

1. Let  $A = \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

(i) Write down  $\{x \in A : x^2 + 2x = 0\}$  in roster notation.

[1 mark]

**Solution.**  $\{-2, 0\}$ .

(ii) Write down the power set of the set you wrote in (i) in roster notation.

[1 mark]

**Solution.**  $\{\{\}, \{-2\}, \{0\}, \{-2, 0\}\}$ .

(iii) Is  $\{x^2 : x \in A\} \subseteq B$ ? Explain your answer.

[2 marks]

**Solution.** No, because  $0 \in \{x^2 : x \in A\}$  but  $0 \notin B$ .

(iv) Write down  $A \setminus B$  in roster notation.

[1 mark]

**Solution.**  $\{-2, -1, 0\}$ .

(v) Write down in roster notation a set  $C$  such that  $\{A \setminus B, C\}$  is a partition of  $A$ .

[1 mark]

**Solution.**  $\{1, 2\}$ .

2. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. Prove that, if  $A \cap C = B \cap C$  and  $A \cup C = B \cup C$  for some set  $C$ , then  $A = B$ .

[5 marks]

**Solution.** Let  $C$  be a set such that  $A \cap C = B \cap C$  and  $A \cup C = B \cup C$ .

To show that  $A \subseteq B$ , take any  $x \in A$ .

**Case 1: assume**  $x \in C$ . Then  $x \in A \cap C = B \cap C \subseteq B$  by Example 4.3.9(1).

**Case 2: assume**  $x \notin C$ . Note that Example 4.3.9(2) implies  $x \in A \subseteq A \cup C = B \cup C$ . So the definition of  $\cup$  tells us  $x \in B$  or  $x \in C$ . As  $x \notin C$  by assumption, we deduce that  $x \in B$ .

So  $x \in B$  in all cases.

The proof for  $B \subseteq A$  is similar. □

**Alternative proof by contraposition.** Suppose  $A \neq B$ . Take any set  $C$ . As  $A \neq B$ , either there is some  $x \in A$  such that  $x \notin B$ , or there is some  $x \in B$  such that  $x \notin A$ . We focus on the former case here; the latter case can similarly be handled. Fix  $x \in A$  such that  $x \notin B$ .

**Case 1: assume**  $x \in C$ . Then  $x \in A \cap C$  as  $x \in A$ , but  $x \notin B \cap C$  because  $x \notin B$ . So  $A \cap C \neq B \cap C$ .

**Case 2: assume**  $x \notin C$ . Then  $x \in A \cup C$  as  $x \in A$ , but  $x \notin B \cup C$  because  $x \notin B$  and  $x \notin C$ . So  $A \cup C \neq B \cup C$ .

Hence  $A \cap C \neq B \cap C$  or  $A \cup C \neq B \cup C$  in all cases. □

**Alternative proof using set identities.** Let  $C$  be a set such that  $A \cap C = B \cap C$  and  $A \cup C = B \cup C$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= A \cap (A \cup C) && \text{by the Absorption Laws;} \\
 &= A \cap (B \cup C) && \text{as } A \cup C = B \cup C; \\
 &= (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) && \text{by the Distributive Laws;} \\
 &= (B \cap A) \cup (B \cap C) && \text{by the Commutative Laws, as } A \cap C = B \cap C; \\
 &= B \cap (A \cup C) && \text{by the Distributive Laws;} \\
 &= B \cap (B \cup C) && \text{as } A \cup C = B \cup C; \\
 &= B && \text{by the Absorption Laws.} \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

**Comments.** • Some used a truth table in their attempts. This is possible, but additional explanations is required. Moreover, it is tricky to get the explanations right. For example, some used a truth table to show that

$$\forall x ((x \in A \cap C \leftrightarrow x \in B \cap C) \wedge (x \in A \cup C \leftrightarrow x \in B \cup C) \rightarrow (x \in A \leftrightarrow x \in B)),$$

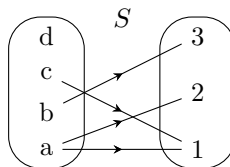
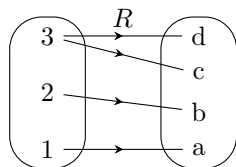
but what you are asked to show is

$$\forall x (x \in A \cap C \leftrightarrow x \in B \cap C) \wedge \forall x (x \in A \cup C \leftrightarrow x \in B \cup C) \rightarrow \forall x (x \in A \leftrightarrow x \in B);$$

the two are different, and additional explanation is required to link the two.

