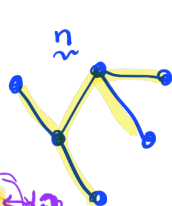
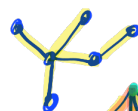


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$$4+3+2+1=10$$

ON NON-DENUMERABLE GRAPHS

P. ERDÖS AND S. KAKUTANI

$$K_n \quad (n-1) + (n-2) + \dots + 1 = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} = \frac{n^2 - n}{2}$$

The present paper consists of two parts. In Part 1 we prove a theorem on the decomposition of a complete graph. This result is then applied in Part 2 to show that the continuum hypothesis is equivalent to the possibility of decomposing the set of all real numbers into a countable number of summands each consisting of rationally independent numbers.

PART 1

A graph G is complete if every pair of vertices of G is connected by one and only one segment. G is called a tree if it does not contain any closed polygon.

THEOREM 1. A complete graph of cardinal number m (that is, the cardinal number of the vertices is m) can be split up into a countable number of trees if and only if $m \leq \aleph_1$.

PROOF. We shall first prove that every complete graph of power \aleph_1 can be split up into the countable sum of trees.¹ Let G be a complete graph of cardinal number \aleph_1 . Let $\{x_\alpha\}$, $\alpha < \omega_1$, be any well ordered set of power \aleph_1 . We may assume that G is represented by a system of segments (x_α, x_β) , $\alpha < \beta < \omega_1$. For any $\beta < \omega_1$ arrange the set of all $\alpha < \beta$ into a sequence $\alpha_{\beta, n}$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$, and let G_n be the set of all segments (x_α, x_β) such that $\alpha = \alpha_{\beta, n}$. It is clear that $G = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} G_n$ and that for each G_n , for every $\beta < \omega_1$, there exists one and only one α such that $(x_\alpha, x_\beta) \in G_n$ and $\alpha < \beta$. From this last fact it is clear that G_n does not contain any closed polygon.

Conversely, let us assume that a complete graph G of cardinal number m is split up into a countable number of trees T_n ; $G = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} T_n$. We shall prove that $m \leq \aleph_1$. We can again assume that G is represented by a system of segments (x_α, x_β) , $\alpha < \beta < m$ where $\{x_\alpha\}$, $\alpha < m$, is a well ordered set of cardinal number m .

We shall first decompose each T_n into four parts $T_{n,i}$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, such that $T_{n,1}$ and $T_{n,2}$ satisfy the condition:

- (1) Any two consecutive segments of the graphs $T_{n,1}$ and $T_{n,2}$ are of the form: (x_α, x_β) , (x_α, x_γ) , $\alpha < \beta$, $\alpha < \gamma$, $\beta \neq \gamma$. And $T_{n,3}$, $T_{n,4}$ satisfy:
- (2) Any two consecutive segments of the graphs are of the form: (x_β, x_α) , (x_γ, x_α) , $\beta < \alpha$, $\gamma < \alpha$, $\beta \neq \gamma$.

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¹ This result was also obtained by J. Tukey, oral communication.



For this purpose, let $T_n = \bigcup_{\lambda} T_n^{(\lambda)}$ be a decomposition of each T into its components $T_n^{(\lambda)}$. The number of components $T_n^{(\lambda)}$ is not necessarily countable. Let $x_n^{(\alpha)}$ be an arbitrary point in each $T_n^{(\alpha)}$, called the origin of $T_n^{(\alpha)}$. A segment (x_α, x_β) , $\alpha < \beta$, of $T_n^{(\alpha)}$ is of 0th degree of the first kind if $x_\alpha = x_n^{(\alpha)}$ and is of 0th degree, of the second kind if $x_\beta = x_n^{(\alpha)}$. Assume that the segments of degree 0, 1, \dots , $m-1$ of the first and second kind are already defined in $T_n^{(\alpha)}$. Then a segment (x_α, x_β) , $\alpha < \beta$, of $T_n^{(\alpha)}$ is of the m th degree, of the first kind if x_α is one of the end points of a segment of degree $m-1$ and if (x_α, x_β) is not of degree at most $m-1$. The segments of degree m of the second kind are analogously defined. In this way it is possible to define a degree of first or second kind for every segment of $T_n^{(\alpha)}$. Let $T_{n,m}^{(\lambda)}$ be the set of all segments of $T_n^{(\lambda)}$ of degree m of the first kind, and let $T_{n,m}^{(\lambda)''}$ be the set of all segments of $T_n^{(\lambda)}$ of degree m and of second kind. It is clear that $T_{n,m}^{(\lambda)}$ and $T_{n,m}^{(\lambda)'}$ satisfy conditions (1) and (2), respectively. If we put

