

Iterating Σ operations in admissible set theory without foundation: a further aspect of metapredicative Mahlo

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Abstract

In this article we study the theory $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ which (i) describes a recursively inaccessible universe, (ii) permits the iteration of Σ operations along the ordinals, (iii) does not comprise \in induction, and (iv) restricts complete induction on the natural numbers to sets. It is shown that the proof-theoretic ordinal of $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ is the metapredicative Mahlo ordinal $\varphi_{\omega}00$. Our system $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ is closely related to the system of second order arithmetic for Σ_1^1 transfinite dependent choice introduced in Rüede [8].

1 Introduction

The theory KPi^0 , introduced in Jäger [3], is a natural subsystem of set theory whose proof-theoretic strength is characterized by the well-known ordinal Γ_0 . It describes a set-theoretic universe above the natural numbers as urelements which is admissible and a limit of admissibles, i.e. recursively inaccessible. However, KPi^0 is very weak with respect to induction principles: \in induction is not available at all, and complete induction on the natural numbers is restricted to sets.

In this article we study the effect of extending KPi^0 by the possibility of iterating Σ operations (on the universe) along ordinals. It will be shown that the resulting system, we call it $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$, has the proof-theoretic ordinal $\varphi_{\omega}00$ and thus the same proof-theoretic strength as the theory KPM^0 of Jäger and Strahm [6], which plays an important role in connection with the concept of metapredicative Mahlo; see Jäger [2] for a discussion of this topic in a wider context.

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There exists a close relationship between our $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ and the system of second order arithmetic for Σ_1^1 transfinite dependent choice which R\"uede describes in [8, 9]. Actually, we will adapt R\"uede's well-ordering proof in [9] to the theory $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ in order to establish $\varphi\omega 00$ as its lower proof-theoretic bound. A straightforward argument yields that $\varphi\omega 00$ is also the upper proof-theoretic bound of $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$.

The plan of this paper is as follows: In the next section we introduce the basic definitions and describe the theories KPi^0 , $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ and KPM^0 . Section 3 is dedicated to delimiting the system $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ from above by embedding it into KPM^0 . Section 4 deals with some important properties of KPi^0 and $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$, whereas in Section 5 we carry through a well-ordering proof in $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$.

2 The theories KPi^0 , $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ and KPM^0

Let \mathcal{L}_1 be some of the standard languages of first order arithmetic with variables $a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, u, v, w, x, y, z, \dots$ (possibly with subscripts), a constant 0 as well as function and relation symbols for all primitive recursive functions and relations. The theory KPi^0 is formulated in the extension $\mathcal{L}^* = \mathcal{L}_1(\in, \mathbf{N}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{Ad})$ of \mathcal{L}_1 by the membership relation symbol \in , the set constant \mathbf{N} for the set of natural numbers and the unary relation symbols \mathbf{S} and \mathbf{Ad} for sets and admissible sets, respectively.

The *number terms* of \mathcal{L}^* are inductively generated from the variables, the constant 0 and the symbols for the primitive recursive functions; the *terms* $(r, s, t, r_1, s_1, t_1, \dots)$ of \mathcal{L}^* are the number terms of \mathcal{L}_1 plus the set constant \mathbf{N} . The formulas $(A, B, C, A_1, B_1, C_1, \dots)$ of \mathcal{L}^* as well as the Δ_0 , Σ , Π , Σ_n and Π_n formulas of \mathcal{L}^* are defined as usual. Equality between objects is not represented by a primitive symbol but defined by

$$(s = t) := \begin{cases} (s \in \mathbf{N} \wedge t \in \mathbf{N} \wedge (s =_{\mathbf{N}} t)) \vee \\ (\mathbf{S}(s) \wedge \mathbf{S}(t) \wedge (\forall x \in s)(x \in t) \wedge (\forall x \in t)(x \in s)) \end{cases}$$

where $=_{\mathbf{N}}$ is the symbol for the primitive recursive equality on the natural numbers. The formula A^s is the result of replacing each unrestricted quantifier $(\exists x)(\dots)$ and $(\forall x)(\dots)$ in A by $(\exists x \in s)(\dots)$ and $(\forall x \in s)(\dots)$, respectively. In addition, we freely make use of all standard set-theoretic notations and write, for example, $\text{Tran}(s)$ for the Δ_0 formula saying that s is a transitive set.

Since the axioms of KPi^0 do not comprise \in induction, i.e. the principle of

foundation with respect to \in , we build it directly into the notion of *ordinal*,

$$\mathbf{Wf}(a, \in) := \forall x(x \subset a \wedge x \neq \emptyset \rightarrow (\exists y \in x)(\forall z \in y)(z \notin x)),$$

$$\mathbf{Ord}(a) := \mathbf{Tran}(a) \wedge (\forall x \in a)\mathbf{Tran}(x) \wedge \mathbf{Wf}(a, \in).$$

Thus $\mathbf{Ord}(a)$ is a Π formula of \mathcal{L}^* ; in the following small Greek letters range over ordinals.

The theory \mathbf{KPI}^0 is formulated in the language \mathcal{L}^* ; its logical axioms comprise the usual axioms of classical first order logic with equality. The non-logical axioms of \mathbf{KPI}^0 can be divided into the following five groups.

