

# Magnums

## Counting Sets with Surreal Numbers

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# Outline

Introduction

Georg Cantor

Ordinal Numbers

Surreal Numbers

Magnums: Counting Sets with Surreals

Definitions

Odd and Even Numbers

Some Simple Theorems

Analysis on  $\mathbb{S}$

Finis



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# Magnums and Subsets of $\mathbb{N}$

The aim of this work is to define a number

$$m(A)$$

for subsets  $A$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  that corresponds to our intuition about the size or magnitude of  $A$ .

We call  $m(A)$  the **magnum of  $A$** .

**Magnum = Magnitude Number**



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**Magnum = Magnitude Number**

*“C’est par la logique qu’on démontre,  
c’est par l’intuition qu’on invente.”*

It is by logic that we prove, but by intuition that we discover [Poincaré].



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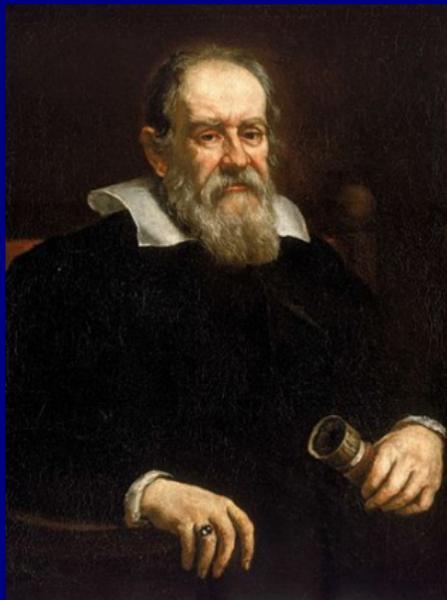
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# Galileo Galilei (1564–1642)

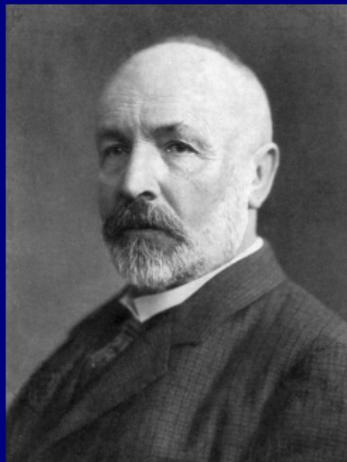


Every number  $n$  can be matched with its square  $n^2$ .

In a sense, there are **as many squares as whole numbers.**



# Georg Cantor (1845–1918)



**Cantor discovered many remarkable properties of infinite sets.**



# Georg Cantor (1845–1918)



- ▶ **Invented Set Theory.**
- ▶ **One-to-one Correspondence.**
- ▶ **Infinite and Well-ordered Sets.**
- ▶ **Cardinals and Ordinals.**
- ▶ **Proved**  $\text{card}(\mathbb{Q}) = \text{card}(\mathbb{N})$ .
- ▶ **Proved**  $\text{card}(\mathbb{R}) > \text{card}(\mathbb{N})$ .
- ▶ **Hierarchy of Infinities.**



# Set Theory: Controversy

**Cantor was strongly criticized by**

- ▶ **Henri Poincaré.**
- ▶ **Leopold Kronecker.**
- ▶ **Ludwig Wittgenstein.**

**Set Theory is a “grave disease” (HP).**  
**Cantor is a “corrupter of youth” (LK).**  
**“Nonsense; laughable; wrong!” (LW).**



# Set Theory: A Difficult Birth

Set Theory brought into prominence several **paradoxical results**.

It was **so innovative** that many mathematicians could not appreciate its fundamental value and importance.

Gösta Mittag-Leffler was reluctant to publish it in his *Acta Mathematica*. He said the work was “100 years ahead of its time”.

David Hilbert said:

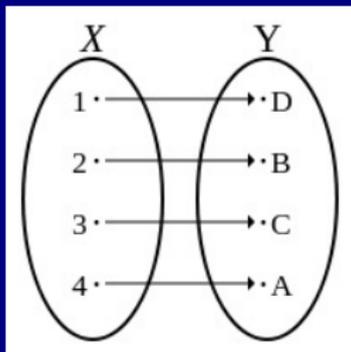
**“We shall not be expelled from the paradise that Cantor has created for us.”**



# Equality of Set Size: 1-1 Correspondence

How do we show that two sets are the same size?

For finite sets, this is straightforward counting.



For infinite sets, we must find a 1-1 correspondence.



# Infinite Sets

Now we consider sets that are infinite.

We take the natural numbers and the even numbers

$$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{E} = \{2, 4, 6, \dots\}$$

By associating each number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $2n \in \mathbb{E}$ , we have a perfect 1-to-1 correspondence.

By Cantor's argument, the two sets are the same size:

$$\text{card}[\mathbb{N}] = \text{card}[\mathbb{E}]$$



Again,

$$\text{card}[\mathbb{N}] = \text{card}[\mathbb{E}]$$

But this is **paradoxical**: The set of natural numbers contains all the even numbers

$$\mathbb{E} \subsetneq \mathbb{N}.$$

But  $\mathbb{N}$  also contains all the odd numbers.

In an intuitive sense,  $\mathbb{N}$  is larger than  $\mathbb{E}$ .



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# Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal Numbers are used to describe the **order type** of well-ordered sets.

An ordinal may be **defined** as the set of ordinals that precede it. Thus  $\omega$  is the set  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega\}$ .



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The smallest infinite ordinal is  $\omega$ , the order type of the set of natural numbers  $\mathbb{N}$ .

Indeed,  $\omega$  can be identified with the set  $\mathbb{N}$ .



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Indeed,  $\omega$  can be identified with the set  $\mathbb{N}$ .

