

# Equivalence relations and set partitions

## ► Equivalence relations.

$R \subseteq A \times A$  is an equivalence relation  
whenever

(1) Reflexive:  $\forall x \in A. x R x$

(2) Symmetry:  $\forall x, y \in A. x R y \Rightarrow y R x$

(3) Transitive:  $\forall x, y, z \in A.$

$$x R y \wedge y R z \Rightarrow x R z.$$

Examples:

- For  $m$  a positive integer, let  $R_m \subseteq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$

$$x R_m y \Leftrightarrow \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \equiv y \pmod{m}$$

- Let  $A$  be a set.

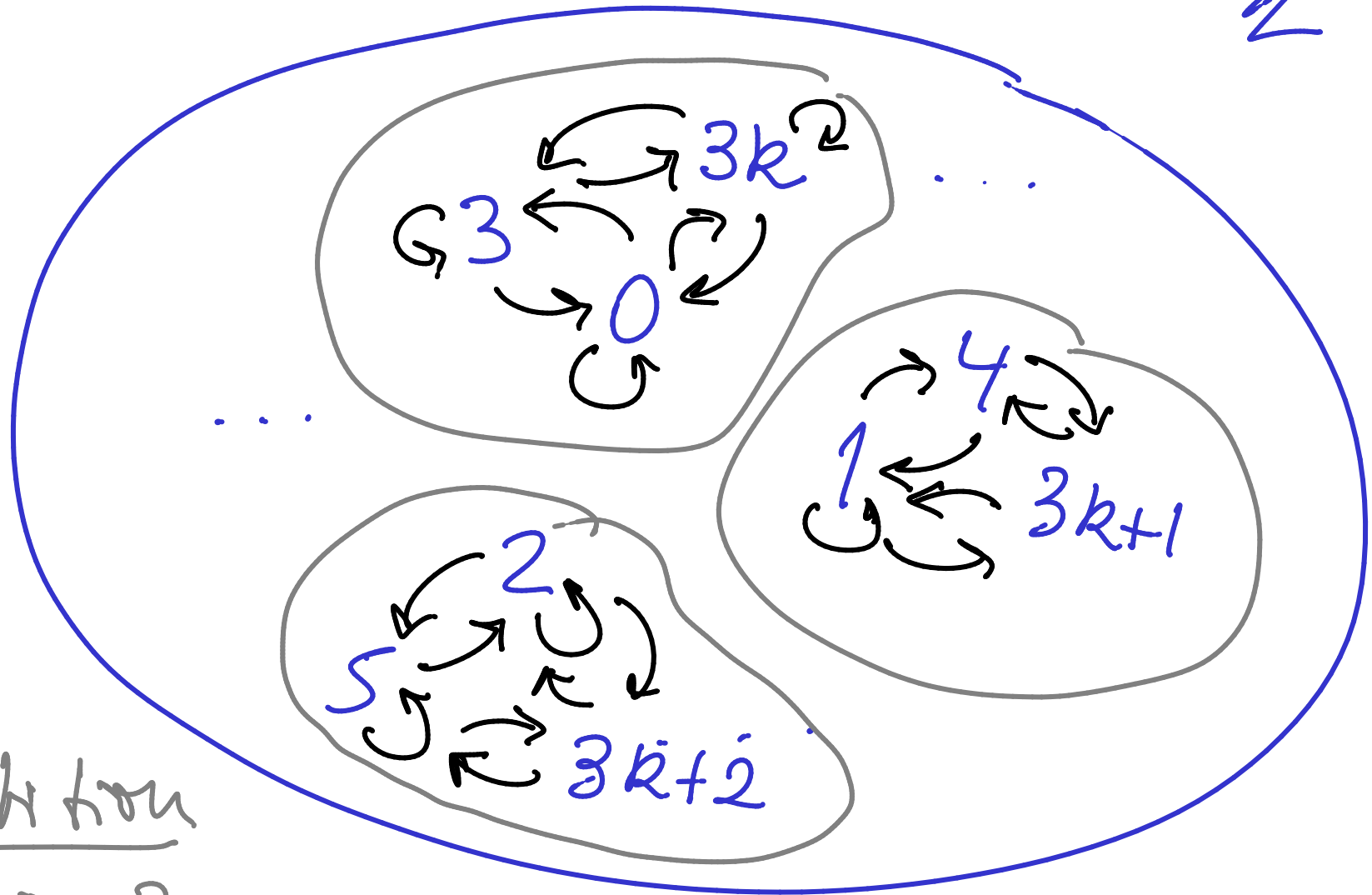
$$I \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A) \times \mathcal{P}(A)$$

$\parallel \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$

$$\{(u, v) \in \mathcal{P}(A) \times \mathcal{P}(A) \mid u \cong v\}.$$

Internal graph of  $R_3$

$\mathbb{Z}$



A partition  
of  $\mathbb{Z}$  in 3  
equivalence classes.

