

# FIRST ORDER THEORY OF PERMUTATION GROUPS

BY

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## ABSTRACT

We solve the problem of the elementary equivalence (definability) of the permutation groups over cardinals  $\aleph_\alpha$ . We show that it suffices to solve the problem of elementary equivalence (definability) for the ordinals  $\alpha$  in certain second order logic, and this is reduced to the case of  $\alpha < (2^{\aleph_0})^+$ . We solve a problem of Mycielski and McKenzie on embedding of free groups in permutation groups, and discuss some weak second-order quantifiers.

## 0. Introduction

Let  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  be the group of permutations of  $\aleph_\alpha$ , i.e., the set of ordinals  $< \aleph_\alpha$  (which is isomorphic to the group of permutations of  $A$  if  $|A| = \aleph_\alpha$ ). The question as to the elementary theories of permutation groups was raised by Fajtlowicz, and Isbell showed that those over uncountable sets and those over sets of cardinality  $\leq 2^{\aleph_0}$  can be characterized. The two specific problems are

1) when is  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle \equiv \langle P_\beta; \circ \rangle$ ,

2) when can  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  be characterized by a sentence  $\psi$  (or set of sentences  $\Gamma$ ) that is,  $\langle P_\beta; \circ \rangle \models \psi$  iff  $\beta = \alpha$ . (We ignore for simplicity the permutation groups over finite sets.) McKenzie [9] shows that in  $\langle P_\beta; \circ \rangle$  we can interpret  $\langle \beta, < \rangle$  and derive from it some partial answers to questions (1) and (2). We give a necessary and sufficient condition for the elementary equivalence.

Our work was done independently of Pinus [12] who proved that we can interpret in  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$ ,  $\langle \alpha, < \rangle$  with variables ranging over countable one-place functions and can derive more information on (1) and (2). We prove here that variables over relations of cardinality  $\leq$  continuum over  $\langle \alpha, < \rangle$  can be interpreted (§2), and also that a "converse" is true (§3). Other connected works are Ershov

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[5] and [6], and Vazhenin and Rasin [16]. McKenzie [9] and [10] and Pinus [12] also contain more information.

In §4 we show that by Kino [8] we can reduce the general problem to the case  $\alpha < (2^{\aleph_0})^+$  and in §5 we discuss some related problems and possible generalizations, and improve a result of McKenzie [10] on embedding free groups in permutation groups.

Let  $P_\alpha^\beta$  be the family of permutations of  $\aleph_\alpha$  which move  $< \aleph_\beta$  elements. For example, for  $\beta = \aleph_1$ , De Bruijn [1,2] proves that the free group with  $2^{\aleph_0}$  generators can be embedded (in  $P_\alpha^1$ ), McKenzie [10] shows that the free group with  $\beth_3^+$  cannot be embedded, and we prove that the free group with  $\beth_1^+ = (2^{\aleph_0})^+$  cannot be embedded. Theorem 5.1 gives the solution of the general problem.

In conclusion, we improve results and answers to particular questions of McKenzie [9] and Pinus [12].

Let  $\Omega = (2^{\aleph_0})^+$ ,  $|U_\alpha| = \min(2^{\aleph_0}, \aleph_\alpha)$ .  $\langle \alpha, U; < \rangle$  is the two-sorted model with domain  $\alpha, U$  and the relation  $<$  on  $\alpha$ .

CONCLUSION 0.1.  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle \equiv \langle P_\beta; \circ \rangle$  iff the following conditions are satisfied where  $\alpha = \Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega + \dots + \Omega^n \alpha_n + \dots + \alpha_0$ ,  $\beta = \Omega^\omega \beta_\omega + \dots + \Omega^n \beta_n + \dots + \beta_0$ ,  $\alpha_n, \beta_n < \Omega$

- 1)  $\alpha < \Omega$  iff  $\beta < \Omega$
- 2) if  $\alpha < \Omega$ ,  $\langle \alpha_0, U_{\alpha_0}; < \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \beta_0, U_{\beta_0}; < \rangle$  ( $L_2$  is second order logic)
- 3) if  $\alpha \geq \Omega$ ,  $\langle \alpha_0, U^*; < \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \beta_0, U^*; < \rangle$  ( $|U^*| = 2^{\aleph_0}$ )
- 4) for  $0 < n < \omega$   $\langle \alpha_n, U^*; < \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \beta_n, U^*; < \rangle$
- 5)  $\text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega) \geq \Omega$  iff  $\text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \beta_\omega) \geq \Omega$
- 6) if  $\text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega) < \Omega$  then  $\langle \text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega), U^*; < \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \beta_\omega), U^*; < \rangle$ .

PROOF. Immediate by Lemma 1.3, Conclusion 3.3, and Theorem 4.6.

CONCLUSION 0.2.  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  is definable by a sentence (set of sentences) iff (i)  $\alpha = \Omega^n \alpha_n + \dots + \Omega^1 \alpha_1 + \alpha_0$ ,  $\alpha_i < \Omega$  and  $\alpha \geq \Omega$ ;  $\langle \alpha_i, U^*; < \rangle$  are definable by a sentence (set of sentences) of  $L_2$ ; or (ii)  $\alpha < \Omega$  and  $\langle \alpha_0, U_{\alpha_0}; < \rangle$  is definable by a sentence (set of sentences) of  $L_2$ .

PROOF. By Lemma 1.3, Conclusion 3.3 and Theorem 4.6.

CONCLUSION 0.3.

a)  $\langle P_{\omega_1}; \circ \rangle, \langle P_\Omega; \circ \rangle, \langle P_{\Omega^n}; \circ \rangle$  ( $n < \omega$ ) are definable by a sentence, and for no  $\alpha \geq \Omega^\omega$  is  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  definable by a set of sentences.

b) If  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle, \langle P_\beta; \circ \rangle$  are definable by a sentence then also  $\langle P_{\alpha+\beta}; \circ \rangle, \langle P_{\alpha\beta}; \circ \rangle$  are definable, and if  $\alpha, \beta < \Omega$ , also  $\langle P_{\alpha^\beta}; \circ \rangle$  is definable.

c) *It is consistent with ZFC that there are  $\alpha, \beta$  where  $2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_\beta$  such that  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  is definable by a sentence, but  $\langle P_\beta; \circ \rangle$  is not definable even by a set of sentences.*

d) *The set of  $\aleph_\alpha$  for which  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  is definable by (a first-order) sentence, is not identical to the set of  $\alpha$  for which  $\langle \aleph_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  is definable by a second order sentence.*

PROOF. By Conclusion 0.2.

