

Notes and exercises from *Set Theory*

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Introduction

This document contains notes and exercises from [1].

Chapter 1

Exercise (1.2). There is no set X such that $P(X) \subset X$.

Proof. By the axiom of regularity (1.8), X is \in -minimal in $\{X\}$, so $X \notin X$ and hence $P(X) \not\subset X$. \square

Exercise (1.3). If X is inductive, then the set $\{x \in X \mid x \subset X\}$ is inductive. Hence \mathbf{N} is transitive and for each $n \in \mathbf{N}$, $n = \{m \in \mathbf{N} \mid m < n\}$.

Proof. Let $S = \{x \in X \mid x \subset X\}$. By inductivity of X , $\emptyset \in S$, and if $x \in S$, then $x \cup \{x\} \in S$, so S is inductive. Taking $X = \mathbf{N}$, it follows that $S = \mathbf{N}$ since \mathbf{N} is the smallest inductive set. Hence $n \in \mathbf{N}$ implies $n \subset \mathbf{N}$, so \mathbf{N} is transitive and $n = \{m \in \mathbf{N} \mid m < n\}$. \square

Remark. We proved transitivity of \mathbf{N} “by induction” on \mathbf{N} : $0 \subset \mathbf{N}$ and if $n \subset \mathbf{N}$ then $n + 1 \subset \mathbf{N}$, so $n \subset \mathbf{N}$ for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$. The following exercises are similar.

Exercise (1.4). If X is inductive, then the set $\{x \in X \mid x \text{ is transitive}\}$ is inductive. Hence every $n \in \mathbf{N}$ is transitive.

Proof. The class C of transitive sets is inductive. Indeed, \emptyset is transitive, and if x is transitive then $x \cup \{x\}$ is transitive since $y \in x \cup \{x\}$ implies $y \subset x \subset x \cup \{x\}$. It follows that $\{x \in X \mid x \text{ is transitive}\} = X \cap C$ is inductive since the intersection of two inductive classes is inductive. Taking $X = \mathbf{N}$, it follows as above that every $n \in \mathbf{N}$ is transitive. \square

Exercise (1.5). If X is inductive, then the set $\{x \in X \mid x \text{ is transitive and } x \not\in x\}$ is inductive. Hence $n \not\in n$ and $n \neq n + 1$ for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$.

Proof. The class $C = \{x \mid x \text{ is transitive and } x \not\in x\}$ is inductive. Indeed, $\emptyset \in C$. If $x \in C$, then $x \cup \{x\}$ is transitive (by inductivity of the class of transitive sets). Also $x \cup \{x\} \not\in x$, lest $x \cup \{x\} \subset x$ by transitivity of x and hence $x \in x$ —contradicting $x \not\in x$. Similarly $x \cup \{x\} \neq x$. Therefore $x \cup \{x\} \not\in x \cup \{x\}$. So $x \cup \{x\} \in C$, and C is inductive. It follows as above that $X \cap C$ is inductive, and taking $X = \mathbf{N}$ that $n \not\in n$ and hence $n \neq n + 1$ for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$. \square

Remark. In order to prove that $n \not\in n$ for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$ by induction on \mathbf{N} , we “loaded the induction hypothesis” with transitivity.

Exercise (1.6). If X is inductive, then the set $\{x \in X \mid x \text{ is transitive and regular}\}$ is inductive, where a set x is called *regular* if every nonempty subset of x has an \in -minimal element.

Proof. The class $C = \{x \mid x \text{ is transitive and regular}\}$ is inductive. Indeed, $\emptyset \in C$. If $x \in C$, then $x \cup \{x\}$ is transitive. If $y \subset x \cup \{x\}$ is nonempty, let $z = y - \{x\} \subset x$. If $z = \emptyset$, then $y = \{x\}$, and x is \in -minimal in y by regularity of x . If $z \neq \emptyset$ and t is \in -minimal in z , then $x \not\in t$ by transitivity and regularity of x , so t is \in -minimal in y . Therefore $x \cup \{x\}$ is regular. So $x \cup \{x\} \in C$, and C is inductive. It follows as above that $X \cap C$ is inductive. \square

Remark. Taking $X = \mathbf{N}$ it follows as above that every $n \in \mathbf{N}$ is regular.

