

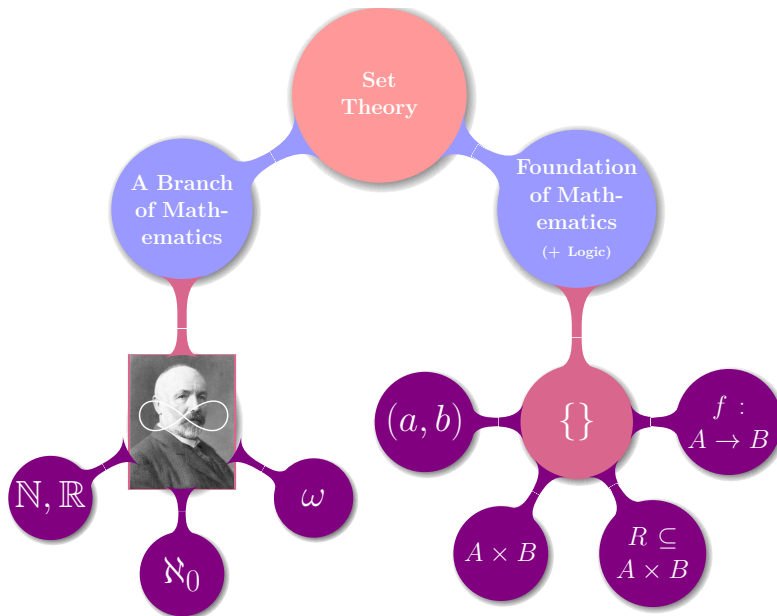
# 1-11 Set Theory (IV): Infinity

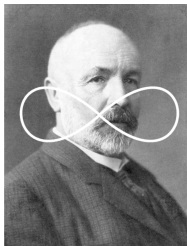
魏恒峰

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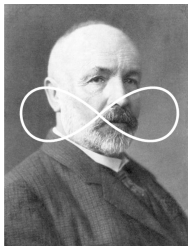
2019 年 12 月 17 日







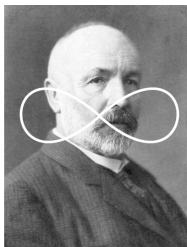
Georg Cantor (1845 – 1918)



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Leopold Kronecker  
(1823 – 1891)



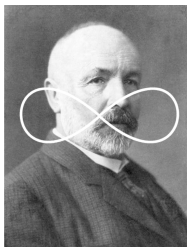
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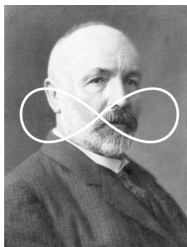
Leopold Kronecker  
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*From his paradise that Cantor with us unfolded, we hold our  
breath in awe; knowing, we shall not be expelled.*

— *David Hilbert*

“没有人能把我们从 Cantor 创造的乐园中驱逐出去”



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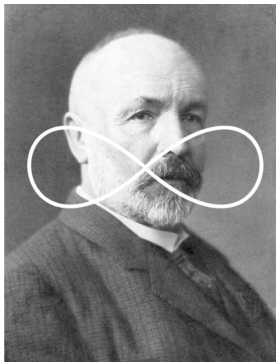
*“das wesen der mathematik liegt in ihrer freiheit”*



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

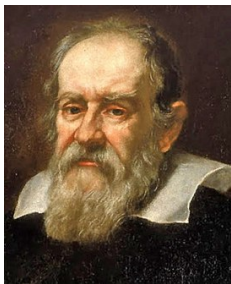
## Before Cantor







公理: “整体大于部分”

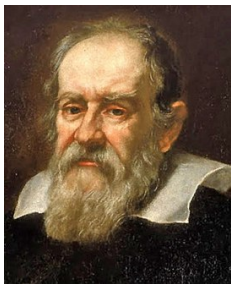


Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642)



“关于两门新科学的对话” (1638)





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“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。

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。

这些性质完全依赖于事物的本性， $\cdots$  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))

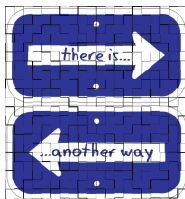
A set  $A$  is *Dedekind-infinite* if there is a bijective function from  $A$  onto some proper subset  $B$  of  $A$ .

