

Topology Homework

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January 27, 2020

The following proofs were done by recalling previous Real Analysis notes, in which, similar theorems regarding countability were proved.

A complete collection of the proofs required is provided on later pages.

Lemma 1: The union of two countable sets is countable

Proof.

Let S and T be countable sets. Thm* tells us that $\exists f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$ and $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow T \ni f$ and g are surjective.

$$\text{Consider } \begin{cases} f\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ g\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

so $h : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S \cup T$ is a surjection
so, by thm *, $S \cup T$ is countable. //

Lemma 2: The product of two countable sets is countable

Proof.

Let S and T be countable sets.
thm * \exists injections $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $g : T \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
define $h(s, t) = 2^{f(s)}3^{g(t)}$, $h : S \times T \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$
let $h(s, t) = h(u, v)$
so $2^{f(s)}3^{g(t)} = 2^{f(u)}3^{g(v)}$
Since prime factorization is unique,
 $2^{f(s)=2^{f(u)}}$ so $s = u$
and $3^{g(t)} = 3^{g(v)}$ so $t = v$
because f and g are injective.
so $(s, t) = (u, v)$
 $\therefore h$ is injective from $S \times T \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$
 \therefore by thm * $S \times T$ is countable. //

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THEOREM 0.29. (iv) *A subset of a countable set is a countable set.*

Proof.

Let S be a countable set and let $T \subseteq S$

Case I: T is finite, then T is countable

Case II: T is not finite or infinite

so S must be infinite and thus, S is denumerable

So \exists a bijection $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$ and we can write

$S = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots\}$ so $f(n) = s_n$

Let $A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid s_n \in T\}$

since A is a non empty subset of \mathbb{N} it has a least element. call it a_1 .

so $A - \{a_1\}$ has a least element. call it a_2

so $A - \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}\}$ has a least element. call it a_k

define $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \ni g(n) = a_n$

Since $a_{n+1} \notin \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ g is injective

so $f \circ g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$ is injective

since every element of T is included in S_1

$g(\mathbb{N})$ includes all subscripts of T

so $f \circ g$ is a bijection from $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow T$

so T is denumerable and thus countable. //

THEOREM 0.29. (v) *A countable union of countable sets is a countable set.*

Proof.

Let A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots be countable sets.

Basis step: A_1 is countable by Lemma 1.

□

Induction hypothesis: Suppose $\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i$ is countable for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

Induction step: Consider some set $S = \bigcup_{i=1}^{k+1} A_i$.

S can be written as $S = A_{k+1} \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i$

By the induction hypothesis, $\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i$ is a countable set. Thus, S is a union of two countable sets, so it is a countable set by Lemma 1.

$\therefore \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ is a countable set for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, a countable union.

■

THEOREM 0.29. (vi) *A product of countable sets is a countable set.*

Proof.

Let A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots be countable sets.

Basis step: A_1 is countable by Lemma 2.

□

Induction hypothesis: Suppose $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_k$ is countable for some

$k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

Induction step: Consider some set $S = A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_k \times A_{k+1}$.

S can be written as $S = A_{k+1} \times (A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_k$

By the induction hypothesis, $(A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_k$ is a countable set. Thus, S is a product of two countable sets, so it is a countable set by Lemma 2.

$(A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$ is a countable set for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, a countable product.

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THEOREM: The set of real numbers is uncountable

Proof:

let $J = (0, 1)$

NTS: J is uncountable

Suppose J is countable

J can be written as

$$x_1 = 0.\overset{\circ}{a_{11}}a_{12}a_{13}a_{14}$$

$$x_2 = 0.a_{21}\overset{\circ}{a_{22}}a_{23}a_{24}$$

$$x_3 = 0.a_{31}a_{32}\overset{\circ}{a_{33}}a_{34}$$

$$x_4 = 0.a_{41}a_{42}a_{43}\overset{\circ}{a_{44}}$$

\vdots

Where each $a_{ij} \in \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$

construct the number

$y = 0.b_1b_2b_3b_4\dots$ by

$$b_i = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } a_{ii} \neq 3 \\ 7 & \text{if } a_{ii} = 3 \end{cases}$$

We know $y \in J$ but $y \neq x_i \forall i \in \mathbb{N}$ so $y \notin J \rightarrow \leftarrow$

\therefore J is uncountable

\therefore since $J \in \mathbb{R}$, \mathbb{R} is uncountable (thm) //

The following proofs is what our group came up with independent of any notes from Real Analysis.

