



## Set Theory

### Summary Lecture

### Equivalence Relation

### Equivalence Classes

Website : <https://www.goclasses.in/>





Equivalence relations are important throughout mathematics and computer science.

## Equivalence Relations

The properties of relations are sometimes grouped together and given special names. A particularly useful example is the equivalence relation.

### Definitions

A relation that is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive on a set  $S$  is called an **equivalence relation** on  $S$ .



# Equivalence Relations

- Some relations are reflexive, symmetric, and transitive:
  - $x = y$
  - $u \leftrightarrow v$
  - $x \equiv_k y$
- Definition: An **equivalence relation** is a relation that is reflexive, symmetric and transitive.





# Equivalence Relations

A binary relation  $R$  over a set  $A$  is called an **equivalence relation** if it is

- **reflexive**,
- **symmetric**, and
- **transitive**.





“x and y have the  
same color”

“ $x = y$ ”

Same value

“x and y have the  
same shape”

“x and y have the  
same area”

“x and y are  
programs that  
produce the same  
output”



In Eq-Relations, there is some kind of Equality involved.

Eg: Same value  
Same color  
Same remainder when divided by  $m$   
Same shape  
Same length  
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# Informally

An **equivalence relation** is a relation that indicates when objects have some trait in common.

Do not use this definition in proofs!  
It's just an intuition!



Set  $S =$  Set of all Shapes

$R$  on  $S$

$R: S \rightarrow S$

$R \subseteq S \times S$

$R$  on  $S$

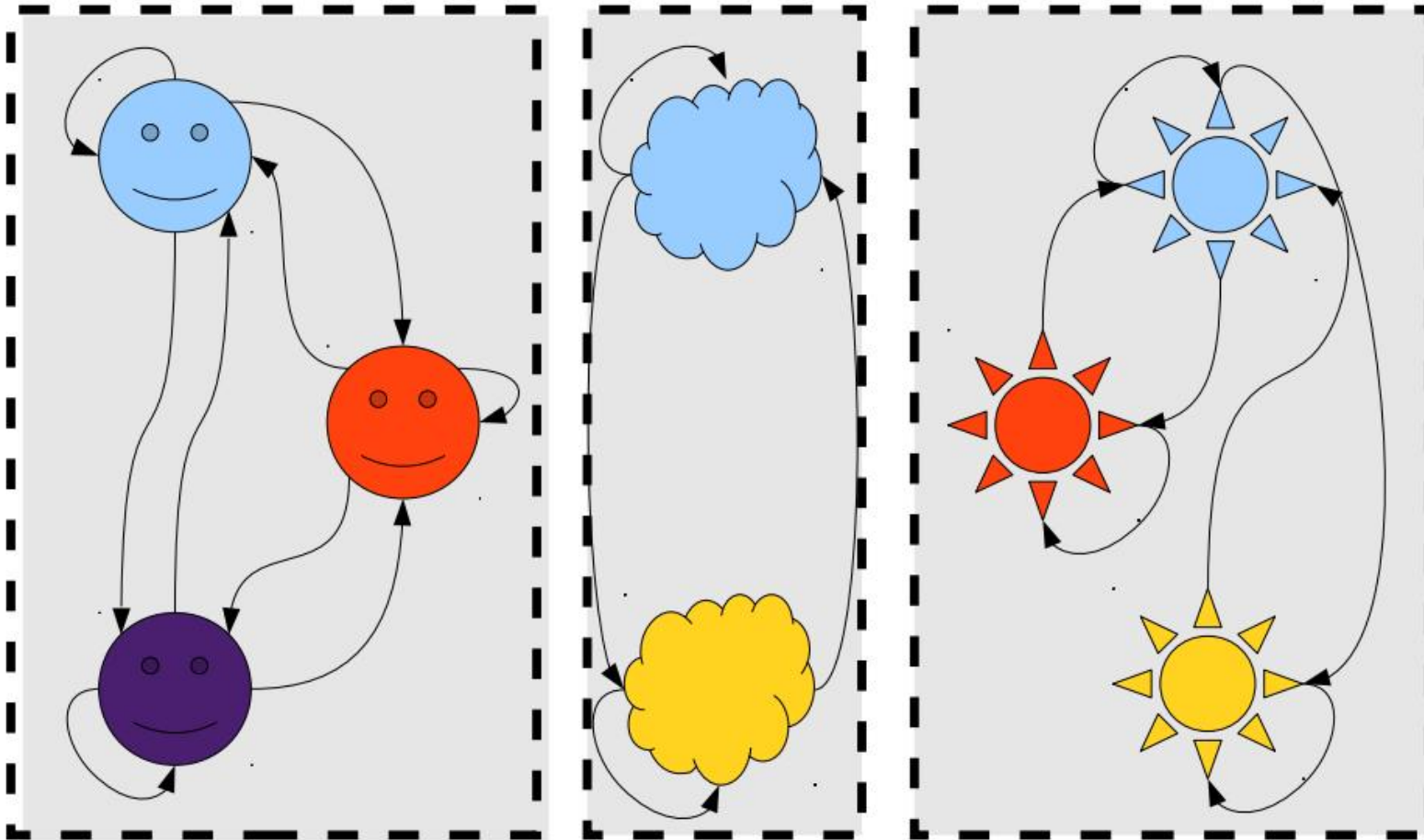
Same

$xRy$  iff  $x, y$

have same  
Shape.

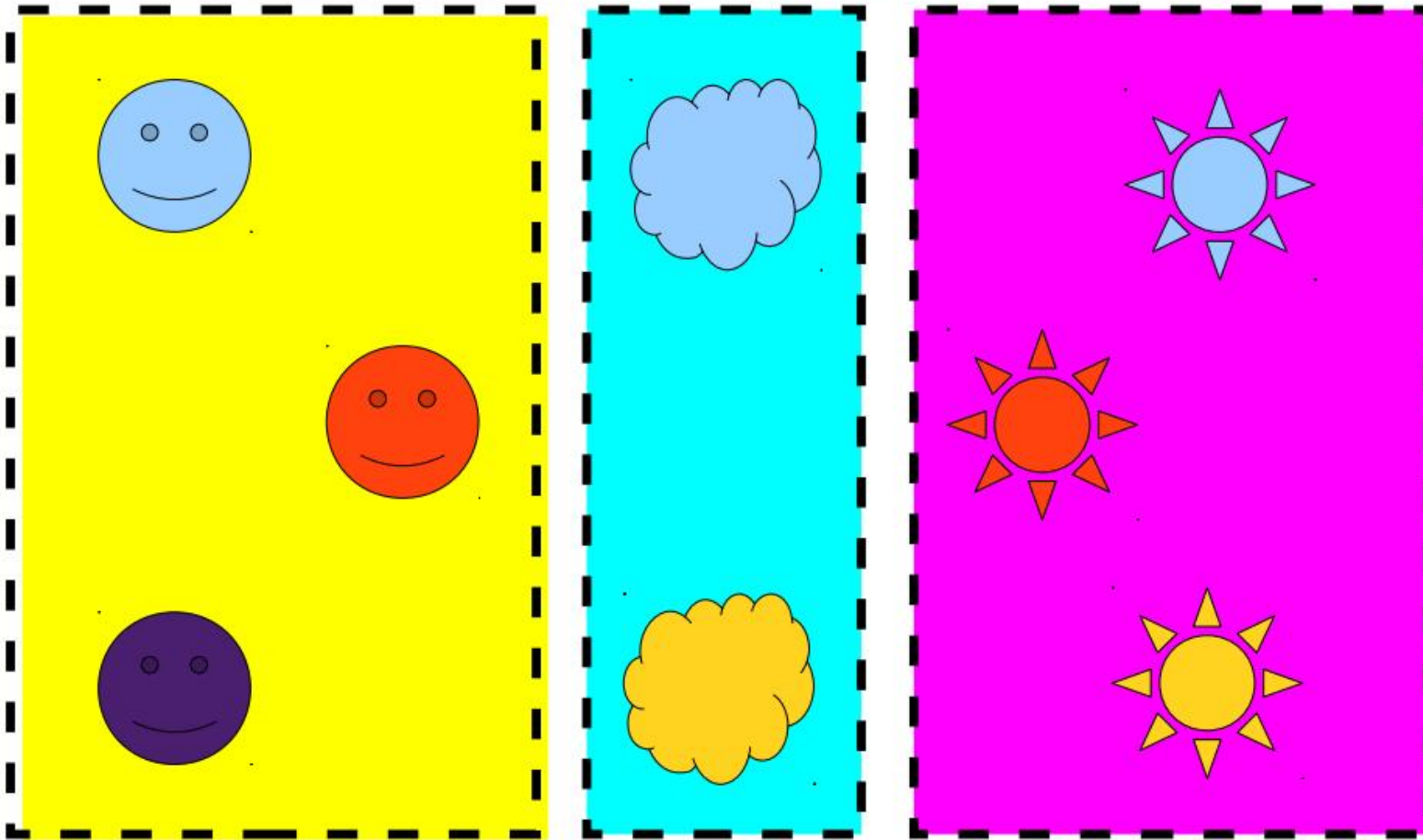






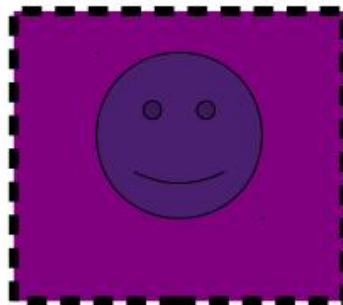
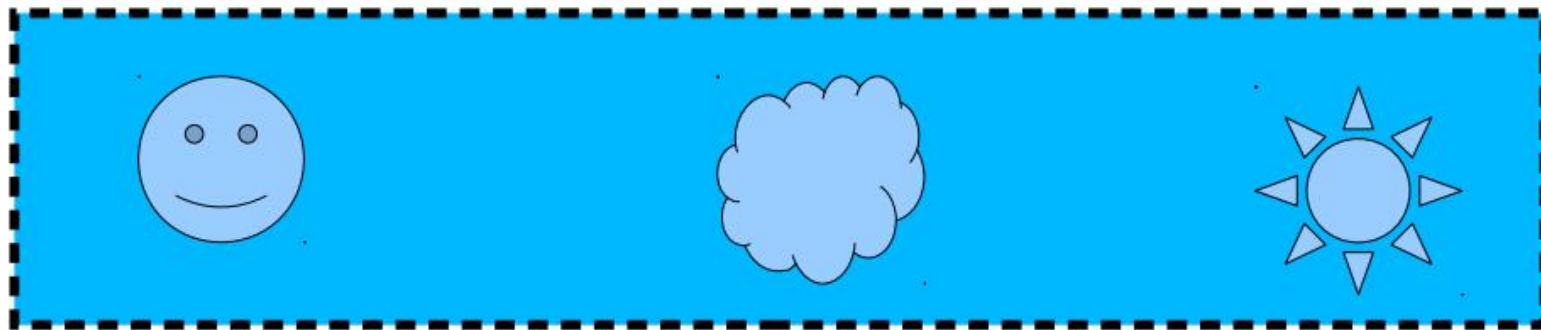
$xRy \equiv x \text{ and } y \text{ have the same shape.}$





$xRy \equiv x \text{ and } y \text{ have the same shape.}$





$xRy \equiv x \text{ and } y \text{ have the same color.}$





Two elements  $a$  and  $b$  that are related by an equivalence relation are called *equivalent*. The notation  $a \sim b$  is often used to denote that  $a$  and  $b$  are equivalent elements with respect to a particular equivalence relation.

$a R b$  then  $a \sim b$   $b \sim a$

$b R a$







## Equivalence Classes

Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$ . The set of all elements that are related to an element  $a$  of  $A$  is called the *equivalence class* of  $a$ . The equivalence class of  $a$  with respect to  $R$  is denoted by  $[a]_R$ . When only one relation is under consideration, we can delete the subscript  $R$  and write  $[a]$  for this equivalence class.

In other words, if  $R$  is an equivalence relation on a set  $A$ , the equivalence class of the element  $a$  is

$$[a]_R = \{s \mid (a, s) \in R\}.$$

If  $b \in [a]_R$ , then  $b$  is called a **representative** of this equivalence class. Any element of a class can be used as a representative of this class. That is, there is nothing special about the particular element chosen as the representative of the class.



Set  $A$

$$a \in A$$

$R$  on  $A$

ER

$$[a]_R = \{y \mid a R y\}$$

Equivalence

Class of  $a$  wrt  $R$



ER  $R$  on  $A$  ;  $a \in A$

$$[a]_R = \{y \mid a R y\} = \{y \mid y R a\}$$

$$[a]_R = \{y \mid a \sim y\} = \{y \mid y \sim a\}$$





Eg 1 :

Is the following relation on  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  an equivalence relations?

If yes, find the equivalence classes.

$R = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$  — Identity Relation

↳ ERL ✓

$$[0]_R = \{y \mid 0 \sim y\} = \{y \mid 0 R y\}$$





$$\begin{aligned} [0]_R &= \{0\} \\ [1]_R &= \{1\} \\ [2]_R &= \{2\} \\ [3]_R &= \{3\} \end{aligned} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} [0]_R &= \{0\} \\ [1]_R &= \{1\} \\ [2]_R &= \{2\} \\ [3]_R &= \{3\} \end{aligned}} \right\} \text{Partition of Base set}$$



Eg 2 :

Is the following relation on  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  an equivalence relations?

If yes, find the equivalence classes.

$R = \{(0, 0), (0, 2), (2, 0), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 2), (3, 3)\}$  — Not Ref

↳ not ER



Eg 3 :

Is the following relation on  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  an equivalence relations?

If yes, find the equivalence classes.

$$R = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$$

Ref; sym;  
Trans

ER ✓

$$[0]_R = \{0\} ; [1]_R = \{1, 2\} = [2]_R$$



$$[3]_R = \{3\}$$

$$= \{0\}$$

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

Partition of  
Base set

part of partition

Eg class





Eg 4 :

Is the following relation on  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  an equivalence relations?

If yes, find the equivalence classes.

$R = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (1, 3), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 1), (3, 2), (3, 3)\}$  *sym, ref,*

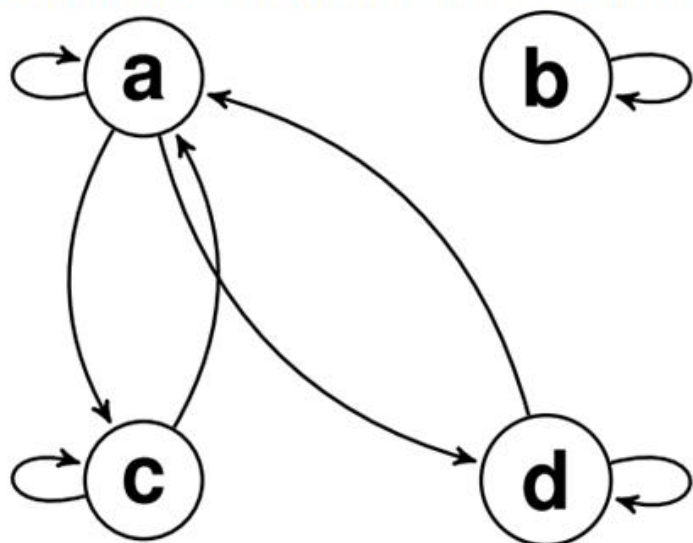


Not Trans

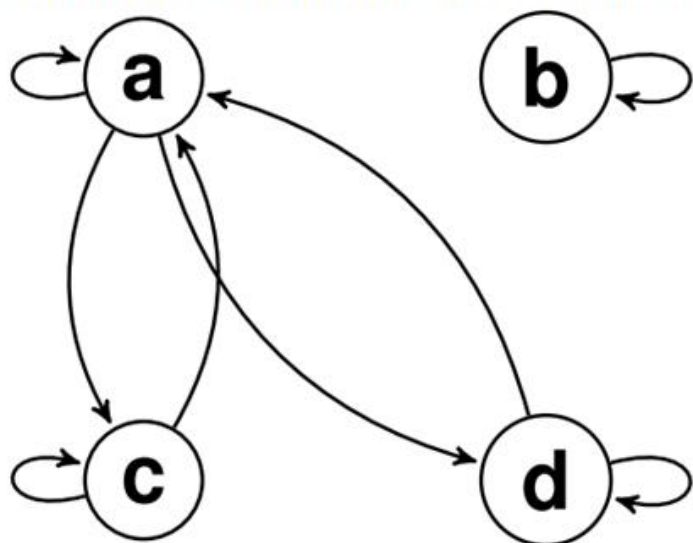
$2R3, 3R1$  But  $2 \not R 1$



Determine whether the relation with the directed graph shown is an equivalence relation.



Determine whether the relation with the directed graph shown is an equivalence relation.

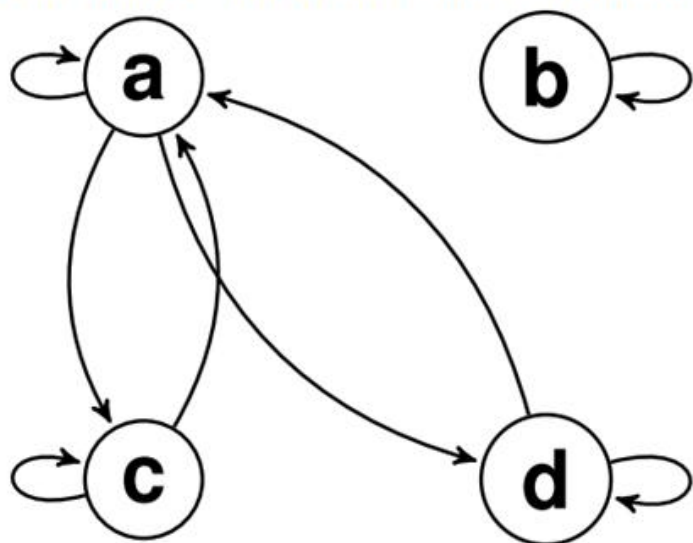


Ref ✓  
Sym ✓  
Trans ✗

$\not\vdash Ra, aRc$  BUT  $\not\vdash Rc$ .



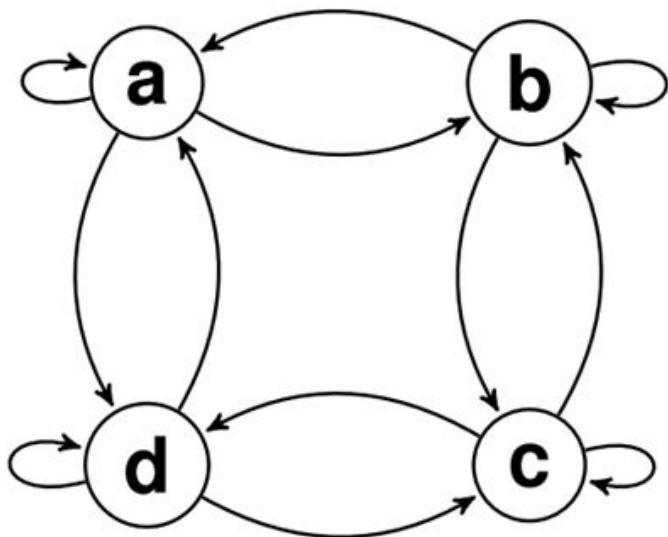
Determine whether the relation with the directed graph shown is an equivalence relation.



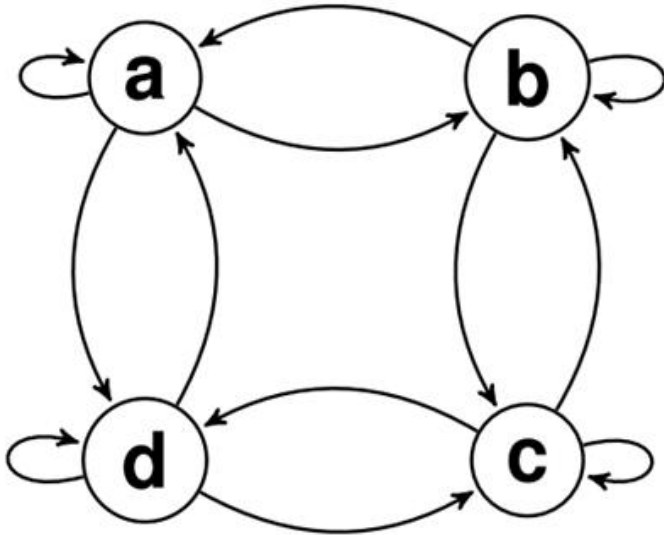
Not an equivalence relation because we are missing the edges  $(c, d)$  and  $(d, c)$  for transitivity.



Determine whether the relation with the directed graph shown is an equivalence relation.



Determine whether the relation with the directed graph shown is an equivalence relation.



Ref ✓

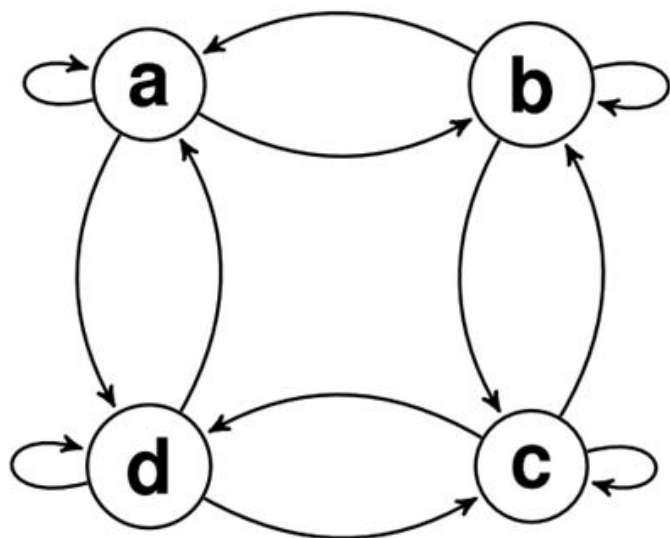
Sym ✓

Trans ✗

$d R c, c R b$  but  $d \not R b$



Determine whether the relation with the directed graph shown is an equivalence relation.



Not an equivalence relation because we are missing the edges  $(a, c)$ ,  $(c, a)$ ,  $(b, d)$ , and  $(d, b)$  for transitivity.

Q1:

Let  $R$  be the relation on the set of integers such that  $aRb$  if and only if  $a = b$  or  $a = -b$ . Is  $R$  an equivalence relation?

$R : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$   $aRb$  iff  $a = b$  or  $a = -b$

$2R2$	$-2R2$
$2R-2$	$-2R-2$

means

$$|a| = |b|$$





$a R b$  iff  $a, b$  have same  
absolute value.

Ref:

$$a R a \quad a = a$$

Sym:

$$|a| = |b| \text{ then } |b| = |a|$$

Trans:

$$|a| = |b| = |c| \rightarrow \underbrace{|a| = |c|}_{a R c}$$

ER



$$[2]_R = \{2, -2\} = [-2]_R$$

$$2 \sim 2, \quad 2 \sim -2 \quad [3]_R = \{3, -3\}$$

$$[0]_R = \{0\}; \quad \text{for any } x \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$[x]_R = \{x, -x\}$$





$$\{0\}$$

$$\{1, -1\}$$

$$\{2, -2\}$$

$$\{3, -3\}$$

⋮

Partition of Base set

↓  
 $\mathbb{Z}$



Q<sub>2</sub>:

Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be the relation on the set of real numbers such that  $a \mathcal{S} b$  if and only if  $a - b$  is an integer. Is  $\mathcal{S}$  an equivalence relation?

Base Set: Real numbers.

$\mathcal{S} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

(1) Ref  $\checkmark$   $a - a = 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$

(2) Sym  $\checkmark$   $a - b \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow b - a \in \mathbb{Z}$

(3) Trans:  $a - b \in \mathbb{Z}, b - c \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow$   
 $a - c \in \mathbb{Z}$





(S) on Reads  
→ (ER)

$$1 \sim 2$$

$$1S \sim$$

$$1 \sim -2$$

$$1S - 2$$

$$[1]_S = \{1, 0, -1, -2, 2, -3, 3, \dots\}$$

$$[1]_S = \mathbb{Z} = [2]_S = [\text{integer}]_S$$





$$[0.5]_5 = \{x \cdot 5 \mid x \text{ is integer}\} = [3 \cdot 5]_5 \\ = [-3 \cdot 5]_5$$



### Q<sub>3</sub> : Congruence Modulo 3

Show that the relation

$$R = \{(a, b) \mid a \equiv b \pmod{3}\}$$

is an equivalence relation on the set of integers.

What are the equivalence classes of 0 and 1 for this relation?

means

a, b have Same  
Remainder when  
Divided by 3.

Recall that :  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $m$  divides  $a - b$ .



$$[0]_R = \{y \mid 0 R y\} = \{y \mid y R 0\}$$

$$[0]_R = \{0, 3, -3, 6, -6, \dots\} = \{3k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$0 \sim 3, \quad 0 \sim 6, \quad 0 \sim -3, \quad 0 \sim 9$$





$$[1]_{\mathbb{Z}} = \{1, 4, 7, -2, -5, \dots\}$$

$$1 \sim 4; 1 \sim 7; 1 \sim 10; 1 \sim -2$$

$$1 \sim 1$$

$$[1]_{\mathbb{Z}} = \{3k + 1 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$[2]_{\mathbb{Z}} = \{2, 5, 8, 11, \dots\} = \{3k+2 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \{3k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ \{3k+1 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ \{3k+2 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \end{array} \right\} \text{Partition of } \mathbb{Z}$$

