

# Topic 1 - Sets


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Def: A set is a collection of elements (or objects).

If  $x$  is an element of a set  $S$ , then we write  $x \in S$ .  
read: "x is in S"

If  $x$  is not an element of a set  $S$ , then we write  $x \notin S$ .  
read: "x is not in S"

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Ex:  $S = \{0, 10, -1\}$

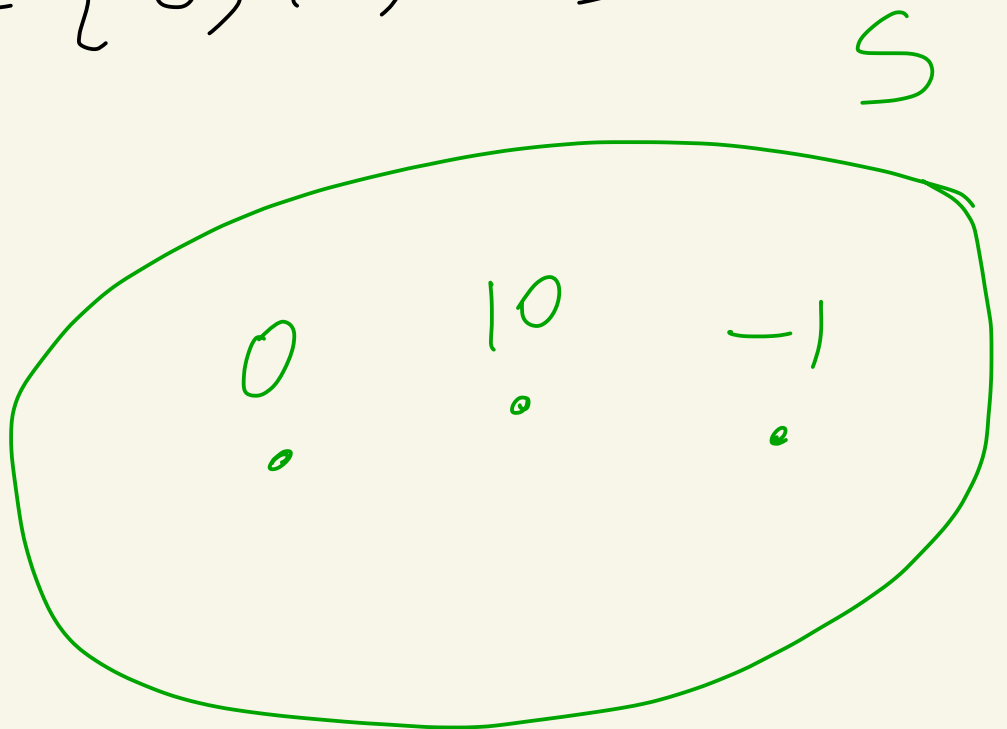
$$0 \in S$$

$$10 \in S$$

$$-1 \in S$$

$$2 \notin S$$

$$-5 \notin S$$



Note: There is no ordering on the elements of a set.

Thus,

$$\{0, 10, -1\} = \{10, -1, 0\}$$

for example.

Also, sets cannot have duplicate entries.

For example you can't have

$$\{1, 0, 1\} \text{ as a set.}$$

Ex:

$$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, \dots\} \leftarrow \text{set of natural numbers}$$

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\} \leftarrow \text{set of integers}$$

general way to describe a set

{ description of element

| condition on element to be in the set }

read: "where"  
"such that"  
"given"

set of rational #s

$$\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{p}{q} \mid p, q \text{ are integers and } q \neq 0 \right\}$$
$$= \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{-1}{23}, \frac{1}{137}, \frac{5}{1}, \dots \right\}$$

Ex:  $5 \in \mathbb{Q}$        $\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$   
 $5 \in \mathbb{Z}$   
 $\frac{1}{2} \notin \mathbb{Z}$

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$$\mathbb{R} = \{ x \mid x \text{ has a decimal expansion} \}$$

↑  
Set of  
real  
numbers

$$= \left\{ 1, \frac{-5}{2}, \sqrt{2}, \pi, \dots \right\}$$

↑  
1.0

↑  
-2.5

↑

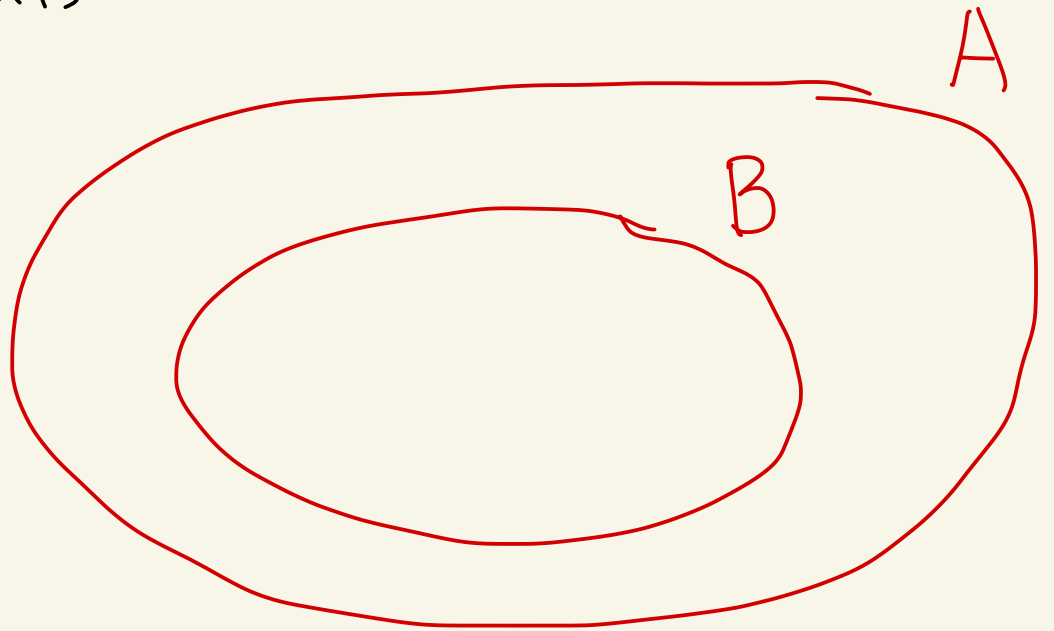
1.414...

