CS 441 Discrete Mathematics for CS
Lecture 21b

Relations

Milos Hauskrecht
milos@cs.pitt.edu
5329 Sennott Square

Cartesian product (review)

Let $A=\{a_1, a_2, ..a_k\}$ and $B=\{b_1,b_2,..b_m\}$.

The Cartesian product A x B is defined by a set of pairs
$\{(a_1\ b_1), (a_1, b_2), \dots (a_1, b_m), \dots, (a_k,b_m)\}$.

Cartesian product defines a product set, or a set of all ordered arrangements of elements in sets in the Cartesian product.

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 x B.

- Let R $\subseteq$ A x B means R is a set of ordered pairs of the form (a,b) where a $\in$ A and b $\in$ B.
- We use the notation **a R b to denote (a,b) $\in$ R** and **a $\not R$ b to denote (a,b) $\notin$ R**. If **a R b**, we say a is related to b by R.

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? **Yes.**
- Is Q={(1,a),(2,b)} a relation from A to B? **No.**
- Is P={(a,a),(b,c),(b,a)} a relation from A to A? **Yes**

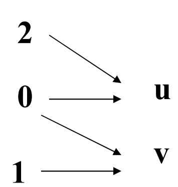
Representing binary relations

- We can graphically represent a binary relation R as follows:
  - if **a R b** then draw an arrow from a to b.

a $\rightarrow$ b

Example:

- Let A = {0, 1, 2}, B = {u,v} and R = { (0,u), (0,v), (1,v), (2,u) }
- Note: R $\subseteq$ A x B.
- **Graph:**



Representing binary relations

- We can represent a binary relation R by a **table** showing (marking) the ordered pairs of R.

Example:

- Let A = {0, 1, 2}, B = {u,v} and R = { (0,u), (0,v), (1,v), (2,u) }
- **Table:**

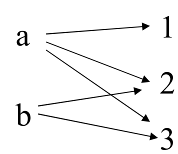
R	u	v
0	x	x
1		x
2	x	

or

R	u	v
0	1	1
1	0	1
2	1	0

Relations and functions

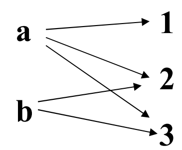
- Relations represent **one to many relationships** between elements in A and B.
- **Example:**



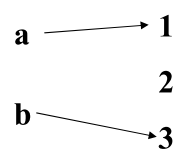
- What is the difference between a **relation and a function from A to B**?

Relations and functions

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



- What is the difference between a **relation and a function from A to B**? A function defined on sets A,B $A \rightarrow B$ assigns to each element in the domain set A exactly one element from B. So it is **a special relation.**



Relation on the set

<u>Definition:</u> **A relation on the set A** is a relation from A to itself.

Example 1:

- Let A = {1,2,3,4} and R_{div} = {(a,b)| a divides b}
- What does R_{div} consist of?
- R_{div} = {(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (2,2), (2,4), (3,3), (4,4)}
-

R	1	2	3	4
1	x	x	x	x
2		x		x
3			x	
4				x

Relation on the set

Example:

- Let A = {1,2,3,4}.
- Define a $R_{\neq}$ b if and only if a $\neq$ b.

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

-

R	1	2	3	4
1		x	x	x
2	x		x	x
3	x	x		x
4	x	x	x	

Binary relations

- **Theorem:** The number of binary relations on a set A, where | A | = n is:

$$2^{n^2}$$

- **Proof:**
- If | A | = n then the cardinality of the Cartesian product | A x A | = n^2.
- R is a binary relation on A if R $\subseteq$ A x A (that is, R is a subset of A x A).
- The number of subsets of a set with k elements : 2^k
- The number of subsets of A x A is : $2^{|AxA|} = 2^{n^2}$

Binary relations

- **Example**: Let A = {1,2}
- What is A x A = **{(1,1),(1,2),(2,1),(2,2)}**
- **List of possible relations (subsets of A x A):**
- $\varnothing$ …. 1
- {(1,1)} {(1,2)} {(2,1)} {(2,2)} …. 4
- {(1,1), (1,2)} {(1,1),(2,1)} {(1,1),(2,2)} …. 6
  {(1,2),(2,1)} {(1,2),(2,2)} {(2,1),(2,2)}
- {(1,1),(1,2),(2,1)} {(1,1),(1,2),(2,2)} …. 4
  {(1,1),(2,1),(2,2)} {(1,2),(2,1),(2,2)}
- {(1,1),(1,2),(2,1),(2,2)} …. 1

16

- Use formula: $\mathbf{2^4 = 16}$

Properties of relations

Definition (reflexive relation) : A relation R on a set A is called **reflexive** if (a,a) $\in$ R for every element a $\in$ A.

Example 1:

- Assume relation R_{div} ={(a b), if a |b} on A = {1,2,3,4}
- **Is R_{div} reflexive?**
- R_{div} = {(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (2,2), (2,4), (3,3), (4,4)}
- **Answer:** Yes. (1,1), (2,2), (3,3), and (4,4) $\in$ A.

