

Math 141a - Mathematical Logic I

Taught by Sebastien Vasey

Notes by Dongryul Kim

Fall 2018

⌋+instructor+⌋ ⌋+meetingtimes+⌋ ⌋+textbook+⌋ ⌋+enrolled+⌋ ⌋+grading+⌋
⌋+courseassistants+⌋

Contents

1	September 7, 2018	2
1.1	Overview	2
1.2	Counting	3
2	September 10, 2018	4
2.1	Ordinals	4
3	September 14, 2018	7
3.1	Operations on ordinals	7
3.2	Cardinalities	8
4	September 17, 2018	10
4.1	Cardinal arithmetic	10
4.2	Axiom of choice	11
5	September 21, 2018	13
5.1	Cantor's theorem on chains	13
5.2	Relations	13

1 September 7, 2018

Logic is roughly studying the foundational objects of math, for instance, sets, statements, proofs, etc.

1.1 Overview

Let me tell you few of the theorems we are going to discuss.

Theorem 1.1 (Gödel's completeness theorem). *Let T be a list of first-order axioms, and let φ be a first-order statement. Then $T \vdash \varphi$ if and only if $T \models \varphi$.*

The first symbol $T \vdash \varphi$ means that there is a proof of φ from the axioms in T . The second symbol $T \models \varphi$ means that any structure satisfying the axioms in T also satisfies φ . A proof shows that it is true for every structure, but the other direction is subtle. It means that if I can't find a unicorn everywhere, then there is a proof that show that unicorns don't exist.

Example 1.2. Let R be a binary relation, and let

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \text{"}R \text{ is an equivalence relation"} \\ &= \{\forall x R(x, x), \forall x \forall y (R(x, y) \rightarrow R(y, x)), \\ &\quad \forall x \forall y \forall z (R(x, y) \wedge R(y, z) \rightarrow R(x, z))\}. \end{aligned}$$

So if there is a statement that is true for every equivalence relation, it has a proof. For instance,

$$\varphi = \forall x \forall y \forall z ((R(x, y) \wedge \neg R(y, z)) \rightarrow \neg R(x, z))$$

has a proof.

So it is an interesting relation between syntax and semantics. Some cool consequences include the compactness theorem.

Theorem 1.3 (compactness theorem). *Let T be a list of first-order axioms. If every finite subset of T is satisfied by some structure, then T is satisfied by a structure.*

Consider the structure of $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$. Let us abstractly look at all the statements that are true for the real numbers and call this set T . For instance, $\forall x \forall y (x \cdot x + y \cdot y = 0 \rightarrow x = 0 \wedge y = 0)$. Now what we can do is to consider

$$T' = T \cup \{0 < c, c < 1, c < \frac{1}{2}, c < \frac{1}{3}, \dots\}.$$

Then every finite subset of $T_0 \subseteq T'$ is a subset of $T \cup \{0 < c, c < 1, \dots, c < \frac{1}{n}\}$ for some n . This is satisfied by $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, 0, 1, c = \frac{1}{n+1})$. By compactness, there is a structure satisfying this, say \mathbb{R}^* . One way to actually construct it is to take an ultraproduct of \mathbb{R} . Using this, you can do non-standard analysis.

Another application of the compactness theorem is the Ax–Grothendieck theorem.

Theorem 1.4 (Ax-Grothendieck). *If $f : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ is a polynomial mapping and f is injective, then f is surjective.*

Note that an injective function from a finite set to itself is automatically bijective. In this case, using the compactness theorem, you can pretend that \mathbb{C} is a finite set. There are other proofs, but they are nontrivial.

We can also talk about the back and forth method. You can show that $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ is the unique countable dense linear order without endpoints. This also shows that the first-order theory of $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ is decidable, i.e., that is an algorithm that proves or disproves anything about $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$.

1.2 Counting

We can count past infinity as

$$0, 1, 2, \dots, n, \dots, \omega, \omega + 1, \omega + 2, \dots, \omega + \omega, \dots, \omega \cdot \omega, \dots, \omega^\omega, \dots$$

These are called **ordinals**. We define an ordinal as the set of ordinals below it, for instance as $\alpha + 1 = \alpha \cup \{\alpha\}$. They will be used to generalize induction to transfinite induction.

