Conditions on Relations

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00TJ This chapter contains some material about reflexive, symmetric, transitive, equivalence, and apartness relations.

Contents

02D0 10.1 Functional and Total Relations

00JC 10.1.1 Functional Relations

Let A and B be sets.

00JD **Definition 10.1.1.1.1.** A relation $R\colon A \nrightarrow B$ is **functional** if, for each $a \in A$, the set $R(a)$ is either empty or a singleton.

00JE **Proposition 10.1.1.1.2.** Let $R\colon A \nrightarrow B$ be a relation.

00JF 1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

00JG (a) The relation R is functional.

00JH (b) We have $R \diamond R^{\dagger} \subset \chi_B$.

Proof. Item 1, Characterisations: We claim that Items 1a and 1b are indeed equivalent:

- *Item 1a* $\implies$ *Item 1b*: Let $(b, b') \in B \times B$. We need to show that

$$[R \diamond R^{\dagger}](b, b') \preceq_{\{\mathsf{t},\mathsf{f}\}} \chi_B(b, b'),$$

 i.e. that if there exists some $a \in A$ such that $b \sim_{R^{\dagger}} a$ and $a \sim_R b'$, then $b = b'$. But since $b \sim_{R^{\dagger}} a$ is the same as $a \sim_R b$, we have both $a \sim_R b$ and $a \sim_R b'$ at the same time, which implies $b = b'$ since R is functional.

- *Item 1b* $\implies$ *Item 1a*: Suppose that we have $a \sim_R b$ and $a \sim_R b'$ for $b, b' \in B$. We claim that $b = b'$:

 - Since $a \sim_R b$, we have $b \sim_{R^{\dagger}} a$.
 - Since $R \diamond R^{\dagger} \subset \chi_B$, we have

$$[R \diamond R^{\dagger}](b, b') \preceq_{\{\mathsf{t},\mathsf{f}\}} \chi_B(b, b'),$$

 and since $b \sim_{R^{\dagger}} a$ and $a \sim_R b'$, it follows that $[R \diamond R^{\dagger}](b, b') = \mathsf{true}$, and thus $\chi_B(b, b') = \mathsf{true}$ as well, i.e. $b = b'$.

This finishes the proof. □

00JJ 10.1.2 Total Relations

Let A and B be sets.

00JK **Definition 10.1.2.1.1.** A relation $R\colon A \nrightarrow B$ is **total** if, for each $a \in A$, we have $R(a) \neq \emptyset$.

00JL **Proposition 10.1.2.1.2.** Let $R\colon A \nrightarrow B$ be a relation.

00JM 1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

00JN (a) The relation R is total.

00JP (b) We have $\chi_A \subset R^{\dagger} \diamond R$.

Proof. *Item 1, Characterisations*: We claim that Items 1a and 1b are indeed equivalent:

- *Item 1a* $\Longrightarrow$ *Item 1b*: We have to show that, for each $(a, a') \in A$, we have

$$\chi_A(a, a') \preceq_{\{\mathrm{t},\mathrm{f}\}} [R^{\dagger} \diamond R](a, a'),$$

 i.e. that if $a = a'$, then there exists some $b \in B$ such that $a \sim_R b$ and $b \sim_{R^{\dagger}} a'$ (i.e. $a \sim_R b$ again), which follows from the totality of R.

- *Item 1b* $\Longrightarrow$ *Item 1a*: Given $a \in A$, since $\chi_A \subset R^{\dagger} \diamond R$, we must have

$$\{a\} \subset [R^{\dagger} \diamond R](a),$$

 implying that there must exist some $b \in B$ such that $a \sim_R b$ and $b \sim_{R^{\dagger}} a$ (i.e. $a \sim_R b$) and thus $R(a) \neq \emptyset$, as $b \in R(a)$.

This finishes the proof. □

00TK 10.2 Reflexive Relations

00TL 10.2.1 Foundations

Let A be a set.

00TM **Definition 10.2.1.1.1.** A **reflexive relation** is equivalently:[1]

- An $\mathbb{E}_0$-monoid in $(\mathrm{N}_{\bullet}(\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)), \chi_A)$.
- A pointed object in $(\mathbf{Rel}(A, A), \chi_A)$.

[1]Note that since $\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)$ is posetal, reflexivity is a property of a relation, rather than extra structure.