I. Ontological axioms. We have for all function symbols \mathcal{H} and relation symbols \mathcal{R} of \mathcal{L}_1 and all axioms $A(\vec{u})$ of group III whose free variables belong to the list \vec{u} :

- (1) $a \in \mathbf{N} \leftrightarrow \neg \mathbf{S}(a),$
- (2) $\vec{a} \in \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(\vec{a}) \in \mathbf{N},$
- (3) $\mathcal{R}(\vec{a}) \rightarrow \vec{a} \in \mathbf{N},$
- (4) $a \in b \rightarrow \mathbf{S}(b),$
- (5) $\mathbf{Ad}(a) \rightarrow (\mathbf{N} \in a \wedge \mathbf{Tran}(a)),$
- (6) $\mathbf{Ad}(a) \rightarrow (\forall \vec{x} \in a)A^a(\vec{x}),$
- (7) $\mathbf{Ad}(a) \wedge \mathbf{Ad}(b) \rightarrow a \in b \vee a = b \vee b \in a.$

II. Number-theoretic axioms. We have for all axioms $A(\vec{u})$ of Peano arithmetic PA which are not instances of the schema of complete induction and whose free variables belong to the list \vec{u} :

$$\text{(Number theory)} \quad \vec{u} \in \mathbf{N} \rightarrow A^{\mathbf{N}}(\vec{u}).$$

III. Kripke Platek axioms. We have for all Δ_0 formulas $A(u)$ and $B(u, v)$ of \mathcal{L}^* :

- (Pair) $\exists x(a \in x \wedge b \in x),$
- (Tran) $\exists x(a \subset x \wedge \mathbf{Tran}(x)),$
- (Δ_0 -Sep) $\exists y(\mathbf{S}(y) \wedge y = \{x \in a : A(x)\}),$
- (Δ_0 -Col) $(\forall x \in a)\exists yB(x, y) \rightarrow \exists z(\forall x \in a)(\exists y \in z)B(x, y).$

IV. Limit axiom. It is used to formalize that each set is element of an admissible set, hence we claim:

$$(\text{Lim}) \quad \exists x(a \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)).$$

V. Complete induction on \mathbb{N} . The only induction principle included in the axioms of KPi^0 is the following axiom of complete induction on the natural numbers for sets:

$$(\text{S-I}_{\mathbb{N}}) \quad 0 \in a \wedge (\forall x \in \mathbb{N})(x \in a \rightarrow x + 1 \in a) \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \subset a.$$

The monograph Barwise [1] provides an excellent introduction into general admissible set theory. Theories of admissible sets without foundation, on the other hand, have been studied, in particular, in Jäger [3, 4]. It is shown there, among other things, that the proof-theoretic ordinal of KPi^0 is Γ_0 .

In Section 5 we will also mention an auxiliary *basic set theory* BS^0 . It is obtained from KPi^0 by simply dropping the schema of Δ_0 collection.

In this article, however, we are primarily interested in the axiom schema $(\Sigma\text{-TR})$ about the iteration of Σ operations, added to KPi^0 . To formulate this principle, we introduce for each Σ formula $D(\vec{u}, x, y, z)$ of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u}, x, y, z free the formula

$$\text{Hier}_D(\vec{a}, b, f) := \begin{cases} \text{Ord}(b) \wedge \text{Fun}(f) \wedge \text{Dom}(f) = b \wedge \\ (\forall \xi \in b) D(\vec{a}, \xi, f \upharpoonright \xi, f(\xi)). \end{cases}$$

$\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ is now defined to be the theory obtained from KPi^0 by adding the axiom

$$(\Sigma\text{-TR}) \quad \text{Ord}(\alpha) \wedge (\forall \xi < \alpha) \forall x \exists ! y D(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y) \rightarrow \exists f \text{Hier}_D(\vec{a}, \alpha, f)$$

for all Σ formulas $D(\vec{u}, x, y, z)$ of \mathcal{L}^* . This axiom says that the Σ operation defined by D (depending on the parameters \vec{a}) can be iterated along the ordinal α .

$\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ is an interesting theory which reveals a further aspect of metapredicative Mahlo. In the sequel we will show that this system is proof-theoretically equivalent to the theory KPM^0 and that it has proof-theoretic ordinal $\varphi_{\omega 00}$.

The theory KPM^0 , introduced in Jäger and Strahm [6], is also formulated in the language \mathcal{L}^* and extends KPi^0 by the schema of Π_2 reflection on the admissibles,

$$(\Pi_2\text{-Ref}^{\text{Ad}}) \quad A(\vec{a}) \rightarrow \exists x(\vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x) \wedge A^x(\vec{a}))$$

for all Π_2 formulas $A(\vec{u})$ of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u} free. In [6] it is also shown that KPm^0 , i.e. $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Pi_2\text{-Ref}^{\text{Ad}})$, is of the same proof-theoretic strength as a natural system of explicit mathematics.

3 Embedding $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ into KPm^0

The only purpose of this very short section is to prove that $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ can be directly embedded into KPm^0 . Given a Σ formula $D(\vec{u}, x, y, z)$ of \mathcal{L}^* , parameters \vec{a} for which D defines a Σ operation and an ordinal α , the principle of Π_2 reflection on admissibles tells us that there must exist an admissible set d , containing the parameters \vec{a} and α , so that this operation maps d into d ; working inside d allows us to iterate this operation along α .

