



# CS215 DISCRETE MATH

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# Solving Linear Recurrence Relations

- **Definition** A *linear homogeneous relation of degree  $k$*  with **constant coefficients** is a recurrence relation of the form

$$a_n = c_1 a_{n-1} + c_2 a_{n-2} + \cdots + c_k a_{n-k},$$

where  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k$  are real numbers, and  $c_k \neq 0$ .

**Fact:** Assume that the sequences  $a_n$  and  $a'_n$  both satisfy the recurrence, then  $b_n = a_n + a'_n$ ,  $d_n = \alpha a_n$  also satisfy the recurrence, where  $\alpha$  is a constant.

This means: If we find some solutions to a linear homogeneous recurrence, then **any linear combination** of them will also be a solution.

So, try to find any solution of the form  $a_n = r^n$  that satisfies the recurrence.

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where  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k$  are real numbers, and  $c_k \neq 0$ .

**Basic idea:** Look for solutions of the form  $a_n = r^n$ , where  $r$  is a constant.

- ◊ Bring  $a_n = r^n$  back to the recurrence relation:

$$\text{i.e., } r^n = c_1 r^{n-1} + c_2 r^{n-2} + \cdots + c_k r^{n-k},$$

$$r^{n-k}(r^k - c_1 r^{k-1} - \cdots - c_k) = 0$$

- ◊ The solutions to the *characteristic equation* can yield an explicit formula for the sequence.

$$(r^k - c_1 r^{k-1} - \cdots - c_k) = 0$$

# Solving Linear Recurrence Relations of degree $k$

- Consider an arbitrary linear homogeneous relation of degree  $k$  with constant coefficients:

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**Theorem** If this CE has  $k$  distinct roots  $r_i$ , then the solutions to the recurrence are of the form

$$a_n = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i r_i^n$$

for all  $n \geq 0$ , where the  $\alpha_i$ 's are constants.

# The Case of Degenerate Roots

- **Theorem** If the CE  $r^2 - c_1r - c_2 = 0$  has **only 1** root  $r_0$ , then

$$a_n = \alpha_1 r_0^n + \alpha_2 n r_0^n,$$

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Exercise.

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We get  $\alpha_1 = 1$  and  $\alpha_2 = -1$ . Thus,

$$a_n = 2^n - n 2^n$$

# The Case of Degenerate Roots in General

- **Theorem** [Theorem 4, p.519] Suppose that there are  $t$  roots  $r_1, \dots, r_t$  with **multiplicities**  $m_1, \dots, m_t$ . Then

$$a_n = \sum_{i=1}^t \left( \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} \alpha_{i,j} n^j \right) r_i^n,$$

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## Example

$$a_n = -3a_{n-1} - 3a_{n-2} - a_{n-3} \text{ with } a_0 = 1, a_1 = -2, a_2 = -1$$

# Linear Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relations

- **Definition** A *linear nonhomogeneous relation* with constant coefficients may contain some terms  $F(n)$  that depend only on  $n$

$$a_n = c_1 a_{n-1} + c_2 a_{n-2} + \cdots + c_k a_{n-k} + F(n).$$

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**Fact:** Assume that the sequence  $b_n$  satisfies the recurrence. Then another sequence  $a_n$  satisfies the *non-homogeneous* recurrence if and only if  $h_n = a_n - b_n$  is a sequence that satisfies the *associated homogeneous recurrence*.

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**Idea:** We already know how to find  $h_n$ . For many common  $F(n)$ , a solution  $b_n$  to the non-homogeneous recurrence is **similar** to  $F(n)$ . We then need find  $a_n = b_n + h_n$  to the non-homogeneous recurrence that satisfies both recurrence and initial conditions.

