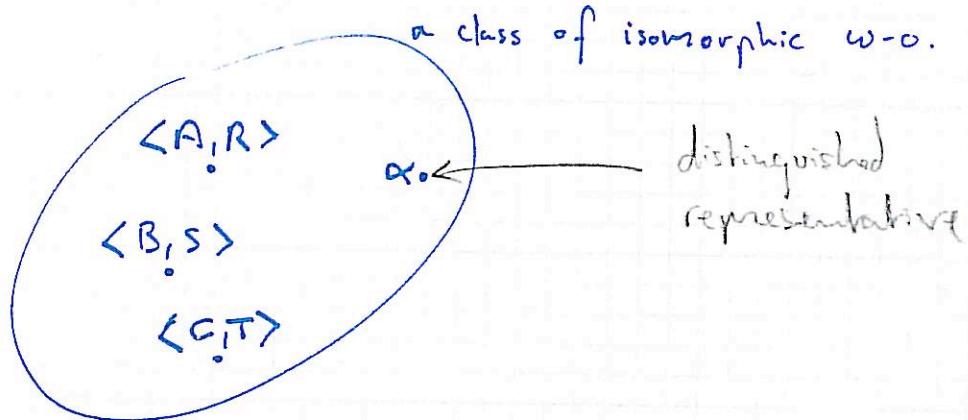
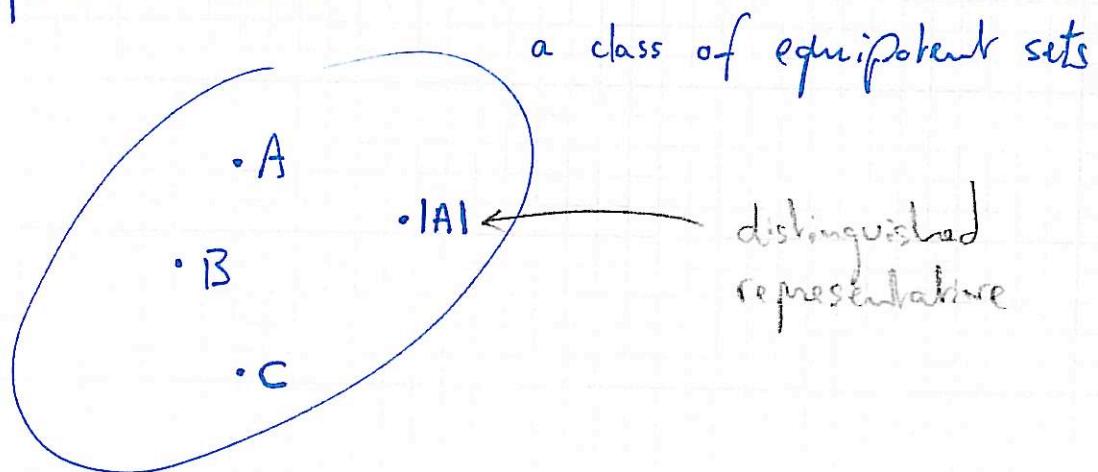


## Chapter 3: Cardinals

Ordinals are distinguished representatives of classes of isomorphic  $\omega$ -o:



Cardinals are distinguished representatives of classes of equipotent sets:



Cardinals will be used to measure the size of sets ...

### 3.1. First definitions

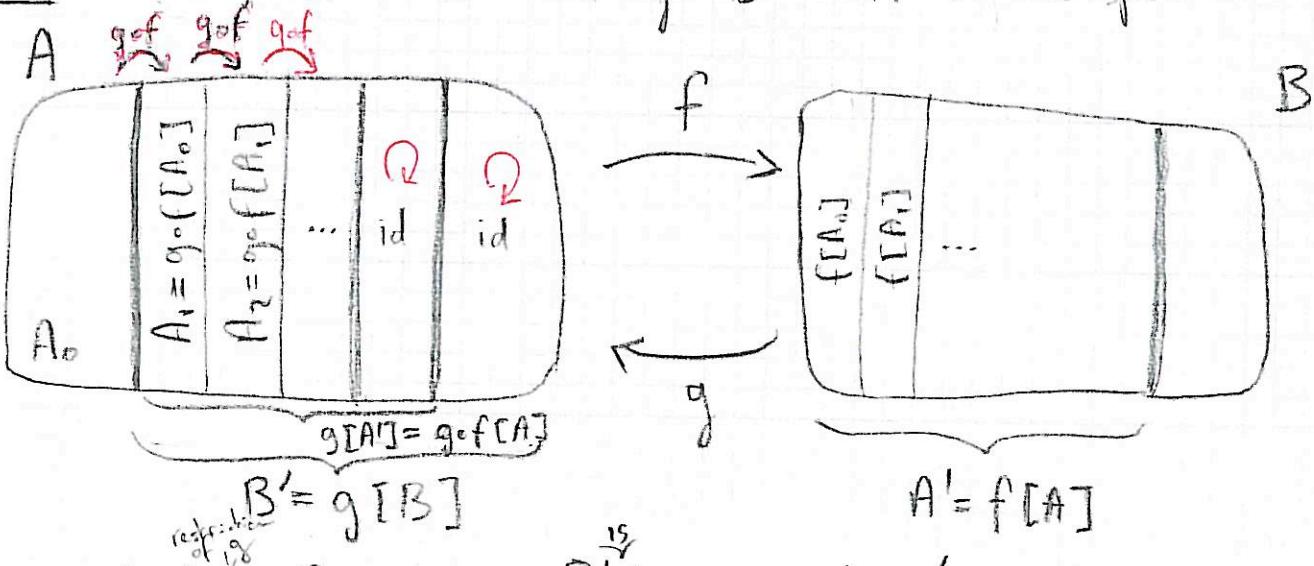
Def: Let  $A, B$  be two sets, we write:

- i)  $A \leq B$  iff  $\exists f$  injective:  $A \rightarrow B$
- ii)  $A \approx B$  (equivalence) iff  $\exists f$  bij:  $A \rightarrow B$
- iii)  $A < B$  iff  $A \leq B$  and  $B \not\leq A$ .

