

# Set Theory

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**Set Partition, Power set, Cartesian product** 



## 6.1. Set Theory: Definitions and the Element Method of Proof

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# **Set Versus Element**In Set theory  $\rightarrow$  **Set** VS. Element  $\leftarrow$  Mathematical Set In JAVA > Class vs. Object In Logic/Philosophy > Concept vs. Instance - The **extension** of a set is its elements. - The **order** of elements is irrelevant - In set theory: an element itself might be a set.

- In philosophy, an instance has no instances.

# **Basic Concepts and Notations**

## **Cantor suggested a set as a:**

"collection into a whole M of definite and separate objects of our intuition or our thought".

M= {Ali, Hasan, Khalid }

**Each object is called an element (or member of) of M.** 

Ali  $\in M$  (Ali belongs to M)

Rami  $\notin M$  (Rami does not belong to M)

## **Roster Notation:**

Roster notation is a complete listing of all the elements of the set.

 $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and

 $B = \{2, 4, 6, 8, \dots, 20\}$ 

are examples of roster notation that define sets with 4 and 10 elements, respectively.

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## "Set" is an undefined term. We say that sets contain elements and are completely determined by the elements they contain. **So:** Two sets are equal  $\Leftrightarrow$  they have exactly the same elements. **Ex**: Let  $A = \{1, 3, 5\}$  $B = \{5, 1, 3\}$  $C = \{1, 1, 3, 3, 5\}$  $\widehat{D} = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \text{ is an odd integer and } 0 < x < 6\}$ How are  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  related? Answer: They are all equal. **Notation:**  $x \in A$  is read "x is an element of A" (or "x is in A")  $x \notin A$  is read "x is not an element of A" (or "x is not in A"). How do you read this out loud? **A Glimpse into Set Theory** the set of all such that





- 1. The set of all natural numbers or positive integers  ${1, 2, 3, ...}$  is denoted by N.
- 2. The set of integers  ${..., -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, ...}$ is denoted by Z.
- 3. The set of rational numbers is denoted by  $Q$ .
- $\blacksquare$  4. The set of real numbers is denoted by R.
- 5. The set of complex numbers is denoted by C.
- 6. The set of positive real numbers is denoted by  $R^+$







**Ex**: Let  $A = \{2,4,5\}$  and  $B = \{1,2,3,4,6,7\}$ . Is  $A \subset B$ ? Answer: No, because 5 is in  $A$  but 5 is not in  $B$ .

**Ex**: Let  $C = \{2, 4, 7\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7\}$ . Is  $C \subset B$ ? Answer: Yes, because every element in  $C$  is in  $B$ .





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Symbol Meaning Upper case designates set name Lower case designates set elements { } enclose elements in set  $\in$  (or  $\notin$  ) is (or is not) an element of  $\subseteq$  is a subset of (includes equal sets)  $\subset$  is a proper subset of  $\sigma$  is not a subset of  $\supset$  is a superset of | or : such that (if a condition is true) | | the cardinality of a set **Notations** 



 $A \nsubseteq B \Leftrightarrow \exists x \cdot x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B$ 

**Notations:** 



Examples: Person  $\supset$  Man,  $Z \supset Z^+$ ,  $R \supset Z$ 

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## **Subsets: Proof and Disproof**

Set  $A$  to be a subset of a set  $B$  as a formal universal conditional statement:

 $A \subseteq B \Leftrightarrow \forall x, \text{ if } x \in A \text{ then } x \in B.$ 

The negation is, therefore, existential:

 $A \nsubseteq B \Leftrightarrow \exists x \text{ such that } x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B.$ 

A *proper subset* of a set is a subset that is not equal to its containing set.

A is a **proper subset** of  $B \Leftrightarrow$ (1)  $A \subseteq B$ , and (2) there is at least one element in  $B$  that is not in  $A$ .

# **Proving and Disproving Subset Relations**

Define sets  $A$  and  $B$  as follows:

 $A = \{m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid m = 6r + 12 \text{ for some } r \in \mathbb{Z}\}\$  $B = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n = 3s \text{ for some } s \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$ 

## Prove that  $A \subseteq B$ .

### **Please loot at details on page 338 example 6.1.2**

Suppose  $x$  is a particular but arbitrarily chosen element of  $A$ . Show that  $x \in B$ , means show that  $x = 3$  (integer).

