

# Notes on Set Theory

## 1 Introduction

- **Extensionality Property:** A set is determined by its members

$$A = B \Leftrightarrow (\forall x)[x \in A \Leftrightarrow x \in B]$$

- A **function**  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  associates with each member  $x$  of the set  $X$  some member  $f(x)$  of  $Y$ . ( $x \mapsto f(x)$ ) is a name-free notation for functions.

- $f$  is an **injection** (one-to-one) if

$$(\forall x, y \in X)[f(x) = f(y) \Rightarrow x = y]$$

- $f$  is a **surjection** (onto) if

$$(\forall y \in Y)(\exists x \in X)[f(x) = y]$$

- $f$  is a **bijection** (correspondence) if

$$(\forall y \in Y)(\exists! x \in X)[f(x) = y]$$

- Given a set  $A$ , the **identity function** on  $A$ ,  $I_A$ , is the total function ( $x \mapsto x$ ).
- A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is **surjective** iff there exists a (total) function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  s.t.  $g \circ f = I_B$ .
- If there exists a (total) function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  s.t.  $f \circ g = I_A$  then  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is **injective**.
- If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is injective and  $A \neq \emptyset$  then there exists a function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  s.t.  $f \circ g = I_A$ .
- A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is **bijective** iff there exists a unique function  $f^{-1}$  s.t.  $f \circ f^{-1} = I_A$  and  $f^{-1} \circ f = I_B$ ;  $f^{-1}$  is called the **inverse** of  $f$ .
- For every  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $A \subseteq X$ , the set

$$f[A] = \{f(x) : x \in A\}$$

is the **image of  $A$  under  $f$** , and if  $B \subseteq Y$ , then

$$f^{-1}[B] = \{x \in X : f(x) \in B\}$$

is the **pre-image of  $B$  by  $f$** .

## 2 Equipnumerosity

- Two sets  $A, B$  are **equipnumerosity** if there exists a (one-to-one) *correspondence* between their elements, i.e.,

$$A \approx_c B \triangleq (\exists f)[f : A \rightarrow_{\text{bij}} B]$$

- The set  $A$  is **less than or equal to  $B$  in size** if it is equipnumerosity with some subset of  $B$ , i.e.,

$$A \leq_c B \triangleq (\exists C \subseteq B)[A \approx_c C]$$

$$- A \leq_c B \Leftrightarrow (\exists f)[f : A \rightarrow_{\text{inj}} B]$$

- A set  $A$  is **finite** if there exists some natural number  $n \in \mathbb{N}_1$  such that

$$A \approx_c \{i : i < n\} = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\},$$

otherwise,  $A$  is **infinite**.

- A set  $A$  is **Dedekind-infinite** if there exists an injection

$$f : A \rightarrow_{\text{inj}} B \subsetneq A$$

from  $A$  into a proper subset  $B \subsetneq A$ .

- A set  $A$  is **countable** if it is *finite* or *equipnumerosity* with the set of natural numbers  $\mathbb{N}$ , otherwise **uncountable**.

- A set  $A$  is *countable* iff  $A = \emptyset$  or  $A$  has an *enumeration*, where an **enumeration** is a surjection  $\pi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow_{\text{surj}} A$ .

- If  $A$  is countable and there exists an injection  $f : B \rightarrow_{\text{inj}} A$ , then  $B$  is also countable.

- (**Cantor's first diagonal method**) For each sequence<sup>1</sup>  $A_0, A_1, \dots$  of countable sets, the union

$$A = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} A_i = A_0 \cup A_1 \cup \dots$$

is also a *countable* set.

- This technique is also called *dovetailing*, which is heavily used in computability proofs.
- The set  $\mathbb{Z}$  of integers is countable.
- The set  $\mathbb{Q}$  of rational numbers is countable.

\* Since

$$\mathbb{Q}^+ = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{m}{n} : m \in \mathbb{N} \right\},$$

and each  $\{m/n : m \in \mathbb{N}\}$  for fixed  $n$  is countable,  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  is countable.  $\mathbb{Q}^-$  is countable similarly.

- (**Cantor's second diagonal method**) The set of *infinite*, binary sequences

$$\Delta = \{(a_0, a_1, \dots) : (\forall i)[a_i = 0 \vee a_i = 1]\}$$

is uncountable.

- The set  $\mathbb{R}$  of real numbers is uncountable.
- The set of total functions on  $\mathbb{N}$  is uncountable.

- If  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are all countable, so is their Cartesian product  $A_1 \times \dots \times A_n$ .

- For every countable set  $A$ , each  $A^i$  ( $i \geq 2$ ) and the union  $\bigcup_{i=2}^{\infty} A^i$  is countable.

- The set  $\mathcal{K}$  of *algebraic real numbers* is countable (Cantor), and hence there exists a real number that is not algebraic (Liouville).

- (Cantor) For every set  $A$ ,

$$A <_c \mathcal{P}(A),$$

i.e.,  $A \leq_c \mathcal{P}(A)$  but not  $A \approx_c \mathcal{P}(A)$ , where  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  is the **powerset** of  $A$ .

- Proof of  $A \leq_c \mathcal{P}(A)$ : ( $x \mapsto \{x\}$ ) is an injection from  $A$  to  $\mathcal{P}(A)$ .

<sup>1</sup>this implies an 'enumeration', which, in turn, implies the countability of the sequence

- Proof of  $A \neq_c \mathcal{P}(A)$ : To the contrary, let  $\pi$  be a correspondence between  $A$  and  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  and let

$$B = \{x \in A : x \notin \pi(x)\}.$$

Since  $B \subseteq A$  (i.e.,  $B \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ ), there should exist  $b \in A$  such that  $B = \pi(b)$ , and either  $b \in B$  or  $b \notin B$ . Both cases lead to contradiction (Russell phenomenon!).

- \* *This proof is a fairly straightforward generalization of Cantor's second diagonal method.*
- \* (cont.) Why? We constructed  $B \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  so that  $B$  is not equal to any element of  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  using self-reference.

- **(Schröder-Bernstein Theorem)** For any two sets  $A, B$ ,

$$(A \leq_c B \wedge B \leq_c A) \Rightarrow A =_c B$$

- $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}) \leq_c \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{R} \leq_c \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$
- $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}) = \mathbb{R}$ .

- A set  $A$  is **transitive** if every set  $B$  which is an element of  $A$  has the property that all of *its* elements also belong to  $A$ .

- For every set  $B \in A$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .
- For every set  $B \in A$ ,  $B \subseteq A$ .
- $\bigcup A \subseteq A$ .
- For any set  $A$ ,  $TC(A)$  is the smallest transitive set including  $A$ ; it is called the **transitive closure** of  $A$ : e.g.,

$$TC(A) = \bigcup \{A, \bigcup A, \bigcup \bigcup A, \dots\}.$$

### 3 Paradoxes and Axioms

- **(Hypothesis of Cardinal Comparability)** For any two sets  $A, B$ , either  $A \leq_c B$  or  $B \leq_c A$ .
- **(Continuum Hypothesis; CH)** There is no set of real numbers  $X$  with cardinality intermediate between those of  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ , i.e.,

$$(\forall X \subseteq \mathbb{R})[X \leq_c \mathbb{N} \vee X =_c \mathbb{R}]$$

- **(Generalized Continuum Hypothesis; GCH)** For every infinite set  $A$ ,

$$(\forall X \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A))[X \leq_c A \vee X =_c \mathcal{P}(A)]$$

- **(General Comprehension Principle)** For each  $n$ -ary definite condition  $P$ , there is a set

$$A = \{\vec{x} : P(\vec{x})\}$$

whose members are precisely all the  $n$ -tuples of objects which satisfy  $P(\vec{x})$ , such that for all  $\vec{x}$ ,

$$\vec{x} \in A \Leftrightarrow P(\vec{x})$$

- By *extensionality principle*, only **one** set  $A$  can satisfy the above equivalence, we call this  $A$  the **extension** of the condition  $P$ .

- A  $n$ -ary **condition**  $P$  is **definite** if for each  $n$ -tuple of objects  $\vec{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , it is determined ‘unambiguously’ whether  $P(\vec{x})$  is true or false.

- Note that we do not demand of a definite condition that its truth value be effectively decidable (Turing-decidable or recursive).

- A  $n$ -ary **operation**  $F$  is **definite**, if it assigns to each  $n$ -tuple of objects  $\vec{x}$  a unique, unambiguously determined object  $w = F(\vec{x})$ .

- Note again that we don't demand of a definite operation be effectively computable.

