

# Topic 1:

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## Course Background

(or: Why You're Here, and What You Learned to Get Here)

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## What Is Discrete Math?

### Definition: Discrete Mathematics

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Contrast this with ‘the calculus,’ which was developed by Newton and Leibniz to study objects in motion. As a result:

- ‘The Calculus’ tends to focus on real values
- Discrete Mathematics tends to focus on integer values

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# Sample Discrete Math Topics

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Topics that fall under the umbrella of discrete math include:

- Integral Functions and Relations
- Matrix Operations and Representations
- Sets
- Sequences and Summations
- And everything in CSc 244, and CSc 345, and ...

To understand those, you also need:

- First-Order Logic
- Logical Arguments
- Proof Techniques
- ... and a fair amount of pre-calculus mathematics

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## “But Why Do I Have To Take Discrete Math?”

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Discrete Structures is an ACM/IEEE core curriculum topic

- See:

[https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/education/cs2013\\_web\\_final.pdf](https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/education/cs2013_web_final.pdf)

DM topics underlie much of Computer Science, including:

- **Logic** → Knowledge Representation, Reasoning, Natural Language Processing, Computer Architecture
- **Proof Techniques** → Algorithm Design, Code Verification
- **Relations** → Database Systems, Sorting
- **Functions** → Hashing, Programming Languages
- **Recurrence Relations** → Recursive Algorithm Analysis
- **Probability** → Algorithm Design, Simulation

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# Topics You May Need To Review

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- Mathematical concepts, including, but not limited to:
  - Fractions
  - Rational Numbers
  - Basics of Sets
  - Associative, Commutative, Distributive, and Transitive Laws
  - Properties of Inequalities
  - Summation and Product Notation
  - Integer Division (Modulo, Divides, and Congruences)
  - Even and Odd Integers
  - Logarithms and Exponents

*The Math Review appendix (available from the class web page) can also help you review these topics.*

- Fundamental programming skills in Python or Java  
*We trust that you can review this on your own!*

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## Notations for Sets of Values

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$\mathbb{Z}$	All integers	$\{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$
$\mathbb{Z}^+, \mathbb{N}^+$	All positive integers	$\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
$\mathbb{Z}^*, \mathbb{N}_0$	The non-negative integers	$\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
$\mathbb{Z}^{\text{even}}$	Even integers	$\{\dots, -4, -2, 0, 2, 4, \dots\}$
$\mathbb{Z}^{\text{odd}}$	Odd integers	$\{\dots, -3, -1, 1, 3, \dots\}$
$\mathbb{Q}$	Rational numbers	$a/b, a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0$
$\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$	Irrational Numbers	$\{i \mid i \notin \mathbb{Q}\}$
$\mathbb{R}$	The real values	$\{\mathbb{Q} \cup \overline{\mathbb{Q}}\}$

**Note:** Avoid the term “natural numbers” and the plain  $\mathbb{N}$ .

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# Commutativity

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Assume that  $\blacktriangle$  is a binary operator on a set of values  $S$ .

If  $x \blacktriangle y = y \blacktriangle x$  for any elements  $x$  and  $y$  in  $S$ ,

then  $\blacktriangle$  is a *commutative* operator.

## Example(s):

Addition is commutative on  $\mathbb{R}$ :

Subtraction is not commutative on  $\mathbb{R}$ :

# Associativity

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Assume that  $\blacktriangle$  is a binary operator on a set of values  $S$ .

If  $(x \blacktriangle y) \blacktriangle z = x \blacktriangle (y \blacktriangle z)$  for any  $x, y, z$  in  $S$ ,

then  $\blacktriangle$  is an *associative* operator.

## Example(s):

Multiplication is associative on  $\mathbb{Z}$ :

Subtraction is not associative on  $\mathbb{Z}$ :

## Distributivity (1 / 2)

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Assume that  $\blacktriangle$  and  $\blacksquare$  are binary operators on a set  $S$ , and that  $a, b, c$  are all values of  $S$ .

