

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS  
MATH 1020 Mathematical Foundations  
Practice Exam Questions

---

1. Write the symbolic form of the proposition “At least one subset of the real numbers has a smallest element.”

*Solution.*

$$\exists S \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}), \exists a \in S, \forall x \in S, a \leq x.$$

□

2. Write the symbolic form of the proposition “There is no largest natural number.”

*Solution.*

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, \exists y \in \mathbb{N}, x < y.$$

□

3. Write the symbolic form of the proposition “Between any two distinct real numbers there is a rational number.”

*Solution.*

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ if } x \neq y, \text{ then } \exists z \in \mathbb{Q}, x < z < y \text{ or } y < z < x.$$

□

4. Write the symbolic form of the proposition “The cube of every even integer is even.”

*Solution.*

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ if } \exists a \in \mathbb{Z}, x = 2a, \text{ then } \exists b \in \mathbb{Z}, x^3 = 2b.$$

□

5. Write the symbolic form of the proposition “The sum of a rational number and an irrational number is always irrational.”

*Solution.*

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ if } x \text{ is rational and } y \text{ is irrational, then } x + y \text{ is irrational.}$$

□

6. Write the negation of the proposition “The sum of a rational number and an irrational number is always irrational.”

*Solution.*

$$\exists x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x \text{ is rational and } y \text{ is irrational and } x + y \text{ is rational.}$$

□

7. Write the negation of the proposition  $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\forall x \in (a, \infty)$ ,  $b \leq x$ , then  $b \leq a$ .

*Solution.*

$$\exists a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in (a, \infty), b \leq x, \text{ and } a < b.$$

□

8. Write the negation of the proposition  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $(\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x > 0$ , then  $a \leq x)$ , then  $a \leq 0$ .

*Solution.*

$\exists a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $(\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x > 0$ , then  $a \leq x)$ , and  $0 < a$ . □

9. Write the negation of the proposition  $\forall y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x > y^2 + 1$ .

*Solution.*

$\exists y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x \leq y^2 + 1$ . □

10. Write the negation of the proposition  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^2 = n^3$ , then  $\exists m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x = m^3$ .

*Solution.*

$\exists x \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^2 = n^3$  and  $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x \neq m^3$ . □

11. Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . Write the *contrapositive* form of the following implication:  
if  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a + x = x$ , then  $\forall y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a + y = y$ .

*Solution.*

if  $\exists y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a + y \neq y$ , then  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a + x \neq x$ . □

12. Prove, using a proof by **contraposition**:  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $(\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x > 0$ , then  $a \leq x)$ , then  $a \leq 0$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $0 < a$ .

Put  $x = \frac{a}{2}$ .

Since  $0 < a$ , we have  $0 < \frac{a}{2}$ ; hence  $x > 0$ .

Also, since  $1 < 2$  and  $0 < a$ , we have  $a < 2a$ ; hence  $\frac{a}{2} < a$ .

We now have  $x > 0$  and  $x < a$ .

Therefore,  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x > 0$  and  $x < a$ .

Therefore, if  $0 < a$ , then  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x > 0$  and  $x < a$ .

Therefore, if  $(\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x > 0$ , then  $a \leq x)$ , then  $a \leq 0$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $(\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x > 0$ , then  $a \leq x)$ , then  $a \leq 0$ . □

13. Prove, using only the axioms of the real numbers,  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x \leq y$  and  $y < z$ , then  $x < z$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $x \leq y$  and  $y < z$ .

Since  $x \leq y$  means  $x < y$  or  $x = y$ , we consider two cases.

Case 1:  $x < y$ .

In this case, since  $x < y$  and  $y < z$ , we have  $x < z$ .

Case 2:  $x = y$ .

In this case, since  $y < z$ , we have  $x < z$ .

Therefore, if  $x \leq y$  and  $y < z$ , then  $x < z$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x \leq y$  and  $y < z$ , then  $x < z$ .  $\square$

14. Prove  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq x$ , then  $a = 1$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq x$ .

Since  $1 \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $a(1) \leq 1$ ; hence  $a \leq 1$ .

Since  $-1 \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $a(-1) \leq -1$ ; hence  $1 \leq a$ .

Now, since  $a \leq 1$  and  $1 \leq a$ , we have  $a = 1$ .

Therefore, if  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq x$ , then  $a = 1$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq x$ , then  $a = 1$ .  $\square$

15. Prove  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq 0$ , then  $a = 0$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq 0$ .

