

INTERNAL SIZES IN μ -ABSTRACT ELEMENTARY CLASSES

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ABSTRACT. Working in the context of μ -abstract elementary classes (μ -AECs)—or, equivalently, accessible categories with all morphisms monomorphisms—we examine the two natural notions of size that occur, namely cardinality of underlying sets and *internal size*. The latter, purely category-theoretic, notion generalizes e.g. density character in complete metric spaces and cardinality of orthogonal bases in Hilbert spaces. We consider the relationship between these notions under mild set-theoretic hypotheses, including weakenings of the singular cardinal hypothesis. We also establish preliminary results on the existence and categoricity spectra of μ -AECs, including specific examples showing dramatic failures of the eventual categoricity conjecture (with categoricity defined using cardinality) in μ -AECs.

1. INTRODUCTION

There are a number of known connections between accessible categories and abstract model theory. Per [LR17], for example, abstract elementary classes (AECs) and their metric analogues (mAECs) can be characterized as accessible categories with directed colimits, with a faithful functor to the category of sets satisfying certain natural properties. More recently, [BGL⁺16] develops the notion of a μ -AEC—a generalization of AECs in which closure under unions of chains is replaced with closure under μ -directed colimits—and shows that they are, up to equivalence of categories, precisely the accessible categories all of whose morphisms are monomorphisms. The model-theoretic motivations for this generalization are manifold: for example, the class of μ -saturated models of a given elementary class need not be an AEC, but is a μ -AEC. The equivalence between μ -AECs and accessible categories with monomorphisms, moreover, allows the easy application of model-theoretic methods to accessible categories, and vice versa, and serves as the foundation in [LRV19] for an emerging set of correspondences between μ -AECs with natural additional properties (universal μ -AECs, μ -AECs admitting intersections) and accessible categories with added structure (locally multipresentable categories, locally polypresentable categories).

The aim of the present paper is to analyze the *existence spectrum* of a general μ -AEC \mathcal{K} and, to a lesser extent, those satisfying the additional closure conditions

Date: January 31, 2019

AMS 2010 Subject Classification: Primary 03C48. Secondary: 18C35, 03C45, 03C52, 03C55, 03C75, 03E04, 03E55.

Key words and phrases. internal size, presentability rank, μ -AECs admitting intersections, existence spectrum, categoricity spectrum.

The first and second authors are supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under the grant P201/12/G028.

of the form described above. By the existence spectrum, we mean the class of cardinals λ such that \mathcal{K} contains *at least one* object of size λ . We will also mention the *categoricity spectrum* of \mathcal{K} : the class of cardinals λ such that \mathcal{K} contains *exactly one* object of size λ , up to isomorphism.

At this point it is essential to note that a μ -AEC \mathcal{K} comes equipped with *two* natural notions of size: first, and most obviously, the cardinality $|UM|$ of the underlying set UM of an object M , but also the *internal size* $|M|_{\mathcal{K}}$ of M , which is derived from the purely category-theoretic *presentability rank*, $r_{\mathcal{K}}(M)$, of M . Recall that the presentability rank of M is the least regular cardinal λ such that for any morphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ and any λ -directed system $\langle N_i : i \in I \rangle$ whose colimit is N , the map f factors essentially uniquely through some N_i . Assuming that $|UM| > \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})$, as we will throughout the text (even in AECs, the behavior of internal sizes below $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K})$ seems hard to control, see Examples 6.1 or 6.2), if \mathcal{K} has directed colimits ([BR12, 4.2]) or if we assume GCH ([BR12, 2.3(5)]) then the presentability rank of M is always a successor cardinal, say $r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) = \lambda^+$. In this case, we define $|M|_{\mathcal{K}} = \lambda$. This notion of internal size matches nicely with the intuitive ones in familiar categories: if \mathcal{K} is an AEC, then $|M|_{\mathcal{K}} = |UM|$, [Lie11, 4.3]; if \mathcal{K} is the category of Hilbert spaces and isometries, $|M|_{\mathcal{K}}$ is the size of an orthonormal basis of M , Example 6.3 below; if \mathcal{K} is a mAEC, $|M|_{\mathcal{K}} = \text{dc}(UM)$, the density character of the underlying complete metric space of M , [LR17, 3.1]; and so on. The case of mAECs—which are \aleph_1 -AECs—is instructive: cardinalities and internal sizes will usually disagree when the latter is of countable cofinality.

The crux of this article consists of the analysis of the delicate relationship between these two notions of size, and the differences in the existence and categoricity spectra depending on the particular notion of size that we adopt. Broadly speaking, we observe that the spectra are much smoother in the case of internal sizes, while gaps and even meaningful failures of eventual categoricity are easily constructed when we work instead with simple cardinality of models.

Let us make a bolder statement. In [She], Shelah discusses whether there is a real model theory for infinitary quantification, i.e. going beyond AECs. We argue that the answer is positive but we should replace cardinalities of underlying sets by category-theoretic internal sizes. We note that this shift has already occurred—naturally, with no input from category theory—in continuous model theory. For example, the classes of complete metric structures considered in [SU11] satisfy a Morley-like eventual categoricity result phrased in terms of the notion of internal size particular to that context, i.e. density character ([SU11, 8.2]).

Going back to the present paper, we consider the following questions concerning the existence spectrum:

- (1) Under what conditions is the presentability rank a successor?
- (2) When does a μ -AEC (or, more generally, an accessible category) have an object in all sufficiently large internal sizes?
- (3) Given an object M of a μ -AEC \mathcal{K} , when can one give a simple description of the internal size of M ? For example, when does $|UM|$ coincide with $|M|_{\mathcal{K}}$?

Regarding the first question, we have already mentioned that the presentability rank is a successor in any accessible category provided that GCH holds. In this paper, we weaken the assumption of GCH to SCH (the singular cardinal hypothesis). Since SCH is known to hold above a strongly compact cardinal [Sol74] (and indeed above an ω_1 -strongly compact [BM14]), we obtain from a large cardinal axiom that any sufficiently large presentability rank is a successor. Interestingly, the strongly compact cardinals have been used several times before in the classification theory for AECs [MS90, Bon14, BG17, Vas18] and the study of μ -AECs [BGL⁺16]. More generally, we give a category-theoretic condition implying that limit presentability rank cannot exist (Theorem 3.10). We show that this condition holds (in ZFC) in any μ -AEC admitting intersections (Corollary 5.5). We do not know of any examples of an accessible category where sufficiently large presentability ranks are not successors.

The second question above was originally asked by Beke and the second author [BR12]. As there, let us call an accessible category \mathcal{K} *LS-accessible* if there is a cardinal λ such that \mathcal{K} has objects of every internal size $\lambda' \geq \lambda$. It is open whether a large accessible category is always LS-accessible. Several conditions suffice to guarantee that this holds. For example it is true if the category has products ([BR12, 4.7(2)]) or coproducts ([BR12, 4.7(3)]), and true in any μ -AEC provided it has directed colimits ([LR16, 2.7]). We show here that, under the assumption of a suitable instance of SCH, any μ -AEC admitting intersections and with arbitrarily large models is LS-accessible (Theorem 5.8). Put another way, under this set-theoretic assumption any large accessible category with wide pullbacks (i.e. a large locally polypresentable category) and all morphisms monomorphisms is LS-accessible (see [LRV19, 5.7]). We show, moreover, that even without assuming any instance of SCH, such μ -AECs are weakly LS-accessible: they contain an object of internal size λ for any sufficiently large *regular* cardinal λ . In fact, we can show this purely category-theoretically for the locally multipresentable categories (without assuming that all morphisms are monomorphisms), see Theorem A.2 in the Appendix.

The third question, namely the relationship between internal size and cardinality, is studied in Section 4. We show there that in a μ -AEC \mathcal{K} we have $|M|_{\mathcal{K}} = |UM|$ (so in particular the presentability rank is a successor) whenever $\lambda = |UM|$ is μ -closed— $\theta^{<\mu} < \lambda$ for all $\theta < \lambda$ —but that the sizes may disagree otherwise. Under GCH (or, indeed, appropriate instances of SCH), this inequality simplifies drastically, yielding Theorem 4.13: If $\lambda = |UM|$ is not λ_0^+ with $\text{cf}(\lambda_0) < \mu$, then $|M|_{\mathcal{K}} = |UM|$, else $|M|_{\mathcal{K}}$ is either λ_0 or λ . In the case of μ -AECs admitting intersections, one can give an even simpler description of the internal size: it is the minimum cardinality of a subset A of UM such that M is minimal over A (Theorem 5.7).

In Section 6 we give several examples, primarily concerning the following two generalizations of Shelah’s eventual categoricity conjecture to μ -AECS given in Section 6 of [BGL⁺16]:

Question 1.1 (Eventual categoricity, cardinality). If a μ -AEC is categorical in *some* sufficiently large cardinal λ with $\lambda = \lambda^{<\mu}$, is it categorical in *all* sufficiently large λ' such that $\lambda' = (\lambda')^{<\mu}$?

Question 1.2 (Eventual categoricity, internal size). If a μ -AEC is categorical in internal size λ for some sufficiently large λ , is it categorical in every sufficiently large internal size?

Shelah’s eventual categoricity conjecture for (\aleph_0) -AECs is one of the main open questions of classification theory for non-elementary classes and it is natural to ask about broader frameworks than AECs where it may fail. This was the motivation for the two questions above.

In Section 6.1, we carefully analyze an example of Shelah (see the introduction of [She]) in the hope of obtaining a counterexample to Question 1.2. The particular \aleph_1 -AEC involved consists of the class of well-founded models of Kripke-Platek set theory isomorphic to (L_α, \in) such that for all $\beta < \alpha$, $[L_\beta]^{\leq \aleph_0} \cap L \subseteq L_\alpha$. This example fails to contradict Question 1.2, but in an instructive way: while—assuming $V = L$ —it is categorical in power in any cardinal of countable cofinality and has many models in all other powers (see Theorem 6.14), it is nowhere categorical in the sense of internal sizes (Corollary 6.19). This is because, roughly speaking, some of the abundance of models of cardinality λ^+ with $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \aleph_0$ drop down to internal size λ —a concrete illustration of the pathology captured in Theorem 4.13, and a suggestion of the smoothing effect that comes with the passage to internal sizes. This example doubles, incidentally, as an example of the drastic extent to which the spectrum for categoricity in power of a μ -AEC may depend on the ambient set theory, e.g. on the existence or nonexistence of 0^\sharp .

Note that this example does not contradict Question 1.1 either, as categoricity occurs only in cardinals of countable cofinality. We can, however, give a very simple and mathematically natural counterexample to Question 1.1, namely the \aleph_1 -AEC \mathcal{K} of Hilbert spaces and isometries (Example 6.3). Here the internal sizes correspond, as mentioned above, to the cardinality of orthonormal bases, meaning that \mathcal{K} is everywhere categorical in the sense of internal sizes. In terms of cardinalities, though, \mathcal{K} has (assuming GCH for simplicity) exactly two models of cardinality λ^+ for each λ with $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \aleph_0$ —one of internal size λ and one of internal size λ^+ —with exactly one model of cardinality λ for all other λ of uncountable cofinality. There is, perhaps, a broader lesson to be drawn: the case of Hilbert spaces strongly suggests that *the formulation of eventual categoricity in terms of internal size is, in a sense, the more mathematically honest*: it is a mere quirk of fate that, depending on our ambient set theory, there may be literally as many models as we like of a particular cardinal of uncountable cofinality (GCH limits this number to two), but the essential character of each such model is determined by its internal size, i.e. the size of its basis, which can be pinned down in ZFC.

