

First, let us state a special product rule:

$$|X \times Y| = |X| \cdot |Y|.$$

Here $X \times Y$, the *Cartesian product* of X and Y , denotes the set of ordered pairs (x, y) with $x \in X$, $y \in Y$.

The elements of $X \times Y$ can be written in a table whose rows correspond to the elements of X , and the columns correspond to the elements of Y . This justifies the product rule.

Again, there is an extension to several sets:

$$|X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n| = |X_1| \cdots |X_n|.$$