

# Discrete Mathematics Memorandum

## 1 Sets

- **Definition:** A **set** is an **unordered** collection of **distinct** objects. The objects in the set are called its **elements** or **members**.
- **Definition:**  $A$  is a **subset** of  $B$  ( $A \subseteq B$ ) if every member of  $A$  is also a member of  $B$ . In the same circumstances we also say that  $B$  is a **superset** of  $A$  ( $B \supseteq A$ ).
- **Definition:**  $A$  is a **proper subset** of  $B$  ( $A \subset B$ ) if every member of  $A$  is also a member of  $B$  and some members of  $B$  are not member of  $A$ . In the same circumstances we also say that  $B$  is a **proper superset** of  $A$  ( $B \supset A$ ).
- **Definition:** Two sets are **equal** ( $A = B$ ) if they have exactly the same members.
- **Operations on sets:**
  1. **Union:**  $A \cup B = \{x | x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$
  2. **Intersection:**  $A \cap B = \{x | x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}$
  3. **Relative complement:**  $A \setminus B = \{x | x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B\}$
  4. **Symmetric difference:**  $A \oplus B = \{x | (x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B) \text{ or } (x \notin A \text{ and } x \in B)\}$
  5. **Complement:** when there is a **universe**  $U$ , a set which contains all other sets we are interested in, we can also define  $\overline{A} = U \setminus A$
  6. **Cartesian product:**  $A \times B = \{(x, y) | x \in A \text{ and } y \in B\}$
  7. **Power set:**  $P(A) = \{B | B \subseteq A\}$
- **Generalized operations:**
  1. **Union:**  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = \{x | x \in A_i \text{ for some } i\}$
  2. **Intersection:**  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i = \{x | x \in A_i \text{ for all } i\}$
  3. **Product:**  $\times_{i=1}^n = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) | x_i \in A_i \text{ for each } i\}$
- **Algebraic laws:**
  1. **Idempotence laws:**
$$A \cup A = A \quad A \cap A = A$$
  2. **Commutativity laws:**
$$A \cup B = B \cup A \quad A \cap B = B \cap A$$
  3. **Associativity laws:**
$$(A \cup B) \cup C = A \cup (B \cup C) \quad (A \cap B) \cap C = A \cap (B \cap C)$$
  4. **Distributivity laws:**
$$A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C) \quad A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$$

5. **Zero and one laws:**

$$A \cup \emptyset = A \quad A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$$

6. **Cancellation laws:**

$$A \setminus A = \emptyset \quad A \setminus \emptyset = A$$

7. **Involution law:**

$$A \setminus (A \setminus B) = A \cap B$$

8. **De Morgan's laws:**

$$A \setminus (B \cup C) = (A \setminus B) \cap (A \setminus C) \quad A \setminus (B \cap C) = (A \setminus B) \cup (A \setminus C)$$

9. **Right-distributivity laws:**

$$(A \cup B) \setminus C = (A \setminus C) \cup (B \setminus C) \quad (A \cap B) \setminus C = (A \setminus C) \cap (B \setminus C)$$

10. **Distributivity laws:**

$$A \times (B \cup C) = (A \times B) \cup (A \times C) \quad A \times (B \cap C) = (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$$

- **Definition:** The **size** of a set is called its **cardinality** ( $|A|$  or  $\#A$ ). For finite sets, this is just the number of elements in the set. For infinite sets, cardinality is more difficult to define.
- **Definition:** A **bag** is an **unordered** collection of objects (**not necessarily distinct**).

## 2 Functions

- **Definition:** An **interval** is a subset  $I$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  with the **interval property**:

$$\text{If } x, z \in I \text{ and } x < y < z \text{ then } y \in I$$

- **Definition:**

- Intervals which do not contain their endpoints are called **open** intervals.
- Intervals which do contain their endpoints are called **closed** intervals.
- Intervals which do contain one of their endpoints and do not contain the other are called **half-open** intervals.

- A **function** ( $f : A \rightarrow B$ ). associates elements of one set with another. It consists of:
  - A set  $A$  called the **domain**,
  - A set  $B$  called the **codomain**,
  - A **map** which associates exactly one element of  $B$  to each element of  $A$ .

Two functions are **equal** if **all 3 components** are the same.

- **Definition:** A **partial function** is a function that associates exactly **zero or one** elements of the codomain to each element of the domain.
- **Definition:** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. We define the **image** of  $f$  to be

$$Im(f) = \{b \in B | f(a) = b \text{ for some } a \in A\}$$

- **Definition:**  $f$  is **onto** (or **injective**) if

$$\forall b \in B, \exists a \in A \text{ such that } f(a) = b$$

- **Definition:**  $f$  is **1-1** (or **surjective**) if

$$\forall a_1, a_2 \in A, a_1 \neq a_2, \text{ then } f(a_1) \neq f(a_2)$$

- **Definition:**  $f$  is **bijective** if it is both onto and 1-1.

