

## planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

## example of universe

Canonical name ExampleOfUniverse Date of creation 2013-03-22 14:09:06 Last modified on 2013-03-22 14:09:06

Owner rspuzio (6075) Last modified by rspuzio (6075)

Numerical id 8

Author rspuzio (6075)
Entry type Example
Classification msc 18A15
Classification msc 03E30

Related topic CumulativeHierarchy

The simplest example of a universe consists of all sets gotten by starting with the empty set and repeatedly aggregating sets already known to lie in the universe. That is to say, starting with  $\emptyset$ , we first form  $\{\emptyset\}$ . Given these two elements of our universe, we can then form  $\{\{\emptyset\}\}\}$  and  $\{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}\}$ . Given these four elements, we then can form  $\{\{\{\emptyset\}\}\}\}$ ,  $\{\{\emptyset, \{\{\emptyset\}\}\}\}\}$  and several other sets. We can repeat this process to obtain an infinite collection of finite sets.

The set considered here also happens to be the set  $V_{\omega}$  in the cumulative hierarchy.