Since  $1 \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $a(1) \leq 0$ ; hence  $a \leq 0$ .

Since  $-1 \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $a(-1) \leq 0$ ; hence  $0 \leq a$ .

Since  $a \leq 0$  and  $0 \leq a$ , we have  $a = 0$ .

Therefore, if  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq 0$ , then  $a = 0$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax \leq 0$ , then  $a = 0$ .  $\square$

16. Prove  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if 10 divides  $x$  and 4 divides  $x$ , then 20 divides  $x$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume 10 divides  $x$  and 4 divides  $x$ .

Choose  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x = 10a$  and  $x = 4b$ .

Put  $c = b - 2a$ .

$$x = 5x - 4x = 5(4b) - 4(10a) = 20b - 40a = 20(b - 2a) = 20c.$$

Therefore,  $\exists c \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x = 20c$ .

This means 20 divides  $x$ .

Therefore, if 10 divides  $x$  and 4 divides  $x$ , then 20 divides  $x$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if 10 divides  $x$  and 4 divides  $x$ , then 20 divides  $x$ .  $\square$

17. Using a proof by contradiction, prove  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $x$  is odd and  $xy$  is even, then  $y$  is even.

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume  $x$  is odd and  $xy$  is even and  $y$  is not even.

Since  $y$  is not even,  $y$  is odd.

Choose  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x = 2a + 1$  and  $xy = 2b$  and  $y = 2c + 1$ .

Then  $(2a + 1)(2c + 1) = 2b$ ;  $4ac + 2a + 2c + 1 = 2b$ ;  $1 = 2(b - 2ac - a - c)$ .

Since  $0 < 1$  and  $0 < 2$ , we must have  $0 < b - 2ac - a - c$ . It follows that  $1 \leq b - 2ac - a - c$ .

We then have  $2 \leq 2(b - 2ac - a - c)$ ; hence  $2 \leq 1$ . This is a contradiction, since  $1 < 2$ .

Therefore, if  $x$  is odd and  $xy$  is even, then  $y$  is even.

Therefore,  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $x$  is odd and  $xy$  is even, then  $y$  is even.  $\square$

18. Prove  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\min(x, y) < |x - y|$ , then  $2\min(x, y) < \max(x, y)$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $\min(x, y) < |x - y|$ .

Case 1:  $x < y$ .

In this case,  $\min(x, y) = x$  and  $\max(x, y) = y$ .

Also, in this case  $x - y < 0$ , so  $|x - y| = y - x$ .

By assumption, we then have  $x < y - x$ , which gives us  $2x < y$ . Thus,  $2\min(x, y) < \max(x, y)$ .

Case 2:  $y < x$ .

In this case,  $\min(x, y) = y$  and  $\max(x, y) = x$ .

Also, in this case  $0 < x - y$ , so  $|x - y| = x - y$ .

Our assumption then becomes  $y < x - y$ , which implies  $2y < x$ . That is,  $2\min(x, y) < \max(x, y)$ .

Case 3:  $x = y$ .

In this case,  $\min(x, y) = x$  and  $\max(x, y) = x$ .

Also,  $|x - y| = |0| = 0$ .

Our assumption then gives us  $x < 0$ .

Adding  $x$  to both sides gives  $2x < x$ , which means  $2\min(x, y) < \max(x, y)$ .

Therefore, if  $\min(x, y) < |x - y|$ , then  $2\min(x, y) < \max(x, y)$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\min(x, y) < |x - y|$ , then  $2\min(x, y) < \max(x, y)$ .  $\square$

19. Prove  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\min(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - |x - y|)$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Case 1:  $x \leq y$ .

In this case,  $\min(x, y) = x$ .

Also, in this case  $x - y \leq 0$ , so  $|x - y| = y - x$ .

Now,  $\min(x, y) = x = \frac{1}{2}(x + x) = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - (y - x)) = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - |x - y|)$ .

Case 2:  $y < x$ .

In this case,  $\min(x, y) = y$ .

Also, in this case  $0 < x - y$ , so  $|x - y| = x - y$ .

$\min(x, y) = y = \frac{1}{2}(y + y) = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - (x - y)) = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - |x - y|)$ .

Therefore,  $\min(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - |x - y|)$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\min(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - |x - y|)$ .  $\square$

20. Prove  $\forall a, x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $a < \max(x, y)$ , then  $a < x$  or  $a < y$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y, a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $a < \max(x, y)$ .

Case 1:  $x \geq y$ .

