

**Question**

Deduce as many of the following properties as you can from the additive law

- i)  $m(\phi) = 0$
- ii)  $m(A - B) = m(A) - m(A \cap B)$
- iii)  $B \subseteq A \Rightarrow m(A - B) = m(A) - m(B)$
- iv)  $m(A \cup B) = m(A) + m(B) - m(A \cap B)$
- v)  $m(A) \geq 0$
- vi)  $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow m(A) \leq m(B)$

**Answer**

The additive law says  $A \cap B = \phi \Rightarrow m(A \cup B) = m(A) + m(B)$

- i) Put  $A = B = \phi$ , then  $A \cap B = \phi$ ,  $A \cup B = \phi$ .  
 $m(\phi) = m(\phi) + m(\phi)$ , therefore  $m(\phi) = 0$
- ii)  $A = (A \cap B) \cup (A - B)$        $(A \cap B) \cap (A - B) = \phi$   
 Therefore  $m(A) = m(A \cap B) + m(A - B)$   
 Therefore  $m(A - B) = m(A) - m(A \cap B)$
- iii)  $B \subseteq A \Rightarrow A \cap B = B$   
 Therefore  $m(A - B) = m(A) - m(B)$
- iv)  $A \cup B = A \cup (B - A)$      $A \cap (B - A) = \phi$   
 Therefore  $m(A \cup B) = m(A) + m(B - A)$   
 $= m(A) + m(B) - m(A \cap B)$
- vi)  $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow m(B) = m(A) + m(B - A)$
- v) We cannot prove  $m(A) \geq 0$ , as the following example shows.  
 $S = \{a, b\}$ ,  $m(\phi) = 0$   $m(\{a\}) = 1$   $m(\{b\}) = -1$   
 $m(S) = 0$   
 Then for all  $A, B \subset S$   $A \cap B = \phi \Rightarrow m(A \cup B) = m(A) + m(B)$   
 But  $m(A) \not\geq 0$  for all  $A$ .