# Linear Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relations

- **Theorem** If  $a_n = p(n)$  is any particular solution to the linear nonhomogeneous relation with constant coefficients,

$$a_n = c_1 a_{n-1} + c_2 a_{n-2} + \cdots + c_k a_{n-k} + F(n),$$

Then all its solutions are of the form

$$a_n = p(n) + h(n),$$

where  $a_n = h(n)$  is any solution to the associated homogeneous recurrence relation

$$a_n = c_1 a_{n-1} + c_2 a_{n-2} + \cdots + c_k a_{n-k}.$$

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Let  $p(n) = cn + d$ , then

$$cn + d = 3(c(n-1) + d) + 2n, \text{ which means}$$
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We get  $c = -1$  and  $d = -3/2$ . Thus,

$$p(n) = -n - 3/2$$

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We get  $H(n) = \alpha 2^n - 1$ . With the initial condition  $H(1) = 1$ , we have  $\alpha = 1$ . Thus,  $H(n) = 2^n - 1$ .

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We get  $M(k) = \alpha 2^k + k \cdot 2^k + 1$ . With the initial condition  $M(0) = 0$ , we have  $\alpha = -1$ . Thus,  $M(k) = k \cdot 2^k - 2^k + 1$  and  $T(n) = n \log n - n + 1$ .

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**Definition** The *generating function* for the sequence  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k, \dots$  of real numbers is the infinite series

$$G(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \cdots + a_k x^k + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k$$

# Generating Functions

- “*Generating functions* are a bridge between *discrete mathematics* , on one hand and *continuous analysis* (particularly complex variable theory) on the other. It is possible to study them solely as tools for solving discrete problems.” – Herbert S. Wilf

# Generating Functions

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on

## *Q*-Ary Non-Overlapping Codes: A Generating Function Approach

Geyang Wang<sup>✉</sup> and Qi Wang<sup>✉</sup>, Member, IEEE

**Abstract**—Non-overlapping codes are a set of codewords in  $\bigcup_{n \geq 2} \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ , where  $\mathbb{Z}_q = \{0, 1, \dots, q - 1\}$ , such that the prefix of each codeword is not a suffix of any codeword in the set, including itself; and for variable-length codes, a codeword does not contain any other codeword as a subword. In this paper, we investigate a generic method to generalize binary codes to  $q$ -ary ones for  $q > 2$ , and analyze this generalization on the two constructions given by Levenshtein (also by Gilbert; Chee, Kiah, Purkayastha, and Wang) and Bilotta, respectively. The generalization on the former construction gives large non-expandable fixed-length non-overlapping codes whose size can be explicitly determined; the generalization on the latter construction is the first attempt to generate  $q$ -ary variable-length non-overlapping codes. More importantly, this generic method allows us to utilize the generating function approach to analyze the cardinality of the underlying  $q$ -ary non-overlapping codes. The generating function approach not only enables us to derive new results, e.g., recurrence relations on their cardinalities, new combinatorial interpretations for the constructions, and the superior limit of their cardinalities for some special cases, but also greatly simplifies the arguments for these results. Furthermore, we give an exact formula for the number of fixed-length words that do not contain the codewords in a variable-length non-overlapping code as subwords. This thereby solves an open problem by Bilotta and induces a recursive upper bound on the maximum size of variable-length non-overlapping codes.

- (1) No non-empty prefix of each codeword is a suffix of any one, including itself;
- (2) For all distinct  $u, v \in S$ ,  $u$  does not contain  $v$  as a subword.

We say that  $S$  is a fixed-length non-overlapping code if  $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ , otherwise it is called a variable-length non-overlapping code. In this paper, we consider both fixed-length and variable-length cases. Fixed-length non-overlapping codes have been intensively studied in the literature. Let  $C(n, q)$  be the maximum size of a  $q$ -ary non-overlapping codes of length  $n$ . The main research problems are to construct non-overlapping codes as large as possible in size and to bound  $C(n, q)$ . The first construction was proposed by Levenshtein in 1964 [2], [3] (Construction 1, see also [4]–[6]). Following the work by de Lind van Wijngaarden and Willink [7] in 2000, Bajic and Stojanovic [8] independently rediscovered binary fixed-length non-overlapping codes (under the name *cross-bifix-free codes*) in 2004. In 2012, Bilotta *et al.* [9] provided a binary construction based on Dyck paths, by which the code size is smaller than Levenshtein's. However, it reveals an interesting connection between non-overlapping codes and other combinatorial objects. In 2013, Chee *et al.* [6] rediscovered Levenshtein's construction (Construction 1), and verified that it is optimal for  $q =$