We can also define **cardinals**. We say that the two sets X and Y have the same cardinality if there is a bijection between them. We define the cardinality of X as the least ordinal α that has the same cardinality as X .

Proposition 1.5 (well-ordering principle). *The statement that every set has a cardinality is equivalent to the Axiom of Choice.*

2 September 10, 2018

Ordinals are like countings.

2.1 Ordinals

Definition 2.1. A **chain** is a pair $(A, <)$ where A is a set and $<$ is a binary relation on A which is:

- transitive, if $x < y$ and $y < z$ then $x < z$,
- irreflexive, $x < x$ for all $x \in A$,
- total, if $x \neq y$ then either $x < y$ or $y < x$.

Example 2.2. The following are all chains: $(\mathbb{N}, <)$, $(\mathbb{Z}, <)$, $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$, $(\{0, 1\}, <)$. But $(\{\emptyset, \{0\}, \{1\}\}, \subsetneq)$ is not a chain.

For $(A, <)$ and $(B, <)$ chains, a function $f : (A, <) \rightarrow (B, <)$ is called **order-preserving** if $a_1 < a_2$ implies $f(a_1) < f(a_2)$. An isomorphism is an order-preserving bijection.

Example 2.3. The function $f : (\mathbb{N}, <) \rightarrow (\mathbb{N}, <)$ given by $n \mapsto n + 1$ is order-preserving. But $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ given by $n \mapsto |n|$ is not order-preserving. In fact, there is no order-preserving map for \mathbb{Z} to \mathbb{N} .

We can define $A + B$ for A and B chains, given by $A \amalg B$ with $a < b$ for all $a \in A$ and $b \in B$. We can also define $A \cdot B$ with the lexicographical order.

Definition 2.4. A **well-ordering** is a chain $(A, <)$ such that for every $S \subseteq A$ nonempty, there is a minimal element $x \in A$.

Any finite chain is a well-ordering, but $(\mathbb{Z}, <)$ is not.

Lemma 2.5. If $(A, <)$ and $(B, <)$ are well-orderings, then either A is isomorphic to an initial segment of B .

Definition 2.6. For $(A, <)$ a chain, a subset $A_0 \subseteq A$ is called an **initial segment** if for any $a < b$, $b \in A_0$ implies $a \in A_0$. That is, if $a \in A_0$ then

$$\text{pred}_A(a) = \{b \in A : b < a\}$$

is in A_0 .

So if you have two well-orderings, they are comparable. If $(A, <)$ is a well-ordering and $A_0 \subseteq A$ is an initial segment, then either $A_0 = A$ or $A \setminus A_0$ has a least element and

$$A_0 = \text{pred}_A(a).$$

Indeed, any well-ordering is isomorphic to the set of predecessors, ordered by inclusion.

Lemma 2.7. *Let $(A, <)$ and $(B, <)$ be well-orderings. Let $f, g : (A, <) \rightarrow (B, <)$ be isomorphisms onto initial segments. Then $f = g$.*

Proof. Assume $f \neq g$, and then there exists a minimal $a \in A$ where $f(a) \neq g(a)$. Assume $f(a) < g(a)$, without loss of generality. Because $g[A]$ is an initial segment, we have $f(a) \in g[A]$. If we let $a' \in A$ be such that $g(a') = f(a)$, then $g(a') = f(a) < g(a)$ implies that $a' < a$. But $f(a') = g(a') = f(a)$ gives a contradiction. \square

Now we can prove the lemma.

Proof of Lemma 2.5. We look at the set of $a \in A$ such that $\text{pred}(a)$ is not isomorphic to a proper initial segment of B . If this set is nonempty, we may take a minimal a with this property. For any $a_0 < a$, we have that $\text{pred}(a_0)$ is isomorphic to $\text{pred}(b_{a_0})$ for some $b_{a_0} \in B$. This is moreover unique. If we let

$$f : \text{pred}(a) \rightarrow B; \quad a_0 \mapsto b_{a_0},$$

this is order-preserving isomorphism onto an initial segment of B . It cannot be proper by assumption, so it is an isomorphism. Then $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$ shows that B is an isomorphism to an initial segment of A .

