

# Honors Single Variable Calculus 110.113

September 12, 2023

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## 1 The natural numbers

*Lecture 1, Monday, August 28th, Last updated: 01/09/23, dmy.*

*Reading: [9, Ch.2-3]*

We assume the notion of *set*, [2](#), and take it as a primitive notion to mean a "collection of distinct objects."

## Learning Objectives

Next eight lectures:

- To construct the objects:

$$\mathbb{N}, \quad \mathbb{Z}, \quad \mathbb{Q}, \quad \mathbb{R}$$

and define the notion of *sets*, [2](#).

- To prove properties and reason with these objects. In the process, you will learn various proof techniques. Most importantly, *proof by induction* and *proof by contradiction*.

This lecture:

- how to define the natural numbers,  $\mathbb{N}$ , and appreciate the role of *definitions*.
- how to apply induction. In particular, we would see that even proving statements as associativity of natural numbers is nontrivial!

## Pedagogy

1.  $\mathbb{N}$  is presented differently in distinct foundations, such as ZFC or type theory. Our presentation is to be *agnostic* of the foundation. From a working mathematician point of view, it *does not matter*, how the natural numbers are constructed, as long as they obey the properties of the axioms, [1.1](#).
2. We take the point of view that in mathematics, there are various type of objects. Among all objects studied, some happened to be *sets*. Some presentation of mathematics<sup>a</sup> will regard all objects as sets.

The various types of mathematics are more or less equivalent in our context.

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<sup>a</sup>such as ZFC

Why should we delve into the foundations? Two reasons:

1. Foundational language is how many mathematicians do new mathematics. One defines new axioms and explores the possibilities.

2. How can we even discuss mathematics without having a rigorous understanding of our objects?

### Discussion

A *natural (counting) number*<sup>a</sup>, as we conceived informally is an element of

$$\mathbb{N} := \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

What is ambiguous about this?

- What does " $\dots$ " mean? How are we sure that the list does not cycle back?
- How does one perform operations?
- What *exactly* is a natural number? What happens if I say

$$\{0, A, AA, AAA, AAAA, \dots\}$$

are the numbers?

We will answer these questions over the course.

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<sup>a</sup>It does not matter if we regard 0 as a natural number or not. This is a convention.

Forget about the natural numbers we love and know. If one were to define the *numbers*, one might conclude that the numbers are about a concept.

**Axioms 1.1.** The *Peano Axioms*: <sup>1</sup> Guiseppe Peano, 1858-1932.

1. 0 is a natural number.

$$0 \in \mathbb{N}$$

2. if  $n$  is a natural number then we have a natural number, called the *successor of  $n$* , denoted  $S(n)$ .

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, S(n) \in \mathbb{N}$$

3. 0 is not the successor of any natural number.

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, S(n) \neq 0$$

4. If  $S(n) = S(m)$  then  $n = m$ .

$$\forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}, S(n) = S(m) \Rightarrow n = m$$

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<sup>1</sup>In 1900, Peano met Russell in the mathematical congress. The methods laid the foundation of *Principia Mathematica*

5. Principle of induction. Let  $P(n)$  be any *property* on the natural number  $n$ . Suppose that

- a.  $P(0)$  is true.
- b. When ever  $P(n)$  is true, so is  $P(S(n))$ .

Then  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n$  natural numbers.

**Discussion**

What could be meant by a *property*? The principle of induction is in fact an *axiom schema*, consisting of a collection of axioms.

- " $n$  is a prime".
- " $n^2 + 1 = 3$ ".

We have not yet shown that any collection of object would satisfy the axioms. This will be a topic of later lectures. So we will assume this for know.

**Axiom 1.2.** There exists a set  $\mathbb{N}$ , whose elements are the *natural numbers*, for which 1.1 are satisfied.

There can be many such systems, but they are all equivalent for doing mathematics.