A set is *Dedekind-finite* if it is not Dedekind-infinite.

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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))

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

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$Q$  : Is “ $\approx$ ” an equivalence relation?

Theorem ( )

For any sets  $A, B, C$ :

- (a)  $A \approx B$
- (b)  $A \approx B \implies B \approx A$
- (c)  $A \approx B \wedge B \approx C \implies A \approx C$

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Theorem (The “Equivalence Concept” of Equipotent)

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## Definition (Finite)

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## Theorem (UD Theorem 22.6)

*Let  $A$  be a finite set. There is a **unique**  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $A \approx \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ .*

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By the Pigeonhole Principle :  $g$  is not 1-1



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

*By Contradiction.*

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By the Pigeonhole Principle :  $g$  is not 1-1  $\implies f$  is not 1-1

## Definition (Infinite)

For any set  $X$ ,

Countably Infinite

$$|X| = |\mathbb{N}| \triangleq \aleph_0$$

Countable

(finite  $\vee$  countably infinite)

Uncountable

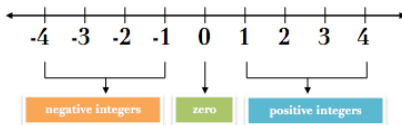
( $\neg$  countable)

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

$\aleph_0$

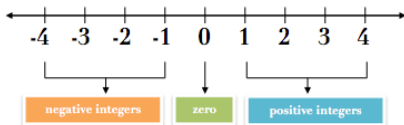
Theorem ( $\mathbb{Z}$  is Countable.)

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0   1   -1   2   -2   ...

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$|\mathbb{Q}| = |\mathbb{N}|$  (UD Problem 23.12)

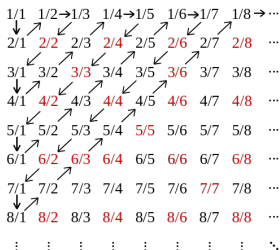
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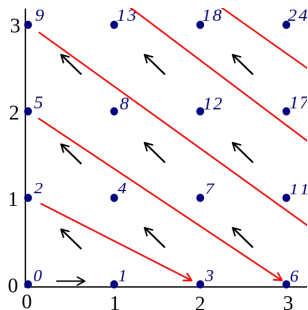
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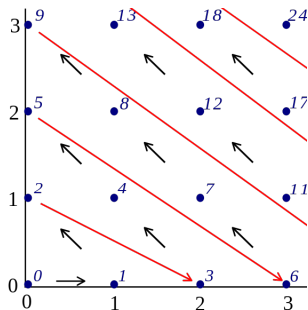
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$$|\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}| = |\mathbb{N}|$$



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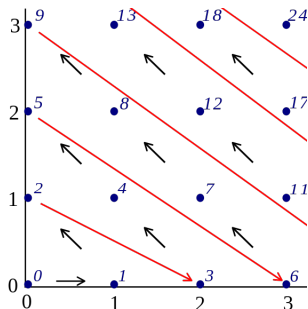
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$$\pi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

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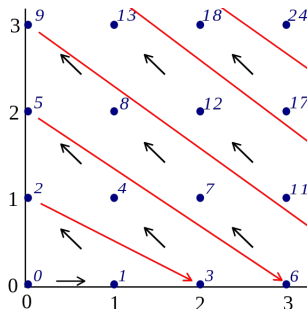


$$\pi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

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

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Cantor Pairing Function

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

$$|\mathbb{N}^n| = |\mathbb{N}|$$

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Theorem

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

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

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

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

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

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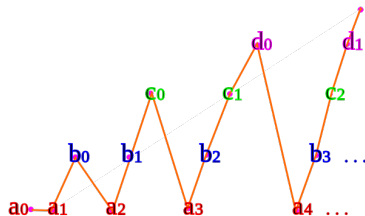
$$a_0 \quad b_0 \quad c_0 \quad a_1 \quad b_1 \quad c_1 \cdots$$

## Theorem

*The union of **countably many** countable sets is countable.*

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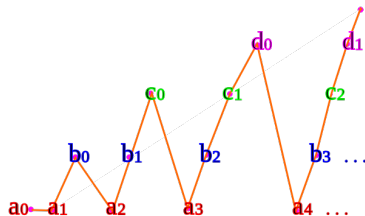
The union of *countably many* countable sets is countable.



