

Pideonhole Principle

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The pigeonhole principle states that if pigeons are put into holes and the amount of pigeons is greater than the amount of holes, there must be at least one hole with more than one pigeon inside. This is because there are more objects than places/categories to put them in. It can be represented by

if $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $|X| > |Y|$, then there are elements $x_1, x_2 \in X$ such that $x_1 \neq x_2$ and $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$.

This means that for every member of X there is a corresponding member in set Y , and there are more elements in X than in Y . It also says that there are at least two separate members in X that equal the same element in Y .

The pigeonhole principle can be extended to deal with multiple groups using the extended pigeonhole principle. This principle states that

$f : X \rightarrow Y$ then there is some $y \in Y$ such that $f(x) = y$ for at least $\lceil \frac{|X|}{|Y|} \rceil$

This means that there is a member of Y called y that has individual members of set X with the total amount of x 's equaling the ceiling of the cardinality of X divided by the cardinality of Y .

This can be further simplified by stating there is at least some number of pigeons in the same hole, this number can be found by taking the cardinality of X and dividing by the cardinality of Y and rounding that number up.