00TN **Remark 10.2.1.1.2.** In detail, a relation R on A is **reflexive** if we have an inclusion

$$\eta_R\colon \chi_A \subset R$$

of relations in $\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)$, i.e. if, for each $a \in A$, we have $a \sim_R a$.

00TP **Definition 10.2.1.1.3.** Let A be a set.

00TQ 1. The **set of reflexive relations on** A is the subset $\mathrm{Rel}^{\mathrm{refl}}(A, A)$ of $\mathrm{Rel}(A, A)$ spanned by the reflexive relations.

00TR 2. The **poset of relations on** A is is the subposet $\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{refl}}(A, A)$ of $\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)$ spanned by the reflexive relations.

00TS **Proposition 10.2.1.1.4.** Let R and S be relations on A.

00TT 1. *Interaction With Inverses.* If R is reflexive, then so is $R^{\dagger}$.

00TU 2. *Interaction With Composition.* If R and S are reflexive, then so is $S \diamond R$.

Proof. *Item 1, Interaction With Inverses*: Clear.
Item 2, Interaction With Composition: Clear. □

00TV 10.2.2 The Reflexive Closure of a Relation

Let R be a relation on A.

00TW **Definition 10.2.2.1.1.** The **reflexive closure** of $\sim_R$ is the relation $\sim_R^{\mathrm{refl}}$[2] satisfying the following universal property:[3]

($\star$) Given another reflexive relation $\sim_S$ on A such that $R \subset S$, there exists an inclusion $\sim_R^{\mathrm{refl}} \subset \sim_S$.

00TX **Construction 10.2.2.1.2.** Concretely, $\sim_R^{\mathrm{refl}}$ is the free pointed object on R in $(\mathbf{Rel}(A, A), \chi_A)$[4], being given by

$$\begin{aligned}R^{\mathrm{refl}} &\overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} R \textstyle\coprod^{\mathbf{Rel}(A,A)} \Delta_A\\ &= R \cup \Delta_A\\ &= \{(a, b) \in A \times A \mid \text{we have } a \sim_R b \text{ or } a = b\}.\end{aligned}$$

Proof. Clear. □

[2] *Further Notation:* Also written R^{refl}.
[3] *Slogan:* The reflexive closure of R is the smallest reflexive relation containing R.
[4] Or, equivalently, the free $\mathbb{E}_0$-monoid on R in $(\mathrm{N}_\bullet(\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)), \chi_A)$.

00TY **Proposition 10.2.2.1.3.** Let R be a relation on A.

00TZ 1. *Adjointness.* We have an adjunction

$$\left((-)^{\mathrm{refl}} \dashv 忘\right)\colon \quad \begin{tikzcd} \mathbf{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, bend left, "(-)^{\mathrm{refl}}"] \arrow[r, phantom, "\perp"] & \mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{refl}}(A,A), \arrow[l, bend left, "忘"] \end{tikzcd}$$

witnessed by a bijection of sets

$$\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{refl}}(R^{\mathrm{refl}}, S) \cong \mathbf{Rel}(R, S),$$

natural in $R \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{refl}}(A,A))$ and $S \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}(A,A))$.

00U0 2. *The Reflexive Closure of a Reflexive Relation.* If R is reflexive, then $R^{\mathrm{refl}} = R$.

00U1 3. *Idempotency.* We have

$$(R^{\mathrm{refl}})^{\mathrm{refl}} = R^{\mathrm{refl}}.$$

00U2 4. *Interaction With Inverses.* We have

$$\left(R^{\dagger}\right)^{\mathrm{refl}} = \left(R^{\mathrm{refl}}\right)^{\dagger}, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "(-)^{\mathrm{refl}}"] \arrow[d, "(-)^{\dagger}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[d, "(-)^{\dagger}"] \\ \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "(-)^{\mathrm{refl}}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A). \end{tikzcd}$$

00U3 5. *Interaction With Composition.* We have

$$(S \diamond R)^{\mathrm{refl}} = S^{\mathrm{refl}} \diamond R^{\mathrm{refl}}, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \times \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "\diamond"] \arrow[d, "(-)^{\mathrm{refl}} \times (-)^{\mathrm{refl}}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[d, "(-)^{\mathrm{refl}}"] \\ \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \times \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "\diamond"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A). \end{tikzcd}$$

Proof. Item 1, Adjointness: This is a rephrasing of the universal property of the reflexive closure of a relation, stated in Definition 10.2.2.1.1.
Item 2, The Reflexive Closure of a Reflexive Relation: Clear.
Item 3, Idempotency: This follows from Item 2.
Item 4, Interaction With Inverses: Clear.
Item 5, Interaction With Composition: This follows from Item 2 of Definition 10.2.1.1.4.
□

00U4 10.3 Symmetric Relations

00U5 10.3.1 Foundations

Let A be a set.