In this case,  $\max(x, y) = x$ , and hence  $a < x$ .

Therefore,  $a < x$  or  $a < y$ .

Case 2:  $x < y$ .

In this case,  $\max(x, y) = y$ , so  $a < y$ .

Again,  $a < x$  or  $a < y$  is true.

Therefore, if  $a < \max(x, y)$ , then  $a < x$  or  $a < y$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a, x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $a < \max(x, y)$ , then  $a < x$  or  $a < y$ .  $\square$

21. Prove  $\forall x, y \in \mathcal{B}$ , if  $x \wedge y = F$ , then  $\neg x \vee y = \neg x$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{B}$ .

Assume  $x \wedge y = F$ .

Then  $\neg x \vee (x \wedge y) = \neg x \vee F$ .

This gives us  $(\neg x \vee x) \wedge (\neg x \vee y) = \neg x$ . So,  $T \wedge (\neg x \vee y) = \neg x$ .

Thus,  $\neg x \vee y = \neg x$ .

Therefore, if  $x \wedge y = F$ , then  $\neg x \vee y = \neg x$ .

Q.E.D.  $\square$

22. Prove  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathcal{B}$ , if  $x \Rightarrow y$  and  $\neg z \Rightarrow x$ , then  $y \vee z = T$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{B}$ .

Assume  $x \Rightarrow y$  and  $\neg z \Rightarrow x$ .

Then  $\neg z \Rightarrow y$  by transitivity. This means  $\neg z \wedge y = \neg z$ . Then  $(\neg z \wedge y) \vee z = \neg z \vee z$ .

Expanding, we have  $(\neg z \vee z) \wedge (y \vee z) = T$ , and so  $T \wedge (y \vee z) = T$ .

Thus,  $y \vee z = T$ .

Therefore, if  $x \Rightarrow y$  and  $\neg z \Rightarrow x$ , then  $y \vee z = T$ .

Q.E.D.  $\square$

*Alternate Proof.*

Let  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{B}$ .

Assume  $x \Rightarrow y$  and  $\neg z \Rightarrow x$ .

Since  $\neg z \Rightarrow x$ , we have  $\neg x \Rightarrow z$  by contraposition.

Now,  $x \wedge y = x$  and  $\neg x \wedge z = \neg x$ .

Then  $(x \wedge y) \vee (\neg x \wedge z) = x \vee \neg x$ . Thus,  $(x \wedge y) \vee (\neg x \wedge z) = T$ .

This gives us  $y \vee (x \wedge y) \vee (\neg x \wedge z) = y \vee T$ .

By absorption, we then have  $y \vee (\neg x \wedge z) = T$ .

Now,  $y \vee (\neg x \wedge z) \vee z = T \vee z$ .

By absorption again, we have  $y \vee z = T$ .

Therefore, if  $x \Rightarrow y$  and  $\neg z \Rightarrow x$ , then  $y \vee z = T$ .

Q.E.D.  $\square$

23. Using a proof by contradiction and the well-ordering property, prove  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $1 \leq a$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq a^n$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume  $1 \leq a$  and  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a^n < a$ .

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be smallest for which  $a^n < a$ .

Since  $a^1 = a$ , but  $a^n < a$ , we know  $n \neq 1$ .

Then  $n - 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ , which means  $a \leq a^{n-1}$ .

Now,  $a^n < a$  and  $a \leq a^{n-1}$  which gives us  $a^n < a^{n-1}$  by transitivity.

This means  $a^{n-1}a < a^{n-1}$ .

Note that since  $0 < 1 \leq a$ , we have  $0 < a$  and so  $0 < a^{n-1}$ .

This allows us to divide both sides of the inequality  $a^{n-1}a < a^{n-1}$  by  $a^{n-1}$ .

Doing so gives us  $a < 1$ , which is a contradiction, since  $1 \leq a$ .

Therefore, if  $1 \leq a$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq a^n$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $1 \leq a$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq a^n$ .  $\square$

24. Using the principle of mathematical induction, prove  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $1 \leq a$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq a^n$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $1 \leq a$

Let  $A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid a \leq a^n\}$ .

Since  $a = a^1$ , we have  $a \leq a^1$ . Thus,  $1 \in A$ .

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and assume  $n \in A$ .

Then  $a \leq a^n$ .

Since  $0 < 1$  and  $1 \leq a$  and  $a \leq a^n$ , we have  $0 \leq a^n$ .

Now, since  $1 \leq a$  and  $0 \leq a^n$ , we have  $a^n(1) \leq a^n(a)$ . That is,  $a^n \leq a^{n+1}$ .

Finally, since  $a \leq a^n$  and  $a^n \leq a^{n+1}$ , we have  $a \leq a^{n+1}$ .

Thus,  $n + 1 \in A$ .

Therefore,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $n \in A$ , then  $n + 1 \in A$ .

By the Principle of Mathematical Induction  $\mathbb{N} \subseteq A$ .

Therefore,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq a^n$ .

Therefore, if  $1 \leq a$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq a^n$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $1 \leq a$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq a^n$ .  $\square$

25. Using a proof by contradiction and the well-ordering property, prove  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $x$  is odd then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is odd.

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume  $x$  is odd and  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is even.

Choose  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x = 2a + 1$ .

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be smallest for which  $x^n$  is even.

Choose  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x^n = 2b$ .

Since  $x^1$  is odd, but  $x^n$  is even, we know  $n \neq 1$ .

Then  $n - 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ , which means  $x^{n-1}$  is odd.

Now,  $x^n = x^{n-1}x$ , which gives us  $2b = x^{n-1}(2a + 1)$ .

Rearranging this, we have  $x^{n-1} = 2b - 2ax^{n-1}$ .

Letting  $c = b - ax^{n-1}$ , we then have  $x^{n-1} = 2c$ .

This proves  $x^{n-1}$  is even, which is a contradiction, since  $x^{n-1}$  is odd.

Therefore, if  $x$  is odd, then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is odd.

Therefore,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $x$  is odd, then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is odd.  $\square$

26. Using the principle of mathematical induction, prove  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $x$  is odd then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is odd.

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume  $x$  is odd.

Choose  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x = 2a + 1$ .

Let  $A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid x^n \text{ is odd}\}$ .

Since  $x^1 = x$  and  $x$  is odd, we have  $1 \in A$ .

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Assume  $n \in A$ .

Hence  $x^n$  is odd.

Choose  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x^n = 2b + 1$ .

Then  $x^{n+1} = x^n x = (2b + 1)(2a + 1) = 4ab + 2a + 2b + 1$

Putting  $c = 2ab + a + b$  then gives us  $x^{n+1} = 2c + 1$ .

Therefore,  $x^{n+1}$  is odd.

Hence  $n + 1 \in A$ .

Therefore, if  $n \in A$  then  $n + 1 \in A$ .

Therefore, by the Principle of Mathematical Induction,  $\mathbb{N} \subseteq A$ .

Therefore,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is odd.

Therefore, if  $x$  is odd, then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is odd.

Therefore,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $x$  is odd, then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x^n$  is odd.  $\square$

27. Prove  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}$ , 7 divides  $8^x - 1$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $A = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid 7 \text{ divides } 8^x - 1\}$ .

Letting  $q = 1$  gives us  $8^1 - 1 = 7 = 7q$ .

Therefore,  $\exists q \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $8^1 - 1 = 7q$ . That is, 7 divides  $8^1 - 1$ , and hence  $1 \in A$ .

Let  $n \in A$ . Then 7 divides  $8^n - 1$ .

Accordingly, let  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $8^n - 1 = 7p$ .

Let  $k = 8^n + p$

$$\begin{aligned} 8^{n+1} - 1 &= 8(8^n) - 1 \\ &= (7 + 1)(8^n) - 1 \\ &= 7(8^n) + 8^n - 1 \\ &= 7(8^n) + 7p \\ &= 7(8^n + p) \\ &= 7k \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $8^{n+1} - 1 = 7k$ , and so  $n + 1 \in A$ .

Therefore,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $n \in A$ , then  $n + 1 \in A$ .

By the Principle of Mathematical Induction  $\mathbb{N} \subseteq A$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}$ , 7 divides  $8^x - 1$ .  $\square$

28. Prove  $\forall a, r \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $r \neq 1$  and  $r \neq 0$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\sum_{k=0}^n ar^k = \frac{a(1-r^{n+1})}{1-r}$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $a, r \in \mathbb{R}$ , and assume  $r \neq 1$  and  $r \neq 0$ .

Let  $A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid \sum_{k=0}^n ar^k = \frac{a(1-r^{n+1})}{1-r}\}$ .

$\sum_{k=0}^1 ar^k = ar^0 + ar^1 = a(1+r) = \frac{a(1+r)(1-r)}{1-r} = \frac{a(1-r^2)}{1-r}$ . Thus,  $1 \in A$ .

