

MATH 3210-004 PSet 1 Specification

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Subject to Change; Last Updated: 2026-01-09 07:24:31-07:00

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 Generative AI and Computer Algebra Systems Regulations

This section applies only if you choose to use either a **generative AI tool** (e.g. chatbots) or a **computer algebra system (CAS)** while working on this problem set. If you do not use such tools, you may skip this section.

The use of these tools while completing this problem set is permitted, provided it is done responsibly and in a manner that supports your learning. Note however that in exams you will not be allowed to use any AI or CAS.

2.1 Disclosure

If you use such tools, you must disclose this fact in the designated section of the form you will complete as part of your submission. You must also share your reflections on which parts of the problem required your own mathematical judgment, insight, or decision-making, and which parts could reasonably be delegated to a computational or generative tool.

2.2 Guidelines for Responsible Use

If you use a generative AI tool or chatbot, you must adhere to the following guidelines:

- During the chat you may share with the chatbot parts or all of this specification document, as well as parts of the textbook or other sources.
- Directly asking the tool for complete problem solutions is prohibited.
- Appropriate uses include asking for conceptual explanations, checking intermediate steps, clarifying definitions or theorems, or exploring alternative solution approaches, provided that the final work submitted is your own.

- Regardless of the tools used, you are expected to understand, justify, and be able to reproduce all submitted work independently. The use of AI or CAS does not reduce or replace this expectation.

3 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 (b) of problem 1 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. Let X be a set. A **collection \mathcal{A} of subsets** of X by definition is a subset of $\mathcal{P}(X)$. For \mathcal{A} a collection of subsets of X , define

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

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

- (a) For \mathcal{A} an arbitrary collection of subsets of X , 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!**
- (b) For any collection \mathcal{A} of subsets of X ,

$$\left(\bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A \right)^C = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A^C \quad \text{and}$$

$$\left(\bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A \right)^C = \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A^C.$$

2. 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!**

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.**
3. Let X and Y be sets. 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 :

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

Let R be a relation from X to Y . Then

- (a) The relation $\mathcal{R} = \{(A, B) \mid B = R(A)\}$ from $\mathcal{P}(X)$ to $\mathcal{P}(Y)$ is the graph of a function.
 - (b) For any $A, B \subseteq X$, $R(A \cup B) = R(A) \cup R(B)$.
 - (c) For any $A, B \subseteq X$, $R(A \cap B) = R(A) \cap R(B)$.
 - (d) For any $A \subseteq X$: $R(A^C) = R(A)^C$.
 - (e) For any $A, B \subseteq X$, $R(A \setminus B) = R(A) \setminus R(B)$.
4. **For this problem, submit work for only one of the two parts MONO or EPI.** Let X and Y be two sets, $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function.

MONO: The following are equivalent:

- (a) f is **injective** (or **one-to-one**, or an **injection**, that is,

$$\forall x_1, x_2 \in X : f(x_1) = f(x_2) \implies x_1 = x_2.$$

- (b) For any set W and any two functions $g_1, g_2 : W \rightarrow X$:

$$f \circ g_1 = f \circ g_2 \implies g_1 = g_2.$$

(c) For any subset $A \subseteq X$,

$$f^{-1}(f(A)) = A.$$

EPI: The following are equivalent:

(a) f is **surjective** (or **onto**, or a **surjection**), that is,

$$\forall y \in Y, \exists x \in X : f(x) = y.$$

(b) For any set Z and any two functions $g_1, g_2 : Y \rightarrow Z$:

$$g_1 \circ f = g_2 \circ f \implies g_1 = g_2.$$

(c) For any subset $B \subseteq Y$,

$$f(f^{-1}(B)) = B.$$

5. Let X and Y be two sets, $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function. Then the following are equivalent:

(a) f is **bijective** (or a **one-to-one correspondence**, or **set theoretically invertible**, or a **bijection**) if there is a function $\tilde{f} : Y \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\forall x \in X, \forall y \in Y : \tilde{f} \circ f(x) = x \text{ and } f \circ \tilde{f}(y) = y.$$

(b) There is a unique function $\tilde{f} : Y \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\tilde{f} \circ f = \text{id}_X \quad \text{and} \quad f \circ \tilde{f} = \text{id}_Y.$$

(c) the relation $\text{graph}(f)^{-1}$ from Y to X is the graph of a function.

(d) f is both injective and surjective.

6. Let X and Y be two sets. A function from X to Y is **surjunctive** (or a **surjunction**) if it is either surjective or non-injective. Then
 - (a) X is finite iff¹ any function from X to X is surjunctive.
 - (b) Y has exactly one element iff any function from X to Y is surjunctive.

4 How to Submit

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

<https://forms.gle/TwnpPhC1TpWMxWXk7>.

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
/1212058/assignments/7390765](https://www.gradescope.com/courses/1212058/assignments/7390765),

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

5 When to Submit

This problem set is due on January 16, 2026 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

¹"iff" is an abbreviation for "if and only if". Thus for P and Q two well-defined statements, " P iff Q " claims that P and Q are logically equivalent.

than 24 hours late will not be accepted unless you contact the course staff with a valid excuse before the 24-hour extension expires.