► Set partitions.

A partition  $P$  of a set  $A$  is a set of subsets of  $A$

$$P \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A)$$

such that

$$(1) \emptyset \notin P$$

$$(2) \bigcup P = A$$

$$(3) \forall u, v \in P. u \neq v \Rightarrow u \cap v = \emptyset$$

Examples: Partitions of  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

$$P_1 = \{ \mathbb{Z} \}$$

$$P_2 = \{ \text{Odd}, \text{Even} \}$$

$$P_3 = \{ \{3k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \{3k+1 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \{3k+2 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \}$$

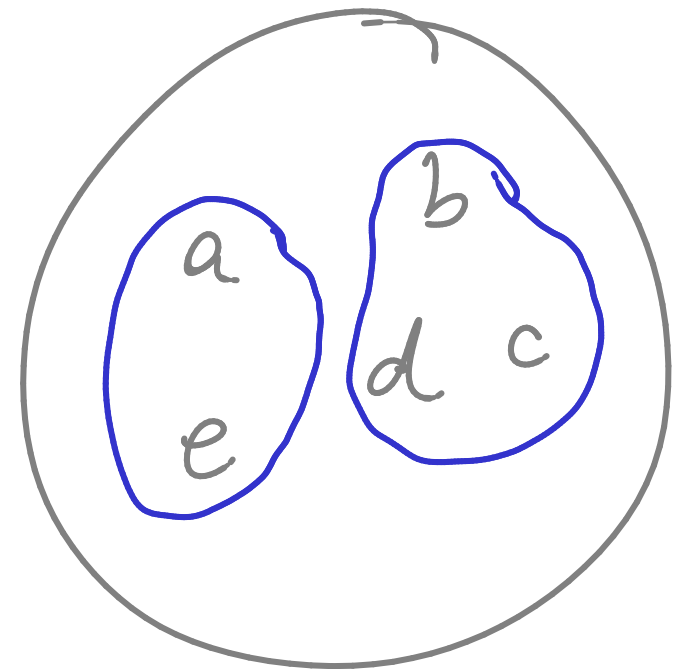
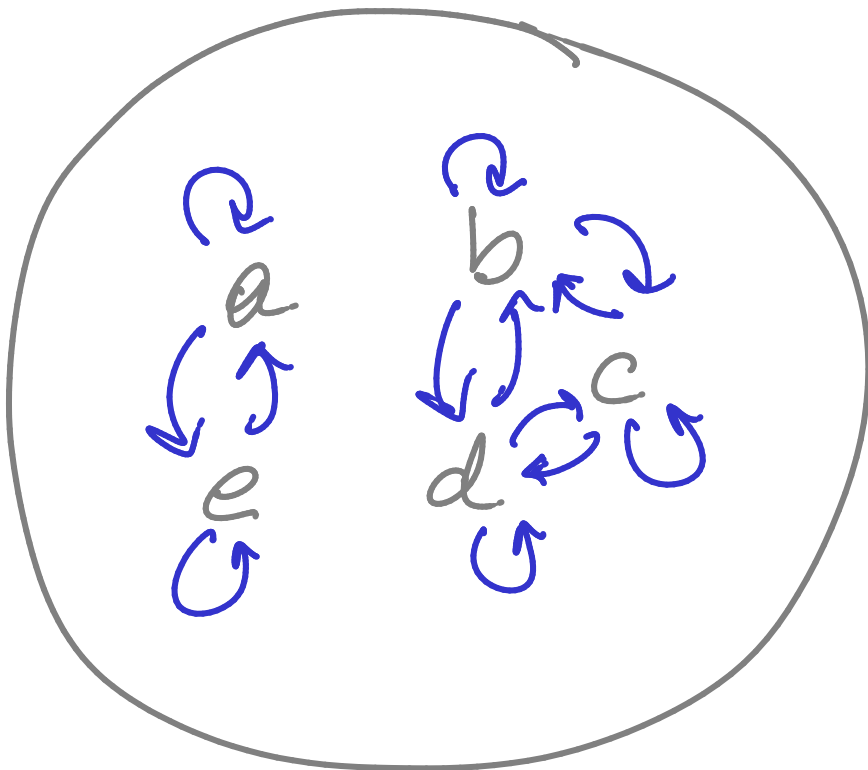
**Theorem 134** For every set  $A$ ,

