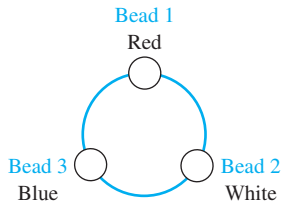


- *58. Each bead on a bracelet with three beads is either red, white, or blue, as illustrated in the figure shown.



Define the relation R between bracelets as: (B_1, B_2) , where B_1 and B_2 are bracelets, belongs to R if and only if B_2 can be obtained from B_1 by rotating it or rotating it and then reflecting it.

- a) Show that R is an equivalence relation.
 - b) What are the equivalence classes of R ?
- *59. Let R be the relation on the set of all colorings of the 2×2 checkerboard where each of the four squares is colored either red or blue so that (C_1, C_2) , where C_1 and C_2 are 2×2 checkerboards with each of their four squares colored blue or red, belongs to R if and only if C_2 can be obtained from C_1 either by rotating the checkerboard or by rotating it and then reflecting it.
- a) Show that R is an equivalence relation.
 - b) What are the equivalence classes of R ?
60. a) Let R be the relation on the set of functions from \mathbb{Z}^+ to \mathbb{Z}^+ such that (f, g) belongs to R if and only if f is $\Theta(g)$ (see Section 3.2). Show that R is an equivalence relation.
- b) Describe the equivalence class containing $f(n) = n^2$ for the equivalence relation of part (a).
61. Determine the number of different equivalence relations on a set with three elements by listing them.
62. Determine the number of different equivalence relations on a set with four elements by listing them.
- *63. Do we necessarily get an equivalence relation when we form the transitive closure of the symmetric closure of the reflexive closure of a relation?
- *64. Do we necessarily get an equivalence relation when we form the symmetric closure of the reflexive closure of the transitive closure of a relation?
65. Suppose we use Theorem 2 to form a partition P from an equivalence relation R . What is the equivalence relation R' that results if we use Theorem 2 again to form an equivalence relation from P ?
66. Suppose we use Theorem 2 to form an equivalence relation R from a partition P . What is the partition P' that results if we use Theorem 2 again to form a partition from R ?
67. Devise an algorithm to find the smallest equivalence relation containing a given relation.
- *68. Let $p(n)$ denote the number of different equivalence relations on a set with n elements (and by Theorem 2 the number of partitions of a set with n elements). Show that $p(n)$ satisfies the recurrence relation $p(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} C(n-1, j)p(n-j-1)$ and the initial condition $p(0) = 1$. (Note: The numbers $p(n)$ are called **Bell numbers** after the American mathematician E. T. Bell.)
69. Use Exercise 68 to find the number of different equivalence relations on a set with n elements, where n is a positive integer not exceeding 10.

9.6 Partial Orderings

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| read
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| notes
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Introduction

We often use relations to order some or all of the elements of sets. For instance, we order words using the relation containing pairs of words (x, y) , where x comes before y in the dictionary. We schedule projects using the relation consisting of pairs (x, y) , where x and y are tasks in a project such that x must be completed before y begins. We order the set of integers using the relation containing the pairs (x, y) , where x is less than y . When we add all of the pairs of the form (x, x) to these relations, we obtain a relation that is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive. These are properties that characterize relations used to order the elements of sets.




DEFINITION 1


A relation R on a set S is called a *partial ordering* or *partial order* if it is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive. A set S together with a partial ordering R is called a *partially ordered set*, or *poset*, and is denoted by (S, R) . Members of S are called *elements* of the poset.

We give examples of posets in Examples 1–3.


EXAMPLE 1 Show that the “greater than or equal” relation (\geq) is a partial ordering on the set of integers.



Solution: Because $a \geq a$ for every integer a , \geq is reflexive. If $a \geq b$ and $b \geq a$, then $a = b$. Hence, \geq is antisymmetric. Finally, \geq is transitive because $a \geq b$ and $b \geq c$ imply that $a \geq c$. It follows that \geq is a partial ordering on the set of integers and (\mathbb{Z}, \geq) is a poset. 