$$T_{n,1} = \bigcup_{\lambda} \bigcup_{2m} T_{n,2m}^{(\lambda)'}$$

$$T_{n,2} = \bigcup_{\lambda} \bigcup_{2m+1} T_{n,2m+1}^{(\lambda)'}$$

$$T_{n,3} = \bigcup_{\lambda} \bigcup_{2m} T_{n,2m}^{(\lambda)'}$$

$$T_{n,4} = \bigcup_{\lambda} \bigcup_{2m+1} T_{n,2m+1}^{(\lambda)'}$$

then $T_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^4 T_{n,i}$ is a required decomposition. The conditions (1) and (2) are satisfied by $T_{n,1}$, $T_{n,2}$ and $T_{n,3}$, $T_{n,4}$, respectively, since the summands on the right-hand side are disjoint.

Thus we have obtained a decomposition of T into a countable number of parts $T_{n,i}$, $n=1, 2, \dots$; $i=1, 2, 3, 4$. We observe that from (1) and (2) follows (3) and (4), respectively:

(3) For any $\alpha < \phi$ there exists at most one $\beta < \alpha$ such that (x_β, x_α) belongs to the graph.

(4) For any $\alpha < \phi$ there exists at most one $\beta > \alpha$, $\beta < \phi$, such that (x_α, x_β) belongs to the graph.

Let us now put

$$T' = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} T_{n,1} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} T_{n,2}$$

$$T'' = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} T_{n,3} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} T_{n,4}$$

Then T' and T'' clearly satisfy the following conditions:

(5) For any $\alpha < \phi$ the set of all $\beta < \alpha$ such that (x_β, x_α) belongs to the graph is countable.

(6) For any $\alpha < \phi$ the set of all $\beta > \alpha$, $\beta < \phi$ such that (x_α, x_β) belongs to the graph is countable.

From this it easily follows by the same argument as in W. Sierpinski² that the cardinal number m of all points x_α , $\alpha < \phi$, is at most \aleph_1 .

² W. Sierpinski, *Hypothese du continu*, Proposition P₁, p. 9.

Similarly we can prove that the complete graph of power \aleph_x is the sum of \aleph_{x-1} trees, but not the sum of less than \aleph_{x-1} trees. We can put the following problem: Is the complete graph of power \aleph_x the sum of less than \aleph_{x-1} such graphs which do not contain a quadrilateral? We cannot answer this question, unless we assume the generalized hypothesis of the continuum, in which case the answer is negative. It can be shown that the complete graph of power 2^m is the sum of m graphs, which do not contain even closed polygons,³ but that the complete graph of power greater than 2^m is not the sum of m graphs which do not contain triangles.⁴

$$|\mathbb{R}| = \aleph_x$$

(CH) PART 2

$$|\mathbb{R}| = \aleph_1$$

THEOREM 2. The continuum hypothesis is equivalent to the following proposition: *shredzenie*

(P) The set of all real numbers can be decomposed into a countable number of subsets, each consisting only of rationaly independent numbers.

$$\alpha < \aleph_1 = \omega_1$$

base Hamela = base

PROOF. We shall first prove that the continuum hypothesis implies proposition (P). Let ξ_α , $\alpha < \omega_1$, be a Hamel basis for the set R of all real numbers, well ordered in a transfinite sequence of type ω_1 ; that is, the ξ_α are rationaly independent, and every real number $x (\neq 0)$ can be uniquely expressed in the following form:

(2.1)

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n r_i \xi_{\alpha_i}, \quad \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \dots < \alpha_n < \omega_1,$$

where the r_i are rational numbers different from 0, and n is a positive integer.

