



جامعة المستقبل
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المحاضرة السابعة



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Fig. 5

Properties of binary relations (Types of relations)

Let R be a relation on the set A

1) Reflexive :

R is said to be *reflexive* if ordered couple $(x, x) \in R$ for $\forall x \in X$.

$$\forall a \in A \rightarrow aRa \text{ or } (a,a) \in R ; \forall a, b \in A. .$$

Thus R is not reflexive if there exists $a \in A$ such that
 $(a, a) \notin R$.

Example i:

Consider the following five relations on the set $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$:

$$R1 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (1, 3), (4, 4)\}$$

$$R2 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$$

$$R3 = \{(1, 3), (2, 1)\}$$

$$R4 = \emptyset, \text{ the empty relation}$$

$$R5 = A \times A, \text{ the universal relation}$$

Determine which of the relations are reflexive.

Since A contains the four elements 1, 2, 3, and 4,
a relation R on A is reflexive if it contains the four pairs
 $(1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3),$ and $(4, 4)$.

Thus only $R2$ and the universal relation $R5 = A \times A$ are
reflexive.

Note that $R1, R3, R3,$ and $R4$ are not reflexive since, for example,
 $(2, 2)$ does not belong to any of them.

Example ii

Consider the following five relations:

- (1) Relation \leq (less than or equal) on the set \mathbb{Z} of integers.
- (2) Set inclusion \subseteq on a collection C of sets.



(3) Relation \perp (perpendicular) on the set L of lines in the plane.

(4) Relation \parallel (parallel) on the set L of lines in the plane.

Determine which of the relations are reflexive.

The relation (3) is not reflexive since no line is perpendicular to itself.

Also (4) is not reflexive since no line is parallel to itself.

The other relations are reflexive; that is,

$x \leq x$ for every $x \in \mathbf{Z}$,

$A \subseteq A$ for any set $A \in C$, and

2) Symmetric :

R is said to be *symmetric* if, ordered couple $(x, y) \in R$ and also ordered couple $(y, x) \in R$ for $\forall x, \forall y \in X$.

$aRb \rightarrow bRa \quad \forall a, b \in A$. [if whenever $(a, b) \in R$ then $(b, a) \in R$.]

Thus R is not symmetric if there exists $a, b \in A$ such that $(a, b) \in R$ but $(b, a) \notin R$.

Example

(a) Determine which of the relations in Example i are symmetric

$R1 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (1, 3), (4, 4)\}$

$R2 = \{(1, 1)(1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$

$R3 = \{(1, 3), (2, 1)\}$

$R4 = \emptyset$, the empty relation

$R5 = A \times A$, the universal relation

$R1$ is not symmetric since $(1, 2) \in R1$ but $(2, 1) \notin R1$.

$R3$ is not symmetric since $(1, 3) \in R3$ but $(3, 1) \notin R3$.

The other relations are symmetric.

(b) Determine which of the relations in Example ii are symmetric.



- (1) Relation \leq (less than or equal) on the set \mathbf{Z} of integers.
- (2) Set inclusion \subseteq on a collection C of sets.
- (3) Relation \perp (perpendicular) on the set L of lines in the plane.
- (4) Relation \parallel (parallel) on the set L of lines in the plane.

The relation \perp is symmetric since if line a is perpendicular to line b then b is perpendicular to a .

Also, \parallel is symmetric since if line a is parallel to line b then b is parallel to line a .

The other relations are not symmetric. For example:

$3 \leq 4$ but $4 \not\leq 3$; $\{1, 2\} \subseteq \{1, 2, 3\}$ but $\{1, 2, 3\} \not\subseteq \{1, 2\}$.

3) Transitive :

R is said to be *transitive* if ordered couple $(x, z) \in R$ whenever both ordered couples $(x, y) \in R$ and $(y, z) \in R$.

$aRb \wedge bRc \rightarrow aRc$. that is, if whenever $(a, b), (b, c) \in R$ then $(a, c) \in R$.

Thus R is not transitive if there exist $a, b, c \in R$ such that $(a, b), (b, c) \in R$ but $(a, c) \notin R$.

Example

(a) Determine which of the relations in example i are transitive.

$$R1 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (1, 3), (4, 4)\}$$

$$R2 = \{(1, 1)(1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$$

$$R3 = \{(1, 3), (2, 1)\}$$

$$R4 = \emptyset, \text{ the empty relation}$$

$$R5 = A \times A, \text{ the universal relation}$$

The relation $R3$ is not transitive since $(2, 1), (1, 3) \in R3$ but $(2, 3) \notin R3$. All the other relations are transitive.

