

Mathematical background

- Sets and De Morgan's laws
- Sequences and their limits
- Infinite series
 - The geometric series
- Sums with multiple indices
- Countable and uncountable sets

Sets

- A collection of distinct elements

$\{a, b, c, d\}$

finite

\mathbb{R} : real numbers infinite

$\{x \in \mathbb{R} : \cos(x) > 1/2\}$

Ω : universal set

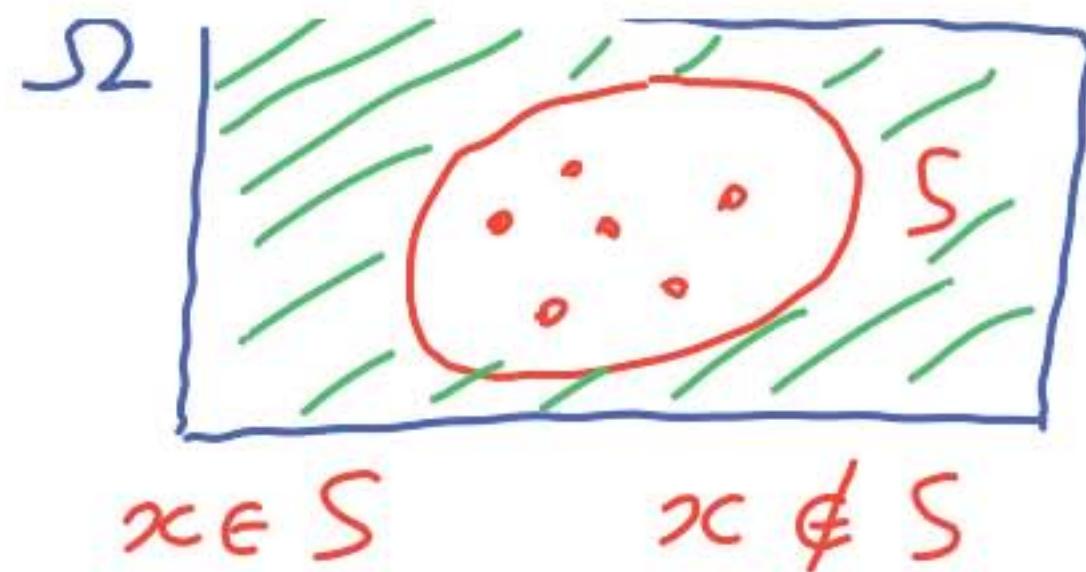
\emptyset : empty set

$\Omega^c = \emptyset$



$S \subset T : x \in S \Rightarrow x \in T$

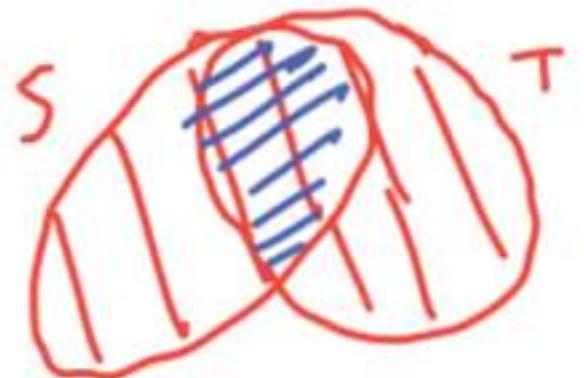
\subseteq



S^c
 $x \in S^c$ if $x \in \Omega$,
 $x \notin S$

$(S^c)^c = S$

Unions and intersections



$S \cup T$

$S \cap T$

$x \in S \cup T \Leftrightarrow x \in S \text{ or } x \in T$

$x \in S \cap T \Leftrightarrow x \in S \text{ and } x \in T$

S_n $n = 1, 2, \dots$



$x \in \bigcup_n S_n$ iff $x \in S_n$, for some n

$x \in \bigcap_n S_n$ iff $x \in S_n$, for all n

Set properties

- $S \cup T = T \cup S,$
- $S \cap (T \cup U) = (S \cap T) \cup (S \cap U),$
- $(S^c)^c = S,$
- $S \cup \Omega = \Omega,$



