1

Countable sets

一章

The purpose of this chapter is to talk about countable sets. We will start with basic notions and operations on functions as a warm up, then we will define the notion of finite sets, coutable sets and uncountable sets along with several examples. In the end of the chapter, we will also describe operations to construct countably infinite sets.

1.1 Functions

Let us start with elementary notions, such as injective, surjective, and bijective functions.

Definition 1.1.1: Given two sets S and T, and a function $f: S \to T$. We say that f is

- injective (單射), or an injection, if for any $x, y \in S$, $x \neq y$ implies $f(x) \neq f(y)$;
- surjective (滿射), or a surjection, if for any $z \in T$, there exists $x \in S$ such that f(x) = z;
- bijective (雙射), or a bijection, if it is injective and surjective.

Remark 1.1.2: In the language of set theory, a function $f: S \to T$ may also be seen as an element $f \in T^S$.

Example 1.1.3: Below are a few examples.

- (1) The map $\tan: (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}) \to \mathbb{R}$ is a bijection.
- (2) The map $x \mapsto x^2$ defines an injection from \mathbb{R}_+ to \mathbb{R} , a surjection from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}_+ , and also a bijection between \mathbb{R}_+ and \mathbb{R}_+ .
- (3) Let $\sigma \in S_N$ be an element in the symmetric group. Then σ is a bijection.
- (4) Let $M \in \mathcal{M}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ with det $M \neq 0$. Then, the map $X \mapsto MX$ is a bijection on \mathbb{R}^n .

可數集合

此章節的目的是要介紹可數集合。我們會先介紹函數的一些基本概念,討論合成函數,接著定義有限集合、可數集合、不可數集合等,以及給出相關的範例。在此章節的最後面,我們也會介紹一 些常見拿來構造無窮可數集合的方式。

第一節 函數

我們從基本概念開始,像是單射函數、滿射函數,以及雙射函數。

定義 1.1.1 : 給定兩個集合 $S \supset T$ 還有函數 $f: S \to T$ 。

- 如果對於所有 $x,y \in S$, $x \neq y$ 蘊含 $f(x) \neq f(y)$, 則我們說 f 是個單射函數 (injective function or injection) \circ
- 如果對於任何 $z \in T$,存在 $x \in S$ 滿足 f(x) = z ,則我們說 f 是個滿射函數 (surjective function or surjection) \circ
- 如果 f 同時是個單射函數及滿射函數,則我們說他是個雙射函數 (bijective function or bijection)。

註解 1.1.2 : 在集合論的語言中,一個函數 $f: S \to T$ 也可以被視為集合中的元素 $f \in T^S$ 。

範例 1.1.3 : 我們來看下面幾個例子。

- (1) 函數 $tan: (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}) \to \mathbb{R}$ 是個雙射函數。
- (2) 若把函數 $x\mapsto x^2$ 看作由 \mathbb{R}_+ 到 \mathbb{R} 上的函數,則他是個單射函數,;若把他看作由 \mathbb{R} 到 \mathbb{R}_+ ,則他是個滿射函數,若把他看作由 \mathbb{R}_+ 到 \mathbb{R}_+ ,則他是個雙射函數。
- (4) 令 $M \in \mathcal{M}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ 且滿足 $\det M \neq 0$ 。則函數 $X \mapsto MX$ 會是個在 \mathbb{R}^n 上的雙射函數。

第一章 可數集合

We recall the following classical results on composition of injective (resp. surjective and bijective) maps. You should be able to reproduce the proofs by yourself.

Proposition 1.1.4: Let $f: S \to T$ and $g: T \to U$.

- If f and g are both injective, then $g \circ f$ is also injective.
- If f and g are both surjective, then $g \circ f$ is also surjective.
- If f and g are both bijective, then $g \circ f$ is also bijective.

Proposition 1.1.5: Let A, B, C, D be sets, and $f: A \rightarrow B, g: B \rightarrow C$ and $h: C \rightarrow D$ be functions.

- (1) If $g \circ f$ is injective, then f is injective.
- (2) If $g \circ f$ is surjective, then g is surjective.
- (3) If $g \circ f$ and $h \circ g$ are bijective, then f, g and h are all bijective.

Definition 1.1.6: Given a bijection $f: S \to T$, we may define $f^{-1}: T \to S$ as follows. For any $y \in T$, we may find a unique $x \in S$ such that y = f(x), called preimage or inverse image (像原), of y, and we define $f^{-1}(y) = x$. Such a function f^{-1} is unique, and is called the inverse function (反函數) of f.

Definition 1.1.7: Given a function $f: S \to T$ which is not necessarily a bijection. For $A \subseteq S$ and $B \subseteq T$, let us define

$$f(A) = \{f(x) : x \in A\}$$
 and $f^{-1}(B) = \{x \in S : f(x) \in B\}.$

This generalizes the notion of image and preimage to subsets.

Remark 1.1.8: We note that if $f: S \to T$ is a bijection, then f(x) = y can be rewritten as

$$f^{-1}(y) = x$$
 and $f^{-1}(\{y\}) = \{x\}.$

Proposition 1.1.9: If $f: S \to T$ is a bijection, then

$$f^{-1} \circ f = \operatorname{Id}_S$$
 and $f \circ f^{-1} = \operatorname{Id}_T$.

