Why

We generalize the product of two sets to a product of a family of sets. To do so we discuss sets of families.

Discussion for pairs

Let A and B be sets. There is a natural correspondence between the product set $A \times B$ (see Cartesian Products) and the set of families

$$Z = \{z : \{i, j\} \to (A \cup B) \mid z_i \in A \text{ and } z_b \in B\}.$$

The family $z \in Z$ corresponds with the pair (z_i, z_i). The pair (a, b) corresponds to the family $z \in Z$ defined by $z(i) = a$ and $z(j) = b$. So, ordered pairs can be put in one-to-one correspondence with families. The generalization of Cartesian products to more than two sets generalizes the notion for families.

Definition

Let X be a set. Let $A : I \to \mathcal{P}(X)$ be a family of subsets of X. The *direct product* or *family Cartesian product* of A is the set of all families $a : I \to X$ which satisfy $a_i \in A_i$ for every $i \in I$.

A function on a product is called a *function of several variables* and, in particular, a function on the product $X \times Y$ is called a *function of two variables.*

Notation

We denote the product of the family $\{A_i\}$ by

$$\prod_{i \in I} A_i$$

We read this notation as "product over i in I of A sub-i."

Projections

The word "projection" is used in two senses with families. Let I be a set, and let $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a family of sets. Define $A = \prod_{i \in I} A_i$.

First, let $J \subset I$. There is a natural correspondence between the elements of A and those of $\prod_{j \in J} A_j$. To each element $a \in A$, we restrict a to J and this is restriction is an element of $\prod_{j \in J} A_j$. The correspondence is called the *projection* of A onto $\prod_{i \in J} A_i$. The projection in this sense is a set of families.

Second, consider the value of a family $a \in A$ at j. We call a_j the *projection of a onto index j* or the *j-coordinate* of a. This word *coordinate* is meant to follow the language used in defining ordered pairs. The projection in this sense is an element of A_j. The jth projection is a function from $\prod_{i \in I} X_i \to X_j$.

Direct Products

Families

Functions

Relations

Ordered Pair Projections

Set Products

Set Powers

Ordered Pairs

Unordered Triples

Pair Unions

Set Unions

Unordered Pairs

Empty Set

Set Specification

Set Equality

Set Inclusion

Deductions

Quantified Statements

Logical Statements

Statements

Identities

Sets

Names

Letters

Objects