After  $\omega$  come  $\omega + 1, \omega + 2, \dots, \omega \cdot 2$ .

Then  $\omega \cdot m + n$  and on to  $\omega^2, \omega^3, \dots, \omega^\omega$ .



# Diagram of Ordinals up to $\omega^2$

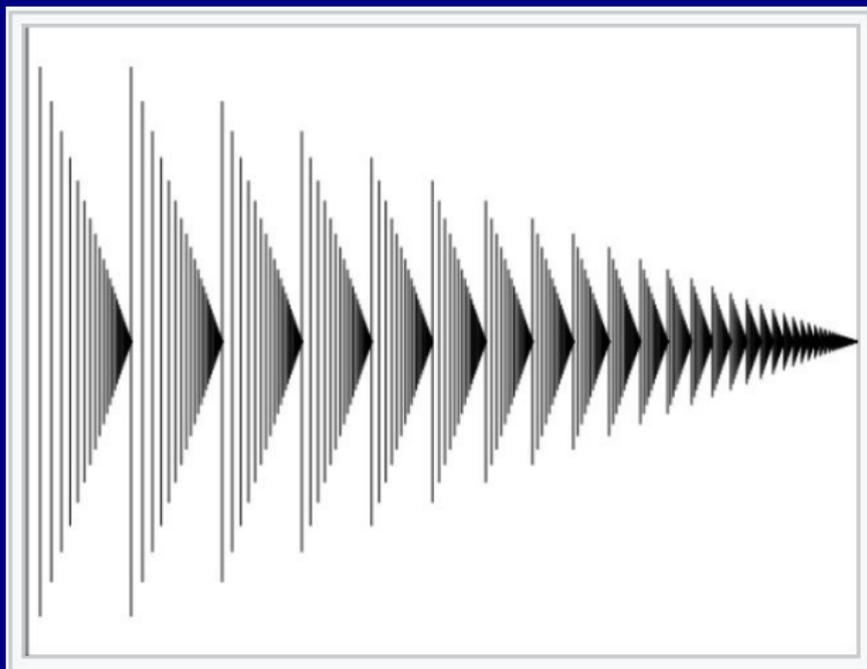


Figure: Each 'matchstick' is an ordinal  $\omega \cdot m + n$ .



# Von Neumann's Definition

Each ordinal number is the well-ordered set of all smaller ordinal numbers.

## First few von Neumann ordinals

$$0 = \{ \} = \emptyset$$

$$1 = \{ 0 \} = \{ \emptyset \}$$

$$2 = \{ 0, 1 \} = \{ \emptyset, \{ \emptyset \} \}$$

$$3 = \{ 0, 1, 2 \} = \{ \emptyset, \{ \emptyset \}, \{ \emptyset, \{ \emptyset \} \} \}$$

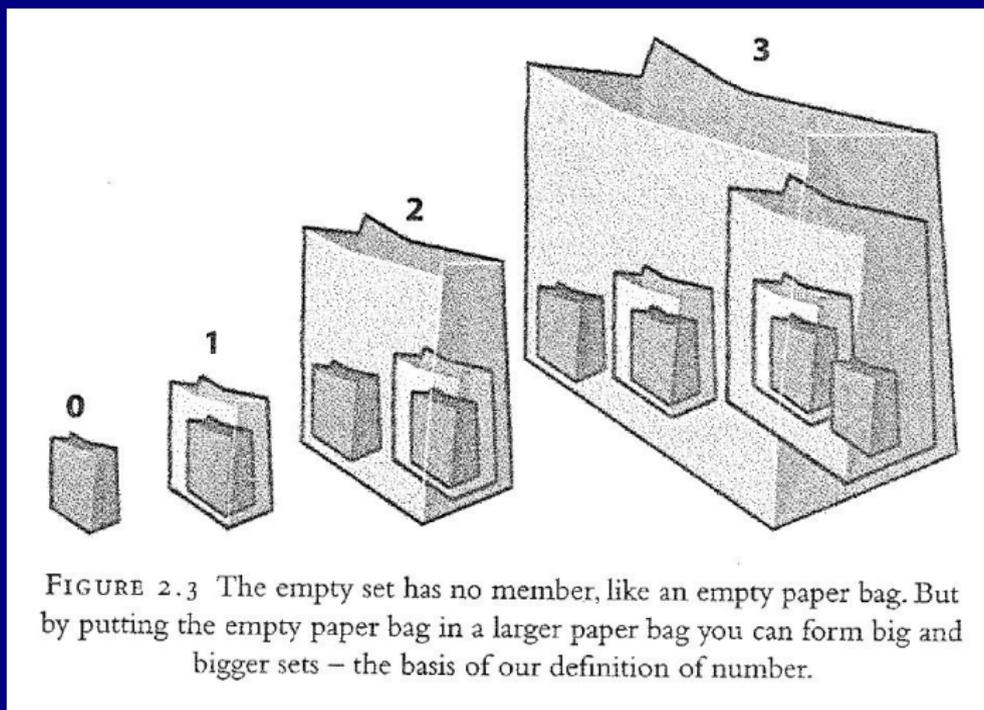
$$4 = \{ 0, 1, 2, 3 \} = \{ \emptyset, \{ \emptyset \}, \{ \emptyset, \{ \emptyset \} \}, \{ \emptyset, \{ \emptyset \}, \{ \emptyset, \{ \emptyset \} \} \} \}$$

For von Neumann, the successor of  $\alpha$  is  $\alpha \cup \{ \alpha \}$ .

Ernst Zermelo had used a slightly different (equivalent) definition of ordinals.



# A World from Empty Bags



# The Burali-Forti Paradox

**The class of ordinal numbers is not a set.**

If it were a set, it would be a member of itself, contradicting the strict ordering by membership.

