

9. Relations

Relations are discrete structures that are used to represent relationships between elements of sets.

Relations can be used to solve problems such as:

- Determining which pairs of cities are linked by airline flights in a network,
- Computing the distance between a pair of registered *Facebook* users.
- Finding an efficient order for different phases of a complicated project,
- Producing a useful way to store information in computer databases, etc.



9.1 Relations and Their Properties

Definition: **Binary relation**

Let A, B be sets. A binary relation R from A to B is a set of ordered pairs, hence a subset of $A \times B$.

Notation:

a is “related to” b by R :

$$a R b : (a,b) \in R; a \in A, b \in B$$

a is “not related to” b by R :

$$a \not R b : (a,b) \notin R$$

e.g.

A: set of cities

B: set of countries

R: $(a, b) \in R$ if city *a* is in country *b*.

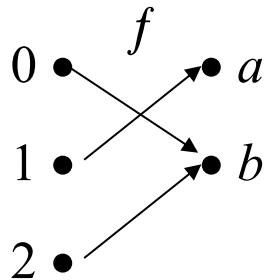
$(\text{Izmir, Turkey}), (\text{Paris, France}) \in R$

Function is a special case of relation

A function f from A to B can be thought of as the set of ordered pairs (a, b) s.t. $b = f(a)$

Since the function f is a subset of $A \times B$, f is a relation from A to B .

Function is a special case of relation: Every element of A is the first element of exactly one ordered pair of the function f .



Relations defined on a single set:

Definition:

A relation on a set A is a relation from A to A .

e.g.

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \mid b, (a, b) \in A \times A\}$$

$$= \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 2), (2, 4), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$$

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e.g.

How many relations are there on a set with n elements?

$$|A \times A| = n^2$$

$$\therefore 2^{n^2} \text{ (\# of subsets of } A \times A)$$

Properties of Relations defined on a set:

Definition:

A relation R on a set A is called **reflexive** iff

$$(a, a) \in R \quad \forall a \in A$$

e.g.

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$R_1 = \{(1, 2), (2, 2), (1, 3)\} \quad (\text{not reflexive})$$

$$R_2 = \{(1, 1), (1, 3), (2, 2), (3, 1), (3, 3)\} \quad (\text{reflexive})$$

$$R_3 = \{(1, 3), (3, 1)\} \quad (\text{irreflexive})$$

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e.g.

R : The set of pairs of people having the same eye color (reflexive)

Definition:

A relation R on a set A is called

symmetric iff the following holds

$$(b,a) \in R \rightarrow (a,b) \in R \quad \forall a,b \in A$$

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anti-symmetric iff the following holds

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e.g.

$R_t = \{(a,b) \mid a \text{ is taller than } b\}$ anti-symmetric

$R = \{(a,b) \mid a+b+ab = 12; a,b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ symmetric

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$R = \{(a,b) \mid a+b+ab = 12; a,b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ symmetric

asymmetric iff $\forall a,b \in A \ (a,b) \in R \rightarrow (b,a) \notin R$

Definition:

R on set A is called **transitive** iff

$$(a,b) \in R \text{ and } (b,c) \in R \rightarrow (a,c) \in R \quad \forall a,b,c \in A.$$

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e.g.

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$R_1 = \{(1, 2), (2, 3), (1, 3)\} \quad (\text{transitive})$$

$$R_2 = \{(1, 2), (2, 3)\} \quad (\text{not transitive})$$

$$R_3 = \{(1, 2)\} \quad (?)$$

e.g.

How many reflexive relations are there on a set with n elements?

If R is reflexive, then:

there are n pairs such that $(a,a) \in R$

and $n(n-1)$ pairs such that $(a,b) \in R$ where $a \neq b$

\Rightarrow # of reflexive relations = $2^{n(n-1)}$

e.g.

How many symmetric relations are there on a set with n elements? (Exercise)

Combining relations:

$$\text{Let } A = \{a, b\} \quad B = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$R_1 = \{(a, 1), (b, 3)\}$$

$$R_2 = \{(a, 1), (a, 2), (b, 1), (b, 2)\}$$

$$R_3 = \{(b, 1), (b, 2)\}$$

$$R_4 = \{(a, 1), (b, 2)\}$$

$$R_1 \cup R_3 = \{(a, 1), (b, 1), (b, 2), (b, 3)\}$$

$$R_1 \cap R_2 = \{(a, 1)\}$$

$$R_2 - R_3 = \{(a, 1), (a, 2)\}$$

$$R_1 \oplus R_4 = \{(b, 2), (b, 3)\}$$

\oplus is called “symmetric difference”, acts like XOR

Definition: Let $R: A \rightarrow B$ and $S: B \rightarrow C$. Then the **composite relation** of R and S ,

$S \circ R: A \rightarrow C$ is defined s.t.

$(a, c) \in S \circ R$ iff $(a, b) \in R$ and $(b, c) \in S$.

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Definition:

Let R be a relation on A .

The **powers** R^n , $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, are defined by

$$R^1 = R, \quad R^2 = R \circ R, \dots \quad R^n = R^{n-1} \circ R.$$

e.g. $R = \{(a, b) \mid b \text{ is a } \mathbf{parent} \text{ of } a\}$

$\Rightarrow R^2 = \{(a, c) \mid c \text{ is a } \mathbf{grand-parent} \text{ of } a\}$ why?

since $(a, b) \in R$ means “ b is a parent of a ”, and $(b, c) \in R$ means “ c is a parent of b ”.

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R on a set A is transitive iff $R^n \subseteq R$ for all $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

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Proof:

If part: (if $R^n \subseteq R$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, then R is transitive)

If $R^n \subseteq R$, in particular $R^2 \subseteq R$.

Then, if $(a,b) \in R$ and $(b,c) \in R$, by definition $(a,c) \in R^2$. Since $R^2 \subseteq R$, $(a,c) \in R$.

$\therefore R$ is transitive.

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Inductive step: Assume $R^n \subseteq R$ and R is transitive. Show $R^{n+1} \subseteq R$.

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Let $(a,b) \in R^{n+1} = R^n \circ R$.

Then $\exists x \in A$ s.t. $(a,x) \in R$ and $(x,b) \in R^n$. Since $R^n \subseteq R$, $(x,b) \in R$.

Since R is transitive and $(a,x) \in R$, we have $(a,b) \in R$

$\therefore R^{n+1} \subseteq R$

Inverse and Complementary:

Inverse of R : $R^{-1} = \{(b, a) \mid (a, b) \in R\}$

Complementary of R : $\bar{R} = \{(a, b) \mid (a, b) \notin R\}$

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e.g.

Let $R = \{(a, b) \mid a < b\}$ $R: A \rightarrow B$.

Inverse of R : $R^{-1} = \{(b, a) \mid a < b\}$

Complementary of R : $\bar{R} = \{(a, b) \mid a \geq b\}$

e.g.

R, S are reflexive relations on A .

a) $R \cup S$ is reflexive? Yes,

b) $R \cap S$ is reflexive? ✓

c) $R \oplus S$ is irreflexive? ✓

d) $R - S$ is irreflexive? ✓

e) $S \circ R$ is reflexive? ✓

f) R^{-1} is reflexive?

g) Complementary of R is irreflexive?

since $(x, x) \in R$

so does $R \cup S$

e.g.

Suppose R is **irreflexive**. Is R^2 also irreflexive?

No. Counter-example: Let $a \neq b$ and $R = \{(a, b), (b, a)\}$

9.2 n -ary Relations and Their Applications

Definition:

Let A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n be sets.

An n -ary relation on these sets is a subset of $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$.

The sets A_i : Domains of the relation

n : Degree of the relation

e.g.

$$R = \{(a, b, c) \mid a < b < c\}$$

Databases and Relations

The way we organize information in a database is important.

Operations such as **add/delete** record, **update** records, **search** for record, all have heavy computation.

∴ Various methods for representing databases exist.

One method in particular is **relational data model**.

A database consists of records of n -tuples, made up of domains (fields).

e.g. Airflight Company (Flight No, Departure, Destination, Date)

You will have an elective database course in 3rd or 4th year.

