Sets and Set Operations
Sets

**Definition:** A set is an unordered collection of objects. These objects are usually referred to as *elements* or *members* of the set. (Mathematician Georg Cantor's definition of a set.)

We use the notation $x \in S$ to indicate that $x$ is a member of $S$.

**Definition:** Two sets are *equal* if and only if they have the same elements.

**Definition:** The *universal set* is denoted by $U$ and refers to the set of all objects in the currently understood domain.

**Definition:** The *empty set* is denoted by $\emptyset$ or $\{\}$ and refers to the set which contains no elements.
Subsets

**Definition:** a set $A$ is said to be a *subset* of set $B$ if and only if every element of $A$ is also an element of $B$. We use the notation $A \subseteq B$ to indicate “$A$ is a subset of $B$”.

**Definition (alternate):** a set $A$ is a subset of $B$ if and only if:

$$\forall x (x \in A) \rightarrow (x \in B)$$

**Definition:** a set $A$ is said to be a *proper subset* of $B$ if and only if $A \subseteq B$ and $A \neq B$. We denote that $A$ is a proper subset of $B$ with the notation $A \subset B$. 
Finite and Infinite Sets

**Definition:** Let $S$ be a set. If there are exactly $n$ distinct elements in $S$, where $n$ is a nonnegative integer, we say $S$ is a *finite* set, and that $n$ is the *cardinality* of $S$. The cardinality of $S$ is denoted by $|S|$.

**Definition:** a set is *infinite* if it is not finite.
Definition: Given a set $S$. The *power set* of $S$ is the set of all subsets of $S$. The power set is denoted by $P(S)$. 
Ordered n-Tuples and Cartesian Products

**Definition**: An ordered n-tuple \((x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)\) is the ordered collection that has \(x_1\) as its first element, \(x_2\) as its second element, \(\ldots\), and \(x_n\) as its nth element, where \(n \geq 2\).

**Definition**: Let \(S\) and \(T\) be sets. The *Cartesian product* of \(S\) and \(T\), denoted by \(S \times T\), is the set of all ordered pairs \((x,y)\), where \(x \in S\) and \(y \in T\). In other words:

\[
S \times T = \{ (s,t) \mid s \in S \text{ and } t \in T \}.
\]
Relations

**Definition:** A subset of the Cartesian product $A \times B$ is called a *relation* from the set $A$ to the set $B$. 
**Set Operations**

**Definition:** Let A and B be sets. The *union* of A and B, denoted by $A \cup B$, is the set that contains those elements that are either in A or in B, or in both.

Alternate definition: $A \cup B = \{ x \mid x \in A \lor x \in B \}$

**Definition:** Let A and B be sets. The *intersection* of A and B, denoted by $A \cap B$, is the set that contains those elements that are in both A and B.

Alternate definition: $A \cap B = \{ x \mid x \in A \land x \in B \}$
Set Operations

**Definition**: Let A and B be sets. The *difference* or *complement* of A and B, denoted by $A - B$, is the set containing those elements that are in A but not in B.

Alternate definition: $A - B = \{ x \mid x \in A \land x \notin B \}$

**Definition**: Let $U$ be the universal set. Let A be a set. The *complement* of A, denoted by $\overline{A}$, is the complement of A with respect to U. In other words, $\overline{A}$ is $U - A$. 
Definition: Two sets are called *disjoint* if their intersection is empty.

Alternate definition: A and B are disjoint if and only if $A \cap B = \emptyset$.
The Inclusion-Exclusion Principle: a counting technique which is a generalization of the familiar method of obtaining the number of elements in the union of two finite sets:

\[ | A \cup B | = |A| + |B| - | A \cap B | \]

For three sets:

\[ | A \cup B \cup C | = |A| + |B| + |C| - | A \cap B | - | A \cap C | - | B \cap C | + | A \cap B \cap C | \]

In general:

- Include the cardinalities of the single sets
- Exclude the cardinalities of the intersections of two sets
- Include the cardinalities of the intersections of three sets
- Exclude the cardinalities of the intersections of four sets

and so on.
Set Identities

Identity

\[ A \cup \emptyset = A \]

\[ A \cap U = A \]

Domination

\[ A \cup U = U \]

\[ A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset \]

Idempotence

\[ A \cup A = A \]

\[ A \cap A = A \]
Set Identities

Double Complement

- - A = A

Commutative

A \cup B = B \cup A
A \cap B = B \cap A

Associative

A \cup (B \cup C) = (A \cup B) \cup C
A \cap (B \cap C) = (A \cap B) \cap C
Set Identities

Distributive

\[ A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C) \]
\[ A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) \]

Complement

\[ A \cup \neg A = U \]
\[ A \cap \neg A = \emptyset \]

Absorption

\[ A \cup (A \cap B) = A \]
\[ A \cap (A \cup B) = A \]
Set Identities

DeMorgan's Laws

- \((A \cap B) = -A \cup -B\)

- \((A \cup B) = -A \cap -B\)
Definition: The union of a collection of sets is the set that contains those elements that are members of at least one set in the collection.

Definition: The intersection of a collection of sets is the set that contains those elements that are members of all sets in the collection.