

Solutions for
Final Test 2IT50
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Note

- These are not the only possible correct answers.
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1. Give an example of a relation R on a finite set such that $R^* \neq (R; R)^*$.

Example Consider the set $U = \{0, 1\}$, and define R on U by $x R y \Leftrightarrow x < y$.

Observe that

- $xR^*y \Leftrightarrow x \leq y$
- $R; R = \emptyset$, and hence $(R; R)^* = I_U$.

Thus, $0 R^* 1$, but not $0 (R; R)^* 1$. Hence, we have $R^* \neq (R; R)^*$.

□

Notes

- The given R is in fact transitive.
- If R has to be transitive, then we will have $(R; R)^* \subseteq R^*$.

2. Let R be a transitive relation on a set U . Prove that $R^{2n} \subseteq R^{n+1}$ for all $n \geq 1$.

Proof We prove this by induction on n . Observe that $R^2 = R; R \subseteq R$, because R is transitive.

Base: Let $n = 1$. We calculate: $R^{2n} = R^2 = R^{n+1}$.

Step: Let $n \geq 1$, and assume as induction hypothesis that $R^{2n} \subseteq R^{n+1}$. To prove: $R^{2(n+1)} \subseteq R^{n+1+1}$.

We calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & R^{2(n+1)} \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{algebra, prop. rel. exp.} \} \\
 & R^{2n}; R^2 \\
 \subseteq & \quad \{ \text{monotonicity of rel. composition, ind. hyp., given trans. of } R \} \\
 & R^{n+1}; R \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{def. exp.} \} \\
 & R^{n+1+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Notes

- If you prove separately (by induction) that relation exponentiation is monotonic, then the following direct proof is possible.

Let $n \geq 1$. We calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & R^{2n} \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{prop. rel. exp., using } n \geq 1 \} \\
 & (R^2)^{n-1}; R^2 \\
 \subseteq & \quad \{ \text{monotonicity of rel. exp., given trans. of } R \} \\
 & R^{n-1}; R^2 \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{prop. rel. exp., using } n \geq 1 \} \\
 & R^{n+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

- More generally, we have that $m \geq n \geq 1$ implies $R^m \subseteq R^n$ for transitive endorelation R (by induction on $m - n$).

In fact, this also holds for $m = n = 0$, but not for $m > n = 0$.

3. Let two non-empty sets A, B satisfy $A \cap B = \emptyset$. For a function $f : A \rightarrow B$, define undirected graph $G_f = (V, E)$ for which $V = A \cup B$ and

$$E = A \times A \cup \{(x, f(x)) \mid x \in A\}$$

Prove that G_f is connected if and only if f is surjective.

Proof We present a ping-pong proof.

- Assume that f is surjective; that is, for every $v \in B$ there exists a $u \in A$ with $f(u) = v$. To prove: G_f is connected.

Let $x_1, x_2 \in A \cup B$. W.l.o.g.¹ (because of symmetry of the ‘path between’ relation), we distinguish three cases:

(a) $x_1, x_2 \in A$

Given is that (x_1, x_2) is an edge of G_f . Hence, there is a path (of length 1) between x_1 and x_2 .

(b) $x_1 \in A \wedge x_2 \in B$

Since f is surjective and $x_2 \in B$, take $u \in A$ such that $f(u) = x_2$.

By definition of G_f , we have edges (x_1, u) and (u, x_2) in G_f , establishing a path between x_1 and x_2 .

(c) $x_1, x_2 \in B$

Because A is non-empty, take $u \in A$. From the preceding case we have paths between u and x_1 , and between u and x_2 . This establishes (by concatenation) a path between x_1 and x_2 .

- Assume that f is not surjective. To prove: G_f is not connected.

Take $v \in B$ such that there is no $u \in A$ with $f(u) = v$. By definition of G_f , the degree of v is zero.

Since A is non-empty, take $u \in A$. Since $f(u) \neq v$, u and v belong to distinct connected components.

□

Notes

- The non-emptiness of both A and B is used explicitly.

¹Without loss of generality

4. Consider the poset $(\mathbb{N}, |)$ and let $n > 0$. Define

$$A = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid n \leq x \leq 2n\}$$

Determine all minimal elements of A and prove that there are exactly n of them.

Solution Observe that for $n > 0$, we have $n \neq 2n$. Therefore, $\#A = 2n + 1 - n = n + 1$. Since, $n \mid 2n$, we have that $2n$ is not minimal in A . Thus, it is necessary that all elements in A less than $2n$ are minimal, in order to have exactly n minimal elements.

For this, it suffices that $k \mid \ell$ for $n \leq k < \ell \leq 2n$ holds if and only if $k = n \wedge \ell = 2n$. Since, $n \leq k < \ell \leq 2n$ and $k \neq n \vee \ell \neq 2n$ implies $2k > \ell$, we have $\ell = k + r$ with $0 < r < k$. Thus, in that case, ℓ is not divisible by k .

