

Ex. 1

- i) Use the Pigeonhole Principle to show that
 - a) given any $n + 1$ different real numbers in $[0, 1)$, at least two of them satisfy $0 < x - y < \frac{1}{n}$;
 - b) given 5 points inside a unit square, at least two are less than $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ apart;
 - c) given any $n + 1$ distinct integers from the set $M_{2n} = \{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$ then at least two of them satisfy $a \mid b$, i.e. b is an integer multiple of a , or equivalently a is a divisor of b .
- ii) Suppose that each letter in a set A is put into one of a set B of pigeonholes. Prove by contradiction or otherwise that if $|A| > m|B|$, then at least one pigeonhole contains more than m letters.

Ex. 2

- i) Find relations on suitable sets A , which are
 - a) reflexive and transitive, but not symmetric;
 - b) reflexive and symmetric, but not transitive;
 - c) symmetric only.
- ii) Explain what is wrong with the following argument, noting that in the definitions given there is no reason why a, b, c should be distinct elements of A .

“If a relation is both symmetric and transitive it must also be reflexive, for if $a \sim b$ then from the symmetric law (ii) $b \sim a$, whence from the transitive law $a \sim b$ and $b \sim a$ giving $a \sim a$.”

Hence or otherwise find a relation that is symmetric and transitive but not reflexive. How can such a relation be made into an equivalence relation on a suitable subset of A ?

Ex. 3

- i) Of a group of second year students, 24 are taking MT280, 20 are taking MT271, and 19 are taking MT261. Of these, 7 are taking MT280 and MT271, 5 are taking MT280 and MT261, and 4 are taking MT271 and MT261. What are the bounds on the number taking at least one of these units?

Hint: Assume that t students are taking all three units and use the inclusion-exclusion principle (part i).
- ii) If in the problem of part (i) only one student is taking all three units, use the inclusion-exclusion principle (part ii) to determine how many of the students are taking precisely one of the units.