We assume a knowledge of the basic concepts related to accessible categories and μ -AECs (we still briefly give the relevant background definitions at the beginning of each section). Comprehensive accounts of the former can be found in [AR94] and [MP89], while the current state of knowledge concerning the latter is summarized in [BGL⁺16] and [LRV19].

We thank Will Boney, Rami Grossberg, and the referee, for comments that helped improve this paper.

2. SET-THEORETIC PRELIMINARIES

For an infinite cardinal λ , let λ_r denote the least regular cardinal greater than or equal to λ . That is, λ_r is λ^+ if λ is singular or λ otherwise. We also define:

Definition 2.1.

$$\lambda^* := \begin{cases} \lambda^+ & \text{if } \lambda \text{ is a successor cardinal} \\ \lambda & \text{if } \lambda \text{ is a limit cardinal} \end{cases}$$

The notion of a μ -closed cardinal will be used often:

Definition 2.2. Let $\mu \leq \lambda$ be infinite cardinals.

- (1) We say that λ is μ -closed if $\theta^{<\mu} < \lambda$ for all $\theta < \lambda$.
- (2) We say that λ is *almost* μ -closed if $\theta^{<\mu} \leq \lambda$ for all $\theta < \lambda$.
- (3) For S a class of infinite cardinals greater than or equal to μ , we write $\text{SCH}_{\mu,S}$ for the statement “every $\lambda \in S$ is almost μ -closed”. $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\geq\lambda}$ has the obvious meaning.
- (4) We write $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\lambda}$ for the statement “There exists a set $S \subseteq \lambda$ of cardinals that is unbounded in λ and such that $\text{SCH}_{\mu,S}$ holds”.

Remark 2.3. Assuming the generalized continuum hypothesis (GCH), an infinite cardinal λ is μ -closed (for μ regular) if and only if $\lambda \geq \mu$ and λ is not the successor of a cardinal of cofinality less than μ . Therefore in this case all cardinals greater than or equal to $\mu = 2^{<\mu}$ are almost μ -closed. In fact the singular cardinal hypothesis¹ is equivalent to $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\geq 2^{<\mu}}$ for all regular cardinals μ : see [Jec03, 5.22] and Lemma 2.6 below. Further if κ is a strongly compact cardinal, then by a result of Solovay [Jec03, 20.8], $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\geq(2^{<\mu+\kappa})}$ holds for all regular cardinals μ . In fact, this holds even if κ is only ω_1 -strongly compact [BM14, 4.2]. However, it is consistent (assuming a large cardinal axiom) that there is no θ so that $\text{SCH}_{\aleph_1,\geq\theta}$, see [FW91]. In fact, for a fixed sufficiently high λ , even the failure of $\text{SCH}_{\aleph_1,\lambda}$ is consistent [GM92, 1.13].

The following ordering between cardinals is introduced in [MP89, 2.3.1]. The reason for its appearance is that for $\mu \leq \lambda$ regular, $\mu \trianglelefteq \lambda$ if and only if any μ -accessible category is also λ -accessible.

Definition 2.4. Let $\mu \leq \lambda$ be regular cardinals. We write $\mu \triangleleft \lambda$ if $\mu < \lambda$ and for any $\theta < \lambda$, $\text{cf}([\theta]^{<\mu}, \subseteq) < \lambda$. Here, $[\theta]^{<\mu}$ denotes the set of all subsets of θ of size less than μ . Write $\mu \trianglelefteq \lambda$ if $\mu = \lambda$ or $\mu \triangleleft \lambda$.

We will use the following characterization of \trianglelefteq . One direction appears in [MP89, 2.3.4] and the other in [LR17, 4.11]. We sketch a short proof here for the convenience of the reader.

Fact 2.5. Let $\mu < \lambda$ be regular cardinals. If λ is μ -closed, then $\mu \triangleleft \lambda$. Conversely, if $\lambda > 2^{<\mu}$ and $\mu \triangleleft \lambda$ then λ is μ -closed.

Proof. It is well-known that for $\mu \leq \theta$ with μ regular, we have the following identity, from which the result follows easily:

¹That is, for every infinite singular cardinal λ , $\lambda^{\text{cf}(\lambda)} = 2^{\text{cf}(\lambda)} + \lambda^+$.

$$\theta^{<\mu} = \text{cf}([\theta]^{<\mu}, \subseteq) \cdot 2^{<\mu}$$

To see the identity, first observe that $\text{cf}([\theta]^{<\mu}, \subseteq) \cdot 2^{<\mu} \leq \theta^{<\mu} \cdot 2^{<\mu} = \theta^{<\mu}$. Conversely, fix a cofinal family $\mathcal{F} \subseteq [\theta]^{<\mu}$ of cardinality $\text{cf}([\theta]^{<\mu}, \subseteq)$ and build an injection $f : [\theta]^{<\mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \times {}^{<\mu}2$ (where ${}^{<\mu}2$ is the set of functions from an ordinal $\alpha < \mu$ to $2 = \{0, 1\}$) as follows: given $S \in [\theta]^{<\mu}$, pick $F = F_S \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $S \subseteq F$ and enumerate F in increasing order as $\langle \alpha_i : i < \text{otp}(F) \rangle$. Then let $\eta_{S,F} : \text{otp}(F) \rightarrow 2$ be defined by $\eta_{S,F}(i) = 1$ if $\alpha_i \in S$ and $\eta_{S,F}(i) = 0$ otherwise. Set $f(S) = (F_S, \eta_{S,F})$. It is clear that from F_S and $\eta_{S,F}$ one can recover S , hence f is indeed an injection witnessing that $\theta^{<\mu} \leq \text{cf}([\theta]^{<\mu}, \subseteq) \cdot 2^{<\mu}$. \square

We end this section with some easy lemmas on computing cardinal exponentiation assuming instances of SCH.

Lemma 2.6. Let $\mu \leq \lambda$ be cardinals with μ regular.

- (1) If $\text{cf}(\lambda) \geq \mu$, then $\lambda^{<\mu}$ is the least almost μ -closed $\lambda' \geq \lambda$.
- (2) If $\text{cf}(\lambda) < \mu$, then $\lambda^{<\mu}$ is the least almost μ -closed $\lambda' > \lambda$.

In particular, if $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \{\lambda, \lambda^+\}}$, then

$$\lambda^{<\mu} = \begin{cases} \lambda & \text{if } \text{cf}(\lambda) \geq \mu \\ \lambda^+ & \text{if } \text{cf}(\lambda) < \mu \end{cases}$$

Proof.

- (1) Given that $\text{cf}(\lambda) \geq \mu$, it is easy to check that $\lambda^{<\mu} = \sup_{\theta < \lambda} \theta^{<\mu}$. If λ is almost μ -closed then it follows that $\lambda = \lambda^{<\mu}$. If λ is *not* almost μ -closed, there exists $\theta < \lambda$ such that $\lambda < \theta^{<\mu}$. Since $(\theta^{<\mu})^{<\mu} = \theta^{<\mu}$, it is easy to check that $\theta^{<\mu}$ must be the least almost μ -closed cardinal above λ and moreover $\lambda^{<\mu} = \theta^{<\mu}$.
- (2) Check that $\lambda^{<\mu}$ is almost μ -closed.

\square

Lemma 2.7. Let $\mu \leq \lambda$ be cardinals with μ regular. The following are equivalent:

- (1) λ is μ -closed.
- (2) $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$ and λ is not the successor of a cardinal of cofinality less than μ .

Proof. If λ is μ -closed, then (in ZFC), λ cannot be the successor of a cardinal of cofinality less than μ . Moreover, given $\theta < \lambda$, then $\theta^{<\mu} < \lambda$ and $\theta^{<\mu}$ is almost μ -closed. Therefore $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$.

Conversely, assume that λ is not the successor of a cardinal of cofinality less than μ and $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$ holds. Let $\theta < \lambda$ be arbitrary. If $\text{cf}(\theta) \geq \mu$, then by Lemma 2.6 and the definition of $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$, $\theta^{<\mu} < \lambda$. If $\text{cf}(\theta) < \mu$, then since $\lambda \neq \theta^+$ by assumption we have that $\theta^+ < \lambda$. Thus again by Lemma 2.6 and $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$, $\theta^{<\mu} < \lambda$. Thus λ is μ -closed, as desired. \square

3. PRESENTABILITY IN ACCESSIBLE CATEGORIES

For a cardinal μ , a partially ordered set is called μ -directed if each of its subsets of cardinality strictly less than μ has an upper bound. Note that any non-empty poset is 2-directed, \aleph_0 -directed is equivalent to 3-directed, and μ -directed is equivalent to μ_r -directed. Thus we will usually assume that μ is a regular cardinal.

For λ a regular cardinal, we call an object M of a category \mathcal{K} λ -presentable if its hom-functor $\mathcal{K}(M, -) : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ preserves λ -directed colimits, i.e. colimits indexed by λ -directed sets. Put another way, M is λ -presentable if for any morphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ with N a λ -directed colimit $\langle \phi_\alpha : N_\alpha \rightarrow N \rangle$ with diagram maps $\phi_{\beta\alpha} : N_\alpha \rightarrow N_\beta$, f factors essentially uniquely through one of the N_α . That is, $f = \phi_\alpha f_\alpha$ for some $f_\alpha : M \rightarrow N_\alpha$, and if $f = \phi_\beta f_\beta$ as well, there is $\gamma > \alpha, \beta$ such that $\phi_{\gamma\alpha} f_\alpha = \phi_{\gamma\beta} f_\beta$.

For λ an infinite cardinal, we call an object M of a category \mathcal{K} $(< \lambda)$ -presentable if it is λ_0 -presentable for some regular $\lambda_0 < \lambda + \aleph_1$. Note that, for λ regular, $(< \lambda^+)$ -presentable is the same as λ -presentable. We will use the following key parameterized notions:

Definition 3.1. Let \mathcal{K} be a category and let μ, λ be infinite cardinals with μ regular. A $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system is a μ -directed system consisting of $(< \lambda)$ -presentable objects. Similarly, define (μ, λ) -system (for λ regular).

Definition 3.2. Let \mathcal{K} be a category and let μ, λ be infinite cardinals with μ regular. We say an object M of \mathcal{K} is $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -resolvable if it is the colimit of a $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system. We say that \mathcal{K} is $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -resolvable if all its object are $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -resolvable. Similarly, define (μ, λ) -resolvable (for λ regular).

To investigate presentability, the following notion is useful:

Definition 3.3. A $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system with colimit M is *proper* if the identity map on M does *not* factor essentially uniquely through an element of the system. That is, if the system has diagram maps $\phi_{\beta\alpha} : M_\alpha \rightarrow M_\beta$ and colimit maps $\phi_\alpha : M_\alpha \rightarrow M$, then the following does *not* occur: there exists α and $f_\alpha : M \rightarrow M_\alpha$ such that $\text{id}_M = \phi_\alpha f_\alpha$ and whenever $\text{id}_M = \phi_\beta f_\beta$ for $f_\beta : M \rightarrow M_\beta$, then there is $\gamma > \alpha, \beta$ such that $\phi_{\gamma\alpha} f_\alpha = \phi_{\gamma\beta} f_\beta$.

