

# Representation of successor-type proof-theoretically regular ordinals via limits

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## Abstract

In this paper, we extend a result in [Ta04], that is, we show that every successor-type proof-theoretically regular ordinal has its own representation as a limit of a sequence consisting of certain canonical elements.

## 1 Introduction

In our previous paper [Ta04], we defined a set  $\mathbf{Reg}(\mathcal{T}(M))$  based on  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ , which was a primitive recursive well-ordered set defined by M.Rathjen to establish the proof theoretic ordinal of **KRM**. We call elements of  $\mathbf{Reg}(\mathcal{T}(M))$  “proof-theoretically regular ordinals based on  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  (ptros)”. In [Ta04], we also characterized some sort of ptros as proof-theoretical analogues of (hyper) inaccessible cardinals up to the least Mahlo cardinal. Since the characterization is based on  $\mathbf{Reg}(\mathcal{T}(M))$  as an analogue of the set of regular cardinals up to the least Mahlo cardinal, it is significant to characterize ptros and find the relationship between  $\mathbf{Reg}(\mathcal{T}(M))$  and the set of regular cardinals up to the least Mahlo cardinal. For these purpose, we are in the process of establishing a “canonical” fundamental sequence of each limit-type element of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ . A coherent way to establish an appropriate fundamental sequence of each limit-type element of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  can be expected to be a coherent way to re-construct each element of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  as a more familiar concept, and hence, it turns out to provide a desirable characterization of ptros as proof-theoretical analogues of regular cardinals.

In this paper, we extend a result in [Ta04] (cf. Theorem 2.11 in this paper). The result gives a fundamental sequence of the least “successor-type” ptro  $\psi_M^{\Omega_1}(\Omega_1)$ , by which  $\psi_M^{\Omega_1}(\Omega_1)$  can be characterized as the least fixed point of the function enumerating strongly critical ordinals. We here give a similar sequence  $\{\gamma_n\}_{n \in \omega}$  of every successor-type ptro  $\gamma$ . Compared with the previous result in [Ta04], the proof of the property that  $\gamma = \lim_{n \in \omega} \gamma_n$  needs some special attentions. Therefore, for (a certain type of) a given ordinal  $\delta$  less than  $\gamma$ , we construct a labeled tree informing us the number  $n \in \omega$  with  $\delta < \gamma_n$ .

In Section 2, we explain several definitions and results in [Ta04]. In Section 3, we show the extended version of the result above.

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## 2 Preliminaries

In this paper,  $M$  denotes the least Mahlo cardinal, and  $\varphi$  the veblin function. For more details, one can refer to [Bu92], [Ra98], [Ra99] or [Ta04].

**Definition 2.1** (Rathjen98,99). For given ordinals  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , we define a set  $C^M(\alpha, \beta)$  called a *Skolem's hull* as well as functions  $\chi^\alpha$  and  $\psi_M^\alpha$  called *collapsing functions*, as follows:

- (M1)  $\beta \cup \{0, M\} \subset C^M(\alpha, \beta)$ ;
  - (M2)  $\gamma = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 \ \& \ \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in C^M(\alpha, \beta) \Rightarrow \gamma \in C^M(\alpha, \beta)$ ;
  - (M3)  $\gamma = \varphi\gamma_1\gamma_2 \ \& \ \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in C^M(\alpha, \beta) \Rightarrow \gamma \in C^M(\alpha, \beta)$ ;
  - (M4)  $\gamma = \Omega_{\gamma_1} \ \& \ \gamma_1 \in C^M(\alpha, \beta) \Rightarrow \gamma \in C^I(\alpha, \beta)$ ;
  - (M5)  $\gamma = \chi^\xi(\delta) \ \& \ \xi, \delta \in C^M(\alpha, \beta) \ \& \ \xi < \alpha \ \& \ \xi \in C^M(\xi, \gamma) \ \& \ \delta < M \Rightarrow \gamma \in C^M(\alpha, \beta)$ ;
  - (M6)  $\gamma = \psi_M^\xi(\kappa) \ \& \ \xi, \kappa \in C^M(\alpha, \beta) \ \& \ \xi < \alpha \ \& \ \xi \in C^M(\xi, \gamma) \Rightarrow \gamma \in C^M(\alpha, \beta)$ ;
- $\chi^\alpha(\delta) \simeq$  the  $\delta^{th}$  regular cardinal  $\pi < M$  with  $C^M(\alpha, \pi) \cap M = \pi$ ;  
 $\psi_M^\alpha(\kappa) \simeq \min\{\rho < \kappa : C^M(\alpha, \rho) \cap \kappa = \rho \wedge \kappa \in C^M(\alpha, \rho)\}$ .

