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Textbooks:

1. <https://people.csail.mit.edu/meyer/mcs.pdf>
2. Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists (Ross).

## Sets

Informal definition: An unordered collection of distinct objects (elements). Examples:

$\{a, b, c\}$ ,  $\{\{a, b\}, \{c, a\}\}$ ,  $\{1.2, 2.5\}$ ,  $\{\text{yellow, red, green}\}$ ,  $\{x \mid x \text{ is a capital of a North American country}\}$ ,  $\{x \mid x$

An element may not appear twice:  $\{a, a, b\} = \{a, b\}$

Unordered:  $\{a, b\} = \{b, a\}$

$C = \{x \mid x \text{ is a color of the rainbow}\}$

**Elements** of  $C$ :  $\{\text{red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet}\}$

**Membership**:  $\text{red} \in C$ ,  $\text{brown} \notin C$

**Cardinality**: Number of elements:  $|C| = 7$

## Common Sets

- $\emptyset$ : The Empty set
- $\mathbb{N}$ : Natural numbers  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$
- $\mathbb{Z}$ : Integers  $\{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$
- $\mathbb{Q}$ : Set of rational numbers that can be expressed as  $\frac{p}{q}$  where  $p, q \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge q \neq 0$  —  $\{-10.1, -1.2, 0, 5.5, 15, \dots\}$
- $\mathbb{R}$ : Real numbers
- $\mathbb{C}$ : Complex numbers

Set Comparison:  $A$  is a subset of  $B \iff$  every element of  $A$  is also an element of  $B$

$A$  is a *proper subset* of  $B \iff A$  is a subset of  $B$  and  $A \neq B$

## Set Operations

**Union**: The union of two sets  $A, B$  consists of elements appearing in  $A$  or  $B$ . If  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$ , then  $A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

**Intersection**: The intersection of two sets  $A, B$  consists of elements that appear in both  $A$  and  $B$ . If  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$ , then  $A \cap B = \{3\}$

**Set Difference**: The set difference of  $A, B$  consists of all elements that are in  $A$ , but not in  $B$ . If  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$ , then  $A \setminus B = B - A = \{1, 2\}$

**Complement**: Given a domain (or universe)  $D$  such that  $A \subset D$ , the complement of  $A$  consists of all elements that are not in  $A$ .

$$D = \mathbb{N}, A = \{1, 2, 3\}, A \subset D \wedge \bar{A} = \{0, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$$

$$A \cup \bar{A} = D, A \cap \bar{A} = \emptyset, A \setminus \bar{A} = A$$

Q:  $D = \mathbb{N}, A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$ . Compute  $\overline{A \cap B}, (B \setminus A) \cup (A \setminus B)$

- De Morgan's Law:  $\overline{A \cap B} = \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}$

**Power Set:** The power set of  $A$  is the set of all subsets of  $A$ . If  $A = \{a, b, c\}$ , then

$$P(A) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$$

The number of elements in  $P(A)$  is  $2^{|A|}$

- Proof: Every element of  $A$  has two choices: either it is in a subset or it is. Therefore, the number of possibilities is equal to the number of possibilities for each element.  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times \dots n \text{ times} = 2^n$ 
  - TODO: Find a nice proof of this online to really understand it.
  - This is called the product rule, (google this)

**Disjoint Sets:** Two sets  $A, B$  are disjoint if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$

**Symmetric Difference:** The symmetric difference of two sets  $A, B$  consists of all elements that are either in  $A$  or in  $B$ , but not in both.

Q: Show  $A \Delta B$  on a Venn diagram. Q: For  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$ , compute  $A \Delta B$

$$A \Delta B = \{x \mid (x \in A \wedge x \notin B) \vee (x \in B \wedge x \notin A)\} = \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$$

## Relations

The **Cartesian Product** of two sets is a set consisting of ordered pairs (*tuples*), i.e.

$$A \times B = \{(a, b) \mid a \in A \wedge b \in B\} \text{ if } A = \{1, 2, 3\} \text{ and } B = \{3, 4, 5\} \quad A \times B = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (1, 5), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5)\}$$

i.e. if sets are 1-dimensional objects, the Cartesian Product of two sets can be thought of as 2-dimensional.

Q: Is  $A \times B = B \times A$ ? — No, because tuples are ordered pairs.

Q: If  $|A| = m, |B| = n$ , then what is  $|A \times B|$ ? —  $m * n$ , (find a nice proof of this)

In general,  $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_k = \{(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) \mid a_1 \in A_1, a_2 \in A_2, \dots, a_k \in A_k\}$  where  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$  is referred to as a  $k$ -tuple.

$$|A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_k| = |A_1| \times |A_2| \times \dots \times |A_k|$$

(proof by induction)

## Laws of Set Theory

**Distributive Property:**  $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$

$$z \in A \cap (B \cup C)$$

$$\iff z \in A \wedge z \in (B \cup C) \text{ — by the definition of intersection}$$

$$\iff z \in A \wedge (z \in B \vee z \in C) \text{ — by the definition of union}$$

Using the distributivity of  $\wedge$  over  $\vee$ , for binary literals  $w, x, y \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $x \wedge (y \vee w) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge w)$ . For  $x := z \in A, y := z \in B, w := z \in C$ ,

(We can only use the properties of binary literals because we can basically equate  $z$  being in or not in a set  $S$  to assigning a variable  $x$  to be 0 or 1)

$$\iff (z \in A \wedge z \in B) \vee (z \in A \wedge z \in C)$$

$$\iff z \in (A \cap B) \vee z \in (A \cap C)$$

$$\iff z \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$$

## Sequences

Examples:  $(a, b, a)$ ,  $(1, 3, 4)$ ,  $(4, 3, 1)$

An element may appear twice, and the order of the elements does matter.