Let  $n \in A$ . Then  $\sum_{k=0}^n ar^k = \frac{a(1-r^{n+1})}{1-r}$ .

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} ar^k = \sum_{k=0}^n ar^k + ar^{n+1} = \frac{a(1-r^{n+1})}{1-r} + ar^{n+1} = \frac{a(1-r^{n+1} + r^{n+1}(1-r))}{1-r} = \frac{a(1-r^{n+2})}{1-r}$$

Thus,  $n + 1 \in A$ .

Therefore,  $A$  is inductive. By the PMI,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \in A$ .

Therefore,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\sum_{k=0}^n ar^k = \frac{a(1-r^{n+1})}{1-r}$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a, r \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $r \neq 1$  and  $r \neq 0$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\sum_{k=0}^n ar^k = \frac{a(1-r^{n+1})}{1-r}$ .  $\square$

29. Let  $A \in \mathcal{P}(U)$ . Prove if  $U \setminus A \subseteq A$ , then  $A = U$ .

*Proof.*

Assume  $U \setminus A \subseteq A$  and assume  $A \neq U$ .

Since  $A \subseteq U$ , it must be the case that  $U \not\subseteq A$ .

That is,  $\exists x \in U, x \notin A$ . Choose such an  $x$ .

Then  $x \in U$  and  $x \notin A$ , which means  $x \in U \setminus A$ .

Since  $U \setminus A \subseteq A$ , we then have  $x \in A$ .

We now have the contradiction  $x \in A$  and  $x \notin A$ .

Therefore, if  $U \setminus A \subseteq A$ , then  $A = U$ .  $\square$

30. Let  $A, B, C$ , and  $D$  be sets. Prove if  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ , then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

*Proof.*

Assume  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ .

Let  $x \in A \cup B$ .

Then  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ .

Case 1:  $x \in A$ .

Since  $A \subseteq C$ , we then have  $x \in C$ .

This proves  $x \in C$  or  $x \in D$ , which means  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Case 1:  $x \in B$ .

Since  $B \subseteq D$ , we then have  $x \in D$ .

This proves again  $x \in C$  or  $x \in D$ , so  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x \in A \cup B$ , then  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Thus,  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

Therefore, if  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ , then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .  $\square$

*Alternate Proof.*

Assume  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ .

Since  $A \subseteq C$ , we have  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup B$ .

Since  $B \subseteq D$ , we have  $C \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

By transitivity, we then have  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

Therefore, if  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ , then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .  $\square$

31. Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. Prove if  $A \cap B = A \cap C$  and  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

*Proof.*

Assume  $A \cap B = A \cap C$  and  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ .

Let  $x \in A$ .

Then  $x \in B \cup C$  (since  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ ).

Case 1:  $x \in B$ .

In this case, we have  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ , which means  $x \in A \cap B$ .

Then  $x \in A \cap C$  (since  $A \cap B = A \cap C$ ).

This means  $x \in C$  as well.

Now,  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$ , which means  $x \in B \cap C$ .

Case 2:  $x \in C$ .

In this case,  $x \in A$  and  $x \in C$ , and so  $x \in A \cap C$ .

Then  $x \in A \cap B$  (since  $A \cap B = A \cap C$ ).

In particular  $x \in B$ .

We now have  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$ , which means  $x \in B \cap C$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x \in A$ ,  $x \in B \cap C$ . In other words,  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

Therefore, if  $A \cap B = A \cap C$  and  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .  $\square$

*Alternate Proof.*

Assume  $A \cap B = A \cap C$  and  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ .

Then  $(A \cap B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \cap C = A \cap C$ .

This means  $A \cap B = A \cap C = A \cap B \cap C$ .

Now, since  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ , we have  $A \cap A \subseteq A \cap (B \cup C)$ , and so  $A \subseteq (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ .

Since  $A \cap B = A \cap C = A \cap B \cap C$ , this gives us  $A \subseteq (A \cap B \cap C) \cup (A \cap B \cap C)$ .

Thus,  $A \subseteq A \cap B \cap C$ .

Finally, since  $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq B \cap C$  (by consistency), we have  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

Therefore, if  $A \cap B = A \cap C$  and  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .  $\square$

32. Prove  $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $a < b$ , then  $(-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a) = [a, b]$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $a < b$ .

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in (-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a)$ .

Then  $x \in (-\infty, b)$ , so  $x < b$ , and  $x \notin (-\infty, a)$ , so  $a \leq x$ .