Exercise (1.7). Every nonempty $X \subset \mathbf{N}$ has an \in -minimal element.

Proof. Choose $n \in X$. If n is not \in -minimal in X , then $n \cap X$ is a nonempty subset of n , which has an \in -minimal element m (Exercise 1.6). By transitivity of n (Exercise 1.4), m is \in -minimal in X . \square

Exercise (1.8). If X is inductive, then the set $\{x \in X \mid x = \emptyset \text{ or } \exists y(x = y \cup \{y\})\}$ is inductive. Hence for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$, $n = 0$ or $n = m + 1$ for some $m \in \mathbf{N}$.

Proof. The class $C = \{x \mid x = \emptyset \text{ or } \exists y(x = y \cup \{y\})\}$ is obviously inductive, so $X \cap C$ is inductive. Taking $X = \mathbf{N}$, the rest follows, with $m \in \mathbf{N}$ by transitivity of \mathbf{N} (Exercise 1.3). \square

Exercise (1.9). Let $A \subset \mathbf{N}$ be such that $0 \in A$, and if $n \in A$ then $n + 1 \in A$. Then $A = \mathbf{N}$.

Proof. A is inductive, so $A = N$ since N is the smallest inductive set.

Alternately, if $A \neq N$, let m be \in -minimal in $N - A$ (Exercise 1.7). Then $m \neq 0$, and $m \neq n + 1$ for any $n \in N$, which is impossible (Exercise 1.8). \square

Exercise (1.10). Each $n \in N$ is T-finite.

Proof. By induction on N . First, $n = 0$ is T-finite since $P(\emptyset) = \{\emptyset\}$ and \emptyset is \subset -maximal in $\{\emptyset\}$. If n is T-finite, suppose $X \subset P(n \cup \{n\})$ is nonempty. Let

$$X' = \{u - \{n\} \mid u \in X\}$$

Then $X' \subset P(n)$ is nonempty and has a \subset -maximal element $u - \{n\}$ for some $u \in X$ by T-finiteness of n , where we may assume $n \in u$ if $u \cup \{n\} \in X$. We claim u is \subset -maximal in X . Indeed, if $v \in X$ and $u \subset v$, then $u - \{n\} \subset v - \{n\}$, so $u - \{n\} = v - \{n\}$ by \subset -maximality of $u - \{n\}$ in X' , so $u = v$ by the assumption about u . Therefore $n + 1$ is T-finite. \square

Exercise (1.11). N is T-infinite. In fact, $N \subset P(N)$ has no \subset -maximal element.

Proof. We know $N \subset P(N)$ by transitivity of N (Exercise 1.3), and for all $n \in N$ we have $n \subset n + 1 \in N$ but $n \neq n + 1$ (Exercise 1.5). \square

Remark. If A is T-finite and $\pi : A \rightarrow B$ is surjective (onto), then B is T-finite.

Proof. By pullback. If $X \subset P(B)$ is nonempty, let

$$X_{-1} = \pi_{-1}(X) = \{u_{-1} = \pi_{-1}(u) \mid u \in X\}$$

Then $X_{-1} \subset P(A)$ is nonempty and has a \subset -maximal element u_{-1} for some $u \in X$ by T-finiteness of A . We claim u is \subset -maximal in X . Indeed, if $v \in X$ and $u \subset v$, then $u_{-1} \subset v_{-1}$, so $u_{-1} = v_{-1}$ by \subset -maximality of u_{-1} in X_{-1} , so $u = v$ by surjectivity of π . Therefore B is T-finite. \square

Exercise (1.12). Every finite set is T-finite.

