

## MODULE – II

### RELATIONS

#### Introduction

The elements of a set may be related to one another. For example, in the set of natural numbers there is the 'less than' relation between the elements. The elements of one set may also be related to the elements of another set.

#### Binary Relation

A binary relation between two sets A and B is a rule R which decides, for any elements, whether a is in relation R to b. If so, then we write  $a R b$ . If a is not in relation R to b, then  $a \not R b$ .

We can also consider  $a R b$  as the ordered pair (a, b) in which case we can define a binary relation from A to B as a subset of  $A \times B$ . This subset is denoted by the relation R.

In general, any set of ordered pairs defines a binary relation.

For example, the relation of father to his child is  $F = \{(a, b) / a \text{ is the father of } b\}$ . In this relation F, the first member is the name of the father and the second is the name of the child.

The definition of relation permits any set of ordered pairs to define a relation. For example, the set S given by

$$S = \{(1, 2), (3, a), (b, a), (b, \text{Joe})\}$$

#### Definition

The domain D of a binary relation S is the set of all first elements of the ordered pairs in the relation. (i.e)  $D(S) = \{a / \exists b \text{ for which } (a, b) \in S\}$

The range R of a binary relation S is the set of all second elements of the ordered pairs in the relation. (i.e)  $R(S) = \{b / \exists a \text{ for which } (a, b) \in S\}$

For example

For the relation  $S = \{(1, 2), (3, a), (b, a), (b, \text{Joe})\}$   $D(S) = \{1, 3, b, b\}$  and

$$R(S) = \{2, a, a, \text{Joe}\}$$

Let X and Y be any two sets. A subset of the Cartesian product  $X \times Y$  defines a relation, say

C. For any such relation C, we have  $D(C) \subseteq X$  and  $R(C) \subseteq Y$ , and the relation C is said to be from X to Y.

If  $Y = X$ , then C is said to be a relation from X to X. In such case, C is called a relation in X. Thus any relation in X is a subset of  $X \times X$ . The set  $X \times X$  is called a *universal relation* in X, while the empty set which is also a subset of  $X \times X$  is called a *void relation* in X.

For example: Let L denote the relation —less than or equal to— and D denote the relation —divides— where x

$D \mid y$  means  $\text{--- } x \text{ divides } y$ . Both  $L$  and  $D$  are defined on the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

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

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

$L \cap D = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 2), (2, 4), (3, 3), (4, 4)\} = D$

Properties of Binary Relations:

Definition: A binary relation  $R$  in a set  $X$  is reflexive if, for every  $x \in X$ ,  $x R x$ , That is  $(x, x) \in R$ , or  $R$  is reflexive in  $X \iff (x) (x \in X \implies x R x)$ .

For example:-

- The relation  $\leq$  is reflexive in the set of real numbers.
- The set inclusion is reflexive in the family of all subsets of a universal set.
- The relation equality of set is also reflexive.
- The relation is parallel in the set lines in a plane.
- The relation of similarity in the set of triangles in a plane is reflexive.

Definition: A relation  $R$  in a set  $X$  is symmetric if for every  $x$  and  $y$  in  $X$ , whenever  $x R y$ , then  $y R x$ . (i.e)  $R$  is symmetric in  $X \iff (x) (y) (x \in X \wedge y \in X \wedge x R y \implies y R x)$

For example:-

- The relation equality of set is symmetric.
- The relation of similarity in the set of triangles in a plane is symmetric.
- The relation of being a sister is not symmetric in the set of all people.
- However, in the set females it is symmetric.

Definition: A relation  $R$  in a set  $X$  is transitive if, whenever  $x R y$  and  $y R z$ , then  $x R z$ . (i.e) transitive if, for every  $x, y$ , and  $z$  are in  $X$ ,  $R$  is transitive in  $X \iff (x) (y) (z) (x \in X \wedge y \in X \wedge z \in X \wedge x R y \wedge y R z \implies x R z)$

For example:-

- The relations  $<$ ,  $\leq$ ,  $>$ ,  $\geq$  and  $=$  are transitive in the set of real numbers
- The relations  $\subset$ ,  $\subseteq$ ,  $\supset$ ,  $\supseteq$  and equality are also transitive in the family of sets.

The relation of similarity in the set of triangles in a plane is transitive. Definition: A relation  $R$  in a set  $X$  is irreflexive if, for every  $x \in X$ ,  $(x, x) \notin R$ . For example:-

- < The relation  $<$  is irreflexive in the set of all real numbers.
- <

The relation proper inclusion is irreflexive in the set of all nonempty subsets of a universal set.

- Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $S = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (3, 2), (2, 3), (3, 3)\}$  is neither irreflexive nor reflexive.

Definition: A relation  $R$  in a set  $X$  is anti symmetric if, for every  $x$  and  $y$  in  $X$ ,

whenever  $x R y$  and  $y R x$ , Then  $x = y$ .

Symbolically,  $(x)(y)(x \in X \wedge y \in X \wedge x R y \wedge y R x \Rightarrow x = y)$

For example

- The relation  $\subset$  is anti symmetric in set of subsets.
- The relation  $\text{---divides}$  is anti symmetric in set of real numbers.
- Consider the relation  $\text{---is a son of}$  on the male children in a family. Evidently the relation is not symmetric, transitive and reflexive.
- The relation  $\text{--- is a divisor of}$  is reflexive and transitive but not symmetric on the set of natural numbers.
- Consider the set  $H$  of all human beings. Let  $r$  be a relation  $\text{--- is married to}$   $R$  is symmetric.
- Let  $I$  be the set of integers.  $R$  on  $I$  is defined as  $a R b$  if  $a - b$  is an even number.  $R$  is an reflexive, symmetric and transitive

### Equivalence Relation:

Definition: A relation  $R$  in a set  $A$  is called an equivalence relation if

- $a R a$  for every  $a$  i.e.  $R$  is reflexive
- $a R b \Rightarrow b R a$  for every  $a, b \in A$  i.e.  $R$  is symmetric
- $a R b$  and  $b R c \Rightarrow a R c$  for every  $a, b, c \in A$ , i.e.  $R$  is transitive. For example

< The relation equality of numbers on set of real numbers.

< The relation being parallel on a set of lines in a plane.

Problem 1: Let

$R$  in  $T$  as  $R = \{(a, b) / (a, b \in T \text{ and } a \text{ is similar to } b)\}$

We have to show that relation  $R$  is an Equivalence relation

Solution :

A triangle  $a$  is similar to itself.  $a R a$

If the triangle  $a$  is similar to the triangle  $b$ , then triangle  $b$  is similar to the triangle  $a$  then  $a R b \Rightarrow b R a$

If  $a$  is similar to  $b$  and  $b$  is similar to  $c$ , then  $a$  is similar to  $c$  (i.e)  $a R b$  and  $b R c \Rightarrow a R c$ .

