

all  $n \geq 4$ .

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Sometimes the Induction

Principle can be expressed

as follows.

Let  $S$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$

such that

(1)  $P(1)$  is true.

(2) For every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

if  $P(1), \dots, P(k)$  are all true, then  $P(k+1)$  is true,

Then  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

This is sometimes called the Principle of Strong Induction.

Ex. Suppose a sequence

$\{x_n\}$  is defined by

$$x_1 = 1, \quad x_2 = 2 \quad \text{and}$$

$$x_{n+2} = \frac{1}{2} (x_{n+1} + x_n).$$

Use Strong Induction to

show that

$$1 \leq x_n \leq 2, \quad \text{all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Let  $P(n)$  be the statement  
that  $1 \leq x_n \leq 2$ .

Note that  $P(1)$  and  $P(2)$   
both hold by hypothesis.

Now let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $k \geq 2$ ,  
and suppose that  $P(j)$  is  
true for all  $j \leq k$ .

Then  $x_{k+1} = \frac{1}{2}(x_k + x_{k-1})$

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$$\leq \frac{1}{2}(2+2) = 2$$

by strong induction  
hypothesis

and

$$x_{k+1} = \frac{1}{2}(x_k + x_{k-1})$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2}(1+1) = 1$$

by strong ind.  
hypothesis

Hence  $1 \leq x_{k+1} \leq 2$ ,

which shows that  $P(k+1)$

is true. Thus the Strong

Induction Principle

implies that  $P(n)$  is

true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

### 1.3 Finite and Infinite Sets

Let  $N_m = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ .

1. A set  $S$  has  $m$  elements if there is a bijection  $f$  from  $N_m$  onto  $S$
2. A set  $S$  is finite if it has  $m$  elements ( $m$  is unique).
3.  $S$  is infinite if it is not finite

4. A set  $S$  is denumerable  
if there is a bijection of  
 $\mathbb{N}$  onto  $S$

5.  $S$  is countable if it is either  
finite or denumerable.

6.  $S$  is uncountable if it is  
not countable



Ex. Some examples.

The set  $E = \{2n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$

of even natural numbers  
is denumerable.

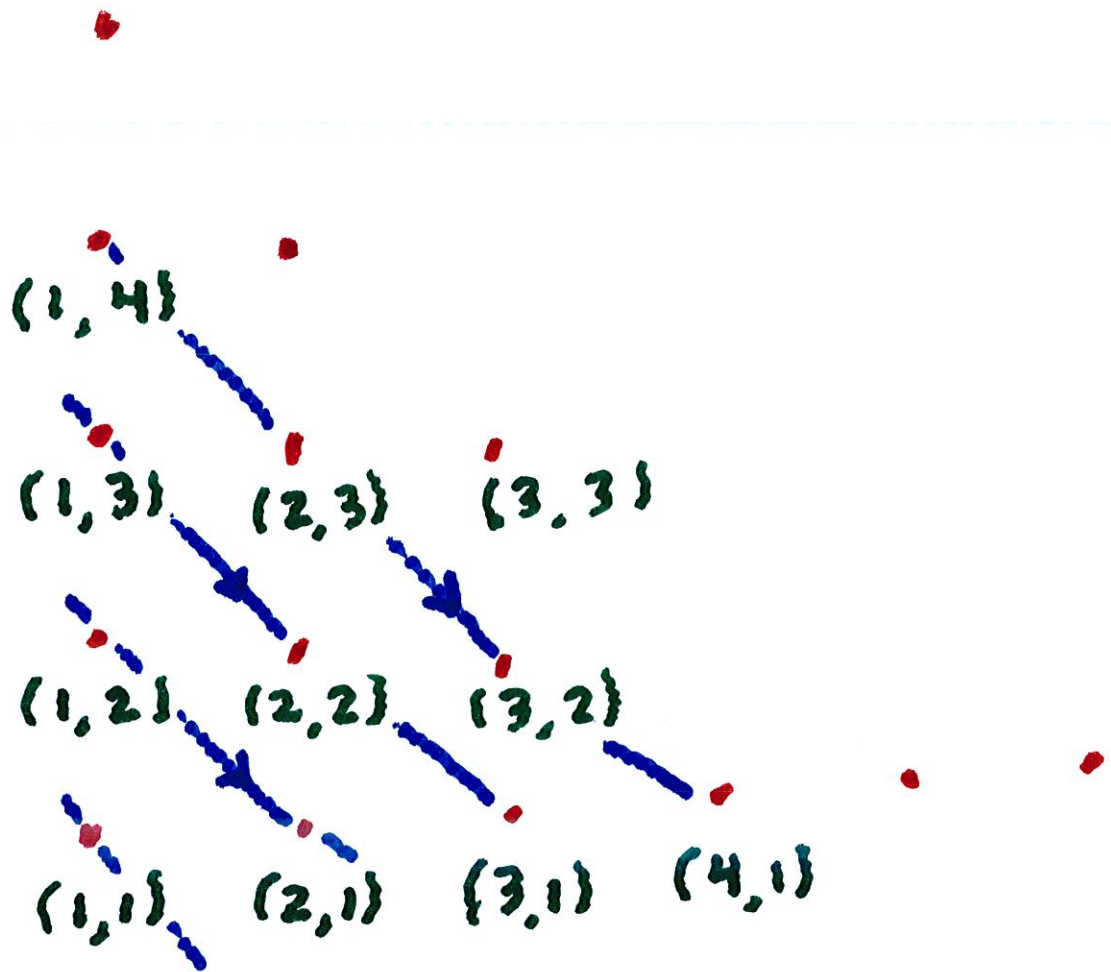
So is  $\mathbb{Z} = \{0, 1, -1, 2, -2, \dots\}$