下面對單射函數(或滿射函數、雙射函數)取合成函數的結果是大家應該熟悉的,這裡我們不做證明。

命題 1.1.4 : 令 $f: S \rightarrow T$ 及 $g: T \rightarrow U$ 。

- 若 f 及 g 皆是單射的,則 $g \circ f$ 也是單射的。
- 若 f 及 g 皆是滿射的,則 $g \circ f$ 也是滿射的。
- 若 f 及 g 皆是雙射的,則 $g \circ f$ 也是雙射的。

命題 1.1.5 : 令 A,B,C,D 為集合, $f:A\to B,g:B\to C$ 及 $h:C\to D$ 為函數。

- (1) 若 $g \circ f$ 是單射的,則 f 也是單射的。
- (2) 若 $g \circ f$ 是滿射的,則 g 也是滿射的。
- (3) 若 $g \circ f$ 及 $h \circ g$ 皆為雙射函數,則 f, g 及 h 也是雙射函數。

定義 1.1.6 : 給定雙射函數 $f:S\to T$,我們下面定義 $f^{-1}:T\to S$ 。對於任意 $y\in T$,我們可以找到唯一的 $x\in S$ 使得 y=f(x) ,稱作 y 的像原 (preimage or inverse image),我們定義 $f^{-1}(y)=x$ 。函數 f^{-1} 是唯一定義的,稱作 f 的反函數 (inverse function)。

定義 1.1.7 : 給定函數 $f: S \to T$,不一定是雙射函數。對於 $A \subseteq S$ 及 $B \subseteq T$,我們定義

$$f(A) = \{f(x) : x \in A\}$$
 以及 $f^{-1}(B) = \{x \in S : f(x) \in B\}.$

此定義讓我們可以把像及像原的概念推廣到子集合上。

註解 1.1.8 : 我們注意到,如果 $f: S \to T$ 是個雙射函數,則 f(x) = y 可以重新寫作

$$f^{-1}(y) = x$$
 \exists $f^{-1}(\{y\}) = \{x\}.$

命題 1.1.9 : 如果 $f: S \to T$ 是個雙射函數,則

$$f^{-1} \circ f = \operatorname{Id}_S \quad \blacksquare \quad f \circ f^{-1} = \operatorname{Id}_T.$$

第一章 可數集合

Given a function $f: S \to T$, how to check that it is a bijection? The following proposition gives us a possible way to do this.

Proposition 1.1.10: Let $f: S \to T$ and $g: T \to S$ satisfying $f \circ g = \operatorname{Id}_T$ and $g \circ f = \operatorname{Id}_S$. Then, f and g are bijective and are inverse one of the other.

Proof : By symmetry, it is enough to show that f is bijective and g is the inverse of f.

Given $y \in T$, we want to look for $x \in S$ such that f(x) = y. Assume that such x exists, leading to $x = g \circ f(x) = g(y)$. Let x = g(y). We can easily check that $f(g(y)) = f \circ g(y) = y$. This allows us to say that x = g(y) is the unique preimage of y by f.

Thus, f is a bijection and g is its inverse.

1.2 Equinumerous sets

Definition 1.2.1: Two sets S and T are said to be equinumerous (等勢), denoted by $S \sim T$, if there exists a bijective function (or bijection) f from S to T.

Remark 1.2.2: It is not hard to check the following properties.

- (1) For any set S, we have $S \sim S$.
- (2) For any sets S and T, we have $S \sim T$ if and only if $T \sim S$.
- (3) For any sets S, T, and U, if we have $S \sim T$ and $T \sim U$, then $S \sim U$.

Proposition 1.2.3: For any set S, write $\mathcal{P}(S)$ for its power set (冪集合), that is

$$\mathcal{P}(S) := \{T \subseteq S\}.$$

Then, S is not equinumerous to $\mathcal{P}(S)$.

Proof: We prove by contradiction. Let us assume that S and $\mathcal{P}(S)$ are equinumerous, and we want to reach at a contradiction.

Let $f: S \to \mathcal{P}(S)$ be a bijection. Consider the following subset of S,

$$T := \{ x \in S : x \notin f(x) \} \in \mathcal{P}(S).$$

Then, T has a preimage via f, that we may denote by x, i.e. f(x) = T. We have two possible cases to discuss:

• If $x \in T = f(x)$, then by the definition of T, we find $x \notin f(x) = T$.

給定函數 $f:S\to T$,我們要怎麼檢查他是個雙射函數?下面命題給我們其中一個檢查的方式。

命題 1.1.10 : 令 $f: S \to T$ 及 $g: T \to S$ 滿足 $f \circ g = \mathrm{Id}_T$ 及 $g \circ f = \mathrm{Id}_S$ 。則 f 和 g 皆為雙射函數,且互為對方的反函數。

證明:根據對稱性,我們只需要證明 f 是雙射,且 g 為 f 的反函數即可。

給定 $y\in T$,我們想要找到 $x\in S$ 使得 f(x)=y。假設這樣的 x 存在,我們會有 $x=g\circ f(x)=g(y)$ 。令 x=g(y)。我們可以輕易檢查 $f(g(y))=f\circ g(y)=y$ 。這讓我們可以總結 x=g(y) 是 y 在 f 之下唯一的像原。

因此,f 是個雙射函數,且 g 是他的反函數。

第二節 等勢集合

定義 1.2.1 : 給定兩個集合 S 及 T ,如果存在由 S 到 T 的雙射函數 f ,則我們說他們是等勢 (equinumerous) 集合,記作 $S\sim T$ 。

註解 1.2.2 : 我們不難檢查下面性質。

- (1) 對於任意集合 S, 我們有 $S \sim S$ 。
- (2) 對於任意集合 S 及 T,若且唯若 $S \sim T$,則 $T \sim S$ 。
- (3) 對於任意集合 S,T 及 U,如果 $S\sim T$ 及 $T\sim U$ 成立,則 $S\sim U$ 。

命題 1.2.3 : 對於任意集合 S ,我們將他的冪集合 (power set) 記做 $\mathcal{P}(S)$,也就是

$$\mathcal{P}(S) := \{ T \subseteq S \}.$$

則 S 與 $\mathcal{P}(S)$ 不會是等勢集合。

證明:我們使用反證法來證明。我們假設 S 及 $\mathcal{P}(S)$ 為等勢集合,進而得到矛盾。 令 $f:S\to\mathcal{P}(S)$ 為雙射函數。考慮下面 S 的子集合:

$$T := \{ x \in S : x \notin f(x) \} \in \mathcal{P}(S).$$

則 T 在 f 之下有個像原,我們可以把他記作 x,也就是說 f(x) = T。我們有兩種可能性:

• 如果 $x \in T = f(x)$,則根據 T 的定義,我們會得到 $x \notin f(x) = T$ 。

• If $x \notin T = f(x)$, then again by the definition of T, we find $x \in f(x) = T$.