$\blacktriangle$  is left-distributive over  $\blacksquare$  when  $a \blacktriangle (b \blacksquare c) = (a \blacktriangle b) \blacksquare (a \blacktriangle c)$

$\blacktriangle$  is right-distributive over  $\blacksquare$  when  $(b \blacksquare c) \blacktriangle a = (b \blacktriangle a) \blacksquare (c \blacktriangle a)$

## Distributivity (2 / 2)

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### Example(s):

Multiplication distributes over addition:

This knowledge can help you do larger products by hand:

# Transitivity

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Assume that  $\diamond$  defines a relationship on values from  $S$ .

For any  $x, y, z$  in  $S$ ,  $\diamond$  is *transitive* if whenever  $x \diamond y$  and  $y \diamond z$ , then  $x \diamond z$ .

## Example(s):

“Greater than” is transitive on  $\mathbb{R}$ :

In sports, “defeats” is not transitive on a set of teams:

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# Three Fraction Reminders

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- ① The product of fractions is the ratio of the products of the numerators over the products of the denominators:

$$\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$$

- ② One fraction divided by another equals the product of the numerator fraction and the reciprocal of the denominator:

$$\frac{\frac{a}{b}}{\frac{c}{d}} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{d}{c} = \frac{ad}{bc}$$

- ③ Computing the sum of two fractions requires a common denominator, then we add the numerators:

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{d}{d} + \frac{b}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad}{bd} + \frac{bc}{bd} = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$$

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# Rational and Irrational Numbers (1 / 2)

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## Definition: Rational Number

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## Example(s):

A real number that is not rational is **irrational**.

## Example(s):

# Rational and Irrational Numbers (2 / 2)

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## Example(s):

Express  $0.41\overline{6}$  as a reduced fraction.

# Basic Set Operators (1 / 2)

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1. **Union** ( $\cup$ ):  $A \cup B$  contains all elements of both set  $A$  and set  $B$
2. **Intersection** ( $\cap$ ):  $C \cap D$  contains only the elements present in both sets  $C$  and  $D$
3. **Difference** ( $-$ ):  $E - F$  contains only the elements of set  $E$  that are **not** also in set  $F$

(**Note:** Take out the “not,” and you’ve got a definition for  $\cap$  )

4. **Complement** ( $\bar{\square}$ ): Given a set  $G$ ,  $\bar{G} = \mathcal{U} - G$ , the set of available items. where  $\mathcal{U}$  is the *universe*.

**Note:**  $X - Y = X \cap \bar{Y}$

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# Basic Set Operators (2 / 2)

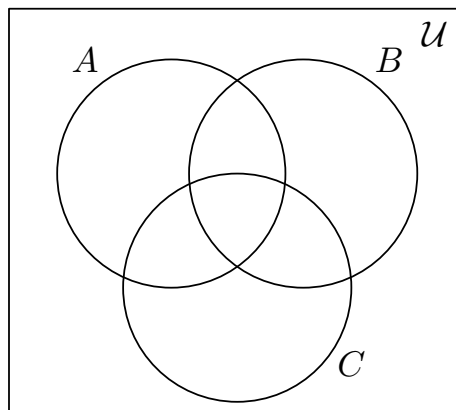
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## Example(s):

$$A = \{1, 2, 4, 9\}$$

$$B = \{0, 2, 6, 8\}$$

$$C = \{2, 4, 7\}$$



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# Summation and Product Notation

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$$\sum_{i=1}^5 2i = 2(1) + 2(2) + 2(3) + 2(4) + 2(5) = 30$$

where:

- $\Sigma$  is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- $i$  is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- $1$  is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- $5$  is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- $2i$  is the \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Summation and Product Notation (cont.)

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Switch  $\Sigma$  to  $\Pi$  (capital Pi) for multiplication:

**Example(s):**

Use parentheses to eliminate confusion:

**Example(s):**

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# Nested Summations and Products

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Much like nested FOR loops.

