

Suppose  $X$  is a set and  $\mathcal{S}$  is a set of subsets of  $X$ . We say that a set  $Z \subseteq X$  is a lower bound for  $\mathcal{S}$  provided that  $Z \subseteq S$  for all  $S \in \mathcal{S}$ . Prove that for any set  $X$  and any collection  $\mathcal{S}$  of subsets of  $X$ , there is a unique set  $T$  with the following two properties:

(a)  $T$  is a lower bound for  $\mathcal{S}$ .

Suppose  $X$  is a set and  $\mathcal{S}$  is a collection of subsets of  $X$ . We must show that there exist a set  $T$  that is a lower bound for  $\mathcal{S}$ . By the definition of lower bound we must show that there exist a set  $T$  such that for all  $S \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $T \subseteq S$ . Let  $T$  be given by  $T = \bigcap_{S \in \mathcal{S}} S$ . Suppose  $S^* \in \mathcal{S}$ .

We must show that  $T \subseteq S^*$ . Suppose  $x \in T$ . By the definition of subset we must show that  $x \in S^*$ . By definition of  $x \in T$ ,  $x \in \bigcap_{S \in \mathcal{S}} S$ , therefore since  $S^* \in \mathcal{S}$ , by the definition of set intersection  $x \in S^*$ .

(b) For any set  $Z$  that is a lower bound for  $\mathcal{S}$  we have  $Z \subseteq T$ .

Suppose  $Z$  is a lower bound for  $\mathcal{S}$ . We must show that  $Z \subseteq T$ . By definition of lower bound for all  $S \in \mathcal{S}$   $Z \subseteq S$ . Suppose  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_1, \dots, S_n\}$ . Therefore  $Z \subseteq S_1$  and  $Z \subseteq S_2 \dots$  and  $Z \subseteq S_n$ . Therefore by definition of intersection  $Z \subseteq \bigcap_{S \in \mathcal{S}} S$ . Since by definition  $\bigcap_{S \in \mathcal{S}} S = T$ , then  $Z \subseteq T$ .