Hence  $R$  is an equivalence relation.

Problem 2: Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 7\}$  and  $R = \{(x, y) / x - y \text{ is divisible by } 3\}$  Show that  $R$  is an equivalence relation.

Solution: For any  $a \in X$ ,  $a - a$  is divisible by 3, Hence  $a R a$ ,  $R$  is reflexive

For any  $a, b \in X$ , if  $a - b$  is divisible by 3, then  $b - a$  is also divisible by 3,  $R$  is symmetric.

For any  $a, b, c \in X$ , if  $a R b$  and  $b R c$ , then  $a - b$  is divisible by 3 and  $b - c$  is divisible by 3. So that  $(a - b) + (b - c)$  is also divisible by 3, hence  $a - c$  is also divisible by 3. Thus  $R$  is transitive.

Hence  $R$  is equivalence.

**Problem 3.** Let  $Z$  be the set of all integers. Let  $m$  be a fixed integer. Two integers  $a$  and

$b$  are said to be congruent modulo  $m$  if and only if  $m$  divides  $a - b$ , in which case we write  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

This relation is called the relation of congruence modulo  $m$  and we can show that it is an equivalence relation.

**Solution :**

<  $a - a = 0$  and  $m$  divides  $a - a$  (i.e)  $a R a$ ,  $(a, a) \in R$ ,  $R$  is reflexive.

<  $a R b \Rightarrow m$  divides  $a - b$

$m$  divides  $b - a \Rightarrow b \equiv a \pmod{m} \Rightarrow a R b$  that is  $R$  is symmetric.

•  $a R b$  and  $b R c \Rightarrow a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$   $\Rightarrow m$  divides  $a - b$  and  $m$  divides  $b - c$   
 $a - b = km$  and  $b - c = lm$  for some  $k, l \in \mathbb{Z}$

$\Rightarrow (a - b) + (b - c) = km + lm$   
 $\Rightarrow a - c = (k + l)m$

$\Rightarrow a R c$

$\Rightarrow R$  is transitive

Hence the congruence relation is an equivalence relation.

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be a relation from  $X$  to  $Y$  and  $S$  be a relation from  $Y$  to  $Z$ . Then the relation  $R \circ S$  is given by  $R \circ S = \{(x, z) / x \in X, z \in Z, \exists y \in Y \text{ such that } (x, y) \in R \text{ and } (y, z) \in S\}$  is called the composite relation of  $R$  and  $S$ .

The operation of obtaining  $R \circ S$  is called the composition of relations.

**Example:** Let  $R = \{(1, 2), (3, 4), (2, 2)\}$  and  
 $S = \{(4, 2), (2, 5), (3, 1), (1, 3)\}$

Then  $R \circ S = \{(1, 5), (3, 2), (2, 5)\}$  and  $S \circ R = \{(4, 2), (3, 2), (1, 4)\}$

It is to be noted that  $R \circ S \neq S \circ R$ . Also

$R \circ (S \circ T) = (R \circ S) \circ T = R \circ (S \circ T)$

**Note:** We write  $R \circ R$  as  $R^2$ ;  $R \circ R \circ R$  as  $R^3$  and so on. **Definition**

Let  $R$  be a relation from  $X$  to  $Y$ , a relation  $\check{R}$  from  $Y$  to  $X$  is called the converse of  $R$ , where the ordered pairs of  $\check{R}$  are obtained by interchanging the numbers in each of the ordered pairs of  $R$ . This means for  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ , that  $x R y \iff y \check{R} x$ .

Then the relation  $\check{R}$  is given by  $\check{R} = \{(x, y) / (y, x) \in R\}$  is called the converse of  $R$ .

**Example:**

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

Then  $\check{R} = \{(2, 1), (4, 3), (2, 2)\}$

Note: If  $R$  is an equivalence relation, then  $\check{R}$  is also an equivalence relation.

#### Definition

Let  $X$  be any finite set and  $R$  be a relation in  $X$ . The relation  $R^+ = R \cup R^2 \cup R^3 \dots$  in  $X$  is called the *transitive closure* of  $R$  in  $X$

Example: Let  $R = \{(a, b), (b, c), (c, a)\}$ .

Now  $R^2 = R \circ R = \{(a, c), (b, a), (c, b)\}$

$R^3 = R^2 \circ R = \{(a, a), (b, b), (c, c)\}$

$R^4 = R^3 \circ R = \{(a, b), (b, c), (c, a)\} = R$

$R^5 = R^3 \circ R^2 = R^2$  and so on.

Thus,  $R^+ = R \cup R^2 \cup R^3 \cup R^4 \cup \dots$

$= R \cup R^2 \cup R^3.$

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

We see that  $R^+$  is a transitive relation containing  $R$ . In fact, it is the smallest transitive relation containing  $R$ .

### Partial Ordering Relations:

#### Definition

A binary relation  $R$  in a set  $P$  is called *partial order relation* or *partial ordering* in  $P$  iff  $R$  is reflexive, anti symmetric, and transitive.

A partial order relation is denoted by the symbol  $\preceq$ . If  $\preceq$  is a partial ordering on  $P$ , then the ordered pair  $(P, \preceq)$  is called a *partially ordered set* or a *poset*.

< Let  $R$  be the set of real numbers. The relation  $\leq$ —less than or equal to < or  $\geq$ , is a partial ordering on  $R$ .

< Let  $X$  be a set and  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  be its power set. The relation subset,  $\subseteq$  on  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is partial ordering.

< Let  $S_n$  be the set of divisors of  $n$ . The relation  $D$  means  $\mid$ —divides < on  $S_n$ , is a partial ordering on  $S_n$ .

In a partially ordered set  $(P, \preceq)$ , an element  $y \in P$  is said to cover an element  $x \in P$  if  $x \preceq y$  and if there does not exist any element  $z \in P$  such that  $x \preceq z$  and  $z \preceq y$ ; that is,  $y$  covers  $x \iff (x \preceq y \wedge \neg \exists z (x \preceq z \wedge z \preceq y))$

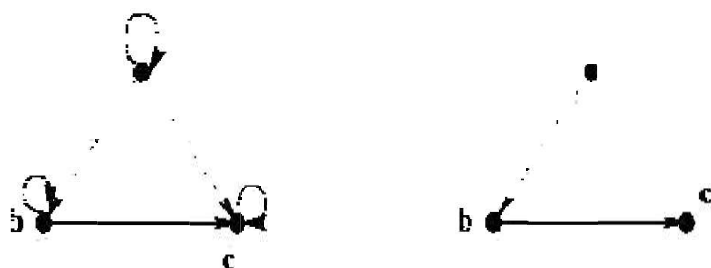
A partial order relation  $\preceq$  on a set  $P$  can be represented by means of a diagram known as a Hasse diagram or partial order set diagram of  $(P, \preceq)$ . In such a diagram, each element is represented by a small circle or a dot. The circle for  $x \in P$  is drawn below the circle for  $y \in P$  if  $x \preceq y$ , and a line is drawn between  $x$  and  $y$  if  $y$  covers  $x$ .

