

# Topics in Analysis and Linear Algebra

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## Chapter 2. Set Theory



Georg Cantor (1845- 1918)  
– the founder of modern set theory

This part is mostly based on Chapter 1 of

*J. McDonald and N. Weiss, **A course in real analysis**, Academic Press,  
2005.*

# Chapter 2. Set Theory

§ 2.1 Basic definitions and properties

§ 2.2 Functions and sets

§ 2.3 Equivalence of sets and countability

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If  $A$  is a set and  $x$  is an element of  $A$ , we write  $x \in A$ .

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$\mathbb{C}$  = collection of complex numbers

$\mathbb{R}$  = collection of real numbers

$\mathbb{Q}$  = collection of rational numbers

$\mathbb{Z}$  = collection of integers

$\mathbb{N}$  = collection of natural numbers, i.e., positive integers

Then we have

$$\mathbb{N} \subset \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{C}.$$

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**Assume** all sets under consideration are subsets of some fixed set  $\Omega$ , commonly referred as the **universal set**.

The set of all subsets of  $\Omega$  is called the power set of  $\Omega$ , denoted  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .

Hence,  $A \subset \Omega$  iff  $A \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .

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The complement of  $A$ , denoted  $A^c$ , is the set of elements of  $\Omega$  that do not belong to  $A$ , namely,

$$A^c := \{x \in \Omega : x \notin A\}.$$

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### *Commutative Laws*

$$A \cup B = B \cup A$$

$$A \cap B = B \cap A$$

### *Idempotent Laws*

$$A \cup A = A$$

$$A \cap A = A$$

### *Associative Laws*

$$A \cup (B \cup C) = (A \cup B) \cup C$$

$$A \cap (B \cap C) = (A \cap B) \cap C$$

### *Domination Laws*

$$A \cup \Omega = \Omega$$

$$A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$$

### *Distributive Laws*

$$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$$

$$A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$$

### *Absorption Laws*

$$A \cup (A \cap B) = A$$

$$A \cap (A \cup B) = A$$

### *De Morgan's Laws*

$$(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$$

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$$C \setminus (A \cup B) = (C \setminus A) \cap (C \setminus B)$$

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### *Various Identities*

$$A \cap A^c = \emptyset$$

$$A \cup A^c = \Omega$$

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$$(A^c)^c = A$$

**Def.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a collection of subsets of  $\Omega$ , that is,  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .

- a) The intersection of  $\mathcal{C}$ , denoted  $\cap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A$ , is the set of elements of  $\Omega$  that belong to each set in the collection of  $\mathcal{C}$ , namely,

$$\bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A := \{x \in \Omega : x \in A \text{ for all } A \in \mathcal{C}\}.$$

- b) The union of  $\mathcal{C}$ , denoted  $\cup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A$ , is the set of elements of  $\Omega$  that belong to at least one of the sets in the collection of  $\mathcal{C}$ , namely,

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Set operations still work in this case, e.g.,

### *De Morgan's Laws*

$$\left( \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A \right)^c = \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A^c$$

$$\left( \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A \right)^c = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A^c$$

$$C \setminus \left( \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A \right) = \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} (C \setminus A)$$

$$C \setminus \left( \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A \right) = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} (C \setminus A)$$

### *Distributive Laws*

$$B \cap \left( \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A \right) = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} (B \cap A)$$

$$B \cup \left( \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A \right) = \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} (B \cup A)$$

E.g. Let  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathcal{C} = \{[0, 1/n] : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Show that

$$\bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} A = [0, 1].$$

Remark Equivalently, one can write  $A_n = [0, 1/n]$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and then

$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = [0, 1].$$

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In general, we have:

E.g.' Show that

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$(0, 1/n)$		
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In general, we have:

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$A_n$	$\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_n$	$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_n$
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Def. Two subsets,  $A$  and  $B$ , of  $\Omega$  are said to be **disjoint** if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ .

Ex. 1.8, 1.13.



# Chapter 2. Set Theory

§ 2.1 Basic definitions and properties

§ 2.2 Functions and sets

§ 2.3 Equivalence of sets and countability

Def. Suppose that  $\Omega$  and  $\Lambda$  are sets. A **function** (or **mapping**, **transformation**) from  $\Omega$  to  $\Lambda$  is a rule that assigns each element  $x \in \Omega$  a **unique** element  $f(x) \in \Lambda$ .

We call  $f(x)$  the value of  $f$  at  $x$ , or the image of  $x$  under  $f$ .

A function  $f$  from  $\Omega$  to  $\Lambda$  is often denoted  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$ .

The set  $\Omega$  is called the domain of  $f$ .

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We call  $f(x)$  the **value** of  $f$  at  $x$ , or the **image** of  $x$  under  $f$ .

A function  $f$  from  $\Omega$  to  $\Lambda$  is often denoted  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$ .

The set  $\Omega$  is called the **domain** of  $f$ .

The set  $\{f(x) : x \in \Omega\}$  is called the **range** of  $f$ .

**Def.** Let  $f$  be a function from  $\Omega$  to  $\Lambda$ .

- a)  $f$  is said to be one-to-one or injective if distinct elements of  $\Omega$  have distinct images; that is,

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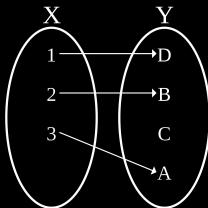
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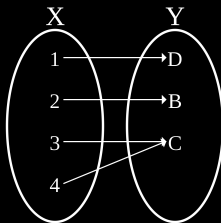
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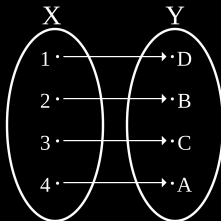
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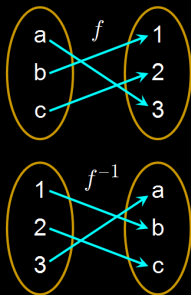
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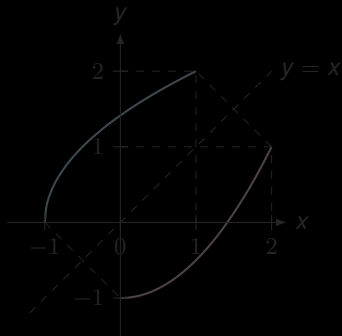
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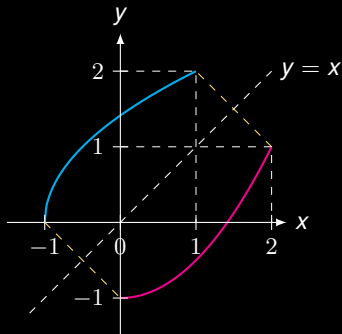
E.g. Let  $f : [0, 2] \rightarrow [-1, 1]$  be defined as  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 1$ .

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Def. Let  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$  and  $g : \Lambda \rightarrow \Gamma$ . Then the **composition** of  $g$  with  $f$ , denoted  $g \circ f$ , is the function  $g \circ f : \Omega \rightarrow \Gamma$  defined by

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)).$$

Def. Let  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$  and  $A \subset \Omega$ . The **restriction** of  $f$  to  $A$ , denoted  $f|_A$ , is defined to be a function  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$  such that

$$f|_A(x) = f(x), \quad \text{for all } x \in A.$$

# Infinite and finite sequences

Infinite sequences such as

- ▶  $\{1, 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots\}$
- ▶  $\{1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, \dots\}$
- ▶  $\{1, -1, 1, -1, 1, -1, \dots\}$
- ▶  $\{1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, \dots\}$

are nothing but functions defined on  $\mathbb{N}$ .

We use  $\{s_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  or  $\{s_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  to denote an infinite sequence.

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Finite sequence of length  $n$  such as

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## Images and inverse images

Def. Let  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$ .

If  $A \subset \Omega$ , then define

$$f(A) := \{f(x) : x \in A\},$$

which is called the **image of  $A$**   
**under  $f$ .**

If  $B \in \Lambda$ , then define

$$f^{-1}(B) := \{x \in \Omega : f(x) \in B\},$$

called the **inverse image of  $B$**   
**under  $f$ .**

**Thm** Let  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$ ,  $A \subset \Omega$ , and  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  an indexed collection of subsets of  $\Omega$ . Then

a)  $f \left( \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i \right) = \bigcup_{i \in I} f(A_i)$

b)  $f \left( \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i \right) \subset \bigcap_{i \in I} f(A_i)$  and

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is one-to-one.

c)  $f(A^c) \subset (f(A))^c$  and

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# Cartesian Products

Def. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two sets. Then the **Cartesian product** of  $A$  and  $B$  (in that order), denoted  $A \times B$ , is the set of all **ordered pairs**  $(a, b)$  such that  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ , namely,

$$A \times B := \{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}.$$

Similarly, if  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are sets, then the Cartesian product of those  $n$  sets, denoted  $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$  or  $\bigtimes_{k=1}^n A_k$ , is the set of all ordered  $n$ -tuples  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  such that  $a_k \in A_k$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , namely,

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E.g. 1. The standard 52-card deck is  $A \times B$  with

$$A = \{\text{Ace}, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, \text{Jack}, \text{Queen}, \text{King}\}$$

$$B = \{\text{Club}, \text{Diamond}, \text{Heart}, \text{Spade}\}$$

$$\Omega = A \cup B$$

2.  $\underbrace{\mathbb{R} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{R}}_{n \text{ times}} = \mathbb{R}^n$  the Euclidean  $n$ -space

Remark: If at least one of  $A$  and  $B$  are empty, then so is  $A \times B$ .























































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2.  $\Omega = \underbrace{A \times B}_{n \text{ rows}}$  is called the Euclidean  $n$ -space

(n rows)





















































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2. If  $A_i = \emptyset$  for some  $i \in I$ , then  $\prod_{i \in I} A_i = \emptyset$ .
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# Notation and examples

When	$\prod_{i \in I} A_i$
$I = \{1, \dots, n\}$	$\prod_{i=1}^n A_i$
$A_i = A, \forall i \in I$	$A^I$
$I = \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $A_i = A, \forall i \in I$	write $A^n$ instead of $A^{\{1, \dots, n\}}$ or $\prod_{i=1}^n A$
$I = \mathbb{N}$	write $A^\infty$ instead of $A^{\{1, 2, \dots\}}$ or $A^\mathbb{N}$
$I = [0, 1]$ and $A_i = \mathbb{R}, \forall i \in I$	$A^{[0, 1]}$ is the set of all functions on $[0, 1]$ .

Remark. Infinite sequence  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$  can be viewed as either

1. a function on  $\mathbb{N}$  or
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HW Ex. 1.14, 1.21, 1.23.

# Chapter 2. Set Theory

§ 2.1 Basic definitions and properties

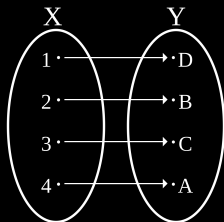
§ 2.2 Functions and sets

§ 2.3 Equivalence of sets and countability

Recall if  $f$  is both **one-to-one (injective)** and **onto (surjective)**, then  $f$  is **one-to-one correspondence (bijective)**.

Def. For two sets  $X$  and  $Y$ , if there exists a bijective function between  $X$  and  $Y$ , then we say that  $X$  and  $Y$  are equivalent, denoted  $X \sim Y$ .

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Def. For two sets  $X$  and  $Y$ , if there exists a bijective function between  $X$  and  $Y$ , then we say that  $X$  and  $Y$  are **equivalent**, denoted  $X \sim Y$ .

Equivalent sets satisfy the following properties:

Reflexive	$A \sim A$
Symmetric	$A \sim B \Rightarrow B \sim A$
Transitive	$A \sim B \wedge B \sim C \Rightarrow A \sim C$

Remark Any relation that satisfies reflexive, symmetric, transitive properties is an equivalence relation.