Bertrand Russell noticed the contradiction. In 1903 he discussed it in his *Principles of Mathematics*.

The proper class of ordinals is variously denoted as

Ord    or    ON    or     $\infty$



# Arithmetic on the Ordinals

**Every well-ordered set has an ordinal number.**

**For infinite sets, there are many possible orderings:**

$\text{ord}(\{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}) = \omega$    **while**    $\text{ord}(\{2, 3, 4, \dots, 1\}) = \omega + 1$



# Arithmetic on the Ordinals

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$\text{ord}(\{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}) = \omega$     while     $\text{ord}(\{2, 3, 4, \dots, 1\}) = \omega + 1$

The ordinals are **non-commutative**:

$$1 + \omega \neq \omega + 1$$

Worse still,  $1 + \omega = \omega$ . One is tempted to subtract  $\omega$  to get  $1 = 0$ .

Not a good basis for a calculus of transfinities.



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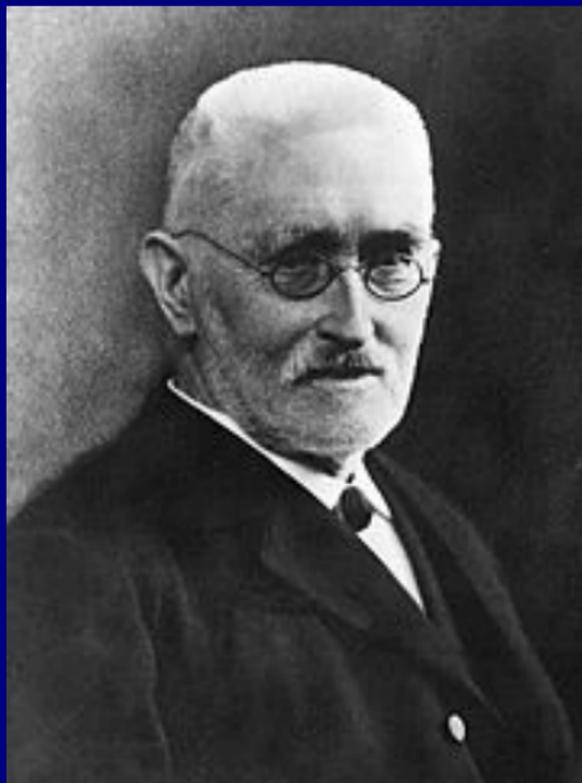
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# Richard Dedekind (1831–1916)



# Irrational Numbers

**Richard Dedekind** defined irrational numbers by means of **cuts** of the rational numbers  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

For example,  $\sqrt{2}$  is defined as  $(L, R)$ , where

$$L = \{\text{All rationals less than } \sqrt{2}\}$$

$$R = \{\text{All rationals greater than } \sqrt{2}\}$$

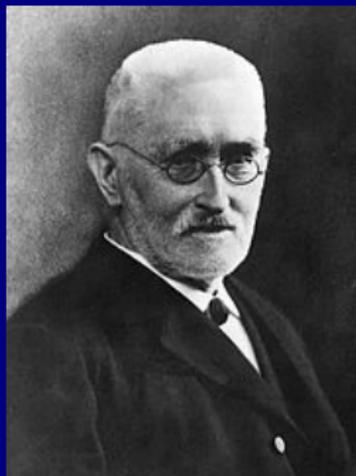
More precisely, and avoiding self-reference,

$$L = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} \mid x < 0 \text{ or } x^2 < 2\}$$

$$R = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} \mid x > 0 \text{ and } x^2 > 2\}$$



# Irrational Numbers



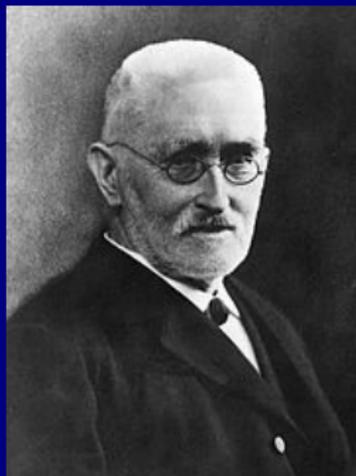
For each irrational number there is a corresponding cut  $(L, R)$ .

We can regard the cut as equivalent to the number.

There are rules to manipulate cuts that are equivalent to the arithmetical rules for numbers.



