

Chapter I

Structure and Spaces

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1 Set-Theoretic Digression: Sets

[1'1] Sets and Elements

[1'2] Equality of Sets

[1'3] The Empty Set

[1'4] Basic Set of Numbers

[1'5] Describing a Set By Listing Its Elements

1.1. *What is $\{\emptyset\}$? How many elements does it contain?*

Answer. This is a set made up of the empty set, it contains one element. \square

1.2. *Which of the following formulas are correct:*

1. $\emptyset \in \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$ is correct

2. $\{\emptyset\} \in \{\{\emptyset\}\}$ is correct

3. $\emptyset \in \{\{\emptyset\}\}$ is incorrect

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1.3. *Yes, $\{\{\emptyset\}\}$ contains just one element.*

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1.4. *How many elements do the following sets contains?*

1. $\{1, 2, 1\}$; 2 elements

2. $\{1, 2, \{1, 2\}\}$; 3 elements
3. $\{\{2\}\}$; 1 element
4. $\{\{1\}, 1\}$; 2 elements
5. $\{1, \emptyset\}$; 2 elements
6. $\{\{\emptyset\}, \emptyset\}$; 2 elements
7. $\{\{\emptyset\}, \{\}\}$; 1 element
8. $\{x, 3x - 1\}$ for some $x \in \mathbb{R}$; 1 element if $x = \frac{1}{2}$, and 2 elements for all other values of x

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- 1.5. (a) : $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$
 (b) : \emptyset
 (c) : $\{-1, -2, -3, \dots\}$

[1'6] Subsets

1.A. Let a set A have a elements, and let a set B have b elements. Prove that if $A \subset B$, then $a \leq b$.

Proof. Suppose A is a set made up of a elements, and B is a set made up of b elements. Suppose $a > b$; then there must be some element $x \in A$ that satisfies $x \notin B$. This implies that $A \not\subset B$, as x is not a member of B . By the contrapositive, we obtain the desired result. \square

[1'7] Properties of Inclusion

1.B (Reflexivity of Inclusion). Any set includes itself: $A \subset A$ holds true for any A .

Proof. We first let A be an arbitrary Set. Suppose that A is the empty set. We would then see that as A doesn't have any elements, that it is vacuously true that every element of A is in A , and thus $A \subset A$. Now suppose that A is non empty. Let $a \in A$ be arbitrary. We see that $a \in A$, and as a was arbitrary, we know that this is true for all elements of A , and thus $A \subset A$. As A was arbitrary, and $A \subset A$ for all cases, we see that $A \subset A$ holds true for any A . \square

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1.C. **The Empty Set Is Everywhere.** The inclusion $\emptyset \subset A$ holds true for any A . In other words, the empty set is present in each set as a subset.

Proof. Assume that $\emptyset \subset A$ does not hold, by definition of inclusion, there exist at least one element $a \in \emptyset$ such that $a \notin A$. Since \emptyset does not contain any element, we have a contradiction, and the statement above is true. \square

Primary author: Jimin Tan

1.D. If A , B , and C are sets, $A \subset B$, and $B \subset C$, then $A \subset C$.

Proof. Let A , B , and C be arbitrary sets such that $A \subset B$ and $B \subset C$. If A is the empty set, it is true that $A \subset C$. If A is nonempty, choose an arbitrary element $a \in A$. Because $A \subset B$, we know that $a \in B$, and similarly because $B \subset C$, $a \in C$. Since a was arbitrary, $A \subset C$. \square

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[1'8] To Prove Equality of Sets, Prove Two Inclusions

1.E (Criterion of Equality for Sets.). $A = B$ if and only if $A \subset B$ and $B \subset A$.

Proof. Let A and B be arbitrary sets. Let us first suppose that $A = B$. We show that $A \subset B$ and $B \subset A$. Let $x \in A$ be arbitrary. Since $A = B$, they have the same elements; since x is an element of A , x is an element of B . Hence, $A \subset B$. A similar argument establishes that $B \subset A$.

We now establish the converse of the previous claim via contraposition. Suppose that it is not the case that $A \subset B$ and $B \subset A$; without loss of generality, we shall assume that $A \not\subset B$. Then there necessarily exists an element $x \in A$ satisfying $x \notin B$. As such, it is not the case that A and B contain the same elements, since B does not contain x . Hence, $A \neq B$. By the contrapositive, this establishes the converse. \square

[1'9] Inclusion Versus Belonging

1.F. $x \in A$ if and only if $\{x\} \subset A$.

