On the Concepts of Relation and Function [WiP]

Artur Wegrzyn

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Abstract

The purpose of this text is to store a number of facts related to the concepts of *relation* and *function*. This note is primarily intended for author's own use.

Contents

1 Existence of Cartesian product in ZFC **2**
1.1 Existence of Ordered Pair 2
1.2 Existence of Cartesian product 3

2 Relations **3**
2.1 Definition of Relation 4
2.2 Properties of Relations 4

3 Orders **4**
3.1 Definitions of Various Orders 4
3.2 Strict Order and Weak Order 4

4 Function - Definition **4**

5 Inverse Function - Definition 1 **4**

6 Inverse Function - Definition 2 **4**

7 Composition of Functions **4**

8 Important Application: Equipollence of Sets **4**

9 Bibliography **4**

1 Existence of Cartesian product in ZFC

Fundamentally, I work with ZFC (cf. [2], Chapter X for more details; I am not going to introduce the full formalism here).

1.1 Existence of Ordered Pair

Consider two non-empty sets X and Y and let x, y be such that $x \in X, y \in Y$.

1. By the Axiom of Pair it is possible to form the set P given x, y:

$$P = \{x, y\}$$

2. Take Kuratowski's definition of ordered pair (x, y):

$$(x, y) = \{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\} \tag{1}$$

But how can we justify existance of the set (x, y)?

3. Showing that (1) is allowed. Consider x and apply the Axiom of Pair to two sets a, b such that $a = b = x$. This yields the set P_x:

$$P_x = \{x, x\} = \{x\}$$

4. Now it has been established that the sets $\{x\}$ and $\{x, y\}$ exist for $x \in X, y \in Y$. Hence, applying Axiom of Pair to $\{x\}$ and $\{x, y\}$ one more time yields a set Π:

$$\Pi = \{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\}$$

which is just (1).

Thus, given non-empty sets X and Y and some of their members $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$, it is permitted to form the ordered pair (x, y).

1.2 Existence of Cartesian product

It remains to be demonstrated that the set of all ordered pairs of members of X and Y also exists.

1. Take any $x \in X, y \in Y$ and form the ordered pair (x, y).
2. Apply Axiom of Pair to a and b such that $a = b = (x, y)$ to get the set $\{a, b\}$, i.e. the set $\{(x, y)\}$.
3. Use Axiom of Union to Form the following set U_y:
$$U_y = \bigcup_{x \in X} \{(x, y)\}$$
4. Use Axiom of union again, this time - to form the following set C:
$$C := \bigcup_{y \in Y} \bigcup_{x \in X} \{(x, y)\} = \bigcup_{y \in Y} U_y \tag{2}$$

It remains to be shown that the set C indeed contains all the ordered pairs that can be formed from the members of sets X and Y. To this end, pick any $x_0 \in X$ and $y_0 \in Y$ and form the orderd pair (x_0, y_0).

The question still stands - is it the case that $(x_0, y_0) \in C$? By definition:

$$(x_0, y_0) \in C \Leftrightarrow \exists y \in Y : (x_0, y_0) \in U_y$$

Consider $y = y_0$. Since:

$$U_{y_0} = \bigcup_{x \in X} \{(x, y_0)\}$$

it does indeed hold that $(x_0, y_0) \in C$.

It is now established that the set C of all ordered pairs of the members of the sets X and Y exists. This set is called *Cartesian product* and is denoted $X \times Y$. To summarize:

Definition 1. (Cartesian product of two sets) Let X, Y be nonempty sets. Then, the set of all ordered pairs (x, y) such that $x \in X, y \in Y$ is denoted $X \times Y$ and it is called the Cartesian product of sets X and Y.

2 Relations

Let's keep the sets X and Y nonempty. It has been established that it is permitted to form the Cartesian product $X \times Y$.

2.1 Definition of Relation

2.2 Properties of Relations

3 Orders

3.1 Definitions of Various Orders

3.2 Strict Order and Weak Order

4 Function - Definition

5 Inverse Function - Definition 1

6 Inverse Function - Definition 2

7 Composition of Functions

8 Important Application: Equipollence of Sets

9 Bibliography

The concept of function is a fundamental one for mathematics in general, so it is discussed in most instrodoctory handbooks that cover foundations of mathematics, algebra and analysis.

I would like to share subjective selection of bibliography in English and Polish here. In my view, the book [1] is an especially friendly reference for those looking for both: general introduction to foundations of mathematics and friendly exposition of the concept of function.

References

[1] R. Z. (ed.) et al. *Sets, Logic, Computation. An Open Introduction.* Fall 2019.

[2] P. Suppes. *Axiomatic Set Theory.* Dover, 1972.