**Discussion**

With only up to axiom 4: This can be *not* so satisfying. What have we done? We said we have a collection of objects that satisfy some concept  $F = \text{"natural numbers"}$ . But how do we know, Julius Ceasar does not belong to this concept?

**Definition 1.3.** We define the following natural numbers:

$$1 := S(0), 2 := S(1) = S(S(0)), 3 := S(2) = S(S(S(0)))$$

$$4 := S(3), 5 := S(4)$$

Intuitively, we want to continue the above process and say that whatever created iteratively by the above process are the *natural numbers*.

### Discussion

- Give a set that satisfies axioms 1 and 2 but not 3.
- Give a set that satisfies axioms 1,2 and 3 but not 4.
- Give a set satisfying axioms 1,2,3 and 4, but not 5.

$$\{n/2 : n \in \mathbb{N}\} = \{0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, \dots\}$$

**Proposition 1.4.** 1 is not 0.

*Proof.* Use axiom 3. □

**Proposition 1.5.** 3 is not equal to 0.

*Proof.*  $3 = S(2)$  by definition, 1.3. If  $S(2) = 0$ , then we have a contradiction with Axiom 2, 1.1. □

## 1.1 Addition

**Definition 1.6.** (Left) Addition. Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$$0 + m := m$$

Suppose, by induction, we have defined  $n + m$ . Then we define

$$S(n) + m := S(n + m)$$

In the context of 1.13, for each  $n$ , our function is  $f_n := S : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is  $a_{S(n)} := S(a_n)$  with  $a_0 = m$ .

**Proposition 1.7.** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n + 0 = n$ .

*Proof.* Warning: we cannot use the definition 1.6. We will use the principle of induction. What is the *property* here in Axiom 5 of 1.1? The property  $P(n)$  is " $0 + n = n$ " for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We will also have to check the two conditions 5a. and 5b.

- " $P(0)$  is true.". People refer to this as the "base case  $n = 0$ ":  $0 + 0 = 0$ , by 1.6.
- "If  $P(m)$  is true then  $P(m + 1)$  is true". The statement "*Suppose  $P(m)$  is true*" is often called the "inductive hypothesis". Suppose that  $m + 0 = m$ . We need to show that  $P(S(m))$  is true, which is

$$S(m) + 0 = S(m)$$

By def, 1.6,

$$S(m) + 0 = S(m + 0)$$

By hypothesis,

$$S(m + 0) = S(m)$$

By the principle of induction,  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . □

Such proof format is the typical example for writing inductions, although in practice we will often leave out the italicized part.

### Example

Prove by induction

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 := 1^2 + \cdots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

We observed that we have successfully shown *right* addition with respect to 0 behaves as expected.

### Discussion

What should we expect  $n + S(m)$  to be?

- Why can't we use 1.6?
- Where would we use 1.7?

Proof is hw.

**Proposition 1.8.** Prove that for  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n + S(m) = S(n + m)$ .

*Proof.* We induct on  $n$ . Base case:  $m = 0$ .

5b. Suppose  $n + S(m) = S(n + m)$ . We now prove the statement for

$$S(n) + S(m) = S(S(n) + m)$$

by definition of 1.6,

$$S(n) + S(m) = S(n + S(m))$$

which equals to the right hand side by hypothesis. □

**Proposition 1.9.** Addition is commutative. Prove that for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$n + m = m + n$$

*Proof.* We prove by induction on  $n$ . With  $m$  fixed. We leave the base case away. □

**Proposition 1.10.** Associativity of addition. For all  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$$

*Proof.* hw. □

### Discussion

Can we define "+" on any collection of things? What are examples of operations which are noncommutative and associative? For example, the collection of words?

$$+ : (\text{Seq. English words}) \times (\text{Seq. English words}) \rightarrow (\text{Seq. English words})$$

$$"a", "b" \mapsto "ab"$$

This can be a meaningless operation. Let us restrict to the collection of *interpretable* outcomes. In the following examples, there is *structural ambiguity*.