- **Theorem:** If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is bijective, then  $|A| = |B|$ .

- **Definition:** If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$ , then we define the **composition** of  $f$  and  $g$  to be

$$(g \circ f) : A \rightarrow C, \quad (g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$$

- **Definition:** If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow A$  satisfy both

$$g \circ f = id_A$$

$$f \circ g = id_B$$

, then  $g$  is the **inverse** of  $f$  and we write  $g = f^{-1}$ .

- **Theorem:**  $f$  has an inverse  $\iff f$  is bijective

- **Definition:** If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $A' \subseteq A$ , then we can define the **restriction** of  $f$  to  $A'$  to be

$$f|_{A'} : A' \rightarrow B, \quad f|_{A'}(a) = f(a) \text{ for } a \in A'$$

- **Definition:** A function  $f : A \times A \rightarrow A$  is called a **binary operator** on  $A$ .

- **Definition:** A binary operator  $\cdot$  on  $A$ :

- is **idempotent** if  $x \cdot x = x$ ,

$$\forall x \in A$$

- is **commutative** if  $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$

$$\forall x, y \in A$$

- is **associative** if  $(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$

$$\forall x, y, z \in A$$

- has an **identity element**  $e$  if  $e \cdot x = x \cdot e = x$

$$\forall x \in A$$

- **Proof of the contrapositive:** Instead of proving  $P \implies Q$ , one can prove  $\neg Q \implies \neg P$ .

- **Proof by contradiction:** To prove  $P$ , assume  $\neg P$  and reach a contradiction ( $\perp$ ).

### 3 Counting

- **Law of sum:** Let  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  be properties of objects which are **exclusive**. The number of objects with **either** property is the number with property  $P_1$  **plus** the number with property  $P_2$ .

$$A \cap B = \emptyset \implies |A \cup B| = |A| + |B|$$

- **Law of subtract:** Let  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  be properties, such that  $P_1$  is true at least whenever  $P_2$  is true. Then the number of objects with property  $P_1$  **but not**  $P_2$  is the number with property  $P_1$  **minus** the number with property  $P_2$ .

$$B \subseteq A \implies |A \setminus B| = |A| - |B|$$

- **Law of product:** If counting the number of ways of making a sequence of choices and the choices are **independent**, then the total number of ways of making the sequence of choices is the **product** of the number of choices at each stage.

$$|A \times B| = |A| \cdot |B|$$

- **Double counting:** Instead of counting each element of a set once, one can count each of them  $m$  times, and then divide the result by  $m$ .

- **Definition:** The **factorial** of  $n$  is defined by

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \dots \cdot n$$

- **Definition:** The **binomial coefficient** is defined by

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

- **Definition:** The **multinomial coefficient** is defined by

$$\binom{n}{n_1 n_2 \dots n_g} = \frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \dots n_g!}$$

with  $n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_g = n$

- **Theorem:**

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} = 2^n$$

- **Inclusion-Exclusion principle:**

$$|\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i| = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \sum_{I \subseteq \{1,2,\dots,n\}, |I|=k} \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i$$

- **Definition:** The **floor function** rounds down real numbers to integers:

$$\lfloor - \rfloor : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \quad \lfloor x \rfloor = \max\{n \in \mathbb{Z} | n \leq x\}$$

- **Definition:** The **ceil function** rounds up real numbers to integers:

$$\lceil - \rceil : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \quad \lceil x \rceil = \min\{n \in \mathbb{Z} | n \geq x\}$$

## 4 Relations

- **Definition:** A relation on a set  $A$  is a subset of  $A \times A$ . More generally, a relation on sets  $A$  and  $B$  is a subset of  $A \times B$ .

- **Definition:** We say that a relation  $R$  is:

- **reflexive** if  $aRa$   $\forall a \in A$
- **symmetric** if  $aRb \implies bRa$   $\forall a, b \in A$
- **antisymmetric** if  $aRb, bRa \implies a = b$   $\forall a, b \in A$
- **transitive** if  $aRb, bRc \implies aRc$   $\forall a, b, c \in A$
- **irreflexive** if  $a \not R a$   $\forall a \in A$
- **serial** if  $\exists b \in A$  such that  $aRb$   $\forall a \in A$
- **total** if  $aRb$  or  $bRa$   $\forall a, b \in A$

- **Definition:** An **equivalence relation** on  $A$  is a relation which is reflexive, symmetric and transitive. If  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $A$ , then for each  $a \in A$  we write

$$[a] = \{a' \in A | a' \sim a\}$$

. This is called the **equivalence class** of  $a$ .