00U6 **Definition 10.3.1.1.1.** A relation R on A is **symmetric** if we have $R^{\dagger} = R$.

00U7 **Remark 10.3.1.1.2.** In detail, a relation R is symmetric if it satisfies the following condition:

- ($\star$) For each $a, b \in A$, if $a \sim_R b$, then $b \sim_R a$.

00U8 **Definition 10.3.1.1.3.** Let A be a set.

00U9 1. The **set of symmetric relations on** A is the subset $\mathrm{Rel}^{\mathsf{symm}}(A, A)$ of $\mathrm{Rel}(A, A)$ spanned by the symmetric relations.

00UA 2. The **poset of relations on** A is is the subposet $\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathsf{symm}}(A, A)$ of $\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)$ spanned by the symmetric relations.

00UB **Proposition 10.3.1.1.4.** Let R and S be relations on A.

00UC 1. *Interaction With Inverses.* If R is symmetric, then so is $R^{\dagger}$.

00UD 2. *Interaction With Composition.* If R and S are symmetric, then so is $S \diamond R$.

Proof. *Item 1, Interaction With Inverses*: Clear.
Item 2, Interaction With Composition: Clear. □

00UE 10.3.2 The Symmetric Closure of a Relation

Let R be a relation on A.

00UF **Definition 10.3.2.1.1.** The **symmetric closure** of $\sim_R$ is the relation $\sim_R^{\mathrm{symm}}$[5] satisfying the following universal property:[6]

- ($\star$) Given another symmetric relation $\sim_S$ on A such that $R \subset S$, there exists an inclusion $\sim_R^{\mathrm{symm}} \subset \sim_S$.

00UG **Construction 10.3.2.1.2.** Concretely, $\sim_R^{\mathrm{symm}}$ is the symmetric relation on A defined by

$$\begin{aligned} R^{\mathrm{symm}} &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} R \cup R^{\dagger} \\ &= \{(a, b) \in A \times A \mid \text{we have } a \sim_R b \text{ or } b \sim_R a\}. \end{aligned}$$

[5] *Further Notation:* Also written R^{symm}.
[6] *Slogan:* The symmetric closure of R is the smallest symmetric relation containing R.

Proof. Clear. □

00UH **Proposition 10.3.2.1.3.** Let R be a relation on A.

00UJ 1. *Adjointness.* We have an adjunction

$$\big((-)^{\mathsf{symm}} \dashv 忘\big)\colon \quad \begin{tikzcd} \mathbf{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, bend left, "(-)^{\mathrm{symm}}"] \arrow[r, phantom, "\perp"] & \mathbf{Rel}^{\mathsf{symm}}(A,A) \arrow[l, bend left, "忘"] \end{tikzcd},$$

witnessed by a bijection of sets

$$\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathsf{symm}}(R^{\mathrm{symm}}, S) \cong \mathbf{Rel}(R, S),$$

natural in $R \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathsf{symm}}(A,A))$ and $S \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}(A,A))$.

00UK 2. *The Symmetric Closure of a Symmetric Relation.* If R is symmetric, then $R^{\mathrm{symm}} = R$.

00UL 3. *Idempotency.* We have

$$(R^{\mathrm{symm}})^{\mathrm{symm}} = R^{\mathrm{symm}}.$$

00UM 4. *Interaction With Inverses.* We have

$$\Big(R^{\dagger}\Big)^{\mathrm{symm}} = \Big(R^{\mathrm{symm}}\Big)^{\dagger}, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "(-)^{\mathrm{symm}}"] \arrow[d, "(-)^{\dagger}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[d, "(-)^{\dagger}"] \\ \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "(-)^{\mathrm{symm}}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A). \end{tikzcd}$$

00UN 5. *Interaction With Composition.* We have

$$(S \diamond R)^{\mathrm{symm}} = S^{\mathrm{symm}} \diamond R^{\mathrm{symm}}, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \times \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "\diamond"] \arrow[d, "(-)^{\mathrm{symm}} \times (-)^{\mathrm{symm}}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[d, "(-)^{\mathrm{symm}}"] \\ \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \times \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "\diamond"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A). \end{tikzcd}$$

Proof. *Item 1, Adjointness*: This is a rephrasing of the universal property of the symmetric closure of a relation, stated in Definition 10.3.2.1.1.
Item 2, The Symmetric Closure of a Symmetric Relation: Clear.
Item 3, Idempotency: This follows from Item 2.
Item 4, Interaction With Inverses: Clear.
Item 5, Interaction With Composition: This follows from Item 2 of Definition 10.3.1.1.4.
□

00UP 10.4 Transitive Relations

00UQ 10.4.1 Foundations

Let A be a set.

