

Warm-Up: Prove that the function

$$f: \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$$
$$x \longmapsto x+1$$

is a bijection.

Thm: Let S be a finite set and $T \subseteq S$.
Then

- T is finite
- $|T| \leq |S|$
- $|T| = |S|$ if and only if $T = S$.

Proof: Book Thms 13.30, 13.33.

Cor: Let A and B be finite sets, and let $f: A \rightarrow B$ be a function. Then

- ① If f is an injection, then $|A| \leq |B|$
- ② If f is a surjection, then $|A| \geq |B|$

Proof: ① Suppose $f: A \rightarrow B$ is injective. Then

$$f: A \rightarrow \text{Rng}(f)$$

is a bijection. Hence, $|A| = |\text{Rng}(f)|$.

But $\text{Rng}(f) \subseteq B$, so $|\text{Rng}(f)| \leq |B|$ by the Theorem. Together, we get $|A| \leq |B|$.

② Suppose $f: A \rightarrow B$ is surjective. Since B is finite, $|B| = n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, so we can write

$$B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}.$$

For each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, let $a_i \in A$ be such that $f(a_i) = b_i$.

If $i \neq j$, then $f(a_i) = b_i \neq b_j = f(a_j)$, so $a_i \neq a_j$.

Thus, $|\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}| = n$. But $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\} \subseteq A$, so $n \leq |A|$. Since $|B| = n$, we have $|A| \geq |B|$.

■

The contrapositive of ① is the

Pigeonhole Principle: Let A and B be finite sets and $f: A \rightarrow B$ a function. If $|A| > |B|$, then f is not injective.

A - set of pigeons

B - set of pigeonholes

$f: A \rightarrow B$ puts each pigeon in a pigeonhole

Then there is a pigeonhole containing more than one pigeon.

Ex: If $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in \mathbb{Z}$, then the difference $a_i - a_j$ will be divisible by 3 for some $i \neq j$.

Ex: Suppose n people are at a party. Then there are two people who have the same number of friends at the party.

Infinite Sets

We already saw that

$$f: \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$$
$$x \longmapsto x+1$$

is a bijection, so $|\mathbb{N}| = |\mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}|$.

Here's another example:

Ex: Let $E = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n \text{ is even}\} = \{2, 4, 6, 8, \dots\}$.

Then

$$g: \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow E$$
$$x \longmapsto 2x$$

is a bijection. Thus, $|\mathbb{N}| = |E|$.

Proof: Let $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{N}$. If $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$, then $2x_1 = 2x_2$, so cancelling the 2 gives $x_1 = x_2$. Thus, f is injective.

Let $y \in E$. Then $y = 2k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ (why?). Thus, $f(k) = 2k = y$. This shows that f is surjective. ■

Def: A set A is countably infinite if there exists a bijection $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$. That is, if $|A| = |\mathbb{N}|$.

A set is countable if it is finite or countably infinite.

A set is uncountable if it is not countable.

Ex: \mathbb{N} is countably infinite
 $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ is countably infinite
 $E = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n \text{ is even}\}$ is countably infinite.
 \mathbb{Z} is countably infinite

Think: Countably infinite sets can be enumerated in an infinite list.

Thm: Let A be a countably infinite set. Then any subset $B \subseteq A$ is countable.