$S \cup T \cup U$

- " $S \cup (T \cup U) = (S \cup T) \cup U,$
- $S \cup (T \cap U) = (S \cup T) \cap (S \cup U),$
- $S \cap S^c = \emptyset,$
- $S \cap \Omega = S.$

$$S \cap (T \cap U) = (S \cap T) \cap U$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} S \subset T \\ T \subset S \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow S = T$$

De Morgan's laws

$$(S \cap T)^c = S^c \cup T^c$$



$$\begin{array}{ll} S \rightarrow S^c & T \rightarrow T^c \\ S^c \rightarrow S & T^c \rightarrow T \end{array}$$

$$(S^c \cap T^c)^c = S \cup T$$

$$S^c \cap T^c = (S \cup T)^c$$

$$(\bigcap_n S_n)^c = \bigcup_n S_n^c$$

$$\bullet (\bigcup_n S_n)^c = \bigcap_n S_n^c$$

$$x \in (S \cap T)^c \Leftrightarrow x \notin S \cap T \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \notin S \\ \text{or} \\ x \notin T \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \in S^c \\ \text{or} \\ x \in T^c \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow x \in S^c \cup T^c$$

Mathematical background: Sequences and their limits

a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots

$i \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

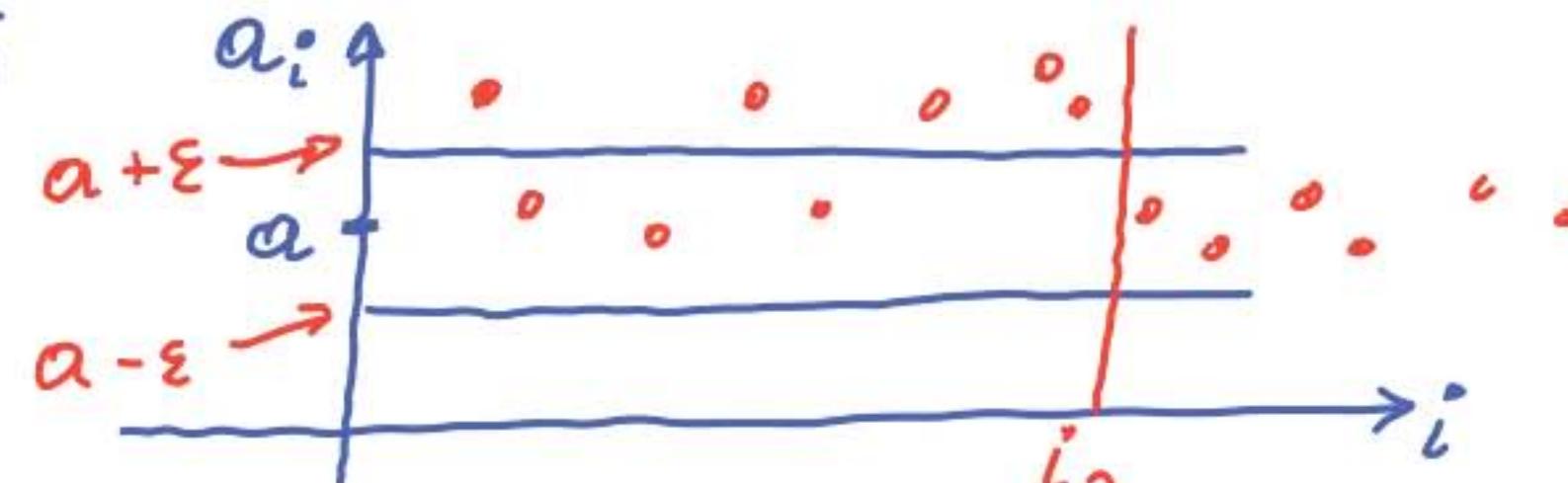
sequence $a_i, \{a_i\}$

$a_i \in S \quad S = \mathbb{R} \quad \mathbb{R}^n$

function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$

$$f(i) = a_i$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} a_i \rightarrow a \\ i \rightarrow \infty \\ \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} a_i = a \end{array} \right\}$$



For any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists i_0 , such that
if $i \geq i_0$, then $|a_i - a| < \epsilon$