**Example(s):**



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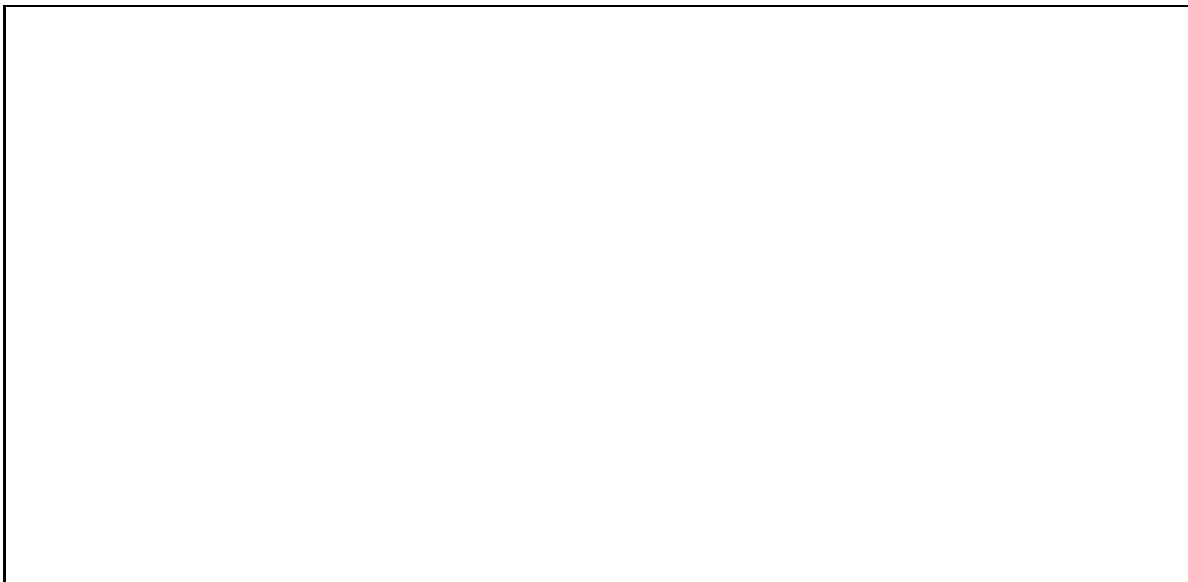
# Modulo and Divides

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Integer Division ( $\backslash$ ) produces quotients;

Modulo ( $\%$ ) produces remainders

**Example(s):**



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# Modulo and Divides (cont.)

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## Definition: Divides

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## Example(s):

# Congruences

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## Definition: Congruent Modulo $m$

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( $b$  is called the *base*,  $r$  is the *residue* or *remainder*, and  $m$  is the *modulus*)

## Example(s):

## Laws of Exponents and Logarithms (1 / 3)

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$$1. w^{x+y} = w^x w^y$$

$$2. (w^x)^y = w^{xy}$$

$$3. v^x w^x = (vw)^x$$

$$4. \frac{w^x}{w^y} = w^{x-y}$$

$$5. \frac{v^x}{w^x} = \left(\frac{v}{w}\right)^x$$

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## Laws of Exponents and Logarithms (2 / 3)

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The connection between exponents and logarithms:

$$\text{If } b^y = x, \text{ then } \log_b x = y.$$

For each of the following laws,  $a, b > 0$  and  $a, b \neq 1$ :

$$1. \log_a x = \frac{\log_b x}{\log_b a}$$

$$2. \text{If } m > n > 0, \text{ then } \log_b m > \log_b n$$

$$3. b^{\log_b x} = x$$

$$4. \log_b(x^y) = y \cdot \log_b x$$

$$5. \log_b(xy) = \log_b x + \log_b y$$

$$6. \log_b\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \log_b x - \log_b y$$

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# Laws of Exponents and Logarithms (3 / 3)

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## Example(s):

Fully evaluate:  $\log_2 (2^3)^5$

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## Remember!

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The math review topics are used in this class, and direct questions about them will be asked on Quiz #1, Quiz # 2, Exam #1, and the Final Exam.

If you are not confident in your knowledge of them:

- Read Appendix A in “Kneel Before  $\mathbb{Z}^{\text{odd}}$ ,”
- Attend TA office hours, **and**
- Review and self-test the topics on your own!

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