THEOREM 0.9. *For sets A , B , and C , the following laws hold:*

Distributive Laws:

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

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

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

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

$$(v) A \times (B - C) = (A \times B) - (A \times C)$$

DeMorgan's Laws:

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

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

(i) Proof.

Assume $x \in A \cap (B \cup C)$.

$x \in A$ and $x \in (B \cup C)$ by the Definition of \cap

$x \in A$ and $(x \in B \text{ or } x \in C)$ by the Definition of \cup

$(x \in A \text{ and } x \in B) \text{ or } (x \in A \text{ and } x \in C)$ by the Distributive Law

$x \in A \cap B \text{ or } x \in A \cap C$ by the Definition of \cap

$x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ by the Definition of \cup

$\therefore A \cap (B \cup C) \subseteq (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$

□

Each step is reversible.

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

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

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(ii) Proof.

Assume $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$.

$x \in A$ and $x \in (B \cap C)$ by the Definition of \cup

$x \in A$ or $(x \in B \text{ and } x \in C)$ by the Definition of \cap

$(x \in A \text{ or } x \in B) \text{ and } (x \in A \text{ or } x \in C)$ by the Distributive Law

$x \in A \cup B \text{ and } x \in A \cup C$ by the Definition of \cup

$x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ by the Definition of \cap

$\therefore A \cup (B \cap C) \subseteq (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$

□

Each step is reversible.

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

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

■

(iii) Proof.

Assume $(x, y) \in A \times (B \cup C)$.

$x \in A$ and $y \in (B \cup C)$ by the Definition of \times

$x \in A$ and $(y \in B \text{ or } y \in C)$ by the Definition of \cup

$(x \in A \text{ and } y \in B) \text{ or } (x \in A \text{ and } y \in C)$ by the Distributive Law

$(x, y) \in A \times B \text{ or } (x, y) \in A \times C$ by the Definition of \times

$(x, y) \in (A \times B) \cup (A \times C)$ by the Definition of \cup

$\therefore A \times (B \cup C) \subseteq (A \times B) \cup (A \times C)$

□

Each step is reversible.

$(A \times B) \cup (A \times C) \subseteq A \times (B \cup C)$

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

■

(iv) Proof.

Assume $(x, y) \in A \times (B \cap C)$.

$x \in A$ and $y \in (B \cap C)$ by the Definition of \times

$x \in A$ and $(y \in B \text{ and } y \in C)$ by the Definition of \cap

$(x \in A \text{ and } y \in B) \text{ and } (x \in A \text{ and } y \in C)$ by the Associative Law

$(x, y) \in A \times B \text{ and } (x, y) \in A \times C$ by the Definition of \times

$(x, y) \in (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$ by the Definition of \cap

$\therefore A \times (B \cap C) \subseteq (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$

□

Each step is reversible.

$(A \times B) \cap (A \times C) \subseteq A \times (B \cap C)$

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

■

(v) Proof. Assume $(x, y) \in A \times (B - C)$.

$x \in A$ and $y \in (B - C)$ by the Definition of \times

$x \in A$ and $(y \in B \text{ and } \sim y \in C)$ by the Definition of $-$

$(x \in A \text{ and } y \in B) \text{ and } \sim (x \in A \text{ and } y \in C)$ by the Annulment Law.

