

Summary of Halmos' Naive Set Theory

Robin Adams

August 20, 2023

Contents

1	Primitive Terms and Axioms	2
2	The Subset Relation	3
3	Comprehension Notation	4
4	Unordered Pairs	5
5	Unions and Intersections	6

Chapter 1

Primitive Terms and Axioms

Let there be *sets*. We assume that everything is a set.

Let there be a binary relation of *membership*, \in . If $x \in A$ we say that x *belongs to* A , x is an *element* of A , or x is *contained in* A . If this does not hold we write $x \notin A$.

Axiom 1.1 (Axiom of Extensionality). *Two sets are equal if and only if they have the same elements.*

Axiom 1.2 (Axiom of Comprehension, Aussonderungsaxiom). *To every set A and to every condition $S(x)$ there corresponds a set B whose elements are exactly those elements x of A for which $S(x)$ holds.*

Axiom 1.3. *A set exists.*

Axiom 1.4 (Axiom of Pairing). *For any two sets, there exists a set that they both belong to.*

Axiom 1.5 (Union Axiom). *For every set A , there exists a set that contains all the elements that belong to at least one element of A .*

Chapter 2

The Subset Relation

Definition 2.1 (Subset). Let A and B be sets. We say that A is a *subset* of B , or B *includes* A , and write $A \subseteq B$ or $B \supseteq A$, iff every element of A is an element of B .

Theorem 2.2. *For any set A , we have $A \subseteq A$.*

PROOF: Every element of A is an element of A . \square

Theorem 2.3. *For any sets A , B and C , if $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq C$ then $A \subseteq C$.*

PROOF: If every element of A is an element of B , and every element of B is an element of C , then every element of A is an element of C . \square

Theorem 2.4. *For any sets A and B , if $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$ then $A = B$.*

PROOF: If every element of A is an element of B , and every element of B is an element of A , then A and B have the same elements, and therefore are equal by the Axiom of Extensionality. \square

Definition 2.5 (Proper Subset). Let A and B be sets. We say that A is a *proper subset* of B , or B *properly includes* A , and write $A \subsetneq B$ or $B \supsetneq A$, iff $A \subseteq B$ and $A \neq B$.

Chapter 3

Comprehension Notation

Definition 3.1. Given a set A and a condition $S(x)$, we write $\{x \in A : S(x)\}$ for the set whose elements are exactly those elements x of A for which $S(x)$ holds.

PROOF: This exists by the Axiom of Comprehension and is unique by the Axiom of Extensionality. \square

Theorem 3.2. *There is no set that contains every set.*

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1.$ LET: A be a set.

PROVE: There exists a set B such that $B \notin A$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 2.$ LET: $B = \{x \in A : x \notin x\}$

$\langle 1 \rangle 3.$ If $B \in A$ then we have $B \in B$ if and only if $B \notin B$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 4.$ $B \notin A$

\square

Chapter 4

Unordered Pairs

Theorem 4.1. *There exists a set with no elements.*

PROOF: Pick a set A by Axiom 1.3. Then the set $\{x \in A : x \neq x\}$ has no elements. \square

Definition 4.2 (Empty Set). The *empty set* \emptyset is the set with no elements.

Theorem 4.3. *For any set A we have $\emptyset \subset A$.*

PROOF: Vacuous. \square

Definition 4.4 ((Unordered) Pair). For any sets a and b , the *(unordered) pair* $\{a, b\}$ is the set whose elements are just a and b .

PROOF: This exists by the Axioms of Pairing and Comprehension, and is unique by the Axiom of Extensionality. \square

Definition 4.5 (Singleton). For any set a , the *singleton* $\{a\}$ is defined to be $\{a, a\}$.

Chapter 5

Unions and Intersections

Definition 5.1 (Union). For any set \mathcal{C} , the *union* of \mathcal{C} , $\bigcup \mathcal{C}$, is the set whose elements are the elements of the elements of \mathcal{C} .

PROOF: This exists by the Union Axiom and Comprehension Axiom, and is unique by the Axiom of Extensionality. \square

Proposition 5.2.

$$\bigcup \emptyset = \emptyset$$

PROOF: There is no set that is an element of an element of \emptyset . \square

Proposition 5.3. For any set A , we have $\bigcup \{A\} = A$.

PROOF: For any x , we have x is an element of an element of $\{A\}$ if and only if x is an element of A . \square

Definition 5.4. We write $A \cup B$ for $\bigcup \{A, B\}$.

Proposition 5.5. For any set A , we have $A \cup \emptyset = A$.

PROOF: $x \in A \cup \emptyset$ iff $x \in A$ or $x \in \emptyset$, iff $x \in A$. \square

Proposition 5.6 (Commutativity). For any sets A and B , we have $A \cup B = B \cup A$.

PROOF: $x \in A \cup B$ iff $x \in A$ or $x \in B$, iff $x \in B$ or $x \in A$, iff $x \in B \cup A$. \square

Proposition 5.7 (Associativity). For any sets A , B and C , we have $A \cup (B \cup C) = (A \cup B) \cup C$.

PROOF: Each is the set of all x such that $x \in A$ or $x \in B$ or $x \in C$. \square

Proposition 5.8 (Idempotence). For any set A , we have $A \cup A = A$.

PROOF: $x \in A$ or $x \in A$ is equivalent to $x \in A$. \square

Proposition 5.9. *For any sets A and B , we have $A \subseteq B$ if and only if $A \cup B = B$.*

PROOF: For any x , the statement "if $x \in A$ then $x \in B$ " is equivalent to " $x \in A$ or $x \in B$ if and only if $x \in B$ ". \square

Proposition 5.10. *For any sets a and b , we have $\{a\} \cup \{b\} = \{a, b\}$.*

PROOF: Immediate from definitions. \square

Definition 5.11 ((Unordered) Triple). Given sets a_1, \dots, a_n , define the (un-ordered) n -tuple $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ to be

$$\{a_1, \dots, a_n\} := \{a_1\} \cup \dots \cup \{a_n\} .$$

Definition 5.12 (Intersection). For any sets A and B , the *intersection* $A \cap B$ is defined to be $\{x \in A : x \in B\}$.