Counting by Diagonals.

## Theorem

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Counting by Diagonals.

We need Axiom of (Countable) Choice!

# Beyond

# $\aleph_0$



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

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**VERY  
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Different “Sizes” of Infinity

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

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



Different “Sizes” of Infinity

Cantor’s Diagonal Argument (1890)

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

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



3.43625...



2.32514...



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By Diagonal Argument.

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

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Proof.

$$f(x) = \tan \frac{(2x - 1)\pi}{2}$$

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

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$$(x = 0.a_1a_2a_3 \cdots, y = 0.b_1b_2b_3 \cdots) \mapsto 0.a_1b_1a_2b_2a_3b_3 \cdots$$



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

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

*“Je le vois, mais je ne le crois pas !”*

*“I see it, but I don't believe it !”*

— Cantor's letter to Dedekind (1877).



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— Cantor's letter to Dedekind (1877).

*Q : Then, what is “dimension”?*

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

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

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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



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**Proof.** Let  $A$  be a set and let  $f : A \rightarrow 2^A$ . To show that  $f$  is not onto, we must find a  $B \in 2^A$  (i.e.,  $B \subseteq A$ ) for which there is no  $a \in A$  with  $f(a) = B$ . In other words,  $B$  is a set that  $f$  “misses.” To this end, let

$$B = \{x \in A : x \notin f(x)\}.$$

We claim there is no  $a \in A$  with  $f(a) = B$ .

Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, there is an  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = B$ . We ponder: Is  $a \in B$ ?

- If  $a \in B$ , then, since  $B = f(a)$ , we have  $a \in f(a)$ . So, by definition of  $B$ ,  $a \notin f(a)$ ; that is,  $a \notin B. \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$
- If  $a \notin B = f(a)$ , then, by definition of  $B$ ,  $a \in B. \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

Both  $a \in B$  and  $a \notin B$  lead to contradictions, and hence our supposition [there is an  $a \in A$  with  $f(a) = B$ ] is false, and therefore  $f$  is not onto. ■

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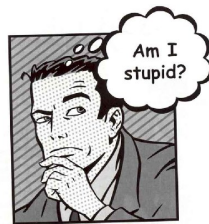
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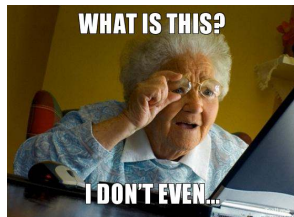
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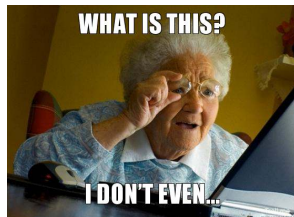
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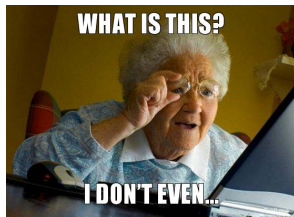
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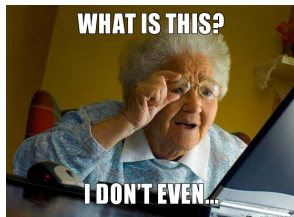
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Diagonal Argument (以下仅适用于可数集合  $A$ ).

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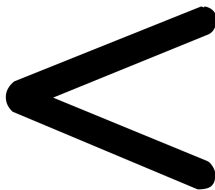
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$$|\mathbb{R}| \leq |\mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{R}| \leq |\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}| = |\mathbb{R}|$$

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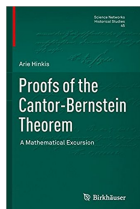
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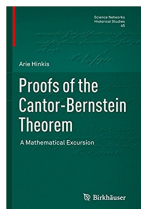


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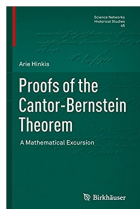


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Schröder-Bernstein  
theorem @ wiki

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### Theorem (PCC)

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

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$$\boxed{\mathfrak{c} = 2^{\aleph_0}}$$



## 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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