

Problem Set Solutions, Week 7

P7.1 (i) The transitive closure of $\{(2, 3), (5, 4), (0, 3), (2, 1), (1, 5)\}$ is

$$\{(2, 3), (5, 4), (0, 3), (2, 1), (1, 5), (2, 5), (2, 4), (1, 4)\}$$

The symmetric transitive closure is $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \times \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. Neither of these are reflexive. The first doesn't have any (x, x) pairs, so it's actually *irreflexive*, and the second doesn't have, for example, $(6, 6)$. Remember that this is a relation on the set \mathbb{Z} , so although it relates 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to themselves, it doesn't do this for the rest of the integers, so it's not reflexive.

(ii) The transitive closure and also symmetric transitive closure of

$$\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \mid |x - y| \leq 2\}$$

is the full relation, $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$, which is reflexive.

P7.2 These are simple expressions:

- (a) $A \oplus B = A$
- (b) $A \oplus B = B$
- (c) $A \oplus B = A \cap B$
- (d) $A \oplus B = A \cap B$ is equivalent to $A \cup B = \emptyset$
- (e) $A \oplus B = A^c$ is equivalent to $B = \emptyset$, assuming $A \neq \emptyset$
- (f) $A \oplus B = \emptyset$ is equivalent to $A = B$.

P7.3 Let $R \subseteq A \times B$ be a relation.

- Define $\chi_R : A \times B \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ such that

$$\chi_R(a, b) = \begin{cases} 1, & (a, b) \in R \\ 0, & (a, b) \notin R \end{cases}$$

We can determine whether a and b are related under this representation of R , by checking if $\chi_R(a, b) = 1$. Given any function $f : A \times B \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$, we can form the relation

$$\{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid f(a, b) = 1\}$$

This recovers the original relation R from χ_R , since

$$\begin{aligned} \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid \chi_R(a, b) = 1\} &= \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid (a, b) \in R\} \\ &= R \end{aligned}$$

- Define $\alpha_R : A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$ such that

$$\alpha_R(a) = \{b \in B \mid (a, b) \in R\}$$

We can determine whether a and b are related under this representation of R , by checking if $b \in \alpha_R(a)$. Given any function $f : A \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$, we can form the relation

$$\{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid b \in f(a)\}$$

This recovers the original relation R from α_R , since

$$\begin{aligned} \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid b \in \alpha_R(a)\} &= \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid b \in \{x \in B \mid (a, x) \in R\}\} \\ &= \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid (a, b) \in R\} \\ &= R \end{aligned}$$

- Define $\beta_R : B \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$ such that

$$\beta_R(b) = \{a \in A \mid (a, b) \in R\}$$

We can determine whether a and b are related under this representation of R , by checking if $a \in \beta_R(b)$. Given any function $f : B \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$, we can form the relation

$$\{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid a \in f(b)\}$$

This recovers the original relation R from β_R , since

$$\{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid a \in \beta_R(b)\} = \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid a \in \{x \in A \mid (x, b) \in R\}\} = R$$

P7.4 Here is the complete table:

Property	Ref	edu_assist_pro
preserved under \cap ?	yes	yes
preserved under \cup ?	yes	yes
preserved under inverse?	yes	yes
preserved under complement?	no	no

To see how transitivity fails to be preserved under union, consider two relations on $\{a, b, c\}$, namely $R = \{(a, a), (a, b), (b, b)\}$ and $S = \{(c, a)\}$, both transitive. $R \cup S$ is not transitive, because in the union we have (c, a) and (a, b) , but not (c, b) . And R 's complement, $\{(a, c), (b, a), (b, c), (c, a), (c, b), (c, c)\}$ is not transitive either, as it contains, for example, (a, c) and (c, a) , but not (a, a) .