# Irrational Numbers



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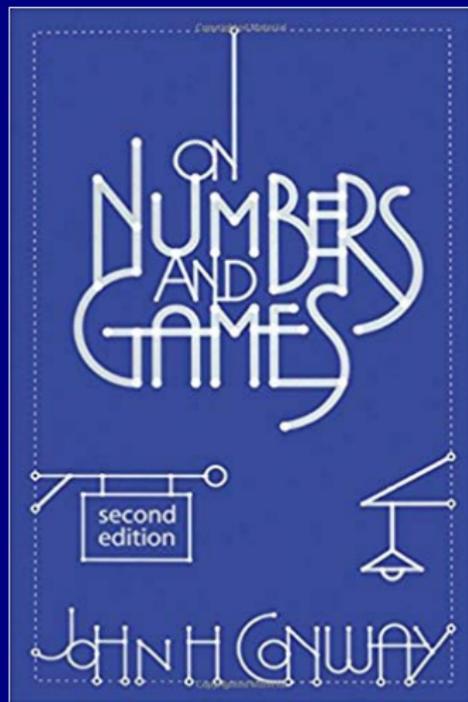
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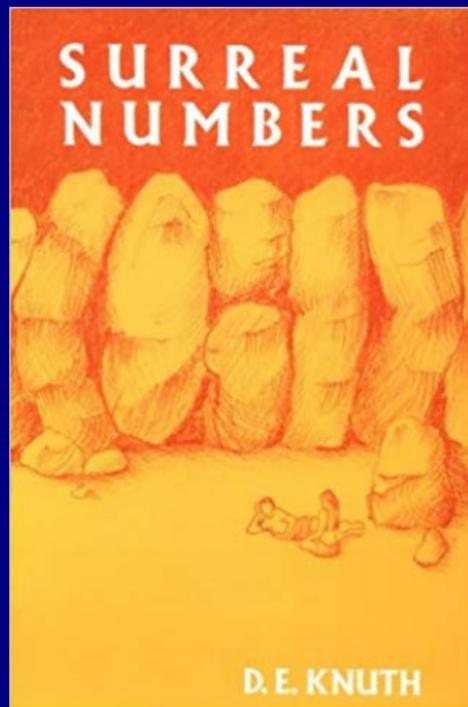
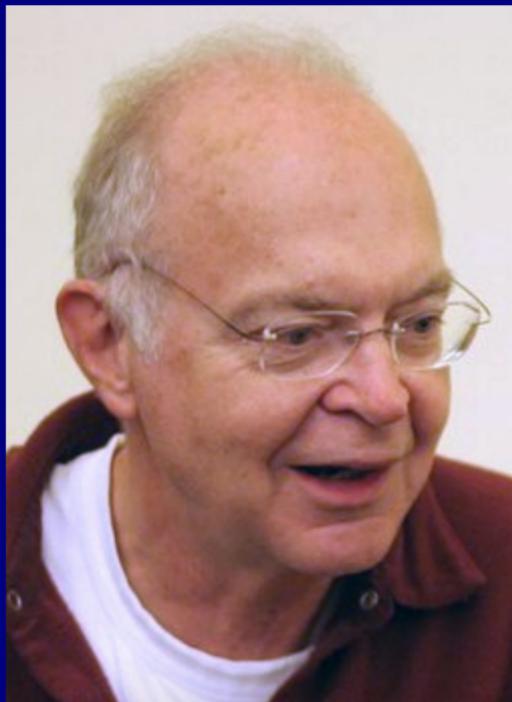
The surreal numbers are based upon a dramatic generalization of Dedekind's cuts.



# John H. Conway's ONAG



# Donald Knuth's *Surreal Numbers*



# Constructing the Surreals

The Surreal numbers  $\mathbb{S}$  are constructed **inductively**.

- ▶ Every number  $x$  is defined by a pair of sets, the left set and the right set:

$$x = \{ L \mid R \}$$

- ▶ No element of  $L$  is greater than or equal to any element of  $R$ .

$x$  is the **simplest** number between  $L$  and  $R$ .



# Constructing the Surreals

We start with 0, defined as

$$0 = \{\emptyset \mid \emptyset\} = \{\{\ } \mid \{\ }\} = \{ \mid \}$$

Then 1, 2, 3 and so on are defined as

$$\{0 \mid \} = 1 \quad \{1 \mid \} = 2 \quad \{2 \mid \} = 3 \quad \dots$$

Negative numbers are defined inductively as

$$-x = \{-R \mid -L\}$$

so that

$$\{\mid 0\} = -1 \quad \{\mid -1\} = -2 \quad \{\mid -2\} = -3 \quad \dots$$



# Constructing the Surreals

**Dyadic fractions (of the form  $m/2^n$ ) appear as**

$$\{0 \mid 1\} = \frac{1}{2} \quad \{1 \mid 2\} = \frac{3}{2} \quad \{0 \mid \frac{1}{2}\} = \frac{1}{4} \quad \{\frac{1}{2} \mid 1\} = \frac{3}{4} \quad \dots$$

**After an infinite number of stages,  
all the dyadic fractions have emerged.**

**At the next stage, all other real numbers appear.**

**Infinite and infinitesimal numbers also appear.**



# Surreal Numbers

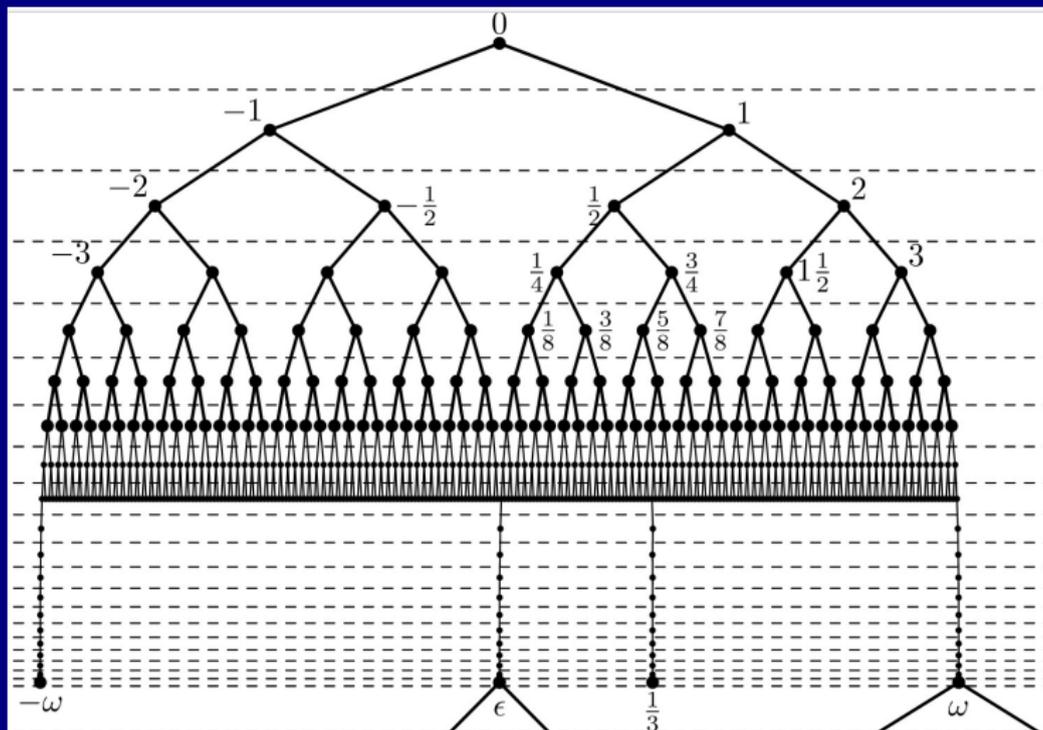


Figure: Surreal network from 0 to the first infinite number  $\omega$ .