Proof. We will first show that if $\{x\} \subset A$, then $x \in A$. We can see that as $\{x\}$ is a set described by listing all of its elements, that $x \in \{x\}$. We also see that as $\{x\} \subset A$, that all of the elements of $\{x\}$ are also elements of A , and thus $x \in A$. We thus know that if $\{x\} \subset A$, then $x \in A$.

We will now show that if $x \in A$, then $\{x\} \subset A$. We can see that as $\{x\}$ is a set described by listing all of its elements, that x is the only element in $\{x\}$. We also see that as $x \in A$, that all elements of $\{x\}$ belong to A , and thus $\{x\} \subset A$. We now can see that $x \in A$ if and only if $\{x\} \subset A$. \square

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1.G. Non-Reflexivity of Belonging. Construct a set A such that $A \notin A$. The example, $\{1\} \notin \{1\}$ shows the statement above. The set that contains $\{1\}$ is $\{\{1\}\}$. Primary author: Jimin Tan

1.H. Non-Transitivity of Belonging. Construct three sets A , B , and C such that $A \in B$ and $B \in C$, but $A \notin C$.
 $A = \{1\}$

$$B = \{\{1\}, 2\}$$

$$C = \{\{\{1\}, 2\}, 3\}$$

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[1'10] Defining a Set by a Condition (Set-Builder Notation)

[1'11] Intersection and Union

1.I (Commutativity of \cap and \cup). *For any two sets A and B , we have*

$$A \cap B = B \cap A \quad \text{and} \quad A \cup B = B \cup A.$$

Proof. For our proof we rely on the commutativity of logical operators, which can be verified via truth tables. Namely, we have

$$\alpha \text{ and } \beta = \beta \text{ and } \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha \text{ or } \beta = \beta \text{ or } \alpha,$$

where α and β are arbitrary statements. We will show that the statements about intersections and unions reduce to statements with “and” and “or” operators, respectively.

Let A and B be arbitrary sets. Then $x \in A \cap B$ if and only if $x \in A$ and $x \in B$, which holds if and only if $x \in B$ and $x \in A$, which holds if and only if $x \in B \cap A$. This establishes via double-containment that $A \cap B = B \cap A$.

Similarly, $x \in A \cup B$ if and only if $x \in A$ or $x \in B$, which holds if and only if $x \in B$ or $x \in A$, which holds if and only if $x \in B \cup A$. This establishes via double-containment that $A \cup B = B \cup A$. \square

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1.6. *Prove that for any set A we have $A \cap A = A$, $A \cup A = A$, $A \cup \emptyset = A$, and $A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$.*

Proof. Let A be an arbitrary set. If A is the empty set, each of these is true. So we consider when A is not the empty set. Choose an arbitrary element $a \in A$. This element is in $A \cap A$ by the definition of intersection, as it belongs to both A and A . This element is also in $A \cup A$ by the definition of union, as it belongs to at least one of A and A . This element is in $A \cup \emptyset$, as it belongs to at least one of A and \emptyset . This element is not in $A \cap \emptyset$, as it does not belong to both A and \emptyset . Since a was arbitrary, each element of A will be in $A \cup A$, $A \cap A$, and $A \cup \emptyset$, and no elements of A will be in $A \cap \emptyset$. No elements that do not belong to A could be in any of these sets, so combining these two facts requires that $A \cup A$, $A \cap A$, and $A \cup \emptyset$ each equal A and $A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$. \square

Primary author: Willie Kaufman

1.7. Prove that for any sets A and B we have

$$A \subset B, \quad \text{iff} \quad A \cap B = A, \quad \text{iff} \quad A \cup B = B$$

Proof. We will break this chain if and only if statement into two parts and then prove them separately.

To begin with, we want to show that $A \subset B$, if and only if $A \cap B = A$. For if and only if statement, we need to prove it in both directions. For the forward direction, assume that $A \subset B$ and let $x \in A$, since $A \subset B$, we know that $x \in B$ by definition of inclusion. We have $x \in A$ and $x \in B$, so $x \in A \cap B$. Since $A \cap B \subset A$ by definition of intersection, we have

$$A \cap B = A$$

Then, we consider the backward direction, assume that $A = A \cap B$ and let $x \in A$, since $A \subset A \cap B$, we have $x \in A$ and $x \in B$. Hence, we have

$$A \subset B$$

Now we want to prove the second if and only if statement which is $A \cap B = A$ iff $A \cup B = B$.