↑  
3.14159...

Def: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

We say that  $B$  is a subset of  $A$ ,  
and write  $B \subseteq A$ , if every element  
of  $B$  is also an element of  $A$ .

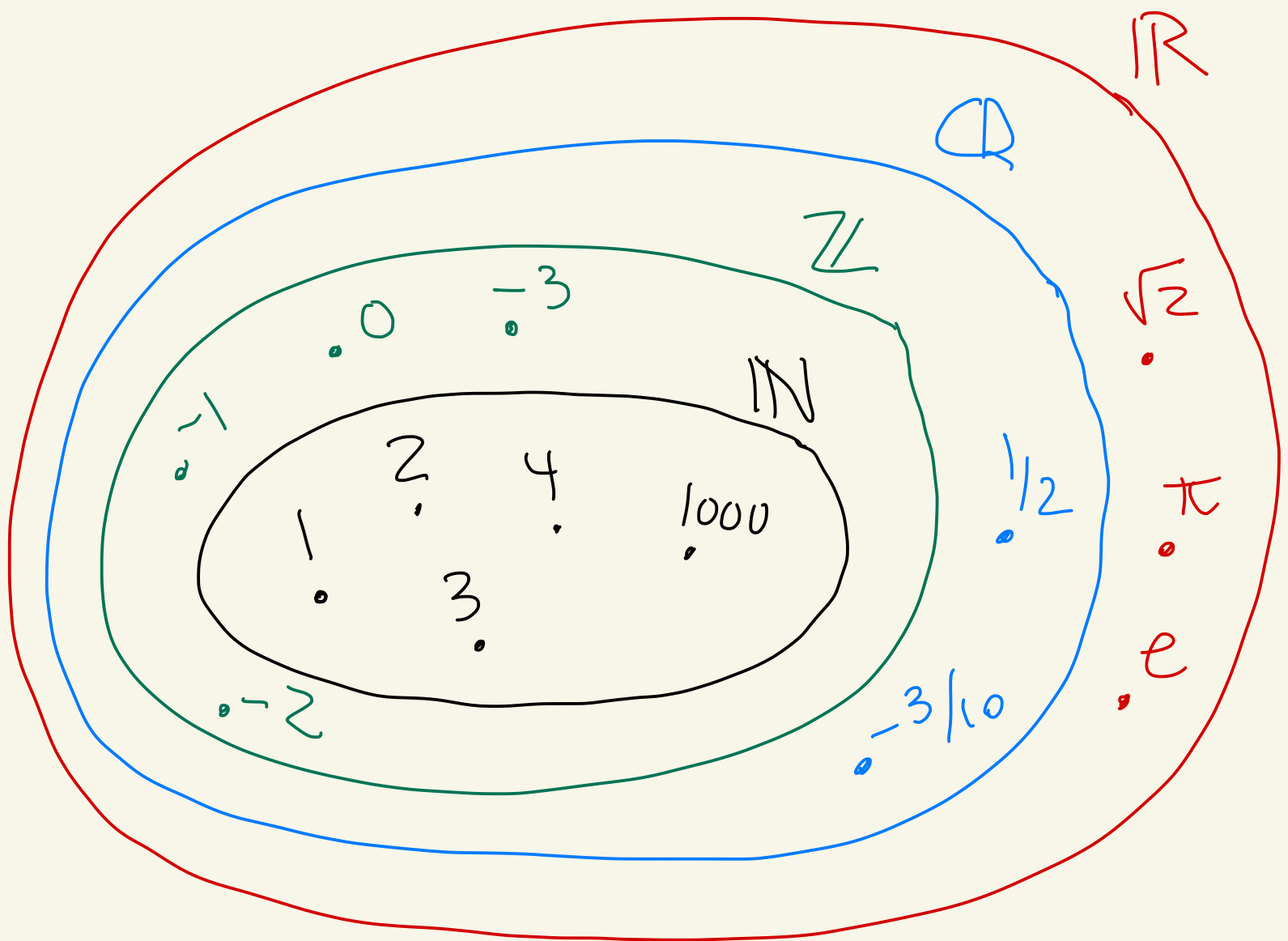
Some  
people  
write  
 $BCA$   
for  
subset



Ex:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{N} &\subseteq \mathbb{Z} \\ \mathbb{Z} &\subseteq \mathbb{Q} \\ \mathbb{Q} &\subseteq \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$$



Ex: Let

$$A = \{12n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$B = \{3k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{ \dots, 12(-3), 12(-2), 12(-1), 12(0), \\ &\quad 12(1), 12(2), 12(3), \dots \} \\ &= \{ \dots, -36, -24, -12, 0, 12, 24, 36, \dots \} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \{ \dots, 3(-3), 3(-2), 3(-1), 3(0), \\ &\quad 3(1), 3(2), 3(3), \dots \} \\ &= \{ \dots, -9, -6, -3, 0, 3, 6, 9, \dots \}. \end{aligned}$$

It seems that  $A \subseteq B$ .

Let's prove it formally.





Technique: To show that  $A \subseteq B$   
one way is to pick some  $x \in A$   
and then derive that  $x \in B$ .

Ex: Show that  
 $\{12n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq \{3k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

proof:

Let  $x \in \{12n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

Then,  $x = 12n$  where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Hence,  $x = 3(4n)$ .

Let  $k = 4n$ .

So,  $x = 3k$ .