00UR **Definition 10.4.1.1.1.** A **transitive relation** is equivalently:[7]

- A non-unital $\mathbb{E}_1$-monoid in $(\mathrm{N}_\bullet(\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)), \diamond)$.
- A non-unital monoid in $(\mathbf{Rel}(A, A), \diamond)$.

00US **Remark 10.4.1.1.2.** In detail, a relation R on A is **transitive** if we have an inclusion

$$\mu_R \colon R \diamond R \subset R$$

of relations in $\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)$, i.e. if, for each $a, c \in A$, the following condition is satisfied:

($\star$) If there exists some $b \in A$ such that $a \sim_R b$ and $b \sim_R c$, then $a \sim_R c$.

00UT **Definition 10.4.1.1.3.** Let A be a set.

00UU 1. The **set of transitive relations from** A **to** B is the subset $\mathrm{Rel}^{\mathsf{trans}}(A)$ of $\mathrm{Rel}(A, A)$ spanned by the transitive relations.

00UV 2. The **poset of relations from** A **to** B is is the subposet $\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathsf{trans}}(A)$ of $\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)$ spanned by the transitive relations.

00UW **Proposition 10.4.1.1.4.** Let R and S be relations on A.

00UX 1. *Interaction With Inverses.* If R is transitive, then so is $R^\dagger$.

00UY 2. *Interaction With Composition.* If R and S are transitive, then $S \diamond R$ ***may fail to be transitive***.

Proof. *Item 1, Interaction With Inverses*: Clear.
Item 2, Interaction With Composition: See [MSE 2096272].[8] □

[7] Note that since $\mathbf{Rel}(A, A)$ is posetal, transitivity is a property of a relation, rather than extra structure.

[8] *Intuition:* Transitivity for R and S fails to imply that of $S \diamond R$ because the composition operation for relations intertwines R and S in an incompatible way:

- If $a \sim_{S \diamond R} c$ and $c \sim_{S \diamond r} e$, then:
  - There is some $b \in A$ such that:
    - $a \sim_R b$;

00UZ 10.4.2 The Transitive Closure of a Relation

Let R be a relation on A.

00V0 **Definition 10.4.2.1.1.** The **transitive closure** of $\sim_R$ is the relation $\sim_R^{\mathrm{trans}}$[9] satisfying the following universal property:[10]

(★) Given another transitive relation $\sim_S$ on A such that $R \subset S$, there exists an inclusion $\sim_R^{\mathrm{trans}} \subset \sim_S$.

00V1 **Construction 10.4.2.1.2.** Concretely, $\sim_R^{\mathrm{trans}}$ is the free non-unital monoid on R in $(\mathbf{Rel}(A,A), \diamond)$[11], being given by

$$\begin{aligned} R^{\mathrm{trans}} &\overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} \coprod_{n=1}^{\infty} R^{\diamond n} \\ &\overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R^{\diamond n} \\ &\overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} \left\{ (a,b) \in A \times B \;\middle|\; \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists some } (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \in R^{\times n} \\ \text{such that } a \sim_R x_1 \sim_R \cdots \sim_R x_n \sim_R b \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Clear. □

00V2 **Proposition 10.4.2.1.3.** Let R be a relation on A.

00V3 1. *Adjointness.* We have an adjunction

$$\left((-)^{\mathrm{trans}} \dashv 忘\right) \colon \quad \begin{tikzcd} \mathbf{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, bend left, "(-)^{\mathrm{trans}}"] \arrow[r, phantom, "\perp"] & \mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{trans}}(A,A), \arrow[l, bend left, "忘"] \end{tikzcd}$$

witnessed by a bijection of sets

$$\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{trans}}(R^{\mathrm{trans}}, S) \cong \mathbf{Rel}(R, S),$$

natural in $R \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{trans}}(A,A))$ and $S \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}(A,B))$.

