

The Continuum Hypothesis

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In this paper we give a proof of the Continuum Hypothesis.

Theorem "Continuum Hypothesis": There exist a bijection between the set of real numbers \mathbb{R} and the power set of \mathbb{N} .

Proof: Let $\mathbb{R}^+ \subset \mathbb{R}$ be the complete free semialgebra of nonnegative numbers, and let \mathbb{R}_2^+ be the complete free semialgebra of dyadic nonnegative numbers, which, by the division algorithm in complete free semialgebras, is isomorphic to \mathbb{R}^+ . Then, for \mathbb{R}_2^+ , as a semialgebra over its subsemialgebra $B = \{0, 1\}$, is isomorphic to a countable direct sum of copies of B , that is, $\mathbb{R}_2^+ \cong \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} B_i$

where $B_i \cong B$ for every i ; since $\bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} B_i = \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} \bigcup_{j=0}^k \prod_{i=0}^j B_i$ and the sets \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{R}^+ are equipotent, that is, the cardinal number $|\mathbb{R}|$ of \mathbb{R} and that of \mathbb{R}^+ , $|\mathbb{R}^+|$, are equal,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbb{R}| = |\mathbb{R}^+| &= |\mathbb{R}_2^+| = \left| \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} B_i \right| = \left| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \bigcap_{k=0}^n \bigcup_{j=0}^k \prod_{i=0}^j B_i \right| \\ &= \inf_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \sup_{j < k} \left| \prod_{i=0}^j B_i \right| = \inf_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \sup_{j < k} 2^{|j|} = \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} 2^{|k|} = 2^{\aleph_0}, \end{aligned}$$

therefore, by the Cantor-Bernstein-Schröder theorem, there exist a bijection between \mathbb{R} and the power set of \mathbb{N} .

Thereby, by the ZFC axioms and definition of cardinal number, this theorem proves that there is no cardinal number between the initial transfinite cardinal number \aleph_0 and 2^{\aleph_0} . In general, we have

Corollary "Generalized Continuum Hypothesis": For every cardinal number α , there is no cardinal number between α and 2^α .

A theorem of universal algebra

Thus this theorem not only proves that the class of cardinal numbers forms a complete strict semiring category, with arrows, the polynomial maps and the exponential maps, which is an e -algebra by the action of the covariant exponential functor semiring e , itself, a functor e -algebra, but also, by definition of ordinal number, that the \mathcal{P} -algebra of limit ordinal numbers, where \mathcal{P} is the power set functor, is isomorphic to the countable complete strict e -algebra of transfinite cardinals.