Thus,  $x \in \{3k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

Therefore,  $\{12n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq \{3k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

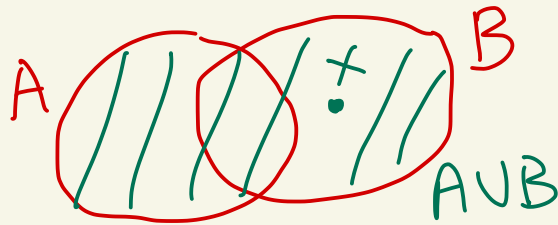


$4n \in \mathbb{Z}$  because  
 $4, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  
 $\mathbb{Z}$  is closed  
under multiplication

Def: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

The union of  $A$  and  $B$  is

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



The intersection of  $A$  and  $B$  is

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



Ex:

$$A = \left\{ \sqrt{2}, 5, 9, 20, \frac{1}{3}, 2 \right\}$$

$$B = \left\{ -16, 9, \frac{1}{3}, 4 \right\}$$

$$A \cup B = \left\{ \underbrace{\sqrt{2}, 5, 9, 20, \frac{1}{3}, 2}_{\text{A stuff}}, \underbrace{-16, 4}_{\text{extra stuff B}} \right\}$$

$$A \cap B = \left\{ 9, \frac{1}{3} \right\}$$

Method to show that  $A = B$   
when  $A$  and  $B$  are sets

- ① Show that  $A \subseteq B$
- ② Show that  $B \subseteq A$

Ex:

Let  $A = \{2k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

and  $B = \{3n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

Prove that  $A \cap B = \{6l \mid l \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

Proof:

$\subseteq$ : Let's show  $A \cap B \subseteq \{6l \mid l \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

Pick some  $x \in A \cap B$ .

Then,  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ .

So,  $x = 2k$  and  $x = 3n$  where  $k, n$  are integers

So,  $2k = 3n$ .

Thus,  $3n$  is even. (because  $3n$  is 2 times an integer)

We can't have  $n$  being odd since

then  $3n$  would be odd.

(odd \* odd = odd)

So  $n$  is even.

Thus,  $n = 2m$  where  $m$  is an integer.

$$\text{So, } x = 3n = 3(2m) = 6m$$

$$\text{So, } x \in \{6l \mid l \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

$$\text{Thus, } A \cap B \subseteq \{6l \mid l \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

[ $\supseteq$ ]: Now let's show  $\{6l \mid l \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq A \cap B$ .

$$\text{Let } x \in \{6l \mid l \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

$$\text{Then } x = 6j \text{ where } j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

$$\text{Thus, } x = 2(3j) \in A.$$

$$\text{And, } x = 3(2j) \in B$$

$$\text{So, } x \in A \cap B.$$

$$\text{Thus, } \{6l \mid l \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq A \cap B. \quad \square$$

Def: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

We say that  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint

if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  where  $\emptyset$  is the empty set.

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Ex:  $A = \{1, 2\}$

$B = \{3, 4\}$

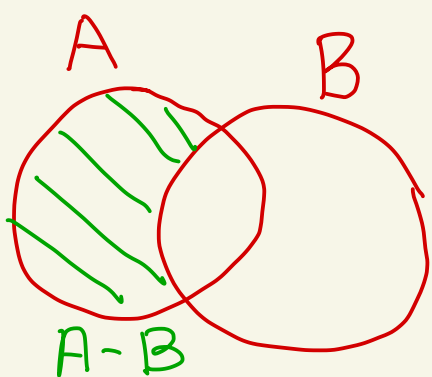
$A \cap B = \emptyset$

So,  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint

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Def: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

The difference of  $A$  and  $B$  is



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

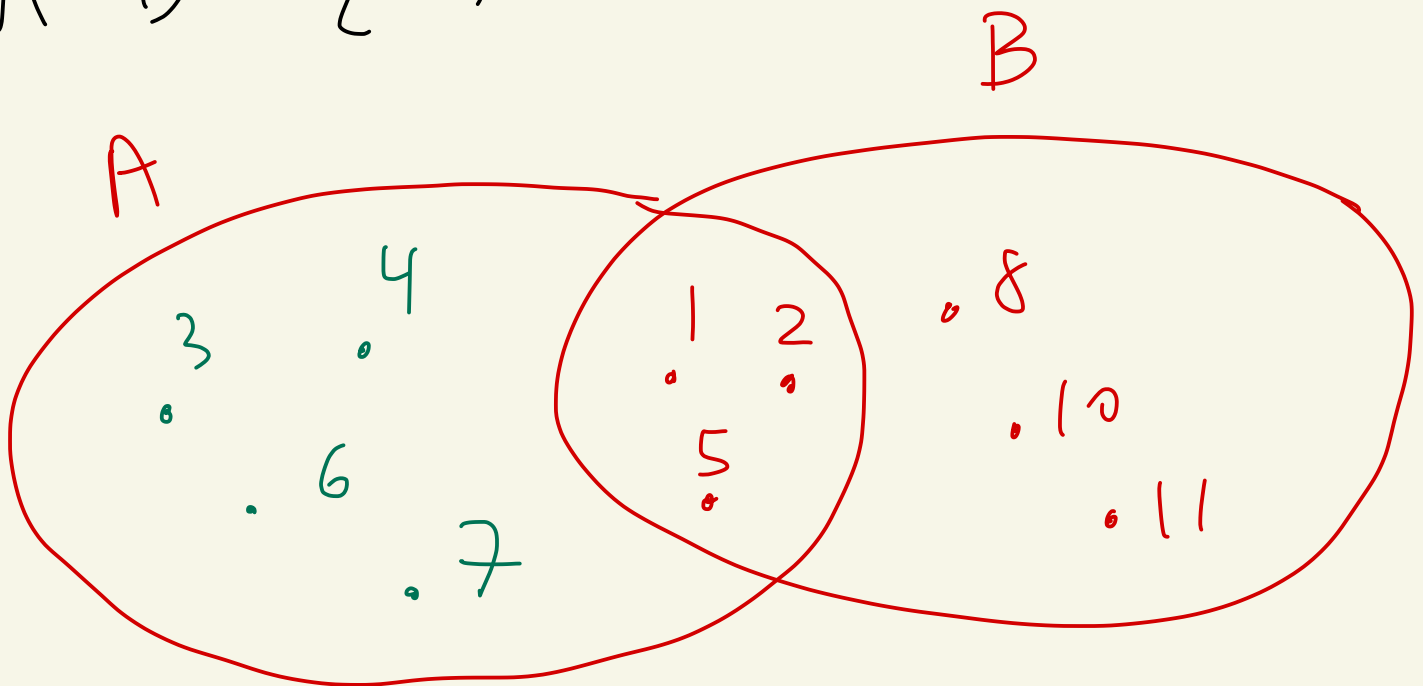
read: "all  $x$  where  $x$  is in  $A$  and  $x$  is

not in B"

Notation: Some people write  $A \setminus B$   
for  $A - B$ .

