

Philosophy: Given a finite set, how many elements does it have?

## 1 Sets and Bijections

ex  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

ex For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $N_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$

ex If  $X, Y$  are sets,  $X \times Y = \{(x, y); x \in X, y \in Y\}$

ex  $\mathcal{F}(X, Y)$  is the set of all functions with domain  $X$  and codomain  $Y$

ex The set of full binary trees.

ex The set of perfect matchings in  $K_n$

ex Set of all sets doesn't exist.

ex Set of all graphs.. doesn't exist. (or finite sets)

↳ to fix this: species (combinatorial structures)

$f: S \rightarrow T$  is...

- an injection if for every  $s, s' \in S$ , if  $f(s) = f(s')$  then  $s = s'$
- a surjection if for every  $t \in T$ , there is an  $s \in S$  such that  $f(s) = t$
- a bijection if it is both an injection and a surjection

In this course, you'll need to

(1) state bijections and

(2) prove it's correct.

(1) State domain and codomain, and state a rule that defines the function.

(2) codomain is correct, well defined, injection, surjection

If there is a bijection  $f: S \rightarrow T$ , there is an inverse map  $g: T \rightarrow S$  satisfying  
 $(1) g(f(s)) = s \forall s \in S, (2) f(g(t)) = t \forall t \in T.$

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If  $f$  has an inverse then  $f$  is ~~bijection~~ a bijection because (1)  $\Rightarrow$   $f$  is surjective, and (2)  $\Rightarrow$   $f$  is injective.

This gives us another way to prove  $f$  is a bijection: Find the inverse and check (1) and (2).

We write  $f^{-1}$  for the inverse map.

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If there is a bijection  $f: S \rightarrow T$ , we write  $S \approx T$ , and say  $S$  is equicardinal with  $T$ .

If  $S \approx \mathbb{N}_n$ , we say  $S$  is a finite set and the cardinality of  $S$  is  $n$ , written  $\#S = n$  or  $|S| = n$ .

Theorem: (1) A finite set can only have one cardinality.

(2) Two finite sets have the same cardinality if and only if they are equicardinal.

Proof: (1) This will be a homework exercise. (2) is proposition 1.1 in the notes.  $\square$

We can also say  $\#S = \sum_{s \in S} 1$ .

This is very useful.

If  $f: S \rightarrow T$  any function ( $S, T$  finite sets), define  $f^{-1}(\{t\}) = \{s \in S; f(s) = t\}$ ,  $t \in T$ .

Common practise: drop curly brackets when they're annoying and confusion caused is minimal.

Proposition: If  $S, T$  are finite sets and  $f: S \rightarrow T$  is any function then

$$\#S = \sum_{t \in T} \#f^{-1}(t).$$

Proof:  $\#S = \sum_{s \in S} 1 = \sum_{t \in T} \left( \sum_{s \in f^{-1}(t)} 1 \right) = \sum_{t \in T} \#f^{-1}(t)$ .  $\square$

## Products

Proposition: If  $S, T$  are finite sets then  $\#(S \times T) = (\#S)(\#T)$ .

Proof: Define a function  $f: S \times T \rightarrow T$  by  $f((s, t)) = t$ . The previous proposition gives us

$$\#(S \times T) = \sum_{t \in T} \#f^{-1}(t) = \sum_{t \in T} \#S = \#S \left( \sum_{t \in T} 1 \right) = \#S \#T$$

More generally, if  $S_1, \dots, S_m$  are finite sets then

$$\#(S_1 \times \dots \times S_m) = (\#S_1) \dots (\#S_m).$$

If  $S$  is a set,  $S^m = S \times \dots \times S$   
m times

Functions:

Proposition: If  $X, Y$  are finite sets,  

$$\# \mathcal{F}(X, Y) = (\#Y)^{(\#X)}$$

Proof: First half. Prove it in the special case where  $X = N_m$ . I want to show  $\# \mathcal{F}(N_m, Y) = (\#Y)^m$ . To do this, we will construct a bijection between  $\mathcal{F}(N_m, Y)$  and  $Y^m$ . This will show that  $\# \mathcal{F}(N_m, Y) = \#(Y^m) = (\#Y)^m$ .

Define  $\phi: \mathcal{F}(N_m, Y) \rightarrow Y^m$  as follows. For  $f \in \mathcal{F}(N_m, Y)$ , define  

$$\phi(f) = (f(1), \dots, f(m)) \in Y^m$$

This is clearly well-defined and lands in the codomain. As an exercise, show it is injective and surjective.