### Definition 2.2

- (i)  $\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \alpha + \beta : \Leftrightarrow \gamma = \alpha + \beta \ \& \ \gamma > \alpha \geq \beta \ \& \ \beta$  is an additive principal number.
- (ii)  $\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \varphi\alpha\beta : \Leftrightarrow \gamma = \varphi\alpha\beta \ \& \ \alpha, \beta < \gamma$ .
- (iii)  $\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \Omega_\alpha : \Leftrightarrow \gamma = \Omega_\alpha \ \& \ \alpha < \gamma$ .
- (iv)  $\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \psi_I^\alpha(\kappa) : \Leftrightarrow \gamma = \psi_I^\alpha(\kappa) \ \& \ \alpha \in C^I(\alpha, \gamma)$ .
- (v)  $\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \chi^\alpha(\beta) : \Leftrightarrow \gamma = \chi^\alpha(\beta) \ \& \ \beta < \gamma \ \& \ \alpha \in C^M(\alpha, \gamma)$ .

**Definition 2.3** (Rathjen95,98). We define a set  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  called an *elementary ordinal representation system for KPM* and the *degree*  $d(\alpha) < \omega$  of each element  $\alpha$  of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ , as follows:

- (i)  $0, M \in \mathcal{T}(M) \ \& \ d(0) = d(M) = 0$ ;
- (ii)  $(\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \alpha + \beta \ \& \ \alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{T}(M)) \Rightarrow (\gamma \in \mathcal{T}(M) \ \& \ d(\gamma) = \max\{d(\alpha), d(\beta)\} + 1)$ ;
- (iii)  $(\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \varphi\alpha\beta \ \& \ \alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{T}(M) \ \& \ (\gamma < M \text{ or } \alpha = 0)) \Rightarrow (\gamma \in \mathcal{T}(M) \ \& \ d(\gamma) = \max\{d(\alpha), d(\beta)\} + 1)$ ;
- (iv)  $(\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \Omega_\alpha < M \ \& \ \alpha > 0 \ \& \ \alpha \in \mathcal{T}(M)) \Rightarrow (\gamma \in \mathcal{T}(M) \ \& \ d(\gamma) = d(\alpha) + 1)$ ;
- (v)  $(\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \chi^\xi(\alpha) \ \& \ \xi, \alpha \in \mathcal{T}(M)) \Rightarrow (\gamma \in \mathcal{T}(M) \ \& \ d(\gamma) = d(\alpha) + 1)$ ;
- (vi)  $(\gamma =_{\text{nf}} \psi_M^\alpha(\kappa) \ \& \ \kappa, \alpha \in \mathcal{T}(M)) \Rightarrow (\gamma \in \mathcal{T}(M) \ \& \ d(\gamma) = \max\{d(\kappa), d(\alpha)\} + 1)$ .

**Theorem 2.4** (Rathjen91, Buchholz92). (1) Each element of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  has a unique representation with  $0, M, +, \varphi, \Omega, \chi, \psi_M$ .

(2)  $|\mathbf{KPM}| \leq \psi_M^{\varepsilon_{M+1}}(\Omega_1) = \mathcal{T}(M) \cap \Omega_1$ , where  $|\mathbf{KPM}|$  denotes the proof theoretic ordinal of **KPM**.

**Definition 2.5** An ordinal  $\gamma$  is called a *proof-theoretically regular ordinal based on  $\mathcal{T}(M)$*  if  $\gamma$  is (expressed by) an element of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  having the form of  $\psi_M^\kappa(\Omega_1)$  with  $\kappa \in \mathbf{Reg}$ , where  $\mathbf{Reg}$  denotes the set of regular cardinals.

**Definition 2.6** A ptro  $\gamma$  is called a *successor-type ptro* if  $\gamma$  has an element  $\theta \in \mathcal{T}(M)$  satisfying that  $\gamma$  is the least ptro larger than  $\theta$ .

