, Banach and Tarski derive from AC their paradoxical decompositions of the sphere. 1926 Hilbert introduces in his theory transfinite proof or axiom epsilon as a version of AC . (Hilbert 1926). 1936 Blendaum and Mostowski expand and refine Fraenkel's method of permutation and prove the independence of the various statements of the set theory weaker than AC. (Lindenbaum and Tarski 1938) 1935–38 Gödel establishes the relative consistency of the AC from the axioms of set theory (Gödel 1938a, 1938b, 1939, 1940). 1950 Mendelson, Shoenfield and Specker, working independently, use the permutation method to establish the independence of different forms of AC from a system of set theory without atoms, but also devoid of foundation axiom (Mendelson 1956, 1958, Shoenfield 1955, Specker 1957). 1963 Paul Cohen proves THE independence of the AC from the standard axioms of the theory of the set (Cohen 1963, 1963a, 1964). 2. The independence and coherence of the Axiom of Choice After mentioned above, in 1922 Fraenkel proved the independence of the AC from a system of theory of the set containing atoms. Here of an atom is understood a pure individual, that is, an entity that does not have members and still distinct from the empty set (so a fortiori an atom cannot be a set). In a system of the theory of the set with atoms one is assumed to be given an infinite set  $\mathcal{A}$  of atoms. You can build a  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  universe of sets over  $\mathcal{A}$  starting with  $\mathcal{A}$ , adding all subsets of  $\mathcal{A}$ , adjacent to all subsets of the result, etc., and iterating transfinitely.  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  is then a model of the theory of the set of atoms. The core of Fraenkel's method of proving AC independence is the observation that, since atoms cannot be theoretically differentiated, any permutation of the set  $\mathcal{A}$  of atoms induces a permutation of structural preservation — an automorphism — of the  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  universe of sets constructed from  $\mathcal{A}$ . This idea can be used to build another  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  model of the set theory — a permutation or a symmetrical pattern — in which a set of pairs of  $\mathcal{A}$  elements has no choice function. Now, suppose we are given a group  $\mathcal{G}$  of automorphisms of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$ . Let's say an automorphism  $\pi$  of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  fixes an  $x$  item in  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  if  $\pi(x) = x$ . Clearly, if  $\pi$  repairs each element of  $\mathcal{A}$ , fix each element of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$ . Now, for certain  $x \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  items, the attachment of elements to a subset of  $\mathcal{A}$  by any  $\pi \in \mathcal{G}$  is sufficient to fix  $x$ . Therefore, we are led to define a support for  $x$  to be a subset of  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  so that whenever  $\pi$  determines each member of  $\mathcal{X}$ , it also fixes  $x$ . Members  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  that possess a finite support are called symmetrical. Next we define the universe  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  to consist of hereditary symmetric members of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$ , i.e. those  $x \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  so that  $\langle x \rangle$ , the elements of  $\langle x \rangle$ , etc., are all symmetrical.  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  is also a set model with a set of atoms  $\mathcal{A}$ , and  $\pi$  induces an automorphism of  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$ . Now suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  is partitioned into a (necessarily infinite) mutual disjoint set  $\mathcal{P}$  pairs. Take  $\mathcal{G}$  to be the permutation group of  $\mathcal{A}$  that repairs all pairs in  $\mathcal{P}$ . Then  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  can be shown that  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  does not contain any choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$ . To assume  $f$  were a choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $f \in \mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$ . Then  $f$  has a finite support that can be considered to be of the form  $\{a_{-1}, \dots, a_{-n}, b_{-1}, \dots, b_{-n}\}$  with each pair  $\{a_i, b_i\} \in \mathcal{P}$ . Because  $\mathcal{P}$  is infinite, we can select a pair  $\{c, d\} \in \mathcal{U}$  from  $\mathcal{P}$  different from all  $\{a_i, b_i, c, d\}$ . We now define  $\pi$  so that  $\pi$  corrects each  $\{a_i, b_i\}$  and  $\{b_i, a_i\}$  and interchanges  $\{c\}$  and  $\{d\}$ . Then  $\pi$  fixes and  $f$ . Because  $f$  was supposed to be a choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{P}$ , we must have  $f(\mathcal{U}) \in \mathcal{U}$ , i.e.  $f(\mathcal{U}) = c$  or  $f(\mathcal{U}) = d$ . Because  $\pi$  exchanges  $\{c\}$  and  $\{d\}$ , it follows that  $\pi(f(\mathcal{U})) = f(\mathcal{U})$ . But because  $\pi$  is an automorphism, it also retains the application function, so that  $\pi(\pi(f(\mathcal{U}))) = \pi f(\pi(\mathcal{U}))$ . But  $\pi(\mathcal{U}) = \mathcal{U}$  and  $\pi f = f$ , from where  $\pi(f(\mathcal{U})) = f(\mathcal{U})$ . We have duly come to a contradiction, which shows that the universe  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  does not contain any choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$ . The idea here is that for a symmetrical function  $f$  defined on  $\mathcal{P}$  there is a finite  $\mathcal{L}$  list of pairs in  $\mathcal{P}$  fixing all items whose elements are sufficient to fix  $f$ , and therefore all  $f$  values. Now, for any pair  $\mathcal{U}$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  but not in  $\mathcal{L}$ , you can always find a  $\pi$  permutation that fixes all pair elements in  $\mathcal{L}$ , but does not fix  $\mathcal{U}$  members. Because  $\pi$  must set the value  $f(\mathcal{U})$  to  $\mathcal{U}$ , that value cannot be in  $\mathcal{U}$ . Therefore  $f$  cannot choose an item from  $\mathcal{U}$ , so a fortiori  $f$  cannot be a choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$ . This argument shows that collections of sets of atoms do not necessarily have to have functions of choice, but fails to establish the same fact for ordinary math sets, for example the set of real numbers. This had to wait until 1963, when Paul Cohen showed that it was consistent with the standard axioms of the theory of sets (which prevent the existence of atoms) to assume that a numberable collection of pairs of actual number sets fails to have a function of choice. The core of Cohen's test method — the famous method of forcing — was much more general than any previous technique; however, the proof of its independence also made essential use of permutation and symmetry, essentially in the form in which Fraenkel originally engaged them. Gödel's evidence of the relative consistency of the AC with the theory of the set (see entry on Kurt Gödel) is based on a completely different idea: that of definability. He introduced a new hierarchy of sets — the constructive hierarchy — by analogy with the cumulative cumulative type Recall that the latter is defined by the following ordinal appeal, where  $\mathcal{V}(\text{sp}(X))$  is the power set of  $X$ ,  $\aleph_\alpha$  is an ordinal, and  $\aleph_\alpha$  is a limit ordinal:  $\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_0 &= \emptyset \\ \mathcal{V}_{\alpha+1} &= \mathcal{V}(\text{Def}(\mathcal{L}_\alpha)) \cup \mathcal{L}_\alpha \\ \mathcal{V}_\lambda &= \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \mathcal{V}_\alpha \end{aligned}$  Constructable hierarchy is defined by a , where  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Def}(X))$  is the set of all subsets of  $X$  that are first-order definitions in the  $\langle X, \in, x \rangle$  structure  $\langle \mathcal{L}_\alpha, \in \rangle$ :  $\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 &= \emptyset \\ \mathcal{L}_{\alpha+1} &= \text{Def}(\mathcal{L}_\alpha) \cup \mathcal{L}_\alpha \\ \mathcal{L}_\lambda &= \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \mathcal{L}_\alpha \end{aligned}$  The constructable universe is class  $\mathcal{V} = \bigcup_{\alpha} \mathcal{V}_\alpha$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  members are buildable sets. Gödel pointed out that (assuming the axioms of the Zermelo-Fraenkel ZF set theory) the structure  $\langle \mathcal{L}_\alpha, \in \rangle$  is a model of ZF and also of AC, as well as the generalized continuum hypothesis). The relative consistency of AC with ZF follows. Gödel (1964) (and, independently, by Myhill and Scott 1971, Takeuti 1963 and Post 1951) noted that a simpler proof of the relative coherence of the AC can be formulated in terms of ordinal definition. If we write  $\mathcal{V}(\text{rd}(X))$  for the set of all subsets of  $X$  that are first-order definable in the  $\langle X, \in \rangle$  structure, then the OD of the class of the ordinal defined sets is defined as the  $\langle \bigcup_{\alpha} \mathcal{V}(\text{rd}(\aleph_\alpha)) \rangle$ . The HOD class of erdition ordinal definable sets consists of all sets for which  $\langle a \rangle$ , members  $\langle a \rangle$ , members  $\langle a \rangle$ , members  $\langle a \rangle$ , ... etc., all are ordinal definable. It can then be demonstrated that the structure  $\langle \text{HOD}, \in \rangle$  is a model of ZF + AC , from which the relative consistency of AC with ZF again follows. [8] 3. The maximum principles and Zorn's Lemma The Axiom of Choice is closely allied with a group