If  $x < y$  but  $y$  does not cover  $x$ , then  $x$  and  $y$  are not connected directly by a single line. However, they are connected through one or more elements of  $P$ .

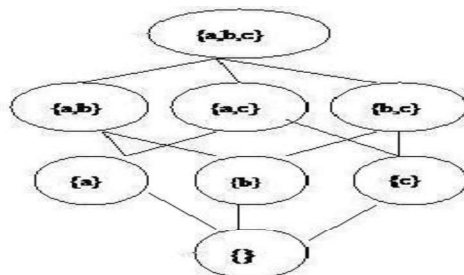
### Hasse Diagram:

A Hasse diagram is a digraph for a poset which does not have loops and arcs implied by the transitivity.

Example 10: For the relation  $\{<a, a>, <a, b>, <a, c>, <b, b>, <b, c>, <c, c>\}$  on set  $\{a, b, c\}$ , the Hasse diagram has the arcs  $\{<a, b>, <b, c>\}$  as shown below



HASSE DIAGRAM



Ex: Let  $A$  be a given finite set and  $r(A)$  its power set. Let  $\hat{I}$  be the subset relation on the elements of  $r(A)$ . Draw Hasse diagram of  $(r(A), \hat{I})$  for  $A = \{a, b, c\}$

### LATTICES:

Lattices as Partially Ordered Set, Properties of Lattices, Lattices as Algebraic Systems, Sublattices, Direct Product and Homomorphism.

Definition: The relation  $f$  defined on a nonempty set  $X$  is called an anti-symmetric relation if and only if,  $\forall x, y \in X$ , the property  $(x, y) \in f$  and  $(y, x) \in f$  implies that  $x = y$ .

It is possible to interpret an anti-symmetric relation using the arrow diagrams of relations.

In this context, a relation is called anti-symmetric if, whenever there is an arrow going from one element to an element different from it, there does not exist an arrow going back from the second element to the first.

Example: Let  $R_1 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \times \mathbb{Z}^+ \mid x \text{ divides } y\}$  and  $R_2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\} \times \mathbb{Z} \mid x \text{ divides } y\}$ .

(a) Show that  $R_1$  is an anti-symmetric relation on the set of positive integers. (b) Show that  $R_2$  is not an anti-symmetric relation on the set of integers by giving a counter example.

There are two relations which play a prominent role in mathematics. One of them is the equivalence relation, which we have already seen is a relation which is reflexive, symmetric and transitive.

We now introduce the other relation called a partial order.

**Definition:** A relation  $f$  on a nonempty set  $X$  is called a partial order if  $f$  is reflexive, transitive and anti-symmetric. Here  $(X, f)$  is a partially ordered set and is colloquially referred to as a poset.

The relation less than or equal to on the set of real numbers and the relation subset on the set of sets are two fundamental partial orders. These can be thought of as models for the general partial order. It is common practice to use the symbol  $\leq$  to denote a partial order.

Further, if  $(X, \leq)$  is a poset and  $x \leq y$ , then we read this as  $x$  is less than or equal to  $y$ .

**Definition:** Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a poset. If there exist elements  $x$  and  $y$  in  $X$ , such that either  $(x, y) \in \leq$  or  $(y, x) \in \leq$  holds, then  $x$  and  $y$  are said to be comparable. In neither  $(x, y) \in \leq$  nor  $(y, x) \in \leq$ , then  $x$  and  $y$  are said to be incomparable.

**Example 1:** Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .

(a) The identity relation  $\text{Id}$  on  $X$  is reflexive, transitive and anti-symmetric and is therefore a partial order. However, no two elements of  $X$  are comparable.

(b) The relation  $\text{Id} \cup \{(1, 2)\}$  is also a partial order on  $X$ . Here 1 and 2 are comparable.

(c) The relation  $= \text{Id} \cup \{(1, 2), (2, 1)\}$  is both reflexive and transitive, but not anti-symmetric. Observe that  $(1, 2), (2, 1) \in =$  and  $1 \neq 2$ .

(d) The relation  $\text{Id} \cup \{(1, 2), (3, 4)\}$  is a partial order on  $X$ . Here, 1 and 2 are comparable and so are 3 and 4.

**Example:** Let  $X = \mathbb{N}$ . The relation  $= \{(a, b) : a \text{ divides } b\}$  is a partial order on  $X$ .

**Example:** Let  $X$  be a nonempty collection of sets. Here,  $= \{(A, B) : A, B \in X, A \subseteq B\}$  is a partial order on  $X$ . 4. On  $\mathbb{R}$  the set  $= \{(a, b) : a \leq b\}$  is a partial order. It is called the usual partial order on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Definition:** Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a poset. 1. If any two elements in the poset  $(X, \leq)$  are comparable, then  $(X, \leq)$  is called a linear order and  $(X, \leq)$  is called a linearly ordered set.

Often a linear order is also referred to as a total order or a complete order.

A subset,  $C$  of  $X$ , is called a chain if and only if it induces a linear order on  $C$ . If  $C$  is a finite set, then the length of  $C$  is equal to the number of elements in  $C$ . If  $C$  is not a finite set, then the length of  $C$  is said to be infinite.

A subset,  $A$  of  $X$ , is called an antichain if and only if no two elements of  $A$  are comparable. The length of an antichain is defined in precisely the same manner as that of the chain.

The maximum of the lengths of the chains of  $X$  is called the height of  $X$  and the maximum of the lengths of the antichains of  $X$  is called the width of  $X$ .

Let  $X$  be a nonempty set and let  $f$  be a relation on  $X$ . Then, recall from Definition, that  $f$  is reflexive if  $(x, x) \in f$  for all  $x \in X$ ;  $f$  is transitive if  $(x, y) \in f$  and  $(y, z) \in f$  imply  $(x, z) \in f$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ ; and  $f$  is anti-

symmetric if  $(x, y) \in f$  and  $x \neq y$  implies  $(y, x) \notin f$ , i.e., for all distinct elements  $x, y$  of  $X$  both  $(x, y)$  and  $(y, x)$  cannot be in  $f$ . Relations which are simultaneously reflexive, transitive and anti-symmetric play an important role in mathematics; and we give a name to such relations. **Definition:** Let  $X$  be a nonempty set. A relation  $f$  on  $X$  is called a partial order if  $f$  is reflexive, transitive and anti-symmetric. Let  $f$  be a partial order on  $X$  and let  $a, b \in X$ . Then,  $a$  and  $b$  are said to be comparable (with respect to the partial order  $f$ ) if either  $(a, b) \in f$  or  $(b, a) \in f$ . When a partial order satisfies some other desirable properties, they are given different names. We fix some of these in the following definition.