Proof. By definition, every finite set is the image of a T-finite natural number (Exercise 1.10), so is T-finite by the previous remark.

Alternately, if S is T-infinite, choose $X \subset P(S)$ nonempty with no \subset -maximal element. By induction on N , for each $n \in N$ there is a properly ascending chain $u_0 \subset \cdots \subset u_n \subset S$ of length $n + 1$ in X , and hence an injection $n \rightarrow S$ sending $m \in n$ into $u_{m+1} - u_m$. If S had k elements for some $k \in N$, there would then be an injection $k + 1 \rightarrow k$, which is impossible by an easy induction on k . Therefore S is infinite. \square

Exercise (1.13). Every infinite set is T-infinite.

Proof. If S is infinite, let X be the set of finite subsets of S . Clearly X is nonempty since $\emptyset \in X$. Also X has no \subset -maximal element. Indeed, if $u \in X$ then there is $s \in S - u$ since S is infinite, and $u \cup \{s\}$ is finite (if u has k elements, then $u \cup \{s\}$ has $k + 1$ elements), so $u \subset u \cup \{s\} \in X$ where the inclusion is proper. Therefore S is T-infinite. \square

Remark. The previous two exercises show that (Cantor) finiteness is equivalent to Tarski finiteness in ZF.

Chapter 2

Remark. In (2.1), $<$ is actually a *well-ordering* on Ord . Indeed, if $C \subset Ord$ is a nonempty class of ordinals and $\alpha \in C$ is not \in -minimal in C , then $\alpha \cap C$ is a nonempty subset of α which has an \in -minimal element β . By transitivity of α , β is \in -minimal in C .

This observation provides an alternative proof that Ord is a proper class: if Ord were a set, then because it is transitive and strictly well-ordered by \in , it would be an ordinal, and hence $Ord \in Ord$ —contradicting strictness.

Remark. In Definition 2.13, an ordinal is “finite” if and only if it is a “finite ordinal”. In fact, if α is not a “finite ordinal” then $\omega \subset \alpha$, and it follows by induction on n that there is no surjection $n \rightarrow \omega$ (every function $n \rightarrow \omega$ is bounded), hence there is no surjection $n \rightarrow \alpha$, so α is not “finite”. The converse is trivial.

Remark. In Theorem 2.27, the height of a well-ordering is just its order-type (ordinal), and the rank of an element in a well-ordering is just the order-type of the initial segment given by that element.

Proof. If P is a well-ordering and $P(x) = \{y \in P \mid y < x\}$, then

$$\text{type } P = \sup_{x \in P} \{\text{type } P(x) + 1\} = \{\text{type } P(x) \mid x \in P\}$$

Indeed, if $x \in P$ then $\text{type } P(x) < \text{type } P$ (Theorem 2.8), so $\text{type } P(x) + 1 \leq \text{type } P$. Conversely, if $\alpha < \text{type } P$, then $\alpha = \text{type } P(x)$ for some $x \in P$, so $\alpha < \text{type } P(x) + 1$. Taking $P = P(x)$ yields

$$\text{type } P(x) = \sup_{y < x} \{\text{type } P(y) + 1\}$$

The result now follows by uniqueness of rank. \square

Remark. If P is a well-ordering and $S \subset P$, then $\text{type } S \leq \text{type } P$.

Proof. By induction using the previous remark,

$$\text{type } S = \sup_{x \in S} \{ \text{type } S(x) + 1 \} \leq \sup_{x \in P} \{ \text{type } P(x) + 1 \} = \text{type } P \quad \square$$

Exercise (2.2). α is a limit ordinal if and only if $\beta < \alpha$ implies $\beta + 1 < \alpha$ for all β .

Proof. If α is a limit ordinal and $\beta < \alpha$, then $\beta + 1 \leq \alpha$ (2.5) and $\beta + 1 \neq \alpha$, so $\beta + 1 < \alpha$. If α is not a limit ordinal, then $\beta + 1 = \alpha$ for some $\beta < \alpha$. \square

Remark. It follows that α is a nonzero limit ordinal if and only if it is inductive.

