

# THE TREE PROPERTY AT $\omega_2$ AND BOUNDED FORCING AXIOMS

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ABSTRACT. We prove that the Tree Property at  $\omega_2$  together with BPFA is equiconsistent with the existence of a weakly compact reflecting cardinal, and if BPFA is replaced by BPFA( $\omega_1$ ) then it is equiconsistent with the existence of just a weakly compact cardinal. Similarly, we show that the Special Tree Property for  $\omega_2$  together with BPFA is equiconsistent with the existence of a reflecting Mahlo cardinal, and if BPFA is replaced by BPFA( $\omega_1$ ) then it is equiconsistent with the existence of just a Mahlo cardinal.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Recall that a cardinal  $\kappa$  is *weakly compact* if it is uncountable and for every function  $F : [\kappa]^2 \rightarrow 2$ , there is  $H \subseteq \kappa$  of cardinality  $\kappa$  such that  $F \upharpoonright [H]^2$  is constant. We use a characterization of weak compactness due to Hanf-Scott ([6]). A formula is  $\Pi_1^1$  if it is of the form  $\forall X\psi$ , where  $X$  is a second-order variable and  $\psi$  has only first-order quantifiers. A cardinal  $\kappa$  is  $\Pi_1^1$ -*indescribable* if whenever  $U \subseteq V_\kappa$  and  $\varphi$  is a  $\Pi_1^1$ -sentence such that  $(V_\kappa, \in, U) \models \varphi$  then for some  $\alpha < \kappa$ ,  $(V_\alpha, \in, U \cap V_\alpha) \models \varphi$ . As shown in [6], a cardinal  $\kappa$  is  $\Pi_1^1$ -indescribable if and only if it is weakly compact.

We say that a regular  $\kappa$  has the *tree property* ( $\text{TP}(\kappa)$ ) if every tree  $T$  of height  $\kappa$  with levels of size  $< \kappa$  has a branch of length  $\kappa$ . Trees of height  $\kappa$  with levels of size  $< \kappa$  and no branches of length  $\kappa$  are called  $\kappa$ -*Aronszajn*, in reference to Aronszajn's construction of a tree of height  $\omega_1$  each of whose levels is countable but with no uncountable branch (see [10]). Erdős and Tarski ([4]) showed that if  $\kappa$  is weakly compact, then  $\kappa$  has the tree property. They also proved that if  $\kappa$  is inaccessible and has the tree property, then  $\kappa$  is weakly compact.

We also recall a result of Silver stating that if  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  holds then  $\omega_2$  is weakly compact in  $L$  ([11, Theorem 5.9]). Mitchell proved that if  $\kappa$  is weakly compact then there is a generic extension where  $\kappa = \omega_2 = 2^\omega$  and  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  holds (see [11]). So in particular,  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  is equiconsistent with the existence of a weakly compact cardinal.

An  $\omega_2$ -Aronszajn tree  $T$  is *special* if there is a function  $f : T \rightarrow \omega_1$  such that for every  $s, t \in T$ , if  $s <_T t$  then  $f(s) \neq f(t)$ . We say that  $\omega_2$  has the *Special Tree Property*,  $\text{SpTP}(\omega_2)$ , if there are no special  $\omega_2$ -Aronszajn trees. Recall that an inaccessible cardinal  $\kappa$  is *Mahlo* if the set of all regular cardinals below  $\kappa$  is stationary, and so the set of all inaccessible cardinals

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Both authors wish to thank the FWF (Austrian Science Fund) for its support through Grant number P 25748. The second author was also partially supported by the grant P 26869-N25.

below  $\kappa$  is also stationary. Also in [11], Mitchell proved that the existence of a Mahlo cardinal is equiconsistent with  $\text{SpTP}(\omega_2)$ .

In this paper we study the relationship between some forcing axioms and the tree property for  $\omega_2$ .

