Introduction

Kingdom Hearts as a verse has always been rated Low 1-C for the longest while. While we do think the rating does a good job at scratching the surface, there is a lot more to consider when talking about the true nature of its cosmology. Let's start with the most important aspects; Light and Darkness.

Cosmology Overview

Light and Darkness are recurring elements of the Franchise that mostly resemble abstract *universal energy sources* that predate and create the cosmology itself, being as old as time. As of now, said verse consists of six realms with unique properties; Light, Darkness, In between, memory, data, and sleep as explained here.

For a little (lol) rundown though, the realm of Light, darkness, and in between are the main realms of the cosmology that house the vast majority of worlds (pocket universes) of the verse. These worlds then, are connected by a realm known as the ocean between, which acts as sort of an all enclosing "space" (significantly different than "outer space.") that links the worlds together. Together these make up the more "primary" realms of the cosmology, with these next ones being far less focused on in main titles.

That is to mention, the realms of Memory, Data, and Sleep.

The Secondary "Realms"

The realm of memory consists mainly of worlds created from the *memories contained within the hearts of people.* This also includes worlds not necessarily remembered, but ones connected through another's own heart. Such as when Sora visited Twilight Town (a world he's never been to as of that point.) based on his connection to Roxas. Even people can be replicated, and some, to a degree, can still hold a connection to the hearts of the actual people outside the memory.

Next, is the world of data. A realm that holds simulations or copies made from technology that can replicate said data from the real world. While data mostly cannot replicate the information of the heart, it is possible for beings and objects to traverse in and out of data worlds. However, objects brought out of the data world can no longer be influenced or eliminated via the computer that simulated it.

Last, but definitely not least, would be the realm of sleep. Which is definitely the most complex of all the realms we have been introduced to so far. So let's dive into a bit of backstory with this one:

The worlds submerged in sleep

The premise of KH1 is essentially Sora sealing the keyholes of each world in order to stop them from falling to darkness. During the games final parts he ends up sealing Kingdom Hearts which eventually releases most of the worlds from the grasp of darkness. I say most of these worlds because, of course, not all worlds were freed. These worlds lay dormant in a sleep-like state, unconnected by even the ocean between and the gates that allow travel to worlds. Even heartless, beings completely composed of darkness, cannot enter.

That's not to say the realm is unbound by light and darkness however, as there exists a special kind of Light and Darkness that infests the sleeping worlds. These mainly take the form of dream eaters, creations of the Master of Masters that mainly inhabit the realm of sleep. These creatures, subsequently, are divided into 2 species. The Nightmares, beings of darkness that feed on positive dreams, and Spirits, who feed on nightmares.

The laws of the sleeping worlds tend to differ significantly from the laws of the waking world. Such as time not being linear at all, or the fact that even characters who no longer exist within the world would have characters representing them through the dream. Seemingly implying that the laws of the sleeping worlds are significantly less defined and set in stone than the ones of the waking world, which each have their own established order, laws and time flow. For these reasons, I believe it's safe to imply the dream world being qualitatively lesser than the worlds of the waking realm ("-1-A").

Unfortunately the story gets more complicated after that. As the primary protagonists of the game are sent on a journey that was more devious than initially intended. Sora, the main character, ends up being led astray from his journey by Organization XIII, who intend to use him as a vessel for Xehanort by having the latter possess him with a part of his heart. Which they intended to accomplish by having Sora fall asleep into a "dream within dream" like sleep in which he falls into an endless abyss.

Said abyss is mentioned during Riku's journey (which at this point is to save Sora) as the "Chasm of Dreams," in which it's stated that no matter how many dreams Riku consumed (Riku being a dream eater at this point), he could never awake someone who had fallen into the abyss of dreams.

"Sora will never wake up.

No matter how many of Sora's nightmares you feed on

Those who have fallen into the abyss of dreams

Will never wake from their slumber."

This is made further into a revelation as Riku had realized he'd been within Sora's two-fold dream, implying the previous statement for the Chasm referring to not only "Parallel" dreams, but "deeper" ones as well. This implies the Chasm of dreams being an infinite descending R>F hierarchy based on Ansem's statement.

Interestingly enough however, is what truly lies at the "bottom" of the hierarchy. After Riku obtains the Power of Waking, (which among a multitude of broken abilities, allows one to directly free a heart from slumber) he was finally able to reach sora within the depths of his sleep. From there we reach the final destination and the deepest "Layer" of the cosmology as a whole.

The Station of Awakening, The Final World, and Quadratum

Yes, below the Chasm of dreams itself lies the Station of Awakening (SoA). This world is most often seen at the beginning of every Kingdom Hearts game, and serves as the world within an individual's own heart. It's recognizable by the stained glass floor and by the characters and emblems that hold relevance to the character in question. This realm usually can be accessed by sleeping characters, as shown by Sora in KH1 or with Ventus as seen above.

