

Cardinality



EQUIVALENT SETS

Definition

Two sets A and B are *equivalent* if $\exists f : A \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} B$.

The sets are also said to be *in one-to-one correspondence*, and we write $A \approx B$.

If A and B are not equivalent, we write $A \not\approx B$.





Theorem (5.1.1)

\approx is an equivalence relation on the class of all sets.



Lemma (5.1.2)

Let A, B, C and D be sets with $A \approx C$ and $B \approx D$.

1. If $A \cap B = \emptyset$ and $C \cap D = \emptyset$, then $A \cup B \approx C \cup D$.
2. $A \times B \approx C \times D$.



Finite sets

Definition

For $k \in \mathbb{N}$, denote $\mathbb{N}_k = \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$.

A set S is *finite* if $S = \emptyset$ or $S \approx \mathbb{N}_k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

A set S is *infinite* if it is not finite.

Definition

Let S be a finite set.

If $S = \emptyset$, then S has *cardinality* 0. We write $\bar{S} = 0$.

If $\exists k \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $S \approx \mathbb{N}_k$, then S has *cardinality* k . We write $\bar{S} = k$.



Theorem (5.1.3)

If A is finite and $B \approx A$, then B is finite.



Lemma (5.1.4)

If S is a finite set with cardinality k and $x \notin S$, then $S \cup \{x\}$ is finite and has cardinality $k + 1$.



Lemma (5.1.5)

$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$, every subset of \mathbb{N}_k is finite.



Theorem (5.1.6)

Every subset of a finite set is finite.



Theorem (5.1.7)

Let A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n, A and B be finite sets.

1. If $A \cap B = \emptyset$, then $A \cup B$ is finite and $\overline{\overline{A \cup B}} = \overline{\overline{A}} + \overline{\overline{B}}$.
2. More generally, $A \cup B$ is finite and $\overline{\overline{A \cup B}} = \overline{\overline{A}} + \overline{\overline{B}} - \overline{\overline{A \cap B}}$.
3. $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ is finite.





Lemma (5.1.8)

Fix $r \in \mathbb{N}$ with $r \geq 2$. $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}_r, \mathbb{N}_r - \{x\} \approx \mathbb{N}_{r-1}$.



The Pigeonhole Principle

Theorem (5.1.9)

Let $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f : \mathbb{N}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_r$. If $n > r$, then f is not 1-1.



Corollary (5.1.10)

If $n > r$, $\bar{A} = n$ and $\bar{B} = r$, then there is no 1-1 function $f : A \rightarrow B$.



Corollary (5.1.11)

If A is finite, then A is not equivalent to any of its proper subsets.





INFINITE SETS

Theorem (5.2.1)

The set \mathbb{N} of natural numbers is infinite.



Denumerable sets

Definition

The set S is *denumerable* if $S \approx \mathbb{N}$. For a denumerable set S , we say S has *cardinal number* \aleph_0 (or *cardinality* \aleph_0) and write $\bar{S} = \aleph_0$.



Theorem (5.2.2)

The set \mathbb{Z} is denumerable.





Theorem (5.2.3)

- a) *The set $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ is denumerable.*
- b) *If A and B are denumerable sets, then $A \times B$ is denumerable.*



Countable sets

Definition

A set is *countable* if S is finite or denumerable. We say S is *uncountable* if S is not countable.





Theorem (5.2.4)

The open interval $(0, 1)$ is uncountable.





Definition

A set S has *cardinality* \mathfrak{c} (or *cardinal number* \mathfrak{c}) if S is equivalent to $(0, 1)$. We write $\overline{\overline{S}} = \mathfrak{c}$, which stands for *continuum*.



Theorem (5.2.5)

- a) *Every open interval (a, b) is uncountable and has cardinality \mathfrak{c} .*
- b) *The set \mathbb{R} of all real numbers is uncountable and has cardinality \mathfrak{c} .*



