

Monday  
12/2

Recall from last time

We say that two sets  
 $A$  and  $B$  have the  
same cardinality if  
there exists a bijection  
between them. If

so, we write  $|A| = |B|$ .

If no such bijection exists  
we write  $|A| \neq |B|$ .

Ex:

$$|\mathbb{N}| = |\mathbb{Z}|$$

$$|\mathbb{N}| \neq |\mathbb{R}|$$

$$|(0,1)| = |(0,\infty)|$$

Def: Let  $A$  be a set.

- We say that  $A$  is countably infinite if  $|A| = |\mathbb{N}|$ .
  - We say that  $A$  is countable if either  $A$  is finite or  $A$  is countably infinite.
  - We say that  $A$  is uncountable if  $A$  is not countable, that is  $A$  is infinite and  $|A| \neq |\mathbb{N}|$ .
- 

Ex:  $\mathbb{Z}$  is countably infinite.  $\mathbb{Z}$  is countable.

$\{1, 2, 4\}$  is countable.  $\mathbb{R}$  is uncountable.

Theorem: A set  $A$  is countably infinite iff its elements can be arranged in an infinite list  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$  with no repeats.

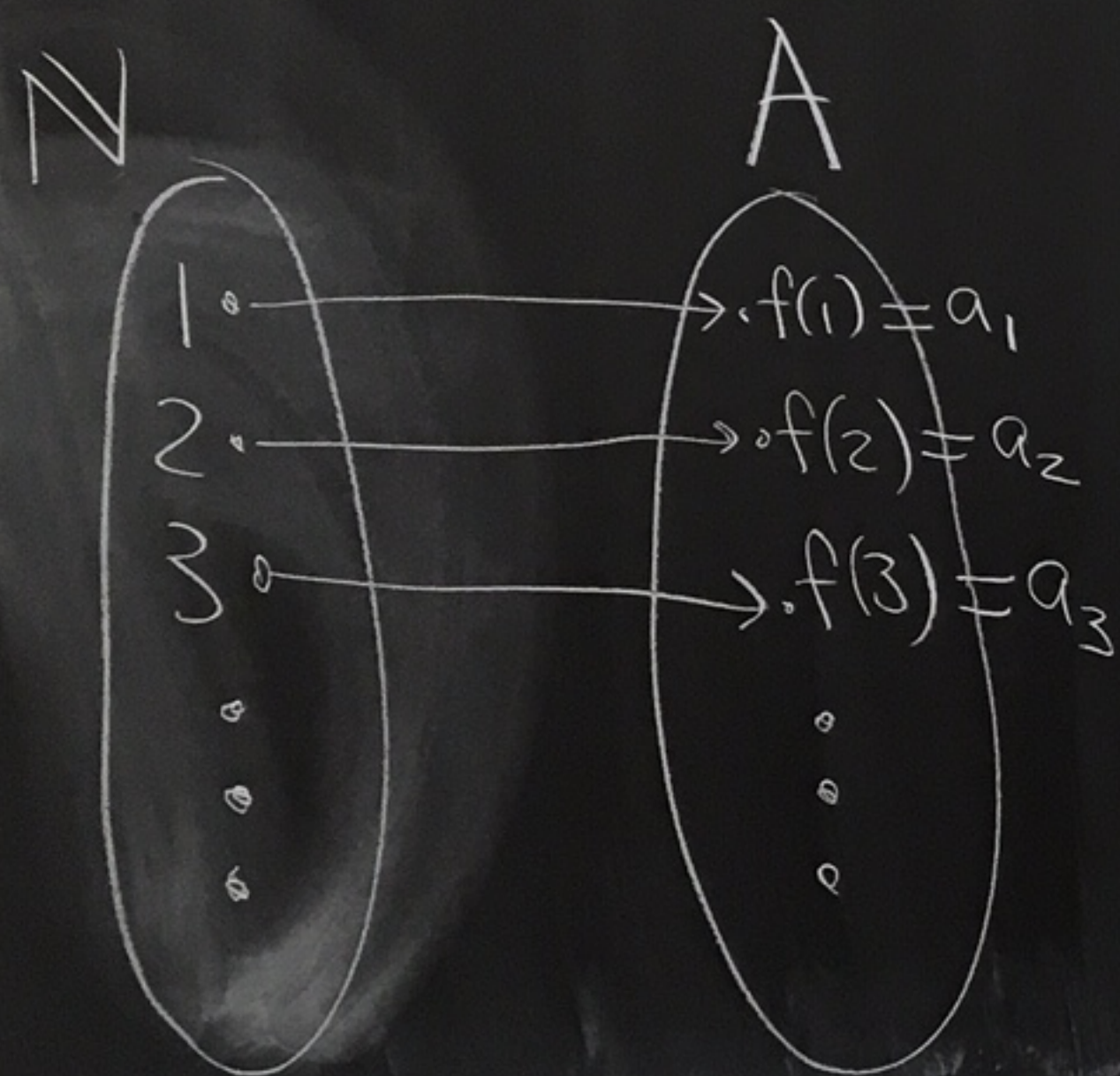
proof:

