

Yufei Lin

Problem Set 1

Sep 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

## Problem Set 1

### I. Propositions

#### Basic Properties of Equivalent:

(E0) If  $a = b$ ,  $b$  can substitute  $a$  in any real formula

(E1)  $\forall a, a = a$

(E2)  $\forall a, b$ , if  $a = b$ , then  $b = a$

(E3)  $\forall a, b, c$ , if  $a = b$ ,  $b = c$ , then  $c = a$

#### Basic Properties of Numbers

(P1)  $a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$

(P2)  $a + 0 = 0 + a = a$

(P3)  $a + (-a) = (-a) + a = 0$

(P4)  $a + b = b + a$

(P5)  $a \cdot (b \cdot c) = (a \cdot b) \cdot c$

(P6)  $a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a, 1 \neq 0$

(P7)  $a \cdot a^{-1} = a^{-1} \cdot a = 1$ , for  $a \neq 0$

(P8)  $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$

(P9)  $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$

(P10) For every number  $a$ , one and only one of the following holds:

(i)  $a = 0$

(ii)  $a \in P$

(ii)  $(-a) \in P$

(P11) If  $a$  and  $b$  are in  $P$ , then  $a + b$  is in  $P$

(P12) If  $a$  and  $b$  are in  $P$ , then  $a \cdot b$  is in  $P$

### II. Solutions

**Question 6**  $\forall a, b$ : if  $a \cdot b = 0$ , then either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$

**Proof:**

First, suppose  $a \cdot b = 0$ . Then, let's assume  $a = 0$ , from Question 5, we have proved that 0 multiplies any number is 0, then  $a \cdot b = 0$ .

Then, let's assume  $a \neq 0$ . From Question 2 we have proved that if we multiply the same thing on both side of a equation, then the equation is still valid. Therefore, we could obtain, by multiplying  $a^{-1}$  on both sides of the equation:

$$a^{-1} \cdot (a \cdot b) = a^{-1} \cdot 0 = 0$$

By (P5), we can reformat the equation:

$$(a^{-1} \cdot a) \cdot b = 0$$

By (P7), we have  $a^{-1} \cdot a = 1$

$$\therefore (a^{-1} \cdot a) \cdot b = 1 \cdot b = 0$$

By (P6) we have  $1 \cdot b = b$ ,

$$\therefore b = 0$$

**Question 7**  $\forall a, b: (a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$

**Proof:**

By definition of the exponentials we have  $\forall a, a^2 = a \cdot a$

$\therefore$  we have  $(a + b)^2 = (a + b) \cdot (a + b)$

$$\begin{aligned} (a + b) \cdot (a + b) &= (a + b) \cdot a + (a + b) \cdot b && \text{By(P9)} \\ &= a \cdot (a + b) + b \cdot (a + b) && \text{By(P8)} \\ &= a \cdot a + a \cdot b + b \cdot a + b \cdot b && \text{By(P9)} \\ &= a^2 + a \cdot b + a \cdot b + b^2 && \text{By(P8)} \\ &= a^2 + (a \cdot b) \cdot 1 + (a \cdot b) \cdot 1 + b^2 && \text{By(P6)} \\ &= a^2 + (a \cdot b) \cdot (1 + 1) + b^2 && \text{By(P9)} \\ &= a^2 + (a \cdot b) \cdot 2 + b^2 && \text{By(P9)} \\ &= a^2 + 2 \cdot (a \cdot b) + b^2 && \text{By(P8)} \end{aligned}$$

**Question 9**  $\forall a: (-1) \cdot a = -a$

**Proof:**

If we do the following:

$$\begin{aligned} a + (-1) \cdot a &= a \cdot 1 + (-1) \cdot a && \text{By(P6)} \\ &= a \cdot 1 + (-1) && \text{By(P9)} \\ &= a \cdot 0 && \text{By(P3)} \\ &= 0 && \text{By(Question 5)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a + (-1) \cdot a = 0$$

