

Chapter 8. Cardinal numbers

We will give the 'naive' definition of ^{the} cardinality of a set, due to Georg Cantor. $\approx 1870 \rightarrow$

Def. The sets A, B are called equipotent if $\exists f: A \rightarrow B$ a bijective function. not $A \sim B$.

Rem. The rel " \sim " is an equivalence.

(R) $A \sim A$ because $1_A: A \rightarrow A$ is bijective.

(T) Assume $A \sim B, B \sim C$. Let $f: A \rightarrow B, g: B \rightarrow C$ bijective functions. Then $g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$ is also bijective, hence $A \sim C$.

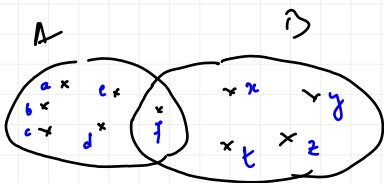
(S) Assume $A \sim B$. Let $f: A \rightarrow B$ bijective. Then $f^{-1}: B \rightarrow A$ is also bijective, hence $B \sim A$.

Def The cardinal number of the set A is the equipotence class of A : $|A| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ B \text{ set} \mid A \sim B \}$.

We also say that the set A is a representative of the cardinal number $\alpha = |A|$.

Operations with cardinal numbers

1). Addition we want: $|A| + |B| = |A \cup B|$, if $A \cap B = \emptyset$



Let $\alpha_i = |A_i|, i \in I$, be a family of cardinal numbers.

The problem is that we might not have

that $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset \quad \forall i \neq j$.

The idea is to replace the sets A_i by other sets $A'_i, i \in I$,

such that:

$$\begin{cases} A_i \sim A'_i & \forall i \in I \\ A'_i \cap A'_j = \emptyset & \text{for } \forall i, j \in I, i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

(the sets are pairwise disjoint)

$$\text{Let } A'_i := A_i \times \{i\} = \{(a_i, i) \mid a_i \in A_i\}.$$

$$\text{Obviously: } \begin{cases} A_i \sim A'_i & ; \quad a_i \longleftrightarrow (a_i, i) \text{ is a bijection} \\ A'_i \cap A'_j = \emptyset & \text{because } (a_i, i) \neq (a_j, j) \text{ for } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

$$\text{By definition: } \sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} A'_i \right| = \left| \left\{ (a_i, i) \mid a_i \in A_i, i \in I \right\} \right|$$

the disjoint union of the family $(A'_i)_{i \in I}$

In the above example

$$A' = \{(a, 1), (b, 1), (c, 1), (d, 1), (e, 1), (f, 1)\}$$

$$B' = \{(x, 2), (y, 2), (z, 2), (t, 2), (u, 2)\}$$

$$\Rightarrow A' \cap B' = \emptyset$$

$$\text{even if } A \cap B = \{f\}$$

2) Multiplication

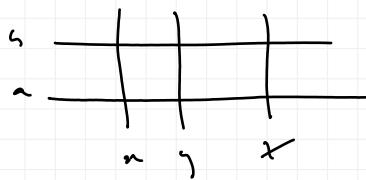
$$2 \cdot 3 = ?$$

$$A = \{a, b\}$$

$$A \times B = \{(a, x), (a, y), (a, z), (b, x), (b, y), (b, z)\}$$

$$B = \{x, y, z\}$$

$$|A| \cdot |B| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |A \times B|$$



Let $\alpha_i = |A_i|$, $i \in I$ be a family of cardinal numbers

$$\text{We define } \prod_{i \in I} \alpha_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left| \prod_{i \in I} A_i \right|, \text{ where}$$

$$\prod_{i \in I} A_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ (a_i)_{i \in I} \mid a_i \in A_i \text{ for all } i \in I \right\}$$

is called the generalized cartesian product of the family $(A_i)_{i \in I}$

3. Exponentiation

$$\text{Let } \alpha = |A|, \beta = |B|$$

$$\text{we define } \beta^\alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |B^A|, \text{ where } B^A = \text{Hom}(A, B) = \{f \mid f: A \rightarrow B\}$$

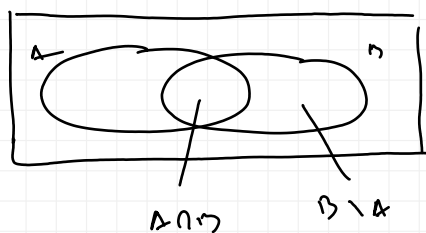
the set of functions with domain A and codomain B .