**Definition:** Let  $X$  be a nonempty set.

1. The pair  $(X, f)$  is called a partially ordered set (in short, poset) if  $f$  is a partial order on  $X$ .
2. A partial order  $f$  on  $X$  is called a linear order if either  $(x, y) \in f$  or  $(y, x) \in f$  for all  $x, y \in X$ , i.e., when any two elements of  $X$  are comparable. A linear order is also called a total order, or a complete order.
3. The poset  $(X, f)$  is said to be a linearly ordered set if  $f$  is a linear order on  $X$ .
4. A linearly ordered subset of a poset is called a chain in the poset. The maximum size of a chain in a poset is called the height of a poset.
5. Let  $(X, f)$  be a poset and let  $A \subseteq X$ .  $A$  is called an anti-chain in the poset if no two elements of  $A$  are comparable.

The maximum size of an anti-chain in a poset is called the width of the poset. You may imagine the elements of a linearly ordered set as points on a line. The height of a poset is the maximum of the cardinalities of all chains in the poset. The width of a poset is the maximum of the cardinalities of all anti-chains in the poset.

**Examples:**

1. The poset in Example 1 has height 1 (size of the chain  $\{1\}$ ) and width 5 (size of the anti-chain  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ ).



2. The poset in Example 1 has height 2 (respective chain is  $\{1, 2\}$ ) and width 4 (respective anti-chains are  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$ ).
3. The poset in Example 1 has height 2 (respective chains are  $\{1, 2\}$  and  $\{3, 4\}$ ) and width 3 (respective anti-chain is  $\{1, 3, 5\}$ ).
4. The usual order (usual  $\leq$ ) in  $\mathbb{N}$  is a linear/complete/total order. The same holds for the usual ordering in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ .
5. If  $(X, f)$  is a finite linearly ordered set then the singleton subsets of  $X$  are the only anti-chains. In this case, the height of  $X$  is the number of elements in  $X$  and the width of  $X$  is 1.
6. The set  $\mathbb{N}$  with the partial order  $f$  defined by “ $(a, b) \in f$  if  $a$  divides  $b$ ” is not linearly ordered. However, the set  $\{1, 2, 4, 8, 16\}$  is a chain. This is just a linearly ordered subset of the poset.

There are larger chains, for example,  $\{2^k : k = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ . The set of all primes is an anti-chain here. The poset  $(\mathbb{N}, f)$  has infinite height and infinite width.

7. The poset  $(P(\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}), \subseteq)$  is not linearly ordered. However,  $\{\emptyset, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}\}$  is a chain in it. Also,  $\{\emptyset, \{2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}\}$  is a chain. The height of this poset is 6.

That is, if  $f$  is a partial order on a nonempty set  $X$  we write  $x \leq y$  to mean that  $(x, y) \in f$ . Accordingly, the poset  $(X, f)$  is written as  $(X, \leq)$ . Also, instead of writing ‘ $(X, f)$  is a poset’ we will often write ‘ $X$  is a poset with the partial order  $f$ ’. Following custom, by  $x \geq y$  we mean  $y \leq x$ ; by  $x < y$  we mean that  $x \leq y$  and  $x \neq y$ ; by  $x > y$  we mean  $y < x$ . Also, we read  $x \leq y$  as  $x$  is less than or equal to  $y$ ;  $x < y$  as  $x$  is less than  $y$ ;  $x \geq y$  as  $x$  is greater than or equal to  $y$ ; and  $x > y$  as  $x$  is larger than  $y$ .

**Definition:** Let  $(\Sigma, \leq)$  be a finite linearly ordered set (like the English alphabet with  $a < b < c < \dots < z$ ) and let  $\Sigma^*$  be the collection of all words formed using the elements of  $\Sigma$ . For  $a = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$ ,  $b = b_1 b_2 \dots b_m \in \Sigma^*$  for  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , define  $a \leq b$  if (a)  $a_1 < b_1$ , or (b)  $a_i = b_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  for some  $k < \min\{m, n\}$  and  $a_{k+1} < b_{k+1}$ , or (c)  $a_i = b_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n = \min\{m, n\}$ . Then  $(\Sigma^*, \leq)$  is a linearly ordered set. This ordering is called the lexicographic or dictionary ordering. Sometimes  $\Sigma$  is called the alphabet and the linearly ordered set  $\Sigma^*$  is called the dictionary.

A directed graph representation of the poset  $(A, \leq)$  with  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 9, 18\}$  Given a set,  $X$ , we can order the subsets of  $X$  by the subset relation:  $A \subseteq B$ , where  $A, B$  are any subsets of  $X$ .

For example, if  $X = \{a, b, c\}$ , we have  $\{a\} \subseteq \{a, b\}$ .

However, note that neither  $\{a\}$  is a subset of  $\{b, c\}$  nor  $\{b, c\}$  is a subset of  $\{a\}$ . We say that  $\{a\}$  and  $\{b, c\}$  are incomparable.

**Definition:**

A binary relation,  $\leq$ , on a set,  $X$ , is a partial order (or partial ordering) iff it is reflexive, transitive and antisymmetric,

that is: (1) (Reflexivity):  $a \leq a$ , for all  $a \in X$ ;

(2) (Transitivity): If  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq c$ , then  $a \leq c$ , for all  $a, b, c \in X$ .

(3) (Antisymmetry): If  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq a$ , then  $a = b$ , for all  $a, b \in X$ .

A partial order is a total order (ordering) (or linear order (ordering)) iff for all  $a, b \in X$ , either  $a \leq b$  or  $b \leq a$ . When neither  $a \leq b$  nor  $b \leq a$ , we say that  $a$  and  $b$  are incomparable.

A subset,  $C \subseteq X$ , is a chain iff  $\leq$  induces a total order on  $C$  (so, for all  $a, b \in C$ , either  $a \leq b$  or  $b \leq a$ ).

The strict order (ordering),  $<$  is the strict order associated with a partial order,  $\leq$ , then  $<$  is transitive and antireflexive, which means that (4)  $a < a$ , for all  $a \in X$ .

Conversely, let  $<$  be a relation on  $X$  and assume that  $<$  is transitive and anti-reflexive.