(b) Determine which of the relations in example ii are transitive.

- (1) Relation \leq (less than or equal) on the set \mathbf{Z} of integers.
- (2) Set inclusion \subseteq on a collection C of sets.



- (3) Relation \perp (perpendicular) on the set L of lines in the plane.
(4) Relation \parallel (parallel) on the set L of lines in the plane.

The relations \leq , \subseteq , and $|$ are transitive, but certainly not \perp .
Also, since no line is parallel to itself, we can have
 $a \parallel b$ and $b \parallel a$, but $a \not\parallel a$. Thus \parallel is not transitive.

4) Equivalence relation :

A binary relation on any set is said an equivalence relation if it is **reflexive**, **symmetric**, and **transitive**.

R is an equivalence relation on S if it has the following three properties:

- a - For every $a \in S$, aRa . (reflexive)
- b- If aRb , then bRa . (symmetric)
- c- If aRb and bRc , then aRc . (transitive)

5) Irreflexive :

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

6) AntiSymmetric :

if $(x, y) \in R$ but $(y,x) \notin R$ unless $x = y$.
or

if aRb and bRa then $a=b$,

that is, **if $a \neq b$ and aRb then $(b,a) \notin R$.**

Thus R is not antisymmetric if there exist distinct elements a and b in A such that aRb and bRa .

the relations \geq, \leq and \subseteq are antisymmetric

Example

(a) Determine which of the relations in Example i are antisymmetric.

$$R1 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (1, 3), (4, 4)\}$$

$$R2 = \{(1, 1)(1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$$

$$R3 = \{(1, 3), (2, 1)\}$$



$R4 = \emptyset$, the empty relation

$R5 = A \times A$, the universal relation

$R2$ is not antisymmetric since $(1, 2)$ and $(2, 1)$ belong to $R2$, but $1 \neq 2$. Similarly, the universal relation $R3$ is not antisymmetric. All the other relations are antisymmetric.

(b) Determine which of the relations in Example ii are antisymmetric.

(1) Relation \leq (less than or equal) on the set \mathbf{Z} of integers.

(2) Set inclusion \subseteq on a collection C of sets.

(3) Relation \perp (perpendicular) on the set L of lines in the plane.

(4) Relation \parallel (parallel) on the set L of lines in the plane.

The relation \leq is antisymmetric since whenever $a \leq b$ and $b \leq a$ then $a = b$.

Set inclusion \subseteq is antisymmetric since whenever $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$ then $A = B$. Also,

The relations \perp and \parallel are not antisymmetric.

7) Compatible :

if a relation is only **reflexive** and **symmetric** then it is called a *compatibility* relation. So, we can say that: every equivalence relation is a compatibility relation, but not every compatibility relation is an equivalence relation.

Example:

Determine the properties of the relation \subset of set (inclusion on any collection of sets):

1) $A \subset A$ for any set, so \subset is reflexive

2) $A \subset B$ does not imply $B \subset A$, so \subset is not symmetric

3) If $A \subset B$ and $B \subset C$ then $A \subset C$, so \subset is transitive

4) \subset is reflexive, not symmetric & transitive, so \subset is not equivalence relations

5) $A \subset A$, so \subset is not Irreflexive



8) Partial ordered relation

A binary relation R is said to be partial ordered relation if it is:
reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive.

Example,

$R = \{(w, w), (x, x), (y, y), (z, z), (w, x), (w, y), (w, z), (x, y), (x, z)\}$

In a partial ordered relation objects are related through superior/inferior criterion..

Example

In the arithmetic relation less than or equal to " \leq " (or greater than or equal to " \geq ") are partial ordered relations.

Since,

- (1) Every number is equated to itself so it is reflexive.
- (2) Also, if m and n are two numbers then ordered couple $(m, n) \in R$ if $m = n \Rightarrow n \not\leq m$ so $(n, m) \notin R$ hence, relation is antisymmetric.
- (3) if $(m, n) \in R$ and $(n, k) \in R \Rightarrow m = n$ and $n = k \Rightarrow m = k$ so $(m, k) \in R$ hence, R is transitive.

Example

The relation \subseteq of set inclusion is a partial ordering on any collection of sets since set inclusion has the three desired properties. That is,

- (1) $A \subseteq A$ for any set A (reflexive).
- (2) If $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$, then $A = B$ (antisymmetric).
- (3) If $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq C$, then $A \subseteq C$ (transitive).