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॥ अगपति वाप्सा मोरया ॥

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3. set (HashSet)

↳ It is a collection that stores unique elements only.

Properties of Set :-

1. No duplicates
2. No indexing
3. Unordered
4. Very fast lookup
5. Mutable

Use a Set when you require:

1. uniqueness
2. fast membership check
3. removing duplicates.

s = set()

creating an empty set

s = {1, 2, 3}

creating set with values

Imp: s = {}

this creates a dictionary, not a set

Example: Duplicates removed automatically.

s = {1, 2, 2, 3, 1}
print(s)

Output: {1, 2, 3}

- Add element

s.add(5)

adds element
does nothing if already present

Output : {1, 2, 3, 5}

- Remove element

s.remove(2)

if element is not present → ERROR

instead use,

s.discard(2)

no error if element is missing.

Output : {1, 3, 5}

- Membership Check

x in s

Example:

if 5 in s:

print("Present")

O(1) average case

- Loop through set

```
for val in s:  
    print(val)
```

usage of sets in DSA.

1. Duplicate Detection

arr = [1, 2, 3, 4, 2]

seen = set()

for num in arr:

if num in seen:

print("Duplicate found")

seen.add(num)

print("Non-duplicates: ", seen)

O/p: Duplicate found

Non-duplicates: {1, 2, 3}

2. Remove Duplicates

arr = [1, 1, 2, 3, 2]

unique = list(set(arr))

print(unique)

O/p: [1, 2, 3]

3. Visited Array in Graphs

```
visited = set()
```

```
def dfs(node):  
    if node in visited:  
        return  
    visited.add(node)
```

```
print(visited)
```

} DFS Logic

4. Cycle Detection

Used in :

- graphs
- linked list problems
- duplicate detection

Imp: Sets are unordered.

Elements must be immutable.

A python set is a hash-based collection of unique elements that provides $O(1)$ average time for insertion, deletion and lookup.