We recall the following definitions:

**Definition 1.1.** (Shelah, see [14]) *A notion of forcing  $\mathbb{P}$  is proper if for every uncountable cardinal  $\kappa$ , all stationary subsets of  $[\kappa]^\omega$  remain stationary in  $\mathbb{P}$ -generic extensions.*

**Definition 1.2** (PFA). *For every proper notion of forcing  $\mathbb{P}$  and for every collection  $\langle D_\xi : \xi < \omega_1 \rangle$  of maximal antichains of  $\mathbb{P}$ , there exists a filter  $G \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  such that  $G \cap D_\xi \neq \emptyset$  for all  $\xi < \omega_1$ .*

**Definition 1.3** (BPFA). *For every proper notion of forcing  $\mathbb{P}$  and for every collection  $\langle D_\xi : \xi < \omega_1 \rangle$  of maximal antichains of  $\mathbb{P}$ , each of size at most  $\omega_1$ , there exists a filter  $G \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  such that  $G \cap D_\xi \neq \emptyset$  for all  $\xi < \omega_1$ .*

Bagaria and Stavi showed that BPFA is equivalent to the following statement: For every proper forcing  $\mathbb{P}$ , every  $\Sigma_1$  formula with parameters from  $H(\omega_2)$  that holds in a  $\mathbb{P}$ -generic extensions also holds in  $V$  (see Theorem 5 in [1]).

**Definition 1.4.** *An uncountable regular cardinal  $\kappa$  is reflecting if for every  $a \in H_\kappa$  and any formula  $\varphi(x)$ , if there is a regular cardinal  $\theta$  such that  $H_\theta \models \varphi(a)$ , then there is a regular  $\theta' < \kappa$  such that  $a \in H_{\theta'} \models \varphi(a)$ .*

In [5], M. Goldstern and S. Shelah proved that BPFA is equiconsistent with the existence of a reflecting cardinal.

$\text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$  is the statement of BPFA restricted to forcings of size at most  $\omega_1$ .  $\text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$  is only slightly stronger than  $\text{MA}(\omega_1)$ ; it is easy to force it by starting with GCH and in  $\omega_2$  steps hitting every proper forcing of size  $\omega_1$  via a countable support iteration.

In this paper we prove that the existence of a weakly compact cardinal is equiconsistent with the conjunction of  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  and  $\text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$ . Also we prove that  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  together with BPFA is equiconsistent with the existence of a weakly compact which is also reflecting.

Using similar methods, we establish the same results for  $\text{SpTP}(\omega_2)$  with “weakly compact” replaced by “Mahlo”.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. PRELIMINARIES AND BASIC DEFINITIONS

We recall some basic properties of forcing notions used in our constructions. Given two sets  $I, J$ , and a cardinal  $\lambda$ , let  $\mathbb{P}_\lambda(I, J)$  be the set of all partial functions  $p$  from  $I$  to  $J$  such that  $|\text{dom}(p)| < \lambda$ . The order in  $\mathbb{P}_\lambda(I, J)$  is given by  $\supseteq$ .

<sup>1</sup>Sakai and Velickovic showed in [13] that the Weak Reflection Principle (WRP) together with  $\text{MA}_{\omega_1}$ (Cohen) implies that  $\omega_2$  has the Super Tree Property. It is implicit in their proof that  $\text{WRP}(\omega_2) + \text{MA}_{\omega_1}$ (Cohen) implies  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$ . This leads to an alternative proof of the consistency of  $\text{TP}(\omega_2) + \text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$  from a weakly compact cardinal. Our construction is flexible enough to yield further results, such as the results mentioned regarding the Special Tree Property.

$\mathbb{P}_\kappa(\kappa \times \lambda, 2)$  is usually denoted by  $\text{Add}(\kappa, \lambda)$  and  $\mathbb{P}_\kappa(\kappa, \lambda)$  is usually denoted by  $\text{Col}(\kappa, \lambda)$ .

We say that a notion of forcing is  $\omega$ -closed if every countable descending sequence of conditions  $p_0 \geq p_1 \geq p_2 \geq \dots \geq p_n \geq \dots$  has a lower bound.

We recall that  $\omega$ -closed and c.c.c. forcings are also proper (see for example [9, Lemma V.7.2]). A two-step iteration of proper forcing is proper ([9, Lemma V.7.4]). Even more, Shelah showed that a countable support iteration of forcing notions is proper (see for example [7, Theorem 31.15]).

