

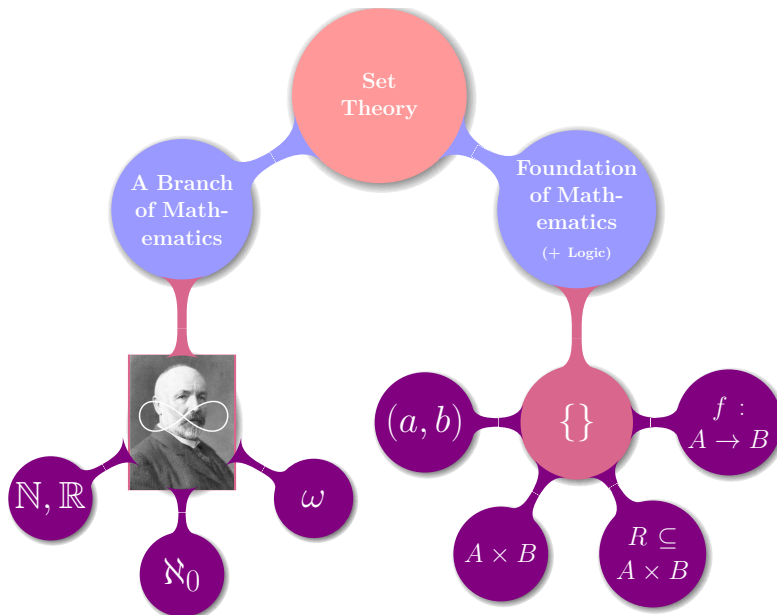
# (八) 集合: 无穷 (Infinity)

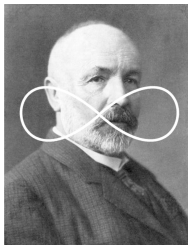
魏恒峰

hfwei@nju.edu.cn

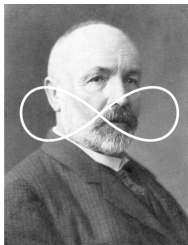
2021 年 04 月 29 日







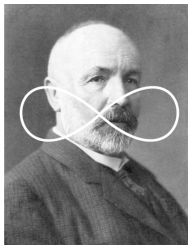
Georg Cantor (1845 – 1918)



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(1823 – 1891)



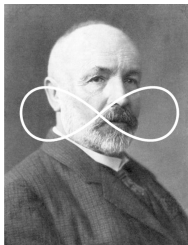
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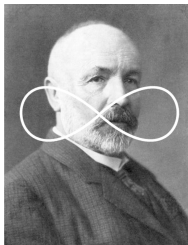
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David Hilbert (1862 – 1943)



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*From his paradise that Cantor with us unfolded, we hold our  
breath in awe; knowing, we shall not be expelled.*

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“没有人能把我们从 Cantor 创造的乐园中驱逐出去”



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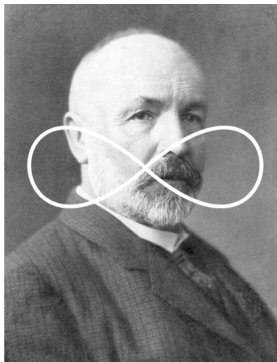
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*“The essence of mathematics lies in its freedom”*

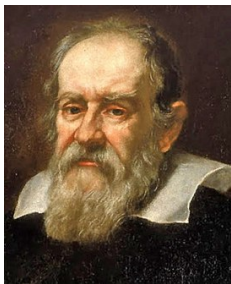
## Before Cantor







公理：“整体大于部分”

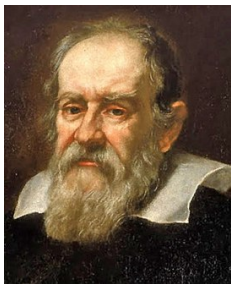


Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642)



“关于两门新科学的对话” (1638)





Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642)

“关于两门新科学的对话” (1638)

“用我们有限的心智来讨论无限...”

$$S_1 = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$$

$$S_2 = \{1, 4, 9, \dots, n^2, \dots\}$$

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“部分等于全体”

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吓得我吃了一鲸

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说到底，“等于”、“大于”和“小于”诸性质不能用于无限，而只能用于有限的数量。  
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无穷数是不可能的。  
— Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

这些证明一开始就期望那些数要具有有穷数的一切性质，或者甚至于把有穷数的性质强加于无穷。



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相反，这些无穷数，如果它们能够以任何形式被理解的话，倒是由于它们与有穷数的对应，它们必须具有完全新的数量特征。

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这些性质完全依赖于事物的本性，… 而并非来自我们的主观任意性或我们的偏见。

— Georg Cantor (1885)

## Definition (Dedekind-infinite & Dedekind-finite (Dedekind, 1888))

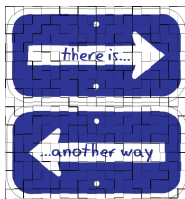
A set  $A$  is *Dedekind-infinite* if there is a bijective function from  $A$  to some **proper** subset  $B$  of  $A$ .