We start with the forward. Assume that $A \cap B = A$ and let $x \in A \cup B$, by definition, we know $x \in A$ or $x \in B$. If $x \in A$, since $A \subset A \cap B$, $x \in B$. Since $B \subset A \cup B$, we have:

$$A \cup B = B$$

Backward direction: Let $x \in A$, since $A \cup B \subset B$, $x \in B$. We have whenever $x \in A$, $x \in B$, so $x \in A \cap B$ and $A \subset A \cap B$. Since $A \cap B \subset A$, we have

$$A \cap B = A$$

□

Primary author: Jimin Tan

1.J. Associativity of \cap and \cup . For any sets A , B , and C , we have

$$(A \cap B) \cap C = A \cap (B \cap C)$$

and

$$(A \cup B) \cup C = A \cup (B \cup C)$$

Proof. Let A , B , and C be arbitrary sets. First, consider the associativity of \cap . In the case of intersection, if any of A , B , or C are \emptyset , the top claim is true, as both evaluate to the emptyset. So consider the case where none of A , B , or C are the emptyset. Choose an arbitrary element $a \in A \cup B \cup C$. Only elements in $A \cup B \cup C$ will be in the intersection of these sets, so we can ignore other elements; if the two sets we are considering contain exactly the same elements from these sets, they will be the same. $a \in (A \cap B) \cap C$ iff $a \in A \cap B$ and $a \in C$ by the definition of intersection. $a \in A \cap B$ iff $a \in A$ and $a \in B$ by the definition

of intersection. Combining these logically, $a \in (A \cap B) \cap C$ iff it is an element of A , B , and C . Now considering the right side of the equation, $a \in A \cap (B \cap C)$ iff it is in both A and $B \cap C$ by the definition of intersection. a is in $B \cap C$ iff it is in B and C by the definition of intersection. Combining these logically, we have that $a \in A \cap (B \cap C)$ iff $a \in A$, $a \in B$ and $a \in C$. We know that $a \in (A \cap B) \cap C$ iff $a \in A$ and $a \in B$ and $a \in C$ iff $a \in A \cap (B \cap C)$, or $a \in (A \cap B) \cap C$ iff $a \in A \cap (B \cap C)$. Since a was arbitrary, these sets must be the same.

Second, consider the associativity of \cup . If all of A , B , and C are \emptyset , both the left and right hand sides of the equation evaluate to \emptyset , and so the bottom claim is true. So consider the case where $A \cup B \cup C$ is nonempty. Choose an arbitrary element $a \in A \cup B \cup C$. Only elements in $A \cup B \cup C$ will be in the union of these sets, so we can ignore other elements; if the two sets we are considering contain exactly the same elements from these sets, they will be the same. $a \in (A \cup B) \cup C$ iff $a \in (A \cup B)$ or $a \in C$ by the definition of union. $a \in (A \cup B)$ iff $a \in A$ or $a \in B$ by the definition of union. Combining these logically, $a \in (A \cup B) \cup C$ iff $a \in A$, $a \in B$ or $a \in C$. Now consider the right hand side of the equation. $a \in A \cup (B \cup C)$ iff $a \in A$ or $a \in B \cup C$ by the definition of union. $a \in B \cup C$ iff $a \in B$ or $a \in C$ by the definition of union. Combining these logically, $a \in A \cup (B \cup C)$ iff $a \in A$, $a \in B$, or $a \in C$. We know that $a \in (A \cup B) \cup C$ iff $a \in A$, $a \in B$, or $a \in C$ iff $a \in A \cup (B \cup C)$. Since a was arbitrary, these sets must be the same. \square

Primary author: Willie Kaufman

1.K. *The notions of intersection and union of an arbitrary collection of sets generalize the notions of intersection and union of two sets: for $\Gamma = \{A, B\}$, we have*

$$\bigcap_{C \in \Gamma} C = A \cap B \text{ and } \bigcup_{C \in \Gamma} C = A \cup B$$

Proof. We will discuss the intersection of multiple sets first.