We will use in our forcing constructions the following forcing notion due to Baumgartner [2] which specializes any tree of height  $\omega_1$  with no uncountable branches (the tree may have uncountable levels).

**Definition 2.1.** *Given a tree  $T$  of height  $\omega_1$  with no uncountable branches we define the partial order  $\mathbb{P}_{\text{sp}}(T)$  by  $a \in \mathbb{P}_{\text{sp}}(T)$  if and only if  $a$  is a function from a finite subset of  $T$  into  $\omega$  such that  $a(t_0) \neq a(t_1)$  whenever  $t_0, t_1$  are comparable in  $T$ .*

Baumgartner [2] showed that the forcing  $\mathbb{P}_{\text{sp}}(T)$  defined above has the countable chain condition. And Silver showed that if  $T$  is an  $\omega_2$ -Aronszajn tree then  $T$  still has no cofinal branch after forcing with  $\text{Add}(\omega, \omega_2) * \text{Col}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$ . Therefore Baumgartner's specializing forcing can be applied to the restriction of  $T$  to a cofinal set of levels in this model; we still refer to this forcing as  $\mathbb{P}_{\text{sp}}(T)$ .

Given an uncountable cardinal  $\lambda$ , remember that a  $\square_\lambda$ -sequence is a sequence  $\langle c_\alpha : \alpha \in \text{Lim}(\lambda^+) \rangle$  such that for all  $\alpha \in \text{Lim}(\lambda^+)$ :

- (1)  $c_\alpha$  is club in  $\alpha$ ,
- (2)  $\text{ot}(c_\alpha) \leq \lambda$ ,
- (3)  $c_\alpha \cap \beta = c_\beta$  whenever  $\beta \in \text{Lim}(c_\alpha)$ .

Let  $\lambda$  be an uncountable cardinal. We define  $\mathbb{P}(\square_\lambda)$  as follows:  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  iff

- $\text{dom}(p) = (\beta + 1) \cap \text{Lim}(\lambda^+)$  for some  $\beta \in \text{Lim}(\lambda^+)$ .
- $p(\alpha)$  is a club set in  $\alpha$  and  $\text{ot}(p(\alpha)) \leq \lambda$  for all  $\alpha \in \text{dom}(p)$ .
- If  $\alpha \in \text{dom}(p)$ , then  $p(\alpha) \cap \beta = p(\beta)$  for every  $\beta \in \text{Lim}(p(\alpha))$ .

We order  $\mathbb{P}(\square_\lambda)$  by letting  $p \leq q$  if and only if  $q = p \upharpoonright_{\text{dom}(q)}$  for  $p, q \in \mathbb{P}(\square_\lambda)$ .

$\mathbb{P}(\square_\lambda)$  adds a  $\square_\lambda$ -sequence in the generic extension. It is due to Jensen and does not add  $\lambda$ -sequences (see [3]).

### 3. THE TREE PROPERTY AND FORCING AXIOMS

In this section we prove that  $\text{TP}(\omega_2) + \text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$  is equiconsistent with the existence of a weakly compact cardinal. In our proof we use a weakly compact  $\diamond$  sequence (Definition 3.2) to code objects during the iteration. We discuss first some of the properties of these weakly compact diamond sequences.

Given a cardinal  $\kappa$  and  $S \subseteq \kappa$ , remember Jensen's Diamond Principle  $\diamond_\kappa(S)$ : There is a sequence  $\langle D_\alpha : \alpha \in S \rangle$  such that for every  $X \subseteq \kappa$ , the set  $\{\alpha \in S : X \cap \alpha = D_\alpha\}$  is stationary. We recall the following (see Lemma 6.5 in [8]):

**Lemma 3.1.** *Suppose  $V = L$ . Given a regular cardinal  $\kappa$ ,  $\diamond_\kappa(S)$  holds for every stationary set  $S \subseteq \kappa$ .*

Actually, if  $\kappa$  is a weakly compact cardinal, we can have in  $L$  a stronger form of a diamond sequence.

