

Q : There're more real numbers in  $[0, \frac{1}{10000}]$  than all rational numbers.

- True
- False

## 1. Cardinality of sets

**Def** Let  $S$  be a set. If there are exactly  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  distinct elements in  $S$ , we say  $S$  is a finite set with cardinality  $n$ .

Notation.  $|S|$  denotes cardinality of  $S$ .

E.g. •  $A = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$   
•  $A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n < 5\}$ .  $|A| = 5$ .  
•  $|\emptyset| = 0$   
•  $|\{0\}| = 1$

**Def** A set is said to be infinite if it is not finite.

Recall:  $f: A \rightarrow B$      $A$ : labelled balls,  $B$ : labelled bins.

**Def** Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  have the same cardinality, written  $|A| = |B|$ , if there is a bijection from  $A$  to  $B$ .

E.g. Let  $S$  be the set of even integers. Prove that  $|S| = |\mathbb{Z}|$ .

Pf:  $S = \{ \dots, -4, -2, 0, 2, 4, \dots \}$

$\mathbb{Z} = \{ \dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots \}$

Consider  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow S$  such that  $f(n) = 2n$ .

① [To show  $f$  is injective]  $f(a) = f(b) \Rightarrow a = b$ .

Suppose  $f(a) = f(b)$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Thus,  $2a = 2b \Rightarrow a = b$ .

Thus,  $f$  is injective.

② [To show  $f$  is surjective]  $\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{f} S$

Let  $s \in S$ .  $? \mapsto s$

Then  $\frac{1}{2}s \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Furthermore,  $f(\frac{1}{2}s) = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}s = s$ .

Thus,  $f$  is surjective.  $\square$

**Def** A set that is finite or has the same cardinality as  $\mathbb{N}$  is called countable.

**Rem.** An infinite set  $S$  is countable if we can list elements in  $S$  in a sequence  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$  because  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$  given by  $f(n) = a_n$  is a bijection.

**E.g.** •  $\mathbb{Z}$  is countable.

$0, 1, -1, 2, -2, 3, -3, \dots$

• The set of finite length bit strings is countable.

$0, 1, 00, 01, 10, 11, 000, 001, 010, \dots$

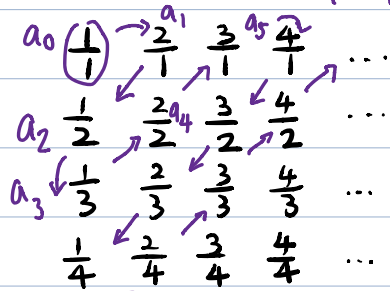
**Thm** (Schröder - Bernstein) If there exist injections  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow A$  between sets  $A$  and  $B$ , then there exists a bijection  $h: A \rightarrow B$ .  $|A| \leq |B|$  and  $|B| \leq |A|$

Cor.  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  is countable.

Pf: Obviously, there's an injection from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{Q}^+$ .  <sup>$\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$</sup>

We need to find an injection from  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .

Recall that  $\mathbb{Q}^+ = \{p/q \mid p, q \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}$ .



so  $q \mapsto \min\{n : a_n = q\}$  is an injection from  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .  
 $\Rightarrow |\mathbb{Q}^+| = |\mathbb{N}|.$  □.

Rem. It follows that  $\mathbb{Q}$  is countable as well.

## 1.1 Cantor diagonalization argument

**Thm**  $\mathbb{R}$  is uncountable.

**Pf:** Assume  $\mathbb{R}$  is countable.

Since  $[0,1] \subset \mathbb{R}$ ,  $[0,1]$  is countable. pf. exercise.

List elements in  $[0,1]$  as  $r_0, r_1, r_2, \dots$ .

Let the decimal representation of them as.

$$r_0 = 0.d_{00}d_{01}d_{02} \dots$$

$$r_0 = 0.00000 \dots$$

$$r_1 = 0.d_{10}d_{11}d_{12} \dots$$

$$r_1 = 0.1415926 \dots$$

$$r_2 = 0.d_{20}d_{21}d_{22} \dots$$

$$r_2 = 0.3261 \dots$$

$\vdots$

$\vdots$

Form a real number with decimal expansion  $r = 0.100 \dots$

$$r = 0.d_0d_1d_2 \dots$$

Such that  $d_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d_{ii} = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } d_{ii} \neq 0 \end{cases}$   $\leftarrow$   $i$ th digit of  $r_i$

Then  $r$  differs at the  $i$ th digit with  $r_i$ , so  $\forall i, r \neq r_i$ .