Lemma 1 *For all Σ formulas $D(\vec{u}, x, y, z)$ of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u}, x, y, z free we have that*

$$\text{KPm}^0 \vdash \text{Ord}(\alpha) \wedge (\forall \xi < \alpha) \forall x \exists! y D(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y) \rightarrow \exists f \text{Hier}_D(\vec{a}, \alpha, f).$$

PROOF We work informally in KPm^0 and choose an ordinal α and parameters \vec{a} so that

$$(1) \quad (\forall \xi < \alpha) \forall x \exists! y D(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y).$$

By Π_2 reflection on the admissibles applied to (1) it follows that there exists an admissible set d which contains α and \vec{a} as elements and satisfies

$$(2) \quad (\forall \xi < \alpha) (\forall x \in d) (\exists y \in d) D^d(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y).$$

Furthermore, because of Σ persistence and (1), we can now conclude from assertion (2) that

$$(3) \quad (\forall \xi < \alpha) (\forall x \in d) (\exists y \in d) D(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y),$$

$$(4) \quad (\forall \xi < \alpha) (\forall x, y \in d) (D(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y) \leftrightarrow D^d(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y)).$$

Working within the admissible set d , a straightforward adaptation of the usual proof of Σ recursion yields

$$(5) \quad (\exists f \in d) (\text{Fun}(f) \wedge \text{Dom}(f) = \beta \wedge (\forall \xi < \beta) D^d(\vec{a}, \xi, f \upharpoonright \xi, f(\xi)))$$

by transfinite induction for all ordinals $\beta \leq \alpha$. Because of (4), the assertion of our lemma follows immediately from (5). \square

This lemma states that $(\Sigma\text{-TR})$ is provable in KPm^0 . Consequently, our system $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ is a subtheory of KPm^0 .

Theorem 2 (Embedding) *For all \mathcal{L}^* formulas A we have that*

$$\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR}) \vdash A \implies \text{KPm}^0 \vdash A.$$

In view of this theorem and the results of Jäger and Strahm [6] we know that the ordinal $\varphi\omega 00$ is an upper bound for the proof-theoretic strength of $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$.

4 Some basic properties of the theories KPi^0 and $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$

The foundation axiom is not available in KPi^0 , and thus it is not ruled out in general that there are sets which contain themselves. Nevertheless it can be shown that this is not possible for admissibles.

Lemma 3 *In KPi^0 it can be proved that*

$$\text{Ad}(a) \rightarrow a \notin a.$$

PROOF Suppose, on the contrary, that a is an admissible set which contains itself as an element. By Δ_0 separation within a this a then also contains the ‘‘Russell’’ set r ,

$$r := \{x \in a : x \notin x\}.$$

Hence we have that $r \in r$ if and only if $r \notin r$. This is a contradiction, and our lemma is proved. \square

Now we turn to two further properties of KPi^0 which – or better: generalizations thereof – will be crucial for the well-ordering proof in the next section: (i) every set s is provably contained in a least admissible set s^+ , (ii) every set s is provably contained in a least set which is admissible or limit of admissibles.

If \in induction (foundation) were available we could simply carry over the standard recursion-theoretic proof. In the present context, however, a different strategy has to be chosen.

Lemma 4 *Let $D(\vec{u}, v)$ be a Δ_0 formula of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u}, v free. Then KPi^0 proves that*

$$\begin{aligned} & \exists x(D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)) \rightarrow \\ & \exists y(y = \bigcap \{x : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)\} \wedge D(\vec{a}, y) \wedge \vec{a} \in y \wedge \text{Ad}(y)). \end{aligned}$$

PROOF We work informally in the theory KPi^0 and fix some arbitrary parameters \vec{a} . The assertion is obvious by the linearity of the admissibles if the class $\{x : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)\}$ contains only finitely many elements. Hence we may assume that there exist elements b, c, d, e with the properties

$$(1) \quad b \in c \in d \in e,$$

$$(2) \quad b, c, d, e \in \{x : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)\}.$$

Now we use Δ_0 separation in order to define the set

$$s_0 := \bigcap \{x \in e : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)\}.$$

Because of the linearity of Ad we obtain the following further properties of this set s_0 :

$$(3) \quad s_0 = \bigcap \{x : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)\},$$

$$(4) \quad s_0 = \bigcap \{x \in c : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x)\},$$

$$(5) \quad s_0 \in d.$$

Assertion (5) follows from (4) by Δ_0 separation in d . In a next step the further set

$$s_1 := \bigcap \{x \in e : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \text{Ad}(x) \wedge s_0 \in x\}$$

is introduced. Given these sets s_0 and s_1 , we convince ourselves that they are really different,

$$(6) \quad s_0 \neq s_1.$$

Assume, for the contrary, that $s_0 = s_1$ and employ Δ_0 separation once more for defining the Russell set

$$r := \{x \in s_0 : x \notin x\}.$$

Then $r \in u$ for each set u satisfying $\text{Ad}(u)$ and $s_0 \in u$. This implies $r \in s_1$ and therefore, because of our assumption, also $r \in s_0$. Therefore we have

$$r \in r \leftrightarrow r \in s_0 \wedge r \notin r \leftrightarrow r \notin r.$$

This is a contradiction, and so (6) is proved. This assertion (6), however, implies that there exists a set t with the property

$$(7) \quad t \in e \wedge D(\vec{a}, t) \wedge \vec{a} \in t \wedge \text{Ad}(t) \wedge s_0 \notin t.$$

It remains to show that $s_0 = t$. The inclusion $s_0 \subset t$ is obvious. In order to prove $t \subset s_0$, we pick an arbitrary $u \in d$ with $D(\vec{a}, u) \wedge \vec{a} \in u \wedge \mathbf{Ad}(u)$ and establish $t \subset u$. The linearity of \mathbf{Ad} gives

$$(8) \quad t \in u \vee t = u \vee u \in t.$$

In the cases of $t \in u$ and $t = u$, the property $t \subset u$ is clear. On the other hand, $u \in t$ would imply that

$$s_0 = \bigcap \{x \in u \cup \{u\} : D(\vec{a}, x) \wedge \vec{a} \in x \wedge \mathbf{Ad}(x)\} \in t,$$

contradicting the choice of t . Therefore, putting everything together, we know that $s_0 = t$, hence $D(\vec{a}, s_0) \wedge \vec{a} \in s_0 \wedge \mathbf{Ad}(s_0)$. Remembering (3), this concludes the proof of our lemma. \square