- ⋆ $b \sim_S c$;
- There is some $d \in A$ such that:
  - ⋆ $c \sim_R d$;
  - ⋆ $d \sim_S e$.

[9] *Further Notation:* Also written R^{trans}.

[10] *Slogan:* The transitive closure of R is the smallest transitive relation containing R.

[11] Or, equivalently, the free non-unital $\mathbb{E}_1$-monoid on R in $(\mathrm{N}_\bullet(\mathbf{Rel}(A,A)), \diamond)$.

00V4 2. *The Transitive Closure of a Transitive Relation.* If R is transitive, then $R^{\mathrm{trans}} = R$.

00V5 3. *Idempotency.* We have

$$(R^{\mathrm{trans}})^{\mathrm{trans}} = R^{\mathrm{trans}}.$$

00V6 4. *Interaction With Inverses.* We have

$$\left(R^{\dagger}\right)^{\mathrm{trans}} = \left(R^{\mathrm{trans}}\right)^{\dagger}, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "(-)^{\mathrm{trans}}"] \arrow[d, "(-)^{\dagger}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[d, "(-)^{\dagger}"] \\ \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "(-)^{\mathrm{trans}}"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A). \end{tikzcd}$$

00V7 5. *Interaction With Composition.* We have

$$(S \diamond R)^{\mathrm{trans}} \overset{\text{poss.}}{\neq} S^{\mathrm{trans}} \diamond R^{\mathrm{trans}}, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \times \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "\diamond"] \arrow[d, "(-)^{\mathrm{trans}} \times (-)^{\mathrm{trans}}"'] \arrow[dr, phantom, "\times"] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[d, "(-)^{\mathrm{trans}}"] \\ \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \times \mathrm{Rel}(A,A) \arrow[r, "\diamond"'] & \mathrm{Rel}(A,A). \end{tikzcd}$$

Proof. Item 1, Adjointness: This is a rephrasing of the universal property of the transitive closure of a relation, stated in Definition 10.4.2.1.1.
Item 2, The Transitive Closure of a Transitive Relation: Clear.
Item 3, Idempotency: This follows from Item 2.
Item 4, Interaction With Inverses: We have

$$\begin{aligned} (R^{\dagger})^{\mathrm{trans}} &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (R^{\dagger})^{\diamond n} \\ &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (R^{\diamond n})^{\dagger} \\ &= \Big(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R^{\diamond n}\Big)^{\dagger} \\ &= (R^{\mathrm{trans}})^{\dagger}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used, respectively:

- Definition 10.4.2.1.2.

- Constructions With Relations, **??** of **??**.
- Constructions With Relations, **??** of Definition 9.2.3.1.2.
- Definition 10.4.2.1.2.

This finishes the proof.
Item 5, Interaction With Composition: This follows from Item 2 of Definition 10.4.1.1.4.

□

00V8 10.5 Equivalence Relations

00V9 10.5.1 Foundations

Let A be a set.

00VA **Definition 10.5.1.1.1.** A relation R is an **equivalence relation** if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.[12]

00VB **Example 10.5.1.1.2.** The **kernel of a function** $f\colon A \to B$ is the equivalence relation $\sim_{\mathrm{Ker}(f)}$ on A obtained by declaring $a \sim_{\mathrm{Ker}(f)} b$ iff $f(a) = f(b)$.[13]

00VC **Definition 10.5.1.1.3.** Let A and B be sets.

00VD 1. The **set of equivalence relations from** A **to** B is the subset $\mathrm{Rel}^{\mathrm{eq}}(A, B)$ of $\mathrm{Rel}(A, B)$ spanned by the equivalence relations.

00VE 2. The **poset of relations from** A **to** B is is the subposet $\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{eq}}(A, B)$ of $\mathbf{Rel}(A, B)$ spanned by the equivalence relations.

00VF 10.5.2 The Equivalence Closure of a Relation

Let R be a relation on A.

00VG **Definition 10.5.2.1.1.** The **equivalence closure**[14] of $\sim_R$ is the relation $\sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}}$[15] satisfying the following universal property:[16]

[12]*Further Terminology:* If instead R is just symmetric and transitive, then it is called a **partial equivalence relation**.

[13]The kernel $\mathrm{Ker}(f)\colon A \nrightarrow A$ of f is the underlying functor of the monad induced by the adjunction $\mathrm{Gr}(f) \dashv f^{-1}\colon A \rightleftarrows B$ in **Rel** of Constructions With Relations, **??** of **??**.