Ex:  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$   
 $B = \{8, 10, 11, 2, 5, 1\}$

$$A - B = \{3, 4, 6, 7\}$$



$$B - A = \{8, 10, 11\}$$



$$A - \{10, 11, 20\} = A$$

$$\uparrow$$
$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$$

$$A - A = \phi$$

nothing left

## HW problem

Let  $A, B, C$  be sets.

Prove: If  $A \subseteq B$ , then  $A - C \subseteq B - C$

Proof: Suppose that  $A \subseteq B$ .

We want to show that  $A - C \subseteq B - C$ .

Let  $x \in A - C$ .

Then  $x \in A$  and  $x \notin C$ .

Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know that  $x \in B$ .

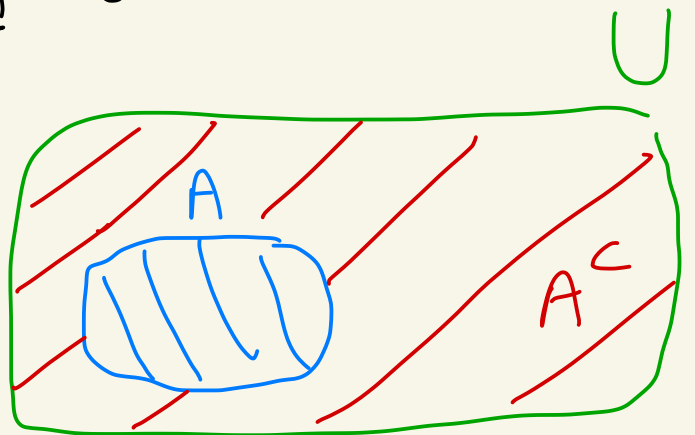
Thus,  $x \in B$  and  $x \notin C$ .

Hence  $x \in B - C$ .

Therefore,  $A - C \subseteq B - C$   $\square$

- Sometimes all the sets you are looking at live inside of one big set. Let's call that big set a "universal set" or "universe".

Def: Let  $A$  be a set where  $U$  is a universal set (so,  $A \subseteq U$ ). Then the complement of  $A$  with respect to  $U$  is



$$A^c = U - A$$

$$= \{x \mid x \in U \text{ and } x \notin A\}.$$

Ex:

$$U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12\}$$

$$A = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12\}$$

$$A^c = U - A = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11\}$$

Theorem: (de Morgan's laws)

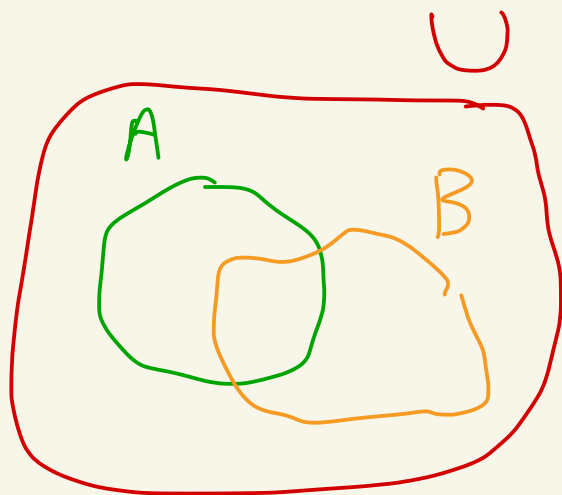
Let  $U$  be a universal set.

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of  $U$ .

Then:

$$\textcircled{1} (A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$$

$$\textcircled{2} (A \cap B)^c = A^c \cup B^c$$



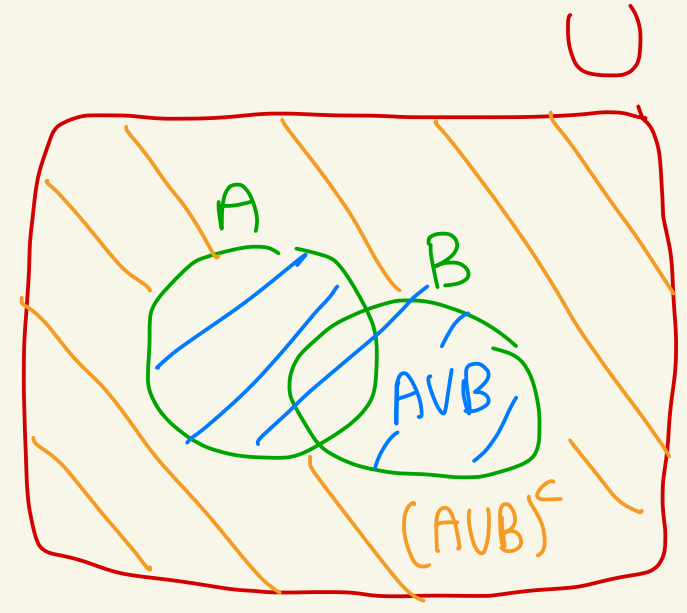
proof:

Let's prove ①. You can try ②.

Let's show  $(A \cup B)^c \subseteq A^c \cap B^c$ .

Let  $x \in (A \cup B)^c$ .

Then,  $x \in U$   
and  $x \notin A \cup B$ .



So,  $x \in U$  and  
"  $x \in A \cup B$  " is not true.

So,  $x \in U$  and "  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$  " is not true.

So,  $x \in U$  and  $x \notin A$  and  $x \notin B$ . 2450

Thus,  $x \in A^c$   
and  $x \in B^c$ .

So,  $x \in A^c \cap B^c$ .

$\neg(P \text{ or } Q)$   $\leftarrow$  equivalent  
 $(\neg P) \text{ and } (\neg Q)$   $\leftarrow$   
 $\neg$  means not

Therefore,  $(A \cup B)^c \subseteq A^c \cap B^c$ .

$\supseteq$ : Now let's show  $A^c \cap B^c \subseteq (A \cup B)^c$ .

Let  $y \in A^c \cap B^c$ .

So,  $y \in A^c$  and  $y \in B^c$ .

