

Problem 1. Definitions and theorems. State the requested definition, theorem, or property. Be sure to use correct notation and include any necessary quantifiers in the appropriate order.

- (a) Give a precise definition of the **graph** of a function $f : A \rightarrow B$, using correct set-theoretical notation.

Solution: $\{(a, b) : a \in A, b = f(a)\}$, or, equivalently, $\{(a, f(a)) : a \in A\}$.

- (b) Without using words of negation state the definition of “ f is **not increasing**” (where f is a function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}). Write your answer in English, i.e., without using logical symbols.

Solution: “ $(\exists x, y \in \mathbb{R})((x < y) \wedge (f(x) \leq f(y)))$ ”
“There exist real numbers $x < y$ such that $f(x) \geq f(y)$.”

- (c) A function f from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} is **not bounded** if ...

Solution: “ $(\forall M \in \mathbb{R})(\exists x \in \mathbb{R})(|f(x)| > M)$.”
“For all $M \in \mathbb{R}$ there exists $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $|f(x)| > M$.”

- (d) Two sets A and B are said to have the **same cardinality** if ...

Solution: “there exists a bijection from A to B .”

Problem 2. Short answers, I. For the following questions, give an answer and a brief justification.

- (a) Let $f(x) = |x - 1|$ if $x < 4$, and $f(x) = |x| - 1$ if $x > 2$. Determine whether f is a **function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}** , and justify your answer (i.e., explain why, or why not, f is a function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}).

Solution: TRUE. For f to be a function we need to check that (i) the given rules define $f(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$, and (ii) the rules define a unique value $f(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Here $f(x)$ is given by one formula, $|x - 1|$, in the range $x < 4$, and by another formula, $|x| - 1$, in the range $x > 2$. Since every real number is covered by these ranges, $f(x)$ is defined (possibly ambiguously) for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$, so property (i) holds. To check whether property (ii) holds as well, we need to check whether in the overlap of these ranges, namely for $2 < x < 4$, the two formulas given agree. Now,

$$\begin{aligned} |x| - 1 &= x - 1 && \text{for } x > 0, \\ |x - 1| &= x - 1 && \text{for } x - 1 > 0, \text{ i.e., } x > 1, \end{aligned}$$

so in the range $2 < x < 4$ we have $|x| - 1 = x - 1 = |x - 1|$. Hence $f(x)$ is unambiguously defined by the given rules, and therefore is a properly defined function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} .

- (b) Let $f(p/q) = 1/q$ if $p \in \mathbb{Z}, q \in \mathbb{N}$, and $f(x) = 0$ if x is irrational. Determine whether f is a **function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}** , and justify your answer (i.e., explain why, or why not, f is a function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}).

Solution: FALSE. The first of the two rules is ambiguous because of the non-unique way of writing a rational number as p/q with integers p and q . For example, the number $x = 1/2$ could be written as $1/2, 2/4, 3/6$, etc., corresponding to the values $1/q = 1/2, 1/4, 1/6, \dots$. Similarly, 0 can be written as $0/1, 0/2, 0/3$, etc., so 0 would be mapped to multiple values under this rule: $1, 1/2, 1/3$, etc. **Thus, this rule does NOT define a function.**

Remarks: If one requires p/q to be in reduced form, this ambiguity does not arise. The resulting function is well-defined, and has the remarkable property that it is continuous at all irrational points, and discontinuous at all rational points.

- (c) Does there exist a function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that is unbounded, but not surjective? If so, give a *specific* example of such a function; if not, explain why no such function exists.

Solution: YES. $f(x) = x^2$ is unbounded, but not surjective since it does not take on negative values.

- (d) Does there exist a function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} that has an inverse, but is not injective? If so, give a *specific* example of such a function; if not, explain why no such function exists.

Solution: NO. No such function exists, since if f has an inverse, then f is a bijection and hence injective.

Problem 3. Short answers, II. For the following questions, give an answer and a brief justification. For questions about cardinality and countability you can use (without proof) the following:

- (i) Known results about the countability or uncountability of the following **specific** sets: \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{Z} , \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} , and the set of infinite binary sequences.
(ii) Any of the **general** results and properties about countable sets given on the cardinality handout.
If you use one of these results/properties, say so and indicate which property you are using.

- (a) Does there exist a bijection between \mathbb{Z} (the set of all integers) and \mathbb{Z}_{odd} (the set of odd integers)? If so, give a *specific* example of such a bijection; if not, explain why no such bijection exists.

Solution: YES. $f(n) = 2n - 1$ is a bijection from all integers to the odd integers.

- (b) Does there exist an infinite set A such that $A \times A$ has the same cardinality as A ? If so, give a *specific* example of such a set, and explain briefly why this set has the required property. If not, explain why no such set exists.

Solution: YES. The set $A = \mathbb{N}$ has this property. The set \mathbb{N} is countable, and since the cartesian product of two countable sets is countable, the set of all pairs (a, b) , with $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e., the set $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$, is countable as well, and hence has the same cardinality as \mathbb{N} .