EXAMPLE 2 The divisibility relation $|$ is a partial ordering on the set of positive integers, because it is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive, as was shown in Section 9.1. We see that $(\mathbb{Z}^+, |)$ is a poset. Recall that $(\mathbb{Z}^+$ denotes the set of positive integers.) 


EXAMPLE 3 Show that the inclusion relation \subseteq is a partial ordering on the power set of a set S .

Solution: Because $A \subseteq A$ whenever A is a subset of S , \subseteq is reflexive. It is antisymmetric because $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$ imply that $A = B$. Finally, \subseteq is transitive, because $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq C$ imply that $A \subseteq C$. Hence, \subseteq is a partial ordering on $P(S)$, and $(P(S), \subseteq)$ is a poset. 

Example 4 illustrates a relation that is not a partial ordering.

EXAMPLE 4 Let R be the relation on the set of people such that xRy if x and y are people and x is older than y . Show that R is not a partial ordering.




Solution: Note that R is antisymmetric because if a person x is older than a person y , then y is not older than x . That is, if xRy , then $y \not R x$. The relation R is transitive because if person x is older than person y and y is older than person z , then x is older than z . That is, if xRy and yRz , then xRz . However, R is not reflexive, because no person is older than himself or herself. That is, $x \not R x$ for all people x . It follows that R is not a partial ordering. 

In different posets different symbols such as \leq , \subseteq , and $|$, are used for a partial ordering. However, we need a symbol that we can use when we discuss the ordering relation in an arbitrary poset. Customarily, the notation $a \preceq b$ is used to denote that $(a, b) \in R$ in an arbitrary poset (S, R) . This notation is used because the “less than or equal to” relation on the set of real numbers is the most familiar example of a partial ordering and the symbol \preceq is similar to the \leq symbol. (Note that the symbol \preceq is used to denote the relation in *any* poset, not just the “less than or equals” relation.) The notation $a \prec b$ denotes that $a \preceq b$, but $a \neq b$. Also, we say “ a is less than b ” or “ b is greater than a ” if $a \prec b$.

When a and b are elements of the poset (S, \preceq) , it is not necessary that either $a \preceq b$ or $b \preceq a$. For instance, in $(P(\mathbb{Z}), \subseteq)$, $\{1, 2\}$ is not related to $\{1, 3\}$, and vice versa, because neither set is contained within the other. Similarly, in $(\mathbb{Z}^+, |)$, 2 is not related to 3 and 3 is not related to 2, because $2 \nmid 3$ and $3 \nmid 2$. This leads to Definition 2.

DEFINITION 2 The elements a and b of a poset (S, \preceq) are called **comparable** if either $a \preceq b$ or $b \preceq a$. When a and b are elements of S such that neither $a \preceq b$ nor $b \preceq a$, a and b are called **incomparable**.

EXAMPLE 5 In the poset $(\mathbb{Z}^+, |)$, are the integers 3 and 9 comparable? Are 5 and 7 comparable?

Solution: The integers 3 and 9 are comparable, because $3 | 9$. The integers 5 and 7 are incomparable, because $5 \nmid 7$ and $7 \nmid 5$. 

The adjective “partial” is used to describe partial orderings because pairs of elements may be incomparable. When every two elements in the set are comparable, the relation is called a **total ordering**.

DEFINITION 3 If (S, \preceq) is a poset and every two elements of S are comparable, S is called a **totally ordered** or **linearly ordered set**, and \preceq is called a **total order** or a **linear order**. A totally ordered set is also called a **chain**.

EXAMPLE 6 The poset (\mathbb{Z}, \leq) is totally ordered, because $a \leq b$ or $b \leq a$ whenever a and b are integers. ◀

EXAMPLE 7 The poset $(\mathbb{Z}^+, |)$ is not totally ordered because it contains elements that are incomparable, such as 5 and 7. ◀

In Chapter 6 we noted that (\mathbb{Z}^+, \leq) is well-ordered, where \leq is the usual “less than or equal to” relation. We now define well-ordered sets.

