



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Print\\_Gallery\\_\(M.\\_C.\\_Escher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Print_Gallery_(M._C._Escher))

★ HW 0 due this Friday, Jan 23 (10:00pm)

★ Quiz 1 w due next Mon, Jan 26 (10:00pm)

★ HW 1 coming soon, due next Friday

## Class 3: *Infinity*

University of Virginia  
CS3120: DMT2

<https://weikailin.github.io/cs3120-toc>

Wei-Kai Lin

# Survey: A (common) question for the course

- How this <sup>theory</sup> course can be applied to real-world contexts, especially for SWE jobs?
- Many different answers, here is one:

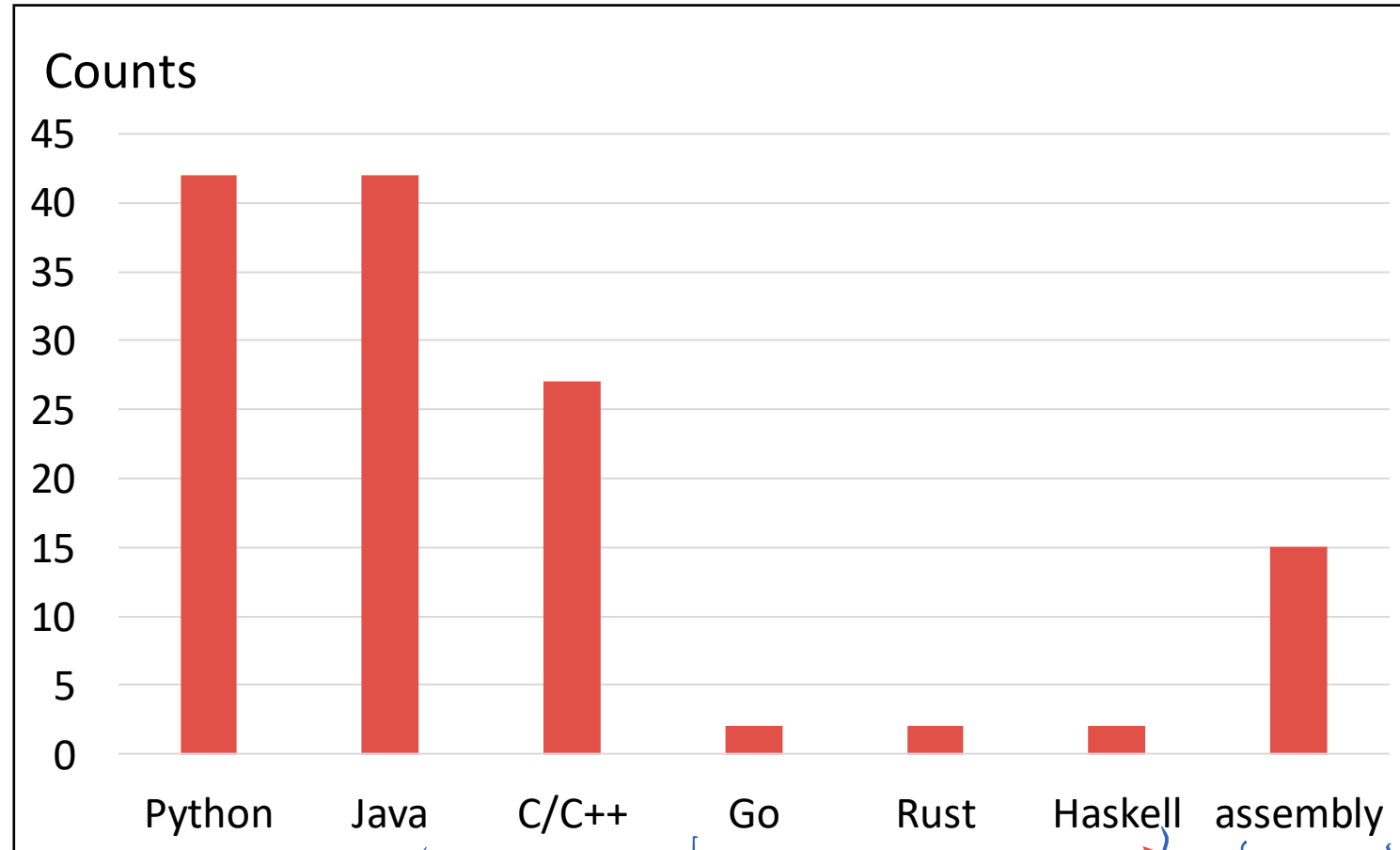
Many programming languages (if not all) are rooted in the theory.  
Thus, this course speeds up the learning of PLs.