For  $-a$ , we have:

$$-a + a = 0 \quad \text{By(P3)}$$

$$\therefore a + (-1) \cdot a = -a + a$$

Then we add  $(-a)$  on both sides, by Question 1, the equation should still be valid

$$a + (-a) + (-1) \cdot a = -a + a + (-a)$$

$$(-1) \cdot a = -a \quad \text{By(P3)}$$

**Question 10**  $\forall a, b: (-a) \cdot (-b) = a \cdot b$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} (-a) \cdot (-b) &= ((-1) \cdot a) \cdot ((-1) \cdot b) && \text{By(Question 9)} \\ &= (-1) \cdot a \cdot (-1) \cdot b && \text{By(P5)} \\ &= (-1) \cdot (-1) \cdot a \cdot b && \text{By(P8)} \\ &= a \cdot b \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore (-a) \cdot (-b) = a \cdot b = a \cdot b \quad \text{By(E1)}$$

**Question 13**  $\forall a, b, c: \text{ if } a + c < b + c, \text{ then } a < b$

**Proof:**

It's because  $a + c < b + c$ , therefore,  $b + c - (a + c) \in P$

$$\begin{aligned} b + c - (a + c) &= b + c + (-1) \cdot (a + c) && \text{By(Question 9)} \\ &= b + c + (-1) \cdot a + (-1) \cdot c && \text{By(P9)} \\ &= b + c + (-a) + (-c) && \text{By(Question 9)} \\ &= b + (-a) + c + (-c) && \text{By(P1)} \\ &= b + (-a) + (c + (-c)) && \text{By(P1)} \\ &= b + (-a) && \text{By(P3)} \\ &= b - a \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $b + c - (a + c) = b - a \in P$ . Thus,  $a < b$ .

**Question 14**  $\forall a, b: \text{ if } a < 0, b < 0, \text{ then } a \cdot b > 0$

**Proof:**

Suppose  $a < 0, b < 0$ , then  $0 - a, 0 - b \in P$  From (P2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 - a &= 0 + (-a) \\ &= -a \end{aligned}$$

And similar for  $b$ ,  $0 - b = -b$

$$\therefore -a, -b \in P$$

From (P12), we can have because  $-a, -b \in P$ , then  $-a \cdot (-b) \in P$  From Question 10 we know,  $\forall a, b: (-a) \cdot (-b) = a \cdot b$

$$\therefore a \cdot b \in P$$

From (P2), we have  $a \cdot b + (-0) = a \cdot b - 0 \in P$

$$\therefore a \cdot b > 0$$

**Question 16**  $\forall a, b: a \cdot b > 0$ , then either  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$

**Proof:**

Suppose  $a = 0$ , from Question 5, we have  $\forall a, a \cdot 0 = 0$ . And 0 cannot be greater than 0. Therefore,  $a \neq 0$ .

Assume  $a < 0$ .

Suppose  $b > 0$ . From Question 15, we have  $\forall a, b$  if  $a < 0, b > 0$ , then  $a \cdot b < 0$ . Thus,  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

Assume  $a > 0$ .

Suppose  $b < 0$ . Because we can use our symbols interchangeably, from Question 15, we can have  $\forall a, b$  if  $b < 0, a > 0$ , then  $a \cdot b < 0$ . Thus,  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

**Question 22**  $\forall a, b, c: \text{if } a < b \text{ and } c > 0, \text{ then } a \cdot c < b \cdot c$

**Proof:**

It's because  $a < b$ , therefore,  $b - a \in P$ . Also, because  $c > 0$ , meaning  $c - 0 = c \in P$ . Therefore,  $c, (b - a) \in P$ . From (P12), if both  $c$  and  $(b - a)$  belong to  $P$ , then  $c \cdot (b - a) \in P$ . Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} c \cdot (b - a) &= c \cdot (b + (-a)) \\ &= c \cdot b + c \cdot (-a) \quad \text{By(P9)} \\ &= c \cdot b - c \cdot a \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $c \cdot b - c \cdot a \in P$ . So,  $c \cdot a < c \cdot b$

**Question 24**  $\forall a, b, c: \text{if } a < b \text{ and } c < 0, \text{ then } b \cdot c < a \cdot c$ .

**Proof:**

It's because  $a < b$ , therefore,  $b - a \in P$ . Also, because  $c < 0$ , meaning  $0 - c = -c \in P$ . Therefore,  $-c, (b - a) \in P$ . From (P12), if both  $-c$  and  $(b - a)$  belong to  $P$ , then  $-c \cdot (b - a) \in P$ .

