

# Sets 2

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## Cantor

### N IS UNCOUNTABLY INFINITE

Cantor came up with the diagonal argument (Snake trick with matrices), used to prove that a countably infinite union of countably infinite sets is countably infinite, the idea that sizes of sets should be understood via bijections ( $A \sim B$  for  $A, B$  sets) as well as the notions of countably infinite and uncountably infinite.

**PROOF:** Assume  $A$  is countably infinite  $\iff A = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$  where  $s_j = \{x_m^j\}_{m=1,2,\dots}$  for  $x_m^j = 0$  or  $x_m^j = 1$ . We construct a sequence of 0's and 1's that cannot be in the enumeration  $\{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots\}$ .

$s_0$  differs from each  $s_j$  by the  $j$ th element  $\Rightarrow s_0 \notin \{s_0, s_1, \dots\}$ , but  $s_0$  is a sequence of 0's and 1's  $\Rightarrow s_0 \in A \Rightarrow \text{contradiction}$

**Corollary** The power set  $P(N)$  of  $N$  is uncountably infinite

**Remark** Recall the proof that if  $B$  is a set with  $m$  elements  $\#(B) = m$ , then its power set  $P(B)$  has  $2^m$  elements based on the on/off idea. For each element of  $B$  we have the choice to include it in our subset ("on") or not to include it ("off"). Therefore we have 2 choices of each element and  $\#(B) = m$ ,  $\#P(B) = 2^m$ .

**PROOF**  $N \sim J$ , we can write  $N = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ . When we form a subset of  $N$ , for each  $i$  we can include  $x_i$ , or leave it out. Say we represent including  $x_i$  by 1 and leaving  $x_i$  out by 0, then each subset of  $N$  can be represented as a sequence of 0's and 1's. In fact there is a one-to-one correspondence between the subset of  $N$  and the sequences of 0's and 1's. Therefore  $P(N) \sim A$  where  $A$  is the set of all sequences of 0's and 1's, but we showed in the previous theorem that  $A$  is uncountably infinite  $\Rightarrow P(N)$  is likewise uncountably infinite. Q.E.D

### R IS UNCOUNTABLY INFINITE

We'll use the one to one correspondence with the set of sequences of 0's and 1's in order to prove  $R$  is uncountably infinite.

1. We show  $R \sim (0,1)$  via a clever bijection
2. Set up a correspondence between the interval  $(0,1)$  and the set  $A$  of all sequences of 0's and 1's via a binary expansion.
  - **Proposition:**  $R$  is in bijective correspondence with the interval  $(0,1)$
  - **Remark:**  $(0,1) \subsetneq R$ , but we saw infinite sets can be one to one correspondence with any of their proper subsets.
  - **PROOF:** Recall from trigonometry that  $\tan(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}) \rightarrow R$  is a bijection. Since  $\tan x$  is a bijection,  $R \sim (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ . We now use a linear function, a bijection to show  $(0,1) \sim (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$   $g(x) = \pi x - \frac{\pi}{2}$ . The composition of 2 bijections is itself a bijection.  $\rightarrow \tan(g(x)) = \tan(\pi x - \frac{\pi}{2})$  is a bijection from  $(0,1)$  to  $R$ . The map we want  $f: R \rightarrow (0,1)$  is its inverse  $f(x) = (\tan(\pi x) - \frac{\pi}{2})^{-1}$  as the inverse of a bijection is itself a bijection. Q.E.D
3. To each  $x \in (0,1)$  we want to associate 0.  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$  where the decimal  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  is a sequence of 0's
4. and 1's. In other words we are giving a binary expansion of  $x \in (0,1)$  as  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^m} x_m$

## Countability of sets 4

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### 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  $0.x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots = 0 + x_1 \frac{1}{2} + x_2 \frac{1}{4} + \dots = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{x_m}{2^m}$

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

**Q**

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

**A**

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

So the sequence in (0,1) that has this discussed binary expansion is  $B = \{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots\}$  NOTE that B is countably infinite as each set  $B_m = \{0 < \frac{1}{2^m} < 1\}$  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 the countably set B must be countably infinite.