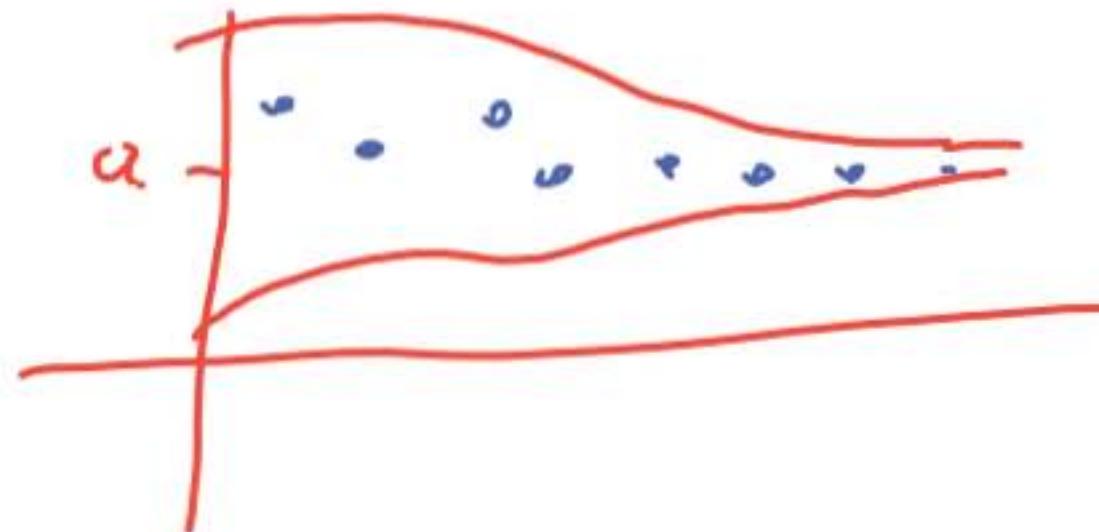
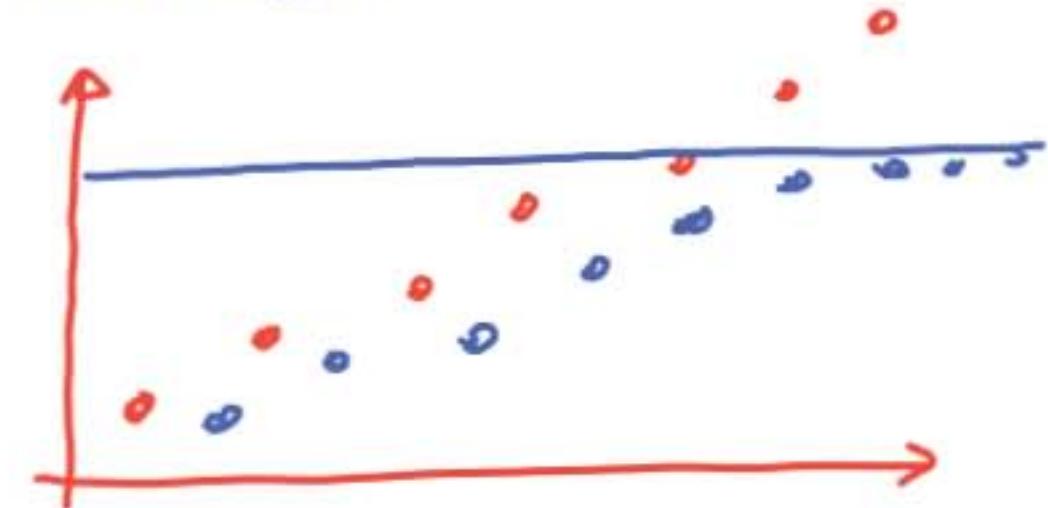
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} a_i \rightarrow a \\ b_i \rightarrow b \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow a_i + b_i \rightarrow a + b$$

$$\begin{aligned} g: &\text{continuous} \\ &\Rightarrow g(a_i) \rightarrow g(a) \end{aligned}$$

$$a_i^2 \rightarrow a^2$$

Mathematical background: When does a sequence converge?