We can consider our main results as determining the strength of the quantifier ranging over permutation. On possible quantifiers of this sort, see [14, 15] from which it follows that the permutational quantifier is very natural.

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### 1. Notation

By using multisorted models we can add a set of subsets, relations etc., as another sort of elements, and thus use first-order logic only. Cardinals are represented by  $\lambda, \mu, \kappa$ ; ordinals by  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, i, j, k$ ; and  $\aleph_\alpha$  is the  $\alpha$ -th cardinal. We identify  $\alpha$  with  $\{\beta: \beta < \alpha\}$ , and  $\aleph_\alpha$  with the first ordinal of that power. Let  $P_\alpha$  be the set of permutations of  $\aleph_\alpha$ ,  $E_\alpha^\kappa$  the set of equivalence relations over  $\aleph_\alpha$  with each equivalence class having a cardinality  $< \kappa$  (if  $\kappa > \aleph_\alpha$  we omit it), and  $R_n^\kappa(A)[F_n^\kappa(A)]$  be the set of  $n$ -place relations (partial functions) with domain of cardinality  $< \kappa$ . The domain of an  $n$ -place relation  $r$  is  $\bigcup \{\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}: r(x_1, \dots, x_n)\}$ . A one-place relation is identified with the set it represents.  $|A|$  is the cardinality of  $A$ .

Let  $x, y, z \in \aleph_\alpha$ ,  $f, g \in P_\alpha$ ,  $e \in E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$ ,  $A, B \in R_1(\aleph_\alpha)$ .

$M$  and  $N$  are models. These are of the form

$$M_\alpha = \langle A_\alpha^1, A_\alpha^2, \dots, A_\alpha^n, Q^1, \dots, Q^m \rangle, \text{ where } Q^1, \dots, Q^m$$

are relations and the  $A_\alpha^n$  domains (e.g.  $\alpha, \aleph_\alpha, E_\alpha^\kappa, \dots$ ). The equality between elements of the same sort and natural relations and operations will not be mentioned (e.g.  $x e y$  for  $e \in E_\alpha^\kappa$ ,  $x, y \in \aleph_\alpha$ ).  $K^n$  denotes an indexed class  $\{M_\alpha^n: \alpha \text{ an ordinal}\}$  of the same type;  $L(K^n)$  is the corresponding first-order logic. The subsequent definitions can be naturally restricted to a subclass of ordinals (usually  $\{\alpha: \aleph_\alpha \geq 2^{\aleph_0}\}$ ).

DEFINITION 0.1.  $K^n$  can be interpreted in  $K^m$  (for  $\alpha \in C$ ) if there is a recursive

function  $F: L(K^n) \rightarrow L(K^m)$  such that for any sentence  $\psi \in L(K^n)$  and ordinal  $\alpha$ , ( $\alpha \in C$ )

$$M_\alpha^n \models \psi \text{ iff } M_\alpha^m \models F(\psi).$$

DEFINITION 0.2.  $K^n$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^m$  if

$$M_\alpha^n = \langle A_\alpha^1, \dots, A_\alpha^k; Q^1, \dots, Q^l \rangle, M_\alpha^m = \langle B_\alpha^1, \dots, B_\alpha^i, R^1, \dots, R^j \rangle,$$

and there are formulae  $\phi_1(\bar{x}^1), \dots, \phi_k(\bar{x}^k), \psi_1(\bar{x}^1, \bar{y}^1), \dots, \psi_k(\bar{x}^k, \bar{y}^k)$ , and  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_l$  from  $L(K^m)$  and functions  $F_\alpha^1, \dots, F_\alpha^k$  such that: for  $1 \leq \beta \leq k$ ,  $F_\alpha^\beta$  is a function from  $\{\bar{a}: \bar{a} \text{ from } M_\alpha^m, M_\alpha^m \models \phi_\beta[\bar{a}]\}$  onto  $A_\alpha^\beta$ , such that  $F_\alpha^\beta[\bar{a}] = F_\alpha^\beta[\bar{b}]$  iff  $M_\alpha^m \models \psi_\beta[\bar{a}, \bar{b}]$  and  $M_\alpha^n \models Q^\gamma[\dots, F_\alpha[\bar{a}], \dots]$  iff  $M_\alpha^m \models \theta_\gamma[\dots, \bar{a}, \dots]$  (all the sequences are of appropriate sorts).

LEMMA 1.1. *If  $K^n$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^m$  then  $K^n$  can be interpreted in  $K^m$ .*

LEMMA 1.2. *Interpretability and explicit interpretability are transitive and reflexive relations.*

LEMMA 1.3. *If  $K^n, K^m$  are bi-interpretable (i.e. each can be interpreted in the other) then*

- a)  $M_\alpha^n \equiv M_\beta^n$  iff  $M_\alpha^m \equiv M_\beta^m$
- b)  $M_\alpha^n$  is definable in  $K^n$  by a sentence (set of sentences) iff  $M_\alpha^m$  is definable in  $K^m$  by a sentence (set of sentences).

In defining interpretations, we shall be informal.

## 2. Interpretation in the permutation groups

We shall define indexed classes  $K^i$  and prove that  $K^{i+1}$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^i$ . In the next section we shall close the circle by interpreting  $K^1$  in  $K^8$ , and thus get the desired result. Lemmas 2.1 to 2.3 were proved by McKenzie [9].

LEMMA 2.1.  $K^2$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^1$  where

$$M_\alpha^1 = \langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle, M_\alpha^2 = \langle P_\alpha, \aleph_\alpha; \circ \rangle.$$

PROOF. (Hinted) The 2-cycles in  $P_\alpha$  can be defined; therefore, an element of  $\aleph_\alpha$  is defined by two 2-cycles.

LEMMA 2.2.  $K^3$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^2$  where

$$M_\alpha^3 = \langle P_\alpha, \aleph_\alpha, R_1(\aleph_\alpha); \circ \rangle,$$

and there is a formula  $\phi_{f_i n}(v) \in L(K^3)$  defining the finite sets of  $R_1(\aleph_\alpha)$ .

PROOF. When  $f$  ranges over  $P_\alpha$ ,  $\{x: f(x) = x\}$  ranges over the subsets of  $\aleph_\alpha$ , except those whose complement has just one element. Therefore,

$$A_{f,g} = \{x: f(x) = x \vee g(x) = x\}$$

ranges over the subsets of  $\aleph_\alpha$  and  $x \in A_{f,g}$  can be expressed in  $L(K^2)$ . A set  $A \in R_1(\aleph_\alpha)$  is finite iff there is no  $f \in P_\alpha$  which maps it into a  $B \subset A$ ,  $B \neq A$ .