of mathematical proposals collectively known as maximum principles. Broadly speaking, these proposals state that certain conditions are sufficient to ensure that a partially ordered set contains at least one maximum element, namely an element which, as regards the given partial order, no element strictly exceeds it. To see the link between the idea of a maximum element and AC, let's go back to formulating ac2 in terms of indexed sets. Consequently, the suppose we are given an indexed family of unempty sets  $\mathcal{S} = \{A_i : i \in I\}$ . Let's define a potential choice function on  $\mathcal{S}$  to be a  $f$  function whose domain is a subset of  $I$  so that  $f(i) \in A_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . (Here the use of skill potential is suggested by the fact that the domain is a subset of  $I$ ); recall that a choice function  $f$  on  $\mathcal{S}$  has the same properties as what we now call potential choice functions, except that the  $f$  domain is be all of  $I$ , not just a subset.) Potential potential set  $\mathcal{P}$  functions on  $\mathcal{S}$  can be partially ordered by inclusion: we agree that for potential choice functions  $f, g$  the relationship  $f \leq g$  holds on condition that the  $f$  domain is included in that of  $g$  and the  $f$  value to an item in its domain coincides with the  $g$  value there. It is now easy to see that the maximum elements of  $\mathcal{P}$  in terms of partial ordering  $\leq$  are exactly the functions of choice on  $\mathcal{S}$ . Zorn's Lemma is the best known principle that ensures the existence of such maximum elements. To specify it, we need a few definitions. Given a partially ordered set  $\langle \mathcal{P}, \leq \rangle$ , an upper limit for a subset  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  is an element  $a$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  for which  $x \leq a$  for each  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ; a maximum element of  $\mathcal{P}$  can then be defined as an item  $a$  for which the set of upper limits of  $\mathcal{X}$  coincides with  $\{a\}$ , which essentially means that no element in  $\mathcal{P}$  is strictly greater than  $a$ . A chain in  $\langle \mathcal{P}, \leq \rangle$  is a subset of  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  so that, for any  $x, y$ ,  $\langle y \in \mathcal{P} \rangle$ , either  $x \leq y$  or  $y \leq x$ .  $\mathcal{P}$  is declared to be inductive if each chain in  $\mathcal{P}$  has an upper limit. Now, Zorn's Lemma states: Zorn's Lemma (ZL): Each partially ordered unempty inductive inductive set has a maximum element. Why is Zorn's Lemma plausible? Here

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A more interesting example of a choice function is provided by taking  $\mathcal{H}$  to be the set of pairs (unordered) of actual numbers and the function that assigns each pair at least element. A different choice function is achieved by assigning each pair its largest element. Clearly, many more choice functions can be defined on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Declared in terms of choice functions, Zermelo's first formulation by AC reads: AC1: Any collection of nonempty sets has a function of choice. AC1 can be reformulated in terms of indexed or variable sets. An indexed set collection  $\mathcal{S} = \{A_i : i \in I\}$  can be designed as a set of variables, with that being, as a set that varies over the index set  $I$ . Each  $A_i$  is then the value of the set of variables  $\mathcal{S}$  in the  $i$  stage. A choice function in  $\mathcal{S}$  is a map  $f : I \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$  so that  $f(i) \in A_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . A choice function on  $\mathcal{S}$  is thus a choice of an element of the  $\mathcal{S}$  variable set at each stage; in other words, a choice function in  $\mathcal{S}$  is a variable element of  $\mathcal{S}$ . AC1 is then equivalent to the statement AC2: Any indexed collection of sets has a choice function. From an informal point of view, AC2 equates to the assertion that a set of variables with an element in each stage has a variable element. AC1 can also be reformulated in terms of relationships, viz. AC3: For any relationship  $R$  between sets  $B$ ,  $\exists \{ \text{for all } x \in A \} \exists x \in B \text{ s.t. } R(x, y)$

$$\rightarrow \exists x \in B \text{ s.t. } \forall y \in A \exists x \in B \text{ s.t. } R(x, y)$$

Finally it is easy to prove to be equivalent (in established ordinary theories) to:

