

Conventions Concerning Letters and Symbols

s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z	Small letters at the end of the alphabet are commonly used to represent unknown variables.
a, b, c, d	Small letters at the front of the alphabet are commonly used to represent unknown constants.
i, j, k, m, n	Small letters in the middle of the alphabet are commonly used to represent indexes of variables in the form x_i and y_i . The small letter "l" is usually not used because it confused with the number "1."
A, B, C, D, E	Capital letters at the beginning of the alphabet are common used to represent sets.
π = circumference λ = wave length μ = mean of population σ = sd of population	Small Greek letters are commonly used to represent known constants or special variables.
Σ = summation Δ = change or difference	Capital Greek letters are commonly used to represent mathematical operations. You can think of them as "mathematical verbs"