



Set Theory  
Next Chapter:

# Special Types of Relations (Symmetric, Transitive etc)



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Next Topic:

# Symmetric Relation

(Symmetric, Anti-Symmetric, Asymmetric)



## Symmetric Relation :

If  $a R b$  then  $b R a$

Symmetric  
property



## Symmetric Relation:

Base set : A

Relation R on A  $\equiv$   $R: A \rightarrow A$

Relation R is Symmetric iff

$\forall a, b \in A \left( aRb \rightarrow bRa \right)$



Assume, Base Set A ;  $\boxed{R : A \rightarrow A}$

For any x, y  $\in A$  (Assume x,y are different elements):

- Possibilities
- $x R y \& y R x$  OR
  - $x R y \& y R x$  OR
  - $x R y \& y \cancel{R} x$  OR
  - $x \cancel{R} y \& y \cancel{R} x$  OR
  - $x R x$
  - $y \cancel{R} y$



Assume, Base Set A ;  $\boxed{R : A \rightarrow A}$

For any x, y  $\in A$  (Assume x,y are different elements):

- $x R y \& y R x$  — Allowed
- $x R y \& y R x$  — NOT Allowed
- $x R y \& y \cancel{R} x$  — " "
- $x \cancel{R} y \& y R x$  — Allowed
- $x R x$  — "
- $y \cancel{R} y$  — "

If  $R$  is  
Symmetric



Symmetric:

$$R: A \rightarrow A$$



$$\forall_{x,y \in A} (xRy \rightarrow yRx)$$

$$\forall_{x,y \in A} (yRx \rightarrow xRy)$$



Consider the following relations on  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ : → Base set

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

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

$$R_3 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 4), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (4, 1), (4, 4)\},$$

Which relation is Symmetric?

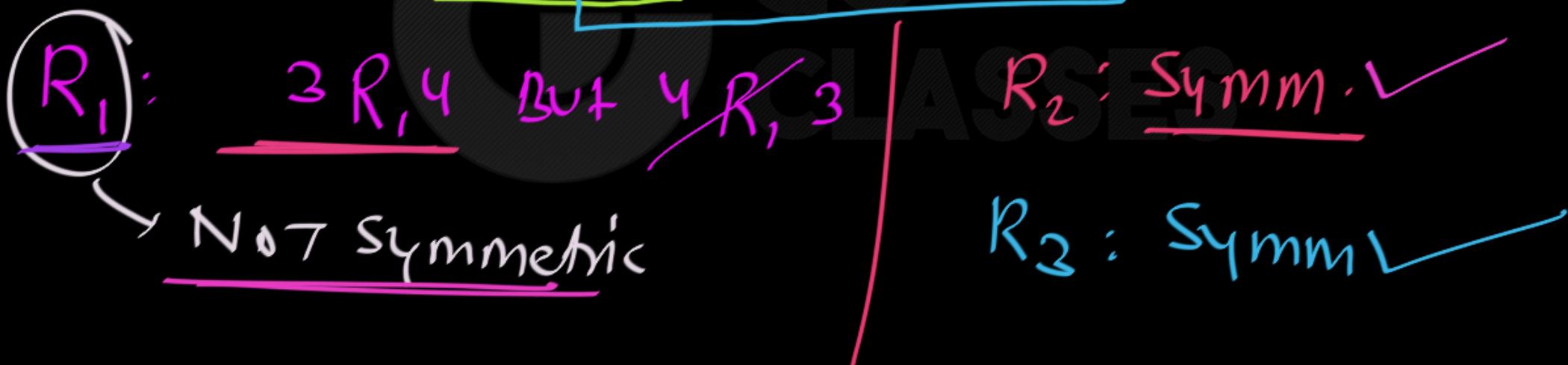


Consider the following relations on  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ :

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

$$R_2 = \{\underline{(1, 1)}, \underline{(1, 2)}, \underline{(2, 1)}\},$$

$$R_3 = \{\underline{(1, 1)}, \underline{(1, 2)}, \underline{(1, 4)}, \underline{(2, 1)}, \underline{(2, 2)}, \underline{(3, 3)}, \underline{(4, 1)}, \underline{(4, 4)}\},$$



$(a, a)$

$aRa$

: No problem

$$\boxed{aRa \rightarrow aRa}$$

To symmetric

$bRb$

$f \rightarrow f = T$

$$\boxed{bRb \rightarrow bRb}$$

Tove

# Equality Relation on Z is Symmetric??

$R : Z \rightarrow Z$  ;

$a R b$  iff  $a = b$

Yes

$x, y \in Z$

if  $\underline{x R y}$  then  $\underline{y R x}$

$$\underline{x = y}$$

$$\underline{y = x}$$



Example 2:

Let Set A = {1,2,3}

Subset Relation on P(A) is Symmetric??





