

Simple properties of subsets

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As usual, will use the symbol \subset understanding that when $U \subset V$, we admit the possibility of $U = V$.

In this short worksheet we will be working on subsets of a set X . Given $A \subset X$ we write

$$A^c = \{x \in X : x \notin A\}$$

to denote the complement of A .

- (a) Show that $(A^c)^c = A$.
- (b) Show that $A \subset B$ if and only if $B^c \subset A^c$.
- (c) Let I be any set of indices and let $A_\alpha \subset X$, $\alpha \in I$. Show that

$$\left(\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha \right)^c = \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha^c$$

and

$$\left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha \right)^c = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha^c.$$

These two equalities are known as DeMorgan's Laws.

- (d) Let I be any set of indices and let $A_\alpha \subset X$, $\alpha \in I$ and $B \subset X$. Show that

$$\left(\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha \right) \cap B = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} (A_\alpha \cap B)$$

and

$$\left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha \right) \cup B = \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} (A_\alpha \cup B).$$

These two equalities are called the distributive laws.