We can see when a system is proper by looking at the presentability of its colimit. This is well known and goes back to the fact that split subobjects of λ -presentables are λ -presentable (see for example [AR94, 1.3]). The proof is included for the convenience of the reader unacquainted with presentability.

Lemma 3.4. Let μ, λ be infinite cardinals with μ regular and let \mathcal{K} be a category. Let $M \in \mathcal{K}$ be the colimit of some $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system \mathbf{I} . Then:

- (1) If \mathbf{I} is proper, then M is not μ -presentable.
- (2) If M is not $(< \lambda)$ -presentable, then \mathbf{I} is proper.

Proof.

- (1) If M is μ -presentable, then since \mathbf{I} is μ -directed, id_M must factor essentially uniquely through an element of \mathbf{I} , so \mathbf{I} is not proper by definition.

- (2) Say \mathbf{I} has diagram maps $\langle \phi_{\beta\alpha} : M_\alpha \rightarrow M_\beta, \alpha, \beta \in I \rangle$ and colimit maps $\phi_\alpha : M_\alpha \rightarrow M$. Assume that \mathbf{I} is not proper and let $f_\alpha : M \rightarrow M_\alpha$ be such that $\phi_\alpha f_\alpha = \text{id}_M$. By hypothesis, M_α is $(< \lambda)$ -presentable, hence λ_0 -presentable for some regular $\lambda_0 < \lambda + \aleph_1$. We show that M is λ_0 -presentable. Let $g : M \rightarrow N$, where N is the directed colimit of a λ_0 -directed system with diagram maps $\psi_{\beta\alpha} : N_\alpha \rightarrow N_\beta$ and colimit maps $\psi_\beta : N_\beta \rightarrow N$. Since M_α is λ_0 -presentable, the map $g\phi_\alpha$ must factor essentially uniquely through some N_β , i.e. there exists an essentially unique $g_{\beta\alpha} : M_\alpha \rightarrow N_\beta$ so that $\psi_\beta g_{\beta\alpha} = g\phi_\alpha$. Now let $g_\beta := g_{\beta\alpha} f_\alpha$. Then $\psi_\beta g_\beta = \psi_\beta g_{\beta\alpha} f_\alpha = g\phi_\alpha f_\alpha = g\text{id}_M = g$, so g factors through N_β . Let us now see that g_β is essentially unique. Suppose that $g = \psi_{\beta'} h_{\beta'}$ for some $h_{\beta'} : M \rightarrow N_{\beta'}$. Let $h_{\beta'\alpha} := h_{\beta'} \phi_\alpha$. By essential uniqueness of $g_{\beta\alpha}$, we know that there is γ above both β and β' such that $\psi_{\gamma\beta} g_{\beta\alpha} = \psi_{\gamma\beta'} h_{\beta'\alpha}$. We then have that $\psi_{\gamma\beta} g_\beta = \psi_{\gamma\beta} g_{\beta\alpha} f_\alpha = \psi_{\gamma\beta'} h_{\beta'\alpha} f_\alpha = \psi_{\gamma\beta'} h_{\beta'} \phi_\alpha f_\alpha = \psi_{\gamma\beta'} h_{\beta'}$, as desired.

□

We can give the following bounds on the presentability of the colimit of a $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system:

Lemma 3.5. Let μ, λ be cardinals with μ regular. Let \mathcal{K} be a category with μ -directed colimits. Let \mathbf{I} be a $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system with diagram maps $\phi_{\beta\alpha} : M_\alpha \rightarrow M_\beta$, $\alpha, \beta \in I$, and let M be its colimit. Suppose that for $\alpha \in I$, M_α is λ_α -presentable, $\lambda_\alpha < \lambda + \aleph_1$. Then:

- (1) If \mathbf{I} is proper, then M is not μ -presentable.
- (2) M is $(|I|^+ + \sup_{\alpha \in I} \lambda_\alpha)_r$ -presentable. In particular, M is $(|I|^+ + \lambda_r)$ -presentable.
- (3) If $\text{cf}(\lambda) > |I|$ and λ is not the successor of a singular cardinal, then M is $(< (|I|^{++} + \lambda))$ -presentable.

Proof. The first part is by Lemma 3.4. For the second part, let $\lambda' := (|I|^+ + \sup_{\alpha \in I} \lambda_\alpha)_r$.

Pick a λ' -directed system \mathbf{J} with objects $\langle N_\gamma : \gamma \in J \rangle$ and with colimit N . Let $g : M \rightarrow N$ be a morphism. For each $\alpha \in I$, M_α is λ_α -presentable, hence λ' -presentable, g factors essentially uniquely through some N_{γ_α} . Let γ be an upper bound to all the γ_α 's (exists since $|I| < \lambda'$ and J is λ' -directed). Then g factors essentially uniquely through N_γ , as desired.

The third part follows directly from the second. □

Using the terminology above, a λ -accessible category is a category which has λ -directed colimits, is (λ, λ) -resolvable, and has a set of λ -presentable objects, up to isomorphism. We will consider the following parameterized generalization:

Definition 3.6. Let $\kappa \leq \mu \leq \lambda$ be cardinals with κ and μ regular. A category \mathcal{K} is $(\kappa, \mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible if:

- (1) It has κ -directed colimits.
- (2) It is $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -resolvable.
- (3) It has only a set (up to isomorphism) of $(< \lambda)$ -presentable objects.

Define (κ, μ, λ) -*accessible* similarly. We say that \mathcal{K} is $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -*accessible* if it is $(\mu, \mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible. As noted above, a category \mathcal{K} is μ -*accessible* just in case it is $(\mu, < \mu^+)$ -accessible. We say that \mathcal{K} is *accessible* if it is μ -accessible for some regular cardinal μ .

Remark 3.7. Assume that \mathcal{K} is $(\kappa, \mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible. We have the following monotonicity properties:

- (1) If $\kappa' \in [\kappa, \mu]$ is regular, then \mathcal{K} is $(\kappa', \mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible.
- (2) If $\mu' \in [\kappa, \mu]$ is regular, then \mathcal{K} is $(\kappa, \mu', < \lambda)$ -accessible.
- (3) If $\lambda' \geq \lambda$, then \mathcal{K} is $(\kappa, \mu, < \lambda')$ -accessible.

The proof of [MP89, 2.3.10] gives the following way of raising the index μ in the definition of a $(\kappa, \mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible category. We sketch a proof for the convenience of the reader:

Fact 3.8. Let $\kappa < \mu \leq \lambda$ be cardinals with κ and μ regular and $\text{cf}(\lambda) \geq \mu$. Let \mathcal{K} be a category with κ -directed colimits. If $M \in \mathcal{K}$ is $(\kappa, < \lambda)$ -resolvable and $\kappa \triangleleft \mu$ (see Definition 2.4), then M is the colimit of a μ -directed system where each object is a κ -directed colimit of strictly less than μ -many $(< \lambda)$ -presentable objects. In particular, M is $(\mu, < (\lambda + \mu^*))$ -resolvable (see Definition 2.1).

Proof sketch. Suppose that the $(\kappa, < \lambda)$ -system is indexed by I and has colimit M . Since $\kappa \triangleleft \mu$, any subset of I of cardinality strictly less than μ is contained inside a κ -directed subset of I of cardinality strictly less than μ . Thus the set of all κ -directed subsets of I of cardinality strictly less than μ is μ -directed. It is easy to check that it induces the desired $(\mu, < (\lambda + \mu^*))$ -system whose colimit is M . \square

Note that this implies in particular that any $(\kappa, \mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible category is θ -accessible for some θ (for example, $\theta = (2^{\lambda^+})^+$ suffices).

By Lemma 3.5, any object of an accessible category is λ -presentable for some regular cardinal λ . Therefore it makes sense to define:

Definition 3.9. Let \mathcal{K} be an accessible category.

- (1) For any $M \in \mathcal{K}$, the *presentability rank of M* , denoted $r_{\mathcal{K}}(M)$, is the least regular cardinal λ such that M is λ -presentable.
- (2) We denote by $|M|_{\mathcal{K}}$ the *internal size of M* . It is defined by:

$$|M|_{\mathcal{K}} = \begin{cases} \mu & \text{if } r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) = \mu^+ \\ r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) & \text{if } r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) \text{ is limit} \end{cases}$$

The following gives a criteria for when the presentability rank is a successor:

Theorem 3.10. Let λ be a regular cardinal and let \mathcal{K} be a $(\lambda, < \lambda)$ -accessible category. If $M \in \mathcal{K}$ is λ -presentable, then M is $(< \lambda)$ -presentable.

Proof. Otherwise, M would be $(\lambda, < \lambda)$ -resolvable (by definition of accessibility) but not $(< \lambda)$ -presentable. Therefore there is a proper $(\lambda, < \lambda)$ -system whose colimit is M by Lemma 3.4. By Lemma 3.5, $r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) > \lambda$, contradicting λ -presentability. \square

Note that $(\aleph_0, < \aleph_0)$ -accessible is the same as \aleph_0 -accessible. In addition, if a category is $(\lambda^+, < \lambda^+)$ -accessible then it is quite pathological (for example Theorem 3.10 says that it cannot have an object of presentability rank λ^+). Thus we will use Theorem 3.10 only when λ is weakly inaccessible and uncountable.

Assuming that every weakly inaccessible cardinal is sufficiently closed, we obtain that the presentability rank is always a successor. This weakens the GCH hypothesis in [BR12, 2.3(5)] and also shows (Remark 2.3) that sufficiently large presentability ranks are always successors if there is an ω_1 -strongly compact cardinal. Note that we could have obtained the result directly by carefully examining the proof in [BR12], but Theorem 3.10 is new and can be used even in situations where SCH does not hold (see Corollary 5.5).

Corollary 3.11. Let \mathcal{K} be a $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible category and let $\theta \geq \lambda$ be weakly inaccessible. If θ is μ -closed, then the presentability rank of an object in \mathcal{K} cannot be equal to θ .

Proof. By Fact 2.5, $\mu \triangleleft \theta$. Note that \mathcal{K} is in particular $(\mu, < \theta)$ -accessible so by Fact 3.8 also $(\theta, < \theta)$ -accessible. Now apply Theorem 3.10. \square

Note that a weakly inaccessible $\theta > \mu$ is μ -closed if and only if $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \theta}$ holds (see Lemma 2.7). This is quite a weak assumption, although its failure is still consistent (assuming quite large cardinals, see Remark 2.3). Note also that when $\mu = \aleph_0$, θ is always μ -closed so we recover [BR12, 4.2]: sufficiently large presentability ranks are successors in any accessible category with directed colimits. Indeed, a λ -accessible category with directed colimits is, in particular, an $(\aleph_0, < \lambda^+)$ -accessible category.

We now move to the study of accessible categories whose morphisms are monomorphisms. Recall (Fact 4.2) that these are the same as μ -AECs. The following gives a criteria for when an object of a certain presentability rank exists:

Theorem 3.12. Let $\mu < \lambda$ be cardinals with μ regular, $\text{cf}(\lambda) > \mu$, and λ not the successor of a singular cardinal. Let \mathcal{K} be a category with μ -directed colimits and all morphisms monomorphisms.

