

# ANALYSIS -I

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## Lecture 5: Countable and Uncountable sets

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- ▶ We write  $A \sim B$  if  $B$  is equipotent with  $A$ .

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- ▶ This completes the proof that equipotency ( $\sim$ ) is an equivalence relation.

# Finite and infinite sets

- **Definition 5.3:** A set  $A$  is said to be **finite** if it is equipotent with  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  or it is empty. A set  $A$  is said to be **infinite** if it is not finite.

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- ▶ Even for infinite sets  $A, B$  we may informally say that  $A$  and  $B$  have same number of elements to mean that  $A$  and  $B$  are equipotent, even though we have not defined number of elements for infinite sets.



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- ▶ **Definition 5.6:** A set  $A$  is said to be **countable** if it is equipotent with  $\mathbb{N}$  or if it is finite. It is said to be **countably infinite** if it is countable and not finite. A set  $A$  is said to be **uncountable** if it is not countable.

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- ▶ The manager can ask the new guest to take room number 1.

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- ▶ Then new guest  $h_n$  can go to room number number  $(2n - 1)$  and we are done.



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- ▶ You may verify that  $h$  is a bijection.

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- ▶ Moral of the story: For infinite sets, a subset may have as many elements as the full set.

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- ▶ In other words for infinite sets disjoint union of sets of equal number of elements may again have same number of elements.

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$(1, 1)$	$(1, 2)$	$(1, 3)$	$(1, 4)$	$\dots$
$(2, 1)$	$(2, 2)$	$(2, 3)$	$(2, 4)$	$\dots$
$(3, 1)$	$(3, 2)$	$(3, 3)$	$(3, 4)$	$\dots$
$(4, 1)$	$(4, 2)$	$(4, 3)$	$(4, 4)$	$\dots$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$

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(4, 1)	(4, 2)	(4, 3)	(4, 4)	...
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋱

► Zig-zag counting.

► We count the elements here as

(1, 1), (2, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 2), (3, 1), (4, 1), (3, 2), (2, 3), (1, 4), ...

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- ▶ Look at  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ .



(1, 1)	(1, 2)	(1, 3)	(1, 4)	...
(2, 1)	(2, 2)	(2, 3)	(2, 4)	...
(3, 1)	(3, 2)	(3, 3)	(3, 4)	...
(4, 1)	(4, 2)	(4, 3)	(4, 4)	...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$

- ▶ Zig-zag counting.
- ▶ We count the elements here as  
(1, 1), (2, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 2), (3, 1), (4, 1), (3, 2), (2, 3), (1, 4), ...
- ▶ This way we are able to exhaust all the elements of  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ , without repeating any element twice.

# Cartesian product

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► In other words we have a bijection between  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ . In particular,  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  is countable.

# Explicit bijections

- Exercise 5.10.1: Define  $g : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by

$$g(m, n) = 2^{m-1}(2n - 1), \quad (m, n) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}.$$

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- ▶ This problem is not very clearly stated. But we leave it at that.

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- ▶ **END OF LECTURE 5**