

Finite, infinite, and countable sets

Recall: the set of natural numbers:

$$\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}, \text{ where } 0 = \emptyset, 1 = \emptyset^+ = \{\emptyset\}, 2 = 1^+ = \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}, \dots$$

where the successor of the set  $X$  is  $X^+ = X \cup \{X\}$

Not. if  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then we denote by the same  $n$ .

the cardinal number of  $n$ :

$$|n| = n \quad \text{so nat. numbers are also regarded as cardinal numbers.}$$

$$(\text{recall: } |A| = \{B \text{ set} \mid A \sim B\} \text{ equipotent.})$$

$$2). \quad |\mathbb{N}| \stackrel{\text{not}}{=} \aleph_0 \quad \text{aleph zero}$$

$$3). \quad |\mathbb{R}| \stackrel{\text{not}}{=} \aleph \quad \text{the power of the continuum.}$$

Def Let  $A$  be a set.

1) We say that  $A$  is finite if  $A$  is equipotent to a nat. number (i.e.  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.  $A \sim n$ )

2).  $A$  is infinite if  $A$  is not finite (i.e.  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$   $A \not\sim n$ .)

3)  $A$  is countable if  $A$  is equipotent to a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ .

Rem  $A$  is countable means that either  $A$  is finite or  $A$  is infinite countable i.e.  $A \sim \mathbb{N}$ .

Theorem (characterization of infinite sets). Let  $A$  be countable.

The foll. statements are equivalent:

(i)  $A$  is infinite

(ii)  $A$  is equipotent to some proper subset of  $A$

(ie.  $\exists B \subsetneq A$  s.t.  $A \sim B$ )

(iii)  $\exists f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$  injective function.

Rem cond (iii) says that  $\aleph_0$  is the smallest transfinite cardinal number.

Theorem (characterization of finite sets)

Let  $A$  be a set. The foll. statements are equivalent:

(i)  $A$  is finite

(ii)  $\nexists B \subsetneq A$   $A \sim B$ .

(iii)  $\nexists f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$  is not injective

Exple Consider  $2\mathbb{N} = \{2k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\} \subsetneq \mathbb{N}$

Let  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2\mathbb{N}$ ,  $f(k) = 2k$ . Then  $f$  is bijective.

so  $|\mathbb{N}| = |2\mathbb{N}|$  sub.  $|\mathbb{N}| \sim |\mathbb{N}^*|$

Theorem (Cantor). 1).  $\mathbb{R}$  is not countable (ie.  $\aleph_0 < c$ )

2). More precisely:  $c = 2^{\aleph_0}$ .

Proof 1) we use the decimal representation of real numbers, and "Cantor's diagonal argument"

By ex  $\mathbb{R} \sim (a, b) \sim [a, b) \sim [a, b] \sim (a, b]$

So we will prove that the interval  $[0, 1)$  is not countable

If  $a \in [0, 1)$ , then we may write:

$$a = 0.a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots \quad (1.0)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{10^k}, \text{ where } a_k \in \{0, \dots, 9\}.$$

<http://paperkit.net> Recall also that the representation is unique if we

exclude period 9:

$$0.(9) = 0.999\dots = 1.000\dots = 1.(0)$$

So some rational numbers have two representations:

$$\begin{aligned} 0.a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \underset{\substack{+ \\ 9}}{(9)} &= 0.a_1 a_2 \dots a_{n-1} (a_n+1) \underset{(0)}{(0)} \\ &= \frac{a_1}{10} + \frac{a_2}{10^2} + \dots + \frac{a_{n-1}}{10^{n-1}} \in \mathbb{Q}. \end{aligned}$$

Assume by contradiction that  $\exists f: \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow [0,1)$  bijective.

Let:

$$\begin{aligned} f(1) &= 0. \textcircled{a_{11}} a_{12} a_{13} a_{14} a_{15} \dots \\ f(2) &= 0. a_{21} \textcircled{a_{22}} a_{23} a_{24} a_{25} \dots \\ f(3) &= 0. a_{31} a_{32} \textcircled{a_{33}} a_{34} a_{35} \dots \\ f(4) &= 0. a_{41} a_{42} a_{43} \textcircled{a_{44}} a_{45} \dots \\ f(5) &= 0. a_{51} a_{52} a_{53} a_{54} \textcircled{a_{55}} \dots \\ &\vdots \end{aligned} \quad (\text{without period 9})$$

Let  $a = 0.a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 \dots$ , where we choose

$$a_1 \neq a_{11}, 0, 9$$

$$a_2 \neq a_{22}, 0, 9$$

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$$a_n \neq a_{nn}, 0, 9.$$

We have  $a \in [0,1)$ , and by the argument of repetition,

we have that  $a \neq f(k) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

But this contradicts the surjectivity of  $f$ .

