

INVERSES UNIONS INTERSECTIONS AND COMPLEMENTS

Why

The inverse of a function interacts nicely with family unions, family intersections and complements.

Results

Let $f: X \to Y$. Throughout this sheet, let $f^{-1}: Y^* \to X^*$. And take $\{B_i\}$ to be a family of subsets of Y.¹

Proposition 1.
$$f^{-1}(\cup_i B_i) = \cup_i f^{-1}(B_i)$$

Proposition 2.
$$f^{-1}(\cup_i B_i) = \cap_i f^{-1}(B_i)$$

Proposition 3.
$$f^{-1}(Y - B) = X - f^{-1}(B)$$

Comments

Notice that $f(\bigcup_i A_i) = \bigcup_i f(A_i)$ but not for interesctions. Nor is there a similar correspondence for complements.²

¹The proofs of the following will appear in future editions.

²Accounts of these facts will appear in future editions.

