

3.1. Because $\Omega \in \mathcal{F}_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in A$, $\Omega \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in A} \mathcal{F}_\alpha$. If $E \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in A} \mathcal{F}_\alpha$ then $E \in \mathcal{F}_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in A$. This proves that $E^c \in \mathcal{F}_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in A$, whence $E^c \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in A} \mathcal{F}_\alpha$. It, therefore, remains to prove that whenever E_1, E_2, \dots are in $\bigcap_{\alpha \in A} \mathcal{F}_\alpha$ then so is $\bigcup_{n=1}^\infty E_n$. But $\bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \in \mathcal{F}_\alpha$ for all α , whence the claim.

To finish, suppose \mathcal{A} is an algebra. We can then define $\mathcal{F} = \bigcap \mathcal{G}$, where the intersection is taken over all σ -algebras \mathcal{G} that contain \mathcal{A} . This is clearly the right object. Note that the said intersection is not empty because the power set is a σ -algebra that contains \mathcal{A} .