
Relations

Section 9.1, 9.3, 9.5, 9.6

Background

- Having collections of data: Good
- Knowing the connections between collections: Better!
- **Example:**
 - Students - Courses
 - Businesses - Email Adresses
 - Dogs - Trees

Relations

Definition: *(Binary) Relation*

A binary relation from set X to Y is a subset of the Cartesian Product of X (the domain) and Y (the codomain).

NOTE: a relation “on set W ” \equiv “from set W to set W ”.

Example:

$A = \{\text{Leslie Knope, Jim Halpert, Michael Scott, Ann Perkins, Ben Wyatt}\}$

$B = \{\text{Parks and Rec, The Office}\}$

$R = \{(\text{Leslie Knope, Parks and Rec}), (\text{JH, O}), (\text{MS, O}), (\text{AP, P\&R}), (\text{BW, P\&R})\}$

Relations

Definition: Related

If $(x, y) \in R$, x is related to y ($x R y$)

Example:

(Leslie Knope, Parks and Rec) $\in R$ (Leslie Knope R Parks and Rec)

(Jim Halpert, Parks and Rec) $\notin R$ (Jim Halpert $\not R$ Parks and Rec)

Let $H = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ and let R be a relation on H
such that $x R y$ when $x \% y = 0$, $x \neq y$

$R = \{(2,1), (3,1), (4,1), (5,1), (6,1), (4,2), (6,2), (6,3)\}$

Defining Relations

- Relations are just sets of ordered pairs
 - We can use set builder notation to define sets

Example:

$A = \{\text{Leslie Knope, Jim Halpert, Michael Scott, Ann Perkins, Ben Wyatt}\}$

$B = \{\text{Parks and Rec, The Office}\}$

$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \in A \wedge b \in B \wedge a \text{ is a character in } b\}$

Let $H = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ and we want a relation on H such that $x R y$ when $x \% y = 0, x \neq y$

$R = \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in H \wedge x \% y = 0\}$

Playposit

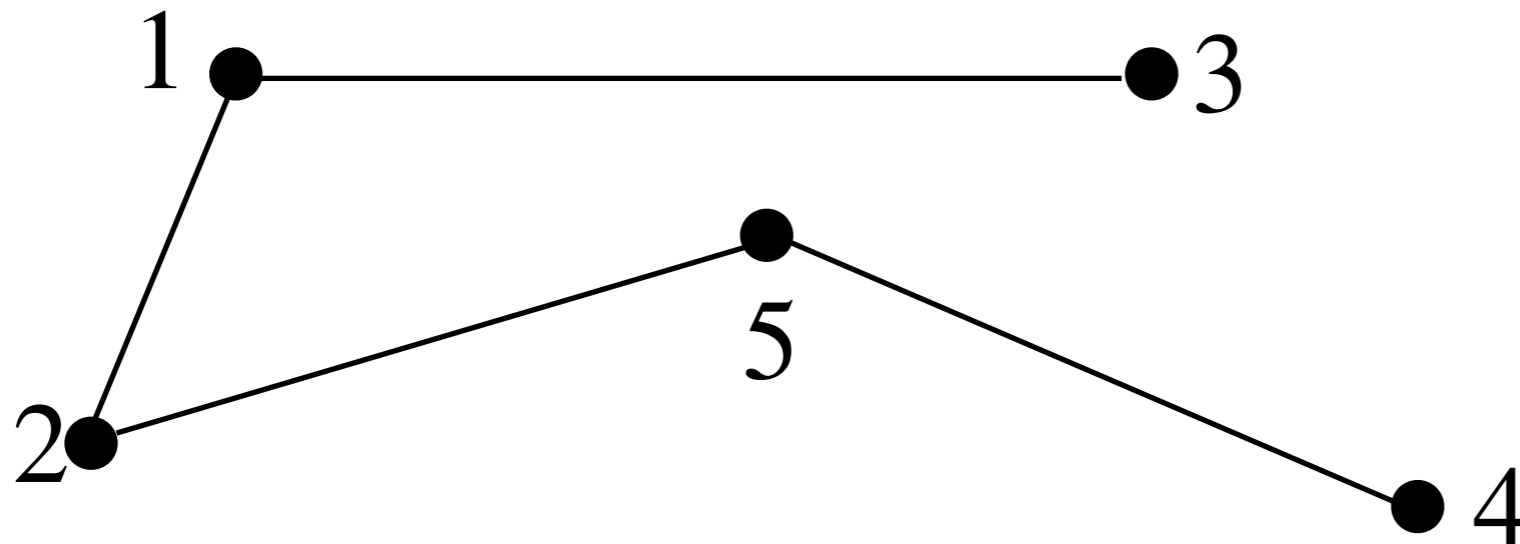
- Let $A = \{2,4,6\}$. Let R be the relation on A where $(x, y) \in R$ when $\frac{x}{y} \in \mathbb{Z}$. Which of the following ordered pairs are in R ?

- $(2,2)$
- $(2,4)$
- $(2,6)$
- $(4,2)$
- $(4,4)$
- $(4,6)$
- $(6,2)$
- $(6,4)$
- $(6,6)$

Graph Representations of Relations

- Graphs:

- A set V of vertices (nodes) and a set E of pairs of vertices that represent an edge between those two vertices



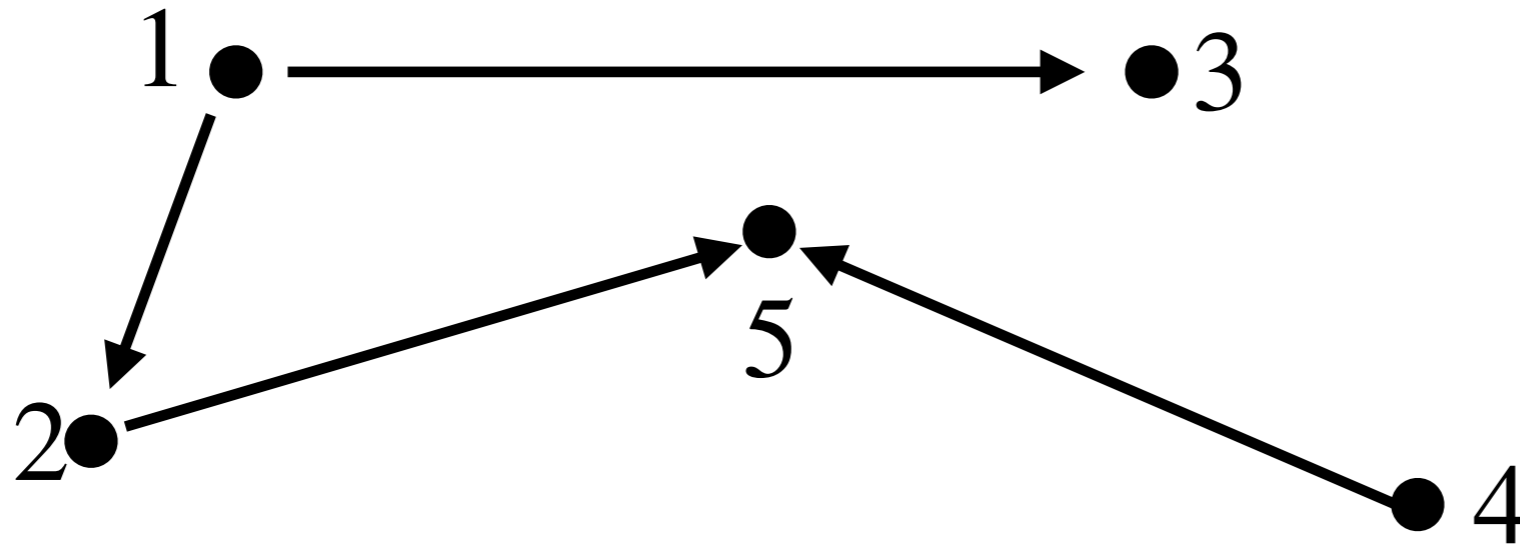
$$V = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$E = \{(1, 3), (1, 2), (2, 5), (4, 5)\}$$

Graph Representations of Relations

- Directed Graphs (Digraph):

- A set V of vertices (nodes) and a set E of pairs of vertices that represent an edge between those two vertices
- In edge (a,b) , a is the initial vertex and b is the terminal vertex



$$V = \{1,2,3,4,5\}$$

$$E = \{(1,3), (1,2), (2,5), (4,5)\}$$

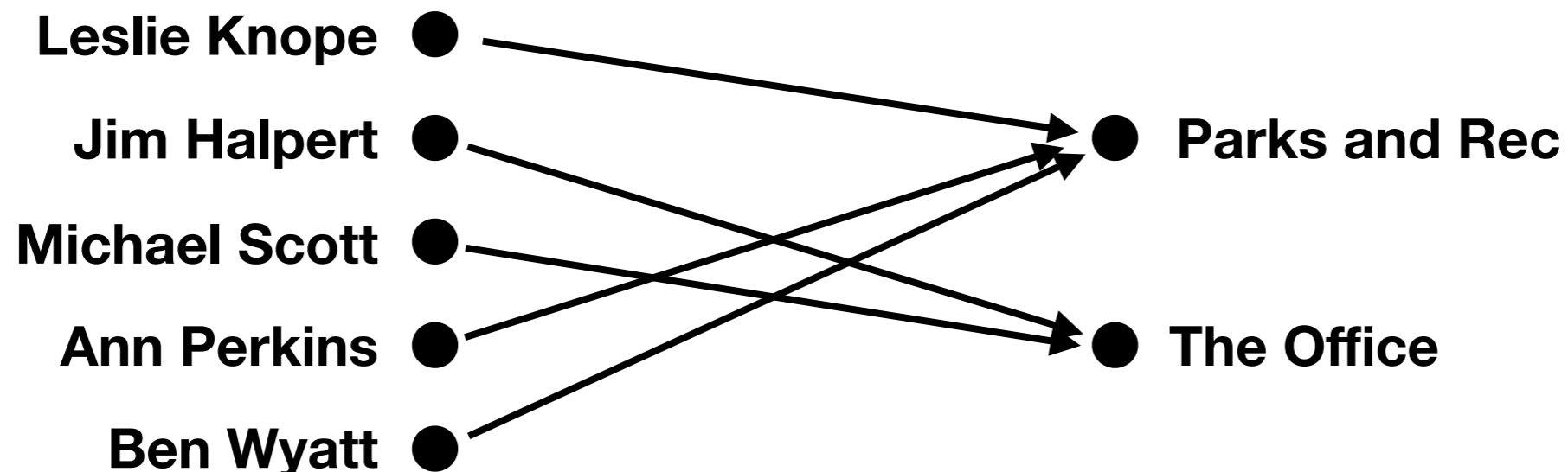
Graph Representations of Relations

- Example:

