

Countability of sets 4

Argument that R is uncountably infinite in 2 steps

1. $R \sim (0,1)$
2. Set up a correspondence between $(0,1)$ and the set A of all sequences of 0's and 1's via a binary representation. To each $x \in (0,1)$, we want to associate $0, x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots$ where often decimal $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ is a sequence of 0's and 1's. In other words we are giving a binary expansion of every $x \in (0,1)$ as $0, x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots = 0 + x_1 \frac{1}{2} + x_2 \frac{1}{4} + \dots = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} x_m \frac{1}{2^m}$

Similarly any $x \in (1,2)$ that is a sum of the form $\frac{1}{2^{p_1}} + \frac{1}{2^{p_2}}$ for,

Q

How can we represent $x = \frac{1}{2^{p_1}} + \dots$ in an easier to understand form.

A

Do some algebra:

$$x = \frac{1}{2^{p_1}} + \dots = \frac{2^{p_k-1}}{2^{p_k-1} - 2^{p_2} + \dots} + \frac{1}{2^{p_k}} = \frac{2^{p_k-1} + 2^{p_k-p_2} + \dots + 2^{p_k-p_{k-1}}}{2^{p_k-1} - 2^{p_2} + \dots + 2^{p_k-p_{k-1}}} = \frac{\text{odd natural numbers}}{\text{powers of two}} = \frac{m}{2^n} \text{ for } m \in N \text{ and } n \in N^* \text{ as } p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_k \text{ So the difference between } p_k - p_1, \dots, \text{ as all positive integers.}$$

So the sequence in $(0,1)$ that has this discussed binary expansion is $B = \{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \dots\}$ NOTE that B is countably infinite as each set $B_m = \{0 < \frac{m}{2^n} < 1\}$ is finite, $B = \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} B_m$ is countable by one corollary, and the countably infinite sequence $\{1/2, 1/4, 1/8, \dots\}$ subset of B which means.