$$2) \text{ we know that } 2^{\aleph_0} = |\text{Hom}(\mathbb{N}^*, \{0,1\})|$$

Real that a function  $f: \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is just a

sequence  $(a_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}^*}$ ,  $a_k \in \{0,1\}$   
 "  $(a_1, a_2, \dots)$

As if we can let  $\mathbb{R} \sim [0,1)$ , i.e.  $|[0,1)| = c$ .  
 We use the repetition of numbers for  $[0,1)$  in base 2.

$$\text{well: } a = 0.a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots (2) \\ = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{2^k}, \text{ where } a_k \in \{0,1\}$$

We have  $\sum$  a word period 1 because

$$0.(1) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k} = 1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2^n}}$$

$$\text{So } 0.a_1 a_2 \dots a_n 0.(1) = 0.a_1 a_2 \dots a_n 1(0) \in \mathbb{Q} \\ = \frac{a_1}{2} + \frac{a_2}{2^2} + \dots + \frac{a_n}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}$$

So some rational numbers have exactly two representations,  
 and if we avoid period 1 the representation is unique.

$$\text{Let } f: [0,1) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathbb{N}^*, \{0,1\}) = \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}^*}$$

$$\text{where if } a = 0.a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots (2)$$

$$\text{then we define } f(a) = (a_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}^*} \in \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}^*}.$$

By the uniqueness of repr. of  $a$ , we get that  $f$  is a  
 well-defined function and  $f$  is injective.

$$\text{It follows that } c = |[0,1)| = |\text{Im } f|$$

Let  $A \subseteq \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  be the set of sequences having period 1. Then we have the disjoint union:

$$\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}} = \text{inf} \cup A, \text{ hence}$$

$$2^{\aleph_0} = |\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}| = c + |A|$$

But sequences with period 1 represent rational numbers, and by ex we have  $|A| = \aleph_0$ .

$$\text{we get } 2^{\aleph_0} = c + \aleph_0 \quad \text{||} \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$\stackrel{\textcircled{\text{ex}}}{=} c$$

Rem  $c \stackrel{?}{=} \aleph_1$  the continuum hypothesis

is indep from other axioms of set theory.

(i.e. between  $\aleph_0$  and  $c$  there are no other cardinals)

## Combinatorics

We will compute the number of elements of certain finite sets.

Let  $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Consider the totally ordered finite sets

$$A = \{a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_k\}$$

$$B = \{b_1 < b_2 < \dots < b_n\}.$$

1). Arrangements with repetition

Def A k-arrangement with repetition of n elements is

a sequence of length k of elements of B

Exmp let  $k=2$ ,  $n=4$ . We write down all the 2-arrangements with rep. of 4 elem:

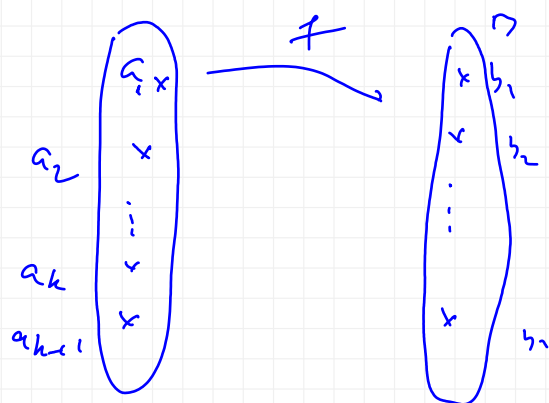
$b_1 b_1$	$b_2 b_1$	$b_3 b_1$	$b_4 b_1$
$b_1 b_2$	$b_2 b_2$	$b_3 b_2$	$b_4 b_2$
$b_1 b_3$	$b_2 b_3$	$b_3 b_3$	$b_4 b_3$
$b_1 b_4$	$b_2 b_4$	$b_3 b_4$	$b_4 b_4$

$$\bar{A}_4^2 = 16$$

Not  $\bar{A}_n^k$  = the number of  $k$ -arrangements with rep. of  $n$  elem.

Problem calculate  $\bar{A}_n^k = ?$

Observe that a  $k$ -arrangement with rep. of  $n$  elem is identical with a function  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .



let  $k=1$ .

$$|B^A| = n$$

let  $k=2$

$$|B^A| = n^2$$

induction on  $k$ :  $P(k): \bar{A}_n^k = n^k$

Assume  $P(k)$  is true. Then for any choice of  $f(k_1), \dots, f(k_k)$  we have  $n$  choices for  $f(k_{k+1})$ .

$$\text{We set } \bar{A}_n^{k+1} = \bar{A}_n^k \cdot n \stackrel{P(k)}{=} n^{k+1}.$$

Concl.  $\boxed{\bar{A}_n^k = |H_{\text{on}}(A, B)| = n^k}$

2). Arrangements

Def a  $k$ -arrangement of  $n$  elements is a sequence of length  $n$  of elements of  $B$ , such that every

element occurs at most once.