Thm 1 (Cantor-Schröder-Bernstein):

$$A \leq B \text{ and } B \leq A \rightarrow A \approx B$$

Proof: Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow A$  be two injections



$$g \text{ inj} \Rightarrow g: B \rightarrow \text{ran}(g) = B' \text{ bij} \Rightarrow g^{-1}: B' \rightarrow B \text{ bij also}$$

We build  $h: A \rightarrow B'$  bij.  $\Rightarrow g^{-1} \circ h: A \rightarrow B$  bij

Let  $A_0 = A \setminus B'$  and  $A_{\text{anti}} = g \circ f[A_n]$ . by construction

Note that  $\text{gof}: \bigcup_{i \geq 0} A_i \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i$  is bijective. injective as a composition of injections

Let  $h$  be def by  $h(a) = \begin{cases} \text{gof}(a) & \text{if } a \in \bigcup_{i \geq 0} A_i \\ a & \text{if } a \in A \setminus \bigcup_{i \geq 0} A_i \end{cases}$  surjective since  $\forall y \in A_{\text{anti}}$   $\exists x \in A$  s.t.  $gof(x) = y$

$$\text{Then } \text{ran}(h) = \text{gof}[\bigcup_{i \geq 0} A_i] \cup A \setminus \bigcup_{i \geq 0} A_i = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i \cup A \setminus \bigcup_{i \geq 0} A_i \stackrel{i \geq 0}{=} B'$$

and thus  $h: A \rightarrow B'$  bijective (as composed of bijections) □

If  $A$  can be  $\omega_0$  by some  $R \subseteq A \times A$ , then (by Thm 7,  
 there is a unique ordinal  $\alpha$  s.t.  $\langle A, R \rangle \cong \langle \alpha, \in \rangle$  ch2)  
 Hence, we have in particular (by forgetting the ordering)  
 that  $A \approx \alpha$ . explain with figure

Def: If  $A$  can be  $\omega$ -o, we let  $|A|$  be the least ordinal  $\alpha$  s.t.  $A \approx \alpha$ . (i.e.  $A \approx |A|$  for all  $A$ )

Remark -  $|IAI| = |A|$

Remark: Under (AC) (every set  $A$  can be  $\omega$ -ord) p. 3' ici isomorphic to a unique ord  
 $\Rightarrow$  cardinality  $|A|$  well-defined for all  $A$ . equivalently to an (at least) one ord.

Proposition 2: let  $A, B$  two sets that can be  $\omega$ -o.

- (i)  $|A| = |B|$  iff  $A \approx B$
  - (ii)  $|A| \leq |B|$  iff  $A \leq B$
  - (iii)  $|A| < |B|$  iff  $A \subset B$  (i.e.  $A \leq B$  and  $B \not\leq A$ )

Proof: (i) and (iii) follow from (ii)

(ii): If  $|A| \leq |B| \Rightarrow (\text{id}: |A| \hookrightarrow |B| \text{ inj.})$  by comp of  
 $\text{by and inj.}$   
 Then  $A \approx |A| \xrightarrow{\text{id}} |B| \approx B$  implies  $A \hookrightarrow B$

Conversely, suppose  $A \leq B$  by f.

Then  $|A| \approx A$   $\leq$   $B \approx |B|$

$$|A| \leq |B| \stackrel{(\text{by } F)}{\Rightarrow} |A| \leq |B|$$

not immediate: by contradiction, if  $|B| < |A|$  (id injection)

$$\Rightarrow |B| \leq |A| \text{ and } |A| \leq |B| \Rightarrow |A| \approx |B|$$

$$\Rightarrow |A| = |B| \quad \text{i.e. } |A| = |B|$$

Contradiction (with  $|B| < |A|$ )

Hence, comparing the cardinality of sets exactly amounts to finding the possible injections and bijections between these sets!

Remark: For all ord  $\alpha$ , we have  $|\alpha| \leq \alpha$   
(since  $\alpha \approx \alpha$ )

Def: An ordinal  $\alpha$  is a cardinal iff  $|\alpha| = \alpha$ .

