

# The Axioms of Replacement, Choice, and Foundation

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To remember: If  $F(x)$  is a class function and  $A$  is a set, then  $F(A)$  (the image of  $A$  under  $F$ ) is a set.

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Bertrand Russell highlighted the nonconstructive nature of this axiom when he wrote:

*The Axiom of Choice is necessary to select a set from an infinite number of pairs of socks, but not an infinite number of pairs of shoes.*

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An enumeration of  $\{a, b, c\}$  is a bijection  $e: 3 \rightarrow \{a, b, c\}$ . An enumeration of the set of prime numbers is  $p: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Primes}: n \mapsto p_n = n\text{th prime}$ .

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The previous theorem asserts that every set can be enumerated by an ordinal number. This kind of enumeration allows us to examine the elements of a set one at a time.

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If  $A$  is a nonempty set, then there is an  $x \in A$  such that  $x$  and  $A$  are disjoint.  $x$  is called an  $\in$ -minimal (epsilon-minimal) element of  $A$ .

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