**Definition 3.2.** *A weakly compact  $\diamond$  sequence for a cardinal  $\kappa$  is a sequence  $\langle D_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$  such that*

- (1)  $D_\alpha \subseteq \alpha$ ,
- (2) for every  $A \subseteq V_\kappa$  and for every  $\Pi_1^1$ -formula  $\varphi$  such that  $(V_\kappa, A) \models \varphi(A)$ , and for every  $D \subseteq \kappa$ , the set

$$S(A, \varphi, D) = \{\alpha < \kappa : (V_\alpha, A \cap V_\alpha) \models \varphi(A \cap V_\alpha) \text{ and } D \cap \alpha = D_\alpha\}$$

*is stationary in  $\kappa$ .*

Observe that the existence of a weakly compact diamond sequence can hold only if  $\kappa$  is weakly compact, due to the characterization of Hanf-Scott given in the introduction.

**Lemma 3.3.** *In  $L$ , there is a weakly compact  $\diamond$  sequence for  $\kappa$  whenever  $\kappa$  is a weakly compact cardinal.*

*Proof.* See [15, Theorem 2.13]. □

In this paper, in order to code some objects of the universe, we would like to deal with subsets of  $V_\alpha$  rather than just subsets of  $\alpha$ . We have the following:

**Lemma 3.4.** *For a given cardinal  $\kappa$ , suppose there is a weakly compact  $\diamond$  sequence  $\langle D_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$  for  $\kappa$ . Then there is a sequence  $\langle D_\alpha^* : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$  such that*

- (1)  $D_\alpha^* \subseteq V_\alpha$ ,
- (2) for every  $D^* \subseteq V_\kappa$  and every  $\Pi_1^1$ -formula  $\varphi$  such that  $(V_\kappa, D^*) \models \varphi(D^*)$ , the set

$$S^*(D^*, \varphi) = \{\alpha < \kappa : (V_\alpha, D^* \cap V_\alpha) \models \varphi(D^* \cap V_\alpha) \text{ and } D^* \cap V_\alpha = D_\alpha^*\}$$

*is stationary.*

*Proof.* Fix a weakly compact  $\diamond$ -sequence  $\langle D_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$  for  $\kappa$ . As we have mentioned, the existence of a weakly compact  $\diamond$  sequence for  $\kappa$  implies that  $\kappa$  is weakly compact due to the characterization of Hanf-Scott mentioned in the introduction. In particular,  $\kappa$  is inaccessible, so there is a bijection  $f : \kappa \rightarrow V_\kappa$  (see for example Lemma I.13.26 and Lemma I.13.31 in [9]). Observe that the set

$$C = \{\alpha < \kappa : f \upharpoonright_\alpha : \alpha \rightarrow V_\alpha \text{ is a bijection}\}$$

is a club set in  $\kappa$ . Define  $D_\alpha^* = f[D_\alpha]$  if  $\alpha \in C$  and empty otherwise. Let  $D^* \subseteq V_\kappa$  and  $\varphi$  be a  $\Pi_1^1$ -formula such that  $(V_\kappa, D^*) \models \varphi(D^*)$ . We need to show that the set  $S^*(D^*, \varphi)$  defined above is stationary. Since  $\langle D_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle$  is a weakly compact  $\diamond$ -sequence for  $\kappa$ , the set

$$S = S(D^*, \varphi, f^{-1}[D^*]) \cap C$$

is stationary (see Definition 3.2).

Now it is not hard to see that  $S \subseteq S^*(D^*, \varphi)$  and therefore  $S^*(D^*, \varphi)$  is stationary as desired. □

**Theorem 3.5.** *Suppose  $V = L$  and let  $\kappa$  be a weakly compact cardinal in  $L$ . Then there is a forcing iteration  $\mathbb{P}$  of countable support and length  $\kappa$  such that in  $L^{\mathbb{P}}$ , both  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  and  $\text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$  hold.*

*Proof.* We remark that we can find a  $\Pi_1^1$ -sentence  $\psi$  (with no parameter) such that  $L_\alpha$  satisfies  $\psi$  iff  $\alpha$  is inaccessible. For example, let  $\psi$  be the  $\Pi_1^1$ -sentence expressing: "There is no cofinal function from an ordinal into the class of ordinals,  $\omega$  exists and the power set axiom holds". Then  $\psi$  holds in  $L_\alpha$  iff  $\alpha$  is inaccessible.