We have found a contradiction.

Question 1.2.4: What is the difference between a proof by contradiction (反證法) and a proof by contraposition (對位證明法)?

In general, how to know whether two given sets are equinumerous? By definition, we need to explicit a bijection between them, but it is not always obvious. The following theorem gives a criterion and also an algorithm on how to build such a bijection. We will not discuss its proof here, which is a little bit technical. You may follow the steps in Exercise 1.7 for details.

Theorem 1.2.5 (Cantor–Schröder–Bernstein Theorem): Given two sets S and T. Suppose that there exists an injection from S to T and an injection from T to S. Then, there exists a bijection between S and T.

1.3 Finite sets

Definition 1.3.1: Given a set S. If there exists a non-negative integer n such that

$$S \sim \{1, \dots, n\} =: [n],$$

then we say that S is finite and contains n elements, denoted $n = |S| = \operatorname{Card}(S)$. We also say that the cardinal number, or cardinality (基數) of S is n.

Proposition 1.3.2: For a finite set S, its cardinality is uniquely defined.

Proof: Let us proceed by contradiction. Suppose that there exists a finite set S with two different cardinals n and m, that is, there exist bijections $f:S\to [n]$ and $g:S\to [m]$. Then, the function $h:=f\circ g^{-1}:[m]\to [n]$ is also a bijection by composition. However, by the pigeonhole principle (鴿 籠原理), it is not possible. More precisely, if m>n, the pigeonhole principle implies that there exists $x,y\in [m]$ with $x\neq y$ such that h(m)=h(n). If m< n, we conclude in the same way by looking at $h^{-1}:[n]\to [m]$.

Example 1.3.3 : We give a few examples below.

- (1) Fix a positive integer $n \ge 1$, the symmetric group S_n has cardinality n!. One may establish a bijection between S_n and $[n] \times S_{n-1}$ and proceed by induction.
- (2) Given two finite sets E and F, then the set of functions from E to F has cardinality $|F|^{|E|}$.

• 如果 $x \notin T = f(x)$,則再次根據 T 的定義,我們會得到 $x \in f(x) = T$ 。

因此我們得到矛盾。

問題 1.2.4: 反證法 (proof by contradiction) 與對位證明法 (proof by contraposition) 有什麼不同?

一般來說,我們要怎麼知道兩個集合是等勢的呢?根據定義,我們必須要能夠找到他們之間的雙射函數,但這不一定是容易達成的。下面的定理給我們一個檢查的方式,同時也給我們一套演算法來構造這樣的雙射函數。由於此證明有點技巧性,我們不會討論證明的細節,有興趣的同學可以參考習題 1.7 中的步驟。

定理 1.2.5 【Cantor–Schröder–Bernstein 定理】: 給定兩集合 S 與 T 。 假設存在由 S 到 T 的單射函數以及由 T 到 S 的單射函數,則存在由 S 到 T 的雙射函數。

第三節 有限集合

定義 1.3.1 : 給定集合 $S \circ$ 若存在非負整數 n 使得

$$S \sim \{1, \dots, n\} =: [n],$$

則我們說 S 是個有限集合且包含 n 個元素,記作 $n=|S|=\mathrm{Card}(S)$ 。我們也說 S 的基數 (cardinal number or cardinality) 為 n 。

命題 1.3.2 : 對有限集合 S 來說,他的基數是唯一定義的。

證明:我們以反證法來證明。假設存在有限集合 S 有兩個不同的基數 n 及 m,也就是說,存在雙射函數 $f:S \to [n]$ 及 $g:S \to [m]$ 。把函數做合成,我們可以推得 $h:=f\circ g^{-1}:[m]\to [n]$ 也會是個雙射函數。然而,根據鴿籠原理 (pigeonhole principle),這是不可能的。更確切的說,如果 m>n,鴿籠原理告訴我們會存在 $x,y\in [m]$ 且 $x\neq y$ 滿足 h(m)=h(n)。如果 m<n,我們可以透過 $h^{-1}:[n]\to [m]$ 並且以相同方式總結。

範例 1.3.3 : 我們給幾個基數的例子。

- (1) 固定正整數 $n\geqslant 1$,對稱群 S_n 的基數為 n!。我們可以構造由 S_n 到 $[n]\times S_{n-1}$ 的雙射函數,再透過遞迴來證明此性質。
- (2) 給定兩個有限集合 E 及 F,由所有從 E 到 F 的函數所構成的集合的基數為 $|F|^{|E|}$ 。

(3) Let p be a prime number. The general linear group on the finite field \mathbb{F}_p of order n, denoted by

$$GL(n,p) = GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p) = \{ M \in \mathcal{M}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}_p) : \det(M) \neq 0 \}$$

has cardinality

Card
$$GL(n, p) = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (p^n - p^k).$$

1.4 Countable sets

Below, we follow the Anglo-Saxon notations to denote the set of natural numbers. We write $\mathbb{N} := \{1,2,\dots\}$ for the set of positive integers, and $\mathbb{N}_0 := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ for the set of non-negative integers. Note that in the French or German notations, \mathbb{N} stands for the set of non-negative integers, whereas \mathbb{N}^* stands for the set of positive integers.

Definition 1.4.1: Given a set S. We say that S is coutably infinite (無窮可數) if $S \sim \mathbb{N}$.