Exercise (2.3). If X is inductive, then $X \cap \text{Ord}$ is inductive. N is the least nonzero limit ordinal, where $N = \bigcap \{ X \mid X \text{ inductive} \}$.

Proof. Clearly Ord is inductive, so $X \cap \text{Ord}$ is inductive since the intersection of two inductive classes is inductive. Taking $X = N$, it follows that $N \subset \text{Ord}$, and since N is also transitive, N is an ordinal. By the previous remark, N is the least nonzero limit ordinal. \square

Exercise (2.4). (Without the axiom of infinity.) Let ω be the least nonzero limit ordinal, if it exists, or Ord otherwise. The following are equivalent:

- (i) There exists an inductive set.
- (ii) There exists an infinite¹ set.
- (iii) ω is a set.

Proof. (i) \iff (iii): The smallest inductive set is the least nonzero limit ordinal (Exercise 2.3).

(iii) \implies (ii): ω is infinite (Exercises 1.11–2).

(ii) \implies (i): For any finite set A , let $|A|$ denote the least $n \in \omega$ in bijective correspondence with A (the “number of elements” in A). If X is infinite, let

$$S = \{ |A| \mid A \subset X \text{ finite} \}$$

Note S is a set by replacement, and S is inductive. Indeed, $0 \in S$ since $\emptyset \subset X$ and $|\emptyset| = 0$. If $n \in S$ and $A \subset X$ with $|A| = n$, then there must exist $x \in X - A$ since X is infinite, and $|A \cup \{x\}| = n + 1 \in S$. \square

¹In this exercise, a set is *finite* if it is in bijective correspondence with some $n \in \omega$ and *infinite* otherwise, even if $\omega = \text{Ord}$.

Remark. This exercise shows that (i)–(iii) are equivalent forms of the axiom of infinity in ZF.

Exercise (2.5). If W is a well-ordered set, then there is no sequence $\langle a_n \mid n \in \mathbf{N} \rangle$ in W such that $a_0 > a_1 > \dots$.

Proof. If there were such a sequence, then $\{a_n \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\}$ would be a nonempty subset of W with no least element, contradicting well-ordering. \square

Exercise (2.6). There are arbitrarily large limit ordinals.

Proof. Given α , let $\beta = \alpha + \omega$. Clearly $\beta > \alpha$. If $\gamma < \beta$, then either $\gamma < \alpha$, in which case $\gamma + 1 < \alpha + 1 < \beta$, or $\gamma \geq \alpha$, in which case $\gamma = \alpha + n$ for some $n \in \omega$ (Lemma 2.25), so $\gamma + 1 = \alpha + n + 1 < \beta$. Thus β is a limit ordinal (Exercise 2.2). \square

Remark (Chain rule). If $f, g : \text{Ord} \rightarrow \text{Ord}$ are nondecreasing and continuous, then so is $f \circ g$. If f and g are normal, then so is $f \circ g$.

Proof. If $\alpha < \beta$, then $g(\alpha) \leq g(\beta)$, so $f(g(\alpha)) \leq f(g(\beta))$. Let α be a nonzero limit ordinal. Clearly $f(g(\alpha)) \geq \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} f(g(\xi))$. If $g(\alpha) = g(\xi')$ for some $\xi' < \alpha$, then $f(g(\alpha)) = f(g(\xi')) \leq \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} f(g(\xi))$. Otherwise, $g(\alpha)$ is a limit ordinal. Indeed, $g(\alpha) = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} g(\xi)$ by continuity of g , so if $\beta < g(\alpha)$, then $\beta < g(\xi)$ for some $\xi < \alpha$, and hence $\beta + 1 \leq g(\xi) < g(\alpha)$. But then $f(g(\alpha)) = \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow g(\alpha)} f(\zeta)$ by continuity of f . If $\zeta < g(\alpha)$, then $\zeta < g(\xi)$ for some $\xi < \alpha$, so $f(\zeta) \leq f(g(\xi))$, and hence $\lim_{\zeta \rightarrow g(\alpha)} f(\zeta) \leq \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} f(g(\xi))$. Therefore again $f(g(\alpha)) = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} f(g(\xi))$ and $f \circ g$ is continuous.

