## Is $\{\emptyset\}$ an empty set?

Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Bragança, Portugal

### Set

A collection of objects known as elements is called set. An element can be almost anything, such as numbers, functions, or lines. A set can be finite or infinite as well.

#### Example

- **1**  $A = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$  is an example of finite set.
- The elements of set is not only limited to numbers, the elements of set can be anything,
  - $B = \{cow, donkey, rat, horse\}$  is also a valid set.
- Sets can also be written in set builder notation. Like  $A = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \ge 4 \text{ and } x \le 10\}$  which is same as  $A = \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$

## Properties of Set

#### **Properties**

- Order of elements in a set doesn't matter.
- ② If one or many elements of a set are repeated, the set remains the same.
  - For example  $\{1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3\}$  is same as just  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ .
- 3 Two sets are considered equal if and only if every element of each set is an element of the other.

Symbol  $\in$  is used to to denote a element belongs to a set. For example :  $X = \{a, e, i, o, u\}$  Then,  $a \in X$  but  $b \notin X$  or  $\{a\} \notin X$ .

## Some important sets

Some important Sets

Symbol	Name
$\mathbb{Z}$	The set of Integers.
N	The set of Natural numbers.
$\mathbb{Q}$	The set of Rational numbers.
$\mathbb{R}$	The set of Real numbers.
$\mathbb{C}$	The set of Complex numbers.

- Empty set is a set without any elements, represented by  $\{\}$  or  $\emptyset$ .
- A set with only one element is called a singleton set. For example  $X = \{a\}$ .

# So, Is $\{\emptyset\}$ an empty set?

**NO**,  $\{\emptyset\}$  is not an empty set and is a singleton set (it has element  $\emptyset$  in it). Empty set is indicated by  $\{\}$  or  $\emptyset$ .