

Can you arrange the following sets from smallest to largest?

Integers ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	
Even integers	
Multiples of 3	
Perfect squares	
Prime numbers	
Integer powers of 2	$\aleph_0$
Non-negative integers ( $\mathbb{N}$ )	
Pairs of integers ( $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ )	
Rational numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )	
Functions from $\{\spadesuit, \heartsuit, \diamondsuit, \clubsuit\}$ to $\mathbb{Z}$	
Finite sets of integers	
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Sets of integers ( $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$ )	
Functions from $\mathbb{Z}$ to $\{\spadesuit, \heartsuit, \diamondsuit, \clubsuit\}$	
Functions from $\mathbb{Z}$ to $\mathbb{Z}$	
Real numbers ( $\mathbb{R}$ )	$2^{\aleph_0}$
Complex numbers ( $\mathbb{C}$ )	
Spacetime ( $\mathbb{R}^4$ )	
Functions from $\mathbb{Z}$ to $\mathbb{R}$	
Finite sets of real numbers	
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Sets of real numbers ( $2^{\mathbb{R}}$ )	$2^{2^{\aleph_0}}$
Functions from $\mathbb{R}$ to $\mathbb{Z}$	
Functions from $\mathbb{R}$ to $\mathbb{R}$	
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Sets of curves in $\mathbb{R}^3$	$2^{2^{2^{\aleph_0}}}$

Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  *have the same cardinality*  
 (written  $A \approx B$ )  
 if and only if there is a bijection  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .

For any integer  $n \geq 0$ , define  $[n] = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 1 \leq x \leq n\} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ .

(For example:  $[0] = \emptyset$ ,  $[1] = \{1\}$ ,  $[5] = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .)

Every *finite* set  $X$  has the same cardinality as  $[n]$   
 for some unique non-negative integer  $n$ .

If  $X \approx [n]$ , we *define*  $|X| = n$ .

Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  **have the same cardinality**  
 (written  $A \approx B$ )  
 if and only if there is a bijection  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .

- So are there more even integers than odd integers?
- Are there more integers than even integers?
- Are there more even integers than integers divisible by 107?
- Are there more integers than positive integers?

Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  *have the same cardinality*  
 (written  $A \approx B$ )  
 if and only if there is a bijection  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .

- How many positive rational numbers are there?

$1/1$	$1/2$	$1/3$	$1/4$	$\dots$
$2/1$	$2/2$	$2/3$	$2/4$	$\dots$
$3/1$	$3/2$	$3/3$	$3/4$	$\dots$
$4/1$	$4/2$	$4/3$	$4/4$	$\dots$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$

The following function is a bijection from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{Q}$ !

$$R(0) = 0,$$

$$R(n) = \frac{1}{2[R(n-1)] - R(n-1) + 1} \quad \text{for all integers } n \geq 1.$$

$0, 1, \frac{1}{2}, 2, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, 3, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{4}{3}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{5}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, 4, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{7}{3}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{8}{5}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{2}{7}, \dots$

Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  *have the same cardinality*  
 (written  $A \approx B$ )  
 if and only if there is a bijection  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .

- How many real numbers are in the interval  $0 \leq x < 1$ ?

**Theorem:**  $\mathbb{Z}^+ \not\approx [0, 1)$

**Proof:** Suppose  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow [0, 1)$  is a bijection.

Write out a list containing each number  $f(n)$  in decimal.

$$f(1) = 0.\underline{0}00000000 \dots$$

$$f(2) = 0.0\underline{1}2345678 \dots$$

$$f(3) = 0.31\underline{4}159653 \dots$$

$$f(4) = 0.271\underline{8}28182 \dots$$

$$f(5) = 0.1414\underline{2}1400 \dots$$

$$f(6) = 0.11235\underline{9}549 \dots$$

$\vdots$

$\implies$

Let  $x$  be any number with the following property:

***For all  $n$ , the  $n$ th digit of  $x \neq$  the  $n$ th digit of  $f(n)$ .***

With the list above, we could take  $x = 0.358214 \dots$

Then  $x \neq f(n)$  for all positive integers  $n$ .

So  $f$  is not a bijection after all!

□

The real numbers are *uncountable*!

A set  $X$  is *infinite* if and only if  
there is an injection  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$ .

A set  $X$  is *countable* if and only if  
there is a function  $f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

Every function  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  defines an infinite string of bits.

So the set of functions is uncountable.

On the other hand, any *program* can be represented as a *finite* string of bits.

So the set of programs is countable.

***Almost all functions are uncomputable!***