



### Quiz 1

UM 205: Introduction to Algebraic Structures (Winter 2023-24)  
Indian Institute of Science

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1. Using the Peano axioms, prove the *cancellation law*, namely if  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$  so that  $a + c = b + c$ , then  $a = b$ .
2. Prove that if  $A$  and  $B$  are finite sets with cardinalities  $m$  and  $n$  respectively, and  $m < n$ , there cannot exist a function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  which is a bijection.

1) Fix  $a$  and  $b$  and induct on  $c$ .

Let  $P(c)$  be the property that  $a + c = b + c \Rightarrow a = b$   
for  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$

Take  $c = 0$

$\therefore a + 0 = b + 0 \Leftrightarrow a = b$  Thus  $P(0)$  is true  
*commutativity of addition needed* (0.5)

Now assume  $P(c)$  is true & show  $P(c++)$

$$P(c++) \rightarrow a + (c++) = b + (c++)$$

$$\therefore (a+c)++ = (b+c)++ \quad (\text{definition of addition})$$

But  $\cancel{a+c} = \cancel{b+c} \Rightarrow \cancel{a=b}$  since  $\cancel{P(c)}$  is true (unique successor)  
 $a+c = b+c$   
 $\therefore \cancel{(a+c)++} = \cancel{(b+c)++} \Rightarrow \cancel{a++} = \cancel{b++} \Rightarrow a = b$  (unique successor)  
(since  $P(c)$  holds)

$\therefore P(c++)$  holds

$\therefore$  By Principle of mathematical induction,  $a+c = b+c \Rightarrow a=b \quad \forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$

2) Bijection holds when function is one-one & onto

$f: A \rightarrow B$  where  $\#A < \#B$

We show that there can't be onto function. ✓

Suppose func is onto

Then  $\forall b \in B, \exists a \in A$  st  $f(a) = b$

But  ~~$f(a) = b$~~   $\forall a \in A, \exists! b \in B$  st  $f(a) = b$

$\therefore$  Every  $b \in B$  has a unique preimage  $a \in A$   
①  $\Downarrow$  the question has been restated.  
 $\therefore \#B \leq \#A$  (contradiction)  
not well defined (yet)  
Hence no bijection possible