

# Set Theory Homework, Select Solutions

(16)

§2.1#2b) Is  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  ?

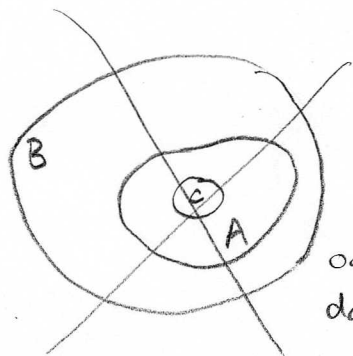
No,  $\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{p}{q} \mid p, q \in \mathbb{Z}, q \neq 0 \right\}$  and  $\frac{1}{2} \notin \mathbb{Z}$ .

§2.1#4a,b) a) Is  $\emptyset \in \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$  ? b.)  $\emptyset \subseteq \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$ . True or False ?

a.) Yes  $\emptyset$  is an element of  $\{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$ , TRUE.

b.) Yes  $\emptyset$  is a subset of  $\{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$ , THIS IS ALWAYS TRUE, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH  $\{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$ . For example, let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\text{kangaroos with one eye}\}$  then  $\emptyset \subset \mathcal{B}$ .

§2.1#5b) Give example of  $A, B, C$  such that  $A \subseteq B, B \subseteq C, C \subseteq A$



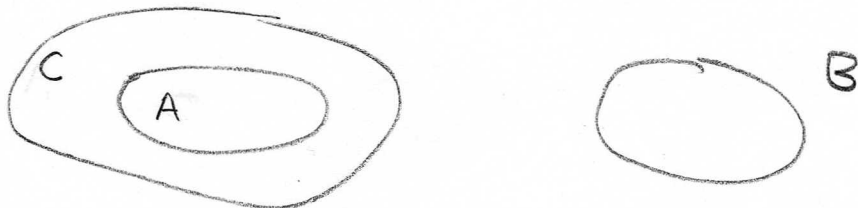
$$A = B = C = \mathbb{R}.$$

oops, can't do this  $B \not\subseteq C$

(since  $\subseteq$  we can choose = option here)

§2.1#5c) Give example of  $A, B, C$  such that  $A \not\subseteq B, B \not\subseteq C$  and  $A \subseteq C$

The constraint  $A \subseteq C$  is most demanding here, there are many ways  $A \not\subseteq B$  and  $B \not\subseteq C$  can occur.



For example,  $A = [0, 2]$ ,  $B = [5, 6]$ ,  $C = [0, 3]$ .

(Many other sol<sup>ns</sup> possible for this question)

§2.1#6e) Let  $\Sigma = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . List out  $\mathcal{P}(\Sigma)$

Remember:  $\mathcal{P}(\Sigma) =$  set of all subsets of  $\Sigma$ , anticipate  $2^4 = 16$

$$\mathcal{P}(\Sigma) = \{ \emptyset, \Sigma, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\} \}$$

Remark: the fact that  $\overline{\mathcal{P}(\Sigma)} = 2^{\overline{\Sigma}}$  is very useful. It helps me make sure I didn't miss anything

§2.1#7a,c) List proper subsets of a.)  $\emptyset$  and c.)  $\{1, 2\}$

- a.) There are no proper subsets of  $\emptyset$ , ( $\emptyset$  is a subset but  $\emptyset = \emptyset$ )
- c.) The proper subsets of  $\{1, 2\}$  are  $\emptyset$ ,  $\{1\}$  and  $\{2\}$ .

§2.1#8a) Give example of set  $A$  such that  $\overline{\mathcal{P}(A)} = 64$

By  $\overline{\mathcal{P}(A)} = 64$  we simply mean there are 64 elements in the power set of  $A$ . Note  $64 = 2^6$  Thus  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  will do nicely.

§2.1#8c) Give example of  $A$  with  $\mathcal{P}(A) = \emptyset$  if possible.

Not possible. Notice  $A = \emptyset$  has  $\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\emptyset\}$ . There is a difference between  $\emptyset$  and  $\{\emptyset\}$

$\emptyset =$  the empty set

$\{\emptyset\} =$  the set containing the empty set.

Remark: You can construct  $\mathbb{N}$  using sets like  $\{\emptyset\}$ ...

§2.1#12) Prove Th<sup>m</sup> 2.2  
Let  $A, B, C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq C$

Proof: Suppose  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ . Let  $x \in A$  then  $x \in B$  by definition of  $A \subseteq B$ . If  $x \in B$  then  $x \in C$  since  $B \subseteq C$ . Thus,  $x \in A \Rightarrow x \in C$ . This proves  $A \subseteq C$ .

§2.1#16) Prove that  $X = Y$  where  $X = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid |x| \leq 3\}$  and  $Y = \{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\}$ .

Frankly, this problem is so easy it's confusing.

$$x \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } |x| \leq 3 \Leftrightarrow x = -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3$$
$$\Leftrightarrow x \in Y$$

Thus  $x \in X \Leftrightarrow x \in Y$ . Therefore,  $X = Y$ .

§2.2#1a,b,c,e)  $A = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$ ,  $B = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8\}$   
and  $C = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8\}$  and  $D = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$ .  
Find  $A \cup B$ ,  $A \cap B$ ,  $A - B$ ,  $(A - B) - C$

$$A \cup B = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 0, 2, 4, 6, 8\} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$$

$$A \cap B = \emptyset$$

$$A - B = A \text{ since } A \cap B = \emptyset.$$

$$(A - B) - C = A - C = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\} - \{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8\} = \{3, 9\}$$

Remark: this is not subtraction in the ordinary sense!

§2.2#2a,d,e) Let  $V = \mathbb{Z}$  and suppose

$E = \{2k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ ,  $D = \{2k+1 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ ,  $P = \{k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}, k \geq 1\}$   
and  $N = \{k \mid k \leq -1, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Find

a.)  $E - P$ , d.)  $P - N$ , e.)  $\tilde{P}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a.) } E - P &= \{x \in E \mid x \notin P\} \\ &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x = 2k \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } x \neq 1\} \\ &= \{\dots, -6, -4, -2, 0\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d.) } P - N &= \{x \in P \mid x \notin N\} \\ &= P \text{ since } P \cap N = \emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e.) } \tilde{P} &\equiv U - P = \mathbb{Z} - P = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \notin P\} \\ &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \leq 0\} \\ &= \underline{N \cup \{0\}}. \end{aligned}$$

§2.2#3l) Let  $V = \mathbb{R}$  and  $D = (5, \infty)$  find  $\tilde{D}$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{D} &= \mathbb{R} - D = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \notin (5, \infty)\} \\ &= \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \leq 5\} \\ &= \boxed{(-\infty, 5]} = \tilde{D} \end{aligned}$$

Notice:  $\tilde{D} \cup D = (-\infty, 5] \cup (5, \infty) = \mathbb{R}$

§2.2#4a,b,c hint) Let  $V = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $A = \{1, 2\}$

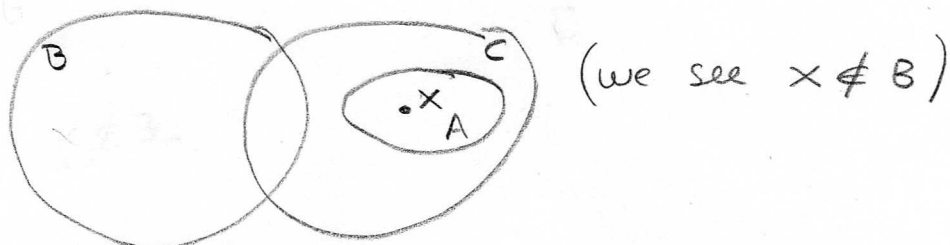
$$\tilde{A} = V - A = \{1, 2, 3\} - \{1, 2\} = \{3\}.$$

The rest I leave to you, it's not too bad. Check yours with a classmate.

§2.2#10b] Prove that if  $A \subseteq B \cup C$  and  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  then  $A \subseteq C$ .

(20)

Let's draw a model of the proof,



Proof: Let  $A \subseteq B \cup C$  and  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ . Suppose  $x \in A$ , then since  $A \subseteq B \cup C \Rightarrow x \in B$  or  $x \in C$ . Suppose that  $x \in B$  then  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ , but this is impossible since  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ . Thus  $x \notin B$ . This means  $x \in C$  and consequently  $A \subseteq C$ .

§2.2#10c] Prove that:  $C \subseteq A \cap B$  iff  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$

Proof: We need to show  $\Rightarrow$  and  $\Leftarrow$ .