Example 2:

Let Set A = {1,2,3}

Subset Relation on P(A) is Symmetric??

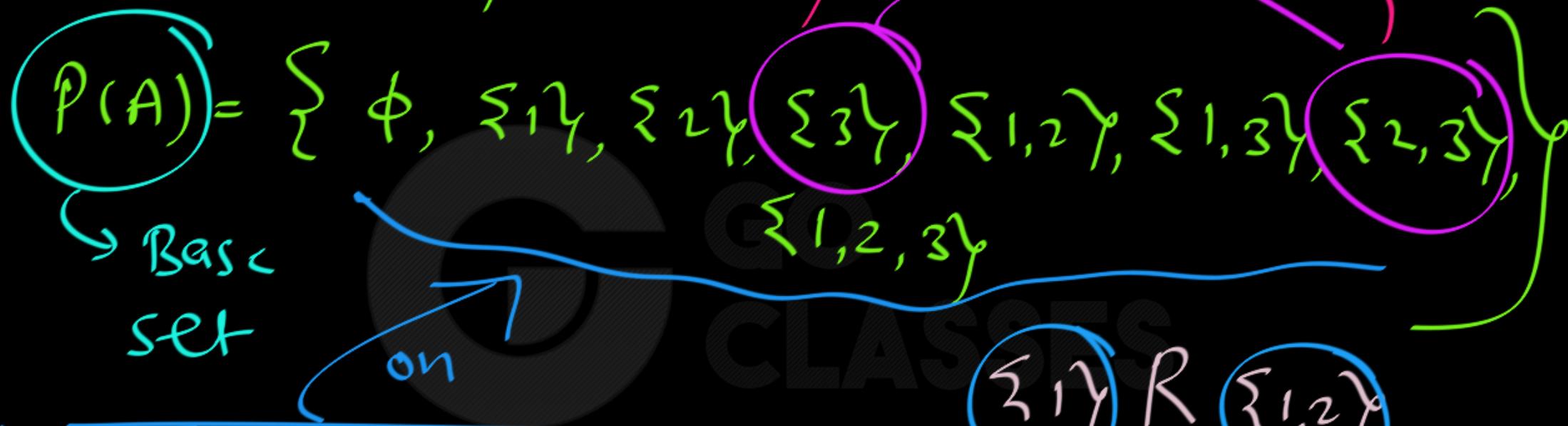
Base set :

P(A)

No

$R: P(A) \rightarrow P(A) ; X R Y \text{ iff } X \subseteq Y$

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$



$X R Y$  iff  $X \subseteq Y$

$$\begin{array}{c} \{1\} R \{1, 2\} \\ \{1, 2\} R \{1\} \end{array}$$

# Symmetry

- In some relations, the relative order of the objects doesn't matter.
- Examples:
  - If  $x = y$ , then  $y = x$ .
  - If  $u \leftrightarrow v$ , then  $v \leftrightarrow u$ .
  - If  $x \equiv_k y$ , then  $y \equiv_k x$ .
- These relations are called **symmetric**.
- Formally: a binary relation  $R$  over a set  $A$  is called *symmetric* if

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$$

*("If  $a$  is related to  $b$ , then  $b$  is related to  $a$ .)*

# Matrix Representation of Symmetric Relation:

Base set  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

Sym. Rel ( $R$ )