For any finite system of rational numbers r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n let R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n} be the set of all $x \in R$ which are expressed in the form (2.1). Then

(2.2)

$$\mathbb{R} = \{0\} \cup \bigcup_{(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n)} R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n}$$

is a decomposition of the set R into the set $\{0\}$ consisting of 0 alone and a countable number of sets R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n} where $\bigcup_{(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n)}$ means the union for all possible ordered systems r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n of rational numbers. Consequently in order to prove our theorem it suffices to prove it for all the R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n} .

For each ordinal number α , $\alpha < \omega_1$, let $R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n}^{(\alpha)}$ be the subset of R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n} consisting of all real numbers x , such that $\alpha_n = \alpha_n(x) = \alpha$.

³ K. Gödel, oral communication.

⁴ P. Erdős, *On graphs and sets*, to appear in Revista, Matematicas y Fisica Teorica.

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$\xi_0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots$

ξ_3, ξ_4, \dots

$\alpha < \aleph_1$

$\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}, \dots$

$x = r_1 \xi_{\alpha_1} + \dots + r_n \xi_{\alpha_n}$
 $x \in R_{r_1, \dots, r_n}$

① 1
2 1 2
2 3
176

Then since $\alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \dots < \alpha_k = \alpha$ each $R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n}^{(\alpha)}$ is a countable set. Let us arrange the set $R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n}^{(\alpha)}$ into a sequence $x_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, m}^{(\alpha)}$, $m = 1, 2, \dots$, and let us put $S_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, m} = \{x_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, m}^{(\alpha)} : \alpha < \alpha_1\}$. Clearly $\alpha_n(x) \neq \alpha_n(y)$ for any $x, y \in S_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, m}$, $x \neq y$, and R_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n} .

We shall prove that each $S_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, m}$ consists only of rationally independent numbers. In fact, if we have

$$(2.3) \quad x_{i_0} = r_1 x_1 + r_2 x_2 + \dots + r_k x_k = 0 \quad | \cdot m$$

where $x_i \in S_{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, m}$, $i = 1, \dots, k$; $x_i \neq x_j$ ($i \neq j$), and p_i is an integer different from 0, for $i = 1, \dots, k$, then there would exist an integer i_0 for which $\alpha^* = \alpha_n(x_{i_0}) > \alpha_n(x_i)$ for all $i \neq i_0$. Hence, in the expansion (2.1) of all the x_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$, the term ξ_{α^*} would appear only once, which is clearly impossible because of (2.3). Thus we have proved that the continuum hypothesis implies the proposition (P).

Conversely, let us assume that the proposition (P) is true. We shall prove the continuum hypothesis from it. We shall prove this by showing that, under the assumption (P) the complete graph of power 2^{\aleph_0} is the sum of a countable number of trees (see Theorem 1).

Let $\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n$ be a decomposition of the set of all real numbers into a countable sum of sets each consisting of rationally independent numbers. At least one of the M_n must have power 2^{\aleph_0} . (This follows from a well known theorem of J. König.⁵) We may assume that M_1 has power 2^{\aleph_0} . Let G be the complete graph of cardinal number 2^{\aleph_0} . We may assume that G is represented by a system of segments (x, y) , $x, y \in M_1$, $x < y$. Let G_n be a subgraph of G , consisting of all those segments (x, y) for which $y - x \in M_n$. Clearly $G = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} G_n$. We shall prove that each G_n is a tree. In fact assume that G_n contains a closed polygon. Let x_1, \dots, x_k , $x_{k+1} = x_1$ be the vertices of this polygon. Then $0 = \sum_{i=1}^k (x_i - x_{i+1}) = \sum_{i=1}^k \pm |x_i - x_{i+1}|$. On the other hand $|x_i - x_{i+1}| \in M_n$ by construction, and since all $x_i \in M_1$ the numbers $|x_i - x_{i+1}|$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, are all different. This is however a contradiction since M_n consists of rationally independent numbers. This completes the proof of Theorem 2. \square

It seems likely that the following stronger theorem also holds: Assume that the continuum hypothesis is false, and let the sets M_n consist of rationally independent numbers. Then $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n$ has inner measure 0.