$\Rightarrow$  | Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ . Let  $x \in C$  then  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$  since  $x \in A \cap B$ . Thus  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ . //

$\Leftarrow$  | Assume  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ . Suppose  $x \in C$ , then  $x \in A$  since  $C \subseteq A$ , and  $x \in B$  since  $C \subseteq B$ . Therefore  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B \Rightarrow x \in A \cap B$ . Thus,  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ . //

§2.2 #13a | Prove that  $\mathcal{P}(A \cap B) = \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$

(a)

Proof: I remind the reader that

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{X \mid X \subseteq A\}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(B) = \{Y \mid Y \subseteq B\}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A \cap B) = \{Z \mid Z \subseteq A \cap B\}$$

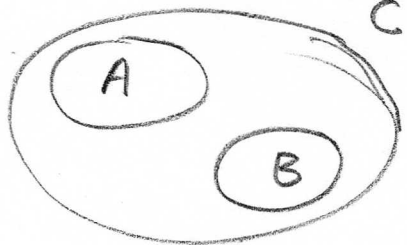
Suppose that  $V \in \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$  then  $V \subseteq A \cap B$   
thus by #10c  $V \subseteq A$  and  $V \subseteq B$ . Thus we  
find  $V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{P}(A \cap B) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$ . (I)

Next suppose that  $V \in \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$ . Then we know  
 $V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ . Thus  $V \subseteq A$  and  $V \subseteq B$ ,  
and by #10c  $V \subseteq A \cap B$ . Thus,  $V \in \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$ . So  
we find  $\mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$ . (II)

Thus by (I) and (II) we conclude  $\mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B) = \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$ .

§2.2 #14 | Provide a counterexample to the false claim  
"If  $(A \cup C) \subseteq (B \cup C)$  then  $A \subseteq B$ "

Let's see, why is this wrong? One possibility is  
that  $C$  is so big that it dominates the union.



$$A \cup C = C$$

$$B \cup C = C$$

$$\text{BUT } A \not\subseteq B$$

Let  $C = \mathbb{R}$  and  $A = [0, 1]$  and  $B = [2, 3]$ .



§2.2#16a,d) Let  $V = \mathbb{R}$  and for  $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  define  $B^* = B \cup \{0\}$   
 Prove that  $B \subseteq B^*$  and  $(B^*)^* = B^*$

Proof: Let  $x \in B$  then  $x \in B \cup \{0\}$  thus  $B \subseteq B^*$ .

Proof: The proof of  $(B^*)^* = B^*$  follows from the assertion that  $A_1 \cup A_2 = (A_1 \cup A_2) \cup A_2$ . We leave the proof of that assertion to the reader. Notice

$$(B^*)^* = B^* \cup \{0\} = (B \cup \{0\}) \cup \{0\} = B \cup \{0\} = B^*$$

Therefore  $(B^*)^* = B^*$  //

§2.3#1e) Find the union, intersection of the family of sets  $A_i$ , where  $A$  is the set of all sets of integers that contain 10

$$\bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A = \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcap_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A = \{10\}$$

§2.3#7a) Let  $\mathcal{A} = \{A_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Delta\}$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_\beta \mid \beta \in \Gamma\}$ .  
 rewrite  $\left(\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} A_\alpha\right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{\beta \in \Gamma} B_\beta\right)$  as a union of intersections  
 you may use the following facts from §2.3#6 to help,  
 $B \cap \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} A_\alpha = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} (B \cap A_\alpha)$  &  $B \cup \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Delta} A_\alpha = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Delta} (B \cup A_\alpha)$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} A_\alpha\right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{\beta \in \Gamma} B_\beta\right) &= \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} \left[A_\alpha \cap \bigcup_{\beta \in \Gamma} B_\beta\right] \\ &= \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} \bigcup_{\beta \in \Gamma} (A_\alpha \cap B_\beta) \\ &= \bigcup_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \Delta \times \Gamma} A_\alpha \cap B_\beta \end{aligned}$$

(§3.1 comment)  
 $\Delta \times \Gamma$  is the Cartesian product of  $\Delta$  and  $\Gamma$

§ 2.3 #6a hint | To prove  $B \cap \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} A_\alpha = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} (B \cap A_\alpha)$