E.g. 1. Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $Y = \{A, B, C, D\}$ . Then  $X \sim Y$  because one can find a bijective function between  $X$  and  $Y$ .

2. Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $Y = \{A, B, C, D\}$ . Does  $X \sim Y$ ? Why?

Remark For sets of finite element, in order to be equivalent, they have to have the same number of elements.

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E.g. 3. Let  $X = \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  and  $Y = \{2, 4, 6, 8, \dots\}$  (even integers).

Does  $X \sim Y$ ?

Do they have the same number of elements?

Sol. Here is one apparent solution<sup>2</sup>:  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  defined as  $f(x) = 2x$ :

This is a bijective function (why?). Hence,  $X \sim Y$ . They have the same number of elements (infinite many, which is called countably infinite).

□

---

<sup>2</sup>There are other constructions. Can you give another bijection between  $X$  and  $Y$ ?

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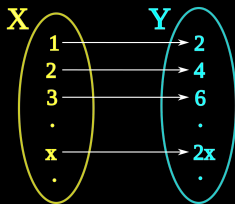
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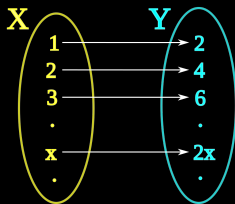


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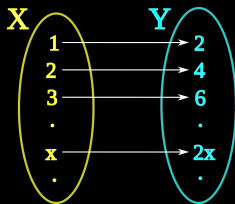
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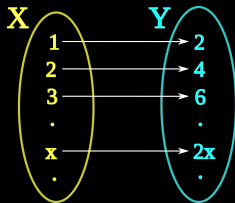
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<sup>2</sup>There are other constructions. Can you give another bijection between  $X$  and  $Y$ ?

## Size of sets

Def. Let  $A$  be a set. We say that

- a)  $A$  is *finite* if it is either empty or equivalent to the first  $N$  positive integers for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ .

In the former case,  $A$  is said to consist of 0 elements and, in the latter case,  $N$  elements.

- b)  $A$  is *infinite* if  $A$  is not finite.
- c)  $A$  is *countably infinite* if it is equivalent to  $\mathbb{N}$ .
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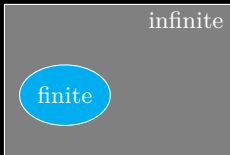
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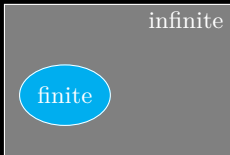
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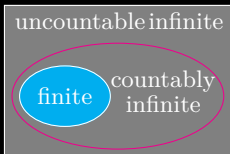
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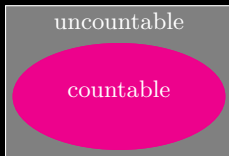
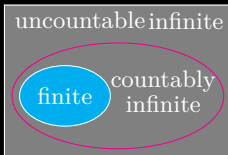
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E.g.1. Show that the set of  $\mathbb{Z}$  is countably infinite.

Sol. Construct the bijection

$$f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}:$$

$$1 \rightarrow 0$$

$$2 \rightarrow 1$$

$$3 \rightarrow -1$$

$$4 \rightarrow 2$$

$$5 \rightarrow -2$$

$$6 \rightarrow 3$$

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$$\vdots$$

It is not hard to see that

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} n/2 & n \text{ is even} \\ -(n-1)/2 & n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

