

# 8 Relations

## 8.1 Relations and Their Properties

**Definition 1** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two set.

A **binary relation**  $R$  from  $A$  to  $B$  is subset of  $A \times B$ .

$$R \subseteq A \times B.$$

$A$ : **domain** of the relation  $R$ .

$B$ : **range(codomain)** of the relation  $R$ .

Let  $a \in A$ ,  $b \in B$ , Then  $(a, b) \in R$  or  $(a, b) \notin R$ .

If  $(a, b) \in R$ , we also write  $a R b$  and we say  $a$  is **related to**  $b$  by  $R$ .

If  $(a, b) \notin R$ , we also write  $a \not R b$  and  $a$  is **not related to**  $b$  by  $R$ .

Two notations

$(a, b) \in R$                       relation  $R$  is a set

$$R \subseteq A \times B$$

$a R b$                               relation  $R$  is a infix **boolean** binary operator

$$R: A \times B \rightarrow \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$$

**Function as Relation**

$f: A \rightarrow B$  vs  $R \subseteq A \times B$

$$f(a) = b \text{ vs } R(a) = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$$

Function  $f$  is a special kind of relation

$$\forall a \in A \exists_1 b \in B. \quad \therefore f(a) = \{b\}$$

Some Relation  $R$  may be a function.

$$\forall a \in A \exists_1 b \in B. (a, b) \in R.$$

Function is a relation

you can write  $(a, b) \in f$  or  $a f b$  instead of  $f(a) = b$

Let  $f: A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n \rightarrow B_1 \times B_2 \times \dots \times B_m$ .

$$((a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n), (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m)) \in f$$

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) f (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m)$$

$$f((a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)) = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m) \text{ or}$$

$$f(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m).$$

## Relation on a Set

**Definition 2** Let  $A$  be a set and  $R \subseteq A \times A$ .  $R$  is called a **relation on  $A$** .  
 Relation on  $A$  is a **directed graph** on vertices  $A$  and edges  $R$ .

## Properties of Relations

**Definition 3** A relation  $R$  is **reflexive**, if  $\forall a \in A, a R a$ .

A relation  $R$  is **irreflexive**, if  $\forall a \in A, a \not R a$ .

A relation is **not both** reflexive and irreflexive.(disjoint)

**Definition 4** A relation  $R$  is **symmetric**, if  $a R b \Rightarrow b R a$ .

A relation  $R$  is **asymmetric**, if  $a R b \Rightarrow b \not R a$ .

A relation  $R$  is **antisymmetric**, if  $(a R b \wedge b R a) \Rightarrow (a = b)$ .

or if  $(a R b \wedge a \neq b) \Rightarrow b \not R a$ .

If a relation is a **asymmetric** then it is also **antisymmetric**.(subset)

**Definition 5** A relation  $R$  is **transitive**, if  $a R b \wedge b R c \Rightarrow a R c$ .

## Combining Relations

Let  $R_1, R_2 \subseteq A \times B$ . Consider  $R_1 \cup R_2, R_1 \cap R_2, R_1 \oplus R_2, R_1 - R_2, R_2 - R_1$ .

**Definition 6** Let  $R \subseteq A \times B, S \subseteq B \times C$ . Then **composition** of  $R$  and  $S$ , denoted as  $S \circ R = \{(a, c) \in A \times C \mid (a, b) \in R, (b, c) \in S\}$ .

**Definition 7** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ . Then for  $n \in \mathbf{N}^+$ ,

$$R^1 = R \quad \text{basis}$$

$$R^{n+1} = R^n \circ R. \quad \text{induction}$$

**Definition 6.5** Let  $A$  be a set. We define **identity** relation

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

**Colorally 0.5** Let  $R \subseteq A \times B$ . Then

$$R \circ id_A = id_A \circ R = R. \quad id_A \text{ is a } \textit{identity element for composition}.$$

**Definition 7.5** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ . Then for  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ ,

$$R^0 = id_A \quad \text{basis} \quad (x^0 = 1)$$

$$R^{n+1} = R^n \circ R. \quad \text{induction}$$

**Theorem 1** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ .  $R$  is *transitive*, if and only if,  $R^n \subseteq R$  for  $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^+$ .

