

0. Definitions

$x \in A$ is true if and only if x is an element of the set A .

$x \notin A$ is true if and only if x is not an element of the set A .

$B \subseteq A$ is true if and only if every element of the set B is an element of the set A .¹

$\emptyset =_{\text{def}} \{ \}$

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

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

$A - B =_{\text{def}} \{ x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B \}$

$C(A) =_{\text{def}} \{ x \mid x \notin A \}$, we assume that we only consider things in our “discourse universe”, U .

$\wp(A) =_{\text{def}} \{ B \mid B \subseteq A \}$

1. Different ways of specifying sets

Give a different notation that picks out the same set.

- (a) $\{ 2, 4, 6, 8 \}$
- (b) $\{ x \mid x^2 = 9 \}$
- (c) $\{ \text{Ginger, Greg, Gillian} \}$

For the following exercises, use these sets:

$A = \{ Q, \text{Patrick, Elisabeth, Jack} \}$

$B = \{ 2, 4, 6, 8 \}$

$C = \{ \{ \text{Patrick} \}, 2, \{ \text{the Berlin Wall, the Hampshire Mall} \} \}$

$D = \{ Q, 2, 4, \text{Jack, } \{ \text{Elisabeth} \} \}$

$E = \emptyset$

$F = \{ \text{Patrick} \}$

2. Members and subsets

Are the following statements true, false, or ill-formed?

- (a) $\text{Patrick} \in F$
- (b) $\text{Patrick} \in C$
- (c) $\{ \text{Patrick} \} \in F$
- (d) $\{ \text{Patrick} \} \in C$
- (e) $D \subseteq A$
- (f) $B \subseteq D$
- (g) $F \subseteq C$
- (h) $F \subseteq A$
- (i) $\text{the Berlin Wall} \subseteq C$
- (j) $\{ \text{the Berlin Wall} \} \subseteq C$
- (k) $\text{the Berlin Wall} \in C$
- (l) $\{ \text{the Berlin Wall} \} \in C$

3. Union and intersection

Specify the following sets. (Probably listing the members will be easiest, but other ways are of course welcome too.)

- (a) $A \cap C$
- (b) $B \cap C$
- (c) $B \cap E$
- (d) $F \cup A$
- (e) $F \cup C$
- (f) $F \cap A$
- (g) $D \cap B$
- (h) $D \cup B$

4. The empty set

Are the following statements true, false, or ill-formed?

- (a) $E \subseteq C$
- (b) $E \in C$

5. Difference

Specify the following sets.

- (a) $A - F$
- (b) $F - A$
- (c) $D - B$
- (d) $B - D$

6. Complement

Assume the set of all people in this class is U , your “discourse universe”. What’s the following set?

- (a) $C(\{ x \mid x\text{'s name has more than two letters} \})$

7. Power Set

Specify the following sets.

- (a) $\wp(\{ \text{Ginger, Greg, Gillian} \})$
- (b) $\wp(\{ x \mid x \text{ is a natural number greater than 3 and smaller than 6} \})$

8. Complement vs. difference

Sometimes the difference operation ‘-’ is called the ‘relative complement’. Can you explain this? Try to incorporate the requirement that we talk about members of U into the definition of complement and compare it to the definition of difference.

¹ This relation is sometimes called ‘subset or equal’ in order to distinguish it from ‘proper subset’, written \subseteq . $B \subseteq A$ is true if and only if every element of B is an element of A and there is at least one element of A that is not an element of B . That is for every set A , $A \subseteq A$ is true, but $A \subset A$ is false.