

# Homework 5 Section 1.6

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Exercises 3,4,5,6,7

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**Exercise 1. (Q3):** Supply rebuttals to the following complaints about the proof of Theorem 1.6.1.

- 1) Every rational number has a decimal expansion, so we could apply this same argument to show that the set of rational numbers between 0 and 1 is uncountable. However, because we know that any subset of  $\mathbb{Q}$  must be countable, the proof of Theorem 1.6.1 must be flawed.
  - a) The set of rational numbers between 0 and 1 is  $S = \{\frac{m}{n} \in \mathbb{Q} : 0 < \frac{m}{n} < 1\}$ . Since there is an irrational number between every two real numbers, we know that  $S \subsetneq (0, 1)$ . This means that we cannot define a real rational number  $x \in S$  with the decimal expansion  $x = 0.b_1b_2b_3 \dots$  using the rule

$$b_n = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } a_{nn} \neq 2 \\ 3 & \text{if } a_{nn} = 2 \end{cases}$$

or any variant of the rule, since there is no guarantee that this rule will ensure that  $x \in S$  since  $x$  could become an irrational number.

- 2) Some numbers have two different decimal representations. Specifically, any decimal expansion that terminates can also be written with repeating 9's. For instance,  $\frac{1}{2}$  can be written as 0.5 or as 0.4999... Doesn't this cause some problems?
  - a) In the proof of Theorem 1.5.6, we assume that the function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow (0, 1)$  is bijective, so the image of  $f$  doesn't contain any repeating elements, and by using the rule

$$b_n = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } a_{nn} \neq 2 \\ 3 & \text{if } a_{nn} = 2 \end{cases}$$

we ensure that we do not construct a number with repeating 9's or that terminates in a 0 in order to avoid repeating numbers.

**Exercise 2. (Q4):** Let  $S$  be the set consisting of all sequences of 0's and 1's. Observe that  $S$  is not a particular sequence, but rather a large set whose elements are sequences; namely

$$S = \{(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots) : a_n = 0 \text{ or } 1\}.$$

Give a rigorous argument showing that  $S$  is uncountable.

*Proof:* Let  $f : (0, 1) \rightarrow S$  be the map that sends  $x \in (0, 1)$  to its binary representation with the decimals digits forming a tuple. For example, if  $x = 0.8125$  then its binary representation is 0.1101 and tuple form is  $(1, 1, 0, 1)$ . In other words,  $f(x) = (1, 1, 0, 1)$ . By showing that this map is injective, we show that  $|(0, 1)| \leq |S|$ , and since  $(0, 1)$  is uncountable, then  $S$  must be uncountable. Let  $a, b \in (0, 1)$  and suppose, contrapositively, that  $f(a) = f(b)$ , then

$$f(a) = (a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots) = f(b),$$

where  $a_i \in \{0, 1\}$ , then  $a$  and  $b$  have the binary representation

$$0.a_1a_2a_3\dots,$$

and must be the same. Thus the function  $f$  is injective. Since  $f$  is injective  $|(0, 1)| \leq |S|$ , therefore  $S$  is an uncountable set. ■

**Exercise 3. (Q5):** a) Let  $A = \{a, b, c\}$ . List the eight elements of  $\mathcal{P}(A)$ . b) If  $A$  is finite with  $n$  elements, show that  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  has  $2^n$  elements.

1)

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$$

2) If  $A$  is finite with  $n$  elements, show that  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  has  $2^n$  elements.

*Proof:* A subset of  $A$  is any set  $U$  such that for all  $u \in U$ ,  $u \in A$ . The cardinality of these subsets are  $0 \leq |U| \leq n$ . In other words, in order to construct each subset, we choose  $k$  elements from the  $n$  elements of  $A$ . The binomial coefficient can be used to calculate the number of unique subsets of  $A$  that can be constructed by choosing  $k$  elements from  $A$ , thus

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{P}(A)| &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}. \end{aligned}$$

We now wish to show that the open sentence

$$Q(n) : \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = 2^n$$

for all  $n \geq 0$ . We work this by induction.

**Base Case:** We first verify  $Q(0)$  and  $Q(1)$ . Let  $n = 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} &= \sum_{k=0}^0 \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \\ &= \frac{0!}{0!(0-0)!} \\ &= 1 \\ &= 2^0. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $n = 1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} &= \sum_{k=0}^1 \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \\ &= \frac{1!}{0!(1-0)!} + \frac{1!}{1!(0-1)!} \\ &= 2 \\ &= 2^1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $Q(1)$  and  $Q(2)$  are true.

**Induction Step:** Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z} \geq 0$ . We assume that  $Q(m)$  is true, and we want to show that  $Q(m+1)$  is true.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{m+1} \frac{(m+1)!}{k!(m+1-k)!} &= \sum_{k=0}^{m+1} \frac{(m)!}{k!(m-k)!} + \sum_{k=1}^{m+1} \frac{(m)!}{(k-1)!(m-k-1)!} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{(m)!}{k!(m-k)!} + \frac{(m)!}{m!(m-m)!} + \sum_{k=1}^{m+1} \frac{(m)!}{(k-1)!(m-k-1)!} \\ &= 2^m + \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{(m)!}{k!(m-k)!} \\ &= 2^m + 2^m \\ &= 2^{m+1}, \end{aligned}$$

thus  $Q(m+1)$  is true. Therefore, the open sentence  $Q(n)$  is true. Hence  $|\mathcal{P}(A)| = 2^n$ . ■

**Exercise 4. (Q6):** Three problems

1) Using the particular set  $A = \{a, b, c\}$ , exhibit two different injective mappings from  $A$  into  $\mathcal{P}(A)$ .

a) Let  $f_1 : A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$  defined as

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(a) &= \{a\} \\ f_1(b) &= \{b\} \\ f_1(c) &= \{c\}. \end{aligned}$$

b) Let  $f_2 : A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$  defined as

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(a) &= \{c\} \\ f_2(b) &= \{b\} \\ f_2(c) &= \{a\}. \end{aligned}$$

2) Letting  $C = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , produce an example of an injective map  $g : C \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$ .

a) Let  $g : C \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$  be defined as

$$g(x) = \{x\},$$

where  $x \in C$ .

3) Explain why, in parts (a) and (b), it is impossible to construct mappings that are onto.

a) Let  $S$  be an arbitrary finite set with cardinality  $n$ , then  $|\mathcal{P}(S)| = 2^n$ . Thus there are always more elements in  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ , than in  $S$ . Thus an injection exists, but not a surjection.

**Exercise 5. (Q7):** Return to the particular functions constructed in Exercise 1.6.6 and construct the subset  $B$  that results using the preceding rule.

1)  $f_1 : A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$  was defined as

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(a) &= \{a\} \\ f_1(b) &= \{b\} \\ f_1(c) &= \{c\}. \end{aligned}$$

So  $B = \emptyset$ .

2)  $f_2 : A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$  was defined as

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(a) &= \{c\} \\ f_2(b) &= \{b\} \\ f_2(c) &= \{a\}. \end{aligned}$$

So  $B = \{a, c\}$ .

3)  $g : C \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$  was defined as

$$g(x) = \{x\},$$

where  $x \in C$ . So  $B = \emptyset$ .