- Some used the Inclusion–Exclusion Rule. This applies to only finite sets, but our sets may not be finite. In addition, it shows only  $|A| = |B|$ , not  $A = B$ .
- Some deduced from  $A \neq B$  that  $A \not\subseteq B$ . There is a second case where  $B \not\subseteq A$ , which cannot be ignored altogether.

3. Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$ . The following are arrow diagrams of a relation  $R$  from  $A$  to  $B$ , and a relation  $S$  from  $B$  to  $A$ .



- (i) Write down  $R^{-1}$  in roster notation. [1 mark]

**Solution.**  $R^{-1} = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 3), (d, 3)\}$ .

- (ii) Write down  $R \circ S$  in roster notation. [1 mark]

**Solution.**  $R \circ S = \{(a, a), (a, b), (b, c), (b, d), (c, a)\}$ .

- (iii) Is  $R \circ S$  antisymmetric as a relation on  $B$ ? Explain your answer. [2 marks]

**Solution.** Yes, because the only  $x, y \in B$  that make  $(x, y), (y, x) \in R \circ S$  are when  $x$  and  $y$  are both  $a$ .

**Comments.** Some wrote that there are no  $x, y \in B$  such that  $x (R \circ S) y$  and  $y (R \circ S) x$ . This is not true because  $a (R \circ S) a$  and  $a (R \circ S) a$ .

- (iv) Write down  $S \circ R$  in roster notation. [1 mark]

**Solution.**  $S \circ R = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 1)\}$ .

- (v) Is  $S \circ R$  reflexive as relation on  $A$ ? Explain your answer. [2 marks]

**Solution.** No, because  $(2, 2) \notin S \circ R$ .

4. Define a relation  $R$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  by setting, for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$a R b \iff a + b \text{ is even.}$$

- (i) Prove that  $R$  is an equivalence relation, based only on what we have established in this course. [5 marks]

**Solution. (Reflexivity)** Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $a + a = 2a$ , which is even. So  $a R a$  by the definition of  $R$ .

**(Symmetry)** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a R b$ . Then  $a + b$  is even by the definition of  $R$ . This implies  $b + a$  is even too, because  $+$  is commutative. So  $b R a$  by the definition of  $R$ .

**(Transitivity)** Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a R b$  and  $b R c$ . Then, by the definition of  $R$ , both  $a + b$  and  $b + c$  are even. Use the definition of even to find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a + b = 2x$  and  $b + c = 2y$ . Then

$$a + c = (2x - b) + (2y - b) = 2x + 2y - 2b = 2(x + y - b),$$

where  $x + y - b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . So  $a + c$  is even by the definition of even. It follows from the definition of  $R$  that  $a R c$ .  $\square$

**Comments.** Some claimed that  $a R b$  if and only if  $a, b$  are both odd or both even for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  without any explanation. A proof is needed for this.

- (ii) Write down  $[1231] \cap \{7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12\}$  in roster notation, where  $[1231]$  denotes the equivalence class of 1231 with respect to the equivalence relation  $R$ . [2 marks]

**Solution.**  $\{7, 9, 11\}$ .

**Extra explanation.** All of  $7 + 1231$ ,  $9 + 1231$ , and  $11 + 1231$  are even, but none of  $8 + 1231$ ,  $10 + 1231$ , and  $12 + 1231$  is even.

**Comments.** Some wrote  $\{(1231, 7), (1231, 9), (1231, 11)\}$ . By definition, with respect to an equivalence relation on a set  $A$ , elements of equivalence classes are elements of  $A$ , not elements of  $A \times A$ .