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} -c \cdot (b - a) &= -c \cdot (b + (-a)) \\ &= -c \cdot b + (-c) \cdot (-a) \quad \text{By(P9)} \\ &= -c \cdot b + c \cdot a \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $c \cdot a - c \cdot b \in P$ . So,  $c \cdot b < c \cdot a$

**Question 26**  $\forall a, b: |a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$

**Proof:**

First, assume  $a, b \geq 0$

$$\therefore |a + b| = a + b, |a| + |b| = a + b$$

$a + b = a + b$ , meaning  $|a + b| = |a| + |b|$  The assumption holds for  $a, b \geq 0$

Then, assume  $a, b < 0$

$|a + b| = -(a + b) = -a - b$  (By(P9)),  $|a| + |b| = -a - b$  Therefore, we have  $|a + b| = -a - b = |a| + |b|$ . And this assumption holds when  $a, b < 0$ .

Assume,  $a \geq 0, b \leq 0$ , and  $|a| \geq |b|$ , it would be the same situation, when  $b \geq 0, a \leq 0$ , and  $|b| \geq |a|$ .

It is because  $|a| \geq |b|$ , then  $a + b \geq 0$ . It means  $|a + b| = a + b$ , and  $|a| + |b| = a - b$ . Both calculations are absolute values, meaning both of them are greater than 0.

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a - b - (a + b) &= a - b - a - b \quad \text{By(P9)} \\ &= a - a - b - b \quad \text{By(P4)} \\ &= -b - b \quad \text{By(P3)} \\ &= -b + (-b) \\ &= -1 \cdot b + (-1) \cdot b \\ &= (-1 + (-1)) \cdot b \quad \text{By(P9)} \\ &= -2 \cdot b \quad \text{By(P9)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a - b - (a + b) = -2b \geq 0$$

$$\therefore |a| + |b| = a - b \geq |a + b| = a + b$$

Assume,  $a \geq 0, b \leq 0$ , and  $|a| \leq |b|$ , it would be the same situation, when  $b \geq 0, a \leq 0$ , and  $|b| \leq |a|$ .

It is because  $|a| \leq |b|$ , then  $a + b \leq 0$ . It means  $|a + b| = -(a + b)$ , and  $|a| + |b| = a - b$ . Both calculations are absolute values, meaning both of them are greater than 0.

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 a - b - (-(a + b)) &= a - b + (a + b) \\
 &= a + a + b - b \quad \text{By(P4)} \\
 &= a + a \quad \text{By(P3)} \\
 &= 1 \cdot a + 1 \cdot a \\
 &= (1 + 1) \cdot a \quad \text{By(P9)} \\
 &= 2 \cdot a
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a - b - (-(a + b)) = 2a \geq 0$$

$$\therefore |a| + |b| = a - b \geq |a + b| = a + b$$

Question #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14.

### Chap 1, Q1

(i) If  $ax = a$  for some number  $a \neq 0$ , then  $x = 1$ .

**Proof:**

Assume  $ax = a$ , then we can have  $ax - a = 0$ , meaning:

$$\begin{aligned} ax - a &= ax + a \cdot -1 \\ &= a \cdot (x - 1) \quad \text{By(P9)} \\ &= 0 \\ \therefore a \cdot (x - 1) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

It is because  $a \neq 0$ , from Question 6,  $\forall a, b, \text{ if } a \cdot b = 0$ , either  $a$  or  $b$  is 0. Then, we know  $b$  in this equation is 0, which is  $(x - 1)$ .  $x - 1 = 0 \therefore x = 1$ .

(ii)  $x^2 - y^2 = (x - y)(x + y)$ .

