## Lecture o' - Sets, Functions, Relations...

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Sets

## All set?

- "Set" used to be the English word with the most definitions
- A mathematical set is a very simple concept that contains multitudes
- What is a set? A set is often defined as just "a collection of distinct things"
- What things? Animals? People? Other sets? Just about anything!
- $\{1,2,3,4\}$  is a set
- {Alice, Flamingos, Hedgehogs, Playing cards, Cheshire cat} is also a set!

• {e4 e5, e4 c5, d4 d5, c4 e5, c4 c5} is also a set

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- **Set builder notation**: Write a set as  $\{x \mid 0 < x \le 5 \text{ and } x \in \mathbb{N}\}$

## Some important sets

- U: The universal set (every element we want to talk about is in here)
- {}: The *empty* set (no element belongs to this set; often written as ∅)
- Z: The set of all integers (both positive and negative)
- N: The set of all natural numbers (every integer ≥ 0)
- Q: The set of all rational numbers (expressed as p/q for some  $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$ )
- R: The set of all real numbers
- $\mathbb{B} = \{\text{True}, \text{False}\}$ : The set of Boolean values

# Set membership

- Denote by  $x \in S$  the fact that x is an element of the set S (negation:  $x \notin S$ )
- Each element occurs only once in a set (distinct elements!)
  - We take multiplicity into account for multisets
  - {1} is a set consisting of the singleton element 1
  - {1,1,1} is a multiset consisting of the element 1 appearing thrice
- **Set Equality**: Sets  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are defined to be equal (denoted  $S_1 = S_2$ ) if, for every element x, it is the case that  $x \in S_1$  if and only if  $x \in S_2$ .
  - Reflexive, symmetric, and transitive congruence

# **Subset operation**

- A is a subset of B (denoted  $A \subseteq B$ ) if, for every element x of A, the element x also appears in B
- An element of a set might itself be a set
- A subset of a set must be a set
- Chars = {Tintin, Haddock, Calculus, Snowy, {Thomson & Thompson}}
- {Thomson & Thompson} ∈ Chars
- $\{Tintin, Snowy\} \subseteq Chars$
- The **powerset** of a set *S* (denoted 2<sup>*S*</sup>) is the set of all subsets of *S*
- **Exercise**: For any set *S*, show that  $S \subseteq \mathbb{U}$ , as well as that  $\emptyset \subseteq S$ .

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## **Union and Intersection**

- **Union**:  $S_1 \cup S_2 = \{x \mid x \in S_1 \text{ or } x \in S_2\}$
- **Intersection**:  $S_1 \cap S_2 = \{x \mid x \in S_1 \text{ and } x \in S_2\}$
- Commutativity<sup>†</sup>:  $S_1 \circ S_2 = S_2 \circ S_1$
- Associativity<sup>†</sup>:  $S_1 \circ (S_2 \circ S_3) = (S_1 \circ S_2) \circ S_3$
- Idempotence<sup>†</sup>:  $S \circ S = S$
- **Duality** between union and intersection
  - Ø is an identity for union and an annihilator for intersection
  - U is an identity for intersection and an annihilator for union
- Distributivity for union and intersection:
  - $S_1 \cup (S_2 \cap S_3) = (S_1 \cup S_2) \cap (S_1 \cup S_3)$
  - $S_1 \cap (S_2 \cup S_3) = (S_1 \cap S_2) \cup (S_1 \cap S_3)$

†: o can be union or intersection

# Difference, Complement, and Cartesian product

- **Difference**:  $S_1 \setminus S_2 = \{x \mid x \in S_1 \text{ and } x \notin S_2\}$
- **Complement**:  $\overline{S} = \mathbb{U} \setminus S$
- **De Morgan's Laws**:  $\overline{S_1 \cup S_2} = \overline{S_1} \cap \overline{S_2}$  and  $\overline{S_1 \cap S_2} = \overline{S_1} \cup \overline{S_2}$
- $S \cup \overline{S} = \mathbb{U}$  and  $S \cap \overline{S} = \emptyset$ , and  $\overline{\mathbb{U}} = \emptyset$  and  $\overline{\emptyset} = \mathbb{U}$
- **Exercise**: Show that  $S_1 \setminus S_2 = S_1 \cap \overline{S_2}$
- Cartesian product:  $S_1 \times S_2 = \{(x,y) \mid x \in S_1 \text{ and } y \in S_2\}$
- $S \times \emptyset = \emptyset \times S = \emptyset$
- Is the Cartesian product associative?
- $S_1 \times S_2 \times \dots S_n = \{(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n) \mid s_i \in S_i \text{ for each } i\}$

# **Cardinality**

- The number of elements in a set *S* is called its **cardinality**
- We denote the cardinality of a set S by |S|
- $S = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  is a finite set
- The set of real values in the interval [0,1] is infinite
- Sets can be one or more of
  - Bounded
  - Finite
  - Unbounded
  - Infinite
- Do any of these necessarily imply any others?
- Are there combinations which are not possible?

### **Infinite sets**

- Not all infinite sets are equally infinite!
- Infinite sets can be **countable** or **uncountable**
- What does it mean to be countable?
- "One can uniquely associate each element with a natural number"
- How does one formally capture such an association? Via functions
- But first, we will talk about **relations**

## **Relations**

- A **binary relation** R between two sets A and B is any subset of  $A \times B$
- We will often write xRy to denote that  $(x,y) \in R$
- $dom(R) = \{a \in A \mid aRb \text{ for some } b \in B\}$
- $\operatorname{rng}(R) = \{b \in B \mid aRb \text{ for some } a \in A\}$
- $R \subseteq A \times B$  is
  - total if for each  $x \in A$ , there is a  $y \in B$  such that xRy
  - one-one if xRy and zRy implies x = z (any  $y \in B$  related to at most one  $x \in A$ )
  - onto if for each  $y \in B$ , there is an  $x \in A$  such that xRy
- $R \subseteq A \times B$  a graph with edges from elements of A to elements of B

### More about relations

- **Identity relation**:  $id(S) = \{(x, x) \mid x \in S\}$
- **Relational composition**: If  $R_1 \subseteq A \times B$  and  $R_2 \subseteq B \times C$ , then the relational composition of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  (denoted  $R_1 \circ R_2$ ) is:  $R_1 \circ R_2 = \{(a,c) \mid \text{There is some } b \in R \text{ such that } (a,b) \in R_1 \text{ and } (b,c) \in R_2\}$
- For any  $R \subseteq A \times B$ , we have  $id(A) \circ R = R = R \circ id(B)$
- **Exercise**: For binary relations  $R_1, R_1' \subseteq A \times B$  and  $R_2, R_2' \subseteq B \times C$  with  $R_1 \subseteq R_1'$  and  $R_2 \subseteq R_2'$ , show that  $R_1 \circ R_2 \subseteq R_1' \circ R_2'$ .

### More about relations

- **Relational inverse**: For  $R \subseteq A \times B$ , the inverse of R is defined as  $R^- = \{(y,x) \mid xRy\}$
- For every set S,  $(id(S))^- = id(S)$ , and for every relation R,  $(R^-)^- = R$
- **Exercise**: Show that for any relations  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ,  $(R_1 \circ R_2)^- = (R_2)^- \circ (R_1)^-$
- Reflexivity:  $R \subseteq S \times S$  is reflexive if xRx for every  $x \in S$ .
- Symmetry:  $R \subseteq S \times S$  is symmetric if xRy implies yRx.
- Transitivity:  $R \subseteq S \times S$  is transitive if xRy and yRz implies xRz.
- Equivalence relation: Reflexive, symmetric, and transitive
- *R* is *functional* (i.e. corresponding to a **function**) if xRy and xRz implies y = z (any  $x \in A$  related to at most one  $y \in B$ )

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## **Functions**

- Consider a functional relation  $R_f \subseteq A \times B$ .
- We write  $f: A \to B$  and f(x) = y whenever  $(x, y) \in R_f$  (often denoted  $x \mapsto y$ )
- A is the pre-domain of f and B is the co-domain of f
- $R_f$  is the graph of f
- dom(f) and rng(f) defined as for R<sub>f</sub>
- We call f a total/one-one/onto function if  $R_f$  is total/one-one/onto
- *f* is called a **bijection** if it is both one-one and onto
- For a bijective f, there exists a natural inverse  $f^{-1}$  (whose graph is  $R_f^-$ )
- Sets A and B are said to be in bijection with each other if there is a bijection f such that f: A → B.

### **Back to infinite sets**

- A set *S* is *countable* if there is a function f which maps  $\mathbb{N}$  **onto** *S*
- Can use N to "uniquely count" the elements of *S*
- N is countable (obviously!)
- **Exercise**: Show that the set of odd natural numbers is countable, and has cardinality *equal* to that of  $\mathbb{N}$ .
- **Exercise**: Show that  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  is countable.
- The countable union of countable sets remains countable.

## More infinite sets

- More {infinite sets}:
  - Q is countable
  - **Z** is countable
  - $A^n = \{(a_1, \dots, a_n) \mid a_i \in A \text{ for each } i\}$  is countable
- {More infinite} sets:
  - The powerset of N is **uncountable**
  - R is uncountable: Shown by Georg Cantor using diagonalization
- Basically a proof by contradiction
- If any subset of a set is uncountable, then the set itself must be uncountable

# Cantor's diagonal argument

- Assume (0,1) is countable.
- (Countable) set *S* of all non-terminating decimals in (0,1)
  - Each real number has just one representation
  - Each rational has two choose the one with infinitely many trailing 9s
- Some onto function  $f: \mathbb{N} \to S$  exists
- Can put each element of S in its own row (element x goes into row i if f(i) = x)
- Each element of the form o.d<sub>io</sub>d<sub>i1</sub> . . . for every i
- Put  $r_i = d_{i0}d_{i1}...$  in the  $i^{th}$  row

# Cantor's diagonal argument (contd.)

• Consider a non-terminating decimal  $r = u_0 u_1 \dots s.t.$   $u_i \neq d_{ii}$ .

For example, 
$$u_i = \begin{cases} d_{ii} + 1, & \text{if } d_{ii} < 9 \\ d_{ii} - 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Essentially: choose an r such that the digit at the i<sup>th</sup> position is different from that along the diagonal of our enumeration.  $r \in S$ .
- For every m there is already some  $r_m$  in the  $m^{th}$  row
- But the  $m^{\text{th}}$  digit of r was chosen to be different from  $d_{mm}$ , so  $r \neq r_m$
- There is no  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t. f(k) = r, which contradicts the onto-ness of f!

# **Proving statements about infinite sets**

- Prove statements about finite sets by (potentially painful) case analysis
- But what about infinite sets? Say I want to prove something about N.
- Could test it for some naturals. Is this convincing?
- Suppose I set a computer to do this
- The computer runs out of memory/power at some point
- Infinitely many naturals, but we can only examine finitely many
- What if the counterexample to the claim lies outside of this subset?
- Need induction

# (Weak) Mathematical induction

- Prove it for the "smallest" candidate.
- Then show that if the statement is true about one candidate, then it is also true about the "next" candidate.
- This process "runs forever" we never run out of "next" candidates
- But a uniform template for every "next" candidate allows us to claim something about all candidates.
- Somewhat like a while(true), without any of the nasty segfaults!
- One of Peano's axioms for characterizing  $\mathbb{N}$ : Let  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ . If  $o \in A$  and for every  $x \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $x \in A$  implies  $x + 1 \in A$ , then  $A = \mathbb{N}$ .

## Other kinds of induction?

- Variant of mathematical induction: If a statement is true about the "previous" candidate, then it is also true about the current candidate.
- Strong/Complete induction: If a statement is true about every candidate from the smallest through the current one, then it is also true about the "next" candidate.
- Next time: Structural induction