$(x, y) \in A \times B \text{ and } \sim (x, y) \in A \times C$ by the Definition of \times

$(x, y) \in (A \times B) - (A \times C)$ by the Definition of $-$

$\therefore A \times (B - C) \subseteq (A \times B) - (A \times C)$

□

Assume $(x, y) \in (A \times B) - (A \times C)$

$(x, y) \in (A \times B) \text{ and } \sim (x, y) \in (A \times C)$ by the Definition of $-$

$x \in A \text{ and } y \in B \text{ and } \sim (x \in A \text{ and } y \in C)$ by the Definition of \times

$x \in A \text{ and } y \in B \text{ and } (\sim x \in A \text{ or } \sim y \in C)$ by DeMorgan's Law

$x \in A \text{ and } y \in B \text{ and } \sim y \in C$ by Elimination

$x \in A \text{ and } y \in (B - C)$ by the Definition of $-$

$(x, y) \in A \times (B - C)$ by the Definition of \times

$(A \times B) - (A \times C) \subseteq A \times (B - C)$

$$\therefore A \times (B - C) = (A \times B) - (A \times C)$$

■

(v) Proof. Assume $x \in A - (B \cup C)$.

$x \in A$ and $\sim x \in (B \cup C)$ by the Definition of $-$

$x \in A$ and $\sim (x \in B \text{ or } x \in C)$

$x \in A$ and $(\sim x \in B \text{ and } \sim x \in C)$ by Demorgan's Law

$(x \in A \text{ and } \sim x \in B)$ and $(x \in A \text{ and } \sim x \in C)$ by the Associative law

$x \in A - B$ and $x \in A - C$ by the Definition of $-$

$x \in (A - B) \cap (A - C)$ by the Definition of \cap

$$\therefore A - (B \cup C) \subseteq (A - B) \cap (A - C)$$

□

Each step is reversible.

$$(A - B) \cap (A - C) \subseteq A - (B \cup C)$$

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

■

(vi) Proof. Assume $x \in A - (B \cap C)$.

$x \in A$ and $\sim x \in (B \cap C)$ by the Definition of $-$

$x \in A$ and $\sim (x \in B \text{ and } x \in C)$

$x \in A$ and $(\sim x \in B \text{ or } \sim x \in C)$ by Demorgan's Law

$(x \in A \text{ and } \sim x \in B)$ or $(x \in A \text{ and } \sim x \in C)$ by the Associative law

$x \in A - B$ or $x \in A - C$ by the Definition of $-$

$x \in (A - B) \cup (A - C)$ by the Definition of \cup

$$\therefore A - (B \cap C) \subseteq (A - B) \cup (A - C)$$

□

Each step is reversible.

$$(A - B) \cup (A - C) \subseteq A - (B \cap C)$$

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

■

THEOREM 0.21 *If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a function and A and B are subsets of X , then*

$$(i) f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B).$$

$$(ii) f(A \cap B) \subseteq f(A) \cap f(B).$$

$$(iii) f(A) - f(B) \subseteq f(A - B)$$

(i) Proof.

Assume $y \in f(A \cup B)$

$\exists x \in A \cup B \ni y = f(x)$

$\exists x \in A$ or $\exists x \in B \ni y = f(x)$

$y \in f(A)$ or $y \in f(B)$

$y \in f(A) \cup f(B)$

$f(A \cup B) \subseteq f(A) \cup f(B)$

Assume $y \in f(A) \cup f(B)$

$\exists x \in A \ni y = f(x)$ or $\exists x \in B \ni y = f(x)$

$\exists x \in A \cup B \ni y = f(x)$ since A and B are both subsets of $A \cup B$

$y \in f(A \cup B)$

$f(A) \cup f(B) \subseteq f(A \cup B)$

$\therefore f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B)$

■

(ii) Proof.

Assume $y \in f(A \cap B)$

$\exists x \in A \cap B \ni y = f(x)$

$\exists x \in A \ni y = f(x)$ and $\exists x \in B \ni y = f(x)$ since $A \cap B$ is a subset of both A and B .

$y \in f(A)$ and $y \in f(B)$

$y \in f(A) \cap f(B)$

$\therefore f(A \cap B) \subseteq f(A) \cap f(B)$

■

(iii) Proof.

Assume $y \in f(A) - f(B)$

$y \in f(A)$ and $\sim y \in f(B)$

$\exists x \in A \ni y = f(x)$ and $\sim \exists x \in B \ni y = f(x)$

$\exists x \in A \cap B' \ni y = f(x)$ since $x \in A$, but it cannot be in B .

$y \in f(A \cap B')$

$y \in f(A - B)$, which is a different way to write the same thing.