Remark We have given these definitions by using representatives for each cardinal. These definitions do not depend on the choice of representatives.

$$\left(\text{e.g. if } A \sim A', B \sim B', \text{ then } B^A \sim B'^{A'} \right)$$

Prop. 1 $|A \cup B| + |A \cap B| = |A| + |B|$

Proof.



We have: $A \cup B = A \cup (B \setminus A)$, where

$$A \cap (B \setminus A) = \emptyset$$

$$B = (A \cap B) \cup (B \setminus A), \text{ where}$$

$$(A \cap B) \cap (B \setminus A) = \emptyset$$

We obtain:

$$|A \cup B| + |A \cap B| = \underbrace{|A| + |B \setminus A| + |A \cap B|}_{|A| + |B|} = |A| + |B|$$

Page 2 (properties of the operations)

- 1) Addition and multiplication are associative
- 2) Addition and multiplication are commutative
- 3) The multiplication is distributive with addition:

$$\left(\sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i \right) \left(\sum_{j \in J} \beta_j \right) = \sum_{(i,j) \in I \times J} \alpha_i \cdot \beta_j$$

$$4) \left(\prod_{j \in J} \beta_j \right)^\alpha = \prod_{j \in J} \beta_j^\alpha$$

$$5) \beta^{\sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i} = \prod_{i \in I} \beta^{\alpha_i}$$

$$6) \gamma^{\alpha \beta} = (\gamma^\beta)^\alpha$$

Proof. 1), 2) omitted.

4), 5) are based on the so-called "universal properties" of the cartesian product and of the disjoint union.

3). Let $\alpha_i = |A_i|$, $i \in I$ and $\beta_j = |B_j|$, $j \in J$.

The left hand side: $\left(\sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i \right) \left(\sum_{j \in J} \beta_j \right) = |X|$,

$$\text{where } X := \left(\bigcup_{i \in I} (A_i \times \{i\}) \right) \times \left(\bigcup_{j \in J} (B_j \times \{j\}) \right) = \\ = \{ ((a_i, i), (b_j, j)) \mid a_i \in A_i, i \in I, b_j \in B_j, j \in J \}$$

• The right hand side: $\sum_{(i,j) \in I \times J} \alpha_i \beta_j = |Y|$

$$\text{where } Y := \bigcup_{(i,j) \in I \times J} ((A_i \times B_j) \times \{(i,j)\}) = \\ = \{ ((a_i, b_j), (i,j)) \mid a_i \in A_i, b_j \in B_j, i \in I, j \in J \}$$

Then, the map $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$, $\varphi((a_i, i), (b_j, j)) = ((a_i, b_j), (i,j))$ is obviously bijective, hence $|X| = |Y|$

c) The left hand side: $\gamma^{\alpha p} = |\text{Hom}(A \times B, C)|$

The right hand side: $(\gamma^p)^\alpha = |\text{Hom}(A, \text{Hom}(B, C))|$

where $\alpha = |A|$, $p = |B|$, $\gamma = |C|$

To show the equality, we will define the functions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}(A \times B, C) & \xrightleftharpoons[\psi]{\varphi} & \text{Hom}(A, \text{Hom}(B, C)) \\ \uparrow \varphi & & \downarrow \psi \\ \text{and all } \psi & = & \varphi^{-1} \end{array}$$

• Let $f: A \times B \rightarrow C$. We want to define $\varphi(f): A \rightarrow \text{Hom}(B, C)$

i.e. $\varphi(f)(a): B \rightarrow C$

i.e. $\varphi(f)(a)(b) \in C \quad \forall a \in A, b \in B$

We define $\varphi(f)(a)(b) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(a, b) \in C \quad \forall a \in A, b \in B$

• Let $g: A \rightarrow \text{Hom}(B, C)$, so $g(a): B \rightarrow C$, so $g(a)(b) \in C$

We want to define $\psi(g): A \times B \rightarrow C$

let $\psi(g)(a, b) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} g(a)(b) \in C$

We see that $\varphi \neq \text{id} \Leftrightarrow \varphi(x) \neq x$

hence $\varphi \circ \varphi = \text{id}$, $\varphi \circ \varphi = \text{id}$, i.e. $\varphi = \varphi^{-1}$ so φ, φ are bij.

