PMATH351 - Real Analysis

CLASSNOTES FOR FALL 2018

bv

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1 Lecture 1 Sep 06th

1.1 Course Logistics

No content is covered in today's lecture so this chapter will cover some of the important logistical highlights that were mentioned in class.

- Assignments are designed to help students understand the content.
- Due to shortage of manpower, not all assignment questions will be graded; however, students are encouraged to attempt all of the questions.
- To further motivate students to work on ungraded questions, the midterm and final exam will likely recycle some of the assignment questions.
- There are no required text, but the professor has prepared course notes for reading. The course note are self-contained.
- The approach of the class will be more interactive than most math courses.
- Due to the size of the class, students are encouraged to utilize Waterloo Learn for questions, so that similar questions by multiple students can be addressed at the same time.

1.2 *Preview into the Introduction*

How do we compare the size of two sets?

- If the sets are finite, this is a relatively easy task.
- If the sets are infinite, we will have to rely on functions.

- Injective functions tell us that the domain is of size that is lesser than or equal to the codomain.
- Surjective functions tell us that the codomain is of size that is lesser than or equal to the domain.
- So does a bijective function tell us that the domain and codomain have the same size? Yes, although this is not as intuitive as it looks, as it relies on Cantor-Schröder-Bernstein Theorem.

Now, given two arbitrary sets, are we guaranteed to always be able to compare their sizes? It would be very tempting to immediately say yes, but to do that, one would have to agree on the Axiom of Choice. Fortunately, within the realm of this course, the Axiom of Choice is taken for granted.

2 Lecture 2 Sep 10th

2.1 Basic Set Theory

We shall use the following notations for some of the common set of numbers that we are already familiar with:

- N denotes the set of natural numbers {1,2,3,...};
- \mathbb{Z} denotes the set of integers {..., -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, ...};
- Q denotes the set of rational numbers $\left\{\frac{a}{b} \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$; and
- \mathbb{R} denotes the set of real numbers.

We shall start with having certain basic properties of \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{Z} , and \mathbb{Q} .

WE WILL USE the notation $A \subset B$ and $A \subseteq B$ interchangably to mean that A is a subset of B with the possibility that A = B. When we wish to explicitly emphasize this possibility, we shall use $A \subseteq B$. When we wish to explicitly state that A is a **proper subset** of B, we will either specify that $A \neq B$ or simply $A \subseteq B$.

Definition 1 (Universal Set)

A universal set, which we shall generally give the label X, is a set that contains all the mathematical objects that we are interested in.

With a universal set in place, we can have the following definitions:

Definition 2 (Union)

This is a hand-wavy definition, but it is not in the interest of this course to further explore on this topic.

Let X be a set. If $\{A_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha}\in I}$ such that $A_{\alpha}\subset X$, then the union for all A_{α} is defined as

$$\bigcup_{\alpha\in I}A_{\alpha}:=\{x\in X\mid \exists \alpha\in I, x\in A_{\alpha}\}.$$

Definition 3 (Intersection)

Let X be a set. If $\{A_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha}\in I}$ such that $A_{\alpha}\subset X$, then the **intersection** for all A_{α} is defined as

$$\bigcap_{\alpha\in I}A_{\alpha}:=\{x\in X\mid \forall \alpha\in I, x\in A_{\alpha}\}.$$

Definition 4 (Set Difference)

Let X be a set and A, $B \subseteq X$. The **set difference** of A from B is defined as

$$A \setminus B := \{ x \in X \mid x \in A, x \notin B \}.$$

On a similar notion:

Definition 5 (Symmetric Difference)

Let X be a set and A, B \subseteq X. The **symmetric difference** of A and B is defined as

$$A\Delta B := \{ x \in X \mid (x \in A \land x \notin B) \lor (x \notin A \land x \in B) \}.$$

We can also talk about the non-members of a set:

In words, for an element in the symmetric difference of two sets, the element is either in A or B but not both. We can also think of the symmetric difference

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

or

 $(A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A).$

Definition 6 (Set Complement)

Let X be a set and $A \subset X$. The set of all non-members of A is called the **complement** of A, which we denote as

$$A^c := \{ x \in X \mid x \notin A \}.$$

66 Note

Note that

$$(A^c)^c = \{x \in X \mid x \notin A^c\} = \{x \in X \mid x \in A\} = A.$$

Now taking a step away from that, we define the following:

Definition 7 (Empty Set)

An *empty set*, denoted by \emptyset , is a set that contains nothing.