- **Definition:** A **partition** of a set  $A$  is a collection of subsets  $\{B_i | i \in I\} \subseteq P(A)$  satisfying

- $\bigcup_{i \in I} B_i = A$
- $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset \quad \forall i \neq j$
- $B_i \neq \emptyset \quad \forall i$

- **Definition:** If  $R$  is a relation on  $A$ , we define the **converse** relation by

$$aR^{-1}b \quad \text{if} \quad bRa$$

- **Definition:** If  $R$  and  $S$  are both relations on  $A$ , we define their **composition**  $S \circ R$  by

$$a(S \circ R)b \quad \text{if} \quad \exists x \in A \text{ such that } aRx \text{ and } xSb$$

- **Definition:** If  $R$  is a relation on  $A$ , we define the **transitive closure** of  $R$  by

$$aR^+b \quad \text{if} \quad \exists x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in A, n \geq 1 \text{ such that } a = x_0, x_0Rx_1, x_1Rx_2, \dots, x_{n-1}Rx_n, x_n = b$$

- **Definition:** If  $R$  is a relation on  $A$ , we define the **reflexive transitive closure** of  $R$  by

$$aR^*b \quad \text{if} \quad \exists x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in A, n \geq 0 \text{ such that } a = x_0, x_0Rx_1, x_1Rx_2, \dots, x_{n-1}Rx_n, x_n = b$$

- **Definition:** A **directed graph** consists of a set of **nodes**  $N$  and a set of **edges**  $E \subseteq N \times N$ . We say that there is an edge from  $n_1$  to  $n_2$  if  $(n_1, n_2) \in E$ .

## 5 Sequences

- **Definition:** A **sequence** is a function whose domain is  $\mathbf{N}$  or  $\mathbf{N}_+$ :  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)$
- **Definition:** A **recurrence relation** is a **recursive definition** of a sequence.
- **The principle of induction:** If  $S(n)$  is a statement involving a natural number  $n$ , and we want to prove  $S(n)$  for all  $n$ , we can:

- prove  $S(0)$
- prove that, if  $S(k)$ , then  $S(k+1)$ .

Then we may deduce that  $S(n)$  is true,  $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}$

- **The principle of strong induction:** If  $S(n)$  is a statement involving a natural number  $n$ , and we want to prove  $S(n)$  for all  $n$ , we can:

- prove  $S(0)$
- prove that, if  $S(j), \forall j \leq k$ , then  $S(k+1)$ .

Then we may deduce that  $S(n)$  is true,  $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}$

- **The minimal counterexample:** If we want to prove  $S(n)$  for all natural numbers  $n$ , we suppose that it is not, and define  $m$  to be the smallest natural number for which  $S(m)$  is false, and then prove that  $S(m')$  must also be false for some smaller natural number  $m'$ .

- **Bell numbers:** The sequence  $(B_n)$ , known as the **Bell numbers**, has the following recurrence relation:

$$B_0 = 1, \quad B_{n+1} = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} B_i$$

. Also,

$$B_n = \frac{1}{e} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{k^n}{k!}$$

## 6 Modular arithmetic

- **Definition:** For a fixed positive integer  $n$ , we can define an equivalence relation  $\equiv$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  by

$$x \equiv y \pmod{n} \quad \text{if} \quad n \mid (x - y)$$

- **Method of repeated squaring:** An efficient way of computing  $x^y$  is:

$$x^y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ x \cdot (x^2)^{\frac{y-1}{2}} & \text{if } y \text{ is odd} \\ (x^2)^{\frac{y}{2}} & \text{if } y > 0 \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

- **Definition:** The **greatest common divisor**  $\gcd(m, n)$  is the largest integer dividing both  $m$  and  $n$ :  
 $g = \gcd(n, m)$  if

- $g \mid m$
- $g \mid n$
- $l \mid m, l \mid n \implies l \mid g$

- **Euclid's algorithm:**

```
0. a := m; b := n;
1. q := a DIV b;
   r := a MOD b;
2. If r==0 return(b);
   else a := b;
      b := r;
      goto 1;
```

Computes  $\gcd(m, n)$ .

- **Euclid's extended algorithm:**

```
0. a := m; b := n;   x := 0; y := 1; x' := 1; y' := 0;
1. q := a DIV b;      x := x' - (q * x);   x' := x;
   r := a MOD b;      y := y' - (q * y);   y' := y;
2. If r==0 return(b, x', y');
   else a := b;
      b := r;
      goto 1;
```

Computes  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\gcd(m, n) = mx + ny$

- **Definition:** Fix a modulus  $n$  and let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ . A **multiplicative inverse** for  $x$  is an integer  $y$  satisfying

$$xy \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

and we write  $y \equiv x^{-1} \pmod{n}$

- **Theorem:** If  $p$  is prime, every  $x$  with  $x \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has a multiplicative inverse  $\pmod{p}$ .
- **The pigeonhole principle:** You can't put more than  $n$  objects into  $n$  boxes without having at least two objects in the same box.