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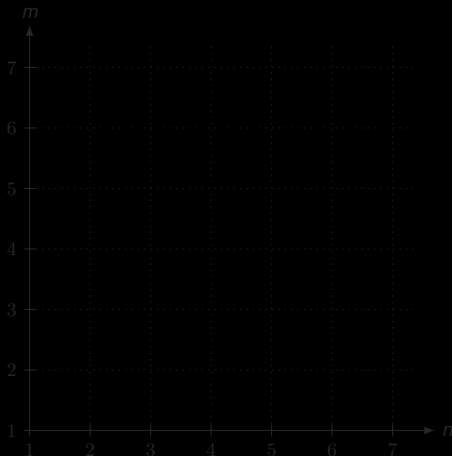
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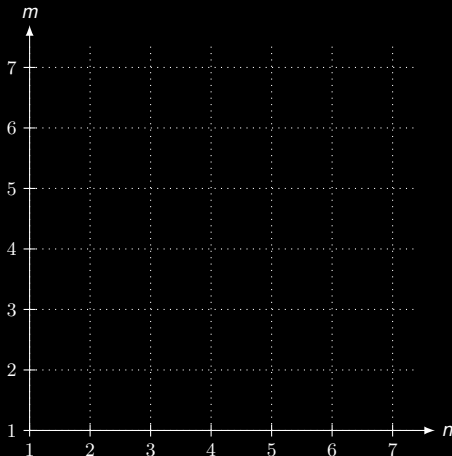
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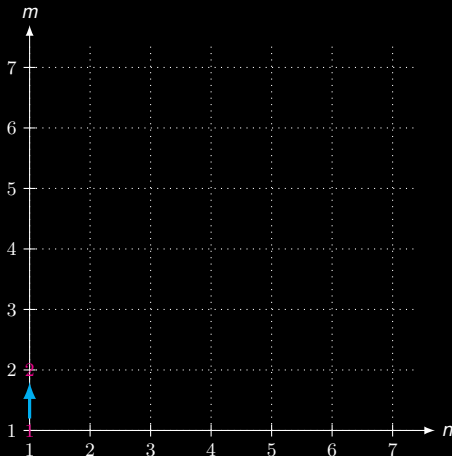
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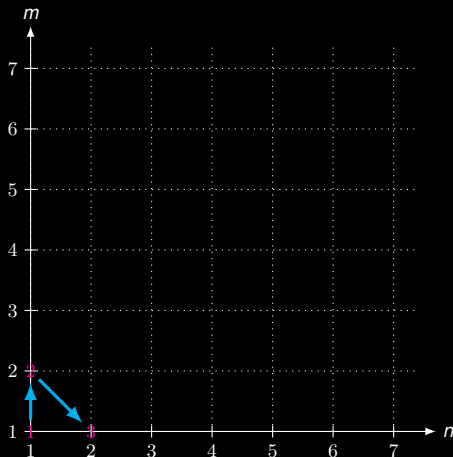
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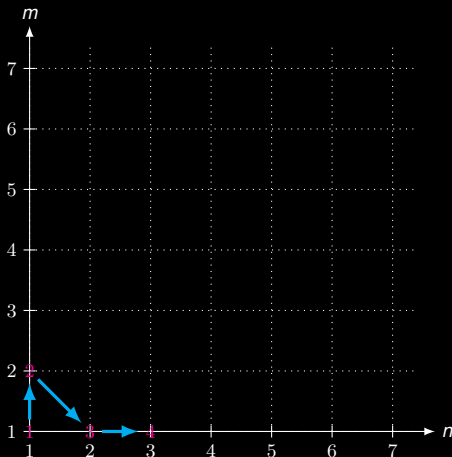
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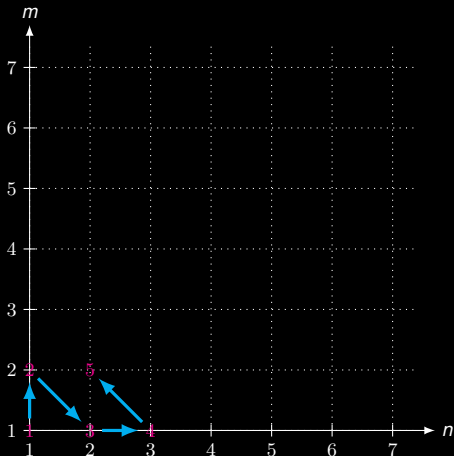
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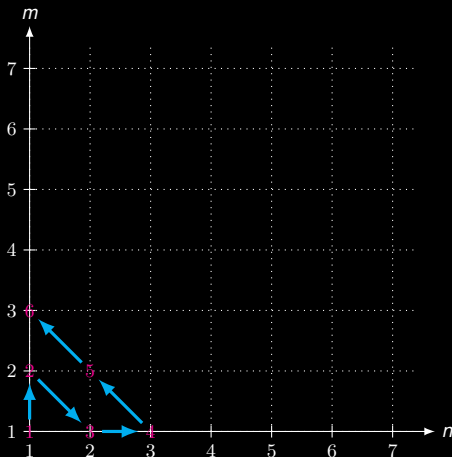
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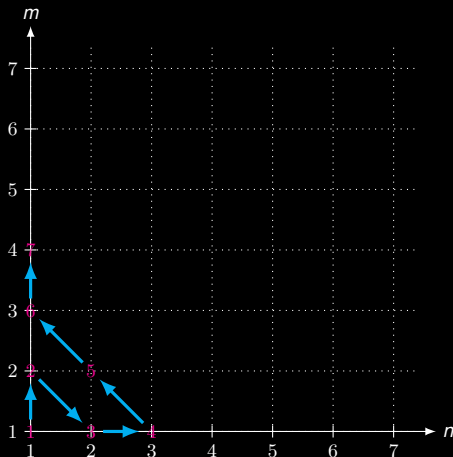
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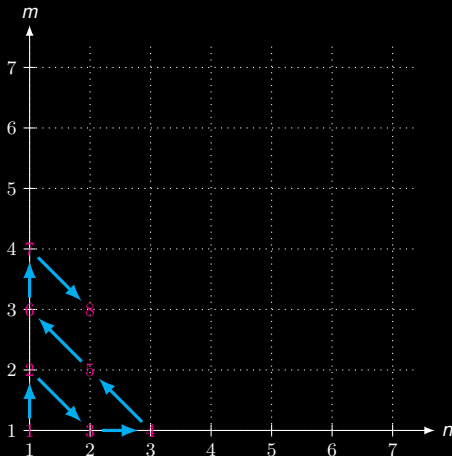
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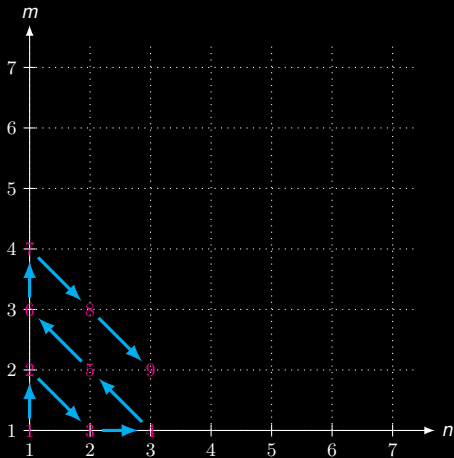
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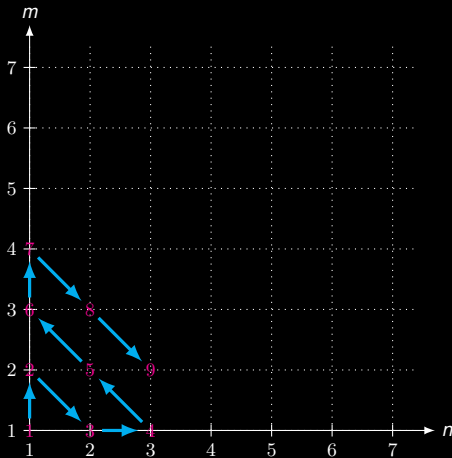
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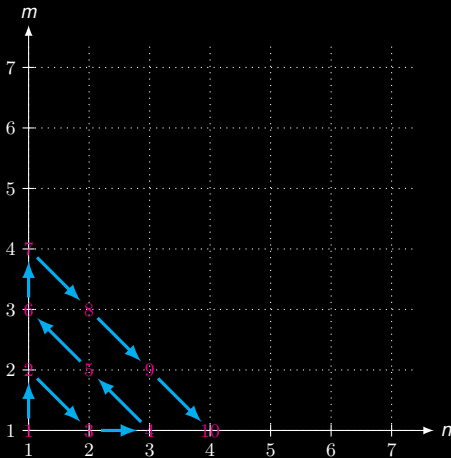
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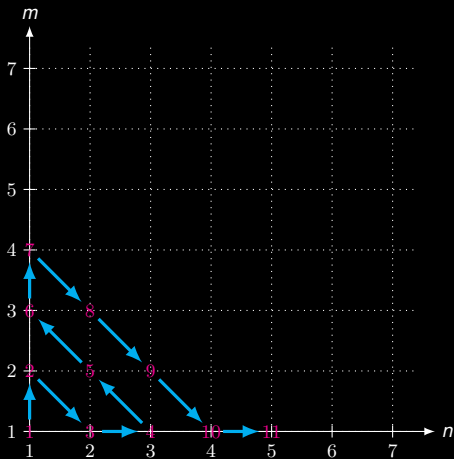
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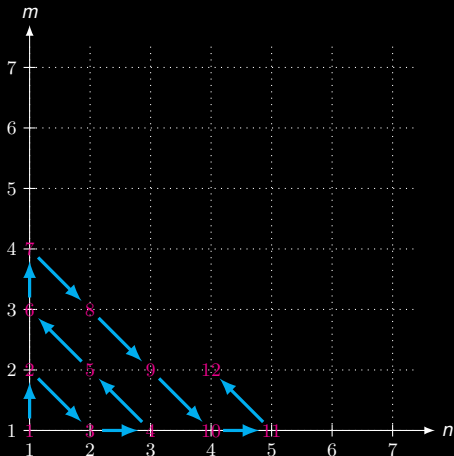
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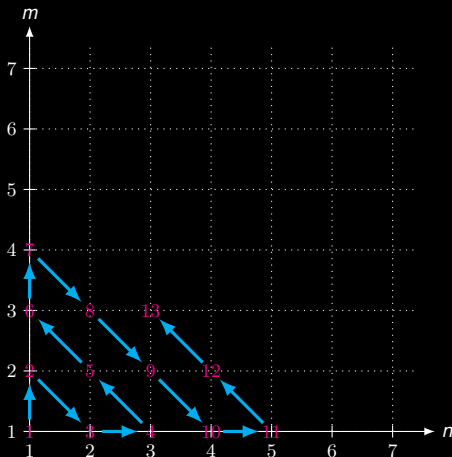
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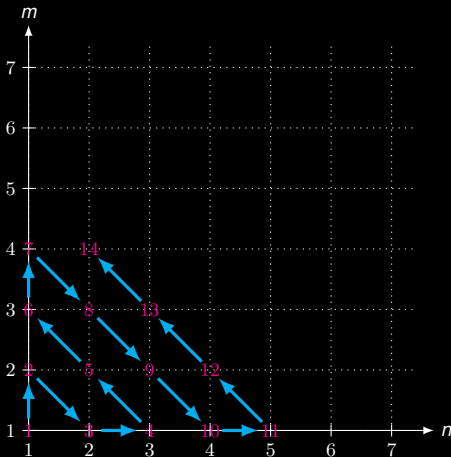
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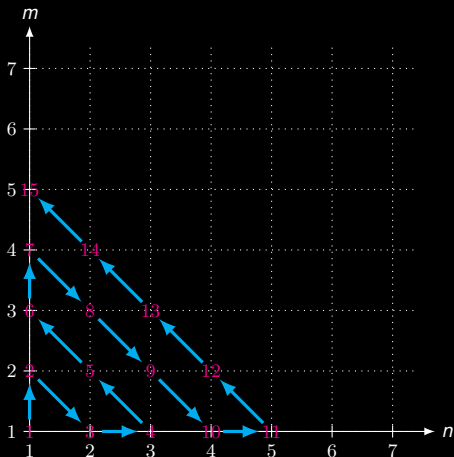
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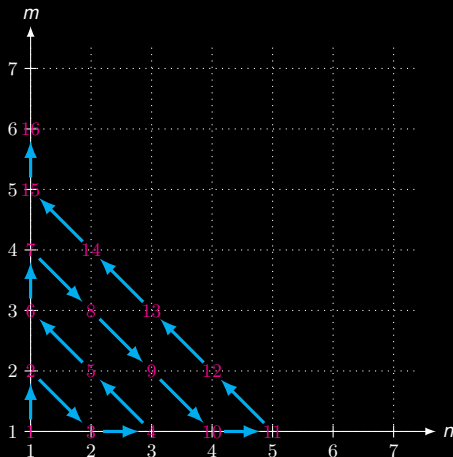
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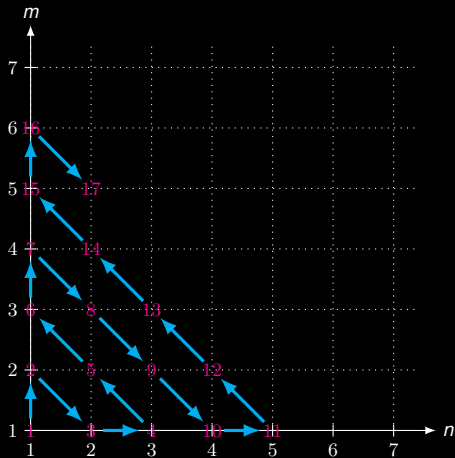
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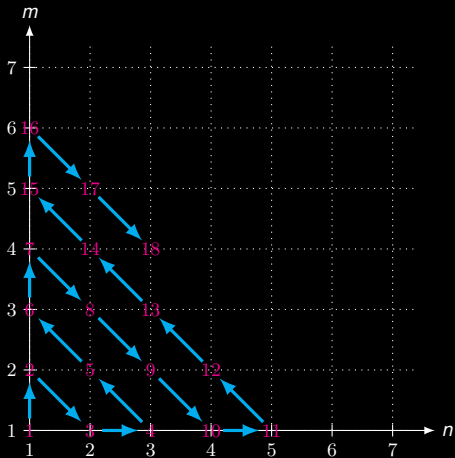
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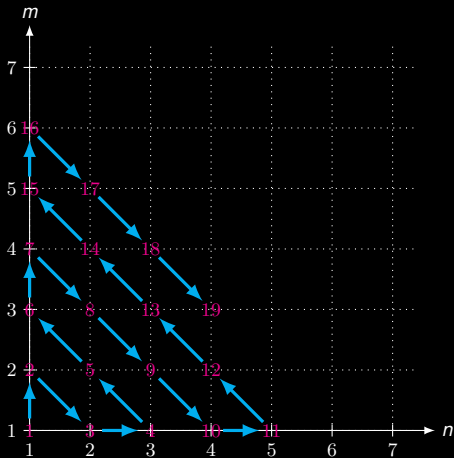
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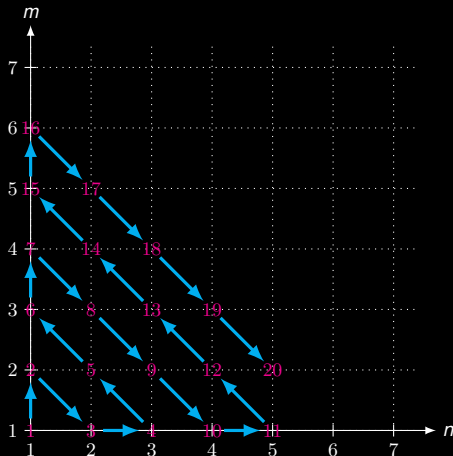
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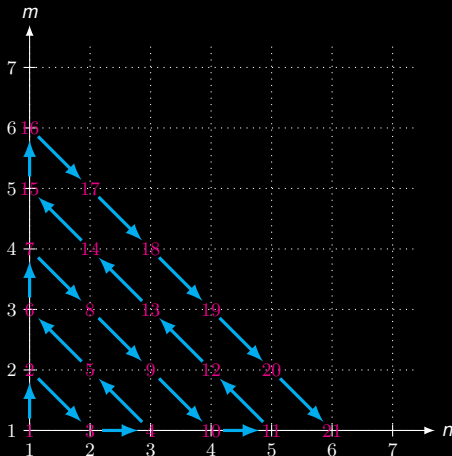
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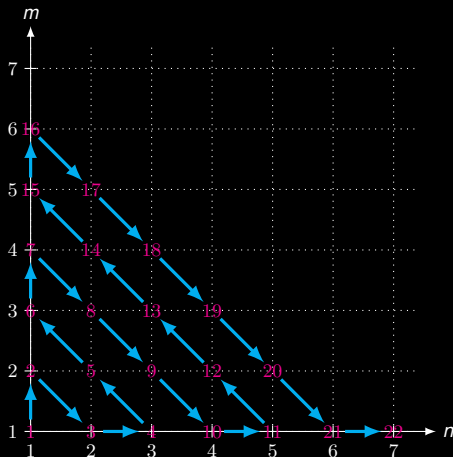
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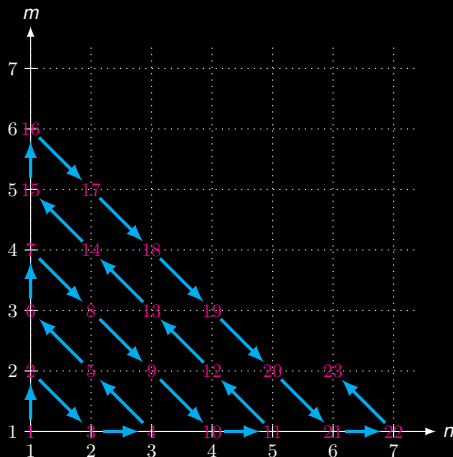
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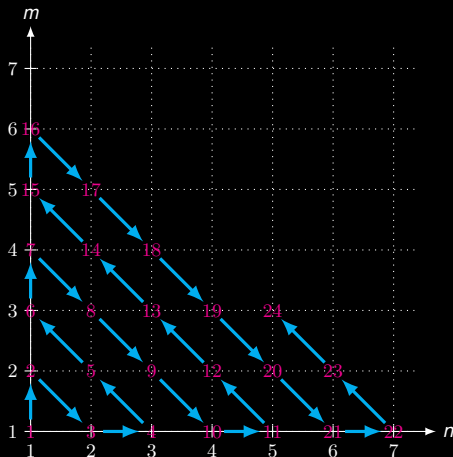
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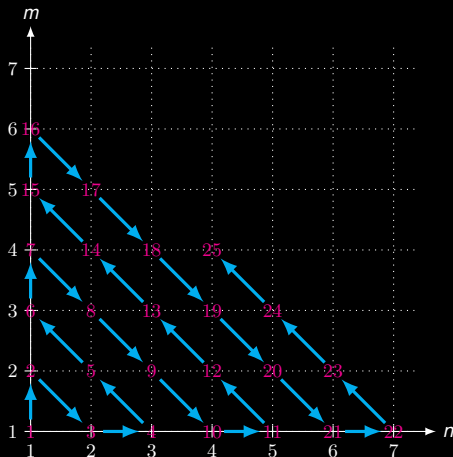
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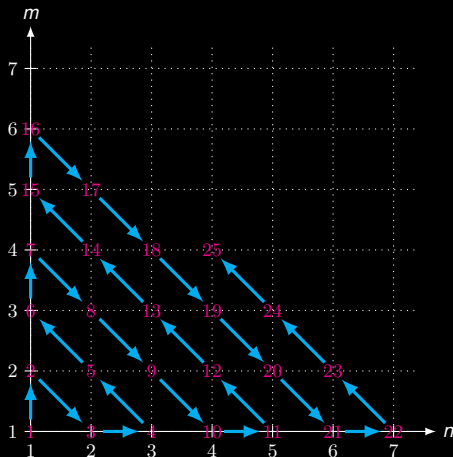
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Can you find a formula for this bijection?