Let $x \in \bigcap_{C \in \Gamma}$ and assume we can list all element like $C_0, C_1 \dots, C_n \dots$, we have $x \in C_0 \cap C_1 \dots \cap C_n$ by definition. Since there are only two sets in Γ , which are A, B , $x \in A \cap B$. We have $\bigcap_{C \in \Gamma} C \subset A \cap B$. Let $y \in A \cap B$. Since A and B are the only two elements in Γ , we have $y \in \bigcap_{C \in \Gamma}$, and $A \cap B \subset \bigcap_{C \in \Gamma}$. Then we have

$$A \cap B = \bigcap_{C \in \Gamma}$$

Union:

Let $x \in \bigcup_{C \in \Gamma}$ and assume we can list all element like $C_0, C_1 \dots, C_n \dots$, we have $x \in C_0 \cup C_1 \dots \cup C_n$. Since A and B are the only two sets in Γ , we have $x \in A \cup B$ and $\bigcup_{C \in \Gamma} C \subset A \cup B$. Let $y \in A \cup B$, since A and B are the only two sets in Γ , we have $y \in \bigcup_{C \in \Gamma}$, and $A \cup B \subset \bigcup_{C \in \Gamma}$. Then we have

$$A \cup B = \bigcup_{C \in \Gamma}$$

\square

Primary author: Jimin Tan

1.8 (Riddle). *How are the notions of system of equations and intersection of sets related to each other?*

Answer. If E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n are a system of equations and S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n are the solution sets corresponding to each equation, then the set

$$S = \bigcap_{i=1}^n S_i$$

is the solution to the system of equations, as any solution $s \in S$ solves each equation E_i simultaneously. \square

Primary author: David Kraemer

1.L (Two Distributivites). *For any sets A , B , and C , we have*

$$\begin{aligned}(A \cap B) \cup C &= (A \cup C) \cap (B \cup C) \\ (A \cup B) \cap C &= (A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C)\end{aligned}$$

Proof. These properties follow from unpacking the definitions of set union and intersection, as well as from recalling the distributive properties of logical operators:

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha \text{ and } \beta) \text{ or } \gamma &\iff (\alpha \text{ or } \gamma) \text{ and } (\beta \text{ or } \gamma) \\ (\alpha \text{ or } \beta) \text{ and } \gamma &\iff (\alpha \text{ and } \gamma) \text{ or } (\beta \text{ and } \gamma).\end{aligned}$$

We first show $(A \cap B) \cup C = (A \cup C) \cap (B \cup C)$. We have that

$$x \in (A \cap B) \cup C$$

if and only if either

$$x \in A \cap B \text{ or } x \in C,$$

which holds if and only if

$$(x \in A \text{ and } x \in B) \text{ or } x \in C,$$

which holds if and only if

$$(x \in A \text{ and } x \in C) \text{ or } (x \in B \text{ and } x \in C),$$

which holds if and only if

$$(x \in A \cap C) \text{ or } (x \in B \cap C),$$

which holds if and only if

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

We now show $(A \cup B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C)$. We have that

$$x \in (A \cup B) \cap C$$

if and only if either

$$x \in A \cup B \text{ and } x \in C,$$

which holds if and only if

$$(x \in A \text{ or } x \in B) \text{ and } x \in C,$$

which holds if and only if

$$(x \in A \text{ or } x \in C) \text{ and } (x \in B \text{ or } x \in C),$$

which holds if and only if

$$(x \in A \cup C) \text{ and } (x \in B \cup C),$$

which holds if and only if

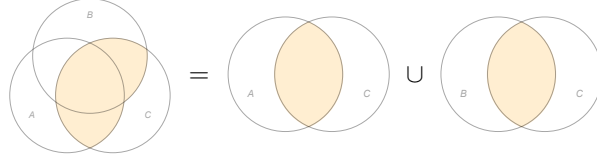
$$x \in (A \cup C) \cap (B \cup C).$$

These equivalencies establish the claim. \square

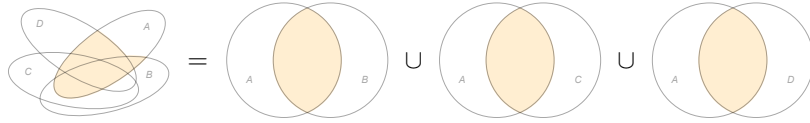
Primary author: David Kraemer

1.M. Draw a Venn diagram illustrating (2). Prove (1) and (2) by tracing all details of the proofs in the Venn diagrams. Draw Venn diagrams illustrating all formulas below in this section.