This lemma implies, for example, that in \mathbf{KPi}^0 for any set a the intersection a^+ of all admissibles containing a is an admissible itself,

$$a^+ := \bigcap \{x : a \in x \wedge \mathbf{Ad}(x)\}.$$

Given a set a and a binary relation $b \subset a \times a$, we write $\mathbf{Lin}(a, b)$ if b is a strict linear ordering on a . A linear ordering is a well-ordering if any non-empty subset of its domain has a least element with respect to this ordering,

$$\mathbf{Wo}(a, b) := \mathbf{Lin}(a, b) \wedge \forall x(x \subset a \wedge x \neq \emptyset \rightarrow (\exists y \in x)(\forall z \in x)(\langle z, y \rangle \notin b)).$$

We first observe that in $\mathbf{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ all Σ operations can be iterated along arbitrary well-orderings, not only along ordinals as stated by $(\Sigma\text{-TR})$. To do so, we write for each Σ formula $D(\vec{u}, x, y, z)$ of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u}, x, y, z free in analogy to \mathbf{Hier}_D

$$\mathbf{Hier}_D^+(\vec{a}, b, c, f) := \begin{cases} \mathbf{Wo}(b, c) \wedge \mathbf{Fun}(f) \wedge \mathbf{Dom}(f) = b \wedge \\ (\forall x \in b)D(\vec{a}, x, \{\langle y, f(y) \rangle : \langle y, x \rangle \in c\}, f(x)). \end{cases}$$

For the proof of Theorem 6 below it is convenient to convince ourselves that for every well-ordering b on a set a there exists a function f – provable in \mathbf{KPi}^0 – so that the range $\mathbf{Rng}(f)$ of f is an ordinal and f is 1-1 mapping from a to $\mathbf{Rng}(f)$ translating the order relation b on a into the $<$ -relation on $\mathbf{Rng}(f)$. This function f is called the *collapse* of b on a ;

$$\mathbf{Clp}(a, b, f) := \begin{cases} b \subset a \times a \wedge \mathbf{Fun}(f) \wedge \mathbf{Dom}(f) = a \wedge \\ (\forall x \in a)(f(x) = \{f(y) : \langle y, x \rangle \in b\}). \end{cases}$$

The following lemma states that any well-ordering b on any set a has a collapse which is uniquely determined by a and b .

Lemma 5 *The following two assertions can be proved in KPi^0 :*

1. $\text{Wo}(a, b) \wedge \text{Clp}(a, b, f) \wedge \text{Clp}(a, b, g) \rightarrow f = g.$
2. $\text{Wo}(a, b) \wedge a, b \in d \wedge \text{Ad}(d) \rightarrow (\exists f \in d)\text{Clp}(a, b, f).$

PROOF The uniqueness property is obtained by straightforward induction along the well-ordering b on a . For the proof of the existence of a collapse we work informally in KPi^0 and choose any a, b, d so that

$$\text{Wo}(a, b) \wedge a, b \in d \wedge \text{Ad}(d).$$

Writing $a|u$ and $b||u$ for the restrictions of a and b to the predecessors of u ,

$$a|u := \{x \in a : \langle x, u \rangle \in b\} \quad \text{and} \quad b||u := \{\langle x, y \rangle \in b : \langle y, u \rangle \in b\},$$

we can easily establish by induction along b on a that

$$(\exists! g \in d)\text{Clp}(a|u, b||u, g)$$

for all elements u of a . With Δ_0 collection we can now immediately derive what we wish. \square

Theorem 6 *For all Σ formulas $D(\vec{u}, x, y, z)$ of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u}, x, y, z free we have that $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ proves*

$$\text{Wo}(b, c) \wedge (\forall x \in b)\forall y\exists!zD(\vec{a}, x, y, z) \rightarrow \exists f\text{Hier}_D^+(\vec{a}, b, c, f).$$

PROOF We work informally in $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ and choose arbitrary parameters \vec{a} and sets b, c so that

$$(1) \quad \text{Wo}(b, c) \wedge (\forall x \in b)\forall y\exists!zD(\vec{a}, x, y, z).$$

By the previous lemma there exists a collapse h of c on b , i.e. we may assume that

$$(2) \quad \text{Clp}(b, c, h)$$

for a suitable function h . Now set $\alpha := \text{Rng}(h)$ and apply the principle $(\Sigma\text{-TR})$ to a properly tailored modification D' of the formula D . This gives us a function g which can then be modified to the desired witness for Hier_D . More precisely, let $B(u, v)$ be the Σ formula of \mathcal{L}^* which is the disjunction of the following three (mutually exclusive) \mathcal{L}^* formulas:

$$(i) \quad \text{Ord}(u) \wedge v \in b \wedge h(v) = u,$$

$$(ii) \quad u = \emptyset \wedge v = \emptyset,$$

$$(iii) \quad \neg \text{Ord}(u) \wedge (\forall x \in u)(\exists y \in b)\exists z(x = \langle h(y), z \rangle \wedge \langle y, z \rangle \in v) \wedge \\ (\forall x \in v)(\exists y \in b)\exists z(x = \langle y, z \rangle \wedge \langle h(y), z \rangle \in u).$$

In addition we set

$$D'(\vec{a}, u, v, w) := \exists x \exists y (B(u, x) \wedge B(v, y) \wedge D(\vec{a}, x, y, w))$$

and observe that $\text{KPI}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ proves

$$(3) \quad (\forall \xi < \alpha) \forall x \exists! y D'(\vec{a}, \xi, x, y).$$

Because of Σ reflection, the formula $D'(\vec{a}, u, v, w)$ is provably equivalent in $\text{KPI}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ to a Σ formula. In view of (3) we can apply $(\Sigma\text{-TR})$, and thus there exists a function g for which we have

$$(4) \quad \text{Hier}_{D'}(\vec{a}, \alpha, g).$$

To finish our proof, let f be the function with domain b which is defined for all elements u of b by

$$f(u) := g(h(u)).$$

From (4), the definition of the formula $D'(\vec{a}, u, v, w)$ and this definition of f we obtain

$$(5) \quad (\forall \xi < \alpha) \exists y \exists z (B(\xi, y) \wedge B(g \upharpoonright \xi, z) \wedge D(\vec{a}, y, z, g(\xi))).$$

Because of (2) this immediately implies that

$$(6) \quad (\forall x \in b) \exists y \exists z (B(h(x), y) \wedge B(g \upharpoonright h(x), z) \wedge D(\vec{a}, y, z, g(h(x)))).$$

In view of the definitions of the function f and the formula $B(u, v)$ we can transform this assertion into

$$(7) \quad (\forall x \in b) \exists z (B(\{\langle h(y), f(y) \rangle : \langle y, x \rangle \in c\}, z) \wedge D(\vec{a}, x, z, f(x))).$$

Looking at the definition of $B(u, v)$ once more, we see that (7) can be simplified to

$$(8) \quad (\forall x \in b) D(\vec{a}, x, \{\langle y, f(y) \rangle : \langle y, x \rangle \in c\}, f(x)).$$

This means, however, that we have $\text{Hier}_D^+(\vec{a}, b, c, f)$, and therefore the proof of our lemma is completed. \square

In his well-ordering proof for second order arithmetic with Σ_1^1 transfinite dependent choice, R\"ude often makes use of Π_2^1 reflection on ω -models of ACA_0 . In our present context, this part is taken over by Π_2 reflection on $\overline{\text{Ad}}$. The “topological closure” $\overline{\text{Ad}}$ of the predicate Ad is obtained by adding to the admissibles also the limits of admissibles,

$$\overline{\text{Ad}}(d) := \text{Ad}(d) \vee (d \neq \emptyset \wedge d = \bigcup \{x \in d : \text{Ad}(x)\}).$$

Clearly each element of $\overline{\text{Ad}}$ satisfies Δ_0 separation and models the theory BS^0 . We prove a uniform version of Π_2 reflection on $\overline{\text{Ad}}$ in a form tailored for our later purposes.

Lemma 7 (Π_2 reflection on $\overline{\text{Ad}}$) *For any Σ formula $A(\vec{u}, v, w)$ of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u}, v, w free there exists a Σ formula $A^\sharp(\vec{u}, v)$ of \mathcal{L}^* with at most the variables \vec{u}, v free so that the following two assertions can be proved in $\text{KPI}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$:*

1. $\forall x \exists y A(\vec{a}, x, y) \rightarrow \exists! z A^\sharp(\vec{a}, z)$.
2. $\forall x \exists y A(\vec{a}, x, y) \rightarrow$
 $\forall z (A^\sharp(\vec{a}, z) \rightarrow \vec{a} \in z \wedge \overline{\text{Ad}}(z) \wedge (\forall x \in z)(\exists y \in z) A^z(\vec{a}, x, y))$.

PROOF We work informally in $\text{KPI}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ and begin with introducing the following abbreviations:

$$B_A(\vec{u}, v, w) := \vec{u}, v \in w \wedge \text{Ad}(w) \wedge (\forall x \in v)(\exists y \in w) A^w(\vec{u}, x, y)$$

$$C_A(\vec{u}, v, w) := B_A(\vec{u}, v, w) \wedge (\forall z \in w) \neg B_A(\vec{u}, v, z)$$

Obviously, $B_A(\vec{u}, v, w)$ and $C_A(\vec{u}, v, w)$ are Δ_0 formulas, and with Σ reflection and the limit axiom (Lim) we obtain for arbitrary parameters \vec{a} that

$$(1) \quad \forall x \exists y A(\vec{a}, x, y) \rightarrow \forall v \exists w B_A(\vec{a}, v, w).$$

Hence Lemma 3, i.e. the fact that an admissible cannot contain itself, and Lemma 4 imply in view of (1) that

$$(2) \quad \forall x \exists y A(\vec{a}, x, y) \rightarrow \forall v \exists! w C_A(\vec{a}, v, w).$$

The operation described by this fact will now be iterated along the standard less relation $<_{\mathbf{N}}$ on the natural numbers \mathbf{N} . To adjust everything to the formulation of Theorem 6 we define

$$D_A(\vec{u}, x, y, z) := C_A(\vec{u}, \bigcup \{v : (\exists w \in \mathbf{N})(w <_{\mathbf{N}} x \wedge \langle w, v \rangle \in y)\}, z).$$

Trivially, we have $\text{Wo}(\mathbf{N}, <_{\mathbf{N}})$. Furthermore, (2) implies that

$$(3) \quad \forall x \exists y A(\vec{a}, x, y) \rightarrow (\forall x \in \mathbf{N}) \forall y \exists! z D_A(\vec{a}, x, y, z).$$

Because of Theorem 6 we consequently know that there exists a function f whose domain is the set \mathbf{N} and which satisfies $\text{Hier}_{D_A}^+(\vec{a}, \mathbf{N}, <_{\mathbf{N}}, f)$, i.e.

$$(4) \quad \forall x \exists y A(\vec{a}, x, y) \rightarrow \exists f \text{Hier}_{D_A}^+(\vec{a}, \mathbf{N}, <_{\mathbf{N}}, f).$$

The function f which is claimed to exist in (4) has to be unique. Thus also the set d ,

$$d := \bigcup \{f(x) : x \in \mathbf{N}\},$$

is uniquely determined. Under the assumption $\forall x \exists y A(\vec{a}, x, y)$ it is now easily verified that we have for this set d the desired properties $\vec{a} \in d$, $\overline{\text{Ad}}(d)$ and $(\forall x \in d)(\exists y \in d)A^d(\vec{a}, x, y)$.