66 Note

The empty set is set to be a subset of all sets.

Definition 8 (Power Set)

Let X be a set. The power set of X is the set that contains all subsets of X,

$$\mathcal{P}(X) := \{ A \mid A \subset X \}.$$

66 Note

A power set is always non-empty, since $\emptyset \in \mathcal{P}(\emptyset)$ *, and since* $\emptyset \subset X$ *for* any set X, we have $\emptyset \in \mathcal{P}(X)$.

Example 2.1.1

Let $X = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$. There are several ways we can show that the size of $\mathcal{P}(X)$ is 2^n . One of the methods is by using a characteristic function that

maps from A to $\{0,1\}$, defined by

$$X_A: A \to \{0,1\}$$

$$X_A(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in A \\ 0 & x \notin A \end{cases}.$$

Using this function, each element in X have 2 states: one being in the subset, and the other being not in the subset, which are represented by 1 and 0 respectively. It is then clear that there are 2^n of such configurations.

Theorem 1 (De Morgan's Laws)

Let X be a set. Given $\{A_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha}\in I}\subset \mathcal{P}(X)$, we have

1.
$$\left(\bigcup_{\alpha\in I}A_{\alpha}\right)^{c}=\bigcap_{\alpha\in I}A_{\alpha}^{c}$$
; and

2.
$$\left(\bigcap_{lpha\in I}A_lpha\right)^c=igcup_{lpha\in I}A_lpha^c$$
.

Proof

1. Note that

$$x \in \left(\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha}\right)^{c} \iff \nexists \alpha \in I \ x \in A_{\alpha}$$

$$\iff \forall \alpha \in I \ x \notin A_{\alpha}$$

$$\iff \forall \alpha \in I \ x \in A_{\alpha}^{c} \text{ by set complementation}$$

$$\iff x \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha}^{c}.$$

2. Observe that, by part 1,

$$\left(\bigcap_{\alpha\in I}A_{\alpha}\right)^{c}=\left(\left(\bigcup_{\alpha\in I}A_{\alpha}^{c}\right)^{c}\right)^{c}=\bigcup_{\alpha\in I}A_{\alpha}^{c}.$$

Suppose $I = \emptyset$. Then what is $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \emptyset} A_{\alpha}$? It is sensible to think that all we are left with is simply a union of empty sets, and so

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in \emptyset} A_{\alpha} = \emptyset. \tag{2.1}$$

And what about $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \emptyset} A_{\alpha}$? By \blacksquare Theorem 1, it is quite clear from Equation (2.1) that

$$\bigcap_{\alpha\in\emptyset}A_{\alpha}=X.$$

2.2 *Products of Sets*

Definition 9 (Product of Sets)

Given 2 sets X and Y, the **product** of X and Y is given by

$$X \times Y := \{(x,y) \mid x \in X, y \in Y\}.$$

We often refer to elements of $X \times Y$ as **tuples**.

66 Note

Now if

$$X = \{x_1, x_2, ..., x_n\},\$$

 $Y = \{y_1, y_2, ..., y_m\},\$

then

$$X \times Y = \{(x_i, y_i) \mid i = 1, 2, ..., n, j = 1, 2, ..., m\}$$

and so the size of $X \times Y$ is mn.

Consequently, we can think of tuples as two elements being in some "relation".

Definition 10 (Relation)

A **relation** on sets X and Y is a subset R of the product $X \times Y$. We write

$$xRy$$
 if $(x,y) \in R \subset X \times Y$.

We call

• $\{x \in X \mid \exists y \in Y, (x,y) \in R\}$ as the domain of R; and

• $\{y \in Y \mid \exists x \in X, (x,y) \in R\}$ as the range of R.

In relation to that, functions are, essentially, relations.

