



Why

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

Definition

Let a , b and c denote objects. From the associativity of pair unions (see Pair Unions), we have

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

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 . The unordered triple of a , b and c is the set containing these elements and no others.

ℳNotation

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

Quadruples

Let d denote an object. Again, the associativity of pair unions allows us to 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*. As before, the unordered quadruple contains of a , b , c and d contains a , b , c , and d and nothing besides these.

ℳNotation We denote the unordered quadruple of the object denoted by a , b , c and d , denote this set by $\{a, b, c, d\}$.

The case of several named objects

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

the left brace $\{$ and right brace $\}$, separating the names by commas. For example, if we A , b , x and Y and z denote objects, then we denote the set containing these elements by

$$\{A, b, x, Y, z\}.$$

