

# Sets

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$$J_m = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, m\}$$

$$J = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\} = \mathbb{N}^*$$

**DEF** A set  $A$  is finite if  $A \sim J_m$  ( $\exists f: A \rightarrow J_m$  a bijection) for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  or  $A = \emptyset$

**DEF** A set  $A$  is countably infinite if  $A \sim J$

**DEF** A set  $A$  is uncountable infinite if  $A$  is neither finite nor countably infinite.

## Restatement of the definition of countably infinite

A set  $A$  is countably infinite if its elements can be arranged in a sequence  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$  such that  $A = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  this is another way of saying  $A$  is in bijective correspondence with  $J$  i.e  $\exists f: A \rightarrow J$  a bijection namely  $A \sim J$

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### Application of this statement

$$\mathbb{Z} \sim \mathbb{N}$$

- Indeed, we can write  $\mathbb{Z}$  as a sequence since  $\mathbb{Z} = \{0, -1, -2, -3, \dots\}$  so  $\mathbb{Z} \in [\mathbb{N}]$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}$  is countably infinite like  $\mathbb{N}$ 
  - $\mathbb{N} \sim \mathbb{N}^*$
  - $\mathbb{Z} \sim \mathbb{N}$
  - Such that by transitivity  $\mathbb{Z} \sim \mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}$  is countably infinite

## Finite and infinite sets

The big difference between finite and infinite sets is that if:

Let  $A, B$  be finite sets, s.t  $A \subsetneq B$ ,  $A$  is not in bijective correspondence with  $B$  since  $\#(A) < \#(B)$ . If  $m \neq n$ . Let  $A, B$  be infinite sets such that  $B$  is a subset of  $A$  and  $B$  is not a subset equal to  $A$ . It is possible that  $A \sim B$ . we saw this in Hilbert's hotel problem (Hilbert's paradox of the grand hotel).  $\mathbb{N}^*$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ , but  $\mathbb{N} \sim \mathbb{N}^*$  via the bijection  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^*$  given by  $f(n) = n+1$ .