You might try breaking it up into two parts

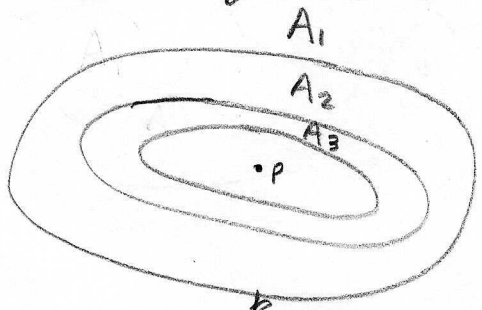
1.) Show  $B \cap \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} A_\alpha \subseteq \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} (B \cap A_\alpha)$

2.) Show  $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} (B \cap A_\alpha) \subseteq B \cap \left( \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Delta} A_\alpha \right)$

In both cases you'll use the standard prove  $A \subseteq C$  technique. You assume  $x \in A$  then work to show that  $x \in C$  with the given data. We followed this logical pattern many times by now.

§ 2.3 #17 | Let  $A = \{ A_i \mid i \in \mathbb{N} \}$  be a nested family of sets. That is  $\forall i, j \in \mathbb{N}$  if  $i \leq j$  then  $A_j \subseteq A_i$ . Prove that for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\bigcap_{i=1}^k A_i = A_k$

nested families of sets are important because they can be used to mathematically zoom in on some point.



$A_2 \subset A_1$   
 $A_3 \subset A_2 \subset A_1$   
 $A_4 \subset A_3 \subset A_2 \subset A_1$   
⋮

Proof: Let  $x \in \bigcap_{i=1}^k A_i$  then  $x \in A_i$  for each  $i=1, 2, \dots, k$ .

thus  $x \in A_k$  and we find  $\bigcap_{i=1}^k A_i \subseteq A_k$ . Next

suppose  $x \in A_k$  then since  $A_k \subseteq A_{k-1} \Rightarrow x \in A_{k-1}$

and so forth we find  $x \in A_{k-2}, \dots, x \in A_2, x \in A_1$ . Thus

$x \in \bigcap_{i=1}^k A_i$  and  $A_k \subseteq \bigcap_{i=1}^k A_i$ . By def<sup>n</sup> of set equality, we conclude that  $\bigcap_{i=1}^k A_i = A_k$ .



§2.4#2c Use PMI to prove  $\sum_{i=1}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 2$

(24)

Proof: Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition  $\sum_{i=1}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 2$ .

Observe that  $\sum_{i=1}^1 2^i = 2$  and  $2^{1+1} - 2 = 2$  thus  $P(1)$  is true.

Assume inductively that  $P(n)$  is true. Consider,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} 2^i &= 2^{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n 2^i \\ &= 2^{n+1} + 2^{n+1} - 2 \quad \text{by the induction hypothesis.} \\ &= 2(2^{n+1}) - 2 \\ &= 2^{(n+1)+1} - 2 \quad \therefore P(n) \Rightarrow P(n+1).\end{aligned}$$

Thus by PMI we conclude  $P(n)$  true  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . //

§2.4#2g) Prove  $\frac{1}{2!} + \frac{2}{3!} + \dots + \frac{n}{(n+1)!} = 1 - \frac{1}{(n+1)!}$

Proof: Let  $P(n)$  be the above proposition. Observe for  $n=1$ ,

$$\frac{1}{2!} = 1 - \frac{1}{(1+1)!} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \quad \therefore P(1) \text{ true.}$$

Assume inductively  $\frac{1}{2!} + \frac{2}{3!} + \dots + \frac{n}{(n+1)!} = 1 - \frac{1}{(n+1)!}$

Add  $\frac{n+1}{(n+1+1)!}$  to both sides of the induction hypothesis,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{2!} + \frac{2}{3!} + \dots + \frac{n}{(n+1)!} + \frac{n+1}{(n+1+1)!} &= 1 - \frac{1}{(n+1)!} + \frac{n+1}{(n+1+1)!} \\ &= 1 - \frac{n+2}{(n+1)!(n+2)} + \frac{n+1}{(n+2)!} \\ &= 1 - \frac{n+2-n-1}{(n+2)!} \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{((n+1)+1)!}.\end{aligned}$$

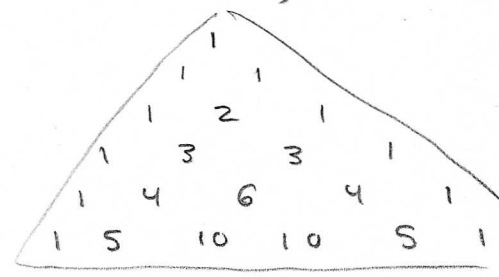
Thus  $P(n) \Rightarrow P(n+1)$ . We conclude  $P(n)$  is true  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$  by PMI.