	1	2	3
1	x	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	x
3	✓	x	x

matrix  $M$

$aRa$  fine

$aRa$  fine

symmetric matrix

$m = m^T$

# Matrix Representation of Symmetric Relation:

Base set  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

Sym. Rel  $(R)$

	1	2	3
1	✓	✗	✗
2	✗	✗	✓
3	✗	✓	✗

Matrix  $M$

Symmetric Matrix

$$M = M^T$$

# Matrix Representation of Symmetric Relation:

Base set  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$

Sym. Rel  $R$

	1	2	3
1	X	X	✓
2	X	X	✓
3	✓	✓	X

symm. matrix



Consider the following relations on  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ :

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

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

$$R_3 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 4), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (4, 1), (4, 4)\},$$

# Graph Representation of Symmetric Relation:

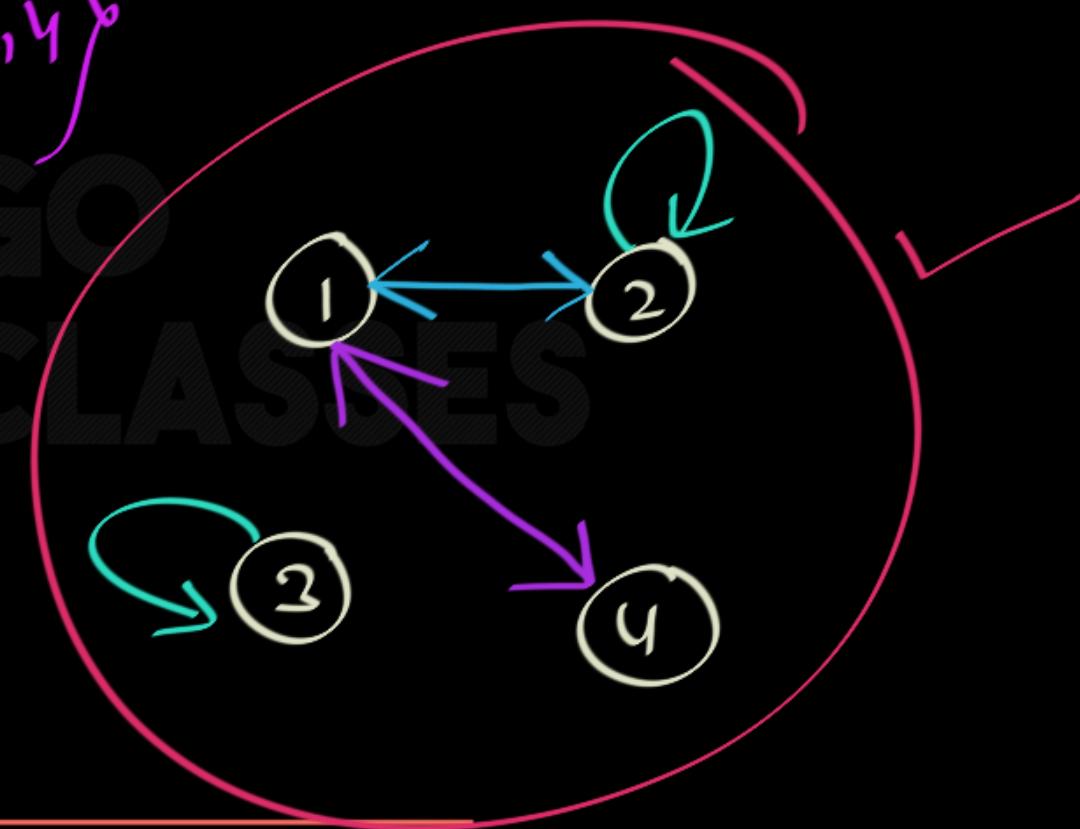
Base set :  $A : \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

Sym. Rel

$R$  on  $A$ :

Graph Rep of  $R$ :