# The First Infinite Number

The first infinite number  $\omega$  is defined as

$$\omega = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \mid \}$$

We can also introduce

$$\omega + 1 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega \mid \}, \quad \omega - 1 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots \mid \omega\}$$

$$2\omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega, \omega+1, \dots \mid \} \quad \frac{1}{2}\omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots \mid \omega, \omega-1, \dots\}$$

and many other more exotic numbers.



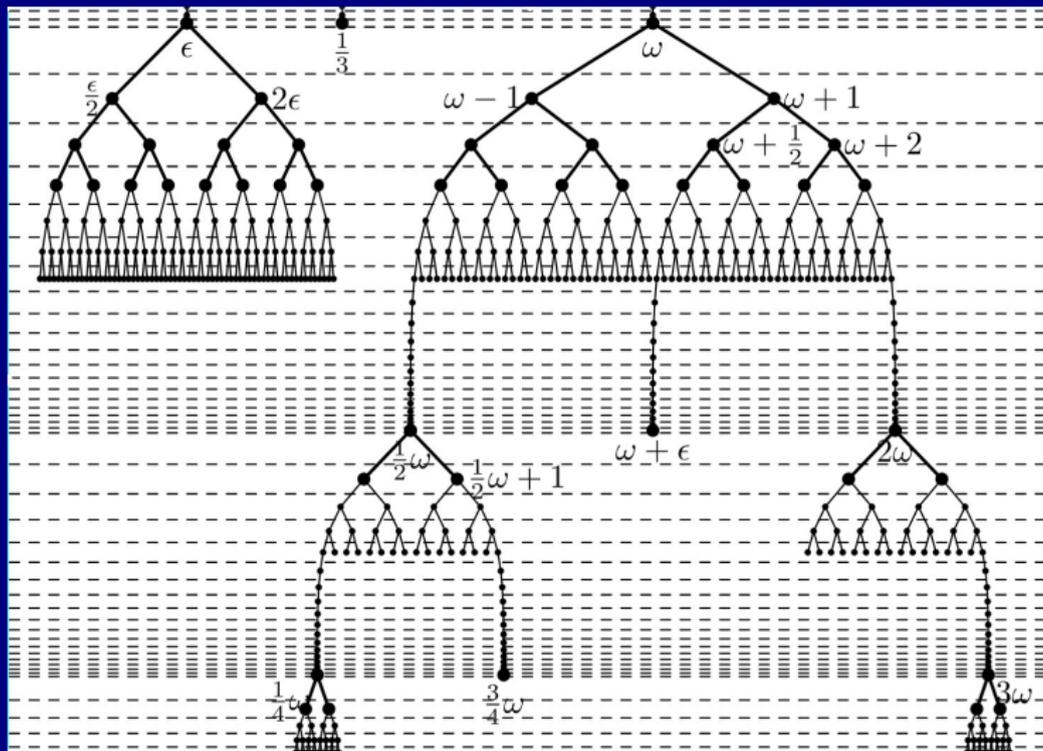


Figure: Network of early infinite and infinitesimal numbers.



# Manipulating Infinite Numbers

The surreal numbers behave beautifully:  
The class  $\mathbb{S}$  is a totally ordered Field.

We can define quantities like

$$\omega^2 \quad \omega^\omega \quad \sqrt{\omega} \quad \log \omega$$

and many even stranger numbers.



# The First Infinitesimal Number $\epsilon = 1/\omega$

**On day  $\omega$ , the number  $\epsilon = 1/\omega$  appears.**

**It can be shown that**

$$\frac{\omega}{\omega} = \omega \times \epsilon = 1$$

**Since we are interested in subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ , we will consider surreals less than or equal to  $\omega$ .**