§2.4#8i) Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition  $\frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{7n}{15}$  is an integer  
Prove  $P(n)$  is true  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Consider  $P(1)$ . Notice,  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{7}{15} = \frac{5+3+7}{15} = \frac{15}{15} = 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Assume inductively that  $\frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{7n}{15} \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Consider,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(n+1)^3}{3} + \frac{(n+1)^5}{5} + \frac{7(n+1)}{15} = \Rightarrow \\ \hookrightarrow & = \frac{1}{3}(n^3 + 3n^2 + 3n + 1) \\ & + \frac{1}{5}(n^5 + 5n^4 + 10n^3 + 10n^2 + 5n + 1) \\ & + \frac{7}{15}(n+1) \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} & = \frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{7n}{15} \\ & + \underline{n^2 + n + \frac{1}{3}} + \underline{n^4 + 2n^3 + 2n^2 + n + \frac{1}{5}} + \frac{7}{15} \\ & = \underbrace{\frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{7n}{15}}_{\text{integer by induction hypothesis.}} + \underbrace{n^4 + 2n^3 + 3n^2 + 2n + 1}_{\text{an integer.}} \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $P(n) \implies P(n+1)$ . Thus  $\frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{7n}{15} \in \mathbb{Z}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by the Principle of Mathematical Induction.

§2.4#8j) Prove  $4^n - 1$  is divisible by 3  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

Proof:  $n=1$  yields  $4^1 - 1 = 3$  which is divisible by 3. Assume inductively  $3 \mid (4^n - 1)$ . Then  $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $4^n - 1 = 3k$ . Consider

$$4^{n+1} - 1 = 4 \cdot 4^n - 1 = 4(4^n - 1) + 3 = 4(3k) + 3$$

Thus,  $4^{n+1} - 1 = 3(4k + 1)$  which shows us  $3 \mid (4^{n+1} - 1)$ . Therefore, by PMI  $4^n - 1$  is divisible by 3  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . using induction hypothesis.

§2.4#8v] Prove by PMI: If  $\overline{A} = n$  then  $\overline{\mathcal{P}(A)} = 2^n$

(26)

Proof: Suppose  $\overline{A} = 1$  then w.l.o.g. we can denote  $A = \{x\}$  thus  $\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\emptyset, \{x\}\}$  and clearly  $\overline{\mathcal{P}(A)} = 2 = 2^1$ .

Assume inductively that  $\overline{A} = n \Rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{P}(A)} = 2^n$  for some  $n > 1$ .

Let  $B$  be such that  $\overline{B} = n+1$ . Since  $n > 1$ ,  $\exists x_0 \in B$  and we can write  $B = \{x_0\} \cup B_*$  where  $B_* = B - \{x_0\}$ . Clearly

$\overline{B_*} = (n+1) - 1 = n$  thus by the induction hypothesis

$\overline{\mathcal{P}(B_*)} = 2^n$ . Let us study the power set of  $B$ ,

$$\mathcal{P}(B) = \mathcal{P}(B_* \cup \{x_0\})$$

$$= \underbrace{\{\emptyset, U_1, U_2, \dots, U_{2^n-1}, U_1 \cup \{x_0\}, U_2 \cup \{x_0\}, \dots, U_{2^n-1} \cup \{x_0\}, \{x_0\}\}}_{\mathcal{P}(B_*) \text{ has } 2^n \text{ elements by induction hypothesis}}$$

$\mathcal{P}(B)$  has  $2^n + 2^n$  elements  
again using induction hypothesis

Hence  $\overline{\mathcal{P}(B)} = 2^n + 2^n = 2^{n+1}$ . Therefore, by PMI

we find  $\overline{A} = n \Rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{P}(A)} = 2^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

§2.4#6b] Define  $\{n : n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } n > 10\}$  inductively (recursively)

Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be the set of natural numbers defined by

(i.)  $11 \in \mathcal{O}$

(ii.) If  $n \in \mathcal{O}$  then  $n+1 \in \mathcal{O}$ .

