

## 6 On relations

### 6.1 Basic exercises

1. Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and  $C = \{x, y, z\}$ .  
Let  $R = \{(1, a), (2, d), (3, a), (3, b), (3, d)\} : A \rightarrow B$   
and  $S = \{(b, x), (b, y), (c, y), (d, z)\} : B \rightarrow C$ .  
Draw the internal diagrams of the relations. What is the composition  $S \circ R : A \rightarrow C$ ?
2. Prove that relational composition is associative and has the identity relation as the neutral element.
3. For a relation  $R : A \rightarrow B$ , let its opposite or dual relation  $R^{\text{op}} : B \rightarrow A$  be defined by:

$$bR^{\text{op}}a \iff aRb \quad (1)$$

For  $R, S : A \rightarrow B$  and  $T : B \rightarrow C$ , prove that:

- (a)  $R \subseteq S \implies R^{\text{op}} \subseteq S^{\text{op}}$
- (b)  $(R \cap S)^{\text{op}} = R^{\text{op}} \cap S^{\text{op}}$
- (c)  $(R \cup S)^{\text{op}} = R^{\text{op}} \cup S^{\text{op}}$
- (d)  $(T \circ S)^{\text{op}} = S^{\text{op}} \circ T^{\text{op}}$

### 6.2 Core exercises

1. Let  $R, R' \subseteq A \times B$  and  $S, S' \subseteq B \times C$  be two pairs of relations and assume  $R \subseteq R'$  and  $S \subseteq S'$ .  
Prove that  $S \circ R \subseteq S' \circ R'$ .
2. Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A \times B)$  and  $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B \times C)$  be two collections of relations from  $A$  to  $B$  and from  $B$  to  $C$ , respectively. Prove that

$$(\bigcup \mathcal{G}) \circ (\bigcup \mathcal{F}) = \bigcup \{S \circ R \mid R \in \mathcal{F}, S \in \mathcal{G}\} : A \rightarrow C \quad (2)$$

Recall that the notation  $\{S \circ R : A \rightarrow C \mid R \in \mathcal{F}, S \in \mathcal{G}\}$  is a common syntactic sugar for the formal definition  $\{T \in \mathcal{P}(A \times C) \mid \exists R \in \mathcal{F} : \exists S \in \mathcal{G} : T = S \circ R\}$ . Hence,

$$T \in \{S \circ R \in A \rightarrow C \mid R \in \mathcal{F}, S \in \mathcal{G}\} \iff \exists R \in \mathcal{F} : \exists S \in \mathcal{G} : T = S \circ R \quad (3)$$

What happens in the case of big intersections?

3. Suppose  $R$  is a relation on a set  $A$ . Prove that
  - (a)  $R$  is reflexive iff  $\text{id}_A \subseteq R$
  - (b)  $R$  is symmetric iff  $R = R^{\text{op}}$
  - (c)  $R$  is transitive iff  $R \circ R \subseteq R$
  - (d)  $R$  is antisymmetric iff  $R \cap R^{\text{op}} \subseteq \text{id}_A$
4. Let  $R$  be an arbitrary relation on a set  $A$ , for example, representing an undirected graph. We are interested in constructing the smallest transitive relation (graph) containing  $R$ , called the transitive closure of  $R$ .

- (a) We define the family of relations which are transitive supersets of  $R$ :

$$\mathcal{T}_R \triangleq \{Q : A \rightarrow A \mid R \subseteq Q \text{ and } Q \text{ is transitive}\} \quad (4)$$

$R$  is not necessarily going to be an element of this family, as it might not be transitive. However  $R$  is a lower bound for  $\mathcal{T}_R$ , as it is a subset of every element of the family.

Prove that the set  $\bigcap \mathcal{T}_R$  is the transitive closure for  $R$ .

- (b)  $\bigcap \mathcal{T}_R$  is the intersection of an infinite number of relations so it's difficult to compute the transitive closure this way. A better approach is to start with  $R$ , and keep adding the missing connections until we get a transitive graph. This can be done by repeatedly composing  $R$  with itself: after  $n$  compositions, all paths of length  $n$  in the graph represented by  $R$  will have a transitive connection between their endpoints.

Prove that the (at least once) iterated composition  $R^{\circ+} \triangleq R \circ R^{\circ*}$  is the transitive closure for  $R$ , i.e. it coincides with the greatest lower bound of  $\mathcal{T}_R$ :  $R^{\circ+} = \bigcap \mathcal{T}_R$ .

Hint: show that  $R^{\circ+}$  is both an element and a lower bound of  $\mathcal{T}_R$ .

## 7 On partial functions

### 7.1 Basic exercises

1. Let  $A_2 = \{1, 2\}$  and  $A_3 = \{a, b, c\}$ . List the element of the sets  $\text{PFun}(A_i, A_j)$  for  $i, j \in \{2, 3\}$ .

Hint: there may be quite a few, so you can think of ways of characterising all of them without giving an explicit listing.