To finish the proof of our lemma, we set

$$A^\sharp(\vec{u}, v) := \exists f (\text{Hier}_{D_A}^+(\vec{u}, \mathbf{N}, <_{\mathbf{N}}, f) \wedge v = \bigcup \{f(x) : x \in \mathbf{N}\}).$$

Our previous considerations make it clear that for this Σ formula $A^\sharp(\vec{u}, v)$ both assertions of our lemma are satisfied. \square

5 The well-ordering proof in $\text{KP}i^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$

Now the stage is set for extending the well-ordering proof in Jäger, Setzer, Kahle and Strahm [5] to our set theory $\text{KP}i^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$, similar to how Rüede [8] adopts it for the treatment of Σ_1^1 transfinite dependent choice. We will show that all ordinals less than $\varphi\omega 00$ are provable in $\text{KP}i^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$.

As in, for example, Jäger and Strahm [6] we work with the *ternary Veblen functions* for coping with an sufficiently long initial segment of the ordinals. The usual Veblen hierarchy is generated by the binary function φ , starting off with $\varphi 0 \beta = \omega^\beta$, and often discussed in the literature, cf. e.g. Pohlers [7] or Schütte [10]. The ternary Veblen function φ is easily obtained from the binary φ as follows:

1. $\varphi 0 \beta \gamma$ is $\varphi \beta \gamma$.
2. If $\alpha > 0$, then $\varphi \alpha 0 \gamma$ denotes the γ th ordinal which is strongly critical with respect to all functions $\lambda \xi. \lambda \eta. \varphi \delta \xi \eta$ for $\delta < \alpha$.

3. If $\alpha > 0$ and $\beta > 0$, then $\varphi\alpha\beta\gamma$ denotes the γ th common fixed point of the functions $\lambda\eta.\varphi\alpha\delta\eta$ for $\delta < \beta$.

Let Ξ_0 be the least ordinal greater than 0 which is closed under addition and the ternary φ . In the following we will work with a standard primitive recursive notation system (OT, \prec) for all ordinals less than Ξ_0 . All required definitions are straightforward generalizations of those used for building a notation system for Γ_0 (cf. [7, 10]) and can be omitted.

In this section we let $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \dots$ (possibly with subscripts) range over the set OT ; in addition, ℓ is used for codes of limit ordinals; the terms $\hat{0}, \hat{1}, \hat{2}, \dots$ act as codes for the finite ordinals. To simplify the notation we often write the ordinal constants and ordinal functions such as, for example,

$$0, \quad 1, \quad \omega, \quad \lambda\xi.\lambda\eta.(\xi + \eta), \quad \lambda\xi.\omega^\xi, \quad \lambda\zeta.\lambda\xi.\lambda\eta.\varphi\zeta\xi\eta$$

instead of the corresponding codes and primitive recursive functions. Another useful binary operation on ordinal notations, introduced in Jäger, Setzer, Kahle and Strahm [5], is given by

$$\mathbf{a} \uparrow \mathbf{b} := \exists \mathbf{c} \exists \ell (\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \ell).$$

For completeness we also recall how it is expressed that our specific primitive recursive relation \prec is a *well-ordering*, that a formula is *progressive* with respect to \prec and how *transfinite induction along \prec* is defined for arbitrary formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Wo}(\mathbf{a}) &:= \text{Wo}(\{\mathbf{b} : \mathbf{b} \prec \mathbf{a}\}, \{\langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{b} \rangle : \mathbf{c} \prec \mathbf{b} \prec \mathbf{a}\}), \\ \text{Prog}(A) &:= \forall \mathbf{a} ((\forall \mathbf{b} \prec \mathbf{a}) A(\mathbf{b}) \rightarrow A(\mathbf{a})), \\ \text{TI}(A, \mathbf{a}) &:= \text{Prog}(A) \rightarrow (\forall \mathbf{b} \prec \mathbf{a}) A(\mathbf{b}). \end{aligned}$$

Maybe apart from $\mathbf{a} \uparrow \mathbf{b}$, all these notions are standard in the context of well-ordering proofs. For dealing with $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ we need further predicates $\mathcal{K}_n(u)$ and $\mathcal{H}_n(\mathbf{a}, u, f)$ which are defined simultaneously by induction on the natural number n as well as the predicates $\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{a})$ and $\mathcal{M}_n(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{a})$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}(f) &:= \text{Fun}(f) \wedge \text{Dom}(f) = \text{OT}, \\ \mathcal{K}_1(a) &:= \text{Ad}(a), \\ \mathcal{K}_{n+1}(a) &:= \overline{\text{Ad}}(a) \wedge [\forall x \exists f (\mathcal{I}(f) \wedge \forall \mathbf{a} (\text{Wo}(\mathbf{a}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_n(\mathbf{a}, x, f)))]^a, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H}_n(\mathbf{a}, u, f) &:= \mathcal{T}(f) \wedge (\forall \mathbf{b} \prec \mathbf{a})(f \upharpoonright \mathbf{b} \in f(\mathbf{b}) \wedge u \in f(\mathbf{b}) \wedge \mathcal{K}_n(f(\mathbf{b}))), \\
\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{a}) &:= (\forall \mathbf{c} \prec \mathbf{b})(\forall x \in f(\mathbf{c}))\text{TI}(x, \mathbf{a}), \\
\mathcal{M}_n(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{a}) &:= \forall \mathbf{c}(\forall \mathfrak{d} \preceq \mathbf{b})(\omega^{1+\mathbf{a}} \uparrow \mathfrak{d} \wedge \mathcal{I}(\mathfrak{d}, f, \mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}(\mathfrak{d}, f, \varphi \hat{n} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{c})).
\end{aligned}$$

The first lemma concerning this machinery states that each set a is provably element of a set b which satisfies the property \mathcal{K}_n . It plays a key role in our well-ordering proof.