Now assume that all $\text{pred}(a)$ are isomorphic to initial segments of B . If we pick $b_a \in B$ so that $\text{pred}(a) \cong \text{pred}(b_a)$, then

$$f : (A, <) \rightarrow (B, <); \quad a \mapsto b_a$$

is an order-preserving isomorphism to an initial segment of B . \square

Ordinals are canonical representatives of well-orderings. Every ordinal will be the set of its predecessors.

Definition 2.8. An **ordinal** is a set α which is

- transitive, $x \in \alpha$ and $y \in x$ then $y \in \alpha$,
- (α, \in) is a well-ordering,

Examples include

$$0 = \emptyset, \quad 1 = \{\emptyset\}, \quad 2 = \{0, 1\}, \quad \dots, \quad \omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}, \quad \omega + 1 = \omega \cup \{\omega\}, \dots$$

If α is an ordinal, you can take $\alpha + 1 = \alpha \cup \{\alpha\}$, which is again an ordinal. If $(\alpha_i)_{i \in I}$ are ordinals, then

$$\alpha = \bigcup_{i \in I} \alpha_i$$

is an ordinal, called $\sup_{i \in I} \alpha_i$. For instance, $\omega = \sup_{n \in \omega} n$. If $x \in \alpha$, then

$$\text{pred}_{(\alpha, \in)}(x) = x.$$

Lemma 2.9. *If α and β are isomorphic ordinals, then $\alpha = \beta$.*

Proof. Let $f : (\alpha, \in) \cong (\beta, \in)$. We claim that f is the identity. If not, there exists a minimal $a \in \alpha$ such that $f(a) \neq a$. Then

$$f(a) = \text{pred}_{(\beta, \in)}(f(a)) = f[a] = a$$

because f is the identity on a . □

Lemma 2.10. *Any well-ordering is uniquely isomorphic to a unique ordinal.*

Proof. We claim that if $a \in A$ has $\text{pred}(a) \cong (\alpha_a, \in)$, then we can take

$$\alpha = \{\alpha_a : a \in A\}$$

and then α is an ordinal and $a \mapsto \alpha_a$ is the desired isomorphism. If there is $a \in A$ such that $\text{pred}(a)$ is not isomorphic to an ordinal, we can take the minimal one. Then applying the claim gives a contradiction. □

3 September 14, 2018

Last time we defined an ordinal as a transitive set such that (α, \in) is a well-ordering. We showed that any well-ordering is isomorphic to a unique ordinal. The intuition is that an ordinal is the set of its predecessors. For α, β ordinals, we are going to write $\alpha < \beta$ instead of $\alpha \in \beta$. In the homework, you are going to show that for α and β ordinals, either $\alpha = \beta$ or $\alpha < \beta$ or $\beta < \alpha$.

3.1 Operations on ordinals

- Given an ordinal α , we define $\alpha + 1 = \alpha \cup \{\alpha\}$.
- Given $(\alpha_i)_{i \in I}$ a set of ordinals, we define $\sup_{i \in I} \alpha_i = \bigcup_{i \in I} \alpha_i$. This is the least α such that $\alpha \geq \alpha_i$ for all $i \in I$.

Definition 3.1. For ordinals α and β , we define $\alpha + \beta$ to be the unique ordinal isomorphic to $(\alpha, \in) + (\beta, \in)$. Likewise, $\alpha \cdot \beta$ is the unique ordinal isomorphic to $(\alpha, \in)(\beta, \in)$, which is α copied β times.

On finite ordinals, these are usual addition and multiplication. We have

$$1 + \omega = \omega, \quad \omega + 1 > \omega, \quad \omega \cdot 2 = \omega + \omega, \quad 2 \cdot \omega = \omega.$$

You can do division: if α is an ordinal and $\beta > 0$, then there exist unique ordinals γ and $\delta < \beta$ such that

$$\alpha = \beta \cdot \gamma + \delta.$$

Lemma 3.2 (transfinite induction). *Any nonempty collection S of ordinals has a minimal element.*

Proof. Pick $\alpha \in S$. If α is minimal, we are done. Otherwise, we can take the minimal element in $S \cap \alpha$. \square

Corollary 3.3. *Let $P(x)$ be a property of ordinals. Suppose that*

For any ordinal α , $P(\beta)$ for all $\beta < \alpha$ implies $P(\alpha)$.

