

Section 12.1 Sets and Counting

A set is a well-defined collection of objects, called elements

Well-defined means there is a rule that we can use to determine whether the element is in the set.

Empty, or null, set - a set with no elements.

ex: Write the set of all possible outcomes when you flip a coin twice.

$$\{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

Sets A and B are equal if they have the same elements.

If every element in A is also in B we say A is a subset of B, $A \subseteq B$

If $A \subseteq B$ and $A \neq B$ then we call A a proper subset of B, $A \subset B$

Note that the empty set \emptyset , is a subset of any set, so $\emptyset \subseteq A$

ex: Subsets of $\{a, b, c\}$

$$\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}$$

The intersection of 2 sets, $A \cap B$ consists of all elements that are in A and in B.

The union of A and B, denoted $A \cup B$ is the set containing elements in A or B, or both.

ex: $A = \{1, 3, 5, 8\}$, $B = \{3, 5, 7\}$, $C = \{2, 4, 6, 8\}$

a) $A \cap B = \{3, 5\}$

b) $A \cup B = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 8\}$

c) $B \cap (A \cup C)$

$\{3, 5, 7\} \cap \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8\} = \{3, 5\}$

A universal set U is the set consisting of all elements we wish to consider.

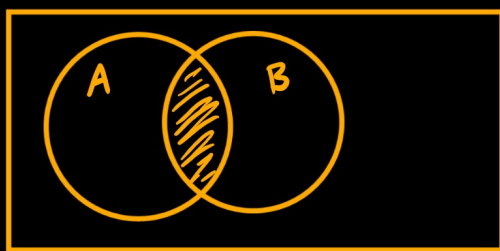
If A is a set, \bar{A} is called its complement. It consists of all elements in U that are not in A.

ex: $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$ $A = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$

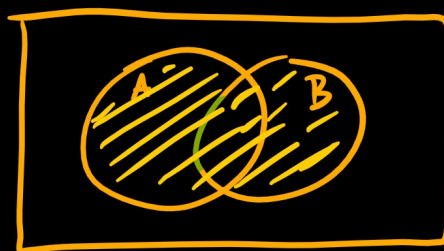
$\bar{A} = \{2, 4, 6, 8\}$

Venn Diagrams

$A \cap B$



$A \cup B$

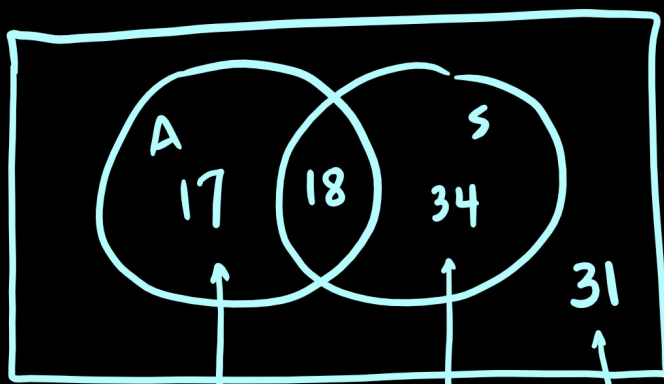


\bar{A}



$n(A)$ = number of elements in A

ex: Survey 100 college students $n(U) = 100$



$$n(A) = 35$$

↳ algebra

$$n(S) = 52$$

↳ computer

$$n(A \cap S) = 18$$

$$35 - 18$$

$$52 - 18$$

$$100 - 17 - 18 - 34$$

a) How many registered for Alg. or C.S.? 69

b) How many taking neither? 31

$$n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B)$$
$$35 + 52 - 18$$

If A and B have no common elements, then

$$n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B)$$

A and B are called mutually
exclusive

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