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transitive closure

Canonical name	TransitiveClosure
Date of creation	2013-03-22 13:04:33
Last modified on	2013-03-22 13:04:33
Owner	Henry (455)
Last modified by	Henry (455)
Numerical id	4
Author	Henry (455)
Entry type	Definition
Classification	msc 03E20
Related topic	Transitive

The *transitive closure* of a set X is the smallest transitive set $\text{tc}(X)$ such that $X \subseteq \text{tc}(X)$.

The transitive closure of a set can be constructed as follows:

Define a function f on ω by $f(0) = X$ and $f(n+1) = \bigcup f(n)$

$$\text{tc}(X) = \bigcup_{n < \omega} f(n)$$