

Project 5.5 (Unions and intersections). *Given sets A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots , develop recursive definitions for $\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k$ and $\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k$. Find and prove the extension of DeMorgan's laws (Theorem 4.5) for these unions and intersections.*

Here is a recursive definition for $\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

- (i) Define $\bigcup_{k=1}^1 A_k$ to be A_1 .
- (ii) Assuming $\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k$ already defined, we define $\bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k$ to be $\bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k = (\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k) \cup A_{n+1}$.

Analogously, here is a recursive definition for $\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

- (i) Define $\bigcap_{k=1}^1 A_k$ to be A_1 .
- (ii) Assuming $\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k$ already defined, we define $\bigcap_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k$ to be $\bigcap_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k = (\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k) \cap A_{n+1}$.

DeMorgan's laws for these arbitrary unions and intersections are, for given sets $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n \subseteq X$,

$$(1) \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c = \bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k^c$$

$$(2) \left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c = \bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k^c.$$

We start by proving (1) by induction on n . For the base case $n = 1$, we have by definition $\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^1 A_k \right)^c = A_1^c = \bigcap_{k=1}^1 A_k^c$. For the induction step, assume that $\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c = \bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k^c$. Then by definition,

$$\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k \right)^c = \left(\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k \right) \cup A_{n+1} \right)^c.$$

By Theorem 4.5,

$$\left(\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k \right) \cup A_{n+1} \right)^c = \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c \cap A_{n+1}^c.$$

By induction hypothesis,

$$\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c \cap A_{n+1}^c = \left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k^c \right) \cap A_{n+1}^c = \bigcap_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k^c,$$

which proves $\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k \right)^c = \bigcap_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k^c$.

Analogously, we prove (2) by induction on n . For the base case $n = 1$, we have by definition $\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^1 A_k \right)^c = A_1^c = \bigcup_{k=1}^1 A_k^c$. For the induction step, assume that $\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c = \bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k^c$. Then by definition,

$$\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k \right)^c = \left(\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k \right) \cap A_{n+1} \right)^c.$$

By Theorem 4.5,

$$\left(\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k \right) \cap A_{n+1} \right)^c = \left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c \cup A_{n+1}^c.$$

By induction hypothesis,

$$\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k \right)^c \cup A_{n+1}^c = \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k^c \right) \cup A_{n+1}^c = \bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k^c,$$

which proves $\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k \right)^c = \bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} A_k^c$.