

SHEET 1

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**Question 1.** First read definition 1.1.1 and examples 1.1.2.

- (i) Give an example of a poset having two elements, which is not a chain.
- (ii) Give an example of a partial order  $\leq$  on  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  such that  $2 \leq 1$ .
- (iii) Give an example of a partial order  $\leq$  on  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $1 \leq 3$  and  $3 \leq 2$ .
- (iv) Verify that the powerset of the set  $\mathbb{N}$  together with the inclusion of subsets is a poset by checking the conditions in the definition of a partially ordered set.
- (v) In the poset from (iv), give an example of incomparable elements of this poset and an example of an infinite chain in this poset.
- (vi) Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a poset and define a new binary relation  $\leq_{\text{inv}}$  on  $X$  by

$$x \leq_{\text{inv}} y \iff y \leq x.$$

Show that  $\leq_{\text{inv}}$  is again a partial order (which is called the **inverse** of  $\leq$ ).

- (vii) Let  $X = (X, \leq)$  be a poset and let  $x < y$  be the strict partial order as defined in 1.1.1. Show that  $<$  satisfies the following properties:
  - (a) For all  $x \in X$  we have not  $x < x$ .
  - (b) For all  $x, y, z$ , if  $x < y$  and  $y < z$ , then  $x < z$ .
- (viii) Now assume  $\triangleleft$  is a binary relation on  $X$  satisfying properties (a) and (b) of (vii), so you need to read (a) and (b) with  $\triangleleft$  instead of  $<$ . Show that the relation defined by  $x \trianglelefteq y \iff (x \triangleleft y \text{ or } x = y)$  is a partial order on  $X$  whose strict order relation is the given  $\triangleleft$ .

**Question 2.** First read the constructions in 1.1.3.

- (i) Prove that the product of two posets is again a poset.
 

Now consider the product of  $(\mathbb{R}, \leq)$  with itself, where  $\leq$  denotes the natural order of real numbers. We write the product poset as  $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \sqsubseteq)$ .

  - (a) Consider the two elements  $a = (1, 1)$  and  $b = (3, 2)$  of  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ . Draw a picture of the **interval**  $[a, b]$  of the poset  $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \sqsubseteq)$ , hence draw a picture of the set of all elements  $c \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  with  $a \sqsubseteq c \sqsubseteq b$ .
  - (b) Name an infinite subset of  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  such that all distinct elements in that set are incomparable for  $\sqsubseteq$ .
- (ii) Consider the chains  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $Y = \{1, 2, 3\}$  in their natural order. Draw a grid of width 4 and height 3 and label the intersection points with  $1, 2, \dots, 12$  according to the lexicographic order  $X \times_{\text{lex}} Y$ .
- (iii) Consider the following seven words, each consisting of 5 letters: “lemon, apple, grain, melon, mango, guava, grape”. When we order them alphabetical, this looks as follows: apple, grain, grape, guava, lemon, mango, melon.

Explain, in terms of lexicographic orders, how this is achieved. Hence explain how words with five (lower case) letters are brought into a total order. A more challenging (not examinable) question is: Explain in a mathematical rigorous way how words of arbitrary (finite) length are brought into alphabetic order.

- (iv) Prove that the lexicographic product of two chains is again a chain.

**Question 3.** First read definition 1.1.4 and examples 1.1.5.

- (i) Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a poset. Show that the following conditions are equivalent:
- $(X, \leq)$  is a chain.
  - For all  $S \subseteq X$ , every maximal element of  $S$  is the largest element of  $S$ .
  - Every  $S \subseteq X$  has at most one maximal element.
- (ii) In example 1.1.5(i), consider the subset  $S = \emptyset$  of  $X = \{a, b, c\}$ . Does  $S$  have a supremum in  $X$ ? Does  $S$  have an infimum in  $X$ ?
- (iii) Let  $(X, \leq_1)$  be the poset from example 1.1.5(i) again and let  $(Y, \leq_2)$  be a chain with  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$ . Let  $(Z, \leq)$  be the ordered sum of  $(X, \leq_1)$  and  $(Y, \leq_2)$  as defined in 1.1.2(iv). Show that  $X$  has a supremum in  $Z$  for  $\leq$  if and only if  $Y$  has a smallest element.
- (iv) Let  $(X, \leq_1)$  be the poset from example 1.1.5(i) again. Find a poset  $(Y, \leq_2)$  that has  $(X, \leq_1)$  as a subposet such that  $b$  and  $c$  have no infimum in  $(Y, \leq_2)$ .
- (v) Consider the binary relation  $|$  on  $\mathbb{N}$  defined by  $k|n \iff k$  divides  $n$ . Show that
- $(\mathbb{N}, |)$  is a poset.
  - For  $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , show that the supremum of  $\{k, n\}$  in this poset is the least common multiple of  $k$  and  $n$ .
  - For  $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , show that the infimum of  $\{k, n\}$  in this poset exists.
  - Is  $(\mathbb{N}, |)$  a subposet of  $(\mathbb{N}, \leq)$ , where  $\leq$  is the natural order of natural numbers?