Remark 1.4.2: Let S be a countably infinite set. By Definition 1.2.1, there is a bijection from \mathbb{N} to S, that we may denote by f. In this case, we can enumerate the elements of S as follows,

$$S = \{f(1), f(2), \dots\} = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\},\$$

where we write $a_k = f(k)$ for all $k \ge 1$.

Definition 1.4.3: If S is a countably infinite set, then we write \aleph_0 for its cardinality. In other words, $\aleph_0 := |\mathbb{N}| = \operatorname{Card}(\mathbb{N})$.

Example 1.4.4: The set $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ of integers is countably infinite. To see this, we may define the functions $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{Z}$ and $g : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{N}$ as below,

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} -\frac{n}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is even,} \\ \frac{n-1}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad g(n) = \begin{cases} 2n+1 & \text{if } n \geqslant 0, \\ -2n & \text{if } n < 0. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to check that $f \circ g = \mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{Z}}$ and $g \circ f = \mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{N}}$, so from Proposition 1.1.10, we know that $f = g^{-1}$ and that both f and g are bijective.

The above construction is equivalent to enumerating the elements of $\mathbb Z$ as follows,

$$0, -1, 1, -2, 2, -3, 3, \dots$$

(3) 令 p 為質數。在有限域 \mathbb{F}_p 上次數為 n 的一般線性群

$$GL(n,p) = GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p) = \{ M \in \mathcal{M}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}_p) : \det(M) \neq 0 \}$$

的基數為

Card
$$GL(n, p) = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (p^n - p^k).$$

第四節 可數集合

接下來,我們會根據英式記號來紀錄自然數集合。我們將正整數集合記作 $\mathbb{N}:=\{1,2,\dots\}$ 以及非負整數集合記作 $\mathbb{N}_0:=\mathbb{N}\cup\{0\}$ 。我們注意到,在歐陸記號(法國或德國)中, \mathbb{N} 代表的是非負整數集合, \mathbb{N}^* 代表的是正整數集合。

定義 1.4.1 : 給定集合 S 。如果 $S \sim \mathbb{N}$,則我們說 S 是個無窮可數 (coutably infinite) 的集合。

註解 1.4.2 : 令 S 為無窮可數集合。根據定義 1.2.1 ,存在由 $\mathbb N$ 到 S 的雙射函數 f ,因此我們可以將 S 中的元素依下列方式編號:

$$S = \{f(1), f(2), \dots\} = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\},\$$

其中對於所有 $k \ge 1$,我們記 $a_k = f(k)$ 。

定義 1.4.3 : 如果 S 是個無窮可數集合,則我們將他的基數記作 \aleph_0 。換句話說, $\aleph_0:=|\mathbb{N}|=\mathrm{Card}(\mathbb{N})$ 。

範例 1.4.4 : 整數集合 $\mathbb{Z}=\{\ldots,-2,-1,0,1,2,\ldots\}$ 是無窮可數的。要證明這件事,我們可以 考慮函數 $f:\mathbb{N}\to\mathbb{Z}$ 及 $g:\mathbb{Z}\to\mathbb{N}$,定義如下:

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} -\frac{n}{2} & \text{若 } n \text{ 為偶數}, \\ \frac{n-1}{2} & \text{若 } n \text{ 為奇數}, \end{cases} \qquad \text{以及} \qquad g(n) = \begin{cases} 2n+1 & \text{若 } n \geqslant 0, \\ -2n & \text{若 } n < 0. \end{cases}$$

我們不難檢查 $f\circ g=\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{Z}}$ 及 $g\circ f=\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{N}}$,所以命題 1.1.10 告訴我們 $f=g^{-1}$ 且 f 與 g 皆為雙射函數。

此構造所代表的是,我們可以把 Z 中的元素依下列方式排列(編號):

$$0, -1, 1, -2, 2, -3, 3, \dots$$

Example 1.4.5: The set \mathbb{N}^2 is countably infinite. We may enumerate its elements as shown in the following figure.

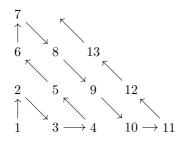


Figure 1.1: A possible enumeration of the elements in \mathbb{N}^2 .

Question 1.4.6: Construct an explicit bijection between \mathbb{N} and \mathbb{N}^2 using the enumeration shown in Figure 1.1.

Definition 1.4.7: Given a set S. We say that S is countable (可數) if S is either a finite set or a coutably infinite set. Otherwise, we say that S is uncountable (不可數).

Proposition 1.4.8: Any subset of a countable set is countable.

Proof: Let S be a countable set and $A \subseteq S$ be a subset. If A is finite, the statement holds clearly, so we may assume that A is infinite, and so is S a fortiori. According to Remark 1.4.2, we may enumerate the elements of S as

$$S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots\}.$$

We may define a strictly increasing function $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ by induction,

$$\varphi(1) = \min\{n \ge 1 : s_n \in A\},$$

$$\varphi(k+1) = \min\{n > \varphi(k) : s_n \in A\}, \quad k \ge 1.$$

It is easy to see that φ is well defined on \mathbb{N} due to the fact that A is infinite. Therefore, the function

$$f: \mathbb{N} \to A$$

$$n \mapsto s_{\varphi(n)}$$

is a bijection between \mathbb{N} and A, so A is countably infinite.