$A = \{ \text{Leslie Knope, Jim Halpert, Michael Scott, Ann Perkins, Ben Wyatt} \}$

$B = \{ \text{Parks and Rec, The Office} \}$

$R = \{ (\text{Leslie Knope, Parks and Rec}), (\text{JH, O}), (\text{MS, O}), (\text{AP, P\&R}), (\text{BW, P\&R}) \}$

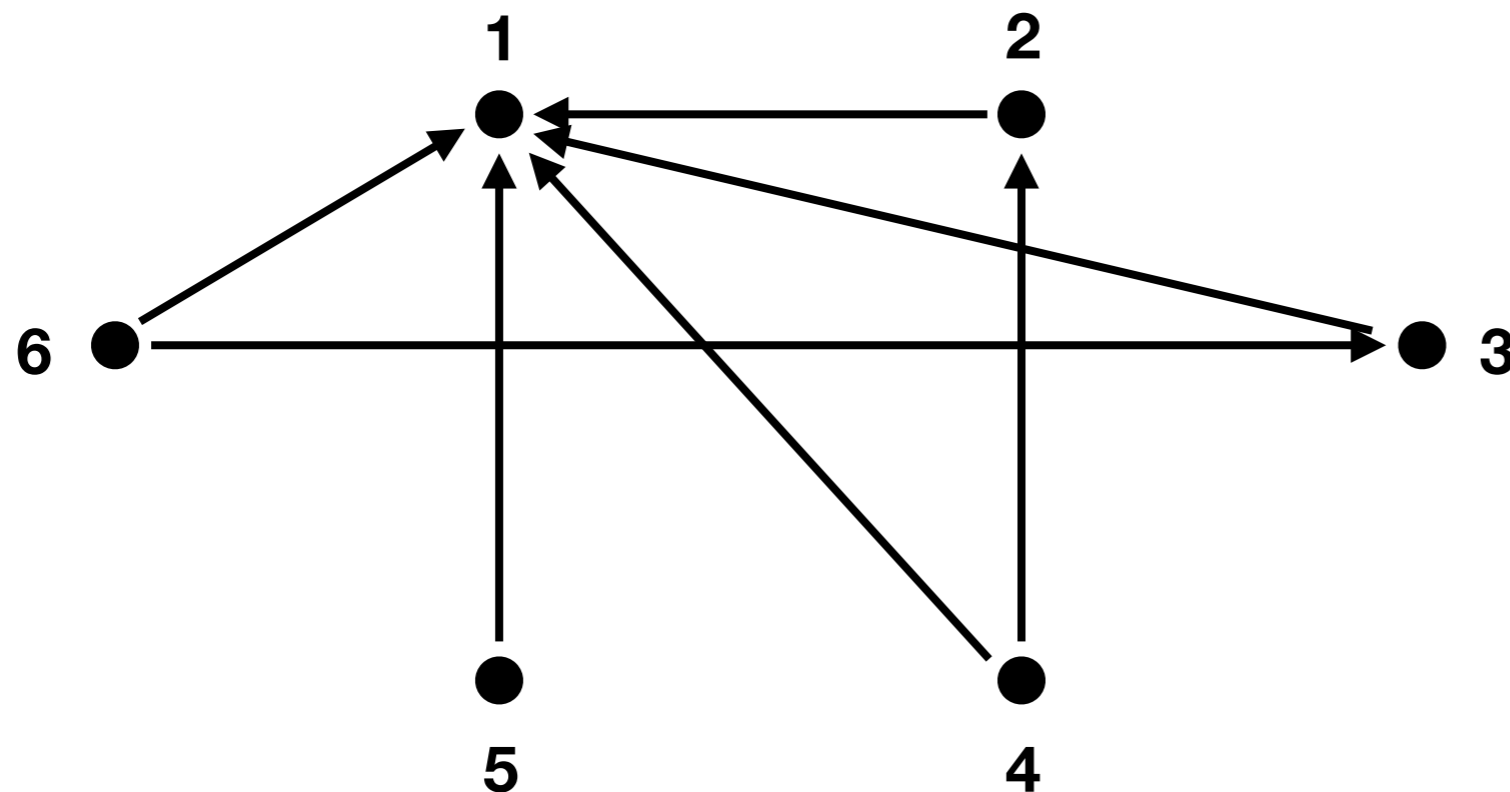


Graph Representations of Relations

- **Example:** $x \% y = 0, x \neq y$

Recall: $H = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$

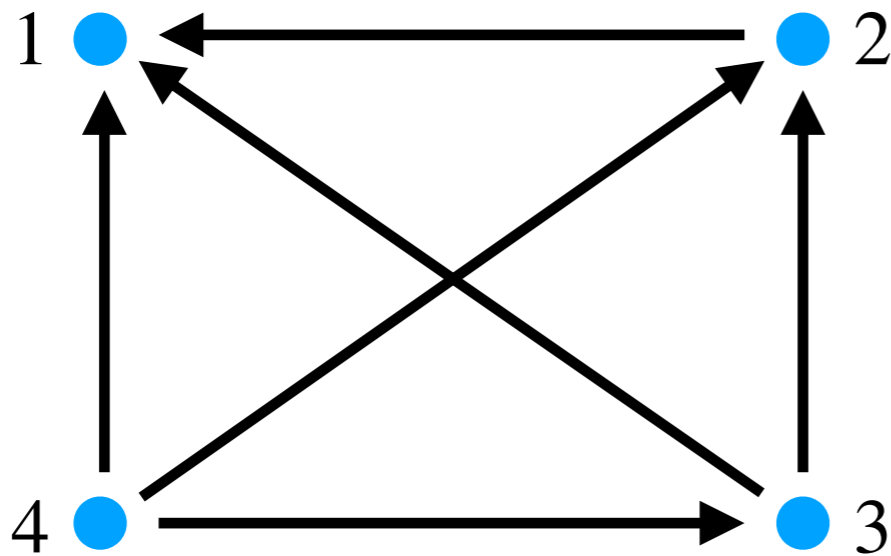
$R = \{(2,1), (3,1), (4,1), (5,1), (6,1), (4,2), (6,2), (6,3)\}$



Note: Vertices with just one outgoing edge are prime

Playposit

Let $A = \{1,2,3,4\}$. What relation does the below graph represent?



- A. $R = \{(x, y) \mid x - y > 0 \wedge x, y \in H\}$
- B. $R = \{(x, y) \mid xy < 5 \wedge x, y \in H\}$
- C. $R = \{(x, y) \mid x + y \geq 6 \wedge x, y \in H\}$
- D. $R = \{(x, y) \mid (x + y) \% 2 = 0 \wedge x, y \in H\}$