P7.5 From the first row of the last question's table, it follows that, if R and S are equivalence relations, then so is their intersection. But their union may not be. As an example, take the reflexive, symmetric, transitive closures of R and S from the previous answer, to get these two equivalence relations:

$$R' = \{(a, a), (a, b), (b, a), (b, b), (c, c)\} \quad \text{and} \quad S' = \{(a, a), (a, c), (b, b), (c, a), (c, c)\}.$$

Their union fails to be transitive, as it contains (c, a) and (a, b) but not (c, b) .

P7.6 We certainly do not have $A \times A = A$. In fact, no member of A is a member of $A \times A$, and no member of $A \times A$ is a member of A . So \times is not absorptive.

Neither is it commutative. Let $A = \{0\}$ and $B = \{1\}$. Then $A \times B = \{(0, 1)\}$ while $B \times A = \{(1, 0)\}$, and those singleton sets are different, because the members are.

If we also define $C = \{2\}$ then $A \times (B \times C) = \{(0, (1, 2))\}$ while $(A \times B) \times C = \{((0, 1), 2)\}$. Again, these are different. However, it is not uncommon to identify both of $(0, (1, 2))$ and $((0, 1), 2)$ with the triple $(0, 1, 2)$ (“flattening” the nested pairings). If we agree to do that then \times is associative, and we can simply write $A \times B \times C$ for the set of triples.

P7.7 If f is injective then B has at least 42 elements. If f is surjective then B has at most 42 elements. (So if f is bijective, B has exactly 42 elements.)

P7.8 The conjecture is false. For a counter-example, take A to be $\{0, 1\}$ and $R = \{(0, 0)\}$. Then R is symmetric, and also anti-symmetric, but R is not reflexive, as it does not include $(1, 1)$.

P7.9 The statement is false, as we have, for example, $\{42\} \times \emptyset = \emptyset \times \{42\} = \emptyset$, but $\emptyset \neq \{42\}$.

P7.10 The conjecture is false. Take A to be $\{a, b, c\}$ and $R = \{(a, a), (a, b), (b, a), (b, b), (c, a), (c, c)\}$. The R is reflexive, but not symmetric, since $(c, a) \in R$ but $(a, c) \notin R$. And R is not anti-symmetric either, as we have $(a, b) \in R$ as well as $(b, a) \in R$.

P7.11 The reflexive closure of R is the smallest reflexive relation K such that $R \subseteq K$. We know that $R \cup \Delta_A$ is reflexive, since for any $a \in A$, $(a, a) \in \Delta_A$, so $(a, a) \in R \cup \Delta_A$. We also know that $R \subseteq R \cup \Delta_A$, so we just need to know that it's the smallest relation with these properties. So suppose R is reflexive and $R \subseteq K$. Then since K is reflexive we must have $\Delta_A \subseteq K$. So both R and Δ_A are subsets of K , so their union is, i.e. $R \cup \Delta_A \subseteq K$ (you can verify this by expansion). Since $R \cup \Delta_A$ is in fact the smallest such reflexive relation, we have $R \cup \Delta_A = K$.

P7.12 No, for example, take the relation R on $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$, and if you take the symmetric closure you will have $(2, 1)$ and $(1, 5)$ in the closure but not $(2, 5)$.

P7.13 Here is the table, with appropriate check-marks:

	$<$	\leq	successor	divides	coprime
irreflexive	✓		✓		
reflexive		✓		✓	
asymmetric	✓		✓		
antisymmetric	✓	✓	✓	✓	
symmetric					✓
transitive	✓	✓		✓	
linear	✓	✓			

P7.14 Here are some functions that satisfy the requirements. We show $f_i(x)$ in the table's row x , column i :

	f_1	f_2	f_3	f_4	f_5	f_6	f_7	f_8
a	a	a	b	b	b	a	c	b
b	b	a	b	d	b	a	b	a
c	c	a	c	d	c	a	d	d
d	d	a	d	d	c	c	d	c

Maybe you skipped this optional exercise; but you may still want to verify, for each of these eight functions, that it really does satisfy its specification.