DEFINITION 4 (S, \preccurlyeq) is a *well-ordered set* if it is a poset such that \preccurlyeq is a total ordering and every nonempty subset of S has a least element. ?

EXAMPLE 8 The set of ordered pairs of positive integers, $\mathbb{Z}^+ \times \mathbb{Z}^+$, with $(a_1, a_2) \preccurlyeq (b_1, b_2)$ if $a_1 < b_1$, or if $a_1 = b_1$ and $a_2 \leq b_2$ (the lexicographic ordering), is a well-ordered set. The verification of this is left as Exercise 53. The set \mathbb{Z} , with the usual \leq ordering, is not well-ordered because the set of negative integers, which is a subset of \mathbb{Z} , has no least element. ◀

At the end of Section 5.3 we showed how to use the principle of well-ordered induction (there called generalized induction) to prove results about a well-ordered set. We now state and prove that this proof technique is valid.

THEOREM 1 THE PRINCIPLE OF WELL-ORDERED INDUCTION Suppose that S is a well-ordered set. Then $P(x)$ is true for all $x \in S$, if
INDUCTIVE STEP: For every $y \in S$, if $P(x)$ is true for all $x \in S$ with $x \prec y$, then $P(y)$ is true.

Proof: Suppose it is not the case that $P(x)$ is true for all $x \in S$. Then there is an element $y \in S$ such that $P(y)$ is false. Consequently, the set $A = \{x \in S \mid P(x) \text{ is false}\}$ is nonempty. Because S is well ordered, A has a least element a . By the choice of a as a least element of A , we know that $P(x)$ is true for all $x \in S$ with $x \prec a$. This implies by the inductive step $P(a)$ is true. This contradiction shows that $P(x)$ must be true for all $x \in S$. ◀

Remark: We do not need a basis step in a proof using the principle of well-ordered induction because if x_0 is the least element of a well ordered set, the inductive step tells us that $P(x_0)$ is true. This follows because there are no elements $x \in S$ with $x \prec x_0$, so we know (using a vacuous proof) that $P(x)$ is true for all $x \in S$ with $x \prec x_0$.

The principle of well-ordered induction is a versatile technique for proving results about well-ordered sets. Even when it is possible to use mathematical induction for the set of positive integers to prove a theorem, it may be simpler to use the principle of well-ordered induction, as we saw in Examples 5 and 6 in Section 6.2, where we proved a result about the well-ordered set $(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}, \preccurlyeq)$ where \preccurlyeq is lexicographic ordering on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$.

Lexicographic Order

The words in a dictionary are listed in alphabetic, or lexicographic, order, which is based on the ordering of the letters in the alphabet. This is a special case of an ordering of strings on a set

constructed from a partial ordering on the set. We will show how this construction works in any poset.

First, we will show how to construct a partial ordering on the Cartesian product of two posets, (A_1, \preceq_1) and (A_2, \preceq_2) . The **lexicographic ordering** \preceq on $A_1 \times A_2$ is defined by specifying that one pair is less than a second pair if the first entry of the first pair is less than (in A_1) the first entry of the second pair, or if the first entries are equal, but the second entry of this pair is less than (in A_2) the second entry of the second pair. In other words, (a_1, a_2) is less than (b_1, b_2) , that is,


$$(a_1, a_2) < (b_1, b_2),$$

either if $a_1 <_1 b_1$ or if both $a_1 = b_1$ and $a_2 <_2 b_2$.

We obtain a partial ordering \preceq by adding equality to the ordering $<$ on $A_1 \times A_2$. The verification of this is left as an exercise.

EXAMPLE 9

Determine whether $(3, 5) < (4, 8)$, whether $(3, 8) < (4, 5)$, and whether $(4, 9) < (4, 11)$ in the poset $(\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}, \preceq)$, where \preceq is the lexicographic ordering constructed from the usual \leq relation on \mathbb{Z} .