# Closing Lines of Knuth's Book

B. Alice! Feast your eyes on this!

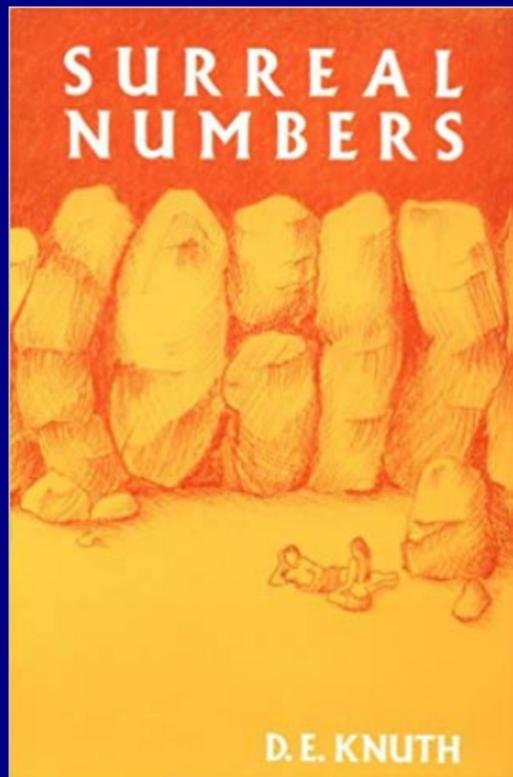
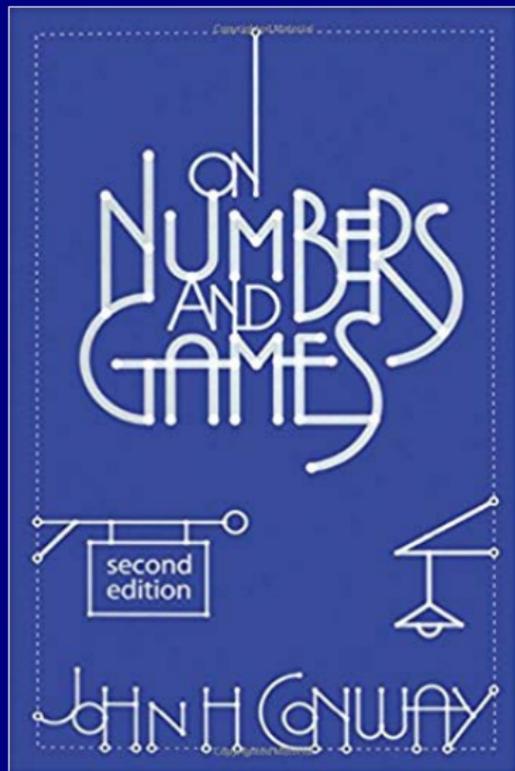
$$\sqrt{\omega} \equiv \left( \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}, \left\{ \frac{\omega}{1}, \frac{\omega}{2}, \frac{\omega}{3}, \frac{\omega}{4}, \dots \right\} \right);$$

$$\sqrt{\epsilon} \equiv \left( \{\epsilon, 2\epsilon, 3\epsilon, 4\epsilon, \dots\}, \left\{ \frac{1}{1}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots \right\} \right).$$

- A. (falling into his arms) Bill! Every discovery leads to more, and more!
- B. (glancing at the sunset) There are infinitely many things yet to do ... and only a finite amount of time ...



# Books about Surreal Numbers



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# BACKGROUND

**Cardinality is a *blunt instrument*:**

The natural numbers, rationals and algebraic numbers all have the same cardinality.

So,  $\aleph_0$  fails to discriminate between them.

Our aim is to define a number  $m(A)$  for subsets  $A$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  that corresponds to our intuition about the size or magnitude of  $A$ .

We define  $m(A)$  as a surreal number.



# Desiderata

- ▶ For a finite subset  $A$  we have  $m(A) = \text{card}(A)$
- ▶ For a proper subset  $A$  of  $B$  we have

$$A \subsetneq B \implies m(A) < m(B).$$

- ▶ For the odd and even natural numbers

$$\mathbb{N}_O = \{1, 3, 5, \dots\} \implies m(\mathbb{N}_O) \approx \frac{1}{2}m(\mathbb{N})$$

$$\mathbb{N}_E = \{2, 4, 6, \dots\} \implies m(\mathbb{N}_E) \approx \frac{1}{2}m(\mathbb{N})$$



# The Goal: A Genetic Definition

The ultimate aim is to construct a **genetic definition** of the magnum.

That is, for a given  $A \subset \mathbb{N}$ , to define two sets,  $L_A$  and  $R_A$  such that

$$m(A) = \{ L_A \mid R_A \}$$

We have not been able to do this yet.



# Difficulties with Limits

In ONAG (page 43), Conway states that we cannot assume the limit of the sequence  $(1, 2, 3, \dots)$  is  $\omega$ .

We cannot conclude that  $m(\mathbb{N}) = \omega$ .

Therefore, we will write  $m(\mathbb{N}) = \varpi$ .

The precise specification of  $\varpi$  as a surreal number in the form  $\{ L \mid R \}$  remains to be done.



# Euler's Number

The usual definition of Euler's number is

$$e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n), \quad \text{where} \quad f(n) = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n.$$

Evaluating  $f(n)$  for  $n = \omega$  we obtain a surreal number

$$e_\omega = f(\omega) = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\omega}\right)^\omega$$

which is not equal to  $e$ .



# Extending Functions from $\mathbb{R}$ to $\mathbb{S}$

The extension of many functions from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{S}$  can be done without difficulty.

$$f : x \mapsto x^2, x \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{to} \quad f : x \mapsto x^2, x \in \mathbb{S}$$

so we have  $f(\varpi) = \varpi^2$  and so on.

This is fine for polynomials, rational functions, the logarithm and trigonometric functions.



# Some Examples

$$f(n) = \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) = 1 - \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{so} \quad f(\omega) = 1 - \frac{1}{\omega}$$

**The value of  $f(\omega)$  may not be defined in all cases:**

$$f(n) = (-1)^n \quad \text{extends to} \quad f(\omega) = (-1)^\omega$$

**and it is not clear what the value of this should be.**

**We introduce the notation**

$$\Lambda \equiv (-1)^\omega$$

**without (yet) defining the value to be assigned to  $\Lambda$ .**



# Numerical Examples

For the real numbers,  $0.999\dots = 1$ .

For the surreals, this is not the case:

$$f(n) = \underbrace{0.999\dots 9}_{n \text{ terms}} = 1 - 10^{-n}, \quad \text{so} \quad f(\omega) = 1 - 10^{-\omega} < 1.$$

Many more examples could be given, such as

$$\begin{aligned} 0.\overline{142857} &= \frac{142,857}{1,000,000} [1 + 10^{-6} + 10^{-12} + \dots] \\ &= \frac{1}{7} [1 - 10^{-6\omega}]. \end{aligned}$$



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# Counting Sequence

We define the characteristic function of  $A \subset \mathbb{N}$  by

$$\chi_A(n) = \begin{cases} 1, & n \in A \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We assume that  $a_1 < a_2 < a_3 < \dots < a_n < \dots$ .

