



**Definition**

A *set ring* (or *Boolean set ring*, *ring of sets*, *Boolean ring of sets*) is a nonempty set of sets  $R$  such that if

$$E \in R \quad \text{and} \quad F \in R$$

then

$$E \cup F \in R \quad \text{and} \quad E - F \in R.$$

In other words, a ring is a **nonempty** set of sets which is closed under unions and differences.

Every ring contains the empty set, for if  $E \in R$ , then  $E - E = \emptyset \in R$ .

Also, since

$$E - F = (E \cup F) - F,$$

every nonempty set that is closed under unions and *proper* differences is a ring.