Solution: Because $3 < 4$, it follows that $(3, 5) < (4, 8)$ and that $(3, 8) < (4, 5)$. We have $(4, 9) < (4, 11)$, because the first entries of $(4, 9)$ and $(4, 11)$ are the same but $9 < 11$. 

In Figure 1 the ordered pairs in $\mathbb{Z}^+ \times \mathbb{Z}^+$ that are less than $(3, 4)$ are highlighted. A lexicographic ordering can be defined on the Cartesian product of n posets (A_1, \preceq_1) , $(A_2, \preceq_2), \dots, (A_n, \preceq_n)$. Define the partial ordering \preceq on $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$ by

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) < (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$$

if $a_1 <_1 b_1$, or if there is an integer $i > 0$ such that $a_1 = b_1, \dots, a_i = b_i$, and $a_{i+1} <_{i+1} b_{i+1}$. In other words, one n -tuple is less than a second n -tuple if the entry of the first n -tuple in the first position where the two n -tuples disagree is less than the entry in that position in the second n -tuple.

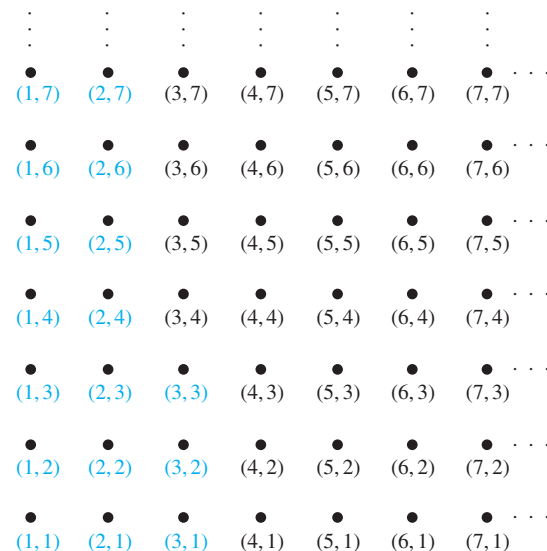


FIGURE 1 The Ordered Pairs Less Than $(3, 4)$ in Lexicographic Order.

EXAMPLE 10 Note that $(1, 2, 3, 5) < (1, 2, 4, 3)$, because the entries in the first two positions of these 4-tuples agree, but in the third position the entry in the first 4-tuple, 3, is less than that in the second 4-tuple, 4. (Here the ordering on 4-tuples is the lexicographic ordering that comes from the usual “less than or equals” relation on the set of integers.)

We can now define lexicographic ordering of strings. Consider the strings $a_1a_2 \dots a_m$ and $b_1b_2 \dots b_n$ on a partially ordered set S . Suppose these strings are not equal. Let t be the minimum of m and n . The definition of lexicographic ordering is that the string $a_1a_2 \dots a_m$ is less than $b_1b_2 \dots b_n$ if and only if

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_t) < (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_t), \text{ or} \\ (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_t) = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_t) \text{ and } m < n,$$

where $<$ in this inequality represents the lexicographic ordering of S^t . In other words, to determine the ordering of two different strings, the longer string is truncated to the length of the shorter string, namely, to $t = \min(m, n)$ terms. Then the t -tuples made up of the first t terms of each string are compared using the lexicographic ordering on S^t . One string is less than another string if the t -tuple corresponding to the first string is less than the t -tuple of the second string, or if these two t -tuples are the same, but the second string is longer. The verification that this is a partial ordering is left as Exercise 38 for the reader.