Sol'. We claim that  $f : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined below is a bijection:

$$f(m, n) := 2^{m-1}(2n-1).$$

a)  $f$  is one-to-one (injective): It suffices to show that

$$f(m_1, n_1) = f(m_2, n_2) \implies m_1 = m_2 \text{ and } n_1 = n_2.$$

Without loss of generality, suppose  $m_1 \geq m_2$ . Notice that

$$2^{m_1-m_2} = \frac{2n_1-1}{2n_2-1}. \quad (\star)$$

The LHS is an even integer unless  $m_1 = m_2$ . The RHS is a fraction unless  $n_1 = n_2$ . Hence, in order to make  $(\star)$  valid, one has to have both sides equal to 1. Hence,  $m_1 = m_2$  and  $n_1 = n_2$ .

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E.g. 3. Show that the set of rationals  $\mathbb{Q}$  is countably infinite.

Recall that rationals are numbers that can be written as a ratio of two integers, i.e.,

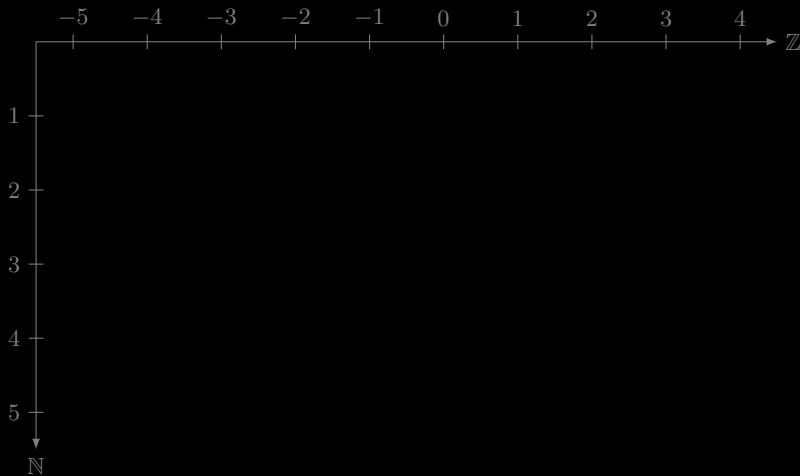
$$q \in \mathbb{Q} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exists m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{such that } q = \frac{m}{n}.$$

E.g. 3. Show that the set of rationals  $\mathbb{Q}$  is countably infinite.

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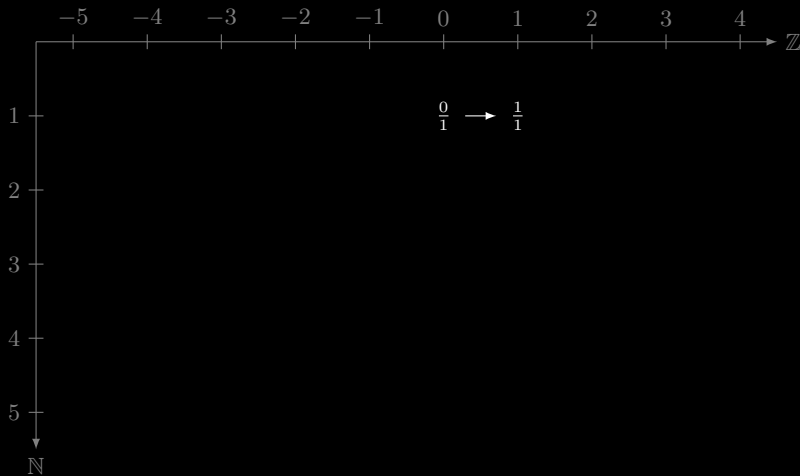
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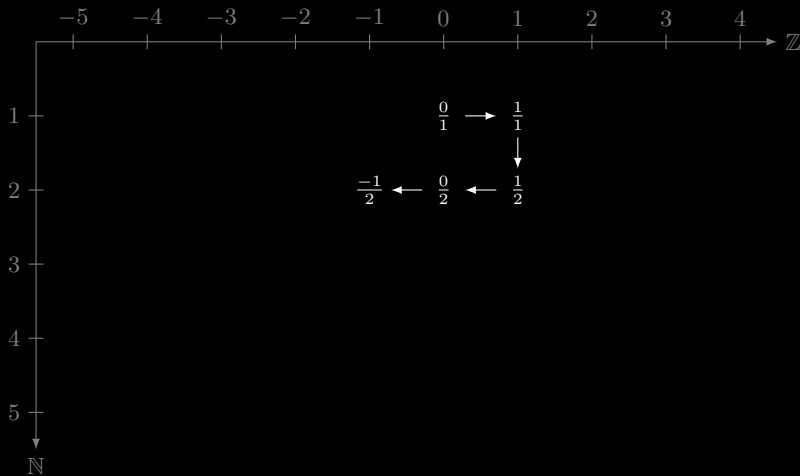
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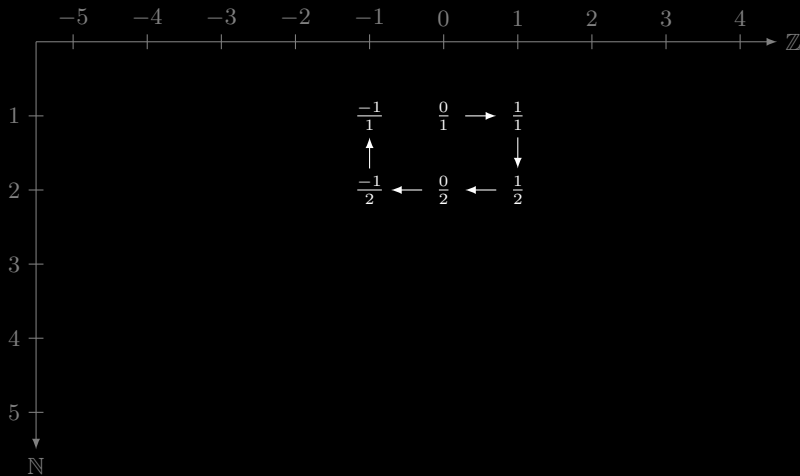
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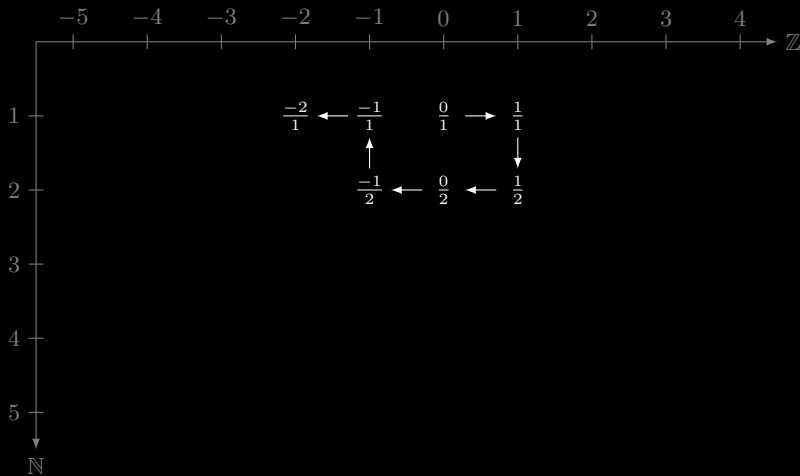
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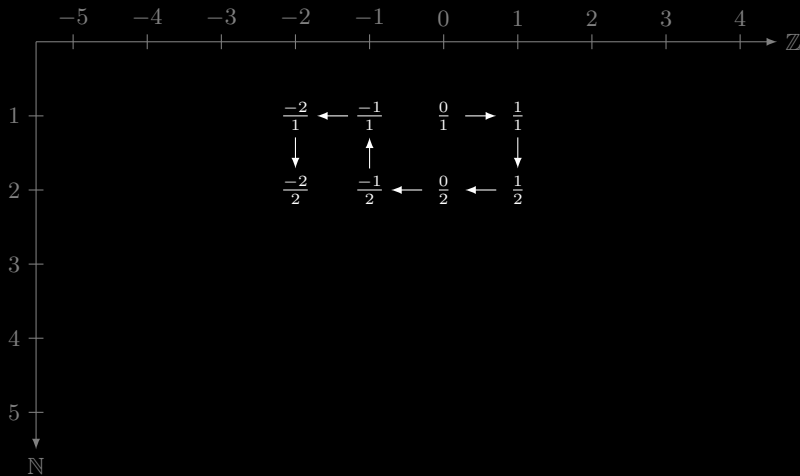
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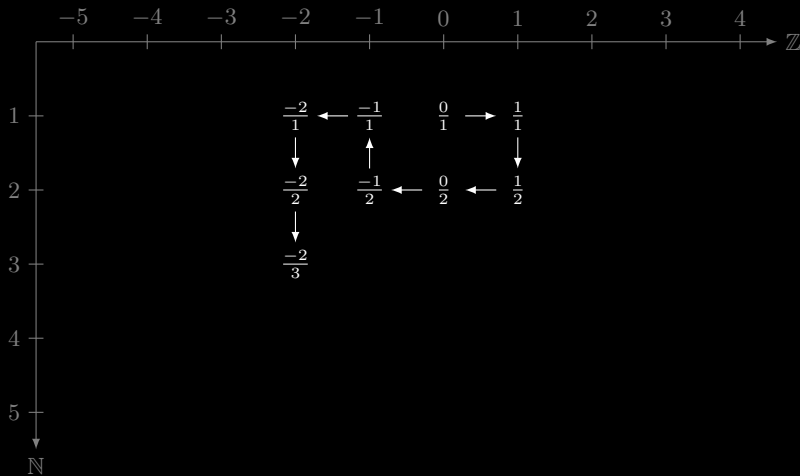
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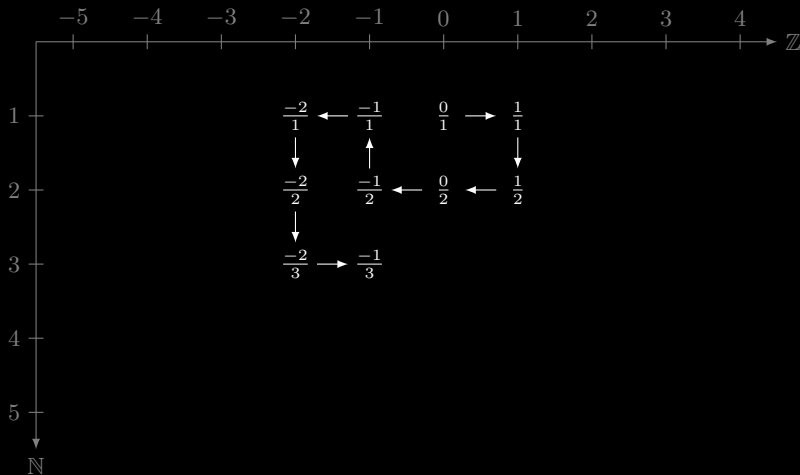
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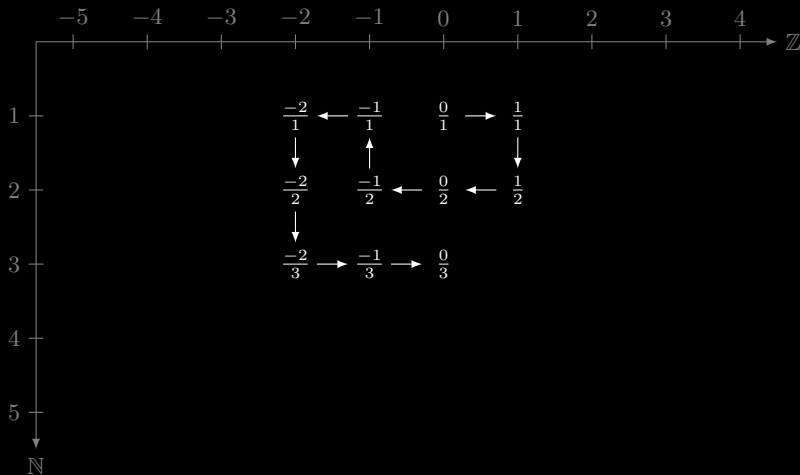