□

Notes

- Similarly, n is not maximal, and the n maximal elements are $A \setminus \{n\}$.

5. Let $(G, *, I)$ be a group and let $a, b \in G$ such that $a * b$ has order 2. Prove that $b * a$ has order 2.

Proof Let $a * b$ have order 2 in group $(G, *, I)$. By definition of order, we thus have $a * b * a * b = I$ and $a * b \neq I$. From the latter, we infer that b is not the inverse of a . Hence, also $b * a \neq I$ (for otherwise b would be the inverse of a).

Furthermore, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
 & b * a * b * a \\
 = & \{ b * b^{-1} = I \} \\
 & b * a * b * a * b * b^{-1} \\
 = & \{ \text{using } a * b * a * b = I \} \\
 & b * I * b^{-1} \\
 = & \{ \text{group axioms} \} \\
 & I
 \end{aligned}$$

From $b * a * b * a = I$ and $b * a \neq I$ we conclude that $b * a$ has order 2.

□

Notes

- The group is not assumed to be commutative. Thus, we cannot use $a * b = b * a$.

6. Find a closed expression for a_n defined by $a_0 = a_1 = 1$, and

$$a_n = 2a_{n-1} + 15a_{n-2}$$

for $n \geq 2$.

Solution The characteristic equation is $x^2 = 2x + 15$. We have

$$x^2 - 2x - 15 = (x - 5)(x + 3).$$

Hence, the solution has the form $a_n = A5^n + B(-3)^n$. We obtain A and B from the initial conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} A5^0 + B(-3)^0 &= 1 \\ A5^1 + B(-3)^1 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

This equivaless

$$\begin{aligned} A + B &= 1 \\ 5A - 3B &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

which in turn equivaless

$$\begin{aligned} A + B &= 1 \\ 8A &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

This finally yields

$$\begin{aligned} B &= 1/2 \\ A &= 1/2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, a closed expression is $a_n = (5^n + (-3)^n)/2$ for $n \geq 2$.

□

7. Apply the extended Euclidean algorithm to find an integer number x such that

$$(17x \bmod 83) = 1.$$

Solution If we find x, y satisfying $17x + 83y = 1$, then x also solves the given problem. Apply the fast Euclidean algorithm:

$$\begin{array}{r} B = (B \operatorname{div} A) \cdot A + (B \bmod A) \\ \mathbf{83} = 4 \cdot \mathbf{17} + 15 \\ \mathbf{17} = 1 \cdot \mathbf{15} + 2 \\ \mathbf{15} = 7 \cdot \mathbf{2} + 1 \\ \mathbf{2} = 2 \cdot \mathbf{1} + 0 \\ \mathbf{1} = 1 \cdot \mathbf{0} + 0 \end{array}$$

Now we calculate x, y with $Ax + By = 1$, where A, B come from the table above:

$$\begin{array}{r|l|l|l|l} A & B & & x & y \\ \hline 0 & 1 & & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 - 0 \cdot 2 = & 1 & 0 \\ 7 & 5 & 0 - 1 \cdot 7 = & -7 & 1 \\ 15 & 17 & 1 - (-7) \cdot 1 = & 8 & -7 \\ 17 & 83 & -7 - 8 \cdot 4 = & -39 & 8 \end{array}$$

Thus, we find $x = -39$, which reduces to $x = 44$ modulo 83.

□

Notes

- For comparison, we also present an ad hoc solution that does *not* use the Euclidean algorithm.

Observe that $5 \cdot 17 = 85 = 83 + 2$. Hence, $5 \cdot k \cdot 17 \equiv 2k \pmod{83}$. Solve for $2k = 83 + 1$, yielding $k = 42$. Thus, $x = 5 \cdot 42 = 210$ is a solution. Reducing this modulo 83, yields the smaller solution $x = 44$.

8. Let $n = 2k + 1 > 10$ and $(2^k \bmod n) = 3$. Prove that n is not a prime number.

(Hint: note that $2^{n-1} = (2^k)^2$)

Proof By contradiction. Assume that $n = 2k + 1 > 10$ is prime. Hence, $\neg(n \mid 2)$. Therefore, by Fermat's little theorem we have $2^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. We calculate:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{true} \\ \Leftrightarrow & \quad \{ \text{given} \} \\ & 2^k \equiv 3 \pmod{n} \\ \Rightarrow & \quad \{ \text{squaring both sides} \} \\ & 2^{2k} \equiv 9 \pmod{n} \\ \Leftrightarrow & \quad \{ n = 2k + 1 \} \\ & 2^{n-1} \equiv 9 \pmod{n} \end{aligned}$$

Since $n > 10$ is given, this contradicts the result of Fermat's little theorem above.

Conclusion, n is not a prime number.

□

Notes

- The statement also holds for $n = 2k + 1 > 2$, since $1 \not\equiv 9 \pmod{n}$ for prime $n > 2$.