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	$\lvert -3 \rvert$	The absolute value of -3
square root	$\sqrt{9}$	The non-negative square root of 9

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.

$\{-1, 1\}$

$\{0, 0\}$

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

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

$\{\}$

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

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

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

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

Least greatest proofs

For a set of numbers X, how do you formalize "there is a greatest X" or "there is a least X"?

Prove or **disprove**: There is a least prime number.

Prove or **disprove**: There is a greatest integer.

Approach 1, De Morgan's and universal generalization:

Approach 2, proof by contradiction:

Extra examples: Prove or disprove that $\mathbb{N}$, $\mathbb{Q}$ each have a least and a greatest element.

Gcd definition

Definition: **Greatest common divisor** Let a and b be integers, not both zero. The largest integer d such that d is a factor of a and d is a factor of b is called the greatest common divisor of a and b and is denoted by $gcd(\ (a,b)\ )$.

Gcd examples

Why do we restrict to the situation where a and b are not both zero?

Calculate $gcd(\ (10,15)\ )$

Calculate $gcd(\ (10,20)\ )$

Gcd basic claims

Claim: For any integers a, b (not both zero), $gcd(\ (a,b)\ ) \geq 1$.

Proof: *Show that* 1 *is a common factor of any two integers, so since the gcd is the greatest common factor it is greater than or equal to any common factor.*

Claim: For any positive integers a, b, $gcd(\ (a,b)\ ) \leq a$ and $gcd(\ (a,b)\ ) \leq b$.

Proof *Using the definition of gcd and the fact that factors of a positive integer are less than or equal to that integer.*

Claim: For any positive integers a, b, if a divides b then $gcd(\ (a,b)\ ) = a$.

Proof *Using previous claim and definition of gcd.*

Claim: For any positive integers a, b, c, if there is some integer q such that $a = bq + c$,

$$gcd(\ (a,b)\ ) = gcd(\ (b,c)\ )$$

Proof *Prove that any common divisor of* a, b *divides* c *and that any common divisor of* b, c *divides* a.

Gcd lemma relatively prime

Lemma: For any integers p, q (not both zero), $gcd\left(\left(\frac{p}{gcd(\ (p,q)\ )}, \frac{q}{gcd(\ (p,q)\ )} \right) \right) = 1$. In other words, can reduce to relatively prime integers by dividing by gcd.

Proof:

Let x be arbitrary positive integer and assume that x is a factor of each of $\frac{p}{gcd(\ (p,q)\ )}$ and $\frac{q}{gcd(\ (p,q)\ )}$. This gives integers α, β such that

$$\alpha x = \frac{p}{gcd(\ (p,q)\ )} \qquad\qquad \beta x = \frac{q}{gcd(\ (p,q)\ )}$$

Multiplying both sides by the denominator in the RHS:

$$\alpha x \cdot gcd(\ (p,q)\ ) = p \qquad\qquad \beta x \cdot gcd(\ (p,q)\ ) = q$$

In other words, $x \cdot gcd(\ (p,q)\ )$ is a common divisor of p, q. By definition of gcd, this means

$$x \cdot gcd(\ (p,q)\ ) \leq gcd(\ (p,q)\ )$$

and since $gcd(\ (p,q)\ )$ is positive, this means, $x \leq 1$.