

*Let  $R$  be the relation on the set  $\mathbb{R}$  real numbers defined by  $xRy$  iff  $x - y$  is an integer. Prove that  $R$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{R}$ .*

PROOF.

- I. Reflexive: Suppose  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $x - x = 0$ , which is an integer. Thus,  $xRx$ .
- II. Symmetric: Suppose  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $xRy$ . Then  $x - y$  is an integer. Since  $y - x = -(x - y)$ ,  $y - x$  is also an integer. Thus,  $yRx$ .
- III. Suppose  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $xRy$  and  $yRz$ . Then  $x - y$  and  $y - z$  are integers. Thus, the sum  $(x - y) + (y - z) = x - z$  is also an integer, and so  $xRz$ .

Thus,  $R$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

□

Equality:  $x = y$

Answer:

- $x = x$  is True, so equality is reflexive
- If  $x = y$ , then  $y = x$  is True, so equality is symmetric
- If  $x = y$  and  $y = x$ , then  $x = y$  is True, so equality is antisymmetric
- If  $x = y$  and  $y = z$ , then  $x = z$  is True, so equality is transitive

Not equal:  $x \neq y$

Answer:

- $x \neq x$  is False, so not equal is not reflexive
- If  $x \neq y$ , then  $y \neq x$  is True, so not equal is symmetric
- If  $x \neq y$  and  $y \neq x$ , then  $x = y$  is False, so equal is not antisymmetric
- If  $x \neq y$  and  $y \neq z$ , then  $x \neq z$  is False, so not equality is not transitive

Less than:  $x < y$

Answer:

- $x < x$  is False, so less than is not reflexive
- If  $x < y$ , then  $y < x$  is False, so less than is not symmetric
- If  $(x < y \text{ and } y < x)$ , then  $x = y$  is True, so less than is antisymmetric (The conditional is True because the premise  $(x < y \text{ and } y < x)$  is False)
- If  $x < y$  and  $y < z$ , then  $x < z$  is True, so less than is transitive

Greater than or equal:  $x \geq y$

Answer:

- $x \geq x$  is True, so greater than or equal is reflexive
- If  $x \geq y$ , then  $y \geq x$  is False, so greater than or equal is not symmetric
- If  $(x \geq y \text{ and } y \geq x)$ , then  $x = y$  is True, so greater than or equal is antisymmetric
- If  $x \geq y$  and  $y \geq z$ , then  $x \geq z$  is True, so greater than or equal is transitive