 $x = 6r + 12$  $= 3(2r + 4)$ . Let  $s = 2r + 4$ . Also,  $3s = 3(2r + 4)$ 

Therefore,  $x$  is an element of  $B$ . <sup>17</sup> © Susanna S. Epp, Kenneth H. Rosen, Ahmad Hamo 2020, All rights reserved

## **Proving and Disproving Subset Relations**

Define sets  $A$  and  $B$  as follows:

 $A = \{m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid m = 6r + 12 \text{ for some } r \in \mathbb{Z}\}\$  $B = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n = 3s \text{ for some } s \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$ 

### **Disprove that B** ⊆ **A.**

To disprove a statement means to show that it is false, and to show it is false that  $B \subseteq A$ , you must find an element of B that is not an element of A.

let x = 3. Then  $x \in B$  because 3 = 3·1, but  $x \notin A$ , because there is no integer r such that  $3 = 6r + 12$ . For if there were such an integer, then





2. show that  $x$  is an element of  $Y$ .

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Define sets  $A$  and  $B$  as follows:

 $A = \{m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid m = 2a \text{ for some integer } a\}$  $B = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n = 2b - 2$  for some integer b Is  $A = B$ ?

. . . . .

**Yes**. To prove this, both subset relations  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$  must be proved.

Part 1, Proof That  $A \subseteq B$ :

Part 2, Proof That  $B \subseteq A$ :

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**Part 1, Proof That A**⊆ **B**Suppose  $x$  is a particular but arbitrarily chosen element of  $A$ . [We must show that  $x \in B$ . By definition of B, this means we must show that  $x = 2$  (some integer) - 2.] By definition of A, there is an integer a such that  $x = 2a$ . [Given that  $x = 2a$ , can x also be expressed as  $2 \cdot$  (some integer) – 2? *I.e., is there an integer, say b, such that*  $2a = 2b - 2$ ? *Solve for b to obtain*  $b = (2a + 2)/2 = a + 1$ . *Check to see if this works.*] Let  $b = a + 1$ . [First check that b is an integer.] Then  $b$  is an integer because it is a sum of integers. [Then check that  $x=2b-2$ .] Also  $2b - 2 = 2(a + 1) - 2 = 2a + 2 - 2 = 2a = x$ , Thus, by definition of  $B$ ,  $x$  is an element of  $B$ [which is what was to be shown]. **Part 2, Proof That B**  $\subseteq$  A: This part of the proof is left as exercise 2 at the end of this section. <sup>22</sup> © Susanna S. Epp, Kenneth H. Rosen, Ahmad Hamo 2020, All rights reserved









# **Class Exercise** Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$  and suppose that the "universal set"  $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ . Find  $A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  $A \cap B = \{3\}$  $A - B = \{1, 2\}$  $A^c = \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$



Let **A** be the set of all the people in the room who live in Ramallah and **B** be the set of all people in the room who live outside Ramallah. What is  $A \cap B$ ?

Answer: This set contains no elements at all.

**Notation:** The symbol  $\varnothing$  denotes a set with no elements. (One can prove that there is only one such set. We call it the *empty set* or the *null set.*)

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**The empty set is not the same thing as nothing**; rather, it is a set with nothing inside it and a set is always something. This issue can be overcome by **viewing a set as a bag—an empty bag undoubtedly still exists. The Empty Set** Example: the set  $D = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 3 < x < 2\}.$ ∀A . A ∩ ∅ ⊆∅ ∀A . ∅ ⊆A ∀A . A ∪ ∅ ⊆A  $\forall A \cdot A \times \emptyset = \emptyset$ Axioms about the empty set:

> Note: ⊆ denotes subset or equal A ⊊ B denotes **proper subset** (subset but not equal)



# **Interval Notation for subsets of real numbers**

Given real numbers a and b with  $a \leq b$ :

 $(a, b) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a < x < b\}$   $[a, b] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$  $[a, b] = \{x \in \mathbf{R} \mid a < x \leq b\}$ [a, b) = { $x \in \mathbf{R}$  |  $a \le x < b$  }.