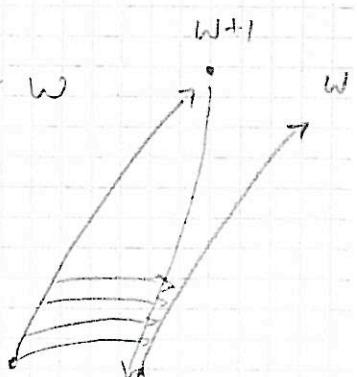
i.e. iff  $\alpha$  is the least of its equipotent class

i.e. iff  $\forall \beta < \alpha (\beta \not\approx \alpha)$

Examples: •  $\forall n \in \omega$ ,  $|n| = n$  i.e.  $n$  is a cardinal  
proof not "so easy", by induction on  $n$   
that  $n \not\approx n+1$

exercises | •  $|\omega| = \omega$ , hence  $\omega$  is a cardinal  
proof not "so easy" also

- $|\omega+1| = \omega$  (Clearly,  $\omega+1 \approx \omega$ )
- $|\omega+n| = \omega$
- $|\omega+\omega| = \omega$
- $|\omega \cdot n| = \omega$
- $|\omega \cdot \omega| = \omega$
- $|\omega^n| = \omega$
- $|\omega^\omega| = \omega$
- ⋮



Def:  $A$  is finite iff  $|A| < \omega$ ; countable  
iff  $|A| \leq \omega$ ; uncountable iff  $|A| > \omega$ .

oral

So far, we don't have any easy way to build cardinals larger than  $\omega$ .

(In fact, it is consistent with the axioms presented so far that the only infinite cardinal is  $\omega$  i.e.

$\text{Cons}(\text{ZFC}) \rightarrow \text{Cons}(\text{ZFC} - P + \forall x (x \text{ countable}) )$

$\Rightarrow$  We introduce the Power Set Axiom

Axiom 8 : Power set

$$\forall x \exists y \forall z (z \subseteq x \rightarrow z \in y)$$

By comprehension, we can then form

$$\text{Def: } P(x) := \{z \in y : z \subseteq x\}$$

Thm 3 (Cantor)  $x \not\subseteq P(x)$

Proof:  $x \not\subseteq P(x)$  trivial (e.g. injection  $a \mapsto \{a\}$ )

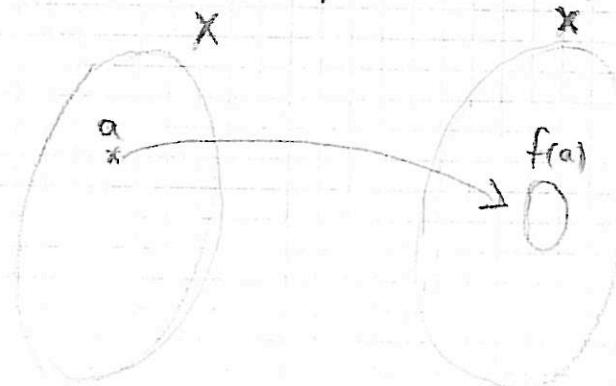
Let  $f: x \rightarrow P(x)$ , we prove that

$f$  not surjective (hence  $\nexists$  bij  $x \rightarrow P(x)$ )

Consider  $A = \{a \in x : a \notin f(a)\} \in P(x)$

let  $a \in x$ . If  $a \in A \Rightarrow a \notin f(a) \Rightarrow A \neq f(a)$

If  $a \notin A \Rightarrow a \in f(a) \Rightarrow A \neq f(a)$



Hence  $\forall a \in x$ ,  
 $f(a) \neq A$ ,  
thus  $f$  not  
surjective

□

By Thm 3,  $\omega \not\in P(\omega) \Rightarrow (\text{Prop 2 (iii)})$

$$|\omega| = \omega < |P(\omega)|$$

So we have some card above  $\omega$  ...

We have something more ...

Thm 4 :  $\forall \alpha \exists K (K \text{ cardinal} > \alpha)$

Proof : • If  $\alpha < \omega$ , take  $K = \alpha + 1$ .

- Suppose  $\alpha \geq \omega$ . By Ax 8 and comprehension, we can form  $W = \{R \in P(\alpha \times \alpha) : \langle \alpha, R \rangle \text{ is a } \omega\text{-o}\}$   $\Downarrow$  Chap 2, Thm 7
- We have  $\forall R \in W \exists! \beta_R (\beta_R \cong \langle \alpha, R \rangle)$ , indeed  $\beta_R = \text{type}(\langle \alpha, R \rangle)$   $\Rightarrow$  We have a functional relation and by Replacement we can form  $S = \{\text{type}(\langle \alpha, R \rangle) : R \in W\}$   $\Downarrow$  set of all possible ordered types over  $\alpha$
- $S$  set of ordinals  $\Rightarrow \sup(S)$  ordinal
- $\alpha \in S$ , since  $\alpha = \text{type}(\langle \alpha, \epsilon \rangle)$  and  $\epsilon \in W$  (trivial)  $\Downarrow$   $\alpha \approx \alpha + 1$   $\Rightarrow \alpha + 1 \in S$  also  $\Downarrow$  en transformant le bon ordre de  $\alpha + 1$  sur  $\alpha$  par une bij, on obtient  $\alpha + 1 \cong \alpha + 1$
- ( $\alpha + 1 = \text{type}(\langle \alpha, R \rangle)$  where  $R$  def. by  $\text{type}(\langle \alpha, R \rangle) = \alpha + 1$  a  $R_0 \forall a \neq 0$  and  $a R b$  iff  $a < b$  for all  $a, b \neq 0$ )

$$\Rightarrow \sup(S) > \alpha + 1 > \alpha$$

$\Gamma$  — cf. Verso —

- Sup(S) is a cardinal : If not, there exists  $\beta < \sup(S)$

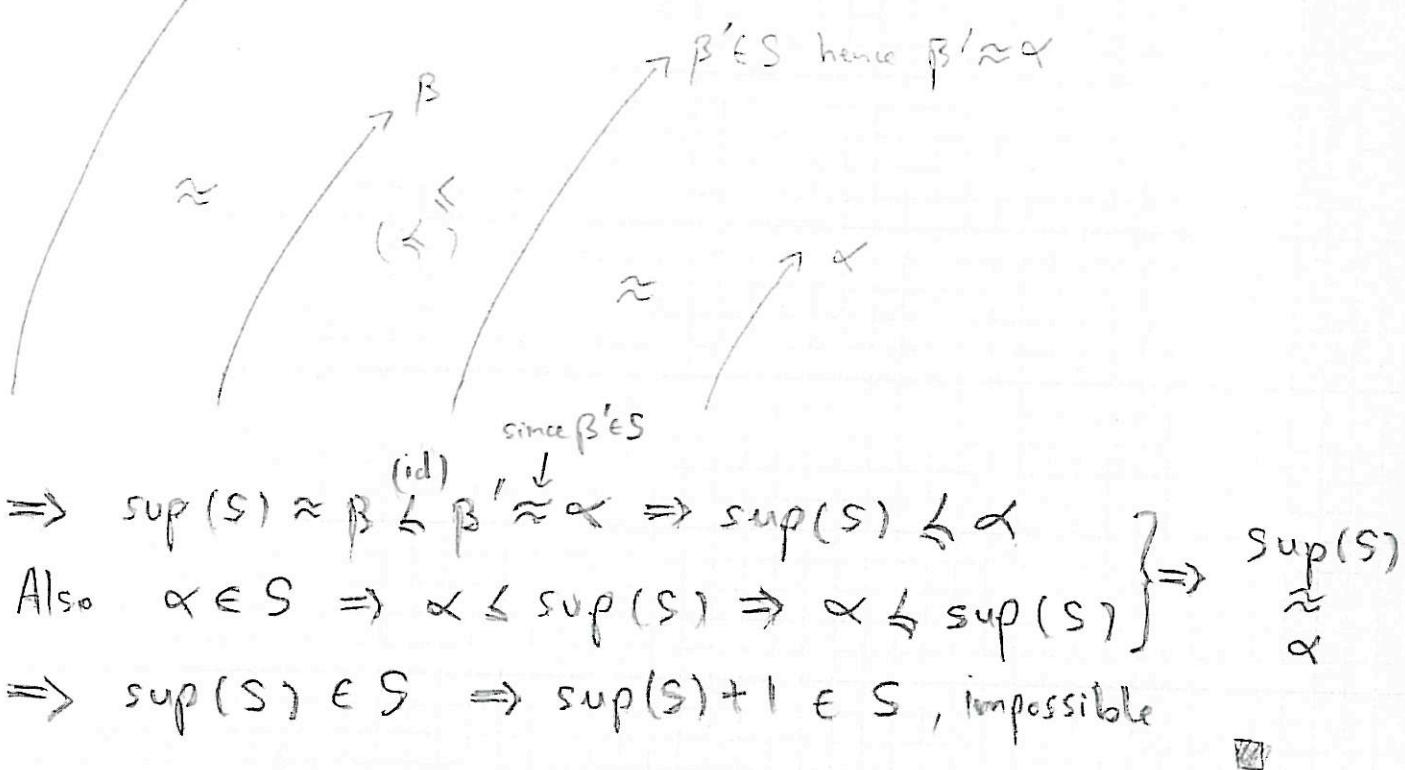
such that  $\beta \approx \sup(S)$ .  $\beta < \sup(S) \Rightarrow \exists \beta' \in S$  s.t.  $\beta \leq \beta'$

$\beta' \in S \Rightarrow \beta' \approx \alpha$ . Hence  $\sup(S) \approx \beta' \stackrel{\text{(id)}}{\approx} \beta \approx \alpha \Rightarrow \sup(S) \leq \alpha$

Conversely,  $\alpha \in S \Rightarrow \alpha < \sup(S) \Rightarrow \alpha \stackrel{\text{(id)}}{\leq} \sup(S) \Rightarrow \alpha \approx \sup(S)$

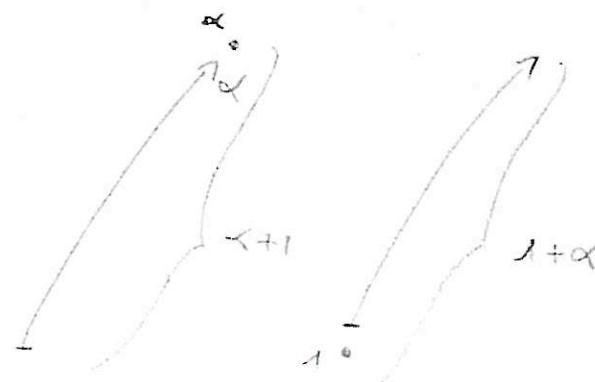
$\Rightarrow \sup(S) \in S \Rightarrow \sup(S) + 1 \in S$ , contradiction by def of  $\sup$  sum reasoning as before (by def of  $\sup$ )  $\square$

$\sup(S)$  cardinal: if not  $\sup(S) \approx \beta \leq \sup(S)$   
 $\Rightarrow \exists \beta' \in S \ (\beta \leq \beta')$



Lemma 5: Every infinite cardinal  $\overset{K}{\approx}$  is a limit ordinal

Proof: By contradiction. If  $K = \alpha + 1$ , with  $\alpha$  infinite, then  
 $K \stackrel{\text{by def of } K \text{ cardinal}}{=} |\kappa| = |\alpha + 1| \stackrel{\text{if } \alpha \text{ infinite}}{=} |\alpha + \alpha| = |\alpha| \leq \alpha < K$   
contradiction. since  $\alpha + 1 \approx \alpha + \alpha$  and using Prop 2