LEMMA 2.3.  $K^4$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^3$  where

$$M_\alpha^4 = \langle P_\alpha, \aleph_\alpha, R_1(\aleph_\alpha), CR_\alpha; \circ, < \rangle,$$

$CR_\alpha$  is the set of (finite and infinite) cardinals  $\leq \aleph_\alpha$ ,  $<$  is the order on the cardinals, and  $\text{cr}(A) = \lambda$  is considered as one of the natural relations of  $M_\alpha^4$ , where  $\text{cr}(A)$  is the cardinality of the set  $A$ .

PROOF. We interpreted  $\lambda \in CR_\alpha$  by  $A \in R_1(\aleph_\alpha)$  of cardinality  $\lambda$ . Equality can be expressed in  $L(K^3)$  as  $\text{cr}(A) = \text{cr}(B)$  iff there is a permutation of  $\aleph_\alpha$  mapping  $A$  onto  $B$ ; or  $\text{cr}(A) = \text{cr}(B) = \aleph_\alpha$ , which is equivalent to the existence of  $f, g \in P$  such that  $A \cup \{f(x): x \in A\} = B \cup \{g(x): x \in A\} = \aleph_\alpha$ . The order  $\text{cr}(A) < \text{cr}(B)$  can be expressed by " $\text{cr}(A) \neq \text{cr}(B)$ " and there is  $f \in P_\alpha$  which maps  $A$  into  $B$ .

LEMMA 2.4.  $K^5$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^4$  where

$$M_\alpha^5 = \langle P_\alpha, \aleph_\alpha, R_1(\aleph_\alpha), CR_\alpha, E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}; \circ, < \rangle.$$

PROOF. Every permutation  $f \in P_\alpha$  divides  $\aleph_\alpha$  into its cycles, which are all of cardinality  $\leq \aleph_0$ . More formally, for  $f \in P_\alpha$ ,  $e(f)$  is defined by:  $xe(f)z$  iff for every  $A \subseteq \aleph_\alpha$ ,  $x \in A$ ,  $(\forall y \in \aleph_\alpha) [y \in A \leftrightarrow f(y) \in A]$  implies  $z \in A$ . Clearly  $e(f) \in E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$ , and if  $e \in E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$ , we define  $f_e$  as follows: for each  $e$ -equivalence class  $A$ , if  $A$  is finite let  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  and  $f_e$  is defined by  $f_e(a_i) = a_{i+1}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n-1$ ),  $f_e(a_n) = a_1$ ; if  $A$  is infinite let  $A = \{a_n: n \text{ integer}\}$  and  $f_e$  is defined by  $f_e(a_n) = a_{n+1}$ . Clearly  $e(f_e) = e$ ; therefore, when  $f$  ranges over  $P_\alpha$ ,  $e(f)$  ranges over  $E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$  and  $xe(f)y$  can be expressed in  $L(K^4)$ .

THEOREM 2.5.  $K^6$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^5$  where

$$M_\alpha^6 = \langle P_\alpha, \aleph_\alpha, R_1(\aleph_\alpha), CR_\alpha, E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}, \dots, R_n^\alpha(CR_\alpha), \dots; \circ < \rangle.$$

PROOF. For simplicity we shall interpret  $R_2^\alpha(CR_\alpha)$  only. By pairing functions we can encode  $R_n^\alpha(CR_\alpha)$  for  $n > 2$ . We shall prove that various notions can be expressed in  $L(K^5)$ . Let  $[y]_e$  ( $y \in \aleph_\alpha$ ,  $e \in E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$ ) be the  $e$ -equivalence class of  $y$ .

$$1) x \in [y]_e \stackrel{df}{=} xey.$$

Let  $[y]_{e,f}$  be the model  $\langle [y]_e; f' \rangle$ , where  $f \in P_\alpha$  and  $f' = f \upharpoonright \{z: zey \wedge f(z)ey\}$ .

We can express isomorphism between such models.

$$\begin{aligned} 2) \quad & ([y_1]_{e_1, f_1} \cong [y_2]_{e_2, f_2}) \stackrel{df}{=} (\exists g) [(\forall x) [xe_1y_1 \leftrightarrow g(x)e_2y_2] \\ & \wedge (\forall x) [xe_1y_1 \rightarrow (f_1(x)e_1y_1 \rightarrow f_2(g(x))e_2y_2)] \\ & \wedge (\forall x) [xe_1y_1 \wedge f_1(x)e_1y_1 \rightarrow f_2(g(x)) = g(f_1(x))]]. \end{aligned}$$

This proof applies only for  $\alpha > 0$ , but we can correct this by quantifying over one-to-one unary functions instead of permutations, and these can be reduced to the sum of two permutations.

We can also express for fixed  $e, f, y$ , "the number of  $[z]_{e,f}$  isomorphic to  $[y]_{e,f}$  is  $\lambda$ ".

$$\begin{aligned} 3) \quad & [\text{Pow}(y, e, f) = \lambda] \stackrel{df}{=} (\exists A \in R_1(\aleph_\alpha)) [(\forall x, z) \\ & (x \in A \wedge z \in A \wedge x \neq z \rightarrow \neg xez) \wedge \text{cr}(A) = \lambda \wedge (\forall x) (x \in A \rightarrow [x]_{e,f} \cong [y]_{e,f}) \\ & \wedge (\forall x) ([x]_{e,f} \cong [y]_{e,f} \rightarrow (\exists z) (z \in A \wedge zex))]. \end{aligned}$$

Now define a 2-place relation  $r = r(e, f, A; e_1, f_1, A_1; g)$  over  $CR_\alpha$  as follows:  $r(\lambda, \mu)$  holds iff there are  $x, y \in A$  such that  $\text{Pow}(x, e, f) = \lambda$ ,  $\text{Pow}(y, e, f) = \mu$ , and there is  $z \in A_1$ , such that  $[z]_{e_1, f_1} \cong [x]_{e, f}$  and  $[g(z)]_{e_1, f_1} \cong [y]_{e, f}$ . Clearly this can be expressed in  $L(K^5)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 4) \quad & r(e, f, A; e_1, f_1, A_1; g) [\lambda, \mu] \stackrel{df}{=} (\exists x y z) (\text{Pow}(x, e, f) = \lambda \wedge x \in A \wedge y \in A \\ & \wedge \text{Pow}(y, e, f) = \mu \wedge z \in A_1 \wedge [z]_{e_1, f_1} \cong [x]_{e, f} \wedge [g(z)]_{e_1, f_1} \cong [y]_{e, f}). \end{aligned}$$