- (1) If \mathcal{K} has a proper $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system, then there exists an object $M \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $\mu < r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) < \lambda + \mu^{++}$.
- (2) If \mathcal{K} is $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -accessible and has an object that is not μ -presentable, then there exists $M \in \mathcal{K}$ with $\mu < r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) < \lambda + \mu^{++}$.

Proof.

- (1) Fix a proper $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system. Using that all morphisms are monomorphisms, one can fix a subsystem of it indexed by a chain of length μ which is also proper. Now its colimit is as desired by Lemma 3.5.
- (2) Pick $M \in \mathcal{K}$ that is not μ -presentable. By definition of accessibility, M is $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -resolvable. If M is $(< \lambda)$ -presentable, we are done so assume that M is not $(< \lambda)$ -presentable. By Lemma 3.4, there is a proper $(\mu, < \lambda)$ -system whose colimit is M . By the previous part, \mathcal{K} has an object of presentability rank strictly between μ and $\lambda + \mu^{++}$, as desired.

\square

Note the following special case:

Corollary 3.13. Let \mathcal{K} be a (λ, λ^+) -accessible category with all morphisms monomorphisms. If \mathcal{K} has an object that is not λ -presentable, then \mathcal{K} has an object of presentability rank λ^+ .

Proof. Apply the second part of Theorem 3.12 with (λ, λ^{++}) in place of (μ, λ) . \square

We deduce that, when all morphisms are monomorphisms and the category is large, the accessibility spectrum (the set of cardinals λ such that the category is λ -accessible) is contained in the existence spectrum. In particular, if such a category is well-accessible (in the sense that its accessibility spectrum is a tail, see [BR12, 2.1]) then it is weakly LS-accessible: it has an object of every *regular* internal size (Definition A.1).

Corollary 3.14. A large λ -accessible category all of whose morphisms are monomorphisms has an object of internal size λ .

Proof. Immediate from Corollary 3.13. \square

We deduce a general result on the existence spectrum of a large accessible category whose morphisms are monomorphisms.

Corollary 3.15. Let $\mu \leq \lambda$ both be regular cardinals and let \mathcal{K} be a (μ, λ^+) -accessible category with all morphisms monomorphisms. If \mathcal{K} has an object that is not λ -presentable, then there is $M \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $\lambda \leq |M|_{\mathcal{K}} \leq \lambda^{<\mu}$.

Proof. Let $\theta := (\lambda^{<\mu})^+$. Note that θ is μ -closed, so by Fact 2.5, $\mu \triangleleft \theta$. By Fact 3.8, \mathcal{K} is (μ, θ, θ) -accessible, hence (λ, θ) -accessible. By the second part of Theorem 3.12 (where (μ, λ) there stands for (λ, θ^+) here), there exists $M \in \mathcal{K}$ with $\lambda < r_{\mathcal{K}}(M) < \theta^+ + \lambda^{++} = \theta^+$. Thus $\lambda \leq |M|_{\mathcal{K}} < \theta$, i.e. $\lambda \leq |M|_{\mathcal{K}} \leq \lambda^{<\mu}$, as desired. \square

We will see later (Corollary 4.15) that the assumption of regularity of λ can be relaxed assuming SCH.

4. PRESENTABILITY IN μ -AECs

Recall from [BGL⁺16, §2] that a $(\mu$ -ary) *abstract class* is a pair $\mathbf{K} = (K, \leq_{\mathbf{K}})$ such that K is a class of structures is a fixed μ -ary vocabulary $\tau = \tau(\mathbf{K})$, and $\leq_{\mathbf{K}}$ is a partial order on K that respects isomorphisms and extends the τ -substructure relation. In any abstract class \mathbf{K} , there is a natural notion of morphism: we say that $f : M \rightarrow N$ is a *\mathbf{K} -embedding* if f is an isomorphism from f onto $f[M]$ and $f[M] \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$. We see an abstract class and its \mathbf{K} -embeddings as a category (but we still use boldface, i.e. denote it by \mathbf{K} and not \mathcal{K} , to emphasize the concreteness of the category). In fact (see [BGL⁺16, §2]), an abstract class is a replete and iso-full subcategory of the category of τ -structures and τ -structure embeddings. It is moreover a *concrete* category: we will write UM for the universe of a member M of \mathbf{K} .

We now recall the definition of a μ -AEC from [BGL⁺16, 2.2]:

Definition 4.1. Let μ be a regular cardinal. An abstract class \mathbf{K} is a μ -*abstract elementary class* (or μ -AEC for short) if it satisfies the following three axioms:

- (1) Coherence: for any $M_0, M_1, M_2 \in \mathbf{K}$, if $M_0 \subseteq M_1 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_2$ and $M_0 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_2$, then $M_0 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_1$.
- (2) Chain axioms: if $\langle M_i : i \in I \rangle$ is a μ -directed system in \mathbf{K} , then:
 - (a) $M := \bigcup_{i \in I} M_i$ is in \mathbf{K} .
 - (b) $M_i \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M$ for all $i \in I$.
 - (c) If $M_i \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$ for all $i \in I$, then $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$.
- (3) Löwenheim-Skolem-Tarski (LST) axiom: there exists a cardinal $\lambda = \lambda^{<\mu} \geq |\tau(\mathbf{K})| + \mu$ such that for any $M \in \mathbf{K}$ and any $A \subseteq UM$, there exists $M_0 \in \mathbf{K}$ with $M_0 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M$, $A \subseteq UM_0$, and $|UM_0| \leq |A|^{<\mu} + \lambda$. We write $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ for the least such λ .

Note that when $\mu = \aleph_0$, we recover Shelah's definition of an AEC from [She87]. The connection of μ -AECs to accessible categories is given by [BGL⁺16, §4]:

Fact 4.2. If \mathbf{K} is a μ -AEC, then it is a $(\mu, \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+)$ -accessible category whose morphisms are monomorphisms. Conversely, any μ -accessible category whose morphisms are monomorphisms is equivalent to a μ -AEC.

Thus applying Corollary 3.15, we immediately get that for any μ -AEC \mathbf{K} with arbitrarily large models and any $\lambda \geq \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ regular, there exists $M \in \mathbf{K}$ with $\lambda \leq |M|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq \lambda^{<\mu}$. The aim of this section is to investigate the relationship between internal sizes and cardinalities in μ -AECs. The main result is that assuming GCH, or weakening of the form described in Definition 2.2, internal size and cardinality agree on any sufficiently large model whose cardinality is not the successor of a cardinal of cofinality less than μ . From this we can conclude further results on the existence spectrum.

First note that the definition of presentability simplifies in μ -AECs:

Lemma 4.3. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC, let $\lambda \geq \mu$ be a regular cardinal, and let $M \in \mathbf{K}$. Then M is λ -presentable if and only if for any λ -directed system $\langle M_i : i \in I \rangle$, if $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} \bigcup_{i \in I} M_i$, then there exists $i \in I$ such that $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_i$.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Let M be λ -presentable, and let $\langle M_i : i \in I \rangle$ be a λ -directed system, with $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} \bigcup_{i \in I} M_i$. By λ -presentability, there exists $i \in I$ such that $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_i$.

(\Leftarrow) Say we have $M \rightarrow N$, $N = \text{colim}_{i \in I} N_i$ with I λ -directed. Then N is a λ -directed union of the images of the N_i under the colimit coprojections, and so by hypothesis, the image of M in N must land in one of them. Coherence does the rest. \square

Toward bounding how big the presentability of an object can be, we look at what it means for a model to be minimal over a set:

Definition 4.4. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC, let $M \in \mathbf{K}$, and let $A \subseteq UM$. We say that M is *minimal over* A if for any $M_0, N \in \mathbf{K}$, if $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$, $M_0 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$, and $A \subseteq UM_0$, then $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_0$.

Lemma 4.5. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $\lambda \geq \mu$ be a regular cardinal. Let $M \in \mathbf{K}$ and let $A \subseteq UM$ be such that M is minimal over A . If $|A| < \lambda$, then M is λ -presentable.

In particular (taking $A := UM$), if $|UM| < \lambda$, then M is λ -presentable.

Proof. We use Lemma 4.3. Let $\langle M_i : i \in I \rangle$ be a λ -directed system such that $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} \bigcup_{i \in I} M_i$. Since the system is λ -directed, there exists $i \in I$ such that $A \subseteq UM_i$. By definition of minimality, this means that $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_i$, as desired. \square

Remark 4.6. The assumption that $\lambda \geq \mu$ cannot in general be removed, see Example 6.1.

Assuming a certain closure condition, we obtain a converse to Lemma 4.5:

Definition 4.7. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC, let λ be a regular cardinal, and let $M \in \mathbf{K}$. M is λ -closed if for any $A \subseteq UM$ of cardinality less than λ there exists $M_0 \in \mathbf{K}$ with $M_0 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M$ of cardinality less than λ and containing A .

Lemma 4.8. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $\lambda \geq \mu$ be a regular cardinal. If M is λ -closed and λ -presentable, then $|UM| < \lambda$.

Proof. Let $S := \{M_0 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M \mid |UM_0| < \lambda\}$. Then S is λ -directed and (because M is λ -closed), M is the colimit of the system induced by S . Since M is λ -presentable, there exists $M_0 \in S$ such that $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_0$, hence M has size less than λ . \square

Note that if λ is a sufficiently-nice cardinal, then any member of \mathbf{K} will be λ -closed:

Lemma 4.9. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$. If λ is μ -closed and $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$, then any element of \mathbf{K} is λ -closed.

Proof. By the Löwenheim-Skolem-Tarski axiom of μ -AECs. \square

By [BGL⁺16, 4.2], the behavior of $|M|_{\mathbf{K}}$ around $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ is well-understood. We give a proof here again for completeness:

Fact 4.10. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $M \in \mathbf{K}$. The following are equivalent:

- (1) $|UM| \leq \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$.
- (2) M is $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$ -presentable.
- (3) $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$.

Proof. By definition of internal size, (2) is equivalent to (3). Moreover, Lemma 4.5 says in particular that (1) implies (3). Conversely, assume that M is $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$ -presentable. The axioms of μ -AECs imply that $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^{<\mu} = \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$. Therefore by Lemma 4.9 (where λ there stands for $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$ here), M is $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$ -closed. By Lemma 4.8, $|UM| < \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$. Therefore (2) implies (1). \square

We now attempt to compute $|M|_{\mathbf{K}}$ when $|UM| > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$.

Lemma 4.11. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $M \in \mathbf{K}$. Let $\lambda := |UM|$ and assume that $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$. Then:

- (1) $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq \lambda$ (note: this also holds when $\lambda^+ \in [\mu, \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+]$).

- (2) If $\lambda_0 \leq \lambda$ is regular such that M is λ_0 -closed, then $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) > \lambda_0$, so in particular $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \geq \lambda_0$.
- (3) If λ is μ -closed, then $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) = \lambda^+$, so $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} = \lambda$.

Proof.

- (1) By Lemma 4.5, M is always λ^+ -presentable.
- (2) We know that M is not $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$ -presentable (since we are assuming $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$). Thus we may assume without loss of generality that $\lambda_0 > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$. By Lemma 4.8, M is not λ_0 -presentable, hence $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) > \lambda_0$, so $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \geq \lambda_0$.
- (3) If λ is regular, then by the previous part used with $\lambda_0 = \lambda$, $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) \geq \lambda^+$ and this is an equality by the first part. If λ is singular (hence limit), then by Lemma 4.9 and the previous parts, it suffices to show that there are unboundedly-many regular cardinals $\lambda_0 \leq \lambda$ that are μ -closed. Let $\theta < \lambda$ and let $\lambda_0 := (\theta^{<\mu})^+$. Then $\lambda_0 < \lambda$ (as λ is μ -closed and limit), λ_0 is regular, and λ_0 is μ -closed, as needed.