⁵ J. König, see W. Sierpinski, *ibid.* p. 6.

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_n - x_3) \neq (x_2 - x_1) \\ & (x_n - x_3 - x_2 + x_1) = 0 \\ & \in M_1 \end{aligned}$$

We can of course prove the following theorem: The necessary and sufficient condition for the continuum to be of power \aleph_{x+1} is that R shall be the sum of \aleph_x sets consisting of rationally independent numbers, and that R shall not be the sum of less than \aleph_x such sets. The proof is the same as that of Theorem 2.

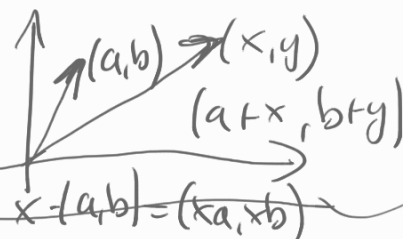
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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

$$\begin{aligned}(x, y) &= x(1, 0) + y(0, 1) \\ (x, y) &= y(1, 1) + (x-y)(1, 0)\end{aligned}$$

$r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, \dots \in \mathbb{R}$
 $q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4, \dots \in \mathbb{Q}$

$$(2, 5) =$$

$$(3) \cdot (1, 0) + 5 \cdot (1, 1)$$



Ponieważ ze lina $r \in \mathbb{R}$ jest kombinacją wymiarową
 linio r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n , jeśli istnieje $q_1, \dots, q_n \in \mathbb{Q}$

$$r = q_1 r_1 + q_2 r_2 + \dots + q_n r_n$$

np. $\sqrt{2} + 3\sqrt{3} + 5$ jest kombinacją wymiarową linio
 $\sqrt{2}, 20\sqrt{3}, 2021$

$$\sqrt{2} + 3\sqrt{3} + 5 = 1 \cdot \sqrt{2} + \frac{3}{20} \cdot 20\sqrt{3} + \frac{5}{2021} \cdot 2021$$

$\sqrt{2}$ nie jest kombinacją $\sqrt{3}, 1$

$$\sqrt{2} = q_1 \sqrt{3} + q_2 \cdot 1$$

$$2 = 3q_1^2 + 2q_1 q_2 \sqrt{3} + q_2^2$$

$$\sqrt{3} = \frac{2 - 3q_1^2 - q_2^2}{2q_1 q_2} \in \mathbb{Q}$$

2 linio $\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, 1$ jest wymiennie niezależny, jeśli
 żadne 2 tych linio nie jest wymienną komb.
 pochodzących

$$\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, 1$$

$$\sqrt{2} \neq q\sqrt{3} + r \cdot 1$$

$$\sqrt{3} \neq q\sqrt{2} + r$$

$$1 \neq q\sqrt{3} + r\sqrt{2}$$

$$\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, 2\sqrt{2} + \frac{5}{2}\sqrt{3}$$

Fakt

r_1, \dots, r_n jest niezerowa niezerowa

\Leftrightarrow

jest

$$q_1 r_1 + q_2 r_2 + \dots + q_n r_n = 0$$

ale

$$q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n \in \mathbb{Q}$$

to

$$q_1 = q_2 = \dots = q_n = 0$$

$$(-2)\sqrt{2} + (-\frac{5}{2})\sqrt{3} + 1 \cdot (2\sqrt{2} + \frac{5}{2}\sqrt{3}) = 0$$