- If $a_i \leq a_{i+1}$, for all i , then either:
 - the sequence “converges to ∞ ”
 - the sequence converges to some real number a
- If $|a_i - a| \leq b_i$, for all i , and $b_i \rightarrow 0$, then $a_i \rightarrow a$



Mathematical background: Infinite series

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i.$$

provided limit exists

- If $a_i \geq 0$: limit exists ←
- if terms a_i do not all have the same sign:
 - limit need not exist
 - limit may exist but be different if we sum in a different order
 - **Fact:** limit exists and independent of order of summation if $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |a_i| < \infty$

Mathematical background: Geometric series

$$S = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha^i = 1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha} \quad |\alpha| < 1$$

$$(1 - \alpha)(1 + \alpha + \dots + \alpha^n) = 1 - \alpha^{n+1}$$

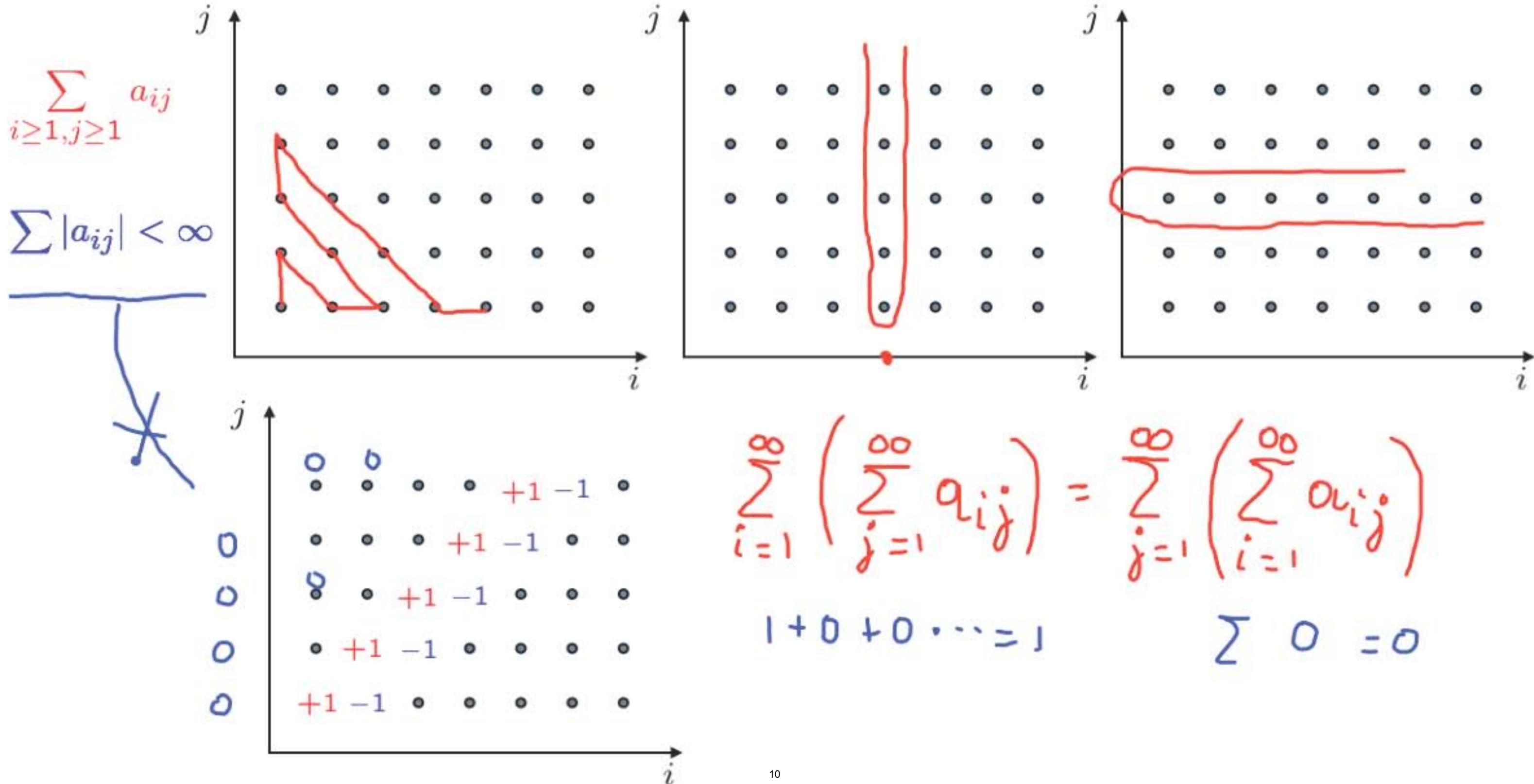
$$n \rightarrow \infty$$

$$(1 - \alpha) S = 1$$

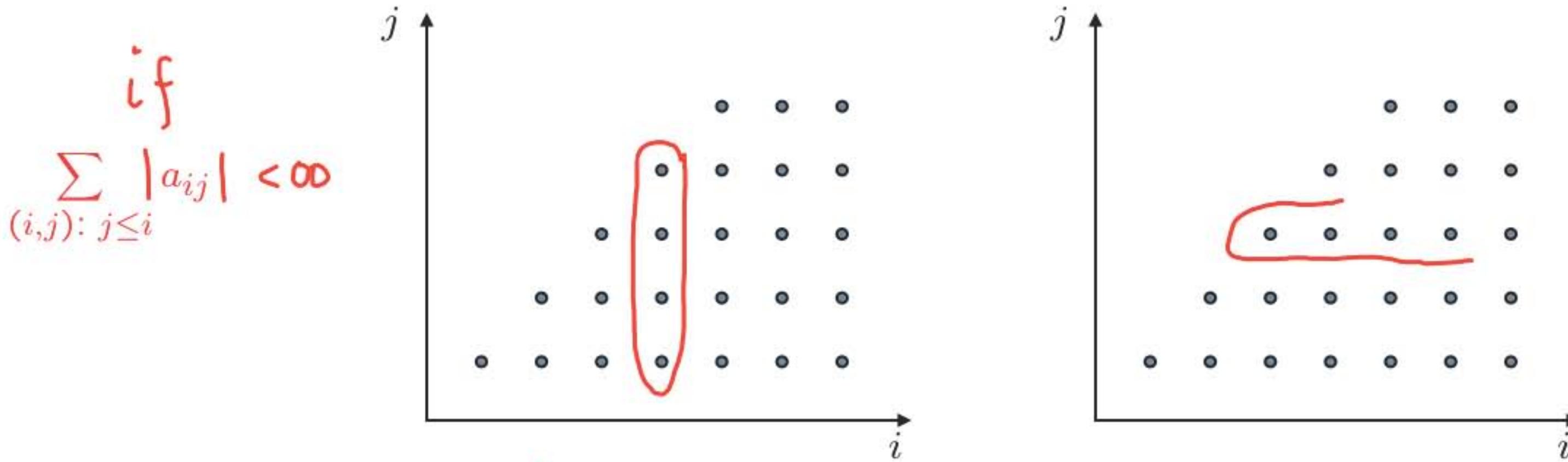
$$S = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha^i = 1 + \alpha \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha^i = 1 + \alpha S \Rightarrow S(1 - \alpha) = 1$$

$S < \infty$ taken for granted

About the order of summation in series with multiple indices



About the order of summation in series with multiple indices



$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^i a_{ij} =$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=j}^{\infty} a_{ij}$$