- Hold on or ask for other answers.



### Q3.1 Programming languages

Select all programming languages which you consider yourself competent in.



Or other functional programming languages

**Definition.** For any two natural numbers,  $n$  and  $m$ , we define equality ( $=$ ) as:

- (1) if  $n$  is  $0$ :  $n = m$  iff  $m$  is  $0$ .
- (2) otherwise,  $n$  is  $S(p)$  for some natural number  $p$ .
  - (2a) If  $m$  is  $0$ ,  $n$  is not equal to  $m$ .
  - (2b) Otherwise,  $m$  is  $S(q)$  for some natural number  $q$ , then  $n = m$  iff  $p = q$ .

Class 1, Equality  
HW 0 also

The Haskell Quicksort

Haskell

```
quicksort :: (Ord a) => [a] -> [a]
quicksort [] = []
quicksort (x:xs) =
    let smallerSorted = quicksort [a | a <- xs, a <= x]
        biggerSorted  = quicksort [a | a <- xs, a > x]
    in smallerSorted ++ [x] ++ biggerSorted
```

# Plan

Section

## Cardinality of Sets

*Countable*

*Diagonalization*

*Cantor's Theorem*

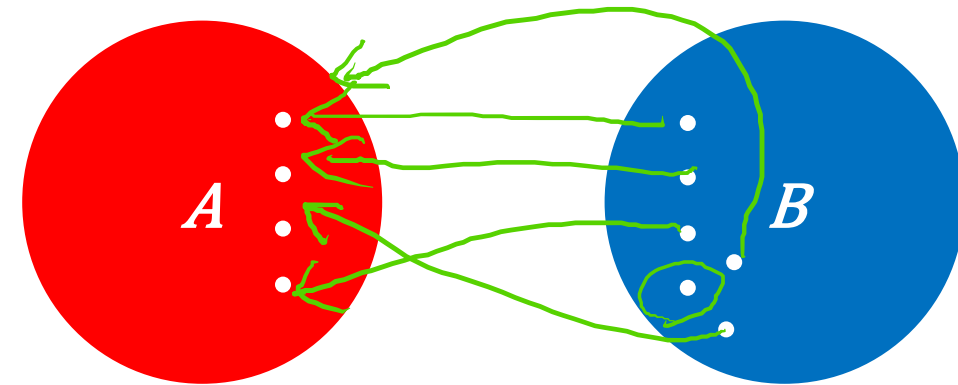
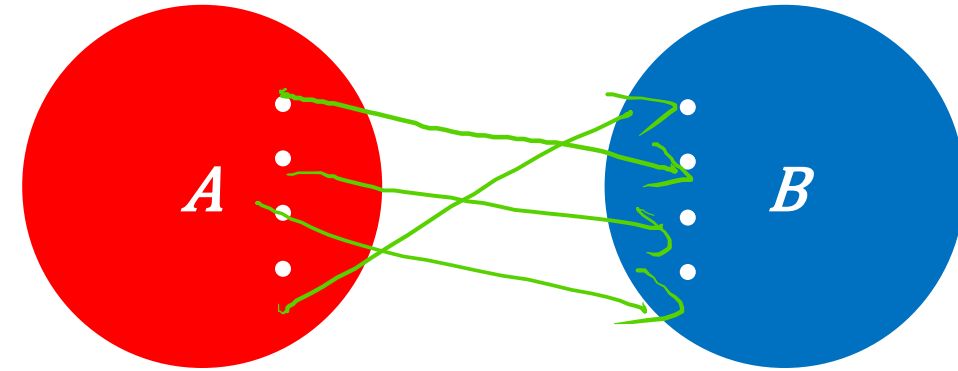
Today: Chapter 2.4 in the TCS book

[https://introtcs.org/public/lec\\_02\\_representation.html#cantorsec](https://introtcs.org/public/lec_02_representation.html#cantorsec)

# Recap: Cardinality of (Infinite) Sets

**Definition.** Two sets have the *same cardinality* if there is a *bijection* between the two sets. We denote this as  $|A| = |B|$ .

**Definition.** If there exists a *surjective function* from sets  $B$  to  $A$ , then we say the cardinality of  $B$  is *greater than or equal to* the cardinality of  $A$ . We denote this as  $|A| \leq |B|$ .



Q: Do we have  $|A| \geq |B|$  defined?

Q: Do we have  $|A| < |B|$  defined?