□

We obtain the following inequality:

Theorem 4.12. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $M \in \mathbf{K}$. Then:

$$|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq |UM| + \text{LS}(\mathbf{K}) \leq |M|_{\mathbf{K}}^{<\mu} + \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$$

Proof. By Fact 4.10, $|UM| \leq \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ if and only if M is $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K})^+$ -presentable. This together with the first part of Lemma 4.11 gives the first inequality. For the second, assume for a contradiction that $|UM| + \text{LS}(\mathbf{K}) > (|M|_{\mathbf{K}} + \text{LS}(\mathbf{K}))^{<\mu}$. In particular, $|UM| > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$. Let $\lambda := |UM|$ and let $\lambda_0 := ((|M|_{\mathbf{K}} + \text{LS}(\mathbf{K}))^{<\mu})^+$. Then $\lambda_0 \leq \lambda$, λ_0 is regular, and λ_0 is μ -closed. By Lemma 4.9 and the second part of Lemma 4.11, $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \geq \lambda_0$. This contradicts the definition of λ_0 . □

This gives a less desirable relationship between internal size and cardinality than one might like:

Theorem 4.13. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC, let $M \in \mathbf{K}$, and let $\lambda := |UM|$. Assume that $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ and assume GCH (or just $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\lambda}$, see Definition 2.2).

- (1) If λ is not the successor of a cardinal of cofinality less than μ , then $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) = \lambda^+$ so $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} = \lambda$.
- (2) If $\lambda = \lambda_0^+$ for some λ_0 with $\text{cf}(\lambda_0) < \mu$, then $|M|_{\mathbf{K}}$ is either λ_0 or λ .

Proof.

- (1) By Lemma 4.11, it is enough to show that λ is μ -closed. This follows from Lemma 2.7.
- (2) Since $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\lambda}$ holds, we must have that λ_0 is almost μ -closed. Since $\text{cf}(\lambda_0) < \mu$, we cannot have that $\lambda_0^{<\mu} = \lambda_0$, so we must have that λ_0 is μ -closed. Since λ_0 is limit, there must be unboundedly-many regular $\lambda'_0 < \lambda_0$ that are μ -closed (namely the cardinals of the form $(\theta^{<\mu})^+$ for $\theta < \lambda_0$), and hence so that (Lemma 4.9) M is λ'_0 -closed. By Lemma 4.11, $\lambda_0 \leq |M|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq \lambda$.

□

Assuming GCH (or merely a suitable instance of SCH), we can use this to relax the regularity assumption on λ in Corollary 3.15:

Corollary 4.14. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$. Assume GCH (or just $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$). If $\lambda = \lambda^{<\mu}$ and \mathbf{K} has a model of cardinality at least λ^+ , then there exists $M \in \mathbf{K}$ such that $|UM| = |M|_{\mathbf{K}} = \lambda$.

Proof. If λ is regular, then Corollary 3.15 gives the result (recalling Fact 4.2), so assume that λ is singular. By the Löwenheim-Skolem-Tarski axiom, there exists a model $M \in \mathbf{K}$ of cardinality λ . By Theorem 4.13 (note that λ is not a successor, so the first part there must apply), we get that $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} = \lambda$. □

Corollary 4.15. Let \mathcal{K} be a large μ -accessible category with all morphisms monomorphisms. Assuming GCH (or just $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \geq \theta}$ for some θ), \mathcal{K} has an object of all high-enough internal sizes of cofinality at least μ .

Proof. By Fact 4.2, \mathcal{K} is equivalent to a μ -AEC \mathbf{K} . Fix $\theta > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ such that $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \geq \theta}$ and let $\lambda > \theta$ have cofinality at least μ . By Lemma 2.6, $\lambda = \lambda^{<\mu}$. Now apply Corollary 4.14. □

We can also give a condition under which there is *no* model of a given internal size (although we do not know whether it can ever hold):

Theorem 4.16. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC and let $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ be such that $\lambda < \lambda^{<\mu}$. If \mathbf{K} has no model with cardinality in $[\lambda, \lambda^{<\mu})$ and \mathbf{K} is categorical in cardinality $\lambda^{<\mu}$, then \mathbf{K} has no model of internal size λ .

Proof. Assume for a contradiction that there is $M \in \mathbf{K}$ with $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} = \lambda$. By Theorem 4.12, $\lambda \leq |UM| \leq \lambda^{<\mu}$, and since there are no models of cardinality in $[\lambda, \lambda^{<\mu})$, we must have that $|UM| = \lambda^{<\mu}$. By Corollary 3.15 (where λ there stands for λ^+ here), there is $N \in \mathbf{K}$ with $\lambda^+ \leq |N|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq (\lambda^+)^{<\mu} = \lambda^{<\mu}$. Again since there are no models in $[\lambda, \lambda^{<\mu})$ we must have that $|UN| = \lambda^{<\mu}$. By construction M and N are not isomorphic, contradicting categoricity in $\lambda^{<\mu}$. □

Question 4.17. Does there exist a μ -AEC \mathbf{K} such that for any big-enough cardinal λ with $\lambda < \lambda^{<\mu}$, \mathbf{K} has no model in $[\lambda, \lambda^{<\mu})$ but is categorical in $\lambda^{<\mu}$?

By Theorem 4.16, such an example cannot be LS-accessible.

5. μ -AECs ADMITTING INTERSECTIONS AND LS-ACCESSIBILITY

We recall the definition of a μ -AEC admitting intersections. For $\mu = \aleph_0$, the definition first appears in [BS08, 1.2] and is studied in [Vas17, §2]. The definition for uncountable μ is introduced in [LRV19]. We note, in connection with the appendix, that a μ -AEC admitting intersections is the same, up to equivalence of categories, as a locally μ -polypresentable category all of whose morphisms are monomorphisms (see [LRV19, 5.7]):

Definition 5.1. A μ -AEC \mathbf{K} admits intersections if for any $N \in \mathbf{K}$ and any $A \subseteq UN$, the set

$$\mathbf{cl}_{\mathbf{K}}^N(A) = \mathbf{cl}^N(A) := \bigcap \{M \in \mathbf{K} \mid M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N, A \subseteq UM\}$$

is the universe of a $\leq_{\mathbf{K}}$ -substructure of M . In this case, we abuse notation and write $\mathbf{cl}^N(A)$ for this substructure as well.

Remark 5.2 (2.14(3) in [Vas17]). If \mathbf{K} is a μ -AEC admitting intersections, $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$ and $A \subseteq UM$, then $\mathbf{cl}^M(A) = \mathbf{cl}^N(A)$. This will be used without comment.

Crucially, in a μ -AEC admitting intersections, the closure of a set is minimal over the set (in the sense of Definition 4.4):

Lemma 5.3. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC admitting intersections. Let $M \in \mathbf{K}$ and let $A \subseteq UM$. If $M = \mathbf{cl}^M(A)$, then M is minimal over A .

Proof. Let $M_0, N \in \mathbf{K}$ be such that $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$, $M_0 \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$, and $A \subseteq UM_0$. Then:

$$M = \mathbf{cl}^M(A) = \mathbf{cl}^N(A) = \mathbf{cl}^{M_0}(A)$$

Thus $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_0$, as desired. \square

We get that μ -AECs admitting intersections behave very well with respect to the accessibility rank. They are λ -accessible for every regular $\lambda \geq \mu$, and in fact even $(\lambda, < \lambda)$ -accessible when λ is weakly inaccessible. This generalizes [LRV19, 3.3].

Theorem 5.4. Let $\mu \leq \lambda$ both be regular cardinals. If \mathbf{K} is a μ -AEC admitting intersections, then \mathbf{K} is $(\mu, \lambda, < \lambda^*)$ -accessible (see Definition 2.1).

Proof. By definition, \mathbf{K} has μ -directed colimits and a set of $(< \lambda^*)$ -presentable objects. It remains to see that it is $(\lambda, < \lambda^*)$ -resolvable. Let $M \in \mathbf{K}$. Consider the set $I := \{A \subseteq UM \mid |A| < \lambda^*\}$. For $A \in I$, let $M_A := \mathbf{cl}^M(A)$. Note that $M_A \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M$ since \mathbf{K} admits intersections. Moreover, M_A is $|A|^+$ -presentable by Lemmas 5.3 and 4.5. In particular, M_A is $(< \lambda^*)$ -presentable. Therefore $\langle M_A : A \in I \rangle$ is a $(\lambda, < \lambda^*)$ -system whose colimit is M , as desired. \square

Applying the results of Section 3, we immediately obtain:

Corollary 5.5. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC admitting intersections.

- (1) In \mathbf{K} , presentability ranks that are greater than or equal to μ are successors.
- (2) If \mathbf{K} has arbitrarily large models, then \mathbf{K} has objects of all regular internal sizes greater than or equal to μ . In particular, it is weakly LS-accessible.

Proof.

- (1) By Theorem 5.4 and Theorem 3.10.
- (2) By Theorem 5.4 and Corollary 3.13.

\square

We conclude that in a μ -AEC admitting intersections there is a natural way of computing the internal size:

Definition 5.6. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC admitting intersections. For any $M \in \mathbf{K}$, define:

$$|M|_{\mathbf{cl}} := \min\{|A| \mid A \subseteq UM, M = \mathbf{cl}^M(A)\}$$

Theorem 5.7. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC admitting intersections. For any $M \in \mathbf{K}$, $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) + \mu = |M|_{\mathbf{cl}}^+ + \mu$. In particular if $|UM| > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ then $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) = |M|_{\mathbf{cl}}^+$ so $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} = |M|_{\mathbf{cl}}$.

Proof. Fix A realizing the minimum in the definition of $|M|_{\mathbf{cl}}$. By Lemma 5.3, M is minimal over A . Therefore by Lemma 4.5, M is $(|A|^+ + \mu)$ -presentable, so $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) \leq |A|^+ + \mu$.

We now show that $|A|^+ + \mu \leq r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) + \mu$. If $|A| < \mu$, then by what has just been established $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) \leq \mu$, so we are done. Assume now that $|A| \geq \mu$. Let $\lambda := |A|$ and let $\lambda_0 \in [\mu, \lambda]$ be a regular cardinal. We show that M is not λ_0 -presentable. Indeed consider the set $I := \{A_0 \subseteq A \mid |A_0| < \lambda_0\}$. For $A_0 \in I$, let $M_{A_0} := \mathbf{cl}^M(A_0)$. Note that $M_{A_0} <_{\mathbf{K}} M$ by definition of A . Now $\langle M_{A_0} : A_0 \in I \rangle$ is a λ_0 -directed system witnessing that M is not λ_0 -presentable (see Lemma 4.3).

