

1. Consider the relation $x = 2y + 1$ between real numbers x, y . Is it reflexive? Is it symmetric? Is it transitive?

Solution: Denote the given relation by R , so that
 $xRy \leftrightarrow x = 2y + 1$.

This relation is not reflexive, because the condition $1R1$ does not hold.

This relation is not symmetric, because the condition $1R3$ holds, but the condition $3R1$ doesn't.

This relation is not transitive, because the conditions $1R3$ and $3R7$ hold, but the condition $1R7$ doesn't.

2. What is the total number of binary relations on the set $\{1, \dots, 10\}$? How many of them are reflexive?

Solution: A binary relation is an arbitrary subset of the set $\{1, \dots, 10\} \times \{1, \dots, 10\}$.
 So the total number of binary relations is 2^{100} . Such a subset is a reflexive relation if it contains 10 pairs of the form (n, n) . So the number of reflexive relations is 2^{90}
 $[2^{n^2-n}]$

let's say we have a set with two elements $A = \{0, 1\}$

So Cartesian product is $C = A \times A = \{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0), (1, 1)\}$

Then we should write down all subsets of this product to get all binary relations. Right?

1. \emptyset
2. $\{(0, 0)\}$
3. $\{(0, 1)\}$
4. $\{(1, 0)\}$
5. $\{(1, 1)\}$
6. $\{(0, 0), (0, 1)\}$
7. $\{(0, 0), (1, 0)\}$
8. $\{(0, 0), (1, 1)\}$
9. $\{(0, 1), (1, 0)\}$
10. $\{(0, 1), (1, 1)\}$
11. $\{(1, 0), (1, 1)\}$
12. $\{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0)\}$
13. $\{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1)\}$
14. $\{(0, 0), (1, 0), (1, 1)\}$
15. $\{(0, 1), (1, 0), (1, 1)\}$
16. $\{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0), (1, 1)\}$

We know that there are only 4 reflexive binary relations.

those are: 8, 13, 14, 16

because they satisfied reflexive property: for all $x \in A, \rightarrow (x, x) \in R$.

3. Let R be the relation on \mathbb{N} defined by $x + 3y = 12$, i.e. $R = \{(x, y) \mid x + 3y = 12\}$. Write R as a set of ordered pairs.

Ans:

$\{(9, 1), (6, 2), (3, 3)\}$;

4. Each of the following defines a relation on the positive integers \mathbb{N} :

- i. "x is greater than y."
- ii. "xy is the square of an integer."
- iii. $x + y = 10$
- iv. $x + 4y = 10$.

Determine which of the relations are: (a) reflexive; (b) symmetric; (c) antisymmetric; (d) transitive.

Ans:

(a) Reflexive: ii;

(b) Symmetric: (ii) and (iii);

(c) Antisymmetric: (i) and (iv);

(d) transitive: all except (iii).

5. For each of the following relations between positive integers m, n , determine whether it is a partial order:

- i. m / n
- ii. m / n^2
- iii. m^2 / n

(a) $m|n$.

Solution: This relation is reflexive (every number evenly divides itself), anti-symmetric (if m divides n and n divides m then $m = n$), and transitive (if k divides m and m divides n then k divides n). Consequently this is a partial order. But it is not total: for example, 2 doesn't divide 3 and 3 doesn't divide 2.

(b) $m|n^2$.

Solution: This relation is not anti-symmetric; for instance, 2 divides 4^2 and 4 divides 2^2 . So it is not a partial order and hence not a total order.

(c) $m^2|n$.

Solution: This relation is not reflexive; for instance, 2^2 doesn't divide 2. So it is not a partial order and hence not a total order.

6. Determine whether the relation $R, m = -n$ on the set of integers is (a) reflexive, (b) irreflexive, (c) symmetric, (d) transitive.

Solution.

This relation R is not reflexive, because $1R1$ is not true. It is not irreflexive, because $0R0$ is true. It is symmetric, because the condition $m = -n$ is equivalent to $n = -m$. It is not transitive, because the conditions $1R-1$ and $-1R1$ hold, but the condition $1R1$ doesn't.

7. Consider the following three relations on the integers:

$$R = \{(x,y) \mid x \cdot y \geq 0\}$$

$$S = \{(x,y) \mid \gcd(x,y) = 1\}$$

$$T = \{(x,y) \mid x - y < 1\}$$

For each entry of the following matrix, write YES if the relation labeling its column has the property labeling its row. Else write NO.

	Reflexive	Symmetric	Antisymmetric	Transitive
R	YES	YES	NO	NO
S	NO	YES	NO	NO
T	YES	NO	YES	YES

8. For each "NO" answer for Question no. 7, give a counter-example to prove that the given relation does not have the given property.

	<i>refl</i>	<i>sym</i>	<i>anti - sym</i>	<i>trans</i>
$R = \{(x, y) \mid x \cdot y \geq 0\}$	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>
$S = \{(x, y) \mid \gcd(x, y) = 1\}$	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>
$T = \{(x, y) \mid x - y < 1\}$	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>

SOLUTION

R not anti-sym: $4 \cdot 2 \geq 0 \wedge 2 \cdot 4 \geq 0$, but $2 \neq 4$

R not trans: $-4 \cdot 0 \geq 0 \wedge 0 \cdot 2 \geq 0$, but $-4 \cdot 2 < 0$

S not refl: $\gcd(5, 5) = 5 \neq 1$

S not anti-sym: $\gcd(4, 5) = 1 \wedge \gcd(5, 4) = 1$, but $5 \neq 4$

S not trans: $\gcd(4, 5) = 1 \wedge \gcd(5, 6) = 1$, but $\gcd(4, 6) \neq 1$

T not sym: $3 - 5 < 1$, but $5 - 3 > 1$

9. For each of the following relations, state whether they fulfill each of the 4 main properties - reflexive, symmetric, antisymmetric, transitive. Briefly substantiate each of your answers.
- (a) The coprime relation on \mathbb{Z} . (Recall that $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ are coprime if and only if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$.)
 - (b) Divisibility on \mathbb{Z} .

Solution

- (a) It's definitely not reflexive, as no integer is coprime with itself except -1 and 1. It is symmetric because $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, a)$, so $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ iff $\gcd(b, a) = 1$. Not antisymmetric — *every* coprime pair, such as (5,7) and (7,5), will show this. Not transitive — $\gcd(5, 7) = 1$, $\gcd(7, 10) = 1$, but $\gcd(5, 10) \neq 1$.
- (b) It's reflexive since any integer divides itself. Not symmetric, for example $2 \mid 4$ but $4 \nmid 2$. It not antisymmetric on \mathbb{Z} , since $a \mid -a$ and $-a \mid a$, although it would be antisymmetric if restricted to \mathbb{N} . It is transitive — if $a \mid b$ then $b = ka$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, and if $b \mid c$ then $c = lb$ for some $l \in \mathbb{Z}$, thus $c = (lk)a$ and $(lk) \in \mathbb{Z}$ so $a \mid c$.

10. Let R be the relation defined below. Determine which properties, reflexive, irreflexive, symmetric, antisymmetric, transitive, the relation satisfies. Prove each answer.

- i. R is the relation on $\{a, b, c\}$, $R = \{(a, b), (b, a), (b, b), (c, c)\}$

Solution:

R is the relation on $\{a, b, c\}$, $R = \{(a, b), (b, a), (b, b), (c, c)\}$

reflexive: No. (a, a) is not in R .

irreflexive: No. (b, b) is in R .

symmetric: Yes. For each pair $(x, y) \in R$ you can check that the pair $(y, x) \in R$.

antisymmetric: No. $(a, b), (b, a) \in R$ and $a \neq b$.

transitive: No. $(a, b), (b, a) \in R$, but $(a, a) \notin R$.

11. Consider the following five relations on the set $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$:

$R_1 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (1, 3), (4, 4)\}$

$R_2 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$

$R_3 = \{(1, 3), (2, 1)\}$

$R_4 = \emptyset$, the empty relation

$R_5 = A \times A$, the universal relation

Determine which of the relations are reflexive, symmetric, antisymmetric, transitive.

Solution:

Since A contains the four elements 1, 2, 3, and 4, a relation R on A is reflexive if it contains the four pairs $(1, 1)$, $(2, 2)$, $(3, 3)$, and $(4, 4)$.