$|B| \leq |A|$  says  $A \rightarrow B$   
 $|A| \leq |B|$  and not  $|A| < |B|$

## Example: *EVEN* and $\mathbb{N}$

$$\underline{\mathbb{N}} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}, \quad \underline{EVEN} = \{0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$$

Is  $\mathbb{N} \subseteq EVEN$ ? 1 ~~A~~  $\mathbb{N}$

$EVEN \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ ?  $\mathbb{Y}$

$EVEN \overset{=}{\subseteq} \mathbb{N}$ ?  $\mathbb{N}$

Is  $|\mathbb{N}| \leq |EVEN|$ ?  $\mathbb{Y}$

Surjective  $g(x) = x/2$  from *EVEN* to  $\mathbb{N}$

Is  $|\mathbb{N}| \geq |EVEN|$ ?  $\mathbb{Y}$

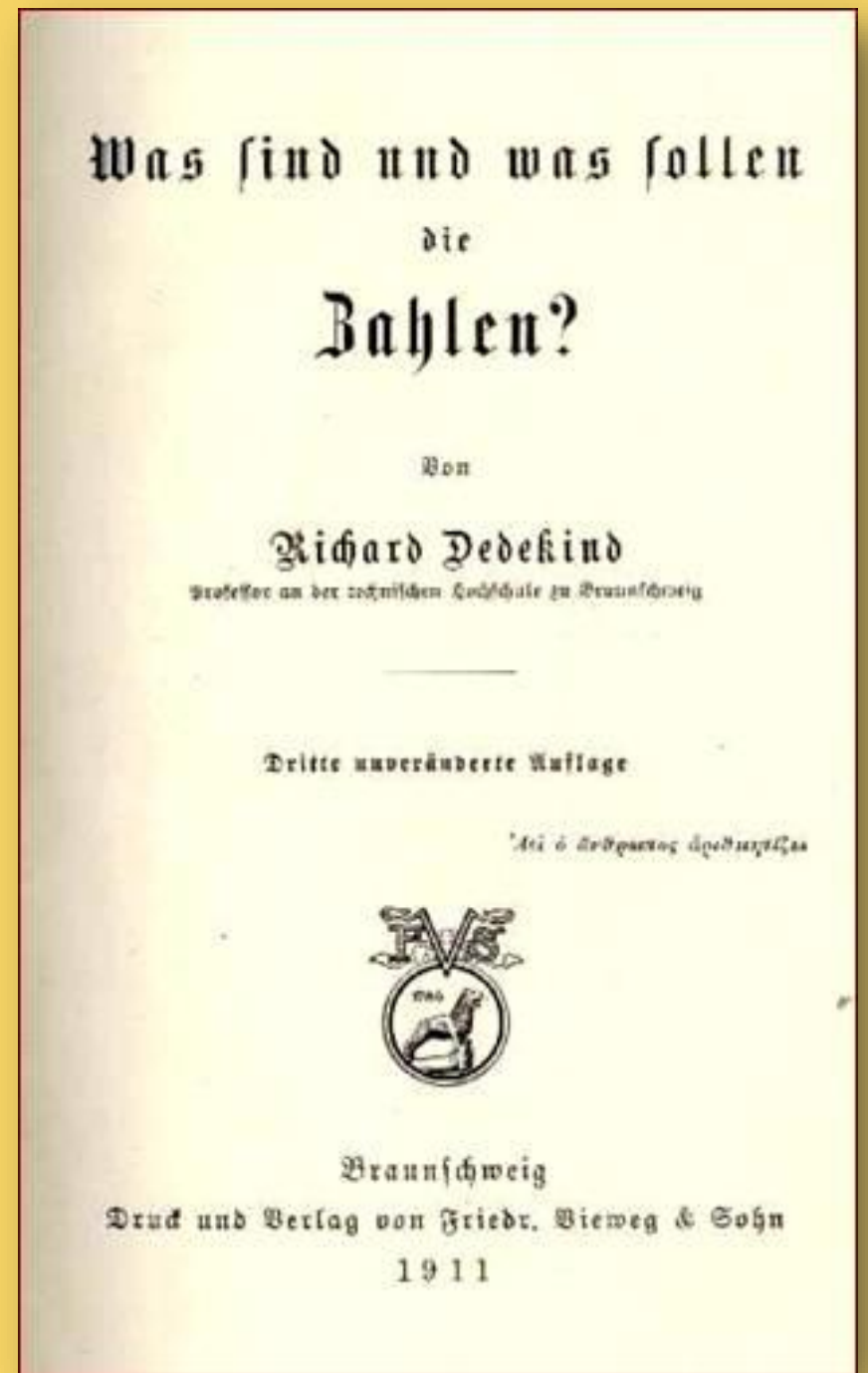
Surjective  $h(x) = 2x$  from  $\mathbb{N}$  to *EVEN*

Is  $|\mathbb{N}| = |EVEN|$ ?  $\mathbb{Y}$

Bijection  $g$

# Do infinite sets even *exist*?

Pronounce “Dedekind”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5pbbwGrH14>





# Do infinite sets even *exist*?

[Dedekind 1888,  
Beman 1901]

¶64. *Definition.* A set  $S$  is said to be *infinite* when it is similar to a proper subset of itself, otherwise it is said to be *finite*. ~~Dedekind's footnote to this definition~~ contains some important historical notes.

