

Theorem. Z , the set of all integers, is a countably infinite set. ($Z \approx J$)

Proof: Define $f: J \rightarrow Z$ by

$$\begin{cases} f(1) = 0 \\ f(n) = \frac{n}{2} \quad \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ f(n) = -\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) \quad \text{if } n \text{ is odd, } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

We now show that f maps J onto Z . Let $w \in Z$. If $w = 0$, then note that $f(1) = 0$. Suppose

$w > 0$. Then $f(2w) = \frac{2w}{2} = w$. Suppose $w < 0$. Solving $w = -\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)$ for n , we get

$n = -2w + 1$. Note that $-2w + 1$ is an odd positive number. So,

$f(-2w + 1) = -\left(\frac{-2w + 1 - 1}{2}\right) = w$. Hence, f maps J onto Z .

The function f is 1-1 since $\frac{n}{2} = \frac{m}{2}$ implies $n = m$ and $-\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) = -\left(\frac{m-1}{2}\right)$ implies $n = m$.

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