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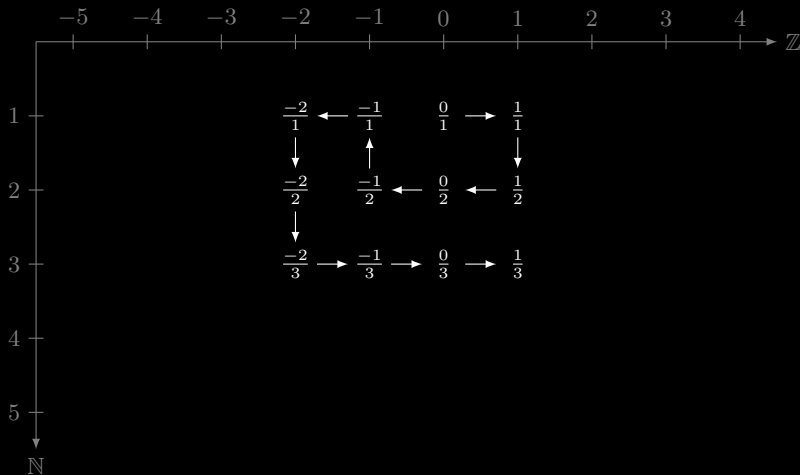
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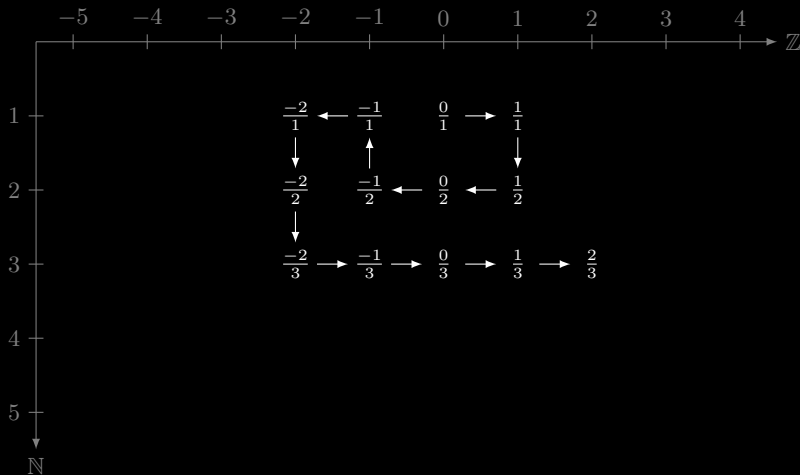
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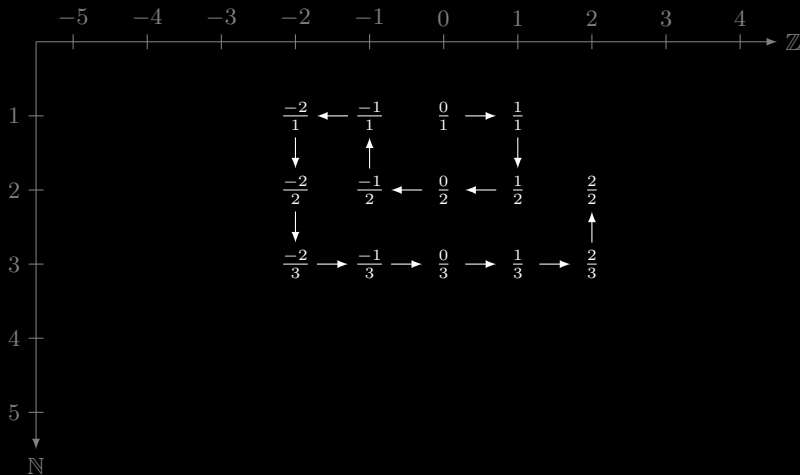
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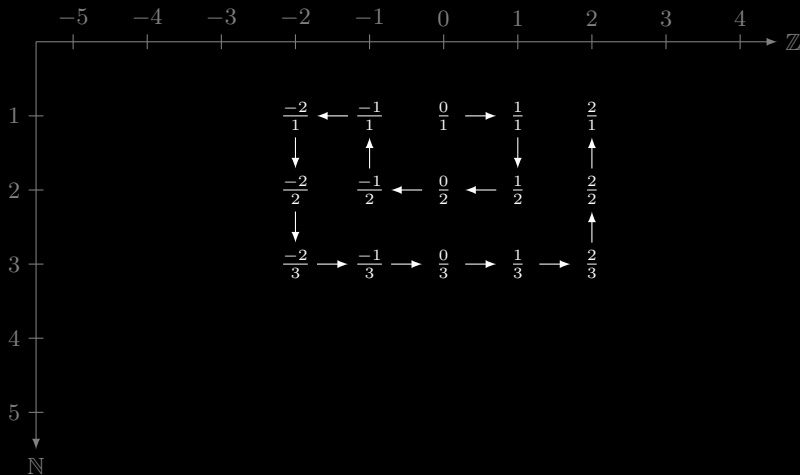
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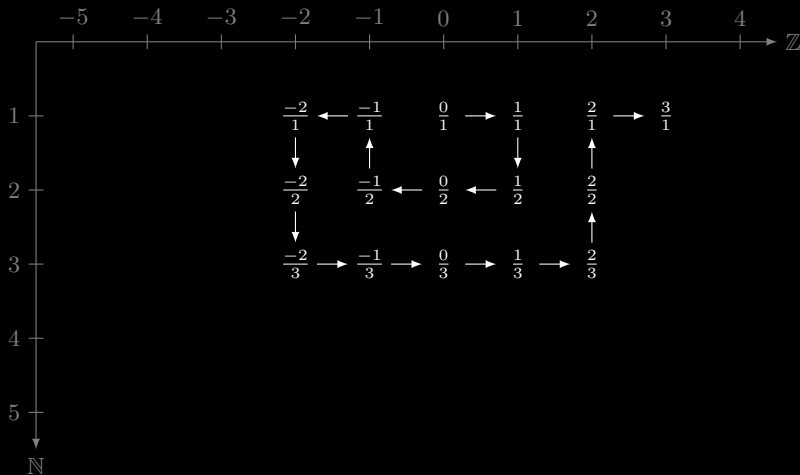
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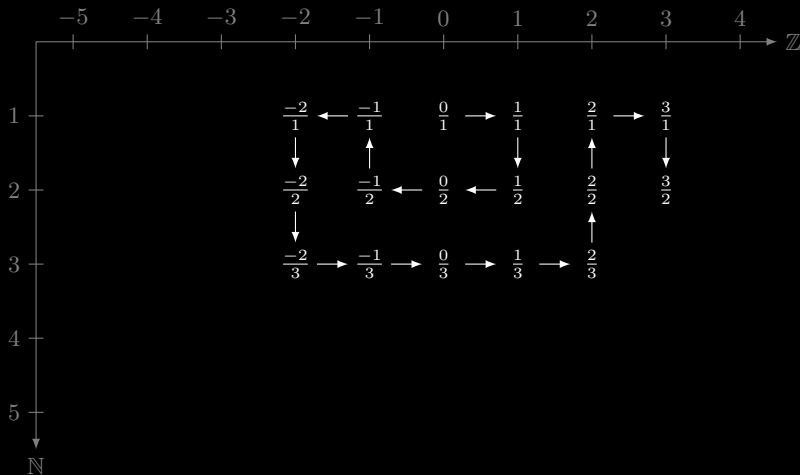
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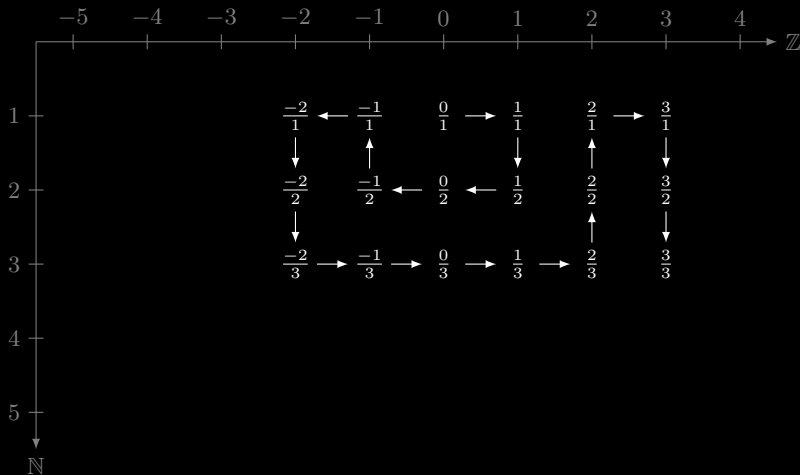
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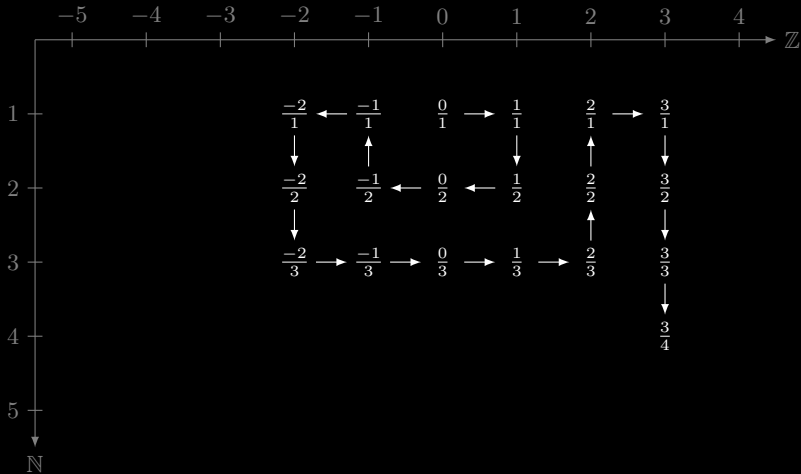