Definition 11 (Function)

A function from X to Y is a relation R such that

$$\forall x \in X \exists ! y \in Y (x, y) \in R.$$

Suppose $X_1, X_2, ..., X_n$ are non-empty¹ sets. We can define

$$X_1 \times X_2 \times ... \times X_n = \prod_{i=1}^n X_i := \{(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) \mid x_i \in X_i\}.$$

Now if $X_i = X_j = X$ for all i, j = 1, 2, ..., n, we write

$$\prod_{i=1}^n X_i = \prod_{i=1}^n X = X^n.$$

And now comes the problem: given a collection $\{X_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha\in I}$ of non-empty sets², what do we mean by

$$\prod_{\alpha \in I} X_{\alpha}?$$

To motivate for what comes next, consider

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n} X_{i} = X_{1} \times \ldots \times X_{n} = \{(x_{1}, ..., x_{n}) \mid x_{i} \in X_{i}\}.$$

Choose $(x_1,...,x_n) \in \prod_{i=1}^n X_i$. This induces a function

$$f_{(x_1,...,x_n)}: \{1,...,n\} \to \bigcup_{i=1}^n X_i$$

¹ We are typically only interested in non-empty sets, since empty sets usually lead us to vacuous truths, which are not interesting.

² i.e. we now talk about arbitrary $\alpha \in I$.

with

$$f(1) = x_1 \in X_1$$

$$f(2) = x_2 \in X_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$f(n) = x_n \in X_n$$

Now assume for a more general *f* such that

$$f:\{1,...,n\}\to \bigcup_{i=1}^n X_i$$

is defined by

$$f(i) \in X_i$$
.

Then, we have

$$(f(1), f(2), ..., f(n)) \in \prod_{i=1}^{n} X_i,$$

which leads us to the following notion:

Definition 12 (Choice Function)

Given a collection $\{X_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha}\in I}$ of non-empty sets, let

$$\prod_{\alpha \in I} X_{\alpha} = \left\{ f : I \to \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} X_{\alpha} \right\}$$

such that $f(\alpha) \in X_{\alpha}$. Such an f is called a choice function.

And so we may ask a similar question as before: if each X_{α} is nonempty, is $\prod_{\alpha \in I} X_{\alpha}$ non-empty? Turns out this is not as easy to show. In fact, it is essentially impossible to show, because this is exactly the Axiom of Choice.

3 Lecture 3 Sep 12th

3.1 Axiom of Choice

Recall our final question of last lecture: If $\{X_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I}$ is a non-empty collection of non-empty sets, is

$$\prod_{\alpha\in I}X_{\alpha}\neq\emptyset$$
?

Turns out this is widely known (in the world of mathematics) as the Axiom of Choice.

■ Axiom 2 (Zermelo's Axiom of Choice)

If $\{X_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I}$ is a non-empty collection of non-empty sets, then

$$\prod_{\alpha\in I}X_{\alpha}\neq\emptyset.$$

An equivalent statement of the above axiom is:

▼ Axiom 3 (Zermelo's Axiom of Choice v2)

$$X \neq \emptyset \implies$$

$$\exists f: \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \to X \ \forall A \in \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \ f(A) \in A$$

where f is the choice function.

Exercise 3.1.1

Prove that \mathbf{U} *Axiom 2 and* \mathbf{U} *Axiom 3 are equivalent.*

Proof

From **□** Axiom 2 to **□** Axiom 3:

Since $X \neq \emptyset$, we have that $\mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ is a non-empty collection of non-empty sets. Therefore,

$$\prod_{A\in\mathcal{P}(X)\setminus\{\emptyset\}}A\neq\emptyset.$$

So we know that

$$\exists (x_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\}} \in \prod_{A \in \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\}} A.$$

We then simply need to choose the choice function $f: \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \to X$ such that

$$f(A) = x_A \in A$$
.

From \mathbf{V} Axiom 3 to \mathbf{V} Axiom 2:

Let $X_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ for $\alpha \in I$, where I is some index set. We know that not all $X_{\alpha} = \emptyset$ since $X \neq \emptyset$. Choose $J \subseteq I$ such that $\{X_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in J}$ is a non-empty collection of non-empty sets. Let $f : \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ be any choice function. By \P Axiom 3,

$$\forall X_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \quad f(X_{\alpha}) \in X_{\alpha}.$$

Therefore,

$$(f(X_{\alpha}))_{\alpha\in J}\in\prod_{\alpha\in J}X_{\alpha}.$$

3.2 Relations

Now, it is in our interest to start talking about comparisons or relations between the mathematical objects that we have defined.

