

Laws of set algebra

For any sets A, B, C with universal set \mathcal{U} and empty set \emptyset , we have the following **laws of set algebra**:

Commutativity:

$$A \cup B = B \cup A,$$

$$A \cap B = B \cap A.$$

Associativity:

$$A \cup (B \cup C) = (A \cup B) \cup C,$$

$$A \cap (B \cap C) = (A \cap B) \cap C.$$

Distributivity:

$$A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C),$$

$$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C).$$

Absorption:

$$A \cup (A \cap B) = A,$$

$$A \cap (A \cup B) = A.$$

Idempotence:

$$A \cup A = A,$$

$$A \cap A = A.$$

We also have the following **definitions**:

Difference:

$$A - B = A \cap B^c.$$

Identity:

$$A \cup \emptyset = A,$$

$$A \cap \mathcal{U} = A.$$

Domination:

$$A \cup \mathcal{U} = \mathcal{U},$$

$$A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset.$$

Complement law:

$$A \cup A^c = \mathcal{U},$$

$$A \cap A^c = \emptyset.$$

Double complement law:

$$(A^c)^c = A.$$

De Morgan's law:

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

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

Symmetric difference:

$$A \oplus B = (A \cup B) - (A \cap B).$$