**Proof:** On the right hand side of the equation, we can have:

$$\begin{aligned} (x - y)(x + y) &= x(x - y) + y(x - y) \quad \text{By(P9)} \\ &= x^2 - xy + yx - y^2 \quad \text{By(P9)} \\ &= x^2 - y^2 \quad \text{By(P3)} \\ \therefore x^2 - y^2 &= (x - y)(x + y) \end{aligned}$$

(iii) If  $x^2 = y^2$ , then  $x = y$  or  $x = -y$ .

**Proof:**

Assume  $x^2 = y^2$ , then we have:

$$x^2 - y^2 = 0$$

$$\text{From (ii): } (x + y)(x - y) = 0$$

$$\text{From (Question 6): either } (x + y) \text{ or } (x - y) = 0$$

When  $(x + y) = 0$ , subtract  $y$  on both sides,  $(x + y) - y = x = 0 - y = -y$ . Therefore,  $x = -y$ .

When  $(x - y) = 0$ , add  $y$  on both sides,  $(x - y) + y = x = 0 + y = y$ . Therefore,  $x = y$ .

(iv)  $x^3 - y^3 = (x - y)(x^2 + xy + y^2)$ .

**Proof:**

$$(v) x^n - y^n = (x - y)(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2}y + x^{n-3}y^2 + \dots + xy^{n-2} + y^{n-1}).$$

**Proof:**

$$(vi) x^3 + y^3 = (x + y)(x^2 - xy + y^2).$$

**Proof:**

## Chap 1, Q2

### Solution

This is incorrect because on the third step, when the person wants to divide both side of the equation by  $(x - y)$ , there is a possibility the person is dividing by 0. Therefore, this step is problematic and leading to the final conclusion that  $2 = 1$ .

## Chap 1, Q3

$$(i) \frac{a}{b} = \frac{ac}{bc}, \text{ if } b, c \neq 0.$$

**Proof:**

On the right hand side because  $b, c \neq 0$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{ac}{bc} &= a \cdot c \cdot b^{-1} \cdot c^{-1} \\ &= a \cdot b^{-1} \cdot c \cdot c^{-1} && \text{By (P8)} \\ &= a \cdot b^{-1} && \text{By (P7)} \\ &= \frac{a}{b} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{ac}{bc} = \frac{a}{b}$$

$$(ii) \frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}, \text{ if } b, d \neq 0.$$

**Proof:**

On the right hand side because  $b, d \neq 0$ , we have:



$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{ad+bc}{bd} &= (ad+bc) \cdot b^{-1} \cdot d^{-1} \\
&= (ad+bc) \cdot (b^{-1} \cdot d^{-1}) && \text{By(P5)} \\
&= ad \cdot (b^{-1} \cdot d^{-1}) + bc \cdot (b^{-1} \cdot d^{-1}) && \text{By(P9)} \\
&= a \cdot b^{-1} \cdot d \cdot d^{-1} + c \cdot b \cdot b^{-1} \cdot d^{-1} && \text{By(P5)} \\
&= a \cdot b^{-1} + c \cdot d^{-1} && \text{By(P7)} \\
&= \frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$$

(iii)  $(ab)^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}$ , if  $a, b \neq 0$ .

**Proof:**

On the left hand side, we can multiply by  $ab$ , because from P7, we have  $a \cdot a^{-1} = 1$ . Then we have  $ab \cdot (ab)^{-1} = 1$ .

On the right hand side, if we multiply by  $ab$ , we would have:

$$\begin{aligned}
ab \cdot a^{-1}b^{-1} &= a \cdot a^{-1} \cdot b^{-1} \cdot b && \text{By(P5)} \\
&= 1 \cdot 1 && \text{By(P7)} \\
&= 1
\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  We multiply the same thing, and both of them give the same result

$$\therefore \text{From Question 2, we know } (ab)^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}.$$

(iv)  $\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$ , if  $b, d \neq 0$ .

**Proof:**

On the left hand side, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} &= a \cdot b^{-1} \cdot c \cdot d^{-1} \\
&= a \cdot c \cdot b^{-1} \cdot d^{-1} && \text{By(P5)} \\
&= a \cdot c \cdot (b \cdot d)^{-1} \\
&= \frac{ac}{bd}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$$

(v)  $\frac{a}{b} \div \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad}{bc}$ , if  $b, c, d \neq 0$ .

