

MATH 3210-001 PSet 1 Specification

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Subject to Change; Last Updated: 2025-01-10 08:50:06-07:00

1 Background

This problem set is about **logic**, **set theory**, and **proof methods**. While MATH 3210 really is about single variable calculus, foundational tools from these areas are essential for our work, as this is a proof-based course. The aim of this problem set is to help you become familiar with formal reasoning and communication. In subsequent problem sets, you will have ample opportunities to master formalities in the context of calculus.

2 What to Submit

Submit your detailed solutions to each of the problems below. While the prompts may seem lengthy, the additional text is intended to guide you by providing context and helpful details.

When tackling statements in MATH 3210, follow these four steps (in no particular order):

1. **Assess the truth of the statement:** Determine, either exactly or probabilistically, whether the statement is true.
2. **Build a case:** Come up with examples or begin drafting a proof to identify potential issues or areas where the argument may break down.
3. **Construct a proof:** Provide a formal argument to support your conclusion.
4. **Perturb the statement:** Experiment with logical variations of the statement. Can you prove a stronger/weaker result, or find alternative proofs?

In this problem set, and in later problem sets as well as exams, your work must address the third step (aka constructing a proof). While work regarding the remaining three items likely will help you write a formal proof, understand the material as well as identify connections between different concepts, you do not need to turn in generalizations or multiple proofs of the same statement, nor do you need to provide examples or counterexamples (unless you are specifically asked to). However, demonstrating these steps can contribute to partial credit when appropriate.

Statements in problems will typically be presented in neutral language. For example, a problem may simply state "P" (for P a well-defined statement) rather than "Show that P" or "Prove that P is false". Your task is to determine the truth of the statement and provide a formal proof or refutation.

If a statement is false, it is highly recommended to propose a corrected version of the statement and prove this corrected version. This process, part of "perturbing the statement", will enhance your mathematical **error detection and correction skills**.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all problems require proofs. If you provide an example, you must also prove that the example satisfies the necessary conditions.

Some problems may be (variants of) theorems or exercises from the textbook. For instance part (c) of problem 2 below is a paraphrase of Exercise 7 of §1.1 of the book. Going forward, and possibly for the rest of this problem set, such correspondences will not be mentioned; it'll be up to you to locate them (if need be)!

Make sure that each solution is properly enumerated and organized. Start the solution to each problem on a new page, and consider using headings or subheadings to structure your work clearly. This will not only aid in your thought process but also ensure that no part of your solution is overlooked during grading.

1. A **collection \mathcal{A} of subsets** of X by definition a subset of $\mathcal{P}(X)$.

- (a) \mathcal{A} is a collection of subsets of X **if and only if** (or "iff" for short) $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(X))$.
- (b) For $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(X))$ a collection of subsets, define

$$\bigcap \mathcal{A} = \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A = \{x \in X \mid \forall A \in \mathcal{A} : x \in A\}$$

$$\bigcup \mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A = \{x \in X \mid \exists A \in \mathcal{A} : x \in A\}.$$

Express the sets $\bigcap \mathcal{A}$ and $\bigcup \mathcal{A}$ using plain English (in complete, grammatical sentence(s)). **There is nothing to prove in this part!**

- (c) $\bigcup : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(X)) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$ and $\bigcap : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(X)) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$ defined by

$$\bigcup : \mathcal{A} \mapsto \bigcup \mathcal{A}, \quad \bigcap : \mathcal{A} \mapsto \bigcap \mathcal{A}$$

are **functions**.

2. **De Morgan's laws** state the following: Let X be a set. Then

$$\forall A, B \in \mathcal{P}(X) : (A \cap B)^c = A^c \cup B^c \quad \text{and} \\ (A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$$

- (a) Express de Morgan's laws using plain (but possibly terse) English (in complete, grammatical sentence(s)). **There is nothing to prove in this part!**
- (b) De Morgan's laws stated above can be equivalently stated as follows: Let X be a set. Then for any $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(X))$, if $\#(\mathcal{A}) = 2$, then

$$\left(\bigcap \mathcal{A}\right)^c = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A^c \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\bigcup \mathcal{A}\right)^c = \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A^c.$$