To finish the proof we need to prove only that for any  $r \in R_2^3(CR_\alpha)$  we can find  $e, f, A, e_1, f_1, A_1, g$  such that  $r = r(e, f, A; e_1, f_1, A_1; g)$ . Let  $B$  be the domain of  $r$  so  $|B| \leq 2^{\aleph_0}$ ,  $|B| \leq |X| + \aleph_0 \leq \aleph_\alpha$ , and  $B = \{\lambda_i: i < i_0 \leq 2^{\aleph_0}\}$ . For each  $i \leq i_0$  choose a model  $\langle A_i^0; f_i^0 \rangle$  where  $f_i$  is a permutation of  $A_i^0$ ,  $|A_i^0| = \aleph_0$ ; and for  $i \neq j$ ,  $\langle A_i^0; f_i^0 \rangle \not\cong \langle A_j^0; f_j^0 \rangle$  (this is possible because for each set  $I$  of natural numbers  $n > 0$  there is such a model  $\langle A; f \rangle$  which has an  $n$ -cycle iff  $n \in I$ ; an  $n$ -cycle is  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq A$ , the  $x_i$  distinct and  $f(x_i) = x_{i+1}$ ,  $f(x_n) = x_1$ ). As  $\sum_{i < i_0} \lambda_i \leq \aleph_\alpha \aleph_\alpha = \aleph_\alpha$  and  $\aleph_0 \aleph_\alpha = \aleph_\alpha$ , we can easily find  $e \in E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$  and  $f \in P_\alpha$  such that for  $i < i_0$   $|\{[x]_{e,f}: x \in \aleph_\alpha, [x]_{e,f} \cong \langle A_i^0; f_i^0 \rangle\}| = \lambda_i$  (the other  $e$ -equivalence classes may be chosen isomorphic to  $\langle A_{i_0}^0; f_{i_0}^0 \rangle$ ). For each  $i < i_0$  choose  $x_i \in \aleph_\alpha$ , such that  $[x_i]_{e,f} \cong \langle A_i^0; f_i^0 \rangle$  and let  $A = \{x_i: i < i_0\}$ . For each pair  $\langle \lambda, \mu \rangle$  such that  $r(\lambda, \mu)$  holds, choose two disjoint

countable subsets of  $\aleph_\alpha$ ;  $C_{\langle\lambda,\mu\rangle}^1$ , and  $C_{\langle\lambda,\mu\rangle}^2$  and  $z_{\langle\lambda,\mu\rangle} \in C_{\langle\lambda,\mu\rangle}^1$ ; and choose them so that the  $C$ 's are disjoint also for different pairs. Now define  $f_1$  so that when  $r(\lambda_i, \lambda_j)$

$$\langle C_{\langle\lambda_i,\lambda_j\rangle}^1; f_1 \upharpoonright C_{\langle\lambda_i,\lambda_j\rangle}^1 \rangle \cong \langle A_i^0; f_i^0 \rangle,$$

$$\langle C_{\langle\lambda_i,\lambda_j\rangle}^2; f_1 \upharpoonright C_{\langle\lambda_i,\lambda_j\rangle}^2 \rangle \cong \langle A_j^0; f_j^0 \rangle,$$

and  $A_1 = \{z_{\langle\lambda,\mu\rangle}; r(\lambda, \mu)\}$ , and let  $g$  be such that  $g(z_{\langle\lambda,\mu\rangle}) \in C_{\langle\lambda,\mu\rangle}^2$ . It is easy to check that  $r = r(e, f, A; e_1, f_1, A_1; g)$ , where  $e_1$  is chosen accordingly.

LEMMA 2.6.  $K^7$  can be explicitly interpreted in  $K^6$  where

$$M_\alpha^7 = \langle \alpha, U_\alpha, \dots, R_n^\Omega(\alpha \cup U_\alpha), \dots, \langle \rangle \rangle$$

where  $U_\alpha$  is any set disjoint from  $\alpha$  of cardinality  $\min(\aleph_\alpha, 2^{\aleph_0})$  and  $\langle \rangle$  is the natural order of ordinals.

PROOF. We interpret the element  $\beta$  of  $\alpha$  by  $\aleph_\beta$ . All we need to prove is that  $\{\lambda: \aleph_0 \leq \lambda < \aleph_\alpha\}$  is definable in  $M_\alpha^6$ . This is true because  $\aleph_\alpha \in R_1(\aleph_\alpha)$  is definable, hence  $\lambda < \text{cr}(\aleph_\alpha)$  is definable; and by Lemma 2.2 the finite sets are definable, hence also the finite and infinite cardinals. Interpret  $u \in U_\alpha$  as isomorphism types of  $[x]_{e,f}$  when  $\aleph_\alpha \geq 2^{\aleph_0}$ , and as elements of  $\aleph_\alpha$  otherwise. We leave  $R_n^\Omega(\alpha \cup U_\alpha)$  to the reader.

LEMMA 2.7.  $K^8$  can be interpreted explicitly in  $K^7$  where

$$M_\alpha^8 = \langle CR_\alpha, U_\alpha, \dots, R_n^\Omega(CR_\alpha \cup U_\alpha), \dots, \dots, F_n^\Omega(CR_\alpha \cup U_\alpha), \dots, P(U_\alpha); \langle, \Sigma \rangle \rangle$$

where for  $F: U_\alpha \rightarrow CR_\alpha$ ,  $\Sigma(F) = \sum_{u \in U_\alpha} F(u)$ , and  $P(U_\alpha)$  is the set of permutations of  $U_\alpha$ .

PROOF. Interpret  $\aleph_\beta$ ,  $\beta < \alpha$  by  $\beta$ ; interpret  $\lambda < \aleph_0$  by the subsets of  $U_\alpha$  of cardinality  $\lambda$ ; and interpret  $\aleph_\alpha$  by  $U_\alpha$ .

### 3. Interpreting the permutation groups

THEOREM 3.1.  $K^1$  can be interpreted in  $K^8$ .