[14]*Further Terminology:* Also called the **equivalence relation associated to** $\sim_R$.

[15]*Further Notation:* Also written R^{eq}.

[16]*Slogan:* The equivalence closure of R is the smallest equivalence relation containing R.

(★) Given another equivalence relation $\sim_S$ on A such that $R \subset S$, there exists an inclusion $\sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}} \subset \sim_S$.

00VH **Construction 10.5.2.1.2.** Concretely, $\sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}}$ is the equivalence relation on A defined by

$$\begin{aligned} R^{\mathrm{eq}} &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} ((R^{\mathrm{refl}})^{\mathrm{symm}})^{\mathrm{trans}} \\ &= ((R^{\mathrm{symm}})^{\mathrm{trans}})^{\mathrm{refl}} \\ &= \left\{ (a,b) \in A \times B \;\middle|\; \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists } (x_1,\ldots,x_n) \in R^{\times n} \text{ satisfying at} \\ \text{least one of the following conditions:} \\ \quad 1.\ \text{The following conditions are satisfied:} \\ \qquad \text{(a) We have } a \sim_R x_1 \text{ or } x_1 \sim_R a; \\ \qquad \text{(b) We have } x_i \sim_R x_{i+1} \text{ or } x_{i+1} \sim_R x_i \\ \qquad\quad\ \text{for each } 1 \leq i \leq n-1; \\ \qquad \text{(c) We have } b \sim_R x_n \text{ or } x_n \sim_R b; \\ \quad 2.\ \text{We have } a = b. \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. From the universal properties of the reflexive, symmetric, and transitive closures of a relation (Definitions 10.2.2.1.1, 10.3.2.1.1 and 10.4.2.1.1), we see that it suffices to prove that:

00VJ 1. The symmetric closure of a reflexive relation is still reflexive.

00VK 2. The transitive closure of a symmetric relation is still symmetric.

which are both clear. □

00VL **Proposition 10.5.2.1.3.** Let R be a relation on A.

00VM 1. *Adjointness.* We have an adjunction

$$\left((-)^{\mathrm{eq}} \dashv 忘\right)\colon\quad \begin{tikzcd} \mathbf{Rel}(A,B) \arrow[r, bend left, "(-)^{\mathrm{eq}}"] \arrow[r, phantom, "\perp"] & \mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{eq}}(A,B), \arrow[l, bend left, "忘"] \end{tikzcd}$$

witnessed by a bijection of sets

$$\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{eq}}(R^{\mathrm{eq}}, S) \cong \mathbf{Rel}(R, S),$$

natural in $R \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}^{\mathrm{eq}}(A,B))$ and $S \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Rel}(A,B))$.

00VN 2. *The Equivalence Closure of an Equivalence Relation.* If R is an equivalence relation, then $R^{\mathrm{eq}} = R$.

00VP 3. *Idempotency.* We have
$$(R^{\mathrm{eq}})^{\mathrm{eq}} = R^{\mathrm{eq}}.$$

Proof. Item 1, Adjointness: This is a rephrasing of the universal property of the equivalence closure of a relation, stated in Definition 10.5.2.1.1.
Item 2, The Equivalence Closure of an Equivalence Relation: Clear.
Item 3, Idempotency: This follows from Item 2. □

00VQ 10.6 Quotients by Equivalence Relations

00VR 10.6.1 Equivalence Classes

Let A be a set, let R be a relation on A, and let $a \in A$.

02B1 **Definition 10.6.1.1.1.** The **equivalence class associated to** a is the set $[a]$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} [a] &\overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} \{x \in X \mid x \sim_R a\} \\ &= \{x \in X \mid a \sim_R x\}. && \text{(since } R \text{ is symmetric)} \end{aligned}$$

02B2 10.6.2 Quotients of Sets by Equivalence Relations

Let A be a set and let R be a relation on A.

