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## bijection between closed and open interval

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For mapping the end points of the closed unit interval  $[0, 1]$  and its inner points bijectively onto the corresponding open unit interval  $(0, 1)$ , one has to discern suitable denumerable subsets in both sets:

$$\begin{aligned}[0, 1] &= \{0, 1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, \dots\} \cup S, \\ (0, 1) &= \{1/2, 1/3, 1/4, \dots\} \cup S,\end{aligned}$$

where

$$S := [0, 1] \setminus \{0, 1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, \dots\}.$$

Then the mapping  $f$  from  $[0, 1]$  to  $(0, 1)$  defined by

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} 1/2 & \text{for } x = 0, \\ 1/(n+2) & \text{for } x = 1/n \quad (n = 1, 2, 3, \dots), \\ x & \text{for } x \in S \end{cases}$$

is apparently a bijection. This means the equicardinality of both intervals.

Note that the bijection is neither monotonic (e.g.  $0 \mapsto \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} \mapsto \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1 \mapsto \frac{1}{3}$ ) nor continuous. Generally, there does not exist any continuous surjective mapping  $[0, 1] \rightarrow (0, 1)$ , since by the intermediate value theorem a continuous function maps a closed interval to a closed interval.

## References

- [1] S. LIPSCHUTZ: *Set theory*. Schaum Publishing Co., New York (1964).