**Proof:**

1. (if)  $R^n \subseteq R$  for  $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^+ \rightarrow R$  is transitive.

$\forall (a, b) \in R, \forall (b, c) \in R, (a, c) \in R^2$ .

Since  $R^2 \subseteq R, (a, c) \in R$ .

$\therefore R$  is transitive.

2. (only if)  $R$  is transitive  $\rightarrow R^n \subseteq R$  for  $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^+$ .

**basis** Trivial for  $n = 1$ .

**induction** Assume  $R^n \subseteq R$  and  $R$  is transitive for some  $n \in \mathbf{N}^+$ .

$\forall (a, b) \in R^{n+1}, \exists c \in A \text{ s.t. } (a, c) \in R \wedge (c, b) \in R^n. (R^{n+1} = R^n \circ R)$

Since  $R^n \subseteq R, (c, b) \in R$ , and since  $R$  is transitive,  $(a, b) \in R$ .

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

## ***8.2 n-ary Relations and Their Applications***

***Definition 1*** Let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  be sets.  $R \subseteq A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$  is a *n-ary relation* on  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ . The sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are called the ***domain*** of the relations, and  $n$  is called its ***degree***.

### 8.3 Representing Relations

$$R: A \times B \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

*boolean matrix*

$$R \subseteq A \times A.$$

**Definition 1** A directed graph, digraph  $G = (V, E)$  consists of a set  $V$  of vertices, and a set  $E \subseteq V \times V$  of edges(*arcs*).

## 8.4 Closure of Relations

Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ .  $R$  may or may not have some property  $\mathbf{P} = \{\text{reflexive, symmetric, transitive}\}$ . If  $\forall T \subseteq A \times A$  with property  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{P}$  and  $R \subseteq T$ ,  $S \subseteq T$ , then  $S$  is called the  **$\mathbf{p}$  closure** of  $R$ .

**Reflexive closure** of  $R$

$$R \cup \text{id}_A.$$

**Symmetric closure** of  $R$

$$R \cup R^{-1}.$$

**Definition 1** A **path** from  $a$  to  $b$  in the directed graph  $G = (V, E)$ .

$(x_0, x_1), (x_1, x_2), \dots, (x_{n-1}, x_n) \in E$ , and  $x_0 = a, x_n = b$ .

The path is denoted by  $(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  and has **length**  $n$ .

A path of length  $n \geq 1$  and

begins and ends at the same vertex is called **cycle**.

**Theorem 1** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ . There is a path of length  $n \geq 1$  from  $a$  to  $b$ , if and only if,  $(a, b) \in R^n$ .

*proof* Easy for induction

**Definition 1** A connectivity relation  $R^+ = \{(a, b) \mid (a, b) \in R^n, \forall n \geq 1\}$

$$R^+ = \cup_{i \in \mathbf{N}_+} R^i = R^1 \cup R^2 \cup \dots$$

*transitive closure of  $R$ .*

$$R^* = \cup_{i \in \mathbf{N}} R^i = R^0 \cup R^1 \cup R^2 \cup \dots$$

*reflexive and transitive closure of  $R$ .*

Let  $A$  and  $C$  be sets  $R \subseteq A \times A$ , and  $f, g: A \rightarrow 2^C$ . (set valued functions)

$$f(a) = \{c \in C \mid c \in g(a)\} \cup \{c \in C \mid a R b, c \in f(b)\}.$$

$$f(a) = \{c \in g(a)\} \cup \{c \in f(b) \mid a R b\}.$$

$$f(a) = g(a) \cup \cup_{a R b} f(b). \text{ (recursive definition of } f \text{) Then}$$

