

2. SET ALGEBRA

| Usual algebra | Set algebra |
|---------------|--|
| $x \leq y$ | $X \subseteq Y$, X a <i>subset</i> of Y : elements of X are elements of Y |
| $x + y$ | $X \cup Y := \{a \mid a \in X \text{ or } a \in Y\}$, <i>union</i> |
| $x \cdot y$ | $X \cap Y := \{a \mid a \in X \text{ and } a \in Y\}$, <i>intersection</i> |
| $x - y$ | $X \setminus Y := \{a \mid a \in X \text{ but } a \notin Y\}$, <i>relative complement</i> |
| $-y$ | $\sim Y = \neg Y = \bar{Y} := \{a \in U \mid a \notin Y\}$, (<i>absolute</i>) <i>complement</i> |
| 2^y | $\mathcal{P}(Y) = 2^Y := \{X \mid X \subseteq Y\}$, <i>power set</i> |

Set Y has *trivial* subset \emptyset and *improper* subset Y .
Write $X \subset Y$ when X is a *proper* subset of Y .

U is the “*universe (of discourse)*”,
the set of all elements under consideration (e.g., \mathbb{R})

Note $|2^Y| = 2^{|Y|}$ for finite Y .