範例 1.4.5 : 集合 \mathbb{N}^2 是無窮可數的,我們可以將其中的元素依下圖中的方式編號。

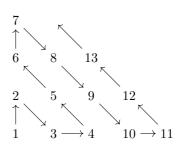


圖 $1.1: \mathbb{N}^2$ 中元素的其中一種編號方式。

問題 1.4.6:請給出由圖 1.1 所代表的編號方式,所對應到的從 \mathbb{N} 到 \mathbb{N}^2 的雙射函數。

定義 1.4.7 : 給定集合 S 。如果 S 是個有限集合或是無窮可數集合,則我們說 S 是個可數 (countable) 集合;反之,我們說 S 是個不可數 (uncountable) 集合。

命題 1.4.8 : 任何可數集合的子集合皆是可數的。

證明:令 S 為可數集合以及 $A \subseteq S$ 為子集合。如果 A 是有限的,則顯然此敘述成立;因此我們可以假設 A 是無限的,因此 S 也必然是無限的。註解 1.4.2 讓我們可以把 S 中的元素編號:

$$S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots\}.$$

我們可以透過遞迴方式,來定義嚴格遞增函數 $\varphi: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$:

$$\varphi(1) = \min\{n \ge 1 : s_n \in A\},$$

$$\varphi(k+1) = \min\{n > \varphi(k) : s_n \in A\}, \quad k \ge 1.$$

由於 A 是無窮的,我們不難檢查 φ 是個在 $\mathbb N$ 上定義良好的函數。因此,

$$f: \mathbb{N} \to A$$
$$n \mapsto s_{\varphi(n)}$$

是個由 \mathbb{N} 到 A 的雙射函數,所以 A 是個無窮可數集合。

第一章 可數集合

Corollary 1.4.9 : Given a set S.

- (1) It is countable if and only if there exists a bijection between S and a subset of \mathbb{N} .
- (2) It is countable if and only if there exists an injection from S into \mathbb{N} .
- (3) It is countable if and only if there exists a surjection from $\mathbb N$ onto S.
- (4) it is countably infinite if and only if one of the previous points holds and S is infinite.

Proof: Given a set S.

- (1) Suppose that S is countable. If S is finite, then it is in bijection with $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ for some finite $n \geqslant 0$. If S is infinite, then it is countably infinite, and by definition, it is in bijection with \mathbb{N} . For the converse, assume that S is in bijection with a subset $I \subseteq \mathbb{N}$. Proposition 1.4.8 implies that I is countable, so is S.
- (2) Suppose that S is countable. By (1), we can find a bijection $f:S\to I\subseteq\mathbb{N}$. Let $i:I\hookrightarrow\mathbb{N}$ be the canonical injection (包含映射) $x\mapsto x$. Then, $i\circ f$ is an injection from S to \mathbb{N} .
 - For the converse, assume that $i:S\hookrightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is an injection, then i is a bijection between S and i(S), which is a subset of the countable set \mathbb{N} . Therefore, Proposition 1.4.8 implies that S is also countable.
- (3) We may proceed in a similar way as (2).
- (4) It was already implicitly proven in the previous points.

Example 1.4.10: The set \mathbb{N}^2 is countably infinite. We may consider the map $(p,q)\mapsto 2^p3^q$ which is an injection from \mathbb{N}^2 into \mathbb{N} due to the uniqueness of integer factorization.

Remark 1.4.11: In practice, to show that an infinite set S is countably infinite, we may

- (1) construct a bijection between S and \mathbb{N} ;
- (2) construct an injection from S into \mathbb{N} , or any other countably infinite set;
- (3) construct a surjection from \mathbb{N} , or any other countably infinite set, onto S.

系理 1.4.9 : 給定集合 S \circ

- (1) 若且唯若 S 是可數的,則存在由 S 到 \mathbb{N} 子集合的雙射函數。
- (2) 若且唯若 S 是可數的,則存在由 S 到 \mathbb{N} 的單射函數。
- (3) 若且唯若 S 是可數的,則存在由 \mathbb{N} 到 S 的滿射函數。
- (4) 若且唯若 S 是無窮可數的,則前面三點之一成立,且 S 是無窮集合。

證明:給定集合 S。

(1) 假設 S 是可數的。如果 S 為有限集合,則對於某個有限 $n\geqslant 0$,存在雙射函數映射到 $\{1,\dots,n\}$ 。如果 S 為無窮集合,則他會是無窮可數的,根據定義,他與 $\mathbb N$ 之間有雙射關係。

再來證明逆命題,我們假設 S 與子集合 $I\subseteq \mathbb{N}$ 存在雙射關係。命題 1.4.8 告訴我們 I 是可數的,因此 S 也是可數的。

(2) 假設 S 是可數的。根據 (1),我們可以找到雙射函數 $f:S\to I\subseteq\mathbb{N}$ 。令 $i:I\hookrightarrow\mathbb{N}$ 為包含映射 (canonical injection) $x\mapsto x$ 。則 $i\circ f$ 會是個由 S 到 \mathbb{N} 的單射函數。

再來證明逆命題,我們假設 $i:S\hookrightarrow\mathbb{N}$ 是個單射函數,則 i 是個由 S 到 i(S) 的雙射函數,且 i(S) 是個可數集合 \mathbb{N} 的子集合。因此根據命題 1.4.8 ,我們得知 S 也是可數的。

(3) 證明與(2)相似。

(4) 這是前面幾點的直接結果。

範例 1.4.10 : 集合 \mathbb{N}^2 是無窮可數的。根據正整數的唯一質因數分解,我們可以考慮函數 $(p,q)\mapsto 2^p3^q$,這會是個從 \mathbb{N}^2 到 \mathbb{N} 的單射函數。

註解 1.4.11 : 在實際層面上,如果我們想要證明一個無窮集合 S 是無窮可數的,我們可以透過下列方法之一:

- (1) 構造由 *S* 到 N 的雙射函數;
- (2) 構造由 S 到 \mathbb{N} 或是任意無窮可數集合的單射函數;
- (3) 構造由 ℕ 或是任意無窮可數集合到 S 的滿射函數。

1.5 Operations on countable sets

1.5.1 Cartesian product

Proposition 1.5.1: If S and T are countably infinite sets, then their Cartesian product (笛卡爾積) $S \times T$ is also countably infinite.