Since  $a \leq x$  and  $x < b$ , we have  $x \in [a, b]$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x \in (-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a)$ , then  $x \in [a, b]$ .

Thus,  $(-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a) \subseteq [a, b]$ .

Conversely, let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in [a, b]$ .

Then  $a \leq x$  and  $x < b$ .

Since  $a \leq x$ , we have  $x \notin (-\infty, a)$ .

Since  $x < b$ , we have  $x \in (-\infty, b)$ .

Now,  $x \in (-\infty, b)$  and  $x \notin (-\infty, a)$ , so  $x \in (-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a)$ .

Therefore,  $[a, b] \subseteq (-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a)$ .

Therefore,  $(-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a) = [a, b]$ .

Therefore, if  $a < b$ , then  $(-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a) = [a, b]$ .

Therefore,  $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $a < b$ , then  $(-\infty, b) \setminus (-\infty, a) = [a, b]$ .  $\square$

33. Prove  $(-\infty, 3] \setminus (1, 2) = (-\infty, 1] \cup [2, 3]$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in (-\infty, 3] \setminus (1, 2)$ .

Then  $x \in (-\infty, 3]$ , so  $x \leq 3$ , and  $x \notin (1, 2)$ , so either  $x \leq 1$  or  $2 \leq x$ .

Case 1:  $x \leq 1$ .

In this case, we have  $x \in (-\infty, 1]$ , so  $x \in (-\infty, 1] \cup [2, 3]$ .

Case 2:  $2 \leq x$ .

Now,  $2 \leq x$  and  $x \leq 3$ , so  $x \in [2, 3]$ .

This implies that  $x \in (-\infty, 1] \cup [2, 3]$ .

Therefore,  $(-\infty, 3] \setminus (1, 2) \subseteq (-\infty, 1] \cup [2, 3]$ .

Conversely, let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in (-\infty, 1] \cup [2, 3]$ .

Then  $x \in (-\infty, 1]$  or  $x \in [2, 3]$ .

Case 1:  $x \in (-\infty, 1]$ .

In this case,  $x \leq 1$ , so  $x \notin (1, 2)$ .

Also, since  $x \leq 1$  and  $1 \leq 3$ , we have  $x \leq 3$ , so  $x \in (-\infty, 3]$ .

Now,  $x \in (-\infty, 3]$  and  $x \notin (1, 2)$ , so  $x \in (-\infty, 3] \setminus (1, 2)$ .

Case 2:  $x \in [2, 3]$ .

In this case,  $2 \leq x$ , so  $x \notin (1, 2)$ , and  $x \leq 3$ , so  $x \in (-\infty, 3]$ .

Again, we have  $x \in (-\infty, 3]$  and  $x \notin (1, 2)$ , so  $x \in (-\infty, 3] \setminus (1, 2)$ .

Therefore,  $(-\infty, 1] \cup [2, 3] \subseteq (-\infty, 3] \setminus (1, 2)$ .

Therefore,  $(-\infty, 3] \setminus (1, 2) = (-\infty, 1] \cup [2, 3]$ .  $\square$

34. Let  $A = (-7, 1)$  and  $B = [-2, 17]$ . Find  $A \cup B$ . Prove your result.

*Solution.*

$$A \cup B = (-7, 17). \quad \square$$

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in A \cup B$ .

Then  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ .

Case 1:  $x \in A$ .

In this case, we have  $x \in (-7, 1)$ , so  $-7 < x$  and  $x < 1$ .

Since  $x < 1$  and  $1 < 17$ , we have  $x < 17$ .

Now,  $-7 < x$  and  $x < 17$ , so  $x \in (-7, 17)$ .

Case 2:  $x \in B$ .

Then  $x \in [-2, 17]$ , so  $2 \leq x$  and  $x < 17$ .

Since  $-7 < 2$  and  $2 \leq x$ , we have  $-7 < x$ .

Again,  $-7 < x$  and  $x < 17$ , so  $x \in (-7, 17)$ .

Therefore,  $A \cup B \subseteq (-7, 17)$ .

Conversely, let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in (-7, 17)$ .

Then  $-7 < x$  and  $x < 17$ . We consider two cases:  $x < 1$  and  $1 \leq x$ .

Case 1:  $x < 1$ .

In this case,  $-7 < x$  and  $x < 1$ , so  $x \in A$ . Thus,  $x \in A \cup B$ .

Case 2:  $1 \leq x$ .

