

$$|\mathbb{Q}| = |\mathbb{N}|$$

*Proof.*

First prove that  $|\{q : q \in \mathbb{Q}, q > 0\}| = |\mathbb{N}|$

1)  $q \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $q > 1$

There exists a series of unique prime numbers  $p_1 \dots p_n$  and exponents  $r_1 \dots r_n$  such that

$$q = p_1^{r_1} \dots p_n^{r_n}$$

2)  $q \notin \mathbb{N}$  and  $q > 1$

There exists a series of unique prime numbers  $p_1 \dots p_n, q_1 \dots q_m$  and exponents  $r_1 \dots r_n, s_1 \dots s_m$  such that

$$q = \frac{p_1^{r_1} \dots p_n^{r_n}}{q_1^{s_1} \dots q_m^{s_m}}$$

Define  $f : \{q \in \mathbb{Q}, q > 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

$f(1) = 1$ ,  $f(q) = p_1^{2r_1} \dots p_n^{2r_n}$  if  $q \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and

$f(q) = p_1^{2r_1} \dots p_n^{2r_n} q_1^{2s_1-1} \dots q_m^{2s_m-1}$  if  $q \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \mathbb{N}$ .

For injection,  $f(q_1) = f(q_2) \Rightarrow q_1 = q_2$  since  $f$  is unique.

For surjection,  $\forall m = p_1^{r_1} \dots p_n^{r_n} q_1^{s_1} \dots q_m^{s_m} \in \mathbb{N}$

Without loss of generality, suppose that  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  are positive even numbers, while  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  are positive odd numbers.

Thus,  $\exists q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $f(q) = \frac{p_1^{r_1/2} \dots p_n^{r_n/2}}{q_1^{(s_1+1)/2} \dots q_m^{(s_m+1)/2}} = m$

Thus,  $f$  is a bijection.

According to symmetry,  $g : \{q \in \mathbb{Q}, q < 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is also a bijection.

Define  $h : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  by  $h(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \\ f(x), & \text{if } x > 0 \\ g(x), & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$

Thus  $h$  is a bijection.

Thus,  $|\mathbb{Q}| = |\mathbb{Z}| \Rightarrow |\mathbb{Q}| = |\mathbb{N}|$

□