



GCH implies AC

a Metamath Formalization

MARIO CARNEIRO

22 JULY 2015

What is Metamath?

- A computer language for representing mathematical proofs
 - The Metamath spec is two pages, one verifier exists in ≈ 300 lines of Python
 - Eight independent verifiers exist in eight different languages
 - Two proof assistants (MM-PA and mmj2) with another (smm) in development
- A project to formalize modern mathematics from a simple foundation
- Four major databases
 - ZFC set theory (set.mm)
 - Over 25000 proofs, 500K lines, 24M file
 - HOL type theory (hol.mm)
 - Intuitionistic logic (iset.mm)
 - NF set theory (nf.mm)
 - Including Specker's proof of $\neg AC$

What is GCH?

- The Generalized Continuum Hypothesis
 - 1) $2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}$ for every ordinal α
 - 2) There are no infinite cardinals $\aleph < \aleph < 2^{\aleph}$
- Equivalence of (1) and (2) needs the axiom of regularity, which we prefer to avoid when possible – we use definition (2)

Localizing GCH

- The Generalized Continuum Hypothesis
 - 1) $2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}$ for every ordinal α
 - 2) There are no infinite cardinals $\mathfrak{m} < \mathfrak{n} < 2^{\mathfrak{m}}$
- Equivalence of (1) and (2) needs the axiom of regularity, which we prefer to avoid when possible – we use definition (2)
- Define a GCH-set to be a cardinal \mathfrak{m} that is finite or satisfies $\neg(\mathfrak{m} < \mathfrak{n} < 2^{\mathfrak{m}})$ for all cardinals \mathfrak{n}
 - Often written $\text{CH}(\mathfrak{m})$, Metamath notation is $\mathfrak{m} \in \text{GCH}$
 - Then GCH is equivalent to “every set is a GCH-set”, written $\text{GCH} = V$

$$\text{GCH} = \text{Fin} \cup \{x \mid \forall y \neg(x < y \wedge y < \mathcal{P}x)\}$$

What is AC?

- The Axiom of Choice
- Many equivalent formulations
- The one useful to us is “every set is well-orderable/equinumerous to an ordinal”
- Metamath notation for “ A is well-orderable” is $A \in \text{dom card}$ because the cardinality function is only defined on sets equinumerous to an ordinal

$$\text{CHOICE} \leftrightarrow \text{dom card} = V$$

GCH implies AC

- Written in Metamath notation as $GCH = V \rightarrow CHOICE$
- What does a local version look like?
- Specker (1954): If \mathfrak{m} is infinite and $CH(\mathfrak{m}), CH(2^{\mathfrak{m}})$, then $2^{\mathfrak{m}} = \aleph(\mathfrak{m})$, so \mathfrak{m} is well-orderable
 - $\aleph(\mathfrak{m})$ is the Hartogs number of \mathfrak{m} , the set of all ordinals $\leq \mathfrak{m}$
$$\text{har} = (x \mapsto \{y \in \text{On} \mid y \preccurlyeq x\})$$
 - Metamath version (completed 31 May 2015):
$$\omega \preccurlyeq A \wedge A \in GCH \wedge \mathcal{P}(A) \in GCH \rightarrow \text{har}(A) \approx \mathcal{P}(A)$$
- The source for this work was “Does GCH imply AC locally?” by Akihiro Kanamori and David Pincus (2002)
 - <http://math.bu.edu/people/aki/7.pdf>
- Aside: Not many formal systems could even state this theorem (HOL too weak, Mizar too strong)

GCH implies AC

<http://us.metamath.org/mpegif/gchhar.html>



Metamath Proof Explorer

[< Previous](#) [Next >](#)
[Related theorems](#)
[Unicode version](#)

Theorem **gchhar** ⁷⁵¹³

Description: A "local" form of [gchac](#) ⁷⁵¹⁵. If A and $\mathcal{P}A$ are GCH-sets, then the Hartogs number of A is $\mathcal{P}A$ (so $\mathcal{P}A$ and a fortiori A are well-orderable). The proof is due to Specker. Theorem 2.1 of [[KanamoriPincus](#)] p. 419. (Contributed by Mario Carneiro, 31-May-2015.)