Since  $-2 \leq 1$  and  $1 \leq x$ , we have  $-2 \leq x$ .

Now,  $-2 \leq x$  and  $x < 17$ , so  $x \in B$ . Thus,  $x \in A \cup B$ .

Therefore,  $(-7, 17) \subseteq A \cup B$ .

Therefore,  $A \cup B = (-7, 17)$ .  $\square$

35. Prove  $\langle 5 \rangle \cap \langle 4 \rangle = \langle 20 \rangle$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  and assume  $x \in \langle 5 \rangle \cap \langle 4 \rangle$ .

Then  $x \in \langle 5 \rangle$  and  $x \in \langle 4 \rangle$ .

Choose  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x = 5a$  and  $x = 4b$ .

Let  $c = b - a$ .

$$x = 5x - 4x = 5(4b) - 4(5a) = 20b - 20a = 20c.$$

Therefore,  $\exists c \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x = 20c$ . Thus,  $x \in \langle 20 \rangle$ .

Therefore,  $\langle 5 \rangle \cap \langle 4 \rangle \subseteq \langle 20 \rangle$

Conversely, let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  and assume  $x \in \langle 20 \rangle$ .

Accordingly, choose  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $x = 20q$ .

Let  $s = 4q$ .

$$\text{Then } x = 20q = 5(4q) = 5s.$$

Therefore,  $\exists s \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x = 5s$ , which means  $x \in \langle 5 \rangle$ .

Let  $t = 5q$ .

$$x = 20q = 4(5q) = 4t.$$

Therefore,  $\exists t \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x = 4t$ . Thus,  $x \in \langle 4 \rangle$ .

We now have  $x \in \langle 5 \rangle$  and  $x \in \langle 4 \rangle$ , which means  $x \in \langle 5 \rangle \cap \langle 4 \rangle$ .

Therefore,  $\langle 20 \rangle \subseteq \langle 5 \rangle \cap \langle 4 \rangle$ .

Therefore,  $\langle 5 \rangle \cap \langle 4 \rangle = \langle 20 \rangle$ . □

36. Prove  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, 3n) = [1, \infty)$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, 3n)$ .

This means  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x \in [1, 3n)$ . Choose such an  $n$ .

Since  $x \in [1, 3n)$ , we have  $1 \leq x$  and  $x < 3n$ .

Since  $1 \leq x$ , we have  $x \in [1, \infty)$ .

Therefore,  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, 3n) \subseteq [1, \infty)$ .

Conversely, let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in [1, \infty)$ .

Then  $1 \leq x$ .

By the Archimedean property, since  $0 < 3$ ,  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x < 3n$ . Choose such an  $n$ .

Now,  $1 \leq x$  and  $x < 3n$ , so  $x \in [1, 3n)$ .

Therefore,  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x \in [1, 3n)$ .

This means  $x \in \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, 3n)$ .

Therefore,  $[1, \infty) \subseteq \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, 3n)$ .

Therefore,  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, 3n) = [1, \infty)$ . □

37. Prove  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, n+1) = [1, 2)$ .

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, n+1)$ .

This means  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in [1, n+1)$ .

Since  $1 \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $x \in [1, 1+1)$ , which means  $x \in [1, 2)$ .

Therefore,  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, n+1) \subseteq [1, 2)$ .

Conversely, let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and assume  $x \in [1, 2)$ .

This means  $1 \leq x$  and  $x < 2$ .

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Then  $1 \leq n$ , so  $2 \leq n+1$ .

Since  $x < 2$  and  $2 \leq n+1$ , we have  $x < n+1$ .

Now,  $1 \leq x$  and  $x < n+1$ , so  $x \in [1, n+1)$ .

Therefore,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in [1, n+1)$ .

This means  $x \in \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, n+1)$ .

Therefore,  $[1, 2) \subseteq \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, n+1)$ .

Therefore,  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, n+1) = [1, 2)$ .  $\square$

38. For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $\equiv_n^2$  be the relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$  given by:  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{Z}, x \equiv_n^2 y$  means  $(x-y)(x+y) \in \langle n \rangle$ . Prove  $\equiv_n^2$  is an equivalence relation.

*Proof.*

Let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Then  $(x-x)(x+x) = 0(2x) = 0 = 0n$ . Thus,  $(x-x)(x+x) \in \langle n \rangle$ .

Therefore,  $x \equiv_n^2 x$ .

Therefore,  $\equiv_n^2$  is reflexive.

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume  $x \equiv_n^2 y$ . Then  $(x-y)(x+y) \in \langle n \rangle$ .

