

In this document, \mathbb{N} denotes \mathbb{Z}^+ instead of $\mathbb{Z}^+ \cup \{0\}$.

Theorem 8.7. The class of all cardinal numbers is linearly ordered by \leq . If α and β are cardinal numbers, then exactly one of the following is true : $\alpha < \beta$; $\alpha = \beta$; $\beta < \alpha$ (Trichotomy Law).

Sketch of proof :

(i) It is easy to verify \leq is a partial order. Let A, B be sets s.t. $|A| = \alpha, |B| = \beta$ and

$\emptyset \in \mathcal{F} := \{S \subseteq A \mid |S| \leq |B|\} \neq \emptyset$. Obviously, \subseteq is a partial order of \mathcal{F} .

Suppose $L := \{X_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a chain in \mathcal{F} , $M := \bigcup_{i \in I} X_i$.

$\forall i \in I, \exists$ injective $f_i : X_i \longrightarrow B$. Define $f : M \longrightarrow B : f(x) = f_i(x)$ for $x \in X_i$ for some $i \in I$.

(ii) X_i 's are pairwise comparable in $L \wedge f_i$'s are well – defined injections, $\therefore f$ is injective,

$|M| \leq |B|, X_i \subseteq M \in \mathcal{F}$ for all $i \in I, M$ is an upper bound of L in \mathcal{F} .

Therefore by Zorn's Lemma there is a maximal element X of $\mathcal{F}, |X| \leq |B|, \exists$ injective $g : X \longrightarrow B$.

(iii) Claim either $X = A$ or $\text{Im}(g) = B$. For if both of these statements were false,

we could find $a \in A \setminus X$ and $b \in B \setminus \text{Im}(g)$ and define an injective map

$h : X \cup \{a\} \longrightarrow B$ by $h(x) = g(x)$ for $x \in X$ and $h(a) = b$ because

g is a well – defined injective map $\wedge a \in X^c \wedge b \in (\text{Im}(g))^c, |X \cup \{a\}| \leq |B|, X \cup \{a\} \in \mathcal{F}$,

$X \subsetneq X \cup \{a\} \subseteq X$, which contradicts the maximality of X .

(iv) Hence either $X = A$ so that $|A| \leq |B|$ or $\text{Im}(g) = B$ in which case

the injective map $B \xrightarrow{g^{-1}} X \subseteq A$ (the Axiom of Choice is required) shows that $|B| \leq |A|$.

Thus, if $|A| = |B|, \alpha = \beta$; if not, \nexists bijection $\theta : A \longrightarrow B, \therefore \alpha = |A| \not\leq |B| = \beta \vee \beta = |B| \not\leq |A| = \alpha$.

Theorem 8.10. If α and β are cardinal numbers s.t. $\beta \leq \alpha$ and α is infinite, then $\alpha + \beta = \alpha$.

Sketch of proof :

(i) It suffices to prove $\alpha + \alpha = \alpha$ (simply verify $\alpha \leq \alpha + \beta \leq \alpha + \alpha = \alpha$ and apply

the Schroeder – Bernstein Theorem to conclude $\alpha + \beta = \alpha$). Let A be a set with $|A| = \alpha$ and

$\mathcal{F} := \{S \subseteq A \mid S \text{ is infinite} \wedge |S \times \{0, 1\}| = |S|\}$.

(ii) A is infinite by hypothesis, $\exists D \subseteq A$ s.t. D is denumerable by Theorem 8.8,

$D := \{d_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \wedge d_n$'s are all distinct}.

The map $D \times \{0, 1\} \longrightarrow D$ given by $(d_n, 0) \mapsto 2n$ and $(d_n, 1) \mapsto 2n - 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is bijective,

$\therefore D \in \mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$. Furthermore, obviously, \subseteq is a partial order of \mathcal{F} .

Suppose $L := \{X_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a chain in $\mathcal{F}, M := \bigcup_{i \in I} X_i. \forall i \in I, \exists$ bijective $f_i : X_i \times \{0, 1\} \longrightarrow X_i$.

Define $f : M \times \{0, 1\} \longrightarrow M : f(x, y) = f_i(x, y)$ for $x \in X_i$ for some $i \in I$.

(iii) X_i 's are pairwise comparable in $L \wedge f_i$'s are well – defined bijections, $\therefore f$ is bijective,

$|M \times \{0, 1\}| = |M|, X_i \subseteq M \in \mathcal{F}$ for all $i \in I, M$ is an upper bound of L in \mathcal{F} .

Thus by Zorn's Lemma there is a maximal element C of \mathcal{F} , $|C \times \{0, 1\}| = |C|$, \exists bijective $g : C \times \{0, 1\} \longrightarrow C$.