AC4: Any surjective function has a reverse right. In a 1908 paper, Zermelo introduced a modified form of AC. Let's call a cross-sectional set (or choice) for a family of sets  $\mathcal{H}$  any subset  $T \subseteq \bigcup_{X \in \mathcal{H}} X$  for which each intersection  $T \cap X$  for  $X \in \mathcal{H}$  has exactly one element. As a very simple example, let  $\mathcal{H} = \{\{0\}, \{1\}, \{2, 3\}\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}$  has two transverse  $\{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $\{0, 1, 3\}$ . A more substantial example is provided by allowing  $\mathcal{H}$  to be the collection of all lines in the Euclidean plane parallel to the  $x$ -axis. Then the  $T$  set of points on the  $y$ -axis is a transverse for  $\mathcal{H}$ . Declared in terms of transverses, then, the second formulation (1908) of The AC's Zermelo equates to the assertion that any family of non-mutual sets has a transverse. [3] Zermelo states that the purely objective nature of this principle is immediately obvious. In making this claim, Zermelo wanted to point out that, in this form, the principle makes no use to the possibility of making choices. Zermelo may also consider the following combination justification of the principle. Considering a family  $\mathcal{H}$  of nonempty sets disarticulation to all subsets of the result, etc., and iterating transfinitely.  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  is then a model of the theory of the set of atoms. The core of Fraenkel's method of proving AC independence is the observation that, since atoms cannot be theoretically differentiated, any permutation of the set  $\mathcal{A}$  of atoms induces a permutation of structural preservation — an automorphism — of the  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  universe of sets constructed from  $\mathcal{A}$ . This idea can be used to build another  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  model of the set theory — a permutation or a symmetrical pattern — in which a set of pairs of  $\mathcal{A}$  elements has no choice function. Now, suppose we are given a group  $\mathcal{G}$  of automorphisms of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$ . Let's say an automorphism  $\pi$  of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  fixes an  $x$  item in  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  if  $\pi(x) = x$ . Clearly, if  $\pi$  repairs each element of  $\mathcal{A}$ , fix each element of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$ . Now, for certain  $x \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  items, the attachment of elements to a subset of  $\mathcal{A}$  by any  $\pi \in \mathcal{G}$  is sufficient to fix  $x$ . Therefore, we are led to define a support for  $x$  to be a subset of  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  so that whenever  $\pi$  determines each member of  $\mathcal{X}$ , it also fixes  $x$ . Members  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  that possess a finite support are called symmetrical. Next we define the universe  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  to consist of hereditary symmetric members of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$ , i.e. those  $x \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A})$  so that  $\langle x \rangle$ , the elements of  $\langle x \rangle$ , etc., are all symmetrical.  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  is also a set model with a set of atoms  $\mathcal{A}$ , and  $\pi$  induces an automorphism of  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$ . Now suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  is partitioned into a (necessarily infinite) mutual disjoint set  $\mathcal{P}$  pairs. Take  $\mathcal{G}$  to be the permutation group of  $\mathcal{A}$  that repairs all pairs in  $\mathcal{P}$ . Then  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  can be shown that  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  does not contain any choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$ . To assume  $f$  were a choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $f \in \mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$ . Then  $f$  has a finite support that can be considered to be of the form  $\{a_{-1}, \dots, a_{-n}, b_{-1}, \dots, b_{-n}\}$  with each pair  $\{a_i, b_i\} \in \mathcal{P}$ . Because  $\mathcal{P}$  is infinite, we can select a pair  $\{c, d\} \in \mathcal{U}$  from  $\mathcal{P}$  different from all  $\{a_i, b_i, c, d\}$ . We now define  $\pi$  so that  $\pi$  corrects each  $\{a_i, b_i\}$  and  $\{b_i, a_i\}$  and interchanges  $\{c\}$  and  $\{d\}$ . Then  $\pi$  fixes and  $f$ . Because  $f$  was supposed to be a choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{P}$ , we must have  $f(\mathcal{U}) \in \mathcal{U}$ , i.e.  $f(\mathcal{U}) = c$  or  $f(\mathcal{U}) = d$ . Because  $\pi$  exchanges  $\{c\}$  and  $\{d\}$ , it follows that  $\pi(f(\mathcal{U})) = f(\mathcal{U})$ . But because  $\pi$  is an automorphism, it also retains the application function, so that  $\pi(\pi(f(\mathcal{U}))) = \pi f(\pi(\mathcal{U}))$ . But  $\pi(\mathcal{U}) = \mathcal{U}$  and  $\pi f = f$ , from where  $\pi(f(\mathcal{U})) = f(\mathcal{U})$ . We have duly come to a contradiction, which shows that the universe  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Sym}(\mathcal{V}))$  does not contain any choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$ . The idea here is that for a symmetrical function  $f$  defined on  $\mathcal{P}$  there is a finite  $\mathcal{L}$  list of pairs in  $\mathcal{P}$  fixing all items whose elements are sufficient to fix  $f$ , and therefore all  $f$  values. Now, for any pair  $\mathcal{U}$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  but not in  $\mathcal{L}$ , you can always find a  $\pi$  permutation that fixes all pair elements in  $\mathcal{L}$ , but does not fix  $\mathcal{U}$  members. Because  $\pi$  must set the value  $f(\mathcal{U})$  to  $\mathcal{U}$ , that value cannot be in  $\mathcal{U}$ . Therefore  $f$  cannot choose an item from  $\mathcal{U}$ , so a fortiori  $f$  cannot be a choice function on  $\mathcal{P}$ . This argument shows that collections of sets of atoms do not necessarily have to have functions of choice, but fails to establish the same fact for ordinary math sets, for example the set of real numbers. This had to wait until 1963, when Paul Cohen showed that it was consistent with the standard axioms of the theory of sets (which prevent the existence of atoms) to assume that a numberable collection of pairs of actual number sets fails to have a function of choice. The core of Cohen's test method — the famous method of forcing — was much more general than any previous technique; however, the proof of its independence also made essential use of permutation and symmetry, essentially in the form in which Fraenkel originally engaged them. Gödel's evidence of the relative consistency of the AC with the theory of the set (see entry on Kurt Gödel) is based on a completely different idea: that of definability. He introduced a new hierarchy of sets — the constructive hierarchy — by analogy with the cumulative cumulative type Recall that the latter is defined by the following ordinal appeal, where  $\mathcal{V}(\text{sp}(X))$  is the power set of  $X$ ,  $\aleph_\alpha$  is an ordinal, and  $\aleph_\alpha$  is a limit ordinal:  $\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_0 &= \emptyset \\ \mathcal{V}_{\alpha+1} &= \mathcal{V}(\text{Def}(\mathcal{L}_\alpha)) \cup \mathcal{L}_\alpha \\ \mathcal{V}_\lambda &= \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \mathcal{V}_\alpha \end{aligned}$  Constructable hierarchy is defined by a , where  $\mathcal{V}(\text{Def}(X))$  is the set of all subsets of  $X$  that are first-order definitions in the  $\langle X, \in, x \rangle$  structure  $\langle \mathcal{L}_\alpha, \in \rangle$ :  $\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 &= \emptyset \\ \mathcal{L}_{\alpha+1} &= \text{Def}(\mathcal{L}_\alpha) \cup \mathcal{L}_\alpha \\ \mathcal{L}_\lambda &= \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \mathcal{L}_\alpha \end{aligned}$  The constructable universe is class  $\mathcal{V} = \bigcup_{\alpha} \mathcal{V}_\alpha$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  members are buildable sets. Gödel pointed out that (assuming the axioms of the Zermelo-Fraenkel ZF set theory) the structure  $\langle \mathcal{L}_\alpha, \in \rangle$  is a model of ZF and also of AC, as well as the generalized continuum hypothesis). The relative consistency of AC with ZF follows. Gödel (1964) (and, independently, by Myhill and Scott 1971, Takeuti 1963 and Post 1951) noted that a simpler proof of the relative coherence of the AC can be formulated in terms of ordinal definition. If we write  $\mathcal{V}(\text{rd}(X))$  for the set of all subsets of  $X$  that are first-order definable in the  $\langle X, \in \rangle$  structure, then the OD of the class of the ordinal defined sets is defined as the  $\langle \bigcup_{\alpha} \mathcal{V}(\text{rd}(\aleph_\alpha)) \rangle$ . The HOD class of erdition ordinal definable sets consists of all sets for which  $\langle a \rangle$ , members  $\langle a \rangle$ , members  $\langle a \rangle$ , members  $\langle a \rangle$ , ... etc., all are ordinal definable. It can then be demonstrated that the structure  $\langle \text{HOD}, \in \rangle$  is a model of ZF + AC , from which the relative consistency of AC with ZF again follows. [8] 3. The maximum principles and Zorn's Lemma The Axiom of Choice is closely allied with a group of mathematical proposals collectively known as maximum principles. Broadly speaking, these proposals state that certain conditions are sufficient to ensure that a partially ordered set contains at least one maximum element, namely an element which, as regards the given partial order, no element strictly exceeds it. To see the link between the idea of a maximum element and AC, let's go back to formulating ac2 in terms of indexed sets. Consequently, the suppose we are given an indexed family of unempty sets  $\mathcal{S} = \{A_i : i \in I\}$ . Let's define a potential choice function on  $\mathcal{S}$  to be a  $f$  function whose domain is a subset of  $I$  so