**Definition 2.7** An ordinal  $\gamma$  is called a *proof-theoretically inaccessible ordinal based on  $\mathcal{T}(M)$*  if  $\gamma$  is an element of  $\mathbf{Reg}(\mathcal{T}(M))$  as well as the supremum of  $\mathbf{Reg}(\mathcal{T}(M)) \cap \gamma$ , where  $\mathbf{Reg}(\mathcal{T}(M))$  denotes the set of ptros based on  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ .

**Theorem 2.8** (Takaki 04). All ptros are classified into the following two types:

- (i) Successor-type ptros, which are of the form  $\psi_M^{\Omega_{\alpha+1}}(\Omega_1)$  or  $\psi_M^{\Omega_1}(\Omega_1)$ ;
- (ii) Proof-theoretically inaccessible ordinals, which are of the form  $\psi_M^{\chi^\alpha(\beta)}(\Omega_1)$  or  $\psi_M^M(\Omega_1)$ .

**Definition 2.9** For each  $n \in \omega$ , we define  $\Psi_n$  by:

$$\Psi_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 0; \\ \psi_M^{\Psi_{n-1}}(\Omega_1) & \text{if } n > 0. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 2.10** For each  $n \in \omega$ ,  $\Psi_n \in \mathcal{T}(M)$  and  $\Psi_n < \Psi_{n+1}$ .

The purpose of this paper is to extend the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.11** (cf. Theorem 4 in [Ta04]).  $\psi_M^{\Omega_1}(\Omega_1) = \lim_{n \in \omega} \Psi_n$ .

### 3 Representation of successor-type ptros

**Definition 3.1** Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be elements of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ . Then, for each  $n \in \omega$ , we define an ordinal  $\Psi_n^\beta(\alpha)$ , as follows:

$$\Psi_n^\beta(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \beta & \text{if } n = 0; \\ \psi_M^{\Psi_{n-1}^\beta(\alpha)}(\Omega_{\alpha+1}) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In particular,  $\Psi_n(\alpha) := \Psi_n^0(\alpha)$

$\Psi_n^\beta(\alpha)$  also satisfies properties of  $\Psi_n$ .

**Lemma 3.2** For each  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{T}(M)$ , if

$$\beta < \psi_M^\beta(\Omega_{\alpha+1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \forall \xi \left( \alpha < \xi \Rightarrow \beta \in C^M(\beta, \xi) \right)$$

then, for each  $n \in \omega$ ,

$$\Psi_n^\beta(\alpha) \in \mathcal{T}(M) \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_n^\beta(\alpha) < \Psi_{n+1}^\beta(\alpha). \quad (1)$$

In particular, for each  $\alpha \in \mathcal{T}(M)$  and  $n < \omega$ ,

$$\Psi_n(\alpha) \in \mathcal{T}(M) \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_n(\alpha) < \Psi_{n+1}(\alpha).$$

**Proof.** This lemma is shown by checking the properties in (1) as well as

$$\forall \xi \left( \alpha < \xi \Rightarrow \Psi_n^\beta(\alpha) \in C^M(\Psi_n^\beta(\alpha), \xi) \right),$$

by using induction on  $n$ . □

Now we give a representation of each successor-type proto via  $\Psi_n(\alpha)$  and the concept of limit.

**Theorem 3.3** For each  $\alpha$  with  $\psi_M^{\Omega_{\alpha+1}}(\Omega_1) \in \mathcal{T}(M)$ ,

$$\psi_M^{\Omega_{\alpha+1}}(\Omega_1) = \lim_{n \in \omega} \psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1). \quad (2)$$

**Proof.** Since in [Ta04] we dealt with the case where  $\alpha = 0$ , it suffices to show (2) in the case where  $\alpha > 0$ .

[1] One can show that  $\psi_M^{\Omega_{\alpha+1}}(\Omega_1) \geq \lim_{n \in \omega} \psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1)$ , by the following two claims.

**Claim 1** (cf. Lemmas 9.(3) and 11 in [Ta04]). For each  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ,  $\psi_M^\beta(\Omega_{\alpha+1})$  is defined and  $\Omega_\alpha < \psi_M^\beta(\Omega_{\alpha+1}) < \Omega_{\alpha+1}$ .

**Claim 2** (cf. Lemma 10 in [Ta04]). For each  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  and  $\pi \in \mathbf{Reg}$ , if  $\psi_M^{\alpha_1}(\pi)$  and  $\psi_M^{\alpha_2}(\pi)$  are defined and if  $\alpha_1 \leq \alpha_2$ , then  $\psi_M^{\alpha_1}(\pi) \leq \psi_M^{\alpha_2}(\pi)$ .