Definition 13 (Relations)

A relation R on a set X is 1

- (*Reflexive*) $\forall x \in X \ xRx$;
- (Symmetric) $\forall x, y \in X \ xRy \iff yRx$;
- (Anti-symmetric) $\forall x, y \in X \ xRy \land yRx \implies x = y$;
- (Transitive) $\forall x, y, z \in X \ xRy \land yRz \implies xRz$.

Example 3.2.1

Let $X = \mathbb{R}$, and let $xRy \iff x \leq y$, where \leq is the notion of "less than or equal to", which we shall assume that it has the meaning that we know. *Observe that* \leq *is:*

- reflexive: $\forall x \in \mathbb{R} \ x \leq x$ is true;
- anti-symmetric: $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R} \ x \leq y \land y \leq x \implies x = y$; and
- transitive: $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R} \ x \le y \land y \le z \implies x \le z$.

Example 3.2.2

Let $Y \neq \emptyset$, $X = \mathcal{P}(Y)$, with ARB \iff $A \subseteq B$. Observe that \subseteq is:

- reflexive: $\forall A \in \mathcal{P}(Y) \ ARA \iff A \subseteq A \text{ is true};$
- anti-symmetric: $\forall A, B \in \mathcal{P}(Y) \ ARB \land BRA \iff A \subseteq B \land B \subseteq$ $A \implies A = B$;
- transitive: $\forall A, B, C \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$ $ARB \land BRC \iff A \subseteq B \land B \subseteq C \implies$ $A \subseteq C$.

Example 3.2.3

Let $Y \neq \emptyset$, $X = \mathcal{P}(Y)$, with ARB \iff $A \supseteq B$. Observe that \supseteq is:

- reflexive: $\forall A \in \mathcal{P}(Y) \ ARA \iff A \subseteq A$;
- anti-symmetric: $\forall A, B \in \mathcal{P}(Y) \ ARB \land BRA \iff A \supseteq B \land B \supseteq$ $A \implies A = B$;
- transitive: $\forall A, B, C \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$ $ARB \land BRC \iff A \supseteq B \land B \supseteq C \implies$ $A \supseteq C$.

All the above examples are also known as partially ordered sets.

- ¹ We can look at this definition as $R \subseteq X \times X$. Under such a definition, we would have
- (Reflexive) $\forall x \in X \ (x, x) \in R$;
- (Symmetric) $\forall x, y \in X (x, y) \in$
- (Anti-symmetric) $\forall x, y \in$
- (Transitive) $\forall x, y, z \in$

Definition 14 (Partially Ordered Sets)

The set X with the relation R on X is called a partially ordered set (or a poset) if R is

- reflexive;
- anti-symmetric; and
- transitive

We denote a poset by (X, R).

The "partial" in 'partially ordered" indicates that not every pair of elements need to be comparable, i.e. there may be pairs for which neither precedes the other (anti-symmetry).

66 Note

If (X, R) is a poset, then if $A \subseteq X$, and $R_1 = R \upharpoonright_{A \times A}$, then (A, R_1) is also a poset.

Example 3.2.4

How many possible relations can we define on these sets to make them into posets?

1.
$$X = \emptyset$$

Solution

We have that $R = \emptyset \times \emptyset$, and so the only relation we have is an empty relation. Then it is vacuously true that (X, R) a poset.

2.
$$X = \{x\}$$

Solution

We have that $R = X \times X = \{(x, x)\}$. It it clear that (X, R) is a poset.

3.
$$X = \{x, y\}$$

Solution

There are 3 possible relations:

- *a relation where xRx and yRy;*
- *a relation where xRy; or*
- *a relation where yRx*.

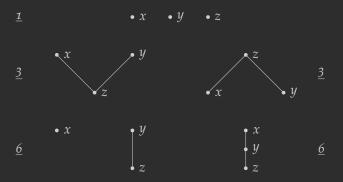
4.
$$X = \{x, y, z\}$$

3 possibilities represented as graphs (known as Hasse diagram), separated by lines:



Solution

The following are all the possibilities represented by graphs, where the underlined numbers represent the number of ways we can rearrange the elements for unique relations:



Therefore, we see that there are a total of

$$1+3+3+6+6=19$$
 relations.