So is  $P = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, \dots\}$

(the set of prime numbers).

$p_1 = 2, p_2 = 3, p_3 = 5, \text{ etc.}$

Is  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  denumerable?



Follow first diagonal,  
then the second, then  
the third, etc. .

11

7

.

4

8

.

2

5

9

.

1

3

6

10

.

Using this method, let

$f(m, n)$  = value assigned  
to  $(m, n)$ .

$$\text{Thus } f(1, 1) = 1 \quad f(1, 2) = 2$$

$$f(2, 1) = 3, \quad f(1, 3) = 4$$

$$\dots f(4, 1) = 10, \quad \dots$$

Sum of first 2 diagonals

$$= 1 + 2 = 3 \quad f(2, 1) = 3$$

Sum of  $k$  diagonals is

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}$$

$$f(k, 1) = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}$$

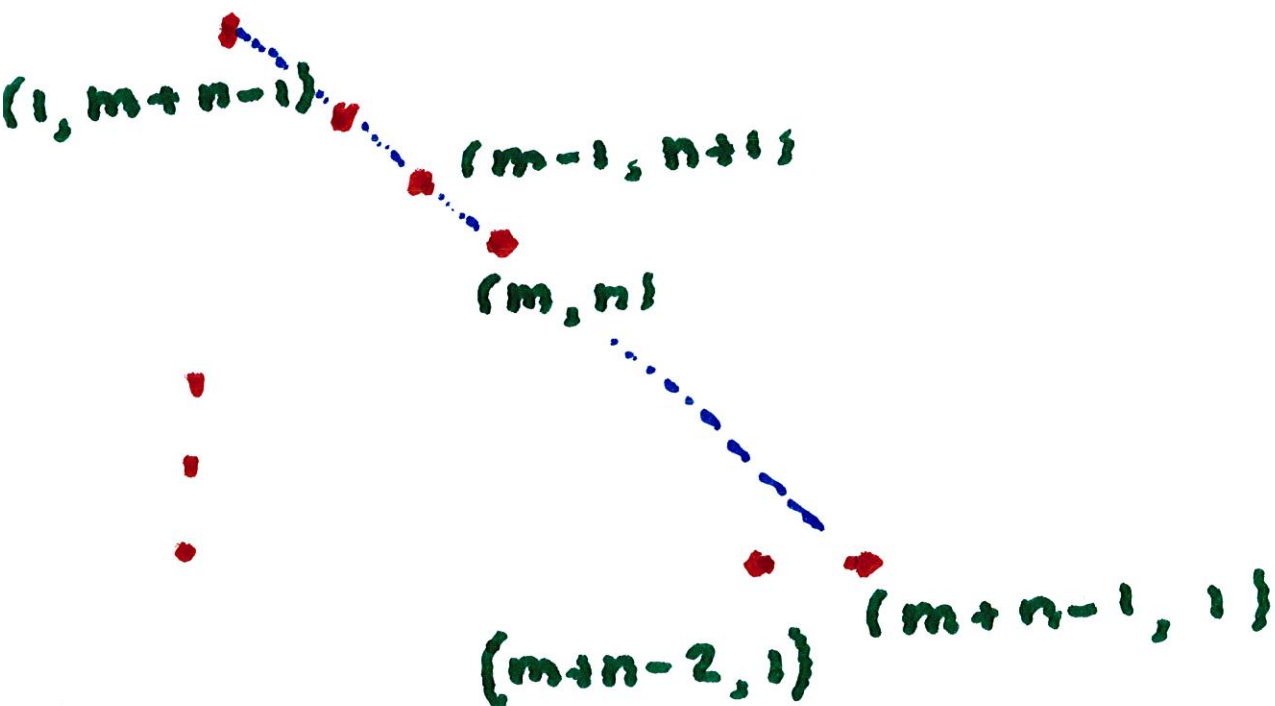
We see that the endpoints of

$(m+n-1)$ -th diagonal are

$(1, m+n-1)$  and  $(m+n-1, 1)$ .

Hence the predecessor of

$(1, m+n-1)$  is  $(1, m+n-2)$ .