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This is a **theorem** in our theory of infinity.



We have not defined “finite” and “infinite”!

# Comparing Sets

## Comparing Sets



## Comparing Sets



## Function





Definition ( $|A| = |B|$  ( $A \approx B$ ) (1878))

$A$  and  $B$  are *equipotent* (等势) if there exists a *bijection* from  $A$  to  $B$ .

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Abstract from order:  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  vs.  $\{1, 3, 5, \dots, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$

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Theorem ( )

For any sets  $A, B, C$ :

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Do not care too much.

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集合  $X$  是有穷的当且仅当它与某个自然数等势。

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$\mathbb{N}$  is infinite. (So are  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}$ .)

*By Contradiction.*

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Uncountable

( $\neg$  countable)

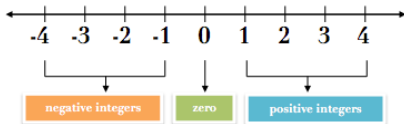
(infinite)  $\wedge$  ( $\neg$  (countably infinite))



$\aleph_0$

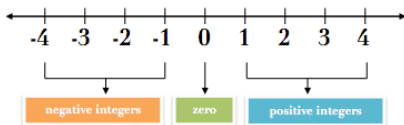
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$$|\mathbb{Z}| = |\mathbb{N}|$$



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0   1   -1   2   -2   ...

Theorem ( $\mathbb{Q}$  is Countable. (Cantor 1873-11; Published in 1874))

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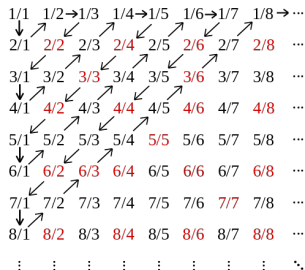
$$q \in \mathbb{Q}^+ : a/b \ (a, b \in \mathbb{N}^+)$$

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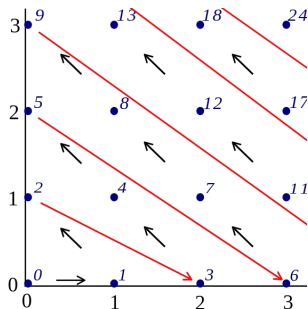
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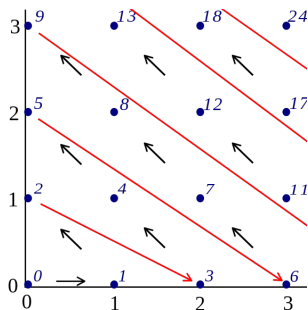
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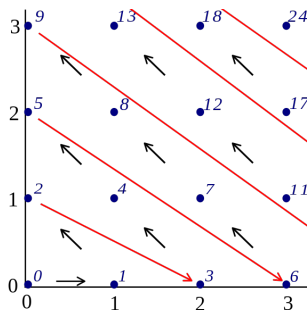


$$\pi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$



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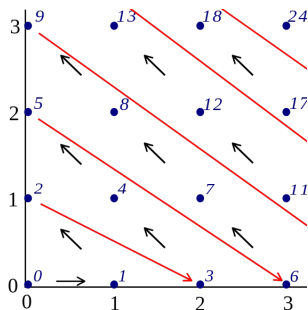
$$\pi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$\pi(k_1, k_2) = \frac{1}{2}(k_1 + k_2)(k_1 + k_2 + 1) + k_2$$

$$\pi(2, 1) = 7$$

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Cantor Pairing Function

Theorem ( $\mathbb{N}^n$  is Countable.)