1. (Ice) (cream latte)
  2. (British) ((Left) (Waffles on the Falkland Islands) )
  3. (Local HS Dropouts) (Cut) (in Half)
  4. (I ride) (the) (elephant in (my pajamas))
  5. (We) ((saw) (the) (Eiffel tower flying to Paris.))
- 2,3 are actual news titles.

What use is there for addition? We can define the notion of *order* on  $\mathbb{N}$ . We will see later that this is a *relation* on  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**Definition 1.11.** Ordering of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ . We write  $n \geq m$  or  $m \leq n$  iff there is  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $n = m + a$ .

## 1.2 Multiplication

Now that we have addition, we are ready to define multiplication as 1.6.

**Definition 1.12.**

$$0 \cdot m := 0$$

$$S(n) \cdot m := (n \cdot m) + m$$

### 1.3 Recursive definition

What does the induction axiom bring us? Please ignore the following theorem on first read.

**Theorem 1.13.** Recursion theorem. Suppose we have for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$f_n : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

Let  $c \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then we can assign a natural number  $a_n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$a_0 = c \quad a_{S(n)} = f_n(a_n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

#### Discussion

The theorem seems intuitively clear, but there can be pitfalls.

- When defining  $a_0 = c$ , how are we sure this is *not* redefined after some future steps? This is Axiom 3. of 1.1
- When defining  $a_{S(n)}$  how are we sure this is not redefined? This uses Axiom 4. of 1.1.
- One rigorous proof is in [3, p48], but requires more set theory.

*Proof.* The property  $P(n)$  of 1.1 is " $\{ a_n \text{ is well-defined} \}$ ". Start with  $a_0 = c$ .

- Inductive hypothesis. Suppose we have defined  $a_n$  - meaning that there is only one value!
- We can now define  $a_{S(n)} := f_n(a_n)$ .

□

### 1.4 References and additional reading

- Nice lecture [notes](#) by Robert.
- Russell's book [7, 1,2] for an informal introduction to cardinals.



## 2 Naïve Set Theory

Week 1, Wednesday, August 30th

As in the construction of  $\mathbb{N}$ , we will define a *set* via axioms.

### Discussion

Why put a foundation of sets?

- This is to make rigorous the notion of a "collection of mathematical objects".
- This has its roots in cardinality. How can you "count" a set without knowing how to define a collection?
- The concept of a set can be used - and is still used in practice - as a practical foundation of mathematics. This forms the basis of *classical mathematics*.

### Learning Objectives

In this lecture:

- We discuss *set* in detail. We will need this to construct the integers,  $\mathbb{Z}$ .
- We illustrate what one *can* and *can not* do with sets.

### Pedagogy

Again, we don't say what they *are*. This approach is often taken, such as [3].

### Discussion

What object can be called a *set*?

A *set* should be

- determined by a *description of the objects* <sup>a</sup> For example, we can consider

$E := \text{"The set of all even numbers"}$

$P := \text{"The set of all primes"}$

- If  $x$  is an object and  $A$  is a set, then we can ask whether  $x \in A$  or  $x \notin A$ . *Belonging* is a primitive concept in sets.

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<sup>a</sup>this set consists of all objects satisfying this description and *only those objects*.

In this lecture we will discuss some axioms.

**Axiom 2.1.** If  $A$  is a *set* then  $A$  is also a *object*.

**Axiom 2.2.** Axiom of extension. Two sets  $A, B$  are equal if and only if ( for all objects  $x$  ,  $(x \in A \Leftrightarrow x \in B)$ )

**Axiom 2.3.** There exist a set  $\emptyset$  with no elements. I.e. for any object  $x$ ,  $x \notin \emptyset$ .

**Proposition 2.4** (Single choice). Let  $A$  be nonempty. There exists an object  $x$  such that  $x \in A$ .

*Proof.* Prove by contradiction. Suppose the statement is false. Then for all objects  $x$ ,  $x \notin A$ . By axiom of extension,  $A = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

#### Discussion

How did we use the axiom of extension? Colloquially, some mathematicians would say "trivially true".