In this form I submitted the definition of the infinite which forms the core of my whole investigation in September, 1882, to G. Cantor and several years earlier to Schwarz and Weber. All other attempts that have come to my knowledge to distinguish the infinite from the finite seem to me to have met with so little success that I think I may be permitted to forego any criticism of them.

Footnote of  
Dedekind

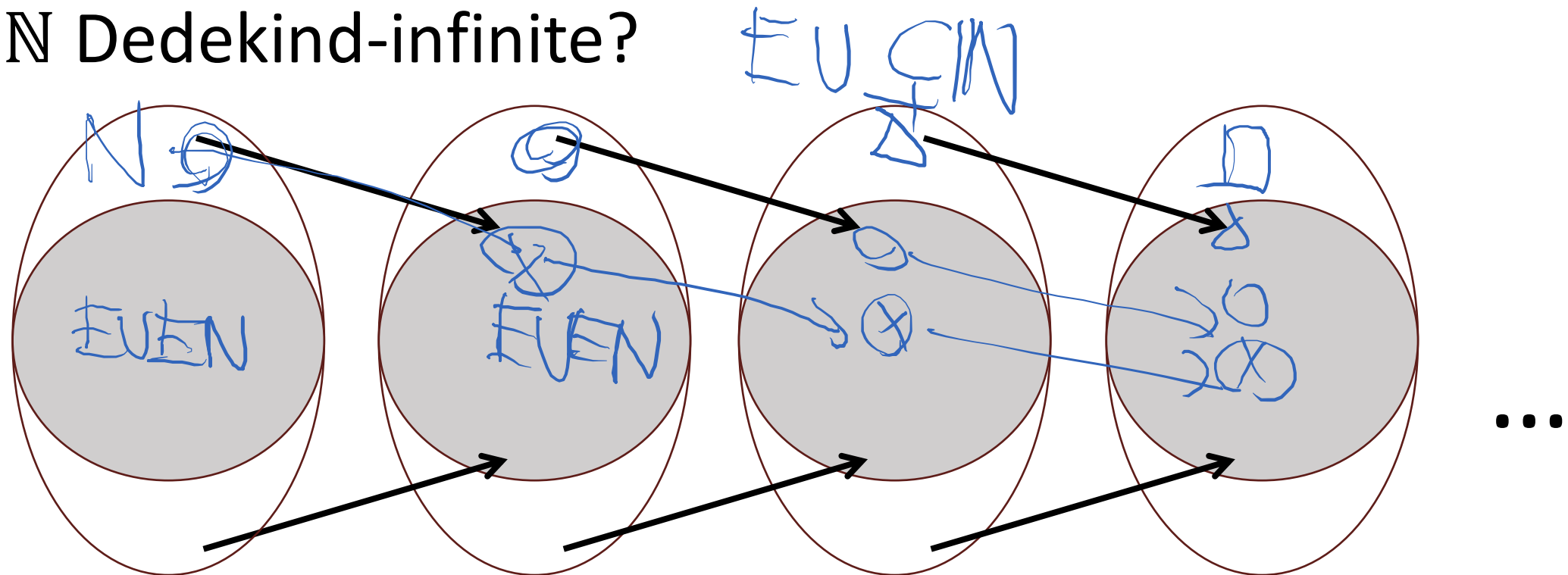
# Do infinite sets even *exist*?

¶64. *Definition.* A set  $S$  is said to be *infinite* when it is similar to a proper subset of itself, otherwise it is said to be *finite*. Dedekind's footnote to this definition contains some important historical notes.

**Definition.** A set is ***Dedekind-infinite*** if and only if it has the same cardinality as some **strict subset** of itself.

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Is  $\mathbb{N}$  Dedekind-infinite?



# Equivalent Definitions?

✧ **Definition.** A set is *Dedekind-infinite* if and only if it has the same cardinality as some **strict subset** of itself.

○ **Alternative Definition.** A set  $S$  is *infinite*, if there is no bijection between  $S$  and any  $[k], k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

this equivalence cannot be proved with the axioms of Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory without the axiom of choice

## Countable

Difference of inf

**Definition.** A set  $S$  is *countable* if and only if

$$|S| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$$

**Definition.** If there exists a **surjective function** from sets  $B$  to  $A$ , then we say the cardinality of  $B$  is ***greater than or equal to*** the cardinality of  $A$ . We denote this as  $|A| \leq |B|$ .

# Countable

**Definition.** A set  $S$  is *countable* if and only if  $|S| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$ .

**Definition.** If there exists a **surjective function** from sets  $B$  to  $A$ , then we say the cardinality of  $B$  is ***greater than or equal to*** the cardinality of  $A$ . We denote this as  $|A| \leq |B|$ .

**(Equivalent) Definition.** A set  $S$  is *countable* if and only if there exists a *surjective function* from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $S$ .

Q: Is  $\mathbb{N}$  countable?

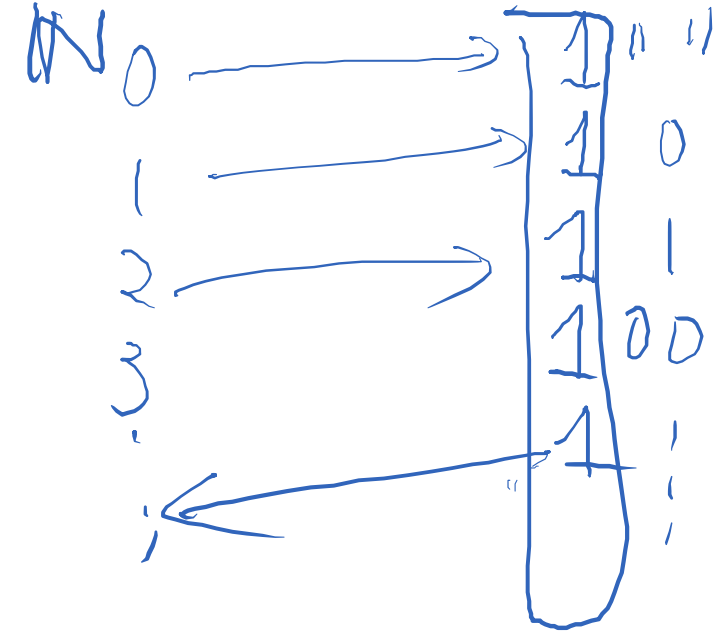
Y,  $|\mathbb{N}| = |\mathbb{N}|$   
biject

# How about Binary Strings?

A set  $S$  is *countable* if and only if there exists a *surjective function* from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $S$ .

**Theorem:** The set of finite Binary Strings is *countable*.

$\{0,1\}^*$



Proof.

Want a surjective function  $g$  from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\{0,1\}^*$ .

$g(x) = ?$   $x \in \mathbb{N}$

1. write  $\text{bin}(x+1)$
2. remove the leading 1

Argue  $g$  is surjective.

$\forall s \in \{0,1\}^*$   
 $\exists x \in \mathbb{N}, g(x) = s$



# Countably Infinite

A set  $S$  is *countable* if and only if there exists a *surjective function* from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $S$ .

A set is ***Dedekind-infinite*** iff it has the same cardinality as some **strict subset** of itself.

**Definition.** A ***countably infinite*** set is a set that is *countable* and *infinite*.

# Prove Binary Strings is *countably infinite*

A set  $S$  is *countable* if and only if there exists a *surjective function* from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $S$ . *Proved*

A set is *Dedekind-infinite* iff it has the same cardinality as some strict subset of itself.

$\{0,1\}^* \not\supseteq T$   
 $|\{0,1\}^*| = |T|$ ,  ~~$\neq$~~   $T = \{s \in \{0,1\}^* \mid s \text{ begins w/ } 1\}$

surject is ~~not~~ remove the leading 1  
prepend 1

$111 \in \{0,1\}^*$   
 $"" \notin T$

# Why care countable or infinite?

- Is the set of Python programs countable or infinite?

finite # char

$|S| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$  Yes  
surjective

Yes

empty lines  
no op.

represent as binary string  
 $|S| \leq |\{0,1\}^*| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$

- How about Java, Go, or Assembly programs?

- Is there any “programming language” uncountable?

**Theorem?:** A set  $S$  is countably infinite if and only if there exists a bijection between  $S$  and  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**Theorem:** A set  $S$  is *countably infinite* if and only if there exists a bijection between  $S$  and  $\mathbb{N}$ .

