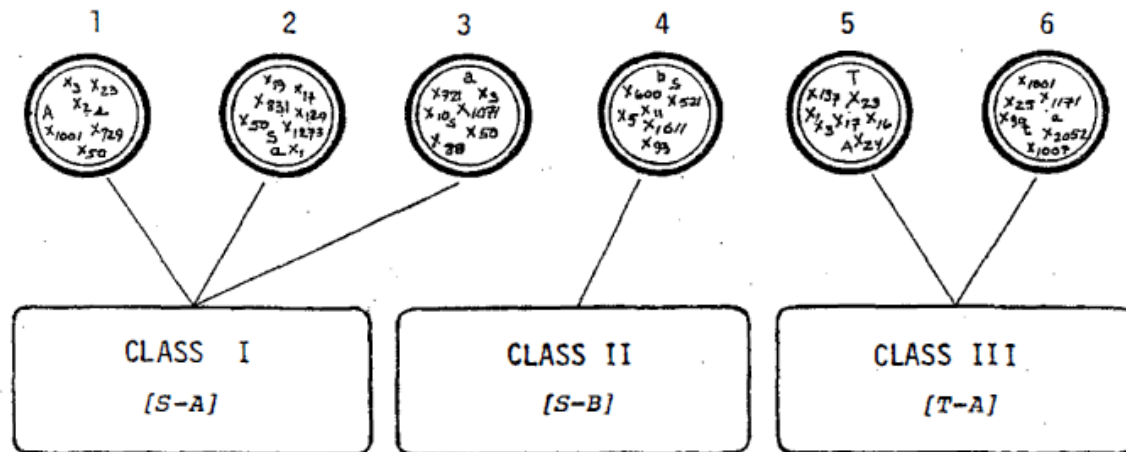


Features of Classification

All classifications share certain properties that contrast with those of other sorts of arrangement such as grouping. Some of these features are illustrated below.



Depicted is the “confrontation” of a classification that contains at least three classes with six empirical instances (ie, things). The classes are represented by the labelled boxes; the instances by the double line circles. The lines connecting boxes and circles represent the act of identification, such that Instances 1, 2, and 3 are cases of Class I, i.e., constitute the members or denotata of Class I on this page, etc.

The letters interior to the circles represent attributes of the instances. Obviously this is a schematic representation as an indefinitely large number of attributes might be discriminated.

Instances 1, 2, and 3 are members of Class I, Instance 4 a member of Class II and Instances 5 and 6 members of Class III because they display attributes which are members of the attribute classes that constitute the significata of Classes I, II, and III respectively.

The meaning of Class I is S-A because attributes S and A are the only properties that Class I things necessarily have in common. Note: Instances 1, 2, and 3 have an indefinite number of other properties, some which we might use to *describe* the denotata of Class I.

Note further that in addition to the named classes, two other sets of classes are necessarily involved in the operation diagrammed above. We have to identify particular properties with the attribute classes S, T, A, B, etc. And, we have to identify the instances (i.e., double circles have to be identified) and this class constitutes the root of the classification being used above