"Outside" the SoA then, is The Final World (TFW). Which is basically the ultimate crossroad between sleep and death one can access through the station of awakening. It's depicted as an infinite sea and sky that houses the essence of deceased and sleeping characters. This domain serves as the final and deepest layer of the cosmology, standing even deeper than the sleeping worlds.

Now, the "death" in question after The Final World refers to Quadratum, as explained here, being fictional even to all the other parts of the cosmology including the before-mentioned hierarchy of dreams, while also lacking light and darkness.

Worth noting that any claims of "-1-A" and similar in the explanation blog are outdated and are pending whichever conclusion is reached in the Content Revision Thread this doc was made for.

The Duality of Light and Darkness

Now that we have mapped out all the important bits it's time to tackle the main purpose of this CRT. The scaling of Light and Darkness. As stated before, Light and Darkness are the 2 halves of everything in existence. From the worlds themselves, to the people, to their hearts. It's an eternal…

“Xemnas: if light and darkness are eternal, then surely we nothings must be the same…..eternal.

Riku: you’re right, light and darkness are eternal, nothing probably goes on forever too.”

…duality that cannot be separated…

“Perhaps it was a Realm of "Nothing," devoid of even darkness. A realm without light or dark. Darkness cannot exist without light, nor light without darkness. That's what that place was like.”

…as the forces of both are completely parallel, with the same light and darkness being the same since the verse’s conception.

Because of all this, Light and Darkness were rated as Low 1-C for the longest of while due to the Ocean Between containing within itself an hypertimeline and the fact that a higher dimensional clash between light and darkness can summon the X-blade. However I believe there is definitely more to light and darkness than meets the eye. While we can infer that light and darkness are higher dimensional in nature, we can take an even deeper look at what exactly this entails.

The Ocean Between and 6-D

Let’s take a quick commercial break and discuss the dimensionality regarding the Ocean Between. While it was neglected in the past due to the fact that being bigger than a low 2-C plane doesn’t make one inherently Low 1-C, the context behind the size of the OB when compared to the lesser low 2-C worlds is indeed made clear. Specifically it’s stated to be infinite in *comparison* to individual worlds (already accepted to be infinite 4D planes, 3 spatial, and 1 temporal). Its size utterly eclipsing the worlds inside, dotting the OB like islands. With this I believe it’s safe to infer the OB being capable of holding infinite 4D planes while itself also being quantitatively beyond them. It’s because of this that the size of the OB being called “infinite” wouldn’t refer to any of the lesser dimensions already established, but a separate, higher 4D spatial Axis, as it would be redundant and unreasonable to assume a reference to any of the lower dimensions, especially considering we already have infinite 3D (spatial) planes that would also be infinitely eclipsed by the OB. All in all, the OB should logically contain 4 spatial dimensions and 2 temporal ones, establishing it as a 6D plane once more.

This is relevant independently of the tiering of the sleep stuff, as quantitative and qualitative superiorities can stack with each other, A Wild Last Boss Appeared is an example that comes to mind of this.

Darkness and Sleep

Now then, let's continue. Take heed to Ansem's explanation on the relationship between dreams and darkness. As explained again here, Ansem directly links the process of Riku diving into dreams within Dreams as the act of diving into "Darkness within Darkness." As a matter of fact Riku had to destroy the darkness holding Sora's sleep in order to access his SoA. Ansem even goes as far as to say Darkness encompasses "Sleep" as a whole and thus should completely encompass the infinite R>F hierarchy that is the Chasm of Dreams. Which leads me to believe the transcendence of Light and Darkness is not one based on quantity and math, but instead one based on quality and ontology.

Light, Darkness, and Hearts

Going even further down the Chasm as we reach the SoA, it's very important to again, understand the fact that fundamentally, the SoA is a world inside the heart. Hearts, within the setting of Kingdom Hearts, are one of the 3 components of a being, the other two being the body and soul. The Soul determines whether one is alive or not, the body acts as the vessel, and the Heart acts as the essence that determines one's existence. Lacking a heart effectively means one lacks existence itself. Hearts themselves are basically abstract concepts that define whether one exists or not. It's even stated someone's heart being shattered is likened to them being conceptually in pieces as a result, which is why they were accepted as type 1 concepts. Everything has a heart…

"–What is *the definition of a heart in Kingdom Hearts?*

Nomura: It is the theme of the series. To explain it simply, a person has a body, a soul, and a heart. As an image, the soul is the life source, without it a person would be dead. Since the heart doesn't have a form, memories play an important part in forming a heart. Also, the heart isn't limited to people, but to all things."

…from people, to plants, from inanimate objects, to entire worlds themselves, which of course would include the dream worlds. They all have an underlying essence that enables their existence in the verse down to its fundamental levels. One of the most important factors when it comes to the essence of the Heart is memories. Memories are what enable the Heart to change and influence reality based on the remembrance of the individual, with one's Heart lacking memories being akin to being an empty shell.

"Memories are governed by the heart, but the heart is made of memories. A heart with no memories is already an empty shell."