Assertion

Ref	Expression
gchhar	$\vdash ((\omega \preccurlyeq A \wedge A \in \text{GCH} \wedge \mathcal{P}A \in \text{GCH}) \rightarrow (\text{har}'A) \approx \mathcal{P}A)$

Canonical Constructions

- Specker's proof (via Kanamori & Pincus) uses the lemma that $\text{CH}(\aleph)$ implies $\aleph + \aleph = \aleph^2 = \aleph$
 - If it were not the case, then $2^{\aleph} \leq \aleph^2 \leq \text{Seq}(\aleph)$ where $\text{Seq}(\aleph)$ is the set of finite sequences
- Halbeisen & Shelah (1994): If $\omega \leq X$ then $2^{|X|} \not\leq |\text{Seq}(X)|$
 - Requires a bijection (or at least an injection) $F_\alpha: \text{Seq}(\alpha) \rightarrow \alpha$
 - "For infinite, well-orderable Y , we have $|Y| = |\text{Seq}(Y)|$; in fact, to every infinite well-ordering of a set Y we can canonically associate a bijection between Y and $\text{Seq}(Y)$." – Kanamori & Pincus
 - This is the sort of thing that makes a formalizer's job hard!
- This bijection is Corollary 3 of Halbeisen & Shelah:
 - "Proof: Use the Cantor Normal Form Theorem, Corollary 2, order the finite subsets of α and then use the Cantor-Bernstein Theorem."

Cantor Normal Form

- Textbook version:

Every ordinal number α can be uniquely written as $\omega^{\beta_1} c_1 + \omega^{\beta_2} c_2 + \dots + \omega^{\beta_k} c_k$, where k is a natural number, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k are positive integers, and $\beta_1 > \beta_2 > \dots > \beta_k \geq 0$ are ordinal numbers. (Wikipedia)

- Metamath version ([cantnf](#)):

Define the map $\text{CNF}_{\alpha, \beta}$ from the set $\alpha_{\text{Fin}}^\beta$ of finitely supported functions $f: \beta \rightarrow \alpha$ to the ordinal exponential α^β as $\text{CNF}_{\alpha, \beta}(f) = \sum_{\gamma \in \text{supp}(f)} \alpha^\gamma f(\gamma)$. Then $\text{CNF}_{\alpha, \beta}$ is a bijection, and in fact an order isomorphism from $(\alpha_{\text{Fin}}^\beta, \triangleleft)$ to (α^β, \in) (where $f \triangleleft g$ when $f \neq g$ and the maximal γ with $f(\gamma) \neq g(\gamma)$ satisfies $f(\gamma) < g(\gamma)$).

- It is easier for us to work with finitely supported function spaces than parallel sequences

Reversing Cantor Normal Form

- Corollary 2 of Halbeisen & Shelah
 - If $\alpha = \omega^{\beta_1} c_1 + \omega^{\beta_2} c_2 + \dots + \omega^{\beta_k} c_k$, then defining $\tilde{\alpha} = \omega^{\beta_k} c_k + \dots + \omega^{\beta_2} c_2 + \omega^{\beta_1} c_1$, $\alpha \approx \tilde{\alpha}$
- Ordinal absorption laws:
 - $\alpha + \beta = \beta$ when $\alpha < \omega^\gamma \leq \beta$
 - $\alpha\omega^\gamma = \omega^\gamma$ when $0 < \alpha < \omega$ and $0 < \gamma$
- Ordinal equinumerosity laws:
 - $\alpha + \beta \approx \alpha \sqcup \beta \approx \beta + \alpha$
 - $\alpha\beta \approx \alpha \times \beta \approx \beta\alpha$
 - $\alpha_{\text{Fin}}^\beta \approx \alpha^\beta$ (Cantor normal form), so $\alpha \approx \alpha'$ and $\beta \approx \beta'$ implies $\alpha^\beta \approx \alpha'^{\beta'}$
- Important: all equinumerosity relations here are canonical – $\alpha \approx \beta$ here actually means $F: \alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is a bijection where F is some complicated term

