Why

If x is related to y and y to z, then x and z are related.

Definition

Let R be a relation from X to Y and S a relation from Y to Z. The *composite relation* from X to Z contains the pair $(x, z) \in (X \times Z)$ if and only if there exists a $y \in Y$ such that $(x, y) \in R$ and $(y, z) \in S$. This composite relation is sometimes called the *relative product*.

Notation

We denote the composite relation of R and S by $R \circ S$ or RS.

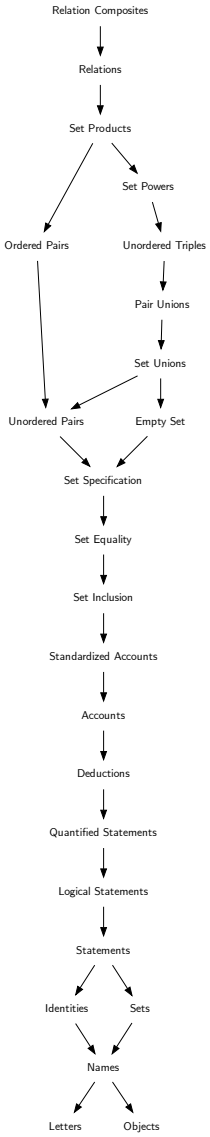
Example

Let X be the set of people and let R be the relation in X "is a brother of" and S be the relation in X "is a father of". Then RS is the relation "is an uncle of".

Properties

Composition of relation is associative but not commutative.[1]

[1] A fuler account will appear in future editions.


Relation Composites
Relations
Set Products
Set Powers
Ordered Pairs
Unordered Triples
Pair Unions
Set Unions
Unordered Pairs
Empty Set
Set Specification
Set Equality
Set Inclusion
Standardized Accounts
Accounts
Deductions
Quantified Statements
Logical Statements
Statements
Identities
Sets
Names
Letters
Objects