Def: If  $K$  cardinal, we let  $\lambda^+$  be the least cardinal  $> K$  (exists by Thm 4)

$K$  is successor iff  $K = \lambda^+$  for some cardinal  $\lambda$   
 $K$  is limit iff not successor

Def: for each ordinal  $\alpha$ , we define by induction

$$\begin{cases} \aleph_0 = \omega \\ \aleph_{\alpha+1} = \aleph_\alpha^+ \\ \aleph_\lambda = \sup \{ \aleph_\beta : \beta < \lambda \}, \text{ for } \lambda \text{ limit} \end{cases}$$

The sequence of "alephs" actually exhaust all possible cardinals (infinite).

Proposition 6: Every infinite cardinal is an "aleph" i.e.  
 $\forall K \text{ card} \geq \omega \exists \alpha \text{ ord s.t. } K = \aleph_\alpha$ .

Proof: By induction on  $K$  (infinite)

- If  $K = \omega$ , then  $K = \aleph_0$ , o.k.
- If  $K = \lambda^+$ , for some  $\lambda$  cardinal.  
 $\lambda < \lambda^+ \Rightarrow$  ind hyp  $\exists \alpha$  s.t.  $\lambda = \aleph_\alpha$  set of all ord. which enumerate the card below  
 $\Rightarrow K = \lambda^+ = \aleph_{\alpha^+} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}$ , o.k.
- If  $K$  limit cardinal, let  $A = \{ \alpha : \aleph_\alpha < K \} \uparrow K$   
 $(\text{we have } \alpha \leq \aleph_\alpha, \forall \alpha \text{ (by ind.)}, \text{ so, } \aleph_\alpha < K \Rightarrow \underline{\alpha \leq \aleph_\alpha \leq K})$   $= \{ \alpha < K : \aleph_\alpha < K \}$   
well defined by compr.

Let  $\lambda = \sup(A)$ .  $\lambda$  ordinal

We have  $\lambda \notin A$ , since  $\lambda \in A \Rightarrow \aleph_\lambda < K \Rightarrow K = \aleph_\lambda + \text{successor, contradiction}$

$\lambda$  is limit: If  $\lambda = \sup(A)$ , then  $\lambda \in A$  (when the sup is a succ, it belongs to the set (i.e. it is a max)), otherwise, its pred would also be a sup.)

We have  $\aleph_\lambda < K \wedge \lambda < \sup(A) \Rightarrow \aleph_\lambda < K$

If  $\aleph_\lambda < K$ , then  $\lambda \in A$  by def of  $A$ , impossible

$\Rightarrow \aleph_\lambda = K$  and  $K$  is an aleph.  $\blacksquare$

④ If  $\sup(A) = \alpha + 1$ , then  $\alpha + 1 \in A$

Indeed,  $\forall \beta \in A (\beta \leq \alpha + 1)$  by def of sup

If  $\alpha + 1 \notin A$ ,  $\forall \beta \in A (\beta \leq \alpha) \Rightarrow \sup(A) = \alpha \neq \alpha + 1$

if all el of the sequence  $(\aleph_\alpha)_{\alpha < \lambda}$  are  $< K$ , then the sup of the sequence is  $\leq K$ .

Lemma 7: (i)  $\alpha < \beta \rightarrow \aleph_\alpha < \aleph_\beta$

(ii)  $\aleph_\alpha$  limit cardinal iff  $\alpha$  limit ordinal  
 $\aleph_\alpha$  succ. cardinal iff  $\alpha$  succ ordinal

Proof: (Exercise)

(i)  $\alpha$  successor  $= \beta + 1 \Rightarrow \aleph_\alpha = \aleph_{\beta+1} = \aleph_\beta +$  (by def)  
 $=$  successor cardinal

let  $\aleph_\alpha$  successor card i.e.  $\exists \gamma$  s.t.  $\aleph_\alpha = \gamma +$

But  $\gamma = \aleph_\beta$  for some  $\beta \Rightarrow \aleph_\alpha = \gamma + = \aleph_\beta +$   
 $= \aleph_{\beta+1}$   
 $\Rightarrow \alpha = \beta + 1$  successor.

(ii) By induction on  $\beta$ .

Def: When  $\aleph_\alpha$  is considered as an ordinal instead of a cardinal, we denote it  $\omega_\alpha, \text{etc.}$

So  $\omega_0 = \omega$ ,  $\omega_1 = 1\text{st}$  ordinal not equipotent to  $\omega$ , etc...

### 3.2. Cardinal Arithmetic

Very different from ordinal arithmetic...

Def: let  $A, B$  be sets:

$A^B$  or sometimes  $B^A$

$= \{ f : f \text{ is a function } \wedge \text{dom}(f) = B \wedge \text{ran}(f) \subseteq A \}$

$= \{ f : f : B \rightarrow A \}$  (in short)

Note that  $A^B \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B \times A)$ . Indeed  $f : A \rightarrow B \subseteq A \times B$ ,

one has  $A^B = \{ f \in \mathcal{P}(B \times A) : f \text{ function } B \rightarrow A \}$

exists by Power Set and Comprehension.

$A^n$  = set of functions from  $n$  into  $A$ , often thought of as the set of sequences of  $n$  elements of  $A$ .