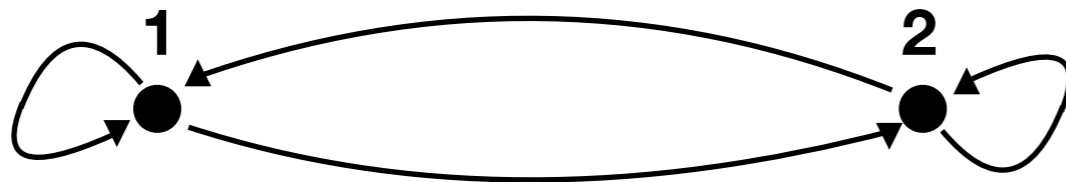
Properties of Relations

Definition: Reflexivity

A relation R on set A is reflexive when $(a, a) \in R$,
 $\forall a \in A$

Example:

$$\{1,2\} \times \{1,2\} = \{(1,1), (1,2), (2,1), (2,2)\}$$



(A directed edge whose source is also the destination is a self-loop)

Properties of Relations

Definition: Symmetry

A relation R on set A is symmetric if $(a, b) \in R$ whenever $(b, a) \in R$, for $a, b \in A$

(All non-self-loop edges are ‘back-and-forth’)

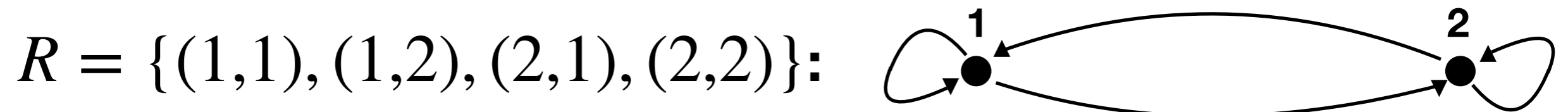
Example:

$R = \{(1,1), (1,2), (2,1), (2,2)\}$ on $A = \{1,2\}$ **is symmetric**

$R = \{(a, c), (a, d), (c, a), (b, c)\}$ on $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$ **is not symmetric ((d, a) and (c, b) are missing.)**

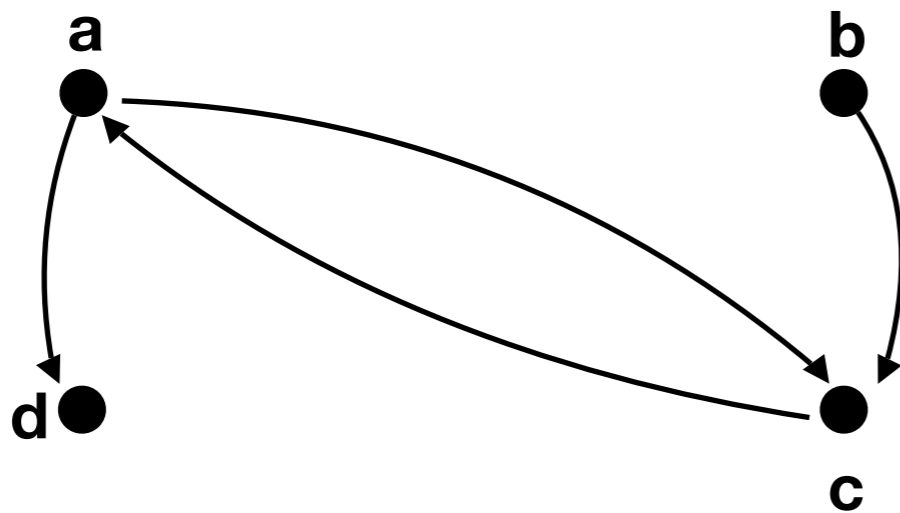
Properties of Relations

Example: Graph Representation & Symmetry



(Excepting self-loops, just have back-and-forth arrows)

