



## NUMBER OF ELEMENTS

### Why

We want to count the number of elements in a set.<sup>1</sup>

### Defining Result

**Proposition 1.** *A set can be equivalent to at most one natural number.*

The *number* of a finite set is the unique natural number equivalent to it. We also call this the *size* of the set.

### Notation

We denote the number of a set by  $|A|$ .

### Restriction to a finite set

If we restrict the function  $E \mapsto |E|$  to the domain  $X^*$  of some set  $X$  then  $|\cdot| : X^* \rightarrow \omega$  is a function.

### Properties

**Proposition 2.**  $A \subset B \longrightarrow |A| \leq |B|$

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<sup>1</sup>In future editions, this sheet will likely be called “Set numbers”.