- **(Russell's Paradox)** The General Comprehension Principle is not valid.

- Russell's normal set

$$R = \{x : x \text{ is a set and } x \notin x\}$$

- Is  $R \in R$  or  $R \notin R$ ?

#### Axiomatic set theory

- Zermelo's **axiomatic set theory** saved the Cantor's paradise.

- **Axiomatic setup**

- assumption of a **domain** or **universe**  $\mathcal{W}$  of objects, including sets
- **definite conditions** and **definite operations** on  $\mathcal{W}$  including *identity*, *sethood*, and *membership*
- We call the objects that are not sets **atoms**; but we do not require that any atoms exist.

- **(I: Axiom of Extensionality)** For any two sets  $A, B$ ,

$$A = B \Leftrightarrow (\forall x)[x \in A \Leftrightarrow x \in B]$$

- **(II: Emptyset and Pairset Axioms)**

- There is a special object  $\emptyset$ , which is a set with no members.
- For any two objects  $x, y$ , there is a set  $A$  whose only members are  $x$  and  $y$ , i.e.,

$$t \in A \Leftrightarrow t = x \text{ or } t = y$$

- **(III: Separation Axiom; Axiom of Subsets)** For each set  $A$  and each unary, definite condition  $P$ , there exists a set  $B$  which satisfies the equivalence

$$x \in B \Leftrightarrow x \in A \text{ and } P(x)$$

- From the Extensionality Axiom, only one  $B$  satisfies the above equivalence, which we will denote by  $B = \{x \in A : P(x)\}$ .
- This axiom restricts the General Comprehension Principle and frees us from the Russell's Paradox.

- **(IV: Powerset Axiom)** For each object  $A$ , there exists a set  $B$  whose members are the subsets of  $A$ , i.e.,

$$X \in B \Leftrightarrow \text{Set}(X) \text{ and } X \subseteq A$$

- $X \subseteq A \triangleq (\forall t)[t \in X \Rightarrow t \in A]$
- $\mathcal{P}(A) \triangleq \{X : \text{Set}(X) \text{ and } X \subseteq A\}$

- **(V: Unionset Axiom)** For every object  $\mathcal{E}$ , there exists a set  $B$  whose members are the members of the members of  $\mathcal{E}$ , i.e., it satisfies the equivalence,

$$t \in B \Leftrightarrow (\exists X \in \mathcal{E})[t \in X]$$

- **(VI: Axiom of Infinity)** There exists a set  $I$  which contains the empty set  $\emptyset$  and the singleton of each of its members, i.e.,

$$\emptyset \in I \text{ and } (\forall x)[x \in I \Rightarrow \{x\} \in I]$$

- In the 19th century, there was a belief that the existence of natural numbers could be proved. But now we know better: *Logic can codify the valid forms of reasoning but it cannot prove the existence of anything, let alone infinite sets.*

- For every unary, definite condition  $P$  there exists a **class**

$$A = \{x : P(x)\}$$

such that for every object  $x$ ,

$$x \in A \Leftrightarrow P(x)$$

- Every set will be a class; but because of the Russell Paradox, *there must be more classes than sets.*
- A unary definite condition  $P$  is **coextensive** with a set  $A$  if the objects which satisfy it are precisely the members of  $A$ .

$$P =_e A \triangleq (\forall x)[P(x) \Leftrightarrow x \in A]$$

- By Russell Paradox we know that *not every  $P$  is coextensive with a set.*
- A class is either a set or a unary definite condition which is not coextensive with a set.

- **(VII: Axiom of Choice)**
- **(VIII: Axiom of Replacement)**
- **Principle of Purity:** “Every object is a set; there are no atoms.”

#### 4 Are Sets All There Is?

- In analytic geometry the geometric line  $\Pi$  is “identified” with real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ . The correspondence  $P \mapsto x(P)$  gives a **faithful representation** of  $\Pi$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- “Now let’s codify ordered pairs, relations, functions, equinumerosity, ... in the framework of set theory.”
- Representation of **ordered pair** in sets

- Characteristic properties of ordered pairs
  - (a)  $(x, y) = (x', y') \Leftrightarrow x = x' \text{ and } y = y'$
  - (b)  $A \times B \triangleq \{(x, y) : x \in A \text{ and } y \in B\}$  is a set.

- The **Kuratowski pair** operation

$$(x, y) \triangleq \{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\}$$

satisfies above two properties.