## 2.1 Subcollections

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $A, B$  be sets, we say  $A$  is a *subset* of  $B$ , denoted

$$A \subseteq B$$

if and only if every element of  $A$  is also an element of  $B$ .

#### Example

- $\emptyset \subset \{1\}$ . The empty set is subset of everything!
- $\{1, 2\} \subset \{1, 2, 3\}$ .

## 2.2 Comprehension axiom

**Definition 2.6.** Axiom of Comprehension.

**Definition 2.7.** *General* comprehension principle. (The paradox leading one). For any property  $\varphi$ , one may form the set of all  $x$  with property  $P(x)$ , we denote this set as

$$\{x \mid P(x)\}$$

**Proposition 2.8.** Russell, 1901. The general comprehension principle cannot work.

*Proof.* Let

$$R := \{x : x \text{ is a set and } x \notin x\}$$

This is a set. Then

$$R \in R \Leftrightarrow R \notin R$$

□

#### Discussion

How is this different from the axiom of specification?

#### Discussion

How can it even be the case that  $x \in x$ , for a set? Can this hold for any set  $x$  below?

- $\emptyset$
- The set of all primes.
- The set of natural numbers.

The latter two shows that : this set itself is *not even a number*! Indeed, In Zermelo-Frankel set theory foundations it will be proved that  $x \notin x$  for all set  $x$ . So the set  $R$  in 2.8 is the *set of all sets*.

## 2.3 References

- A nice introduction to set theory is Saltzman's notes [8].
- The relevant section in Tao's notes, [9, 3].
- For the axioms of set theory, an elementary introduction is [3], and also notes by Asaf, [5].

### 3 Homework for week 1

2

In these exercises: our goal is to get familiar with

- manipulating axioms in a definition.
- the notion of the principle of induction.

#### Problems:

1. Prove 5 is not equal to 2.
2. (\*) Prove 1.8.
3. (\*) Prove 1.9, assuming 1.8 if necessary.
4. (\*) Prove 1.10 assuming 1.8, 1.9 if necessary.
5. (\*)  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  is *positive* if and only if  $n \neq 0$ . Prove that if  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a$  is *positive*, then  $a + b$  is positive.
6. (\*\*\*) Let  $M$  be a set with 2023 elements. Let  $N$  be a positive integer,  $0 \leq N \leq 2^{2023}$ . Prove that it is possible to color each subset of  $S$  so that
  - (a) The union of two white subsets is white.
  - (b) The union of two black subsets is black.
  - (c) There are exactly  $N$  white subsets.
7. (\*\*) Integers 1 to  $n$  are written ordered in a line. We have the following algorithm:
  - If the first number is  $k$  then reverse order of the first  $k$  numbers.Prove that 1 appears first in the line after a finite number of steps.
8. (\*\*) We defined  $\leq$  of natural numbers in 1.11. A finite sequence  $(a_i)_{i=1}^n := \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  of natural numbers is *bounded*, if there exists some other natural number  $M$ , such that  $a_i \leq M$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Show that every finite sequence of natural numbers,  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , is bounded.

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<sup>2</sup>Due: Week 2, Write the numbering of the three questions to be graded clearly on the top of the page. Each unstarred problem worth 12 points. Each star is an extra 5 points.

## Hints for problems

1: prove using Peano's axioms. First prove 3 is not equal to 0.

6: The number 2023 is irrelevant. Induct on the size of the set  $M$ . What happens when  $M = 1$ ? For the inductive argument: suppose the statement is true when  $M$  has size  $n$ . In the case when  $M$  has size  $n + 1$ , consider when

- $0 \leq N \leq 2^n$ . Use the hypothesis on the first  $n$  elements.
- $N \geq 2^n$ . Use symmetry here that there was nothing special about "white".

7: Let us consider the inductive scenario. If  $n + 1$  were in the first position, we are done by induction. Thus, let us suppose  $n + 1$  never appears in the first position, *and* it is not in the last position, which is given by number  $k \neq n + 1$ .