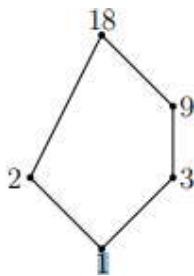
If confusion may arise, for example when we are dealing with several posets, we denote the partial order on  $X$  by  $\leq_X$ .

The trick is to draw a picture consisting of nodes and oriented edges, where the nodes are all the elements of  $X$  and where we draw an oriented edge from  $a$  to  $b$  iff  $a$  is an immediate predecessor of  $b$ . Such a diagram is called a Hasse diagram for  $X$ .

The Hasse diagram of a finite poset  $(X, \leq)$  is a picture drawn in the following way:

1. Each element of  $X$  is represented by a point and is labeled with the element.
2. If  $a \leq b$  then the point labeled  $a$  must appear at a lower height than the point labeled  $b$  and further the two points are joined by a line.
3. If  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq c$  then the line between  $a$  and  $c$  is removed.

Example: Hasse diagram for the poset  $(A, \leq)$  with  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 9, 18\}$  and  $\leq$  as the 'divides' relation is given below.



Definition:

Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a poset and let  $A \subseteq X$ .

1. We say that an element  $x \in X$  is an upper bound of  $A$  if for each  $z \in A$ ,  $z \leq x$ ; or equivalently, when each element of  $A$  is less than or equal to  $x$ . An element  $y \in X$  is called a lower bound of  $A$  if for each  $z \in A$ ,  $y \leq z$ ; or equivalently, when  $y$  is less than or equal to each element of  $A$ .
2. An element  $x \in A$  is called the maximum of  $A$ , if  $x$  is an upper bound of  $A$ . Thus, maximum of  $A$  is an upper bound of  $A$  which is contained in  $A$ . Such an element is unique provided it exists. In this case, we denote  $x = \max\{z : z \in A\}$ . Similarly, minimum of  $A$  is an element  $y \in A$  which is a lower bound of  $A$ . If minimum of  $A$  exists, then it is unique; and we write  $y = \min\{z : z \in A\}$ .

3. An element  $x \in X$  is called the least upper bound (lub) of  $A$  in  $X$  if  $x$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and for each upper bound  $y$  of  $A$ , we have  $x \leq y$ ; i.e., when  $x$  is the minimum (least) element of the set of all upper bounds of  $A$ . Similarly, the greatest lower bound (glb) of  $A$  is a lower bound of  $A$  which is greater than or equal to all upper bounds of  $A$ ; it is the maximum (largest) of the set of all lower bounds of  $A$ .

4. An element  $x \in A$  is a maximal element of  $A$  if  $x \leq z$  for some  $z \in A$  implies  $x = z$ ; or equivalently, when no element in  $A$  is larger than  $x$ . An element  $y \in A$  is called a minimal element of  $A$  if  $z \leq y$  for some  $z \in A$  implies  $y = z$ ; or equivalently, when no element in  $A$  is less than  $y$ . Example: Consider the two posets  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $Y = \{a, b, c, d\}$  described by the following Hasse diagrams:



Let  $A = X$ . Then,

- (a) the maximal elements of  $A$  are  $b$  and  $c$ ,
- (b) the only minimal element of  $A$  is  $a$ ,
- (c)  $a$  is the lower bound of  $A$  in  $X$ ,
- (d)  $A$  has no upper bound in  $X$ ,
- (e)  $A$  has no maximum element,
- (f)  $a$  is the minimum element of  $A$ ,
- (g) no element of  $X$  is the lub of  $A$ , and
- (h)  $a$  is the glb of  $A$  in  $X$ .

Example:

The following table illustrates the definitions by taking different subsets  $A$  of  $X$ , and also considering the same  $A$  as a subset of  $Y$ .

	$A = \{b, c\} \subseteq X$	$A = \{a, c\} \subseteq X$	$A = \{b, c\} \subseteq Y$
Maximal element(s) of $A$	$b, c$	$c$	$b, c$
Minimal element(s) of $A$	$b, c$	$a$	$b, c$
Lower bound(s) of $A$ in $X$	$a$	$a$	$a$
Lower bound(s) of $A$ in $Y$	$a$	$a$	$a$
Upper bound(s) of $A$ in $X$	does not exist	$c$	$d$
Upper bound(s) of $A$ in $Y$	does not exist	$c$	$d$
Maximum element of $A$	does not exist	$c$	does not exist
Minimum element of $A$	does not exist	$a$	does not exist
lub of $A$ in $X$	does not exist	$c$	$d$
lub of $A$ in $Y$	does not exist	$c$	$d$
glb of $A$ in $X$	$a$	$a$	$a$
glb of $A$ in $Y$	$a$	$a$	$a$

Definition: A linear order  $\leq$  on a nonempty set  $X$  is said to be a well order if each nonempty subset of  $X$  has minimum. We call  $(X, \leq)$  a well ordered set to mean that  $\leq$  is a well order on  $X$ .

Often we use the phrase ' $X$  is a well ordered set with the ordering as  $\leq$ ' to mean ' $(X, \leq)$  is a well ordered set'.

Lattice: A poset  $(L, \leq)$  is called a lattice if each pair  $x, y \in L$  has an lub and also a glb. A lub of  $x, y$  is also written as  $x \vee y$  (read as ' $x$  or  $y$ ' / 'join of  $x$  and  $y$ ') and a glb of  $x, y$  as  $x \wedge y$  (read as ' $x$  and  $y$ ' / 'meet of  $x$  and  $y$ '). A lattice is a poset in which any two elements have a meet and a join.

A complete lattice is a poset in which any subset has a greatest lower bound and a least upper bound.

It is easy to show that any finite lattice is a complete lattice and that a finite poset is a lattice iff it has a least element and a greatest element.

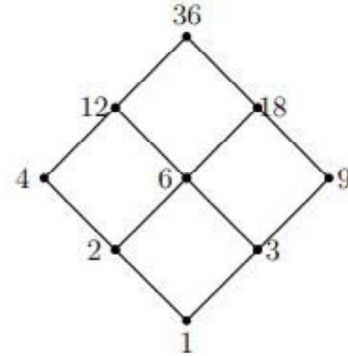
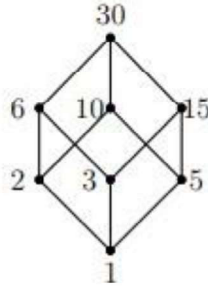
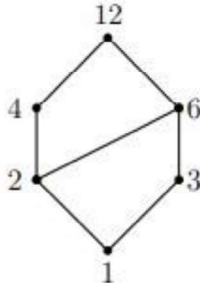
The poset  $\mathbb{N}^+$  under the divisibility ordering is a lattice!

A lattice is called a distributive lattice if for all pairs of elements  $x, y$  the following conditions, called distributive laws, are satisfied:  $x \vee (y \wedge z) = (x \vee y) \wedge (x \vee z)$ ,  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$ .