Finally, note that if $|UM| > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ then by Fact 4.10 also $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K}) \geq \mu$. It follows directly that $r_{\mathbf{K}}(M) = |M|_{\mathbf{cl}}^+$. \square

In view of Corollary 5.5 and Theorem 5.7, is every μ -AEC which admits intersections and has arbitrarily large models LS-accessible? In general, we do not know but we can show that this holds assuming GCH (compare with Corollary 4.15):

Theorem 5.8. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC which admits intersections. Let $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$. Assume GCH (or at least $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$, see Definition 2.2). If \mathbf{K} has a model of cardinality at least λ^+ , then \mathbf{K} has a model of internal size λ .

Proof. If λ is a successor, then Corollary 5.5 gives the result so assume that λ is a limit. Since λ is limit and $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \lambda}$ holds, we must have by Lemma 2.7 that λ is μ -closed.

Let $N \in \mathbf{K}$ have cardinality at least λ^+ and let $A \subseteq UN$ have cardinality exactly λ . Let $M := \mathbf{cl}^N(A)$. We claim that $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} = \lambda$. By Theorem 5.7, $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq \lambda$. Assume for a contradiction that $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} < \lambda$. By Theorem 4.12 and using that λ is μ -closed, $|UM| \leq (|M|_{\mathbf{K}} + \text{LS}(\mathbf{K}))^{<\mu} < \lambda$. This is a contradiction since $|UM| \geq |A| = \lambda$. \square

Corollary 5.9. Let \mathbf{K} be a μ -AEC which admits intersections and has arbitrarily large models. If $\text{SCH}_{\mu, \geq \theta}$ holds for some θ , then \mathbf{K} is LS-accessible. In particular, if there is an ω_1 -strongly compact cardinal then any μ -AEC admitting intersections that has arbitrarily large models is LS-accessible.

Proof. Immediate from Theorem 5.8 and Remark 2.3. \square

6. EXAMPLES

The common thread linking the results so far is the analysis, often under GCH or a suitable instance of SCH, of the relationship between internal size and cardinality in μ -AECs, and the ways in which certain properties—the existence of models in each size, say—change when we toggle between these notions. In this section, we study a series of examples that nicely capture this phenomenon, focusing in particular, on the ways in which the categoricity spectrum changes when we change our notion of size.

Before we begin, though, two small cautionary examples illustrating that the behavior of small internal sizes can be quite wild:

Example 6.1. In the category of complete metric spaces with isometries, the one point metric space $\{0\}$ is \aleph_1 -presentable but *not* \aleph_0 -presentable (compare with Lemma 4.5). Indeed, the set of reals $A = 0 \cup \{\frac{1}{n} \mid 1 \leq n < \omega\}$ is the directed colimit of the spaces $A_m = \{\frac{1}{n} \mid 1 \leq n \leq m\}$ for $m < \omega$ but the inclusion of $\{0\}$ into A does not factor through any of the A_m 's. A similar argument shows that the empty space is the only \aleph_0 -presentable complete metric space.

Example 6.2. Let λ be an infinite cardinal and let \mathbf{K} be the (\aleph_0) -AEC of all well-orderings of order type at most λ^+ , ordered by initial segment. Note that $\text{LS}(\mathbf{K}) = \lambda$ and \mathbf{K} admits intersections. Let $\alpha \leq \lambda^+$. Then $|(\alpha, \in)|_{\mathbf{K}} = \text{cf}(\alpha) + \aleph_0$. To see this, note that for $A \subseteq \alpha$, $\text{cl}^{(\alpha, \in)}(A) = \alpha$ if and only if A is cofinal in (α, \in) , and use Theorem 5.7. In particular, \mathbf{K} has no objects of singular internal size and when λ is uncountable there are objects $M, N \in \mathbf{K}$ such that $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} N$ but $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} > |N|_{\mathbf{K}}$ (take $M := (\omega_1, \in)$ and $N := (\omega_1 + \omega, \in)$).

Looking at the categoricity spectrum, we now give a negative answer to Question 1.1; that is, we give an example of the failure of eventual categoricity for μ -AECs when categoricity is interpreted in terms of *cardinality*:

Example 6.3. We consider a modification of an example of Makkai and Paré ([MP89] 3.4.2): rather than consider \mathbf{Hilb} , the category of (complex) Hilbert spaces and contractions, we consider the subcategory \mathbf{Hilb}_0 , consisting of Hilbert spaces and their isometries. We note, as an aside, that the isometries are precisely the regular monomorphisms in \mathbf{Hilb} . The analysis of [MP89] holds even in this case—the only essential thing to note is that the norm on the colimit defined in their displayed equation (7) ensures that the colimit coprojections are themselves isometries. We may conclude, then, that \mathbf{Hilb}_0 is \aleph_1 -accessible and given that its morphisms are monomorphisms, it is equivalent to an \aleph_1 -AEC ([BGL⁺16] 4.10). In fact, it is easy to check directly that it is an \aleph_1 -AEC. Moreover, one can show (see [MP89, 3.4.4]) that in \mathbf{Hilb}_0 , $|M|_{\mathbf{Hilb}_0}$ corresponds to the size of an orthonormal basis for M . Therefore \mathbf{Hilb}_0 is categorical in every internal size.

However, by [BDH⁺05, 2.7], any infinite-dimensional Banach (and therefore Hilbert) space has cardinality λ^{\aleph_0} , for some infinite cardinal λ . Thus if γ is such that $\lambda^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_\gamma$, $\alpha \leq \gamma$ is least such that $\aleph_\alpha^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_\gamma$, and β is such that $\gamma = \alpha + \beta$, then there are $(|\beta| + 1)$ -many Hilbert spaces of cardinality \aleph_γ . In particular if $\alpha < \gamma$ then \mathbf{Hilb}_0 is not categorical in \aleph_γ (but note that $\aleph_\gamma^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_\gamma$). Thus the \aleph_1 -AEC of Hilbert spaces and isometries is indeed a counterexample to eventual categoricity in power, and a negative answer to Question 1.1.

Assuming GCH, the situation is particularly clear: there are no models in cardinality λ with $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \aleph_0$, which is to be expected in an \aleph_1 -AEC: we explicitly exclude such cardinals in the conjecture as formulated in Question 1.1. If λ is not the successor of a cardinal of countable cofinality, there is a unique model of size λ —this is meaningful categoricity. If, on the other hand, we consider λ^+ where $\text{cf}(\lambda) = \aleph_0$, there are exactly two nonisomorphic models, one generated by a basis of size λ and one by a basis of size λ^+ .

Example 6.4. In a general mAEC, one would expect to see similar failures of eventual categoricity in power: the requirement that the spaces underlying structures be complete introduces the same problem of cardinal exponentiation. Eventual categoricity in terms of internal size—density character—is very much an open question, and there are few, if any, explicit computations of specific categoricity spectra. We note, though, that eventual categoricity in density character has been shown to hold in the more restrictive classes of metric structures treated in [SU11]. These classes, which consist, roughly speaking, of complete approximately elementary (i.e. elementary-up-to- ϵ) submodels of a fixed compact, homogeneous metric structure \mathfrak{C} , are closely connected to a number of notions arising from continuous and homogeneous model theory. Specifically, they correspond to not-necessarily-Hausdorff *metric compact abstract classes* (or *metric cats*, [BY05]), and, by extension, are connected to the model theory of the logic of *positive bounded formulas* ([HI02]) and *continuous first order logic* ([BYU10], drawing on [CK66]).

6.1. Shelah’s example. In the rest of this section, we study an example mentioned by Shelah in the introduction of [She], which exhibits striking behavior whether we count isomorphism classes of models by cardinality or by internal size. The idea is to code the class of sufficiently-closed models of constructible set theory to obtain a μ -AEC \mathbf{K}^μ that is categorical exactly in the cardinals of cofinality below μ . We show, again, that the picture becomes quite different once one looks at internal sizes. In particular, while the categoricity spectrum in cardinalities alternates, \mathbf{K}^μ will not be categorical in *any* internal size and in fact will have many models in each internal size.

We work in the language of set theory (i.e. it has equality and a binary relation \in). We will use the following definition of the constructible universe: let $L_0 = \emptyset$, $L_{\alpha+1} = \text{Def}(L_\alpha)$ (where $\text{Def}(X)$ is the set of $Y \subseteq X$ such that there is a formula ϕ in the language of set theory and parameters $\bar{a} \in {}^{<\omega}X$ such that $Y = \{x \in X \mid (X, \in) \models \phi[x, \bar{a}]\}$), and $L_\beta = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} L_\alpha$ for β limit. Finally let $L := \bigcup_{\alpha \in \text{OR}} L_\alpha$. We work in Kripke-Platek (KP) set theory (see e.g. [Dev84, I.11]: note that it includes the axiom of infinity). We will use the following facts about the theory of constructibility²:

Fact 6.5 (II.1.1.(vii) in [Dev84]). For any infinite ordinal α , $|L_\alpha| = |\alpha|$.

Fact 6.6 (II.2.9 in [Dev84]). If M is a well-founded model of $\text{KP} + V = L$, then there exists a unique ordinal α and a unique isomorphism $\pi : M \cong (L_\alpha, \in)$

Fact 6.7 (I.11.2, II.7.1 in [Dev84]). For any infinite cardinal λ , (L_λ, \in) is a model of KP (and of $V = L$).

²The reader should be aware that there are some mistakes in Devlin’s book [Sta87]. However, the results that we use in this paper are correct.

Fact 6.8 (II.5.5 in [Dev84]). For any ordinal α , $\mathcal{P}(L_\alpha) \cap L \subseteq L_{|\alpha|^{++\aleph_0}}$. In particular, GCH holds in L .

Definition 6.9. Let K be the class of well-founded models of $\text{KP} + V = L$. Let $\mathbf{K} := (K, \preceq)$ (where \preceq denotes the usual first-order elementary substructure).

Note that K is axiomatizable by an $\aleph_{\aleph_1, \aleph_1}$ -sentence (we only use an infinite quantifier to say that the universe is well-founded). Moreover, denoting by $I(\mathbf{K}, \lambda)$ the number of nonisomorphic models in \mathbf{K}_λ we have:

Lemma 6.10. \mathbf{K} is an \aleph_1 -AEC. Moreover, it has no finite models and $I(\mathbf{K}, \lambda) = \lambda^+$ for every infinite cardinal λ .

Proof of Lemma 6.10. We first check that \mathbf{K} satisfies the axioms from the definition of an \aleph_1 -AEC. The only non-trivial ones are:

- Löwenheim-Skolem-Tarski axiom: by the $\aleph_{\omega, \omega}$ Löwenheim-Skolem-Tarski axiom, using that a subset of a well-founded model is still well-founded.
- Tarski-Vaught axioms: it is enough to check that for any \aleph_1 -directed system I and any $\langle M_i : i \in I \rangle$ increasing continuous in \mathbf{K} , $M := \bigcup_{i \in I} M_i$ is in \mathbf{K} . Note that (M, \in^M) is well-founded. If not, there is a countable set $X \subseteq |M|$ witnessing it, and this countable set must be contained in M_i for some $i \in I$, hence M_i is ill-founded which is impossible by definition of \mathbf{K} . Now M is a model of KP and $V = L$ by elementarity and the result follows.