[2] In order to show that  $\psi_M^{\Omega_{\alpha+1}}(\Omega_1) \leq \lim_{n \in \omega} \psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1)$ , we show that, for each  $\gamma < \psi_M^{\Omega_{\alpha+1}}(\Omega_1)$ , there exists an  $n \in \omega$  with  $\gamma \leq \psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1)$ , by using induction on  $d(\gamma)$ .

Since it is easy to check the property above in any case except the case where  $\gamma = \psi_M^\xi(\pi)$ <sup>1</sup>, we let  $\gamma = \psi_M^\xi(\pi)$  in what follows.

For the given  $\xi$  (and  $\alpha$ ), we now define a labeled binary tree  $T_2(\xi)$  (more precisely,  $T_2(\xi, \alpha)$ ).

**Definition 3.4** We define a labeled binary tree  $T_2(\xi)$  to satisfy the following property (i).

(i) For each node  $s \in T_2(\xi)$ , we denote the label of  $s$  by  $l_s$ . Then, the label  $l_s$  of each node in  $T_2(\xi)$  is an element of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  satisfying:

- (i.i)  $l_s$  is a subterm of  $\xi$ ;
- (i.ii)  $l_s \leq \xi$ ;
- (i.iii)  $l_s \in C^M(\xi, \psi_M^\xi(\Omega_1))$ .

<sup>1</sup>More precisely, we should assume that  $\gamma =_{\text{inf}} \psi_M^\xi(\pi)$ . However, we use only the symbol “=” unless we need special attention.

(ii) We define each node of  $T_2(\xi)$  and its label, by using recursion on the distance from the root of  $T_2(\xi)$ , as follows.

(ii.0) If  $s \in T_2(\xi)$  is the root, then  $l_s$  is  $\xi$ .

Let  $s$  be a node of  $T_2(\xi)$ . Then, we define the successors (successor nodes) of  $s$  as well as their labels, according to the following conditions of  $l_s$ .

(ii.i) If  $l_s = 0$ , then  $s$  is a leaf, that is,  $s$  has no successor node.

(ii.ii) If  $l_s = \delta + \eta$  or  $l_s = \varphi\delta\eta$ , then  $s$  has successors  $s_1$  and  $s_2$ , and  $l_{s_1} := \delta, l_{s_2} := \eta$ .

(ii.iii) If  $l_s = \Omega_\beta$  and  $l_s = \chi^\delta(\eta)$ , then  $s$  is a leaf.

(ii.iv) Let  $l_s = \psi_M^\delta(\tau)$ . In this case,  $\tau \leq \Omega_{\alpha+1}$  since  $l_s \leq \xi$ .

(ii.iv.i) If  $\tau < \Omega_{\alpha+1}$ , then  $s$  is a leaf.

(ii.iv.ii) If  $\tau = \Omega_{\alpha+1}$ , then  $s$  has a successor  $s_1$  and  $l_{s_1} := \delta$ .

**Claim 3**  $T_2(\xi)$  is well-defined to be a finite tree.

(Proof of Claim 3: In order to show that  $T_2(\xi)$  is well-defined, we show that, for each node  $s$  of  $T_2(\xi)$ ,  $l_s$  satisfies the properties (i.i)~(i.iii) above, by using induction on the distance from the root to  $s$ .

If  $s$  is the root, it is trivial since  $l_s = \xi$ .

We let  $l_s = \psi_M^\delta(\Omega_{\alpha+1})$  and show that  $\delta$  satisfies (i.i)~(i.iii), as follows. By induction hypothesis,  $l_s$  is a subterm of  $\xi$ ,  $l_s \leq \xi$  and  $l_s \in C^M(\xi, \gamma)$ . Then,  $\delta$  is also a subterm of  $\xi$ . On the other hand,  $l_s > \Omega_1 > \gamma$ . So, we have  $\delta \in C^M(\xi, \gamma)$  and  $\delta < \xi$  from Definition 2.1.(M5) and  $l_s \in C^M(\xi, \gamma)$ .

Any other case is similar to the case above.