**Proof:**

On the left hand side, because  $b, c, d \neq 0$ , we could have:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{a}{b} \div \frac{c}{d} &= \frac{a}{b} \cdot \left(\frac{c}{d}\right)^{-1} \\ &= a \cdot b^{-1} \cdot (c \cdot d^{-1})^{-1} \\ &= a \cdot b^{-1} \cdot c^{-1} \cdot d \\ &= a \cdot d \cdot b^{-1} \cdot c^{-1} \quad \text{By (P8)} \\ &= a \cdot d \cdot (b^{-1} \cdot c^{-1}) \quad \text{By (P5)} \\ &= a \cdot d \cdot (b \cdot c)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{ad}{bc}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{a}{b} \div \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad}{bc}$$

(vi) If  $b, d \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$  if and only if  $ad = bc$ . Also, determine when  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{b}{a}$ .

**Proof:**

It's because  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$ ,  $b, d \neq 0$ . Therefore, we could have both side of the equation multiply by  $bd$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{a}{b} \cdot bd &= \frac{c}{d} \cdot bd \\ a \cdot b^{-1} \cdot bd &= c \cdot d^{-1} \cdot bd \\ a \cdot b \cdot b^{-1} \cdot d &= b \cdot c \cdot d^{-1} \cdot d \quad \text{By(P8)} \\ a \cdot d &= b \cdot c \quad \text{By(P7)} \\ \therefore \frac{a}{b} &= \frac{c}{d} \text{ if and only if } ad = bc\end{aligned}$$

It is because when  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$ ,  $ad = bc$ . We must have  $a \cdot a = b \cdot b$ , if we want to have  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{b}{a}$ ,  $a, b \neq 0$ .

#### Chap 1, Q4

(i)  $4 - x < 3 - 2x$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x < -1\}$$

(ii)  $5 - x^2 < 8$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

(iii)  $5 - x^2 < -2$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x^2 > 7\}$$

(iv)  $(x - 1)(x - 3) > 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x < 1, \text{ or } x > 3\}$$

(v)  $x^2 - 2x + 2 > 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

(vi)  $x^2 + x + 1 > 2$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x < \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{2}, \text{ or } x > \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}\}$$

(vii)  $x^2 - x + 10 > 16$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x < -2, \text{ or } x > 3\}$$

(viii)  $x^2 + x + 1 > 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

(ix)  $(x - \pi)(x + 5)(x - 3) > 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid -5 < x < 3, \text{ or } x > \pi\}$$

(x)  $(x - \sqrt[3]{2})(x - \sqrt{2}) > 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x < \sqrt[3]{2}, \text{ or } x > \sqrt{2}\}$$

(xi)  $2^x < 8$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x < 3\}$$

(xii)  $x + 3^x < 4$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid x < 1\}$$

(xiii)  $\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{(1-x)} > 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid 1 > x > 0\}$$

(xiv)  $\frac{x-1}{x+1} > 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$S = \{x \mid 1 < x, \text{ or } -1 > x\}$$

## Chap 1, Q7

### Proof:

It is because we have  $0 < a < b$ . Then, we know  $b - a, b, a \in P$ . From Question 16, we then know that  $\sqrt{a}, \sqrt{b} \in P$ . This means that  $\sqrt{b} + \sqrt{a} \in P$ . Therefore,  $\sqrt{b} + \sqrt{a} > 0$ .

Also, because  $b - a \in P$ , we know from Chap1, Q1(ii) that  $(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b})(\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a}) \in P$ . From Question 16 again we know that for  $(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b})$  and  $(\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a})$  either they are both positive or both negative. Since  $\sqrt{b} + \sqrt{a} > 0$ , then  $\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a} > 0$ . Therefore,  $\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a} \in P$  and  $\sqrt{b} > \sqrt{a}$ . Also, by (P12), we know that  $\sqrt{a} \cdot (\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a}) = \sqrt{ab} - a \in P$ . Thus,  $\sqrt{ab} > a$ .