Ex  $n=4$ ,  $k=2$  we write down all the 2-arrangements of 4 elements;

$b_1 b_2$	$b_2 b_1$	$b_3 b_1$	$b_4 b_1$
$b_1 b_3$	$b_2 b_3$	$b_3 b_2$	$b_4 b_2$
$b_1 b_4$	$b_2 b_4$	$b_3 b_4$	$b_4 b_3$

$A_4^2 = 12$

Not  $A_n^k :=$  the no. of  $k$ -arrangements of  $n$  elements.

Problem: Calculate  $A_n^k = ?$

Observe that a  $k$ -arrangement of  $n$  elements can be identified with an injective function  $f: A \rightarrow B$

$$\text{hence } A_n^k = |\text{Hom}_{\text{inj}}(A, B)|$$

We proceed by induction on  $k$ .

- For  $k=1$ , any function  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is injective
- For  $k=2$ , for any values of  $f(e_1)$  we have  $n-1$  possibilities for  $f(e_2)$
- From  $k$  to  $k+1$ : for any values of  $f(e_1), \dots, f(e_k)$  we have  $n-k$  possibilities for  $f(e_{k+1})$ .

$$\text{we get } A_n^{k+1} = A_n^k \cdot (n-k).$$

$$\text{Hence } \boxed{A_n^k = n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots (n-k+1)}$$

Rem 1) if  $k > n$ , then  $A_n^k = 0$

2) if  $k=0$ , i.e.  $A = \emptyset$ , then  $\text{Hom}(\emptyset, B) = \{\emptyset\}$

hence  $\overline{A}_n^0 = A_n^0 = 1$ .

n part  $0^0 = 1$   
in this context!!

### 3) Permutation

Def A perm. of n elts is a sequence of length n of elts of B st each elm occur exactly once.

Rem a perm. of n elts is iden wth a bijective fnctn  $f: A \rightarrow B$ , where  $k=n$

Not  $P_n =$  no. of perm. of n elts.

we have: 
$$P_n = A_n^n = n!$$

Rem  $P_0 = 1$ , so  $0! = 1$  by convention.

$$|Hom_{bij}(\emptyset, \emptyset)|$$

### 4) Combinations

Def A k-combination of n elts is a strictly increasing sequence of length k of elms of B.

Ex  $n=5$ ,  $k=3$  We write down all the 3-combinations of 5 elements:

$b_1 b_2 b_3$	$b_1 b_3 b_4$	$b_2 b_3 b_4$	$b_3 b_4 b_5$
$b_1 b_2 b_5$	$b_1 b_3 b_5$	$b_2 b_3 b_5$	
$b_1 b_2 b_5$	$b_1 b_4 b_5$	$b_2 b_4 b_5$	

Not  $\binom{n}{k} = C_n^k =$  no. of k-combinations of n elts



Problem Calculate  $\binom{n}{k} = ?$

Observe that from any  $k$ -subset of  $n$  elements we get  $P_k$  k-permutations of  $n$  elements.

$$\text{Hence } A_n^k = C_n^k \cdot P_k.$$

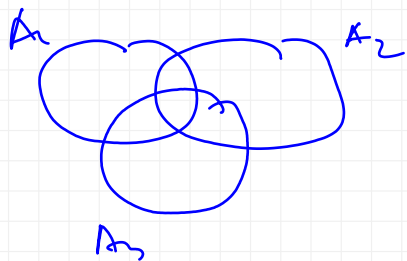
$$\text{Then } \binom{n}{k} = \frac{A_n^k}{P_k} = \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}{k!} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

(for  $k \leq n$ )  
 (for  $k > n$   $\binom{n}{k} = 0$ )

Prop any  $k$ -subset of  $n$  elements is determined uniquely by a subset with  $k$ -elements of  $B$ .

hence  $\binom{n}{k}$  = number of subsets with  $k$ -elements of a set with  $n$  elements.

## 5) The Inclusion exclusion principle



$$|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2|$$

$$\begin{aligned} |A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3| &= |A_1| + |A_2| + |A_3| \\ &\quad - |A_1 \cap A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_3| - |A_2 \cap A_3| \\ &\quad + |A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3| \end{aligned}$$

Then let  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  be sets.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \left| \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \right| &= \sum_{i=1}^n |A_i| - \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} |A_i \cap A_j| + \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} |A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k| \\ &\quad - \dots + (-1)^{k+1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} |A_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_k}| + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \left| \bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i \right| \end{aligned}$$

Proof HW

Pr. 8.4.3 / 55

Homework: ex. 95 - 106.