

Solutions 1

Excercise 1: Identifying sets

Which of the following are valid sets, and which are not?

- (1)
- $\{\text{♔, ♚, ♗, ♘, ♙, ♜}\}$
 - $\{\text{Obama, 'Obama', \{Obama\}}\}$
 - $\{x \mid x \text{ is a multiple of } 17\}$
 - $\{x, \text{sofa, prime, Pizza, } 0, \Phi, \text{♚, } x\}$
 - $\{\{\{\{\{\Phi\}\}\}\}\}$
 - $\{\}$ (also written as \emptyset)

All of (1-a-f) are valid sets: (1-a) is the set of (white) chess pieces. (1-b) is the set containing the person Barack Obama, the name 'Obama', and the set containing the person Barack Obama. (1-c) is an infinite set, and therefore it is impossible to list all its members (but one may resort to the dot/etc.-notation $\{17, 34, 51, 68, \dots\}$), (1-d) is a random collection, (1-e) is the set containing (as its only member) the set $\{\{\{\{\{\Phi\}\}\}\}\}$; finally, (1-f) is the empty set (the set that does not contain anything).

Excercise 2: Identifying set members and sets

- What are the members of the following sets?

- (2)
- $\{x \mid x \text{ is a multiple of } 12 \text{ below } 60\}$
 - $\{x \mid x \text{ is the set containing all multiples of } 12 \text{ below } 60\}$
 - $\{\text{vowel, yellow, 'gelb'}, \{\text{vowel, yellow, 'gelb'}\}, \Phi\}$
 - $\{\{\{\{\{\Phi\}\}\}\}\}$
 - $\{\text{Bart}\}$
 - $\{\text{Bart, 'Bart'}, \{\text{Bart}\}\}$

The members of (2-a) are 12, 24, 36, 48. The only member of (2-b) is the set $\{12, 24, 36, 48\}$. The members of (2-c) are the concepts vowel and yellow, the name 'gelb', the set containing these three elements, and the Greek letter Φ . The only member of (2-d) is the set $\{\{\{\{\{\Phi\}\}\}\}\}$. The only member of (2-e) is a person named Bart (possibly the Simpson character). And (2-f) contains this person plus the name 'Bart' plus the set containing the person Bart.

- For the set $OS = \{\text{Olaf Scholz}\}$, which of the following is True or False?

- (3)
- Olaf Scholz is a member of OS.
 - $\{\text{Olaf Scholz}\}$ is a member of OS.
 - The current Bundeskanzlerin of Germany is a member of OS.

(3-a) is obviously true, (3-b) is false because OS does not have a set as its member. (3-c) is true again because the description given refers to Olaf Scholz (which is the only member of the set).

- What is the set whose only member is $\{S\}$?

Obviously, the answer is $\{\{S\}\}$.

Excercise 3: List to predicate notation

- Convert each of the sets in list notation below to predicate notation.

- (4)
- $\{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$
 - $\{\text{Bart, Lisa, Homer, Marge, Maggie}\}$
 - $\{\text{Leipzig}\}$
 - $\{\text{'Bart', 'Lisa', 'Homer', 'Marge', 'Maggie'}\}$
 - $\{\}$

Note that often one can come up with various different descriptions, all defining the same set. Possible answers are the following. (4-a): $\{x \mid x \text{ is an even natural number smaller than 12 (excluding 0)}\}$. (Just one alternative: $\{x \mid x \text{ is a non-negative even number smaller than 11}\}$.) (4-b): $\{x \mid x \text{ is a character of the (fictional) Simpson family}\}$. (4-c): $\{x \mid x \text{ is the city where Leibniz was born}\}$. (4-d): $\{x \mid x \text{ is the name of a character of the (fictional) Simpson family}\}$. (4-e): $\{x \mid x \text{ is an even prime number that does not equal 2}\}$.

Excercise 4: Predicate to list notation

- Convert each of the sets in predicate notation below to list notation.

- (5)
- $\{x \mid x \text{ is an odd integer smaller than 12}\}$
 - $\{z \mid z \text{ is the name of the first president of the USA}\}$
 - $\{a \mid a \text{ is a triangular circle}\}$

(5-a): $\{11, 9, 7, 5, 3, 1, -1, -3, -5, \dots\}$ (again, listing all elements is impossible because the set is infinite); (5-b): $\{\text{'George Washington'}\}$; (5-c): $\{\}$.

Excercise 5: Subset superset relations

- List the proper subset or proper superset relations that hold between the following sets.

- (6)
- $A = \{x \mid x \text{ is a Beatles song written by Paul McCartney}\}$
 - $C = \{x \mid x \text{ is a Beatles song written by Ringo Starr}\}$
 - $D = \{\text{Let it be, Maxwell's Silver Hammer, Hey Jude}\}$
 - $F = \{\}$

$D \subset A, A \supset D$ (D exclusively contains songs written by Paul McCartney)

$F \subset A, A \supset F$ (the empty set is subset of every set)

$F \subset C, C \supset F$ (Ringo Starr actually wrote songs, hence $F \neq C$)

$F \subset D, D \supset F$ (the empty set is subset of every set)