Reflexive relation

Reflexive relation

- R_{div} ={(a b), if a |b} on A = {1,2,3,4}
- R_{div} = {(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (2,2), (2,4), (3,3), (4,4)}

$$MR_{div} = \begin{matrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

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

Properties of relations

Definition (reflexive relation) : A relation R on a set A is called **reflexive** if $(a,a) \in R$ for every element $a \in A$.

Example 2:

- Relation R_{fun} on A = {1,2,3,4} defined as:
  - R_{fun} = {(1,2),(2,2),(3,3)}.
- **Is R_{fun} reflexive?**
- **No.** It is not reflexive since $(1,1) \notin R_{fun}$.

Properties of relations

Definition (irreflexive relation): A relation R on a set A is called **irreflexive** if **$(a,a) \notin$ R for every $a \in$ A.**

Example 1:

- Assume relation $R_{\neq}$ on $A=\{1,2,3,4\}$, such that **a $R_{\neq}$ b** if and only if $a \neq b$.
- **Is $R_{\neq}$ irreflexive?**
- **$R_{\neq}$ = …**

Properties of relations

Definition (irreflexive relation): A relation R on a set A is called **irreflexive** if **$(a,a) \notin$ R for every $a \in$ A.**

Example 1:

- Assume relation $R_{\neq}$ on $A=\{1,2,3,4\}$, such that **a $R_{\neq}$ b** if and only if $a \neq b$.
- **Is $R_{\neq}$ irreflexive?**
- **$R_{\neq}=\{(1,2),(1,3),(1,4),(2,1),(2,3),(2,4),(3,1),(3,2),(3,4),(4,1),(4,2),(4,3)\}$**
- **Answer:** Yes. Because (1,1),(2,2),(3,3) and (4,4) $\notin R_{\neq}$

Irreflexive relation

Irreflexive relation

- $R_{\neq}$ on A={1,2,3,4}, such that **a $R_{\neq}$ b** if and only if $a \neq b$.
- **$R_{\neq}$={(1,2),(1,3),(1,4),(2,1),(2,3),(2,4),(3,1),(3,2),(3,4),(4,1),(4,2),(4,3)}**

$$MR = \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{matrix}$$

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

Properties of relations

Definition (irreflexive relation): A relation R on a set A is called **irreflexive** if **(a,a) $\notin$ R for every a $\in$ A.**

Example 2:

- R_{fun} on A = {1,2,3,4} defined as:
  - R_{fun} = {(1,2),(2,2),(3,3)}.
- **Is R_{fun} irreflexive?**
- **Answer: No**. Because (2,2) and (3,3) $\in$ R_{fun}

Properties of relations

Definition (symmetric relation): A relation R on a set A is called **symmetric** if

$\forall$ a, b $\in$ A $(a,b) \in R \rightarrow (b,a) \in R$.

Example 1:

- R_{div} ={(a b), if a |b} on A = {1,2,3,4}
- **Is R_{div} symmetric?**
- R_{div} = {(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (2,2), (2,4), (3,3), (4,4)}
- **Answer: No.** It is not symmetric since $(1,2) \in R$ but $(2,1) \notin R$.

Properties of relations

Definition (symmetric relation): A relation R on a set A is called **symmetric** if

$\forall$ a, b $\in$ A $(a,b) \in R \rightarrow (b,a) \in R$.

Example 2:

- $R_{\neq}$ on A={1,2,3,4}, such that **a $R_{\neq}$ b** if and only if $a \neq b$.
- **Is $R_{\neq}$ symmetric ?**
- **$R_{\neq}$={(1,2),(1,3),(1,4),(2,1),(2,3),(2,4),(3,1),(3,2),(3,4),(4,1),(4,2),(4,3)}**
- **Answer: Yes. If** $(a,b) \in R_{\neq} \rightarrow (b,a) \in R_{\neq}$

Symmetric relation

Symmetric relation:

- $R_{\neq}$ on A={1,2,3,4}, such that $\mathbf{a}\ \mathbf{R}_{\neq}\ \mathbf{b}$ if and only if $a \neq b$.
- $\mathbf{R}_{\neq}$**={(1,2),(1,3),(1,4),(2,1),(2,3),(2,4),(3,1),(3,2),(3,4),(4,1),(4,2),(4,3)}**

$$MR = \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

- **A relation R is symmetric** if and only if $m_{ij} = m_{ji}$ for all i,j.

Properties of relations

Definition (symmetric relation): A relation R on a set A is called **symmetric** if

$$\forall\ a, b \in A \quad (a,b) \in R \rightarrow (b,a) \in R.$$

Example 3:

- Relation R_{fun} on A = {1,2,3,4} defined as:
    - $R_{fun} = \{(1,2),(2,2),(3,3)\}$.
- **Is R_{fun} symmetric?**
- **Answer: No.** For $(1,2) \in R_{fun}$ there is no $(2,1) \in R_{fun}$