



Definition

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

Examples

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

Notation

We denote the finite strings of S by $\mathcal{S}(S)$. Other common notation is S^* .