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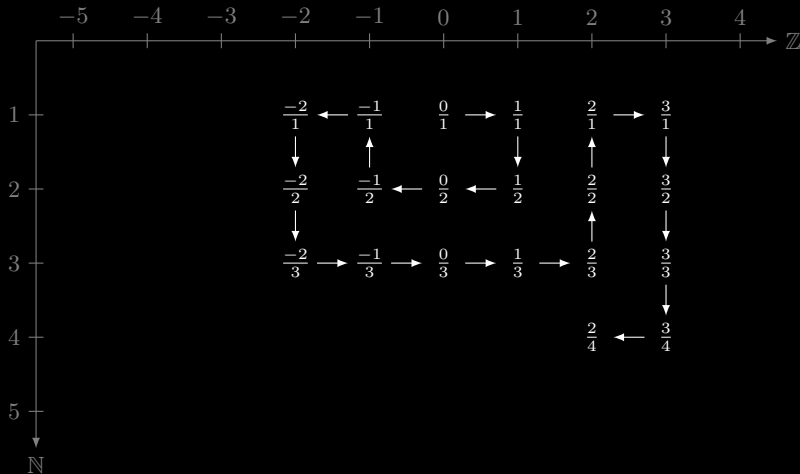
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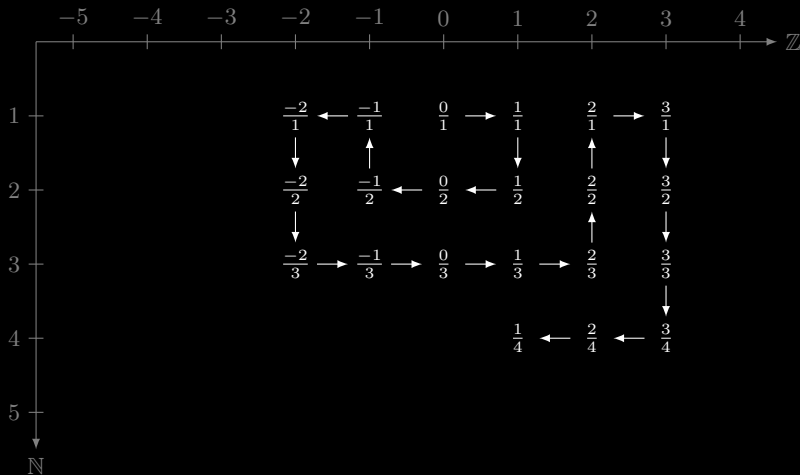
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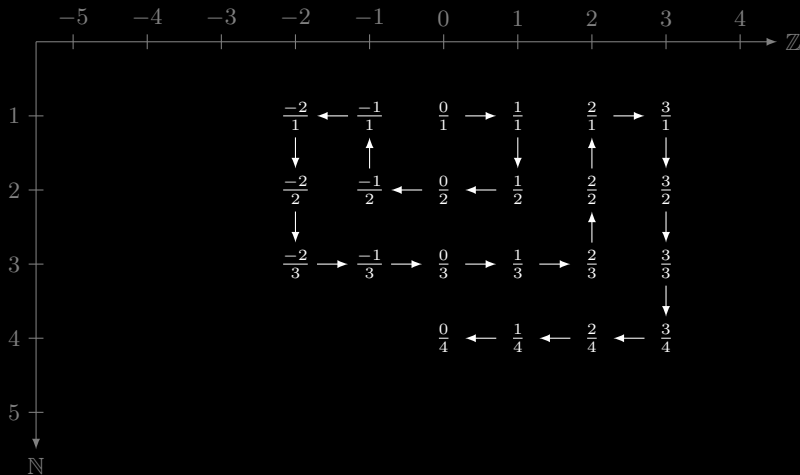
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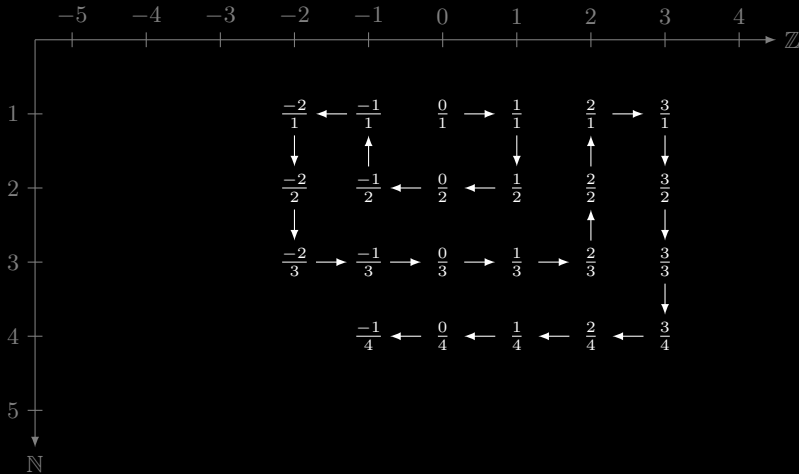
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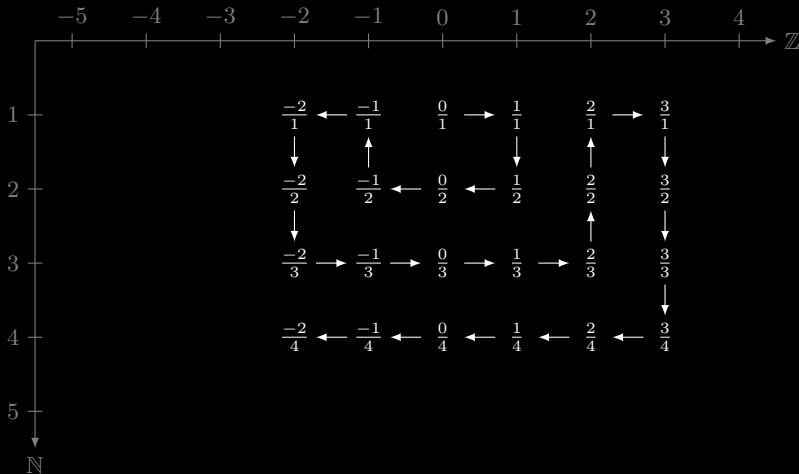
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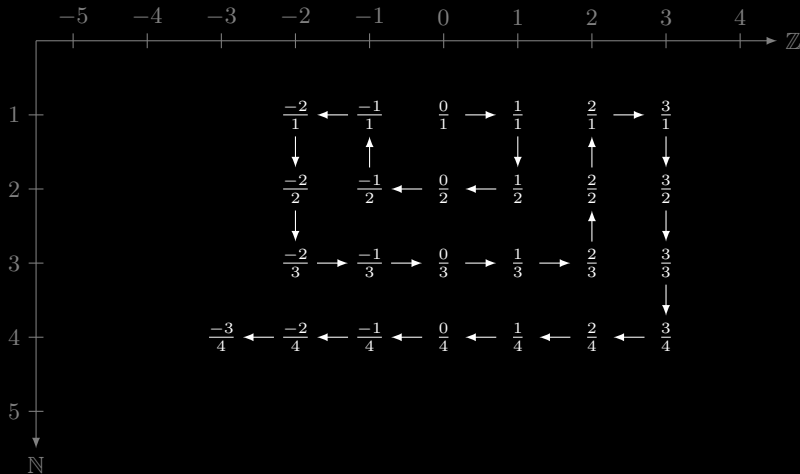
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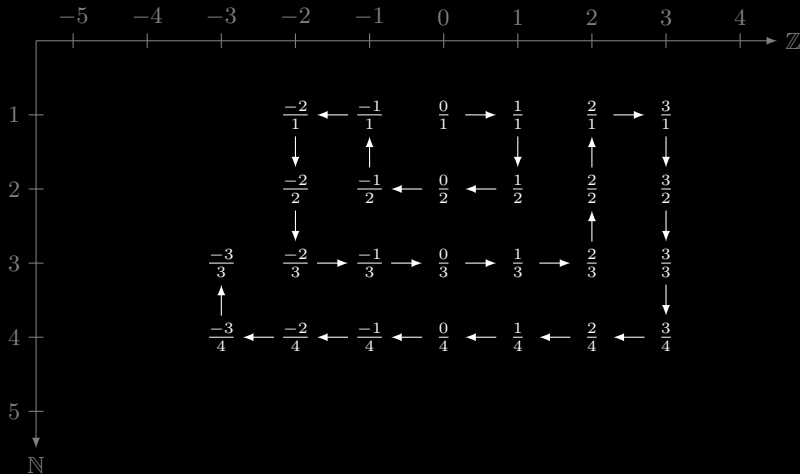
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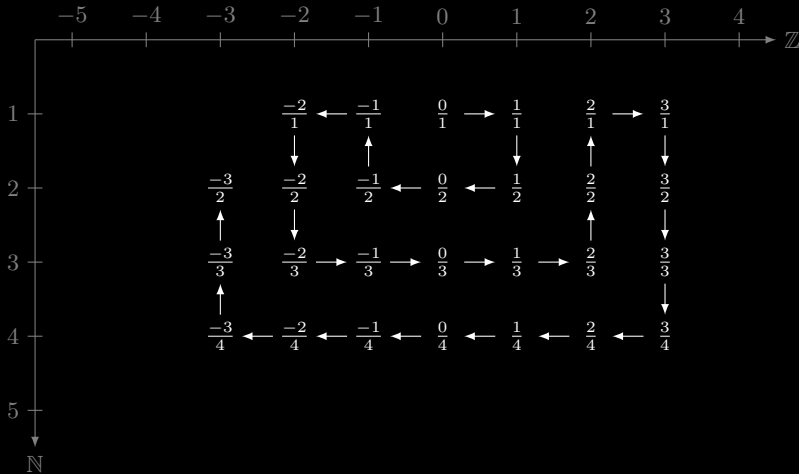


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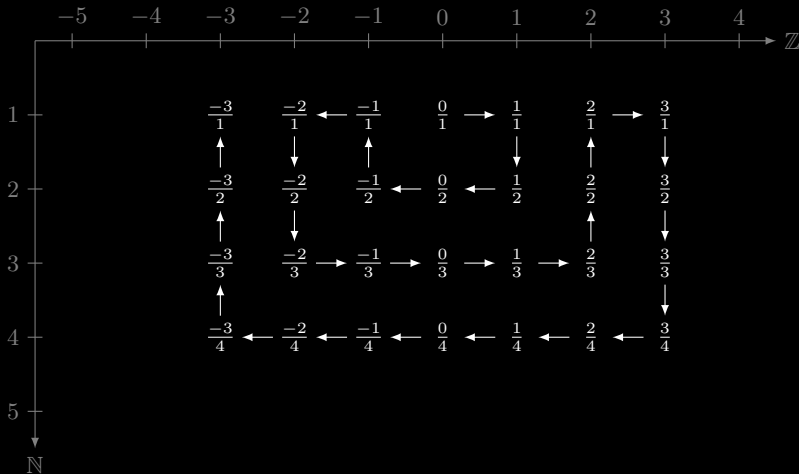
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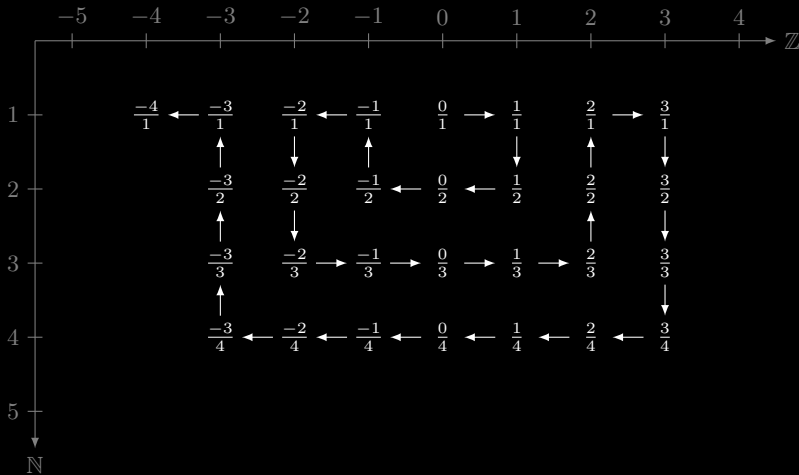
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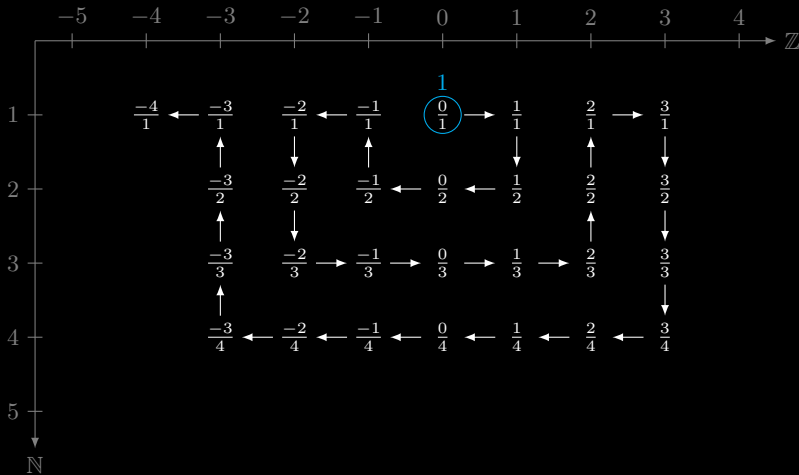
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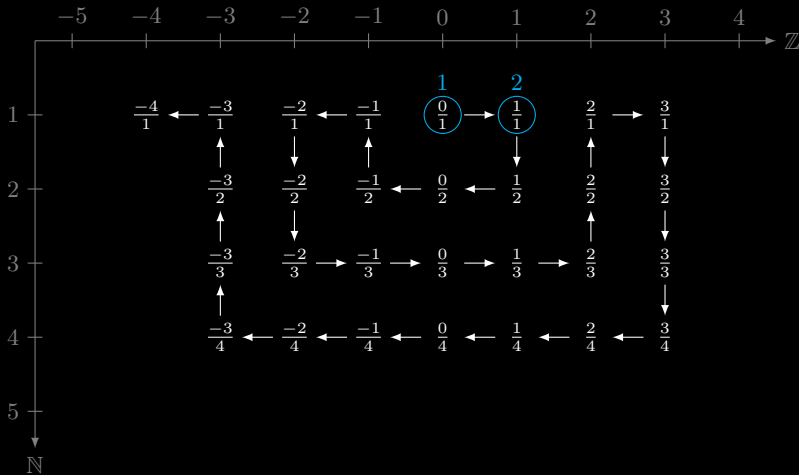
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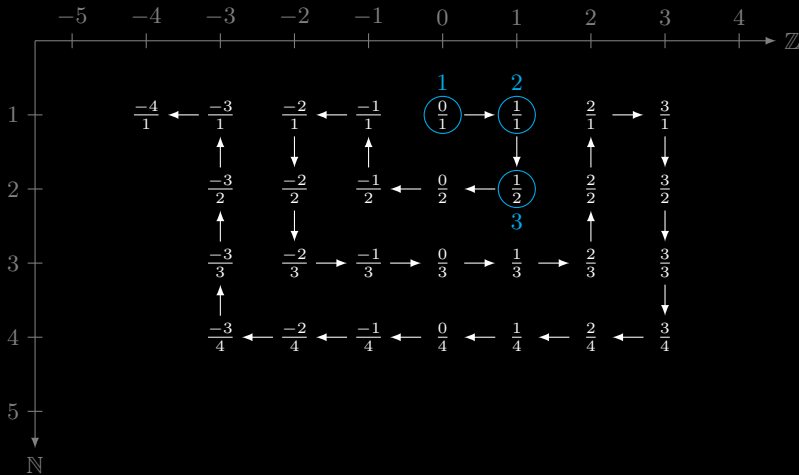