Proof: Given two countably infinite sets S and T. Let $f: S \to \mathbb{N}$ and $g: T \to \mathbb{N}$ be bijective maps. Then, the map $h:=(f,g)=S\times T\to \mathbb{N}^2$ defined by h(x,y)=(f(x),g(y)) is also a bijection. Since \mathbb{N}^2 is countably infinite (Example 1.4.5), Corollary 1.4.9 implies that so is $S\times T$.

Example 1.5.2: The above proposition gives us a simpler criterion to show that some infinite sets are countably infinite.

- (1) We saw in Example 1.4.4 that \mathbb{Z} in countably infinite, so \mathbb{Z}^2 is also countably infinite.
- (2) The set \mathbb{Q} of rational numbers is countably infinite. Actually, we first know that $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$ is countably infinite, and we may construct a surjective map from $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$ onto \mathbb{Q} by $(p,q) \mapsto \frac{p}{q}$. And we conclude by Corollary 1.4.9 (3).

Corollary 1.5.3: Any non-empty finite product of countably infinite sets is still coutably infinite.

Proof: We want to prove this by induction on the cardinality of the product. For any positive integer n, we define the property \mathcal{P}_n to be "for any finite set I with |I| = n, and countably infinite sets $(S_i)_{i \in I}$, the product $\prod_{i \in I} S_i$ is countably infinite."

If |I|=1, the statement clearly holds. Let $n\geqslant 1$ be an integer and assume that \mathcal{P}_n holds. Given a finite family I with |I|=n+1 and a sequence of countably infinite sets $(S_i)_{i\in I}$ indexed by elements of I. Fix an arbitrary element $i_0\in I$ and define $I'=I\setminus\{i_0\}$, then I can be rewritten as the disjoint union $I=I'\sqcup\{i_0\}$. Let $S=\prod_{i\in I}S_i=(\prod_{i\in I'}S_i)\times S_{i_0}$. By the induction hypothesis \mathcal{P}_n , we know that $S':=\prod_{i\in I'}S_i$ is countably infinite. Then, Proposition 1.5.1 implies that $S'\times S_{i_0}=S$ is countably infinite. Therefore, the property \mathcal{P}_{n+1} holds.

Example 1.5.4: For any positive integer $n \ge 1$, the sets \mathbb{N}^n and \mathbb{Z}^n are countably infinite.

1.5.2 Union

第五節 在可數集合上的運算

第一小節 笛卡爾積

命題 1.5.1 : 若 S 及 T 為無窮可數集合,則他們的笛卡爾積 (Cartesian product) $S \times T$ 也是無窮可數的。

證明:給定兩個無窮可數集合 S 及 T。令 $f:S\to\mathbb{N}$ 及 $g:T\to\mathbb{N}$ 為雙射函數。則函數 $h:=(f,g)=S\times T\to\mathbb{N}^2$ 定義做 h(x,y)=(f(x),g(y)) 也是雙射的。由於 \mathbb{N}^2 是無窮可數的(範例 1.4.5),根據系理 1.4.9,我們得知 $S\times T$ 也是無窮可數的。

範例 1.5.2 : 上述的命題給我們較簡單的方式,來檢查某些無窮集合是否為無窮可數的。

- (1) 在範例 1.4.4 中,我們知道 \mathbb{Z} 是無窮可數的,因此 \mathbb{Z}^2 也會是無窮可數的。
- (2) 有理數所構成的集合 $\mathbb Q$ 是無窮可數的。要得到此性質,首先我們注意到 $\mathbb Z \times \mathbb N$ 是無窮可數的,接著我們構造從 $\mathbb Z \times \mathbb N$ 到 $\mathbb Q$ 的滿射函數,定義為 $(p,q) \mapsto \frac{p}{q}$ 。接著我們可以由系理 1.4.9 (3) 來總結。

系理 1.5.3 : 任意由非空有限多個無窮可數集合所得到的乘積也是無窮可數的。

證明:我們想對乘積數量做遞迴,來證明此性質。對於任意正整數 n,我們可以定義 \mathcal{P}_n 為下列性質:「對於任意有限集合 I 滿足 |I|=n 以及無窮可數集合 $(S_i)_{i\in I}$,乘積 $\prod_{i\in I}S_i$ 也是無窮可數的。」

若 |I|=1,此命題顯然成立。令 $n\geqslant 1$ 為正整數並假設 \mathcal{P}_n 成立。給定有限集合 I 滿足 |I|=n+1 以及由 I 中元素所編號的無窮可數集合序列 $(S_i)_{i\in I}$ 。固定任意元素 $i_0\in I$ 並定義 $I'=I\setminus\{i_0\}$,我們可以將 I 寫為互斥聯集 $I=I'\sqcup\{i_0\}$ 。令 $S=\prod_{i\in I}S_i=(\prod_{i\in I'}S_i)\times S_{i_0}$ 。 根據遞迴假設 \mathcal{P}_n ,我們知道 $S':=\prod_{i\in I'}S_i$ 是無窮可數的。接著,由命題 1.5.1 我們可以得知 $S'\times S_{i_0}=S$ 也是無窮可數的。因此,性質 \mathcal{P}_{n+1} 成立。

範例 1.5.4 : 對於任意正整數 $n \ge 1$,集合 \mathbb{N}^n 及 \mathbb{Z}^n 是無窮可數的。

第二小節 聯集

Proposition 1.5.5: Any countable union of coutable sets is still countable.

Proof: Let I be a countable set and $(S_i)_{i\in I}$ be a family of countable sets indexed by I. By Corollary 1.4.9, we may be given a surjection $f_i: \mathbb{N} \to S_i$ for each $i \in I$. Then, the map defined by

$$f: I \times \mathbb{N} \to \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i$$

 $(i, x) \mapsto f_i(x)$

is clearly a surjection. Since $I \times \mathbb{N}$ is countable, using Corollary 1.4.9 again, we deduce that $\bigcup_{i \in I} S_i$ is also countable.

