

Problems on Galois Connections

Let S, T be sets and let $R \subseteq S \times T$ be a relation (we will write aRb to denote the statement $(a, b) \in R$). For all subsets $A \subseteq S$ and $B \subseteq T$ let us write

$$A^* := \{t \in T : aRt \ \forall a \in A\} \subseteq T,$$

$$B^* := \{s \in S : sRb \ \forall b \in B\} \subseteq S,$$

thus defining two functions $*$: $\wp(S) \rightarrow \wp(T)$ and $*$: $\wp(T) \rightarrow \wp(S)$. (Here $\wp(U)$ is the set of subsets of U . The \wp is for “power” set.) We use the symbol $*$ twice for aesthetic reasons; hopefully no confusion will result. Such a pair of maps is called a Galois connection.

1. Prove that for all $A, A' \subseteq S$ and $B, B' \subseteq T$ we have

$$A \subseteq A' \Rightarrow A^* \supseteq A'^* \quad \text{and} \quad B \subseteq B' \Rightarrow B^* \supseteq B'^*.$$

2. Prove that for all $A \subseteq S$ and $B \subseteq T$ we have

$$A \subseteq A^{**} \quad \text{and} \quad B \subseteq B^{**}.$$

3. Prove that for all $A \subseteq S$ and $B \subseteq T$ we have

$$A^{***} = A^* \quad \text{and} \quad B^{***} = B^*.$$

Let X be a set. A function $\text{cl} : \wp(U) \rightarrow \wp(U)$ is called a closure operator if it satisfies

- $X \subseteq \text{cl}(X)$ for all $X \subseteq U$,
- $X \subseteq Y \Rightarrow \text{cl}(X) \subseteq \text{cl}(Y)$ for all $X, Y \subseteq U$,
- $\text{cl}(\text{cl}(X)) = \text{cl}(X)$ for all $X \subseteq U$.

(I’m sure you’ve met at least two examples before.)

4. Prove that $** : \wp(S) \rightarrow \wp(S)$ and $** : \wp(T) \rightarrow \wp(T)$ are closure operators.

5. Prove that $* : \wp(S) \rightarrow \wp(T)$ and $* : \wp(T) \rightarrow \wp(S)$ are inverse (and order-reversing) bijections between the ******-closed subsets of S and the ******-closed subsets of T . (They also preserve the “lattice structure” on closed sets, but you don’t need to prove this.)

6. Now let $S = K$ be a field and let $T = G$ be a finite group of field automorphisms $G \leq \text{Aut}(K)$. For $a \in K$ and $g \in G$, let aRg mean that $g(a) = a$ (we say g “fixes” a).

- Let $F = G^*$. Prove that F is a subfield of K .
- For each subset $H \subseteq G$ prove that $F \subseteq H^* \subseteq K$ is an intermediate field.
- For each subset $L \subseteq K$ prove that $L^* \subseteq G$ is a subgroup.
- Prove that every ******-closed subset $L \subseteq K$ is an intermediate field $F \subseteq L \subseteq K$ and every ******-closed subset $H \subseteq G$ is a subgroup $H \leq G$. (The Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory says that every intermediate field and every subgroup is ******-closed. This does not follow from the results of this homework; it requires a careful study of polynomials — cf. everything we did this semester.)