From (P12), we also know  $(\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a})^2 \in P$ . Thus we know  $b - 2\sqrt{ab} + a \in P$ . Furthermore,  $\frac{1}{2} \in P$  and leads to  $\frac{1}{2} \cdot (b - 2\sqrt{ab} + a) \in P$  by (P12). We now have  $\frac{1}{2} \cdot (a + b) - \sqrt{ab} \in P$ . Then we now  $\frac{(a+b)}{2} > \sqrt{ab}$ .

At last, we have  $b - \frac{(a+b)}{2} = \frac{b}{2} - \frac{a}{2} = \frac{(b-a)}{2}$ . We know  $b - a, \frac{1}{2} \in P$ , then  $\frac{(b-a)}{2} \in P$ . Thus,  $b > \frac{(a+b)}{2}$ .

$$\therefore b > \frac{(a+b)}{2} > \sqrt{ab} > a$$

## Chap 1, Q11

(i)  $|x - 3| = 8$ .

### Solution:

$$x_1 = -5, x_2 = 11$$

(ii)  $|x - 3| < 8$ .

### Solution:

$$S = \{x \mid -5 < x < 11\}$$

(iii)  $|x + 4| < 2$ .

### Solution:

$$S = \{x \mid -6 < x < -2\}$$

(iv)  $|x - 1| + |x - 2| > 1$ .

### Solution:

$$S = \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

(v)  $|x - 1| + |x + 1| < 2$ .

### Solution:

$$S = \{\emptyset\}$$

(vi)  $|x - 1| + |x + 1| < 1$ .

### Solution:

$$S = \{\emptyset\}$$

(vii)  $|x - 1| \cdot |x + 1| = 0$ .

**Solution:**

$$x_{1,2} = \pm 1$$

(viii)  $|x - 1| \cdot |x + 2| = 3$ .

**Solution:**

$$x_{1,2} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{21}}{2}$$

## Chap 1, Q12

(i)  $|xy| = |x| \cdot |y|$

**Proof:**

Assume  $x, y \geq 0$ . Therefore,  $xy \geq 0$ . We would have  $|xy| = xy$  and  $|x| \cdot |y| = x \cdot y = xy$ . Then  $|xy| = |x| \cdot |y|$ .

Then, assume  $x, y < 0$ . Therefore,  $xy \geq 0$ . We would have  $|xy| = xy$  and  $|x| \cdot |y| = -x \cdot (-y) = xy$ . Then  $|xy| = |x| \cdot |y|$ .

Then, assume  $x \geq 0, y < 0$ . It would be the same for  $x < 0, y \geq 0$ . In this case, we would have  $xy \leq 0$  and therefore  $|xy| = -xy$ . Then, we would have  $|x| \cdot |y| = x \cdot (-y) = -xy$ .  $|xy| = |x| \cdot |y|$ .

(ii)  $|\frac{1}{x}| = \frac{1}{|x|}$  if  $x \neq 0$ .

**Proof:**

Assume  $x > 0$ , then we would have  $|\frac{1}{x}| = \frac{1}{x}$  and  $\frac{1}{|x|} = \frac{1}{x}$ . Then,  $|\frac{1}{x}| = \frac{1}{|x|}$ .

Assume  $x < 0$ , then we would have  $|\frac{1}{x}| = -1 \cdot \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{-x}$  and  $\frac{1}{|x|} = \frac{1}{-x}$ . Then,  $|\frac{1}{x}| = \frac{1}{|x|}$ .

(iii)  $|\frac{x}{y}| = \frac{|x|}{|y|}$  if  $y \neq 0$ .

**Proof:**

Assume  $x, y \geq 0, y \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{x}{y} \geq 0$ . Also,  $\frac{x}{y} \geq 0$ . Then we would have  $|\frac{x}{y}| = \frac{x}{y}$ . Therefore,  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{|x|}{|y|}$ .

