

## Oft-used notation of Prof. JLF King

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### Names for sets of numbers

An expression such as  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  (read as “ $k$  is an element of  $\mathbb{N}$ ” or “ $k$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ ”) means that  $k$  is a natural number; a *natnum*.

$\mathbb{N}$  = natural numbers =  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ .

$\mathbb{Z}$  = integers =  $\{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, \dots\}$ . For the set  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  of positive integers, the *posints*, use  $\mathbb{Z}_+$ . Use  $\mathbb{Z}_-$  for the negative integers, the *negints*.

$\mathbb{Q}$  = rational numbers =  $\{\frac{p}{q} \mid p \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } q \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$ . Use  $\mathbb{Q}_+$  for the positive *ratnums* and  $\mathbb{Q}_-$  for the negative ratnums.

$\mathbb{R}$  = reals. The *posreals*  $\mathbb{R}_+$  and the *negreals*  $\mathbb{R}_-$ .

$\mathbb{C}$  = complex numbers, also called the *complexes*.

### Phrases used in proofs

WLOG: ‘Without loss of generality’. TFAE: ‘The following are equivalent’. ITOF: ‘In Terms Of’. OTForm: ‘of the form’. FTSOC: ‘For the sake of contradiction’. Use iff: ‘if and only if’.

IST: ‘It Suffices to’ as in ISTShow, ISTExhibit.

Use w.r.t: ‘with respect to’ and s.t: ‘such that’.

Latin: e.g. *exempli gratia*, ‘for example’. i.e. *id est*, ‘that is’. QED: *quod erat demonstrandum*, meaning “end of proof”.

### Names for Mathematical Objects

Seq: ‘sequence’. poly(s): ‘polynomial(s)’. irred: ‘irreducible’. Coeff: ‘coefficient’ and var(s): ‘variable(s)’ and parm(s): ‘parameter(s)’. Expr.: ‘expression’. Col: ‘Constant of Integration’. Lol: ‘Limit(s) of Integration’.

Fnc: ‘function’ (so ratfnc: means rational function, a ratio of polynomials). cty: ‘continuity’. cts: ‘continuous’. diff’able: ‘differentiable’.

Soln: ‘Solution’. Thm: ‘Theorem’. Prop’n: ‘Proposition’. CEX: ‘Counterexample’. eqn: ‘equation’. RhS: ‘RightHand Side’ of an eqn or inequality. LhS: ‘left-hand side’. Sqrt or Sroot: ‘square-root’, e.g. “the sroot of 16 is 4”. Ptn: ‘partition’, *but* pt: ‘point’, as in “a fixed-pt of a map”.

FTC: ‘Fund. Thm of Calculus’. IVT: ‘intermediate-Value Thm’. MVT: ‘Mean-Value Thm’. CoV: ‘Change-of-Variable’.

**Prefixes:** Use nv- for ‘non-void’, e.g. “the cartesian product of two nv-sets is non-void”. Use nt- for ‘non-trivial’, e.g. “the (positive) nt-divisors of 14 are 2, 7, 14, whereas the *proper* divisors are 1, 2, 7”.

### Operations on Sets

Use  $\in$  for “is an element of”. E.g. letting  $\mathbb{P}$  be the set of primes, then,  $5 \in \mathbb{P}$  yet  $6 \notin \mathbb{P}$ . Changing the emphasis,  $\mathbb{P} \ni 5$  (“ $\mathbb{P}$  owns 5”) yet  $\mathbb{P} \not\ni 6$ .

For subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of the same space,  $\Omega$ , the *inclusion relation*  $A \subset B$  means:

$$\forall \omega \in A, \text{ necessarily } \omega \in B.$$

And this can be written  $B \supset A$ . Use  $A \subsetneq B$  for *proper* inclusion, i.e.  $A \subset B$  yet  $A \neq B$ .

The *difference set*  $B \setminus A$  is  $\{\omega \in B \mid \omega \notin A\}$ . Employ  $A^c$  for the *complement*  $\Omega \setminus A$ . Use  $A \Delta B$  for *symmetric difference*  $[A \setminus B] \cup [B \setminus A]$ . Furthermore

$A \cap B$ ,	Sets $A$ & $B$ have <i>at least one</i> point in common; they intersect.
$A \cap B$ ,	The sets have <i>no</i> common point; disjoint.

