



*God created infinity, and man, unable to understand infinity, had to invent finite sets.*

– Gian Carlo Rota

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer any 11 of the following 13 problems. You may answer more than 11 to earn extra credit.

1. Let  $X, Y, W$  be non-empty sets. Let  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  be a mapping and let  $G: Y \rightarrow W$  be a mapping. Assume that  $G \circ F$  is surjective.
- (a) Prove that  $G$  must be surjective.

Solution: From our text:

**Theorem 12.2** Suppose  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$ . If both  $f$  and  $g$  are injective, then  $g \circ f$  is injective. If both  $f$  and  $g$  are surjective, then  $g \circ f$  is surjective.

*Proof.* First suppose both  $f$  and  $g$  are injective. To see that  $g \circ f$  is injective, we must show that  $g \circ f(x) = g \circ f(y)$  implies  $x = y$ . Suppose  $g \circ f(x) = g \circ f(y)$ . This means  $g(f(x)) = g(f(y))$ . It follows that  $f(x) = f(y)$ . (For otherwise  $g$  wouldn't be injective.) But since  $f(x) = f(y)$  and  $f$  is injective, it must be that  $x = y$ . Therefore  $g \circ f$  is injective.

Next suppose both  $f$  and  $g$  are surjective. To see that  $g \circ f$  is surjective, we must show that for any element  $c \in C$ , there is a corresponding element  $a \in A$  for which  $g \circ f(a) = c$ . Thus consider an arbitrary  $c \in C$ . Because  $g$  is surjective, there is an element  $b \in B$  for which  $g(b) = c$ . And because  $f$  is surjective, there is an element  $a \in A$  for which  $f(a) = b$ . Therefore  $g(f(a)) = g(b) = c$ , which means  $g \circ f(a) = c$ . Thus  $g \circ f$  is surjective. ■

(b) By exhibiting a counter-example, show that  $F$  need not be surjective.

(Hint: You may wish to assume that  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$  are finite sets of small cardinalities. However, this is not essential to produce a counter-example.)

Counter example: Let  $X = \{a\}$ ,  $Y = \{1, 2\}$  and  $Z = \{\alpha\}$ .

Define  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  by  $F(a) = 1$ ;

Define  $G: Y \rightarrow Z$  by  $G(1) = G(2) = \alpha$ .

Then  $G \circ F: X \rightarrow Z$  is surjective, since its target,  $Z$ , is a set of one element.

Now  $F$  is not surjective since the range of  $X$  doesn't include 2.

2. (a) Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be disjoint countably infinite sets. Prove that  $X \cup Y$  is countable.

Proof: Let  $X = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots\}$  and  $Y = \{b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots\}$ , .

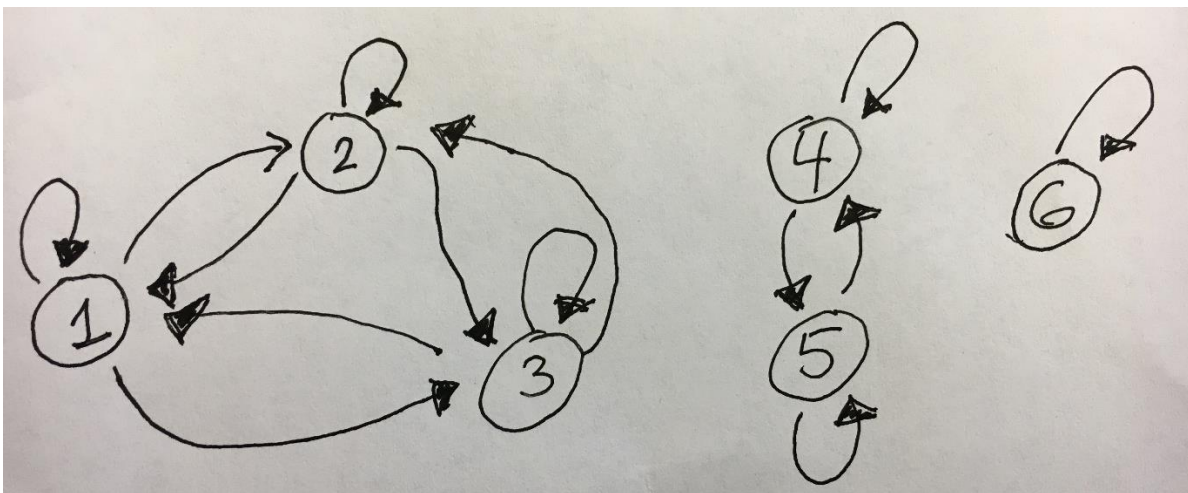
Then we may enumerate  $X \cup Y$  as follows  $\{a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, a_3, b_3, \dots\}$

(b) Using part (a), prove that the set of irrational numbers is uncountable. (You may assume that  $Q$  is countably infinite.)