For the moreover part, note first that the definition of KP that we use includes the axiom of infinity, so \mathbf{K} has no finite models. Further, for any infinite cardinal λ , (L_{λ^+}, \in) is in \mathbf{K} by Fact 6.7. By an easy argument using the $\aleph_{\omega, \omega}$ Löwenheim-Skolem-Tarski theorem, there is a club C of ordinals $\alpha < \lambda^+$ such that $(L_\alpha, \in) \preceq (L_{\lambda^+}, \in)$. Since (for example by Fact 6.6) for $\alpha \neq \beta$ both in C , $(L_\alpha, \in) \not\cong (L_\beta, \in)$, we obtain that $I(\mathbf{K}, \lambda) = |C| = \lambda^+$. \square

We note that in \mathbf{K} , internal size and cardinality coincide. Unfortunately, this will fail when we pass to \mathbf{K}^μ , which we will define presently.

Theorem 6.11. For any $M \in \mathbf{K}$, $|UM| = |M|_{\mathbf{K}}$.

Proof. By Lemma 4.11, $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \leq |UM|$. It remains to see that $|UM| \leq |M|_{\mathbf{K}}$. If $\lambda = \aleph_0$, note that the definition implies that $|M|_{\mathbf{K}}$ is always infinite, so $|M|_{\mathbf{K}} \geq \lambda$. Now let λ be a regular uncountable cardinal and assume that $|UM| \geq \lambda$. We show that M is *not* λ -presentable.

We note that (by the $L_{\omega, \omega}$ Löwenheim-Skolem-Tarski theorem) M can be obtained as a λ -directed union of elementary substructures of cardinality strictly less than λ . Thus there is a λ -directed system $\langle M_i : i \in I \rangle$ whose union is M but for which there is no $i \in I$ with $M \leq_{\mathbf{K}} M_i$. Therefore M is not λ -presentable. \square

Definition 6.12. Let μ be a regular cardinal. Let K^μ be the class of $M \in K$ isomorphic to (L_α, \in) that is such that for all $\beta < \alpha$ $[L_\beta]^{<\mu} \cap L \subseteq L_\alpha$. Let $\mathbf{K}^\mu := (K^\mu, \preceq)$.

Notice that $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{K}^{\aleph_0}$ and \mathbf{K}^μ is an $(\aleph_1 + \mu)$ -AEC. Moreover, when $\mu > \aleph_0$ the behavior of its number of models is different from \mathbf{K} . We will use the following consequences of Jensen's converging Lemma (see [Dev84, Chapter V]):

Fact 6.13. If 0^\sharp exists, then every uncountable cardinal is inaccessible in L . If 0^\sharp does not exist, then:

- (1) For any cardinal λ , $\text{cf}(\lambda)^L \leq \text{cf}(\lambda) + \aleph_1$.
- (2) For any singular cardinal λ , $\lambda^+ = (\lambda^+)^L$.

Theorem 6.14. Let μ be a regular cardinal and let $\lambda \geq \mu$.

- (1) If $\text{cf}(\lambda)^L < \mu$, then $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) = 1$.
- (2) If $\text{cf}(\lambda)^L \geq \mu$, then $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) \geq \lambda$.
- (3) If $(\neg \exists \lambda_0 < \lambda^+. \lambda^+ = \lambda_0^+ \wedge \text{cf}(\lambda_0) < \mu)^L$, then $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) = \lambda^+$.

Proof. We build an ordinal $\delta \leq \lambda^+$ and an increasing continuous chain $\langle \alpha_i : i \leq \delta \rangle$, as follows. Set $\alpha_0 := \lambda$. If i is limit, let $\alpha_i := \sup_{j < i} \alpha_j$. Now given $i < \lambda^+$, let $\beta > \alpha_i$ be least such that $(L_\beta, \in) \in \mathbf{K}$ and $[L_{\alpha_i}]^{<\mu} \cap L \subseteq L_\beta$. If $\beta \geq \lambda^+$, we set $\delta := i$ and stop. If $\beta < \lambda^+$, let $\alpha_{i+1} := \beta$ and continue the induction.

Now first assume that $\text{cf}(\lambda)^L < \mu$. Then by Fact 6.13 0^\sharp does not exist and $(\lambda^+)^L = \lambda^+$. Since in L , $\lambda^{<\mu} = \lambda^+$, we must have that $\delta = 0$. Moreover it is easy to check that $(L_\lambda, \in) \in \mathbf{K}^\mu$. This proves that $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) = 1$.

Assume now that $\text{cf}(\lambda)^L \geq \mu$. Then $\delta \geq (\lambda^+)^L$. Letting C be the set of limit points of the sequence $\langle \alpha_i : i < \delta \rangle$, we get that $(L_\alpha, \in) \in \mathbf{K}^\mu$ for any $\alpha \in C$, and $|C| \geq |(\lambda^+)^L| \geq \lambda$. Further if in L λ^+ is not the successor of a cardinal of cofinality μ , then $\delta = \lambda^+$ so $|C| = \lambda^+$. \square

We can conclude that the categoricity spectrum of \mathbf{K}^μ alternates if $V = L$. Indeed, the same is true if we merely assume that 0^\sharp does not exist and $\mu \geq \aleph_2$; for $\mu < \aleph_2$, the implications of the nonexistence of 0^\sharp are less clear. In contrast, if 0^\sharp exists, then \mathbf{K}^μ has many models in every cardinality.

Corollary 6.15. Let μ be a regular cardinal and let $\lambda \geq \mu$.

- (1) If $V = L$, then:

$$I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \text{cf}(\lambda) < \mu \\ \lambda^+ & \text{if } \text{cf}(\lambda) \geq \mu \end{cases}$$

- (2) If 0^\sharp exists, then $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) = \lambda^+$.
- (3) If 0^\sharp does not exist, then:
 - (a) If $\mu \geq \aleph_2$ and $\text{cf}(\lambda) < \mu$, then $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) = 1$.
 - (b) If $\text{cf}(\lambda) \in [\mu, \lambda)$, then $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) = \lambda^+$.
 - (c) If λ is regular, then $I(\mathbf{K}^\mu, \lambda) \geq \lambda$.

Proof. By Fact 6.13 and Theorem 6.14. \square

We now show that cardinality and internal sizes no longer coincide in \mathbf{K}^μ (compare with Theorem 6.11). We will use that both \mathbf{K} and \mathbf{K}^μ admit intersections:

Fact 6.16. \mathbf{K} and \mathbf{K}^μ admit intersections.

Proof sketch. We show that \mathbf{K} admits intersections. That \mathbf{K}^μ admits intersections will then directly follow from its definition.

By [Dev84, II.3], there is a formula $\phi_{\text{WO}}(x, y)$ (in the language of set theory) such that for any $M \in \mathbf{K}$, $\phi_{\text{WO}}(x, y)$ well-orders the universe of M . Using ϕ_{WO} , one can show that M has *definable Skolem functions*: for any formula $\phi(x, \bar{y})$ there is a formula $\psi_\phi(x, \bar{y})$ such that for any $M \in \mathbf{K}$ and $\bar{b} \in {}^{<\omega}UM$:

$$M \models \exists x \phi(x, \bar{b}) \rightarrow (\exists! x (\psi_\phi(x, \bar{b}) \wedge \phi(x, \bar{b})))$$

The formula $\psi_\phi(x, \bar{y})$ naturally induces a partial function $h_\phi : {}^{\ell(\bar{y})}UM \rightarrow UM$ mapping \bar{y} to x whenever it exists. It is easy to see that for $M_0 \subseteq M$, M_0 is closed under the h_ϕ 's if and only if $M_0 \preceq M$. Similarly, for any $A \subseteq UM$, $\mathbf{cl}^M(A)$ is nothing but the closure of A under the h_ϕ 's. Therefore $\mathbf{cl}^M(A) \preceq M$, as desired. In fact, we have shown that \mathbf{K} is isomorphic (as a concrete category) to a *universal* \aleph_1 -AEC: the \aleph_1 -AEC obtained by adding the h_ϕ 's to each structure in \mathbf{K} . \square

Theorem 6.17. Let μ be a regular cardinal and let $\lambda \geq \mu$. If λ is regular or μ -closed, then there are at least λ^+ non-isomorphic models in \mathbf{K}^μ of internal size λ .

Proof. Let $\theta := \lambda^{<\mu}$ and let $N := (L_{\theta^+}, \in)$. Note that $N \in \mathbf{K}$ by Fact 6.7 and $N \in \mathbf{K}^\mu$ by Fact 6.8. We build an increasing chain of ordinals $\langle \alpha_i : i < \lambda^+ \rangle$ such that:

- (1) $\alpha_i < \theta^+$ for all $i < \lambda^+$.
- (2) $\alpha_i \notin \mathbf{cl}^N(\lambda \cup \{\alpha_j : j < i\})$.

For $i < \lambda^+$, write $M_i := \mathbf{cl}^N(\lambda \cup \{\alpha_j : j < i\})$.

This is possible: Fix $i < \lambda^+$ and assume inductively that $\langle \alpha_j : j < i \rangle$ have been constructed. By Theorems 4.12 and 5.7, $|UM_i| \leq \theta$. Since $|UN| > \theta$, we can choose α_i as desired.

This is enough: We have that for $i < j < \lambda^+$, $M_i \not\cong M_j$ because M_j has “more ordinals” than M_i (see e.g. Fact 6.6). If λ is regular, let C be the set of $i < \lambda^+$ such that $\text{cf}(i) = \lambda$, otherwise let $C := \lambda^+$. We show that for $i \in C$, $|M_i|_{\mathbf{K}^\mu} = \lambda$. By definition, $|M_i|_{\mathbf{cl}} \leq \lambda$ (see Definition 5.6). Thus by Theorem 5.7, $r_{\mathbf{K}^\mu}(M_i) + \mu \leq \lambda^+$, hence $|M_i|_{\mathbf{K}^\mu} \leq \lambda$. If λ is regular, then $\text{cf}(i) = \lambda$ so $M_i = \bigcup_{j < i} M_j$ and $M_j <_{\mathbf{K}} M_i$, so M_i is not λ -presentable, i.e. $|M_i|_{\mathbf{K}^\mu} \geq \lambda$. Assume now that λ is μ -closed. If $|M_i|_{\mathbf{K}^\mu} < \lambda$, then by the proof of Theorem 4.12, $|UM_i| \leq (|M_i|_{\mathbf{K}^\mu} + \mu)^{<\mu} < \lambda$. Because $\lambda \subseteq UM_i$, we must have that $|UM_i| \geq \lambda$, a contradiction. \square

Question 6.18. In Theorem 6.17, can we conclude that \mathbf{K}^μ has *exactly* λ^+ non-isomorphic models of internal size λ ? More generally, do we have that in any μ -AEC \mathbf{K} and any $\lambda > \text{LS}(\mathbf{K})$ there can be at most 2^λ non-isomorphic models of internal size λ ?

Recalling Theorem 6.14, we see that the internal sizes behave very differently from cardinalities:

Corollary 6.19. Let μ be a regular cardinal and let $\lambda \geq \mu$. Assume $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\lambda}$. Then \mathbf{K}^μ has at least λ^+ non-isomorphic models of internal size λ .

Proof. If λ is a successor, this is Theorem 6.17. If λ is a limit, then by $\text{SCH}_{\mu,\lambda}$, λ is μ -closed so Theorem 6.17 also applies. \square

Question 6.20. Can we prove in ZFC that \mathbf{K}^μ is LS-accessible?

