

Year 2013/14 - Number 4

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Question 1. Let A, B be sets and suppose that $A \leftrightarrow B$ (i.e. there exists a bijection $f \in (A \rightarrow B)$). Show that for all sets C , $(C \rightarrow (A \times A)) \leftrightarrow (C \rightarrow (A \times B))$.

Answer 1.1. Let $Left \in (X \times Y \rightarrow X)$ and $Right \in (X \times Y \rightarrow Y)$ be the projection maps from a pair onto the left and right component respectively:
 $Left(\langle x, y \rangle) = x$
 $Right(\langle x, y \rangle) = y$

Let $h \in (A \leftrightarrow B)$ be a bijection between the given sets A and B . Consider $f \in (C \rightarrow (A \times A))$. It follows that $\forall x \in C, f(x) = \langle a, b \rangle$, where $a \in A, b \in A$. We want to build a bijection Φ , such that $\forall f \in (C \rightarrow (A \times A)), \Phi(f) \in (C \rightarrow (A \times B))$. We define $\Phi(f)(x) = \langle Left(f(x)), h(Right(f(x))) \rangle$, for all $x \in C$.

Notice that $h(Right(f(x))) \in B$ because of the definition of h , therefore the function $\Phi(f)$ is actually an element of $(C \rightarrow (A \times B))$. We can state that Φ is injective because h is injective, therefore different function f, f' are mapped in different g, g' . We can also state that Φ is surjective because h is bijective, therefore it exists an inverse function h^{-1} which maps every element $b \in B$ onto an element $a \in A$:

Consider $g \in (C \rightarrow (A \times B))$, we define $\Phi^{-1}(g)(x) = \langle Left(g(x)), h^{-1}(Right(g(x))) \rangle$.

Question 2.

1. Does a surjective function $f \in (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3\}))$ exist?
2. Does an injective function $f \in (P(\mathbb{N}) \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{N})$ exist?

3. Does an injective function $f \in (P(\mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N})$ exist?

Justify your answers.

Answer 2.1.

1. no. Notice that it exists a bijection $h \in (P(\mathbb{N}) \leftrightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}))$ defined $\forall C \in P(\mathbb{N}) h(C)(x) = 1$ if $x \in C$, 0 otherwise. Notice also that $(\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}) \subset (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3\})$. The diagonalization argument used in the proof of Cantor's theorem, states that there is no surjective function between A and $P(A)$, therefore, in particular there is no surjective function between \mathbb{N} and $P(\mathbb{N})$. It follows that there cannot be a surjective function $f \in (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}))$, therefore between \mathbb{N} and $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$.
2. yes. For example $f \in (P(\mathbb{N}) \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{N})$ defined $f(C) = x$ if $C = \{x\}$ and undefined otherwise.
3. no. Suppose by contradiction that such f exists, then we can state that also exists $g \in (f(\mathbb{N}) \leftrightarrow P(\mathbb{N}))$. The Cantor's theorem states that there is no bijection between a set A and its part $P(A)$, therefore, in particular, there is no bijection between \mathbb{N} and $P(\mathbb{N})$. Since $f(\mathbb{N}) \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, such g cannot actually exist. We reached a contradiction, so f cannot exist.

Question 3. Let A, B be nonempty sets and let $f \in (A \rightarrow B)$. Define a function $g \in (B \rightsquigarrow A)$ such that $\text{dom}(g) \neq \emptyset$ and for all $b \in \text{dom}(g)$, $(f \circ g)(b) = b$.

Answer 3.1. We define $g \in (f(A) \rightarrow A)$ for all $b \in f(A)$ as $g(b) = a$ where $f(a) = b$. Since f is a total function, $f(a)$ is always defined. Since $f(a) \in f(A)$, $g(b)$ makes sense. Observe that $\text{dom}(g) \neq \emptyset$, because f is a total function and $A \neq \emptyset$, therefore $f(A) \neq \emptyset$ and every element of $f(A)$ has a preimage. For all $b \in \text{dom}(g)$, $f(g(b)) = f(a) = b$ (see above).