PROOF. For a sequence  $\vec{f} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_n \rangle$  of permutations (of a set  $A_0^*$ ) define the equivalence relation  $\text{eq}(\vec{f})$  as follows: an  $\text{eq}(\vec{f})$ -equivalence class  $A$  is a minimal set such that  $x \in A \leftrightarrow f_i(x) \in A$  for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Let the  $\text{eq}(\vec{f})$ -equivalence class of  $x$  be  $A(x, \vec{f})$ , and  $N(x, \vec{f}) = \langle A(x, \vec{f}); \dots, f_i \upharpoonright A(x, \vec{f}), \dots \rangle$ . Clearly each  $\text{eq}(\vec{f})$ -equivalence class has cardinality  $\leq \aleph_0$ . The characteristic function  $\text{ch} = \text{ch}[\vec{f}]$  of

$\bar{f}$ , gives for any model  $N = (A, f_1^0, \dots, f_n^0)$  (where  $f_i^0$  is a permutation of  $A$ , and  $\text{eq}(f_1^0, \dots, f_n^0)$  has one equivalence class) the cardinality of  $\{N(x, \bar{f}) : x \in A_0^*, N(x, \bar{f}) \cong N\}$ .

A representation  $\langle \bar{f}^*, F \rangle$  of a sequence  $\bar{f} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_n \rangle$ ,  $f_i \in P_\alpha$  consists of  $\bar{f}^* = \langle f_1^*, \dots, f_n^* \rangle$ , where  $f_i^*$  is a permutation of  $U_\alpha$ , and  $F$  is a function from  $U_\alpha$  into  $CR_\alpha$  such that  $\text{ch}[\bar{f}^*]$  has the values  $\text{cr}(U_\alpha)$  or 0 and for  $u \in U$ ,  $F(u) = \text{ch}[\bar{f}^*](N(u, \bar{f}^*))$  and for each  $x \in \aleph_\alpha$ ,  $\text{ch}[\bar{f}^*](N(x, \bar{f})) > 0$ . Clearly each  $\bar{f}$  has a representation. Notice that if  $\bar{f}^1, \bar{f}^2$  have a common representation, then  $\langle \aleph_\alpha; \dots, f_i^1, \dots \rangle \cong \langle \aleph_\alpha; \dots, f_i^2, \dots \rangle$ . It suffices to prove:

LEMMA 3.2. For each formula  $\phi \in L(K^1)$ ,  $\phi = \phi(v_1, \dots, v_n)$  (that is  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  include all its free variables) we can define inductively (in a uniform way) a formula  $\psi \in L(K^8)$ ,  $\psi = \psi(v_1, \dots, v_n, v)$ ,  $v_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) range over  $P(U_\alpha)$ , and  $v$  ranges over functions from  $U_\alpha$  to  $CR_\alpha$ , such that if  $f_1, \dots, f_n \in P_\alpha$ , and  $\langle \bar{f}^*, F \rangle$  is any representation of  $\bar{f} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_n \rangle$ , then  $M_\alpha^1 \models \phi[f_1, \dots, f_n]$  iff  $M_\alpha^8 \models \psi[f_1^*, \dots, f_n^*, F]$ .

PROOF OF THE LEMMA. There is a formula  $\phi_0 \in L(K^8)$  such that  $M_\alpha^8 \models \phi_0[\bar{f}^*, F]$  iff  $\langle \bar{f}^*, F \rangle$  is a representation of some  $\bar{f}$ . This formula says that  $\alpha > 0 \rightarrow \text{eq}(\bar{f})$  has  $\aleph_\alpha$  equivalence classes, i.e.,

$$(\exists F^1) (\exists A \subseteq U_\alpha) [(\forall x \in U_\alpha) (\exists! y \in A) (N(x, \bar{f}^*) \cong N(y, \bar{f}^*)) \wedge \Sigma F^1 = \aleph_\alpha \\ \wedge \forall x (x \in A \rightarrow F^1(x) = F(x)) \wedge (\forall x \in U_\alpha) (x \notin A \rightarrow F^1(x) = 0)];$$

and that each  $\text{eq}(\bar{f}^*)$ -equivalence class is isomorphic to  $|U_\alpha|$  others,  $F$  is a function from  $U_\alpha$  into  $CR_\alpha$ , and  $F(u)$  depends only on the isomorphism type of  $N(u, \bar{f}^*)$ .

REMARKS.

- 1) Clearly  $\aleph_0$  is definable here.
- 2) We should say more for the case where  $\alpha = 0$ .

There is a formula  $\phi_1^n \in L(K^8)$  such that if  $\bar{f}, \bar{g}$  are sequences of length  $n$  from  $P_\alpha$ , and  $\langle \bar{f}^*, F \rangle, \langle \bar{g}^*, G \rangle$  are the corresponding representations then  $M_\alpha^8 \models \phi_1^n[\bar{f}^*, F, \bar{g}^*, G]$  iff  $\langle \aleph_\alpha, \bar{f} \rangle \cong \langle \aleph_\alpha, \bar{g} \rangle$ .  $\phi_1^n$  says that  $N(u_1, \bar{f}^*) \cong N(u_2, \bar{g}^*)$  implies  $F(u_1) = G(u_2)$ , and  $(\forall u_1) [F(u_1) > 0 \rightarrow (\exists u_2) (N(u_1, \bar{f}^*) \cong N(u_2, \bar{g}^*))]$  and  $(\forall u_2) [G(u_2) > 0 \rightarrow (\exists u_1) N(u_2, \bar{g}^*) \cong N(u_1, \bar{f}^*)]$ .

Also, there is a formula  $\phi_2^n \in L(K^8)$  such that if  $\bar{f} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_n \rangle$ , where  $f_i \in P_\alpha$ ,  $\langle \bar{f}^*, F \rangle$  is a representation of  $\bar{f}$ , and  $\bar{g} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_{n-1} \rangle$ , then for any  $G$ ,  $M_\alpha^8 \models \phi_2^n[\bar{f}^*, F, G]$  iff  $\langle \bar{g}^*, G \rangle$  represents  $\bar{g}$ , where  $\bar{g}^* = \langle f_1^*, \dots, f_{n-1}^* \rangle$ . Hence,  $\phi_2^n$  defines  $G$  uniquely by  $\bar{f}^*, F$ .  $\phi_2^n$  says for  $u \in U_\alpha$   $G(u) = \Sigma \{F(u_1) : u_1 \in A\}$



where  $A \subseteq U_\alpha$  and for each  $u_1 \in U_\alpha$ , if  $N(u_1, \bar{g}^*) \cong N(u, \bar{g}^*)$  then there is a unique  $u_2 \in A$  for which  $N(u_2, \bar{f}^*) \cong N(u_1, \bar{f}^*)$ .

Continuing the proof of the lemma, we notice that  $\psi$  depends on  $\phi$  and on  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ . We prove the existence of  $\psi$  by induction on  $\phi$  simultaneously for any suitable  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ .

If  $\phi$  is atomic, that is  $[v_i = v_j]$  or  $[v_i \circ v_j = v_k]$ , then  $\psi = (\forall x \in U_\alpha) [v(x) > 0 \rightarrow v_i(x) = v_j(x)]$  or  $\psi = (\forall x \in U_\alpha) [v(x) > 0 \rightarrow v_i(v_j(x)) = v_k(x)]$  will do (where the  $v$ 's now range over  $P(U_\alpha)$ ).

If for  $\phi, \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we choose  $\psi$ , then for  $\neg \phi, \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we shall choose  $\neg \psi$ .

If  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  includes the free variables of  $\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2$ , and for  $\phi_i, \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we choose  $\psi_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), then for  $\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2$  we choose  $\psi_1 \wedge \psi_2$ .

If  $\phi^* = (\exists v_n) \phi(v_1, \dots, v_n), \{v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}\}$  includes the free variables of  $\phi^*$ , and for  $\phi, \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we have chosen  $\psi$ , then for  $\phi^*$  we choose

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^* &= \psi^*(v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v) = (\exists v_1^1, \dots, v_n^1 v^1 v^2) [\phi_0^n(v_1^1, \dots, v_n^1, v^1) \\ &\wedge \phi_1^n(v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v; v_1^1, \dots, v_{n-1}^1, v^2) \wedge \phi_2^n(v_1^1, \dots, v_n^1, v^1, v^2) \wedge \psi(v_1^1, \dots, v_n^1, v^1)]. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly it is suitable.

**CONCLUSION 3.3.** Any two of  $K^i, i = 1, \dots, 8$  are bi-interpretable. In particular the permutation groups  $\langle P_\alpha; \circ \rangle$  and the  $\langle \alpha, U_\alpha; \langle \rangle$  in the logic  $L_2(\Omega)$  are bi-interpretable. (For a definition of  $L_2(\Omega)$ , see below.)

**PROOF.** By 2.1–2.7 and 3.1, remembering 1.1, 1.2.

#### 4. The $L_2(\Omega)$ theories of ordinals

$L_2(\Omega)$  is the second order logic where the higher type variables range over relations (functions) with domain of power  $< \Omega$ .

Note the following lemma (Feferman and Vaught [7]):

**LEMMA 4.1.**

A) If  $\gamma_i = \sum_{j < \beta} \alpha_j^i, i = 0, 1$  and

$$\langle \alpha_j^0, U_{\alpha_j^0}; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \alpha_j^1, U_{\alpha_j^1}; \langle \rangle$$

for every  $j < \beta$ , then  $\langle \gamma_0, U_{\gamma_0}; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \gamma_1, U_{\gamma_1}; \langle \rangle$ .

B) For every  $n < \omega$  we can replace the full  $L_2(\Omega)$  by the set of  $\psi \in L_2(\Omega)$  with quantifier depth  $[\text{df}(\psi)] \leq n$ .

REMARK.

1) Elementary equivalence for this set will be denoted by  $\equiv_{L_2(\Omega)}^n$ .

2) Let us define  $\text{df}(\psi)$ . When  $\psi$  is an atomic formula,  $\text{df}(\psi)$  is 0; when  $\psi = \neg \phi$ ,  $\text{df}(\psi)$  is  $\text{df}(\phi)$ ; when  $\psi = \phi_1 \wedge \phi_2$ ,  $\text{df}(\psi)$  is  $\max\{\text{df}(\phi_1), \text{df}(\phi_2)\}$ ; and when  $\psi = (\exists x)\phi$ ,  $\text{df}(\psi)$  is  $1 + \text{df}(\phi)$ .

LEMMA 4.2. a) For  $\alpha \geq 2^{\aleph_0}$ ,  $K^7$  and  $K^9$  are bi-interpretable explicitly where  $M_\alpha^9 = \langle \alpha, \dots, R_n^\Omega(\alpha) \dots; \langle \rangle \rangle$  (this is the same as  $L_2(\Omega)$  on  $\langle \alpha, \langle \rangle \rangle$ ).

b) For  $\alpha < \Omega$  [ $= (2^{\aleph_0})^+$ ],  $L_2(\Omega)$  is the same as second order logic, that is  $M_\alpha^9 = \langle \alpha, \dots, R_n(\alpha), \dots; \langle \rangle \rangle$ .

It is clear that every sentence  $\psi$  in  $L_2(\Omega)$  is equivalent to a sentence  $\psi^*$  in  $L_{\Omega, \Omega}$  of finite depth  $\text{df}(\psi)$  ( $L_{\Omega, \Omega}$  is the infinitary logic with conjunctions over continuum many formulae, and quantification ( $\exists$  or  $\forall$ ) over strings of  $\leq 2^{\aleph_0}$  variables). From Kino [8] it is clear that if the ordinal  $\alpha$  has cofinality  $\geq \Omega$ , and is divisible by  $\Omega^{\text{df}(\psi)}$  then  $\langle \alpha; \langle \rangle \rangle \models \psi^*$  iff  $\langle \text{Or}; \langle \rangle \rangle \models \psi^*$  (where Or is the class of ordinals).

If  $\alpha, \beta$  have cofinality  $\geq \Omega$  and are divisible by  $\Omega^{\text{df}(\psi)}$  then  $\langle \alpha; \langle \rangle \rangle \models \psi^*$  iff  $\langle \beta; \langle \rangle \rangle \models \psi^*$ . Hence if  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  are divisible by  $\Omega^\omega$  and have cofinality  $\geq \Omega$  then this holds for any  $\psi^*$  ( $\psi \in L_2(\Omega)$ ); therefore  $\langle \alpha; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \beta; \langle \rangle \rangle$ . If  $\alpha, \beta$  are divisible by  $\Omega^\omega$ , and have cofinality  $\kappa < \Omega$ , then for any  $n$ ,  $\alpha = \sum_{i < \kappa} \alpha_i$ ,  $\beta = \sum_{i < \kappa} \beta_i$ , and  $\alpha_i, \beta_i$  have cofinality  $\geq \Omega$  and are divisible  $\Omega^n$ ; hence,  $\langle \alpha_i; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)}^n \langle \beta_i; \langle \rangle \rangle$ . Hence by Lemma 4.1 (B),  $\langle \alpha; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)}^n \langle \beta; \langle \rangle \rangle$ . As this holds for any  $n$ ,  $\langle \alpha; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \beta; \langle \rangle \rangle$ .

