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weakly compact cardinal

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Synonym	weakly compact
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Defines	weakly compact cardinal
Defines	weak compactness theorem

Weakly compact cardinals are (large) infinite cardinals which have a property related to the syntactic compactness theorem for first order logic. Specifically, for any infinite cardinal  $\kappa$ , consider the language  $L_{\kappa,\kappa}$ .

This language is identical to first logic except that:

- infinite conjunctions and disjunctions of fewer than  $\kappa$  formulas are allowed
- infinite strings of fewer than  $\kappa$  quantifiers are allowed

The weak compactness theorem for  $L_{\kappa,\kappa}$  states that if  $\Delta$  is a set of sentences of  $L_{\kappa,\kappa}$  such that  $|\Delta| = \kappa$  and any  $\theta \subset \Delta$  with  $|\theta| < \kappa$  is consistent then  $\Delta$  is consistent.

A cardinal is weakly compact if the weak compactness theorem holds for  $L_{\kappa,\kappa}$ .