

### ON THE CLOSURE OF THE NULL SET

3.  $\emptyset$  IS TRIVIAALLY CLOSED UNDER ALL OPERATIONS, EXCEPT FOR 0-ARY OPERATIONS. WHY?

Let  $g$  be an arbitrary  $n$ -ary operation  $g : A^n \rightarrow A$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .  $B$  is closed with respect to  $g$  iff  $\forall x_1 \dots x_n [ x_i \in B \rightarrow g(x_1 \dots x_n) \in B ]$ . Notice that, in the case of  $\emptyset$ , the formula  $\forall x_1 \dots x_n [ x_i \in \emptyset \rightarrow g(x_1 \dots x_n) \in \emptyset ]$  is trivially true, since  $\emptyset$  has no members whatsoever.

We need something else for 0-ary operations. Let  $f$  be any 0-ary operation:  $\{\emptyset\}$  to  $A$ .  $\emptyset$  is closed under  $f$  iff  $\exists x [ f = \{ \langle \emptyset, x \rangle \} \ \& \ x \in \emptyset ]$ . Since  $\sim \exists x [ x \in \emptyset ]$ ,  $\emptyset$  is not closed under any 0-ary operation.