$\therefore f(A) - f(B) \subseteq f(A - B)$

■

THEOREM 0.22. *if $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a function and V and W are subsets of Y , then*

$$(i) f^{-1}(V \cup W) = f^{-1}(V) \cup f^{-1}(W).$$

$$(ii) f^{-1}(V \cap W) = f^{-1}(V) \cap f^{-1}(W).$$

$$(iii) f^{-1}(V - W) = f^{-1}(V) - f^{-1}(W).$$

(i) Proof. Assume $x \in f^{-1}(V \cup W)$

$$f(x) \in V \cup W$$

$$f(x) \in V \text{ or } f(x) \in W$$

$$x \in f^{-1}(V) \text{ or } x \in f^{-1}(W)$$

$$x \in f^{-1}(V) \cup f^{-1}(W)$$

$$f^{-1}(V) \cup f^{-1}(W) \subseteq f^{-1}(V \cup W)$$

□

Each step is reversible.

$$f^{-1}(V \cup W) \subseteq f^{-1}(V) \cup f^{-1}(W)$$

$$\therefore f^{-1}(V \cup W) = f^{-1}(V) \cup f^{-1}(W)$$

■

(ii) Proof. Assume $x \in f^{-1}(V \cap W)$

$$f(x) \in V \cap W$$

$$f(x) \in V \text{ and } f(x) \in W$$

$$x \in f^{-1}(V) \text{ and } x \in f^{-1}(W)$$

$$x \in f^{-1}(V) \cap f^{-1}(W)$$

$$f^{-1}(V) \cap f^{-1}(W) \subseteq f^{-1}(V \cap W)$$

□

Each step is reversible.

$$f^{-1}(V \cap W) \subseteq f^{-1}(V) \cap f^{-1}(W)$$

$$\therefore f^{-1}(V \cap W) = f^{-1}(V) \cap f^{-1}(W)$$

■

(iii) Proof. Assume $x \in f^{-1}(V - W)$

$$f(x) \in V - W$$

$$f(x) \in V \text{ and } \sim f(x) \in W$$

$$x \in f^{-1}(V) \text{ and } \sim x \in f^{-1}(W)$$

$$x \in f^{-1}(V) - f^{-1}(W)$$

$$f^{-1}(V - W) \subseteq f^{-1}(V) - f^{-1}(W)$$

□

Each step is reversible

$$f^{-1}(V) - f^{-1}(W) \subseteq f^{-1}(V - W)$$

$$\therefore f^{-1}(V - W) = f^{-1}(V) - f^{-1}(W)$$

■

THEOREM 0.29.

- (i) *A subset of a finite set is a finite set*
- (ii) *A finite union of finite sets is a finite set*
- (iii) *A product of finite sets is a finite set*
- (iv) *A subset of a countable set is a countable set*
- (v) *A countable union of countable sets is a countable set*
- (vi) *A product of countable sets is a countable set*

(i) Proof. Consider some finite set A .

A is empty or there exists a bijection $f : \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \rightarrow A$

If A is empty, any subset of A is empty, and is therefore finite.

If A is non empty, f gives a way to order elements in A .

Consider some subset S of A . Since S is a subset of A , elements in S can also be ordered by f .

Let $g : \{1, 2, 3, \dots, k\} \rightarrow S$ where $g(a)$ is the a th smallest element in $f^{-1}(S)$. Every element in S has a unique element in $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, k\}$ that g maps to it, so g is bijective.

Thus, S is finite.

\therefore A subset of a finite set is a finite set.

■

(ii) Proof. Consider the union of finite sets $\bigcup_{i=1}^m A_i$.

The union of any set A and the empty set is A . Thus, if any of the A_i are empty, then we can construct an equivalent finite union $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ such that no A_i is empty.

Next, assume all A_i are mutually disjoint.

Since each A_i are finite and nonempty, there exist bijective functions $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n \ni f_i : \{1, 2, \dots, k_i\} \rightarrow A_i$ for some values $k_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$

Let $P = \{2, 3, 5, \dots, p_n\}$ be the set of the first n primes.

Let $S = \{p_i^q \mid i \leq n, 1 \leq q \leq k_i\}$ be a subset of all prime powers.