If f and g are also increasing, then $f \circ g$ is increasing and hence normal. \square

Exercise (2.7). Every normal sequence $\langle \gamma_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{Ord} \rangle$ has arbitrarily large fixed points (that is, β such that $\gamma_\beta = \beta$).

Proof. Given α , let $\beta_0 = \gamma_\alpha$ and $\beta_{n+1} = \gamma_{\beta_n}$ for all $n \in \omega$. Note $\beta_{n+1} \geq \beta_n \geq \alpha$ for all $n \in \omega$ since γ is increasing (Lemma 2.4). Let $\beta = \lim_{n \rightarrow \omega} \beta_n$. Then

$$\gamma_\beta = \lim_{n \rightarrow \omega} \gamma_{\beta_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \omega} \beta_{n+1} = \beta$$

by the chain rule above (taking $\beta_\alpha = \beta$ for all $\alpha \geq \omega$). \square

Exercise (2.8). For all α, β, γ :

$$(i) \quad \alpha \cdot (\beta + \gamma) = \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot \gamma$$

$$(ii) \alpha^{\beta+\gamma} = \alpha^\beta \cdot \alpha^\gamma$$

$$(iii) (\alpha^\beta)^\gamma = \alpha^{\beta \cdot \gamma}$$

Proof. By induction on γ .

(i) If $\gamma = 0$,

$$\alpha \cdot (\beta + \gamma) = \alpha \cdot (\beta + 0) = \alpha \cdot \beta = \alpha \cdot \beta + 0 = \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot 0 = \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot \gamma$$

If the result holds for γ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \cdot (\beta + (\gamma + 1)) &= \alpha \cdot ((\beta + \gamma) + 1) && \text{by associativity of } + \\ &= \alpha \cdot (\beta + \gamma) + \alpha && \text{by definition of } \cdot \\ &= (\alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot \gamma) + \alpha && \text{by hypothesis} \\ &= \alpha \cdot \beta + (\alpha \cdot \gamma + \alpha) && \text{by associativity of } + \\ &= \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot (\gamma + 1) && \text{by definition of } \cdot \end{aligned}$$

so the result holds for $\gamma + 1$. If γ is a nonzero limit ordinal and the result holds for all $\xi < \gamma$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \cdot (\beta + \gamma) &= \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \gamma} \alpha \cdot (\beta + \xi) && \text{by continuity of } \xi \mapsto \alpha \cdot (\beta + \xi) \\ &= \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \gamma} (\alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot \xi) && \text{by hypothesis} \\ &= \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot \gamma && \text{by continuity of } \xi \mapsto \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot \xi \end{aligned}$$

so the result holds for γ . Note that continuity of the composite mappings involved follows from continuity of addition and multiplication and the chain rule above.

(ii) Similar.

(iii) Similar, using (i) and (ii) in the successor step. \square

Exercise (2.9).

$$(i) (\omega + 1) \cdot 2 = \omega + 1 + \omega + 1 = \omega + \omega + 1 = \omega \cdot 2 + 1 < \omega \cdot 2 + 2 = \omega \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 2$$

$$(ii) (\omega \cdot 2)^2 = \omega \cdot 2 \cdot \omega \cdot 2 = \omega \cdot \omega \cdot 2 = \omega^2 \cdot 2 < \omega^2 \cdot 4 = \omega^2 \cdot 2^2$$

Remark. This result shows that $(\alpha + \beta) \cdot \gamma$ does not in general equal $\alpha \cdot \gamma + \beta \cdot \gamma$, and $(\alpha \cdot \beta)^\gamma$ does not in general equal $\alpha^\gamma \cdot \beta^\gamma$.