Exercise 3.2.1

How many possible relations can we define on a set of 6 elements to the set into a poset?

Solution

to be added

Definition 15 (Totally Ordered Sets / Chains)

The set X with the relation R on X is called a totally ordered set (or a chain) if (X, R) is a poset with the exception that, for any $x, y \in X$, either xRy or yRx but not both.

Definition 16 (Bounds)

Let (X, \leq) be a poset. Let $A \subset X$. We say $x_0 \in X$ is an upper bound for A if

$$\forall a \in A \quad a \leq x_0.$$

If A has an upper bound, we say that A is bounded above. If A is bounded above, then x_0 is the least upper bound (or supremum) of A is for any $x_1 \in X$ that is an upper bound of A, we have

$$x_0 \leq x_1$$
.

We write $x_0 = \text{lub}(A) = \sup(A)$. If $\sup(A) \in A$, then $\sup(A) = \max(A)$ is the maximum of A.

We can analogously define for:

upper bound \rightarrow lower bound

bounded above \rightarrow bounded below

least upper bound, lub \rightarrow greatest lower bound, glb

supremum, $\sup \rightarrow infimum$, inf

 $maximum, max \rightarrow minimum, min$

66 Note

By anti-symmetry of posets, we have that max, sup, min, inf are all unique if they exists.

Example 3.2.5 (Least Upper Bound Property of R)

Let $X = \mathbb{R}$, and \leq be the order that we have defined. Every bounded nonempty subset of X has a supremum.

Example 3.2.6

Let $Y \neq \emptyset$, and $X = \mathcal{P}(Y)$, and \subseteq the ordering by inclusion. We know that Y is the maximum element of (X, \subseteq) . Then the collection $\{A_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha} \in I} \subset \mathcal{P}(Y)$ is bounded above by Y, and we have that

$$\sup (\{A_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I}) = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha}$$

$$\inf (\{A_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I}) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha}$$

Now if $Y = \emptyset$, we would end up having

$$\sup (\{A_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I}) = \emptyset$$

$$\inf (\{A_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in I}) = X$$

But this makes sense, since the empty set would be the least of upper bounds, and since $X = \mathcal{P}(Y)$ would have to be the greatest of lower bounds.

4 Lecture 4 Sep 14th

4.1 Zorn's Lemma

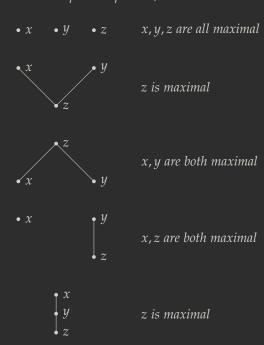
Definition 17 (Maximal Element)

Let (X, \leq) be a poset. An element $x \in X$ is maximal if whenever $y \in X$ is such that $x \leq y$, we must have y = x.

Example 4.1.1

Looking back at Example 3.2.4, on the set $X = \{x, y, z\}$, we have that the maximal element in each possible poset is/are:

This shows to us that the maximal element does not have to be unique.



Example 4.1.2

- Given $X \neq \emptyset$, the maximal element of the poset $(\mathcal{P}(X), \subseteq)$ is X.
- Given $X \neq \emptyset$, the maximal element of the poset $(\mathcal{P}(X), \supseteq)$ is \emptyset .
- The poset (\mathbb{R}, \leq) has no maximal element.

▼ Axiom 4 (Zorn's Lemma)

If (X, \leq) is a non-empty poset such that every chain $S \subset X$ has an upper bound, then (X, \leq) has a maximal element.

■ Theorem 5 (★Non-Zero Vector Spaces has a Basis)

Every non-zero vector space, V, has a basis.

Proof (★)

Let

 $\mathcal{L} := \{ A \subset V \mid A \text{ is linearly independent } \}.$

Note that $\mathcal{L} \neq \emptyset$ since $V \neq \{0\}$. Now order elements of \mathcal{L} with \subseteq . It suffices to show that (\mathcal{L}, \subseteq) has a maximal element, since this maximal element must be a basis. Otherwise, we would contradict the maximality of such an element.¹

Now let $S = \{A_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha} \in I}$ be a chain in \mathcal{L} . Let

$$A_0 = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha}.$$

Require clarification before proceeding...

