

from MIT OCW 6.042J Week 2, date: August 16, 2015

1. More Proof Techniques

1.1 Proof by Contradiction

A proof by contradiction / indirect proof:

you show that if a proposition were false, then some logical contradiction or absurdity would follow.

→ the proposition must be true

$$\begin{array}{c} \neg P \longrightarrow F \\ P \end{array}$$

* direct proofs are generally preferable as a matter of clarity.

1.2 Method

in order to prove a proposition P by contradiction:

1. Write, "We use proof by contradiction."

2. Write, "Suppose P is false."

3. Deduce a logical contradiction.

4. Write, "This is a contradiction. Therefore, P must be true."

Example

Theorem 1.1 $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

Proof. We use proof by contradiction.

Suppose the claim is false; that is, $\sqrt{2}$ is rational. Then we can write $\sqrt{2}$ as a fraction a/b in lowest terms.

Squaring both sides gives $2 = a^2/b^2$ and so $2b^2 = a^2$. This implies that a is even; that is, a is a multiple of $\sqrt{2}$. Therefore, a^2 must be a multiple of 4!

Because of the equality $2b^2 = a^2$, we know $2b^2$ must also be a multiple of 4. This implies that b^2 is even and so b must be even. But since a and b are both even, the fraction a/b is not in lowest terms.

This is a contradiction. Therefore, $\sqrt{2}$ must be irrational. □

1.3 Potential Pitfall

using indirect proof when a direct proof would be simpler:
not wrong, just aren't excellent.

Theorem 1.2

If f and g are strictly increasing functions, then $f+g$ is a strictly increasing function.

- Proof. (direct)

Let x and y be arbitrary real numbers such that $x > y$. Then:

$$f(x) > f(y) \quad (\text{since } f \text{ is strictly increasing})$$

$$g(x) > g(y) \quad (\text{since } g \text{ is strictly increasing})$$

Adding these inequalities gives:

$$f(x) + g(x) > f(y) + g(y)$$

Thus, $f+g$ is strictly increasing as well.

- Proof. (indirect) ← makes the argument needlessly convoluted

We use proof by contradiction.

Suppose that $f+g$ is not strictly increasing. Then there must exist real numbers x and y such that $x > y$, but

$$f(x) + g(x) \leq f(y) + g(y)$$

This inequality can only hold if either $f(x) \leq f(y)$ or $g(x) \leq g(y)$. Either way, we have a contradiction because both f and g were defined to be strictly increasing.

Therefore, $f+g$ must actually be strictly increasing.

1.4 Proof by Cases

$A \vee (\bar{A} \wedge B)$ and $A \vee B$ were equivalent.

⇒ Another way to prove this would be to reason by cases:

- A is T (true)

$A \vee$ anything will have truth value T.

both expressions are of this form → both have the same truth value, namely T.

- A is F (false)

$A \vee P$ will have the same truth as P for any proposition, P.

→ the second expression has the same truth value as B

the first expression has the same truth value as $\bar{F} \wedge B = B$

→ both expressions will have the same truth value, namely, the value of B

Example

Theorem. Every collection of 6 people includes a club of 3 people or a group of 3 strangers.

Proof. The proof is by case analysis.

Let x denote one of the six people. There are two cases:

1. Among the remaining 5 people, at least 3 have met x .
2. Among the remaining 5 people, at least 3 have not met x .

We first argue that at least one of these cases must hold.

We'll prove this by contradiction. Namely, suppose neither case holds. This means that at most 2 people in the group met x and at most 2 did not meet x . This leaves at least 1 of the remaining 5 people unaccounted for. That is, at least 1 of the people neither met x nor did not meet x , which contradicts our agreement that every pair has met or has not met. So at least one of these two cases must hold.

Case 1: Suppose that at least 3 people that did meet x .

This case splits into two subcases:

Case 1.1: no pair among these people met each other. Then these are a group of at least 3 strangers. So the Theorem holds the subcase.