02B3 **Definition 10.6.2.1.1.** The **quotient of** X **by** R is the set $X/{\sim_R}$ defined by

$$X/{\sim_R} \overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} \{[a] \in \mathcal{P}(X) \mid a \in X\}.$$

00VV **Remark 10.6.2.1.2.** The reason we define quotient sets for equivalence relations only is that each of the properties of being an equivalence relation—reflexivity, symmetry, and transitivity—ensures that the equivalences classes $[a]$ of X under R are well-behaved:

- *Reflexivity.* If R is reflexive, then, for each $a \in X$, we have $a \in [a]$.
- *Symmetry.* The equivalence class $[a]$ of an element a of X is defined by

  $$[a] \overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} \{x \in X \mid x \sim_R a\},$$

  but we could equally well define

  $$[a]' \overset{\mathrm{def}}{=} \{x \in X \mid a \sim_R x\}$$

instead. This is not a problem when R is symmetric, as we then have $[a] = [a]'$.[17]

- *Transitivity.* If R is transitive, then $[a]$ and $[b]$ are disjoint iff $a \nsim_R b$, and equal otherwise.

00VW **Proposition 10.6.2.1.3.** Let $f\colon X \to Y$ be a function and let R be a relation on X.

02B4 1. *As a Coequaliser.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$X/\mathord{\sim}_R^{\mathrm{eq}} \cong \mathrm{CoEq}\left(R \hookrightarrow X \times X \underset{\mathrm{pr}_2}{\overset{\mathrm{pr}_1}{\rightrightarrows}} X\right),$$

where $\sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}}$ is the equivalence relation generated by $\sim_R$.

02B5 2. *As a Pushout.* We have an isomorphism of sets[18]

$$X/\mathord{\sim}_R^{\mathrm{eq}} \cong X \coprod_{\mathrm{Eq}(\mathrm{pr}_1,\mathrm{pr}_2)} X, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} X/\mathord{\sim}_R^{\mathrm{eq}} \arrow[dr, phantom, "\ulcorner", very near start] & X \arrow[l] \\ X \arrow[u] & \mathrm{Eq}(\mathrm{pr}_1,\mathrm{pr}_2). \arrow[l] \arrow[u] \end{tikzcd}$$

where $\sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}}$ is the equivalence relation generated by $\sim_R$.

02B6 3. *The First Isomorphism Theorem for Sets.* We have an isomorphism of sets[19,20]

$$X/\mathord{\sim}_{\mathrm{Ker}(f)} \cong \mathrm{Im}(f).$$

[17] When categorifying equivalence relations, one finds that $[a]$ and $[a]'$ correspond to presheaves and copresheaves; see Constructions With Categories, **??**.

[18] Dually, we also have an isomorphism of sets

$$\mathrm{Eq}(\mathrm{pr}_1,\mathrm{pr}_2) \cong X \times_{X/\sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}}} X, \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{Eq}(\mathrm{pr}_1,\mathrm{pr}_2) \arrow[r] \arrow[d] \arrow[dr, phantom, "\lrcorner", very near start] & X \arrow[d] \\ X \arrow[r] & X/\mathord{\sim}_R^{\mathrm{eq}}. \end{tikzcd}$$

[19] *Further Terminology:* The set $X/\mathord{\sim}_{\mathrm{Ker}(f)}$ is often called the **coimage of** f, and denoted by $\mathrm{CoIm}(f)$.

[20] In a sense this is a result relating the monad in **Rel** induced by f with the comonad in **Rel**

00W0 4. *Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, I.* Let R be an equivalence relation on X. The following conditions are equivalent:

02B7 (a) There exists a map

$$\bar{f}\colon X/{\sim_R} \to Y$$

making the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[d, two heads, "q"'] & Y \\ X/{\sim_R} \arrow[ur, dotted, "\exists"', "\bar{f}"] & \end{tikzcd}$$

commute.

02B8 (b) We have $R \subset \mathrm{Ker}(f)$.

02B9 (c) For each $x, y \in X$, if $x \sim_R y$, then $f(x) = f(y)$.

00W1 5. *Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, II.* Let R be an equivalence relation on X. If the conditions of Item 4 hold, then $\bar{f}$ is the *unique* map making the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[d, two heads, "q"'] & Y \\ X/{\sim_R} \arrow[ur, dashed, "\exists!"', "\bar{f}"] & \end{tikzcd}$$

commute.

