

another proof of cardinality of the rationals

 ${\bf Canonical\ name} \quad {\bf Another Proof Of Cardinality Of The Rationals}$

Date of creation 2013-03-22 16:01:49 Last modified on 2013-03-22 16:01:49 Owner Mathprof (13753) Last modified by Mathprof (13753)

Numerical id 10

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Entry type Proof Classification msc 03E10 If we have a rational number p/q with p and q having no common factor, and each expressed in base 10 then we can view p/q as a base 11 integer, where the digits are $0,1,2,\ldots,9$ and /. That is, slash (/) is a symbol for a digit. For example, the rational 3/2 corresponds to the integer $3\cdot 11^2 + 10\cdot 11 + 2$. The rational -3/2 corresponds to the integer $-(3\cdot 11^2 + 10\cdot 11 + 2)$.

This gives a one-to-one map into the integers so the cardinality of the rationals is at most the cardinality of the integers. So the rationals are countable.