And what are hearts composed of? Light and darkness. This means the true nature of Light and Darkness are the forces that enable the existence of abstract concepts that in turn define lesser things, while standing immensely above the entire setting of the cosmology itself. As even delving into infinite dreams within dreams is nothing but delving into deeper and deeper darkness. The true scope of darkness (and therefore Light) should be ontologically greater than the verse, as it holds “reality” in the same vein as it hold “Dreams”, which is inherently lesser than its own totality, as the meta-conceptual force that enables such things to metaphysically exist in the first place.

True Kingdom Hearts (Entity) and the X-Blade

Finally we delve into the single most powerful entity within the verse’s setting, when a higher dimensional clash between 7 Lights and 13 Darknesses happens, their energy can cultivate a weapon known as the X-Blade, which gives one access to, and complete control over True Kingdom Hearts. Which exists as the origin of light and the culmination of all hearts in the entire cosmology. Its power is so great that it could completely eradicate Light and Darkness (and therefore the entire verse) and can even recreate them to create a more balanced world, while also being stated to be almighty. So it’s very easy to conclude true KH as being the strongest thing in the setting.

Conclusion / Recap

Now, with all that being said, it’s finally time to delve into the verse and the possibility of 1-A and above. As stated above and already accepted, Hearts are Type 1 concepts that exist to define every aspect of existence as a whole, with every single thing in the cosmology containing a heart within itself. Hearts themselves being unreachable by, and standing at the bottom of an infinitely layered R>F hierarchy (Via the SoA and the worlds of sleep) while simultaneously being the sole defining factor of reality makes it reasonable to assume that hearts are 1-A in nature. Which would mean the Final World should also be considered a 1-A world by default, as it's physically reachable by the SoA as a “World of Hearts” or something similarly along those lines.

Beyond Hearts, Beyond 1-A as a whole, we reach the duality of Light and Darkness. As Xehanort explains, in the beginning there was only Darkness, from that Darkness came Light, From the Light came the people, and the people had Hearts. From this it’s safe to assume Hearts were created sometime after Light came into existence by combining the essence of Light and Darkness alongside the memories of the individual. Interestingly enough, Hearts are again, not limited to just people, but to everything in existence. Spanning across people, oceans, mountains, all phenomena, and even the worlds themselves. Because of this it’s more accurate to say “after light came reality, and the concepts that define it.” Not just the people who inhabited it. This means Light and Darkness are “meta concepts” that allow the cosmology to metaphysically exist, and

as such, should be beyond any and every extension within it, qualitative or quantitative. As even infinite dreams within dreams are likened to Darkness within Darkness. This also implies Light and Darkness encompass and simultaneously transcend the very notion of “Reality” and “Dream.” With Darkness holding the aspect of “Dream,” and Light holding “Reality.”

As Ansem stated, Dreams hold our memories, sleep holds our dreams, and darkness holds our sleep. Meaning Darkness in turn defines all aspects of dreams, meanwhile the creation of Light signified the birth and creation of Reality itself and the hearts inside it. Considering Darkness holds within itself an infinite qualitative layered abyss of dreams within dreams, and Light is stated to run parallel and “reverse” to it. It stands to reason Light, by extension, should also be beyond any application of higher qualitative attributes to itself as well. Which is supported by the fact that, unlike hearts, Light and Darkness are completely transcendent of memories, which are the “medium” the heart uses to base reality off of. For these reasons, going forward Light and Darkness should be treated as High 1-A. Due to transcending the logical framework that enables the existence of the abstract concepts that metaphysically define lesser things and the difference between reality and unreality.

In plain terms:

- The realm of sleep/Quadratum = Tier 11 (contains an infinite dream within dream hierarchy and a fictional world even to that standard)

- The individual worlds = 4D (as already accepted having 3 spatial and 1 temporal dimensions)

- The Ocean Between = 6D (stated to be a spatially infinite hyperspace in comparison to the normal 3D spatial worlds, and also containing a higher timeline within itself, adding 2 dimensions)

- The Final World/Station of Awakening = 1-A (metaphysically defines and exists abstractly of the physical world, containing the essence that allows reality to “exist” conceptually, while also being capable of completely altering it to align with the memories and experiences of the individual or by tapping into really powerful abilities like the power of waking).

- The Duality of Light and Darkness = High 1-A (the 2 primordial sources of the cosmology, being completely independent of memories and hearts as a whole while underlying the verse on a far “deeper” level, encompassing, embodying, and transcending the concepts of “real” and “unreal” as showcased with Darkness containing infinite dream within dreams and Light being the source of reality’s concepts).

- The X-blade/True Kingdom Hearts = High 1-A (the former can only be summoned by a higher dimensional clash between light and darkness, while the latter represents the “Heart” of the entire verse in its complete totality. Standing even beyond all hearts, Light, Darkness, Nonexistence, Data, Dreams, phenomena, and reality as a whole).

Credits

As I’m sure this document will be shared off-site, as was with the Barney one, the credit for this document goes for ThatBoiRick, Bobsican, SuperBearNeo, TheKingStrategist13, Kirbo, Fezzih 007 and the moral support of those in the KH Discord server, thanks everyone.