18.100A Assignment 1

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February 9, 2023

Problem 1

(a)

Proof. We will show that each set is a subset of the other to prove equality. Let $S = A \cap (B \cup C)$ and $T = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$.

Let $x \in S$. Then $x \in A$ and $x \in B \cup C$,

$\implies x \in A$ and $x \in B$, or $x \in A$ and $x \in C$

$\implies x \in A \cap B$ or $x \in A \cap C$

$\implies x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) = T$.

Thus $x \in S \implies x \in T$, so $S \subseteq T$. Now let $x \in T$. Then $x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$,

$\implies x \in A \cap B$ or $x \in A \cap C$

$\implies x \in A$, and $x \in B$ or C

$\implies x \in A \cap (B \cup C) = S$.

Thus $x \in T \implies x \in S$, so $T \subseteq S$, which means $S = T$.

Hence, $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$.

□

(b)

Proof. We proceed as in (a). Let $S = A \cup (B \cap C)$ and $T = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$.

First let $x \in S$. Then $x \in A$ or $x \in B \cap C$,

$\implies x \in A$ or $x \in B$, and $x \in A$ or $x \in C$

$\implies x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C) = T$.

Thus $x \in S \implies x \in T$, so $S \subseteq T$. Now let $x \in T$. Then $x \in A \cup B$ and $x \in A \cup C$. If $x \in A$, then the requirement is satisfied immediately, regardless of whether x is in B or C. Otherwise, if $x \notin A$, then $x \in B$ and $x \in C$ must be true. So $x \in A$, or $x \in B$ and $x \in C$

$\implies x \in A \cup (B \cap C) = S$.

Thus $x \in T \implies x \in S$, so $T \subseteq S$, which means $S = T$.

Hence, $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$. $\square$

Problem 2

Proof. (By induction).

The inductive hypothesis $P(n)$ is that, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n < 2^n$.

(Base case): $1 < 2^1$, so $P(1)$ is true.

(Inductive step): Assume $P(n)$ is true for $n = m$, i.e. that $m < 2^m$ holds for $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{m+1} = 2 \cdot 2^m &> 2m && (1) \\ &= m + m > m + 1, \quad \text{since } m > 1 && (2) \\ \implies 2^{m+1} &> m + 1. && (3) \end{aligned}$$

So $P(m) \implies P(m+1)$, which means $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Thus, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $2^n > n$. $\square$

Problem 3

Proof. Let A be a finite set such that $|A| = n$. We form the power set $\mathcal{P}(A)$ by creating the set of all possible subsets of A. Hence $|\mathcal{P}(A)|$ is equivalent to the number of possible subsets of A, which we compute by summing over the number of combinations that can be created by choosing elements of A, in succession from choosing no elements (the empty set $\emptyset$) to choosing all elements (the full set A). Thus

$$|\mathcal{P}(A)| = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k}. \tag{4}$$

By the binomial expansion theorem,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} = (p+q)^n. \tag{5}$$

Substituting $p = q = 1$ into (5), we arrive at the desired result,

$$|\mathcal{P}(A)| = (1+1)^n = 2^n. \tag{6}$$

$\square$