## 7 Asymptotic notation

- **Definition:** Suppose that  $f$  and  $g$  are both real-valued functions with domain  $\mathbb{N}$ . We write  $f(n) = O(g(n))$  if there is a real number  $c$  and an integer  $N$  with

$$|f(n)| \leq c|g(n)|, \forall n \geq N$$

and say that  $f$  is **asymptotically bounded** by  $g$ .

- **Theorem:**  $f(n) = O(g(n))$  is equivalent to existing a real number  $c$  such that

$$|f(n)| \leq c|g(n)|, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

- **Definition:** We write  $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$  if  $g(n) = O(f(n))$   
 We write  $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$  if  $g(n) = O(f(n))$  and  $f(n) = O(g(n))$

# 8 Orders

- **Definition:**

- A **preorder** is a reflexive, transitive relation.
- A **partial order** is a reflexive, antisymmetric, transitive relation.
- A **linear order** (or **total order**) is an antisymmetric, transitive, total relation.

- **Definition:** For a set  $A$ ,  $a, b \in A$  and an order  $\preceq$  on  $A$ , we say that  $a$  and  $b$  are **comparable** if  $a \preceq b$  or  $b \preceq a$ .

- **Definition:** A **chain** is a subset of  $A$  of which all pairs are comparable.

- **Definition:** An **antichain** is a subset of  $A$  of which no pairs are comparable.

- **Definition:** For a set  $A$  and an order  $\preceq$  on  $A$ , we can create the following orders on  $A \times A$ :

- The **product order**:  $(x, y) \preceq_P (x', y') \iff x \preceq x' \text{ and } y \preceq y'$
- The **lexicographic order**:  $(x, y) \preceq_L (x', y') \iff x \prec x' \text{ or } (x \simeq x' \text{ and } y \preceq y')$

- **Theorem:**

- If  $\preceq$  is a preorder/partial order/linear order on  $A$ , then  $\preceq_L$  is a preorder/partial order/linear order on  $A \times A$ .
- If  $\preceq$  is a preorder/linear order on  $A$ , then  $\preceq_P$  is a preorder/linear order on  $A \times A$ .

- **Definition:** A **Hasse diagram** is a graph, drawn in the plane, with vertices corresponding to the elements of  $A$  and an edge going from  $a$  to  $b$  if  $a \prec b$  and there is no element  $x$  with  $a \prec x \prec b$ . This construction, which removes reflexive loops and all edges which follow by transitivity, is known as the **cover relation**.

- **Definition:** Let  $A$  be a set ordered by a partial order  $\preceq$  and let  $S \subseteq A$ .

- An element  $m \in A$  is an **upper bound** for  $S$  if  $x \preceq m, \forall x \in S$ .
- An element  $m \in A$  is a **lower bound** for  $S$  if  $m \preceq x, \forall x \in S$ .
- $m$  is the **maximum** of  $S$  if it is an upper bound and  $m \in S$ .
- $m$  is the **minimum** of  $S$  if it is a lower bound and  $m \in S$ .
- $m$  is a **least upper bound** (lub) for  $S$  if
  - $m$  is an upper bound for  $S$
  - if  $m'$  is any other upper bound for  $S$ , then  $m \preceq m'$ .
- $m$  is a **greatest lower bound** (glb) for  $S$  if
  - $m$  is a lower bound for  $S$
  - if  $m'$  is any other lower bound for  $S$ , then  $m' \preceq m$ .

- **Definition:** If every pair of a set has a lub and glb, the the order is called a **lattice**.

If every subset has a lub and glb, then the order is called a **complet lattice**.

- **Definition:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets, with orders  $\preceq_A$  and  $\preceq_B$ . An **order isomorphism** between  $A$  and  $B$  is a bijection  $f : A \rightarrow B$  satisfying

$$a \preceq_A a' \iff f(a) \preceq_B f(a')$$

.

- **Theorem:** If  $\preceq$  is a linear order on  $A$ , these are equivalent definitions to lub/glub:

- $m$  is a **least upper bound** (lub) for  $S$  if
  - $m$  is an upper bound for  $S$

- if  $a \prec m$  then there is an element  $x \in S$  with  $a \prec x$
- $m$  is a **greatest lower bound** (glb) for  $S$  if
  - $m$  is a lower bound for  $S$
  - if  $m \prec a$  then there is an element  $x \in S$  with  $x \prec a$
- **Theorem:** If there is an order isomorphism between  $A$  with  $\preceq_A$  and  $B$  with  $\preceq_B$ , then, if  $\preceq_A$  is a partial order/linear order/lattice, then so is  $\preceq_B$  (and vice versa).