Then $P(\alpha)$ for all ordinal α .

Proof. If not there is a minimal α such that $P(\alpha)$ is false. This contradicts our assumptions. \square

There are three types of ordinals. That is, for any ordinal α , exactly one of the following three is true:

- $\alpha = 0$
- $\alpha = \beta + 1$ for some β (these are called **successors**)
- $\alpha > 0$ and $\beta + 1 < \alpha$ for any $\beta < \alpha$ (these are called **limit ordinals**).

So we can restate transfinite induction as the following.

Corollary 3.4. *Let $P(x)$ be a property of ordinals. Suppose that*

- $P(0)$,
- $P(\alpha)$ implies $P(\alpha + 1)$,
- $P(\beta)$ for all $\beta < \alpha$ implies $P(\alpha)$, if α is a limit.

Then $P(\alpha)$ for all ordinals α .

We can also define objects by transfinite induction. We define

- $\alpha + 0 = \alpha$,
- $\alpha + (\beta + 1) = (\alpha + \beta) + 1$,
- $\alpha + \beta = \sup_{\gamma < \beta} \alpha + \gamma$ if β is a limit ordinal.

This, you can check again by induction, is equivalent to the previous definition. Similarly, we can define

- $\alpha \cdot 0 = 0$,
- $\alpha \cdot (\beta + 1) = \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha$,
- $\alpha \cdot \beta = \sup_{\gamma < \beta} \alpha \cdot \gamma$ if β is a limit ordinal.

We can even define exponentiation as

- $\alpha^0 = 1$,
- $\alpha^{\beta+1} = \alpha^\beta \cdot \alpha$,
- $\alpha^\beta = \sup_{\gamma < \beta} \alpha^\gamma$.

Any ordinal has a base ω representation, so we can write

$$\alpha = c_1\omega^{\beta_1} + c_2\omega^{\beta_2} + \cdots + c_n\omega^{\beta_n},$$

where $c_i < \omega$.

3.2 Cardinalities

Theorem 3.5. *For any set X , there is an ordering such that $(X, <)$ is a well-ordering.*

For instance, for $X = \mathbb{R}$, the new ordering doesn't need to have anything to do with the usual ordering. For instance, we can pick things $a_0 = 0$, $a_1 = -1$, $a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $a_3 = \pi$, $a_4 = \sqrt{2}$, and so on. So we keep arbitrarily picking these elements. This is not a rigorous proof, and we are going to see the rigorous proof next time.

Definition 3.6. The **cardinality** $|X|$ of a set X is the minimal ordinal α such that there is a well-ordering of X isomorphic to α .

For instance,

$$|\omega| = \omega, \quad |\omega + 1| = \omega.$$

Definition 3.7. An ordinal is a **cardinal** if $\alpha = |\alpha|$.

For example, n is a cardinal for any $n < \omega$. Although ω is a cardinal, $\omega + 1, \omega + 2, \dots, \omega + \omega, \dots, \omega \cdot \omega$ are all not cardinals. For sets X and Y , there is a bijection from X to Y if and only if $|X| = |Y|$. There is an injection from X to Y if and only if $|X| \leq |Y|$. Note that if X and Y are two sets, either $|X| < |Y|$ or $|X| > |Y|$ or $|X| = |Y|$.

Theorem 3.8 (Cantor). *For any set X , $|X| < |\mathcal{P}(X)|$.*

Proof. We have $|S| \leq |\mathcal{P}(X)|$ because $x \mapsto [x]$ is injective. Suppose for a contradiction that $|X| = |\mathcal{P}(X)|$. Then there should be a bijection

$$F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X).$$

Now consider the set

$$Y = \{x \in X : x \notin F(x)\} \subseteq X.$$

Then there is a $x \in X$ such that $F(x) = Y$. If $x \in Y$, then $x \in Y = F(x)$ so $x \notin Y$. On the other hand, if $x \notin Y$ then $x \notin F(x) = Y$ implies $x \in Y$. This gives a contradiction. \square

Corollary 3.9. *For any cardinal κ , there is a cardinal $\lambda > \kappa$.*

Definition 3.10. Let κ^+ be the minimal cardinal above κ .