Therefore, we can fix a weakly compact diamond sequence concentrated on inaccessible cardinals and with the properties of Lemma 3.4. Let

$$\langle D_\alpha : \alpha \text{ inaccessible, } \alpha < \kappa \rangle$$

be such a sequence.

Also observe that our weakly compact sequences can be concentrated on inaccessible cardinals, and in  $L$  we have  $L_\alpha = V_\alpha$  whenever  $\alpha$  is inaccessible.

We will perform a countable support iteration  $\langle \langle \mathbb{P}_\alpha : \alpha \leq \kappa \rangle, \langle \dot{Q}_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa \rangle \rangle$  in which at  $L$ -inaccessible stages  $\alpha$  we will use our weakly compact diamond sequence to ensure that there is no  $\omega_2$ -Aronszajn tree and at  $L$ -accessible stages we will ensure  $\text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$ .

Choose an enumeration  $\langle \dot{\mathbb{R}}_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa, \alpha \text{ not inaccessible} \rangle$  of all nice  $\mathbb{S}$ -names for forcings with universe  $\omega_1$  as  $\mathbb{S}$  ranges over forcings in  $L_\kappa$ . Moreover assume that this bookkeeping is redundant in the sense that each such  $\mathbb{S}$ -name appears cofinally often in this list.

We define our countable support iteration as follows.  $\dot{Q}_0$  is the trivial forcing. If  $\alpha$  is not inaccessible in  $L$  and  $\dot{\mathbb{R}}_\alpha$  is a  $\mathbb{P}_\alpha$ -name for a proper forcing in  $L[G_\alpha]$  (where  $G_\alpha$  denotes the  $\mathbb{P}_\alpha$ -generic) then declare  $\dot{Q}_\alpha$  to be  $\dot{\mathbb{R}}_\alpha * \text{Col}(\omega_1, \alpha)$ ; otherwise take  $\dot{Q}_\alpha$  to be the forcing  $\text{Col}(\omega_1, \alpha)$ .

Now suppose  $\alpha$  is inaccessible in  $L$ . Then  $\alpha$  is the  $\omega_2$  of  $L[G_\alpha]$ . See if  $D_\alpha$  is a  $\mathbb{P}_\alpha$ -name for an Aronszajn tree  $T_\alpha$  in  $L[G_\alpha]$ . If not, let  $\dot{Q}_\alpha$  be the trivial forcing. Otherwise let  $\dot{Q}_\alpha$  be

$$\text{Add}(\omega, \alpha) * \text{Col}(\omega_1, \alpha) * \mathbb{P}_{\text{sp}}(T),$$

i.e. add  $\alpha$  many Cohen reals followed by a Lévy collapse of  $\alpha$  to  $\omega_1$  followed by a specialization of  $T$  (more precisely, of the restriction of  $T$  to cofinally-many levels).

Now after  $\kappa$  steps,  $\kappa$  becomes  $\omega_2$  as the forcing is proper,  $\kappa$ -cc and collapses each  $\alpha < \kappa$  to  $\omega_1$ .

Suppose that  $\sigma$  were a  $\mathbb{P}$ -name for an  $\omega_2$ -Aronszajn tree in  $L[G]$  (where  $\mathbb{P}$  is the final iteration and  $G$  denotes the  $\mathbb{P}$ -generic).

Observe that  $\sigma$  can be regarded as a subset of  $V_\kappa$ . The statement " $\sigma$  is a  $\kappa$ -Aronszajn tree" is a  $\Pi_1^1$  statement about  $V_\kappa$  with  $\sigma$  as a predicate (in addition to basic first-order properties about  $(V_\kappa, \sigma)$  the key second order property is the nonexistence of a cofinal branch). Now if  $\phi$  is a  $\Pi_1^1$  sentence then the statement " $p$  forces  $\phi(\sigma)$ " is a  $\Pi_1^1$  statement about  $(V_\kappa, \sigma)$ . (The forcing relation for a first-order statement is first-order; from this it follows that the forcing relation for  $\Pi_1^1$  statements is  $\Pi_1^1$ .) (Note:  $\mathbb{P}_\kappa$  is another predicate in the sentence to be reflected; however  $\mathbb{P}_\kappa$  is actually first-order

definable over  $V_\kappa$ , using the weak compact diamond sequence, which can be chosen to be first-order definable over  $V_\kappa$ ).

Apply Diamond to get an inaccessible  $\alpha$  such that  $D_\alpha = \sigma \cap L_\alpha$  and  $D_\alpha$  is forced to be a name for an Aronszajn tree in  $\mathbb{P}_\alpha$ . But then at stage  $\alpha$ ,  $T_\alpha$ , the interpretation of  $D_\alpha$ , is specialized and therefore has no branch of length  $\alpha$  (as  $\omega_1$  is preserved). This contradicts the fact that  $T_\alpha$  is an initial segment of  $T$ , the interpretation of  $\sigma$ , and therefore must have branches of length  $\alpha$ .

Finally observe that in  $L[G]$  we also have BPFA( $\omega_1$ ) since any proper forcing  $\mathbb{Q}$  with universe  $\omega_1$  in  $L[G]$  is proper in  $L[G_\alpha]$  at cofinally-many stages  $\alpha$  where we forced with  $\mathbb{Q}$ , so surely we have a generic filter hitting  $\omega_1$  many dense sets for  $\mathbb{Q}$ .  $\square$

Observe that the above yields another proof of the consistency of TP( $\omega_2$ ) from a weakly compact cardinal:

**Corollary 3.6.** *The following are equiconsistent:*

- (1) *There exists a weakly compact cardinal;*
- (2) *TP( $\omega_2$ ) holds,*
- (3) *TP( $\omega_2$ ) + MA $_{\omega_1}$  holds,*
- (4) *TP( $\omega_2$ ) + BPFA( $\omega_1$ ) holds.*

**Definition 3.7.** *We say that a cardinal  $\kappa$  is weakly compact with respect to subsets of  $\omega_1$  whenever  $\kappa$  is weakly compact in  $L[A]$  for every  $A \subseteq \omega_1$ .*

We also have the following:

**Proposition 3.8.** *If there is a weakly compact cardinal  $\kappa$ , there is a model where BPFA holds,  $\omega_2$  is weakly compact relative to subsets of  $\omega_1$ , but  $\omega_2$  does not have the Tree Property.*

*Proof.* Start with a weakly compact cardinal  $\kappa$ , force BPFA with a forcing  $\mathbb{P}$  and then let  $\mathbb{P}(\square_{\omega_1})$  be the forcing which adds a  $\square_{\omega_1}$  sequence. Then TP( $\omega_2$ ) fails in the final model as  $\square_{\omega_1}$  is sufficient to yield the existence of an  $\omega_2$ -Aronszajn tree (see [3]).

**Claim 3.9.**  $\mathbb{P}(\square_{\omega_1})$  preserves BPFA over  $V^{\mathbb{P}}$ .

*Proof.* Observe that all subsets of  $\omega_1$  in  $V^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{P}(\square_{\omega_1})}$  are in  $V^{\mathbb{P}}$ , and any proper extension of  $V^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{P}(\square_{\omega_1})}$  is also a proper extension of  $V^{\mathbb{P}}$  as  $\mathbb{P}(\square_{\omega_1})$  is proper.  $\square$

**Claim 3.10.**  $\omega_2$  is weakly compact relative to subsets of  $\omega_1$  in  $V^{\mathbb{P}*\mathbb{P}(\square_{\omega_1})}$ .

*Proof.* Any subset of  $\omega_1$  is added by a forcing of size less than  $\kappa$ , and any such forcing preserves the weak compactness of  $\kappa$ .  $\square$

$\square$

So BPFA plus  $\omega_2$  weak compact relative to subsets of  $\omega_1$  is not enough to get TP( $\omega_2$ ). Obviously BPFA alone is not enough because its consistency strength, a reflecting cardinal, is less than that of TP( $\omega_2$ ), a weakly compact.