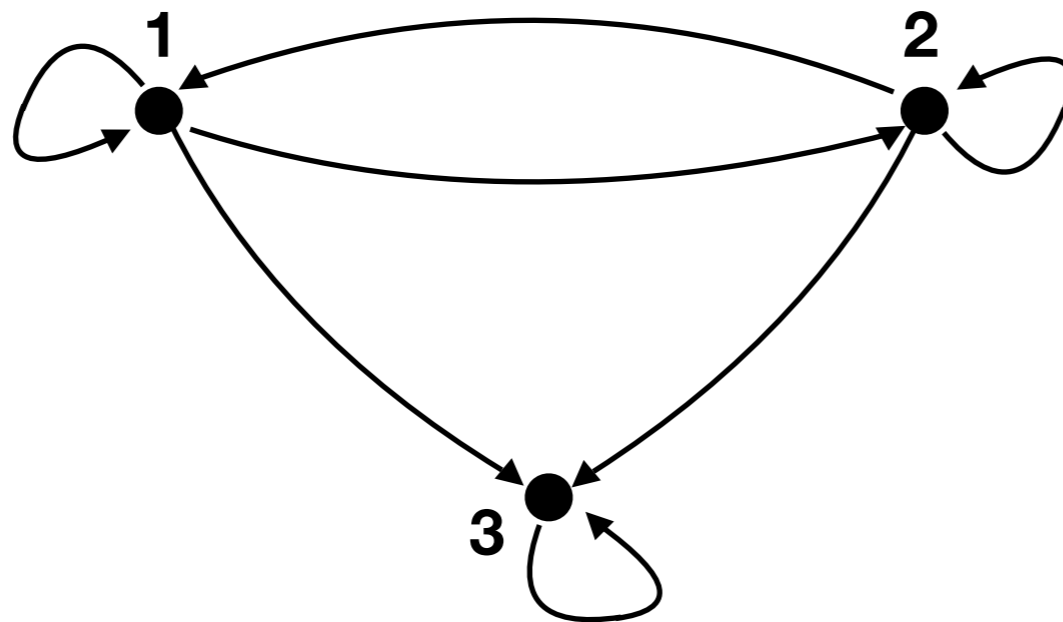
$R = \{(a, c), (a, d), (c, a), (b, c)\}:$



(Easy to see that (d, a) and (c, b) are missing)

Playposit

Which of the following is true for the relation represented by the below graph?



- A. It is only symmetric.
- B. It is only reflexive.
- C. It is both reflexive and symmetric.
- D. It is neither reflexive nor symmetric.

Properties of Relations

Definition: Antisymmetry

A relation R on set A is antisymmetric if $(x, y) \in R$ and $x \neq y$, then $(y, x) \notin R$, $\forall x, y \in A$.

(No non-self-loop edges are ‘back-and-forth’)

Example:

$\{(3,4)\}$ on $\{3,4\}$ is antisymmetric ($(4,3)$ is not present)

$\{(1,1), (3,1), (1,3)\}$ on $\{1,3\}$ is not antisymmetric

$\{(a, c), (a, d), (c, a), (b, c)\}$ is not

(Thus, relations may be neither symmetric nor antisymmetric.)

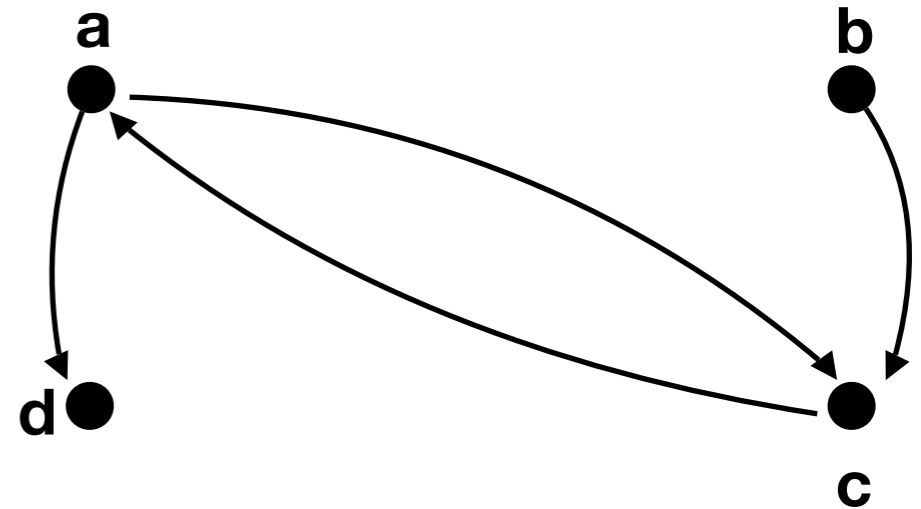
Properties of Relations

Example: Graph Representation & Antisymmetry

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

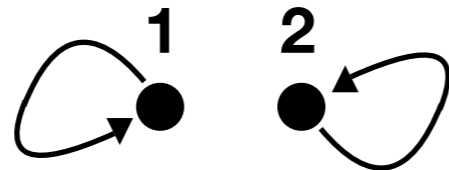
(The offending 'double edge'

is easy to see)



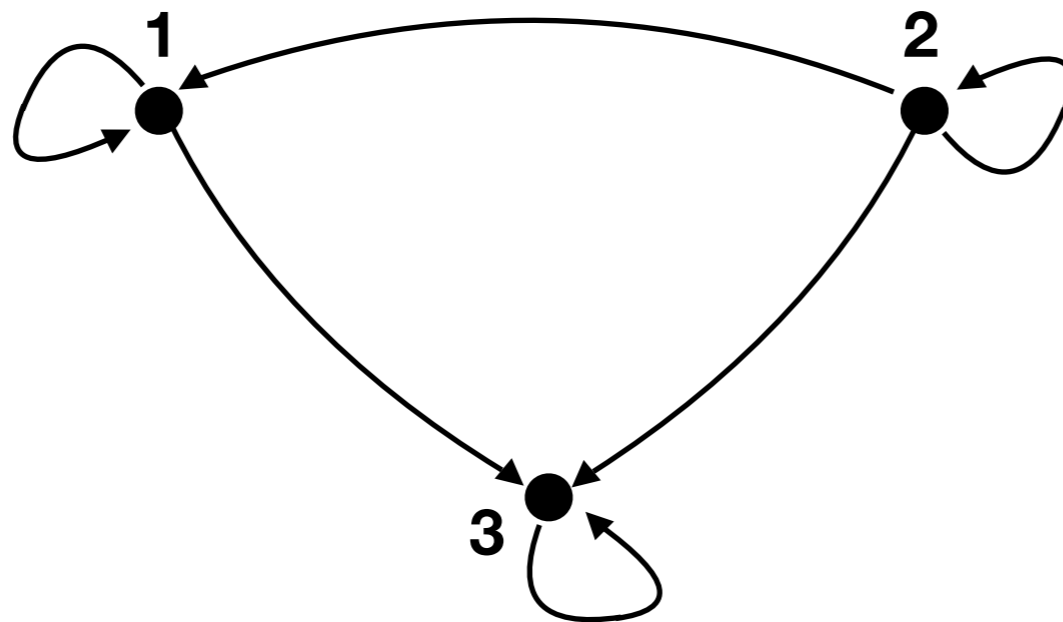
$R = \{(1,1), (2,2)\}$ on $\{1,2\}$

(both symmetric & antisymmetric) as a digraph:



Playposit

Which of the following is true for the relation represented by the below graph?



- A. It is only symmetric.
- B. It is only antisymmetric.
- C. It is both symmetric and antisymmetric.
- D. It is neither symmetric nor antisymmetric.

Properties of Relations

Definition: Transitivity

A relation R on set A is transitive if whenever $(a, b) \in R$ and $(b, c) \in R$, then $(a, c) \in R$, where $a, b, c \in A$

Example:

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

$(x, y) \ \& \ (y, z) \Rightarrow (x, z)$, which is $\in R$

$(y, z) \ \& \ (z, y) \Rightarrow (y, y)$ which is not in R

$\therefore R$ is not transitive

Properties of Relations

Example:

$S = \{(4,5), (4,6), (4,7), (5,6), (5,7), (6,7)\}$ on $\{4,5,6,7\}$

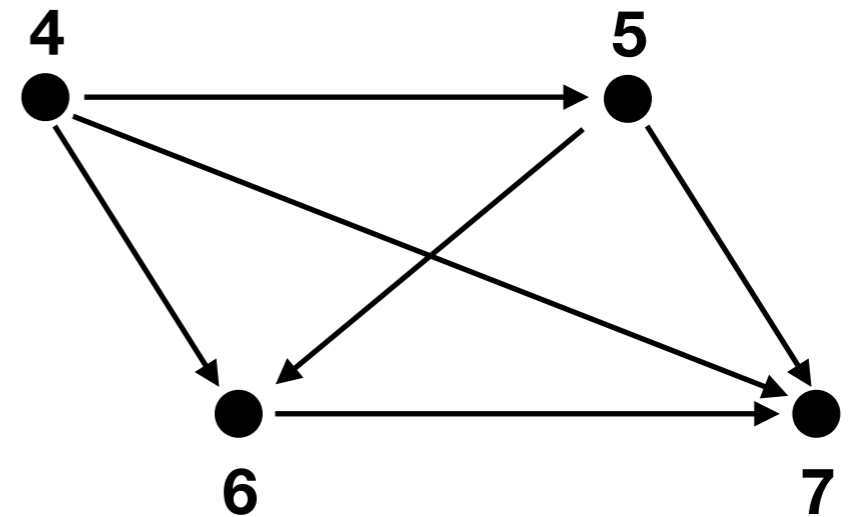
$$(4,5) \& (5,6) \Rightarrow (4,6)$$

$$(4,5) \& (5,7) \Rightarrow (4,7)$$

$$(4,6) \& (6,7) \Rightarrow (4,7)$$

$$(5,6) \& (6,7) \Rightarrow (5,7)$$

$\therefore S$ is transitive



(Note: Digraphs don't really help see transitivity)

Properties of Relations

Example:

$S = \{(4,5), (4,6), (4,7), (5,6), (5,7), (6,7)\}$ on $\{4,5,6,7\}$

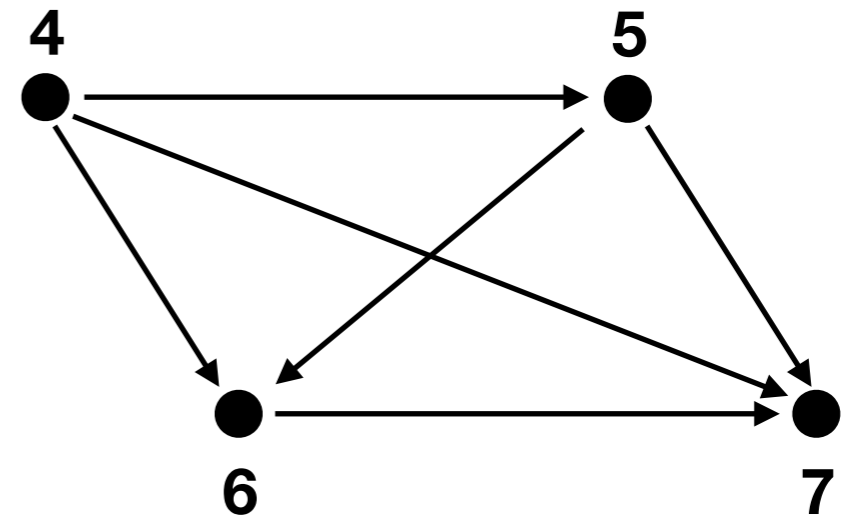
$$(4,5) \& (5,6) \Rightarrow (4,6)$$

$$(4,5) \& (5,7) \Rightarrow (4,7)$$

$$(4,6) \& (6,7) \Rightarrow (4,7)$$

$$(5,6) \& (6,7) \Rightarrow (5,7)$$

$\therefore S$ is transitive



(Note: Digraphs don't really help see transitivity)

Relational Composition Examples

- Three examples of creating relations from relations
- **Example #1:** Set operators

Recall: A relation is a set of ordered pairs

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

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

$$S = \{(1,1), (2,3)\} \text{ on } A$$

$$R \cup S = \{(1,2), (1,3), (1,1), (2,3)\} \text{ on } A$$

is also a relation on A

Relational Composition Examples

- **Example #2:** Swapping content of ordered pairs $(1,2) \Rightarrow (2,1)$

Definition: Inverse

The inverse of a relation R , denoted R^{-1} , contains all of the ordered pairs of R with their components exchanged

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

Relational Composition Examples

- **Example #3:** Composites

Remember: $f \circ g = f(g(x))$

Definition: Composite

Let G be a relation from A to B , and F be a relation from B to C . The composite of F and G , $F \circ G$, is the relation of ordered pairs (a, c) , $a \in A$, $c \in C$, such that $(a, b) \in G$ and $(b, c) \in F$, where $b \in B$

Example:

Let $X = \{(1,a), (2,b), (3,c)\}$

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

$X \circ Y = \{(1,b), (2,c), (1,c)\}$

Relational Composition Examples

- **Example #3:** Composites (cont)

Example:

Let $C = \{(\alpha, -4), (\alpha, -2), (\beta, -6), (\gamma, -4)\}$

$D = \{(q, \beta), (x, \alpha), (x, \gamma)\}$

$C \circ D = \{(q, -6), (x, -4), (x, -2)\}$

(Note that $(x, -4)$ is not repeated; this is a set)

Definition: Complement

The complement of a relation R , denoted \bar{R} , is

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

Matrix Representation of Relations

- We assume that relations are on just one set
- The 0-1 matrix representation of relation R on set A is $|A| \times |A|$, with both dimensions labeled identically. When $(a, b) \in R$, then $\text{matrix}[a][b]=1$. Else, $\text{matrix}[a][b]=0$

Example:

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

$$M = \begin{array}{c} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{array} \begin{array}{cccc} a & b & c & d \\ \left[\begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

Matrix Representation of Relations

- **Observation #1: Detecting Reflexivity**
 - A relation is reflexive when its corresponding matrix representation has no 0's along the main diagonal

Example:

$$R = \{(1,1), (1,2), (2,2)\} \text{ on } \{1,2\}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 1 \\ 0 & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$$

The main diagonal is all 1's; $\therefore R$ is reflexive

Matrix Representation of Relations

- **Observation #2: Detecting Symmetry**
 - Let matrix M represent R . R is symmetric when $m_{ij} = 1$ iff $m_{ji} = 1$ is true

Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**When the relation is symmetric,
the matrix is symmetric**

Matrix Representation of Relations

- **Observation #3: Detecting Transitivity**
 - Let matrix M represent R . R is transitive when the non-zero elements of M^2 (or of $M^{([2])}$) are also non-zero in M

Example:

Is $\{(1,1), (2,2), (2,3), (3,2)\}$ on $\{1,2,3\}$ transitive?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

So, no, the relation is not transitive

Matrix Representation of Relations

- **Observation #3: Detecting Transitivity**
 - Let matrix M represent R . R is transitive when the non-zero elements of M^2 (or of $M^{([2])}$) are also non-zero in M

Why does this work?

Consider $R = \{(1,1), (2,2), (2,3), (3,2)\}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Everything 3
relates to

Everything
related to 3

Can we
transitively
relate 3 to 3?

Equivalence Relations

Definition: Equivalence Relation

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

Example:

$A = \{2,3,4\}$. Let Q be a relation on A such that $a = b$,
 $\forall a, b \in A$

Thus $Q = \{(2,2), (3,3), (4,4)\}$

Reflexive?

Symmetric?

Transitive?

Equivalence Relations

Example:

$B = \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$. Let R be a relation on B such that $|a| = |b|, \forall a, b \in B$

Thus $R = \{(0,0), (1,1), (1, -1), (-1,1), (-1, -1), (2,2), (2, -2), (-2,2), (-2, -2)\}$

This is also an equivalence relation.

