

Here are four notes  
that you want to call  
a set. Step 1 = rotate  
them within an ascending  
octave

Here's the  
first rotation

Here's the  
second rotation

Here's the third  
rotation

Here's the  
fourth  
rotation



Next, you look for the  
rotation that includes the  
notes in the SMALLEST  
interval. The winner is the  
first rotation.

So our pitch-class set is F, G, G-sharp, A. Half of the pitch-  
class sets in the universe read right-to-left (with most half-steps  
bunched to the right); half of the pitch-class sets in the universe  
read left-to-right (with most half-steps bunched to the left).



This is pitch-class set {5,7,8,9}; it belongs to set class [0,1,2,4].

Since the half-steps are bunched to the right, we read right to left. Thus the 0 enclosed in strong  
brackets means "I start counting half steps from the A"; there's a half-step to G-sharp, thus [0,1....  
there's another half-step from G-sharp to G-natural, thus [0,1,2..... And there's a whole step from  
G-natural to F natural, thus [0,1,2,4].

When referring to sets, ALWAYS use sentences like this: Pitch-class set (x) that belongs  
to set class (y) is way cool for the following reasons: (a), (b), (c)....