1 Countability Basics

1. Is $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$, defined by $f(n) = n^2$ an injection (one-to-one)? Briefly justify.

2. Is $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, defined by $f(x) = x^3 + 1$ a surjection (onto)? Briefly justify.

2 Count It!

For each of the following collections, determine and briefly explain whether it is finite, countably infinite (like the natural numbers), or uncountably infinite (like the reals):

(a) $\mathbb{N}$, the set of all natural numbers.

(b) $\mathbb{Z}$, the set of all integers.

(c) $\mathbb{Q}$, the set of all rational numbers.

(d) $\mathbb{R}$, the set of all real numbers.

(e) The integers which divide 8.

(f) The integers which 8 divides.

(g) The functions from $\mathbb{N}$ to $\mathbb{N}$.

(h) Numbers that are the roots of nonzero polynomials with integer coefficients.

3 Countability Practice

(a) Prove or disprove: The set of increasing functions $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ (i.e., if $x \geq y$, then $f(x) \geq f(y)$) is countable.

(b) Prove or disprove: The set of decreasing functions $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ (i.e., if $x \geq y$, then $f(x) \leq f(y)$) is countable.

(c) Is a set of disks in $\mathbb{R}^2$ such that no two disks overlap necessarily countable or possibly uncountable? [A disk is a region in the plane of the form $\{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2 \leq r^2\}$, for some $x_0, y_0, r \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$.]

(d) Is a set of circles in $\mathbb{R}^2$ such that no two circles overlap necessarily countable or possibly uncountable? [*Hint*: A circle is a subset of the plane of the form $\{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2 = r^2\}$ for some $x_0, y_0, r \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$. The difference between a circle and a disk is that a disk contains all of the points in its interior, whereas a circle does not.]