1035-Z1-477 H. Vic Dannon* (vick@adnc.com). Cardinality and Measure.

Lebesgue defined the measure of an interval to be its length. He defined the measure of the union of infinitely many disjoint intervals in [0,1] to be the sum of the intervals' lengths. For a general set, such as the rationals in [0,1], he listed all the rationals in a sequence

$$\{r_1, r_2, r_3, ...\}$$

and covered them by the intervals

$$(r_1 - \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon, r_1 + \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon),$$

$$(r_2 - \frac{1}{8}\varepsilon, r_2 + \frac{1}{8}\varepsilon),$$

.....

of lengths

$$\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon, \frac{1}{2^2}\varepsilon, \frac{1}{2^3}\varepsilon, \dots$$

Then,

$$m(E) \leq \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2^2}\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2^3}\varepsilon + \ldots = \varepsilon.$$

Taking the infimum on $\varepsilon > 0$, he effectively set ε to zero, and concluded that m(E) = 0. We have reservations about this procedure. posted to www.gauge-institute.org (Received September 08, 2007)