Indeed, it turns out that the meet operation corresponds to greatest common divisor and the join operation corresponds to least common multiple.

However, it is not a complete lattice. The power set of any set,  $X$ , is a complete lattice under the subset ordering.

Fix a positive integer  $n$  and let  $D(n)$  denote the set of all divisors of  $n$ . For elements  $x, y \in D(n)$ , define  $x \leq y$  if  $x$  divides  $y$ . Then  $(D(n), \leq)$  is a distributive lattice, where  $\vee = \text{lcm}$  and  $\wedge = \text{gcd}$ . For  $n = 12, 30$  and  $36$ , the corresponding lattices are shown below.



To check the first distributive law, let  $a, b, c \in D(n)$ ,  $p$  a prime, and let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Further, let  $p^k \mid \text{lcm}\{a, \text{gcd}\{b, c\}\}$ . Then, either  $p^k \mid a$  or  $p^k \mid b, c$ . In that case,  $p^k \mid \text{lcm}\{a, b\}$  and  $p^k \mid \text{lcm}\{a, c\}$ . So,  $p^k \mid \text{gcd}\{\text{lcm}\{a, b\}, \text{lcm}\{a, c\}\}$ .

Now, let us assume that  $p^k \nmid \text{gcd}\{\text{lcm}\{a, b\}, \text{lcm}\{a, c\}\}$ . Then,  $p^k \nmid \text{lcm}\{a, b\}$  and  $p^k \nmid \text{lcm}\{a, c\}$ . Then, either  $p^k \nmid a$  or ( $p^k \nmid b$  and  $p^k \nmid c$ ). So,  $p^k \nmid \text{lcm}\{a, \text{gcd}\{b, c\}\}$ .

Thus, any power of a prime divides  $a \vee (b \wedge c)$  if and only if it divides  $(a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c)$ . Therefore,  $a \vee (b \wedge c) = (a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c)$ . Similarly, the second distributive law can be verified.

Proposition: If  $X$  is a lattice, then the following identities hold for all  $a, b, c \in X$ :

$$L1 \quad a \vee b = b \vee a, a \wedge b = b \wedge a$$

$$L2 \quad (a \vee b) \vee c = a \vee (b \vee c), (a \wedge b) \wedge c = a \wedge (b \wedge c)$$

$$L3 \quad a \vee a = a, a \wedge a = a$$

$$L4 \quad (a \vee b) \wedge a = a, (a \wedge b) \vee a = a.$$

Properties (L1) correspond to commutativity,  
properties (L2) to associativity,  
properties (L3) to idempotence and  
properties (L4) to absorption.

Furthermore, for all  $a, b \in X$ , we have  $a \leq b$  iff  $a \vee b = b$  iff  $a \wedge b = a$ , called consistency. Properties (L1)-(L4) are algebraic properties.

Properties: In a lattice  $(L, \leq)$ , the following are true:

$$1. [\text{Idempotence}] : a \vee a = a, a \wedge a = a$$

$$2. [\text{Commutativity}] : a \vee b = b \vee a, a \wedge b = b \wedge a$$

$$3. [\text{Associativity}] : a \vee (b \vee c) = (a \vee b) \vee c, a \wedge (b \wedge c) = (a \wedge b) \wedge c$$

4.  $a \leq b \Leftrightarrow a \vee b = b$ . Similarly,  $a \leq b \Leftrightarrow a \wedge b = a$

5. [Absorption] :  $a \vee (a \wedge b) = a = a \wedge (a \vee b)$

6. [Isotonicity] :  $b \leq c \Rightarrow a \vee b \leq a \vee c$ ,  $b \leq c \Rightarrow a \wedge b \leq a \wedge c$

7.  $a \leq b$ ,  $c \leq d \Rightarrow a \vee c \leq b \vee d$ ,  $a \leq b$ ,  $c \leq d \Rightarrow a \wedge c \leq b \wedge d$

8. [Distributive Inequality] :  $a \vee (b \wedge c) \leq (a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c)$ ,  $a \wedge (b \vee c) \geq (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$

9. [Modularity] :  $a \leq c \Leftrightarrow a \vee (b \wedge c) \leq (a \vee b) \wedge c$

Proof. We prove only the first parts of all assertions; the second parts can be proved similarly.

(1)  $a \vee a$  is an upper bound of  $\{a, a\}$ .

Hence  $a \vee a \geq a$ . On the other hand,  $a$  is an upper bound of  $\{a, a\}$ .

So,  $a \vee a$  being the least of all upper bounds of  $\{a, a\}$ , is less than or equal to  $a$ . Hence  $a \vee a = a$ .

(2)  $a \leq b \vee a$ ,  $b \leq b \vee a$ .

So,  $b \vee a$  is an upper bound of  $a, b$ .

Since  $a \vee b$  is the least of all upper bounds of  $a, b$ , we have  $a \vee b \leq b \vee a$ . Exchanging  $a$  and  $b$ , we get  $b \vee a \leq a \vee b$ .

Hence  $a \vee b = b \vee a$ .

(3) Let  $d = a \vee (b \vee c)$ .

Then,  $d \geq a$ ,  $d \geq b \vee c$  so that  $d \geq a$ ,  $d \geq b$  and  $d \geq c$ . So,  $d \geq a \vee b$  and  $d \geq c$ . That is,  $d \geq (a \vee b) \vee c$ . Similarly,  $e = (a \vee b) \vee c$  implies  $e \geq a \vee (b \vee c)$ .

Thus, the first part of the result follows.

(4) Let  $a \leq b$ . As  $b$  is an upper bound of  $\{a, b\}$ , and  $a \vee b$  is the least of all upper bounds of  $\{a, b\}$ , we have  $a \vee b \leq b$ .

Also,  $a \vee b$  is an upper bound of  $\{a, b\}$  and hence  $a \vee b \geq b$ . So, we get  $a \vee b = b$ .

Conversely, let  $a \vee b = b$ .

As  $a \vee b$  is an upper bound of  $\{a, b\}$ , we have  $a \leq a \vee b = b$ . Therefore,  $a \leq b \Leftrightarrow a \vee b = b$ .

(5) By definition  $a \wedge b \leq a$ . So,  $a \vee (a \wedge b) \leq a \vee a = a$  using (1). Also, by definition  $a \vee (a \wedge b) \geq a$ .

Hence,  $a \vee (a \wedge b) = a$ .

(6) Let  $b \leq c$ . Note that  $a \vee c \geq a$  and  $a \vee c \geq c \geq b$ . So,  $a \vee c$  is an upper bound of  $\{a, b\}$ .  
Thus,  $a \vee c \geq \text{lub}\{a, b\} = a \vee b$ .