Let $g : S \rightarrow \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ where $g(p_i^q) = f_i^{-1}(q)$

By the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, and the fact that all A_i are mutually disjoint, every element in $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ has a unique element in S that g maps to it, so g is bijective.

S is a subset of the integers, so can be ordered.

Let $h : \{1, 2, \dots, (k_1 + k_2 + \dots, k_n)\} \rightarrow S$ where $h(a)$ is the a th smallest element in S .

Every element in S gets a unique element in $\{1, 2, \dots, (k_1 + k_2 + \dots, k_n)\}$, that h maps to it, so h is bijective.

h and g are both bijective so $g \circ h : \{1, 2, \dots, (k_1 + k_2 + \dots, k_n)\} \rightarrow \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$

is also bijective.

So any finite union of mutually disjoint finite sets is finite.

If A_i are not mutually disjoint, then a union of such sets are equivalent to a finite union of mutually disjoint finite sets anyways, as shown below:

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = A_1 \cup \bigcup_{i=2}^n \left(A_i - \bigcup_{k=1}^{i-1} A_k \right)$$

Note that each set in the above union is a subset of a finite set and therefore finite by Theorem 0.29 (i).

\therefore A finite union of finite sets is finite.

■

(iii) Proof. Consider some finite sets A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n .

Let $S = A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) | x_i \in A_i \forall i\}$

If any of A_i are empty, S is empty, and therefore finite.

Otherwise, all A_i are nonempty. Since each A_i are finite and nonempty, there exist bijective functions $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n \ni f_i : \{1, 2, \dots, k_i\} \rightarrow A_i$ for some values $k_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$

Let $P = \{2, 3, 5, \dots, p_n\}$ be the set of the first n primes.

Let $Q = \{y \in \mathbb{Z}_+ | y \text{ has between } 1 \text{ and } k_i \text{ factors of } p_i, k_m = 0 \text{ for } m > n\}$

Let $g : Q \rightarrow S$ where $g(p_1^{x_1} p_2^{x_2} \dots p_n^{x_n}) = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$

By the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, each n -tuple $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in S$ has a unique integer in Q that g maps to it, so g is bijective.

Q is a subset of the integers, so it is ordered.

Let $h : \{1, 2, \dots, (k_1 + k_2 + \dots, k_n)\} \rightarrow S$ where $h(a)$ is the a th smallest element in Q .

Every element in Q gets a unique element in $\{1, 2, \dots, (k_1 + k_2 + \dots, k_n)\}$, that h maps to it, so h is bijective.

h and g are both bijective so $g \circ h : \{1, 2, \dots, (k_1 + k_2 + \dots, k_n)\} \rightarrow S$ is also bijective.

Thus, S is finite.

\therefore A product of finite sets is a finite set.

■

(iv) Proof. Let A be a countable set.

If A is finite, any subset of A is also finite by (i) and therefore countable.

If A is not finite, there exists a bijective function $f : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow A$.

f gives a way to order elements in A .

Consider some subset S of A . Since S is a subset of A , elements in S can also be ordered by f .

Let $g : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow S$ where $g(a)$ is the a th smallest element in $f^{-1}(S)$.

Every element in S has a unique element in \mathbb{Z}_+ that g maps to it, so g is bijective.

\therefore A subset of a countable set is a countable set.

■

(v) Proof. Consider the countable sets A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots

Assume all A_i are mutually disjoint.

There exist bijective functions $f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots \ni f_i : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow A_i \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$

Let $P = \{2, 3, 5, \dots, p_i, \dots\}$ be the set of all prime numbers.

Let $S = \{2, 2^2, 2^3, 3, 3^2, \dots, 107^{67}, \dots\}$ be the set of all prime powers.

Let $g : S \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i$ where $g(p_i^k) = f_i^{-1}(k)$

By the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, and the fact that all A_i are mutually disjoint, every element in $\bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i$ has a unique element in S that g maps to it, so g is bijective.

S is a subset of the integers, so can be ordered.

Let $h : \{1, 2, \dots, (k_1 + k_2 + \dots, k_n)\} \rightarrow S$ where $h(a)$ is the a th smallest element in S .