9.3 Representing Relations

Definition: A relation R can also be represented by a matrix $\mathbf{M}_R = [m_{ij}]$:

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (a_i, b_j) \in R \\ 0 & \text{if } (a_i, b_j) \notin R \end{cases}$$

e.g. Let $A = \{1, 2\}$, $B = \{a, b, c\}$ and $R: A \rightarrow B$ such that
 $R = \{(1, b), (2, a), (2, b), (2, c)\}$

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$$\mathbf{M}_R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

e.g.

Let R be a relation defined on $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$: $R = \{(1, 2), (2, 2), (1, 3)\}$

$$\mathbf{M}_R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that we get a square matrix whenever $R: A \rightarrow A$.

- Reflexive relation R s.t. $(a_i, a_i) \in R$

$$\Rightarrow \forall i \ m_{ii} = 1$$

i.e., $\mathbf{M}_R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & 1 & & & \\ & & \cdot & & \\ & & & \cdot & \\ & & & & 1 \\ & & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ diagonal with all ones

- Symmetric relation R s.t. $(a_i, a_j) \in R \leftrightarrow (a_j, a_i) \in R$

$$\Rightarrow \forall i, j \ m_{ij} = m_{ji}$$

$\mathbf{M}_R = \begin{bmatrix} \diagdown & 1 & \\ 1 & \diagup & 0 \\ & 0 & \diagdown \end{bmatrix}$ Symmetric matrix
($\mathbf{M}_R = \mathbf{M}_R^T$)

- Inverse and complementary relations:

If $\mathbf{M}_R = [m_{ij}]_{m \times n}$, then

Inverse: $\mathbf{M}_R^{-1} = [m_{ji}]_{n \times m}$ (transpose)

Complementary: $\mathbf{M}_{\bar{R}} = [\neg m_{ij}]_{m \times n}$ (negation)

Using Zero – One Matrices:

A matrix with entries that are either 0 or 1 is called a **zero-one matrix**.

Definition:

$\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}]$ $\mathbf{B} = [b_{ij}]$ $m \times n$ zero-one matrices

Join of \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} : $\mathbf{A} \vee \mathbf{B} = [a_{ij} \vee b_{ij}]$

Meet of \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} : $\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{B} = [a_{ij} \wedge b_{ij}]$

e.g.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
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Remark: Let $R_1: A \rightarrow B$ and $R_2: A \rightarrow B$

$$\mathbf{M}_{R_1 \cup R_2} = \mathbf{M}_{R_1} \vee \mathbf{M}_{R_2}$$

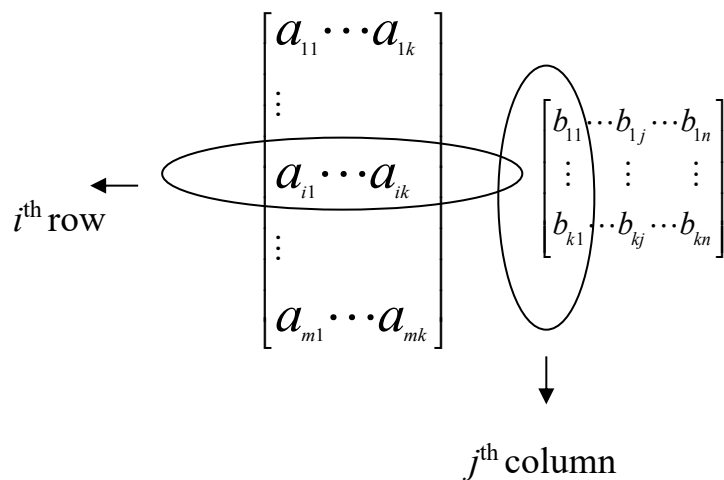
$$\mathbf{M}_{R_1 \cap R_2} = \mathbf{M}_{R_1} \wedge \mathbf{M}_{R_2}$$

Definition: **Boolean product**

Let $\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}] : m \times k$, $\mathbf{B} = [b_{ij}] : k \times n$ zero-one matrices

$$\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B} = [c_{ij}] : m \times n, \text{ where}$$

$$c_{ij} = (a_{i1} \wedge b_{1j}) \vee (a_{i2} \wedge b_{2j}) \vee \dots \vee (a_{ik} \wedge b_{kj})$$



e.g.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 2} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$$

$$\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 0) & (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 1) & (1 \wedge 0) \vee (0 \wedge 1) \\ (0 \wedge 1) \vee (1 \wedge 0) & (0 \wedge 1) \vee (1 \wedge 1) & (0 \wedge 0) \vee (1 \wedge 1) \\ (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 0) & (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 1) & (1 \wedge 0) \vee (0 \wedge 1) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 3}$$

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Remark: Let $R: A \rightarrow B$ and $S: B \rightarrow C$

$$\mathbf{M}_{S \circ R} = \mathbf{M}_R \odot \mathbf{M}_S$$

Definition: r^{th} Boolean Power

Let \mathbf{A} be a square ($n \times n$) zero-one matrix and r be a positive integer.

$$\mathbf{A}^r = \mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{A} \odot \dots \odot \mathbf{A}$$

r times

$$\mathbf{A}^0 = \mathbf{I}_n$$

Remark: Let $R: A \rightarrow A$

$$\mathbf{M}_{R^n} = [\mathbf{M}_R]^n$$

Representing Relations Using Graphs:

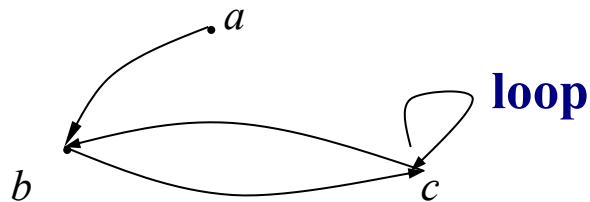
Pictorial representation.

Definition:

A **directed graph** (digraph) consists of a set V of **vertices** (or nodes) along with a set E of **edges** (or arcs) which are ordered pairs of vertices.

Edge(a, b): a is initial vertex (node), b is terminal vertex (node)

e.g.



$$R = \{(a, b), (b, c), (c, b), (c, c)\}$$

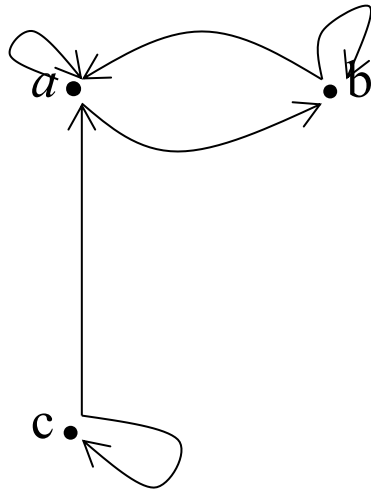
Relation R on a set A is defined with

- i) elements of A : vertices (nodes)
- ii) ordered pairs $(a, b) \in R$: edges

Relation R is:

- reflexive iff every node has a loop
- symmetric iff every edge between two nodes has an edge in the opposite direction.
- transitive iff $\text{edge}(a, b) \wedge \text{edge}(b, c) \rightarrow \text{edge}(a, c) \quad \forall a, b, c$

e.g.



reflexive

Example to graph representation of a relation:



Connectivity problems:

- 1) Which nodes are connected?
- 2) What is the shortest path between two nodes?

9.4 Closures of Relations

e.g. Let $R = \{(1,1), (1, 2), (3, 2)\}$ on $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

R is not reflexive; what is the smallest possible reflexive relation containing R ?

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R is not reflexive; what is the smallest possible reflexive relation containing R ?

$$S = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (3, 2), \underline{(2, 2)}, \underline{(3, 3)}\}$$

S is the reflexive **closure** of R .

Definition: **Closure**

Let R be a relation on A

P : some property, such as symmetry, reflexivity, transitivity

R may or may not have the property P .

The **closure** S is the smallest possible set with property P , which contains R .

