My Notes on Paolo Aluffi's Algebra Chapter 0

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A multiset is a collection of elements which like a set is unordered but unlike a set can contain duplicate elements.

One way we can define a multiset is as a function $f : A \to \mathbb{N}$ such that each $\alpha \in A$ is mapped to the number of times that α appears in the multiset. Then, given the multisets $f_1 : A \to \mathbb{N}$ and $f_2 : B \to \mathbb{N}$, we can define the following operations:

- $\alpha \in f_1 \leftrightarrow \alpha \in A$
- $f_1 \subseteq f_2 \leftrightarrow \forall \alpha \in f_1,\ \alpha \in f_2$ and $f_1(\alpha) \leq f_2(\alpha)$
- $f_1 \cup f_2 : (A \cup B) \to \mathbb{N}$ such that for $\alpha \in A \cup B$, if $\alpha \in A \cap B$, then $(f_1 \cup f_2)(\alpha) = f_1(\alpha) + f_2(\alpha)$. As for if $\alpha \notin A \cap B$, then $(f_1 \cup f_2)(\alpha)$ equals whatever α was mapped to in the multiset it originally came from.
- $f_1 \cap f_2 : (A \cap B) \to \mathbb{N}$ such that for $\alpha \in A \cap B$, we have that $(f_1 \cap f_2)(\alpha) = \min(f_1(\alpha), f_2(\alpha))$
- $f_1 \setminus f_2 : ((A \setminus B) \cup \{\alpha \in A \cap B \mid f_1(\alpha) > f_2(\alpha)\}) \to \mathbb{N}$ such that for each $\alpha \in f_1 \setminus f_2$, if $\alpha \in f_2$, then $(f_1 \setminus f_2)(\alpha) = f_1(\alpha) - f_2(\alpha)$. As for if $\alpha \notin f_2$, then $(f_1 \setminus f_2)(\alpha) = f_1(\alpha)$

A practical example of a multiset is the prime factorization of any positive integer.

We say that two sets A and B are isomorphic if and only if there exists a bijection between A and B. We denote this by writing $A \cong B$. Additionally, we can refer to any bijection f between A and B as an isomorphism between the two sets (also written as $f : A \xrightarrow{\sim} B$)

A function $f : A \to B$ is a monomorphism (a.k.a a monic) if for all sets Z and all functions a' and $a'' : Z \to A$, we have that $f \circ a' = f \circ a'' \Rightarrow a' = a''$

Proposition 1: A function is injective if and only if it is a monomorphism.

Proof: Let's say we have a function $f : A \to B$.

First, let us assume f is injective.

Then let us assume we have two functions a' and a'' from some set Z to A such that $f \circ a' = f \circ a''$. Then, because f is injective, we know there exists a function $g : B \to A$ such that $g \circ f = \mathrm{Id}_A$. Composing g with the previous equation, we get that:

$$g \circ (f \circ a') = g \circ (f \circ a'') \Longrightarrow \mathrm{Id}_A \circ a' = \mathrm{Id}_A \circ a'' \Longrightarrow a' = a''$$

Thus by our assumptions, we have shown f to be a monomorphism.

Next, we shall assume f is a monomorphism.

Based on this, we can say that for any two functions a' and a'' mapping a set Z to A, we have that $f \circ a' = f \circ a'' \Rightarrow a' = a''$. However, now note that if we make Z a singleton, meaning it only contains one element, then a' and a'' can each only take on one value. So, we can effectively rewrite $f \circ a' = f \circ a'' \Rightarrow a' = a''$ as:

$$f(a') = f(a'') \Rightarrow a' = a''$$

This is the definition of an injective function. ■

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A function $f : A \rightarrow B$ is an epimorphism (a.k.a an epi) if for all sets Z and all functions a' and $a'' : B \rightarrow Z$, we have that $a' \circ f = a'' \circ f \Rightarrow a' = a''$

Proposition 2: A function is a surjection if and only if it is an epimorphism.

Proof: Let's say we have a function $f : A \rightarrow B$.

First, let us assume f is injective.