

**Review on basic mathematical notations and concepts**

1. Set: a collection of objects, enclosed by  $\{ \}$ . e.g.  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .
2.  $\mathbb{N}$ : the set of all positive integers:  $1, 2, 3, \dots$
3.  $\mathbb{Z}$ : the set of all integers:  $0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$
4.  $\mathbb{Q}$ : the set of all rational numbers:  $\frac{m}{n}$
5.  $\mathbb{R}$ : the set of all real numbers.
6.  $\mathbb{C}$ : the set of all complex numbers.
7.  $a \in A$ : object “ $a$ ” belongs to set “ $A$ ”, e.g.  $1 \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\pi \in \mathbb{R}$ .
8.  $a \notin A$ : object “ $a$ ” does not belong to set “ $A$ ”, e.g.  $-1 \notin \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\pi \notin \mathbb{Q}$ .
9.  $\{a \in A : \text{statements}\}$ : the set collecting all those objects  $a$  (from the set  $A$ ) satisfying all the statements.
10.  $A \subseteq B$ :  $A$  is a subset of  $B$ , meaning that every object of  $A$  can be found in  $B$ .
11.  $A = B$ : both  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , i.e. containing the same objects.  
(multiple objects count once, so  $\{1, 1, 1, 1, 2\} = \{1, 2\}$ .)
12.  $A \cup B$  ( $A$  union  $B$ ): the set collecting objects belonging to either  $A$  or  $B$  or both.
13.  $A \cap B$  ( $A$  intersect  $B$ ): the set collecting objects belonging to both  $A$  and  $B$ .
14.  $A \setminus B$  ( $A$  complement  $B$ ): the set collecting objects belonging to  $A$ , but not belonging to  $B$ .
15.  $\phi$ : empty set, containing no object.
16.  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ : ordered  $n$ -tuple, a collection of  $n$  objects  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  with ordering specified as listed. So  $(a_1, a_2) \neq (a_2, a_1)$  if  $a_1 \neq a_2$ .
17. associative laws:  $a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$ ,  $a \times (b \times c) = (a \times b) \times c$   
commutative laws:  $a + b = b + a$ ,  $a \times b = b \times a$   
distributive law:  $a \times (b + c) = (a \times b) + (a \times c)$
18.  $\forall$ : For all, for every.
19.  $\exists$ : Exists at least one.
20. s.t.: such that
21.  $a := b$ :  $a$  is defined to be  $b$ .
22.  $p \Rightarrow q$  ( $p$  implies  $q$ ): Claiming the statement: if  $p$  is correct,  $q$  must also be correct.
23.  $p \Leftarrow q$  ( $q$  implies  $p$ ): Claiming the statement: if  $q$  is correct,  $p$  must also be correct.
24.  $p \Leftrightarrow q$  ( $p$  if, and only if,  $q$ , abbreviated as “ $p$  iff  $q$ ”): Means both  $p \Rightarrow q$  and  $q \Rightarrow p$ . Sometimes will say “ $p$  is equivalent to  $q$ ” or “ $p, q$  are equivalent”.