Lemma 8 (Main lemma) *For any natural number n greater than 0 there exists a Σ formula $F_n(u, v)$ of \mathcal{L}^* so that $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ proves*

$$\forall x \exists ! y F_n(x, y) \wedge \forall x \forall y (F_n(x, y) \rightarrow x \in y \wedge \mathcal{K}_n(y)).$$

PROOF We prove this assertions by complete induction on n . For $n = 1$ we simply have to set

$$F_1(u, v) := (v = u^+).$$

Because of Lemma 4 and the discussion following this lemma we know that this formula $F_1(u, v)$ satisfies our requirements. Now we assume $n > 1$ and apply the induction hypothesis to provide a Σ formula $F_{n-1}(u, v)$ so that $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ proves

$$(1) \quad \forall x \exists ! y F_{n-1}(x, y) \wedge \forall x \forall y (F_{n-1}(x, y) \rightarrow x \in y \wedge \mathcal{K}_n(y)).$$

Based on this Σ formula $F_{n-1}(u, v)$ we introduce the auxiliary Σ formula $B_n(u, v, w)$,

$$B_n(u, v, w) := F_{n-1}(\{u, v\}, w).$$

From (1) we immediately conclude that $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ proves

$$(2) \quad \forall x \forall y \exists ! z B_n(x, y, z).$$

Hence $B_n(u, v, w)$ defines a Σ operation to which we want to apply Theorem 6 in a next step. This theorem 6 implies for any parameter u and any element \mathbf{c} of OT that, provably in $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$,

$$(3) \quad \text{Wo}(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists g[\text{Fun}(g) \wedge \text{Dom}(g) = \{\mathfrak{d} : \mathfrak{d} \prec \mathbf{c}\} \wedge \\ (\forall \mathfrak{d} \prec \mathbf{c}) B_n(u, g \upharpoonright \mathfrak{d}, g(\mathfrak{d}))]. \end{array} \right.$$

Now define $E_n(u, \mathbf{c}, g)$ to be the Σ formula

$$\text{Fun}(g) \wedge \text{Dom}(g) = \{\mathfrak{d} : \mathfrak{d} \prec \mathbf{c}\} \wedge (\forall \mathfrak{d} \prec \mathbf{c}) B_n(u, g \upharpoonright \mathfrak{d}, g(\mathfrak{d})).$$

Until the end of this section we work informally in $\text{KPI}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ and rewrite statement (3) as

$$(4) \quad \forall \mathbf{c} \exists g (\text{Wo}(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow E_n(u, \mathbf{c}, g)).$$

Σ reflection, the limit axiom (Lim) and Σ persistence in connection with (4) guarantee the existence of an admissible set d such that

$$(5) \quad \forall \mathbf{c} (\exists g \in d) (\text{Wo}^d(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow E_n^d(u, \mathbf{c}, g)).$$

We further claim that for all elements g and g' of d

$$(6) \quad \text{Wo}^d(\mathbf{c}) \wedge \mathbf{a} \prec \mathbf{b} \prec \mathbf{c} \wedge E_n^d(u, \mathbf{b}, g) \wedge E_n^d(u, \mathbf{c}, g') \rightarrow g(\mathbf{a}) = g'(\mathbf{a}),$$

a fact that can be easily checked by inspecting the definitions of $E_n(u, \mathbf{b}, g)$ and $E_n(u, \mathbf{c}, g')$. A next step in the proof of our lemma is to set

$$f := \bigcup \{g \in d : \exists \mathbf{c} (\text{Wo}^d(\mathbf{c}) \wedge E_n^d(u, \mathbf{c}, g))\} \cup \{\langle \mathbf{c}, \emptyset \rangle : \neg \text{Wo}^d(\mathbf{c})\}.$$

f is an element of d^+ ; by (6) we know that it is a function, and $\text{Dom}(f) = \text{OT}$ is immediate from its definition. Assertion (5) and the definition of f yield, in addition, that

$$(7) \quad \text{Wo}^d(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow (\forall \mathfrak{d} \prec \mathbf{c}) (u \in f(\mathfrak{d}) \wedge f \upharpoonright \mathfrak{d} \in f(\mathfrak{d}) \wedge \mathcal{K}_{n-1}(f(\mathfrak{d})))$$

and this, in turn, implies because of Σ persistence and our previous remarks about f that

$$(8) \quad \forall x \exists f (\mathcal{T}(f) \wedge \forall \mathbf{c} (\text{Wo}(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(\mathbf{c}, x, f))).$$

The last step of our proof consists in applying Π_2 reflection on $\overline{\text{Ad}}$, to the Σ formula $A_n(u, v, w)$,

$$A_n(u, v, w) := (u = u) \wedge \mathcal{T}(w) \wedge \forall \mathbf{c} (\text{Wo}(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(\mathbf{c}, v, w)).$$

Lemma 7 implies the existence of a Σ formula $A_n^\sharp(u, v)$ so that from (8) we may deduce for any parameter a that

$$(9) \quad \exists ! y A_n^\sharp(a, y),$$

$$(10) \quad \forall y (A_n^\sharp(a, y) \rightarrow a \in y \wedge \overline{\text{Ad}}(y) \wedge (\forall x \in y) (\exists f \in y) A_n^y(a, x, f)).$$

By choosing $F_n(u, v)$ to be the formula $A_n^\sharp(u, v)$, the assertions (9) and (10) together with the definition of the formula $\mathcal{K}_n(v)$ immediately imply

$$\forall x \exists ! y F_n(x, y) \wedge \forall x \forall y (F_n(x, y) \rightarrow x \in y \wedge \mathcal{K}_n(y)).$$

This finishes the induction step, and therefore also the proof of our lemma is completed. \square

The proofs of the following three lemmas can be easily recaptured by (more or less notational) adaptations of the corresponding proofs in Jäger, Kahle Setzer and Strahm [5] and Rüede [8]. Therefore we omit all details and confine ourselves to providing exact references.

Lemma 9 *The following three assertions can be proved in BS^0 :*

1. $\mathcal{H}_1(\ell, u, f) \wedge \mathcal{I}(\ell, f, \mathbf{a}) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}(\ell, f, \varphi \mathbf{a} 0)$.
2. $\mathcal{H}_1(\ell, u, f) \rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{a} : \mathcal{I}(\ell, f, \varphi 10 \mathbf{a})\})$.
3. $\mathcal{H}_1(\mathbf{b}, u, f) \rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{a} : \mathcal{M}_1(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{a})\})$.

PROOF For all details concerning the proof of these three assertions see Lemma 5, Lemma 6 and Lemma 7 of [5]. \square

Lemma 10 *For any natural number n greater than 0 the following three assertions can be proved in BS^0 :*

1. $\mathcal{K}_{n+1}(a) \wedge [\forall x \forall f \forall \mathbf{b} (\mathcal{H}_n(\mathbf{b}, x, f) \rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{c} : \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{c})\}))]^a$
 $\rightarrow \forall \mathbf{c} [(\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \mathbf{c}) \rightarrow (\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \varphi \hat{n} \mathbf{c} 0)]$.
2. $\mathcal{K}_{n+1}(a) \wedge \forall \mathbf{c} [(\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \mathbf{c}) \rightarrow (\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \varphi \hat{n} \mathbf{c} 0)]$
 $\rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{c} : (\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \varphi(\hat{n}+1) 0 \mathbf{c})\})$.
3. $\mathcal{H}_n(\mathbf{b}, u, f) \wedge \forall a [\mathcal{K}_n(a) \rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{c} : (\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \varphi \hat{n} 0 \mathbf{c})\})]$
 $\rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{c} : \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{c})\})$.

PROOF For all details concerning the proof of these three assertions see Lemma 4, Lemma 5 and Lemma 6 of [8]. \square

Lemma 11 *For any natural number n greater than 0 the following three assertions can be proved in BS^0 :*

1. $\overline{\text{Ad}}(a) \rightarrow [\forall x \forall f \forall \mathbf{b} \mathcal{H}_n(\mathbf{b}, x, f) \rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{c} : \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbf{b}, f, \mathbf{c})\})]^a$.
2. $\mathcal{K}_{n+1}(a) \rightarrow \forall \mathbf{c} [(\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \mathbf{c}) \rightarrow (\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \varphi \hat{n} \mathbf{c} 0)]$.
3. $\mathcal{K}_{n+1}(a) \rightarrow \text{Prog}(\{\mathbf{c} : (\forall x \in a) \text{TI}(x, \varphi(\hat{n}+1) 0 \mathbf{c})\})$.

PROOF Start with showing that the first assertion implies the second and the second the third. Then prove the first assertion by induction on n . For details see Theorem 6 of [8]. \square

Theorem 12 (Lower bound) *For any natural number n we have that*

$$\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR}) \vdash \forall x \text{TI}(x, \varphi_{\hat{n}}00).$$

PROOF Fix any natural number n greater than 0. Arguing informally in $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$, let a be an arbitrary set. In view of Lemma 8 we know that there exist a set b satisfying

$$(1) \quad a \in b \wedge \mathcal{K}_{n+1}(b).$$

The second part of Lemma 11 yields, in addition, that

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{K}_{n+1}(b) \rightarrow \forall \mathbf{c}[(\forall x \in b) \text{TI}(x, \mathbf{c}) \rightarrow (\forall x \in b) \text{TI}(x, \varphi_{\hat{n}}\mathbf{c}0)],$$

and, consequently, if we set $\mathbf{c} = 0$,

$$(3) \quad \mathcal{K}_{n+1}(b) \rightarrow (\forall x \in b) \text{TI}(x, \varphi_{\hat{n}}00).$$

From (1) and (3) we conclude $\text{TI}(a, \varphi_{\hat{n}}00)$, which is exactly what we had to show. \square

An ordinal α is called provable in the theory \mathbb{T} – formulated in \mathcal{L}^* or a similar language – if there exists a primitive recursive well-ordering \triangleleft on the natural numbers of order-type α so that

$$\mathbb{T} \vdash \text{Wo}(\mathbb{N}, \triangleleft).$$

The least ordinal which is not provable in \mathbb{T} is called the *proof-theoretic ordinal* of \mathbb{T} and denoted by $|\mathbb{T}|$.

From Theorem 2, Theorem 12 above and the results of Jäger and Strahm [6], which tell us that $|\text{KPm}^0| \leq \varphi_{\omega}00$, we derive the following characterization of the theory $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ in terms of their proof-theoretic ordinal.

Corollary 13 *The set theories $\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})$ and KPm^0 have the same proof-theoretic strength, namely*

$$|\text{KPi}^0 + (\Sigma\text{-TR})| = |\text{KPm}^0| = \varphi_{\omega}00.$$

Of course, Theorem 2 and Theorem 12 also show that any ordinal less than $\varphi_{\omega}00$ is provable in KPm^0 . A direct proof of this result can be found in Strahm [11].

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