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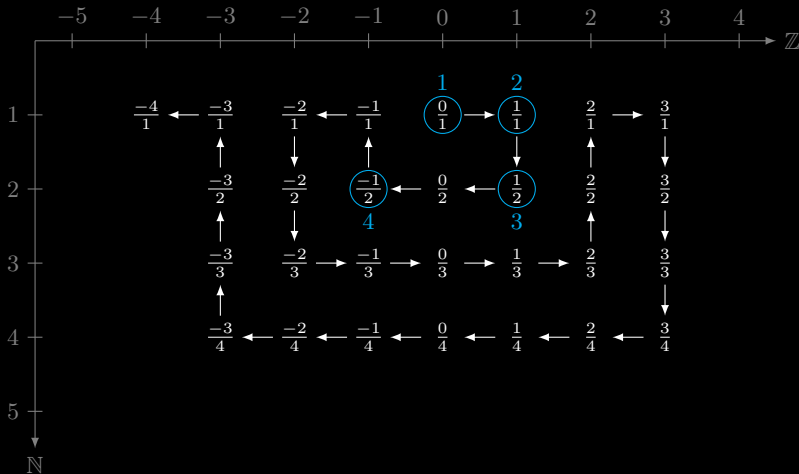


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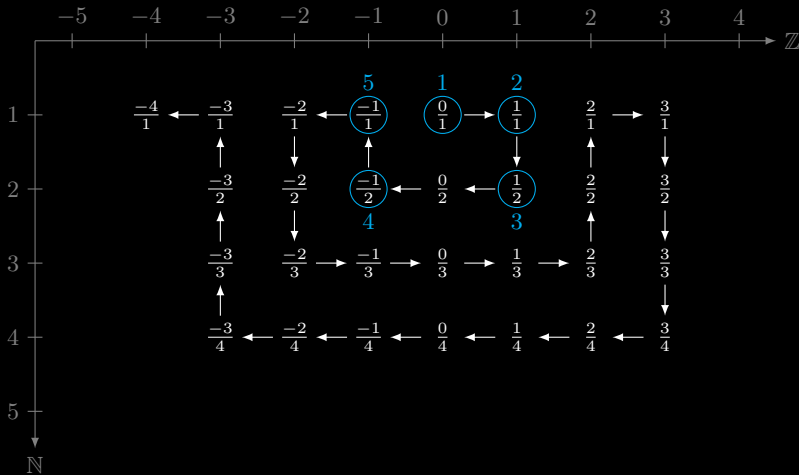
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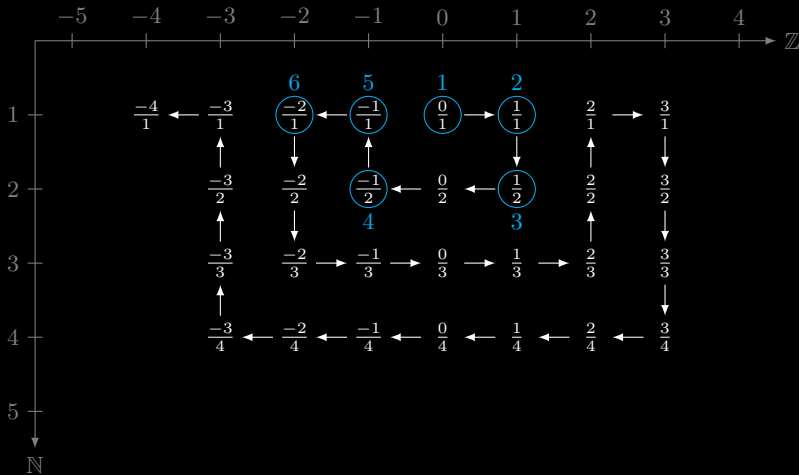
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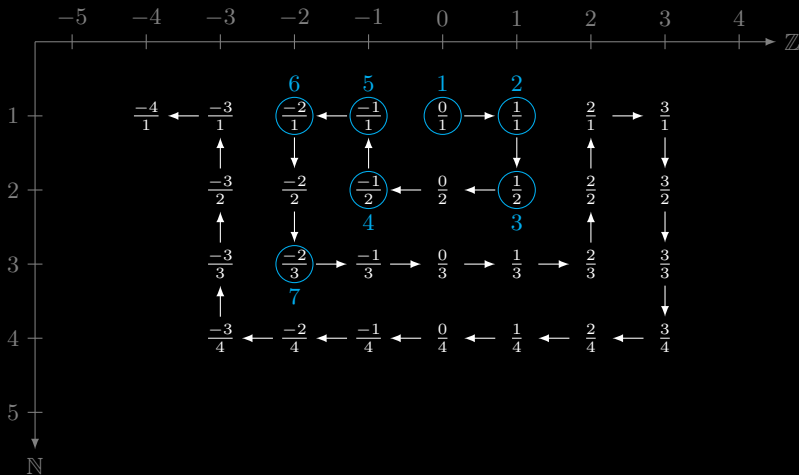


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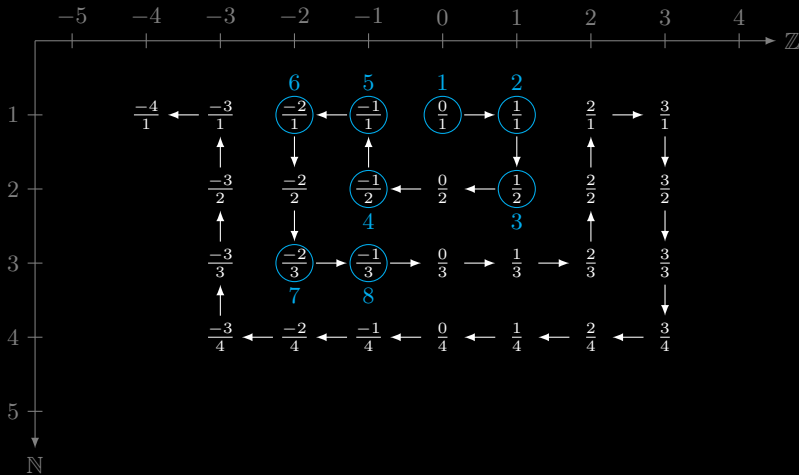


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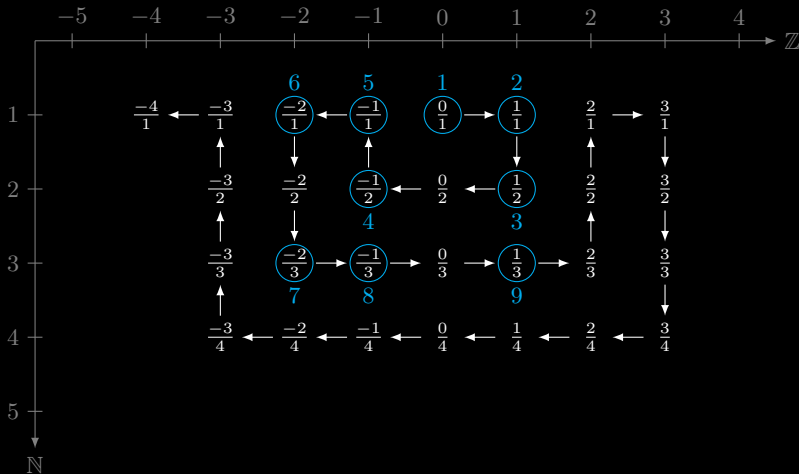


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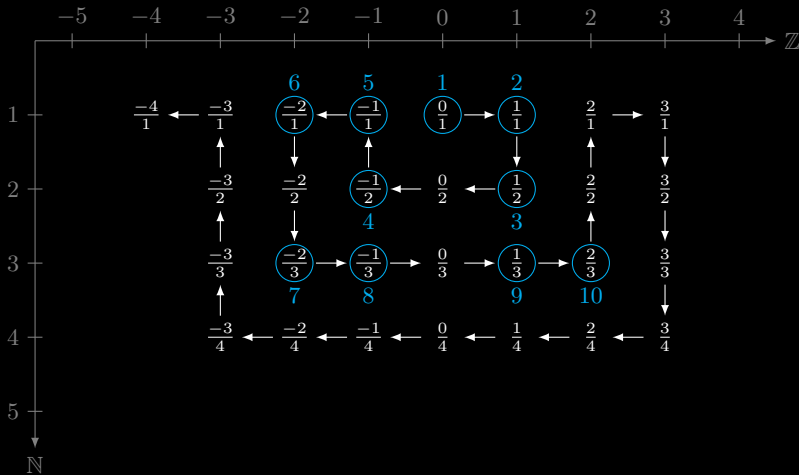


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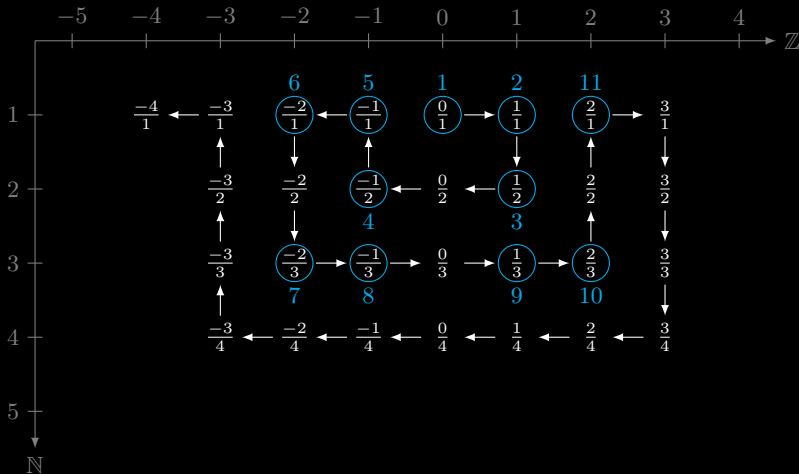


