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(a) Consider $S = \mathbb{N}$, then $(1, 2) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{N} \mid 1 \leq x \leq 2 \text{ and } x \neq 1 \text{ and } x \neq 2 \right\}$

We observe that there exists NO $x \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x \in (1, 2)$, so $(1, 2) = \emptyset$ ~~✗~~

(b) First we show that (\mathbb{R}^2, R^*) is a partially ordered set.

(pf): ① antisymmetric:

Suppose $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and
 $(x_1, y_1) R^* (x_2, y_2)$ and $(x_2, y_2) R^* (x_1, y_1)$

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) = (x_2, y_2)$$

$$\text{or } \left[(x_1, y_1) R (x_2, y_2) \text{ and } (x_2, y_2) R (x_1, y_1) \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) = (x_2, y_2)$$

② transitive:

Suppose $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), (x_3, y_3) \in \mathbb{R}^2$
 and $(x_1, y_1) R^* (x_2, y_2)$, $(x_2, y_2) R^* (x_3, y_3)$

$$\text{case 1: } (x_1, y_1) = (x_2, y_2) = (x_3, y_3)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R^* (x_3, y_3)$$

$$\text{case 2: } (x_1, y_1) = (x_2, y_2) \text{ and } (x_2, y_2) R (x_3, y_3)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R (x_3, y_3)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R^* (x_3, y_3)$$

$$\text{case 3: } (x_1, y_1) R (x_2, y_2) \text{ and } (x_2, y_2) = (x_3, y_3)$$

similarly as case 2.

case 4: $(x_1, y_1) R (x_2, y_2)$ and $(x_2, y_2) R (x_3, y_3)$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 < x_3 \text{ or } x_1 = x_3 \text{ and } y_1 < y_3$$

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R^* (x_3, y_3)$$

So we prove the transitive

③ reflective :

$$\text{Let } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\text{we have } (x, y) = (x, y)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x, y) R^* (x, y)$$

By ① ② ③ above, we prove that (\mathbb{R}^2, R^*) is a partially ordered set.

Next we want to show that R^* is a linear order.

It is sufficient to show that any two members of \mathbb{R}^2 are comparable.

(i.e. $\forall (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$,
we have $(x_1, y_1) R^* (x_2, y_2)$ or $(x_2, y_2) R^* (x_1, y_1)$)

(pf):

Suppose $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

assume $(x_1, y_1) \neq (x_2, y_2)$

\therefore if $(x_1, y_1) = (x_2, y_2)$,
 $(x_1, y_1) R^* (x_2, y_2)$ or
 $(x_2, y_2) R^* (x_1, y_1)$

case 1: $x_1 < x_2$, y_1, y_2 任意

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R (x_2, y_2) \Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R^* (x_2, y_2)$$

case 2: $x_1 > x_2$, y_1, y_2 任意

$$\text{similarly as case 1} \Rightarrow (x_2, y_2) R^* (x_1, y_1)$$

case 3: $x_1 = x_2$ and $y_1 < y_2$

$$\Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R (x_2, y_2) \Rightarrow (x_1, y_1) R^* (x_2, y_2)$$

case 4: $x_1 = x_2$ and $y_1 > y_2$

$$\text{similarly as case 3} \Rightarrow (x_2, y_2) R^* (x_1, y_1)$$

By the case above, we have that for any two members of \mathbb{R}^2

$$\text{we have } (x_1, y_1) R^* (x_2, y_2) \text{ or } (x_2, y_2) R^* (x_1, y_1)$$

$\Rightarrow R^*$ is a linear order $\#$

(c).

$$(i) \quad a = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}\right) \quad \Rightarrow \quad (a, b) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a R^* x R^* b \text{ and } x \neq a \text{ and } x \neq b \right\}$$

$$b = \left(\frac{1}{2}, 1\right).$$

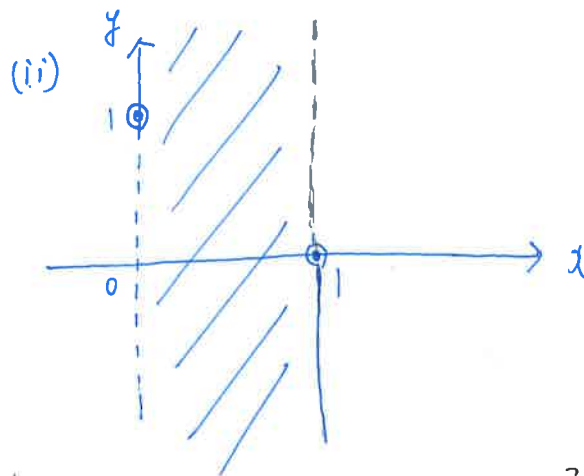
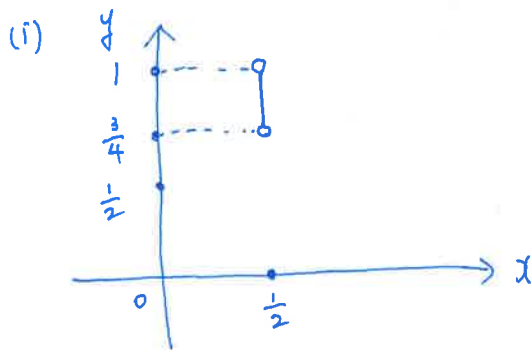
$$\text{Let } x = (x, y), \quad a R^* x \text{ and } x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow a R x$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2} < x\right) \text{ or } \left(\frac{1}{2} = x \text{ and } \frac{3}{4} < y\right)$$

$$x R^* b \text{ and } x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow x R b$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(x < \frac{1}{2}\right) \text{ or } \left(x = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } y < 1\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } \frac{3}{4} < y < 1$$



$$(ii) \quad a = (0, 1) \quad \Rightarrow \quad (a, b) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a R^* x R^* b \text{ and } x \neq a \text{ and } x \neq b \right\}$$

$$b = (1, 0)$$

$$x = (x, y)$$

$$a R^* x \Rightarrow (0 < x) \text{ or } (0 = x \text{ and } 1 < y)$$

$$x R^* b \Rightarrow (x < 1) \text{ or } (x = 1 \text{ and } y < 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow (0 < x < 1) \text{ or } (x = 0 \text{ and } y > 1) \text{ or } (x = 1 \text{ and } y < 0)$$