## Definition

We define the *counting sequence*  $\kappa_A$  to be the sequence of partial sums of the sequence  $\{\chi_A(n)\}$ :

$$\kappa_A(n) = \sum_{k=1}^n \chi_A(k)$$

Clearly,  $\kappa(n) \leq n$  and  $\kappa_A(n)$  counts the number of elements of  $A$  less than or equal to  $n$ .



# The Magnum of $A$

## Definition

If  $\kappa_A(x)$  is defined for  $x = \varpi$ , the *magnum* of  $A \subset \mathbb{N}$  is

$$m(A) = \kappa_A(\varpi)$$

**Note that the magnum is a surreal number.**

**If  $A$  is a finite set,  $m(A)$  is just  $\text{card}(A)$ .**



# Principal Part of $m(A)$

We denote by  $M(A)$  the infinite part of  $m(A)$ .

We write  $m(A)$  in its **normal form**. Then

$$m(A) = \underbrace{M(A)}_{\text{Infinite}} + \underbrace{(m(A) - M(A))}_{\text{Finite}}$$

This can be done in a canonical manner.

To compute the magnum, we write

$$\kappa_A(n) = \pi_A(n) + (\kappa_A(n) - \pi_A(n))$$

Then  $M(A) = \pi_A(\varpi)$  (if this exists).



# A Set without a Magnum

Let  $U$  be the set of natural numbers with an odd number of decimal digits.

$$\chi_U(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \text{ has an odd number of decimal digits,} \\ 0 & \text{if } n \text{ has an even number of decimal digits.} \end{cases}$$

If the density of  $U$  is  $\rho_U(n) = \kappa_U(n)/n$  then

$$\rho_U(1) = 0.0$$

$$\rho_U(10) = 0.9$$

$$\rho_U(100) = 0.09$$

$$\rho_U(1000) = 0.909$$

$$\rho_U(10000) = 0.0909$$



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# Intuition about Sizes

How do we ‘know’ that  $\mathbb{N}_E$  is half the size of  $\mathbb{N}$ .

We do not. But we have a ‘feeling’ about it.



# Intuition about Sizes

**How do we ‘know’ that  $\mathbb{N}_E$  is half the size of  $\mathbb{N}$ .**

**We do not. But we have a ‘feeling’ about it.**

**Why?**

**For any large but finite  $N$ , about half the numbers less than  $N$  are odd and about half are even.**



# The Odd Numbers

The characteristic sequence for the *odd numbers* is

$$\chi_O(n) = (1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$$

and the counting sequence for the odd numbers is

$$\kappa_O(n) = (1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, \dots)$$

We can write  $\chi_O(n)$  and  $\kappa_O(n)$  as

$$\chi_O(n) = \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa_O(n) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ n + \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{2} \right]$$

Evaluating the counting function at  $\varpi$  we get

$$m(\mathbb{N}_O) = \kappa_O(\varpi) = \frac{\varpi}{2} + \frac{1}{4} [1 - (-1)^\varpi] = \frac{\varpi}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\Lambda}{4}.$$



# The Even Numbers

We repeat this procedure for the even numbers.

$$\chi_E(n) = (0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, \dots)$$

$$\kappa_E(n) = (0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, \dots)$$

We can write these sequences as

$$\chi_E(n) = \frac{1 + (-1)^n}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa_E(n) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ n - \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{2} \right]$$

Evaluating the counting function at  $\varpi$  we get

$$m(\mathbb{N}_E) = \kappa_E(\varpi) = \frac{\varpi}{2} - \frac{1}{4} [1 - (-1)^\varpi] = \frac{\varpi}{2} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{\Lambda}{4}.$$



# All Together

$$m(\mathbb{N}_O) = \frac{\aleph}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\Lambda}{4}$$

$$m(\mathbb{N}_E) = \frac{\aleph}{2} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{\Lambda}{4}$$

**Assuming  $\varpi$  is an 'even number'  $\Lambda = (-1)^\varpi = 1$  so**

$$m(\mathbb{N}_O) = \frac{\aleph}{2}$$

$$m(\mathbb{N}_E) = \frac{\aleph}{2}$$

**Since  $\mathbb{N}_E$  and  $\mathbb{N}_O$  are disjoint and  $\mathbb{N}_E \cup \mathbb{N}_O = \mathbb{N}$ , it is refreshing to observe that**

$$m(\mathbb{N}_O) + m(\mathbb{N}_E) = \varpi = m(\mathbb{N}).$$



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# Zeros at the Beginning

**Theorem:** Suppose the set  $A$  has magnum  $m(A)$ . Then the shifted sequence  $B$  defined by

$$\chi_B(1) = 0, \quad \chi_B(n) = \chi_A(n-1), \quad n > 1$$

has magnum

$$m(B) = m(A) - \chi_A(\varpi).$$

**Corollary:** If the sequence  $B$  is shifted from  $A$  by  $k$  places, we have

$$m(B) = m(A) - \sum_{j=1}^k \chi_A(\varpi + 1 - j)$$



# General Arithmetic Sequence

**Theorem:** The magnum of the arithmetic sequence  $A = \{a, a + d, a + 2d, a + 3d, \dots\}$  is

$$m(A) = \frac{\omega}{d} + \left( \frac{d + 1 - 2a}{2d} \right)$$



# Squares of Natural Numbers

We now consider the set of squares of natural numbers  $S = \{1, 4, 9, 16, \dots\}$ . The characteristic sequence is

$$\chi_S(n) = (1, \underbrace{0, 0}_{2 \text{ zeros}}; 1, \underbrace{0, 0, 0, 0}_{4 \text{ zeros}}; 1, \underbrace{0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0}_{6 \text{ zeros}}; 1, \dots)$$

and the sequence of partial sums of this sequence is

$$\kappa(n) = (\underbrace{1, 1, 1}_{3 \text{ terms}}, \underbrace{2, 2, 2, 2, 2}_{5 \text{ terms}}, \underbrace{3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3}_{7 \text{ terms}}, \dots)$$