Reversing Cantor Normal Form

- Corollary 2 of Halbeisen & Shelah
 - If $\alpha = \omega^{\beta_1} c_1 + \omega^{\beta_2} c_2 + \dots + \omega^{\beta_k} c_k$, then defining $\tilde{\alpha} = \omega^{\beta_k} c_k + \dots + \omega^{\beta_2} c_2 + \omega^{\beta_1} c_1$, $\alpha \approx \tilde{\alpha}$
- Ordinal absorption laws:
 - $\alpha + \beta = \beta$ when $\alpha < \omega^\gamma \leq \beta$
 - $\alpha\omega^\gamma = \omega^\gamma$ when $0 < \alpha < \omega$ and $0 < \gamma$
- The ordinal absorption laws imply $\alpha \approx \tilde{\alpha} = \omega^{\beta_k} c_k \approx c_k \omega^{\beta_k} = \omega^{\beta_k}$, so every ordinal is (definably) equinumerous to a power of ω

Reversing Cantor Normal Form

Theorem [cnfcom3](#) ⁶⁶⁷²

Description: Any infinite ordinal B is equinumerous to a power of ω . (We are being careful here to show explicit bijections rather than simple equinumerosity because we want a uniform construction for [cnfcom3c](#) ⁶⁶⁷⁴.) (Contributed by Mario Carneiro, 30-May-2015.)

Hypotheses

Ref	Expression
cnfcom.s	$\vdash S = \text{dom}(\omega \text{ CNF } A)$
cnfcom.a	$\vdash (\varphi \rightarrow A \in \text{On})$
cnfcom.b	$\vdash (\varphi \rightarrow B \in (\omega \upharpoonright A))$
cnfcom.f	$\vdash F = (\omega \text{ CNF } A) \upharpoonright B$
cnfcom.g	$\vdash G = \text{OrdIso}(E, (\omega \upharpoonright (V \setminus 1_0)))$
cnfcom.h	$\vdash H = \text{seq}_{\omega}((k \in V, z \in V \mapsto (M +_o z)), \emptyset)$
cnfcom.t	$\vdash T = \text{seq}_{\omega}((k \in V, f \in V \mapsto K), \emptyset)$
cnfcom.m	$\vdash M = ((\omega \upharpoonright (G \upharpoonright k)) \cdot_o (F \upharpoonright (G \upharpoonright k)))$
cnfcom.k	$\vdash K = ((x \in M \mapsto (\text{dom } f +_o x)) \cup \omega(x \in \text{dom } f \mapsto (M +_o x)))$
cnfcom.w	$\vdash W = (G \upharpoonright \text{dom } G)$
cnfcom3.1	$\vdash (\varphi \rightarrow \omega \subseteq B)$
cnfcom.x	$\vdash X = (u \in (F \upharpoonright W), v \in (\omega \upharpoonright W) \mapsto (((F \upharpoonright W) \cdot_o v) +_o u))$
cnfcom.y	$\vdash Y = (u \in (F \upharpoonright W), v \in (\omega \upharpoonright W) \mapsto (((\omega \upharpoonright W) \cdot_o u) +_o v))$
cnfcom.n	$\vdash N = ((X \circ \omega) \cup Y) \circ (T \upharpoonright \text{dom } G)$

Assertion

Ref	Expression
cnfcom3	$\vdash (\varphi \rightarrow N : B \overset{\omega}{\text{onto}} (\omega \upharpoonright W))$

Theorem [cnfcom3c](#) ⁶⁶⁷⁴

Description: Wrap the construction of [cnfcom3](#) ⁶⁶⁷² into an existence quantifier. For any $\omega \subseteq b$, there is a bijection from b to some power of ω . Furthermore, this bijection is *canonical*, which means that we can find a single function g which will give such bijections for every b less than some arbitrarily large bound A . (Contributed by Mario Carneiro, 30-May-2015.)