The symbols  $\infty$  and  $-\infty$  are used to indicate intervals that are unbounded either on the right or on the left:

> $(a, \infty) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x > a\}$  $[a, \infty) = {x \in \mathbf{R} \mid x \geq a}$  $(-\infty, b) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x < b\}$  $[-\infty, b) = \{x \in \mathbf{R} \mid x \leq b\}.$

#### **Example:**

• Notation

Let the universal set be the set  $R$  of all real numbers and let

$$
A = (-1, 0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid -1 < x \le 0\} \text{ and } B = [0, 1) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 0 \le x < 1\}.
$$
\n
$$
\begin{array}{ccccccc}\n-2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\
\hline\n & & & & & & & & & & \\
\hline\n & & & & & & & \\
\hline\n & & & & & & & & \\
\hline\n & & & & & & & & \\
\hline\n & & & & & & &
$$

**Example:** Find  $A \cup B$ ,  $A \cap B$ ,  $B - A$ , and  $A^c$ .

 $A \cup B = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \in (-1, 0] \text{ or } x \in [0, 1)\} = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \in (-1, 1)\} = (-1, 1).$ 

$$
\begin{array}{c|cccc}\n-2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\
\leftarrow & & \leftarrow & & \\
 & & A \cup B & & & \\
\end{array}
$$

 $A \cap B = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \in (-1, 0] \text{ and } x \in [0, 1)\} = \{0\}.$ 

$$
\begin{array}{cccc}\n-2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\
\leftarrow & & & \\
 & & A \cap B & & \n\end{array}
$$

 $B - A = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \in [0, 1) \text{ and } x \notin (-1, 0] \} = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 0 < x < 1\} = (0, 1)$ 

$$
\begin{array}{cccc}\n-2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\
\leftarrow & & & \rightarrow & & \\
 & B-A & & & \n\end{array}
$$

 $A^c$ Homework!

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## **Unions and Intersections of an Indexed Collection of Sets**

• Definition **Unions and Intersections of an Indexed Collection of Sets** Given sets  $A_0$ ,  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,... that are subsets of a universal set U and given a nonnegative integer  $n$ , **Note**  $\bigcup A_i$  is read "the  $\bigcup_{i=0}^{n} A_i = \{x \in U \mid x \in A_i \text{ for at least one } i = 0, 1, 2, ..., n\}$  union of the A-sub-i from i equals zero to n."  $\bigcup_{i=0}^{i=0} A_i = \{x \in U \mid x \in A_i \text{ for at least one nonnegative integer } i\}$  $\bigcap_{i=0}^{n} A_i = \{x \in U \mid x \in A_i \text{ for all } i = 0, 1, 2, ..., n\}$  $\bigcap_{i=0}^{\infty} A_i = \{x \in U \mid x \in A_i \text{ for all nonnegative integers } i\}.$ An alternative notation for  $\bigcup_{i=0}^{n} A_i$  is  $A_0 \cup A_1 \cup ... \cup A_n$ <br>  $\circ$  Susanna S. Epp. Kenneth H. Rosen, Ahmad Hamo 2020, All rights reserved

## **Example: Finding Unions and Intersections of More than Two Sets**

For each positive integer *i*, let  $A_i = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid -\frac{1}{i} < x < \frac{1}{i}\} = A_i = \left(-\frac{1}{i}, \frac{1}{i}\right)$ 

- $A_1$ : set of all real numbers between -1 and 1
- $A_2$ : set of all real numbers between -1/2 and 1/2
- $A_3$ : set of all real numbers between 1/3 and 1/3

Find 
$$
A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3
$$
 = (-1,1), because  $\left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right)$  included

Find  $A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3$   $= \left(-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right)$ , because (-1,1) $\left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$  are included

Find  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = (-1,1)$  Find  $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \{0\}$ 

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# **Partitions of Sets (Disjoint)**

• Definition

Two sets are called **disjoint** if, and only if, they have no elements in common. Symbolically:

A and B are disjoint  $\Leftrightarrow$   $A \cap B = \emptyset$ .

