**Math 201 Class Discussion: Georg Cantor**

**26 November 2019**

**I** (Review) Let f: X→Y be a function. When does *f* possess an inverse?

For each of the following, decide if an inverse exists. If yes, find it.

1. f: N→Z defined by f(j) = -j
2. f: R→ R defined by f(x) = x5
3. g: R→ (0, defined by g(x) = ex
4. h: Z → Z defined by h(j) = j + 13
5. f: (0, → (0, defined by f(x) = 1/x
6. G:[0, → [0, defined by f(x) = x2

**II** (Review) Find a bijection from

(i) R to R; (ii) N to Z (iii) Z to N ; (iv) [0, 5] to [7, 17]; (v) (0, 1] to R; **N** to **Q** (0, 1)

**III** (a) Show that a subset of a countable set is either finite or countable.

(b) Show that if *A* and *B* are disjoint countable sets, then so is the union of *A* and *B*. What if *A* and *B* are not disjoint?

(c) Show that if *A* and *B* are countable sets, then so is the Cartesian product of *A* and *B*.

(d) Prove that a countable union of countable sets is countably infinite.

(e) Prove that the set of rational numbers strictly between 0 and 1 is countable.

(f) Demonstrate that **Q** is countable.

**IV** What does it mean to say that two sets have the *same cardinality*? What does it mean to say that a set is *countably infinite*?

**V** Show that if S is a collection of sets, then cardinality is an equivalence relation on S.

**VI**  Using Cantor’s diagonal argument, prove that **R** is not countable.

**VII** (a) Let *X* be a set. Recall the definition of the power set, P *(X)*, of *X*.

(b) Show that a mapping G: X→ Y may also be regarded as a mapping from P(X) to

Show that the power set of a finite set is finite. In such a case, describe the relationship between |X| and | P (X)|.

1. Let X = {a, b, c, d} and let F: X → P (X) be defined by:

F(a) = {a, c, d}, F(b) = {a, d}, F(c) = φ, F(d) = {d}

Find D\* =

1. Let X = Z+ and let G: X → P(X) be defined by:

G(a) = {all prime numbers, p, such that a ≤ p ≤ 2a}

Find D\* =

1. Let X = **Q** and let H: X → P (X) be defined by:

{all prime numbers, *p*, such that z ≤ p ≤ 2z}

Find D\* =

1. Let X = **R** and let V: X → P (X) be defined by:

Is V well-defined? If so, find D\* =

**VIII** Prove ***Cantor’s Theorem***: X and P(X) are not of the same cardinality.

**Highly recommended:** MIT lecture notes on cardinality, 24.118 (paradox and infinity)



[Georg Ferdinand Ludwig Cantor](http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Cantor.html) (1845 – 1918) is best known for

his discovery of transfinite numbers and the creation of Set Theory

*Lenore nodded. ‘Gramma really likes antinomies. I think this guy here (looking down at the drawing on the back of the label) ‘is the barber who shaves all and only those who do not shave themselves’.*

- David Foster Wallace, **The Broom of the System**