Playposit

Is the following relation on $\{a, b, c\}$ an equivalence relation (if no, select the answer that explains why)?

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

- A. Yes, it is an equivalence relation.
- B. No, because it is not transitive.
- C. No, because it is not symmetric.
- D. No, because it is not reflexive
- E. None of the above

Equivalence Relations

So ... why are these called *equivalence* relations?

Recall:

$$R = \{(0,0), (1,1), (1, - 1), (-1,1), (-1, - 1), \\ (2,2), (2, - 2), (-2,2), (-2, - 2)\}$$

Note the “clusters” of 0’s, 1’s, and 2’s. This gives a partition of the base set B :

$$\{\{0\}, \{-1,1\}, \{-2,2\}\}$$

Equivalence Relations

Definition: Equivalence Class

The equivalence relation R on set B , and an element $b \in B$, is $\{c \mid c \in B \wedge (b, c) \in R\}$ and is denoted $[b]$. (That is, the set of everything paired with b on the right side of R)

Example: (From previous slide)

$$[1] \Rightarrow \{c \mid c \in B \wedge (1, c) \in R\}$$

R contains $(1, 1)$ and $(1, -1)$, so $[1] = \{1, -1\}$.

Playposit

Which of the following is the equivalence class for [2]?

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

- A. $\{1,2\}$
- B. $\{1,3\}$
- C. $\{2,3\}$
- D. $\{1,2,3\}$

Partial Orders

- Consider scheduling the construction of a house.
- Example: foundation, then walls, then paint
 - But what about bathroom tile and the kitchen sink?

Definition: Reflexive (a.k.a. Weak) Partial Order

A relation R on set A is a (reflexive/weak) partial order if it is *reflexive*, *antisymmetric*, and *transitive*.

Notation: $x \leq y$ means $(x, y) \in R$
when R is a partial order

Partial Orders

Example:

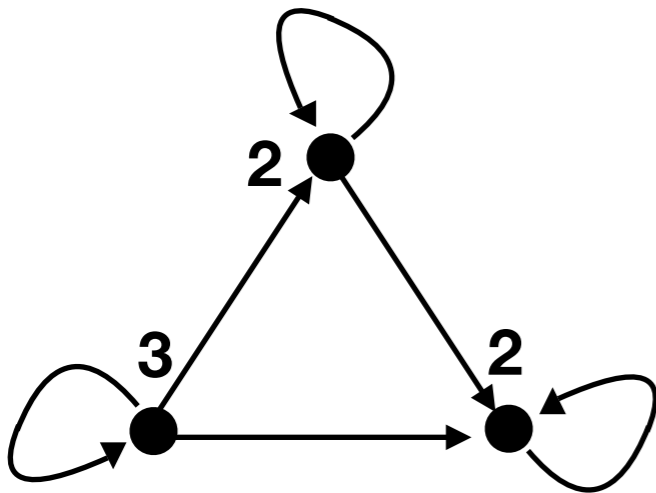
$S = \{(1,1), (1,2), (2,2), (3,1), (3,2), (3,3)\}$ on $\{1,2,3\}$

Is S reflexive?

Antisymmetric?

Transitive?

$\therefore S$ is a weak partial order



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(Note: A partially-ordered set is called a *poset*)

Partial Orders

Definition: *Irreflexivity (of Relations)*

A relation R on set A is irreflexive if $\forall a \in A, (a, a) \notin R$
(Note: Not the same as “not reflexive”)

Definition: *Irreflexive (a.k.a. Strict) Partial Order*

A relation R on set A is a irreflexive partial order if it is *irreflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive.*

(Thus no self-loops allowed.)

Playposit

Which type of partial order (if any) is the following relation on $\{a, b, c\}$?

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

- A. Reflexive (a.k.a Weak) Partial order
- B. Irreflexive (a.k.a Strict) Partial order
- C. It is not a partial order.

Total Orders

Definition: Comparable

Let R be a weak partial order on set A . a and b are comparable if $a, b \in A$ and either $a \leq b$ or $b \leq a$.

(That is, $(a, b) \in R$ or $(b, a) \in R$)

Definition: Total Order

A weak-partial-ordered relation R on a set A is a total order if every pair of elements $a, b \in A$ are comparable.

(Or: A relation R on A is a total order if R is antisymmetric, transitive, and comparable.)

Total Orders

Example:

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

It is a partial order and the pairs $(1,2)$, $(3,1)$ and $(3,2)$ show that all elements are comparable. \therefore Total Order!

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

Reflexive? Antisym? Transitive? \therefore Partial Order

But: 1 and 2 are not comparable; this is not a total order.

Playposit

Which property does this relation on $\{a, b, c, d\}$ fail to satisfy in order to be a total order. ?

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

- A. Reflexive
- B. Antisymmetric
- C. Transitive
- D. Comparable

Summary

- Equivalence Relation and Partial Orders Definitions
 - Equivalence Relation: **Reflexive** **Symmetric** **Transitive**
 - Weak Partial Order: **Reflexive** **Antisymmetric** **Transitive**
 - Strict Partial Order: **Irreflexive** **Antisymmetric** **Transitive**
 - Total Order: **Weak Partial Order + Comparability**
or: comparable **antisymmetric** **transitive**