The flow of this proof is a typical approach when Zorn's Lemma is involved.

¹ This is the key to this proof.

Definition 18 (Well-Ordered)

We say that a poset (X, \leq) is well-ordered if every non-empty subset $A \subset X$ has a least/minimal element in A.

Exercise 4.1.1

Prove that well-ordered sets are chains.

Example 4.1.3

 (\mathbb{N}, \leq) is well-ordered.

▼ Axiom 6 (Well-Ordering Principle)

Every non-empty set can be well-ordered.

Theorem 7 (Axioms of Choice and Its Equivalents)

TFAE:

- 1. Axiom of Choice, **Ū** Axiom 2
- 2. Zorn's Lemma, **U** Axiom 4
- 3. Well-Ordering Principle, \mathbf{V} Axiom 6.

Exercise 4.1.2 Prove 👤 Theorem 7

Proof

 $(3) \implies (1)$ is simple; let the choice function be such that we pick the minimal element from each set among a non-empty collection of nonempty sets. It is clear that the product of these sets will always have an element, in particular the tuple where each component is the minimal element of each set.

The rest will be added once I've worked it out

Example 4.1.4

Let $X = \mathbb{Q}$. *Let* $\phi : \mathbb{Q} \to \mathbb{N}$ *be defined such that*

$$\phi\left(\frac{m}{n}\right) = \begin{cases} 2^{m}5^{n} & m > 0\\ 1 & m = 1\\ 3^{-m}7^{n} & m < 0 \end{cases}$$

By the unique prime factorization of natural numbers (or Fundamen*tal Theorem of Arithmetic*), we have that ϕ is injective. In fact,

$$r \leq s \iff \phi(r) \leq \phi(s)$$
,

showing to us that we have a well-ordering on Q.

4.2 Cardinality

4.2.1 Equivalence Relation

Definition 19 (Equivalence Relation)

Let X be non-empty set. A relation \sim on X is an equivalence relation if it is

- reflexive;
- symmetric; and
- transitive.

Definition 20 (Equivalence Class)

Let X be a non-empty set, and $x \in X$. An equivalence class of x under the equivalence relation \sim is defined as

$$[x] := \{ y \in X \mid x \sim y \}.$$

66 Note

Note that we either have [x] = [y] or $[x] \cap [y] = \emptyset$. This is sensible, since if $w \in [x]$, then $w \sim x$. If $w \in [y]$, then we are done. If $w \notin [y]$, suppose $\exists v \in [y]$ such that $w \sim v$, which then implies $w \in [y]$ which is a contradiction.

This results shows to us that

$$X = \bigcup_{x \in X} [x],$$

or in words, equivalence classes partition the set.

Definition 21 (Partition)

Let $X \neq \emptyset$. A partition of X is a collection $\{A_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha} \in I} \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$ such that

- 1. $A_{\alpha} \neq ;$
- 2. $A_{\alpha} \cap A_{\beta} = \emptyset$ if $\alpha \neq \beta$ in I; and
- 3. $X = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha}$.

With this, we have ourselves another method to show that \sim is an equivalence relation.

• Proposition 8 (Characterization of An Equivalence Relation)

If $\{A_{\alpha}\}_{{\alpha}\in I}$ is a partition of X and $x\sim y\iff x,y\in A_{\alpha}$, then \sim is an equivalence relation.

The proof of this statement has been stated above.

Similar to when we defined partial orders, we can ask ourselves the following question:

Example 4.2.1

How many equivalence relations are there on the set $X = \{1,2,3\}$?

Solution

Note that we can partition X as

$$\{\{1\},\{2\},\{3\}\},\{\{1,2,3\}\},$$

and

which we can rearrange in 3 different ways. Therefore, there are 5 different equivalence relations that we can define on X.

Example 4.2.2

Let X be any set. Consider $\mathcal{P}(X)$. Define \sim on $\mathcal{P}(X)$ by

$$A \sim B \iff \exists f : A \to B$$

such that f is surjective³. It is easy to verify that \sim is an equivalence relation.

equivalent to asking for the number of partitions we can create from the set X. The study of counting partitions is what is covered by Bell's Number.

² By **6** Proposition 8, this question is

 $^{^{3}}$ \sim partitions X into sets that have the same number of elements.

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