



## UNORDERED TRIPLES

### Why

$$\{a\} \cup \{b\} = \{a, b\}$$

### Definition

Let  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  denote objects. From the associativity of the pair union Notice By the associativity pair unions (see *Pair Unions*) we have that

$$(\{a\} \cup \{b\}) \cup \{c\} = \{a\} \cup (\{b\} \cup \{c\}).$$

So we will drop the parentheses, and write  $\{a\} \cup \{b\} \cup \{c\}$ . We call such a set the *unordered triple* of  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ .

### Notation

Such sets are so commonplace that we denote the unordered triple of  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  by  $\{a, b, c\}$ .

### Extensions

Let  $d$  denote an object. It is also the case that we can drop the parentheses from

$$(((\{a\} \cup \{b\}) \cup \{c\}) \cup \{d\}).$$

We can therefore write  $\{a\} \cup \{b\} \cup \{c\} \cup \{d\}$  without ambiguity. We call this set the *unordered quadruple* denote this set by  $\{a, b, c, d\}$ .

In a similar way we speak of *unordered pentuples*, *unordered sextuples*, *unordered septuples* and so on. If we have several objects named, we denote the set containing these objects by writing their names in between braces { and }.

