

Understanding Analysis Attempt/Solution

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0.1 Some Preliminaries

Exercise 0.1.1

(a) Prove that $\sqrt{3}$ is irrational. Does a similar argument work to show $\sqrt{6}$ is rational?

(b) Where does the proof break down if we try to prove $\sqrt{4}$ is irrational?

SOLUTION

(a) PROOF AFSOC that $\sqrt{3}$ is rational, so $\exists m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$, such that

$$\sqrt{3} = \frac{m}{n},$$

where $\frac{m}{n}$ is in the lowest reduced terms. By squaring both sides, we obtain $3 = (\frac{m}{n})^2 \implies 3n^2 = m^2$. Now, we know that m^2 is a multiple of 3 and thus m must also be a multiple of 3. We can then write $m = 3k$, deriving

$$\begin{aligned} (\sqrt{3})^2 &= \left(\frac{3k}{n}\right)^2 \\ 3n^2 &= 9k^2 \\ n^2 &= 3k^2 \end{aligned}$$

Similar to above, we can conclude that n is a multiple of 3. However this is a contradiction since m, n are both multiples of 3 but we assumed that $\frac{m}{n}$ was in its lowest reduced term. Thus we conclude that $\sqrt{3}$ is irrational.

The same proof for $\sqrt{3}$ works for $\sqrt{6}$ as well.

(b) We cannot conclude that $\sqrt{4} = \frac{m}{n}$ imply that m is a multiple of 4, as we have

$$4n^2 = m^2 \implies 2n = m,$$

preventing us from reaching our contradiction that m/n is not in its lowest terms.

Exercise 0.1.2

Show that there is no rational number r satisfying $2^r = 3$.

SOLUTION

PROOF If $r = 0$, then $2^r = 1 \neq 3$. Suppose $r = p/q$ to get $2^p = 3^q$, which is not possible as 2 and 3 share no common factors. Hence r is not rational.

Exercise 0.1.3

Decide which of the following represent true statements about the nature of sets. For any that are false, provide a specific example where the statement in question does not hold.

- (a) If $A_1 \supseteq A_2 \subseteq A_3 \subseteq A_4 \dots$ are all sets containing an infinite number of elements, then the intersections $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ is infinite as well.
- (b) If $A_1 \supseteq A_2 \subseteq A_3 \subseteq A_4 \dots$ are all finite, nonempty sets of real numbers, then the intersection $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ is finite and non-empty.
- (c) $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup C$.
- (d) $A \cap (B \cap C) = (A \cap B) \cap C$.
- (e) $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$.

SOLUTION

(a) False. Consider $A_n = \{n, n+1, n+2, \dots\}$, then $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \emptyset$.

- (b) True. Since all A_n are nonempty, $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $A_n = \{x\}$ for some real x . Hence $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \subseteq \{x\}$ which is empty. Since A_1 is finite, $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \subseteq \{x\} \subset A_1$ is finite.
- (c) False. If $A = \emptyset$, then $\emptyset = C$
- (d) True. Intersection is associative as evident that both LHS and RHS implies the $x \in A, B, C$
- (e) True. Drawing a Venn Diagram illustrates this.

Exercise 0.1.4

Produce an infinite collection of sets A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots with the property that every A_i has an infinite number of elements, $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$, and $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \mathbb{N}$.

SOLUTION

Consider arranging the elements of \mathbb{N} in a square as such.

1	3	6	10	15	...
2	5	9	14	...	
4	8	13	...		
7	12	...			
11	...				
	⋮				

By letting A_i being the set of all natural numbers in the i -th row, we have satisfied the above conditions above.