So,  $y \in U$  and  $y \notin A$  and  $y \notin B$ .

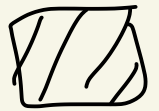
← same logic as above  
←

Thus,  $y \in U$  and  $y \notin A \cup B$

So,  $y \in (A \cup B)^c$ .

Thus,  $A^c \cap B^c \subseteq (A \cup B)^c$ .

By  $\subseteq$  and  $\supseteq$  we have  $(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$



Another way to prove:

$x \in (A \cup B)^c$

iff  $x \in U$  and  $x \notin A \cup B$

iff  $x \in U$  and  $x \notin A$  and  $x \notin B$

iff  $x \in A^c$  and  $x \in B^c$

iff  $x \in A^c \cap B^c$ .

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



Def: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

The Cartesian product of

$A$  and  $B$  is

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

Note:  $(a, b)$  is called an ordered pair. Order matters for  $(a, b)$

People have proposed various set definitions for  $(a, b)$ . For example one is  $(a, b) = \{ a, \{ a, b \} \}$

Ex:  $A = \{1, 5, 9\}$

$$B = \{4, 9\}$$

$$A \times B = \{(1, 4), (1, 9), (5, 4), (5, 9), (9, 4), (9, 9)\}$$

$$B \times B = \{(4, 4), (4, 9), (9, 4), (9, 9)\}$$

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Note: In general, if  $S$  and  $T$  are finite sets, then

$$\underbrace{|S \times T|}_{\text{means size of } S \times T} = \underbrace{|S|}_{\text{size of } S} \cdot \underbrace{|T|}_{\text{size of } T}$$



Ex:

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{ \dots, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots \}$$

$$\mathbb{Z} - \{0\} = \{ \dots, -4, -3, -2, -1, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots \}$$

$$\text{Let } S = \mathbb{Z} \times (\mathbb{Z} - \{0\}).$$

Then,

$$S = \{ (a, b) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } b \neq 0 \}$$

$$= \{ (0, 2), (-1, 7), (3, -1), \dots \}$$

↑  
infinitely  
many  
more

Ex: Let  $A, B, C$  be sets.

Prove that  $A \times (B \cap C) = (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$ .

proof:

$\subseteq$ : We first show that  
 $A \times (B \cap C) \subseteq (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$ .

Let  $x \in A \times (B \cap C)$ .

Then,  $x = (m, n)$  where  $m \in A$  and  $n \in B \cap C$ .

Since  $n \in B \cap C$  we know  $n \in B$  and  $n \in C$ .

Thus,  $(m, n) \in A \times B$  since  $m \in A$  and  $n \in B$

and  $(m, n) \in A \times C$  since  $m \in A$  and  $n \in C$ .

Hence,  $x = (m, n) \in (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$ .

$\supseteq$ : Now we show that  
 $(A \times B) \cap (A \times C) \subseteq A \times (B \cap C)$ .

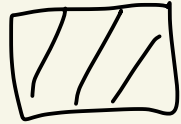
Let  $y \in (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$ .

Then,  $y \in A \times B$  and  $y \in A \times C$ .

So,  $y = (o, p)$  where  $o \in A$  and  $p \in B$   
and  $p \in C$ .

Since  $p \in B$  and  $p \in C$  we know  $p \in B \cap C$ .

Thus,  $y = (a, p) \in A \times (B \cap C)$ .



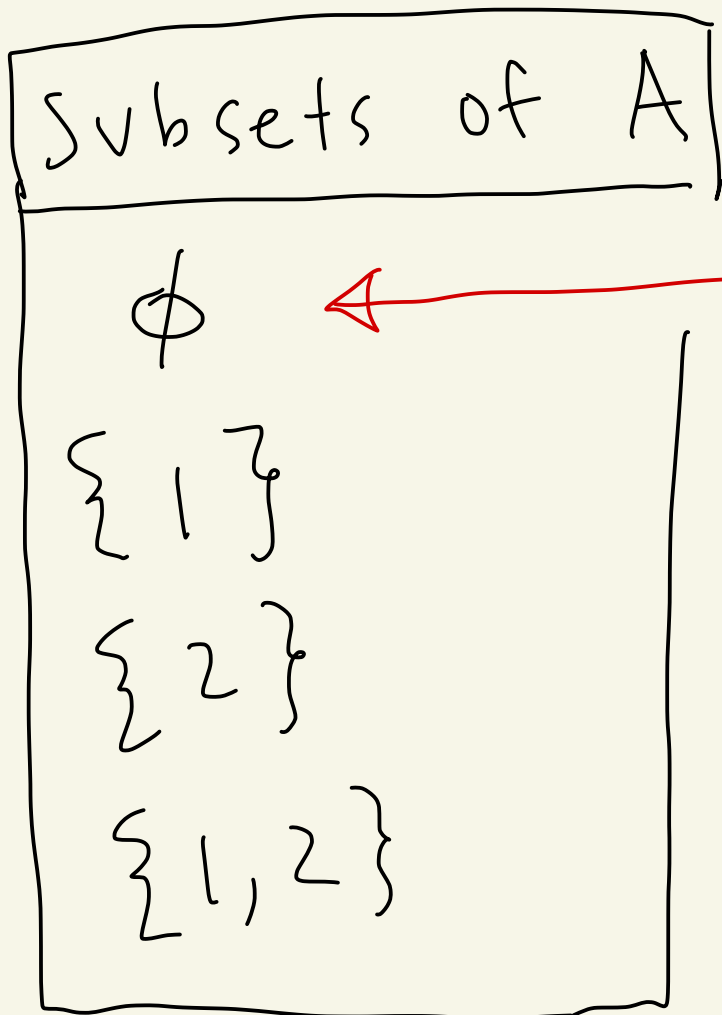
Def: Let  $A$  be a set.

