

To show: $\langle x, y \rangle = \langle z, w \rangle \Leftrightarrow x = z \text{ \& \; } y = w$

The direction \Leftarrow is easy, we did it in class.

\Rightarrow) Assume $\langle x, y \rangle = \langle z, w \rangle$, That is, $\{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\} = \{\{z\}, \{z, w\}\}$

Case 1 $\{x\} = \{x, y\}$. Then by extension $\{x\} = \{x, y\} = \{z\} = \{z, w\}$,

so (by extension again) $x = y = z = w$.

Case 2 $\{x\} \neq \{x, y\}$. Note (by extension) $\{z\} \neq \{z, w\}$, so $x \neq y$, $z \neq w$.

By extension either $\{x\} = \{z\}$ or $\{x\} = \{z, w\}$. However, if

$\{x\} = \{z, w\}$ then $z = x = w$, but since $z \neq w$ we must have $\{x\} = \{z\}$,

so $x = z$. By extension $\{x, y\} = \{z, w\}$, and since $y \neq x = z$, $y = w$.

In either case, $x = z$ and $y = w$.