

1.5 Cantor's Theorem

Cantor's Diagonalization Method

Cantor initially published his discovery that \mathbf{R} is uncountable in 1874, but in 1891 he offered another simpler proof that relies on decimal representations for real numbers.

THEOREM 1.5.1. *The open interval $(0,1) = \{x \in \mathbf{R} : 0 < x < 1\}$ is uncountable.*

Power Sets and Cantor's Theorem

Given a set A , the *power set* $P(A)$ refers to the collection of all subsets of A .

Example:

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

THEOREM 1.5.2 (Cantor's Theorem). *Given any set A , there does not exist a function $f : A \rightarrow P(A)$ that is onto.*

Proof. For contradiction, assume that $f : A \rightarrow P(A)$ is onto. FINISH THIS PROOF □