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Since we use ordered pairs, in general $(a,b) \neq (b,a)$ so

$$A \times B \neq B \times A$$

(though there is a sense of sameness)

Ex: Write out the set $A \times B$ where $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $B = \{a, c\}$.

Sol:

$$A \times B = \{(1,a), (1,c), (2,a), (2,c), (3,a), (3,c), (4,a), (4,c)\}$$

Fact: For finite sets A and B

$$|A \times B| = |A| \cdot |B|$$

(this is also true for infinite sets, but one needs to understand what $|A|$ means there and how to multiply infinite cardinals.)

We don't have to stop at taking the product of two sets. For example:

$$A \times (B \times C) = \{(a, (b, c)) \mid a \in A, b \in B, c \in C\}$$

Similar to the reasons above

$$A \times (B \times C) \neq (A \times B) \times C$$

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Though, again, there is a sense of sameness.

We can also form the product of 3 sets by using ordered triples instead of nested ordered pairs:

$$A \times B \times C = \{(a, b, c) \mid a \in A, b \in B, c \in C\}$$

Once again,

$$A \times B \times C \neq A \times (B \times C) \neq (A \times B) \times C$$

but there is a sense of sameness (they're in one-to-one correspondence).

This leads us to the notion of Cartesian powers of sets: for a set A and $k \in \mathbb{N}$

$$A^k := \{(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) \mid a_i \in A, 1 \leq i \leq k\}$$

Ex: If we write the "package" of numbers in a different way we can see that 3×3 matrices are very similar to 9-tuples

$$M_{3 \times 3}(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$\mathbb{R}^9 = \{(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i) \mid a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

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I still insist $M_{3 \times 3}(\mathbb{R}) \neq \mathbb{R}^9$, but their likeness is unmistakable. This relationship is useful for proving facts about 3×3 matrices, though we will not see them here.

1.3 - Subsets

Suppose that A and B are sets, and that every element in A is also in B . Then we say that A is a subset of B . We denote this by

$$\boxed{A \subset B}.$$

If A is not a subset of B , we write

$$\boxed{A \not\subset B}.$$

This would be the case if A has even one element which is not in B .

Ex (a) $\mathbb{N} \subset \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{C}$

(b) $\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, \dots\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$

(c) $\{1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, \dots\} \not\subset \{p \mid p \text{ is prime}\}$

(d) $\{(x, y) \mid x^2 + y^2 > 3\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$

(e) $\{2^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$

(f) $\{2^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \not\subset \mathbb{N}$

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Fact: The empty set is a subset of every set, i.e., for any set S

$$\emptyset \subset S$$

An interesting and useful idea is to count the number of subsets a set has.

Ex: List the subsets of $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$. How many subsets does A have?

Subsets: $\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\} = A$

We have, then, 8 subsets. What's the relation between 3 & 8? $8 = 2^3$

For a set with n elements, one might then guess that it has 2^n elements. This is a true statement, but why? The reasoning is as follows:

Let $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ be a set with n elements. Think about constructing a subset $S \subset A$... for every element a_j we have a choice of whether to include it or not; 2 choices for each element.

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So, if we start with a_1 and go through the elements one-by-one we have:

1) Include a_1 ? 2 sets

2) Include a_2 ? We have this choice for each of the 2 sets from step 1, so we have now: $2 \times 2 = 2^2$ sets

3) For each set in step 2, decide whether to include a_3 . This gives $2^2 \times 2 = 2^3$ sets

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n) Include a_n ? 2^n sets

1.4 - Power Sets

Def: Given a set A , the set of all subsets of A , denoted $\mathcal{P}(A)$, is called the power set of A . I.e.,

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{X \mid X \subset A\}$$

Ex: As we saw earlier,

$$\mathcal{P}(\{1, 2, 3\}) = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$$

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Fact: Using what we saw before, if $|X| = n$, then $|\mathcal{P}(X)| = 2^n$.

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

- (a) What is $|\mathcal{P}(A)|$?
- (b) What is $|\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A))|$?
- (c) Write out $\mathcal{P}(A)$.

Sol: (a) $|A| = 2$ b/c the elements of A are 1 and $\{1, 2\}$.

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

(b) $|\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A))| = 2^4 = 8$

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

As you can see, power sets get large exponentially quick.

What about $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$? How large is this?
It actually turns out that

$$|\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| = |\mathbb{R}|$$

which is incredibly large!

What kinds of things are in $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^2)$?