

# A set contains unique, unordered objects

- A Set is a container data type, like a List
- Duplicate objects are not allowed in a Set
  - Adding the same object more than once is *idempotent*, meaning it has no effect.
- Objects do not have a specific ordering in the Set
  - An object is either a member of the set or it isn't
  - At times objects may appear ordered, but you cannot assume this!
- Sets are *mutable* objects, like Lists
  - You can add and remove objects from a Set
- Testing membership in a Set significantly more efficient than in a List

	Object <sub>c</sub>	
Object <sub>b</sub>	]	
	Object <sub>a</sub>	
	Set	

## Constructing a set

The Set type is defined in the typing package
from typing import Set

Set Literal Notation surrounds objects in curly braces
 names: Set[str] = {"Cardi B", "Lil Jon", "Steve Carell"}

 The set function constructs a Set from an iterable colors: Set[str] = set(["red", "green", "blue"])
 odds: Set[int] = set(range(1, 10, 2))



# Fundamental Operations on a set

• Objects can be **add**ed to a set

```
names: Set[str] = {"Cardi B", "Lil Jon", "Steve Carell"}
names.add("Kaki")
```

- Objects can be removed from a set colors: Set[str] = set(["red", "green", "blue"]) colors.remove("red")
- Test whether an object is in a set odds: Set[int] = set(range(1, 10, 2))
   1 in odds # Evaluates to True
   2 in odds # Evaluates to False

# Set Operations

- The Set data structure is inspired by its namesake in discrete math
- Often taught and visualized in terms of Venn diagrams
- Common set operations:
  - 1. Union
  - 2. Intersection
  - 3. Difference



#### Union

• The union method returns a new set with every object included from its operands

odds: Set[int] = set(range(1, 10, 2))
evens: Set[int] = set(range(0, 10, 2))
odds.union(evens) # Evaluates to {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}
evens.union(odds) # Evaluates to {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}

• Python's set type also *overloads* the operator to result in union:

odds evens # Evaluates to {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}

#### Intersection

The intersection method returns a set of only the objects shared by both of its operands

one\_to\_seven: Set[int] = set(range(1, 8))
five\_to\_ten: Set[int] = set(range(5, 11))
one\_to\_seven.intersection(five\_to\_ten) # Evaluates to {5, 6, 7}

• Python's set type also *overloads* the *&* operator to result in intersection:

one\_to\_seven & five\_to\_ten # Evalutes to {5, 6, 7}

## Difference

 The difference method returns a set of the left-hand set's objects excluding any in the right-hand set's

one\_to\_seven: Set[int] = set(range(1, 8))
five\_to\_ten: Set[int] = set(range(5, 11))
one\_to\_seven.difference(five\_to\_ten) # Evaluates to {1, 2, 3, 4}
five\_to\_ten.difference(one\_to\_seven) # Evaluates to {8, 9, 10}

• Python's set type also *overloads* the – operator to result in difference:

one\_to\_seven - five\_to\_ten # Evalutes to {5, 6, 7}
five\_to\_ten - one\_to\_seven # Evalutes to {5, 6, 7}

## **Boolean Relationships between Sets**

• issubset - are each of set\_a's members in set\_b?

- Method: set\_a.issubset(set\_b)
- Operator overload: set\_a <= set\_b</li>
- issuperset are each of set\_b's members in set\_a?
  - Method: set\_a.issuperset(set\_b)
  - Operator overload: set\_a >= set\_b

isdisjoint - do set\_a and set\_b share no objects in common?
 Method: set\_a.isdisjoint(set\_b)