APPENDIX A. LOCALLY MULTIPRESENTABLE AND POLYPRESENTABLE CATEGORIES

We include a category-theoretic aside, concerning approximations of LS-accessibility in large locally multipresentable and locally polypresentable categories. While these categories are not original to the authors (see [Die80] and [Lam88], respectively), the basic definitions and essential model-theoretic motivation can be found in [LRV19]. In short, a locally multipresentable category \mathcal{K} is an accessible category with all connected limits and, provided all of its morphisms are monomorphisms, it is, up to equivalence of categories, a universal μ -AEC ([LRV19, 5.9]). Put another way, a locally multipresentable category is an accessible category with all multicolimits: rather than having a initial—colimit—cocone over each diagram D in \mathcal{K} , there is a family of multiinitial cocones, with the property that any compatible cocone admits a unique map from a unique member of the family. Locally polypresentable categories are accessible categories with wide pullbacks and, provided all of their morphisms are monomorphisms, are, up to equivalence, μ -AECs admitting intersections ([LRV19, 5.7]). They can also be characterized as accessible categories with policolimits, where the induced maps from the family of cocones described above are unique only up to isomorphism.

We are interested in the following version of the Löwenheim-Skolem theorem. The notion of LS-accessibility is introduced in [BR12, 2.4] but weak LS-accessibility is new.

Definition A.1. A category \mathcal{K} is called *LS-accessible* if there exists a cardinal λ such that for all $\lambda' \geq \lambda$, \mathcal{K} contains an object of internal size exactly λ' . We call \mathcal{K} *weakly LS-accessible* if this holds only for all *regular* $\lambda' \geq \lambda$.

Beke and the second author [BR12, 4.6] have shown that every large locally presentable category is LS-accessible. A modification of the argument shows:

Theorem A.2. Each large locally multipresentable category is weakly LS-accessible.

Proof. Let \mathcal{K} be a large locally λ -multipresentable category. There is a λ -presentable object A such that the functor $\mathcal{K}(A, -) : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ takes arbitrarily large values because, otherwise, \mathcal{K} would be small. The functor $U = \mathcal{K}(A, -)$ preserves connected limits and λ -directed colimits. For every set X , the category $X \downarrow U$ is λ -accessible (see [AR94] 2.43) and has connected limits. Therefore, it has a multiinitial set of objects $f_{X_i} : X \rightarrow UK_{X_i}$, $i \in I_X$. At first, we show that $|K_{X_i}|_{\mathcal{K}} \leq |X|$ for each $i \in I_X$ and $\lambda \leq |X|$. Consider an $|X|^+$ -directed colimit $l_j : L_j \rightarrow L$, $j \in J$ and a morphism $h : K_{X_i} \rightarrow L$. Since U preserves $|X|^+$ -directed colimits, there is $j \in J$ such that $U(h)f_{X_i} = U(l_j)g$ for some $g : X \rightarrow UL_j$. Thus $g = U(\bar{g})f_{X_{i'}}$ for some $i' \in I_X$ and $\bar{g} : K_{X_{i'}} \rightarrow L_j$. Since $l_j\bar{g} : K_{X_{i'}} \rightarrow L$, we have $i' = i$. Then $l_j\bar{g} = h$

and, since this factorization is essentially unique, K_{X_i} is $|X|^+$ -presentable. Hence $|K_{X_i}| \leq |X|$.

Let $\lambda, |\mathcal{K}_\lambda| < |X|$, where \mathcal{K}_λ is the set of morphisms between λ -presentable objects. We will show that $|K_{X_i}|_{\mathcal{K}} = |X|$ for some $i \in I_X$, which proves that \mathcal{K} is LS-accessible. Assume that $|K_{X_i}|_{\mathcal{K}} < |X|$ for $i \in I_X$. Let $\mu = \max\{\lambda, |K_{X_i}|_{\mathcal{K}}\}^+$. Since $\mu \leq |X|$, X is a μ -directed colimit of subsets X_k of X of cardinality $|X_k| < \mu$; $u_k : X_k \rightarrow X$ are the inclusions. For any k , there is a unique $i_k \in I_{X_k}$ with a morphism $U(\bar{u}_k) : K_{X_k, i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ such that $U(\bar{u}_k)f_{X_k, i_k} = f_{X_i}u_k$. Analogously, for each inclusion $u_{kk'} : X_k \rightarrow X_{k'}$ there is a morphism $\bar{u}_{kk'} : K_{X_k, i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_{k'}, i_{k'}}$ such that $U(\bar{u}_{kk'})f_{X_k, i_k} = f_{X_{k'}, i_{k'}}u_{kk'}$. Morphisms $\bar{u}_{kk'}$ form a μ -directed diagram and $\bar{u}_k : K_{X_k, i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ a cocone from it. Let $t : \text{colim } K_{X_k, i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ be the induced morphism. Let $f : X \rightarrow U \text{colim } K_{X_k, i_k}$ be a unique mapping such that $f u_k = U(d_k)f_{X_k, i_k}$ where d_k are components of the colimit cocone. We have $U(t)f = f_{X_i}$ because

$$U(t)f u_k = U(t)U(d_k)f_{X_k, i_k} = U(\bar{u}_k)f_{X_k, i_k} = f_{X_i}u_k$$

for each k . There is a unique $j \in I_X$ and a unique morphism $q : K_{X_j} \rightarrow \text{colim } K_{X_k, i_k}$ such that $U(q)f_{X_j} = f$. Since $U(tq)f_{X_j} = U(t)f = f_{X_i}$, we have $j = i$ and $tq = \text{id}_{K_{X_i}}$. Since

$$U(q)U(\bar{u}_k)f_{X_k, i_k} = U(q)f_{X_i}u_k = f u_k = U(d_k)f_{X_k, i_k}$$

we have $q\bar{u}_k = d_k$ and thus $qtd_k = q\bar{u}_k = d_k$. Hence $qt = \text{id}_{\text{colim } K_{X_k, i_k}}$ and t is an isomorphism with the inverse morphism q . Hence $\bar{u}_k : K_{X_k, i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ is a colimit cocone. Thus $U(\bar{u}_k) : UK_{X_k, i_k} \rightarrow UK_{X_i}$ is a colimit cocone. Since K_{X_i} is μ -presentable, there is k and a morphism $r : K_{X_i} \rightarrow K_{X_k, i_k}$ such that $\bar{u}_k r = \text{id}_{K_{X_i}}$.

Let $\delta = |I_X|$ and $\kappa = \beth_\lambda(\delta)$. Let $|Z| = \kappa$. Since $\text{cf}(\kappa) = \lambda$, we have $|Z^X| = \kappa^\lambda > \kappa$. Choose $j \in I_Z$. For each $p : X \rightarrow Z$, there is $i_p \in I_X$ and $\bar{p} : K_{X, i_p} \rightarrow K_{Z, j}$ such that $U(\bar{p})f_{X, i_p} = f_{Z, j}p$. Since $\delta < \kappa$, there is a subset $\mathcal{P} \subseteq Z^X$ of cardinality $|\mathcal{P}| > \kappa$ such that $i_p = i_q$ for each $p, q \in \mathcal{P}$. Denote this common value of i_p by i . As shown above, there is a subset X_k of X of cardinality $\nu < \lambda$ such that $\bar{u}_k : K_{X_k, i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ is a split epimorphism. Since $\kappa^\nu = \kappa$, there is a subset $\mathcal{Q} \subset \mathcal{P}$ such that $pu_k = qu_k$ for each $p, q \in \mathcal{Q}$. For $p, q \in \mathcal{Q}$, we have

$$U(\bar{p})U(\bar{u}_k)f_{X_k, i_k} = U(\bar{p})f_{X_i}u_k = f_{Z, j}pu_k = f_{Z, j}qu_k = U(\bar{q})f_{X_i}u_k = U(\bar{q})U(\bar{u}_k)f_{X_k, i_k}$$

and thus $\bar{p}\bar{u}_k = \bar{q}\bar{u}_k$. Hence $\bar{p} = \bar{q}$. Since

$$f_{Z, j}p = U(\bar{p})f_{X_i} = U(\bar{q})f_{X_i} = f_{Z, j}q$$

$f_{Z, j}$ is not a monomorphism.

Since the sets UM are arbitrarily large, there is a monomorphism $v : Z \rightarrow UM$. Since v factorizes through $Uf_{Z, j}$ for some $j \in I_Z$, this $f_{X, Z, j}$ is a monomorphism. Thus $|K_{X_i}|_{\mathcal{K}} = |X|$. \square

Assuming that all morphisms are monomorphisms, we can generalize the argument further to locally polypresentable categories:

Theorem A.3. Each large locally polypresentable category with all morphisms monomorphisms is weakly LS-accessible.

Proof. We will follow the proof of A.2. The first paragraph is unchanged, only the essential unicity at the end follows from the fact that morphisms in \mathcal{K} are monomorphisms. In the second paragraph, we do not know that $\bar{u}_{k'}\bar{u}_{kk'} = \bar{u}_k$. But we know that there is an isomorphism $h_{kk'} : K_{X_k i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_k i_k}$ such that $\bar{u}_{k'}\bar{u}_{kk'}h_{kk'} = \bar{u}_k$. Since \mathcal{K} -morphisms are monomorphisms, $\tilde{u}_{kk'} = \bar{u}_{kk'}h_{kk'}$ form a μ -directed diagram and $\bar{u}_k : K_{X_k i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ a cocone from it. Let $t : \text{colim } K_{X_k i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ be the induced morphism and $f : X \rightarrow U \text{ colim } K_{X_k i_k}$ the induced mapping. We have $U(t)f = f_{X_i}$ because

$$U(t)fu_k = U(t)U(d_k)f_{X_k i_k} = U(\bar{u}_k)f_{X_k i_k} = f_{X_i}u_k$$

for each k . Let $q : K_{X_i} \rightarrow \text{colim } K_{X_k i_k}$ be a morphism such that $U(q)f_{X_i} = f$. We have $U(tq)f_{X_i} = f_{X_i}$. Thus there is an isomorphism $h : K_{X_i} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ such that $tq = h \cdot \text{id}_{K_{X_i}} = h$. Thus t is a split epimorphism and, since it is a monomorphism, it is an isomorphism. Hence $\bar{u}_k : K_{X_k i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_i}$ is a colimit cocone. Since K_{X_i} is μ -presentable, there is k and a morphism $r : K_{X_i} \rightarrow K_{X_k i_k}$ such that $\bar{u}_k r = \text{id}_{K_{X_i}}$. As a split epimorphism, \bar{u}_k is an isomorphism.

As in the proof of A.2, let $\alpha = |X|$ be regular. Let ι_i be the number of isomorphisms of $K_{X_k i_k}$, $i \in I_X$. Now, δ will be the maximum of $|I_X|$ and $\text{sup}_{i \in I_X} \iota_i$. For $p, q \in \mathcal{Q}$, we do not get $\bar{p}u_k = \bar{q}u_k$, but we get an isomorphism $h_q : K_{X_k i_k} \rightarrow K_{X_k i_k}$ such that $\bar{p} = h_q \bar{q}$. Since $\mathcal{Q} > \iota_i$, there is a subset \mathcal{Q}_0 of \mathcal{Q} such that $h_{q_1} = h_{q_2}$ for $q, q_2 \in \mathcal{Q}_0$. Hence $\bar{p} = \bar{q}$ for $p, q \in \mathcal{Q}_0$. \square

We note that this amounts to an alternative—purely category-theoretic—proof of Corollary 5.5.

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