$A^{<\omega} = \bigcup \{ A^n : n \in \omega \}$  set of finite sequences of elements of  $A$ .

Def: let  $\kappa, \lambda$  be cardinals

$$1) \quad \kappa \oplus \lambda = |\kappa \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\}|$$

$$2) \quad \kappa \otimes \lambda = |\kappa \times \lambda|$$

$$3) \quad \underline{(\text{AC})} \quad \kappa^\lambda = |\lambda^\kappa|$$



$\sigma_{\text{ord}}$  Note that 1) and 2) do not need (AC).

①  $K \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\} \approx \overset{\text{ordinal}}{K + \lambda} \leftarrow \text{exists (by ord addition)}$   
 $\Rightarrow |K \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\}| =_{(\text{def})} K \oplus \lambda \text{ exists always}$

②  $K \times \lambda \approx \overset{\text{ordinal}}{K \cdot \lambda} \leftarrow \text{exists (ordinal multiplication)}$   
 $\Rightarrow |K \times \lambda| =_{(\text{def})} K \otimes \lambda \text{ always exists.}$

③ Without (AC), nothing tells us that there indeed exists some ordinal  $\alpha$  s.t.  $\alpha \approx {}^\lambda K$

With (AC),  ${}^\lambda K$  can be well ordered by some  $R$ .

$$\Rightarrow \langle {}^\lambda K, R \rangle \cong \text{type}(\langle {}^\lambda K, R \rangle)$$

Thus  ${}^\lambda K \approx \overset{\text{ordinal}}{\text{type}(\langle {}^\lambda K, R \rangle)}$

$$\Rightarrow |{}^\lambda K| =_{\text{def}} K^\lambda \text{ exists under (AC)}$$

Remark:  $\oplus$  and  $\otimes$  are commutative (unlike ordinal operations)

i)  $K \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\} \approx \lambda \times \{0\} \cup K \times \{1\}$ , thus  
 $K \oplus \lambda = |K \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\}| = | \lambda \times \{0\} \cup K \times \{1\} | = \lambda \oplus K$

ii)  $K \times \lambda \approx \lambda \times K$ , thus

$$K \otimes \lambda = |K \times \lambda| = |\lambda \times K| = \lambda \otimes K.$$

$$\underline{\text{Example:}} \quad \omega \oplus 1 = | \omega \times \{0\} \cup 1 \times \{\omega\} |$$

$$= | 1 \times \{0\} \cup \omega \times \{1\} |$$

$$\text{since } 1 + \omega \text{ (ordinal)} \approx 1 \times \{0\} \cup \omega \times \{1\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega \otimes 2 &= | \omega \times 2 | \\ &= | 2 \times \omega | \\ &= | 2 \cdot \omega | = | \omega | = \omega \end{aligned}$$

Lemma B: For any  $n, m \in \omega$ , we have

skip

ordinal and cardinal operations coincide on natural numbers.

Proof: Exercise.

By induction on  $m$ , show that  
 $n+m \in \omega$  and  $n \cdot m \in \omega$

Then show that

$$\forall k \in \omega \forall \alpha (\alpha \approx k \rightarrow \alpha = k)$$

Taking  $k = n+m$  and  $\alpha = n \oplus m$  leads to concl.

Taking  $k = n \cdot m$  and  $\alpha = n \otimes m$  leads to concl.

Thm 9: If  $\kappa$  infinite cardinal, then  $\kappa \otimes \kappa = \kappa$   
 i.e. for all  $\alpha$  ord, we have  $\aleph_\alpha \otimes \aleph_\alpha = \aleph_\alpha$

Proof: Clearly,  $\aleph_\alpha = |\aleph_\alpha| \leq |\aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha| \stackrel{\text{trivial injection}}{\leq} \aleph_\alpha \otimes \aleph_\alpha$ .  
 $\forall \alpha \text{ ord.}$

Conversely,

For all ord  $\alpha$ , we define " $\prec^*$ " on  $\aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha$  by

$\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \prec^* \langle \gamma, \delta \rangle \text{ iff }$

{ either  $\max(\alpha, \beta) < \max(\gamma, \delta)$

{ or  $\max(\alpha, \beta) = \max(\gamma, \delta)$  and  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \prec_{lex} \langle \gamma, \delta \rangle$ .

We can prove that  $\langle \aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha, \prec^* \rangle$  is a w.o (exo.)

We prove by induction on  $\alpha$  that

$\text{type}(\aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha, \prec^*) \leq \aleph_\alpha$  and thus type (...)  $\leq \aleph_\alpha$   
 via the identity which implies

$\aleph_\alpha \otimes \aleph_\alpha = |\aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha| = |\text{type}(\aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha, \prec^*)|$

Thus  $\aleph_\alpha = \aleph_\alpha \otimes \aleph_\alpha$ . obvious  
 big (the join)  
 by our proof 2:  $A \otimes B \Rightarrow |A| \leq |B|$   
 by induction and

details: let us call  $K_\alpha = \text{type}(\aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha, \prec^*)$

and fix isom:  $\langle \aleph_\alpha \times \aleph_\alpha, \prec^* \rangle \rightarrow \langle K_\alpha, \in \rangle$

c.f. figure.

case  $\alpha = 0$ : If  $p, q \in \aleph_0$ ,  $\langle p, q \rangle$  has only finitely many  $\prec^*$ -pred in  $(\aleph_0 \times \aleph_0, \prec^*)$

