

### Exercise Four: Set Notation, Greek and Hebrew Letters

If  $A = \{\heartsuit, \spadesuit\}$  and  $B = \{\epsilon, \theta\}$ , then

$$A \cup B = \{\heartsuit, \spadesuit, \epsilon, \theta\}$$

$$A \cap B = \emptyset$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A \cap B) = \{\emptyset\}$$

**Theorem 1.** *If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq C$ .*

*Proof.* We assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , and we want to show  $A \subseteq C$ .

Suppose  $x \in A$ . We must show that  $x \in C$  also.

Since  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ .

Similarly, since  $B \subseteq C$ , we also know  $x \in C$ .

But this means  $A \subseteq C$ , as desired. □

**Theorem 2.** *If  $A \subseteq B$ , then  $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$ .*

*Proof.* We assume  $A \subseteq B$ , and we want to show  $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

Suppose  $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ . We must show  $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$  also.

By the definition of power set,  $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  means that  $X$  is a subset of  $A$ .

Since  $X \subseteq A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , the previous theorem tells us that  $X \subseteq B$  also.

Then, using the definition of power set again, this means  $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

Therefore,  $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$ , as desired. □

### Puzzling Power Sets

$$\mathcal{P}(\emptyset) = \{\emptyset\}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\emptyset)) = \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\emptyset))) = \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}, \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}, \{\{\emptyset\}\}\}$$