$\exists R \exists$  line;  $\exists R \exists$  line



# Graph Representation of Symmetric Relation:

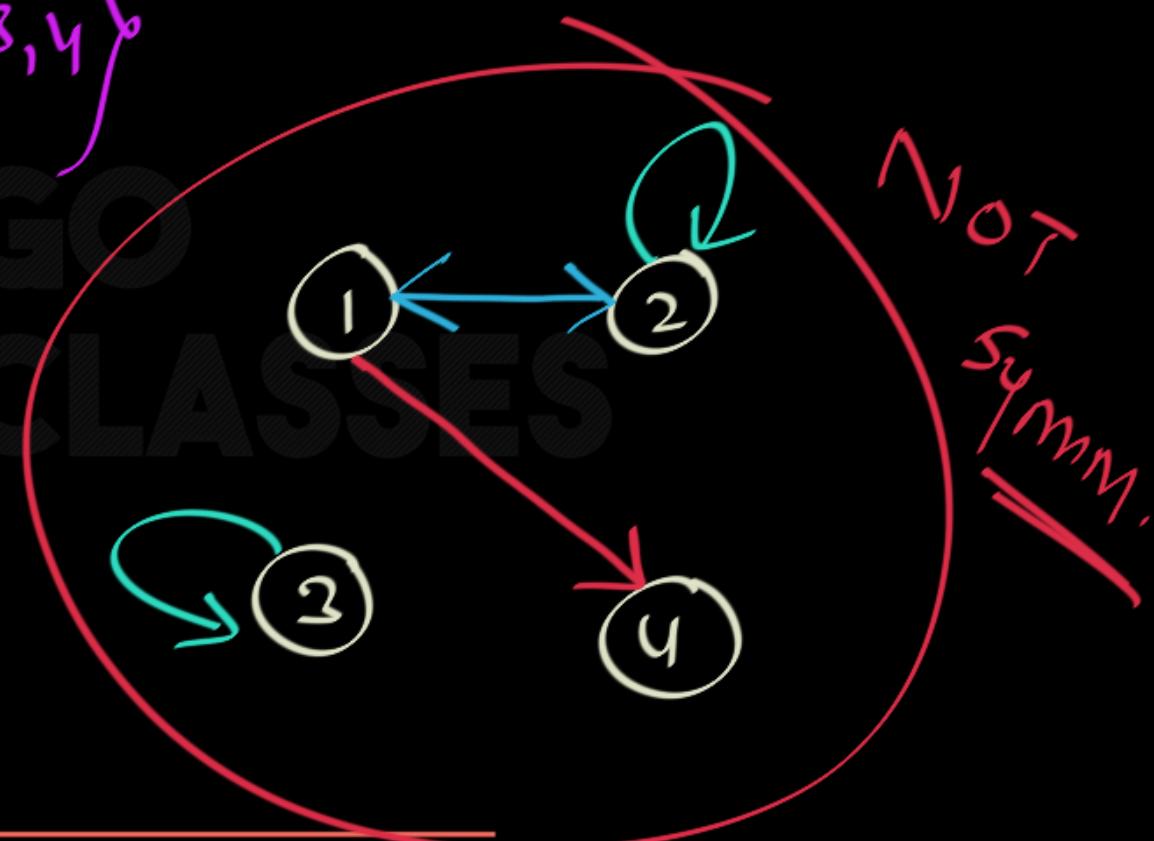
Base set :  $A : \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