$\Rightarrow$  so does  $f_0(\langle p, q \rangle)$  in  $K_0 \Rightarrow K_0 \leq \aleph_0$

$K_0$  is an ordinal whose  
 every pred are finite.  
 (since every d of  $K_0$  is finite)

case  $\alpha > 1$ : let  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{N}_\alpha$

$$|\text{pred}(K_\alpha, \text{f}_\alpha(\langle \beta, \gamma \rangle))| \\ f_{\text{pred}} = |\text{pred}(\mathbb{N}_\alpha \times \mathbb{N}_\alpha, \langle \beta, \gamma \rangle, \langle^* \rangle)|$$

$$\leq |\max(\beta, \gamma) + 1| \times \max(\beta, \gamma) + 1|$$

obvious

$$\text{bij} \rightarrow = |\max(\beta, \gamma) + 1| \times |\max(\beta, \gamma) + 1|$$

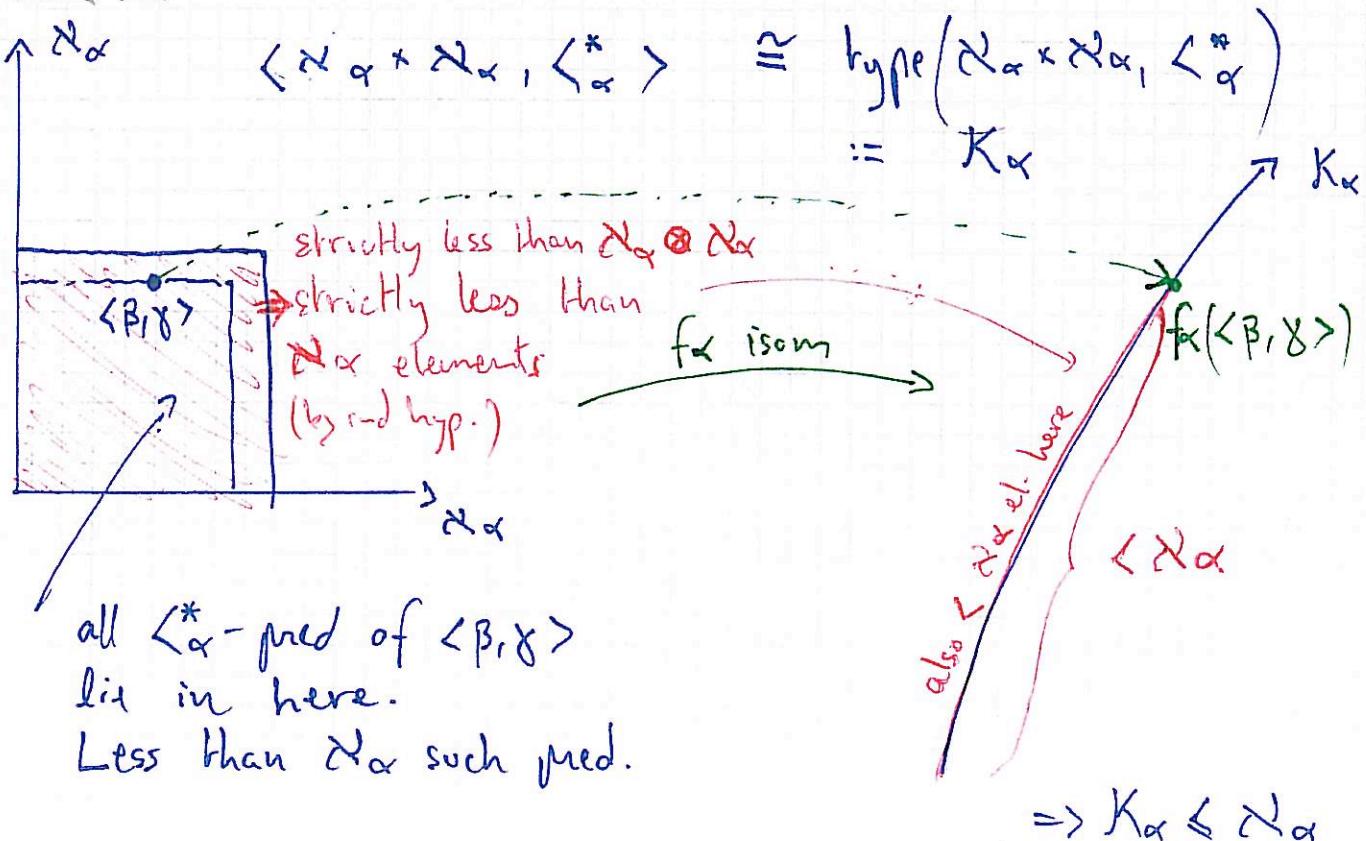
$$\text{def} = |\underbrace{\max(\beta, \gamma) + 1}_{\in \mathbb{N}_\alpha} \otimes |\underbrace{\max(\beta, \gamma) + 1}_{\text{idem}}$$

since  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{N}_\alpha$

$$\stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\text{hyp.}} = |\max(\beta, \gamma) + 1| \in \mathbb{N}_\alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow K_\alpha \leq \mathbb{N}_\alpha \quad \square$$

$K_\alpha$  is an ordinal whose every initial segments have length  $\leq \mathbb{N}_\alpha$ ,  
thus  $K_\alpha \leq \mathbb{N}_\alpha$



$$\Rightarrow K_\alpha \leq \mathbb{N}_\alpha$$

Corollary 10: Let  $K, \lambda$  infinite cardinals

$$1) K \oplus \lambda = \max(K, \lambda)$$

$$2) K \otimes \lambda = \max(K, \lambda)$$

$$\rightarrow 3) |K^{<\omega}| = K$$

obvious inj i.e.  $A \subseteq B$   
 $\Rightarrow |A| \leq |B|$  by prop. 2.