Proof: Assume that  $S$ , the set of irrational numbers, is countably infinite. Since we have proven that the set of rational numbers,  $Q$ , is countably infinite, it must follow from (a) that  $R = S \cup Q$  is also countable. But this contradicts Cantor's result that  $R$  is uncountable.

Thus our initial assumption that  $S$  is countable is false.

3. Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . Consider the following relation diagram on  $X$ .



(a) Does this diagram define an equivalence relation on  $X$ ? Explain

Solution: Yes, from the diagram one may check reflexivity, symmetry, and transitivity.

Answer either (b) OR (c).

- (b) If the answer to (a) is negative, is the relation reflexive, symmetric, or transitive? Justify your answers.  
 (c) If the answer to (a) is affirmative, list the equivalence classes of  $X$ .

*Solution:* There are three equivalence classes, namely  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $\{4, 6\}$  and  $\{6\}$ .

4. Let  $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $Y = P(X)$ . Define  $T: X \rightarrow P(X)$  as follows:

$$T(0) = \{1, 3\}$$

$$T(1) = \{4\}$$

$$T(2) = \emptyset$$

$$T(3) = \{1, 3, 5\}$$

$$T(4) = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$T(5) = \{4, 5\}$$

- (a) Is  $T$  well defined? Why?

*Solution:* Yes,  $T$  is well defined. Each member of  $X$  is mapped (unambiguously) to a subset of  $X$ , or equivalently into a member in  $P(X)$ .

Let  $D^* = \{i \in X \mid i \notin T(i)\}$

- (b) Find (explicitly)  $D^*$ .

*Solution:*  $D^* = \{0, 1, 2\}$

- (c) Is  $T$  injective? Explain!

*Solution:* Yes,  $T$  is injective, since no two elements of  $X$  are mapped into the same element of  $P(X)$ .

- (d) Is  $T$  surjective? Explain!

*Solution:* No,  $T$  is not surjective since, for example,  $\{5, 6\}$  is not in the range of  $T$ .

5. Let  $X$  be the set of all integers greater than or equal to 2.

If  $a, b \in X$  define the following relation  $\approx$  on  $X$ :

$a \approx b$  if the largest prime factor of  $a$  is at least as big as the largest prime factor of  $b$ .

- (i) Is  $\approx$  reflexive? Give proof or counter-example.

*Solution:* The binary operator  $\bowtie$  is reflexive since the largest prime factor of  $a$  equals the largest prime factor of  $a$ , and thus is “at least as big as the largest prime factor” of  $a$ .

(ii) Is  $\bowtie$  symmetric? Give proof or counter-example.

*Solution: No:* For example  $7 \bowtie 5$  is true but  $5 \bowtie 7$  is false.

(iii) Is  $\bowtie$  transitive? Give proof or counter-example.

*Solution: Yes:* If the largest prime number of  $a$  is at least as big as the largest prime factor of  $b$ , and the largest prime factor of  $b$  is at least as big as the largest prime factor, then it follows (from transitivity of  $\geq$ ) that the largest prime factor of  $a$  is at least as big as the largest prime factor of  $c$ .

**6.** Let  $\mathbf{Z}$  be the set of all integers, and let  $X$  be the set of all polynomials in one variable with integer coefficients.

Define  $H: X \rightarrow N \cup \{0\}$  as follows:

For  $p \in X$ , let  $H(p) =$  the number of real solutions to the equation  $p(x) = 0$ .

For example if  $p = 13(x - 5)(x - 11)$ , then  $H(p) = 2$ .

(a) Explain why  $H$  is well-defined?

*Solution: Yes,  $H$  is well-defined.* Each polynomial has a precise number of roots and this number is a non-negative integer. So the range of  $H$  is contained in  $N \cup \{0\}$ .

(b) Is  $H$  injective? Give proof or counter-example.

*Solution: No, for example  $H(x^2 + 1) = H(x^4 + x^2 + 1) = 0$*

(c) Is  $H$  surjective? Give proof or counter-example

*Solution: Yes,  $H$  is surjective.* Given any positive integer  $n$ , the polynomial  $\sum_{j=1}^n (x - 1)(x - 2)(x - 3) \dots (x - j)$  has exactly  $n$  distinct roots. Now for  $n = 0$ , just consider  $p(x) = x^2 + 1$ .

**7.** For any real numbers,  $c$  and  $d$ , let us define the binary operation  $\boxtimes$  as follows:

$$c \boxtimes d = 1 - 2c^2d^2$$

Give either a *brief* justification or counterexample for each of the following:

(a) Is  $\mathbf{R}$  closed under  $\mathfrak{K}$  ?