- *Proof of (b):* The condition

$$\text{OrdPair}_{A,B}(z) \triangleq (\exists x \in A)(\exists y \in B)[z = (x, y)]$$

is evidently *definite*. Now if we can find for each  $A, B$  some set  $C$  such that

$$x \in A \text{ and } y \in B \Rightarrow (x, y) \in C,$$

then, using  $C$ , we can construct a Cartesian set

$$A \times B \triangleq \{z \in C : \text{OrdPair}_{A,B}(z)\}$$

as a set by the *Separation Axiom*. We let  $C = \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A \cup B))$  since

$$\begin{aligned} x \in A, y \in B &\Rightarrow \{x\}, \{x, y\} \subseteq (A \cup B) \\ &\Rightarrow \{x\}, \{x, y\} \in \mathcal{P}(A \cup B) \\ &\Rightarrow \{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A \cup B)) \\ &\Rightarrow \{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A \cup B))) \end{aligned}$$

- Representation of **disjoint union** in sets:

$$A \uplus B \triangleq (\text{blue} \times A) \cup (\text{red} \times B),$$

where

$$\text{blue} \triangleq \emptyset \text{ and } \text{red} \triangleq \{\emptyset\}.$$

- A **binary relation** on the sets  $A, B$  is any subset of the Cartesian product  $A \times B$ .

$$xRy \triangleq (x, y) \in R.$$

- The obvious way to represent binary relations in sets is to *identify it with its extension, the set of pairs which satisfy it.*
- Every relation determines a definite condition but the converse is not true.
  - Definite conditions  $x = y$ ,  $x \in y$ , and  $X \subseteq Y$  are not binary relations according to the above definition.
  - Instead, *when restricted to some set  $A$ , identity, membership, and subethood* are indeed binary relations.

$$x =_A y \triangleq x \in A \text{ and } y \in A \text{ and } x = y$$

$$x \in_A y \triangleq x \in A \text{ and } y \in A \text{ and } x \in y$$

$$X \subseteq_A Y \triangleq X \subseteq Y \subseteq A$$

- A **function** (or **mapping** or **transformation**)  $f : A \rightarrow B$  with *domain* the set  $A$  and *range* the set  $B$  is any subset  $f \subseteq (A \times B)$  which satisfies the condition

$$(\forall x \in A)(\exists! y \in B)[(x, y) \in f].$$

- $(A \rightarrow B) \triangleq \{f \subseteq A \times B : f : A \rightarrow B\}$ : a set of all functions from  $A$  to  $B$ .
- When  $A$  and  $B$  are sets, the set of *total* functions from  $A$  to  $B$  is sometimes denoted by

$$B^A = \{f : f \text{ is a total function from } A \text{ to } B\}$$

where  $|B^A| = |B|^{|A|}$ . An interesting isomorphic interpretation of  $B^A$  is the set of  $|A|$ -ary number with  $|B|$  digits. For example, let  $A = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Then

$$B^{\{1,2,\dots,n\}} = \{(b_1, \dots, b_n) : b_i \in B\}.$$

That is,  $B^{\{1,2,\dots,n\}}$  can be thought of as a set of *strings* over  $A$  whose length is  $n$ . Note that  $(b_1, \dots, b_n) \in B^{\{1,2,\dots,n\}}$  denotes 'a' function  $f$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} f(1) &= b_1, \\ f(2) &= b_2, \\ &\dots \\ f(n) &= b_n. \end{aligned}$$

- An **indexed family of sets** is a function

$$A = (i \mapsto A_i)_{i \in I} : I \rightarrow E$$

for some  $I \neq \emptyset$  and some  $E$ , where each  $A_i$  is a set.

