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3.2.2 Properties of Set Operations

Correspondence between Logic and Set Theory

Logical Connective	Set operation/property
\wedge	intersection \cap
\vee	union \cup
\neg	complement $()^C$
\rightarrow	subset \subseteq
\leftrightarrow	equality of sets $=$

Recall:

Definition: Let A, B be two sets. The intersection $A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$

Definition: Let A, B be two sets. The union $A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \vee x \in B\}$

Definition: Let A, U be sets s.t. $A \subseteq U$. The complement of A in $U = U \setminus A = A^C = \{x \mid x \in U \wedge x \notin A\}$

Definition: Let A, B be sets. A is a subset of B if all elements of A are elements of B , i.e. $\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$.

Definition: Let A, B be sets. $A=B$ if and only if all elements of A are elements of B and all elements of B are elements of A ,
i.e. $A = B \leftrightarrow [\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)] \wedge [\forall y(y \in B \rightarrow y \in A)]$

As a result, various properties of set operations become obvious:

- Commutativity
 - $A \cap B = B \cap A$ comes from the tautology $(P \wedge Q) \leftrightarrow (Q \wedge P)$ (#31 on the list of tautologies posted in Course Documents)
 - $A \cup B = B \cup A$ comes from the tautology $(P \vee Q) \leftrightarrow (Q \vee P)$ (# 32 on the list of tautologies)
- Associativity
 - $(A \cup B) \cup C = A \cup (B \cup C)$ comes from the tautology $[(P \vee (Q \vee R)) \leftrightarrow ((P \vee Q) \vee R)]$ (# 33 on the list of tautologies)
 - $(A \cap B) \cap C = A \cap (B \cap C)$ comes from the tautology $[(P \wedge (Q \wedge R)) \leftrightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \wedge R)]$ (# 34 on the list of tautologies)
- Distributivity
 - $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ comes from the tautology $[(P \wedge (Q \vee R)) \leftrightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \vee (P \wedge R))]$ (# 29 on the list of tautologies)

– $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ comes from the tautology $[(P \vee (Q \wedge R)) \leftrightarrow ((P \vee Q) \wedge (P \vee R))]$ (# 30 on the list of tautologies)

- De Morgan Laws in Set Theory

– $(A \cap B)^C = A^C \cup B^C$ comes from the tautology $\neg(P \wedge Q) \leftrightarrow \neg P \vee \neg Q$ (# 18 on the list of tautologies)

– $(A \cup B)^C = A^C \cap B^C$ comes from the tautology $\neg(P \vee Q) \leftrightarrow \neg P \wedge \neg Q$ (# 19 on the list of tautologies)

- Involutivity of the Complement

– $(A^C)^C = A$ comes from the tautology $\neg(\neg P) \leftrightarrow P$ (# 3 on the list of tautologies)

NB: An involution is a map such that applying it twice gives the identity. Familiar examples: reflecting across the x-axis, the y-axis, or the origin in the plane.

- Transitivity of Inclusion

– $A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq C \rightarrow A \subseteq C$ comes from the tautology

$$[(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow R)] \rightarrow (P \rightarrow R)$$

(# 14 on the list of tautologies)

- Criterion for proving equality of sets, which comes from the tautology $(P \leftrightarrow Q) \leftrightarrow [(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow P)]$ (#22 on the list of tautologies)

– $A = B \leftrightarrow A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A$

- Criterion for proving non-equality of sets

– $A \neq B \leftrightarrow (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) \neq \emptyset$

3.3 Example Proof in Set Theory

Proposition: $\forall A, B$ sets. $(A \cap B) \cup (A \setminus B) = A$

Proof: Use the criterion for proving equality of sets from above, i.e. inclusion in both directions.

Show $(A \cap B) \cup (A \setminus B) \subseteq A$: $\forall x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \setminus B), x \in (A \cap B)$ or $x \in A \setminus B$.
If $x \in (A \cap B)$, then clearly $x \in A$ as $A \cap B \subseteq A$ by definition. If $x \in A \setminus B$, then by definition $x \in A$ and $x \notin B$, so definitely $x \in A$. In both cases, $x \in A$ as needed.

Show $A \subseteq (A \cap B) \cup (A \setminus B)$: $\forall x \in A$, we have two possibilities, namely $x \in B$ or $x \notin B$. If $x \in B$, then $x \in A$ and $x \in B$, so $x \in A \cap B$. If $x \notin B$, then $x \in A$ and $x \notin B$, so $x \in A \setminus B$. In both cases, $x \in (A \cap B)$ or $x \in (A \setminus B)$, so $x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \setminus B)$ as needed.

qed