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An algebraic linear ordering is a component of the initial solution of a first-order recursion scheme over the continuous categorical algebra of countable linear orderings equipped with the sum operation and the constant  $\mathbf{1}$ , denoting the one point linear order. Due to a general Mezei-Wright type result, algebraic linear orderings are exactly those isomorphic to the linear ordering of the leaves of an algebraic tree. Using Courcelle's characterization of algebraic trees by deterministic context-free languages, we obtain the fact that a linear ordering is algebraic iff it can be represented as the lexicographic ordering of a deterministic context-free language. When the algebraic linear ordering is a well-ordering, its order type is an algebraic ordinal. We prove that the Hausdorff rank of any scattered algebraic linear ordering is less than  $\omega^\omega$ . It follows that the algebraic ordinals are exactly those less than  $\omega^\omega$ . (Received December 01, 2009)