
Math 311W

Worksheet for April 6-7

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Exercise 1) A budding mathematician was trying to remember the rules of operation between sets using the rules of operations between numbers as an example. Are the following "simplification" rules true or false? Investigate each one of them to decide whether it is true or false. Provide a proof or a counterexample. Let A, B, C be three subsets of a universal set U .

(a) If $A \cap B = A \cap C, \implies B = C$

This is false, Consider:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{2, 3\}, B = \{3, 4\}, C = \{3, 8\} \\ A \cap B &= A \cap C = \{3\} \\ B &\neq C \end{aligned}$$

(b) If $A \cup B = A \cup C, \implies B = C$

This is false, Consider:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{1, 2\}, B = \{1\}, C = \{2\} \\ A \cup B &= A \cup C = \{1, 2\} \\ B &\neq C \end{aligned}$$

(c) If $A \times B = A \times C, \implies B = C$

This is true, proof by double inclusion:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } x &\in B, a \in A \\ \implies (a, x) &\in A \times B \\ \implies (a, x) &\in A \times C \\ \implies x &\in C \\ \implies B &\subseteq C \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } x &\in C, a \in A \\ \implies (a, x) &\in A \times C \\ \implies (a, x) &\in A \times B \\ \implies x &\in B \\ \implies C &\subseteq B \end{aligned}$$

$$\implies B = C$$

□

(d) If $B' = C'$, $\implies B = C$

This is true, proof by double inclusion:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } x \in B \\ \implies x \notin B' \\ \implies x \notin C' \\ \implies x \in C \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } x \in C \\ \implies x \notin C' \\ \implies x \notin B' \\ \implies x \in B \end{aligned}$$

$$\implies B = C$$

□

Exercise 2) Let $A = \{\text{integer numbers}\} = \mathbb{Z}$. On it define the relation D as follows:

Let a and b be elements of \mathbb{Z} .

$a D b \iff a$ and b have the same number of digits (i.e. number of digits of a = number of digits of b).

Check which ones of the four properties (reflexive, symmetric, transitive, antisymmetric) D has. Provide a proof or a counterexample to support your conclusion.

Assume each element is expressed in base 10, then the number of digits in a number n , is exactly $\log_{10} n + 1$. Let $F(x) = \log_{10} x + 1$ be a function which counts the number of digits in x .

(a) Reflexive

D is reflexive trivially:

$$F(a) = F(a)$$

(b) Symmetric

D is symmetric:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Assume } a D b \\ \implies F(a) = F(b) \\ \implies F(b) = F(a) \\ \implies b D a \end{aligned}$$

(c) Transitive

D is transitive:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } c \in A \\ \text{Assume } a D b \wedge b D c \\ \implies F(a) = F(b) \wedge F(b) = F(c) \\ \implies F(a) = F(c) \\ \implies a D c \end{aligned}$$

(d) Antisymmetric

D is antisymmetric:

$$\text{Assume } aDb \wedge bDa$$

$$\implies F(a) = F(b) \wedge F(b) = F(a)$$

$$\implies a = b$$

Exercise 3) On the set $A = \{\text{integer numbers}\} = \mathcal{C}$, define the relation S as follows:

Let a and b be elements of \mathcal{C} .

$$a S b \iff b = a^2$$

Check which ones of the three properties (reflexive, symmetric, transitive) S has. Provide a proof or a counterexample to support your conclusion.

(a) Reflexive

S is not Reflexive, Consider $a = 2$:

$$2 \neq 2^2 \implies a \not S a$$

(b) Symmetric

S is not Symmetric, Consider $a = 2, b = 4$:

$$4 = 2^2 \implies a S b$$

$$2 \neq 4^2 \implies b \not S a$$

(c) Transitive

S is not Transitive, Consider $a = 2, b = 4, c = 16$:

$$4 = 2^2 \wedge 16 = 4^2 \implies a S b \wedge b S c$$

$$16 \neq 2^2 \implies a \not S c$$

Exercise 4) Let $A = \{\text{all polynomials of degree 5 with real coefficients}\}$ On it define the relation Z as follows:

Let P and Q be elements of A .

$$P Z Q \iff P \text{ has the same zeros as } Q$$

Check which ones of the four properties (reflexive, symmetric, transitive, antisymmetric) Z has. Provide a proof or a counterexample to support your conclusion.

(a) Reflexive

Z is reflexive trivially:

(b) Symmetric

Z is Symmetric, proof:

Assume $P Z Q$

Let p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5 be the roots of P

$\implies p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5$ are the roots of Q

$\implies Q Z P$

(c) Transitive

Z is Transitive, proof:

Let $\Delta \in A$

Assume $PZQ \wedge QZ\Delta$

$$\begin{aligned} & p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5 \text{ are the roots of } P \\ \implies & p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5 \text{ are the roots of } Q \\ QZ\Delta \implies & p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5 \text{ are the roots of } \Delta \implies PZ\Delta \end{aligned}$$

(d) Antisymmetric

Z is not Antisymmetric, Consider $Q = -P$:

$$\begin{aligned} & PZQ \wedge QZP \\ & Q \neq P \end{aligned}$$