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More formal definition of **closure**:

If there is a relation S with property P containing R s.t. S is the subset of every relation with property P containing R , then S is called the **closure** of R with P .

Reflexive Closure:

Let $R = \{(1,1), (1, 2), (3, 2)\}$ on $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

The smallest possible reflexive relation containing R :

$$S = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (3, 2), \underline{(2, 2)}, \underline{(3, 3)}\}$$

$S =$ Reflexive closure of $R = R \cup \Delta$,

where $\Delta = \{(a, a) \mid a \in A\}$: diagonal relation

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where $\Delta = \{(a, a) \mid a \in A\}$: diagonal relation

e.g.

$R = \{(a, b) \mid a < b\}$, reflexive closure?

$$\begin{aligned} R \cup \Delta &= \{(a, b) \mid a < b\} \cup \{(a, a) \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\} \end{aligned}$$

Symmetric Closure:

Let $R = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 3), (3, 1), (3, 3)\}$ on $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

We should add all ordered pairs (b, a) , where (a, b) is in R and (b, a) is not in R .

Symmetric closure of $R = R \cup \{(3, 2), (1, 3)\}$

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Let $R = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 3), (3, 1), (3, 3)\}$ on $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

We should add all ordered pairs (b, a) , where (a, b) is in R and (b, a) is not in R .
Symmetric closure of $R = R \cup \{(3, 2), (1, 3)\}$

Symmetric closure of $R = R \cup R^{-1}$ (since $R^{-1} = \{(b, a) \mid (a, b) \in R\}$)

e.g.

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid a < b\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Symmetric closure of } R &= R \cup R^{-1} \\ &= \{(a, b) \mid a < b\} \cup \{(b, a) \mid a < b\} \\ &= \{(a, b) \mid a \neq b\} \end{aligned}$$

Transitive Closure:

Let $R = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 1), (3, 2)\}$ on $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

R is not transitive since there are pairs $(a, c) \notin R$ although $(a, b), (b, c) \in R$.

(i) $R \cup \{(1, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (3, 1)\}$

Is it transitive?

Transitive Closure:

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(i) $R \cup \{(1, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (3, 1)\}$

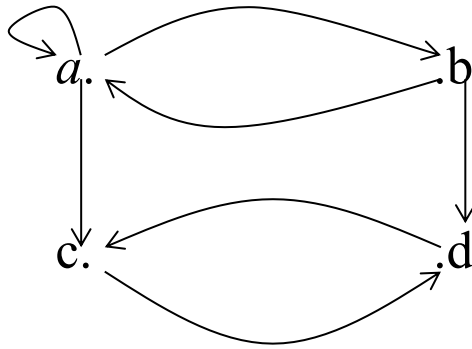
Is it transitive? NO!

It has $(3, 1), (1, 4)$, but not $(3, 4)$.

We have a more difficult problem!!!

We might repeat step (i) until reaching a transitive relation. But there are better ways.

e.g. Draw reflexive closure of



How about symmetric closure? Transitive closure?

Paths in Directed Graphs

We now introduce a new terminology that we will use in the construction of transitive closures.

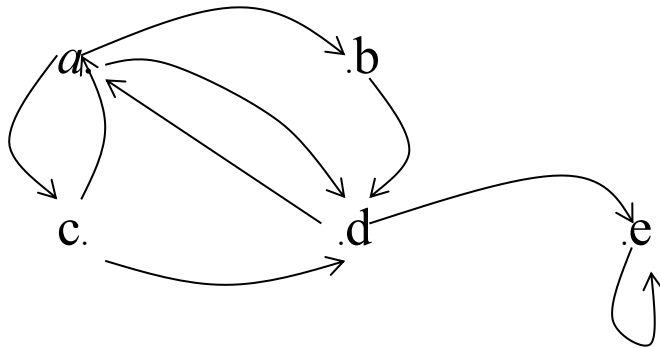
Definition:

A **path** from a to b in the directed graph G is a sequence of edges $(x_0, x_1), (x_1, x_2), \dots, (x_{n-1}, x_n)$ in G where $x_0 = a$ and $x_n = b$. This path is denoted by x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n and has a length of n .

If $x_0 = x_n$, the path is called a **cycle** or **circuit**.

Two vertices are said to be **connected** if there's a path between them.

e.g.



A path:

a, b, d, a, c

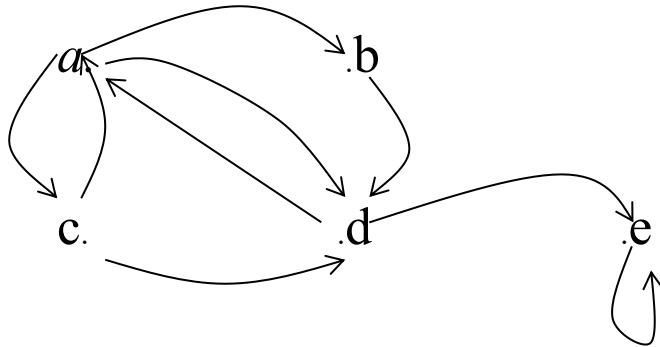
a is connected to e , but e is not connected to a .

The term **path** also applies to relations.

Theorem:

Let R be a relation on A , then there is a path of length n from a to b iff $(a, b) \in R^n$.

e.g.



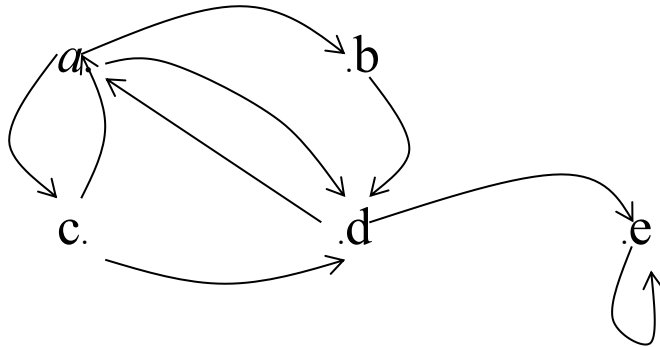
A path:
 a, b, d, e

$(a, e) \in R^3$ since there is a path of length 3 between a and e .

Theorem:

Let R be a relation on A , then there is a path of length n from a to b iff $(a, b) \in R^n$.

e.g.



A path:

a, b, d, e

$(a, e) \in R^3$ since there is a path of length 3 between a and e .

But also $(a, e) \in R^6$ since there is also another path of length 6 between a and e :
 a, b, d, a, c, d, e

Theorem:

Let R be a relation on A , then there is a path of length n from a to b iff $(a, b) \in R^n$.

Proof: Use induction.

Basis step:

By definition there is a path of length 1 from a to b iff $(a, b) \in R$. Hence true for $n = 1$.

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Inductive step: Assume it is true for some arbitrary fixed n . Show for $n+1$.

There is a path of length $n+1$ from a to b **iff**

$\exists c \in A$ s. t. there is a path of length 1 from a to c and a path of length n from c to b

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There is a path of length $n+1$ from a to b **iff**

$\exists c \in A$ s. t. there is a path of length 1 from a to c and a path of length n from c to b
that is, $\exists c \in A$ such that $(a, c) \in R$ and $(c, b) \in R^n$ (by inductive hypothesis)

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There is a path of length $n+1$ from a to b **iff**

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that is, $\exists c \in A$ such that $(a, c) \in R$ and $(c, b) \in R^n$ (by inductive hypothesis)
which implies $(a, b) \in R^{n+1}$ (by definition of composite relation).

\therefore There is a path of length $n + 1$ from a to b iff $(a, b) \in R^{n+1}$

Transitive Closure:

Finding transitive closure is equivalent to determining vertices that are **connected** through a path.

Definition:

Let R be a relation on A .

Connectivity relation R^* consists of all pairs (a, b) s.t. there's a path between a and b in R .

Since R^n includes all the paths of length n by the previous theorem,

$$R^* = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R^n$$

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e.g.

Let R be a relation on the set of people in the world that contains (a,b) if a has met b .