Case 1.2: some pair among these people have met each other. Then that pair, together with x , form a club of 3 people. So the Theorem holds in this subcase.

This implies that the Theorem holds Case 1.

Case 2: Suppose that there exist at least 3 people that did not meet x .

This case also splits into two subcases:

Case 2.1: every pairs among these people met each other. Then these people are a club of at least 3 people. So the Theorem holds in this subcase.

Case 2.2: some pair among these people have not met each other. Then that pair, together with x , from a group of at least 3 strangers. So the Theorem holds in this subcase.

This implies that the Theorem also holds in Case 2, and therefore holds in all cases.

2 Predicates

A predicate is...

a proposition whose truth depends on the value of one or more variables.

Example

" n is a perfect square."

↳ True for $n=4$, but false for 5

predicates are often named with a letter

Furthermore a function-like notation is used to denote a predicate supplied with specific variable values.

↳ Example

$P(n) = "n \text{ is a perfect square.}"$

↳ $P(4)$ is true, $P(5)$ is false.

2.1 Quantifying a Predicate

There are a couple of assertion one commonly makes about a predicate:

- it is sometimes true
- it is always true

Example

$x^2 \geq 0$ → always true when x is a real number

$5x^2 - 7 = 0$ → only sometimes true; specifically, when $x = \pm\sqrt{\frac{7}{5}}$

Always True

- ⇒ ◦ For all n , $P(n)$ is true.
- $P(n)$ is true for every n .

Sometimes True

- ⇒ ◦ There exists an n such that $P(n)$ is true.
- $P(n)$ is true for some n .
- $P(n)$ is true for at least one n .

2.2 More Cryptic Notation

To say that a predicate $P(n)$ is true for all values of x in some set D :

$$\forall x \in D, P(x)$$

↳ is read "for all"

To say that a predicate $P(x)$ is true for at least one value of x in D :

$$\exists x \in D, P(x)$$

↳ is read "there exists"

2.3 Mixing Quantifiers

Example

Goldbach's Conjecture states:

"Every even integer greater than 2 is the sum of two primes."

write this more verbosely ↓ to make use of quantification clearer

For every even integer n greater than 2, there exist primes p and q such that $n = p + q$.

Let E_v be the set of even integers, let Primes be the set of primes

$$\forall n \in E_v \exists p \in \text{Primes} \exists q \in \text{Primes}. n = p + q$$

2.4 Order of Quantifiers

Swapping the order of different kinds of quantifiers (existential or universal) changes the meaning of a proposition.

Example

(Let A be the set of Americans
Let D be the set of dreams)

define the predicate $H(a, d)$ to be "American a has dream d ".

$\exists d \in D \forall a \in A. H(a, d) \Rightarrow$ there is a single dream that every American shares.

$\forall a \in A \exists d \in D. H(a, d) \Rightarrow$ every American has their personal dream.

2.4. 1 Variables over Domain

When all the variables in a formula are understood to take values from the same nonempty set, D , it's conventional to omit mention of D .

Example

$$\forall x \in D \exists y \in D. Q(x, y) = \forall x \exists y. Q(x, y)$$

$\Rightarrow D$: unnamed nonempty set that x and y range over.

\Rightarrow is called domain of the formula

2.5 Negating Quantifiers

$\neg \forall x, P(x)$ is equivalent to $\exists x, \neg P(x)$
 $(\neg \exists x, Q(x)) \longleftrightarrow \forall x, \neg Q(x)$

2.6 Validity

When a propositional formula evaluates to True matter what truth values are assigned to the individual propositional variables:

it is called valid

Example

- $[(P \wedge Q) \vee R] \longleftrightarrow [(P \wedge Q) \vee (P \wedge R)] \Rightarrow$ valid
- $\exists x \forall y. P(x, y) \rightarrow \forall y \exists x. P(x, y) \Rightarrow$ valid

Proof. Let D be the domain for the variables and P_0 be some binary predicate on D . We need to show that if $\exists x \forall y. P(x, y)$ holds under this interpretation, then so does $\forall y \exists x. P(x, y)$.