- $(a, a, b) \neq (a, b)$
- $(a, b) \neq (b, a)$

Q: What is the size of  $(1, 2, 2, 3)$ ? What is the size of  $\{1, 2, 2, 3\}$ ?

- TODO: answer the question

**Sets and Sequences:** The Cartesian product of sets  $S \times T \times U$  is a set consisting of all sequences where the first component is drawn from  $S$ , the second is drawn from  $T$ , and the third is drawn from  $U$ .

$$S \times T \times U = \{(s, t, u) \mid s \in S, t \in T, u \in U\}$$

Q: For set  $S = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $S^3 = \{S \times S \times S\}$ . Enumerate  $S^3$ . What is  $|S^3|$ ?

- Enumeration:  $S^3 = \{(0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0), (0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 0), (1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 0), (1, 1, 1)\}$
- $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$

Formula:

$$|S \times T \times U| = |S| \times |T| \times |U|$$

$$|S^n| = |S|^n$$

## Counting Sets — Using the Sum Rule

Q: Let  $R$  be the set of rainy days,  $S$  be the set of sunny days, and  $H$  be the set of really hot days in 2023. A bad day can be either rainy, snowy or really hot. What is the number of good days?

Let  $B$  be the set of bad days.  $B = R \cup S \cup H$ , and we want to estimate  $|\overline{B}|$ .  $|D| = 365$ .  $|\overline{B}| = |D| - |B| = 365 - |R \cup S \cup H|$ .

Since the sets  $R, S, H$  are disjoint,  $|R \cup S \cup H| = |R| + |S| + |H|$ . hence, the number of good days  $= 365 - |R| - |S| - |H|$

$$B \cup G = D, |B \cup G| = |D| = 365$$

$B$  and  $G$  are disjoint, so we can apply the sum rule:

$$|B| + |G| = |D|$$

$$\implies |G| = 365 - |B| = 365 - (|R| + |S| + |H|)$$

**Sum Rule:** if  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$  are disjoint sets,  $|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_m| = \sum_{i=1}^m |A_i|$

## Counting Sequences — Using the Product Rule

Q: Suppose the university offers Math courses ( $M$ ), CS courses ( $C$ ), and Statistics courses ( $S$ ). We need to pick one course from each subject, Math, CS and Statistics. What is the number of ways we can select the 3 courses?

We can use the cartesian product, so the number of ways we can select three courses is  $|M \times C \times S| = |M| \times |C| \times |S|$

Formally:

The number of ways to select the 3 courses is

= the number of sequences of the form  $(m, c, s) \mid m \in M, c \in C, s \in S$

$$M \times C \times S = \{(m, c, s) \mid m \in M, c \in C, s \in S\}$$

$$|M \times C \times S| = |M| \times |C| \times |S|$$

### Counting — Example 1

Q: What is the number of length  $n$  passwords that can be generated if each character in the password is only allowed to be a lowercase letter?

The number of passwords = the number of sequences of length  $n$  of the form  $(a, c, d, \dots) = \{a, b, \dots, z\} \times \{a, b, \dots, z\} \times \dots$   $n$  times. Therefore, the number of passwords of length  $n$  is  $|\{a, b, \dots, z\} \times \{a, b, \dots, z\} \times \dots| = |\{a, b, \dots, z\}|^n = 26 \times 26 \times \dots \times 26 = 26^n$

### Counting — Example 2

Q: What is the number of passwords that can be generated if

1. The first character is only allowed to be a lowercase letter,
2. Each subsequent character in the password is allowed to be lower-case letter or digit
3. The password may be between 6 and 8 characters long

Answer:  $26 * 36^7 + 26 * 36^6 + 26 * 36^5 = 2,095,636,727,808$

Let  $L = \{a, b, \dots, z\}$  and  $D = \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ . Using the equivalences between sequences and products of sets, the set of passwords of length  $n$  is given by  $P_n = L \times (L \cup D)^{n-1}$ .

Since the total set of passwords  $P = P_6 \cup P_7 \cup P_8$ , and a password can be either of length 6, 7 or 8, sets  $P_6, P_7, P_8$  are disjoint. Using the sum rule, we can write  $|P| = |P_6| + |P_7| + |P_8| = |L| \times [(|L| + |D|)^5 \times (1 + (|L| + |D|) + (|L| + |D|)^2)] = 26 \times 36^5 \times [1 + 36 + 36^2] = 2,095,636,727,808$