Two sets have the *same cardinality* if there is a bijection between the two sets.

A set  $S$  is *countable* if and only if there exists a surjective function from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $S$ .

A set is ***Dedekind***-infinite iff it has the same cardinality as some strict subset of itself.

A ***countably infinite*** set is a set that is *countable* and *infinite*.

“ $\Leftarrow$ ”  $|S| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$  by countable  
Want  $|S| \geq |\mathbb{N}|$  (then by Theorem on Jan 20)  
 $T \subsetneq S, |T| = |S|$  (To be posted)

**Uncountable**

# Is there an **uncountable** set?

- $\{(x, y) \mid x \in \mathbb{N}, y \in \mathbb{N}\} = \mathbb{N}^2$   
that is, 2-dimensional grid points



$$|\mathbb{N}^2| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$$

- $\{(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}, x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\} \text{ for all } i \in [n]\}$   
ternary strings

- $\{(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}, x_i \in \mathbb{N} \text{ for all } i \in [n]\}$   
strings of natural numbers

(0-9, )

**Theorem:** A set  $S$  is *countably infinite* if and only if there exists a bijection between  $S$  and  $\mathbb{N}$ .

$$\{0, 1\}^{\infty} = \{f \mid f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}\}$$

# Can the *Infinite* Binary Strings be counted?

No.

Proof. Assume for contradiction,  $\{0, 1\}^{\infty}$  is infinite but countable.

We have bijection  $g$  between  $\{0, 1\}^{\infty}$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  by Theorem (above).

Diagon.

$x \in \mathbb{N}$	$g(x)[0]$	$g(x)[1]$	$g(x)[2]$	$g(x)[3]$	
0	0	0	0	0	
1	1	0	0	0	
2					
3					
4					
.					
.					
.					



Assume  $g: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\infty$  a bijection.

$y \in \mathbb{N}$	$g(y)[0]$	$g(y)[1]$	$g(y)[2]$	$g(y)[3]$	$g(y)[4]$	$g(y)[5]$	
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	...
1	1	1	0	1	0	1	...
2	0	1	1	0	1	0	...
3	0	0	1	0	1	1	...
4	1	1	0	1	0	1	...
5	0	1	0	1	1	0	...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$g(y)[y]$

Let  $s := (\neg g(0)[0], \neg g(1)[1], \neg g(2)[2], \neg g(3)[3], \dots)$ .

$s \in \{0,1\}^\infty$  by definition of  $\{0,1\}^\infty$ .

Is there any  $y \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.  $g(y) = s$ ?

$g(y)[y] = 0$   
 $s[y] = \neg g(y)[y]$

# Power Sets

**Definition.** The power set of a set  $S$  is the set of all subsets of  $S$ .

$$B \in \text{pow}(S) \iff B \subseteq S$$

What is the cardinality of pow(S)?

Sometime  $\text{pow}(A)$  is written as  $P(A)$  or  $2^A$

Cardinality of  $\text{pow}(S)$  **for finite set  $S$**

# Cardinality of $\text{pow}(S)$ for finite set $S$

**Proof by induction on  $\mathbb{N}$ :**

**Inductive hypothesis:**  $P(n)$  = for all sets  $A$  of cardinality  $n$ ,  $|\text{pow}(A)| = 2^n$

**Base case:**  $P(0)$ :  $\text{pow}(S) = \{\emptyset\}$ .  $|\text{pow}(S)| = 1 = 2^0 = 2^{|S|}$ .

**Inductive case:**  $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}. P(m) \Rightarrow P(m+1)$ .

For all sets  $T$  with  $|T| = m+1$ ,  $\exists S$  where  $|S| = m, x \notin S$ .  $T = S \cup \{x\}$

By the inductive hypothesis,  $P(m) \Rightarrow |\text{pow}(S)| = 2^{|S|}$

Since  $\text{pow}(T)$  includes all elements of  $\text{pow}(S)$  as well as each of those elements with  $\{x\}$  inserted, this means

$$|\text{pow}(T)| = 2 \cdot |\text{pow}(S)| = 2 \cdot 2^{|S|} = 2^{|S|+1} = 2^{|T|}.$$

