



## Why

We want to talk about several objects in order.

## Definition

A *list* (or *finite sequence*, *string*, *n-tuple*) is a family (correspondence) whose index set is  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  for  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ . The *length* (or *size*) of a list is the size of its index set,  $n$ . When the codomain of the sequence is a set  $A$ , we say that the sequence is *in*  $A$  or that it is a sequence *of* elements of  $A$ .

We refer to a result of the sequence a *terms* (*entries*, *components*, *elements*<sup>1</sup> )

## Notation

Since the natural numbers are ordered, we regularly denote finite sequences from left to right between parentheses. For example, we denote  $a : \{1, \dots, 4\} \rightarrow A$  by  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)$ .  $a(k)$  is the  $k$ th term. Following the convention with functions, we regularly usually denote  $a(n)$  by  $a_n$

## Orderings and numberings

Let  $A$  be a set with  $|A| = n$ . A sequence  $a : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow A$  is an *ordering* of  $A$  if  $a$  is invertible. In this case, we call the inverse a *numbering* of  $A$ . An ordering associates with each number a unique object and a numbering associates with each

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<sup>1</sup>We avoid this terminology because it conflicts with sets.

object a unique number (the object's *index*).

### Relation to Direct Products

A *natural direct product* is a product of a sequence of sets. We denote the direct product of a sequence of sets  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  by  $\prod_{i=1}^n A_i$ . If each  $A_i$  is the same set  $A$ , then we denote the product  $\prod_{i=1}^n A_i$  by  $A^n$ . The set of sequences in a set  $A$  is the direct product  $A^n$ .

### Natural unions and intersections

We denote the family union of the finite sequence of sets  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  by  $\cup_{i=1}^n A_i$ . Similarly, we denote the intersection by  $\cap_{i=1}^n A_i$ .

### Slices

An *index range* for a list  $s$  of length  $n$  is a pair  $(i, j)$  for which  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ . The *slice* corresponding to the index range  $(i, j)$  is the length  $j - i$  sequence  $s'$  defined by  $s'_1 = s_i$ ,  $s'_2 = s_{i+1}, \dots, s'_j = s_{i+j-1}$ . We denote the  $(i, j)$ -slice of  $s$  by  $s_{i:j}$ . If  $i = 1$  we use  $s_{:j}$  and if  $j = n$  we use  $s_{i:}$  as shorthands for the slices  $s_{1:j}$  and  $s_i : n$ .