*Solution:* Yes: If  $c$  and  $d$  are real numbers, then so is  $1 - 2c^2d^2$  since real numbers are closed under addition, subtraction and multiplication.

(b) The operation  $\mathfrak{K}$  is commutative: i.e., for all real numbers  $c$  and  $d$ ,

$$c \mathfrak{K} d = d \mathfrak{K} c.$$

*Solution:* Yes,  $\mathfrak{K}$  is commutative:

$$c \mathfrak{K} d = 1 - 2c^2d^2 = 1 - 2d^2c^2 = d \mathfrak{K} c$$

(c) Let  $c, d \in \mathbf{R}$ . If either  $c$  or  $d$  equals 0, then  $c \mathfrak{K} d = 1$

*Solution:* Yes:  $0 \mathfrak{K} d = 1 - 0 = 1$  and  $c \mathfrak{K} 0 = 1 - 0 = 1$

(d) Let  $c, d \in \mathbf{R}$ . If  $c \mathfrak{K} d = 1$  then either  $c$  or  $d$  equals 0.

*Solution:* Suppose that  $1 = c \mathfrak{K} d = 1 - 2c^2d^2$ . This implies that  $c^2d^2 = 0$ , from which either  $c = 0$  or  $d = 0$ .

(e) Let us restrict the operator  $\mathfrak{K}$  to  $\mathbf{Z}$ , the set of integers. Then is  $\mathbf{Z}$  closed under the operation  $\mathfrak{K}$  ?

*Solution:* Yes,  $\mathbf{Z}$  is closed under addition, subtraction. Hence, for all integers  $a, b$ ,  $a \mathfrak{K} b \in \mathbf{Z}$ .

(f) Let us restrict the operator  $\mathfrak{K}$  to the set  $V$  of irrational numbers. Then  $V$  is closed under  $\mathfrak{K}$ .

*Solution:* No,  $V$  is not closed under the operation  $\mathfrak{K}$ .

For example, let  $a = b = \sqrt{2}$ . Then  $1 - 2a^2b^2 = 1 - 2(2)(2) = -7 \notin V$ .

(g) Let us restrict the operator  $\mathfrak{K}$  to the set  $E$ , of even integers.  
Then  $E$  is closed under  $\mathfrak{K}$ .

*Solution:* No,  $E$  is not closed under the operation  $\mathfrak{K}$  For example,  $2 \mathfrak{K} 2 = 1 - 2(4)(4) = 31 \notin E$ .

(h) Let us restrict the operator  $\mathfrak{K}$  to the set  $S$ , of odd integers.  
Then  $S$  is closed under  $\mathfrak{K}$ .

*Solution:* Yes, for any two odd integers,  $c$  and  $d$ ,  $1 - 2c^2d^2 = 1 - \text{even integer} = \text{odd integer}$ .

8. (a) Define  $f: \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  as follows:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3x & \text{if } x \text{ is even} \\ x^2 - x & \text{if } x \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

Why is  $f$  not well-defined?

*Solution:*  $f$  is not well-defined because  $f(1) = 1 - 1 = 0 \notin \mathbf{N}$ .

(b) Define  $g: \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  as follows:

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} x + 4 & \text{if } x \text{ is even} \\ x^3 & \text{if } x \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

(i) Why is  $g$  well-defined?

*Solution:* If  $x$  is even, then  $x+4 \in \mathbf{N}$ ; if  $x$  is odd, then  $x^3 \geq 1$ , and so  $x \in \mathbf{N}$ .

(ii) Is  $g$  injective? Why?

*Solution:* Yes, note that even integers are mapped to even integers; odd integers are sent to odd integers.

So we have two cases to check: If  $g(a) = g(b)$  for  $a$  and  $b$  both odd; and if  $g(a) = g(b)$  for  $a$  and  $b$  both even.

Note that  $y = x + 4$  is strictly increasing, so  $g$  restricted to even integers is injective.

Also note that  $y = x^3$  is also strictly increasing, so  $g$  restricted to odd integers is injective.

(iii) Is  $g$  surjective? Why?

*Solution:* No: For example, 2 is in the codomain but not in the range. For  $g(x) = 2$  would mean that  $x = -2$ , which is absurd.

9. Let  $\mathbf{Z}$  be the set of integers. For  $a, b \in \mathbf{Z}$ , define the relation  $R$  by  $aRb$  if and only if  $ab \geq 0$ .

Is  $R$  reflexive? Why?

*Solution:* Yes, since  $aRa$  is equivalent to  $a^2 \geq 0$ , which is true of all integers.

Is  $R$  symmetric? Why?

*Solution:* Yes, for if  $ab \geq 0$ , then  $ba = ab \geq 0$ .

Is  $R$  transitive? Why?