EXAMPLE 11 Consider the set of strings of lowercase English letters. Using the ordering of letters in the alphabet, a lexicographic ordering on the set of strings can be constructed. A string is less than a second string if the letter in the first string in the first position where the strings differ comes before the letter in the second string in this position, or if the first string and the second string agree in all positions, but the second string has more letters. This ordering is the same as that used in dictionaries. For example,

$$\text{discreet} < \text{discrete},$$

because these strings differ first in the seventh position, and $e < t$. Also,

$$\text{discreet} < \text{discreetness},$$

because the first eight letters agree, but the second string is longer. Furthermore,

$$\text{discrete} < \text{discretion},$$

because

$$\text{discrete} < \text{discreti}.$$



Hasse Diagrams

Many edges in the directed graph for a finite poset do not have to be shown because they must be present. For instance, consider the directed graph for the partial ordering $\{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}$ on the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, shown in Figure 2(a). Because this relation is a partial ordering, it is reflexive, and its directed graph has loops at all vertices. Consequently, we do not have to show these loops because they must be present; in Figure 2(b) loops are not shown. Because a partial ordering is transitive, we do not have to show those edges that must be present because of transitivity. For example, in Figure 2(c) the edges $(1, 3)$, $(1, 4)$, and $(2, 4)$ are not shown because they must be present. If we assume that all edges are pointed “upward” (as they are drawn in the figure), we do not have to show the directions of the edges; Figure 2(c) does not show directions.

In general, we can represent a finite poset (S, \preceq) using this procedure: Start with the directed graph for this relation. Because a partial ordering is reflexive, a loop (a, a) is present at every vertex a . Remove these loops. Next, remove all edges that must be in the partial ordering because of the presence of other edges and transitivity. That is, remove all edges (x, y) for which there is an element $z \in S$ such that $x < z$ and $z < y$. Finally, arrange each edge so that

Exercises

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| do

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| correct

9:00

1. Which of these relations on $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ are partial orderings? Determine the properties of a partial ordering that the others lack.

- $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 0), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 2), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (1, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 0), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$

2. Which of these relations on $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ are partial orderings? Determine the properties of a partial ordering that the others lack.

- $\{(0, 0), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 0), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 2), (3, 1), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 0), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 0), (3, 3)\}$
- $\{(0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3), (1, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 0), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$

3. Is (S, R) a poset if S is the set of all people in the world and $(a, b) \in R$, where a and b are people, if

- a is taller than b ?
- a is not taller than b ?
- $a = b$ or a is an ancestor of b ?
- a and b have a common friend?

4. Is (S, R) a poset if S is the set of all people in the world and $(a, b) \in R$, where a and b are people, if

- a is no shorter than b ?
- a weighs more than b ?
- $a = b$ or a is a descendant of b ?
- a and b do not have a common friend?

5. Which of these are posets?

- $(\mathbb{Z}, =)$
- (\mathbb{Z}, \neq)
- (\mathbb{Z}, \geq)
- (\mathbb{Z}, \nmid)

6. Which of these are posets?

- $(\mathbb{R}, =)$
- $(\mathbb{R}, <)$
- (\mathbb{R}, \leq)
- (\mathbb{R}, \neq)

7. Determine whether the relations represented by these zero-one matrices are partial orders.

$$\text{a) } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{b) } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{c) } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

8. Determine whether the relations represented by these zero-one matrices are partial orders.

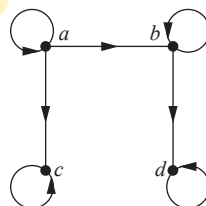
$$\text{a) } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{b) } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

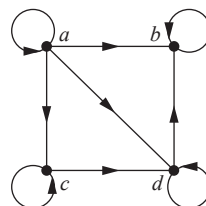
$$\text{c) } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

In Exercises 9–11 determine whether the relation with the directed graph shown is a partial order.

9.



10.



11.



12. Let (S, R) be a poset. Show that (S, R^{-1}) is also a poset, where R^{-1} is the inverse of R . The poset (S, R^{-1}) is called the **dual** of (S, R) .

