

Discrete Structures
Set Theory

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August 1, 2023
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Contents

1	Set Theory	2
1.1	Definition of a set	2
1.2	Number Sets	2
1.3	Set Equality	4
1.4	Set-Builder Notation	4
1.5	Types of Sets	4
1.6	Subsets	5
1.7	Power Sets	5
1.8	Cartesian Product	6
1.9	Cartesian Plane	6
1.10	Venn Diagram	7
1.11	Set Operations (Union and Intersection)	7
1.12	Properties of Union and Intersection	8
1.13	Set Operations (Difference and Complement)	8
1.14	Properties of Difference and Complement	9
1.15	De Morgan's Laws	9
1.16	Partition of Sets	9

1 Set Theory

1.1 Definition of a set

Definition: A **set** is a collection of elements

We denote sets with the following syntax:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}.$$

Where in this case A is the identifier and its elements are delimited by commas and encapsulated among braces.

Note: The identifier for sets are commonly represented with capital letters

We can also indicate *infinitely many* elements in a set by use of the **ellipsis**, which would look like:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

$$\text{Generally : } A = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n\}.$$

More Notation: We can indicate that an object is an **element** of a set with the following syntax:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

$$3 \in A.$$

1.2 Number Sets

The set of **Natural Numbers** (whole numbers) is denoted by \mathbb{N} :

$$\mathbb{N} : 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

The set of **Integers** is denoted by \mathbb{Z} :

$$\mathbb{Z} : -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$$

So you can see the set of all integers is similar to that of the natural numbers, however this set includes *negative numbers*

The set of **Rational numbers**, (ratio of two integers), is denoted by \mathbb{Q} :

$$\mathbb{Q} : \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \dots$$

The set of **Irrational numbers**, is denoted by $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$:

$$\bar{\mathbb{Q}} : \pi, e, \sqrt{2}, \text{ etc.}$$

Note:-

for a number to be considered irrational, they cannot be exactly represented as fractions of integers and have non-repeating, non-terminating decimal representations. Thus, the following condition must hold:

$$x \text{ is irrational} \iff \frac{a}{b}, \quad \text{where } a \wedge b \notin \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } \gcd(a, b) = 1.$$

The set of all **Real numbers** is denoted by \mathbb{R} :

\mathbb{R} : Both rational and irrational numbers.

The set of all **imaginary numbers** is denoted by \mathbb{I} :

$$\mathbb{I} : i^2 = -1, i = \sqrt{-1}$$
$$Ex : \sqrt{-9} = \sqrt{9} \cdot \sqrt{-1} = 3i.$$

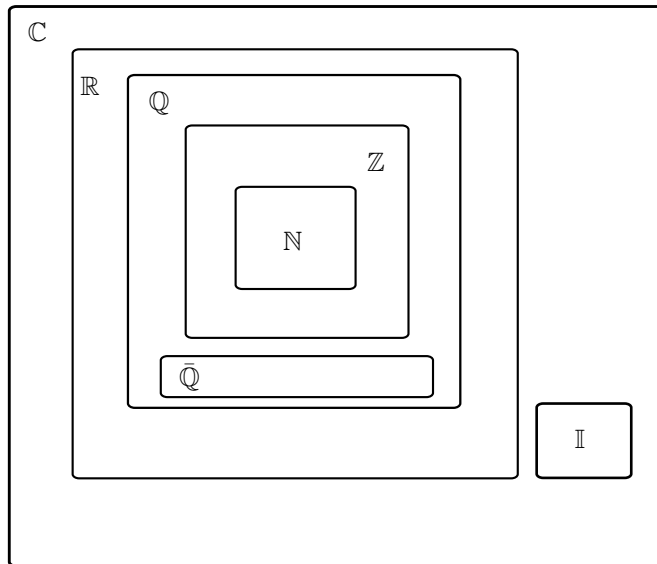
The set of **Complex numbers**, which describes numbers that are comprised of two components, one real and one imaginary, and is denoted by:

$$\mathbb{C} : 2 + 3i.$$

In summary:

- \mathbb{N} : Denotes the set of all **Natural Numbers**
- \mathbb{Z} : Denotes the set of all **Integers**
- \mathbb{Q} : Denotes the set of all **Rational Numbers**
- $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$: Denotes the set of all **Irrational Numbers**
- \mathbb{I} : Denotes the set of all **Imaginary Numbers**
- \mathbb{C} : Denotes the set of all **Complex Numbers**

Figure:



1.3 Set Equality

Definition: An **axiom** is a rule or statement that is generally accepted to be true without proof.
An **Axiom of Extension** is a set determined by what its elements are - not the order in which they might be listed or the fact that some elements might be listed more than once.