- Would the story be the same if we switch the position of  $k$  and  $n + 1$ ?

### Discussion

As one observes, both 6 and 7 uses a natural *symmetry* in the problem.

## 4 Power set construction

*Lecture 3: will miss one class due to Labor day.*

*Reading: [9, Ch.3.1-4], [6, 2].*

### Learning Objectives

In last lectures, we

- Defined  $\mathbb{N}$  axiomatically using the Peano axioms.
- Used induction to prove properties of operations as  $+$  and  $\times$  on  $\mathbb{N}$ .

In the next two lectures

- Discuss the remaining axioms of set theory. We begin by discussing new notions: *subsets*, 2.1, We end with the construction of the power set.
- Discuss *equivalence relation*, ??, and *ordered pairs*, ??. which constructs the integers and the rationals

### 4.1 Remaining axioms of set theory

*Week 2*

In this section we continue from previous lecture and discuss remaining axioms from what is known as the *Zermelo-Fraenkel (ZF) axioms of set theory*, due to Ernest Zermelo and Abraham Fraenkel.

**Axiom 4.1.** Singleton set axiom. If  $a$  is an object. There is a set  $\{a\}$  consists of just one element.

**Axiom 4.2.** Axiom of pairwise union. Given any two sets  $A, B$  there exists a set  $A \cup B$  whose elements which belong to either  $A$  or  $B$  or both.

Often we would require a stronger version.

**Axiom 4.3.** Axiom of union. Let  $A$  be a set of sets. Then there exists a set

$$\bigcup A$$

whose objects are precisely the elements of the set.

### Example

Let

- $A = \{\{1, 2\}, \{1\}\}$
- $A = \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{9\}\}$

### Discussion

Using the axioms, can we get from  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  to  $\{2, 4, 5\}$ ?

We will now state the power set axiom for completeness but revisit again.

**Axiom 4.4.** Axiom of power set. Let  $X, Y$  be sets. Then there exists a set  $Y^X$  consists of all functions  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ .

We will review definition of function later, [4.11](#).

## 4.2 Replacement

If you are an ordinary mathematician, you will probably never use replacement.

**Axiom 4.5.** Axiom of replacement. For all  $x \in A$ , and  $y$  any object, suppose there is a statement  $P(x, y)$  pertaining to  $x$  and  $y$ .  $P(x, y)$  satisfies the property for a given  $x$ , there is a *unique*  $y$ . There is a set

$$\{y : P(x, y) \text{ is true for some } x \in A\}$$

### Discussion

This can intuitively be thought of as the set

$$\{y : y = f(x) \text{ some } x \in A\}$$

That is, *if* we can define a function, then the range of that function is a set. However,  $P(x, y)$  described may *not* be a function, see [\[2, 4.39\]](#).

### Example

- Assume, we have the set  $S := \{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ,  $P(x, y)$  be the property that  $y = 2x$ . Then we can construct the set

$$S' := \{-6, -4, -2, 0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$$

- If  $x$  is a set, then so is  $\{\{y\} : y \in x\}$ . Indeed, we let

$$P(x, y) : "y = \{x\}"$$

Again, this is a *schema* as described previously in axiom of comprehension 2.6.

**Proposition 4.6.** The axiom of comprehension 2.6 follows from axiom of replacement 4.5.

*Proof.* Let  $\phi$  be a property pertaining to the elements of the set  $X$ . We can define the property <sup>3</sup>

$$\psi(x, y) : \begin{cases} y = \{x\} & \text{if } \phi(x) \text{ is true} \\ \emptyset & \text{if } \phi(x) \text{ is false} \end{cases}$$

Let

$$\mathcal{A} := \{y : \exists x, \psi(x, y) \text{ is true}\}$$

be the collection of sets defined by axiom of replacement. Then by union axiom

$$\bigcup \mathcal{A} := \{x \in X : \phi(x) \text{ is true}\}$$

□

### 4.3 Axiom of regularity (well-founded)

As a first read, you can skip directly and read 4.9. For a set  $S$ , and a binary relation,  $<$  on  $S$ , we can ask if it is *well-founded*. It is well founded when we can do *induction*.