**Question 4.** First read the definition of “initial segment”.

- (i) Let  $X$  be a partially ordered set. Let  $I$  be an arbitrary index set and let  $Y_i \subseteq X$  for each  $i \in I$ . Show that the union  $\bigcup_{i \in I} Y_i$  and the intersection  $\bigcap_{i \in I} Y_i$  are again initial segments of  $X$ .
- (ii) Let  $X, Y, Z$  be posets and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  be maps with  $f(X) \subseteq Y$  and  $g(Y) \subseteq Z$ . Assume that  $g$  is a poset embedding. Show that  $g(f(X)) \subseteq Z$ .
- (iii) For a chain  $X$ , and  $A, B \subseteq X$  we also write  $A \subseteq B$  if  $A$  is an initial segment of the subposet of  $X$  induced on  $B$ .
- Show that  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \subseteq)$  is a partially ordered set.
  - Is  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \subseteq)$  a subposet of  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \subseteq)$ ?
  - Show that the set  $\{A \subseteq X \mid A \subseteq B\}$  is a chain in  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \subseteq)$ .
- (iv) Consider the following properties of a chain  $X$ .
- If  $a \in X$ , then  $a$  is the supremum of  $X_{<a}$ .
  - If  $I$  is any index set and  $a_i \in X$  for all  $i \in I$ , then there is some  $b \in X$  such that  $\bigcup_{i \in I} X_{<a_i} = X_{<b}$ .

Give an example of

- an infinite chain such that (1) holds.
- an infinite chain such that (1) fails.
- an infinite chain such that (2) holds.
- an infinite chain such that (2) fails.

**Question 5.** First read 1.1.8 and 1.1.9, then answer the following questions:

- (i) let  $(X, \leq_1)$  be the poset from example 1.1.5(ii) and let  $(Y, \leq_2)$  be the poset from example 1.1.5(i). Write down a surjective monotone map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ .
- (ii) Let  $(X, \leq_1), (Y, \leq_2)$  be posets with  $Y \neq \emptyset$ . Show that there is a monotone map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ .
- (iii) Give an example of a bijective monotone map  $f$  between posets of your choice such that  $f$  is **not** an isomorphism.
- (iv) Suppose  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a monotone map between posets  $(X, \leq_1), (Y, \leq_2)$  and let  $x, x' \in X$  such that the infimum of  $x, x'$  exists in  $(X, \leq_1)$ .
  - (a) Show that in general the infimum of  $f(x), f(x')$  does not need to exist in  $(Y, \leq_2)$ .
  - (b) Suppose now that the infimum of  $f(x), f(x')$  does exist in  $(Y, \leq_2)$ . Is it necessarily true that  $f(\inf\{x, x'\}) = \inf\{f(x), f(x')\}$ ?
- (v) Show that every chain of size  $n$  is poset-isomorphic to  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  with its natural order. Hint: Do an induction on  $n$ .
- (vi) Let  $(X, \leq_1), (Y, \leq_2)$  be posets and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a monotone map. Suppose  $(X, \leq_1)$  is a chain. Show the following.
  - (a) If  $f$  is surjective, then also  $(Y, \leq_2)$  is a chain.
  - (b) If  $f$  is injective, then  $f$  is an embedding. (Note that this implication fails in general without the assumption that  $(X, \leq_1)$  is a chain; see (iii))
- (vii) Show that in general the projection onto the second component of a lexicographic product is **not** a monotone map.

This example sheet and the lecture notes are available from

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