

Pigeonhole Principle

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Proof If there is at most one pigeon in each pigeonhole, then there are at most n pigeons totally, contradicting the assumption that there are m pigeons and $m > n$. \square

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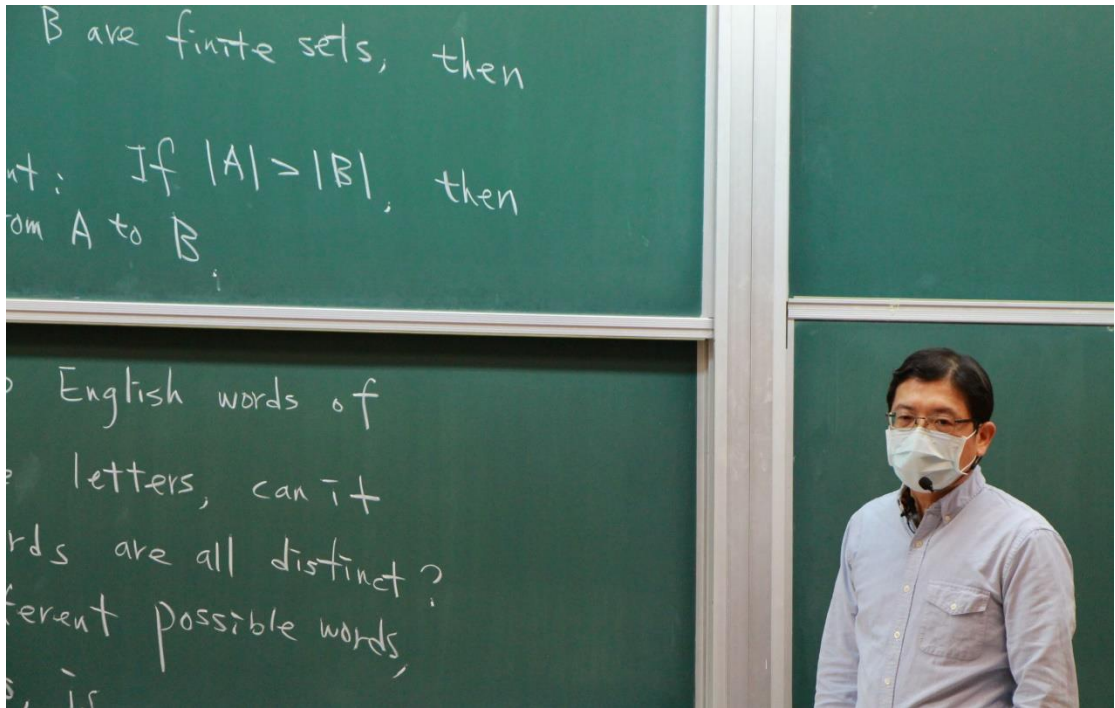
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Equivalent statement: If $f: A \rightarrow B$ is one-to-one (injective), where A and B are finite sets, then $|B| \geq |A|$.

Another equivalent statement: If $|A| > |B|$, then there is no injection from A to B .



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For each $x \in S$ we write $x = 2^k y$
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Then y is odd, so $y \in T = \{1, 3, 5, \dots, 199\}$
where $|T| = 100$.

Since 101 integers are selected from S , by the pigeonhole principle, there are two distinct integers of the form $a = 2^m y$, $b = 2^n y$ for some (the same) $y \in T$.

If $m < n$, $a | b$; otherwise, we have $m > n$ and $b | a$.

(For $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$, $a | b \Leftrightarrow b = a \cdot c$ for some $c \in \mathbb{N}$.)
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Example Triangle ACE is equilateral with $\overline{AC} = 1$.

If five points are selected from the interior of the triangle, there are at least two whose distance apart is less than $1/2$.



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in one of the four regions R_i , $1 \leq i \leq 4$, where any two points are separated by a distance less than $1/2$.

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However, if a person x^* has $m-1$ friends, then everyone else is a friend of x^* , and consequently no one has no friends. In other words, the numbers of $m-1$ and 0 cannot both be the values of f . Hence f is a function from a set with m members to a set with at most $m-1$ values,

and the pigeonhole principle tells us that f is not injective. In other words, there are at least two members x_1 and x_2 such that $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$, as claimed.

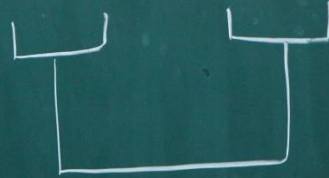
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Example



Ten balls, one heavier than the rest.



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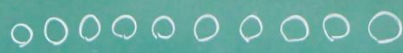
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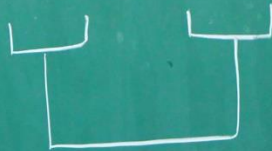
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12 balls, one heavier or lighter, three uses of balance

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of A , by $f(x) =$ the number of friends
of x in A . If $|A|=m$, then f is a
function from A to the set $B = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$.

Let A and B finite sets.

If $f: A \rightarrow B$ is onto (surjective),
then $|A| \geq |B|$.

If $f: A \rightarrow B$ is a one-to-one correspondence (bijective)
then $|A| = |B|$.