So suppose $\exists x \forall y. P_0(x, y)$. So some element $x_0 \in D$ has the property that $P_0(x_0, y)$ is true for all $y \in D$. So for every $y \in D$, there is some $x \in D$, namely x_0 , such that $P_0(x, y)$ is true.

That is, $\forall y \exists x. P(x, y)$ holds under this interpretation, as required.

- $\forall y \exists x. P(x, y) \rightarrow \exists x \forall y. P(x, y) \Rightarrow$ not valid.

Under this interpretation the conclusion asserts is certainly false

\Rightarrow such interpretation is called a counter model to the assertion

3 Mathematical Data Types

A set is ...

a bunch of objects, which are called the "elements"

↳ elements: can be just about anything

(numbers, points in space, or even other sets etc.)

The conventional way to write down a set:

to list the elements inside curly-braces

° the order of elements is not significant

$$\boxed{\text{ex}} \quad \{x, y\} = \{y, x\}$$

° it doesn't make sense to think of an element appearing more than once in a set

$$\boxed{\text{ex}} \quad \{x, x\} = \{x\}$$

$e \in S$: e is an element of set S

$e \notin S$: e is not an element of set S

3.1 Some Popular Sets

symbol	set	elements
\emptyset	the empty set	none
\mathbb{N}	natural numbers	$\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
\mathbb{Z}	integers	$\{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
\mathbb{Q}	rational numbers	$\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{5}{3}, 16, \text{etc.}$
\mathbb{R}	real numbers	$\pi, e, -9, \text{etc.}$
\mathbb{C}	complex numbers	$i, \frac{1}{2}, \sqrt{2} - i, \text{etc.}$

3.2 Comparing and Combining Sets

$S \subseteq T$: set S is a subset of set T

↳ every element of S is also an element of T

$$\boxed{\text{ex}} \quad \mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C} \not\subseteq \mathbb{Z}$$

$S \subset T$: S is a subset of T , but the two are not equal

$X \cup Y$: the union of sets X and Y

↳ contains all elements appearing in X or Y or both

$X \cap Y$: the intersection of X and Y

↳ consists of all elements that appear in both X and Y

$X - Y$: the difference of X and Y

↳ consists of all elements that are in X , but not in Y .

3.2.1 Complement of A Set

D : a particular domain

A : any subset of D

$$\Rightarrow \bar{A} := D - A$$

↳ the complement of A

= the set of all elements of D not in A

ex) $\mathbb{R}^+ = \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$

3.2.2 Power Set

$P(A)$: the powerset of A

↳ the collection of all the elements of a set A

$$\Rightarrow B \in P(A) \text{ iff } B \subseteq A$$

* if A has n elements, then there are 2^n sets in $P(A)$

3.3 Sequences

sequence: a list of objects called terms or components

o short sequences: described by listing the elements between parentheses

ex) (a, b, c)

the differences between sets and sequences

sets	sequences
① the elements are required to be distinct	the terms can be the same
② the elements don't have specified order	the terms have specified order
③ the empty one: \emptyset	the empty one: λ

↳ ex) ② (a, b, c) and (a, c, b) : different sequences / $\{a, b, c\}$ and $\{a, c, b\}$: the same set

$S_1 \times S_2 \times \dots \times S_n$: a product of sets

↳ new set consisting of all sequences where the first component is drawn from S_1 , the second from S_2 , and so forth.

[ex] $\mathbb{N} \times \{a, b\} = \{(0, a), (0, b), (1, a), (1, b), \dots\}$

S^n : a product of n copies of a set S

[ex] $\{0, 1\}^3 = \{(0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0), (0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 0), (1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 0), (1, 1, 1)\}$

3.4 Set Builder Notation

Set builder notation: to define a set using a predicate.

