Definitions

Term	Notation Example(s)	We say in English ...
sequence	$x_1, \ldots, x_n$	A sequence x_1 to x_n
summation	$\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$ or $\displaystyle\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$	The sum of the terms of the sequence x_1 to x_n
all reals	$\mathbb{R}$	The (set of all) real numbers (numbers on the number line)
all integers	$\mathbb{Z}$	The (set of all) integers (whole numbers including negatives, zero, and positives)
all positive integers	$\mathbb{Z}^+$	The (set of all) strictly positive integers
all natural numbers	$\mathbb{N}$	The (set of all) natural numbers. **Note**: we use the convention that 0 is a natural number.
piecewise rule definition	$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$	Define f of x to be x when x is nonnegative and to be $-x$ when x is negative
function application	$f(7)$	f of 7 **or** f applied to 7 **or** the image of 7 under f
	$f(z)$	f of z **or** f applied to z **or** the image of z under f
	$f(g(z))$	f of g of z **or** f applied to the result of g applied to z
absolute value	$|-3|$	The absolute value of -3
square root	$\sqrt{9}$	The non-negative square root of 9

Data types

Term	Examples:
	(add additional examples from class)
set	$7 \in \{43, 7, 9\}$ $2 \notin \{43, 7, 9\}$
unordered collection of elements	
repetition doesn't matter	
Equal sets agree on membership of all elements	
n**-tuple**	
ordered sequence of elements with n "slots" $(n > 0)$	
repetition matters, fixed length	
Equal n-tuples have corresponding components equal	
string	
ordered finite sequence of elements each from specified set	
repetition matters, arbitrary finite length	
Equal strings have same length and corresponding characters equal	

Special cases:

When $n = 2$, the 2-tuple is called an **ordered pair**.

A string of length 0 is called the **empty string** and is denoted λ.

A set with no elements is called the **empty set** and is denoted $\{\}$ or $\emptyset$.

Defining sets

To define sets:

To define a set using **roster method**, explicitly list its elements. That is, start with { then list elements of the set separated by commas and close with }.

To define a set using **set builder definition**, either form "The set of all x from the universe U such that x is ..." by writing
$$\{x \in U \mid ...x...\}$$
or form "the collection of all outputs of some operation when the input ranges over the universe U" by writing
$$\{...x... \mid x \in U\}$$

We use the symbol $\in$ as "is an element of" to indicate membership in a set.

Example sets: For each of the following, identify whether it's defined using the roster method or set builder notation and give an example element.

$\{-1, 1\}$

$\{0, 0\}$

$\{-1, 0, 1\}$

$\{(x, x, x) \mid x \in \{-1, 0, 1\}\}$

$\{\}$

$\{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \geq 0\}$

$\{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x > 0\}$

$\{\texttt{A}, \texttt{C}, \texttt{U}, \texttt{G}\}$

$\{\texttt{AUG}, \texttt{UAG}, \texttt{UGA}, \texttt{UAA}\}$

Set operations

To define a set we can use the roster method, set builder notation, a recursive definition, and also we can apply a set operation to other sets.

New! Cartesian product of sets and **set-wise concatenation of sets of strings**

Definition: Let X and Y be sets. The **Cartesian product** of X and Y, denoted $X \times Y$, is the set of all ordered pairs (x, y) where $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$

$$X \times Y = \{(x, y) \mid x \in X \text{ and } y \in Y\}$$

Definition: Let X and Y be sets of strings over the same alphabet. The **set-wise concatenation** of X and Y, denoted $X \circ Y$, is the set of all results of string concatenation xy where $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$

$$X \circ Y = \{xy \mid x \in X \text{ and } y \in Y\}$$

Pro-tip: the meaning of writing one element next to another like xy depends on the data-types of x and y. When x and y are strings, the convention is that xy is the result of string concatenation. When x and y are numbers, the convention is that xy is the result of multiplication. This is (one of the many reasons) why is it very important to declare the data-type of variables before we use them.

Fill in the missing entries in the table:

Set	Example elements in this set:			
B	A	C	G	U
	$(\mathtt{A}, \mathtt{C})$		$(\mathtt{U}, \mathtt{U})$	
$B \times \{-1, 0, 1\}$				
$\{-1, 0, 1\} \times B$				
	$(0, 0, 0)$			
$\{\mathtt{A}, \mathtt{C}, \mathtt{G}, \mathtt{U}\} \circ \{\mathtt{A}, \mathtt{C}, \mathtt{G}, \mathtt{U}\}$				
	GGGG			