Exercise (2.10). If $\alpha < \beta$, then $\alpha + \gamma \leq \beta + \gamma$, $\alpha \cdot \gamma \leq \beta \cdot \gamma$, and $\alpha^\gamma \leq \beta^\gamma$ for all γ .

Proof. By induction on γ . □

Exercise (2.11). $2 < 3$ but

$$(i) \quad 2 + \omega = \omega = 3 + \omega$$

$$(ii) \quad 2 \cdot \omega = \omega = 3 \cdot \omega$$

$$(iii) \quad 2^\omega = \omega = 3^\omega$$

Exercise (2.12). Let $\epsilon_0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \omega} \alpha_n$ where $\alpha_0 = \omega$ and $\alpha_{n+1} = \omega^{\alpha_n}$. Then ϵ_0 is the least ordinal ϵ such that $\omega^\epsilon = \epsilon$.

Proof. By continuity of exponentiation and the chain rule above (taking $\alpha_\beta = \epsilon_0$ for all $\beta \geq \omega$),

$$\omega^{\epsilon_0} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \omega} \omega^{\alpha_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \omega} \alpha_{n+1} = \epsilon_0$$

If $\omega^\epsilon = \epsilon$, we prove by induction that $\alpha_n \leq \epsilon$ for all $n \in \omega$, from which it follows that $\epsilon_0 \leq \epsilon$. Indeed, since $\omega^0 = 1 \neq 0$, we have $\epsilon \neq 0$ and hence $\alpha_0 = \omega \leq \omega^\epsilon = \epsilon$. If $\alpha_n \leq \epsilon$, then $\alpha_{n+1} = \omega^{\alpha_n} \leq \omega^\epsilon = \epsilon$. □

Exercise (2.13). A limit ordinal $\gamma > 0$ is indecomposable if and only if $\alpha + \gamma = \gamma$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$ if and only if $\gamma = \omega^\alpha$ for some $\alpha > 0$.

Proof. If $\gamma = \alpha + \beta$ with $\alpha, \beta < \gamma$, then $\alpha + \gamma > \alpha + \beta = \gamma$. Conversely, if $\alpha < \gamma$ and $\alpha + \gamma > \gamma$, fix β such that $\alpha + \beta = \gamma$ (Lemma 2.25). If $\beta \geq \gamma$, then $\gamma = \alpha + \beta \geq \alpha + \gamma > \gamma$, which is impossible, so $\beta < \gamma$.

The forward direction of the second equivalence follows from the Cantor normal form (Theorem 2.26). For the reverse direction, we prove by induction on $\alpha > 0$ that ω^α is indecomposable. The result holds for $\alpha = 1$ since $n + \omega = \omega$ for all $n \in \omega$. If ω^α is indecomposable and $\beta < \omega^{\alpha+1} = \omega^\alpha \cdot \omega$, then $\beta < \omega^\alpha \cdot n$ for some $n \in \omega$, so (Exercises 2.10 and 2.8)

$$\beta + \omega^{\alpha+1} \leq \omega^\alpha \cdot n + \omega^\alpha \cdot \omega = \omega^\alpha \cdot (n + \omega) = \omega^\alpha \cdot \omega = \omega^{\alpha+1}$$

and hence $\omega^{\alpha+1}$ is indecomposable. Finally if $\alpha > 0$ is a limit ordinal, ω^ξ is indecomposable for all $\xi < \alpha$, and $\beta < \omega^\alpha$, then by continuity

$$\beta + \omega^\alpha = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} (\beta + \omega^\xi) = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} \omega^\xi = \omega^\alpha$$

and hence ω^α is indecomposable. □

Chapter 3

Remark. If κ and λ are ordinals which are cardinals, then $\kappa \leq \lambda$ in the *ordinal* ordering if and only if $\kappa \leq \lambda$ in the *cardinal* ordering (3.2). Indeed, if $\kappa \leq \lambda$ in the ordinals, then $\kappa \subset \lambda$, so $\kappa \leq \lambda$ in the cardinals. Conversely, if $\kappa \leq \lambda$ in the cardinals, then we cannot have $\lambda < \kappa$ in the ordinals since κ is a cardinal.