Second half: Prove that if  $\#X = m$  then

$$\mathcal{F}(X, Y) \cong \mathcal{F}(N_m, Y).$$

See the notes for details. This proves

$$\# \mathcal{F}(X, Y) = \# \mathcal{F}(N_m, Y) = (\#Y)^m = (\#Y)^{(\#X)}.$$

Power Set

For a set  $X$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is the set of all subsets of  $X$ ,

$$\mathcal{P}(X) = \{A; A \subseteq X\}.$$

If  $X$  is a finite set what is  $\#\mathcal{P}(X)$ ?  $2^{\#X}$

ex  $\mathcal{P}(\{1, 2, 3\}) = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$

To prove this, we will define a bijection  $\mathcal{P}(X) \cong \mathcal{F}(X, \{0, 1\})$ .

Characteristic function of a subset: If  $A \subseteq X$  (ie  $A \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ ) then

$$f_A: X \rightarrow \{0, 1\},$$

$$f_A(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \notin A, \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in A. \end{cases}$$

I claim  $\psi: \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X, \{0, 1\})$ ,  $\psi(A) = f_A$ , is a bijection. The inverse is

$\rho: \mathcal{F}(X, \{0, 1\}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$ ,  $\rho(f) = f^{-1}(1)$ . Exercise: check that  $\psi$  and  $\rho$  are mutually inverse functions.

implicitly assume all sets being #'d are finite

We've shown that  $\mathcal{P}(X) \cong \mathcal{F}(X, \{0,1\})$ . Last time we showed that  $\mathcal{F}(N_m, \{0,1\}) \cong \{0,1\}^m$ .

### Intersections and Unions

If  $A, B$  are sets,

$$A \cup B = \{x; x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\},$$

$$A \cap B = \{x; x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}.$$

Proposition:  $\#(X \cup Y) = \#X + \#Y - \#(X \cap Y)$

$$\#(X \cup Y \cup Z) = \#X + \#Y + \#Z - \#(X \cap Y) - \#(X \cap Z) - \#(Y \cap Z) + \#(X \cap Y \cap Z)$$

To generalize this, let's introduce the following notation. Suppose  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  are finite sets. To each non-empty  $S \subseteq N_m$ , define

$$A_S = \bigcap_{i \in S} A_i$$

Theorem (Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion):

$$\#(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_m) = \sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq N_m} (-1)^{\#S-1} \#A_S.$$

Special case: If  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  are pairwise disjoint (means  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ ):

$$\#(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_m) = \#A_1 + \dots + \#A_m$$

For the proof of the theorem, see notes.

Note similarity to the following fact:

$$1 - (1-y_1)(1-y_2)(1-y_3) = y_1 + y_2 + y_3 - y_1 y_2 - y_1 y_3 - y_2 y_3 + y_1 y_2 y_3$$

More generally, if  $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq N_m$ ,  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  variables,

$$y^S = \prod_{i \in S} y_i.$$

Then

$$1 - \prod_{i=1}^m (1-y_i) = \sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq N_m} (-1)^{\#S-1} y^S$$

ex If  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the Euler totient of  $n$  is

$$\varphi(n) = \#\{k \in \mathbb{N}_n; \gcd(k, n) = 1\}.$$

ex  $\varphi(12) = 4$  because  $1, 5, 7, 11$ .

If  $n = p_1^{c_1} \cdots p_m^{c_m}$  is the prime factorization, use inclusion-exclusion ~~try~~ to ~~working out~~ compute  $\varphi(n)$  by letting

$$A_i = \{k \in \mathbb{N}_n; p_i | k\}.$$

Then

$$\varphi(n) = n - \#(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_m),$$

Since  $A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_m$  is the set of numbers in  $\mathbb{N}_n$  which have at least one prime factor in common with  $n$ .

For  $\emptyset \subset S \subseteq \mathbb{N}_m$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} b \in A_S &\Leftrightarrow p_i | b \text{ for all } i \in S \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\prod_{i \in S} p_i) | b. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\#A_S = \frac{n}{\prod_{i \in S} p_i} = n \prod_{i \in S} \frac{1}{p_i}$$

Let  $y_i = \frac{1}{p_i}$ . Can rewrite as  $\#A_S = n \cdot y^S$ . Now

$$\begin{aligned} \#(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_m) &= \sum_{\emptyset \subset S \subseteq \mathbb{N}_m} (-1)^{\#S-1} \#A_S \\ &= \sum (-1)^{\#S-1} (n \cdot y^S) \\ &= n \sum (-1)^{\#S-1} y^S \\ &= n \left( 1 - \prod_{i=1}^m (1 - y_i) \right) \\ &= n \left( 1 - \prod_{i=1}^m \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_i} \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\varphi(n) = n - \#(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_m) = n \prod_{i=1}^m \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_i} \right)$$

ex  $n=12 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \Rightarrow \varphi(n) = 12 \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) = 4$