Sym. Rel

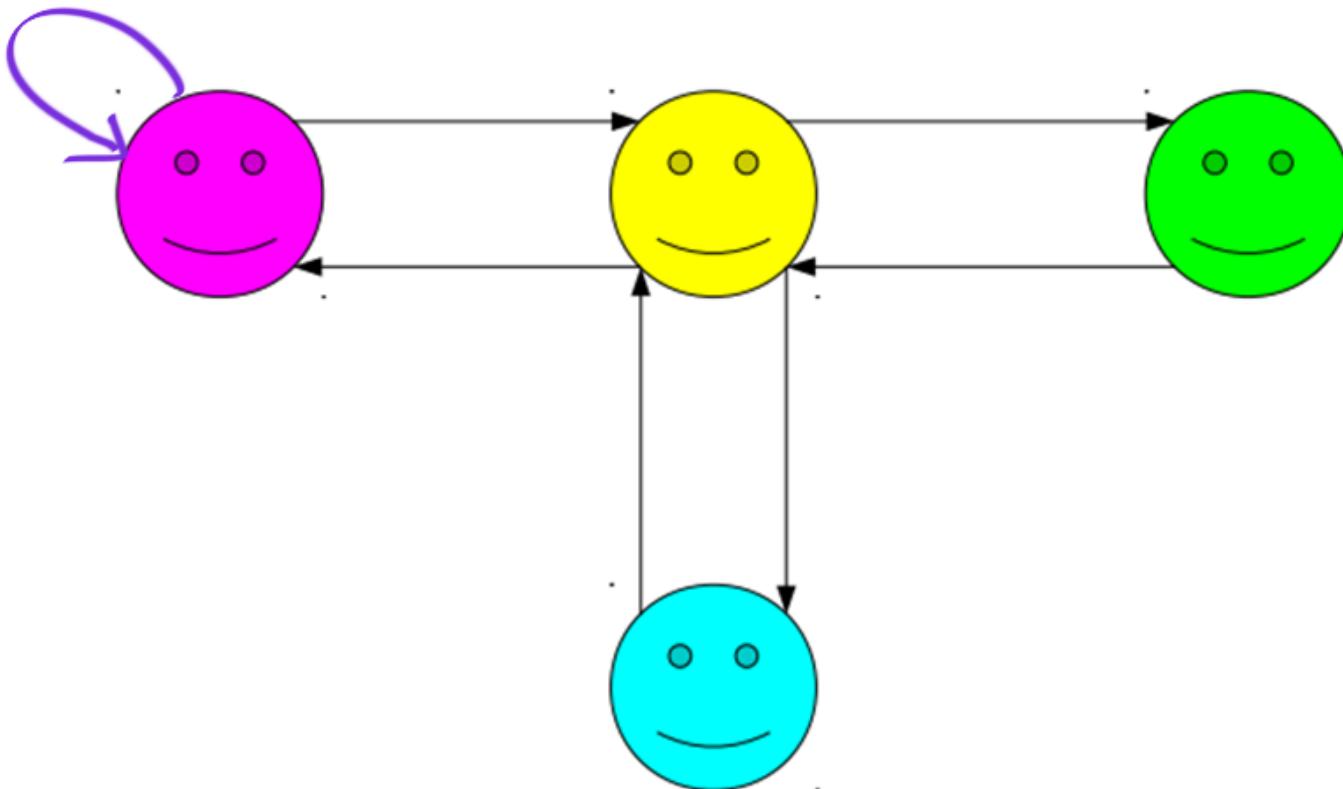
$R$  on  $A$ :

Graph Rep of  $R$ :

$\exists R \in \text{line} ; \exists R \in \text{line}$



# An Intuition for Symmetry

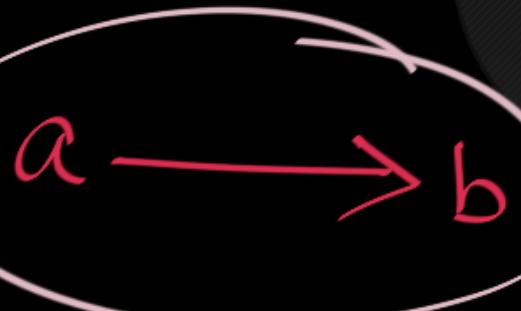


$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$$

("If  $a$  is related to  $b$ , then  $b$  is related to  $a$ .")

## Graph Rep of Sym Rel:

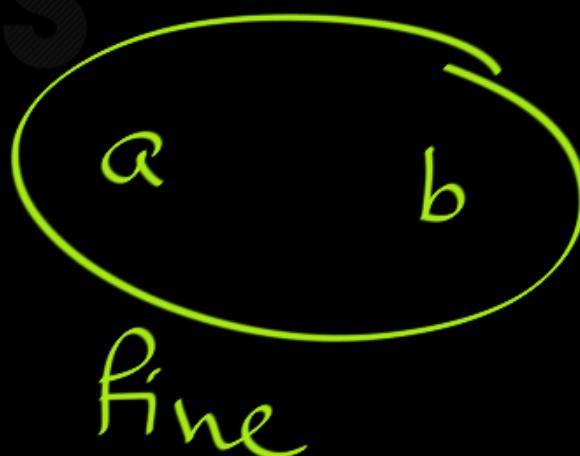
No Unidirectional Edges.