[ex] $\circ A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n \text{ is a prime and } n = 4k+1 \text{ for some integer } k\}$

$\circ B = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x^3 - 3x + 1 > 0\}$

$\circ C = \{a+bi \in \mathbb{C} \mid a^2 + b^2 \leq 1\}$

3.5 Functions

A function assigns the domain (= an element of one set) to the codomain (= elements of another set).

$f: A \rightarrow B$... f is a function with domain, A , and codomain, B

$f(a) = b$... f assigns the element $b \in B$ to a

* finite functions

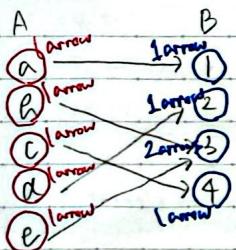
can be specified by a table

$\circ f(p, q) = [p \rightarrow q]$

P	Q	$f(p, q)$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

we say a function $f: A \rightarrow B$ is:

- total: if every element of A is assigned to some element of B .
- \nexists not total \Rightarrow a partial function
- surjective: if every element of B is mapped to at least once.
- injective: if every element of B is mapped to at most once.
- bijective: if f is total, surjective, and injective
 - \hookrightarrow each element of B is mapped to exactly once.



◦ "f is a function":

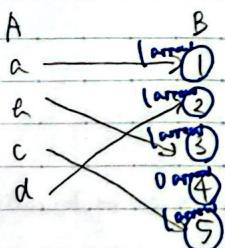
(every point) in the domain column, A , has at most one arrow out of it.

◦ "f is surjective":

(every point) in the codomain column, B , has at least one arrow into it.

◦ "f is total":

(every point) in the domain column, A , has at least one arrow out of it = it has exactly one arrow (since f is a function)

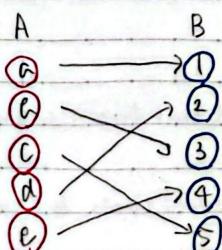


◦ "f is injective":

(every point) in the codomain column, B , has at most one arrow into it.

\nexists If more than one arrow came out of any point in the first column:

f would be a relation, (not function)



◦ "f is bijective":

(every point) in the A column has exactly one arrow out of it, and (every point) in the B column has exactly one arrow into it.

everything about a function is captured by three sets:

- domain
- codomain
- the graph of $f : \{(a, b) \mid f(a) = b\}$

the domain: to determine if f is total

the codomain: to tell if it's surjective

Lemma (Mapping Rule)

- If $f : A \rightarrow B$ is surjective, then $|A| \geq |B|$.
- If $f : A \rightarrow B$ is total and injective, then $|A| \leq |B|$.
- If $f : A \rightarrow B$ is bijective, then $|A| = |B|$.
- * If A is a finite set, let $|A|$ be its size, that is, the number of elements in A .

- if $f : A \rightarrow B$, and $A \subseteq A'$,
- $f(A') := \{b \in B \mid f(a') = b \text{ for some } a' \in A'\}$.
- the set of values that arise from applying f to all possible arguments: range of f
- range(f) := $f(\text{domain}(f))$

4 Does All This Really Work?

"there is a handful of axioms from which everything else in mathematics can be logically derived."

↳ mainstream mathematics stands today

(but) the essence of truth in mathematics is not completely resolved

- The ZFC axioms weren't etched by God.
- No one knows whether the ZFC axioms are logically consistent.
⇒ Math would be broken!
↳ such a situation has happened before
(Several mathematicians including Russell discovered that Frege's axioms actually were self-contradictory)
- While the ZFC axioms largely generate the mathematics everyone wants, but they also imply some disturbing conclusions
[ex] the Banach-Tarski Theorem

- In the 1930's, Gödel proved that exist propositions in ZFC are true, but do not logically follow from the axioms.

Russell's Paradox.

Let S be a variable ranging over all sets, and define

$$W := \{S \mid S \notin S\}$$

So by definition,

$$S \in W \text{ iff } S \notin S,$$

for every set S . In particular, we can let S be W , and obtain the contradictory result that
 $W \in W \text{ iff } W \notin W$.