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# Chapter 1

## Basic Utilities

### 1.1 compatibility – Keep compatibility between Python versions

This module should be simply imported:

```
import nzmeth.compatibility
```

then it will do its tasks.

#### 1.1.1 set, frozenset

The module provides `set` for Python 2.3. Python  $\geq 2.4$  have `set` in built-in namespace, while Python 2.3 has `sets` module and `sets.Set`. The `set` the module provides for Python 2.3 is the `sets.Set`. Similarly, `sets.ImmutableSet` would be assigned to `frozenset`. Be careful that the compatibility is not perfect. Note also that `NZMATH`'s recommendation is Python 2.5 or higher in 2.x series.

#### 1.1.2 card(virtualset)

Return cardinality of the virtualset.

The built-in `len()` raises `OverflowError` when the result is greater than `sys.maxint`. It is not clear this restriction will go away in the future. The function `card()` ought to be used instead of `len()` for obtaining cardinality of sets or set-like objects in `nzmeth`.

# Bibliography