Theorem (Cantor) Let A be a set. Then $\boxed{|\mathcal{P}(A)| = 2^{|A|}}$

Proof We have $\mathcal{P}(A) = \{X \mid X \subseteq A\}$

$$2^{|A|} = |\text{Hom}(A, \{0, 1\})|$$

$$\boxed{\chi_{\text{chi}}}$$

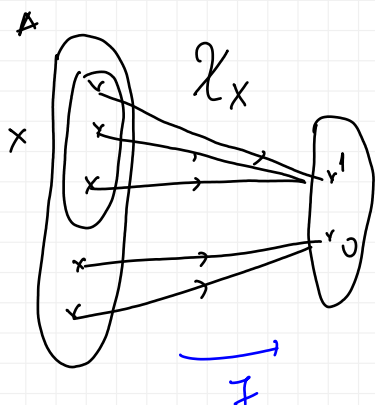
We need function

$$X \in \mathcal{P}(A) \xrightleftharpoons[\varphi]{\varphi} \text{Hom}(A, \{0, 1\}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{set s.t. } \varphi = \varphi^{-1}$$

We will use the characteristic function of a subset X of A

Let $X \subseteq A$, i.e. $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$.

$$\text{let } \chi_X : A \rightarrow \{0, 1\}, \chi_X(a) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a \in X \\ 0, & \text{if } a \notin X \end{cases}$$



We define $\varphi(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi_X : A \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$,

$$\text{and } \psi(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^{-1}(1) = \{a \in A \mid f(a) = 1\}$$

We have:

- $(\varphi \circ \psi)(X) = \varphi(\psi(X)) = \varphi(\chi_X) = \chi_X^{-1}(1) = X = \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(X)$
- $(\psi \circ \varphi)(f) = \psi(\varphi(f)) = \psi(\chi_{f^{-1}(1)}) = \chi_{f^{-1}(1)}^{-1}(1) \stackrel{(*)}{=} f^{-1}(1) = f = \text{id}(f)$

(*) we have

$$\chi_{f^{-1}(1)}(a) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a \in f^{-1}(1) \Leftrightarrow f(a) = 1 \\ 0, & \text{if } a \notin f^{-1}(1) \Leftrightarrow f(a) \neq 1 \Leftrightarrow f(a) = 0 = f^{-1}(0) \end{cases}$$

Ordering cardinal numbers

Def Let $\alpha = |A|$, $\beta = |B|$. We say that $\alpha \leq \beta \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Leftrightarrow} \exists f: A \rightarrow B$ injective function

Remark 1) The definition does not depend on the choice of representatives.

2) the rel. ' \leq ' is an order relation:

(R) $\alpha \leq \alpha$ because $\mathbb{1}_A : A \rightarrow A$ is injective

(T) If $\alpha \leq \beta$, $\beta \leq \gamma$ and $f: A \rightarrow B$, $g: B \rightarrow C$ are injective
then $g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$ is also injective, hence $\alpha \leq \gamma$

(A) Assume $\alpha \leq \beta$ and $\beta \leq \alpha$. Let $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $g: B \rightarrow A$ be
injective functions. In order to show that $\alpha = \beta$, we need
a bijection function $h: A \rightarrow B$. The existence of h

is consequence of Cantor - Bernstein - Schröder

If $A_2 \subseteq A_1 \subseteq A_0$ and $A_2 \sim A_0$, then $A_1 \sim A_0$

3) The order rel. ' \leq ' is total:

If $\alpha = |A|$ and $\beta = |B|$ then $\exists f: A \rightarrow B$ inj or
 $\exists g: B \rightarrow A$ injective. i.e. $\alpha \leq \beta$ or $\beta \leq \alpha$

The proof uses Zorn's lemma (i.e. requires the
Axiom of Choice)

Theorem (Cantor)

$$\boxed{\alpha < 2^\alpha}$$

Proof. Let $\alpha = |A|$. We know that $2^\alpha = |\mathcal{P}(A)|$

The function $\varphi: A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$, $\varphi(a) = \{a\}$ is obviously injective, hence $\alpha \leq 2^\alpha$

We need to prove that there is no bijective function $\psi: A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$

Assume by contradiction, that $\psi: A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$ is a bijective function

Let $X = \{a \in A \mid a \notin \psi(a)\} \in \mathcal{P}(A)$

Because ψ is bij, $\exists x \in A$ s.t. $\psi(x) = X$.

We analyse two cases:

Case 1 $x \in X \Rightarrow x \in \psi(x) \Rightarrow x$ does not satisfy the cond in the def of $X \Rightarrow x \notin X$

Case 2 $x \notin X \Rightarrow x \notin \psi(x) \Rightarrow x$ satisfies the cond in the def of $X \Rightarrow x \in X$

We get a contradiction, hence ψ cannot be bijective