(iv) Claim $|A| = |C|$. If not, note $|A| = |C \cup (A \setminus C)|$, $\therefore A \setminus C$ is infinite by Lemma 8.9,

$\exists B \subseteq (A \setminus C)$ s.t. B is denumerable by Theorem 8.8, and as above,

there would be a bijection $\zeta : B \times \{0, 1\} \longrightarrow B$. By combining ζ with g , we could then construct a bijection

$$h : (C \cup B) \times \{0, 1\} \longrightarrow (C \cup B) : h(x, y) = \begin{cases} g(x, y), & \text{if } x \in C; \\ \zeta(x, y), & \text{if } x \in B; \end{cases} \quad \text{because } C \cap B = \emptyset$$

h and ζ are both well-defined bijective maps.

$\therefore (C \cup B) \in \mathcal{F}$, $C \subsetneq (C \cup B) \subseteq C$, which would contradict the maximality of C . Therefore

$$\alpha + \alpha = |A| + |A| = |C| + |C| = |C \times \{0\}| + |C \times \{1\}| = |(C \times \{0\}) \cup (C \times \{1\})| = |C \times \{0, 1\}| = |C| = |A| = \alpha.$$

Theorem 8.11. If α and β are cardinal numbers s.t. $0 \neq \beta \leq \alpha$ and α is infinite, then $\alpha\beta = \alpha$;

in particular, $\alpha\aleph_0 = \alpha$ and if β is finite $\aleph_0\beta = \aleph_0$.

Sketch of proof :

(i) Since $\alpha \leq \alpha\beta \leq \alpha\alpha$ it suffices (as in the proof of Theorem 8.10) to prove $\alpha\alpha = \alpha$.

Let A be an infinite set with $|A| = \alpha$ and $\mathcal{F} := \{X \subseteq A \mid X \text{ is infinite} \wedge |X \times X| = |X|\}$.

(ii) A is infinite by hypothesis, $\exists D \subseteq A$ s.t. D is denumerable by Theorem 8.8,

$$D := \{d_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \wedge d'_i \text{'s are all distinct}\}.$$

The map $D \times D \longrightarrow D$ given by $(d_m, d_n) \mapsto 2^{m-1}(2n-1)$ for all d'_i 's in D is bijective,

$\therefore D \in \mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$. Furthermore, obviously, \subseteq is a partial order of \mathcal{F} .

Suppose $L := \{X_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a chain in \mathcal{F} , $M := \bigcup_{i \in I} X_i$. $\forall i \in I$, \exists bijective $f_i : X_i \times X_i \longrightarrow X_i$.

$$\text{Define } f : M \times M \longrightarrow M : f(x, y) = \begin{cases} f_i(x, y), & \text{if } X_i \supseteq X_j; \\ f_j(x, y), & \text{if } X_i \subseteq X_j; \end{cases} \quad \text{where } x \in X_i, y \in X_j \text{ for some } i, j \in I.$$

(iii) X'_i 's are pairwise comparable in L \wedge f'_i 's are well-defined bijections, $\therefore f$ is bijective, $|M \times M| = |M|$,

$X_i \subseteq M \in \mathcal{F}$ for all $i \in I$, M is an upper bound of L in \mathcal{F} .

Thus by Zorn's Lemma there is a maximal element B of \mathcal{F} , and recall Definition 8.3, $|B||B| = |B \times B| = |B|$.

(iv) Claim $|A| = |B|$. If not, note $|A| = |B \cup (A \setminus B)| = |B| + |A \setminus B|$, $\therefore |A \setminus B| > |B|$ by Theorem 8.10 and 8.7.

Then by Definition 8.4 there is a subset C of $A \setminus B$ s.t. $|C| = |B|$. Accordingly

$$|C| = |B| = |B \times B| = |B \times C| = |C \times B| = |C \times C| \text{ and these sets are mutually disjoint because } C \cap B = \emptyset.$$

Consequently by Definition 8.3 and Theorem 8.10 $|(B \cup C) \times (B \cup C)| = |(B \times B) \cup (B \times C) \cup (C \times B) \cup (C \times C)|$

$$= |B \times B| + |B \times C| + |C \times B| + |C \times C| = (|B| + |B|) + (|C| + |C|) = |B| + |C| = |B \cup C|, (B \cup C) \in \mathcal{F},$$

$B \subsetneq (B \cup C) \subseteq B$, which contradicts the maximality of B .

Hence also by Definition 8.3, $\alpha\alpha = |A||A| = |B||B| = |B \times B| = |B| = |A| = \alpha$.