R^2 : ? if $(a, b) \in R^2$ then $\exists c$ s.t. $(a, c) \in R$ and $(c, b) \in R$

R^* : ? $(a, b) \in R^*$ if there is a sequence of people, starting with a and ending with b .

Theorem:

The transitive closure of a relation R equals to the connectivity relation R^* .

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If $(a, b) \in R^*$, there is a path from a to b .

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ii. Let S be any transitive relation that contains R , i.e. $R \subseteq S$. Show $R^* \subseteq S$.

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$$S^n \subseteq S \text{ and } S^* = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} S^n \Rightarrow S^* \subseteq S$$

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$$S^n \subseteq S \text{ and } S^* = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} S^n \Rightarrow S^* \subseteq S$$

Since $R \subseteq S$ (given), $R^* \subseteq S^*$

$\therefore R^* \subseteq S$.

Thus any transitive relation S that contains R contains also R^* . \star Given R , how can we compute the connectivity relation R^* ?

$$R^* = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R^n ?$$

★ Given R , how can we compute the connectivity relation R^* ?

Lemma:

Let R be a relation in A and $|A| = n$. If there is a path from a to b in R , then one can always find a path from a to b with length not exceeding n .

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Lemma:

Let R be a relation in A and $|A| = n$. If there is a path from a to b in R , then one can always find a path from a to b with length not exceeding n .

Proof:

Suppose there is a path x_0, x_1, \dots, x_m from $x_0 = a$ to $x_m = b$ with length m .

If $m > n$, then there are at least two vertices on this path, equal to each other $x_i = x_j$ such that $0 \leq i < j \leq m - 1$. (by the **pigeonhole** principle)

We can cut this circuit and form a new path

$$x_0, x_1, \dots, x_i, x_{j+1}, \dots, x_m$$

If we do the same for all such two vertices, we get a path of length $\leq n$.

★ Given R , how can we compute the connectivity relation R^* ?

Lemma:

Let R be a relation in A and $|A| = n$. If there is a path from a to b in R , then one can always find a path from a to b with length not exceeding n .

Hence by the Lemma,

$$R^* = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} R^k = \bigcup_{k=1}^n R^k$$

Theorem:

Let \mathbf{M}_R be zero-one matrix of R on a set A with n elements. Then the zero-one matrix representation of R^* is

$$\mathbf{M}_{R^*} = \mathbf{M}_R \vee \mathbf{M}_R^2 \vee \mathbf{M}_R^3 \vee \dots \vee \mathbf{M}_R^n$$

e.g.

Let $R = \{(a, a), (a, c), (b, a), (c, a), (c, c)\}$. Find R^* .

$$\mathbf{M}_R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{M}_R^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{M}_R^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{M}_{R^*} = \mathbf{M}_R \vee \mathbf{M}_R^2 \vee \mathbf{M}_R^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Algorithm for computation of connectivity relation:

Transitive closure (\mathbf{M}_R : zero-one matrix representation of R)

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{M}_R$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}$$

for ($i=2; i \leq n ; i++$) {

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{M}_R$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \vee \mathbf{A}$$

}

return \mathbf{B}

Note that **transitive closure** is identical to **connectivity relation**.

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Note: Although in general $S \circ R \neq R \circ S$, while computing powers of a relation, the order of compositions does not matter, hence

$$R^{n+1} = R^n \circ R = R \circ R^n \Rightarrow \mathbf{M}_R^{n+1} = \mathbf{M}_R^n \odot \mathbf{M}_R = \mathbf{M}_R \odot \mathbf{M}_R^n$$

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}

return \mathbf{B}

Complexity:

$$\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{M}_R : (n + (n - 1))n^2 \text{ operations}$$

$$\mathbf{B} \vee \mathbf{A} : n^2 \text{ operations}$$

$$T(n) = (n - 1) (n^2(2n - 1) + n^2) = (n - 1)(2n^3)$$

$\therefore T(n)$ is $O(n^4)$. (Polynomial complexity)

e.g. Let $(a, b) \in R$ if there is a non-stop flight from city a to b .

When is (a, b) in

R^2 ? If $\exists c$ s.t. $(a, c) \in R, (c, b) \in R$.

R^3 ? If $\exists c, d$ s.t. $(a, c) \in R, (c, d) \in R, (d, b) \in R$.

R^* ? If it is possible to fly from a to b .

R^* can be computed using the algorithm of the previous slide.

9.5 Equivalence Relations

e.g. Consider the relation $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \equiv b \pmod{4}\}$
 R is **symmetric**, **transitive** and **reflexive**.

Hence we say, R is an **equivalence** relation.

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What matters?

R divides (or partitions) the set of integers into four disjoint subsets:

$$\{\dots, -8, -4, 0, 4, 8, \dots\}, \{\dots, -7, -3, 1, 5, 9, \dots\}, \{\dots, -6, -2, 2, 6, 10, \dots\}, \{\dots, -5, -1, 3, 7, 11, \dots\}$$

where any two integers in a given subset is related with R , hence said to be “equivalent” to each other.

$(4, 8) \in R$ hence 4 is equivalent to 8, and so is $(1, 5)$.

Definition: **Equivalence Relation**

If a relation is reflexive, symmetric and transitive then it is called an **equivalence relation**.

Equivalent elements: Two elements that are related by an equivalence relation.

- R (defined previously) is an equivalence relation, more specifically a “modular” equivalence relation.
- $(4,8) \in R$ hence 4 is equivalent to 8, and so is (1,5).

Another relation example that defines an equivalence between strings:

Let R be a relation on the set of strings :

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid L(a) = L(b)\}, \text{ where } L(x) \text{ is the length of string } x.$$

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- R is **transitive** since $\forall a, b, c \ (a, b) \in R \wedge (b, c) \in R \rightarrow L(a) = L(b) \wedge L(b) = L(c) \rightarrow L(a) = L(c) \rightarrow (a, c) \in R$

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“discrete” is equivalent to “computer” with respect to R .

Another relation example that defines an equivalence between strings:

Let R be a relation on the set of strings :

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid L(a) = L(b)\}, \text{ where } L(x) \text{ is the length of string } x.$$

- R is reflexive
- R is symmetric
- R is transitive

$\therefore R$ is an equivalence relation.

“discrete” is equivalent to “computer” with respect to R .

- R divides (or partitions) the set of strings into disjoint subsets, where each subset contains all strings of the same length.
- Any two strings in a given subset are equivalent to each other (with respect to the relation).

e.g.

Relations on a set of people:

a) $\{(a, b) \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ are at the same age}\}$

b) $\{(a, b) \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ speak a common language}\}$

Are they equivalence relations?

e.g.

Relations on a set of people:

a) $\{(a, b) \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ are at the same age}\}$ Yes

b) $\{(a, b) \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ speak a common language}\}$ No

Are they equivalence relations?

Equivalence Classes:

e.g.

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \equiv b \pmod{m}\}$$

What is the equivalence class of 1 with respect to R ?

1 is equivalent to $1-m$, 1, $1+m$, and so on.

Hence, the equivalence class of 1:

$$[1]_R = \{\dots, 1-m, 1, 1+m, 1+2m, \dots\}$$

Definition: **Equivalence class**

Let R be an equivalence relation on A .

The set of all elements that are related to an element a of A is called the equivalence class of a :

$$[a]_R = \{ s \mid (a, s) \in R \}$$

e.g.

$$[1]_R = \{ \dots, 1-m, 1, 1+m, 1+2m, \dots \}$$

e.g. Consider the equivalence relation on the set of strings.

$R = \{(a, b) \mid L(a) = L(b)\}$, where $L(x)$ is the length of string x .

The equivalence class of the string “discrete” is the set of all strings with 8 characters.

Let S_n denote the set of all strings with n characters. Then the above equivalence relation **partitions** the set of all strings S into infinitely many **disjoint** and **nonempty** subsets, S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots

Equivalence Classes and Partitions:

Equivalence classes partition (or divide) a set into disjoint, nonempty subsets.

Proof: See Chapter 9.5 of your textbook, page 591 (7th edition).

