

6: Sets & Counting

1/22/16

①

Defⁿ: A set is an unordered collection of objects, referred to as elements or members of the set.

E.g.: $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

↑
set


the elements of S are 1, 2, 3, and 4.

E.g.: $S = \{\text{cow}, \text{dog}, \text{horse}\}$.

Remark: Sets do not capture repetition.

The sets $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and

$T = \{1, 2, 2, 3, 4\}$ are the same.

Defⁿ: A set S is a subset of the set T if every element of S is also an element of T . Venn Diagram: 

A subset S of T is said to be a proper subset of T if S and T are not the same.

E.g.: $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $T = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ ②

We denote "S is a subset of T" by

$$S \subseteq T \quad (\text{think } \leq)$$

We denote "S is a proper subset of T" by

$$S \subset T. \quad (\text{think } <)$$

Rmk: We say two sets S and T are equal if $S \subseteq T$ and $T \subseteq S$; we write if and only if $S = T$.

Notation: If x is an element of S we write $x \in S$ to denote this relationship. Formally read "x is an element of S," commonly read "x is in S."

Defⁿ: If a set S has finitely many elements (i.e. you ~~can~~ could write down all of them), we say S is a finite set.
If S is not finite, we say S is infinite.

Common Infinite Sets

(3)

$$\mathbb{N} = \{\text{all positive integers}\} \leftarrow \text{"natural numbers"}$$

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\text{all } \cancel{\text{positive}} \text{ integers}\}$$

$$\mathbb{Q} = \{\text{all rational numbers}\}$$

$$\mathbb{R} = \{\text{all real numbers}\}$$

$$\mathbb{C} = \{\text{all complex numbers}\}$$

"Set Builder Notation"

$$\{\text{all even, positive integers}\} = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid 2 \text{ divides } x\}$$

condition
↓
"such that"

$$\mathbb{C} = \{x + iy \mid x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}\}, \quad i = \sqrt{-1}$$

$$\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{x}{y} \mid x \in \mathbb{Z}, y \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

$$\{\text{first 5 million positive integers}\} = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \leq 5000000\}$$

Defⁿ: The cardinality of a set S , denoted

$|S|$ (by me) or $n(S)$ (by the book) or

$\#S$ (by others), is the number of

elements in S if S is finite, infinity otherwise.

E.g.: $S = \{\text{cow, dog, moose}\}$

(4)

$$|S| = 3.$$

$$|\mathbb{N}| = \infty$$

$$|\mathbb{R}| = \infty$$

Set Operations

Defⁿ The set with no elements is the empty set, \emptyset .

~~Let~~ Let A and B be sets.

① The union of A and B , written $A \cup B$, is the set of elements either in A or in B . (or $\&$ in both)

$$A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}. \text{ (think disjunction } \wedge \text{)}$$

② The intersection of A and B , written $A \cap B$, is the set of common elements

$$A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\} \text{ (think conjunction/and)}$$

③ If $A \subseteq B$, the complement of A in B , written

~~B~~ $B \setminus A$ (me), A' (book), $\mathbb{B} - A$ (others / \mathbb{B})

is the set of elements in ~~B~~ \mathbb{B} but not in A ,

$$B \setminus A = \{x \in B \mid x \not\in A\} \quad (\text{think negation})$$

↑
"not in"

eg: $\mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}$.

$$\mathbb{Z} \setminus \mathbb{N} = \{\text{negative integers}\} \cup \{0\}$$

$$\mathbb{Q} \setminus \mathbb{N} = \{\text{negative integers}\} \cup \left\{ \frac{a}{b} \mid b \neq 1, a \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$