00W2 6. *Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, III.* Let R be an equivalence relation on X. We have a bijection

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathsf{Sets}}(X/{\sim_R}, Y) \cong \mathrm{Hom}^{R}_{\mathsf{Sets}}(X, Y),$$

induced by f, as the kernel and image

$$\mathrm{Ker}(f)\colon X \nrightarrow X,$$
$$\mathrm{Im}(f) \subset Y$$

of f are the underlying functors of (respectively) the induced monad and comonad of the adjuncnatural in $X, Y \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathsf{Sets})$, given by the assignment $f \mapsto \overline{f}$ of Items 4 and 5, where $\mathrm{Hom}^{R}_{\mathsf{Sets}}(X,Y)$ is the set defined by

$$\mathrm{Hom}^{R}_{\mathsf{Sets}}(X,Y) \overset{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ f \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathsf{Sets}}(X,Y) \;\middle|\; \begin{array}{l} \text{for each } x, y \in X, \\ \text{if } x \sim_R y, \text{ then} \\ f(x) = f(y) \end{array} \right\}.$$

02BA 7. *Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, IV.* Let R be an equivalence relation on X. If the conditions of Item 4 hold, then the following conditions are equivalent:

02BB (a) The map $\overline{f}$ is an injection.

02BC (b) We have $R = \mathrm{Ker}(f)$.

02BD (c) For each $x, y \in X$, we have $x \sim_R y$ iff $f(x) = f(y)$.

02BE 8. *Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, V.* Let R be an equivalence relation on X. If the conditions of Item 4 hold, then the following conditions are equivalent:

02BF (a) The map $f \colon X \to Y$ is surjective.

02BG (b) The map $\overline{f} \colon X/{\sim_R} \to Y$ is surjective.

02BH 9. *Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, VI.* Let R be a relation on X and let $\sim^{\mathrm{eq}}_R$ be the equivalence relation associated to R. The following conditions are equivalent:

02BJ (a) The map f satisfies the equivalent conditions of Item 4:

- There exists a map

$$\overline{f} \colon X/{\sim^{\mathrm{eq}}_R} \to Y$$

making the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[d, "q"'] & Y \\ X/{\sim^{\mathrm{eq}}_R} \arrow[ur, dotted, "\exists", "\overline{f}"'] & \end{tikzcd}$$

commute.

- For each $x, y \in X$, if $x \sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}} y$, then $f(x) = f(y)$.

02BK (b) For each $x, y \in X$, if $x \sim_R y$, then $f(x) = f(y)$.

Proof. *Item 1, As a Coequaliser*: Omitted.
Item 2, As a Pushout: Omitted.
Item 3, The First Isomorphism Theorem for Sets: Clear.
Item 4, Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, I: See [Pro25c].
Item 5, Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, II: See [Pro25d].
Item 6, Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, III: This follows from Items 5 and 6.
Item 7, Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, IV: See [Pro25b].
Item 8, Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, V: See [Pro25a].
Item 9, Descending Functions to Quotient Sets, VI: The implication Item 8a $\Longrightarrow$ Item 8b is clear.

Conversely, suppose that, for each $x, y \in X$, if $x \sim_R y$, then $f(x) = f(y)$. Spelling out the definition of the equivalence closure of R, we see that the condition $x \sim_R^{\mathrm{eq}} y$ unwinds to the following:

($\star$) There exist $(x_1, \ldots, x_n) \in R^{\times n}$ satisfying at least one of the following conditions:

- The following conditions are satisfied:
  - ⋆ We have $x \sim_R x_1$ or $x_1 \sim_R x$;
  - ⋆ We have $x_i \sim_R x_{i+1}$ or $x_{i+1} \sim_R x_i$ for each $1 \leq i \leq n-1$;
  - ⋆ We have $y \sim_R x_n$ or $x_n \sim_R y$;
- We have $x = y$.

Now, if $x = y$, then $f(x) = f(y)$ trivially; otherwise, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= f(x_1),\\
f(x_1) &= f(x_2),\\
&\vdots\\
f(x_{n-1}) &= f(x_n),
\end{aligned}
$$

tion

$$
\left(\mathrm{Gr}(f) \dashv f^{-1}\right)\colon\ \begin{tikzcd} A \arrow[r, bend left, "\mathrm{Gr}(f)"] \arrow[r, phantom, "\perp"] & B \arrow[l, bend left, "f^{-1}"] \end{tikzcd}
$$

of Constructions With Relations, ?? of ??.

$$f(x_n) = f(y),$$

and $f(x) = f(y)$, as we wanted to show. □

Appendices

A Other Chapters

References

[MSE 2096272] Akiva Weinberger. *Is composition of two transitive relations transitive? If not, can you give me a counterexample?* Mathematics Stack Exchange. URL: https://math.stackexchange.com/q/2096272 (cit. on p. 8).

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