

Bijection between $[0, 1]$ and $(0, 1)$ and \mathbb{R}

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The problem i encountered is that what the image for the endpoint 0,1 should be, since $[0,1]$ is a closed interval while \mathbb{R} is an open interval. But we know there is a simple bijection between $(0, 1)$ and \mathbb{R} with the help of \tan . And from the reading of Was Cantor Surprised, we can take advantage of the injection Cantor constructed between $[0,1]$ and $[0, 1)$.

First we give the simple bijection $f = \tan(\frac{\pi}{2}x - \frac{\pi}{2})(x \in (0, 1))$ between $(0, 1)$ and \mathbb{R} . Next construct the bijection between $(0, 1)$ and $[0, 1]$.

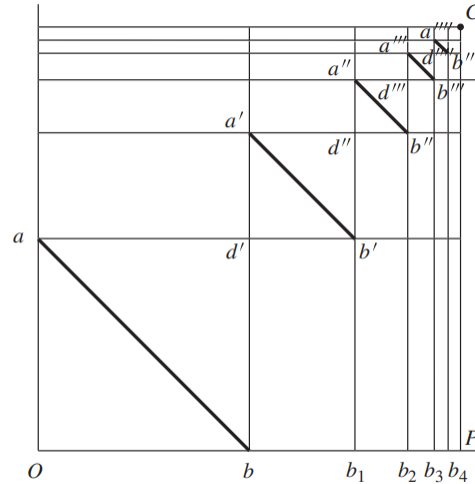


Figure 1. Cantor's function from $[0, 1]$ to $(0, 1]$.

图 1: Cantor's bijection

The domain has been divided by a geometric progression, so $b = 1/2, b_1 = 3/4$, and so on; $a = (0, 1/2)$, $a' = (1/2, 3/4)$, etc. The point C is $(1, 1)$. The points

$d' = (1/2, 1/2)$, $d'' = (3/4, 3/4)$, etc. give the corresponding subdivision of the main diagonal.

I can't explain the curve in english clearly, so i quote the discription in Was Cantor Surprised¹ here. We can slightly change this bijection by ignoring the endpoint C, by doing so, we get the desired bijection g .

Also, in a '*modern*' way(as Cantor would say), we can construct the bijection like this.

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & x = 0 \\ \frac{1}{n+2}, & (x \in \{\frac{1}{n}, n \in \mathbb{N}\}) \\ x, & (x \notin \{\frac{1}{n}, n \in \mathbb{N}\}) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

By g , we map $0, 1, \frac{1}{2} \dots$ to $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3} \dots$, since we have infinite $\frac{1}{n}$ in $(0, 1)$, this can be done.

To sum up, the bijection between $[0, 1]$ and \mathbb{R} is : $f \circ g$

¹I also add my notes on this article, see [WasCantorSurprised_AfterReading.md](#)