

18.100A Assignment 3

Octavio Vega

February 16, 2023

Problem 1

Proof. Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ with $x < y$. By the density of \mathbb{Q} , we have that $\exists r \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $x < r < y$.

Then $x + \sqrt{2} < y + \sqrt{2}$. Then $\exists r \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that

$$x + \sqrt{2} < r < y + \sqrt{2} \quad (1)$$

$$\implies x < r - \sqrt{2} < y. \quad (2)$$

But since $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$, then the number $i := r - \sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$.

So $x < i < y$ with $i \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$, as desired. \square

Problem 2

Proof. Define the function $f : E \rightarrow \wp(\mathbb{N})$ such that if $x = 0.d_{-1}d_{-2}\dots$, then

$$f(x) = \{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid d_{-j} = 2\}. \quad (3)$$

We want to show that f is a bijection. First, we show that f is injective.

Let $x_1 = 0.d_{-1}^{(1)}d_{-2}^{(1)}\dots$ and $x_2 = 0.d_{-1}^{(2)}d_{-2}^{(2)}\dots$ for $x_1, x_2 \in E$. Suppose $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$. Then

$$\{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid d_{-j}^{(1)} = 2\} = \{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid d_{-k}^{(2)} = 2\}. \quad (4)$$

Since each digit $d_{-j} \in \{1, 2\}$, then the sets of digits must be the same:

$$\{d_{-j}^{(1)} \mid j \in \mathbb{N}\} = \{d_{-k}^{(2)} \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}. \quad (5)$$

But by the theorem from class, we know that for every set of digits $\exists! x \in [0, 1]$ such that $x = 0.d_{-1}d_{-2}\dots$. So if all of the digits are the same, then the numbers must be the same, i.e.

$$f(x_1) = f(x_2) \implies x_1 = x_2. \quad (6)$$

Thus f is injective.

Next, we show that f is surjective.

Let $S \in \wp(\mathbb{N})$ with

$$S := \{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid d_{-j} = 2\}. \quad (7)$$

Since this corresponds to the indices for a set of digits, then by the theorem from class $\exists x \in [0, 1]$ such that $x = 0.d_{-1}d_{-2}\dots$; i.e. for any $S \in \wp(\mathbb{N})$, $\exists x \in E$ such that $f(x) = S$.

Hence, f is also surjective, which means that it is bijective.

Therefore we conclude that $|E| = |\wp(\mathbb{N})|$. \square

Problem 3

(a)

Proof. We want to show that there exists a bijection $h : A \cup B \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.

Recall that we can construct the sets of even and odd natural numbers as follows:

$$\mathcal{O} := \{2n + 1 \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}, \text{ and } \mathcal{E} := \{2n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}. \quad (8)$$

We also know that $|\mathcal{O}| = |\mathcal{E}| = |\mathbb{N}|$ because the functions defined via $f_e(n) = 2n$ and $f_o(n) = 2n + 1$, mapping \mathcal{E} to \mathbb{N} and \mathcal{O} to \mathbb{N} , respectively, are both bijective. Finally, we note that $\mathcal{O} \cup \mathcal{E} = \mathbb{N}$.

Since A and B are both countably infinite, i.e. $|A| = |B| = |\mathbb{N}|$, then \exists bijections f, g such that

$$f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, \text{ and } g : B \rightarrow \mathbb{N}. \quad (9)$$

Then $\forall a \in A$, $2f(a)$ is even, and $\forall b \in B$, $2g(b) + 1$ is odd. So we define the even and odd sets

$$\mathcal{E} := \{2f(a) \mid a \in A\}, \text{ and } \mathcal{O} := \{2g(b) + 1 \mid b \in B\}. \quad (10)$$

Then we construct the function h defined via

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} 2f(x) & \text{if } x \in A \\ 2g(x) + 1 & \text{if } x \in B. \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

First, we show that h is injective.

Case 1: $x, y \in A$. Then

$$h(x) = h(y) \quad (12)$$

$$\implies 2f(x) = 2f(y) \quad (13)$$

$$\implies f(x) = f(y) \quad (14)$$

$$\implies x = y, \quad (15)$$

Since f is injective.

Case 2: $x, y \in B$. Then

$$h(x) = h(y) \tag{16}$$

$$\implies 2g(x) + 1 = 2g(y) + 1 \tag{17}$$

$$\implies g(x) = g(y) \tag{18}$$

$$\implies x = y, \tag{19}$$

since g is injective.

Case 3: $x \in A, y \in B$ WOLOG, and $h(x) = h(y)$. This case is vacuous because \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{O} are disjoint, whereas $2f(x) \in \mathcal{E}$ while $2g(x) + 1 \in \mathcal{O}$.

Thus, according to cases 1 and 2, h is injective.

Now we show that h is surjective. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Case 1: n is even. Then by surjectivity of f , $\exists a \in A$ such that $f(a) = \frac{n}{2}$, i.e. $h(a) = n$.

Case 2: n is odd. Then by surjectivity of g , $\exists b \in B$ such that $g(b) = \frac{n-1}{2}$, i.e. $h(b) = n$.

Thus, h is surjective as well.

Therefore we conclude that h is a bijection, hence $|A \cup B| = |\mathbb{N}|$. \square

(b)

Proof. (By contradiction). Suppose instead that $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ is countable. We write:

$$\mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \cup \mathbb{Q} \tag{20}$$

$$\implies |\mathbb{R}| = |\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \cup \mathbb{Q}|. \tag{21}$$

We know that \mathbb{Q} is countably infinite, so $|\mathbb{Q}| = |\mathbb{N}|$. We also assumed that $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ is countable, so $|\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}| = |\mathbb{N}|$. Then by part **(a)**, we have that $|\mathbb{R}| = |\mathbb{N}|$, but the reals are uncountable, so contradiction ($\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$).

Hence $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ must be uncountable. \square