2. Prove that a relation  $R : A \rightarrow B$  is a partial function iff  $R \circ R^{\circ p} \subseteq \text{id}_B$ .
3. Prove that the identity relation is a partial function, and that the composition of partial functions is a partial function.

### 7.2 Core exercises

1. Show that  $(\text{PFun}(A, B), \subseteq)$  is a partial order. What is its least element, if it exists?
2. Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \text{PFun}(A, B)$  be a non-empty collection of partial functions from  $A$  to  $B$ .
  - (a) Show that  $\bigcap \mathcal{F}$  is a partial function.
  - (b) Show that  $\bigcup \mathcal{F}$  need not be a partial function by defining two partial functions  $f, g : A \rightarrow B$  such that  $f \cup g : A \rightarrow B$  is a non-functional relation.
  - (c) Let  $h : A \rightarrow B$  be a partial function. Show that if every element of  $\mathcal{F}$  is below  $h$  then  $\bigcup \mathcal{F}$  is a partial function.

## 8 On functions

### 8.1 Basic exercises

1. Let  $A_2 = \{1, 2\}$  and  $A_3 = \{a, b, c\}$ . List the elements of the sets  $\text{Fun}(A_i, A_j)$  for  $i, j \in \{2, 3\}$ .

2. Prove that the identity partial function is a function, and the composition of functions yields a function
3. Prove or disprove that  $(\text{Fun}(A, B), \subseteq)$  is a partial order.
4. Find endofunctions  $f, g : A \rightarrow A$  such that  $f \circ g \neq g \circ f$ .

## 8.2 Core exercises

1. A relation  $R : A \rightarrowtail B$  is said to be total if  $\forall a \in A, \exists b \in B : aRb$ . Prove that this is equivalent to  $\text{id}_A \subseteq R^{\text{op}} \circ R$ . Conclude that a relation  $R : A \rightarrowtail B$  is a function iff  $R \circ R^{\text{textop}} \subseteq \text{id}_B$  and  $\text{id}_A \subseteq R^{\text{op}} \circ R$ .
2. Let  $\chi : \mathcal{P}(U) \rightarrow (U \Rightarrow [2])$  be the function mapping subsets  $S \subseteq U$  to their characteristic functions  $\chi_S : U \rightarrow [2]$ .

(a) Prove that for all  $x \in U$ ,

- $\chi_{A \cup B}(x) = (\chi_A(x) \vee \chi_B(x)) = \max(\chi_A(x), \chi_B(x))$
- $\chi_{A \cap B}(x) = (\chi_A(x) \wedge \chi_B(x)) = \min(\chi_A(x), \chi_B(x))$
- $\chi_{A^c}(x) = (\chi_A(x)) = (1 - \chi_A(x))$

(b) For what construction  $A ? B$  on sets  $A$  and  $B$  does it hold that

$$\chi_{A ? B}(x) = (\chi_A(x) \oplus \chi_B(x)) = (\chi_A(x) +_2 \chi_B(x)) \quad (5)$$

## 8.3 Optional advanced exercise

Consider a set  $A$  together with an element  $a \in A$  and an endofunction  $f : A \rightarrow A$ .

Say that a relation  $R : \mathbb{N} \rightarrowtail A$  is  $(a, f)$ -closed whenever

$$R(0, a) \text{ and } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in A : R(n, x) \Rightarrow R(n+1, f(x)) \quad (6)$$

Define the relation  $F : \mathbb{N} \rightarrowtail A$  as

$$F \triangleq \bigcap \{R : \mathbb{N} \rightarrowtail A \mid R \text{ is } (a, f)\text{-closed}\} \quad (7)$$

1. Prove that  $F$  is  $(a, f)$ -closed.
2. Prove that  $F$  is total, that is:  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} : \exists y \in A : F(n, y)$ .
3. Prove that  $F$  is a function  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$ , that is:  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \exists! y \in A : F(n, y)$ .

Hint: Proceed by induction. Observe that, in view of the previous item, to show that  $\exists! y \in A : F(k, y)$  it suffices to exhibit an  $(a, f)$ -closed relation  $R_k$  such that  $\exists! y \in A : R_k(k, y)$ . (Why?)

For instance, as the relation  $R_0 = \{(m, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times A \mid m = 0 \Rightarrow y = a\}$  is  $(a, f)$ -closed one has that  $F(0, y) \Rightarrow R_0(0, y) \Rightarrow y = a$ .

4. Show that if  $h$  is a function  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$  with  $h(0) = a$  and  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} : h(n+1) = f(h(n))$  then  $h = F$ .

Thus, for every set  $A$  together with an element  $a \in A$  and an endofunction  $f : A \rightarrow A$  there exists a unique function  $F : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$ , typically said to be inductively defined, satisfying the recurrence relation

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} a & \text{for } n = 0 \\ f(F(n-1)) & \text{for } n \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$