- (c) In the reformulation of de Morgan's laws using collections of subsets, the assumption that $\#(\mathcal{A}) = 2$ is redundant. In other words, de Morgan's laws are valid for arbitrary collections of subsets.
3. In this problem your job is to translate the description of a certain set from plain English into set theory.
- (a) Express the union of all those closed intervals contained in that set of positive rational numbers which are not greater than 1 using set theoretical notation. **There is nothing to prove in this part!**

- (b) Express the union of all those closed intervals contained in that set of positive real numbers which are strictly less than 1 using set theoretical notation. **There is nothing to prove in this part!**
- (c) Express the union of all those closed intervals contained in that set of positive real numbers which are strictly less than 1 using set theoretical notation, without using the **union operation** \cup . It's likely that merely logical manipulations will not suffice for this part.
4. Let X and Y be sets. Recall that a **relation** R from X to Y is a subset of $X \times Y$ (aka $R \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y)$). For R a relation from X to Y , and A a subset of X , the **image** of A under R is the following subset of Y :

$$R(A) = \{y \in Y \mid \exists a \in A : (a, y) \in R\}.$$

Then one has:

- (a) $\forall R \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y): \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Y), A \mapsto R(A)$ is a function.
- (b) $\forall R \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y), \forall A, B \in \mathcal{P}(X) : R(A \cup B) = R(A) \cup R(B)$.
- (c) $\forall R \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y), \forall A, B \in \mathcal{P}(X) : R(A \cap B) = R(A) \cap R(B)$.
- (d) $\forall R \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y), \forall A, B \in \mathcal{P}(X) : R(A \setminus B) = R(A) \setminus R(B)$, where $E \setminus F = E \cap F^c$.

3 Generative AI and Computer Algebra Systems Regulations

This section applies if you decide to use either a **generative AI tool** or a **computer algebra system** for this problem set. If not, you may skip

this section.

3.1 Providing Logs

If you use such tools, you are required to provide logs of your interactions. Here are some ways to submit them:

- If the tool generates a URL for the interaction (e.g. [ChatGPT](#)), list such URLs in the appropriate section of the form you will be filling as part of your submission.
- For tools without direct URL generation, use an appropriate external service to archive the session. An example of such a tool that might work is the [Wayback Machine](#), see the [documentation](#) for the "Save Page Now" feature.
- If the tool allows PDF export of the interaction (e.g., Microsoft's Copilot), attach these PDFs to your Gradescope submission.

It is your responsibility to ensure that an archiving method is available for the tool you choose to use. If none of the archiving methods works, then that service is prohibited. If you use a service under the assumption that archiving is available, but it turns out not to be, you must report this in the submission form. Future assignments will be monitored accordingly.

3.2 Chat Guidelines; Prompt Engineering

For chatbot use, follow these guidelines:

- During the chat you may copy and paste parts of this specification document, as well as parts of the textbook or other sources.

- Directly asking the tool for complete problem solutions is prohibited.
- You are required to start any chat with a prompt that ideally would structure the chatbot's responses to you. This practice, known as **prompt engineering**, is your responsibility, and the staff will evaluate the reasonableness of your attempts. When in doubt, check with the course staff to ensure your guardrails prompt is appropriate.

Here are some guides regarding prompt engineering:

- <https://platform.openai.com/docs/guides/prompt-engineering>
- <https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/resources/prompt-eng>
- <https://www.ibm.com/topics/prompt-engineering>
- <https://aws.amazon.com/what-is/prompt-engineering/>

4 How to Submit

- **Step 1 of 2:** Submit the form at the following URL:

<https://forms.gle/uiBN1eMU7HRyhsV29>.

You will receive a zero for this assignment if you skip this step, even if you submit your work on Gradescope on time.

- **Step 2 of 2:** Submit your work on Gradescope at the following URL:

<https://www.gradescope.com/courses/934441/assignments/5503389>,

see the Gradescope [documentation](#) for instructions.

5 When to Submit

This problem set is due on January 17, 2025 at 11:59 PM.

As per the course's syllabus, late submissions, up to 24 hours after this deadline, will be accepted with a 10% penalty. Submissions more than 24 hours late will not be accepted unless you contact the course staff with a valid excuse before the 24-hour extension expires.