

Midterm Review (Part I) (Countable)

Example 1

Determine whether the following are countable or not

- a) $A = \{x \in \mathbf{R}: 9 \cos^9 x + 3 \cos^3 x + 1 = 0\}$
- b) $B = \{\pi x^3 + 2y - 3\sqrt{z}: x \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \mathbf{Q}, y \in \mathbf{R}, z \in \mathbf{Q}\}$
- c) $C = \{y^2 - 5x: y \in A \text{ and } x \in \mathbf{R} \setminus A\}$ where A is countable set
- d) $D = \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2: x^2 + y^2 = 2 \text{ and } dx^3 - y = 3 \text{ for some integer } d\}$

Solution:

- a) Let $S = \{y \in \mathbf{R}: 9y^9 + 3y^9 + 1 = 0\}$

Since the polynomial has degree 9, therefore it has at most 9 real roots, therefore S is countable.

Now we see that $A = \bigcup_{y \in S} \{x \in \mathbf{R}: \cos x = y\}$

For $\{x \in \mathbf{R}: \cos x = y\}$,

If $y > 1$ or $y < -1$, then $\{x \in \mathbf{R}: \cos x = y\}$ is an empty set and so countable

If $-1 \leq y \leq 1$, since $\cos x = y \rightarrow x = 2n\pi \pm \cos^{-1} y$, hence

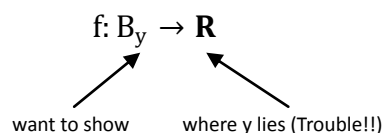
$$\{x \in \mathbf{R}: \cos x = y\} = \{x = 2n\pi \pm \cos^{-1} y : n \in \mathbf{Z}\} = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbf{Z}} \{x = 2n\pi \pm \cos^{-1} y\}$$

which is countable by countable union theorem.

Therefore since $\{x \in \mathbf{R}: \cos x = y\}$ is countable and S is countable, then A is countable by countable union theorem.

- b) By intuition, we guess B is uncountable since variable x and y lies in uncountable set $(\mathbf{R} \setminus \mathbf{Q} \text{ and } \mathbf{R})$

To show this, we first fix x and z and let $B_y = \{\pi x^3 + 2y - 3\sqrt{z}: y \in \mathbf{R}\}$ we consider a map,



where $f(\pi x^3 + 2y - 3\sqrt{z}) = y$.

We see that f is bijective because we can find an inverse map $g(y) = \pi x^3 + 2y - 3\sqrt{z}$. So by bijection theorem, B_y is uncountable.

Finally, $B \supseteq B_y$, so by countable subset theorem, B is uncountable

- c) **Case i) If A is empty**, then we cannot assign any value to y. Therefore C will be an empty set and therefore countable. (⊗You may lose points if you fail to consider this case!!!!!!)

Case ii) If A is non-empty, note that \mathbf{R} is uncountable and A is countable, therefore $\mathbf{R} \setminus A$ is uncountable. (If $\mathbf{R} \setminus A$ is countable, then $(\mathbf{R} \setminus A) \cup A = \mathbf{R}$ will imply \mathbf{R} is countable which is a contradiction)

Since variable x lies in $\mathbf{R} \setminus A$ which is uncountable, we suspect C is uncountable (One can use similar argument in b) to show C is uncountable)

- d) We first rewrite

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 = 2 \text{ and } dx^3 - y = 3 \text{ for some integer } d\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 = 2 \text{ and } dx^3 - y = 3 \text{ } d \in \mathbf{Z}\} \\ &= \bigcup_{d \in \mathbf{Z}} \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 = 2 \text{ and } dx^3 - y = 3\} \end{aligned}$$

For the set $\{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 = 2 \text{ and } dx^3 - y = 3\}$

Note that $dx^3 - y = 3 \rightarrow y = dx^3 - 3 = y$, substitute it into 1st equation

$$x^2 + y^2 = 2 \rightarrow x^2 + (dx^3 - 3)^2 = 2 \rightarrow d^2x^6 - 6dx^3 + x^2 + 7 = 0$$

It has at most 6 real roots for x, therefore (x, y) has at most 6 elements and so the set is countable.

Since \mathbf{Z} is countable, therefore D is countable by countable union theorem.

Example 2 (2004 Midterm)

Let A be a non-empty countable subset of \mathbf{R} . Let

$$S = \{\theta \in \mathbf{R} : \sin \theta \in A\} \text{ and } T = \{\theta \in \mathbf{R} : \sin \theta \notin A\}$$

Determine (with proof) if each of the sets S and T is countable or uncountable.

(For Set S)

$$S = \{\theta \in \mathbf{R} : \sin \theta \in A\} = \{\theta \in \mathbf{R} : \sin \theta = a, a \in A\} = \bigcup_{a \in A} \{\theta \in \mathbf{R} : \sin \theta = a\}$$

Note that $\sin \theta = a \rightarrow \theta = n\pi + (-1)^n \sin^{-1} a$ for $n \in \mathbf{Z}$

$$\text{So } \{\theta \in \mathbf{R} : \sin \theta = a\} = \{\theta = n\pi + (-1)^n \sin^{-1} a : n \in \mathbf{Z}\}$$

$$= \bigcup_{n \in \mathbf{Z}} \{\theta = n\pi + (-1)^n \sin^{-1} a\} \text{ which is countable.}$$

Hence S is countable by countable union theorem.

(For Set T)

Since the description of Set T is just the opposite of that of set S . Therefore, $T = \mathbf{R} \setminus S$

Note since \mathbf{R} is uncountable and S is countable, then $T = \mathbf{R} \setminus S$ is uncountable.

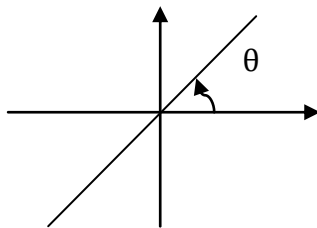
(Otherwise, if $\mathbf{R} \setminus S$ is countable, then $(\mathbf{R} \setminus S) \cup S = \mathbf{R}$ will imply \mathbf{R} is countable which is a contradiction)

Example 3

Let P be a countable set of points in \mathbf{R}^2 . Prove that there exists a line L passing through origin such that every point of the line L is not in P .

Solution:

Let L_θ be a line pass through origin and make an angle θ with x-axis. (See figure)



Let $A = \{L_\theta : 0 \leq \theta < \pi\} = \{L_\theta : \theta \in [0, \pi)\}$ (Collection of all such lines)

We can show **A is uncountable**

Consider a map $f: A \rightarrow [0, \pi)$, where $f(L_\theta) = \theta$

f is bijective because we can find an inverse map $g(\theta) = L_\theta$

Therefore since $[0, \pi)$ is uncountable, then A is uncountable by bijection theorem.

Let $B = \{L_\theta : \text{It passes through some } p \in P\}$ (Collection of all lines which pass through some points in P)

Since P is countable, we can show B is countable by writing

$$B = \bigcup_{p \in P} \{L_\theta : \text{It passes through } p\}$$

And for each p , there is only 1 lines pass through it, so $\{L_\theta : \text{It passes through } p\}$ is countable and **B is countable**.

Then $A \setminus B = \{L_\theta : \text{It does not pass through any point in } P\}$ is uncountable and therefore non-empty, so there exist a line (in $A \setminus B$) such that it does not pass through any points in P .

☺Exercise for Countability

Exercise 1 (Basic Question)

Determine (with proof) the following sets are countable or not.

- $A = \{x \in \mathbf{R} : e^{3x} + 3e^x - 9 = 0\}$
- $B = \{7x^2 - 6y + \pi^z : x \in \mathbf{Q} \cap A, y, z \in \mathbf{Q}\}$ where A is an uncountable subset of \mathbf{R}
- $C = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3, x^2 - z^3 + y^4 = 4, y + 2x = 6 \text{ and } x^3 + 3z = 1\}$
- $D = \{x^2 - 5y : x \in A, y \in B\}$ where A is an uncountable subset of \mathbf{R} and B is any subset of \mathbf{R} . (Be careful, B can be an empty set)
- $E = \{x - y : x, y \in A\}$ where A is an uncountable set.
- $F = \{(x, y) : [x] \in \mathbf{N} \text{ and } y \in \mathbf{N}\}$ where $[x]$ is greatest integer less than or equal to x . (i.e. $[7] = 7, [7.2] = 7, [7.9] = 7, [-1] = -1, [-1.2] = -2, [-1.9] = -2$)

Exercise 2 (2004 Midterm)

Let S be the set of all intersection points $(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2$ of the graphs of the equations $x^2 + my^2 = 1$ and $mx^2 + y^2 = 1$, where $m \in \mathbf{Z} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$. Determine if S is countable or uncountable. Provide a proof of your answer.