(7) Using (6), we have  $a \vee c \leq b \vee c \leq b \vee d$ . Again, using (6), we get  $a \wedge c \leq b \wedge c \leq b \wedge d$ .

(8) Note that  $a \leq a \vee b$  and  $a \leq a \vee c$ .  
Thus,  $a = a \wedge (a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c)$ .

As  $b \leq a \vee b$  and  $c \leq a \vee c$ , by (7), we get  $b \wedge c \leq (a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c)$ . So, by definition  $a \vee (b \wedge c) \leq (a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c)$ .

(9) Let  $a \leq c$ . Then,  $a \vee c = c$  and hence by (8), we have  $a \vee (b \wedge c) \leq (a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c) = (a \vee b) \wedge c$ . Conversely, let  $a \vee (b \wedge c) \leq (a \vee b) \wedge c$ .

Then  $a \leq a \vee (b \wedge c) \leq (a \vee b) \wedge c \leq c$ .

Theorem:

The direct product of two distributive lattices is a distributive lattice. Proof. Let  $(a_1, b_1), (a_2, b_2), (a_3, b_3)$  be elements in the direct product of two distributive lattices. Then  $[(a_1, b_1) \vee (a_2, b_2)] \wedge (a_3, b_3) = (a_1 \vee a_2, b_1 \vee b_2) \wedge (a_3, b_3) = (a_1 \vee a_2) \wedge a_3, (b_1 \vee b_2) \wedge b_3 = (a_1 \wedge a_3) \vee (a_2 \wedge a_3), (b_1 \wedge b_3) \vee (b_2 \wedge b_3) = (a_1 \wedge a_3), (b_1 \wedge b_3) \vee (a_2 \wedge a_3), (b_2 \wedge b_3) = (a_1, b_1) \wedge (a_3, b_3) \vee (a_2, b_2) \wedge (a_3, b_3)$ .

This verifies one of the distributive laws. Similarly, the other one can be verified.

Definition: Let  $(L_1, \leq_1)$  and  $(L_2, \leq_2)$  be lattices. A function  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  satisfying  $f(a \vee_1 b) = f(a) \vee_2 f(b)$  and  $f(a \wedge_1 b) = f(a) \wedge_2 f(b)$  is called a lattice homomorphism.

Further, if  $f$  is a bijection, then it is called a lattice isomorphism.

Definition:

Let  $(L, \leq)$  be a lattice. It is called a bounded lattice if there exist elements  $\alpha, \beta \in L$  such that for each  $x \in L$ , we have  $x \leq \alpha$  and  $\beta \leq x$ . Such an element  $\alpha$  is called the largest element of  $L$ , and is denoted by 1. The element  $\beta \in L$  satisfying  $\beta \leq x$  for all  $x \in L$  is called the smallest element of  $L$ , and is denoted by 0.

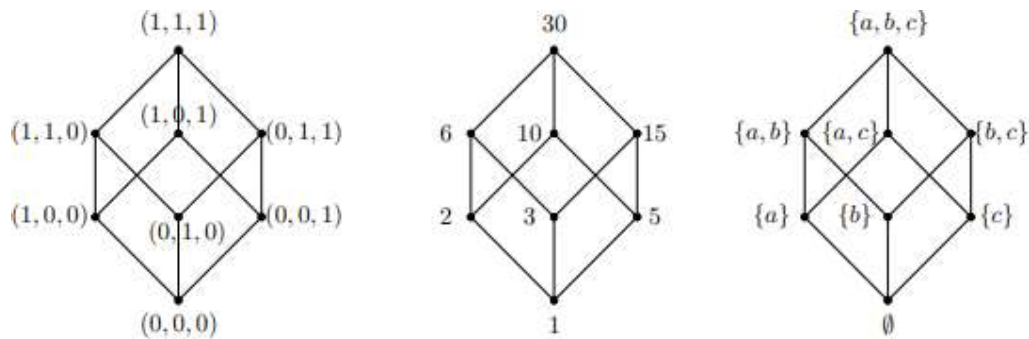
Notice that if a lattice is bounded, then 1 is the lub of the lattice and 0 is the glb of the lattice.

Definition: A lattice  $(L, \leq)$  is said to be complete if each nonempty subset of  $L$  has lub and glb in  $L$ . For  $A \subseteq L$ , we write  $\text{lub of } A$  as  $\vee A$ , and  $\text{glb of } A$ , as  $\wedge A$ . It follows that each complete lattice is a bounded lattice.

Examples:

1. The set  $[0, 5]$  with the usual order is a lattice which is both bounded and complete. So, is the set  $[0, 1) \cup [2, 3]$ .
2. The set  $(0, 5]$  with the usual order is a lattice which is neither bounded nor complete.

3. The set  $[0, 1] \cup (2, 3]$  with the usual order is a lattice which is bounded but not complete.
4. Every finite lattice is complete, and hence, bounded.
5. The set  $\mathbb{R}$  with the usual order is a lattice. It is not a complete lattice. Observe that the completeness property of  $\mathbb{R}$ , i.e., “for every bounded nonempty subset a glb and an lub exist” is different from the completeness in the lattice sense.



**Definition:** Let  $(L, \leq)$  be a bounded lattice. We say that  $(L, \leq)$  is a complemented lattice if for each  $x \in L$ , there exists  $y \in L$  such that  $x \vee y = 1$  and  $x \wedge y = 0$ . Such an element  $y$  corresponding to the element  $x$  is called a complement of  $x$ , and is denoted by  $\neg x$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $(L, \leq)$  be a lattice and let  $a, b, c \in L$ . The following table lists the properties that hold (make sense) in the specified type of lattices.

### FUNCTIONS

A function is a special type of relation. It may be considered as a relation in which each element of the domain belongs to only one ordered pair in the relation. Thus a function from  $A$  to  $B$  is a subset of  $A \times B$  having the property that for each  $a \in A$ , there is one and only one  $b \in B$  such that  $(a, b) \in f$ .

#### Definition

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be any two sets. A relation  $f$  from  $A$  to  $B$  is called a function if for every  $a \in A$  there is a unique  $b \in B$  such that  $(a, b) \in f$ .

Note that the definition of function requires that a relation must satisfy two additional conditions in order to qualify as a function.

The first condition is that every  $a \in A$  must be related to some  $b \in B$ , (i.e) the domain of  $f$  must be  $A$  and not merely subset of  $A$ . The second requirement of uniqueness can be expressed as  $(a, b) \in f \wedge (b, c) \in f \Rightarrow b = c$ .