Equivalence Classes and Partitions:

Equivalence classes partition (or divide) a set into disjoint, nonempty subsets.

e.g.

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \equiv b \pmod{m}\}$$

m equivalence classes:

$$[0]_R, [1]_R, \dots, [m-1]_R$$

All are disjoint and form a partition.

Equivalence Classes and Partitions:

Equivalence classes partition (or divide) a set into disjoint, nonempty subsets.

e.g.

Relation R on a set of people: $\{(a, b) \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ are at the same age}\}$

R partitions the set of people into equivalence classes (hence into nonempty disjoint subsets).

Each equivalence class is the set of people who are at the same age, for example $[a]_R$ is the set of people who are 18 years old (if a is 18 years old).

e.g.

Let R be a relation on the set of positive real-number pairs s.t.

$$((a, b), (c, d)) \in R \leftrightarrow ad = bc$$

Show that R is an **equivalence relation**.

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R is **symmetric** since $\forall a, b, c, d \quad ((a, b), (c, d)) \in R \rightarrow ad = bc \rightarrow da = cb \rightarrow ((c, d), (a, b)) \in R$.

R is **transitive** since $\forall a, b, c, d, e, f \quad ((a, b), (c, d)) \in R$ and $((c, d), (e, f)) \in R \rightarrow (ad = bc$ and $cf = de) \rightarrow af = be \rightarrow ((a, b), (e, f)) \in R$

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R is **transitive** since $\forall a, b, c, d, e, f \quad ((a, b), (c, d)) \in R$ and $((c, d), (e, f)) \in R \rightarrow (ad = bc$ and $cf = de) \rightarrow af = be \rightarrow ((a, b), (e, f)) \in R$

Thus, equivalence classes for this relation **partition** the set of positive real number pairs into disjoint nonempty subsets such that

$$[(a, b)]_R = \{(x, y) \mid x/y = a/b = c, c \text{ is a positive real number}\}$$

9.6 Partial Order Relations

We can use *relations* to order/sort elements of a set.

e.g. $S = \{1, 3, 4, 2, 5\}$

- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}$ is **reflexive**, **anti-symmetric** and **transitive**, thus it is a “**partial order relation**”, and we can use it as a criterion to order elements of the set S :
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (ascending order)

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- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}$ is reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive, thus it is a “partial order relation”, and we can use it as a criterion to order elements of the set S :
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (ascending order)
- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \geq b\}$ is also reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive, thus also a partial order relation, that defines a different criterion:
5, 4, 3, 2, 1 (descending order)

9.6 Partial Order Relations

We can use *relations* to order/sort elements of a set.

e.g. $S = \{1, 3, 4, 2, 5\}$

- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}$ is **reflexive**, **anti-symmetric** and **transitive**, thus it is a “**partial order relation**”, and we can use it as a criterion to order elements of the set S :
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- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \geq b\}$ is also reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive, thus also a partial order relation, that defines a different criterion:
5, 4, 3, 2, 1 (descending order)
- $R = \{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5), (2,1), (2,3), (3,1), (1,4), (2,4), (3,4), (5,1), (5,4)\}$ is reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive, thus a partial order relation, that yet defines another criterion:
5, 2, 3, 1, 4 (some weird order)

Definition: **Partial Order Relation:**

A relation R on a set S is called partial order relation (or a partial ordering) iff it is reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive.

A set S together with a partial ordering R is called a partially ordered set, or **poset**, and is denoted by (S, R) .

e.g.

$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}$ is a partial order on Z .
Hence (Z, R) is a poset.

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$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \mid b\}$ is a partial order on Z .

A partial order relation defines what means being ‘less than or equal to’

e.g. $S = \{1, 3, 4, 2, 5\}$

- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}$ is a partial ordering:

$1 \preceq 2 \preceq 3 \preceq 4 \preceq 5$ (ascending order)

- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \geq b\}$ is a partial ordering:

$5 \preceq 4 \preceq 3 \preceq 2 \preceq 1$ (descending order)

- $R = \{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5), (2,1), (2,3), (3,1), (1,4), (2,4), (3,4), (5,1), (5,4)\}$ is a partial ordering:

$5 \preceq 2 \preceq 3 \preceq 1 \preceq 4$

$a \preceq b$ means $(a, b) \in R$. (where R is a partial order)

e.g. $S = \{1, 3, 4, 2, 5\}$

- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}$ is a partial ordering:

$1 < 2 < 3 < 4 < 5$ (ascending order)

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$5 < 2 < 3 < 1 < 4$

$a < b$ means $(a, b) \in R$, but $a \neq b$.

We can write $1 < 2$ or $1 \preceq 2$ or $1 \preceq 1$ but not $1 < 1$

Comparable vs Incomparable

e.g.

Poset (\mathbb{Z}^+, R) with $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \mid b\}$

$(3,6) \in R$, thus $3 \preceq 6$, hence 3 and 6 are **comparable**.

$(3,10) \notin R$, thus we cannot write $3 \preceq 10$ or $10 \preceq 3$, hence 3 and 10 are **incomparable**.

Definition:

The elements a, b of a poset (S, \preceq) are called **comparable** if either $a \preceq b$ or $b \preceq a$.
Otherwise they are called **incomparable**.

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Let $R = \{(a,a), (b,b), (c,c), (b,a), (b,c), (c,a)\}$ on $S = \{a, b, c\}$.

R is reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive $\therefore R$ is a partial order $\therefore (S, R)$ is a poset.

All elements are comparable: $a \preceq a$ $b \preceq c$ $b \preceq a$

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e.g.

Poset (\mathbb{Z}^+, R) with $R = \{(a, b) \mid b \mid a\}$.

$1 \preceq 1$ $4 \preceq 2$ $10 \preceq 5$

We cannot write $2 \preceq 3$ or $3 \preceq 2$, hence 2 and 3 are incomparable.

Definition:

If (S, \preceq) is a poset and every two elements of S are comparable, S is called a totally ordered set and \preceq is called a **total order(ing)**.

e.g. Poset (\mathbb{Z}^+, R) with $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \mid b\}$

R is **not** a total ordering since there are elements incomparable such as 5 and 6.

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R is a total ordering; every two elements are comparable, for instance $10 \preceq 5$.

e.g. $R_t = \{(a,b) \mid a \text{ is taller than } b \text{ or } a = b\}$ on the set of all people.

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R_t is **not** a total ordering; two different people with the same height are not comparable.

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R_t is not even a partial ordering since it is not anti-symmetric.

Lexicographic (Alphabetic) Order

e.g. Comparing strings by $\preceq = \{(a, b) \mid \text{letter } a \text{ appears before letter } b \text{ in the alphabet or } a = b\}$.

“that” \prec “this”

why?

Lexicographic (Alphabetic) Order

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“that” \prec “this”

since

t = t, h = h and a \prec i.

Lexicographic (Alphabetic) Order

To be able to compare n -tuples

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \text{ ?} \prec (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n),$$

we need n posets (hence n partial order relations):

$$(A_1, \preceq_1), (A_2, \preceq_2), \dots, (A_n, \preceq_n), \quad \text{where } a_1, b_1 \in A_1; a_2, b_2 \in A_2 \text{ and so on.}$$

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Then we can write

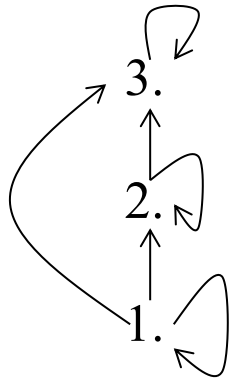
$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \prec (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$$

whenever

$$a_1 \prec_1 b_1 \text{ or } \exists i \ 0 < i < n \text{ such that } a_1 = b_1, \dots, a_i = b_i, \text{ and } a_{i+1} \prec_{i+1} b_{i+1}$$

Hasse Diagrams:

