

► **Problem 3-3-29** Let  $S$  be the set of all real numbers in the interval  $(0, 1)$  whose decimal expansions are infinite and contain only 3 and 4, for example,  $0.343434\dots$  and  $0.333\dots$ , but not  $0.34 = 0.34000\dots$ . Prove that  $S$  is uncountable.

**Proof.** Assume, to the contrary, that  $S$  is countable and, as in Problem 31 of the textbook (Page 92), we write each of its elements in a list as

$$\begin{aligned}a_1 &= 0.a_{11}a_{12}a_{13}a_{14}\cdots \\a_2 &= 0.a_{21}a_{22}a_{23}a_{24}\cdots \\a_3 &= 0.a_{31}a_{32}a_{33}a_{34}\cdots \\&\vdots\end{aligned}$$

where each  $a_{ij}$  is 3 or 4. Define the sequence  $b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots$  by  $b_i = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } a_{ii} = 3 \\ 3 & \text{if } a_{ii} = 4. \end{cases}$  Then  $b = 0.b_1b_2b_3\dots$  is in  $S$ , yet it is different from each  $a_i$  because  $b_i \neq a_{ii}$  for each  $i$ . This contradiction gives the result.  $\square$