

Discrete mathematics

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Set Theory

This Lecture

- We will first introduce set theory.
 - *Basic Definitions*
 - *Operations on Sets*
 - *Set Identities*

Sets

- A set is an *unordered collection* of objects/data.
- Studying sets helps us *categorize* information.
- It allows us to make sense of a *large* amount of *information* by breaking it down into *smaller groups*.

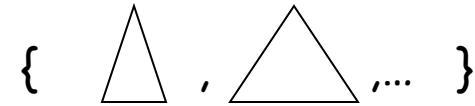
Examples of sets

- *Here are three sets:*
 - *The set of bits $\{0, 1\}$*
 - *The set of prime numbers $\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, \dots\}$*
 - *The set of basic arithmetic operators $\{+, -, \cdot, /\}$*

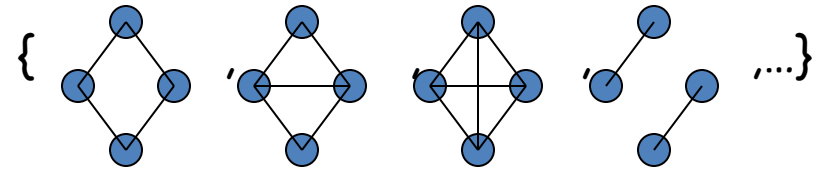
Other Examples of Sets

The set of all n -bit strings: $\{000\dots 0, 000\dots 1, \dots, 111\dots 1\}$

The set of triangles with different angle:



The set of all graphs with four nodes:



Sets must be well-defined

- *A set is **well-defined** if we can tell whether a particular object is an element of that set.*

Defining a Set

- A collection of *well-defined unordered* objects is called a set.
- For example,
 - ‘the set of former Nobel Prize winners’ is a well-defined set.
 - ‘the set of Roll/En number of the students in class’ is a well-defined set.
 - ‘the set of tall students in our university’ is not a well-defined set.

Key points

- *Each object in a set is called an element or a member of the set..*
 - *Sets notation: S, A, B, C, \dots (single capital letter)*
 - *Elements Notation: a, b, c, \dots*
 - *Examples: $S = \{a, b, c, 2, 4\}$*
 - *$b \in S$, 'b is an element of set S' or 'b is in S'*
 - *$f \notin S$, 'f is not an element of set S' or 'f is not in S'*

Key points Cont...

- *Each element of the set is written only once.*
- *The order of elements in a set is not important.*

Denoting a set as an object

- *Particular symbols are reserved for the most important sets of numbers:*
 - \emptyset – *empty set*
 - \mathbb{Z} – *integers*
 - \mathbb{R} – *real numbers*
 - \mathbb{Q} – *rational numbers*
 - \mathbb{C} – *complex numbers*

Set cardinality/cardinal Numbers

- *The cardinality of a set S , denoted by $|S|$ or $n(S)$, is the **number of elements** in S .*

Set cardinality cont...

- The cardinality of the set of bits is ?

$$S = \{0, 1\}$$

$$|S| = 2$$

- The cardinality of the set *S* of prime numbers between 10 and 20 is ?

$$S = \{11, 13, 17, 19\}$$

$$|S| = 4$$

e.g. if $S = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19\}$, then $|S|=8$.

if $S = \{\text{CSC1130}, \text{CSC2110}, \text{ERG2020}, \text{MAT2510}\}$, then $|S|=4$.

if $S = \{\{1,2\}, \{1,3\}, \{1,4\}, \{2,3\}, \{2,4\}, \{3,4\}\}$, then $|S|=6$.

Representation of Sets

- *The List Method*
- *The Defining-Property Method*
- *The Venn Diagram Method*

The List Method

- For instance,

$C = \{I, You, He, She, We, They\}$

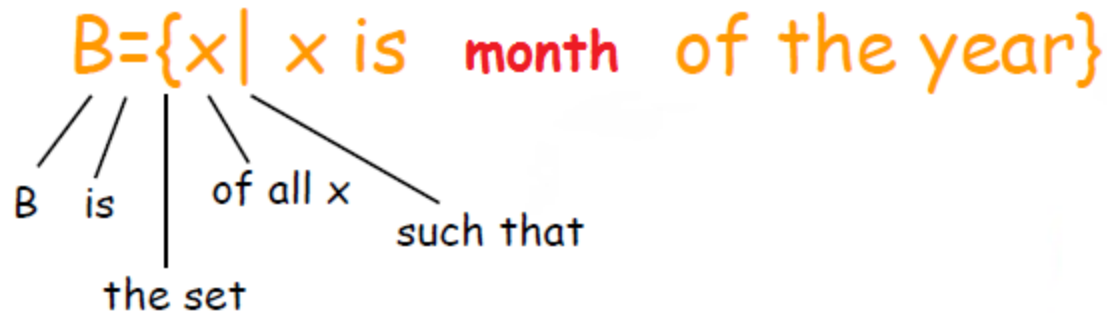
$A = \{+, -, \%, \$\}$

The List Method cont...

- $A = \{\text{Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday}\}$
- $B = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$
- $C = \{m, a, t, h, e, i, c, s\}$ Each element is written only once.
- $D = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 1000\}$ The first few elements of D are written to establish a pattern. The three dots (...), called an ellipsis, indicate that the list continues in the same way up to the last number of the set, which is 1000.
- $W = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ If we don't put a number after the ellipsis, this means that the list doesn't end.

The Defining-Property Method

- *For example,*

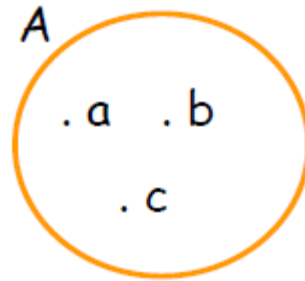


The Defining-Property Method cont...

- $A = \{x/ \textit{x is a day of the weekend}\}$
- $B = \{x/ \textit{x is a season of the year}\}$
- $C = \{y/ \textit{y is a whole number less than 25 \& divisible by 3}\}$
- $D = \{z/ \textit{z is a blood type}\}$

The Venn Diagram Method

- *As an example,*



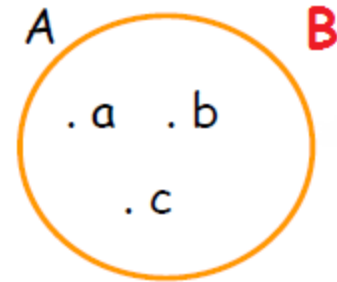
Each element of the set is represented by a point inside the closed shape

Equivalent Sets

- *Two sets are equivalent if they have the **same number of elements**.*
- *If A & B are equivalent*
- *$A \equiv B$*
- *‘set A is equivalent to set B ’*
- *For example,*
 - *$A = \{a, b, c, d\}$ & $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$*
 - *$n(A) = n(B) = 4$ so $A \equiv B$*

Equal Sets

- *Two sets are equal if they have exactly the same elements.*
- *If A & B are equal*
- $A = B$
- *‘set A is equal to set B ’*



Note

– *If A is equal to B , then A is also equivalent to B .*

$$A = B \rightarrow A \equiv B$$

• *However,*

– *If A is equivalent to B , then A might not be equal to B .*

$$A \equiv B \nrightarrow A = B$$

Types of Set

- *Empty (Null) Set*
- *The Universal Set*
- *Finite & Infinite Sets*

Empty (Null) Set

- *The set that contains no element is called the empty set or the null set.*
- *Denotation: \emptyset or $\{\}$*
- *As an example,*

$$A = \{x/ x \text{ is a month containing 32 days}\}$$

$$\text{So } A = \emptyset \text{ \& } n(\emptyset) = 0$$

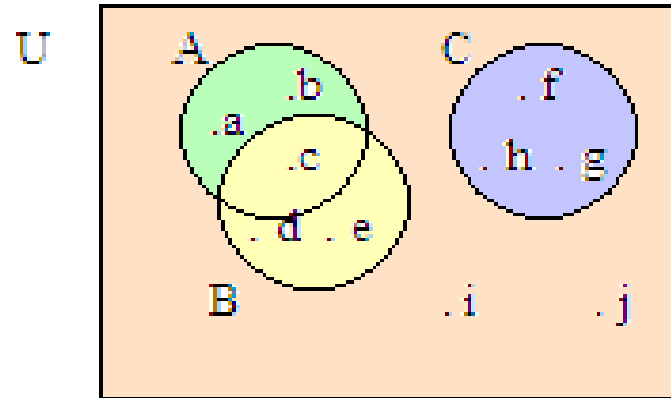
The Universal Set

- *The Universal set is the set of all elements under consideration in a given discussion.*
- *Denotation: U*

$$A = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$B = \{c, d, e\}$$

$$C = \{f, g, h\}$$



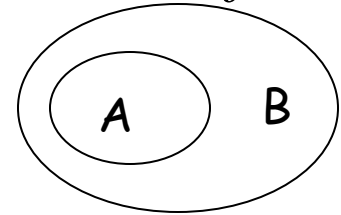
- *For instance, $U = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j\}$*

Finite & Infinite Sets

- *If the number of elements in a set is a whole number, the set is a finite set. If a set is not finite then it is an infinite set.*
- *As an example,*
 - *‘the set of days of the week’ is a finite set*
 - *‘the set of all integer numbers’ is an infinite set*

Subsets

- *Given two sets A and B , we say A is a subset of B , denoted by $A \subseteq B$, if every element of A is also an element of B .*

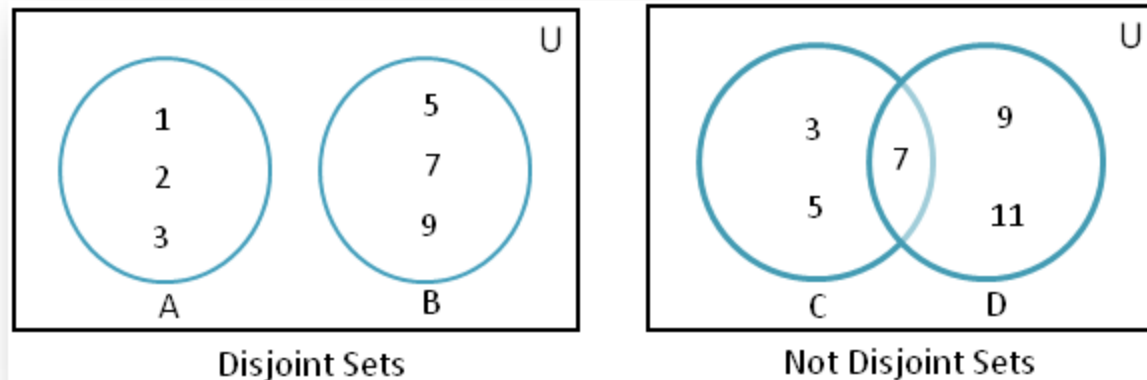


- *For example,*
 - *if $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $A = \{1, 2\}$ then*
 - *A is a **subset** of B it is represented by $A \subseteq B$*
 - *B is a **superset** of A it is represented by $B \supseteq A$.*

Note: if every element of A is also an element of B

Disjoint set

- *Two sets are said to be disjoint sets if they have **no element** in common.*



Power Sets

- *The power set of any set S is the set of all subsets of S , including the empty.*
- *Example-*

$$\text{pow}(\{a,b\}) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a,b\}\}$$

$$\text{pow}(\{a,b,c\}) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a,b\}, \{a,c\}, \{b,c\}, \{a,b,c\}\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pow}(\{a,b,c,d\}) = & \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{d\}, \\ & \{a,b\}, \{a,c\}, \{b,c\}, \{a,d\}, \{b,d\}, \{c,d\}, \\ & \{a,b,c\}, \{a,b,d\}, \{a,c,d\}, \{b,c,d\}, \{a,b,c,d\}\} \end{aligned}$$

Fact (to be explained later): If A has n elements, then $\text{pow}(A)$ has 2^n elements.

Operation Of Sets

- *Union of sets*
- *Intersection of sets*
- *Compliments of sets*
- *Cartesian Product*

Union

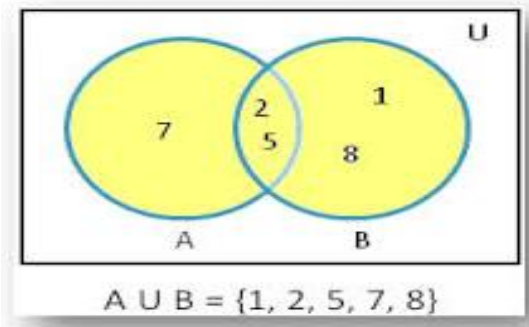
- The union of two sets would be wrote as $A \cup B$, which is the set of elements that are members of A or B , or both too.*

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

Example-

In the examples $A = \{2,5,7\}$ and $B = \{1,2,5,8\}$

$$A \cup B = \{1,2,5,7,8\}$$



Intersection

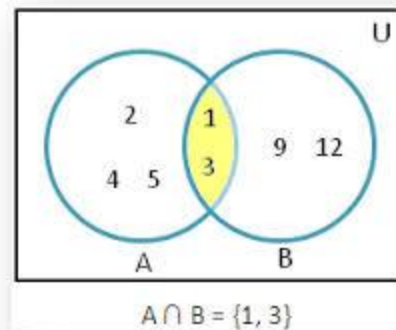
- Intersection are written as $A \cap B$, is the set of elements that are in A and B.*

$$A \cap B = \{x \in U \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}$$

Example-

In the examples $A = \{1,2,3,4,5\}$ and $B = \{1,3,9,12\}$

$$A \cap B = \{1,3\}$$



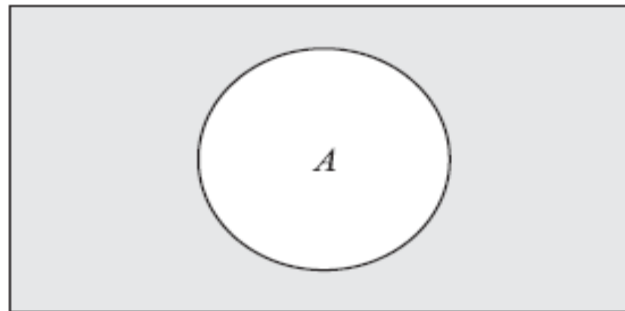
Example

- Let $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $B = \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$, $C = \{2, 3, 8, 9\}$.
- *Then*
- $A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$,
- $A \cup C = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9\}$,
- $B \cup C = \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$,
- $A \cap B = \{3, 4\}$,
- $A \cap C = \{2, 3\}$,
- $B \cap C = \{3\}$.

Complements

- *If A is any set which is the subset of a given universal set then its complement is the set which contains all the elements that are in but not in A .*

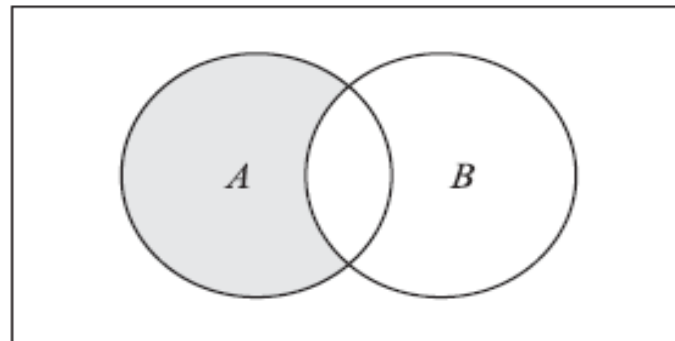
$$A^C = \{x \mid x \in U, x \notin A\}$$



Difference

$$A - B = A \setminus B = \{x \mid x \in A, x \notin B\}$$

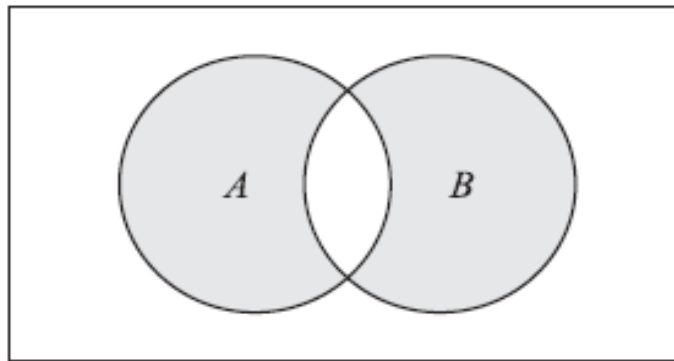
Fact: $|A - B| = |A| - |A \cap B|$



Symmetric difference

- The *symmetric difference* of sets A and B , denoted by $A \oplus B$, consists of those elements which belong to A or B but not to both.

$$\begin{aligned} A \oplus B &= (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B) \\ &= (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) \end{aligned}$$



Example

- $U = N = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ is the universal set.
- $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $B = \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$, $C = \{2, 3, 8, 9\}$,
 $E = \{2, 4, 6, \dots\}$ (Here E is the set of even integers.)
- Find ?
- A^C , B^C , E^c
- $A \setminus B$, $A \setminus C$, $B \setminus C$, $A \setminus E$
- $B \setminus A$, $C \setminus A$, $C \setminus B$, $E \setminus A$.
- $A \oplus B$, $B \oplus C$, $A \oplus C$, $A \oplus E$

Example cont...

- $U = N = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ is the universal set.
- $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $B = \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$, $C = \{2, 3, 8, 9\}$, $E = \{2, 4, 6, \dots\}$
(Here E is the set of even integers.)
- Then:
- $A^C = \{5, 6, 7, \dots\}$, $B^C = \{1, 2, 8, 9, 10, \dots\}$, $E^C = \{1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\}$
- $A \setminus B = \{1, 2\}$, $A \setminus C = \{1, 4\}$, $B \setminus C = \{4, 5, 6, 7\}$, $A \setminus E = \{1, 3\}$,
- $B \setminus A = \{5, 6, 7\}$, $C \setminus A = \{8, 9\}$, $C \setminus B = \{2, 8, 9\}$, $E \setminus A = \{6, 8, 10, 12, \dots\}$.
- $A \oplus B = (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) = \{1, 2, 5, 6, 7\}$, $B \oplus C = \{2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$,
- $A \oplus C = (A \setminus C) \cup (C \setminus A) = \{1, 4, 8, 9\}$, $A \oplus E = \{1, 3, 6, 8, 10, \dots\}$.

Algebra of sets

- Commutative Laws:

$$A \cup B = B \cup A, A \cap B = B \cap A$$

- Associative Laws:

$$A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap C, A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup C$$

- Distributive Laws:

$$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C), A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$$

- Identity Laws:

$$A \cup \emptyset = A, A \cap U = A$$

- Complement Laws:

$$A \cup A^c = U, A \cap A^c = \emptyset$$

- DeMorgan's Laws:

$$(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c, (A \cap B)^c = A^c \cup B^c$$

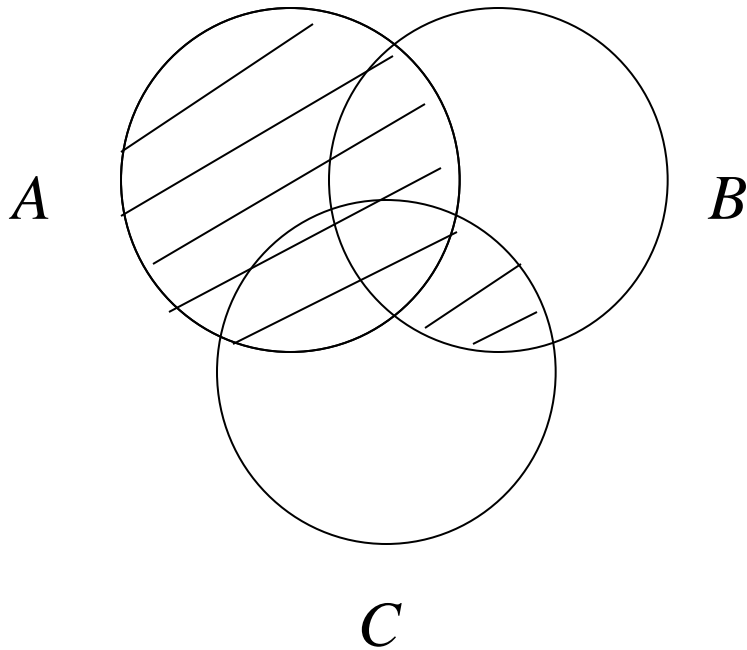
- Involution Law:

$$(A^c)^c = A$$

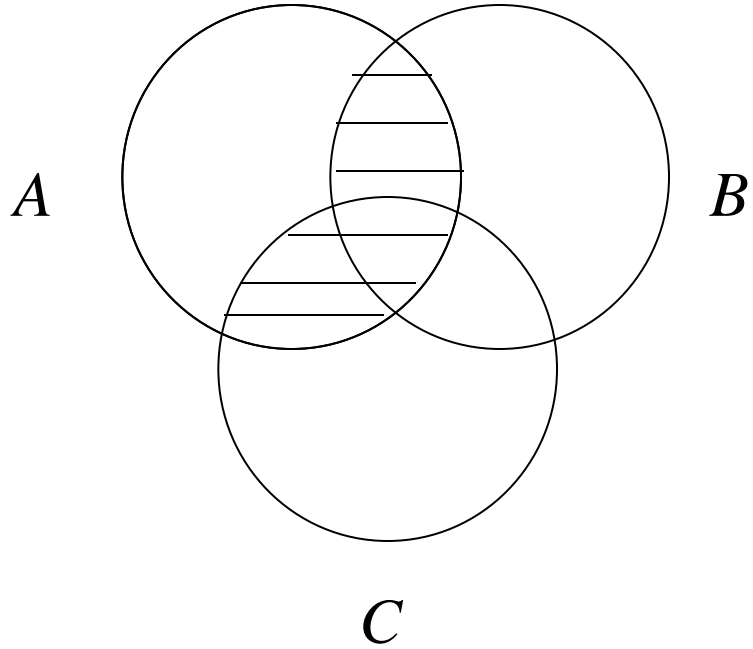
Set Identities

Distributive Law: $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$ (1)

$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ (2)



(1)

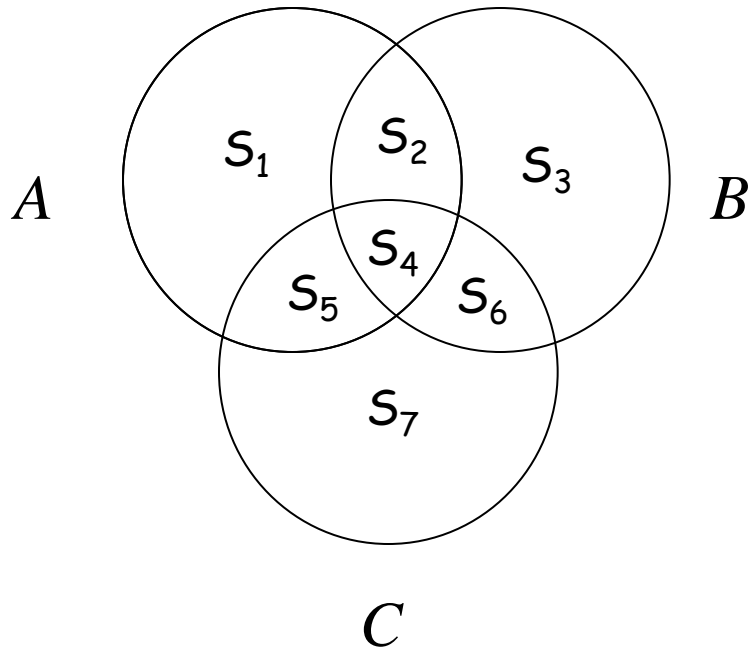


(2)

Set Identities

Distributive Law: $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$

We can also verify this law more carefully



L.H.S

$$A = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_4 \cup S_5$$

$$B \cap C = S_4 \cup S_6$$

$$A \cup (B \cap C) = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_4 \cup S_5 \cup S_6$$

R.H.S.

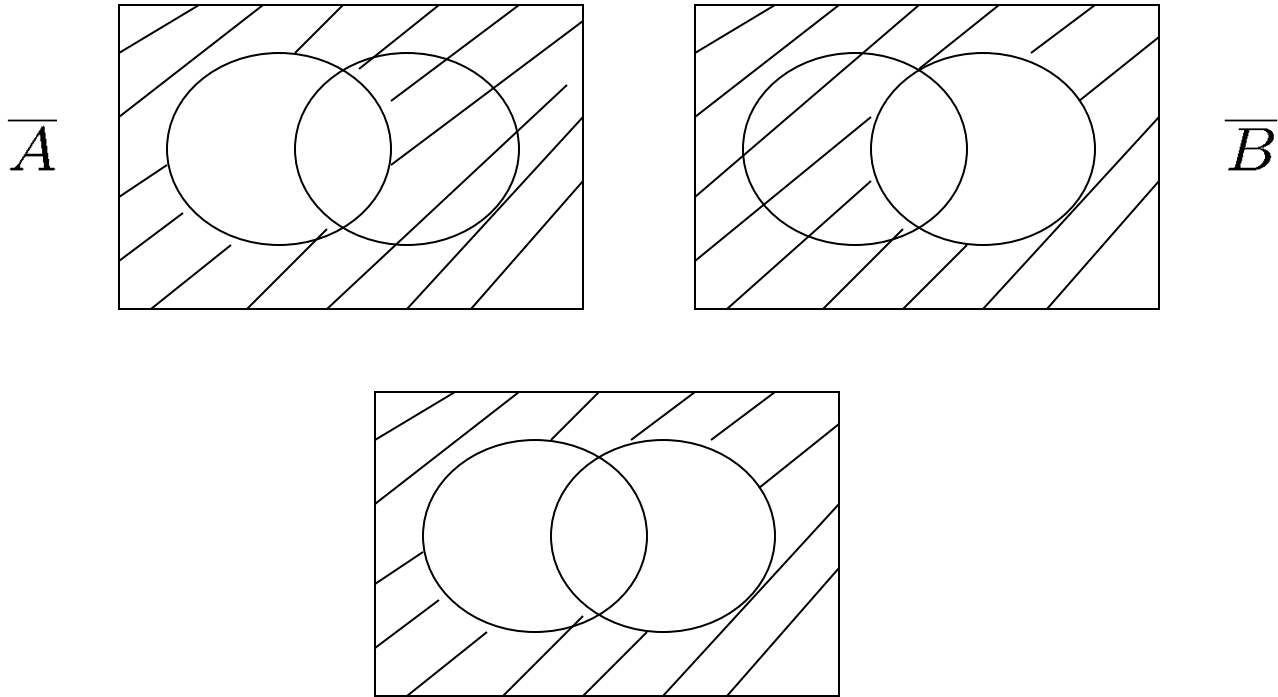
$$(A \cup B) = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3 \cup S_4 \cup S_5 \cup S_6$$

$$(A \cup C) = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_4 \cup S_5 \cup S_6 \cup S_7$$

$$(A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C) = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_4 \cup S_5 \cup S_6$$

Set Identities

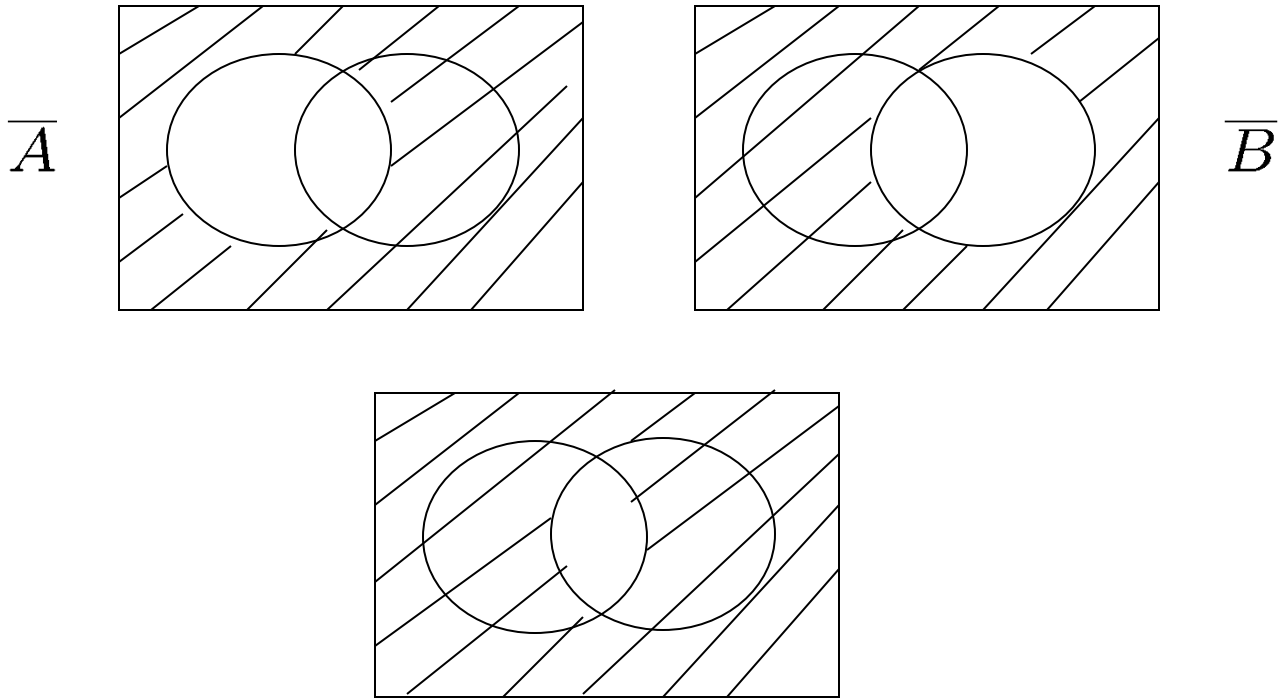
De Morgan's Law: $\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$



$$\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$$

Set Identities

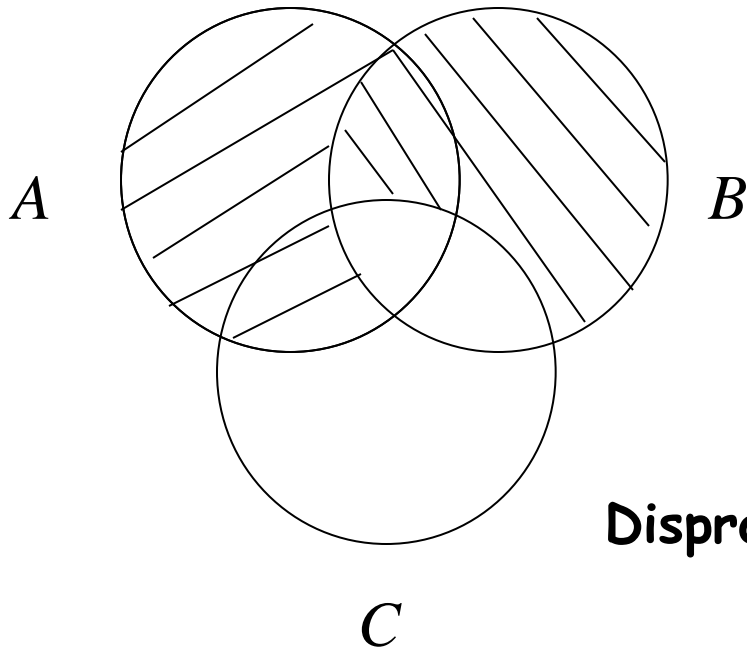
De Morgan's Law: $\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$



$$\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$$

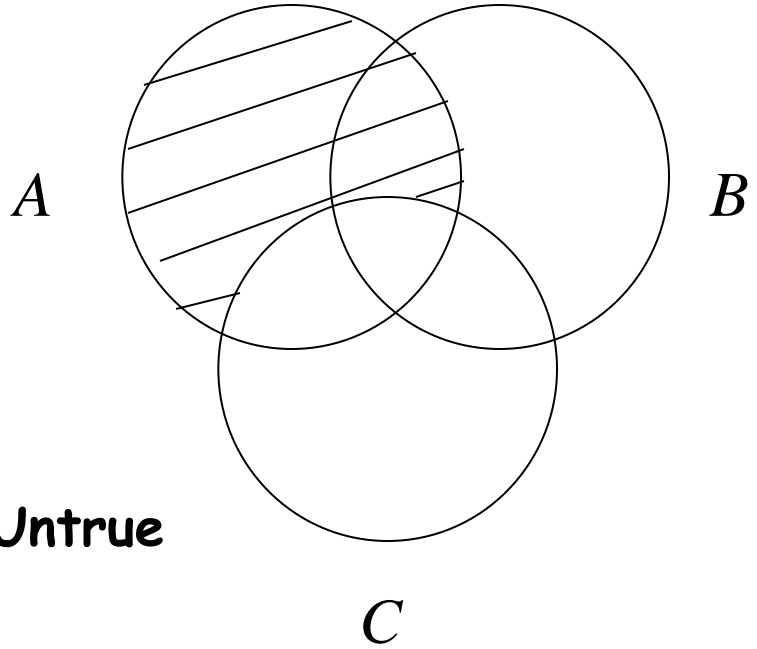
Proof

$$(A - B) \cup (B - C) = A - C?$$



L.H.S

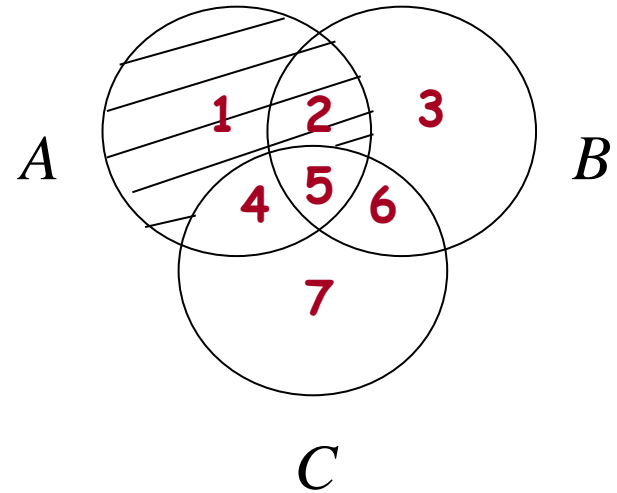
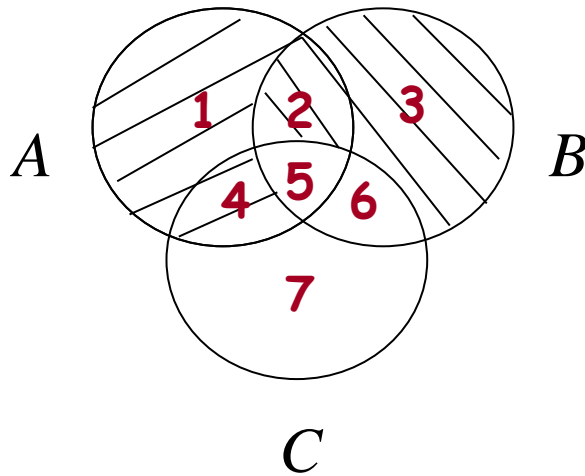
Disproof / Untrue



R.H.S

Disproof

$$(A - B) \cup (B - C) = A - C?$$



We can easily construct a **counterexample** to the equality, by putting a number in each region in the figure.

Let $A = \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$, $B = \{2, 3, 5, 6\}$, $C = \{4, 5, 6, 7\}$.

Then we see that L.H.S = $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and R.H.S = $\{1, 2\}$.

Cartesian Product

- $A = \{1, 2\}$ & $B = \{3, 4\}$
- $A \times B = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4)\}$

e.g.

- Let A be the set of letters, i.e. $\{a, b, c, \dots, x, y, z\}$.
- Let B be the set of digits, i.e. $\{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$.
- $A \times A$ is just the set of strings with two letters.
- $B \times B$ is just the set of strings with two digits.
- $A \times B$ is the set of strings where the first character is a letter and the second character is a digit.

Partitions of Sets

Two sets are **disjoint** if their intersection is empty.

A collection of nonempty sets $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ is a **partition** of a set A if and only if

$$A = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n$$

A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are **mutually disjoint (or pairwise disjoint)**.

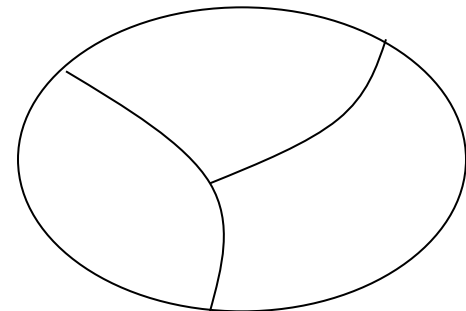
e.g. Let A be the set of integers.

Let A_1 be the set of negative integers.

Let A_2 be the set of positive integers.

Then $\{A_1, A_2\}$ is not a partition of A , because $A \neq A_1 \cup A_2$

as 0 is contained in A but not contained in $A_1 \cup A_2$



Exercises

$$A - (A \cap B) = A - B?$$

$$(A \cup B) - C = (A - C) \cup (B - C)?$$

$$\overline{(A \cup B \cup C)} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B} \cap \overline{C}?$$

Example

List the elements of each set

$$(a) A = \{x \in \mathbb{N} / 3 < x < 9\}$$

$$(b) B = \{x \in \mathbb{N} / x \text{ is even, } x < 11\}$$

$$(c) C = \{x \in \mathbb{N} / 4 + x = 3\}$$

(a) A consists of the positive integers between 3 and 9; hence $A = \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$.

(b) B consists of the even positive integers less than 11; hence $B = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$.

(c) No positive integer satisfies $4 + x = 3$; hence $C = \emptyset$, the empty set.

where $\mathbb{N} = \{ \text{Natural numbers or positive integers: } 1, 2, 3, \dots \}$

Example

Each student in college has a mathematics requirement A *and* a science requirement B .

A poll of 140 students shows that:

60 completed A , 45 completed B , 20 completed both A and B .

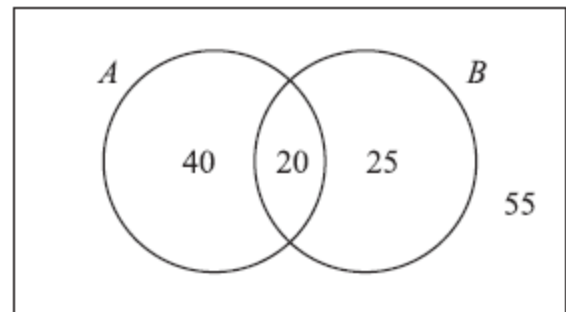
Find the number of students who have completed:

(a) *At least one of A and B* ; (b) *exactly one of A or B* ; (c) *neither A nor B* .

$$(a) n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B) = 60 + 45 - 20 = 85$$

$$(b) n(A \oplus B) = 65.$$

$$(c) n[(A \cup B)^c] = 140 - 85 = 55.$$



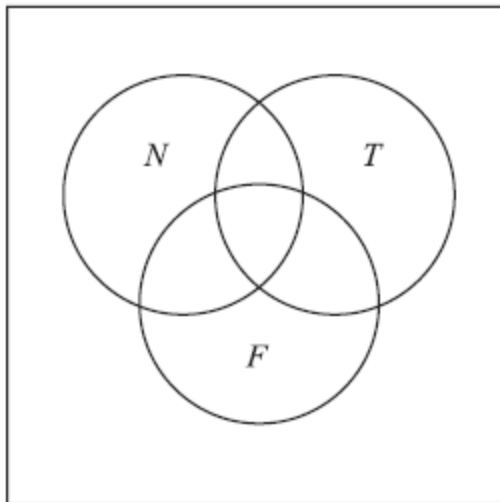
Example

In a survey of 120 people, it was found that:

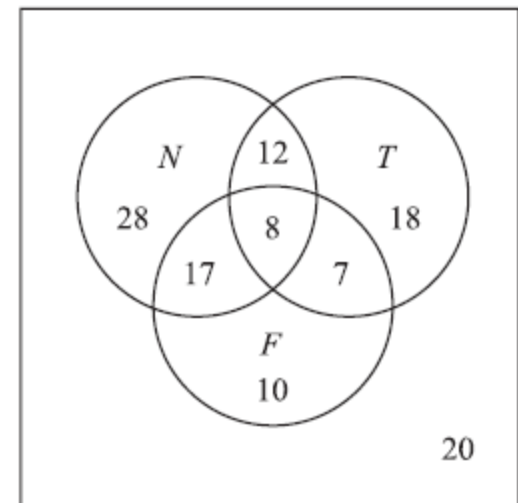
65 read *Newsweek* magazine, 20 read both *Newsweek* and *Time*, 45 read *Time*, 25 read both *Newsweek* and *Fortune*, 42 read *Fortune*, 15 read both *Time* and *Fortune*, 8 read all three magazines.

(a) Find the number of people who read at least one of the three magazines.

(b) Fill in the correct number of people in each of the eight regions of the Venn diagram in Fig where N , T , and F denote the set of people who read *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *Fortune*, respectively.



(a) 100



Example

Let $S = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g\}$. Determine which of the following are partitions of S :

- (a) $P1 = [\{a, c, e\}, \{b\}, \{d, g\}]$,
- (b) $P2 = [\{a, e, g\}, \{c, d\}, \{b, e, f\}]$,
- (c) $P3 = [\{a, b, e, g\}, \{c\}, \{d, f\}]$,
- (d) $P4 = [\{a, b, c, d, e, f, g\}]$.

- (a) $P1$ is not a partition of S since $f \in S$ does not belong to any of the cells.
- (b) $P2$ is not a partition of S since $e \in S$ belongs to two of the cells.
- (c) $P3$ is a partition of S since each element in S belongs to exactly one cell.
- (d) $P4$ is a partition of S into one cell, S itself.

?