

## PSET 1 — 01/09/2024

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## Problems

## Problem 1.

Let  $A, B, C$  be subsets of a set  $S$ . Prove that

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

To show that the two sets are equal, we will show that each set is a subset of the other. That is, any arbitrary element in the first set must be in the second set, and vice versa.

(i) Let  $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$ . Then either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in (B \cap C)$ .

1. If  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in A \cup B$  and  $x \in A \cup C$ . Therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ .

2. If  $x \in (B \cap C)$ , then  $x$  is in **both**  $B$  and  $C$ .

Therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B)$  and  $x \in (A \cup C)$ .

Therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ .

(ii) Let  $x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ .

Then  $x \in (A \cup B)$  and  $x \in (A \cup C)$ . Since  $x \in (A \cup B)$ , either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ . Similarly, since  $x \in (A \cup C)$ , either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in C$ . Thus, either  $x \in A$  or  $x$  is in **both**  $B$  and  $C$ .

1. If  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$ .

2. If  $x$  is in **both**  $B$  and  $C$ , then  $x \in (B \cap C)$ , so  $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$ .

**Problem 2.**

If  $A, B, C$  are sets, show that

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

To show that the two sets are equal, we will show that each set is a subset of the other. That is, any arbitrary element in the first set must be in the second set, and vice versa.

(i) Let  $x \in (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$ . Then  $x \in (A \cup B)$  and  $x \notin (A \cap B)$ .

1. If  $x \in A$ , then  $x \notin B$  since  $x \notin (A \cap B)$ .

Therefore,  $x \in (A \setminus B)$ .

2. If  $x \in B$ , then  $x \notin A$  since  $x \notin (A \cap B)$ .

Therefore,  $x \in (B \setminus A)$ .

Therefore,  $x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$ .

(ii) Let  $x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$ . Then either  $x \in (A \setminus B)$  or  $x \in (B \setminus A)$ .

1. If  $x \in (A \setminus B)$ , then  $x \in A$  and  $x \notin B$ . Therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B)$  and  $x \notin (A \cap B)$ .

2. If  $x \in (B \setminus A)$ , then  $x \in B$  and  $x \notin A$ . Therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B)$  and  $x \notin (A \cap B)$ .

Therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$ .

**Problem 3.**

Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a function. Let  $C$  and  $D$  be subsets of  $Y$ . Prove that

$$f^{-1}(C \cup D) = f^{-1}(C) \cup f^{-1}(D).$$

Recall the definition of the inverse image of a set:

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a function. Let  $C \subseteq Y$ . The *inverse image* of  $C$  under  $f$  is the set

$$f^{-1}(C) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in C\}.$$

To show that the two sets are equal, we will show that each set is a subset of the other. That is, any arbitrary element in the first set must be in the second set, and vice versa.

(i) Let  $x \in f^{-1}(C \cup D)$ . Then  $f(x) \in (C \cup D)$ .

1. If  $f(x) \in C$ , then  $x \in f^{-1}(C)$ .

2. If  $f(x) \in D$ , then  $x \in f^{-1}(D)$ .

Therefore,  $x \in f^{-1}(C) \cup f^{-1}(D)$ .

(ii) Let  $x \in f^{-1}(C) \cup f^{-1}(D)$ . Then either  $x \in f^{-1}(C)$  or  $x \in f^{-1}(D)$ .

1. If  $x \in f^{-1}(C)$ , then  $f(x) \in C$ .

2. If  $x \in f^{-1}(D)$ , then  $f(x) \in D$ .

Therefore,  $f(x) \in (C \cup D)$ , so  $x \in f^{-1}(C \cup D)$ .

This means that  $f^{-1}(C \cup D) \subseteq f^{-1}(C) \cup f^{-1}(D)$  and  $f^{-1}(C \cup D) \supseteq f^{-1}(C) \cup f^{-1}(D)$ , which can only happen if the two sets are equal.

**Problem 4.**

Let  $A = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

- (a) Show that the cardinality of  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  is  $2^n$ .

- (b) How many functions are there from  $A$  to  $A$ ? Explain.

- (c) How many onto (surjective) functions are there from  $A$  to  $A$ ? Explain.

**Problem 5.**

Give an example of a countably infinite collection of infinite sets  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots$  with  $A_j \cap A_k$  being infinite for all  $j$  and  $k$  such that  $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$  is nonempty and finite.

