



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

an injection between two finite sets of the same cardinality is bijective

Canonical name	AnInjectionBetweenTwoFiniteSetsOfTheSameCardinalityIsBijective
Date of creation	2013-03-22 15:10:20
Last modified on	2013-03-22 15:10:20
Owner	alozano (2414)
Last modified by	alozano (2414)
Numerical id	6
Author	alozano (2414)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 03-00
Related topic	SchroederBernsteinTheorem
Related topic	ProofOfSchroederBernsteinTheorem
Related topic	OneToOneFunctionFromOntoFunction

Lemma. *Let A, B be two finite sets of the same cardinality. If $f: A \rightarrow B$ is an injective function then f is bijective.*

Proof. In order to prove the lemma, it suffices to show that if f is an injection then the cardinality of $f(A)$ and A are equal. We prove this by induction on $n = \text{card}(A)$. The case $n = 1$ is trivial. Assume that the lemma is true for sets of cardinality n and let A be a set of cardinality $n + 1$. Let $a \in A$ so that $A_1 = A - \{a\}$ has cardinality n . Thus, $f(A_1)$ has cardinality n by the induction hypothesis. Moreover, $f(a) \notin f(A_1)$ because $a \notin A_1$ and f is injective. Therefore:

$$f(A) = f(\{a\} \cup A_1) = \{f(a)\} \cup f(A_1)$$

and the set $\{f(a)\} \cup f(A_1)$ has cardinality $1 + n$, as desired. □