Let  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $(x-y)(x+y) = nq$ .

Then  $(y-x)(y+x) = -(x-y)(x+y) = -nq = n(-q)$ .

Thus,  $(y-x)(y+x) \in \langle n \rangle$ , meaning  $y \equiv_n^2 x$ .

Therefore, if  $x \equiv_n^2 y$ , then  $y \equiv_n^2 x$ .

Therefore,  $\equiv_n^2$  is symmetric.

Let  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume  $x \equiv_n^2 y$  and  $y \equiv_n^2 z$ . Then  $(x-y)(x+y) \in \langle n \rangle$  and  $(y-z)(y+z) \in \langle n \rangle$ .

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $(x-y)(x+y) = an$  and  $(y-z)(y+z) = bn$ .

Then  $x^2 - y^2 = an$  and  $y^2 - z^2 = bn$ .

Adding these equations gives  $x^2 - z^2 = an + bn = (a+b)n$ .

Thus,  $(x-z)(x+z) \in \langle n \rangle$ , and so  $x \equiv_n^2 z$ .

Therefore, if  $x \equiv_n^2 y$  and  $y \equiv_n^2 z$ , then  $x \equiv_n^2 z$ .

Therefore,  $\equiv_n^2$  is transitive.

Q.E.D.  $\square$

39. Let  $R$  be the relation  $R = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid 2x \leq 3y\}$ . Prove  $R$  is not reflexive,  $R$  is not symmetric,  $R$  is not antisymmetric, and  $R$  is not transitive.

*Proof.*

Let  $x = -1$ .

Then  $3x = -3$  and  $2x = -2$ . Since  $-3 < -2$ , we have  $3x < 2x$ , which means  $x \not R x$ . Therefore,  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}, x \not R x$ . This means  $R$  is not reflexive.

Next, let  $x = 1$  and  $y = 2$ .

Then  $2x = 2 \leq 6 = 3y$ , and so  $x R y$ . However,  $2y = 4$  and  $3x = 3$ , so  $3x < 2y$ . Thus,  $y \not R x$ . Therefore,  $\exists x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x R y$ , but  $y \not R x$ . This means  $R$  is not symmetric.

Next, let  $x = 3$  and  $y = 4$ .

Then  $2x = 6 \leq 12 = 3y$ , so  $x R y$ . Also,  $2y = 8 \leq 9 = 3x$ , so  $y R x$ .

However,  $x \neq y$ .

Therefore,  $\exists x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x R y$  and  $y R x$ , but  $x \neq y$ . This means  $R$  is not antisymmetric.

Finally, let  $x = 5$ ,  $y = 4$ , and  $z = 3$ .

$2x = 10 \leq 12 = 3y$ , so  $x R y$ . Also,  $2y = 8 \leq 9 = 3z$ , so  $y R z$ .

However,  $2x = 10$  and  $3z = 9$ , so  $3z < 2x$ . Thus,  $x \not R z$ .

Therefore,  $\exists x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}, x R y$  and  $y R z$ , but  $x \not R z$ . This means  $R$  is not transitive.  $\square$

40. Let  $R$  be the relation  $R = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \mid \exists n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, y = 2^n x\}$ . Prove  $R$  is antisymmetric.

*Proof.*

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $x R y$  and  $y R x$ .

This means  $\exists n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, y = 2^n x$  and  $\exists m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, x = 2^m y$ .

Choose  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  with  $y = 2^n x$ , and choose  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  with  $x = 2^m y$ .

Then  $x = 2^{m+n} x$ ; hence either  $x = 0$  or  $1 = 2^{m+n}$ .

Case 1:  $x = 0$ .

In this case,  $y = 2^n x = 2^n(0) = 0$ ; thus  $y = x$ .

Case 2:  $1 = 2^{m+n}$ .

Since  $m + n < 2^{m+n}$  (Proposition 1.2.20), we have  $m + n < 1$ ; hence  $m + n \leq 0$ .

Since  $0 \leq n$ , we have  $m \leq m + n \leq 0$ , and so  $m \leq 0$ . Since we also have  $0 \leq m$ , this means  $m = 0$ .

Now,  $x = 2^m y = 2^0 y = (1)y = y$ .

Therefore, if  $x R y$  and  $y R x$ , then  $x = y$ .

Therefore,  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x R y$  and  $y R x$ , then  $x = y$ .

Thus,  $R$  is antisymmetric.  $\square$