This discussion proves

LEMMA 4.3. If  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  are divisible by  $\Omega^\omega$ , and their cofinalities are equal or  $\geq \Omega$  then  $\langle \alpha, \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \beta; \langle \rangle \rangle$ , or equivalently  $\langle \alpha, U_\alpha; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \beta, U_\beta; \langle \rangle \rangle$  (necessarily  $\alpha, \beta \geq \Omega$ ).

Let  $U^*$  be any set of cardinality  $2^{\aleph_0}$  so for  $\aleph_\alpha \geq 2^{\aleph_0}$ , without loss of generality,  $U_\alpha = U^*$ . We would like to weaken the demand on the equality of cofinalities. We can easily generalize Lemma 4.1 to multiplication.

LEMMA 4.4. For any  $n < \omega$  there is  $m$  such that if  $\alpha_i = \beta_i \gamma_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $\langle \beta_1, U^*; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)}^m \langle \beta_2, U^*; \langle \rangle \rangle$ , and  $\langle \gamma_1, U^*; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)}^m \langle \gamma_2, U^*; \langle \rangle \rangle$  then  $\langle \alpha_1, U^*; \langle \rangle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)}^n \langle \alpha_2, U^*; \langle \rangle \rangle$ .

From the above follows

LEMMA 4.5. If  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  are divisible by  $\Omega^\omega$ , and  $\text{cf}(\alpha), \text{cf}(\beta) \geq \Omega$  or

$\langle \text{cf}(\alpha), U^*; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \text{cf}(\beta), U^*; \langle \rangle$  then  $\langle \alpha, U_\alpha; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \beta, U_\beta; \langle \rangle$  ( $U_\alpha = U_\beta = U^*$ ).

**THEOREM 4.6.** For any ordinals  $\alpha, \beta$  we have a unique representation  $\alpha = \Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega + \dots + \Omega^n \alpha_n + \dots + \Omega^1 \alpha_1 + \alpha_0$ ,  $\alpha_n < \Omega$  for  $n < \omega$ , and only finitely many  $\alpha_n$  are  $\neq 0$ ;  $\beta = \Omega^\omega \beta_\omega + \dots + \Omega^n \beta_n + \dots + \Omega^1 \beta_1 + \beta_0$ ,  $\beta_n < \Omega$  for  $n < \omega$  and only finitely many  $\beta_n$  are  $\neq 0$ .

Now  $\langle \alpha, U_\alpha; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2(\Omega)} \langle \beta, U_\beta; \langle \rangle$  iff the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1)  $\alpha < \Omega$  iff  $\beta < \Omega$
- 2) if  $\alpha < \Omega$ ,  $\langle \alpha_0, U_{\alpha_0}; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \beta_0, U_{\beta_0}; \langle \rangle$
- 3) if  $\alpha \geq \Omega$ ,  $\langle \alpha_0, U^*; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \beta_0, U^*; \langle \rangle$
- 4) for  $0 < n < \omega$   $\langle \alpha_n, U^*; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \beta_n, U^*; \langle \rangle$
- 5)  $\text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega) \geq \Omega$  iff  $\text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \beta_\omega) \geq \Omega$
- 6) if  $\text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega) < \Omega$  then  $\langle \text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \alpha_\omega), U^*; \langle \rangle \equiv_{L_2} \langle \text{cf}(\Omega^\omega \beta_\omega), U^*; \langle \rangle$ .

We have proven the sufficiency of the conditions. Their necessity is easy to prove, e.g.,  $\alpha < \Omega$  iff  $\langle \alpha; \langle \rangle \models (\exists A) (\forall x) (x \in A)$ .

## 5. Discussion

a) Clearly we can interpret in the group of permutations of  $\aleph_\alpha$ : (1) one-to-one functions from  $\aleph_\alpha$  into  $\aleph_\alpha$ , (2) equivalence relations with  $\leq 2^{\aleph_0}$  equivalence class, (3) the lattice of  $E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$  and (4)  $E_\alpha^{\aleph_1}$  partially ordered. Except for (2) also the converses are true.

b) Let  $P_\alpha^\beta$  be the group of permutations  $f \in P_\alpha$ ,  $|\{x: f(x) \neq x\}| < \aleph_\beta$ . It is easy to see by Vaught's test that if  $\beta \leq \alpha \leq \gamma$  then  $\langle P_\alpha^\beta, \circ \rangle$  is an elementary submodel of  $\langle P_\gamma^\beta, \circ \rangle$ , and we can, with no difficulty, describe the elementary theories of  $\langle P_\alpha^\beta, \circ \rangle$  in a way parallel to the description for  $\langle P_\alpha, \circ \rangle$ .

McKenzie [10], solving the question of Mycielski [11], asks when  $FG(\lambda)$  (the free group with  $\lambda$ -generators) can be embedded in  $P_\alpha^\beta$ . By De Bruijn [1, Th. 4.2], if there is  $\gamma < \beta$  such that  $2^{\aleph_\gamma} \geq \lambda$ , and  $\gamma \leq \alpha$  then there is such an embedding. McKenzie [10] shows that if  $\lambda$  is big enough relative to  $\aleph_\alpha$ , then this cannot be done.

Let  $\{x_i: i < \lambda\}$  be the generators of  $FG(\lambda)$ , and  $F$  an embedding of  $FG(\lambda)$  into  $P_\alpha^\beta$ . McKenzie ([10] p. 57) shows, using a partition relation  $\mu \rightarrow ((2^\kappa)^+)_2^{3^*}$  from Erdős, Hajnal and Rado [3], that for  $\lambda$  big enough there is  $I \subseteq \lambda$ ,  $|I| > \sum_{\kappa < \aleph_\beta} 2^\kappa$  such that

