## Math 432 – Topological Spaces

**Presentation Write-Up Example** 

**Prove**  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ .

To prove

$$A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C),$$

we will show that  $A \cup (B \cap C) \subset (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$  and  $A \cup (B \cap C) \supset (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ .

First, let  $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$ . Then by definition, either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B \cap C$ . If  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in A \cup B$  and  $x \in A \cup C$ , therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ . In the other case, if  $x \in B \cap C$ , then  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$  so  $x \in A \cup B$  and  $x \in A \cup C$ , therefore,  $x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ . In either case,  $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$  implies  $x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ . Therefore

$$A \cup (B \cap C) \subset (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C).$$

Now, let  $x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ . Then  $x \in A \cup B$  and  $x \in A \cup C$ . Since either x is in A or not, we will consider two cases, either  $x \in A$  or  $x \notin A$ . If  $x \in A$  then  $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$ . If  $x \notin A$  since we have assumed  $x \in A \cup B$  and  $x \in A \cup C$ , this means that  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$  and thus  $x \in B \cap C$  and  $x \in A \cup (B \cap C)$ . Therefore

$$A \cup (B \cap C) \supset (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C).$$

Finally, since  $A \cup (B \cap C) \subset (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$  and  $A \cup (B \cap C) \supset (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ ,  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ .