

Section 6.1

Sets and Elements

A set is a collection of items, referred to as the elements of the set.

We usually use a capital letter to name a set and braces to enclose the elements of a set.

$x \in A$ means that x is an element of the set A . If x is not an element of A , we write $x \notin A$.

$B = A$ means that A and B have the same elements. The order in which the elements are listed does not matter.

$B \subseteq A$ means that B is a subset of A ; every element of B is also an element of A .

$B \subset A$ means that B is a proper subset of A : $B \subseteq A$, but $B \neq A$.

\emptyset is the empty set, the set containing no elements. It is a subset of every set.

A finite set has finitely many elements. An infinite set does not have finitely many elements.

Set Operations

$A \cup B$ is the union of A and B , the set of all elements that are either in A or in B (or in both).

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

$A \cap B$ is the intersection of A and B , the set of all elements that are common to A and B .

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

Logical Equivalents

Union: For an element to be in $A \cup B$, it must be in A or in B .

Intersection: For an element to be in $A \cap B$, it must be in A and in B .

Complement

If S is the universal set and $A \subseteq S$, then A' is the complement of A (in S), the set of all elements of S not in A ,

$$A' = \{x \in S | x \notin A\}.$$

For an element to be in A' , it must be in S but not in A .

Cartesian Product

The Cartesian product of two sets, A and B , is the set of all ordered pairs (a, b) with $a \in A$ and $b \in B$.

$$A \times B = \{(a, b) | a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}$$

$A \times B$ is the set of all ordered pairs whose first component is in A and whose second component is in B .

Problem 4. Use Venn diagrams to illustrate the following identities for subsets A , B , and C of S .

a) $(A \cup B)' = A' \cap B'$

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