Hence,

$$f(m, n) = f(m-1, n+1) + 1$$

$$= f(m-2, n+2) + 2$$

⋮

$$= f(1, m+n-1) + (m-1)$$

$$= f(m+n-2, 1) + m$$

$$f(m, n) = \frac{(m+n-2)(m+n-1) + m}{2}$$

Observe that as we move along the path,  $f(m, n)$  increases by 1 with each step. Therefore,

$f: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is 1-to-1

and onto

It follows that  $f$  has an

inverse  $g: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  that

is also 1-to-1 and onto.

$g$  satisfies

$$g(1) = (1, 1)$$

$$g(2) = (1, 2)$$

$$g(3) = (2, 1)$$

$$g(4) = (1, 3), \text{ etc.}$$

In general

$$g(k) = (m(k), n(k))$$

for  $k = 1, 2, \dots$



Now define a

$$\text{function } \pi(m, n) = \frac{m}{n}$$

and also define

$$h(k) = \pi(g(k)) = \frac{m(k)}{n(k)}$$

This is the  $k$ -th positive

rational number at

the  $k$ -th point on

the path.

Thus we obtain a

function  $h: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}^+$

that is onto but

not 1-to-1.

We want to modify  $h$

to make it 1-to-1 and onto.

But we first prove:

Thm. 1. Suppose that

$h: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$  is surjective,

where  $S$  is infinite. Then

there is a function

$H: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$  that is 1-to-1

and onto. Thus,

$S$  is denumerable.

Proof. Our goal is to construct a sequence

$$n_1, n_2, \dots, n_q, \dots$$

so that all the elements  $h(n_i)$  are all distinct,  $1 \leq i < \infty$

and so every element  $s$  of  $S$  equals  $h(n_i)$  for some  $i$ .

Thus the function  $H: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$

defined by

$$H(i) = h(n_i), \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

is a bijection of  $N$  onto  $S$ .

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Set  $n_1 = 1$ . There are two

possible cases:

(i) If  $h(2) \neq h(1) = h(n_1)$ ,

then set  $n_2 = 2$ .

(ii) There is an integer  $n_2 > 2$

or

such that  $h(n_2) = h(n_1)$  for all

$n \in N$ ,  $n \neq n_2$ .

(iii) There is an integer  $n_2$

with  $n_2 \geq 3$ , so that

$h(n_2) \neq h(n_1)$  and so that

$h(k) = h(n_1)$  for all  $k$

with  $n_1 < k < n_2$ .



Figure 1.1.1. A set of nodes.

Similarly, one obtains

a sequence  $n_\ell$ ,  $\ell = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

with

$$1 = n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_\ell < \dots$$

so that all the points

$n_\ell$ ,  $\ell = 1, 2, \dots$  are all distinct

and so that if

$$n_{\ell-1} < k < n_\ell.$$

then

$$h_k \in \{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_{g-1}\}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} \text{O} & \text{---} & \text{O} & \text{---} & \text{O} & \text{---} & \text{O} & \text{---} & \text{O} & \text{---} & \text{O} & \text{---} & \text{O} \\ n_1 & & n_2 & & n_3 & & n_4 & \dots & n_{g-1} & & n_g & \dots & \end{array}$$

Since all the elements

$$h(n_1), h(n_2), \dots, h(n_g), \dots$$

are distinct, it follows

that  $H: N \rightarrow S$ , defined

$$\text{by } H(i) = h(n_i), i = 1, 2, \dots$$



is 1-to-1.

Also,  $H$  is onto since

any  $s \in S$  satisfies  $s = h(k)$

$= h(n_i)$  for some  $n_i < k$ .

Hence  $s = H(i)$  for some  $i$ .

Sets can be arbitrarily

large: For any set  $S$ , let

$\mathcal{P}(S)$  be the set of all  
subsets of  $S$ .

Cantor's Thm:

There does NOT exist a

map  $\varphi: S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$  that  
is onto.

Proof. Suppose

$$\varphi: S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$$

is a surjection.

Since  $\varphi(x)$  is a subset

of  $S$ , either  $x$  belongs to  $\varphi(x)$  or it does not

belong to  $\varphi(x)$ . We let

$$D = \left\{ x \in S : x \notin \varphi(x) \right\}$$

Since  $\varphi$  is a surjection,

there exists  $x_0 \in S$   
such that  $\varphi(x_0) = D$ .

There are 2 cases :

1. Suppose  $x_0 \in D$ .

Then  $x_0 \in \varphi(x_0)$ .

By definition of  $D$ ,

$x_0 \notin D$ . Contradiction

2. Suppose  $x_0 \notin D$ .

Then  $x_0 \notin \varphi(x_0)$ .

By definition of  $D$ ,

$x_0 \in D$ . Contradiction.

Ex. Suppose  $S = \{a, b, c\}$

$\mathcal{P}(S) = \{ \emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\},$

$\{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}$

and  $\{a, b, c\} \}$

$S$  has 3 elements,

$\mathcal{P}(S)$  has 8 elements.

There does not exist

a surjection from

$S$  onto  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ .