

SUBSETS

1. SUBSETS

If A and B are two sets such that every element of set A is also an element of B , we say that A is a subset of B and we write $A \subset B$.

i.e.

$$A \subset B \text{ if } a \in A \Rightarrow a \in B$$

Remarks:

1. If $A \subset B$ and $A \neq B$, then A is called a **proper subset** of B and B is called **superset** of A .
2. If $A \subset B$ and $A = B$, then A is called an **improper subset** of B .
3. If $A \subset B$ and $B \subset A$, then $A = B$.
4. If A is not a subset of B , then we write, $A \not\subset B$.
5. Every set A is a subset of itself i.e. $A \subset A$.
6. The empty set is \emptyset a subset of every set.

Examples:

(i) $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

Here, A is a proper subset of B as $A \subset B$ and $A \neq B$. Also B is the super set of A .

(ii) $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $B = \{2, 3, 1\}$

Here, A is an improper subset of B as $A \subset B$ and $A = B$.

(iii) $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $B = \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$

Here, A is not a subset of B i.e. $A \not\subset B$ as $3 \in A$ but $3 \notin B$.

NUMBER OF SUBSETS

Set	No. of Elements	Subsets	No. of subsets	
\emptyset	0	\emptyset	1	$1 = 2^0$
$\{a\}$	1	$\emptyset, \{a\}$	2	$2 = 2^1$
$\{a, b\}$	2	$\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, b\}$	4	$4 = 2^2$
$\{a, b, c\}$	3	$\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{c, a\}, \{a, b, c\}$	8	$8 = 2^3$
$\{a, b, c, d\}$	4	$\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{d\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{a, d\}, \{b, c\}, \{b, d\}, \{c, d\}, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, d\}, \{a, c, d\}, \{b, c, d\}, \{a, b, c, d\}$	16	$16 = 2^4$

Conclusion: The number of subsets of the set containing n elements is 2^n

The number of subsets of the set containing n elements is 2^n

Example-1

Write all possible subsets of the set $\{1, 2, 3\}$. How many of these are proper sub sets ?

Solution:

Let $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

The possible subsets of the given set A are

$\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{3, 1\}, \{1, 2, 3\}$

Since, $\{1, 2, 3\}$ is an improper set of A .

\therefore The total number of proper subsets of A is 7.

2. POWER SET

The collection of all possible subsets of a set A is called the power set of A .

It is denoted by $P(A)$. In $P(A)$, every element is a set.

Example-2

Write the power set of the set $A = \{a, b, c\}$.

Solution:

Given $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

The power set of A is

$P(A) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{c, a\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$

Example-3

How many elements has $P(A)$, if $A = \emptyset$?

Solution:

Given $A = \emptyset$

\therefore The subset of A is \emptyset

So, the power set of A is

$P(A) = \{\emptyset\}$

Thus, the number of elements in $P(A)$ is 1.

3. UNIVERSAL SET

If all the sets under consideration are subsets of a fixed set U , then this fixed set U is called the Universal Set.

Example-4

If $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $B = \{2, 3, 5\}$ and $C = \{6, 7\}$, then $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ is the universal set.

Example-5

If

$A = \{x: x \text{ is a student of class IX of KV bkp (Army)}\}$,

$B = \{x: x \text{ is a student of class X of KV bkp (Army)}\}$,

$C = \{x: x \text{ is a student of class XI of KV bkp (Army)}\}$ and

$D = \{x: x \text{ is a student of class XII of KV bkp (Army)}\}$,

Then,

$U = \{x: x \text{ is a student of KV bkp (Army)}\}$ is the universal set.

Remarks:

1. A set may behave like an element for another set. For example

$$A = \{1, \{2, 3\}, 4\}$$

Here, $\{2, 3\}$ is an element of the set A .

2. If $a \in A$, then $\{a\} \subset A$

3. If $a \in A, b \in A, c \in A$ then $\{a, b, c\} \subset A$

4. If $\emptyset \notin A$, but $\emptyset \subset A$

5. If $A = \{\emptyset, 1, \{2, 3\}, 4\}$, then $\emptyset \in A$ and $\{\emptyset\} \subset A$

4. INTERVALS

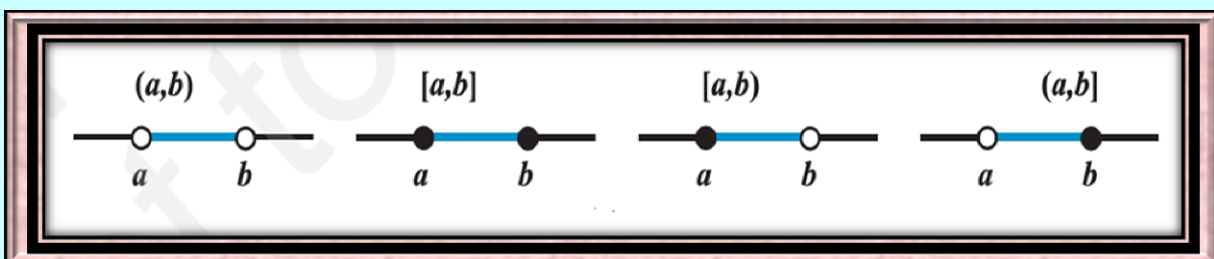
Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $a < b$. Then we define

(i) **Open Interval:** The set of real numbers $\{x: a < x < b\}$ is called an open interval and is denoted by (a, b) .

(ii) **Closed Interval:** The set of real numbers $\{x: a \leq x \leq b\}$ is called a closed interval and is denoted by $[a, b]$

(iii) **Left Half Open Interval:** The set of real numbers $\{x: a < x \leq b\}$ is called a closed interval and is denoted by $(a, b]$

(iii) **Right Half Open Interval:** The set of real numbers $\{x: a \leq x < b\}$ is called a closed interval and is denoted by $[a, b)$



Examples:

- (i) $(-3, 5) = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -3 < x < 5\}$ is an open interval from -3 to 5 , which contains all real numbers between -3 and 5 .
- (ii) $[-3, 5] = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -3 \leq x \leq 5\}$ is a closed interval from -3 to 5 , which contains all real numbers between -3 and 5 including -3 and 5 .
- (iii) $(-3, 5] = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -3 < x \leq 5\}$ is a left half open interval from -3 to 5 , which contains all real numbers between -3 and 5 including 5 and excluding -3 .
- (iv) $[-3, 5) = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -3 \leq x < 5\}$ is a right half open interval from -3 to 5 , which contains all real numbers between -3 and 5 including -3 and excluding 5 .

Remarks:

1. $(-\infty, \infty) =$ The set of all real numbers.
2. $(0, \infty) =$ The set of all positive real numbers.
3. $[0, \infty) =$ The set of all non-negative real numbers.
4. $(-\infty, 0) =$ The set of all negative real numbers.

Example-6

Write the following as intervals:

- (a) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, 0 < x < 5\}$ (b) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -2 < x \leq 7\}$
(c) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, 2 \leq x < 9\}$ (d) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -5 \leq x \leq 0\}$

Solution:

- (a) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, 0 < x < 5\} = (0, 5)$
(b) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -2 < x \leq 7\} = (-2, 7]$
(c) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, 2 \leq x < 9\} = [2, 9)$
(d) $\{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -5 \leq x \leq 0\} = [-5, 0]$

Example-7

Write the following as intervals in set-builder form:

- (a) $[-1, 4]$ (b) $[3, 11)$ (c) $(-2, 8)$ (d) $(-4, 0]$

Solution:

- (a) $[-1, 4] = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -1 \leq x \leq 4\}$
(b) $[3, 11) = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, 3 \leq x < 11\}$
(c) $(-2, 8) = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -2 < x < 8\}$
(d) $(-4, 0] = \{x: x \in \mathbb{R}, -4 < x \leq 0\}$

VENN DIAGRAMS

1. VENN DIAGRAMS

Most of the relationships between sets can be represented by means of diagrams, which are known as **venn diagrams**. Venn diagrams are named after the English logician John Venn (1834-1883).

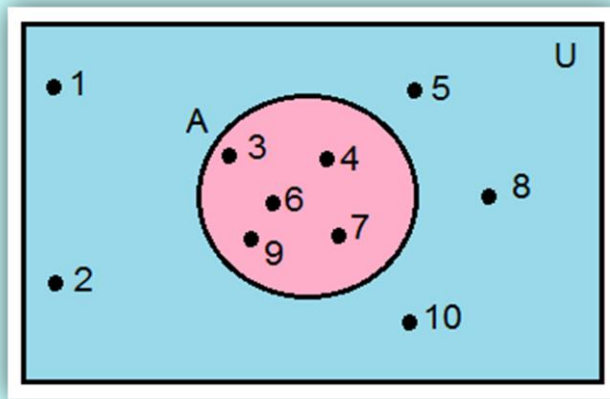
These diagrams consist of rectangles and closed curves usually circles.

The universal set is represented usually by a rectangle and its subsets by circles. In venn diagrams, the elements of the sets are written in their respective circles.

Examples:

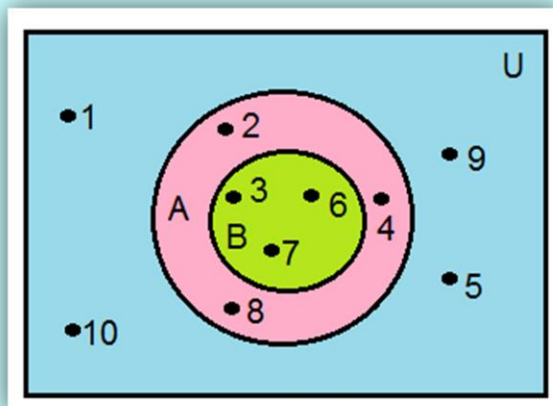
1. Represent the following sets using venn diagrams

$$U = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 10\} \text{ and } A = \{3, 4, 6, 7, 9\}$$



2. Represent the following sets using venn diagrams

$$U = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 10\}, A = \{2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8\} \text{ and } B = \{3, 6, 7\}$$



OPERATIONS ON SETS

1. UNION OF SETS

Let A and B be any two sets. The union of A and B is the set which consists of all the elements of A and all the elements of B, the common elements being taken only once.

The union of A and B is symbolically denoted by $A \cup B$ and is read as "A union B"

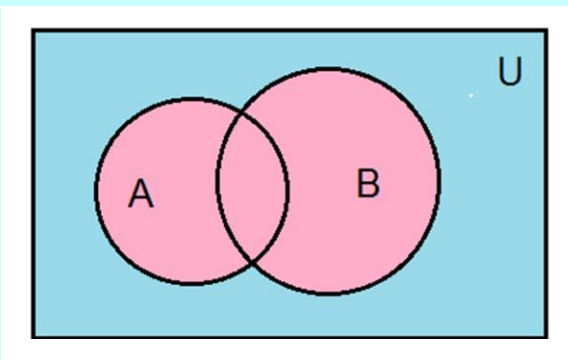
Thus,

$$A \cup B = \{x: x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$$

Note:

1. $x \in (A \cup B) \Rightarrow x \in A \text{ or } x \in B$
2. $x \notin (A \cup B) \Rightarrow x \notin A \text{ and } x \notin B$

Venn Diagram of $A \cup B$



The shaded region in pink coloured represents $A \cup B$

Example-1

Let $A = \{2, 3, 4, 6, 8\}$ and $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

Then, $A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8\}$

Example-2

Let $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

It is clear that $A \subset B$

Then, $A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = B$

Conclusion:

If $A \subset B$, then $A \cup B = B$ = (superset)