Intuitively, a function from a set  $A$  to a set  $B$  is a rule which assigns to



o every element of A, a unique element of B. If  $a \in A$ , then the unique element of B assigned to a under f is denoted by  $f(a)$

(a). The usual notation for a function f from A to B is  $f: A \rightarrow B$  defined by  $a \mapsto f(a)$  where  $a \in A$ ,  $f(a)$  is called the image of a under f and a is called pre image of  $f(a)$ .

< Let  $X = Y = \mathbb{R}$  and  $f(x) = x^2 + 2$ .  $Df = \mathbb{R}$  and  $Rf \neq \mathbb{R}$ .

<

Let X be the set of all statements in logic and let  $Y = \{\text{True}, \text{False}\}$ . A mapping  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a function.

<

A program written in high level language is mapped in to a machine language by a compiler. Similarly, the output from a compiler is a function of its input.

<

Let  $X = Y = \mathbb{R}$  and  $f(x) = x^2$  is a function from  $X \rightarrow Y$ , and  $g(x^2) = x$  is not a function from  $X \rightarrow Y$ .

A mapping  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is called one-to-one (injective or 1-1) if distinct elements of A are mapped into distinct elements of B. (i.e) f is one-to-one if

$$a_1 \neq a_2 \Rightarrow f(a_1) \neq f(a_2) \text{ or equivalently } f(a_1) = f(a_2) \Rightarrow a_1 = a_2$$

For example,  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  given by  $f(x) = x$  is 1-1 where  $\mathbb{N}$  is the set of a natural numbers.

A mapping  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is called onto (surjective) if for every  $b \in B$  there is an  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . i.e. if every element of B has a pre-image in A. Otherwise it is called into.

For example,  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  given by  $f(x) = x + 1$  is an onto mapping. A mapping is both 1-1 and onto is called bijective

For example  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by  $f(x) = x + 1$  is bijective.

Definition: A mapping  $f: A \rightarrow b$  is called a constant mapping if, for all  $a \in A$ ,  $f(a) = b$ , a fixed element.

For example  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  given by  $f(x) = 0$ , for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  is a constant mapping.

Definition

A mapping  $f: A \rightarrow A$  is called the identity mapping of A if  $f(a) = a$ , for all  $a \in A$ . Usually it is denoted by  $I_A$  or simply  $I$ .

Composition of functions:

If  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$  are two functions, then the composition of functions f and g, denoted by  $g \circ f$ , is the function is given

n by  $g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$  and is given by

$$g \circ f = \{(a, c) / a \in A \wedge c \in C \wedge \exists b \in B : f(a) = b \wedge g(b) = c\} \text{ and } (g \circ f)(a) = (g(f(a)))$$

Example 1: Consider the sets  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b\}$  and  $C = \{x, y\}$ . Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be defined by  $f(1) = a$ ;  $f(2) = b$  and  $f(3) = b$  and Let  $g: B \rightarrow C$  be defined by  $g(a) = x$  and  $g(b) = y$

(i.e)  $f = \{(1, a), (2, b), (3, b)\}$  and  $g = \{(a, x), (b, y)\}$ .  
Then  $g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (g \circ f)(1) &= g(f(1)) = g(a) = x \\ (g \circ f)(2) &= g(f(2)) = g(b) = y \\ (g \circ f)(3) &= g(f(3)) = g(b) = y \\ \text{i.e., } g \circ f &= \{(1, x), (2, y), (3, y)\} \end{aligned}$$

If  $f: A \rightarrow A$  and  $g: A \rightarrow A$ , where  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ , are given by  $f = \{(1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 1)\}$  and  $g = \{(1, 3), (2, 2), (3, 1)\}$

Then  $g \circ f = \{(1, 2), (2, 1), (3, 3)\}$ ,  $f \circ g = \{(1, 1), (2, 3), (3, 2)\}$   
 $f \circ f = \{(1, 3), (2, 1), (3, 2)\}$  and  $g \circ g = \{(1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a one-to-one and onto mapping. Then, its inverse, denoted by  $f^{-1}$  is given by  $f^{-1} = \{(b, a) / (a, b) \in f\}$ . Clearly  $f^{-1}: B \rightarrow A$  is one-to-one and onto.

Also we observe that  $f \circ f^{-1} = IB$  and  $f^{-1} \circ f = IA$ . If  $f^{-1}$  exists then  $f$  is called invertible.

*For example:* Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f(x) = x + 2$   
Then  $f^{-1}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by  $f^{-1}(x) = x - 2$

**Theorem:** Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g: Y \rightarrow Z$  be two one to one and onto functions. Then  $g \circ f$  is also one to one and onto function.

**Proof**

Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$   $g: Y \rightarrow Z$  be two one to one and onto functions. Let  $x_1, x_2 \in X$

$$\begin{aligned} g \circ f(x_1) &= g \circ f(x_2), \\ g(f(x_1)) &= g(f(x_2)), \end{aligned}$$

$$g(x_1) = g(x_2) \text{ since } [f \text{ is } 1-1]$$

$$x_1 = x_2 \text{ since } [g \text{ is } 1-1] \text{ } \{ \text{gof is } 1-1.$$

By the definition of composition,  $\text{gof}: X \rightarrow Z$  is a function.

We have to prove that every element of  $Z$  is an image element for some  $x \in X$  under  $\text{gof}$ .

Since  $g$  is onto  $Y$ :  $g(y) = z$  and  $f$  is onto from  $X$  to  $Y$ ,  
 $\exists x \in X$  :  $f(x) = y$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, } \text{gof}(x) &= g(f(x)) \\ &= g(y) \quad [\text{since } f(x) = y] \\ &= z \quad [\text{since } g(y) = z] \text{ which shows that } \text{gof} \text{ is onto.} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem**  $(g \circ f)^{-1} = f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}$

1 (i.e) the inverse of a composite function can be expressed in terms of the composition of the inverses in the reverse order.

**Proof.**  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is one to one and onto.  $g: B \rightarrow C$

$C$  is one to one and onto.  $\text{gof}: A \rightarrow C$  is also

one to one and onto.  $P(\text{gof})^{-1}$ :

$C \rightarrow A$  is one to one and onto.

Let  $a \in A$ , then there exists an element  $b \in B$  such that  $f(a) = b$  &  $a = f^{-1}(b)$

(c). Now  $b \in B$  there exists an element  $c \in C$  such that

$g(b) = c$  &  $b = g^{-1}(c)$

(c). Then  $(\text{gof})(a) = g[f(a)] = g(b) = c$  &  $a = (\text{gof})^{-1}(c)$

(1)..... (1)

$$(f^{-1} \circ g^{-1})(c) = f^{-1}(g^{-1}(c)) = f^{-1}(b) = a \text{ & } a = (f^{-1} \circ g^{-1})(c)$$

....(2) Combining (1) and (2), we have  $(\text{gof})^{-1} = f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}$