Example 1.5.6: Let S and T be two countable subsets of \mathbb{R} . Then, the set

$$S + T := \{s + t : s \in S, t \in T\}$$

is also countable. Actually, we can see this by rewriting

$$S + T = \bigcup_{s \in S} (s + T)$$

which is a countable union of countable sets.

1.5.3 Examples of uncountable sets

Proposition 1.5.7: The set $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ is uncountable.

Proof: By Proposition 1.2.3, there is no bijection between $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ and \mathbb{N} . Therefore, Corollary 1.4.9 implies that $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ is not countable.

Proposition 1.5.8: The set $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is uncountable.

Proof: We have at least two ways to see this.

• First approach is to notice that, $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is in bijection with $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$. Actually, the map

$$f: \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \to \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$$
$$(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mapsto \{n \in \mathbb{N} : x_n = 1\}$$

defines a bijection. Therefore, we may conclude by applying directly Proposition 1.5.7.

命題 1.5.5 : 由可數多個可數集合構成的聯集還是可數的。

證明:令 I 為可數集合以及 $(S_i)_{i\in I}$ 為由 I 中元素所標記的可數集合。根據系理 1.4.9 ,對於所 有 $i\in I$,我們有滿射函數 $f_i:\mathbb{N}\to S_i$ 。因此,由

$$f: I \times \mathbb{N} \to \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i$$

 $(i, x) \mapsto f_i(x)$

所定義的函數也是滿射的。由於 $I \times \mathbb{N}$ 是可數的,根據系理 1.4.9 ,我們得知 $\bigcup_{i \in I} S_i$ 也是可數的。

$$S + T := \{s + t : s \in S, t \in T\}$$

也是個可數集合。要得到此結果,我們可以將他重新寫作

$$S + T = \bigcup_{s \in S} (s + T)$$

也就是可數多個可數集合所構成的聯集。

第三小節 非可數集合的範例

命題 1.5.7 : $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ 是不可數的。

證明:根據命題 1.2.3 ,我們知道不存在 $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ 與 \mathbb{N} 之間的滿射函數。因此,由系理 1.4.9 我們推得 $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ 是不可數的。

命題 1.5.8 : $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ 是個不可數集合。

證明: 我們可以以至少下列兩種方式來證明此命題。

• 第一個方式是先注意到, $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ 與 $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ 之間存在雙射關係,這可以透過

$$f: \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \to \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$$

 $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mapsto \{n \in \mathbb{N} : x_n = 1\}$

來達成。因此,我們可以透過直接使用命題 1.5.7 來總結。

• Second approach is to apply the so-called *Cantor's diagonal argument*. Suppose that the set $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is countably infinite, that is it is in bijection with \mathbb{N} . Let us enumerate its elements as follows, $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}} = \{s_1,s_2,\dots\}$. For each $n \geqslant 1$, s_n is a sequence consisting of 0's and 1's, given by

$$s_n = (s_{n,1}, s_{n,2}, s_{n,3}, \dots),$$

where $s_{n,k} \in \{0,1\}$ for all $k \geqslant 1$.

Let us consider another 0, 1 sequence y as follows,

$$y=(y_1,y_2,\dots),$$

where $y_k = 1 - s_{k,k}$. Since $y \in \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$, there exists n such that $y = s_n$. However, if we look at the n-th digit in y and s_n , we note that they are not the same. We find a contradiction.

Proposition 1.5.9: The set \mathbb{R} of real numbers is uncountable.

Remark 1.5.10: There are several different proofs to this proposition. Here, we present a proof using the result from Proposition 1.5.8. In Exercise 1.17, we will see an alternative proof using sequences.

Proof: We only need to show that the interval (0,1) is uncountable. Since otherwise, if the interval (0,1) were countable, then (0,1] would also be countable, and

$$\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (x, x+1] = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (x+(0,1])$$

would also be countable by Proposition 1.5.5.

For any $x \in (0,1)$, we may write its binary expansion,

$$x = 0.x_1x_2x_3 \dots = \sum_{k \ge 1} x_k 2^{-k},$$

where $x_k = 0$ or 1 for all $k \ge 1$. Note that this binary expansion may not be unique.

It is not hard to show that the numbers in (0,1) which do not have a unique binary expansion are exactly those in the dyadic set

$$\mathcal{D} := \{ \frac{m}{2^n} : n \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \leqslant m \leqslant 2^n - 1, m \in \mathbb{N} \}.$$

Additionally, every such point $x \in \mathcal{D}$ can be written in exactly two ways, one with infinitely many 0's in the end, the other with infinitely many 1's in the end. Let us write

$$\mathcal{S}_0 := \{ s = (s_n)_{n \geqslant 1} : \exists N \geqslant 1 \ \forall n \geqslant N, s_n = 0 \},$$

$$\mathcal{S}_1 := \{ s = (s_n)_{n \ge 1} : \exists N \ge 1 \ \forall n \ge N, s_n = 1 \}.$$

• 第二個方式是使用 Cantor 的對角論證法。假設 $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ 是無窮可數的,也就是說他與 \mathbb{N} 存在雙射關係。我們將其中的元素編號如下: $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}=\{s_1,s_2,\dots\}$ 。對於所有 $n\geqslant 1$, s_n 會是個由 0 與 1 構成的序列,寫作

$$s_n = (s_{n,1}, s_{n,2}, s_{n,3}, \dots),$$

其中對於有 $k \ge 1$,我們有 $s_{n,k} \in \{0,1\}$ 。

我們考慮下面這個 0,1 序列:

$$y=(y_1,y_2,\dots),$$

其中 $y_k = 1 - s_{k,k}$ 。由於 $y \in \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$,我們可以找到 n 使得 $y = s_n$ 。然而,如果我們看 y 及 s_n 的第 n 位數字,我們可以發現他們不同。這讓我們得到矛盾。