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The *generating function*  $G(x)$  of this infinite sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$ , i.e.,

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- What is the generating function for the sequence  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_m$ , with  $a_k = C(m, k)$ ?

$$G(x) = C(m, 0) + \dots + C(m, m)x^m = (1 + x)^m$$

# Examples

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# Operations of Generating Functions

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$$f(x) + g(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (a_k + b_k) x^k$$

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$$f(x) = f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{f'''(0)}{3!}x^3 + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!}x^n + \cdots$$

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Alternatively, apply the **extended binomial theorem**:

$$\binom{-n}{k} = \frac{(-n)(-n-1)\cdots(-n-k+1)}{k!} = (-1)^k \frac{(n+k-1)\cdots(n+1)n}{k!} = (-1)^k \binom{n+k-1}{k}$$

# Useful Generating Functions

$$(1 + x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n C(n, k) x^k$$

$$(1 + ax)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n C(n, k) a^k x^k$$

$$(1 + x^r)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n C(n, k) x^{rk}$$

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$$\frac{1-x^{n+1}}{1-x} = \sum_{k=0}^n x^k = 1 + x + x^2 + \cdots + x^n$$

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$$e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

$$\ln(1+x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k+1} x^k}{k} = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots$$

# Counting and Generating Functions

- **Problem 1** Find the number of solutions of

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 17,$$

where  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  are **nonnegative** integers with  $2 \leq x_1 \leq 5$ ,  
 $3 \leq x_2 \leq 6$ ,  $4 \leq x_3 \leq 7$ .

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Using *generating functions*, the number is the **coefficient** of  
 $x^{17}$  in the expansion of

$$(x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5)(x^3 + x^4 + x^5 + x^6)(x^4 + x^5 + x^6 + x^7)$$

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- **Problem 2** In how many ways can eight identical cookies be distributed among three distinct children if each child receives at least two cookies and no more than four cookies?

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The coefficient of  $x^8$  in the expansion

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# Counting and Generating Functions

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$$C(n + k - 1, k) = C(19, 17) = C(19, 2)$$

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- **Definition** A *k-combination* with **repetition allowed**, or a *multiset of size k*, chosen from a set of *n* elements, is an unordered selection of elements with repetition allowed.

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Read more on pp. 537-548.

# Counting and Generating Functions

- **Problem 4** Use generating functions to find the number of  $k$ -combinations of a set with  $n$  elements,  $C(n, k)$ .

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- **Problem 4** Use generating functions to find the number of  $k$ -combinations of a set with  $n$  elements,  $C(n, k)$ .

Each of the  $n$  elements in the set contributes the term  $(1 + x)$  to the generating function  $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a^k x^k$ . Hence,  $f(x) = (1 + x)^n$ .

Then by the **binomial theorem**, we have  $a_k = \binom{n}{k}$ .

# Cartesian Product

- Let  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$  and  $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$ , the *Cartesian product*  $A \times B$  is the set of pairs

$$\{(a_1, b_1), (a_2, b_2), \dots, (a_1, b_n), \dots, (a_m, b_n)\}$$

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*Cartesian product* defines a set of all **ordered arrangements** of elements in the two sets.

# Binary Relation

- **Definition:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two sets. A *binary relation from  $A$  to  $B$*  is a **subset** of a **Cartesian product**  $A \times B$ .

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**Example:** Let  $A = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3\}$

- ◊ Is  $R = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 2)\}$  a relation from  $A$  to  $B$ ?
- ◊ Is  $Q = \{(1, a), (2, b)\}$  a relation from  $A$  to  $B$ ?
- ◊ Is  $P = \{(a, a), (b, c), (b, a)\}$  a relation from  $A$  to  $A$ ?

# Representing Binary Relations

- We can **graphically** represent a binary relation  $R$  as:  
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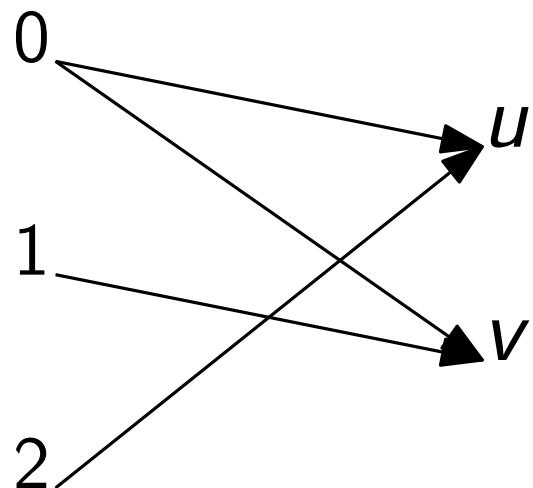
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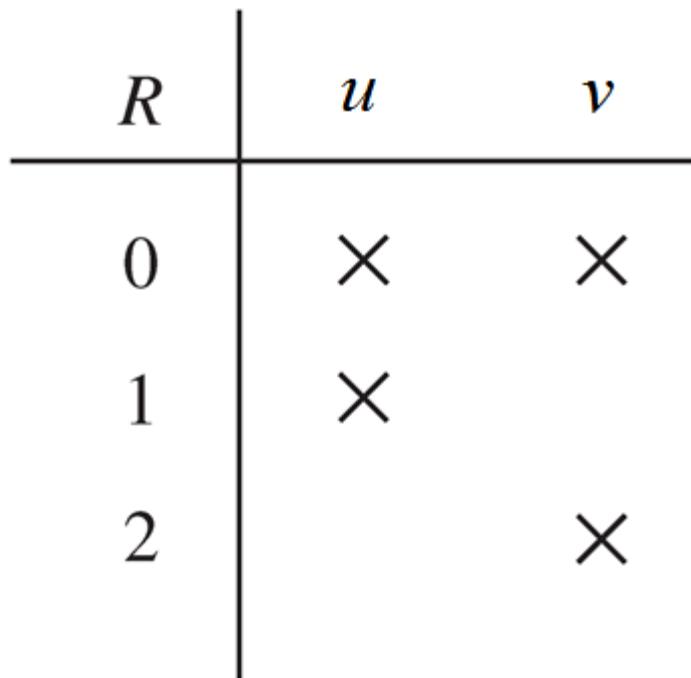
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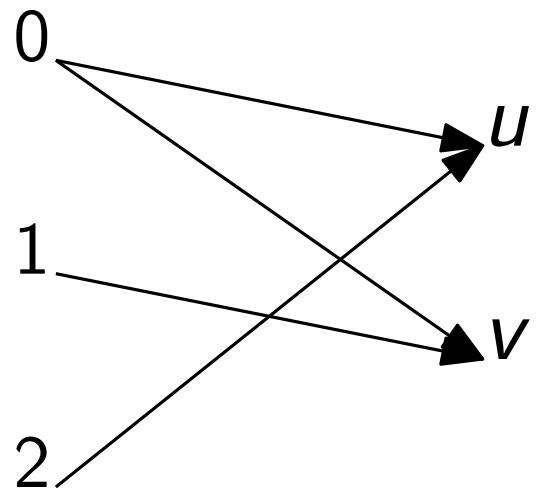


# Relations and Functions

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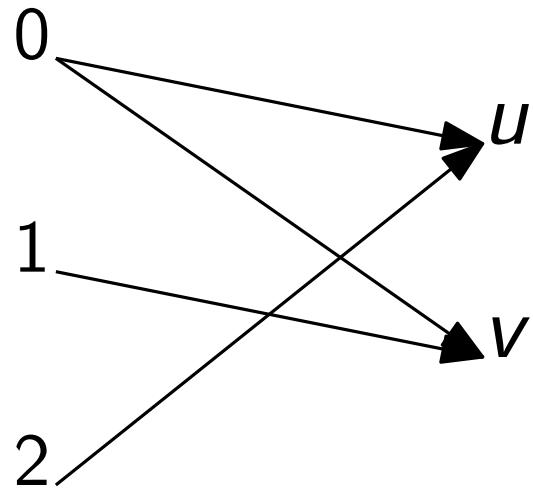
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# Relations and Functions

- Relations represent **one to many relationships** between elements in  $A$  and  $B$ .