Then we can play around with the definitions. We can define

- $\aleph_0 = \omega$,
- $\aleph_{\alpha+1} = (\aleph_\alpha)^+$,
- $\aleph_\alpha = \sup_{\beta < \alpha} \aleph_\beta$ if α is a limit.

We can think of \aleph_α as the α th infinite cardinal.

Theorem 3.11. *For any cardinal λ , there is α such that $\lambda = \aleph_\alpha$.*

Proof. We do this by induction on λ . Take the minimal λ where this fails. Then either $\lambda = \kappa^+$ or $\kappa^+ < \lambda$ for all $\kappa < \lambda$. Apply the induction hypothesis. \square

The continuum hypothesis states that $\aleph_1 = |\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{N})| = 2^{\aleph_0}$. The generalized continuum hypothesis that $\kappa^+ = |\mathcal{P}(\kappa)|$ for every infinite cardinal κ .

4 September 17, 2018

Recall that we had this theorem.

Theorem 4.1. *Any set can be well-ordered.*

Using it, we can define the cardinality $|X|$ as the least ordinal such that there is a well-ordering $<$ on X of type α . We also defined \aleph_α as the α th infinite cardinal.

4.1 Cardinal arithmetic

Given sets A and B , we can ask what

$$|A \cup B|, \quad |A \times B|, \quad |^B A|, \quad |\mathcal{P}(A)|,$$

and so on.

Definition 4.2. Let λ and μ be cardinals. We define

- $\lambda +^c \mu = |(\lambda \times \{1\}) \cup (\mu \times \{2\})|,$
- $\lambda \cdot^c \mu = |\lambda \times \mu|,$
- $\lambda^{c,\mu} = |^\mu \lambda|.$

(For today, we will drop the c .)

You can check that for finite cardinals, this agrees with the usual operations. We also have basic properties like

$$2^\lambda = |\mathcal{P}(\lambda)|, \quad (\lambda^\mu)^\kappa = \lambda^{\mu \cdot \kappa}.$$

Exponentiation is really hard; the continuum hypothesis is $2^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_1$. But we will see for infinite λ and μ , we have

$$\lambda + \mu = \lambda \cdot \mu = \max(\lambda, \mu).$$

Theorem 4.3. *For an infinite cardinal λ , we have $\lambda \cdot^c \lambda = \lambda$.*

Proof. It suffices to show that there is a well-ordering in $\lambda \times \lambda$ that has order type λ . We define the order by the lexicographical ordering on $(\max(\alpha, \beta), \alpha, \beta)$. We can check that this is a well-ordering. So it has an order type.

By induction on λ , we prove that $\lambda \times \lambda$ has order type λ . If $\lambda = \aleph_0$, we can explicitly describe this. Now assume $\lambda > \aleph_0$ and $\mu \cdot \mu = \mu$ for any infinite $\mu < \lambda$. Then for any $(\alpha, \beta) \in \lambda \times \lambda$, we have

$$|\text{pred}(\alpha, \beta)| \leq \max(\alpha, \beta) \cdot \max(\alpha, \beta) = \mu \cdot \mu = \mu < \lambda$$

for some $\mu < \lambda$. This implies $\lambda \cdot \lambda \leq \lambda$, as needed. \square

Corollary 4.4. *For infinite λ and μ , we have*

$$\lambda +^c \mu = \lambda \cdot^c \mu = \max(\lambda, \mu).$$

Proof. This is commutative, so we may assume $\mu \leq \lambda$. Then

$$\lambda \leq \lambda +^c \mu \leq \lambda \cdot^c \mu \leq \lambda \cdot^c \lambda = \lambda.$$

This finishes the proof. \square

You can also get some other strange results.

Corollary 4.5. $(\lambda^+)^{\lambda} = 2^{\lambda}$.

Proof. We have

$$2^{\lambda} \leq (\lambda^+)^{\lambda} \leq (2^{\lambda})^{\lambda} = 2^{\lambda \cdot^c \lambda} = 2^{\lambda}.$$

So we have equality. \square

In fact, we can prove that if we know $\lambda \mapsto 2^{\lambda}$, e.g.e, if we assume $2^{\lambda} = \lambda^+$ for any λ , then we know λ^{μ} for any infinite λ and μ .