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $A$  is countably infinite. Then there exists  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$  that is a bijection. Define  $a_i = f(i)$ .

Then consider the list  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$

Since  $f$  is onto, our list gives all of  $A$ .

Since  $f$  is 1-1, the list has no repeats.

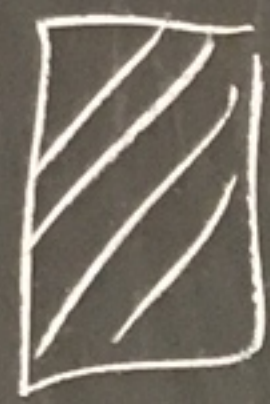


( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose the elements of  $A$  can be arranged in an infinite list  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$  with no repeats.

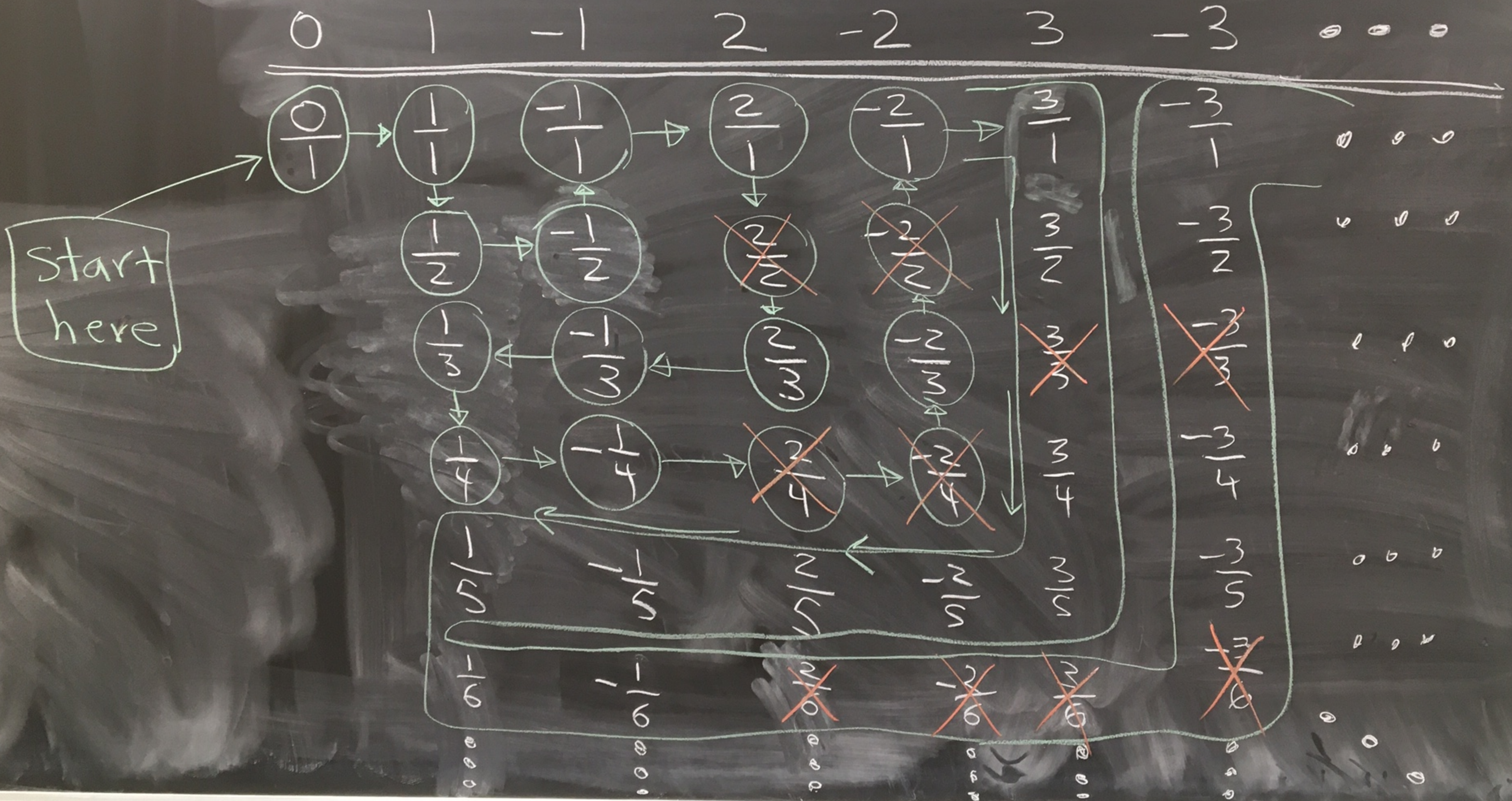
Define  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$  by  $f(i) = a_i$ .