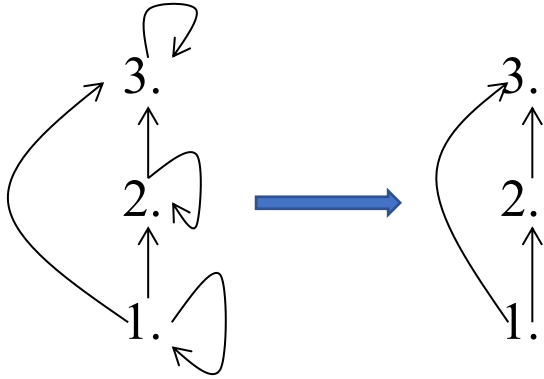
Let's consider the graph representation of $(\{1, 2, 3\}, \leq)$



Partial ordering

Hasse Diagrams:

Let's consider the graph representation of $(\{1, 2, 3\}, \leq)$

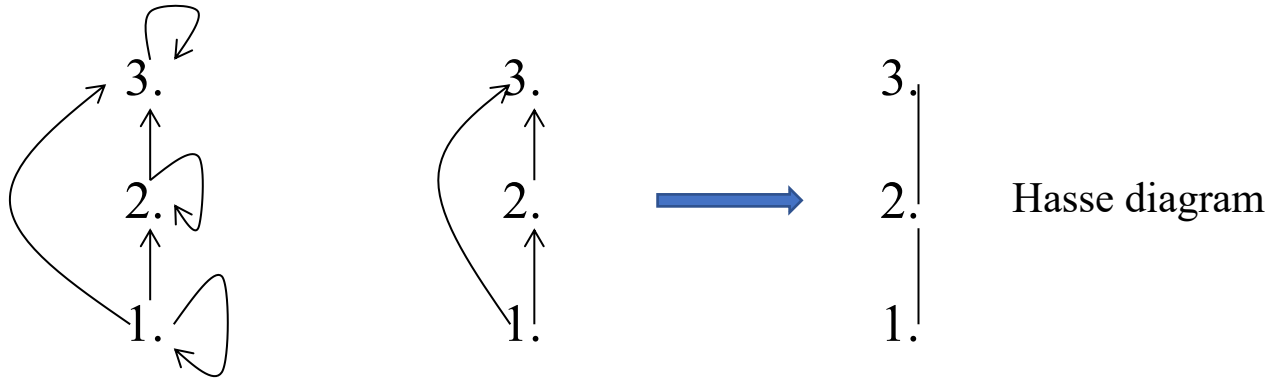


Partial ordering:

- Reflexive: Since each node has loop, no need to draw loops explicitly.

Hasse Diagrams:

Let's consider the graph representation of $(\{1, 2, 3\}, \leq)$

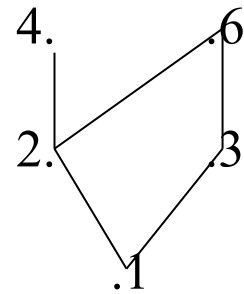
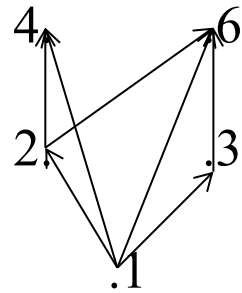
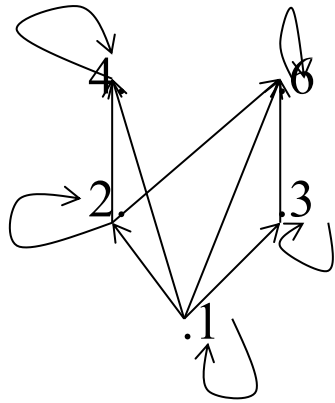


Partial ordering:

- Reflexive: Since each node has loop, no need to draw loops explicitly.
- Transitive: Since having $(1, 2)$, $(2, 3)$ means we have $(1, 3)$, no need to draw the edge $(1, 3)$ explicitly; same for other transitions.
- Anti-symmetric: No need to show directions, since we can assume all edges pointed upwards by convention.

e.g.

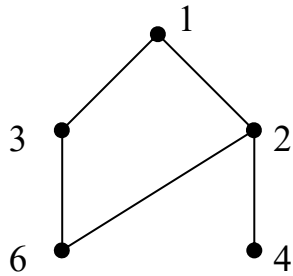
Consider the partial ordering $\{(a, b) \mid a \mid b\}$ on $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$.



Hasse diagram

e.g.

Consider the partial ordering $\{(a, b) \mid b \mid a\}$ on $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$.



3 and 6 are comparable: $6 \preceq 3$

2 and 3 are not comparable.

e.g.

Consider the partial ordering

$$R = \{(1, 1), (2,2), (3, 3), (4,4), (2, 1), (2, 3), (3, 1), (4,1)\} \text{ on } S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}.$$

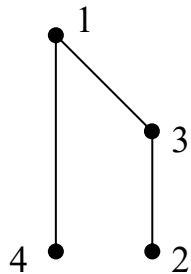
Draw the Hasse Diagram.

e.g.

Consider the partial ordering

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Draw the Hasse Diagram.



4,2 are **minimal** elements

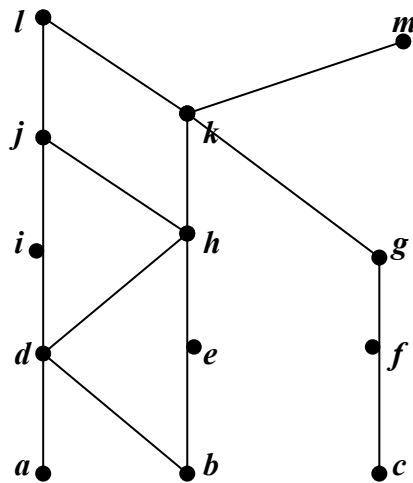
1 is **maximal** element

Maximal and Minimal Elements:

An element a is a maximal in poset (S, \preceq) if there is no $b \in S$ s.t. $a \prec b$.
(top elements in Hasse diagram)

An element a is a minimal in poset (S, \preceq) if there is no $b \in S$ s.t. $b \prec a$.
(bottom elements in Hasse diagram)

e.g. (from textbook)



a) Maximal elements: ?

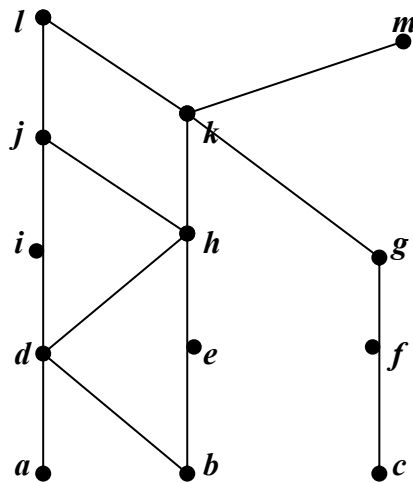
b) Minimal elements: ?

Maximal and Minimal Elements:

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(top elements in Hasse diagram)

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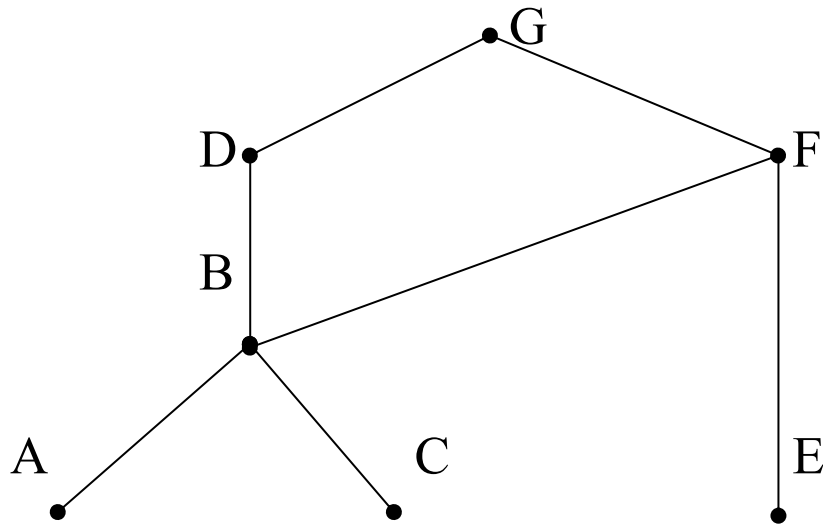


a) Maximal elements: l, m

b) Minimal elements: a, b, c

Compatible Total Ordering

e.g. (from textbook)



**Hasse Diagram for
scheduling seven tasks**

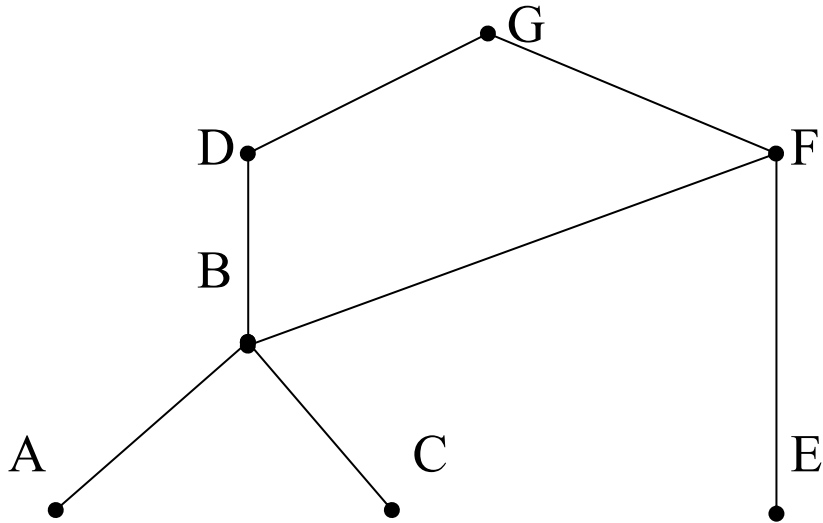
Poset (S,R) :

$$S = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G\}$$

$$R = \{(T_1, T_2) \mid \text{task } T_1 \text{ must precede } T_2 \text{ or } (T_1 = T_2), T_1, T_2 \in S\}$$

Compatible Total Ordering

e.g.



**Hasse Diagram for
scheduling seven tasks**

There are various **compatible** total orderings:

A, C, E, B, D, F, G

or

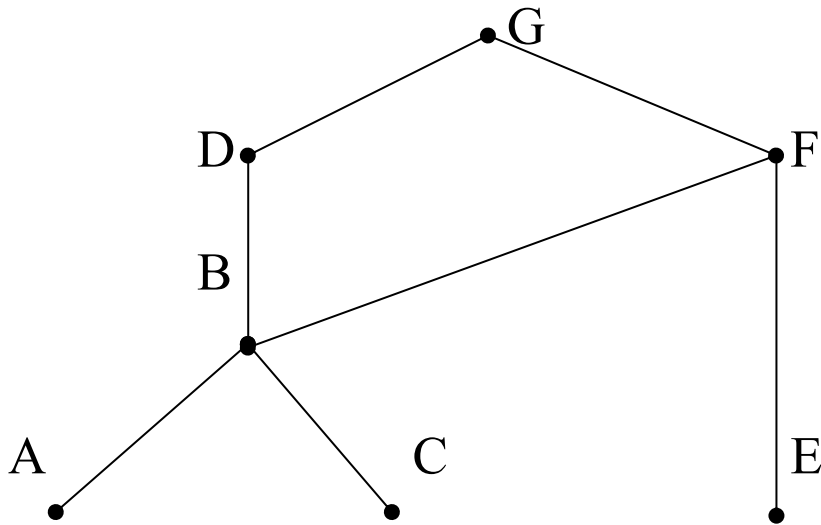
A, C, B, E, F, D, G

or

·
·
·

Compatible Total Ordering

e.g.



Hasse Diagram for scheduling seven tasks

There are various **compatible** total orderings:

A, C, E, B, D, F, G

or

A, C, B, E, F, D, G



or

.
. .
. . .

- **Total** ordering because all the elements in the set are ordered.
- Each of these orderings is **compatible** with the partial order relation.
- We can find these compatible total orders in general by applying the **topological sorting algorithm**.
- See the next slide.

Topological Sorting Algorithm

A **compatible total ordering** can be constructed with a partial ordering R :

Topo-sort (S, R : finite poset)

$k = 1$

while $S \neq \emptyset$ {

$a_k =$ minimal element of S

$S = S - \{a_k\}$

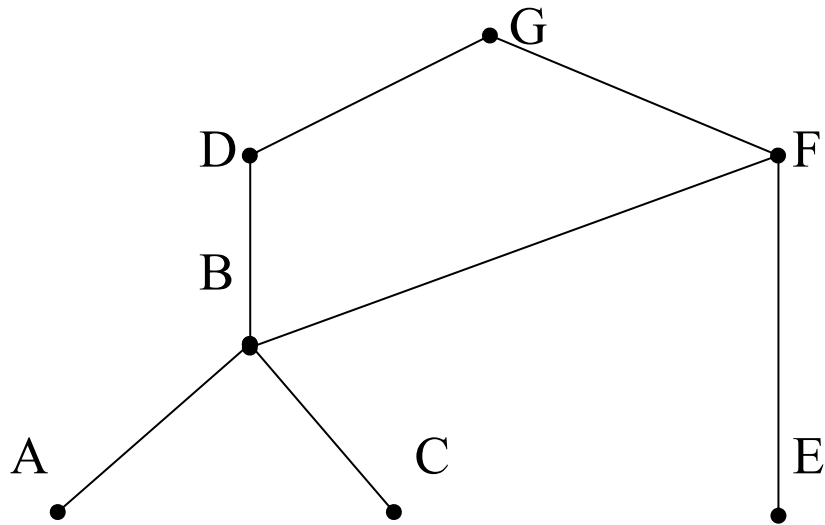
$k = k + 1$

}

$\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ is a compatible total ordering of S (compatible with relation R).

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

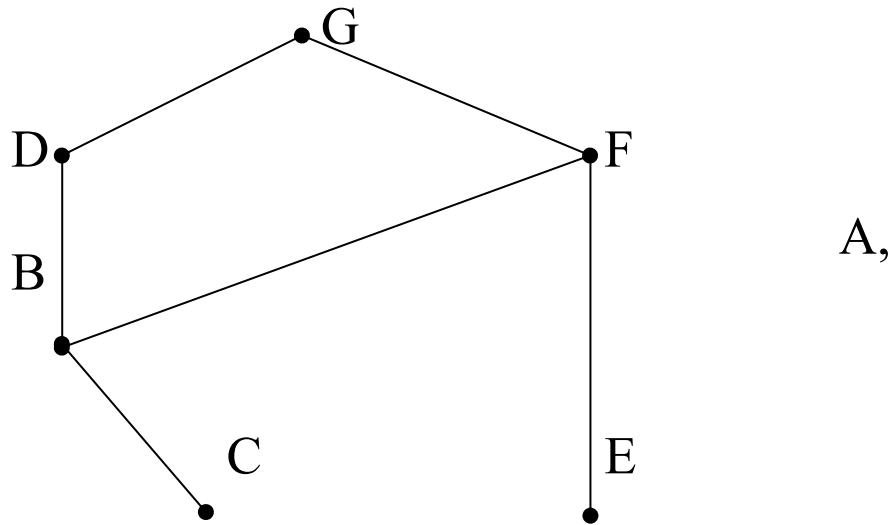
e.g.



Minimal elements are A, C and E; pick one, say A.

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

e.g.