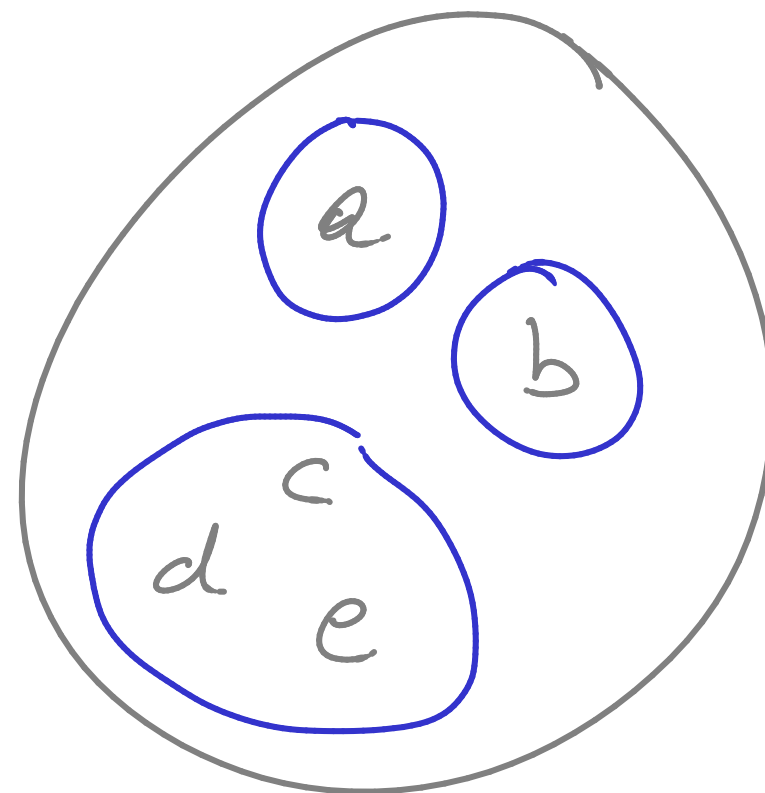
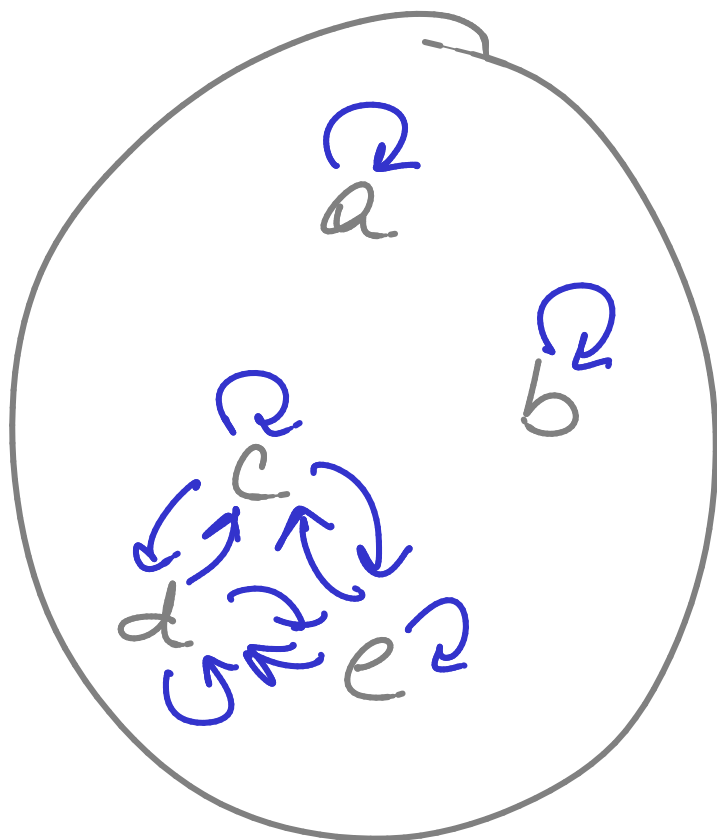
$$\text{EqRel}(A) \cong \text{Part}(A)$$