$$f(a) = \{c \in C \mid c \in g^*(a)\}.$$

$$f(a) = g^*(a). \text{ (iterative definition of } f \text{)}$$

Warshall's algorithm  $O(n^3)$

Depth first search  $O(n^2)$

**Algorithm** *Depth first search**S*: stack of Vertex; *n*(Vertex) array of Depth;**procedure** *Traverse*(*x*: Vertex; *d*: Depth);**push** *x* onto *S*;  $n(x) := d$ ; $f(x) := g(x)$ ;**for**  $y \in \text{Vertex}$  **where**  $x R y$  **do****if**  $n(y) = 0$  **then** *Traverse*(*y*, *d*+1) **fi**; $n(x) := \min(n(x), n(y))$ ; $f(x) := f(x) \cup f(y)$ **od**;**if**  $n(x) = d$  **then repeat** $y = \text{pop of } S$ ;  $n(y) := \text{infinite}$ ; $f(y) := f(x)$ **until**  $y = x$ **fi****end procedure** *Traverse***for**  $x \in \text{Vertex}$  **do**  $n(x) := 0$  **od**; $f(x) := \{\}$ ;**for**  $x \in \text{Vertex}$  **where**  $n(x) = 0$  **do** *Traverse*(*x*, 1) **od**

## 8.5 Equivalence Relations

**Definition 1** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ .  $R$  is called **equivalence relation**, if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

**Definition 3** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$  be an **equivalence relation**.

$[a]_R = \{b \mid a R b\}$  is called the **equivalence class** of  $a$  w.r.t.  $R$ .

If  $b \in [a]_R$ ,  $b$  is called the **representative** of the equivalent class.

Note that  $a \in [a]_R$ , since  $R$  is reflexive.

**Theorem 1** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$  be an **equivalence relation**. Three statements are logically equivalent

$$i) a R b \quad ii) [a]_R = [b]_R \quad iii) [a]_R \cap [b]_R \neq \emptyset.$$

**proof**

1)  $i) \rightarrow ii)$

$$\forall c \in [a]_R, a R c, a R b, b R a. \therefore b R c, c \in [b]_R. \therefore [a]_R \subseteq [b]_R.$$

$$\forall c \in [b]_R, b R c, a R b. \therefore a R c, c \in [a]_R. \therefore [b]_R \subseteq [a]_R.$$

2) ii)  $\rightarrow$  iii)

$$\text{Assume } [a]_R = [b]_R, a R b. \therefore a, b \in [a]_R \cap [b]_R \neq \emptyset.$$

3) iii)  $\rightarrow$  i)

$$\text{Suppose } [a]_R \cap [b]_R \neq \emptyset, [a]_R \neq \emptyset \text{ and } [b]_R \neq \emptyset.$$

$$\exists c \in [a]_R \wedge c \in [b]_R. a R c, b R c. c R b, \therefore a R b.$$

**Lemma 1.5** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$  be an **equivalence relation**.

$$\cup_{a \in A} [a]_R = A. \quad a \in [a]_R.$$

$\therefore \{[a]_R \subseteq A \mid a \in A\}$  is a **partition** of  $A$ .

**Definition 1.5** Let  $S$  be a set. The **partition** of  $S$ ,  $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$   $I$ : index set, is

i)  $A_i \neq \emptyset, i \in I.$  **nonempty**

ii)  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset, \text{ when } i \neq j.$  **disjoint**

iii)  $\cup_{i \in I} A_i = A.$  **exhaustive**

**Theorem 2** Let  $R$  be an equivalent relation on  $A$ .

Then the **equivalent classes** of  $R$  form a **partition** of  $A$ .

Conversely, given a **partition**  $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$  of the set  $A$ ,

there is an **equivalent relation**  $R$  that has the set  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ ,  
as its **equivalent class**.

**Relation**  $R \subseteq A \times A$   $O(n^2)$  where  $|A| = n$ .

**Equivalent relation**  $R \subseteq A \times A$   $O(n)$

## 8.6 Partial Ordering

**Definition 1** Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ .  $R$  is called **(ir)reflexive partial order**, if it is **(ir)reflexive**, **antisymmetric**, and **transitive**.

$(A, R)$  is called **partially ordered set** or **poset**.

**Example 1**  $(\mathbf{Z}, \leq)$ ,  $(\mathbf{Z}^+, |)$ ,  $(2^S, \subseteq)$  are posets.

**Definition 2** Let  $(A, \leq)$  be poset and  $a, b \in A$ . Then

The elements  $a$  and  $b$  are **comparable** if either  $a \leq b$  or  $b \leq a$ .