*Solution:* No. Here is a counterexample: Let  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 0$ , and  $c = -1$ . Then  $aRb$  and  $bRc$ , yet it is not true that  $aRc$ , since  $ac < 0$ .

10. Define a relation  $\otimes$  on the set of real numbers by:

$$a \otimes b \text{ means } \exists k \in \mathbf{Z} \quad a - b = 2k\pi$$

Is  $R$  an equivalence relation? If so, prove it. If not, explain why.

*Solution:* Yes,  $\otimes$  is an equivalence relation.

$\otimes$  is **reflexive**: for all real numbers  $x$ ,  $x - x = 2(1)(0)$ .

$\otimes$  is **symmetric**:

for all real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , if  $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a - b = 2k\pi$  then  $b - a = 2(-k)\pi$   
(since  $-k$  is also an integer).

$\otimes$  is **transitive**: Let  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  be any real numbers for which  $x \otimes y$  and  $y \otimes z$ .

Then  $\exists k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a - b = 2k_1\pi$  and  $b - c = 2k_2\pi$ .

Now  $a - c = (a - b) + (b - c) = 2k_1\pi + 2k_2\pi = 2(k_1 + k_2)\pi$ .

Finally, note that  $k_1 + k_2$  is an integer.

**11.** Let  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $G: Y \rightarrow Z$  be mappings.

Assume that  $G \circ F$  is injective. Prove that  $F$  must be injective

*Proof:* Assume that  $F$  is not injective. Then  $\exists a, b \in X$  such that  $a \neq b$  and  $F(a) = F(b)$ .

But this implies that  $G(F(a)) = G(F(b))$ , or equivalently  $G \circ F(a) = G \circ F(b)$

This contradicts the fact that  $G \circ F$  is injective.

**12.** Let  $X$  be the set of all continuous functions on the interval  $[0, 1]$ .

For  $f, g \in X$ , define the relation  $\boxtimes$  as follows:

$$f \boxtimes g \text{ if } \left| \int_0^1 (f(x) - g(x)) dx \right| \leq 1$$

(a) Is  $\boxtimes$  reflexive? Explain.

*Solution:* Yes:  $\left| \int_0^1 (f(x) - f(x)) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 (0) dx \right| = 0 \leq 1$

(b) Is  $\boxtimes$  symmetric? Explain.

*Solution:* Yes: if  $\left| \int_0^1 (f(x) - g(x)) dx \right| \leq 1$  then

$$\left| \int_0^1 (f(x) - g(x)) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 (-1)(g(x) - f(x)) dx \right| \leq \left| (-1) \int_0^1 (g(x) - f(x)) dx \right| =$$

$$|-1| \left| \int_0^1 (g(x) - f(x)) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 (g(x) - f(x)) dx \right| \leq 1$$

(c) Is  $\boxtimes$  transitive? Explain.

*Solution: No. Counterexample: let  $f(x) = 2$ ,  $g(x) = 1$ , and  $h(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in [0,1]$ .*

Then  $\left| \int_0^1 (f(x) - g(x)) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 (2 - 1) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 1 dx \right| = 1$  and so  $f \boxtimes g$ .

Next,  $\left| \int_0^1 (g(x) - h(x)) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 (1 - 0) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 1 dx \right| = 1$  and so  $g \boxtimes h$ .

Finally,  $\left| \int_0^1 (f(x) - h(x)) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 (2 - 0) dx \right| = \left| \int_0^1 2 dx \right| = 2$  and so  $f \boxtimes h$  is false.

**13.** Let  $S$  be the set of *positive rational* numbers. Define the function  $f: S \rightarrow S$  as follows:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^3}.$$

Is  $f$  well-defined? Why?

*Solution: Yes: If  $x$  is positive then  $1 + x^3 > 0$ . Now if  $x$  is rational, then  $1 + x^3$  is rational, since the rationals are closed under multiplication and addition. Finally, the reciprocal of a positive rational is a positive rational.*

Is  $f$  injective? Why?

*Solution: Yes: Suppose that  $a, b \in S$  and  $f(a) = f(b)$ .*

Then  $\frac{1}{1+a^3} = \frac{1}{1+b^3}$  which implies that  $1 + a^3 = 1 + b^3$ . Hence  $a^3 = b^3$  and so  $a = b$ .

Is  $f$  surjective? Why?

*Solution: No. Counterexample: Suppose that  $f(x) = 2$  for some  $x \in S$ .*

Then  $\frac{1}{1+x^3} = 2$ , and so  $x^3 = -\frac{1}{2}$ , but no positive number  $x$  meets this requirement.



*Bonus: A Russian had three daughters. The first, named Rab, became a lawyer; the second, Ymra, became a soldier. The third became a sailor; what was her name?*

- *Lewis Carroll*

Answer: Yvan



- Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll), 1832 – 1898