4.2 Axiom of choice

What are sets? Naïvely we can say that it is some collections objects, but some collections are not sets.

Proposition 4.6 (Bural–Forb paradox). *The collection OR of all ordinals is not a set.*

Proof. Suppose OR is a set. Then (OR, \in) is transitive and a well-ordering. So OR is an ordinal and so $\text{OR} \in \text{OR}$. This is a contradiction because \in is supposed to be irreflexive. (We also just assume that there is no set that contains another.) \square

But we want anything that can be built out of a set to be a set.

- \emptyset is a set.
- If A and B are sets, $A \cup B$, $\{A, B\}$, $A \times B$, ${}^B A$, $\mathcal{P}(A)$ are sets. (Here, if we can define $(a, b) = \{a, \{a, b\}\}$.)
- If A is a set, we can look at the set of all elements in A satisfying some property.
- If A is a set and for each $a \in A$ one defines a unique b_a , then $\{b_a : a \in A\}$ is a set.
- There is a set A such that $\emptyset \in A$ and if $x \in A$ then $x \cup \{x\} \in A$.

Definition 4.7. The **axiom of choice** says that for any set A , there is a function $f : \mathcal{P}(A) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \rightarrow A$ such that $f(A_0) \in A_0$ for all $A_0 \in \mathcal{P}(A) \setminus \emptyset$. We call such f a **choice function** on A .

For example, for $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, we can find something like

$$f(\{i\}) = i, \quad f(\{i, j\}) = \min(i, j), \quad f(\{1, 2, 3\}) = 3.$$

The point is that the axiom of choice doesn't follow from the axioms. If A is an ordinal, we can pick a choice function

$$A_0 \mapsto \min(A_0).$$

But for other sets like $A = \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\omega))$ it is not clear how to construct this choice function.

Theorem 4.8. *The axiom of choice is equivalent to the statement that every set can be well-ordered.*

Proof. Assume every set can be well-ordered. Let A be a set, and pick a well-ordering on A . Then define

$$f : \mathcal{P}(A) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \rightarrow A; \quad A_0 \mapsto \min(A_0).$$

Now assume the axiom of choice, and assume that A cannot be well-ordered. Let $f : \mathcal{P}(A) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \rightarrow A$ be a choice function. Define by induction, a well-order on a subset of A , by putting in one of the elements that are not yet in the subset. If this process doesn't end, we get for every ordinal α , a subset of A and an order of type α . Let a_α be the element added at this step. Then we can define the union

$$A' = \{x \in A : \text{there exists } \alpha \text{ such that } a_\alpha = x\}.$$

But for each $a \in A'$, there exists a unique α such that $a = a_\alpha$. So by replacement,

$$\text{OR} = \{\alpha_a : a \in A'\}$$

has to be a set. This is a contradiction. □

5 September 21, 2018

We are now going to go to Chapter 1.

5.1 Cantor's theorem on chains

Theorem 5.1 (Cantor). *Any two countable nonempty dense chains without endpoints are isomorphic.*

Definition 5.2. A chain $(A, <)$ is called **dense** if for any $x < y$ there is a z such that $x < z < y$.

Examples include $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ and $(\mathbb{R}, <)$, without endpoints, and $(\mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1], <)$, with endpoints. Endpoints are maximal or minimal elements. Any nonempty chain without endpoints is infinite, because you can always take bigger things.

Definition 5.3. A **local isomorphism** from $(A, <)$ to $(B, <)$ is an isomorphism $s : (A_0, <) \cong (B_0, <)$ where $A_0 \subseteq A$ and $B_0 \subseteq B$ are finite. We also write $A_0 = \text{dom}(s)$ and $B_0 = \text{im}(s)$.

This will be used in the proof. The idea is that we can build the isomorphism one by one, because the chains are dense without endpoints.

Proof. Let $(A, <)$ and $(B, <)$ be nonempty countable dense chains without endpoints. Then $|A| = |B| = \aleph_0$ by the exercise.

Now we claim the following. Suppose that s is a local isomorphism from $(A, <)$ to $(B, <)$.

