

Exercise 5. Show that Zorn's lemma implies the following:

Lemma (Kuratowski). *Let \mathcal{A} be a collection of sets. Suppose that for every subcollection \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} that is simply ordered by proper inclusion, the union of the elements of \mathcal{B} belongs to \mathcal{A} . Then \mathcal{A} has an element that is properly contained in no other element of \mathcal{A} .*

Proof. For all \mathcal{B} subcollection of \mathcal{A} that is simply ordered by proper inclusion, the set $B = \cup_{b \in \mathcal{B}} b$ is an upper bound of \mathcal{B} in \mathcal{A} . Zorn's lemma gives us the existence of a maximal element $M \in \mathcal{A}$. Since M is maximal, for all $A \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $A \neq M$, we have $A \subset M$. Therefore M is not a proper subset of any other element of \mathcal{A} .

□