$\Rightarrow r$  is a real number not on our list.

Hence,  $[0,1]$  is not countable, so  $\mathbb{R}$  is not countable.  $\square$

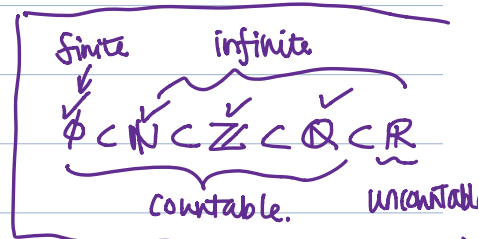
**Rem.** Similarly, the set of infinite length bit strings is uncountable.

**Rem.** Be careful with uncountable sets!

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = 1.$$



However  $\sum_{r \in \mathbb{R}} x_r = \infty$ .  $x_r > 0$



## 2. Uncomputable Functions

**Def** A function is computable if there is a computer program in some programming language that finds the value of this function.

**Thm** There are uncomputable functions.

**Pf**: Claim: There're uncountably many functions from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .

Pf: Suppose there're countably many functions from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .

	0	1	2	...
$f_0$	$f_0(0)$	$f_0(1)$	$f_0(2)$	...
$f_1$	$f_1(0)$	$f_1(1)$	$f_1(2)$	...
$f_2$	$f_2(0)$	$f_2(1)$	$f_2(2)$	...
$\vdots$				

$$f \quad f_0(0)+1 \quad f_1(1)+1 \quad f_2(2)+1.$$

$f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  not on our list.

$\Rightarrow$  ... ..conclude.

□.

A computer program is a bit string with finite length.

$\Rightarrow$   $\{\text{computer programs}\}$  is countable.

$\Rightarrow$  there're are uncomputable functions.

□.

## 2.1 uncomputable function: an example

	$P_0$	$P_1$	$P_2$	...	Turing
$P_0$	L	H	H	...	
$P_1$	H	H	L		
$P_2$	L	L	L		
$\vdots$					
Turing					

Define  $\text{TestHalt}(P, x) = \begin{cases} \text{"yes"} & \text{if program } P \text{ halts on input } x \\ \text{"no"} & \text{if program } P \text{ loops on input } x \end{cases}$

**Thm**  $\text{TestHalt}$  is uncomputable.

PF: Assume  $\text{TestHalt}$  is computable.

Define

$$\text{Turing}(P) = \begin{cases} \text{loop forever.} & \text{if } \text{TestHalt}(P, P) == \text{"yes"} \\ \text{halt} & \text{if } \text{TestHalt}(P, P) == \text{"no"} \end{cases}$$

$\nearrow P(P)$  halts.

What is  $\text{Turing}(\text{Turing})$ ?

If  $\text{Turing}(\text{Turing})$  halts,

$\Rightarrow \text{TestHalt}(\text{Turing}, \text{Turing}) == \text{"no"}$ .

$\Rightarrow \text{Turing}(\text{Turing})$  loops forever

If  $\text{Turing}(\text{Turing})$  loops forever,

$\Rightarrow \dots$

$\Rightarrow \dots$

□

Rem. A common strategy to show a program  $P$  is uncomputable is using  $P$  to implement  $\text{testhalt}$ .  
i.e. "reducing  $\text{TestHalt}$  to  $P$ ".

$P$  computable  $\Rightarrow \text{TestHalt}$  computable.

**Prop**  $A$  is countable. Given  $B \subseteq A$ , then  $B$  is countable.

Pf: The statement obviously holds if  $A$  or  $B$  is finite.

So assume  $A, B$  are infinite.

$A$  is countable  $\Rightarrow \exists$  bijection  $f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

Restrict  $f$  on  $B \subseteq A$  to get  $f: B \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , an injection.

Then  $f: B \rightarrow \underbrace{f(B)}_{\subseteq \mathbb{N}}$  is a bijection.

Claim: An infinite subset  $N$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  is countable.

Pf (of the claim): Define  $g: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  recursively by

$$\begin{cases} g(0) = \min N. \\ g(n+1) = \min \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n > g(n)\}. \end{cases}$$

Then by construction,  $g$  is a bijection.

Since  $f(B)$  is an infinite subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ , by the claim,  $f(B)$  is countable, i.e. there exists a bijection  $g: f(B) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

Thus,  $g \circ f: B \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is a bijection, i.e.  $B$  is countable.

$$B \xrightarrow{f} f(B) \xrightarrow{g} \mathbb{N}$$