- **union** and **intersection** of an indexed family of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i &\triangleq \{x \in \bigcup E : (\exists i \in I)[x \in A_i]\} \\ \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i &\triangleq \{x \in \bigcup E : (\forall i \in I)[x \in A_i]\} \end{aligned}$$

- **product** of an indexed family

$$\prod_{i \in I} A_i \triangleq \{f : I \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i : (\forall i \in I)[f(i) \in A_i]\}$$

- brand-new definition of **equinumerosity** and **size comparison**

$$\begin{aligned} A =_c B &\triangleq (\exists f)[f : A \rightarrow_{\text{bij}} B] \\ &\Leftrightarrow (A \rightarrow_{\text{bij}} B) \neq \emptyset \\ A <_c B &\triangleq (\exists f)[f : A \rightarrow_{\text{inj}} B] \\ &\Leftrightarrow (A \rightarrow_{\text{inj}} B) \neq \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

- For each  $X \subseteq A$ , the **restriction**  $f \upharpoonright X$  of a function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is obtained by cutting  $f$  down so it is defined only on  $X$ ,

$$f \upharpoonright X \triangleq \{(x, y) \in f : x \in X\}$$

- The basic condition of **functionhood**

$$\text{Function}(f) \triangleq (\exists A)(\exists B)[f \in (A \rightarrow B)]$$

is a definite condition.

### Cantor's Notion of Cardinal Numbers

- (**Problem of Cardinal Assignment**) Define an operation  $|\cdot|$  on the class of sets which satisfies

- (a)  $A =_c |A|$
- (b)  $A =_c B \Leftrightarrow |A| = |B|$
- (c) for each  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\{|X| : X \in \mathcal{E}\}$  is a set

- A (**weak**) **cardinal assignment** is any definite operation  $|\cdot|$  which satisfies the conditions (a) and (c) given above. The **cardinal numbers** (relative to  $|\cdot|$ ) are its values,

$$\text{Card}(\kappa) \Leftrightarrow \kappa \in \text{Card} \triangleq (\exists A)[\kappa = |A|].$$

A cardinal assignment  $|\cdot|$  is **strong**, if in addition, for any two cardinal numbers  $\kappa, \lambda$ ,

$$\kappa =_c \lambda \Leftrightarrow \kappa = \lambda$$

which is equivalent to the condition (b) above.

- Arithmetic operations on cardinal numbers

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa + \lambda &\triangleq |\kappa \uplus \lambda| =_c \kappa \uplus \lambda \\ \kappa \cdot \lambda &\triangleq |\kappa \times \lambda| =_c \kappa \times \lambda \\ \kappa^\lambda &\triangleq |(\kappa \rightarrow \lambda)| =_c (\kappa \rightarrow \lambda) \end{aligned}$$

- Infinitary operations may be defined similarly:

$$\sum_{i \in I} \kappa_i \triangleq \left| \left\{ (i, x) \in I \times \bigcup_{i \in I} \kappa_i : x \in \kappa_i \right\} \right|$$

and

$$\prod_{i \in I} \kappa_i \triangleq \left| \prod_{i \in I} \kappa_i \right|$$

- For every indexed family of sets  $A = (i \mapsto A_i)_{i \in I}$ , there exists a function  $f : I \rightarrow f[I]$  s.t.

$$f(i) = |A_i| \quad (i \in I)$$

### Structured Sets

- A **topological space** is a set  $X$  of points endowed with a **topological structure**, which is determined by a collection  $\mathcal{T}$  of subsets of  $X$  satisfying the following three properties:

- (a)  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $X \in \mathcal{T}$
- (b)  $A, B \in \mathcal{T} \Rightarrow A \cap B \in \mathcal{T}$
- (c) For every family  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{T}$  of sets in  $\mathcal{T}$ , the unionset  $\bigcup \mathcal{E}$  is also in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

- A family of sets  $\mathcal{T}$  with the three properties is called a **topology** on  $X$ , with **open sets** its members and **closed sets** the complements of open sets relative to  $X$ , i.e., all  $X \setminus G$  with  $G$  open.

- A **structured set** is a pair  $U = (A, \mathcal{S})$  where  $A = \text{Field}(U)$  is a set, the **field** or **space** of  $U$ , and  $\mathcal{S}$  is an arbitrary object, the **frame** of  $U$ .

- A *topological space* is a structured set  $(X, \mathcal{T})$ .
- A *group* is a structured set  $U = (G, (e, \cdot)) = (G, e, \cdot)$  where  $e \in G$  and  $\cdot : G \times G \rightarrow G$  is a binary function satisfying the group axioms.

## 5 The Natural Numbers

- A **system of natural numbers** is any structured set  $(\mathbb{N}, o, S) = (\mathbb{N}, (o, S))$  which satisfies the following conditions (or **axioms of Peano**):

- (a)  $o \in \mathbb{N}$
- (b)  $S : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$
- (c)  $S$  is an injection, i.e.,  $Sn = Sm \Rightarrow n = m$
- (d)  $(\forall n \in \mathbb{N})[Sn \neq o]$
- (e) (**Induction principle**) for each  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$[o \in X \text{ and } (\forall n \in \mathbb{N})[x \in X \Rightarrow Sn \in X]] \Rightarrow X = \mathbb{N}$$

- In a system of natural numbers  $(\mathbb{N}, o, S)$ , every element  $n \neq o$  is a successor,

$$n \neq o \Rightarrow (\exists m \in \mathbb{N})[Sm = n]$$

and for each  $n$ ,  $Sn \neq n$ .

- (**Existence Theorem for the Natural Numbers**) There exists at least one system of natural numbers  $(\mathbb{N}, o, S)$ .
  - Can be proved using the *Axiom of Infinity*.
- (**Uniqueness Theorem for the Natural Numbers**) For any two systems of natural numbers  $(\mathbb{N}_1, o_1, S_1)$  and  $(\mathbb{N}_2, o_2, S_2)$ , there exists exactly one bijection (or **isomorphism**)  $\pi : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow_{\text{bij}} \mathbb{N}_2$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(o_1) &= o_2 \\ \pi(S_1 n) &= S_2 \pi(n) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_1)\end{aligned}$$

- (**Recursion Theorem**) Assume that  $(\mathbb{N}, o, S)$  is a system of natural numbers,  $E$  is some set,  $a \in E$ , and  $h : E \rightarrow E$  is some function. It follows that there exists exactly one function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow E$  which satisfies the identities

$$\begin{aligned}f(o) &= a, \\ f(Sn) &= h(f(n)), \quad (n \in \mathbb{N})\end{aligned}$$

- The *Recursion Theorem* justifies the usual way by which we can define functions on the natural numbers by recursion (or induction)
- From a purely mathematical view, Recursion Theorem can be viewed as a theorem of *existence and uniqueness of solutions of the system of the identities where  $f$  is the unknown*.
- Recursion Theorem is a special case of **Continuous Least Fixed Point Theorem**, which, in turn, is a special case of **Fixed Point Theorem** of Zermelo.
- (**Recursion with parameters**) For any two sets  $Y, E$  and functions

$$g : Y \rightarrow E, \quad h : E \times Y \rightarrow E,$$

there exists exactly one function  $f : \mathbb{N} \times Y \rightarrow E$  which satisfies the identities

$$\begin{aligned}f(o, y) &= g(y) \quad (y \in Y), \\ f(n+1, y) &= h(f(n, y), y) \quad (y \in Y, n \in \mathbb{N})\end{aligned}$$

## The Natural Numbers

- We denote the cardinal number of  $\mathbb{N}$  by the first Hebrew letter,

$$\aleph_o \triangleq |\mathbb{N}|$$

- Functions  $a : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$  with the domain  $\mathbb{N}$  are called (infinite) **sequences** and we often write their argument as a subscript,

$$a_n = a(n) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}, a : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A)$$

- **Addition and multiplication.** The addition function on the natural numbers is defined by the recursion

$$\begin{aligned}n + o &= n, \\ n + Sm &= S(n + m)\end{aligned}$$

and multiplication is defined next, using addition, by the recursion

$$\begin{aligned}n \cdot o &= o, \\ n \cdot Sm &= (n \cdot m) + m\end{aligned}$$

- A binary relation  $\leq$  on a set  $P$  is a **partial ordering** if it is reflexive, transitive, and antisymmetric.
- The partial ordering  $\leq$  is **total** (or **linear**) if any two elements of  $P$  are **comparable** in  $\leq$ , i.e.,

$$(\forall x, y \in P)[x \leq y \text{ or } y \leq x]$$

- The binary relation  $\leq$  on  $P$  is a **wellordering** of  $P$  if it is a total ordering of  $P$  and, in addition, *every non-empty subset of  $P$  has a least element*,

$$(\forall X \subseteq P)[X \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow (\exists x \in X)(\forall y \in X)[x \leq y]]$$

- The order relation  $\leq$  on the natural numbers is defined by the equivalence

$$n \leq m \triangleq (\exists s)[m = n + s]$$

- The ordering  $\leq$  on  $\mathbb{N}$  is a wellordering.

- A set  $A$  is **finite** if there exists some natural number  $n$  s.t.  $A =_c [o, n)$ , **infinite** if it is not finite and **countable** if it is finite or equinumerous with  $\mathbb{N}$ . The **finite cardinals** are the cardinal numbers of finite sets.
- (**Pigeonhole Principle**) Every injection  $f : A \rightarrow_{\text{inj}} A$  on a finite set into itself is also a surjection, i.e.  $f[A] = A$ .
- (**Simultaneous Recursion Theorem**) For each two sets  $E_1, E_2$ , elements  $a_1 \in E_1, a_2 \in E_2$ , and functions  $h_1 : E_1 \times E_2 \rightarrow E_1, h_2 : E_1 \times E_2 \rightarrow E_2$ , there exists unique functions

$$f_1 : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow E_1, \quad f_2 : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow E_2$$

which satisfy the identities

$$\begin{aligned}f_1(o) &= a_1, \\ f_2(o) &= a_2, \\ f_1(n+1) &= h_1(f_1(n), f_2(n)), \\ f_2(n+1) &= h_2(f_1(n), f_2(n))\end{aligned}$$

## The Cardinal Numbers

- For each set  $A$ , we define the set of **finite sequences** (or **words** or **strings**) from  $A$  by

$$A^{(n)} \triangleq \{u \in \mathbb{N} \times A : \text{Function}(u) \text{ and } \text{Domain}(u) = [0, n)\},$$

$$A^* \triangleq \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} A^{(i)}$$

- The **length** of the string  $u$  is defined as

$$lh(u) \triangleq \max\{i : i = 0 \text{ or } i - 1 \in \text{Domain}(u)\},$$

$$u \in A^*$$

- We let  $u \sqsubseteq v$  if  $u \subseteq v$  for  $u, v \in A^*$  and we call  $u$  an **initial segment** of  $v$  if  $u \sqsubseteq v$ .
- For each cardinal number  $\kappa$  and each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we set

$$\kappa^n \triangleq |\kappa^{(n)}|$$

- For each countably infinite set  $A$  and each  $n > 0$ ,

$$A =_c A \times A =_c A^{(n)} =_c A^*.$$

As equations of cardinal arithmetic, these read:

$$\aleph_0 =_c \aleph_0 \cdot \aleph_0 =_c \aleph_0^n =_c |\aleph_0^*|$$

- The Continuum. The classical notation for the cardinal of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$  is

$$\mathfrak{c} \triangleq |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| =_c 2^{\aleph_0}$$

- $\mathfrak{c} \cdot \mathfrak{c} =_c 2^{\aleph_0} \cdot 2^{\aleph_0} =_c 2^{\aleph_0 + \aleph_0} =_c 2^{\aleph_0} =_c \mathfrak{c}$
- $\mathfrak{c} =_c \aleph_0^{\aleph_0} =_c \mathfrak{c}^{\aleph_0}$
- The Continuum Hypothesis* revisited

$$(\forall \kappa \leq_c \mathfrak{c})[\kappa \leq_c \aleph_0 \text{ or } \kappa =_c \mathfrak{c}]$$

## 6 Fixed Points

- A **partially ordered set** (or **poset**) is a structured set

$$P = (\text{Field}(P), \leq_P),$$

where  $\text{Field}(P)$  is an arbitrary set and  $\leq_P$  is a partial ordering on  $\text{Field}(P)$ .

- Note that  $\leq_P$  determines  $P$  since it's reflexive, i.e.

$$x \in \text{Field}(P) \Leftrightarrow x \leq_P x$$

- $\perp = \perp_P \triangleq$  the least element of  $P$  (if it exists)

- Let  $P$  be a poset,  $S \subseteq P$  and  $M \in P$  a member of  $P$ .

- $M$  is an **upper bound** of  $S$  if it is greater than or equal to every element of  $S$ , i.e.  $(\forall x \in S)[x \leq M]$ .
- $M$  is a **greatest element** in  $S$  if it is a member and an upper bound of  $S$ , i.e.  $M \in S$  and  $(\forall x \in S)[x \leq M]$ .

- $M$  is a **least upper bound** of  $S$  if it is an upper bound and also less than or equal to every other upper bound of  $S$ , i.e.

$$(\forall x \in S)[x \leq M]$$

and

$$(\forall M')[(\forall x \in S)[x \leq M'] \Rightarrow M \leq M']$$

- $M$  is **maximal** in  $S$  if

$$(\forall x \in S)[M \leq x \Rightarrow M = x].$$

Note that maximal elements are not necessarily unique.

- When it exists, the least upper bound of  $S$  is denoted by

$$\sup S = \text{the least upper bound of } S$$

- There exists *at most one* least upper bound of  $S$ .
- If  $M$  is a greatest element of  $S$  then  $M$  is the least upper bound of  $S$ .
- A **partial function** on a set  $A$  to a set  $E$  is any function with domain of definition some subset of  $A$  and values in  $E$ , in symbols

$$f : A \rightarrow E \triangleq \text{Function}(f) \text{ and } \text{Domain}(f) \subseteq A \text{ and } \text{Image}(f) \subseteq E$$

- $(A \rightarrow E) \triangleq \{f \subseteq A \times E : f : A \rightarrow E\}$

- A **chain** in a poset  $P$  is any linearly ordered subset  $S$  of  $P$ , i.e. a subset satisfying

$$(\forall x, y \in S)[x \leq y \text{ or } y \leq x].$$

A poset  $P$  is **chain-complete** or **inductive** if every chain in  $P$  has a *least upper bound*.

- For each set  $A$ , the powerset  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  is inductive.
- For any two sets  $A, B$ , the poset  $(A \rightarrow B)$  of all partial functions from  $A$  to  $B$  is inductive.
- For every poset  $P$ , the set

$$\text{Chains}(P) \triangleq \{S \subseteq P : S \text{ is a chain}\}$$

of all chains in  $P$  (partially ordered under  $\subseteq$ ) is inductive.

- (Zorn's Lemma)** Given a poset  $(P, \leq_P)$ , if every nonempty chain has an upper bound, then  $P$  has at least one greatest element.
- A mapping  $\pi : P \rightarrow Q$  on a poset  $P$  to another is **monotone** if for all  $x, y \in P$ ,

$$x \leq_P y \Rightarrow \pi(x) \leq_Q \pi(y)$$

- A monotone mapping  $\pi : P \rightarrow Q$  on an *inductive* poset to another is **countably continuous** if for every non-empty, countable chain  $S \subseteq P$ ,

$$\pi(\sup S) = \sup \pi[S]$$

- **(Continuous Least Fixed Point Theorem)** Every countably continuous, monotone mapping  $\pi : P \rightarrow P$  on an inductive poset into itself has exactly one **strongly least fixed point**  $x^*$ , which is characterized by the two properties,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(x^*) &= x^*, \\ (\forall y \in P)[\pi(y) \leq y \Rightarrow x^* \leq y]\end{aligned}$$

- A partial function  $g : A \rightarrow E$  is **finite** if it has finite domain, i.e. if it is a finite set of ordered pairs. A mapping  $\pi : (A \rightarrow E) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow M)$  from one partial function space to another is **continuous**, if it is monotone and for each  $f : A \rightarrow E$ , and each  $y \in B$  and  $v \in M$ ,

$$\pi(f)(y) = v \Rightarrow (\exists g \in f)[g \text{ is finite and } \pi(g)(y) = v]$$

- A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  from one topological space to another is (topologically) **continuous** if the inverse image  $f^{-1}[G]$  of every open subset of  $Y$  is an open subset of  $X$ .
- Every continuous mapping  $\pi : (A \rightarrow E) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow M)$  is countably continuous, in fact, for every (not necessarily countable) non-empty chain  $S \subseteq (A \rightarrow E)$ ,

$$\pi(\sup S) = \sup \pi[S]$$

## 7 Well-Ordered Sets

- A **well-ordered set** is a poset

$$U = (Field(U), \leq_U),$$

where  $\leq_U$  is a **wellordering** on  $Field(U)$ , i.e. a linear (total) ordering on  $Field(U)$  such that every non-empty  $X \subseteq Field(U)$  has a least member.

- Associated with  $U$  is also its **strict ordering**  $<_U$ ,

$$x < y \Leftrightarrow x <_U y \triangleq x \leq_U y \text{ and } x \neq y.$$

- A set is **well orderable** if it admits a wellordering, so it is the field of some well ordered set  $(A, \leq)$ .
  - One important lesson in this section is that *well orderable sets behave much better than arbitrary sets, for example, any two of them are comparable in cardinality.*
  - If fact, *every set is well orderable*, which was proved by Zermelo.

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