Assertion

Ref	Expression
cnfcom3c	$\vdash (A \in \text{On} \rightarrow \exists g \forall b \in A (\omega \subseteq b \rightarrow \exists w \in (\text{On} \setminus 1_0) (g \upharpoonright b : b \overset{\omega}{\text{onto}} (\omega \upharpoonright w)))$

$\alpha \times \alpha \approx \alpha$, definably

$$\alpha \times \alpha \approx \omega^\gamma \times \omega^\gamma \approx \omega^{\gamma^2} \approx \omega^{2\gamma} = (\omega^2)^\gamma \approx \omega^\gamma \approx \alpha$$

- The real proof uses definable bijections instead of equinumerosity (existence of a bijection)
 - Compare:

Theorem [infxpen](#) 6892

Description: Every infinite ordinal is equinumerous to its cross product. Proposition 10.39 of [\[TakeutiZaring\]](#) p. 94, whose proof we follow closely. The key idea is to show that the relation R is a well-ordering of $(\text{On} \times \text{On})$ with the additional property that R -initial segments of $(x \times x)$ (where x is a limit ordinal) are of cardinality at most x . (Contributed by Mario Carneiro, 9-Mar-2013.)

Assertion

Ref	Expression
infxpen	$\vdash ((A \in \text{On} \wedge \omega \subseteq A) \rightarrow (A \times A) \approx A)$

Theorem [infxpenc2](#) 6899

Description: Existence form of [infxpenc](#) 6895. A "uniform" or "canonical" version of [infxpen](#) 6892, asserting the existence of a single function g that simultaneously demonstrates product idempotence of all ordinals below a given bound. (Contributed by Mario Carneiro, 30-May-2015.)

Assertion

Ref	Expression
infxpenc2	$\vdash (A \in \text{On} \rightarrow \exists g \forall b \in A (\omega \subseteq b \rightarrow (g \upharpoonright b): (b \times b) \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} b))$

$\alpha \times \alpha \approx \alpha$, definably

$$\alpha \times \alpha \approx \omega^\gamma \times \omega^\gamma \approx \omega^{\gamma^2} \approx \omega^{2\gamma} = (\omega^2)^\gamma \approx \omega^\gamma \approx \alpha$$

- The real proof uses definable bijections instead of equinumerosity (existence of a bijection)
- We can use this to construct an injection from $\text{Seq}(\alpha) \rightarrow \alpha$ by recursion, given a bijection $g: \alpha \times \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$:

$$f(\langle \rangle) = g(0,0) \quad f(\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k \rangle) = g(k, g(f(\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{k-1} \rangle), \alpha_k))$$

The de Bruijn Factor

- The *de Bruijn factor* is the quotient of the size of a formalization of a mathematical text and the size of its informal original (Wiedijk)
- Because this project was principally the near-complete formalization of a single text (Kanamori & Pincus), it is possible to calculate a de Bruijn factor for the work
 - Because the TeX for Kanamori & Pincus was not available, Google OCR of the PDF was used instead, which may make the calculated factors higher than they should be since some formatting was lost
- Metamath has a surprisingly low de Bruijn factor! (Compare intrinsic factors 3.1, 3.7, 4.1 from [\[Wiedijk\]](#))
 - Why?

	informal	formal	de Bruijn Factor	
uncompressed	18092	60106	apparent	3.32
compressed	7545	19579	intrinsic	2.59

Questions