The symbol “ $A \cap B$ ” both asserts intersection and represents the set  $A \cap B$ . For a collection  $\mathcal{C} = \{E_j\}_j$  of sets in  $\Omega$ , let the *disjoint union*  $\bigsqcup_j E_j$  or  $\bigsqcup(\mathcal{C})$  represent the union  $\bigcup_j E_j$  and also assert that the sets are pairwise disjoint.

If there is a *measure* on the space then

$A \overset{\text{a.e.}}{\cap} B$ ,	means their intersection is a nullset; it is empty a.e. (i.e. <i>almost everywhere</i> )
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In contrast,  $A \overset{\text{a.e.}}{\cap} B$  means that the sets intersect in positive mass.

### Linear Algebra

In a real vectorspace  $\mathbf{V}$ , say that

$$\dagger: \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \mathbf{v}_j \quad (\text{with each } \alpha_j \in \mathbb{R})$$

is a *linear combination* (*lin.comb*) of vectors (points)  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$ . If, further, these scalars satisfy

$$\ddagger: \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_N = 1,$$

then we call  $(\dagger)$  a **weighted average** of the points. Finally, if  $(\ddagger)$  and each  $\alpha_j \geq 0$ , then we call  $(\dagger)$  a **convex average** of the points.

Given a set  $S \subset \mathbf{V}$  of points, we define three super-sets

$$\text{Spn}(S) \supset \text{AffSpn}(S) \supset \text{Hull}(S).$$

The **span** is the set of all lin.combs  $(\dagger)$ , as  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N\}$  ranges over *all finite* subsets of  $S$ . The **affine span** is the set of all  $(\dagger)$  satisfying  $(\ddagger)$ , whereas the **hull** is the smaller set of all convex averages. Thus  $\text{Spn}(S)$  is the smallest *subspace* (that includes  $S$ ) whereas  $\text{AffSpn}(S)$  is the smallest *affine-space* and  $\text{Hull}(S)$  is the smallest *convex set*.

A point  $\mathbf{w} \in C$  is an “**extreme point** of a convex set  $C$ ” if: *Whenever we write  $\mathbf{w} = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2$  as a convex average (of points  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in C$ ), then necessarily  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{w}$ .* A non-void set  $C \subset \mathbf{V}$  is an  $N$ -dimensional **simplex** (an “ $N$ -simplex”) if we can write it as

$$C = \text{Hull}(\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_{N+1})$$

where no  $\mathbf{w}_j$  is in the affine-span of the others. Equivalently,  $C$  has precisely  $N+1$  extreme-pts, and  $\text{Dim}(C) = N$ .

## Polynomials

Use **poly** for “polynomial”. An integer-coefficient poly is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -poly or an **intpoly**. With rational coeffs, it is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -poly or **ratpoly**. An  $\mathbf{F}$ -poly has its coeffs come from a *field*  $\mathbf{F}$ . (A commutative ring is ok too).

The poly **zip** has all of its coefficients zero. Say that a poly is **5-topped** if its degree is *strictly* less than 5. Over a field  $\mathbf{F}$ , the set of (single variable)  $N$ -topped polys forms an  $N$ -dimensional *vectorspace*.

## Counting

For a natnum  $n$ , use “ $n!$ ” to mean “ $n$  **factorial**”; the product of all positive-integers less-equal  $n$ . So  $3! = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 6$  and  $5! = 120$ . Also  $0! = 1$  and  $1! = 1$ .

The **binomial coefficient**  $\binom{7}{3}$ , read “7 choose 3”, means *the number of ways of choosing 3 objects from 7 distinguishable objects*. If we think of putting these objects in our left pocket, and putting the remaining

4 things in our right pocket, then we write the coefficient as  $\binom{7}{3,4}$ . [Read as “7 choose 3-comma-4.”] Note that  $\binom{7}{0} = \binom{7}{0,7} = 1$ . Also note this identity:

$$[x + y]^N = \sum_{j+k=N} \binom{N}{j,k} \cdot x^j y^k,$$

where  $(j, k)$  ranges over all *ordered* pairs of natural numbers with sum  $N$ .

