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example of uncountable family of subsets of a countable set with finite intersections

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We wish to give an answer to the following:

**Problem.** Assume, that  $X$  is a countable set. Is there a family  $\{X_i\}_{i \in I}$  of subsets of  $X$  such that  $I$  is an uncountable set, but for any  $i \neq j \in I$  the intersection  $X_i \cap X_j$  is finite?

**Example.** Let  $x \in [1, 2)$  be a real number. Express  $x$  using digits

$$x = 1.x_1x_2x_3x_4 \cdots = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} x_i \cdot 10^{-i}$$

where each  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$ . With  $x$  we associate the following natural numbers

$$\beta_n(x) = 1x_1x_2x_3 \cdots x_{n-1}x_n = 10^{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \cdot 10^{n-i+1}.$$

Now define  $A : [1, 2) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$  (here  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  stands for „the power set of  $X$ “) by

$$A(x) = \{\beta_1(x), \beta_2(x), \beta_3(x), \dots\}.$$

$A$  is injective. Indeed, note that for any  $x, y \in [1, 2)$  if  $\beta_i(x) = \beta_j(y)$ , then  $i = j$  (this is because equal  $\beta$  numbers have equal „length“ and this is because each  $\beta$  has 1 at the beginning, zeros are not the problem). Therefore, if  $A(x) = A(y)$  for some  $x, y$ , then it follows, that  $\beta_i(x) = \beta_i(y)$  for each  $i$ , but this implies that corresponding digits of  $x$  and  $y$  are equal. Thus  $x = y$ .

This shows, that  $\{A(x)\}_{x \in [1, 2)}$  is an uncountable family of subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Now in order to prove that  $A(x) \cap A(y)$  is finite whenever  $x \neq y$  it is enough to show that we can uniquely reconstruct  $x$  from any infinite sequence of numbers from  $A(x)$ . This can be proved by using similar techniques as before and we leave it as a simple exercise.