NOT Allowed



fine



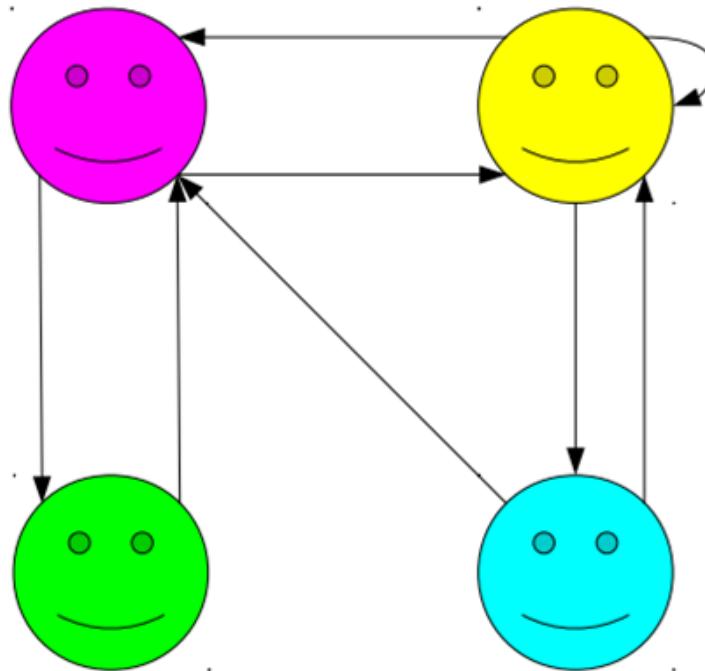
fine



fine

fine

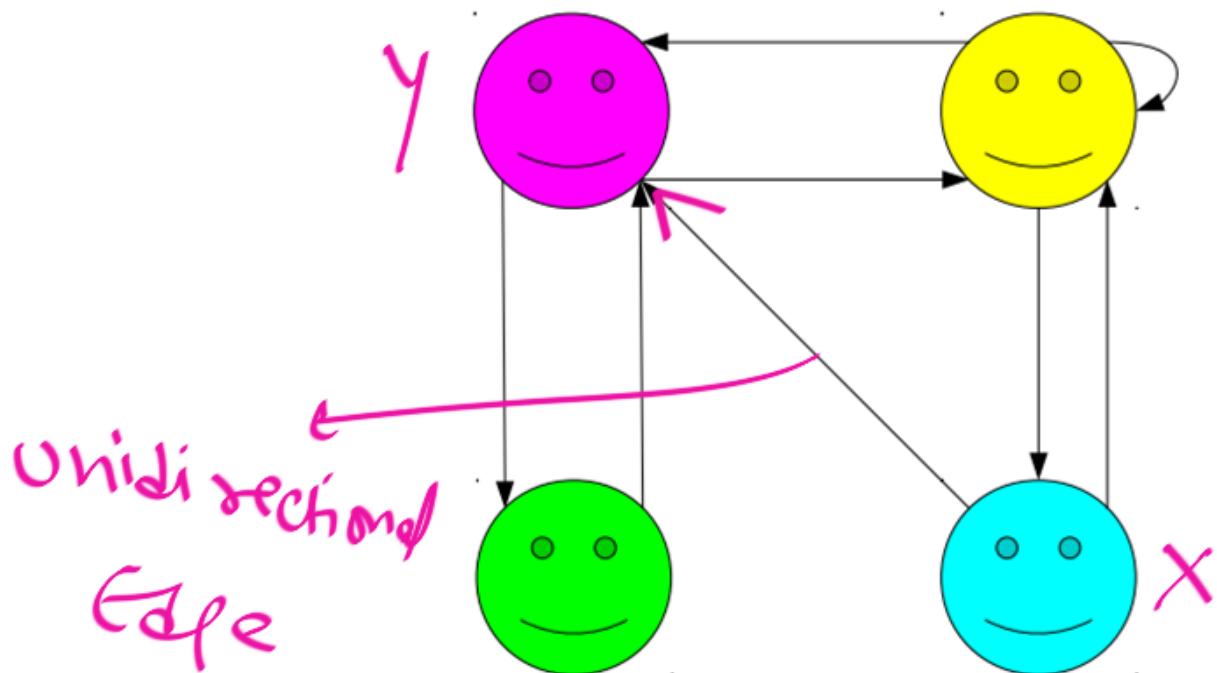
# Is This Relation Symmetric?



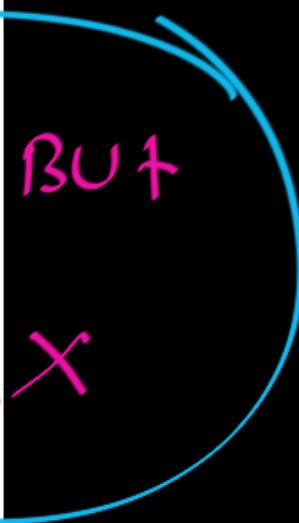
$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$

("If a is related to b, then b is related to a.")

# Is This Relation Symmetric?

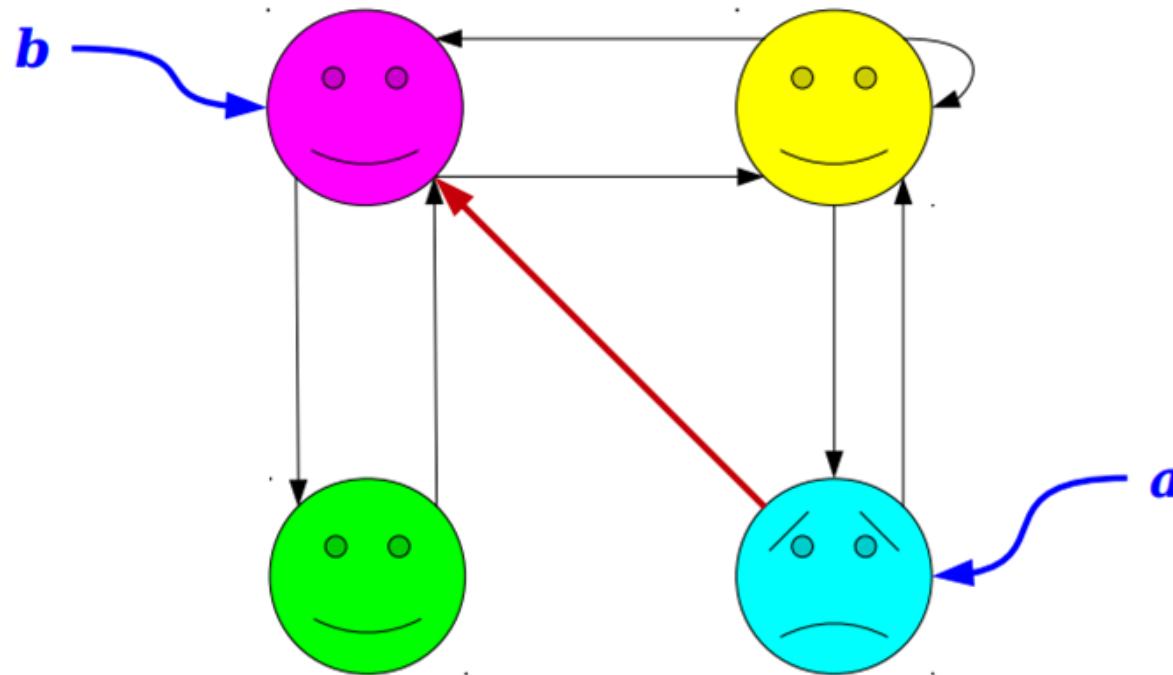


No



$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$   
("If  $a$  is related to  $b$ , then  $b$  is related to  $a$ .)

# Is This Relation Symmetric?



$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$

("If  $a$  is related to  $b$ , then  $b$  is related to  $a$ .)



