

CH 5- Set Theory

Luke Lu • 2025-09-22

Empty Set

$\emptyset = \{\}$ but $\{\emptyset\} \neq \emptyset$

Cardinality

The number of elements in a finite set is S called the cardinality of S , denoted by $|S|$

Set Notation

Set Builder Noataion - Type 1

The notation $\{x \in \mathcal{U} : P(x)\}$

Describes the set consisting of all objects x such that x is an element of \mathcal{U} , and $P(x)$ is true

Example: $A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \mid 12\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12\}$

Set Builder Notation -Type 2

The notation $f(x) : x \in \mathcal{U}$

Describes the set consisting of all objects of the form $f(x)$ such that x is an element of \mathcal{U}

Example: $B = \{2k : k \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \text{all even numbers}$

Set Builder Notation - Type 3

The notation $f(x) : x \in \mathcal{U}, P(x)$ or $f(x) : P(x), x \in \mathcal{U}$ Both describes the set consisting of all objects of the form $f(x)$ such that x is an element \mathcal{U} and $P(x)$ is true

Example: $C = \{\frac{a}{b} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0\}$

Practices:

1. All multiple of 7: $\{x \in \mathbb{N} : 7 \mid x\}$
2. All odd perfect square: $\{(2x + 1)^2 : x \in \mathbb{Z}\}$
3. All points on a circle of radius 8 centered at origin: $\{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x^2 + y^2 = 64 : \}$
4. All sets of three integers which are the side lengths of a triangle:

$\{(x, y, z) : x, y, z \in \mathbb{N}, x < y < z, x + y < z\}$

Union and Intersection

The **union** of two sets S and T , denoted, $S \cup T$, is the set of all elements belonging to either set S or set T .

The **intersection** of two sets S and T , denoted, $S \cap T$, is the set of all elements belonging to either set S and set T .

Practice:

Let $C = \{3, 5, 7, 10\}, D = \{1, 3, 6, 7, 8\}$

1. $C \cup D = \{1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10\}$
2. $C \cap D = \{3, 7\}$

Let $A = \{m \in \mathbb{Z} : 2 \mid m\}$, $B = \{2k + 1 : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

1. $A \cup B = \mathbb{Z}$
2. $A \cap B = \emptyset$

For non empty sets A and B

1. If $|A| = 12$, $|B| = 4$, $|A \cap B| = 2$, $|A \cup B| = 14$
2. If $|A| = 10$, $|B| = 20$, $|A \cup B| = 25$, $|A \cap B| = 5$

Set Difference

The **set difference** of two sets S and T , written $S - T$ or $S \setminus T$ is the set of all elements belonging to S but not T .

Symbolically: $S - T = \{x : (x \in S) \wedge x \notin T\}$

Complement

The **complement** of a set S whose elements belong to \mathcal{U} , written S^c , is the set of all elements in \mathcal{U} but not in S .

Symbolically: $\{x \in \mathcal{U} \mid x \notin S\}$

Disjoin Set

Two sets S and T are said to be disjoint when $S \cap T = \emptyset$

Practice:

1. Let $\mathcal{U} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$, $C = \{3, 5, 7, 10\}$, $D = \{1, 3, 6, 7, 8\}$

Find $|C - D^c| = 2$

2. Let $A = \{x : x \in \mathbb{N}, x \text{ is even}\}$, $B = \{x : x \in \mathbb{N}, x \text{ is not a prime}\}$

$A \cup B = \{1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, \dots\}$ $A \cap B = \{2\}$

3. If $A \cap B = \emptyset$ and $B \cap C = \emptyset$, then $A \cap C = \emptyset$: False
4. If $|A \cap B| = |A|$ and $B \cap C = \emptyset$, then $A \cap C = \emptyset$: True
5. If $|A \cap B| = |A|$ and $|A \cap C| = |A|$, then $B \cap C = \emptyset$: False