

**Lecture # 07**

**Discrete Structure**

# Sets

- Set is a collection of well defined distinct objects
- Objects are called the elements or members of the set
- Sets are denoted by capital letters A, B, C ..., X, Y, Z
- Elements of a set are represented by small letters a, b, c, ... , x, y, z
- If an object x is a member of a set A then it denoted by  $x \in A$ , which reads “x belongs to A”
- If an object x is not a member of a set A then it denoted by  $x \notin A$ , which reads “x does not belong to A”

# Tabular Form

- Listing all the elements of a set, separated by commas and enclosed within curly brackets { }

## Examples:

- Set of first five Natural Numbers     $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- Set of Even numbers up to 50         $B = \{2, 4, 6, 8, \dots, 50\}$
- Set of positive odd numbers          $C = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$

The symbol “...” is called an ellipsis, short for “and so forth”

# Descriptive Form

- Stating the elements of a set in words

## Examples:

- $A$  = set of first five Natural Numbers
- $B$  = set of positive even integers less or equal to fifty
- $C$  = set of positive odd integers

# Set Builder Form

- Writing the common characteristics shared by all the elements of the set in symbolic form

## Examples:

- $A = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \leq 5\}$
- $B = \{x \in \mathbb{E} \mid 0 < x \leq 50\}$
- $C = \{x \in \mathbb{O} \mid 0 < x\}$

# Sets of Numbers

## 1. Set of Natural Numbers

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

## 2. Set of Whole Numbers

$$W = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

## 3. Set of Integers

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, +1, +2, +3, \dots\} \\ &= \{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \dots\} \end{aligned}$$

## 4. Set of Even Integers

$$E = \{0, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 6, \dots\}$$

## 5. Set of Odd Integers

$$O = \{\pm 1, \pm 3, \pm 5, \dots\}$$

# Sets of Numbers (Cont.)

## 6. Set of Prime Numbers

$$P = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, \dots\}$$

## 7. Set of Rational Numbers (or Quotient of Integers)

$$Q = \{x \mid x = \frac{p}{q}; p, q \in \mathbb{Z}, q \neq 0\}$$

## 8. Set of Irrational Numbers

$$Q' = \{x \mid x \text{ is not rational}\}$$

For example,  $\sqrt{2}$ ,  $\sqrt{3}$ ,  $\pi$ ,  $e$ , etc.

## 9. Set of Real Numbers

$$R = Q \cup Q'$$

## 10. Set of Complex Numbers

$$C = \{z \mid z = x + iy; x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

# Subset

- Let A and B are two sets
- Then A is called a subset of B, if, and only if, every element of A is also an element of B
- It is denoted as  $A \subseteq B$
- Symbolically:  $A \subseteq B \Leftrightarrow \text{if } x \in A \text{ then } x \in B$
- When  $A \subseteq B$ , then B is called a superset of A
- When  $A \not\subseteq B$ , then there exist at least one  $x \in A$  such that  $x \notin B$
- Every set is a subset of itself



# Subset (Cont.)

## Examples:

Let

$$A = \{1, 3, 5\} \quad B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$C = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \quad D = \{3, 1, 5\}$$

Then

$$A \subseteq B \text{ ( As every element of } A \text{ is in } B \text{ )}$$

$$C \subseteq B \text{ ( As every element of } C \text{ is also an element of } B \text{ )}$$

$$A \subseteq D \text{ ( As every element of } A \text{ is also an element of } D \text{ and also note that every element of } D \text{ is in } A \text{ so } D \subseteq A \text{ )}$$

$$\text{and } A \not\subseteq C \text{ ( Because there is an element } 5 \text{ of } A \text{ which is not in } C \text{ )}$$

# Proper Subset

- A is a proper subset of B, if, and only if, every element of A is in B but there is at least one element of B that is not in A
- It is denoted as  $A \subset B$

## Example:

Let  $A = \{1, 3, 5\}$ ,       $B = \{1, 2, 3, 5\}$

Then  $A \subset B$  ( Because there is an element 2 of B which is not in A)

## Example:

It is very easy to note that

$N \subset Z \subset Q \subset R \subset C$

# Equal Sets

- Set A and B are equal if, and only if, every element of A is in B and every element of B is in A
- It is denoted as  $A = B$
- Symbolically:  $A = B$  iff  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$

## Example:

Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 6\}$        $B =$  the set of positive divisors of 6

$C = \{3, 1, 6, 2\}$        $D = \{1, 2, 2, 3, 6, 6, 6\}$

Then A, B, C, and D are all equal sets.

# Null Set

- A set which contains no element is called a null set, or an empty set or a void set
- It is denoted by the Greek letter  $\emptyset$  (phi) or  $\{ \}$
- $\emptyset$  is regarded as a subset of every set

## Example:

$$A = \{x \mid x \text{ is a person taller than 10 feet}\} = \emptyset$$

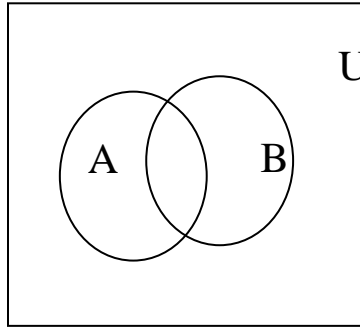
$$B = \{x \mid x^2 = 4, x \text{ is odd}\} = \emptyset$$

# Universal Set

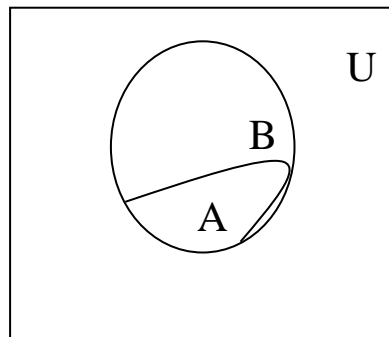
- It is the set of all elements under consideration
- The Universal Set is usually denoted by  $U$

# Venn Diagram

- It is a graphical representation of sets by regions in the plane
- The Universal Set is represented by the interior of a rectangle
- Other sets are represented by circles lying within the rectangle



- In Venn diagram above , sets A and B intersect each other
- In Venn diagram below, set A is totally contained in set B, so  $A \subseteq B$



# Finite and Infinite Sets

- A finite set  $S$  contains exactly  $m$  distinct elements
- In such case we write  $|S| = m$  or  $n(S) = m$
- A set is said to be infinite if it is not finite

## Examples

1. The set  $S$  of letters of English alphabets is finite and  $|S| = 26$
2. The null set  $\emptyset$  has no elements, is finite and  $|\emptyset| = 0$
3. The set of positive integers  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  is infinite.

# Membership Table

- A table displaying the membership of elements in sets
- To indicate that an element is in a set, a 1 is used
- To indicate that an element is not in a set, a 0 is used
- Membership tables can be used to prove set identities

A	$A^c$
1	0
0	1

- In table if an element belongs to A then it can't belong to  $A^c$
- Thus if there is 1 for A then 0 for  $A^c$  in that row of table