**Theorem:** The magnum of the sequence of squares is

$$m(S) = \sqrt{\omega} - \frac{1}{2} + \text{HOT}.$$



# General Geometric Sequence

We now consider the general geometric sequence

$$G = \{\beta r, \beta r^2, \beta r^3, \dots\}$$

**Theorem:** The magnum of the geometric sequence  $G = \{\beta r, \beta r^2, \beta r^3 \dots\}$  is

$$m(G) = \frac{\ln \varpi}{\ln r} - \left( \frac{\ln \beta}{\ln r} + \frac{1}{2} \right).$$



# Outline

Introduction

Georg Cantor

Ordinal Numbers

Surreal Numbers

Magnums: Counting Sets with Surreals

Definitions

Odd and Even Numbers

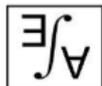
Some Simple Theorems

**Analysis on  $\mathbb{S}$**

Finis



# Analysis on $\mathbb{S}$ . Paper of RSS



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## Analysis on Surreal Numbers

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# Analysis on $\mathbb{S}$

**This paper [RSS] attempts to extend the application of surreals to functions, limits, derivatives, power series and integrals.**

- ▶ **A new definition of surreal numbers.**
- ▶ **A formula for the limit of a sequence.**
- ▶ **Characterization of convergent sequences.**
- ▶ **A new topology on  $\mathbb{S}$ .**
- ▶ **An Intermediate Value Theorem proved (even though  $\mathbb{S}$  is not Cauchy complete).**



# Background

The arithmetic and algebraic properties of  $\mathbb{S}$  are now well understood:

- ▶ **Harry Gonshor** found a definition of  $\exp(x)$ .
- ▶ **Martin Kruskal** found a definition of  $1/x$ .
- ▶ **Clive Bach** found a definition of  $\sqrt{x}$ .

Analysis on  $\mathbb{S}$  is the next big step.



# Notation and Basic Properties

- ▶  $S_{<a}$  is the class of surreals less than  $a$ .
- ▶  $S_{>a}$  is the class of surreals greater than  $a$ .

Representations of the form  $\{ L \mid R \}$ , where  $L$  and  $R$  are sets, are known as *genetic formulae*.



# Notation and Basic Properties

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Representations of the form  $\{ L \mid R \}$ , where  $L$  and  $R$  are sets, are known as *genetic formulae*.

Ordinals are numbers of the form  $\{ L \mid \}$ .  
*The right hand set is empty!*

Every surreal  $x$  can be uniquely expressed in *normal form* as a sum over ordinals:

$$x = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{S}_{<\beta}} r_i \cdot \omega^{y_i}$$

$r_i$  are real numbers and  $y_i$  a decreasing sequence.



# Gaps

The surreal number line is riddled with gaps.  
Gaps are Dedekind sections on  $\mathbb{S}$ .

All gaps are born on day **On**.

The **Dedekind completion** of  $\mathbb{S}$ , denoted  $\mathbb{S}^{\mathfrak{D}}$  contains all numbers and gaps.

Noteworthy gaps include

- ▶ **On** =  $\{\mathbb{S} \mid \quad\}$ , the gap larger than all surreals
- ▶ **Off** =  $-\mathbf{On}$ , the gap smaller than all surreals
- ▶  $\infty$  =  $\{\text{neg. and finite pos. nums.} \mid \text{inf. pos. nums.}\}$

A sequence is of length **On** if its elements are indexed over the proper class of ordinals **On**.



# Open Sets. Topology

**RSS define open sets:**

- ▶ **The empty set is open**
- ▶ **A nonempty subinterval of  $\mathbb{S}$  is open if**
  - ▶ **It has endpoints in  $\mathbb{S} \cup \{\text{On}, \text{Off}\}$**
  - ▶ **It does not contain its endpoints.**
- ▶ **A subclass  $A \subset \mathbb{S}$  is open if it is a union of open intervals  $A_i$  indexed over a proper set  $I$ .**

**This definition produces a topology on  $\mathbb{S}$ .**

**Now we can define limits and continuity for  $f : a \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ .**



# Sequences and Limits

For any formula  $\{ L \mid R \}$  for the limit of an **On**-length sequence at least one of  $L$  and  $R$  is a proper class.

Since this is not a number as defined by Conway, **a new definition is needed.**

**Definition:** For any  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{\mathfrak{D}}$ , the Dedekind representation of  $x$  is  $\{\mathbb{S}_{<x} \mid \mathbb{S}_{>x}\}$ .

All the usual properties of  $\mathbb{S}$  still hold.



**Limits of sequences and functions are now defined as certain Dedekind representations.**

**They are equivalent to the usual  $\epsilon$ - $\delta$  definitions for sequences or functions that approach numbers.**



# Derivatives and Integrals

Limits are defined **generically** as numbers (or gaps):

{ Left Class | Right Class }.

Derivatives can be evaluated using the definitions.

A genetic definition or Dedekind representation  
of Riemann integration is still outstanding.



# Open Questions

**RSS provide a list of open issues that includes:**

- ▶ **Sums of general series.**
- ▶ **Genetic formula for definite integrals.**
- ▶ **Definitions of other transcendental functions.**
- ▶ **Theory of differential equations.**
- ▶ **Surreal version of Stokes' Theorem.**
- ▶ **Genetic definition of the magnum.**



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# Opportunities

**Many open challenges in analysis on  $\mathbb{S}$ .**

**May be crucial in physics.**

**Good projects for students.**



Thank you