Since the list has no repeats,  $f$  is 1-1.

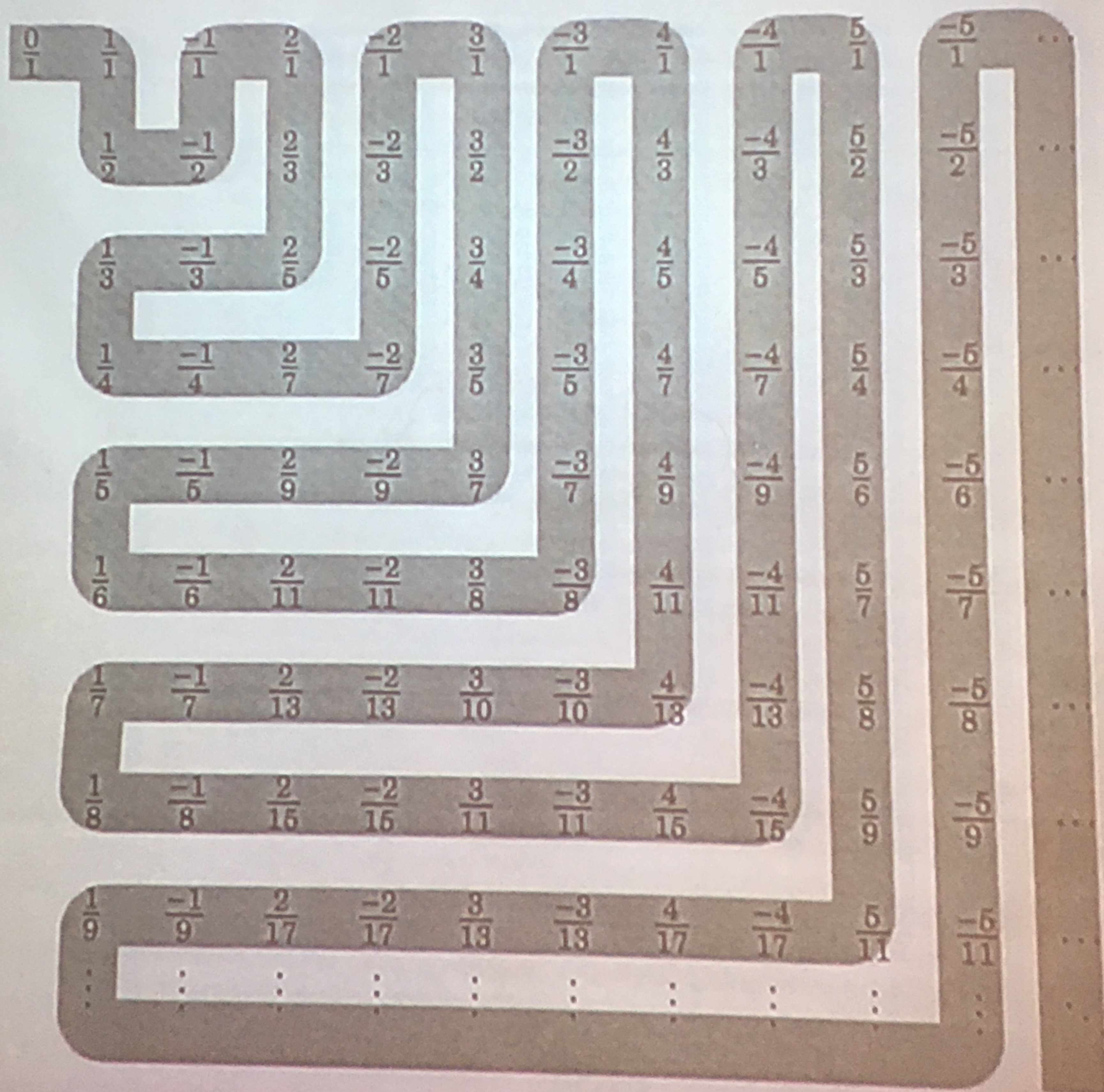
Since the list contains all the elements of  $A$ ,  $f$  is onto.

So  $f$  is a bijection and  $|\mathbb{N}| = |A|$ . 

So,  $A$  is countably infinite.



0    1    -1    2    -2    3    -3    4    -4    5    -5    ...



We put  $\mathbb{Q}$  into an infinite list with no repeats by weaving through the infinite table as indicated and removing repeats as we encounter them. Here are the first entries in the list:

$0, 1, \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -1, 2, \frac{2}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots$

This will give an arrangement of  $\mathbb{Q}$  into an infinite list with no repeats. So,  $\mathbb{Q}$  is countably infinite.  $\square$

sets in each column have same cardinality

Countably infinite

Uncountable

$\mathbb{N}$

$\mathbb{R}$

$\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$

$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}))$

$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}))) \dots$

$\mathbb{Z}$

$\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$

$\mathbb{Q}$

We will show  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  is "bigger" than  $A$  for all  $A$ .

You can keep getting "bigger" and "bigger" infinite sets by continually taking the power set of each set.

$\aleph$  is the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet

this cardinality is called  $\aleph_0$  aleph naught

is there any set "in between" in cardinality between  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ ?  
Unknown.  
Continuum hypothesis

Some more theorems (see Hammack)

Thm: If  $A$  and  $B$  are countably infinite, then  $A \times B$  is countably infinite. [Similar proof as  $\mathbb{Q}$  is countably infinite.]

Thm: If  $A$  and  $B$  are countably infinite, then  $A \cup B$  is countably infinite.

Thm: An infinite subset of a countably infinite set is countably infinite.

Thm: If  $U \subseteq A$  and  $U$  is uncountable, then  $A$  is uncountable.

Thm:

$$|\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| = |\mathbb{R}|$$

# Final

Test 1 topics

Test 2 topics

little bit of cardinality

At least one proof  
will be exactly one  
from test 1 / test 2  
without any changes