

Countable Infinity from Existential Paths

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In this paper I show how to prove when a set does not exceed countable infinity using existential paths.

The function f takes a set a of size up to countable infinity, but no more, when:

$$\exists f \Leftrightarrow a \setminus b \\ |b| \geq 1$$

$$f : a \rightarrow T \\ a : T \rightarrow \text{bool} \\ b : T \rightarrow \text{bool}$$

Notation:

$\exists f$	existential path of f
$a \setminus b$	a except b
$ b $	size of b

All members of a is mapped by f to $a \setminus b$. If this set is finite, then at least two members of a is mapped to the same output. In order to map every member of a to some unique member of $a \setminus b$, the set of a must be infinite.

Assume that a is infinite. By constraining f with $a \setminus b$:

$$\exists f \{a \setminus b\} \Leftrightarrow a \setminus b \setminus f(b)$$

This works because when the b is not allowed as input and f maps to unique outputs, there must be one map that is missing: The output $f(b)$.

By constraining f with $a \setminus b \setminus f(b)$:

$$\exists f \{a \setminus b \setminus f(b)\} \Leftrightarrow a \setminus b \setminus f(b) \setminus f(f(b))$$

Repeating this process:

$$\exists f \{a \setminus b \setminus f(b) \setminus f^2(b) \dots \setminus f^n(b)\} \Leftrightarrow a \setminus b \setminus f(b) \setminus f^2(b) \setminus f^3(b) \dots \setminus f^{n+1}(b)$$

Since f maps to unique outputs, there is no case where $f^n(b) = f^m(b)$ when $n \neq m$.

The entire set a can be counted by repeating this process.

It is kind of like counting with numbers, except you count like this: (≥ 0) , (≥ 1) , (≥ 2) ...

Therefore, since a is either finite or countable infinite, it can only be up to countable infinite in size.