- (c) Does the set \mathbb{R} have the same cardinality as the set $\mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q}$? Explain clearly why, or why not, the two sets have the same cardinality.

Solution: NO. Since \mathbb{Q} is countable and the cartesian product of two countable sets is countable, $\mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q}$ is countable. On the other hand, \mathbb{R} is uncountable, so it cannot have the same cardinality as $\mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q}$.

Problem 4. Let the sequence a_n be defined by $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 1$ and $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2} + a_{n-3}$ for $n \geq 4$. Using induction, prove that $a_n < 2^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Pay particular attention to the write-up, be sure to include all steps, any necessary quantifiers, and provide appropriate justifications for each step (e.g., “by induction hypothesis”, “by formula (1)”, “by algebra”, “by the AGM inequality”)

Solution: We will prove that $(*)$ $a_n < 2^n$ holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ by strong induction.

Base step: For $n = 1, 2, 3$, a_n is equal to 1, whereas the right-hand side of $(*)$ is equal to $2^1 = 2$, $2^2 = 4$, and $2^3 = 8$, respectively. Thus, $(*)$ holds for $n = 1, 2, 3$.

Induction step: Let $k \geq 3$ be given and suppose $(*)$ is true for all $n = 1, 2, \dots, k$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} a_{k+1} &= a_k + a_{k-1} + a_{k-2} && \text{(by recurrence for } a_n) \\ &< 2^k + 2^{k-1} + 2^{k-2} && \text{(by strong ind. hyp. } (*) \text{ with } n = k, k-1, \text{ and } k-2) \\ &= 2^{k+1} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} \right) \\ &= 2^{k+1} \frac{7}{8} < 2^{k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $(*)$ holds for $n = k + 1$, and the proof of the induction step is complete.

Conclusion: By the strong induction principle, it follows that $(*)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Problem 5. Let A, B, C be sets, $f : A \rightarrow B$, and $g : B \rightarrow C$ be functions, and let $h : A \rightarrow C$ be defined by $h(x) = g(f(x))$ for $x \in A$. For each of the following statements, determine if it is true. If the statement is true, give a careful, step-by-step, proof; be sure to use proper mathematical notation and terminology, and include any necessary quantifiers, connecting words, and justifications. If it is false, give a *specific* counterexample.

- (a) If f and g are surjective, then h is surjective.

Solution: TRUE.

Proof:

Suppose f and g are surjective.

We seek to show that $h = g \circ f$ is surjective.

Let $c \in C$ be given. We seek to show that there exists an $a \in A$ such that $h(a) = c$.

Since $g : B \rightarrow C$ is surjective and $c \in C$, there exists $b \in B$ such that $g(b) = c$.

Since $f : A \rightarrow B$ is surjective and $b \in B$, there exists $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$.

Combining these equations, we get $h(a) = g(f(a)) = g(b) = c$.

Summarizing, we have shown that, for any $c \in C$, there exists $a \in A$ such that $h(a) = c$.

Therefore, h is surjective.

- (b) If h is surjective, then f is surjective.

Solution: FALSE.

Counterexample: Let $A = C = \{1\}$, $B = \{1, 2\}$, $f(1) = 1$, $g(1) = g(2) = 1$. Then $h(1) = g(f(1)) = 1$, so h maps the single element 1 in A to the single element 1 in C , and thus is a bijection from A to C , and in particular surjective. On the other hand, f is not surjective, since it does not take on the value $2 \in B$.

Problem 6. Let $f : \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ be defined by $f(x, y) = (x + y, x - y)$.

- (a) Determine whether f is injective. If it is, give a careful, step-by-step, proof of the injectivity; if it is not, explain why.

Solution: TRUE.

Proof: Suppose (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) are elements in $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ such that $(*) f(x_1, y_1) = f(x_2, y_2)$. We seek to show that $(**) (x_1, y_1) = (x_2, y_2)$.

By the definition of f , $(*)$ implies $(x_1 + y_1, x_1 - y_1) = (x_2 + y_2, x_2 - y_2)$, which in turn implies $x_1 + y_1 = x_2 + y_2$ and $x_1 - y_1 = x_2 - y_2$. Adding the latter two equations, we get $2x_1 = 2x_2$, so $x_1 = x_2$, and substituting this into the first of these equations gives $y_1 = y_2$. Thus, $(x_1, y_1) = (x_2, y_2)$, as desired. Therefore f is injective.

- (b) Determine whether f is surjective. If it is, give a careful, step-by-step, proof of the surjectivity; if it is not, explain why.

Solution: FALSE.

Counterexample: Consider the element $(1, 0) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$. We will show by contradiction that $(1, 0)$ is not in the image of f . Suppose $f(x, y) = (1, 0)$ for some $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$. By the definition of f , this implies $1 = x + y$ and $0 = x - y$, hence $x = y$, $1 = 2x$, and $y = x = 1/2$. which is a contradiction since $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$. Thus, there is no element $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ with $f(x, y) = (1, 0)$, so f cannot be surjective.