Dowoduk \Rightarrow Zet. ze $q_1 r_1 + \dots + q_n r_n = 0$, ale
nie wszystkie $q_1, \dots, q_n = 0$

B.s.o $q_1 \neq 0$

$$q_1 r_1 = -q_2 r_2 - q_3 r_3 - \dots - q_n r_n$$

$$r_1 =$$

$$-\frac{q_2}{q_1} r_2 -$$

$$\frac{q_3}{q_1} r_3 - \dots -$$

$$\frac{q_n}{q_1} r_n$$

$$\downarrow$$

\Leftarrow

Zet. przeciwnie, ze

$$r_1 = q_2 r_2 + q_3 r_3 + \dots + q_n r_n$$

$$0 = (-1) \cdot r_1 + q_2 r_2 + q_3 r_3 + \dots + q_n r_n$$

Powrany je $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ jest wymiernie niered-
zny je- li zaden element tego zbioru nie jest
kombinacja wymierną dowodnych innych (skracanie wielu)
elementów tego zbioru

$1, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}, \sqrt{7}, \sqrt{11}, \sqrt{13}, \sqrt{17}, \dots$

\Leftrightarrow

$$r_1, \dots, r_n \in A$$

$$q_1, \dots, q_n \in \mathbb{Q}$$

$$q_1 r_1 + q_2 r_2 + \dots + q_n r_n = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow q_1 = \dots = q_n = 0$$

Baza $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$

\Rightarrow wymiernie niezależny \leftarrow

$\rightarrow \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ jest wymierną kombinacją
skracanie wielu liczb ze zbioru B ✓

Lemat Kuratowskiego-Zorn

$$(A, \subseteq)$$

$$(A \neq \emptyset) \vee$$

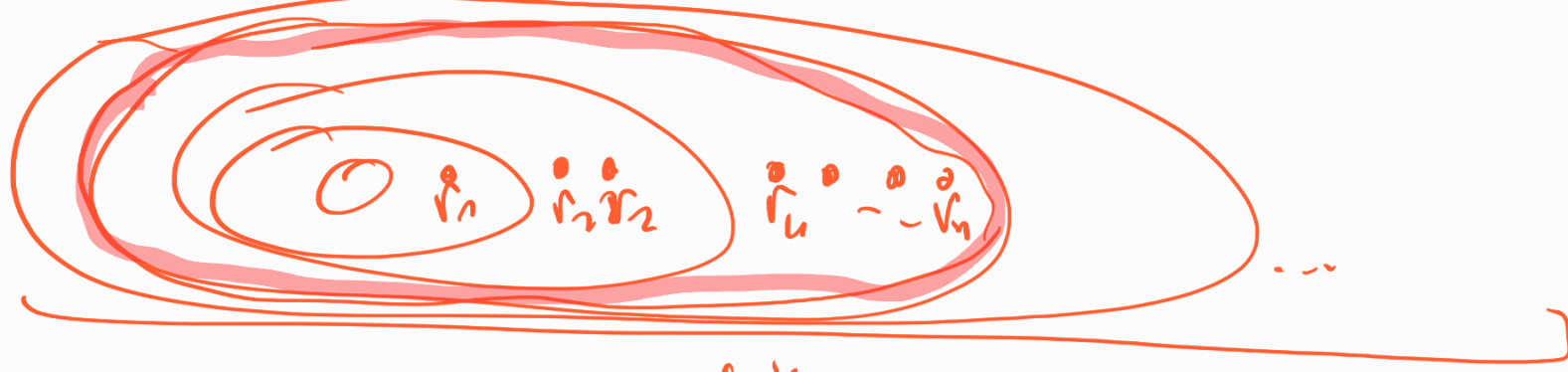
• każdy łańcuch ma ogr. górne ✓

to istnieje element maksymalny

$$L \subseteq A$$

$$\forall a, b \in L, a \leq b$$

$$b \leq a$$



$$a_0 r_0 + \dots + a_n r_n = 0$$

UL