Thus only R_2 and the universal relation $R_5 = A \times A$ are reflexive.

Note that

R_1 , R_3 , and R_4 are not reflexive since, for example, $(2, 2)$ does not belong to any of them.

R_1 is not symmetric since $(1, 2) \in R_1$ but $(2, 1) \notin R_1$. R_3 is not symmetric since $(1, 3) \in R_3$ but $(3, 1) \notin R_3$. The other relations are symmetric.

R_2 is not antisymmetric since $(1, 2)$ and $(2, 1)$ belong to R_2 , but $1 \neq 2$. Similarly, the universal relation R_5 is not antisymmetric. All the other relations are antisymmetric.

The relation R_3 is not transitive since $(2, 1), (1, 3) \in R_3$ but $(2, 3) \notin R_3$. All the other relations are transitive.

12. Consider the following five relations:

(1) Relation \leq (less than or equal) on the set \mathbb{Z} of integers.

(2) Set inclusion \subseteq on a collection C of sets.

(3) Relation \perp (perpendicular) on the set L of lines in the plane.

(4) Relation \parallel (parallel) on the set L of lines in the plane.

(5) Relation $|$ of divisibility on the set \mathbf{N} of positive integers. (Recall $x | y$ if there exists z such that $xz = y$.)

Determine which of the relations are reflexive, symmetric, antisymmetric, transitive.

Solution:

The relation (3) is not reflexive since no line is perpendicular to itself. Also (4) is not reflexive since no line is parallel to itself. The other relations are reflexive; that is, $x \leq x$ for every $x \in \mathbf{Z}$, $A \subseteq A$ for any set $A \in \mathbf{C}$, and $n|n$ for every positive integer $n \in \mathbf{N}$.

The relation \perp is symmetric since if line a is perpendicular to line b then b is perpendicular to a . Also, \parallel is symmetric since if line a is parallel to line b then b is parallel to line a . The other relations are not symmetric. For example:

$$3 \leq 4 \text{ but } 4 \not\leq 3; \quad \{1, 2\} \subseteq \{1, 2, 3\} \text{ but } \{1, 2, 3\} \not\subseteq \{1, 2\}; \quad \text{and} \quad 2 | 6 \text{ but } 6 \nmid 2.$$

The relation \leq is antisymmetric since whenever $a \leq b$ and $b \leq a$ then $a = b$. Set inclusion \subseteq is antisymmetric since whenever $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$ then $A = B$. Also, divisibility on \mathbf{N} is antisymmetric since whenever $m | n$ and $n | m$ then $m = n$. (Note that divisibility on \mathbf{Z} is not antisymmetric since $3 | -3$ and $-3 | 3$ but $3 \neq -3$.) The relations \perp and \parallel are not antisymmetric.

The relations \leq , \subseteq , and $|$ are transitive, but certainly not \perp . Also, since no line is parallel to itself, we can have $a \parallel b$ and $b \parallel a$, but $a \not\parallel a$. Thus \parallel is not transitive. (We note that the relation “is parallel or equal to” is a transitive relation on the set L of lines in the plane.)

13. Consider the \mathbf{Z} of integers and an integer $m > 1$. We say that x is congruent to y modulo m , written as $x \equiv y \pmod{m}$ if $x - y$ is divisible by m . Show that this defines an equivalence relation on \mathbf{Z} . (We must show that the relation is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.)

Ans:

We must show that the relation is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

- (i) For any x in \mathbf{Z} we have $x \equiv x \pmod{m}$ because $x - x = 0$ is divisible by m . Hence the relation is reflexive.
- (ii) Suppose $x \equiv y \pmod{m}$, so $x - y$ is divisible by m . Then $-(x - y) = y - x$ is also divisible by m , so $y \equiv x \pmod{m}$. Thus the relation is symmetric.
- (iii) Now suppose $x \equiv y \pmod{m}$ and $y \equiv z \pmod{m}$, so $x - y$ and $y - z$ are each divisible by m . Then the sum

$$(x - y) + (y - z) = x - z$$

is also divisible by m ; hence $x \equiv z \pmod{m}$. Thus the relation is transitive.

Accordingly, the relation of congruence modulo m on \mathbf{Z} is an equivalence relation.