

6. An (nonprincipal) ultrafilter is uniform if all of its sets have the same size. Show that a regular ultrafilter is uniform.

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a regular ultrafilter on a infinite set  $I$ . Then, there is a subset  $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{U}$  such that  $|\mathcal{E}| = |I|$  and  $\mathcal{E}_i = \{E \in \mathcal{E} : i \in E\}$  is finite for all  $i \in I$ .

To prove that  $\mathcal{U}$  is uniform, we need to show every  $U \in \mathcal{U}$  has the same size. Since  $\mathcal{U}$  is an ultrafilter,  $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{U}$  and  $I \in \mathcal{U}$ . Hence, if we can show  $|I| = |U|$  for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$  will be uniform. Fortunately, it is clear that  $|I| \geq |U|$  (since  $I \supset U$ ). So we just have to show  $|I| \leq |U|$ .

The core idea of this proof is to abuse some quantitative relation between  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . So let  $U$  be an arbitrary set in  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $E$  be an arbitrary set in  $\mathcal{E}$ . Since  $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{U}$ , and so  $E \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $E \cap U \neq \emptyset$  by the Finite Intersection Property. This means that  $E \in \mathcal{E}_i$  for some  $i \in U$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E} &= \{E \in \mathcal{E}\} \\ &= \{E \in \mathcal{E} : E \in \mathcal{E}_i \text{ for some } i \in U\} \\ &= \bigcup_{i \in U} \mathcal{E}_i.\end{aligned}$$

Finally, by regularity of  $\mathcal{U}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}|I| &= |\mathcal{E}| \\ &= \left| \bigcup_{i \in U} \mathcal{E}_i \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{i \in U} |\mathcal{E}_i|.\end{aligned}$$

(Notice that  $U$  is infinite since otherwise, the sum above will be finite, and that implies,  $I$  is finite).

$$\begin{aligned}&\leq \sum_{i \in U} \omega \\ &= |U|\omega \\ &= |U|.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|I| = |U|$  for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . So, a regular ultrafilter is uniform. □