

TRANSFINITE ORDINALS

by Jacques Bailhache, January-february 2018

Any ordinal can be defined as the least ordinal strictly greater than all ordinals of a set : the empty set for 0, $\{\alpha\}$ for the successor of α , $\{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots\}$ for an ordinal with fundamental sequence $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$

1 Algebraic notation

We define the following operations on ordinals :

- addition : $\alpha + 0 = \alpha$; $\alpha + \text{succ}(\beta) = \text{succ}(\alpha + \beta)$; $\alpha + \lim(f) = \lim(n \mapsto \alpha + f(n))$
- multiplication : $\alpha \times 0 = 0$; $\alpha \times \text{succ}(\beta) = (\alpha \times \beta) + \alpha$; $\alpha \times \lim(f) = \lim(n \mapsto \alpha \times f(n))$
- exponentiation : $\alpha^0 = 1$; $\alpha^{\text{succ}(\beta)} = \alpha^\beta \times \alpha$; $\alpha^{\lim(f)} = \lim(n \mapsto \alpha^{f(n)})$

2 Veblen functions

These functions use fixed points enumeration : $\varphi(\dots, \beta, 0, \dots, 0, \gamma)$ represents the $(1 + \gamma)^{\text{th}}$ common fixed point of the functions $\xi \mapsto \varphi(\dots, \delta, \xi, 0, \dots, 0)$ for all $\delta < \beta$.

3 Simmons notation

$\text{Fix}fz = f^w(z + 1)$ = least fixed point of f strictly greater than z .

$\text{Next} = \text{Fix}(\alpha \mapsto \omega^\alpha)$

$[0]h = \text{Fix}(\alpha \mapsto h^\alpha \omega)$; $[1]hg = \text{Fix}(\alpha \mapsto h^\alpha g\omega)$; $[2]hgf = \text{Fix}(\alpha \mapsto h^\alpha g f \omega)$; etc...

Correspondence with Veblen's φ : $\varphi(1 + \alpha, \beta) = ([0]^\alpha \text{Next})^{1+\beta} \omega$; $\varphi(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = ([0]^\beta (([1][0]^\alpha \text{Next}))^{1+\gamma} \omega$

4 RHS0 notation

We start from 0, if we don't see any regularity we take the successor, if we see a regularity, if we have a notation for this regularity, we use it, else we invent it, then we jump to the limit.

$Hfx = \lim x, f x, f(fx), \dots$; $R_1 f g x = \lim g x, f g x, f f g x, \dots$; $R_2 f g h x = \lim h x, f g h x, f g f g h x, \dots$

Correspondence with Simmons notation : $\dots, [3] \rightarrow R_5, [2] \rightarrow R_4, [1] \rightarrow R_3, [0] \rightarrow R_2, \text{Next} \rightarrow R_1, \omega \rightarrow H \text{succ } 0$

5 Ordinal collapsing functions

These functions use uncountable ordinals to define countable ordinals.

We define sets of ordinals that can be built from given ordinals and operations, then we take the least ordinal which is not in this set, or the least ordinal which is greater than all countable ordinals of this set.

These functions are extensions of functions on countable ordinals, whose fixed points can be reached by applying them to an uncountable ordinal.

Examples :

- Madore's ψ : $\psi(\alpha) = \varepsilon_\alpha$ if $\alpha < \zeta_0$; $\psi(\Omega) = \zeta_0$ which is the least fixed point of $\alpha \mapsto \varepsilon_\alpha$.
- Feferman's θ : $\theta(\alpha, \beta) = \varphi(\alpha, \beta)$ if $\alpha < \Gamma_0$ and $\beta < \Gamma_0$; $\theta(\Omega, 0) = \Gamma_0$ which is the least fixed point of $\alpha \mapsto \varphi(\alpha, 0)$.
- Taranovsky's C : $C(\alpha, \beta) = \beta + \omega^\alpha$ if α is countable; $C(\Omega_1, 0) = \varepsilon_0$ which is the least fixed point of $\alpha \mapsto \omega^\alpha$.

| Nom | Symbole | Algebraic | Veblen | Simmons | RHS0 | Madore | Taranovsky |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Zero | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | | 0 |
| One | 1 | 1 | $\varphi(0, 0)$ | | suc 0 | | $C(0, 0)$ |
| Two | 2 | 2 | | | suc (suc 0) | | $C(0, C(0, 0))$ |
| Omega | ω | ω | $\varphi(0, 1)$ | ω | H suc 0 | | $C(1, 0)$ |
| | | $\omega + 1$ | | | suc (H suc 0) | | $C(0, C(1, 0))$ |
| | | $\omega \times 2$ | | | H suc (H suc 0) | | $C(1, C(1, 0))$ |
| | | ω^2 | $\varphi(0, 2)$ | | H (H suc) 0 | | $C(C(0, C(0, 0)), 0)$ |
| | | ω^ω | $\varphi(0, \omega)$ | | H H suc 0 | | $C(C(1, 0), 0)$ |
| | | ω^{ω^ω} | $\varphi(0, \omega^\omega)$ | | H H H suc 0 | | $C(C(C(1, 0), 0), 0)$ |
| Epsilon zero | ε_0 | ε_0 | $\varphi(1, 0)$ | $\text{Next } \omega$ | $R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(0)$ | $C(\Omega_1, 0)$ |
| | | ε_1 | $\varphi(1, 1)$ | $\text{Next}^2 \omega$ | $R_1 (R_1 H) \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(1)$ | $C(\Omega_1, C(\Omega_1, 0))$ |
| | | ε_ω | $\varphi(1, \omega)$ | $\text{Next}^\omega \omega$ | $H R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\omega)$ | $C(C(0, \Omega_1), 0)$ |
| | | $\varepsilon_{\varepsilon_0}$ | $\varphi(1, \varphi(1, 0))$ | $\text{Next}^{\text{Next}^\omega \omega}$ | $R_1 H R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\psi(0))$ | $C(C(C(\Omega_1, 0), \Omega_1), 0)$ |
| Zeta zero | ζ_0 | ζ_0 | $\varphi(2, 0)$ | $[0] \text{Next } \omega$ | $R_2 R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\Omega)$ | $C(C(\Omega_1, \Omega_1), 0)$ |
| Eta zero | η_0 | η_0 | $\varphi(3, 0)$ | $[0]^2 \text{Next } \omega$ | $R_2 (R_2 R_1) H \text{succ } 0$ | | $C(C(\Omega, C(\Omega, \Omega)), 0)$ |
| | | | $\varphi(\omega, 0)$ | $[0]^\omega \text{Next } \omega$ | $H R_2 R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ | | $C(C(C(0, \Omega_1), \Omega_1), 0)$ |
| Feferman -Schütte | Γ_0 | Γ_0 | $\varphi(1, 0, 0)$ $= \varphi(2 \mapsto 1)$ | $[1][0] \text{Next } \omega$ | $R_3 R_2 R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ $= R_{3\dots 1} H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\Omega^\Omega)$ | $C(C(C(\Omega_1, \Omega_1), \Omega_1), 0)$ |
| Ackermann | | | $\varphi(1, 0, 0, 0)$ $= \varphi(3 \mapsto 1)$ | $[1]^2 [0] \text{Next } \omega$ | $R_3 (R_3 R_2) R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\Omega^{\Omega^2})$ | |
| Small Veblen ordinal | | | $\varphi(\omega \mapsto 1)$ | $[1]^\omega [0] \text{Next } \omega$ | $H R_3 R_2 R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\Omega^{\Omega^\omega})$ | $C(\Omega_1^\omega, 0)$ $= C(C(C(C(0, \Omega_1), \Omega_1), \Omega_1), 0)$ |
| Large Veblen ordinal | | | least ord. not rep. | $[2][1][0] \text{Next } \omega$ | $R_4 R_3 R_2 R_1 H \text{succ } 0$ $= R_{4\dots 1} H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\Omega^{\Omega^\Omega})$ | $C(\Omega_1^{\Omega_1}, 0)$ $= C(C(C(C(\Omega_1, \Omega_1), \Omega_1), \Omega_1), 0)$ |
| Bachmann- Howard ordinal | | | | least ord. not rep. | $R_{\omega\dots 1} H \text{succ } 0$ | $\psi(\varepsilon_{\Omega+1})$ | $C(C(\Omega_2, \Omega_1), 0)$ |