Why

We often use functions to keep track of several objects by the objects of some well-known set with which they correspond. In this case, we use specific language and notation.

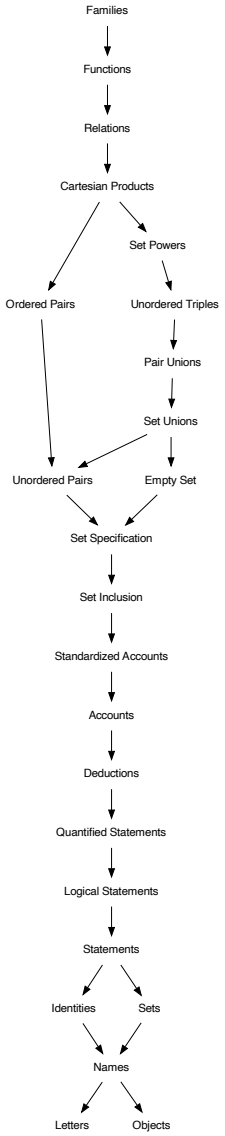
Definition

Let I and X denote sets. A *family* is a function from I to X. We call an element of I an *index* and we call I the *index set*. Of course, the letter I was picked here to be a mnemonic for "index". We call the range of the family the *indexed set* and we call the value of the family at an index i a *term* of the family at i or the *ith term* of the family.

Experience shows that it is useful to discuss sets using indices, especially when discussing a set of sets. If the values of the family are sets, we speak of a *family of sets*. Indeed, we often speak of a *family of* whatever object the values of the function are. So for instance, a family of subsets of X is understood to be a function from some index set into $\mathcal{P}(X)$.

Notation

Let $x : I \to X$ be a family. We denote the ith term of x by x_i. We sometimes denote the family by $\{x_i\}_{i \in I}$.


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