PROOF:

all equivalence  
relations on  $A$

all partitions  
of  $A$





$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{part}} : \underline{\text{EqRel}}(A) &\longrightarrow \underline{\text{Part}}(A) \\ E &\longmapsto \underline{\text{part}}(E) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{Def}} \quad \underline{\text{part}}(E) &\subseteq \mathcal{P}(A) \\ &\parallel \\ &\{ \beta \subseteq A \mid \exists a \in A. \beta = [a]_E \} \end{aligned}$$

where  $[a]_E = \{ x \in A \mid x E a \}$  Equivalence class of  $a$

RTP:  $\underline{\text{part}}(E)$  is a partition.



(1) Every block in  $\text{part}(E)$  is non-empty.

Because  $a \in [a]_E$

(2)  $\bigcup \text{part}(E) = A$

( $\subseteq$ ) Clear.

( $\supseteq$ ) Every element of  $A$  appears in a block.

$\forall a \in A. \exists \beta \in \text{part}(E)$  namely  $\beta = [a]_E$   
such that  $a \in \beta$ .

Q.T.P

(3) If  $\beta_1, \beta_2 \in \text{part}(E)$  such that  $\beta_1 \cap \beta_2 \neq \emptyset$

then  $\beta_1 = \beta_2$

Let  $\beta_1, \beta_2 \in \text{part}(E)$  such that  $\beta_1 \cap \beta_2 \neq \emptyset$

Then  $\beta_1 = [a_1]_E$  for some  $a_1 \in A$ .

$\beta_2 = [a_2]_E$  for some  $a_2 \in A$ .

Also  $b \in [a_1]_E$  and  $b \in [a_2]_E$  for some  $b$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \Downarrow & \\ b \in a_1 & \wedge & \textcircled{2} \ b \in a_2 \\ \Uparrow & & \Uparrow \\ \textcircled{1} \ a_1 \in b & & \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \wedge \textcircled{2} \Rightarrow \boxed{a_1 \in a_2 \Leftrightarrow [a_1]_E = [a_2]_E} \quad \text{Lemma (exercise)}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \underline{eq} : \underline{Part}(A) &\longrightarrow \underline{EqRel}(A) \\ P &\longmapsto \underline{eq}(P) \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{Def}: \underline{eq}(P) \subseteq A \times A$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\parallel \\ &\{ (x, y) \in A \times A \mid \exists \beta \in P. x \in \beta \wedge y \in \beta \} \end{aligned}$$

RTP:  $\underline{eq}(P)$  is an equivalence relation.

$$(1) \forall a \in A. (a, a) \in \underline{eq}(P)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall a \in A. \exists \beta \in P. a \in \beta.$$

$$\Longleftrightarrow \bigcup P \supseteq A$$

$$(2) \forall x, y \in A. x \underline{eq}(P) y \Rightarrow y \underline{eq}(P) x$$

Trivial.

(3)  $\forall x, y, z \in A.$

$$x \text{ eq}(P) y \wedge y \text{ eq}(P) z \stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow} x \text{ eq}(P) z$$

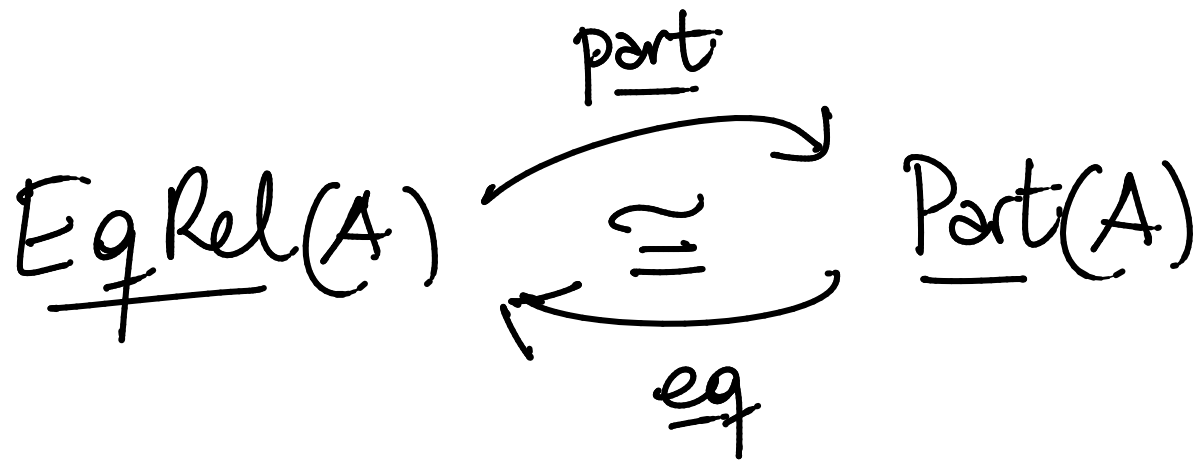
$$\exists \beta \in \mathcal{P}. x \in \beta \wedge \textcircled{1} y \in \beta \Rightarrow y \in \beta \cap \alpha$$