Countable versus uncountable infinite sets

- Countable: can be put in 1-1 correspondence with positive integers

- positive integers $1, 2, 3, \dots$

- integers $0, 1, -1, 2, -2, 3, -3, \dots$

- pairs of positive integers

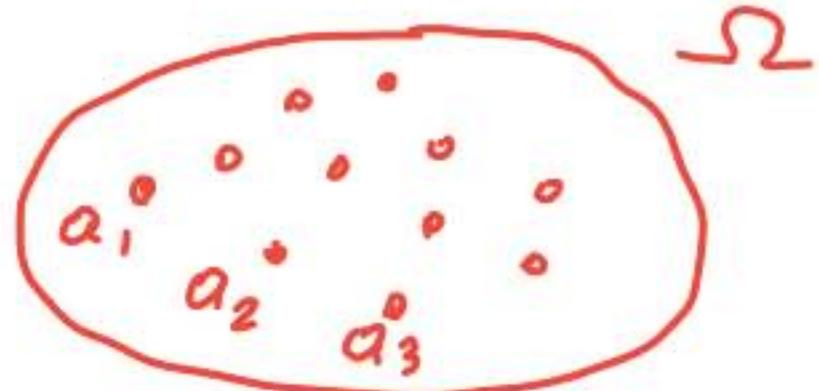
- rational numbers q , with $0 < q < 1$

$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \cancel{\frac{2}{4}}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{2}{5} \dots$

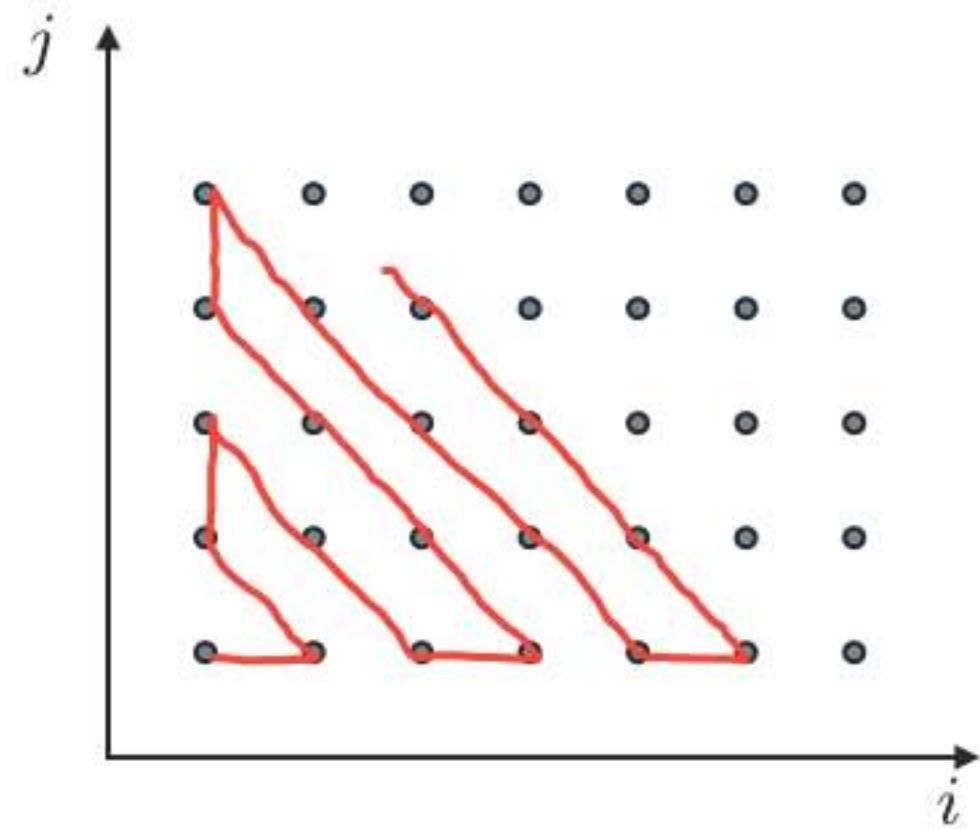
- Uncountable: not countable

- the interval $[0, 1]$

- the reals, the plane, ...



$$\{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\} = \Omega$$



The reals are uncountable

- Cantor's diagonalization argument

$\rightarrow \{x \in (0,1) : \text{decimal expansion only has } 3,4\}$

If countable

" $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$

$$x_1: 0.\underline{\overline{3}}43443\dots$$

$$\underline{\overline{.433\dots}} = x$$

$$x_2: 0.4\underline{\overline{3}}43443$$

$$\neq x_i$$

$$x_3: 0.33\underline{\overline{4}}3444$$

for all i

MIT OpenCourseWare
<https://ocw.mit.edu>

Resource: Introduction to Probability
John Tsitsiklis and Patrick Jaillet

The following may not correspond to a particular course on MIT OpenCourseWare, but has been provided by the author as an individual learning resource.

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.