Remark. An ordinal is a “finite” cardinal if and only if it is a “finite cardinal”. In fact, if an ordinal is a “finite” cardinal, then it is a “finite ordinal” by the remark above, and hence it is a “finite cardinal”. The converse is just the *pigeonhole principle*, which is proved by induction on ω .

Remark. The arithmetic operations for finite cardinals in (3.3) agree with the corresponding operations for finite ordinals.

Exercise (3.1).

- (i) A subset of a finite set is finite.
- (ii) A finite union of finite sets is finite.
- (iii) The power set of a finite set is finite.
- (iv) An image (projection) of a finite set is finite.

Proof.

- (i) By an easy induction on $n \in \mathbf{N}$, every subset of n has at most n elements, from which the result follows.

Alternately, if $B \subset A$, then $P(B) \subset P(A)$, so $X \subset P(B)$ implies $X \subset P(A)$. If A is finite, then A is T-finite (Exercise 1.12), so B is T-finite and hence B is finite (Exercise 1.13).

- (ii) If $|A| = m$ and $|B| = n$ and $A \cap B = \emptyset$, then $|A \cup B| = m + n$. If $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$, then $A \cup B$ is a subset of the disjoint union,² so $|A \cup B| \leq m + n$ by (i). Therefore the union of two finite sets is finite, and the union of any finite set of finite sets is finite by induction.
- (iii) If $|A| = n$, then $|P(A)| = 2^n$ (Lemma 3.3).
- (iv) If $f : n \rightarrow B$ is surjective, define $g : B \rightarrow n$ by letting $g(b)$ be the least $m \in n$ such that $f(m) = b$. Then g is injective, so B has the same cardinality as a subset of n , and hence $|B| \leq n$ by (i). The result follows. \square

²Technically, $A \cup B$ has the same cardinality as a subset of $(A \times \{0\}) \cup (B \times \{1\})$.

Exercise (3.2).

- (i) A subset of a countable set is at most countable.
- (ii) A finite union of countable sets is countable.
- (iii) An image (projection) of a countable set is at most countable.

Proof.

- (i) If $B \subset \mathbb{N}$ is infinite, let

$$b_0 = \text{least in } B$$

$$b_{n+1} = \text{least in } B - \{b_0, \dots, b_n\} \text{ (nonempty since } B \text{ is infinite)}$$

Let $C = \{b_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$, which is countable since $n \mapsto b_n$ is a bijection. If $B \neq C$, let b be least in $B - C$. There are only finitely many elements of B less than b (Exercise 3.1(i)), which must be b_0, \dots, b_k for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ by hypothesis. But then b is least in $B - \{b_0, \dots, b_k\}$, so $b = b_{k+1} \in C$, which contradicts $b \notin C$. Therefore $B = C$. The result follows.

- (ii) Similar to the proof of Exercise 3.1(ii), replacing m and n with \aleph_0 and using the fact that $\aleph_0 \leq |A \cup B| \leq \aleph_0 + \aleph_0 = \aleph_0$ (Theorem 3.5).
- (iii) Similar to the proof of Exercise 3.1(iv), replacing n with \mathbb{N} . □

Exercise (3.3). $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ is countable.

Proof. The mapping $(m, n) \mapsto 2^m(2n+1) - 1$ is a bijection from $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ to \mathbb{N} . In fact, it is injective by uniqueness of prime factorizations. If $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ be the highest power of 2 dividing $k+1$. Then $k+1 = 2^m(2n+1)$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, so k is the image of (m, n) . □

Exercise (3.4).

- (i) The set of all finite sequences in \mathbb{N} is countable.
- (ii) The set of all finite subsets of a countable set is countable.

Proof.

- (i) The set is at least countable since there are countably many sequences of length one, and it is at most countable since the mapping

$$(m_1, \dots, m_n) \mapsto p_1^{m_1+1} \cdots p_n^{m_n+1}$$

is injective, where p_k is the k -th prime.

- (ii) The set of all finite subsets of N is at least countable since there are countably many singletons, and it is at most countable since it is the image of the mapping which takes each finite sequence in N to its underlying set (part (i) and Exercise 3.2(iii)). The result follows. \square

Exercise (3.7). If B is a projection of ω_α , then $|B| \leq \aleph_\alpha$.

Proof. If $f : \omega_\alpha \rightarrow B$ is surjective, define $g : B \rightarrow \omega_\alpha$ by letting $g(b)$ be the least $\beta \in \omega_\alpha$ such that $f(\beta) = b$. Then g is injective, so $|B| \leq \aleph_\alpha$. \square

Exercise (3.9). If B is a projection of A , then $|P(B)| \leq |P(A)|$.

Proof. If $f : A \rightarrow B$ is surjective, define $g : P(B) \rightarrow P(A)$ by $g(X) = f_{-1}(X)$. If $g(X) = g(Y)$, then

$$X = f(g(X)) = f(g(Y)) = Y$$

by surjectivity of f , so g is injective. \square

Exercise (3.10). $\omega_{\alpha+1}$ is a projection of $P(\omega_\alpha)$.

Proof. If $X \subset \omega_\alpha$, then $\text{type}(X) \leq \omega_\alpha$ by a remark about well-orderings above, so we can define $f : P(\omega_\alpha) \rightarrow \omega_{\alpha+1}$ by $f(X) = \text{type}(X)$. If $\beta \in \omega_{\alpha+1}$, then $\beta \subset \omega_\alpha$ with $f(\beta) = \beta$, so f is surjective. \square

Exercise (3.11). $\aleph_{\alpha+1} < 2^{2^{\aleph_\alpha}}$

Proof. $\aleph_{\alpha+1} < 2^{\aleph_{\alpha+1}} \leq 2^{2^{\aleph_\alpha}}$, where the first inequality follows from Theorem 3.1 and the second inequality follows from Exercises 3.9–10. \square

Exercise (3.12). If \aleph_α is an uncountable limit cardinal, then $\text{cf } \omega_\alpha = \text{cf } \aleph_\alpha$; also, ω_α is the limit of a cofinal sequence $\langle \omega_{\alpha_\xi} \mid \xi < \text{cf } \aleph_\alpha \rangle$ of cardinals.³

Proof. By Lemma 3.7(ii) and its proof, since $\omega_\alpha = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \alpha} \omega_\xi$. \square

Exercise (3.13). (ZF) ω_2 is not a countable union of countable sets.

Proof. If $\omega_2 = \bigcup_{n < \omega} S_n$ where each S_n is countable, let $\alpha_n = \text{type } S_n < \omega_1$. Then $\alpha = \sup_n \alpha_n \leq \omega_1$. For $(n, \xi) \in \omega \times \alpha$, let $f(n, \xi)$ be the ξ -th element of S_n if $\xi \in \alpha_n$ or the first element of S_n if $\xi \notin \alpha_n$. Then $f : \omega \times \alpha \rightarrow \omega_2$ is surjective. But $0 < |\omega \times \alpha| \leq \aleph_0 \cdot \aleph_1 = \aleph_1$, so ω_2 is a projection of ω_1 and $\aleph_2 \leq \aleph_1$ —contradicting $\aleph_1 < \aleph_2$. Therefore ω_2 is not a countable union of countable sets. \square

³The second part of the exercise in the book is incorrect. For example, $\omega_{\omega+\omega}$ is not the limit of a cofinal sequence $\langle \omega_n \mid n < \omega \rangle$.

References

- [1] Jech, Thomas. *Set Theory*, 3rd ed. Springer, 2002.