

2. Suppose  $f$  is an injective function. Suppose  $x \in \text{dom}(f)$  and  $C \subseteq \text{dom}(f)$ .  
Prove or disprove:

If  $f(x) \in f(C)$ , then  $x \in C$ .

In either case, give a clear, careful, correct **symbolic** proof, which explicitly uses the **definitions** of image and injective, not just a verbal “proof” which explains why the result is true.

**SOLUTION.** Suppose  $f$  is injective and  $f(x) \in f(C)$ . Then, by definition of image, we can find  $c$  in  $C$  such that  $f(x) = f(c)$ . Since  $f$  is injective,  $x = c$ . Since  $c \in C$ ,  $x \in C$ .

3. Prove or disprove the following statement:

If  $f$  and  $C$  are as in the preceding problem, then  $f^{\leftarrow}(f(C)) = C$ .

In either case, give a clear, careful, correct proof, using the standard approach discussed in this class for proving or disproving such statements.

**SOLUTION.** Suppose  $f$  is injective. First, consider  $x$  in  $C$ . Then, by definition of image,  $f(x) \in f(C)$ , so by definition of pre-image,  $x \in f^{\leftarrow}(f(C))$ .

Conversely, consider  $x$  in  $f^{\leftarrow}(f(C))$ . Then, by definition of pre-image,  $f(x) \in f(C)$ . Since  $f$  is injective, we conclude from Problem 2 that  $x \in C$ .

We have shown that every element of  $C$  is element of  $f^{\leftarrow}(f(C))$ , and every element of  $f^{\leftarrow}(f(C))$  is an element of  $C$ . This prove that  $f^{\leftarrow}(f(C)) = C$ , as desired.

4. a) Give the definitions of “finite set” and “denumerable set” in a way which could be understood by someone who does not know what “equinumerous” means. (Use functions, not the word “equinumerous”.) E.g., a set  $S$  is finite iff ... .

**SOLUTION.** A set  $S$  is finite iff either  $S = \emptyset$  or there exists a natural number  $n$  and a bijection from  $S$  onto  $[0, n] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

A set  $S$  is denumerable iff there exists a bijection from  $S$  onto  $\mathbb{N}$ ,  
or, equivalently, a bijection from  $\mathbb{N}$  onto  $S$ .

- b) Prove that the set of even natural numbers is denumerable.

**SOLUTION.** Let  $\mathbb{E}$  be the set of even natural numbers. Define a function  $f$  by

$$\text{for each } n \text{ in } \mathbb{N}, f(n) = 2n.$$

We will prove that  $f$  is a bijection from  $\mathbb{N}$  onto  $\mathbb{E}$ .

Clearly,  $f(n)$  is defined for each  $n$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ , and  $f(n)$  is an even natural number, so  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}$ .

$f$  is injective, because if  $f(n) = f(m)$  for some  $n$  and  $m$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ , then  $2n = 2m$ , so  $n = m$ .

To prove that  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}$  is surjective, consider  $n$  in  $\mathbb{E}$ . Then, by definition of even number, we can find  $k$  in  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $n = 2k$ . Clearly,  $f(k) = 2k = n$ .

So for every  $n$  in  $\mathbb{E}$  there exists  $k$  in  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $f(k) = n$ . Thus,  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}$  is surjective.

This proves that  $f$  is a bijection from  $\mathbb{N}$  onto  $\mathbb{E}$ , so  $\mathbb{E}$  is denumerable.

5. Classify the following sets as finite (F), denumerable (D), countable (C), and/or uncountable(U).

**SOLUTION.**

- a.  $\emptyset$  **F, C**
- b.  $\mathbb{Z}$  (the integers) **D, C**
- c.  $\mathbb{Q}$  (the rationals) **D, C**
- d.  $\mathbb{R}$  (the reals) **U**
- e.  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$  (the irrationals) **U**
- f.  $F =$  the set of all students who have failed Math 323 at UA. **F, C.**

6. We say that a subset  $S$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  is a **simpleton** iff

for all  $x$  in  $S$ , there exists  $m > 0$  such that  $x > m$ .

a) **Consider** the following assertion:

**Assertion(a).** The following is a general description of a simpleton:

A subset  $S$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  is a simpleton iff  $S = (0, \infty)$ .

**Comment** on the meaningfulness and validity the following sentences as a way of starting the proof of this assertion:

Suppose  $x$  is in  $S$ . Then  $x > m$ .

**SOLUTION. Who is  $S$ ? Who is  $m$ ? These variables are not defined or introduced.**

b) **Prove or disprove** the assertion in Part (a).

**SOLUTION. The assertion is not true** because, e.g., the set  $\{1\}$  is easily shown to be a simpleton but it is not  $(0, \infty)$ .

(To prove that  $\{1\}$  is a simpleton, consider  $x$  in  $\{1\}$ . Then  $x = 1$ . Let  $m = 1/2$ . Then  $m > 0$  and  $x > m$ . Thus, for all  $x$  in  $\{1\}$ , there exists  $m > 0$  such that  $x > m$ , so  $\{1\}$  is a simpleton.)

c) **Consider** the following assertion:

**Assertion(c).** The following is a general description of a simpleton:

A subset  $S$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  is a simpleton iff  $S$  is the interval  $(m, \infty)$ .

**Comment** on the meaningfulness and validity of this assertion.

**SOLUTION. The assertion is not meaningful** because  $m$  has not been introduced.

If  $m$  were introduced, **the assertion is not valid** because, as we saw in part (b), there are simpletons which do not look like intervals of the form  $[m, \infty)$ .