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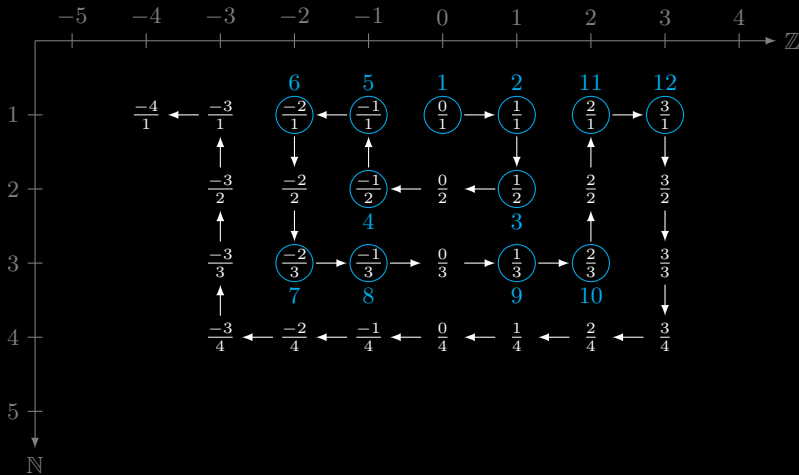


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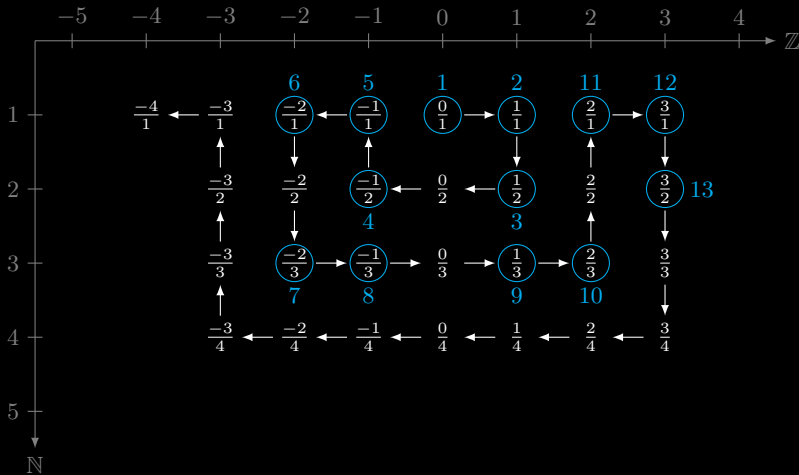


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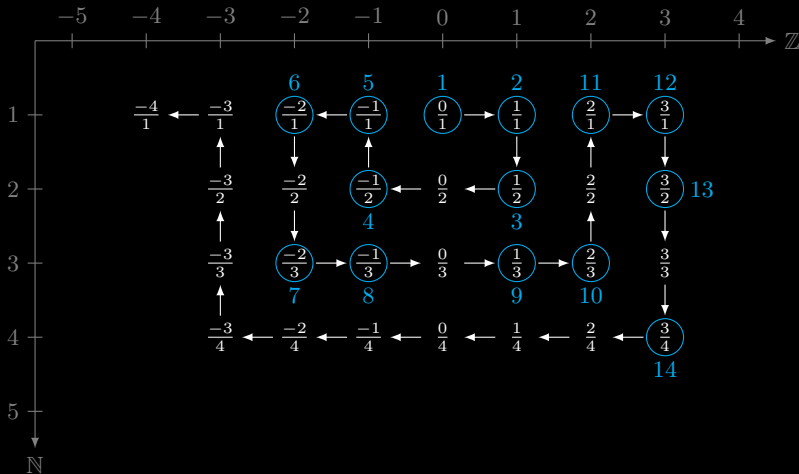




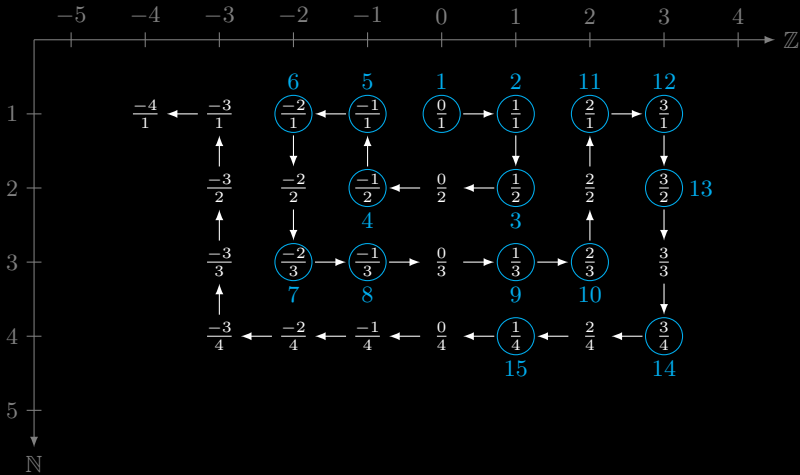
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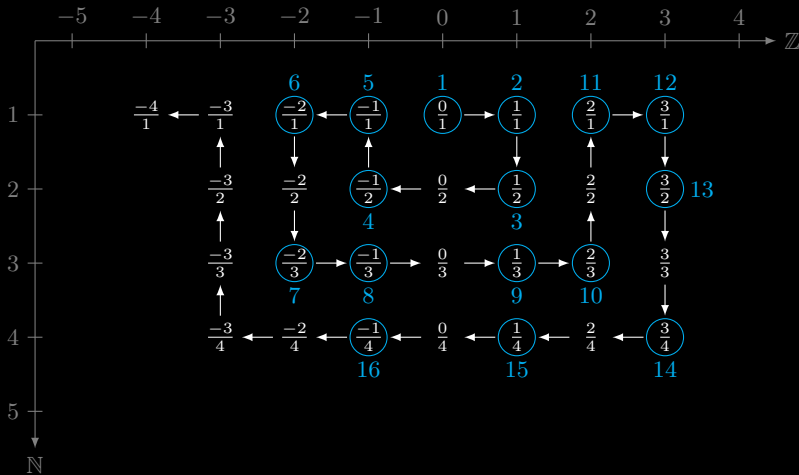
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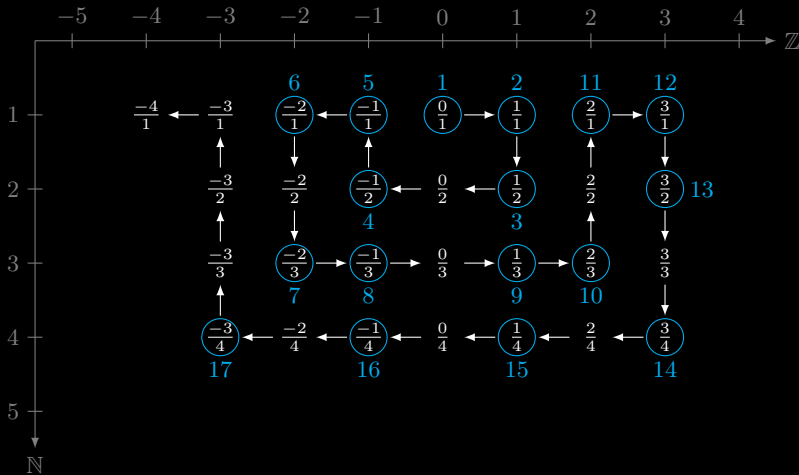
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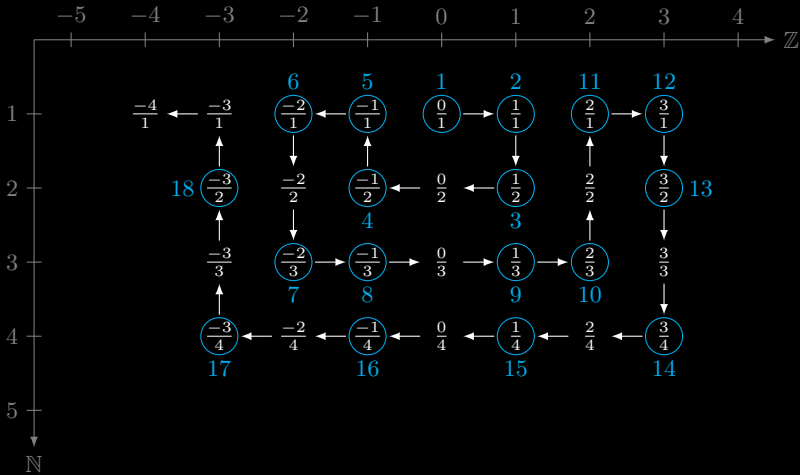
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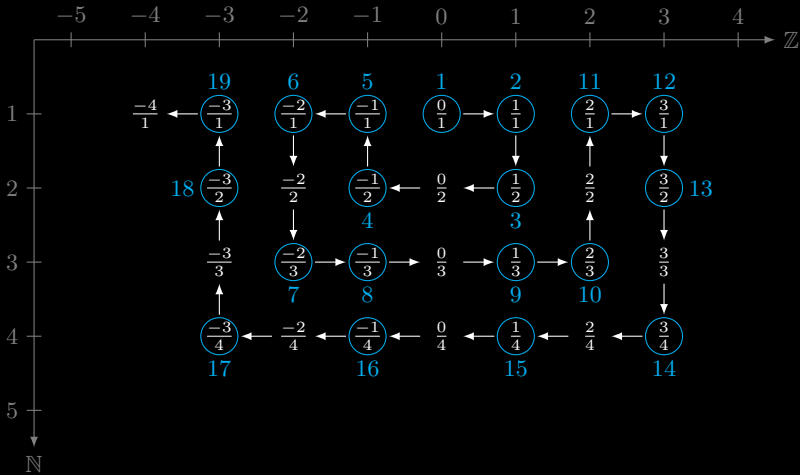
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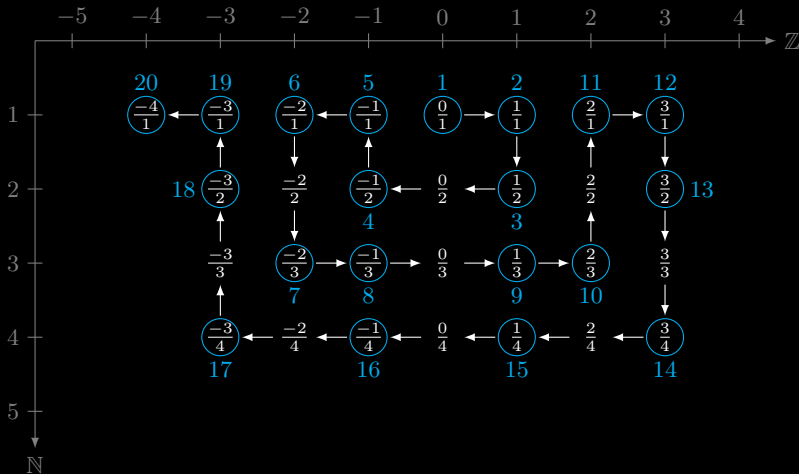
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1.  $f : \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  is onto (surjective) but not one-to-one (injective).

Hence,  $f(\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}) \supset \mathbb{Q}$ . (Figure above)

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3.  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$  is countable. (Thm. 5)

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HW Prove Thm's 1-5, which are Propositions 1.7 – 1.11 of the book.