

Theorem (2.4.43). *The set of all finite bit strings is countable.*

Proof. Let $\{a_{n-1}\}$ be the sequence of bits for any finite bit string $a(\text{base-2})$ of length n . The unique base-2 expansion for $\{a_{n-1}\}$ is the integer

$$a(\text{base-10}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i 2^i$$

Also, this integer can be converted to the unique base-2 bit string for $a(\text{base-10})$ by

$$a(\text{base-2}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} [a(\text{base-10})(\text{mod } 2^{i+1})] 10^i$$

Since an invertible function exists between each finite bit string and some positive integer, there exists, a one-to-one correspondence between \mathbb{Z} and the set of all finite bit strings. Thus, the cardinality for the set of all finite bit strings is \aleph_0 , and the set of all finite bit strings is countable, by definition. ■