Let  $A = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  be the set of all nonnegative integers. For each  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , define  $A_i = \{a \in A \mid i \text{ divides } a\}$ . That is, the  $A_i$  is the set of all nonnegative integers that are divisible by  $i$ . Then:

$$A_1 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\} = A$$

$$A_2 = \{0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$$

$$A_3 = \{0, 3, 6, 9, \dots\}$$

$$A_4 = \{0, 4, 8, 12, \dots\}$$

$$A_5 = \{0, 5, 10, 15, \dots\}$$

$\vdots$

(i) First, we'll show that  $A_j \cap A_k$  is infinite for all  $j$  and  $k$ . For any arbitrary  $j, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

$$(A_j \cap A_k) = \{0, jk, 2 \cdot jk, 3 \cdot jk, \dots\} = \{n \cdot jk \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}\}.$$

Since  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  is infinite,  $(A_j \cap A_k)$  is also infinite.

(ii) We'll then show that  $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$  is nonempty yet finite.

1.  $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$  is nonempty. Since  $0 \in A_j$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $0 \in \bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$ .

2.  $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$  is finite. Precisely,  $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j = \{0\}$ . Suppose, for contradiction, that  $\bigcap_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j$  contains a non-zero element  $x$ . This implies that  $x$  is in every  $A_j$ , thus  $x$  is divisible by every positive integer  $j$ . Take  $y = 2x$ , then clearly  $\frac{x}{y} = \frac{x}{2x} = \frac{1}{2}$ , which is not an integer, so  $x$  is not divisible by  $y$ , contradicting the assumption that  $x$  is divisible by every positive integer.

**Problem 6.**

Prove that a function is invertible if and only if it is a bijection.

**Definition 6.1.** A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is *invertible* if there exists a function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  such that  $g \circ f = \text{id}_A$  and  $f \circ g = \text{id}_B$ .

For the sake of contradiction, suppose that  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is invertible but not a bijection. Let  $g : B \rightarrow A$  be its inverse.

- (i) Suppose  $f$  is not an injection. Then there exists some  $a_1, a_2 \in A$ ,  $a_1 \neq a_2$ , and some  $b \in B$  such that  $f(a_1) = f(a_2) = b$ . Since  $g$  is the inverse of  $f$ ,  $g(f(x)) = x$  for all  $x \in A$ , which implies that  $g(b) = a_1$  and  $g(b) = a_2$ . However, a function cannot map an element to two different elements, so either  $f$  is an injection or it must not be invertible.
- (ii) Suppose  $f$  is not a surjection. Then there exists some  $b \in B$  such that  $f(a) \neq b$  for all  $a \in A$ . However,  $g$ , the inverse of  $f$ , acts from  $B$  to  $A$ , so it must assign some element  $a' \in A$  to  $b$ . This implies that  $g(b) = a'$  for some  $a' \in A$ . But  $g$  was taken to be the inverse of  $f$ , so it must map  $f(a') \mapsto a'$ , where  $f(a') \neq b$ . Therefore  $g$  is not an injection (and, by the previous result, not invertible). This contradicts the assumption that  $g = f^{-1}$  as that would imply that  $g$  is also invertible (with  $f$  being its inverse).

**Problem 7.**

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field. Prove that for any  $a \in \mathbb{F}$  there exists a unique  $b \in \mathbb{F}$  such that  $a + b = 0$ .

**Definition 7.1.** A *field* is a set  $\mathbb{F}$  with two binary operations  $+$  and  $\times$  such that:

- $(\mathbb{F}, +)$  is an abelian group with identity 0.
- $(\mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}, \times)$  is an abelian group with identity 1.
- $\times$  distributes over  $+$ .

Useful results in a field  $\mathbb{F}$ :

- $0 \times a = a \times 0 = 0$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{F}$ .

(i) First, we show that for any element  $a \in \mathbb{F}$ , there exists some element  $b \in \mathbb{F}$  such that  $a + b = 0$ . Let  $a \in \mathbb{F}$  be arbitrary. Then:

$$a \times 0 = 0$$

$$a \times (1 + (-1)) = 0$$

$$a \times 1 + a \times (-1) = 0$$

$$a + (-a) = 0$$

(ii) Next, we show that this element  $b$  is unique by demonstrating that if any two elements  $b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{F}$  satisfy  $a + b_1 = 0$  and  $a + b_2 = 0$ , then  $b_1 = b_2$ . Let  $b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{F}$  be selected as above. Then:

$$b_1 = b_1 + 0$$

$$= b_1 + (a + b_2)$$

$$= (b_1 + a) + b_2$$

$$= 0 + b_2$$

$$= b_2$$