Every element in S gets a unique element in \mathbb{Z}_+ , that h maps to it, so h is bijective.

h and g are both bijective so $g \circ h : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i$ is also bijective.

So any countable union of mutually disjoint countable sets is countable.

Using the same reasoning as **(ii)**, If A_i are not mutually disjoint, then a union of such sets is equivalent to a countable union of mutually disjoint countable sets anyways, as shown below:

$$\bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i = A_1 \cup \bigcup_{i \geq 2} \left(A_i - \bigcup_{k=1}^{i-1} A_k \right)$$

Note that each set in the above union is a subset of a countable set and therefore countable by Theorem 0.29 (iv).

\therefore A countable union of countable sets is countable.

■

(vi) Proof. Consider some countable sets A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots

Let $S = A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) | x_i \in A_i \forall i\}$ If any of A_i are empty, S is empty, and therefore countable.

Otherwise, all A_i are nonempty. Since each A_i are countable and nonempty, there exist bijective functions $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n \ni f_i : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow A_i \forall i$

Let $P = \{2, 3, 5, \dots, p_n\}$ be the set of the first n numbers.

Let $W = \{y \in \mathbb{Z}_+ | y \text{ contains no factors of } p_m \text{ if } m > n\}$

Let $g : W \rightarrow S$ where $g(p_1^{x_1} p_2^{x_2} \dots p_n^{x_n}) = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$

By the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, each n -tuple $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in S$ has a unique integer in W that g maps to it, so g is bijective.

W is a subset of the integers, so it is ordered.

Let $h : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow W$ where $h(a)$ is the a th smallest element in W .

Every element in W gets a unique element in \mathbb{Z}_+ , that h maps to it, so h is bijective.

h and g are both bijective so $g \circ h : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow S$ is also bijective.

Thus, S is a countable set.

\therefore A product of countable sets is a countable set.

■

Prove that \mathbb{Q} is countable

Proof.

Let $f : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_-$ where $f(a) = -a$. each element in \mathbb{Z}_- get a unique element in \mathbb{Z}_+ that f maps to it, so f is bijective.

Thus, \mathbb{Z}_- is a countable set.

$\mathbb{Z} = \{0\} \cup \mathbb{Z}_- \cup \mathbb{Z}_+$, being a countable union of countable sets is countable.

$\mathbb{Z}^2 = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$, being a product of countable sets is countable. $\{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid b \neq 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$, being a subset of a countable set is countable.

By definition, $\mathbb{Q} = \{\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{R} \mid (a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2, b \neq 0\}$

Let $g : \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2, b \neq 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ where $g(a, b) = \frac{a}{b}$
each element in \mathbb{Q} get a unique element in $\{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2, b \neq 0\}$ that g maps to it, so g is bijective.

Since $\{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2, b \neq 0\}$ is countable, can define a bijection $h : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2, b \neq 0\}$

h and g are both bijective so $g \circ h : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ is also bijective.

$\therefore \mathbb{Q}$ is countable.

■

Prove that \mathbb{R} is uncountable

Proof.

Recall that any real number $r \in (0, 1)$ can be represented as an infinite series $r = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n 2^{-n}$, where a_n is either 0 or -1.

Suppose that the closed interval $(0, 1)$ is countable.

Then there exists a bijective function $f : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow (0, 1)$, where f must have the property that $f(i) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^i 2^{-n}$ for some coefficients a_n^i .

Let $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - a_n^n) 2^{-n}$
 $x \in (0, 1)$ since each coefficient $1 - a_n^n$ is either a 0 or a 1.

But $\sim \exists i \ni f(i) = x$ since the coefficient $1 - a_n^n$ is different from a_n^i for all i . This means f is not onto. That's bad.

We assumed that f was bijective, but have shown that it is not onto. This is a contradiction.

Thus, $(0, 1)$ is uncountable.

$(0, 1) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, and supersets of uncountable sets are uncountable.

$\therefore \mathbb{R}$ is uncountable.



The fact that the real numbers in $(0, 1)$ can be represented as a sum of negative powers of 2 is shown in a book titled "Digital Logic Design" by Peter J. Ashenden.