We define the power set of  $A$  to be the set of all subsets of  $A$ ,

that is

$$\underbrace{P(A)}_{\text{power set of } A} = \underbrace{\{ B \mid B \subseteq A \}}_{\text{the set of all } B \text{ where } B \subseteq A}$$

Ex:  $A = \{1, 2\}$



empty set is a subset of every set

$$\emptyset = \{ \}$$

SIDE COMMENTARY

$S \subseteq T$  means:

$\forall x$  (If  $x \in S$ , then  $x \in T$ )

$\emptyset \subseteq T$  means:

$(\forall x) \underbrace{(\text{If } x \in \emptyset, \text{ then } x \in T)}_F$   
T

$$|\mathcal{P}(A)| = 4 = 2^2 = 2^{|A|}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{ \emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{1, 2\} \}$$

Ex:  $B = \{5, 2, 1\}$

$$\mathcal{P}(B) = \left\{ \emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{5\}, \right. \\ \left. \{5, 2\}, \{2, 1\}, \right. \\ \left. \{5, 1\}, \{5, 2, 1\} \right\}$$

Note:  $|\mathcal{P}(B)| = 8 = 2^3 = 2^{|B|}$

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Theorem: If  $S$  is finite,  
then  $|\mathcal{P}(S)| = 2^{|S|}$

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Theorem: Let  $A$  and  $B$   
be sets. Then,  $A = B$   
if and only if  $P(A) = P(B)$ .

proof:

( $\Rightarrow$ ) It's clear that if  
 $A = B$ , then  $P(A) = P(B)$ .

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( $\Leftarrow$ ) Now we must prove  
"If  $P(A) = P(B)$ , then  $A = B$ ".

Suppose  $P(A) = P(B)$ .

To show that  $A = B$  we

will show  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .

**Claim 1:  $A \subseteq B$**

We know  $A \subseteq A$ .

So,  $A \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

Then, since  $\mathcal{P}(A) = \mathcal{P}(B)$ ,  
we know  $A \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

Thus,  $A \subseteq B$ .

**Claim 2:  $B \subseteq A$**

You can do this proof the same  
way as claim 1, but let's  
change it up.

Let  $b \in B$ .

Then,  $\{b\} \subseteq B$ .

So,  $\{b\} \in \mathcal{P}(B)$

Since  $\mathcal{P}(B) = \mathcal{P}(A)$  we have  $\{b\} \in \mathcal{P}(A)$



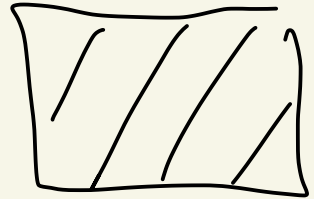
Thus,  $\{b\} \subseteq A$ .

Hence  $b \in A$ .

So,  $B \subseteq A$ .



By claim 1 and 2 we  
know  $A = B$ .



Def: When every element of a set  $A$  is itself a set then we call  $A$  a family or collection of sets.

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Ex:  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  is a family of sets.

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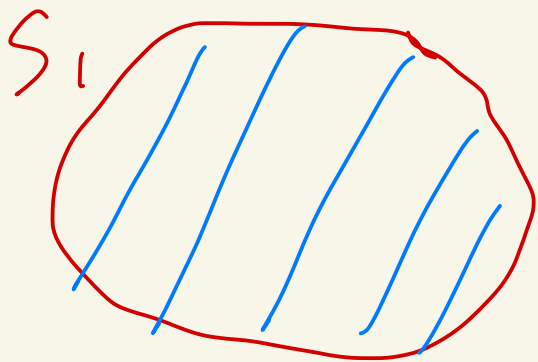
Def: Let  $A$  be a non-empty family of sets.

Define the union over  $A$  to be

$$\bigcup_{S \in A} S = \left\{ x \mid x \in S \text{ for some } S \in A \right\}$$
$$= \left\{ x \mid \text{there exists some } S \in A \text{ where } x \in S \right\}$$

Ex:

$$A = \{ S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4 \}$$

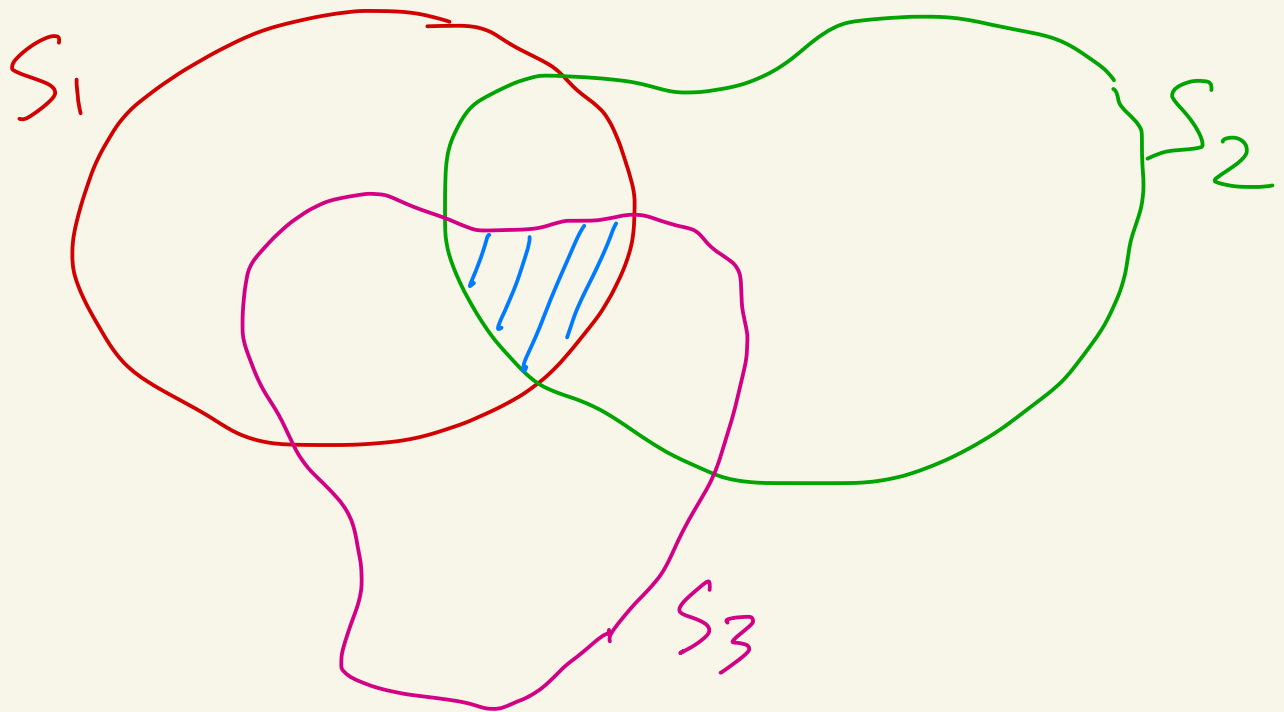


shaded blue is  $\bigcup_{S \in A} S$

Define the intersection over  $A$   
to be

$$\bigcap_{S \in A} S = \{x \mid x \in S \text{ for all } S \in A\}$$

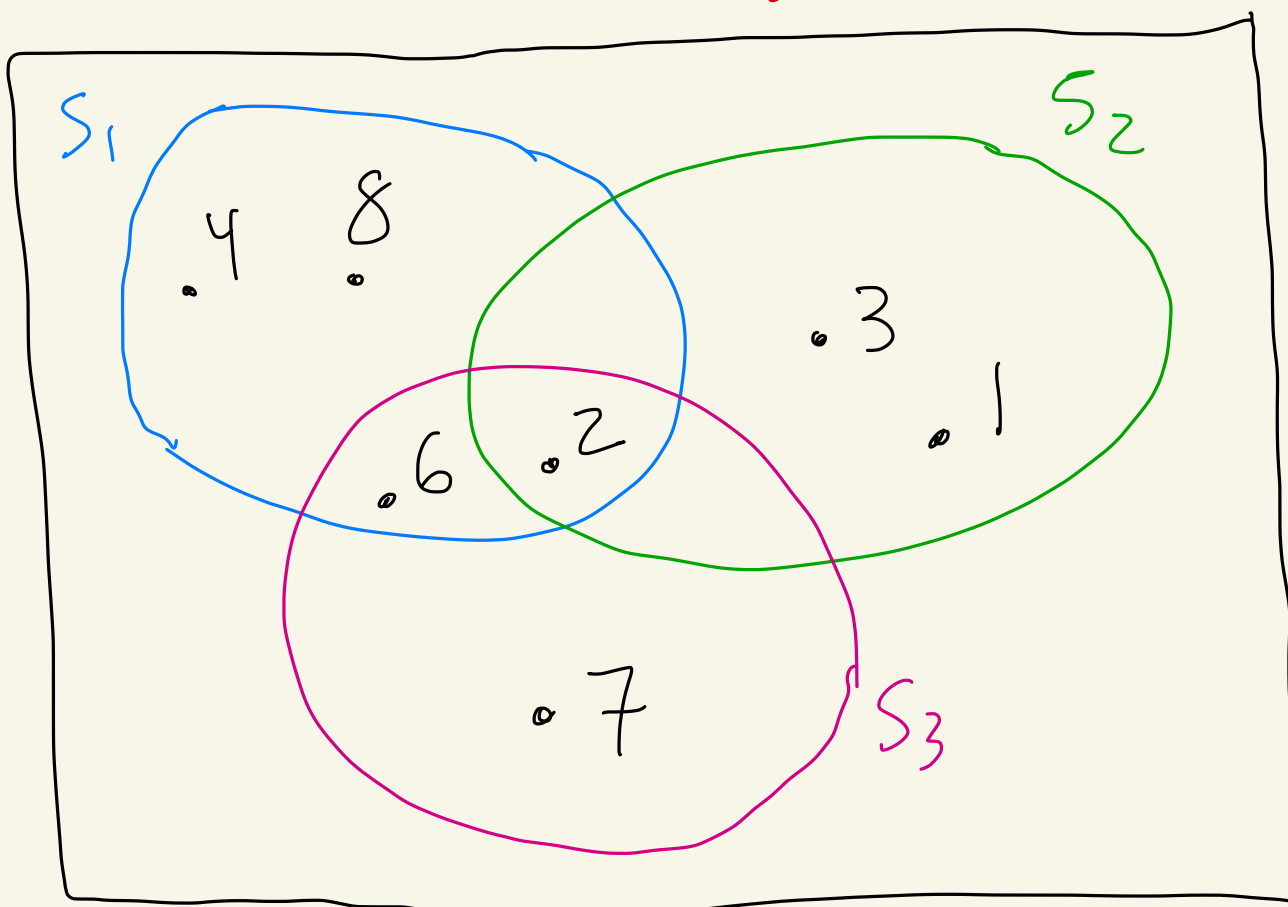
Ex:  $A = \{S_1, S_2, S_3\}$



Shaded blue is  $\bigcap_{S \in A} S$

Ex:

$$A = \left\{ \overbrace{\{2, 4, 6, 8\}}^{S_1}, \overbrace{\{1, 3, 2\}}^{S_2}, \underbrace{\{2, 7, 6\}}_{S_3} \right\}$$



$$U S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8\}$$

SEA

$$\cap S = \{2\}$$

SEA

Ex:

$$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}, \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

$S_k$

$$\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \overbrace{\{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid |n| \leq k\}}^{S_k} \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

$$= \{S_k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

$$= \{S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, \dots\}$$

and  $S_k = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid |n| \leq k\}$

$$S_1 = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid |n| \leq 1\} = \{-1, 0, 1\}$$

$$S_2 = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid |n| \leq 2\} = \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$$

$$S_3 = \{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\}$$

$$S_4 = \{-4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

And so on...

$$\bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{B}} S = \mathbb{Z}$$

$\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} S_k$  is another way to write it

$$\bigcap_{S \in \mathcal{B}} S = \{-1, 0, 1\}$$

$\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} S_k$  is another way to write it

Def: Let  $I$  be a non-empty set. Suppose for each  $\alpha \in I$  there is a corresponding set  $A_\alpha$ .

The family

$$A = \{ A_\alpha \mid \alpha \in I \}$$

is called an indexed family of sets. The set  $I$  is

called the index set.

If  $\alpha \in I$ , then  $\alpha$  is called the index of  $A_\alpha$ .



Ex: Previously we had

$$\mathcal{B} = \{ S_k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \}$$

Here  $\mathcal{B}$  is an indexed family of sets,  $\mathbb{N}$  is the index set.