What is the **difference** between a **relation** and a **function** from  $A$  to  $B$ ?

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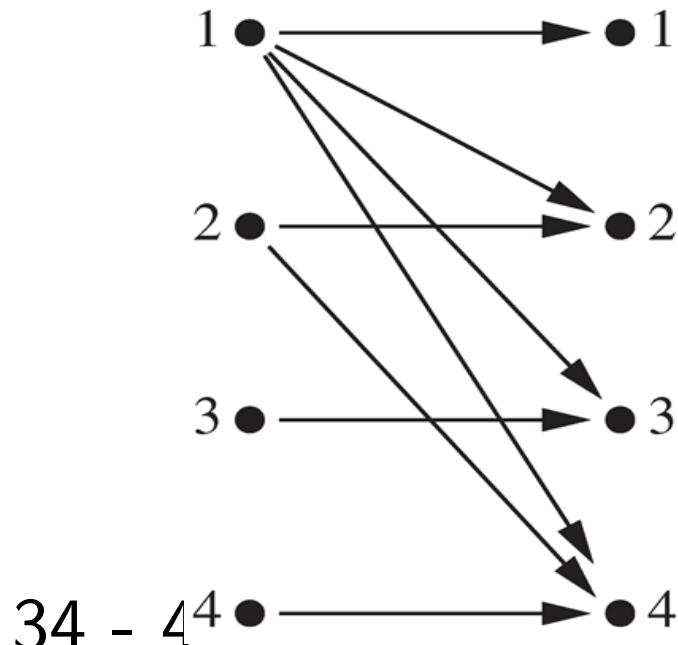
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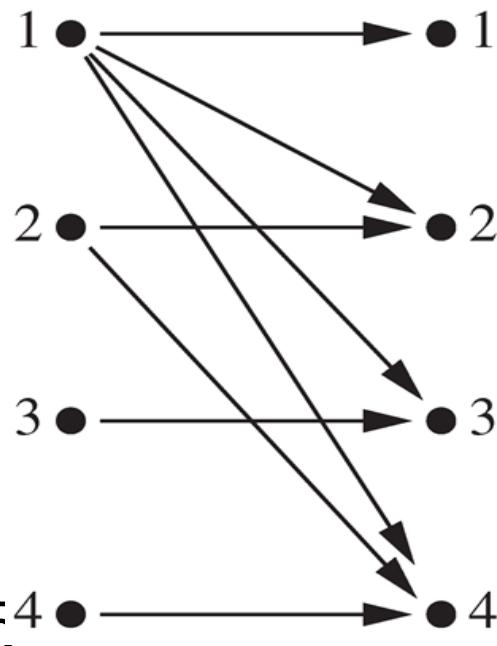


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$R$	1	2	3	4
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The number of subsets of a set with  $k$  elements is  $2^k$

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A relation  $R$  is reflexive if and only if MR has 1 in every position on its main diagonal.

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A relation  $R$  is **irreflexive** if and only if MR has 0 in every position on its **main diagonal**.

# Properties of Relations

- **Symmetric Relation:** A relation  $R$  on a set  $A$  is called *symmetric* if  $(b, a) \in R$  whenever  $(a, b) \in R$  for all  $a, b \in A$ .

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A relation  $R$  is symmetric if and only if  $\text{MR}$  is symmetric.

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A relation  $R$  is antisymmetric if and only if  $m_{ij} = 1$  implies  $m_{ji} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ .

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# Transitive Relation

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# Combining Relations

- **Definition:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two sets. A *binary relation from  $A$  to  $B$*  is a **subset** of a **Cartesian product**  $A \times B$ .

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**Combining Relations:** Since **relations are sets**, we can *combine relations via set operations*.

Set operations: union, intersection, difference, etc.

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We may also combine relations by **matrix operations**.

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“only if” part: by induction.

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How many subsets on  $n(n - 1)$  elements are there?

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# Next Lecture

- relation II...