Consider the sets:

$$A = \{1, 3, 5, 1, 5, 5, 3\}$$
$$B = \{1, 3, 5\}.$$

Because of the **Axiom of Extension**, which states that a set is not determined by the order or possible repetitions, we can conclude that $A = B$.

Furthermore, we can conclude that we only have 3 elements amongst set A , although it may seem like we have 7.

1.4 Set-Builder Notation

Set-Builder is a convention we can use when dealing with sets to imply the elements of a set without listing all of its values.

Suppose we have:

$$x = -5, 4, 3, -10, -5, 2, 0.$$

Then:

$$\{x | x < 0\} \text{ Reads: "The set of all } x\text{'s such that (pipe) } x \text{ is less than zero"} \\ = \{-10, -5\}.$$

So naturally you can infer that this set would be all x 's from are defined pool of x values that are negative.

Additionally, we can utilize *Number Sets*:

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R} | -2 < x < 5\}.$$

1.5 Types of Sets

- **Universal Set:** Denoted \mathbb{U} , represents the collection of all possible elements or objects that are under consideration for a particular context or problem.
- **Empty Set (Null set):** Denoted \emptyset (phi), represents a set that contains no elements
- **Singleton Set:** Represents a set that only has one element
- **Finite Set:** Represents a set that has a countable number of elements
- **Infinite Set:** Represents a set that has an infinite amount of elements
- **Subset:** A set in which all elements are part of a larger set

Definition: Cardinal Number of a Set: is the number of elements in a set, denoted $n(A)$. Where, in this case, A represents the name of the set.

Consider the set:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$\text{Then : } n(A) = 3.$$

Where $n(A) = 3$ represents the cardinal number of the set

Definition: Equivalent Set: Represents sets that have the same *Cardinal Number*. To show that two sets are equivalent, we can use the notation:

$$A \sim B.$$

Which shows that the cardinality of A equals the cardinality of B

Consider the sets:

$$A = \{1, 4, 5\}$$

$$B = \{6, 8, 10\}.$$

Then we can say:

$$A \sim B.$$

1.6 Subsets

Definition. If \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are sets, then \mathbf{A} is called a **subset** of \mathbf{B} , written $A \subseteq B$, if and only if every element of \mathbf{A} is also an element of \mathbf{B}
 If \mathbf{A} is a **subset** of \mathbf{B} , and \mathbf{B} has at least one additional element that is not in \mathbf{A} , then \mathbf{A} is called a **proper subset** of \mathbf{B}

1.7 Power Sets

Definition. The **Power set** of A , denoted $P(A)$, is the set of all subsets of A

Consider the set:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}.$$

Then by the power set of A , $P(A)$, would be:

$$P(A) = \{\{\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}.$$

To calculate how many subsets are possible within a set, we can compute:

$$2^n$$

Where n is the number of elements in the set.

1.8 Cartesian Product

Definition: Given sets **A** and **B**, the **Cartesian product** of **A** and **B**, denoted $A \times B$, and read "A cross B", is the set of all ordered pairs (a, b) , where a is in **A**, and b is in **B**.

$$A \times B = \{(a, b) \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}.$$

Consider the sets:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{1, 2\} \\ B &= \{c, d\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$A \times B = \{(1, c), (1, d), (2, c), (2, d)\}.$$

Consider the sets:

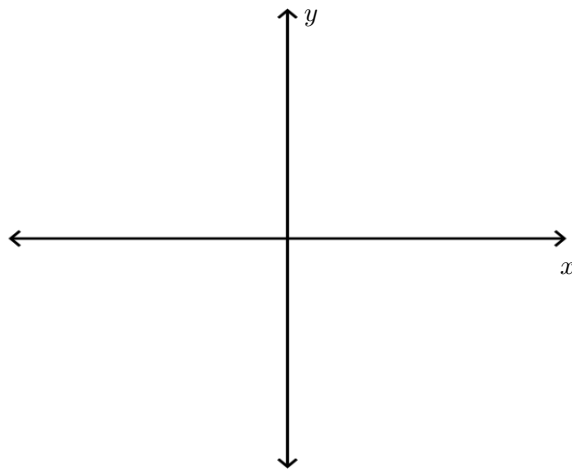
$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{1, 2\} \\ B &= \{\$, !\} \\ C &= \{x, y\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} A \times B &= \{(1, \$), (1, !), (2, \$), (2, !)\} \\ (A \times B) \times C &= \{((1, \$), x), ((1, \$), y), \dots, \text{so forth}\}. \end{aligned}$$

1.9 Cartesian Plane

Figure:



The way in which we denote all the possible points on the Cartesian plane is by denoting a cartesian product

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \\ \text{Or : } &\{(a, b) \mid a \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \mathbb{R}\} \\ \text{Or : } &\{(a, b) \mid (a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2\}. \end{aligned}$$

1.10 Venn Diagram

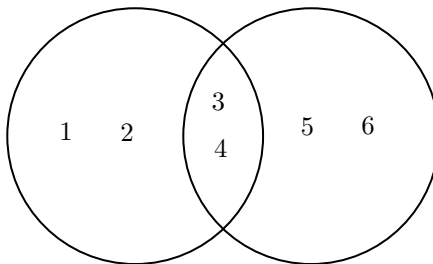
Definition: We use **Venn Diagram** to show relationships between sets

Consider the sets:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

$$B = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}.$$

With these two sets, we can construct the following Venn Diagram:



1.11 Set Operations (Union and Intersection)

We can use **set operations** on sets to create new sets

Set operators:

- \cup : **Denotes Union**, to find the union of two sets, we combine the elements of both sets into a new set
- \cap : **Denotes Intersection**, to find the intersection of two sets, we find the elements that are common in both sets.

Union:

Consider the sets:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$B = \{4, 5, 6\}.$$

Then:

$$A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}.$$

Intersection:

Consider the sets:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$B = \{3, 5, 6\}.$$

Then:

$$A \cap B = \{3\}.$$

1.12 Properties of Union and Intersection

- $A \cup B = B \cup A$, $A \cap B = B \cap A$ (Commutative Law)
- $(A \cup B) \cup C = A \cup (B \cup C)$, $(A \cap B) \cap C = A \cap (B \cap C)$ (Associative Law)
- $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$, $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ (Distributive Law)
- $A \cup \emptyset = A$, $A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$
- $A \cup U = U$
- $A \cup A = A$, $A \cap A = A$ (Idempotent Law)

1.13 Set Operations (Difference and Complement)

Difference:

Consider the sets:

$$\begin{aligned}A &= \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \\ B &= \{4, 5, 5\}.\end{aligned}$$

Then $A - B$, read "A Difference B", would be:

$$A - B = \{1, 2, 3\}.$$

Complement

Consider the sets:

$$\begin{aligned}U &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \\ A &= \{1, 2\}.\end{aligned}$$

Then the complement of A would be:

$$A^c = \{3, 4, 5\}.$$

1.14 Properties of Difference and Complement

- $A \cup A^c = U$
- $(A^c)^c = A$
- $U^c = \emptyset, \emptyset^c = U$
- $A - B = A \cap B^c$

1.15 De Morgan's Laws

- $(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$
- $(A \cap B)^c = A^c \cup B^c$

1.16 Partition of Sets

Definition: Two sets are called **disjoint**, if and only if they have no elements in common.
A finite or infinite collection of non empty sets $\{A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots\}$ is a Partition of a set A , if and only if

1. A is the union of all of the sets
2. The sets are mutually disjoint