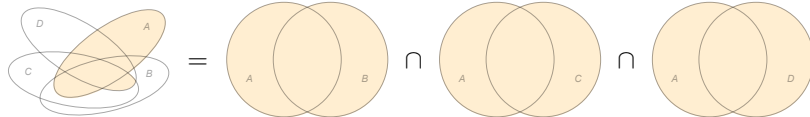
Answer. Demonstration of $(A \cup B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C)$:



Demonstration of $A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B)$, with $|\Gamma| = 3$.



Demonstration of $A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$, with $|\Gamma| = 3$.



\square

Primary author: David Kraemer.

1.9 (Riddle). *Generalize Theorem 1.L to the case of arbitrary collections of sets.*

Proof. (See 1.N) Let A be a set and let Γ be a set consisting of sets, then we have

$$A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B) \text{ and } A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

□

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1.N (Yet Another Pair of Distributivities). *Let A be a set and let Γ be a set consisting of sets, then we have*

$$A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B) \text{ and } A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

Proof. We will first show that $A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B)$ using double containment.

First let $x \in A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B$ be arbitrary. We see that

$$x \in A \text{ and } x \in B$$

for some $B \in \Gamma$. We thus know that for some B ,

$$x \in (A \cap B)$$

We now can see that as

$$\bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B)$$

contains every $(A \cap B)$, we know that

$$x \in \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B)$$

As x was arbitrary, we know that

$$A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B \subseteq \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B).$$

We now let $x \in \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B)$ be arbitrary. We see that

$$x \in A \text{ and } x \in B$$

for some $B \in \Gamma$. We also see that as $B \in \Gamma$, that

$$B \subset \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B$$

and thus $x \in A$ and $x \in \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B$. We now can see that this only holds if

$$x \in A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B$$

and thus as x was arbitrary

$$A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B \supseteq \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B).$$

We now can see by double containment, that $A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B)$.

We will now show that

$$A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

by double containment.

We first let $x \in A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B$ be arbitrary. We see that

$$x \in A \text{ or } x \in \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B$$

We now suppose that $x \in A$. We would then see that $x \in A \cup B$ for any B , and thus

$$x \in \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

Now suppose that $x \notin A$. We would then see that

$$x \in \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B$$

and if x is in some B , we know that it would also be in $A \cup B$, so thus, we would know that

$$x \in \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

As x was arbitrary, we know that

$$A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B \subseteq \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

We now let $x \in \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$ be arbitrary. We can see that $x \in A$ or $x \in B$ for every $B \in \Gamma$. Suppose $x \in A$. It would then be the case that $x \in A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B$ as $x \in A$. Now, suppose that $x \notin A$ we would then have that $x \in \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B$ as $x \in \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$, and $x \notin A$. We thus see that as x was arbitrary, that

$$A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B \supseteq \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B).$$

and thus

$$A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

We can now see that

$$A \cap \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcup_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cap B) \text{ and } A \cup \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} B = \bigcap_{B \in \Gamma} (A \cup B)$$

□

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[1'12] Different Differences

1.10. *Prove that for any two sets A and B their union $A \cup B$ is the union of the following three sets: $A \setminus B$, $B \setminus A$, and $A \cap B$, which are pairwise disjoint.*

Proof. Let A , B and C be arbitrary sets. For an arbitrary value a , $a \in A \cup B$ iff $a \in A$ or $a \in B$. This is equivalent to $a \in A \cup B$ iff one of the three following conditions are met; $a \in A$ and $a \notin B$, $a \notin A$ and $a \in B$, or $a \in A$ and $a \in B$.
 $a \in A \setminus B$ iff $a \in A$ and $a \notin B$, $a \in B \setminus A$ iff $a \notin A$ and $a \in B$, and $a \in A \cap B$ iff $a \in A$ and $a \in B$. So a is in the union of these sets iff it meets one of those criteria by the definition of union. These criteria are the same as those enumerated about for $A \cup B$. Since a was arbitrary, these sets must be the same.