命題 1.5.9 : 實數集合 ℝ 是個不可數集合。

註解 1.5.10 : 要證明此命題,我們可以透過不同方式。這裡我們會使用命題 1.5.8 的結果來證明。在 習題 1.17 中,我們會利用序列來得到另類的證明。

證明:我們只需要證明區間 (0,1) 是不可數的。如果他是可數的,則 (0,1] 也會數可數的,再根據命題 1.5.5 ,我們會得到

$$\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (x, x+1] = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (x+(0,1])$$

也是可數的。

對於任意 $x \in (0,1)$,我們可以寫出他的二進位展開

$$x = 0.x_1x_2x_3 \dots = \sum_{k \geqslant 1} x_k 2^{-k},$$

其中對於所有 $k \ge 1$,我們有 $x_k = 0$ 或 1。我們注意到,此二元展開未必會是唯一的。 我們不難檢查,在 (0,1) 中使得二元展開不唯一的元素,剛好會是下面這些二進分數:

$$\mathcal{D} := \{ \frac{m}{2^n} : n \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \leqslant m \leqslant 2^n - 1, m \in \mathbb{N} \}.$$

此外,每個在 $x \in \mathcal{D}$ 中的數字,可以剛好被寫成兩種方式,其中一種有無窮多個 0,另一種有

Then, the binary expansion defines a bijection between $(0,1)\setminus \mathcal{D}$ and $\mathcal{S} := \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}\setminus (\mathcal{S}_0 \cup \mathcal{S}_1)$. The set \mathcal{S}_0 is countable, since it can be seen as the following countable union of finite sets,

$$S_0 = \bigcup_{N \geqslant 1} (\{0,1\}^{N-1} \times \{0\}^{\mathbb{N}}).$$

Similarly, we can also deduce that S_1 is countable. Therefore, S is still uncountable (Proposition 1.5.8), so $(0,1)\backslash \mathcal{D}$ is uncountable. Since \mathcal{D} is countable, we conclude that (0,1) is uncountable.

Remark 1.5.11: The cardinality of $\mathbb N$ is denoted by \aleph_0 (Definition 1.4.3), and Proposition 1.5.7 tells us that $\mathcal P(\mathbb N)$ is not equinumerous to $\mathbb N$. A natural question would be: is there any set S in between, in the sense that $\mathbb N \hookrightarrow S \hookrightarrow \mathcal P(\mathbb N)$ such that S is not in bijection with $\mathbb N$ and $\mathcal P(\mathbb N)$? If the answer is negative, it means that $|\mathcal P(\mathbb N)|$ is the *successor cardinal* of \aleph_0 , in the sense that $\aleph_1 = 2^{\aleph_0} = |\mathcal P(\mathbb N)|$. Otherwise, we would have $\aleph_0 < \aleph_1 < |\mathcal P(\mathbb N)| = 2^{\aleph_0}$.

The question that whether $\aleph_1 = 2^{\aleph_0}$ is true or false was first formulated by Georg Cantor in 1878, and was the first of Hilbert's 23 problems presented in 1900. In 1963, Paul Cohen established that this is independent of Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory with axiom of choice (ZFC), meaning that the property $\aleph_1 = 2^{\aleph_0}$ (called continuum hypothesis) *or its negation* can be added as one of the axioms to the ZFC set theory.

無窮多個 1。我們記

$$\mathcal{S}_0 := \{ s = (s_n)_{n \geqslant 1} : \exists N \geqslant 1 \ \forall n \geqslant N, s_n = 0 \},$$

$$\mathcal{S}_1 := \{ s = (s_n)_{n \geqslant 1} : \exists N \geqslant 1 \ \forall n \geqslant N, s_n = 1 \}.$$

則二元展開會是個 $(0,1)\setminus \mathcal{D}$ 與 $\mathcal{S}:=\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}\setminus (\mathcal{S}_0\cup\mathcal{S}_1)$ 之間的雙射函數。 由於 \mathcal{S}_0 可以看作可數多個有限集合構成的聯集:

$$S_0 = \bigcup_{N \geqslant 1} (\{0,1\}^{N-1} \times \{0\}^{\mathbb{N}}),$$

因此他是可數的。同樣的,我們也知道 S_1 是可數的。因此,S 還是不可數的(命題 1.5.8), 因此 $(0,1)\setminus \mathcal{D}$ 也是不可數的。由於 \mathcal{D} 是可數的,我們得到 (0,1) 會是不可數的。

註解 1.5.11 : 我們把 \mathbb{N} 的基數記作 \aleph_0 (定義 1.4.3),而且在命題 1.5.7 中,我們看到 $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ 與 \mathbb{N} 並非等勢集合。自然的問題會是,是否存在介於兩者之間的集合 S? 更確切的說,我們希望 S 滿足 $\mathbb{N} \hookrightarrow S \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ 而且 S 與 \mathbb{N} 或 $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ 皆不存在雙射關係。如果答案是否定的,這代表著 $|\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})|$ 會是 \aleph_0 的後續基數,意思是 $\aleph_1 = 2^{\aleph_0} = |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})|$ 。如果答案是肯定的,我們則會有 $\aleph_0 < \aleph_1 < |\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| = 2^{\aleph_0}$ 。

關於 $\aleph_1=2^{\aleph_0}$ 成立與否的問題,最早是在 1878 年由 Georg Cantor 所提出來的,同時他也是 1900 年 Hilbert 的 23 的問題中的第一個。在 1963 年,Paul Cohen 證明了此性質成立與否與 Zermelo-Fraenkel 集合論包含選擇公理 (ZFC) 是獨立的,也就是說 $\aleph_1=2^{\aleph_0}$ (稱作連續統假設) 或他的否定題,是可以以額外公理的形式,被加入 ZFC 理論的。