**QED:** For all finite sets  $S$ ,  $|\text{pow}(S)| = 2^{|S|}$ .

**Theorem:** For all finite sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

**Theorem:** For all **finite** sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

**Proof by induction on  $\mathbb{N}$ :**

$$P(n) ::= \forall \text{ sets } S \text{ where } |S| = n . |pow(S)| > |S|.$$

**Base case:**  $P(0): S = \emptyset$ .

$$pow(S) = \{\emptyset\}. |pow(S)| = 1 > |S| = 0.$$

**Inductive case:**  $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}. P(m) \Rightarrow P(m+1)$ .

for all sets  $T$  where  $|T| = m+1$ ,  $\exists S$  where  $|S| = m, x \notin S . T = S \cup \{x\}$

$$P(m) \Rightarrow |pow(S)| > |S| \Rightarrow |pow(S)| + 1 > |S| + 1$$

Since  $pow(T)$  includes all elements of  $pow(S)$  and includes  $\{x\}$ , this means

$$|pow(T)| > |T| \Rightarrow P(m+1).$$

Therefore,  $P(n)$  always holds, so we can conclude for all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .



Handwritten blue ink proof:  $2^{|S|} > |S|$

## Bogus non-proof:

For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

**Proof by induction on  $\mathbb{N}$ :**

$$P(n) ::= \forall \text{ sets } S \text{ where } |S| = n . |pow(S)| > |S|.$$

**Base case:**  $P(0): S = \emptyset$ .

$$pow(S) = \{\emptyset\}. |pow(S)| = 1 > |S| = 0.$$

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for all sets  $T$  where  $|T| = m+1$ ,  $\exists S$  where  $|S| = m, x \notin S, T = S \cup \{x\}$

$$P(m) \Rightarrow |pow(S)| > |S| \Rightarrow |pow(S)| + 1 > |S| + 1$$

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$$2^{|S|} > |S|$$

## Bogus non-proof:

For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

1 **Proof by induction on  $\mathbb{N}$ :**

2  $P(n) ::= \forall \text{ sets } S \text{ where } |S| = n . |pow(S)| > |S|.$

3 **Base case:**  $P(0): S = \emptyset.$

4  $pow(S) = \{\emptyset\}. |pow(S)| = 1 > |S| = 0.$

*Which is the first incorrect step?*

5 **Inductive case:**  $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}. P(m) \Rightarrow P(m+1).$

6 for all sets  $T$  where  $|T| = m+1$ ,  $\exists S$  where  $|S| = m, x \notin S . T = S \cup \{x\}$

7  $P(m) \Rightarrow |pow(S)| > |S| \Rightarrow |pow(S)| + 1 > |S| + 1$

8 Since  $pow(T)$  includes all elements of  $pow(S)$  and includes  $\{x\}$ , this means

9  $|pow(T)| > |T| \Rightarrow P(m+1).$

10 Therefore,  $P(n)$  always holds, so we can conclude for all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .



**Principle of Induction:** Suppose that  $X$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$  that satisfies these two properties: (1)  $0 \in X$  (2) if  $n \in X$ , then  $S(n) \in X$ . Then,  $X = \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proof by Induction:** For any predicate  $P(\mathbb{N})$ , showing (1)  $P(0)$  and (2) if for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  if  $P(n)$  then  $P(S(n))$  proves  $P$  holds for all  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**Principle of Induction** starts from a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$  and proves that it is equal to  $\mathbb{N}$ . You can only use induction to prove a property about a set if we can map that set to a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ .



Georg Cantor  
(1845-1918)

# Georg Cantor's Shocking Result

(~1874)

For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

*inf*

Note: this isn't what the TCS book calls *Cantor's Theorem* but is what most people call "Cantor's Theorem". Cantor came up with the diagonalization argument we will see Tuesday. The proof we'll see soon of Cantor's Theorem is believed to have been first done by Hessenberg (1906):

# Cantor's Theorem:

**For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .**

Proof. Assume for contradiction,  $|pow(S)| \leq |S|$ .



# Cantor's Theorem:

For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

Proof. Assume for contradiction,  $|pow(S)| \leq |S|$ .  $\exists$  surjective  $g: S \rightarrow pow(S)$

$y \in S$	$a_0 \in g(y)$	$a_1 \in g(y)$	$a_2 \in g(y)$	$a_3 \in g(y)$	$a_4 \in g(y)$	...
$a_0$	0	0	0	0	0	0: Not 1: in
$a_1$	1	1	1	1	1	
$a_2$	0	1	0	0	0	
$a_3$	1	1	0	0	0	
$a_4$	1	1	0	0	1	
$a_5$	1	1	0	0	0	...
...						