Moreover, for each node  $s \in T_2(\xi)$  and each successor  $s'$  of  $s$ , it holds that  $d(s) > d(s')$ . So,  $T_2(\xi)$  is finite.  $\square$

**Definition 3.5** (1) A node  $s$  of  $T_2(\xi)$  ( $=T_2(\xi, \alpha)$ ) is said to be *critical* when  $l_s = \psi_M^\delta(\Omega_{\alpha+1})$  for some  $\delta$ . CN denotes the set of critical nodes (of  $T_2(\xi)$ ).

(2) For each path  $p$  of each subtree of  $T_2(\xi)$ , the number of critical nodes in  $p$  is called the *weight* of  $p$ . Moreover, for each subtree  $T$  of  $T_2(\xi)$ , the maximum number of weights of all paths of  $T$  is called the *weight* of  $T$ , and denoted by  $\text{wt}(T)$ . Furthermore, for each node  $s$  of  $T_2(\xi)$ , the weight of the subtree of  $T_2(\xi)$  with root  $s$  is called the *weight* of  $s$ , and denoted by  $\text{wt}(s)$ .

(3) For each subtree  $T$  of  $T_2(\xi)$ , the maximum length of all paths of  $T$  is called the *height* of  $T$ . Moreover, for each node  $s$  of  $T_2(\xi)$ , the height of the subtree of  $T_2(\xi)$  with root  $s$  is called the *depth* of  $s$ , and denoted by  $\text{dp}(s)$ .

**Claim 4** For each node  $s$  of  $T_2(\xi)$ , it holds that  $l_s < \Psi_{\text{wt}(s)+1}(\alpha)$ .

(Proof of Claim 4: We show the claim by induction on the depth of  $s$ .

(i) If  $s$  is a leaf, then  $l_s \leq \Omega_\alpha$ . So, since  $\Omega_\alpha < \Psi_n(\alpha)$  for each  $n > 0$ , we have  $l_s < \Psi_1(\alpha)$ .

(ii) Assume that  $s$  is not any leaf. Then,  $l_s =_{\text{nf}} \delta + \eta$ ,  $l_s =_{\text{nf}} \varphi\delta\eta$ , or  $l_s =_{\text{nf}} \psi_M^\delta(\Omega_{\alpha+1})$ .

Let  $l_s =_{\text{nf}} \psi_M^\delta(\Omega_{\alpha+1})$ . Then,  $l_s \in \text{CN}$  and  $s$  has one successor  $s_1$  with  $l_{s_1} = \delta$ . Since  $\text{wt}(s_1) = \text{wt}(s) - 1$  and  $\text{dp}(s_1) < \text{dp}(s)$ , the induction hypothesis implies that  $l_{s_1} < \Psi_{\text{wt}(s)}(\alpha)$ . On the other hand, since  $l_s \in \mathcal{T}(M)$  and  $\Psi_{\text{wt}(s)+1}(\alpha) \in \mathcal{T}(M)$ , we have  $l_s < \Psi_{\text{wt}(s)+1}(\alpha)$  (cf. Lemma 16 in [Ta04]).

Any other case is similar to or easier than the case above.  $\square$

By Claim 4, we have  $\xi < \Psi_{\text{wt}(\tau_2(\xi))+1}(\alpha)$ , and hence, by Claim 2,

$$\gamma \leq \psi_M^{\Psi_{\text{wt}(\tau_2(\xi))+1}(\alpha)}(\Omega_1).$$

So, the proof of Theorem 3.3 is completed.  $\square$

We can also expect that each  $\psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1)$  has itself as its regular expression, that is,  $\psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1) \in \mathcal{T}(M)$ . Unfortunately, we have not yet completed the proof of the property. However, it is not hard to show this property for each  $\alpha$  less than a certain ordinal. For example, one can easily show the following proposition.

**Proposition 3.6** For each  $\alpha \in \mathcal{T}(M)$  and  $n \in \omega$ , if  $\alpha \in C^M(\Psi_n(\alpha), \psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1))$ , then

$$\psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1) \in \mathcal{T}(M) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1) < \psi_M^{\Psi_{n+1}(\alpha)}(\Omega_1).$$

By Theorem 3.3 and Proposition 3.6, each successor-type ptro  $\psi_M^{\Omega_{\alpha+1}}(\Omega_1)$  has a *fundamental* sequence  $\{\psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1)\}_{n \in \omega}$  if  $\alpha \in C^M(\Psi_n(\alpha), \psi_M^{\Psi_n(\alpha)}(\Omega_1))$ .

## Reference

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