

Lesson N°7 : Improve writing skill

Short vs long answers

Mathematical Expressions – English/French

The following table provides a selection of useful expressions commonly used in mathematical writing and reasoning. These phrases help articulate logical connections between statements, clarify assumptions, and structure proofs or derivations. Each expression is accompanied by its French equivalent to support understanding and facilitate bilingual learning. Students are encouraged to become familiar with this vocabulary to improve both their reading comprehension and their ability to express mathematical ideas clearly in English.

English Expression	French Translation
It follows from hypothesis 1 that ...	Il résulte de l'hypothèse 1 que... / Il s'ensuit que...
We deduce from relation 2 that ...	On peut donc déduire de la relation 2 que...
Conversely, 3 implies that ...	Inversement / réciproquement, 3 implique que...
Equality (1) holds, by Proposition 2.	L'égalité (1) est vraie, par la proposition 2.
By definition, The following statements are equivalent.	Par définition, les deux lignes (informations) ci-après sont équivalentes.
Thanks to expression (H), the properties (1) and (2) of the above set are equivalent to each other.	Grâce à l'expression (H), les propriétés (1) et (2) de l'ensemble cité plus haut sont équivalentes.
Function f has the following properties.	La fonction f a les caractéristiques / propriétés suivantes
Theorem 1 holds unconditionally.	Le théorème 1 est toujours vrai.
This result is conditional on Axiom A.	Ce résultat est dépendant de l'Axiome A.
This is an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.	Ceci est une conséquence immédiate du théorème 3.
Note that (2) is well-defined, since ...	Il est à noter que (2) est bien défini, puisque...
As x satisfies the relation (2), formula (1) can be simplified as follows.	Comme x satisfait la relation (2), la formule (1) peut être simplifiée comme suit.
We conclude (the argument) by combining inequalities (2) and (3).	On conclut (l'argument) par combinaison des inégalités (2) et (3).
(Let us) denote by X the set of all ...	Notons par X l'ensemble de tout...
It is enough to show that ...	C'est suffisant de montrer que...

We are reduced to proving that ...	On est réduit / limité à prouver que...
The main idea is as follows.	L'idée principale est comme suit.
We argue by contradiction. Assume that P exists.	On argumente par l'absurde... supposant que P existe.
The formal argument proceeds in several steps.	L'argument progresse en plusieurs étapes.
Consider first the special case when ...	Il faut premièrement considérer le cas spécial quand...
..., which proves the required claim.	..., ce qui prouve la revendication / hypothèse requise.
We use induction on n to show that ...	On utilise la récurrence sur n pour montrer que...
On the other hand, ...	D'autre part, ...
..., which means that ...	..., ça veut dire que...
In other words, ...	Autrement dit, ...

Answer with “true” or “false”. In the “false” case, give a counter example or an explanation.

Long answer	Short answer
1) In $\mathbb{R}$, if A is upper bounded, then $\text{Max } A$ exists. False, because in $\mathbb{IR}$, if A is upper bounded, then $\sup A$ exists but not necessarily $\text{Max } A$. As a counter example, consider $A=[0,1[\subset \mathbb{IR}$, one has $\sup A=1$, But $\text{Max } A$ does not exist.	1) False
2) In $\mathbb{IR}$, if A is upper bounded, and B is lower bounded then $(A+B)$ is bounded. False, because $\sup(A+B)=\sup A+\sup B$ and $\inf(A+B)=\inf A+\inf B$ So, when $\sup B$ does not exist then $\sup(A+B)$ does not exist either. And when $\inf A$ does not exist then $\inf(A+B)$ does not exist either.	2) False
3) In $\mathbb{IR}$, if $\text{Sup } A$ exists and $\text{Max } B$ exists then $\text{Sup}(A \cup B)$ exists. True, because	3) True