**Definition 4.7.** A subset  $A$  of  $S$  is *<-inductive* if for all  $x \in S$ ,

$$(\forall t \in S, t < x) \Rightarrow x \in A$$

**Definition 4.8.** Let  $X, Y$  we denote the *intersection of  $X$  and  $Y$* <sup>4</sup> as

$$X \cap Y := \{x \in X : x \in X \text{ and } x \in Y\} = \{y \in Y : y \in X \text{ and } y \in Y\}$$

$X$  and  $Y$  are *disjoint* if  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$ .

<sup>3</sup>This can be written in the language of "property" via  $(\phi(x) \rightarrow y = \{x\}) \wedge (\neg\phi(x) \rightarrow y = \emptyset)$

<sup>4</sup>which exists, thanks to axiom of comprehension.



One would ask the  $\in$  relation on all sets to be inductive. Then what would be required for that  $A \notin A$ ?

**Axiom 4.9.** Axiom of foundation (regularity) The  $\in$  relation is "well-founded". That is for all nonempty sets  $x$ , there exists  $y \in x$  such that either

- $y$  is not a set.
- or if  $y$  is a set,  $x \cap y = \emptyset$ .

An alternative way to reformulate, is that  $y$  is a *minimal element* under  $\in$  relation of sets.

#### Example

- $\{\{1\}, \{1, 3\}, \{\{1\}, 2, \{1, 3\}\}\}$ . What are the  $\in$ -minimal elements?
- Can I say that there is a "set of all sets"? No, see how.

One can use axiom of foundation that we cannot have an infinite descending sequence:

**Proposition 4.10.** There are no infinite descent  $\in$ -chains. Suppose that  $(x_n)$  is a sequence of nonempty sets. Then we cannot have

$$\cdots \in x_{n+1} \in x_n \cdots \in x_1 \in x_0$$

Similarly one can use axiom of replacement for the product, at [p32](#).

## 4.4 Function

#### Discussion

How would you intuitively define a function?

**Definition 4.11.** Let  $X, Y$  be two sets. Let

$$P(x, y)$$

be a *property* pertaining to  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ , such that for all  $x \in X$ , there *exists* a *unique*  $y \in Y$  such that  $P(x, y)$  is true. A *function associated to  $P$*  is an object

$$f_P : X \rightarrow Y$$

such that for each  $x \in X$  assigns an output  $f_P(x) \in Y$ , to be the unique object such that  $P(x, f_P(x))$  is true. <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>We will often omit the subscript of  $P$ .

- $X$  is called the *domain*
- $Y$  is called the *codomain*.

**Definition 4.12.** The *image*...

**Discussion**

What kind of properties  $P$  does not satisfy the condition of being function?

- " $y^2 = x$ ".
- " $y = x^2$ ".

## 5 The various sizes of infinity

*Lecture 4: for competition.* We will use our defined notion of, "counting numbers" or "inductive numbers",  $\mathbb{N}$  to *count* other sets. This is *cardinality*. In this section, we fix sets  $X, Y$ .

**Definition 5.1.** A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is

- *injective* if for all  $a, b \in X$ ,  $f(a) = f(b)$  implies  $a = b$ .
- *surjective* if for all  $b \in Y$ , exists  $a \in X$  st.  $f(a) = b$ .
- *bijective* if  $f$  is both injective and surjective.

**Example**

- the map from  $\emptyset \rightarrow X$  an injection. The conditions for injectivity vacuously holds.
- $\mathbb{N}$  is in bijection with the set of even numbers,

$$\mathbb{E} := \{n \in \mathbb{N}; \exists k \in \mathbb{N} : n = 2k\}$$

- there is no bijection from an empty set to a nonempty set.

**Definition 5.2.** Two sets  $X, Y$  have *equal cardinality* if there is a bijection

$$X \simeq Y$$

- A set is said to have *cardinality*  $n$  if

$$\{i \in \mathbb{N} : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \simeq X$$

In this case, we say  $X$  is *finite*. Otherwise,  $X$  is *infinite*.

- A set  $X$  is *countably infinite*<sup>6</sup> if it has same cardinality with  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**Definition 5.3.** We denote the *cardinality of a set*  $X$  by  $|X|$ .<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Or *countable*. Sometimes countable means (finite and countably infinite).

<sup>7</sup>This definition does *not make sense yet!*. What if a set has two cardinality? Let us assume this is well-defined first. See question 2.

### Discussion

To think about infinity is an interesting problem. Consider Hilbert's Grand Hotel.

- One new guest.
- 1000 guest.
- Hilbert Hotel 2 move over.
- Hilbert chain. Directs customer  $m$  in hotel  $n$  to position  $3^n \times 5^m$ . (This shows that  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . )

Historically, some take *cardinal numbers* as i.e. the equivalence class of bijective sets as the primitive notion.

**Definition 5.4.** Let  $X, Y$  be sets: We denote

- $|X| \leq |Y|$  if there is an injection from  $X$  to  $Y$ .
- $|X| = |Y|$  if there is a bijection between  $X$  and  $Y$ .
- $|X| < |Y|$  if  $|X| \leq |Y|$  but  $|X| \neq |Y|$ .

One of the beautiful results in Set theory is the Schroeder Bernstein theorem.

**Theorem 5.5.** The  $\leq$  relation on cardinality, is reflexive: if  $|X| \leq |Y|$  and  $|Y| \leq |X|$  then  $|X| = |Y|$ .<sup>8</sup>

Without axiom of choice, one cannot say the following: for all sets  $X$  and  $Y$ , either  $|Y| \leq |X|$  or  $|X| \leq |Y|$ .

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<sup>8</sup>Why is this not obvious? Challenge: google and try to understand the proof.

## 6 Homework for week 2

*Due: Week 3, Friday. All questions in 6.1, Boolean algebra is compulsory. Select 3 other questions to be graded.*

*Reading:* We refer to the axioms of set theory we have discussed thus far collectively as the ZF axioms. The only axiom we did not discuss is the axiom of replacement, [9, 3.5] and regularity. This will be left as required reading for certain problems.

### Problems

1. Let  $A, B, C$  be sets.

- (a) Prove set inclusion, is reflexive and transitive, i.e.

$$(A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A) \Rightarrow A = B$$

$$(A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq C) \Rightarrow A \subseteq C$$

the notation  $\wedge$  here reads "and".

- (b) Prove that the union operation  $\cup$  on sets 4.2, is associative and commutative:

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

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

2. (\*\*) Let  $I$  be a set and that for all  $\alpha \in I$ , I have a set  $A_\alpha$ .<sup>9</sup> Read about the axiom of replacement; see [9, Axiom 3.5] or 4.5.

- (a) Prove that under the ZF axioms, one can form the union of the collection:

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha := \bigcup \{A_\alpha : \alpha \in I\}$$

In particular, explain why the following two objects

i.

$$\{A_\alpha : \alpha \in I\}$$

---

<sup>9</sup>For example, if  $I = \{a, b, c\}$ , then I have three sets

$$A_a, A_b, A_c$$

ii.

$$\bigcup \{A_\alpha : \alpha \in I\}$$

are sets.

- (b) Give a one line explanation briefly describing why axiom of union 4.3 is insufficient to construct the set  $\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha$ .

3. The *axiom of regularity* states

**Axiom 6.1.** [9, 3.9] If  $A$  is a nonempty set, then there is at least one element  $x \in A$  which is either not a set or, (if it is a set) disjoint from  $A$ .

Prove (with singleton set axiom) that for all sets  $A$ ,  $A \notin A$ .