However, we have the following:

**Theorem 3.11.** *TP( $\omega_2$ ) + BPFA is equiconsistent with the existence of a weakly compact cardinal which is also reflecting.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\kappa$  is a weakly compact reflecting cardinal. Repeat the proof above, forcing  $\kappa$  to be  $\omega_2$ ,  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  and  $\text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$ , but instead of hitting proper forcings of size  $\omega_1$ , use the consistency proof of  $\text{BPFA}$  to force with proper forcings of size less than  $\kappa$  which witness  $\Sigma_1$  sentences with subsets of  $\omega_1$  as parameters. The only small change is that  $\alpha$  will not necessarily be the  $\omega_2$  of  $L[G_\alpha]$  whenever  $\alpha$  is  $L$ -inaccessible, but this will be the case for all  $L$ -inaccessible  $\alpha$  in a closed unbounded subset of  $\kappa$ . The fact that  $\kappa$  is reflecting implies that the latter forcings may be chosen to have size less than  $\kappa$ . After  $\kappa$  steps, we again have  $\text{TP}(\omega_2)$  and the extra forcing we have done ensures that we also have  $\text{BPFA}$ .

Conversely, suppose that we have  $\text{TP}(\omega_2) + \text{BPFA}$ . Then by [5],  $\omega_2$  is reflecting in  $L$  and by a result of Silver (see [11]),  $\omega_2$  is also weakly compact in  $L$ .  $\square$

We have some further open questions:

- (1)  $\text{Con}(\text{TP}(\omega_2) + \text{MA} + \mathfrak{c} = \omega_3)$ ?
- (2)  $\text{Con}(\text{TP}(\omega_3) + \text{MA})$ ?

Of course  $\text{Con}(\text{TP}(\omega_4) + \text{BPFA})$  is no problem because when forcing  $\text{TP}(\omega_4)$  one does not need to add subsets of  $\omega_1$ . And  $\text{TP}(\omega_3) + \text{BPFA}$  is inconsistent as  $\text{BPFA}$  implies that  $\text{GCH}$  holds at  $\omega_1$  (see [12]) whereas  $\text{TP}(\omega_3)$  implies the opposite.

#### 4. THE SPECIAL TREE PROPERTY AND FORCING AXIOMS

The proof is similar to that of our previous theorem. Therefore, we only give a sketch of the proof, just pointing out the differences. This time we use a simple  $\diamond$  sequence to code the names of special Aronszajn trees during the iteration.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Assume  $V = L$  and  $\kappa$  is a Mahlo cardinal. Then there is a forcing iteration  $\mathbb{P}$  of countable support and length  $\kappa$  such that in  $L^{\mathbb{P}}$ , both  $\text{SpTP}(\omega_2)$  and  $\text{BPFA}(\omega_1)$  hold.*

*Proof.* This time we consider a name for an  $\omega_2$  tree together with a specializing function (into  $\omega_1$ ) for it. Using a diamond sequence  $\langle D_\alpha : \alpha \text{ inaccessible} \rangle$ , find an inaccessible  $\alpha < \kappa$  where the name restricted to  $\alpha$  is a name for an  $\alpha$ -tree together with a specializing function for it, where  $\alpha$  is the  $\omega_2$  of  $V[G_\alpha]$  and where we guessed that name using the Diamond sequence. This  $\alpha$ -tree has no cofinal branch because it is specialized (into  $\omega_1$ ). Then in the construction we added  $\alpha$ -many Cohen reals followed by an  $\omega$ -closed Levy collapse of  $\alpha$  to  $\omega_1$  (the tree still has no cofinal branch) and specialized the tree (into  $\omega$ ). But this is a contradiction because any node on level  $\alpha$  of the original  $\omega_2$ -tree yields a cofinal branch through the  $\alpha$ -tree and then an injection of  $\alpha$  into  $\omega$ , contradicting the fact that  $\omega_1$  is preserved.  $\square$

As in the previous section (now using the result if [11] that  $\text{SpTP}(\omega_2)$  implies that  $\omega_2$  is Mahlo in  $L$ ), we have:

**Theorem 4.2.**  *$\text{SpTP}(\omega_2) + \text{BPFA}$  is equiconsistent with the existence of a Mahlo which is also reflecting.*

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