



Definition

Let Σ be a finite set (alphabet). A *formal language* (or *language*) is a subset of finite-length strings of elements of Σ .

Examples

Let $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$. Then \emptyset is a language, as are the sets $\{0, 1\}$ and $\{01, 001, 111, 1101010\}$.

Notation

We denote the finite strings of Σ by $\text{str}(\Sigma)$. Other common notation is Σ^* , which we avoid in these sheets for its collision with adjoints.