Proof: suppose  $\max(K, \lambda) = \lambda$

$$K \oplus \lambda = |K \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\}| \leq |\lambda \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\}|$$

$$\text{some reasoning for other } | \lambda \times \{0\} \cup \lambda \times \{1\}| = \lambda \oplus \lambda$$

thus  $\lambda \oplus \lambda = \lambda$  (obvious)

$$1) K \oplus \lambda \leq \lambda \oplus \lambda = \lambda \otimes 2 \leq \lambda \otimes \lambda = \lambda \leq K \oplus \lambda$$

$$2) K \otimes \lambda \leq \lambda \otimes \lambda = \lambda \leq K \otimes \lambda$$

3) Define by induction on  $n$  a 1-1 function

$$f_0 = \emptyset \quad f_n: K^n \rightarrow K \quad (\text{c.f. proof then 3})$$

for  $f_{n+1}$ :

$$K^{n+1} \approx K \times K^n \quad \text{Deduce a 1-1 function } f: \bigcup_{n \geq 0} K^n \rightarrow \omega \times K$$

i.b.  $\approx K \times K \approx K$

so take  $f_n$  as

the composition of  
these bijections.

$$\Rightarrow \left| \bigcup_{n \geq 0} K^n \right| = |K^{<\omega}| \stackrel{\text{def}}{\leq} |K^{<\omega}| \leq |\omega \times K| = \omega \otimes K$$

$$= K$$

□

Important result... Shows that cardinal arithmetic is very different from ordinal arithmetic.

We also have:  $K \otimes (\lambda \oplus \mu) = (K \otimes \lambda) \oplus (K \otimes \mu)$

$$K^{\lambda \oplus \mu} = K^\lambda \otimes K^\mu$$

$$(K^\lambda)^\mu = K^{\lambda \otimes \mu}$$

$$(K \otimes \lambda)^\mu = K^\mu \otimes \lambda^\mu$$

~~skip exercise~~ lemma 11 (AC): let  $K \geq \omega$  cardinal.

If  $|X_\alpha| \leq K$  for all  $\alpha < K \Rightarrow |\bigcup_{\alpha < K} X_\alpha| \leq K$

Proof: Equivalent form of (AC):

"every product of non-empty sets is non-empty".

i.e. one can select simultaneously an infinite sequence of elements

$$\bigcirc \times \bigcirc \times \bigcirc \times \bigcirc \times \dots$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$\langle x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots \rangle$$

$$x_i \neq 0 \quad \forall i < \delta \Rightarrow \exists \langle x_i : i < \delta \rangle \in \prod_{i < \delta} X_i$$

Here, let  $\text{inj}(X_\alpha, K)$  be the set of injective functions from  $X_\alpha$  into  $K$ ,  $\forall \alpha < K$ .

$|X_\alpha| \leq K \Rightarrow \text{inj}(X_\alpha, K) \neq \emptyset, \forall \alpha < K$ .

$\Rightarrow \prod_{\alpha < K} \text{inj}(X_\alpha, K) \neq \emptyset$ .

Hence  $\exists \langle f_\alpha : \alpha < K \rangle \in \prod_{\alpha < K} \text{inj}(X_\alpha, K)$ .

Let  $f : \bigcup_{\alpha < K} X_\alpha \rightarrow K \times K$  defined by

$$f(x) = \langle \text{least } \alpha \text{ s.t. } x \in X_\alpha, f_\alpha(x) \rangle$$

Then  $f$  injective, thus  $|\bigcup_{\alpha < K} X_\alpha| \leq |K \times K|$

$$= K \otimes K = K \quad \square$$

In particular, every countable union of countable sets is countable!

We clearly have  $P(\aleph_\alpha) \approx 2^{\aleph_\alpha}$  by the bij def by  
 take as bijection the function which maps every  
 $A \subseteq \aleph_\alpha$  to its characteristic function  $\chi_A: \aleph_\alpha \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

Moreover, by Thm 3 (Cantor), we have

$$\aleph_\alpha \leq P(\aleph_\alpha) \approx 2^{\aleph_\alpha}, \forall \alpha \in \text{ord}$$

using direct defn  
 $\Rightarrow$  Therefore  $\aleph_\alpha = |\aleph_\alpha| \leq |P(\aleph_\alpha)| = |2^{\aleph_\alpha}| = 2^{\aleph_\alpha}$

But  $\aleph_\alpha < 2^{\aleph_\alpha}$  implies  $\aleph_{\alpha+1} \leq 2^{\aleph_\alpha}, \forall \alpha \in \text{ord}$

However, do we have  $2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}, \forall \alpha \in \text{ord}$ ?

This is one of the fundamental question of set theory...

Def: Continuum Hypothesis (CH) is the statement  
 $2^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_1$

The Generalized Continuum Hypothesis (GCH)  
 is the statement:

$$2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}, \forall \alpha \in \text{ord}$$

These statements are independent from ZF and ZFC  
 (Gödel 1938) and (Cohen 1963), i.e.

$\text{ZFC} \nvdash \text{GCH}$  (Gödel) and  $\text{ZFC} \nvdash \text{GCH}$  (Cohen)