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*The Cartesian product of **finitely many** countable sets is countable.*

$\mathbb{N}^n$  vs.  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$

$$\pi^{(n)} : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

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$$\pi^{(n)}(k_1, \dots, k_{n-1}, k_n) = \pi(\pi^{(n-1)}(k_1, \dots, k_{n-1}), k_n) \quad (n \geq 3)$$



## Theorem

*Any **finite** union of countable sets is countable.*

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$$A = \{a_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} \quad B = \{b_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} \quad C = \{c_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

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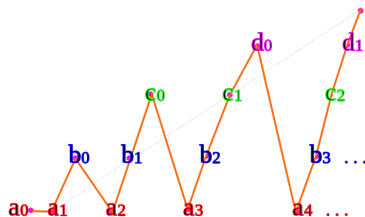
$$a_0 \quad b_0 \quad c_0 \quad a_1 \quad b_1 \quad c_1 \cdots$$

## Theorem

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Counting by Diagonals

# Beyond

$\aleph_0$

Theorem ( $\mathbb{R}$  is Uncountable. (Cantor 1873-12; Published in 1874))

$$|\mathbb{R}| \neq |\mathbb{N}|$$

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**VERY  
IMPORTANT**



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Different “Sizes” of Infinity

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Different “Sizes” of Infinity

Cantor’s Diagonal Argument (1890)

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$$|\mathbb{R}| \neq |\mathbb{N}|$$

By Contradiction.

$$f : \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} \mathbb{N}$$

3.14159...  
1.41421...  
1.73205...  
2.23606...  
2.71828...  
0.14285...



3.43625...



2.32514...

$$\mathfrak{c} \triangleq |\mathbb{R}|$$

$$\mathfrak{c} \triangleq |\mathbb{R}|$$

$\mathbb{R}$  是一个连续统 (Continuum)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuum\\_\(set\\_theory\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuum_(set_theory))



Theorem ( $|\mathbb{R}|$  (Cantor 1877))

$$|(0, 1)| = |\mathbb{R}| = |\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}| = |\mathbb{R}^{n \in \mathbb{N}}|$$

Theorem ( $|\mathbb{R}|$  (Cantor 1877))

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$$|(0, 1)| = |(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})| = |\mathbb{R}|$$

$$\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \approx \mathbb{R}$$

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Was Cantor Surprised?

Theorem ( $|\mathbb{R}|$  (Cantor 1877))

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Theorem (Brouwer (Topological Invariance of Dimension))

*There is no **continuous** bijections between  $\mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for  $m \neq n$ .*

# Beyond



Theorem (Cantor's Theorem (1891))

$$|A| \neq |\mathcal{P}(A)|$$

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Theorem (Cantor Theorem)

*If  $f : A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$ , then  $f$  is not onto.*

## Theorem (Cantor Theorem)

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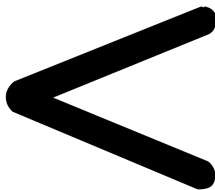
$$A \quad \mathcal{P}(A) \quad \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A)) \quad \dots$$

## Theorem (Cantor Theorem)

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There is no largest infinity.





Definition ( $|A| \leq |B|$ )

$|A| \leq |B|$  if there exists an *one-to-one* function  $f$  from  $A$  into  $B$ .

Definition ( $|A| < |B|$ )

$$|A| < |B| \iff |A| \leq |B| \wedge |A| \neq |B|$$

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$$|\mathbb{N}| < |\mathbb{R}|$$

$$|X| < |2^X|$$

$$|\mathbb{N}| < |2^{\mathbb{N}}|$$

## Definition (Countable Revisited)

$X$  is countable:

$$(\exists n \in \mathbb{N} : |X| = n) \vee |X| = |\mathbb{N}|$$

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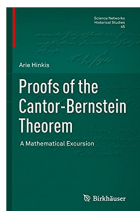
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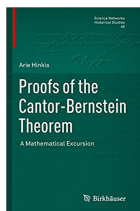


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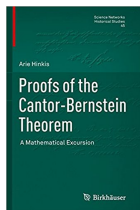


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Schröder-Bernstein  
theorem @ wiki

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Theorem (PCC)

*Principle of Cardinal Comparability (PCC)  $\iff$  Axiom of Choice*

## Theorem

$$|\mathbb{R}| = |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| = |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})|$$

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinality\\_of\\_the\\_continuum#  
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$$\mathfrak{c} \triangleq |\mathbb{R}| = |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| = |2^{\mathbb{N}}| \triangleq 2^{\aleph_0}$$



## Theorem

$$|\mathbb{R}| = |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| = |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q})|$$

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## Continuum Hypothesis (CH)

$$\nexists A : \aleph_0 < |A| < \mathfrak{c}$$



👉 Dangerous Knowledge (22:20; BBC 2007)



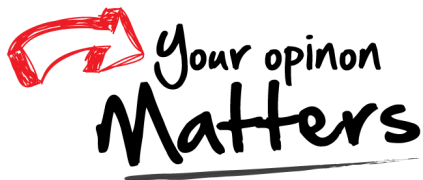
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Independence from ZFC:

Kurt Gödel (1940) CH cannot be disproved from ZF.

Paul Cohen (1964) CH cannot be proven from the ZFC axioms.

Thank  
You!



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