Assume  $x, y < 0$ , then  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{-x}{-y} \geq 0$ . Also,  $\frac{x}{y} \geq 0$ . Then we would have  $|\frac{x}{y}| = \frac{x}{y}$ . Therefore,  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{|x|}{|y|}$ .

Assume  $x \geq 0, y < 0$ . Then  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{x}{-y} \leq 0$ . Therefore,  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{x}{-y} = -\frac{x}{y}$ . Also,  $\frac{x}{y} \leq 0$ . Then we would have  $|\frac{x}{y}| = -\frac{x}{y}$ . Therefore,  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{|x|}{|y|}$ .

Assume  $x < 0, y > 0$ . Then  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{-x}{y} \leq 0$ . Therefore,  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{-x}{y} = -\frac{x}{y}$ . Also,  $\frac{x}{y} \leq 0$ . Then we would have  $|\frac{x}{y}| = -\frac{x}{y}$ . Therefore,  $\frac{|x|}{|y|} = \frac{|x|}{|y|}$ .

$$\text{(iv)} |x - y| \leq |x| + |y|$$

**Proof:**

Assume  $x, y \geq 0, x \geq y$ ,  $|x - y| = x - y$ ,  $|x| + |y| = x + y$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |x| + |y| - |x - y| &= x + y - (x - y) \\ &= x + y - x + y \\ &= 2y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |x| + |y| - |x - y| \geq 0, \text{ meaning, } |x - y| \leq |x| + |y|.$$

Assume  $x, y \geq 0, x < y$ ,  $|x - y| = y - x$ ,  $|x| + |y| = x + y$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |x| + |y| - |x - y| &= x + y - (y - x) \\ &= x + y - y + x \\ &= 2x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |x| + |y| - |x - y| \geq 0, \text{ meaning, } |x - y| \leq |x| + |y|.$$

Assume  $x, y \leq 0, x \geq y$ ,  $|x - y| = x - y$ ,  $|x| + |y| = -x - y$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |x| + |y| - |x - y| &= -x - y - (x - y) \\ &= -x - y - x + y \\ &= -2x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |x| + |y| - |x - y| \geq 0, \text{ meaning, } |x - y| \leq |x| + |y|.$$

Assume  $x, y \leq 0, x \leq y$ ,  $|x - y| = y - x$ ,  $|x| + |y| = -x - y$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |x| + |y| - |x - y| &= -x - y - (y - x) \\ &= -x - y - y + x \\ &= -2y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |x| + |y| - |x - y| \geq 0, \text{ meaning, } |x - y| \leq |x| + |y|.$$

Assume  $x \geq 0, y < 0$ ,  $|x - y| = x - y$ ,  $|x| + |y| = x - y$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |x| + |y| - |x - y| &= x - y - (x - y) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |x| + |y| - |x - y| = 0, \text{ meaning, } |x - y| = |x| + |y|.$$

Assume  $x < 0, y \geq 0$ ,  $|x - y| = y - x$ ,  $|x| + |y| = y - x$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |x| + |y| - |x - y| &= y - x - (y - x) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |x| + |y| - |x - y| = 0, \text{ meaning, } |x - y| = |x| + |y|.$$

$$\text{(v)} |x| - |y| \leq |x - y|$$

**Proof:**

If  $|x| \geq |y|$  and  $x, y$  are both negative or both positive, then  $|x| - |y| = |x - y|$ . Else if  $x \geq 0, y < 0$ , we would have  $|x - y| - |x| + |y| = x - y - x - y = -2y \geq 0$  meaning  $|x| - |y| \leq |x - y|$ . Or if we have  $x < 0, y \geq 0$ , then  $|x - y| - |x| + |y| = y - x + x + y = 2y \geq 0$  meaning  $|x| - |y| \leq |x - y|$ .

If  $|x| < |y|$ ,  $|x| - |y| < 0$ . It is because  $|x - y| > 0$ , then  $|x| - |y| \leq |x - y|$ .

$$\text{(vi)} (|x| - |y|) \leq |x - y|$$

**Proof:**

$$\text{(vii)} |x + y + z| \leq |x| + |y| + |z|$$

**Proof:**