Solutions Guide to Abstract Algebra

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Abstract

Solutions to the textbook "Abstract Algebra: A First Course", Second Edition by Dan Saracino.

Contents

1 Sets and Induction

1.1 Q1

With $S = \{2, 5, \sqrt{2}, 25, \pi, 5/2\}$ and $T = \{4, 25, \sqrt{2}, 6, 3/2\}$, we have

$$S \cap T = \{\sqrt{2}, 25\},$$

and

$$S \cup T = \{2, 5, \sqrt{2}, 25, \pi, 5/2, 4, 6, 3/2\}.$$

1.2 Q2

For the first equation, the left hand side is

$$\mathbb{Z} \cap (S \cup T) = \{2, 5, 25, 4, 6\}.$$

As for the right hand side, we have $\mathbb{Z} \cap S = \{2, 5, 25\}$. and $\mathbb{Z} \cap T = \{4, 25, 6\}$. Thus,

$$(\mathbb{Z} \cap S) \cup (\mathbb{Z} \cap T) = \{2, 5, 25\} \cup \{4, 25, 6\} = \{2, 5, 25, 4, 6\}.$$

For the second equation, the left hand side is

$$\mathbb{Z} \cup (S \cap T) = \mathbb{Z} \cup \{\sqrt{2}, 25\} = \{\sqrt{2}, \dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}.$$

As for the right hand side we have

$$\mathbb{Z} \cup S = \mathbb{Z} \cup \{2, 5, \sqrt{2}, 25, \pi, 5/2\} = \{\sqrt{2}, \pi, 5/2, \dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\},$$

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and

$$\mathbb{Z} \cup T = \mathbb{Z} \cup \{4, 25, \sqrt{2}, 6, 3/2\} = \{\sqrt{2}, 3/2, \ldots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots\}.$$

Thus,

$$(\mathbb{Z} \cup S) \cap (\mathbb{Z} \cup T) = \{\sqrt{2}, \ldots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots\}.$$

1.3 Q3

For the first equation, we prove (i) $S \cap (S \cup T) \subseteq S$ and (ii) $S \subseteq S \cap (S \cup T)$.

(i) Suppose $x \in S \cap (S \cup T)$. Because an element is in an intersection whenever it is in both sets of the intersection, we have $x \in S$ and $x \in S \cup T$. Of course, the first suffices for $S \cap (S \cup T) \subseteq S$.

(ii) Suppose $x \in S$. Then $x \in S \cup T$ as well because an element is in a union if it is in at least one of the two sets in that union. Since $x \in S$ and $x \in S \cup T$, we have $x \in S \cap (S \cup T)$ so $S \subseteq S \cap (S \cup T)$.

For the second equation, we prove (iii) $S \cup (S \cap T) \subseteq S$ and (iv) $S \subseteq S \cup (S \cap T)$.

(iii) Suppose $x \in S \cup (S \cap T)$. Then, either (a) $x \in S$ or (b) $x \notin S$. In case (a), we clearly have $S \cup (S \cap T) \subseteq S$. In case (b), we must have $x \in S \cap T$ (if $x \notin S \cap T$, then x is in neither S nor $S \cap T$, therefore not in $S \cup (S \cap T)$, which contradicts our assumption $x \in S \cup (S \cap T)$.) This implies case (b) is not possible. $x \in S \cap T$ implies $x \in S$ and $x \in T$, contradicting that $x \notin S$. Since cases (a) and (b) are mutually exclusive and exhaustive we have shown $S \cup (S \cap T) \subseteq S$.

(iv) Suppose $x \in S$. Then $x \in S \cup (S \cap T)$ as well because an element is in a union if it is in at least one of the two sets in that union. Thus, we have $S \subseteq S \cup (S \cap T)$.

1.4 Q4

$(\implies)$

Suppose that $S \cup T = T$. We must show $S \subseteq T$. Suppose $x \in S$. Then we have $x \in S \cup T$. As $S \cup T = T$, this implies $x \in T$. Thus, $S \cup T = T \implies S \subseteq T$.

$(\impliedby)$

Suppose that $S \subseteq T$. We must show that $S \cup T = T$. Thus, we show (i) $S \cup T \subseteq T$ and (ii) $T \subseteq S \cup T$.

(i) Suppose $x \in S \cup T$. Then, either (a) $x \in S$ or (b) $x \notin S$. In case (a) because we assume $S \subseteq T$, we have $x \in T$. In case (b), we must have $x \in T$ because otherwise $x \notin S$ and $x \notin T$ so x could not be in $S \cup T$. In both cases we have shown $x \in T$ so we have $S \cup T \subseteq T$.

(ii) Suppose $x \in T$. Then we know $x \in S \cup T$ (because it is in one of the sets in the union) so $T \subseteq S \cup T$.

Together (i) and (ii) imply $S \cup T = T$ so $S \subseteq T \implies S \cup T = T$.

1.5 Q5

We show (i) $A \cap (B \cup C) \subseteq (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ and (ii) $(A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) \subseteq A \cap (B \cup C)$.

(i) Suppose $x \in A \cap (B \cup C)$. Then $x \in A$ and $x \in B \cup C$. Either (a) $x \in B$ or (b) $x \notin B$. In case (a) we have $x \in A$ and $x \in B$ so $x \in A \cap B$. In case (b) we must have $x \in C$ (similar to previous arguments) so $x \in A$ and $x \in C$ implying $x \in A \cap C$. In either case we have shown x is in one of the sets of the union $(A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ so $A \cap (B \cup C) \subseteq (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$.

(ii) Suppose $x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$. Either (a) $x \in A \cap B$ or (b) $x \notin A \cap B$. In case (a) we have $x \in A$ and $x \in B$. In case (b) we must have $x \in A \cap C$ (similar to previous arguments) so that $x \in A$ and $x \in C$. In either case $x \in A$ and x is either in B or C so that $x \in B \cup C$. Together we have $x \in A \cap (B \cup C)$ so $(A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) \subseteq A \cap (B \cup C)$.