$$\exists \gamma \in \mathcal{P}. \textcircled{2} y \in \gamma \wedge z \in \gamma$$

$$\Downarrow \\ \beta = \gamma$$

$$\text{So } x \in \beta = \gamma \wedge z \in \gamma = \beta.$$





$\text{iff}$

$$(1) \quad \forall E \in \text{EqRel}(A).$$

$$\text{eq}(\text{part}(E)) = E$$

$$(2) \quad \forall P \in \text{Part}(A).$$

$$\text{part}(\text{eq}(P)) = P$$

(1) Let  $E \in \underline{\text{EqRel}}(A)$

$\underline{\text{eq}}(\underline{\text{part}}(E))$

$$= \{ (x, y) \in A \times A \mid \exists \beta \in \underline{\text{part}}(E). x, y \in \beta \}$$

$$= \{ (x, y) \in A \times A \mid \exists a \in A. x, y \in [a]_E \}$$

$$= \{ (x, y) \in A \times A \mid x E y \}$$

$$= E$$

(2) Let  $P \in \underline{\text{Part}}(A)$

Consider

$\underline{\text{part}}(\text{eq}(P))$

$$= \{ \alpha \subseteq A \mid \exists a \in A. \alpha = [a]_{\text{eq}(P)} \}$$

Since  $P$  is a partition, for every  $a \in A$ ,  
there exists a unique  $B(a) \in P$  such

that  $a \in B(a)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } [a]_{\text{eq}(P)} &= \{ x \in A \mid \exists \beta \in P. x \in \beta \wedge a \in \beta \} \\ &= \{ x \in A \mid x \in B(a) \} = B(a) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\underline{\text{part}}(\underline{\text{eq}}(P))$$

$$= \{ \alpha \subseteq A \mid \exists a \in A. \alpha = B(a) \}$$

Moreover

$$\alpha \in P \Leftrightarrow \exists a \in A. \alpha = B(a)$$

Therefore

$$\underline{\text{part}}(\underline{\text{eq}}(P)) = \{ \alpha \subseteq A \mid \alpha \in P \} = P$$





Notation  $E \subseteq A \times A$  equiv. rel.

$$\underline{\text{part}}(E) = \overset{\text{notation}}{A/E} = \{ [a]_E \mid a \in A \}$$

$$[a]_E = \{ x \in A \mid x E a \}.$$

$$\sim \subseteq (\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}^+) \times (\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}^+)$$

$$(m, i) \circ \circ \circ (m/i)$$

$$(m, i) \sim (n, j)$$

$$\circ \circ \circ (m/i = n/j)$$

$$\text{iff def } m \cdot j = n \cdot i. \quad Q = (\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}^+) / \sim$$

Notation  $f: A \cong B: g \Leftrightarrow f: A \rightarrow B, g: B \rightarrow A$   
 $f \circ g = \text{id}_B \wedge g \circ f = \text{id}_A$ .  
 $(g = f^{-1} \wedge f = g^{-1})$ .

## Calculus of bijections

$$\blacktriangleright \text{id}_A: A \cong A, A \cong B \xRightarrow{f} B \cong A: f, (A \cong B \wedge B \cong C) \xRightarrow{f, g} A \cong C$$

$\blacktriangleright$  If  $A \cong X$  and  $B \cong Y$  then

$$\mathcal{P}(A) \cong \mathcal{P}(X), \quad A \times B \cong X \times Y, \quad A \uplus B \cong X \uplus Y,$$

$$\text{Rel}(A, B) \cong \text{Rel}(X, Y), \quad (A \Rightarrow B) \cong (X \Rightarrow Y),$$

$$(A \Rightarrow B) \cong (X \Rightarrow Y), \quad \text{Bij}(A, B) \cong \text{Bij}(X, Y)$$