You can verify  $\mathcal{O} = \{n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } n > 10\}$ . Frankly, I prefer a direct definition over a recursive one when possible.

§2.5#1 Prove that every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $n > 3$  may be written as a linear combination of 2 and 5, that is  $\exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $n = 2x + 5y$

Proof (Using PCI): Let  $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } n = 2x + 5y, n > 3\}$

We desire to show  $n-1 \in S \Rightarrow n \in S$ . Suppose  $n-1 \in S, n \geq 6$  then  $\exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $n-1 = 2x + 5y$ . Consider

$$\begin{aligned}
n &= 1 + 2x + 5y \\
&= 2 - 1 + 2x + 5y \\
&= 2(x+1) + 5y - 1 \\
&= 2(x+1) + 5(y-1) + 4 \\
&= 2(x+3) + 5(y-1)
\end{aligned}$$

Remark: I think I could use the same argument for a PMI proof

note  $x+3, y-1 \in \mathbb{Z}$   
thus  $n$  is linear combination of 2 and 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , hence  $n \in S$  for  $n \geq 5$ .

Also  $4 = 2(2) + 5(0)$  thus  $4 \in S$  and  $5 = 2(0) + 5(1) \therefore 4, 5 \in S$ .  
Thus  $n-1 \in S \Rightarrow n \in S$  for  $n \geq 5$ . Thus the statement holds for  $n \geq 4$  by PCI.

Remark: Notice your text seems to say PCI is for  $S = \mathbb{N}$  yet in practice we can adjust the starting point for the induction set. I'm a bit annoyed with your text on this point.  $S = \mathbb{N}$  in all the examples and I find no evidence that PCI is to be thought of as needed in the exercise above. There is not much to fix though,

$$S = \{n_0, n_0+1, n_0+2, \dots\} \rightarrow \tilde{S} = \{1, 2, \dots, n_0-1, n_0, \dots\}$$

We can apply the text's PCI to  $\tilde{S}$  where  $\{1, 2, \dots, n_0-1\}$  are for free by def<sup>n</sup> of  $\tilde{S}$  then we'd have to check that  $n_0 \in \tilde{S}$  and  $n-1 \in \tilde{S} \Rightarrow n \in \tilde{S}$  for  $n > n_0$  to conclude  $\tilde{S} = \mathbb{N}$  by PCI. This means PCI for  $\mathbb{N}$  extends naturally to PCI for  $S$  above.

§ 2.5 # 6a Use PCI to prove the Fibonacci numbers  $f_n \in \mathbb{N}$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (28)

Proof: Let  $S = \{m \mid f_m \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Recall  $f_1 = 1$  and  $f_2 = 1$  thus  $1, 2 \in S$ . Assume  $m \in S$  for each  $m \leq n-1$ . That is assume inductively  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_{n-1} \in \mathbb{N}$ . By definition,

$$f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$$

By assumption  $f_{n-1}, f_{n-2} \in \mathbb{N}$  and by properties of  $\mathbb{N}$   $f_{n-1} + f_{n-2} \in \mathbb{N}$  hence  $f_n \in \mathbb{N}$  which shows  $n \in S$ . Thus by PCI  $f_n \in \mathbb{N}$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

Remark: I like this problem as an example for good use of PCI. Here we needed information about  $(n-1)$  and  $(n-2)$  in order to extract a conclusion about  $n$ . In "weak" induction (PMI) we only assume the hypothesis for  $n$  then try to extract information about  $n+1$ . #6a is natural to prove with PCI.

§ 2.5 # 7 (Assigned) Wish to use WOP to show  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

Hint: Let  $A = \{b \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists a \in \mathbb{N}, a^2 = 2b^2\}$

$$A \neq \emptyset \iff \exists a, b \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } a^2 = 2b^2$$

$$\iff \exists a, b \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^2 = 2$$

$$\iff \sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}$$

So we should suppose  $A$  is non-empty and work towards a contradiction.

(Notice  $A \subset \mathbb{N}$  thus  $A$  has a smallest element by WOP)

Remark: Many WOP proofs use contradiction. Often the proof boils down to showing it is a contradiction for a least element to exist.