Exercise 3 (2003 Final)

Let P be a countable set of points in \mathbf{R}^2 . Prove that there exists a circle C with the origin as center and positive radius such that every point of the circle C is not in P . (Note points inside the circle do not belong to the circle.)
(Hint: If you understand Example 3, this one should be an easy question)

*Exercise 4 (2002 Midterm)

Let S be the set of all lines L on the \mathbf{R}^2 such that L passes through 2 distinct points in $\mathbf{Q} \times \mathbf{Q}$ and T be the set of all points, each of which is the intersection of a pair of distinct lines in S . Determine if T is countable set or not.
(Hint: Try to draw some graphs to understand the problem)

Part II Series

Special Series Test

Geometric Series Test, Telescoping Test, p-test

Test for NON-NEGATIVE SERIES

- i) integral test
- ii) comparison test and limit comparison test

Test for GENERAL SERIES

- i) alternating series test
- ii) absolute convergence test
- iii) root test and ratio test

Example 4

Check whether the following series converges

a) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos k \pi}{k^2 + 2^k}$

b) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{\sqrt{k}} / \sqrt{k}$

c) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)!}{3^k k^4}$

d) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\cos k)(\sin 2k)}{2^k}$

e) $\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)}{\ln k}$

f) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \cos^k(e^{\frac{1}{k}})$

g) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^k \cos k}{(k-1)!}$

Solution:

a) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos k \pi}{k^2 + 2^k} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2 + 2^k}$ which is an alternating series

Since $c_k = \frac{1}{k^2 + 2^k}$ is decreasing and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} c_k = 0$.

By alternating series test, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos k \pi}{k^2 + 2^k}$ converges

b) $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{\sqrt{k}}}{\sqrt{k}} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{k}} e^{\sqrt{k}}}{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{k}}} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} e^{\sqrt{k}} = \infty \neq 0$

Therefore by term test, the series diverges.

(Remark, you may also use integral test to show the series diverges)

c) Since the series involves factorials, we may use ratio test,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{k+1}}{a_k} \right| = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{(2(k+1))!}{3^{k+1}(k+1)^4}}{\frac{(2k)!}{3^k k^4}} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k^4(2k+2)(2k+1)}{3(k+1)^4} = \infty > 1$$

By ratio test, the series diverges.

d) Since $\cos k$ and $\sin 2k$ can be negative, so we first consider

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{(\cos k)(\sin 2k)}{2^k} \right| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \quad \text{since } \cos k, \sin 2k \leq 1$$

Note that $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k}$ converges by geometric series test $\frac{1}{2} < 1$.

Then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{(\cos k)(\sin 2k)}{2^k} \right|$ converges by comparison test

Finally $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\cos k)(\sin 2k)}{2^k}$ converges by absolute convergence test.

e) We can apply the limit comparison test

Note $\sin\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \approx \frac{1}{k}$ which is large, therefore $\frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)}{\ln k} \approx \frac{1}{k \ln k}$ where k is large

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)}{\ln k} / \frac{1}{k \ln k} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)}{\frac{1}{k}} = 1$$

For series $\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k \ln k}$

Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{x \ln x}$ and it is clear that f is decreasing function in $[2, \infty)$ and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x \ln x} = 0.$$

$$\text{Then } \int_2^{\infty} \frac{1}{x \ln x} dx = \int_2^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ln x} d(\ln x) = \ln(\ln x) \Big|_2^{\infty} = \infty$$

Hence by integral test, the series $\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k \ln k}$ diverges.

By limit comparison test, $\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)}{\ln k}$

f) Since the power involves k , we can apply root test in this case

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{\cos^k(e^{\frac{1}{k}})} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \cos\left(e^{\frac{1}{k}}\right) = \cos(e^0) = \cos 1 = 0.9998 < 1$$

By root test, the series converges

g) *Note: if we use the ratio test directly, then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{k+1}}{a_k} \right| = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 \cos(k+1)}{k \cos k} \text{ which may lead to great trouble.}$$

So we should simplify it a little bit.

$$\text{Consider } \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{2^k \cos k}{(k-1)!} \right| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^k}{(k-1)!}$$

$$\text{Apply ratio test, } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{k+1}}{a_k} \right| = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{k} = 0 < 1$$

$$\text{By ratio test, } \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{2^k \cos k}{(k-1)!} \right| \text{ converges}$$

By absolute convergence test, the series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^k \cos k}{(k-1)!}$ converges.

☺Exercise 5

Check whether the following series converges or not

(Try to do as many as possible)

a) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \cos\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \sin\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \tan\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)$ (simplify it first!!)

b) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2k+1)! 2^k}{3(k+2)^2}$

c) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^k \sqrt{k}}{(2k)!}$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\cos k) \left(\sin\left(\frac{1}{k^2}\right) \right)$ (2002 L1 Midterm)

d) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2k+1)^5}{k!}$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos k}{k^4 + k + 1}$ (2002 L2 Midterm)

e) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sin^k\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)\right)}{\frac{1}{k^2}}$ (2003 Final)

f) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^k}{(2k)! k!}$ (2005 Fall Exam)

g) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(3k)!}{k! 2^k}$ (2005 Fall Exam)