Sequences & Series

CS 55 - Spring 2016 - Pomona College
Michael J Bannister

Cardinality Example

- A set and its power set never have the same cardinality!

Sequence

A *sequence* is a function whose domain is a subset of the integers.

Typically the domain is either:
N = {0,1,2,3,…} or {1,2,3,4,….}

Summation Notation

We use the following *summation notation* to express the sum of a sequence:

$$\sum_{k=m}^{n} a_k = a_m + a_{m+1} + \cdots + a_{n-1} + a_n$$

Product Notation

We use the following *product notation* to express the product of a sequence:

$$\prod_{k=m}^{n} a_k = a_m \times a_{m+1} \times \cdots \times a_{n-1} \times a_n$$

Gauss Sum

The following formula is called the Gauss sum:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Proof: On board.

Geometric Sum

The following formula is called the geometric sum:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} ar^k = \frac{ar^{n+1} - a}{r - 1}$$

Proof: On board.