

PSET 1 — 01/06/2024

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

2. If $x \in B$, then $x \in (B \setminus A)$.

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

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

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

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

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 $f(x) \in C$. Therefore, $f(x) \in X \cup D$.

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

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

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.

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 $a + b = 0$.

(i) Existence: Let $a \in \mathbb{F}$.