$S_3$  ←  $\alpha = 3$  is the index of  $S_3$

Def: Let  $I$  be a non-empty set. Let  $A = \{A_\alpha \mid \alpha \in I\}$  be an indexed family of sets. Define the union over  $A$

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha = \left\{ x \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists } \alpha \in I \\ \text{with } x \in A_\alpha \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\bigcap_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha = \left\{ x \mid \begin{array}{l} x \in A_\alpha \text{ for} \\ \text{all } \alpha \in I \end{array} \right\}$$

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**Ex:** In our previous example  $B = \{S_k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$

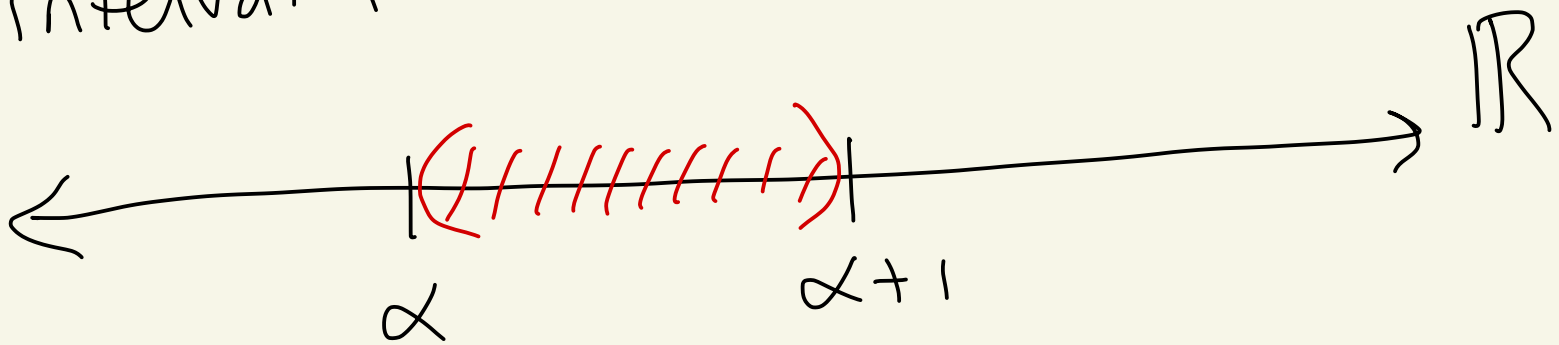
we would write

$$\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} S_k = \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} S_k = \{-1, 0, 1\}$$

**Ex:** Let's make sense of

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}} (\alpha, \alpha+1) \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}} (\alpha, \alpha+1)$$

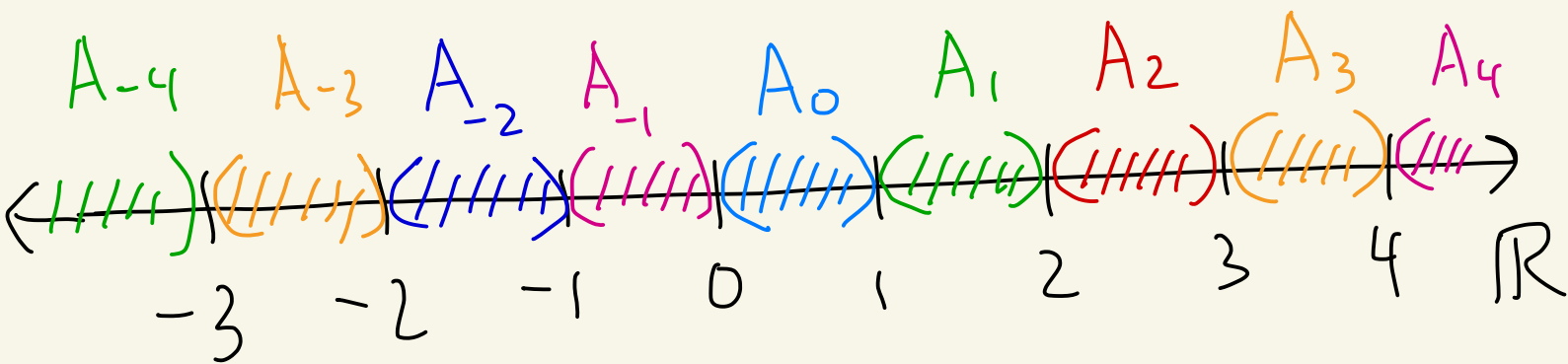
Where  $(\alpha, \alpha+1)$  means the interval in the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$



$$I = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$A_\alpha = (\alpha, \alpha+1)$$

$$A = \{A_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$



$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}} A_{\alpha} = \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$$

another way to write this is

$$\bigcup_{\alpha = -\infty}^{\infty} A_{\alpha}$$

its understood  $\alpha$  ranges over whole numbers  $\mathbb{Z}$

$$\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}} A_{\alpha} = \emptyset$$

$$\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$$

another way to write

$$\bigcap_{\alpha = -\infty}^{\infty} A_{\alpha}$$

its understood  $\alpha$  ranges over whole numbers  $\mathbb{Z}$

Theorem: Let  $A = \{A_\alpha \mid \alpha \in I\}$   
be an indexed family of sets.  
Let  $\alpha_0 \in I$  be a fixed element.

Then:

$$\textcircled{1} A_{\alpha_0} \subseteq \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha$$

$$\textcircled{2} \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha \subseteq A_{\alpha_0}$$

Ex:

$$I = \mathbb{N}$$

$$\alpha_0 = 5$$

$$A_5 \subseteq \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}} A_\alpha$$

$$\bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}} A_\alpha \subseteq A_5$$

proof:

① Pick some  $x \in A_{\alpha_0}$ .

Then there exists  $\alpha \in I$  (namely  
 $\alpha = \alpha_0$ )  
where  $x \in A_\alpha$

Thus,

$$x \in \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha} = \left\{ y \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists} \\ \alpha \in I \text{ with} \\ y \in A_{\alpha} \end{array} \right\}$$

Therefore,

$$A_{\alpha_0} \subset \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_{\alpha}$$

② You try.

