

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 $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ if } \forall x \in (a, \infty), b \leq x, \text{ then } b \leq a.$

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

Solution.

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

□

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.

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

□

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

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

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 $a = 1$. □

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 $a = 0$. □

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 . □

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 $a < y$. □

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

Proof.

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

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. □

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 $x, y, z \in \mathcal{B}$.

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. □

Alternate Proof.

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

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. □

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

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

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. □

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. □

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 $8^x - 1$. □

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

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 $A = U$. □

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 $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$. □

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 $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$. □

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 $A \subseteq B \cap C$. □

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 $A \subseteq B \cap C$. □

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

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

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

Solution.

$A \cup B = (-7, 17)$. □

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, $A \cup B = (-7, 17)$. □

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 $s = 4q$.

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

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 $0 < 3 - x$, $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$, $x < 3n$. 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, $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [1, n+1) = [1, 2)$. □

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. □

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