- For any $a \in A$, there is a local isomorphism t such that $a \in \text{dom}(t)$ and t extends s .
- For any $b \in B$, there is a local isomorphism t such that $b \in \text{im}(t)$ and t extends s .

This is because both A and B are dense, and has no endpoints.

Now we alternative these two processes to inductively build a sequence. Then taking the union gives us the isomorphism. \square

So for instance, $(\mathbb{Q}, <) \cong (\mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1), <)$. However, this is no longer true for uncountable chains. The two chains $(\mathbb{R}, <)$ and $(\mathbb{R}, <) + (\mathbb{Q}, <)$ are not isomorphic. We also have that $(\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}, <)$ is not isomorphic to $(\mathbb{R}, <)$.

5.2 Relations

Definition 5.4. Given $1 \leq m < \omega$, an m -ary **relation** with universe E is a set $R \subseteq E^m$. If $\bar{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in R$, then we say that \bar{a} satisfies R .

For m -ary relations (E, R) and (E', R') , we say that $f : (E, R) \cong (E', R')$ is an isomorphism if $f : E \rightarrow E'$ is a bijection such that $R(\bar{a})$ if and only if $R'(f(\bar{a}))$. Isomorphisms are closed under inverses and compositions.

If R is a m -ary relation with universe E , then for any subset $E' \subseteq E$ the restriction of R to E' , written $R \cap E'$, is just R restricted to E' . As an abuse of language, we define the **cardinality** of R as the cardinality of E .

Definition 5.5. A **local isomorphism** from (E, R) to (E', R') is an isomorphism from a finite restriction of R to a finite restriction of R' .

We can define inductively on the ordinals α , the sets $S_\alpha(R, R')$ of local isomorphisms (called **α -isomorphisms**) from R to R' by

- $S_0(R, R')$ is the set of all local isomorphisms from R to R' .
- $S_{\alpha+1}(R, R')$ is the set of all local isomorphisms from R to R' such that
 - (i) for any $a \in E$, there is a local isomorphism such that t extends s , $a \in \text{dom}(t)$, and $t \in S_\alpha(R, R')$,
 - (ii) for any $b \in E'$ there is a local isomorphism t such that t extends s , $b \in \text{im}(t)$, and $t \in S_\alpha(R, R')$.
- $S_\alpha(R, R') = \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} S_\beta(R, R')$ for α a limit.

Next time we will try to gain more intuition on what this is supposed to mean. But here are some basic properties. If s is an α -isomorphism and $\beta < \alpha$ then s is also a β -isomorphism. The class of α -isomorphisms is closed under composition, inverse, and restriction. If we started out with an honest isomorphism from R to R' , then any finite restriction is an α -isomorphism for any ordinal α .

Definition 5.6. We say that s is an **∞ -isomorphism** if it is an α -isomorphism for all α .

For example, if $E = \mathbb{Q}$ and $R = <$, then any local isomorphism is an ∞ -isomorphism. You can prove this by induction on α .

Definition 5.7. We say that R and R' are **α -equivalent** if $S_\alpha(R, R') \neq \emptyset$. This is equivalent to saying that the empty map is an α -isomorphism.

For special cases, we define ∞ -equivalent as α -equivalent for all ordinals α . Another name for ω -equivalent is **elementarily equivalent**. For example,

$$(\mathbb{Q}, <) \sim_\infty (\mathbb{R}, <),$$

but we have

$$(\mathbb{N}, <) \sim_\omega (\mathbb{N}, <) + (\mathbb{Z}, <), \quad (\mathbb{N}, <) \not\sim_\infty (\mathbb{N}, <) + (\mathbb{Z}, <).$$

Index

- α -equivalent, 14
- α -isomorphism, 14
- Bural–Forb paradox, 11
- Cantor’s theorem, 9
- cardinal, 9
- cardinality, 8, 14
- cardinals, 3
- chain, 4
- choice function, 11
- dense, 13
- elementary equivalence, 14
- ∞ -isomorphism, 14
- initial segment, 4
- limit ordinal, 7
- local isomorphism, 13, 14
- order-preserving, 4
- ordinal, 3, 5
- relation, 13
- successors, 7
- transfinite induction, 7
- well-ordering, 4