

What is a set?

A set is a collection of "elements", "numbers", "items"

- Must be distinct elements (no repeats)
- Example would be $\{3, 1, 2, 3\} = \{2, 1, 3\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$
- $\{\dots\}$ is a notation used to REFER to a set

Take the set $\{3, 1, 2, 3\}$ we can denote the "size" or "cardinality" as

$$|\{3, 1, 2, 3\}| = |\{1, 2, 3\}| = 3$$

Suppose $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ then $1 \leq |\{x, y, x + y\}| \leq 3$ since x, y are not necessarily unique values. Therefore, if $x = 0, y = 0$ then size of the set is 1. If $x = 0, y = 1$ then size is 2, and if $x = 1, y = 2$, size is 3.

EXAMPLES:

$$\begin{aligned} |\{2, 3, 1\}| &= 3 \\ |\{\}| &= |\emptyset| = 0 \\ |\{\mathbb{R}\}| &= \infty \\ |\{165, \text{dog}, :\})| &= 3 \\ |\{\{2, 3, 1\}, \text{dog}, :), 165\}| &= 4 \\ |\{\emptyset\}| &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Note that size of a finite set is always a natural number so $|s| \in \mathbb{N}$

We use the notation $e \in S$: to say e is an ELEMENT of S

EXAMPLES:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{\{a, b\}, c, \{d, e, f\}\} \\ \{a, b\} &\in A \\ c &\in A \end{aligned}$$

We use the notation $B \subseteq C$: to say B is an SUBSET of C $e \in B$ then $e \in C$ where B, C can be equal.

We use the notation $B \subset C$: to say B is an SUBSET of C $e \in B$ then $e \in C$ where B, C cannot be equal.

EXAMPLES:

$$A = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$\emptyset \subset A$$

$$\{a\}$$

$$\{b\}$$

$$\{c\}$$

$$\{ab\}$$

$$\{ac\}$$

$$\{bc\}$$

$$\{a, b, c\}$$

Note: For every set S , $\emptyset \subseteq S$ and therefore $\emptyset \subseteq \emptyset$