### **Example: Disjoint Sets**

Let  $A = \{1, 3, 5\}$  and  $B = \{2, 4, 6\}$ . Are A and B disjoint?

Solution Yes. By inspection  $A$  and  $B$  have no elements in common, or, in other words,  $\{1, 3, 5\} \cap \{2, 4, 6\} = \emptyset.$ 

## **Mutually Disjoint Sets**

### • Definition

Sets  $A_1, A_2, A_3$ ... are mutually disjoint (or pairwise disjoint or nonoverlapping) if, and only if, no two sets  $A_i$  and  $A_j$  with distinct subscripts have any elements in common. More precisely, for all  $i, j = 1, 2, 3, ...$ 

 $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  whenever  $i \neq j$ .

### **Example: Mutually Disjoint Sets**

- a. Let  $A_1 = \{3, 5\}, A_2 = \{1, 4, 6\}, \text{ and } A_3 = \{2\}.$  Are  $A_1, A_2, \text{ and } A_3$  mutually disjoint?
- a. Yes.  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  have no elements in common,  $A_1$  and  $A_3$  have no elements in common, and  $A_2$  and  $A_3$  have no elements in common.
- b. Let  $B_1 = \{2, 4, 6\}, B_2 = \{3, 7\}, \text{ and } B_3 = \{4, 5\}.$  Are  $B_1, B_2, \text{ and } B_3 \text{ mutually}$ disjoint?
- b. No.  $B_1$  and  $B_3$  both contain 4.

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## **Partitions of Sets**

#### • Definition

A finite or infinite collection of nonempty sets  $\{A_1, A_2, A_3, ...\}$  is a **partition** of a set A if, and only if,

- 1. A is the union of all the  $A_i$
- 2. The sets  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $A_3$ , ... are mutually disjoint.



# **Example: Partition of Set**

Let  $\overline{Z}$  be the set of all integers and let

 $T_0 = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n = 3k, \text{ for some integer } k\},\$ 

 $T_1 = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n = 3k + 1, \text{ for some integer } k\},\$ and

$$
T_2 = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n = 3k + 2, \text{ for some integer } k\}.
$$

Is  $\{T_0, T_1, T_2\}$  a partition of **Z**?

- a. Yes. By inspection,  $A = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3$  and the sets  $A_1, A_2$ , and  $A_3$  are mutually disjoint.
- b. Yes. By the quotient-remainder theorem, every integer  $n$  can be represented in exactly one of the three forms

$$
n = 3k
$$
 or  $n = 3k + 1$  or  $n = 3k + 2$ ,

for some integer k. This implies that no integer can be in any two of the sets  $T_0$ ,  $T_1$ , or  $T_2$ . So  $T_0$ ,  $T_1$ , and  $T_2$  are mutually disjoint. It also implies that every integer is in one of the sets  $T_0$ ,  $T_1$ , or  $T_2$ . So  $\mathbb{Z} = T_0 \cup T_1 \cup T_2$ .

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$$
\frac{3}{2}
$$



#### **Example: Power Set of a Set**

Find the power set of the set  $\{x, y\}$ . That is, find  $\mathcal{P}(\{x, y\})$ .

Solution  $\mathscr{P}(\{x, y\})$  is the set of all subsets of  $\{x, y\}$ . In Section 6.2 we will show that  $\emptyset$  is a subset of every set, and so  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{P}(\{x, y\})$ . Also any set is a subset of itself, so  $\{x, y\} \in \mathcal{P}(\{x, y\})$ . The only other subsets of  $\{x, y\}$  are  $\{x\}$  and  $\{y\}$ , so

$$
\mathscr{P}(\{x, y\}) = \{\emptyset, \{x\}, \{y\}, \{x, y\}\}.
$$



#### • Definition

Let *n* be a positive integer and let  $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$  be (not necessarily distinct) elements. The **ordered** *n***-tuple**,  $(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n)$ , consists of  $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$  together with the ordering: first  $x_1$ , then  $x_2$ , and so forth up to  $x_n$ . An ordered 2-tuple is called an ordered pair, and an ordered 3-tuple is called an ordered triple.

Two ordered *n*-tuples  $(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n)$  and  $(y_1, y_2, ..., y_n)$  are **equal** if, and only if,  $x_1 = y_1, x_2 = y_2, \ldots, x_n = y_n$ .

Symbolically:

 $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) = (y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n) \Leftrightarrow x_1 = y_1, x_2 = y_2, \ldots, x_n = y_n.$ 

In particular,

 $(a, b) = (c, d) \Leftrightarrow a = c$  and  $b = d$ .

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# **Example: Ordered n-tuples**

a. Is  $(1, 2, 3, 4) = (1, 2, 4, 3)$ ?

No. By definition of equality of ordered 4-tuples,

$$
(1, 2, 3, 4) = (1, 2, 4, 3) \Leftrightarrow 1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 4, \text{ and } 4 = 3
$$

b. Is  $\left(3, (-2)^2, \frac{1}{2}\right) = \left(\sqrt{9}, 4, \frac{3}{6}\right)$ ?

Yes. By definition of equality of ordered triples,

$$
(3, (-2)^2, \frac{1}{2}) = (\sqrt{9}, 4, \frac{3}{6}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad 3 = \sqrt{9} \text{ and } (-2)^2 = 4 \text{ and } \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{6}.
$$

## **Cartesian product** • Definition

Given sets  $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n$ , the **Cartesian product** of  $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n$  denoted  $A_1 \times A_2 \times \ldots \times A_n$ , is the set of all ordered *n*-tuples  $(a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n)$  where  $a_1 \in A_1, a_2 \in A_2, \ldots, a_n \in A_n.$ 

Symbolically:

 $A_1 \times A_2 \times \cdots \times A_n = \{(a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n) | a_1 \in A_1, a_2 \in A_2, \ldots, a_n \in A_n\}.$ 

In particular,

 $A_1 \times A_2 = \{(a_1, a_2) \mid a_1 \in A_1 \text{ and } a_2 \in A_2\}$ 

is the Cartesian product of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .

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**Example: Cartesian Products**

Let  $A_1 = \{x, y\}, A_2 = \{1, 2, 3\}, \text{ and } A_3 = \{a, b\}.$ 

- a. Find  $A_1 \times A_2$ . b. Find  $(A_1 \times A_2) \times A_3$ . c. Find  $A_1 \times A_2 \times A_3$ .
- a.  $A_1 \times A_2 = \{(x, 1), (x, 2), (x, 3), (y, 1), (y, 2), (y, 3)\}\$
- b. The Cartesian product of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  is a set, so it may be used as one of the sets making up another Cartesian product. This is the case for  $(A_1 \times A_2) \times A_3$ .

$$
(A_1 \times A_2) \times A_3 = \{(u, v) \mid u \in A_1 \times A_2 \text{ and } v \in A_3\} \text{ by definition of Cartesian product}
$$
  
=  $\{((x, 1), a), ((x, 2), a), ((x, 3), a), ((y, 1), a),$   
 $((y, 2), a), ((y, 3), a), ((x, 1), b), ((x, 2), b), ((x, 3), b),$   
 $((y, 1), b), ((y, 2), b), ((y, 3), b)\}$ 

c. The Cartesian product  $A_1 \times A_2 \times A_3$  is superficially similar





Let **ST** represent the set of **students**, **SM** represent the set of **smart**, **P**  represent the set of **Palestinians**, **A** represent the set of **Americans**, and **W**  represent the set of **women**. Let **WI** represent the set of **Winners.** Formalize the following in Set notation:

1. There are no smart students from Palestine

 $\forall$  sets P, ST, SM, P ∩ ST ∩ SM =  $\varnothing$ 

2. There are no smart students from Palestine among the winners

 $\forall$  sets P, ST, SM, WI, WI∩ P∩ ST ∩ SM =  $\emptyset$ 



 $\forall$  sets ST, FO, ST  $\cap$  FO =  $\varnothing$ 

4. "If every student is smart and every smart is not-foolish, then there are no foolish students"

 $\forall$  sets ST, SM, FO, if ST ⊆ SM and SM ⊆FO°, then ST ∩ FO = ∅