Sup (AUB)=max (supA, supB). It exists since sup A exists and supB=maxB exists.	
4) Sup $(\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N})$ exists in $\mathbb{R}$. False, because $(\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N})$ is an infinite union of intervals of the type: $]n, n+1[$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$. It is therefore an infinite set (non-upper bounded) of $\mathbb{R}$. Or we may argue by contradiction: suppose that $\exists \alpha = \sup(\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N})$, then α is an upper bound of $(\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N})$, so $\forall x \in (\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N}), x \leq \alpha$ and since $\mathbb{R}$ is Archimedean then: $\exists N \in \mathbb{N} / \alpha < N$, which means that : $\forall \beta \in]\alpha, N[, \alpha < \beta$. This is a contradiction with the fact that α is an upper bound of $(\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N})$.	4) False
5) Max $(\mathbb{Z} / \mathbb{N})$ does not exist. False, because $\text{Max}(\mathbb{Z} / \mathbb{N}) = \text{Max} \{ \dots, -2, -1 \} = -1$.	5) False
6) Let $E = \{ (-1)^m + (-1)^n : n, m \in \mathbb{N} \}$ Sup E exists and Max E does not exist. False, because $E = \{ -2, 0, 2 \}$ So, Max E=2 and then Sup E=2 exists.	6) False

TD N°7 : Short vs long answers

Answer with “true” or “false”. In the “false” case, give a counter example or an explanation.

1) If (U_n) is bounded and $V_n \rightarrow 0$, then $(U_n \cdot V_n) \rightarrow 0$.	1)
2) If $ V_n \rightarrow L$, then $V_n \rightarrow L$.	2)
3) If $V_n \rightarrow L$, then $ V_n \rightarrow L $.	3)
4) If $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, U_n \leq W_n \leq V_n$ and $[(U_n) \text{ and } (V_n) \rightarrow L]$; then $(W_n) \rightarrow L$.	4)
5) If (U_n) and (V_n) diverge, then $(U_n + V_n)$ diverges.	5)
6) If (U_n) converges and (V_n) diverges, then $(U_n \cdot V_n)$ Converges.	6)
7) Every bounded sequence is convergent.	7)
8) If (U_n) is decreasing and lower bounded by 0 then it converges to 0.	8)

TD N°7 solution: Short vs long answers

Answer with “true” or “false”. In the “false” case, give a counter example or an explanation.

1) If (U_n) is bounded and $V_n \rightarrow 0$, then $(U_n \cdot V_n) \rightarrow 0$. Mainly because $U_n \cdot V_n \leq M \cdot V_n$	1) True
2) If $V_n \rightarrow L$, then $V_n \rightarrow L$. Counter example Consider the sequence $(V_n)/$ $V_n = (-1)^n$, then $V_n \rightarrow 1$ but (V_n) is not convergent.	2) False
3) If $V_n \rightarrow L$, then $V_n \rightarrow L$. Mainly because $V_n - L \leq V_n - L$	3) True
4) If $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, U_n \leq W_n \leq V_n$ and $(U_n) \rightarrow L$ and $(V_n) \rightarrow L$; then $(W_n) \rightarrow L$. This is true according to the three sequences theorem.	4) True
5) If (U_n) and (V_n) diverge, then $(U_n + V_n)$ diverges. Counter example Take $(U_n) = n$ and $(V_n) = -n$.	5) False

Then $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, (U_n + V_n) = 0$, i.e. $(U_n + V_n) \rightarrow 0$.	
6) If (U_n) converges and (V_n) diverges, then $(U_n \cdot V_n)$ Converges. Counter example Take $(U_n) = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$ and $(V_n) = n^2 \rightarrow +\infty$ Then $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*, (U_n \cdot V_n) = n$ i.e. $(U_n \cdot V_n) \rightarrow +\infty$.	6) False
7) Every bounded sequence is convergent. Counter example take $(U_n) = (-1)^n$. (U_n) is bounded but it doesn't converge.	7) False
8) If (U_n) is decreasing and lower bounded by 0 then it converges to 0. Counter example take $(U_n) = 1 + \frac{1}{n}$ (U_n) is decreasing (since $U_{n+1} - U_n = \frac{-1}{n(n+1)} < 0$) and lower bounded by 0 (since $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*, 0 < 1 + \frac{1}{n}$), but it converges to 1.	8) False