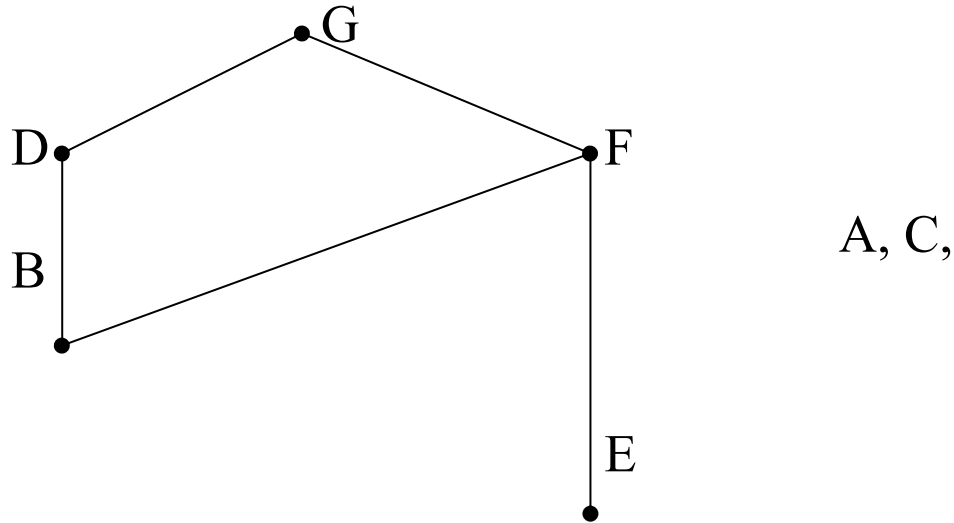


Remove A and its connections.

Minimal elements are then C and E; pick one, say C.

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

e.g.

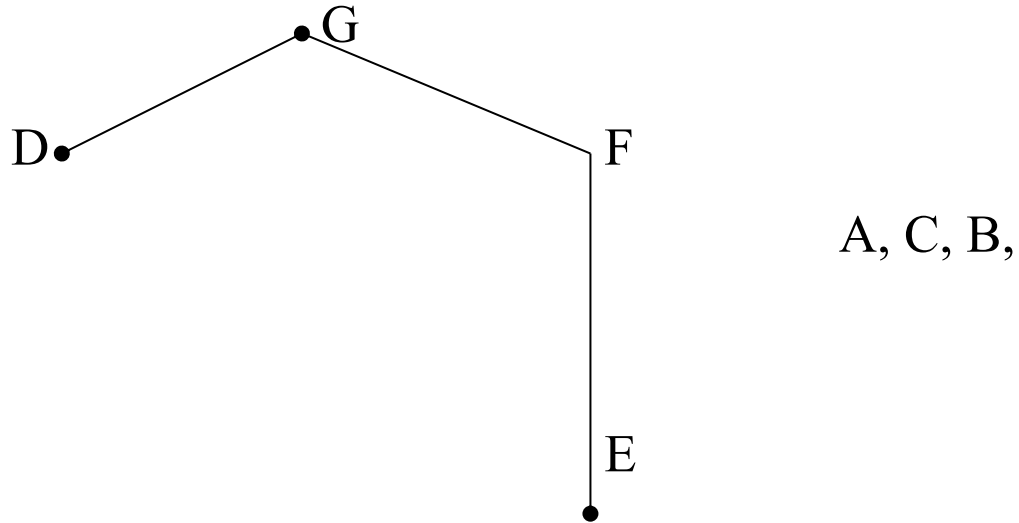


Remove C and its connections.

Minimal elements are then B and E; pick one, say B.

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

e.g.

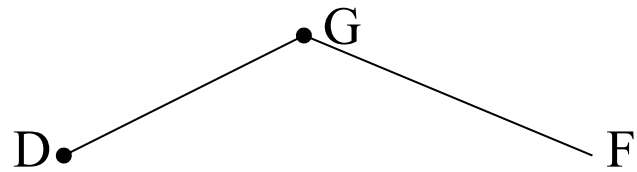


Remove B and its connections.

Minimal elements are then D and E; pick one, say E.

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

e.g.



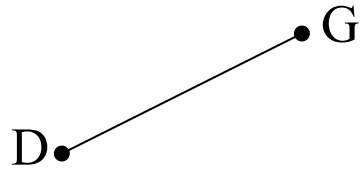
A, C, B, E,

Remove E and its connections.

Minimal elements are then D and F; pick one, say F.

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

e.g.



A, C, B, E, F,

Remove F and its connections.

The only minimal element is then D; pick D.

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

e.g.

G

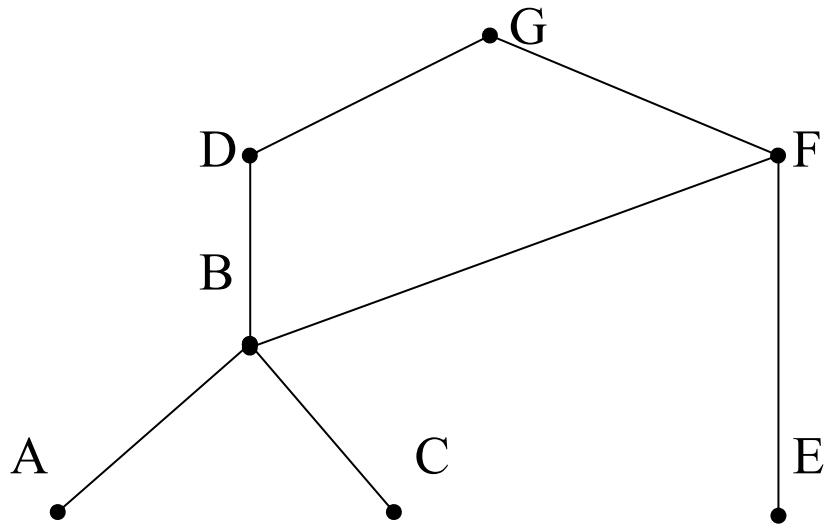
A, C, B, E, F, D,

Remove D and its connections.

The only element is then G; pick G.

How to apply topological sorting algorithm to the Hasse diagram below:

e.g.



We get A, C, E, B, D, F, G as a compatible total ordering.

Depending on the choices you make to pick a minimal element, you may end up with different compatible total ordering alternatives, all valid and respecting the partial ordering relation.

e.g. (from textbook) Draw the Hasse Diagram and find a compatible total ordering for the given poset.

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \mid b\}$$

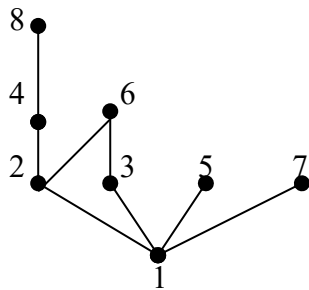
a) $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$

b) $A = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 24, 36, 48\}$

e.g. (from textbook) Draw the Hasse Diagram and find a compatible total ordering for the given poset.

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \mid b\}$$

a) $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$



One possible compatible total ordering:

1, 7, 3, 5, 2, 4, 8, 6

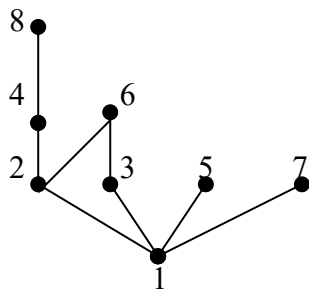
Another: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 4, 8, 6

b) $A = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 24, 36, 48\}$

e.g. (from textbook) Draw the Hasse Diagram and find a compatible total ordering for the given poset.

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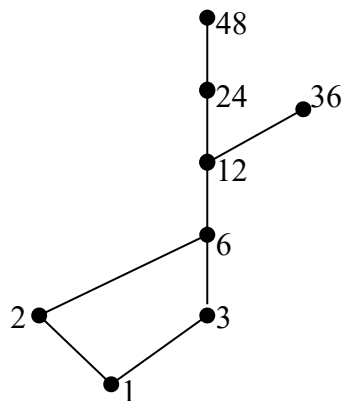


One possible compatible total ordering:

1, 7, 3, 5, 2, 4, 8, 6

Another: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 4, 8, 6

b) $A = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 24, 36, 48\}$



One possible compatible total ordering:

1, 3, 2, 6, 12, 24, 36, 48

e.g. (from textbook) Draw Hasse Diagram for the inclusion relation R on the power set $P(S)$ where $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$.

$$R = \{(S_1, S_2) \mid S_1 \subseteq S_2, S_1, S_2 \in P(S)\}$$

