Mathematics for Computer Science

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Set theory September-October, 2017

Basic concepts

Definition by enumeration and comprehension

$$\{E(x) \mid x: X \wedge R\}$$

yields the set of values that result from evaluating E[x := v] in the state for each value $v \in X$ such that R[x := v] holds.

Set membership and set equality

(membership)
$$y \in \{E(x) \mid x: X \land R\} \equiv \langle \exists x: X : R : y = E(x) \rangle$$
 (extensionality)
$$S = T \equiv \langle \forall x: X :: x \in S \equiv x \in T \rangle$$

Basic concepts

• Sets and predicates (characteristic predicate)

(characteristic)
$$y \in \{x \mid R\} \equiv R[x := y]$$

Operations on sets

Distributed operations on sets

$$(\mathcal{P}(X),\cup,\emptyset) \text{ is an Abelian monoid}$$

$$(\mathcal{P}(X),\cap,\mathit{UNIVERSE}) \text{ is an Abelian monoid}$$

Predicates and sets revisited

Exercise: point out the duality!

(implication vs subset)
$$\{x \mid P\} \subseteq \{x \mid Q\} \equiv \langle \forall x:X :: P \Rightarrow Q \rangle$$

Paradoxes in set theory

$$S = \{x \mid x \notin x\}$$

i.e. the set of all sets which do not contain themselves as elements: $S \in S \equiv S \notin S$

Parodox of Zermelo-Russell (1901)

- Variants (e.g. the barber paradox; this statement is false), etc.
- self-referencial phenomena vs types