In general, for natnums  $N = K_1 + \dots + K_L$ , the **multinomial coefficient**  $\binom{N}{K_1, K_2, \dots, K_L}$  means the number of ways of partitioning  $N$  different things, by putting  $K_1$  of them in pocket 1 and  $K_2$  of them in pocket 2, and so on. Easily

$$\binom{N}{K_1, K_2, \dots, K_L} = \frac{N!}{K_1! \cdot K_2! \cdot \dots \cdot K_L!}.$$

And  $[x_1 + \dots + x_L]^N$  indeed equals the sum of

$$\binom{N}{K_1, \dots, K_L} \cdot x_1^{K_1} \cdot x_2^{K_2} \cdot \dots \cdot x_L^{K_L},$$

taken over all natnum-tuples  $\vec{K} = (K_1, \dots, K_L)$  that sum to  $N$ .

Let “50 **placed into 3 types**” (or just “50 into 3 types”) denote the number of ways of choosing 50 individual candies from 3 distinct types of candy. Write it  $\left\lfloor \begin{smallmatrix} 50 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix} \right\rfloor$ . For  $N, T \in \mathbb{N}$ , use  $\left\lfloor \begin{smallmatrix} N \\ T \end{smallmatrix} \right\rfloor$  for “ $N$  (objects) into  $T$ -types”, the number of ways of filling  $T$  distinct types with  $N$  objects total. So  $\left\lfloor \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ T \end{smallmatrix} \right\rfloor = 1$  for each natnum  $T$ . And  $\left\lfloor \begin{smallmatrix} N \\ 0 \end{smallmatrix} \right\rfloor = 0$  for each *posint*  $N$ . Furthermore

$$\forall T \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \quad \cdot \quad \left\lfloor \begin{smallmatrix} N \\ T \end{smallmatrix} \right\rfloor = \binom{N + T - 1}{N, T - 1} = \left\lfloor \begin{smallmatrix} T - 1 \\ N + 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right\rfloor.$$

This, since  $\binom{N+T-1}{N, T-1} = \binom{T-1 + [N+1]-1}{T-1, [N+1]-1}$ .

## Number Theory

Use  $\equiv_N$  to mean “congruent mod  $N$ ”. Let  $n \perp k$  mean that  $n$  and  $k$  are co-prime. Use  $k \spadesuit n$  for “ $k$  divides  $n$ ”. Its negation  $k \not\spadesuit n$  means “ $k$  does not divide  $n$ .” Use  $n \spadesuit k$  and  $n \not\spadesuit k$  for “ $n$  is/is-not a multiple of  $k$ .” Finally, for  $p$  a prime and  $E$  a natnum: Use double-verticals,  $p^E \spadesuit n$ , to mean that  $E$  is the **highest** power of  $p$  which divides  $n$ . Or write  $n \spadesuit p^E$  to emphasize that this is an assertion about  $n$ . Use **PoT** for Power of Two and **PoP** for Power of (a) Prime.

A natnum  $N$  is a **SOTS**, Sum Of Two Squares, if there are integers for which  $\ell^2 + k^2 = N$ . If there exists such a pair with  $\ell \perp k$ , then  $N$  is **coprime-SOTS**. (E.g, 25 has a non-coprime rep as  $5^2 + 0^2$ ; nonetheless, 25 *is* coprime-SOTS, since  $25 = 3^2 + 4^2$ . OTOHand, both  $4 = 0^2 + 2^2$  and  $40 = 2^2 + 6^2$  have these unique SOTS reps, so neither is coprime-SOTS.) An odd integer  $L$  is **4Neg** if  $L \equiv_4 -1$  and is **4Pos** if  $L \equiv_4 +1$ . Fermat's Prime-SOTS Thm says: *Oddprime  $p$  is SOTS iff  $p$  is 4Pos.*

Mod  $N$ , a **rono** is a (square-)Root Of Negative One; an integer  $I$  such that  $I^2 \equiv_N -1$ .

Use **CRT** for the Chinese Remainder Thm.

For  $N$  a posint, use  $\Phi(N)$  or  $\Phi_N$  for the set  $\{r \in [1..N] \mid r \perp N\}$ . The cardinality  $\varphi(N) := |\Phi_N|$  is the **Euler phi function**. (So  $\varphi(N)$  is the cardinality of the multiplicative group,  $\Phi_N$ , in the  $\mathbb{Z}_N$  ring.) Use **EFT** for the Euler-Fermat Thm, which says: *Suppose that integers  $b \perp N$ , with  $N$  positive. Then  $b^{\varphi(N)} \equiv_N 1$ .*

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