



## SET INCLUSION

### Why

We want language for all of the elements of a first set being the elements of a second set.

### Definition

Denote a set by  $A$  and a set by  $B$ . If every element of the set denoted by  $A$  is an element of the set denoted by  $B$ , then we say that the set denoted by  $A$  is a *subset* of the set denoted by  $B$ . We say that the set denoted by  $A$  is *included* in the set denoted by  $B$ . We say that the set denoted by  $B$  is a *superset* of the set denoted by  $A$  or that the set denoted by  $B$  *includes* the set denoted by  $A$ . A set includes and is included in itself.

If the sets denoted by  $A$  and  $B$  are identical, then each contains the other. If  $A = B$ , then the set denoted by  $A$  includes the set denoted by  $B$  and the set denoted by  $B$  includes the set denoted by  $A$ . The axiom of extension asserts the converse also holds. If the set denoted by  $A$  includes the set denoted by  $B$  and the set denoted by  $B$  includes the set denoted by  $A$ , then  $A$  and  $B$  denote the same set. In other words, if the set denoted by  $A$  is a subset of the set denoted by  $B$  and the set denoted by  $B$  a subset of the set denoted by  $A$ , then  $A = B$ .

The empty set is a subset of every other set.

### Account 1. Empty Set Inclusion

1-2	name	$A, \emptyset$		
3	have	$\neg((\exists x)(x \in \emptyset))$		
4	thus	$(\forall x)((x \in \emptyset) \implies (x \in A))$	by	3
5	i.e.	$\emptyset \subset A$	by	4

Suppose toward contradiction that  $A$  were a set which did not include the empty set. Then there would exist an element in the empty set which is not in  $A$ . But then the empty set would not be empty. We call the empty set and  $A$  *improper subsets* of  $A$ . All other subsets we call *proper subsets*. In other words,  $B$  is an improper subset of  $A$  if and only if  $A$  includes  $B$ ,  $B \neq A$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

### Notation

Given two sets  $A$  and  $B$ , we denote that  $A$  is included in  $B$  by  $A \subset B$ . We read the notation  $A \subset B$  aloud as “ $A$  is included in  $B$ ” or “ $A$  subset  $B$ ”. Or we write  $B \supset A$ , and read it aloud “ $B$  includes  $A$ ” or “ $B$  superset  $A$ ”.

In this notation, we express the axiom of extension

$$A = B \Leftrightarrow (A \supset B) \wedge (A \subset B).$$

The notation  $A \subset B$  is a concise symbolism for the sentence “every element of  $A$  is an element of  $B$ .” Or for the alternative notation  $a \in A \implies a \in B$ .

## Properties

Given a set  $A$ ,  $A \subset A$ . Like equality, we say that inclusion is *reflexive*. Given sets  $A$  and  $B$ , if  $A \subset B$  and  $B \subset C$  then  $A \subset C$ . Like equality, we say that inclusion is *transitive*. If  $A \subset B$  and  $B \subset A$ , then  $A = B$  (by the axiom of extension). Unlike equality, which is symmetric, we say that inclusion is *antisymmetric*.

## Comparison with belonging

Given a set  $A$  inclusion is reflexive.  $A \subset A$  is always true. Is  $A \in A$  ever true? Also, inclusion is transitive. Whereas belonging is not.