4. (\*\*\*) Let  $A, B, C, D$  be sets. This exercise shows that we can actually construct *ordered pairs* using the ZF axioms.<sup>10</sup> Prove

- We can construct the following set<sup>11</sup>

$$\langle A, B \rangle := \{A, \{A, B\}\}$$

from the axioms of set theory.

- $\langle A, B \rangle = \langle C, D \rangle$  if and only if  $A = B, C = D$ . For this part you will require the *axiom of regularity*. in problem 3. You are free to use the results there.

5. This is a variation of problem 4<sup>12</sup>. Suppose for two sets  $A, B$  we define

$$[A, B] = \{\{A\}, \{A, B\}\}$$

In this case, the problem is a lot easier. Prove  $[A, B] = [C, D]$  if and only if  $A = B, C = D$ .

6. (\*\*\*) Show that the collection

$$\{Y : Y \text{ is a subset } X\}$$

is a set using the ZF axioms. We denote this as the power set  $2^X$ , where 2 is regarded as the two elements set  $\{0, 1\}$ . You will need to use the axiom of replacement.

Here are two important remarks on possible false solutions:

<sup>10</sup>Another definition is discussed in or [9, 3.5.1], where they assume this as an axiom.

<sup>11</sup>RIP. So another model of this is  $\langle A, B \rangle := \{\{A\}, \{A, B\}\}$

<sup>12</sup>which is what I should have written

- (a) (Ryan's) if your property for axiom of replacement  $P(x, y) = "y \text{ is a subset of } x"$  then this is *not correct*. The condition for replacement is that *there is at most one y*, [9, 3.6].
- (b) (Kauf's) You cannot use axiom of comprehension, this is similar to Russell's paradox!

As a hint:  $\{0, 1\}^X$  is a set, by 4.4. For  $Y \subseteq X$ ,  $f \in \{0, 1\}^X$ , let  $P(Y, f)$  be the property that

$$Y = f^{-1}(1) := \{x \in X : f(x) = 1\}$$

## 6.1 Boolean algebras

*This section is compulsory.* Boolean algebras form the foundation of probability theory. We will need this later when we get to the projects.

*Reading:* For some overview of the context, see [1, 1-3], [4, 1], or Tao's [Lecture 0 on probability theory](#).

**Definition 6.2.** Let  $\Omega$  be a set. A *Boolean algebra* in  $\Omega$  is a set  $\mathcal{E}$  of subsets of  $\Omega$  (equivalently,  $\mathcal{E} \subseteq 2^\Omega$ ) satisfying

1.  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{E}$
2. closed under unions and intersections.

$$E, F \in \mathcal{E} \Rightarrow E \cup F \in \mathcal{E}$$

$$E, F \in \mathcal{E} \Rightarrow E \cap F \in \mathcal{E}$$

3. closed under complements.

A  $\sigma$ -algebra in  $\Omega$  is a Boolean algebra in  $\Omega$  such that it satisfies

4. Countable<sup>13</sup> closure. If  $A_i \in \mathcal{E}$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\bigcup A_i \in \mathcal{E}$ .

### Problems

1. Prove that  $\mathcal{E} := \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$  is a  $\sigma$ -algebra.
2. Prove that  $2^\Omega := \{E : E \subset \Omega\}$  is a  $\sigma$ -algebra.
3. Let  $A \subseteq \Omega$ , what is the smallest (describe the elements of this  $\sigma$ -algebra)  $\sigma$ -algebra in  $\Omega$  containing  $A$ ?

### Hints for problems

3. There are 3 cases. What happens  $A = \emptyset$  or  $A = \Omega$ ? Now consider the case  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $A \neq \Omega$ .

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<sup>13</sup>A set  $X$  is countable if it is in bijection with  $\mathbb{N}$ . We will explore this word in further detail in the future.

## References

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- [8] Maththew Saltzman, *A little set theory (never hurt anybody)* (2019).
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