

## Exam topics

- Basic structures: sets, lists, functions
  - Sets  $\{ \}$ : write all elements, or define by condition
  - Set operations:  $A \cup B$ ,  $A \cap B$ ,  $A \setminus B$ ,  $A^c$
  - Lists  $( )$ : Cartesian product  $A \times B$
  - Functions  $f : A \rightarrow B$  defined by any input-output rule
  - Injective function:  $\forall a_1, a_2 \in A: a_1 \neq a_2 \Rightarrow f(a_1) \neq f(a_2)$
  - Surjective function:  $\forall b \in B, \exists a \in A$  with  $f(a) = b$
  - Enumeration. Powerset: number of subsets  $S \subset [n]$  is  $2^n$ .  
Functions: number of  $f : [k] \rightarrow [n]$  is  $n^k$ .
  - $A, B$  have same cardinality: there is a bijection  $f : A \rightarrow B$
  - $A$  is countable: there is a bijection  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$   
Diagonal argument:  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}$  are countable
- Formal logic
  - Statements: definitely true or false
  - Conditional (open) statement  $P(x)$ : true/false depends on variable  $x$
  - Logical operations: *and*, *or*, *not*, *implies*
  - Truth tables and logical equivalence
  - Implication  $P \Rightarrow Q$  equivalent to: contrapositive  $\text{not}(Q) \Rightarrow \text{not}(P)$ ;  
independent from: converse  $Q \Rightarrow P$ , inverse  $\text{not}(P) \Rightarrow \text{not}(Q)$
  - Negate implication:  $\text{not}(P \Rightarrow Q)$  is equivalent to:  $P$  and  $\text{not}(Q)$
  - Quantifiers close a conditional statement:  $\forall x, P(x)$ : for all  $x$ ,  $P(x)$  is true;  
 $\exists x, P(x)$ : there exists some  $x$  such that  $P(x)$  is true.
  - Negate quantifiers:  $\text{not}(\forall x, P(x))$  is equivalent to:  $\exists x, \text{not}(P(x))$
  - Logical equivalences and set equations
  - Logic in mathematical notation versus in words

1. Consider the following statement, which may be true or false:

“A necessary condition for the equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  to have a solution is:  $a \neq 0$  and  $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$ .”

- a. Rephrase this as an if-then implication, putting in unstated quantifiers.
  - b. Write the contrapositive of the statement.
  - c. Write the converse of the statement.
  - d. Write the inverse of the statement.
  - e. Write the negation of the statement (simplified by moving the *not* as far into the statement as possible).
  - f. Which of the above statements (a)-(e) are equivalent to each other?
  - g. In fact, the original statement is false. Disprove it (prove the negation).
2. Consider the equations below involving arbitrary sets  $A, B, C \subset X$ .

- Translate each side of the equation into a conditional statement combining “ $x \in A$ ,” “ $x \in B$ ,” “ $x \in C$ .”
- Write a truth table for the combined statements on the two sides: if they are equivalent, the set equation is true; otherwise it is false.

- a.  $(A \cup B)^c \stackrel{?}{=} A^c \cup B^c$
- b.  $(A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B) \stackrel{?}{=} (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$
- c.  $A \cup (B \cap C) \stackrel{?}{=} (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$
- d.  $A \times (B \cup C) \stackrel{?}{=} (A \times B) \cup (A \times C)$

3. In my paperback copy of *The Hobbit*, let  $W$  be the set of words used in the text, and let  $P = \{1, \dots, 245\}$  be the set of page numbers. Let  $f : W \rightarrow P$  be the function which takes each word to the first page where it appears.

Explain why  $f$  probably does or does not have the following properties:

- a. Is  $f$  injective?
- b. Is  $f$  surjective?
- c. Is  $f$  bijective?
- d. The index of a book lists keywords, and next to each, the page numbers where the keyword appears. Does this data naturally define a function?

## Solutions

**1a.** Start by rephrasing:

“The conditions  $a \neq 0$  and  $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$  are necessary for  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  to have a solution.”

The statement “ $Q$  is necessary for  $P$ ” is equivalent to “if  $P$  then  $Q$ ”:

“If  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  has a solution, then  $a \neq 0$  and  $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$ .”

The constants  $a, b, c$  are implicitly any real numbers, and “has a solution” means there is some  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  which makes the equation true:

“For any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ , if there is some  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ , then  $a \neq 0$  and  $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$ .”