□

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1.11. *Prove that $A \setminus (A \setminus B) = A \cap B$ for any sets A and B .*

Proof. Let $x \in A \setminus (A \setminus B)$, by definition of set difference, we have $x \in A$ and $x \notin A \setminus B$. By basic set operation, $x \notin A \setminus B$ is the same as $x \in (A \setminus B)^c$ which is equal to $B \cup A^c$. By distribution rule, $(A \cap (A^c \cup B)) = (A \cap A^c) \cup (A \cap B) = A \cap B$, so $x \in A \cap B$ and we have $A \setminus (A \setminus B) \subset A \cap B$. Since this process is reversible, we have $A \cap B \subset A \setminus (A \setminus B)$, and we have:

$$A \setminus (A \setminus B) = A \cap B$$

□

Primary author: Jimin Tan

1.12. *Prove that $A \subset B$ if and only if $A \setminus B = \emptyset$.*

Proof. We have $A \subset B$ if and only if there does not exist an $x \in A$ with $x \notin B$; which holds if and only if it is not the case that $A \setminus B \neq \emptyset$, which holds if and only if $A \setminus B = \emptyset$.

□

1.13. *Prove that $A \cap (B \setminus C) = A \cap B \setminus A \cap C$ for any sets A, B , and C .*

Proof. We will show this by using double containment. Let $x \in (A \cap (B \setminus C))$ be arbitrary. We see that x is in A , and in B , but not in C and thus $x \in (A \cap B)$, and as x is not in C , that $x \notin (A \cap C)$. We thus see that $x \in (A \cap B) \setminus (A \cap C)$. We thus see that as x is arbitrary, we know that $A \cap (B \setminus C) \subseteq A \cap B \setminus A \cap C$. We now let $x \in (A \cap B) \setminus (A \cap C)$. We see because of this, that x is in A and B , but that x is not in A and C . We thus know that $x \in A$, and because x is in A , and x is in B , but x is not in A and C , that x is not in B and C , and thus $x \in (B \setminus C)$. We thus see that $x \in A \cap (B \setminus C)$

□

1.14. Prove that for any sets A and B we have

$$A \Delta B = (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$$

Proof. Let A and B be arbitrary sets. $A \Delta B$ denotes the set of values a for which it is true either that $a \in A$ and $a \notin B$ or $a \notin A$ and $a \in B$. $(A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$ denotes the set of values b for which $b \in A \cup B$ and $b \notin A \cap B$. We then know $(A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$ denotes the set of values b for which $b \in A$ or $b \in B$ and $b \notin A \cap B$. This is the same as the set of values b for which b belongs to exactly one of A or B , i.e. the set of values for which it is true either that $b \in A$ and $b \notin B$ or $b \notin A$ and $b \in B$. We then have the exact same characterizations of $A \Delta b$ and $(A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$, so the sets are the same. □

1.15 (Associativity of Symmetric Difference.). Prove that for any sets A, B and C we have

$$(A \Delta B) \Delta C = A \Delta (B \Delta C)$$

Proof. To prove this equation we need to reinterpret the formula.

LHS =

$$\begin{aligned} & (A \Delta B) \Delta C \\ &= ((A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)) \cup C \setminus ((A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)) \cap C \\ &= A \cup B \cup C \setminus (A \cap B) \setminus ((A \cup B) \cap C) \setminus A \cap B \cap C \\ &= A \cup B \cup C \setminus (A \cap B) \setminus ((A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C) \setminus A \cap B \cap C) \\ &= A \cup B \cup C \setminus ((A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C) \setminus A \cap B \cap C) \end{aligned}$$

RHS:

$$\begin{aligned} &= (A \Delta (B \Delta C)) \\ &= A \Delta (B \cup C \setminus B \cap C) \\ &= A \cup (B \cup C \setminus B \cap C) \setminus A \cap (B \cup C \setminus B \cap C) \\ &= (A \cup B \cup C \setminus B \cap C) \setminus (A \cap (B \cup C)) \setminus (A \cap B \cap C) \\ &= A \cup B \cup C \setminus ((B \cap C) \cup (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)) \setminus (A \cap B \cap C) = LHS \end{aligned}$$

We have:

$$(A \Delta B) \Delta C = A \Delta (B \Delta C)$$

□

Primary author: Jimin Tan

1.16. *Riddle. Find a symmetric definition of the symmetric difference $(A \Delta B) \Delta C$ of three sets and generalize it to arbitrary finite collections of sets.*

Proof. We will start with the definition of symmetric difference for three sets. By the definition of symmetric difference of two sets, we can see that the symmetric difference between two sets is the result of removing their intersection from their union. We can then see that by iteratively applying this definition to a set C , that we have that all the elements of A , B , and C that don't belong to another set are included, that all the elements which belong to 2 sets are excluded, and all the elements which belong to both A , B , and C are included. From this, we can see that for 3 sets, the symmetric difference is composed of all elements which belong to an odd number of sets. By continuing to apply the symmetric difference operator, we would see that this remains to be the pattern, and thus the general pattern for the definition of symmetric difference will be the collection of elements of all sets which belong to an odd number of sets. □

Primary author: Reilly Noonan Grant

1.17 (Distributivity). *Prove that $(A \Delta B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \Delta (B \cap C)$ for any sets A, B , and C*

Proof. Let A , B , and C be arbitrary sets. We will show $(A \Delta B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \Delta (B \cap C)$ by double containment.

We first let $x \in (A \Delta B) \cap C$ be arbitrary. We can see that $x \in C$ and $x \in (A \Delta B)$ by the properties of intersection. Because $x \in (A \Delta B)$, we know that $x \in A$ but $x \notin B$ or $x \in A$ but $x \notin B$. We thus know that $x \in C$ and $x \in A$, but $x \notin B$ or $x \in C$ and $x \in B$, but $x \notin A$. We can see that this is true if and only if $x \in (C \cap A) \setminus B \cup (C \cap B) \setminus A$, and thus $x \in (A \cap C) \Delta (B \cap C)$. As x was arbitrary, we can see that $(A \Delta B) \cap C \subseteq (A \cap C) \Delta (B \cap C)$.

We now let $x \in (A \cap C) \Delta (B \cap C)$ be arbitrary. We can see that $x \in (A \cap C)$, but $x \notin (B \cap C)$ or $x \in (B \cap C)$ but $x \notin (A \cap C)$. We thus can see that equivalently, $x \in A$ and $x \in C$ but $x \notin (B \cap C)$ or $x \in B$ and $x \in C$ but $x \notin (A \cap C)$. We can see that in every case that $x \in C$, and thus $x \in C$ and $x \in A$ but $x \notin B$, or $x \in B$ but $x \notin A$. We can see that this is equivalent to $x \in C \cap ((A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A))$, and by the definition of symmetric difference, we can see that $x \in (A \Delta B) \cap C$. As x was arbitrary, we can now see that $(A \Delta B) \cap C \supseteq (A \cap C) \Delta (B \cap C)$, and thus $(A \Delta B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \Delta (B \cap C)$ □

Primary author: Reilly Noonan Grant

1.18. *Does the following inequality hold true for any sets A , B , and C ?*

$$(A \Delta B) \cup C = (A \cup C) \Delta (B \cup C)$$

Proof. For any sets A, B, C where $C \subset A \cap B$, $(A \triangle B) \cup C = (A \cup C) \triangle (B \cup C)$. \square

Primary author: Willie Kaufman

2 Topology on a Set

[2'1] Definition of Topological Space

[2'2] Simplest Examples

2.A. Check that the discrete topological space is a topological space, i.e., all axioms of topological structure hold true.

2.B. The indiscrete topological space is a topological structure, is it not?

2.1. Let X be the ray $[0, +\infty)$, and let Ω consist of \emptyset, X , and all rays $(a, +\infty)$ with $a \geq 0$. Prove that Ω is a topological space.

2.2. Let X be a plane. Let Σ consist of \emptyset, X , and all open disks centered at the origin. Is Σ a topological structure?

2.3. Let X consist of four elements: $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$. Which of the following collections of its subsets are topological structures in X , i.e., satisfy the axioms of topological structure:

1. $\emptyset, X, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, c\}, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b\};$

2. $\emptyset, X, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, d\};$

3. $\emptyset, X, \{a, c, d\}, \{b, c, d\};$

- [2'3] The Most Important Example: Real Line
- [2'4] Additional Examples
- [2'5] Using New Words: Points, Open Sets, Closed Sets
- [2'6] Set-Theoretic Digression: De Morgan Formulas
- [2'7] Properties of Closed Sets
- [2'8] Being Open or Closed
- [2'9] Characterization of Topology in Terms of Closed Sets
- [2'10] Neighborhoods
- [2'11] Open Sets on Line
- [2'12] Cantor Set
- [2'13] Topology and Arithmetic Progressions