(\*) for  $i_1 < j_1 < k_1 \in I$ ,  $i_2 < j_2 < k_2 \in I$ , there is a permutation of  $\aleph_\alpha$  which

takes  $\langle F(x_{i_1}), F(x_{j_1}), F(x_{k_1}) \rangle$  to  $\langle F(x_{i_2}), F(x_{j_2}), F(x_{k_2}) \rangle$

and from this he gets a contradiction. Now if  $\lambda > \sum_{\kappa < \aleph_\beta} 2^\kappa$ , let

$$A_i = \{y: y \in \aleph_\alpha, F(x_i)[y] \neq y\} \quad (F(x_i) \in P_\alpha^\beta);$$

therefore  $|A_i| < \aleph_\beta$ . Hence, by Erdős and Rado [4] there is  $I \subseteq \lambda$ ,  $|I| > \sum_{\kappa < \aleph_\beta} 2^\kappa$  such that for  $i \neq j \in I$ ,  $A_i \cap A_j = A$  (i.e., any two  $A_i$  have the same intersection); therefore,  $|A| < \aleph_\beta$ . Hence there is  $J \subseteq I$ ,  $|J| > \sum_{\kappa < \aleph_\beta} 2^\kappa$  such that for  $i \neq j \in J$ ,  $\langle A_j; F(x_j), a \rangle_{a \in A} \cong \langle A_i; F(x_i), a \rangle_{a \in A}$ . Clearly (\*) is satisfied, which McKenzie shows is impossible. Therefore, if  $FG(\lambda)$  can be embedded in  $P_\alpha^\beta$  then  $\lambda \leq \sum_{\kappa < \aleph_\beta} 2^\kappa$ , and

$$\lambda \leq \sum \{2^\kappa: \kappa \leq \aleph_\alpha, \kappa < \aleph_\beta\}.$$

The remaining problem is for  $\beta$  a limit ordinal,  $\beta \leq \alpha$ ,  $\lambda = \sum_{\gamma < \beta} 2^{\aleph_\gamma}$  but  $\gamma < \beta \rightarrow 2^{\aleph_\gamma} < \lambda$ . Let  $g_k = F(x_k) \circ F(x_0) \circ F(x_k)^{-1} \circ F(x_0)^{-1}$ . Then  $\{g_\delta: 0 < \delta < \lambda, \delta \text{ a limit ordinal}\}$  generates a free subgroup of cardinality  $\lambda$ , and  $|\{x: g_\delta(x) \neq x\}| \leq |\{y: F(x_0)(y) \neq y\}| + \aleph_0 \leq \aleph_\gamma < \aleph_\beta$ , so we get a contradiction as before.

**THEOREM 5.1.** *The free group of cardinality  $\lambda$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $P_\alpha^\beta$  (i.e., the group of permutations of  $\aleph_\alpha$  which moves  $< \aleph_\beta$  elements) iff for some  $\aleph_\gamma < \aleph_\beta$   $2^{\aleph_\gamma} \geq \lambda$ .*

c) In the same way we prove Conclusion 3.3, we can prove

**THEOREM 5.2.**  *$K^{10}$ ,  $K^{11}$  are bi-interpretable where*

- 1)  $M_\alpha^{10} = \langle \aleph_\alpha, E_\alpha^x; \rangle$
- 2)  $M_\alpha^{11} = \langle \alpha, U_\alpha, \dots, R_n(\alpha \cup U_\alpha), \dots; \rangle$  where  $<$  is the order of ordinals and  $|U_\alpha| = \min(\aleph_\alpha, (\sum_{\mu < \kappa} 2^\mu) + 2^{\aleph_0})$ . ( $\kappa$  is any regular cardinal; the interpretation is independent of  $\kappa$ ).

The essential property of  $E_\alpha^x$  we used is that for any  $e \in E_\alpha^x$ ,  $\langle \aleph_\alpha; e \rangle$  is the direct sum of models, each of cardinality  $< \kappa$ . Thus, there are many variants of our theorems.

As an easy corollary of Theorem 5.2 we have a well-known theorem of Rabin [17] that allowing quantifications over arbitrary equivalence relations is equivalent to full second order logic. (In fact, more is proved there).

We can seek another generalization by allowing some extrastructure over  $\aleph_\alpha$ , e.g. some equivalence relation; then in  $K$  instead of  $M_\alpha$  a set  $\mathcal{M}_\alpha$  of models appear, and in the definition of interpretation  $\mathcal{M}_\alpha \models \psi$  means  $M \in \mathcal{M}_\alpha$  implies  $M \models \psi$ . However, if we allow (in the case of equivalence relations) quantification over

permutations, we get full second order theory. But we can allow quantification only over automorphisms of  $\aleph_\alpha$  with the extrastructure. Even for a one-place function this is equivalent to a full second-order theory. Contrast this with the decidability of the monadic second-order theory of a one-place function, which is shown by Le Tourneau to follow from Rabin [13]. But for equivalence relations ordered by refinement, we get:

**THEOREM 5.3.**  $K^{12,n}, K^{13,n}$  are bi-interpretable, where

$$\mathcal{M}^{12} = \{ \langle \aleph_\alpha, \text{Aut}_\alpha(\bar{e}); \bar{e} \rangle : \bar{e} = (e_1, \dots, e_n), e_i \in E_\alpha^{\aleph_\alpha+1}, e_i \text{ refines } e_{i+1} \},$$

$M_\alpha^{13} = \langle \alpha, U_\alpha^n; < \rangle$  where  $<$  is the order of ordinals and  $|U_\alpha^0| = \min(2^{\aleph_0}, \aleph_\alpha)$ ,  $|U_\alpha^{n+1}| = \min(|\alpha|^{U_\alpha^n}, \aleph_\alpha)$  where  $\text{Aut}_\alpha(\bar{e})$  is the set of automorphisms of  $(\aleph_\alpha, e)$ .

We could have generalized Theorem 5.3 in the direction of Theorem 5.2, replacing (or adding to) the automorphisms by appropriate sets of equivalence relations.

For  $M_\alpha^{14} = \{ \langle \aleph_\alpha, \text{Aut}(<); < \rangle : < \text{ linearly orders } \aleph_\alpha \}$   $K^{14}$  is in fact bi-interpretable with second order logic. On the other hand, by Rabin [13], the monadic second-order theory of countable orders is decidable; and for not necessarily countable orders, the decidability is conjectured.

We can look also at  $\tilde{E}_\alpha^\kappa$ , i.e., the set of equivalence relations over  $\aleph_\alpha$  with  $< \kappa$  equivalence classes. It is not hard to see that in  $\langle \aleph_\alpha, E_\alpha^\kappa \rangle$  we can interpret  $\tilde{E}_\alpha^\lambda$  when  $(\sum_{\mu < \kappa} 2^\mu)^+ = \lambda$ . However, the converse is not true. If  $\aleph_\alpha \geq \aleph_\beta \geq \kappa$ ,  $\kappa$  regular (or  $\aleph_\beta > \kappa$ ) then  $\langle \aleph_\alpha, \tilde{E}_\alpha^\kappa \rangle$  is an elementary extension of  $\langle \aleph_\alpha, \tilde{E}_\alpha^\kappa \rangle$ . The theory of the natural numbers with addition and multiplication, and the theory of  $\langle \aleph_0, \tilde{E}_0^{\aleph_0} \rangle$  are bi-interpretable (one recursive in the other).

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