13. Find the duals of these posets.

- $(\{0, 1, 2\}, \leq)$
- (\mathbb{Z}, \geq)
- $(P(\mathbb{Z}), \supseteq)$
- $(\mathbb{Z}^+, |)$

14. Which of these pairs of elements are comparable in the poset $(\mathbb{Z}^+, |)$?

- 5, 15
- 6, 9
- 8, 16
- 7, 7

15. Find two incomparable elements in these posets.

- $(P(\{0, 1, 2\}), \subseteq)$
- $(\{1, 2, 4, 6, 8\}, |)$

16. Let $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$. With respect to the lexicographic order based on the usual “less than” relation,

- find all pairs in $S \times S$ less than $(2, 3)$.
- find all pairs in $S \times S$ greater than $(3, 1)$.
- draw the Hasse diagram of the poset $(S \times S, \preceq)$.

17. Find the lexicographic ordering of these n -tuples:

- $(1, 1, 2), (1, 2, 1)$
- $(0, 1, 2, 3), (0, 1, 3, 2)$
- $(1, 0, 1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1, 1, 0)$

18. Find the lexicographic ordering of these strings of lowercase English letters:

- quack, quick, quicksilver, quicksand, quacking
- open, opener, opera, operand, opened
- zoo, zero, zoom, zoology, zoological

19. Find the lexicographic ordering of the bit strings 0, 01, 11, 001, 010, 011, 0001, and 0101 based on the ordering $0 < 1$.

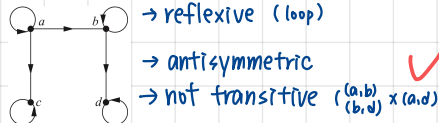
20. Draw the Hasse diagram for the “greater than or equal to” relation on $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$.

1. (a) reflexive, ~~not~~ antisymmetric, transitive. \Rightarrow partial ordering \checkmark
 $(3,2) \cdot (2,0)$
 $(3,0) \times$
- (b) reflexive, not antisymmetric, ~~not~~ transitive. \checkmark
 $(3,2) \cdot (2,0)$
 $(3,0) \times$
- (c) reflexive, antisymmetric, transitive \Rightarrow partial ordering \checkmark
- (d) reflexive, antisymmetric, transitive \Rightarrow partial ordering \checkmark
- (e) reflexive, not antisymmetric, ~~not~~ transitive. \checkmark
 $(2,0) \cdot (0,1)$
 $(2,1) \times$

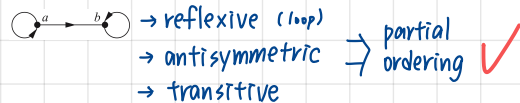
2.

- a) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ \rightarrow reflexive
 \rightarrow not antisymmetric \checkmark
 \rightarrow transitive
- b) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ \rightarrow reflexive
 \rightarrow antisymmetric \Rightarrow partial ordering \checkmark
 \rightarrow transitive
- c) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ \rightarrow reflexive
 \rightarrow antisymmetric \Rightarrow ~~partial~~
 \rightarrow transitive \Rightarrow ~~ordering~~
 $(4,1) \cdot (1,3)$
 $(4,3) \times$

9.



11.



16. (a) $\{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (2,1), (2,2)\}$
(b) $\{(3,2), (3,3), (3,4), (4,1), (4,2), (4,3), (4,4)\}$

17. (a) $(1,1,2) < (1,2,1) \checkmark$
(b) $(0,1,2,3) < (0,1,3,2) \checkmark$
(c) $(0,1,1,1,0) < (1,0,1,0,1) \checkmark$

18. (a) quack \wedge quacking
quack $<$ quacking $<$ quick $<$ quicksand $<$ quicksilver.
quick \wedge quicksand
quicksilver

(b) open \wedge opener
opened \wedge open $<$ opened $<$ opener $<$ opera $<$ operand.
opera $<$ operand

(c) zero \wedge zero $<$ zoo $<$ zoological $<$ zoology $<$ zoom.
zoo \wedge zoological \wedge zoology $<$ zoom

19. $0 < 1 \rightarrow 0, 01, 11, 001, 010, 011, 0001, 0101$
 ~~$0 < 01 < 11 < 001 < 010 < 011 < 0001 < 0101$~~
 $0 < 0001 < 001 < 01 < 010 < 0101 < 011 < 11$