In symbols:

$$\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}, (\exists x \in \mathbb{R}, ax^2 + bx + c = 0) \Rightarrow (a \neq 0 \text{ and } b^2 - 4ac \geq 0).$$

**b.** The above statement  $P \Rightarrow Q$  is equivalent to its contrapositive:

“For any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ , if not ( $a \neq 0$  and  $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$ ), then there is no  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ .”

Simplifying further:

“For any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $a = 0$  or  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ , then  $ax^2 + bx + c \neq 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .”

In symbols:

$$\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}, (a = 0 \text{ or } b^2 - 4ac < 0) \Rightarrow (\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, ax^2 + bx + c \neq 0).$$

**c.** The original statement  $P \Rightarrow Q$  (which is false) is logically independent of the converse  $Q \Rightarrow P$  (which is true):

“The conditions  $a \neq 0$  and  $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$  are sufficient for  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  to have a solution.”

Or:

“For any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $a \neq 0$  and  $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$ , then there is some  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ .”

**1e&g.** The original statement  $\forall a, b, c: P \Rightarrow Q$  from part (a) has the negation:  $\exists a, b, c: P \text{ and } \text{not}(Q)$ :

“There is some  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ , and with  $a = 0$  or  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ .”

To prove this existence statement, it is enough to find one example of  $a, b, c$  which satisfy the conditions. We can just take  $a = b = c = 0$ . Then there *is* some  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  (for example  $x = 0$ ) which satisfies  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ , we *do* have  $a = 0$ , and it is *irrelevant* whether  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ .

**2a.** The left side is:

$$\begin{aligned}(A \cup B)^c &= \{x \in X \mid \text{not}(x \in A \cup B)\} \\ &= \{x \in X \mid \text{not}(x \in A \text{ or } x \in B)\} \\ &= \{x \in X \mid x \notin A \text{ and } x \notin B\}\end{aligned}$$

The right side is:

$$\begin{aligned}A^c \cup B^c &= \{x \in X \mid x \in A^c \text{ or } x \in B^c\} \\ &= \{x \in X \mid x \notin A \text{ or } x \notin B\}\end{aligned}$$

The conditions defining these two sides are clearly not equivalent. For example, if  $x \in A$  is True and  $x \in B$  is False, then the left condition ( $x \notin A$  and  $x \notin B$ ) is False, but the right condition ( $x \notin A$  or  $x \notin B$ ) is True.

Thus an element  $x$  can be in the right set but not in the left set, so the two sets are *not* equal. However, a closer examination reveals:  $(A \cup B)^c \subseteq A^c \cup B^c$ .

**2d.** The left side is:

$$\begin{aligned}A \times (B \cup C) &= \{(x, y) \mid x \in A \text{ and } y \in B \cup C\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \mid x \in A \text{ and } (y \in B \text{ or } y \in C)\}\end{aligned}$$

The right side is:

$$\begin{aligned}(A \times B) \cup (A \times C) &= \{(x, y) \mid (x, y) \in A \times B \text{ or } (x, y) \in A \times C\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \mid (x \in A \text{ and } y \in B) \text{ or } (x \in A \text{ and } y \in C)\}\end{aligned}$$

Now, a truth table shows that for any statements  $P, Q, R$ , we have the equivalence:

$$P \text{ and } (Q \text{ or } R) \iff (P \text{ and } Q) \text{ or } (P \text{ and } R).$$

Applying this to  $P = "x \in A"$ ,  $Q = "x \in B"$ ,  $R = "x \in C"$ , we find that the conditions defining the left and right sets are equivalent. That is,  $x$  is in the left-side set if and only if  $x$  is in the right side set, so the sets are equal.

**3a&c.** The function is not injective. A counterexample: let  $w_1, w_2$  be the first two distinct words on page 1. Then  $w_1 \neq w_2$ , but  $f(w_1) = f(w_2) = 1$ . Since  $f$  is not injective, it cannot be bijective.

**3b.** For the function to be surjective, for any page  $p \in P$ , there must be a word  $w \in W$  with  $f(p) = w$ . That is, each page must have a new word which did not appear before. This is unlikely for the last few pages, so the function is probably not surjective.

**3d.** It would be natural to define  $g(w)$  to be the page numbers where  $w$  appears, but this is not a function because (unlike  $f(w)$ ) there is not a single output for each input.