



❖ Symmetric Difference :

→ A symmetric difference of the sets contains all the elements in either set but **NOT** both.

→ Symmetric diff. symbol is a \oplus .

→ Example: $C = M \oplus P$.

→ Formal definition for the symmetric difference of two sets:

$$A \oplus B = \{ x \mid (x \in A \text{ or } x \in B) \text{ and } x \notin A \cap B \}$$

$$A \oplus B = (A \cup B) - (A \cap B) \quad \leftarrow \text{Important!}$$

→ Further Examples

➤ For an example of the symmetric difference, we will consider the sets $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ and $B = \{2, 4, 6\}$. The symmetric difference between these sets is $\{1, 3, 5, 6\}$.

$$\text{➤ } \{1, 2, 3\} \oplus \{3, 4, 5\} = \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$$

$$\text{➤ } \{\text{New York, Washington}\} \oplus \{3, 4\} = \{\text{New York, Washington, 3, 4}\}$$

$$\text{➤ } \{1, 2\} \oplus \emptyset = \{1, 2\}$$

The symmetric difference of any set S with the empty set will be the set S