# "Not Symmetric" Relation:

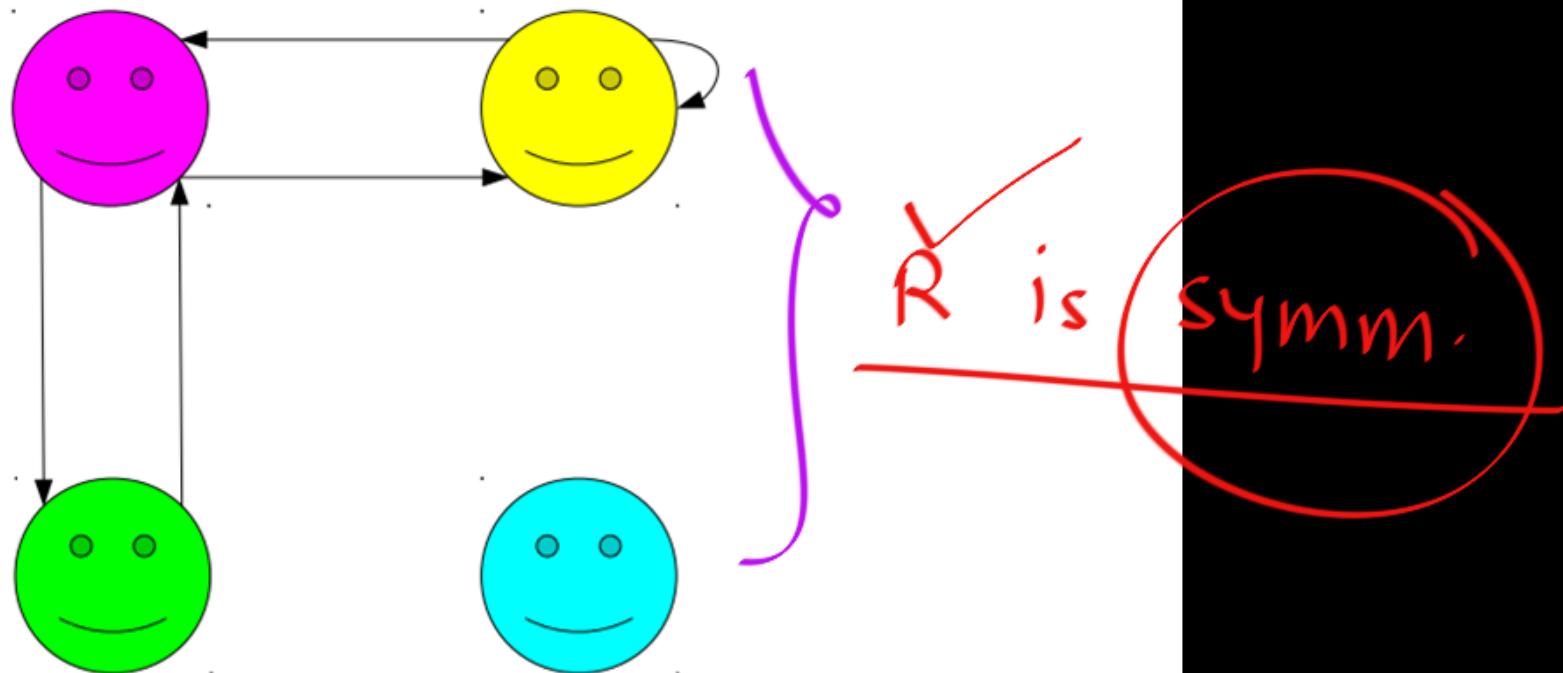
a Rel R on set A , is NOT

Symmetric

iff

$$\exists_{a,b} (aRb \not\Rightarrow bRa)$$

# Graph Rep of Rel R



$\exists a \in A. \exists b \in A. (aRb \wedge bRa)$

("Some  $a$  relates to some  $b$ , but not vice-versa")



# “Anti-Symmetric” Relation:

# “Anti Symmetric” Relation:

for two different elements a, b

$$\boxed{a R b \neq b R a}$$

Should Not happen.

# “Anti Symmetric” Relation:

$R : A \rightarrow A$

$x, y \in A$

where

$x \neq y$

- ①  $x R y$  and  $y R x$  : Allowed
- ②  $x R y$  and  $y R z$  : "
- ③  $x R y$  and  $y R z$  : "
- ④  $x R y$  and  $y R z$  : NOT Allowed

$x R x$   
fine

$x R z$   
fine



Assume, Base Set A ;

For any  $x, y \in A$  (Assume  $x, y$  are different elements):

$x \neq y$

Antisym  
rel.

- $x R y \& y R x$  NOT Allowed
- $x R y \& y R x$  Allowed
- $x R y \& y R x$  Allowed
- $x R y \& y R x$  Allowed
- $x R x$
- $y R y$