

**Arbitrary Unions and Intersections:**

1. Consider arbitrary sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ .

(a) In your own words, explain why  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap C$  and why  $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup C$

Note that as a consequence of the two exercises above, we can write  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap C = A \cup B \cap C$ . Similarly, we write  $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup C = A \cap B \cup C$ . The next definition extends this idea to any finite number of intersections or unions.

**Definition 4.3.1:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  be sets. Then

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n = \{x \in \mathcal{U} \mid \text{there exists } i \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ with } 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ such that } x \in A_i\}.$$

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i = A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_n = \{x \in \mathcal{U} \mid \text{for all } i \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ with } 1 \leq i \leq n, x \in A_i\}.$$

2. For each of the following collections of subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$ , find  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$  and  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i$  for the given  $n$ -value.

(a)  $A_i = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, i\}$  given that  $n = 5$

(b)  $A_i = [0, i]$  given that  $n = 5$

(c)  $A_i = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, i\}$  given that  $n = N$

(d)  $A_i = [0, i]$  given that  $n = N$

**Theorem 4.3.2** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . then for all sets  $A, B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n$ ,

- $A \cup (B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_n) = (A \cup B_1) \cap (A \cup B_2) \cap \dots \cap (A \cup B_n)$ .
- $A \cap (B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_n) = (A \cap B_1) \cup (A \cap B_2) \cup \dots \cup (A \cap B_n)$ .
- $\overline{B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_n} = \overline{B_1} \cap \overline{B_2} \cap \dots \cap \overline{B_n}$ .
- $\overline{B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_n} = \overline{B_1} \cup \overline{B_2} \cup \dots \cup \overline{B_n}$ .

**Proof:** We will prove the first part (using proof by induction). The second part is proved in your textbook. The remaining parts are presentation problems.

**Base Case:** For  $n = 1$ , we see that  $A \cup B_1 = A \cup B_1$ , so the statement is true when  $n = 1$ .

**Inductive Step:** Suppose that the statement holds for all collections of sets of size  $m$  for some  $m \geq 1$ . That is, suppose that for any collection of sets  $C, D_1, D_2, \dots, D_m$ , we have  $C \cup (D_1 \cap D_2 \cap \dots \cap D_m) = (C \cup D_1) \cap (C \cup D_2) \cap \dots \cap (C \cup D_m)$ .

Given a collection of sets  $A, B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m, B_{m+1}$ , consider  $A \cup (B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_m \cap B_{m+1})$ . Notice that  $A \cup (B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_m \cap B_{m+1}) = A \cup ((B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_m) \cap B_{m+1}) = A \cup (B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_m) \cap (A \cup B_{m+1})$  [by Theorem 4.2.6].

By the induction hypothesis, with  $C = A$  and  $D_i = B_i$ , we have  $A \cup (B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_m) = (A \cup B_1) \cap (A \cup B_2) \cap \dots \cap (A \cup B_m)$ . Hence  $A \cup (B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_m \cap B_{m+1}) = ((A \cup B_1) \cap (A \cup B_2) \cap \dots \cap (A \cup B_m)) \cap (A \cup B_{m+1})$ , which verifies the  $m + 1$  case.

Therefore,  $A \cup (B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \dots \cap B_n) = (A \cup B_1) \cap (A \cup B_2) \cap \dots \cap (A \cup B_n)$ .  $\square$ .

The next definition extends this idea to an infinite collection of sets (a collection indexed – that is, put in 1-1 correspondence through labeling – by the positive integers).

**Definition 4.3.3:** Given sets  $A_i, i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , with underlying universal set  $\mathcal{U}$ ,

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \{x \in \mathcal{U} \mid \text{there exists } i \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ such that } x \in A_i\}.$$

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \{x \in \mathcal{U} \mid \text{for all } i \in \mathbb{Z}^+, x \in A_i\}.$$

3. For each of the following indexed collections of subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $A_i$  for  $i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , find  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$  and  $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$ .

(a)  $A_i = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, i\}$

(b)  $A_i = [0, i]$

(c)  $A_i = [0, \frac{1}{i}]$

**Definition 4.3.6:** Let  $I$  be a non-empty set and let Given sets  $\{A_i, | i \in I\}$  be an indexed family of sets, relative to some universal set  $\mathcal{U}$ . Then

- For each  $j \in I$ ,  $\bigcap_{i=I} A_i \subseteq A_j$ .
- For each  $j \in I$ ,  $A_j \subseteq \bigcup_{i=I} A_i$ .
- $B \cup \bigcap_{i=I} A_i = \bigcap_{i=I} (B \cup A_i)$
- $B \cap \bigcup_{i=I} A_i = \bigcup_{i=I} (B \cap A_i)$
- $\overline{\bigcup_{i=I} A_i} = \bigcap_{i=I} \overline{A_i}$
- $\overline{\bigcap_{i=I} A_i} = \bigcup_{i=I} \overline{A_i}$

4. Explain, in your own words, why the first two parts of the Theorem above make sense.

5. **Presentation Problems:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be arbitrary sets.

(a) Prove Proposition 4.2.12

(b) Prove  $A - (A - B) = A \cap B$

(c) Prove  $(A - B) \cup (B - A) = (A \cup B) - (A \cap B)$

(d) Prove  $A \times (B \cap C) = (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$

(e) Prove or Disprove: If  $A \subseteq B \cup C$  then  $A \subseteq B$  or  $A \subseteq C$ .

(f) Prove or Disprove: If  $A \subseteq B \cap C$  then  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ .

(g) Prove or Disprove: If  $A - C \subseteq B - C$  then  $A \subseteq B$ .

(h) Prove or Disprove:  $\mathcal{P}(A \cup B) = \mathcal{P}(A) \cup \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

(i) Prove or Disprove:  $\mathcal{P}(A \cap B) = \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

(j) Express the set  $\{1\}$  as the intersection of a collection of distinct, non-empty intervals in  $\mathbb{R}$  indexed by  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ .