

Set Notation and Operations

Example Datasets:

$$X = \{3, 12, 9, 18, 21, 24\} \qquad \text{AND} \qquad Y = \{12, 15, 6, 3, 9\}$$

0.1 Intersection of Sets: $X \cap Y$

Description: An intersection contains elements that are in both sets. Can be thought of as “AND”.

$$X \cap Y = \{3, 12, 9\} \tag{1}$$

0.2 Union of Sets: $X \cup Y$

Description: A union contains elements that are in either set. Can be thought of as “OR”.

$$X \cup Y = \{3, 12, 9, 18, 21, 24, 15, 6\} \tag{2}$$

0.3 Relative Complement or Difference between Sets: $X - Y$

Description: Return a set with all the things in another set removed, or take out anything from one set that is in the other set(s). Also called the relative complement. Examples below show several ways to think about it and denote this.

$$X - Y = \{18, 21, 24\} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{“Y subtracted from X”} \tag{3}$$

$$X \setminus Y = \{18, 21, 24\} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{“Relative complement of Y in X”} \tag{4}$$

$$Y - X = \{15, 6\} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{“Elements of Y, with the elements of X removed”} \tag{5}$$

$$Y \setminus X = \{15, 6\} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{“Again, can be denoted as relative complement of X in Y”} \tag{6}$$

Intuition: What would the relative complement of set be if we complement it by itself?

$$X - X = \{\} \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{“The result is the empty or null set. \emptyset or \varnothing ”} \tag{7}$$

$$X \setminus X = \{\} \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{“Every item is removed when it is complemented by itself.”} \tag{8}$$

0.4 TODO: universal set, absolute complement, subset, strict subset, superset