Good illustration, but  $S$  can be uncountable, so this is NOT precise

# Cantor's Theorem:

For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

Proof. Assume for contradiction,  $|pow(S)| \leq |S|$ .  $\exists$  surjective  $g: S \rightarrow pow(S)$

$y \in S$	$a_0 \in g(y)$	$a_1 \in g(y)$	$a_2 \in g(y)$	$a_3 \in g(y)$	$a_4 \in g(y)$	...
$a_0$	0	0	0	0	0	...
$a_1$	1	1	1	1	1	...
$a_2$	0	1	0	0	0	...
$a_3$	1	1	0	0	0	...
$a_4$	1	1	0	0	1	...
$a_5$	1	1	0	0	0	...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

Negate diagonal

$$T := \{ y \in S \mid y \notin g(y) \}$$

← Neg intentionally

**For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .**

Negate diagonal  $T := \{a \in S \mid a \notin g(a)\}$

$T \subseteq S$ , so  $T \in pow(S)$ .

~~$g$  is surjective~~, there is  $u \in S$  s.t.  $g(u) = T$ .

Want a contradiction: ~~no such  $u$ !~~

**Proof.** For all sets  $S$ ,  $|pow(S)| > |S|$ .

Towards a contradiction, **assume**  $\exists A. |pow(A)| \leq |A|$ .

By the definition of  $\leq$ , there must exist a *surjective function*  $g$  from  $A \rightarrow pow(A)$ .

Define  $T = \{a \in A \mid a \notin g(a)\}$  ( $\star$ ).

$T \in pow(A)$ . (Obviously, it's a subset of  $A$ .)

Since  $g$  is surjective,  $\exists u \in A$  such that  $g(u) = T$ .

(1) If  $u \in g(u)$ , then  $u \notin T$  by  $\star$ .

But  $T = g(u)$ , so  $u \notin g(u)$ .

(2) If  $u \notin g(u)$ , then  $u \in T$  by  $\star$ .

But  $T = g(u)$ , so  $u \in g(u)$ .

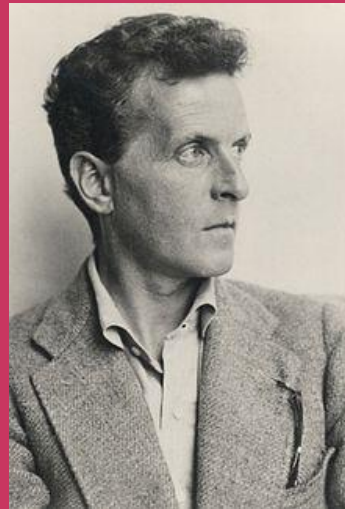
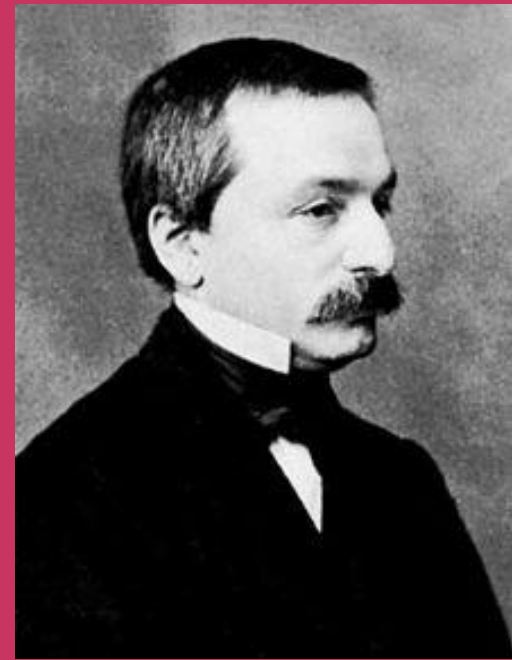
Contradiction! So, there must not exist any  $A$  such that  $|pow(A)| \leq |A|$ .



Georg Cantor  
(1845-1918)

*“corruptor of youth”*

Leopold Kronecker



*“utter nonsense”*

Ludwig Wittgenstein

*“grave disease”*

Henri Poincaré







Georg Cantor  
(1845-1918)

*My theory stands as firm as a rock; every arrow directed against it will return quickly to its archer. How do I know this? Because I have studied it from all sides for many years; because I have examined all objections which have ever been made against the infinite numbers; and above all, because I have followed its roots, so to speak, to the first infallible cause of all created things.*

Georg Cantor, 1887 Letter to K. F. Heman

# Logistics

- This concludes Module 1 in CS 3120
- Midterm 0 covers this module (Feb 3, 20 min.)
- HW 1 will be posted in 24 hours,  
due Jan 30 (Fri) 10pm
- Next: finite automata and regular expressions

# Wrap up

## Cardinality of Sets

*Countable and Infinite*

*Power Set*

*Cantor's Theorem*

Today: Chapter 2.4 in the TCS book