The elements  $a$  and  $b$  are **incomparable** if **neither**  $a \leq b$  **nor**  $b \leq a$ .

**Definition 3** Let  $(S, \leq)$  be poset. If  $\forall a, b \in S$ ,  $a$  and  $b$  are **comparable**,

$S$  is called **totally ordered set**, **linearly ordered set**, or **chain**.

$\leq$  is called **total order** or **linear order**.

**Definition 4**  $(S, \leq)$  is a **well-ordered set**, if it is a **poset**,  $\leq$  is a **total order**, and every nonempty subset of  $S$  has a **least element**.

**Theorem 1 Principle of Well-Ordered Induction**

Let  $(S, \leq)$  be a well-ordered set.  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$ , if  
 $\forall y \in S, \forall x \in S . \exists . x < y: P(x) \rightarrow P(y)$ .

**proof** Suppose  $\exists y \in S, \neg P(y)$ .

$$A = \{x \in S \mid \neg P(x)\} \neq \emptyset.$$

Let  $a \in A$  be the least element.

$$\exists a \in A, \forall x \in S . \exists . x < a: P(x) \rightarrow P(a).$$

Contradiction  $\exists y \in S, \neg P(y)$ .

**Lexicographic order**

Let  $(A_1, \leq_1)$  and  $(A_2, \leq_2)$  be **well-ordered sets**.

We define  $(A_1 \times A_2, \leq)$  **lexicographic order**

$$(a_1, a_2) \leq (b_1, b_2), \text{ if } (a_1 <_1 b_1) \vee ((a_1 =_1 b_1) \wedge (a_2 \leq_2 b_2))$$

## Hasse Diagram

Let  $(A, \leq)$  be a poset. We say  $a$  **covers**  $b$ , if  $a < b \wedge \neg \exists c \in A, a \leq c \wedge c \leq b$ .  
 $(A, \text{covers})$  is a Hasse Diagram.

## Maximal and Minimal Elements

Let  $(A, \leq)$  be a poset.

We say  $a$  is a **maximal**, if  $\neg \exists b \in A, a < b$ .

We say  $a$  is a **minimal**, if  $\neg \exists b \in A, b < a$ .

We say  $a$  is a **greatest element**, if  $\forall b \in A, b \leq a$ .

We say  $a$  is a **least elements**, if  $\forall b \in A, a \leq b$ .

Let  $S \subseteq A$ .  $u \in A$  is called **upper bound** of  $S$ , if  $\forall a \in S, a \leq u$ .

$l \in A$  is called **lower bound** of  $S$ , if  $\forall a \in S, l \leq a$ .

$x \in A$  is called the **least upper bound** of  $S$ , if  $\forall a \in S, a \leq x$ ,

$x \leq z$ , if  $\forall z \in \text{upper bound of } S$ .

$y \in A$  is called the **greatest lower bound** of  $S$ , if  $\forall a \in S, y \leq a$ ,

$z \leq y$ , if  $\forall z \in \text{lower bound of } S$ .

**Lattice**

A poset  $(A, \leq)$  is called **lattice**. If every pair of elements has both a least upper bound, and a greatest lower bound.

$(\mathbf{Z}, \leq)$  is a lattice.

$$\max, \min: \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$$

$(\mathbf{Z}^+, |)$  is a lattice.

$$\text{lcm}, \text{gcd}: \mathbf{Z}^+ \times \mathbf{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^+$$

$(2^S, \subseteq)$  is a lattice.

$$\cup, \cap: 2^S \times 2^S \rightarrow 2^S$$

**Topological Sorting**

**Lemma 1** Every finite nonempty poset  $(A, \leq)$  has at least one minimal elements.

**Algorithm 1** Topological sorting

Construct a total ordering  $<_t$  from a partial ordering  $\leq$ .

$a <_t b$ , if and only if,  $a \leq b$  or  $a$  and  $b$  are **incomparable**.