

For a relation  $R$  on a set  $X$  and  $x, y \in X$  we have the following definitions:

- An  $R$ -walk from  $x$  to  $y$  is a list of elements  $(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k)$  of elements in  $X$  with  $x = a_0$  and  $y = a_k$  so that for  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ ,  $a_{i-1}Ra_i$  ( $k$  is allowed to be 0, so a list consisting could be  $(a_0)$ .)
- An  $R$ -walk  $a_0, \dots, a_k$  is an  $R$ -path if all of the elements appearing are distinct.
- We say  $y$  is  $R$ -reachable from  $x$ , denoted  $x \longrightarrow_R y$  if there is an  $R$ -walk from  $x$  to  $y$ .
- The  $R$ -reachability relation,  $R^\rightarrow$  is the relation on  $X$  whose pair set is all  $(x, y)$  such that  $x \longrightarrow_R y$ .

1. For all relations  $R$  on  $X$  and  $x, y \in X$ , if  $x \longrightarrow_R y$  then there is an  $R$ -path to from  $x$  to  $y$ .

Suppose for arbitrary  $x, y \in X$  that  $x \longrightarrow_R y$ . We want to show that there exist an  $R$ -path from  $x$  to  $y$ . By definition of  $\longrightarrow_R$  there exist an  $R$ -walk from  $x$  to  $y$ . Therefore by the definition of  $R$ -path, we must show that there exist an  $R$ -walk from  $x$  to  $y$  with a list of unique elements in  $X$ . Assume the  $R$ -walk is not a list of distinct elements. Therefore there exist at least one element  $a_d$  that appears in the list  $(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k)$  more than once. Suppose that  $a_d$  has occurrences at indices  $i$  and  $j$ . Therefore the  $R$ -walk can be written as  $(a_0, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_d, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_{j-1}, a_d, a_{j+1}, \dots, a_k)$ . By definition of  $R$ -walk,  $a_dRa_{i+1}$  and  $a_{j-1}Ra_d$ . Therefore if you removed all of the elements from index  $i + 1$  to index  $j$  from the list, it would still satisfy the definition of being an  $R$ -walk as the chain of relations from  $x$  to  $y$  is unbroken. Since the list  $(a_0, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_d, a_{j+1}, \dots, a_k)$  consist of entirely unique elements, and has already been established as an  $R$ -walk, then by definition it is an  $R$ -path.

2. For all relations  $R$ ,  $R^\rightarrow$  is transitive and reflexive.

- Suppose that the relation  $R$  has a subset that is an  $R$ -reachability relation. We want to show that  $R^\rightarrow$  is transitive. By definition of  $R$ -reachability we have  $x, y, z \in R^\rightarrow$ , where  $x \longrightarrow_R y$  and  $y \longrightarrow_R z$ . By definition of transitivity we must show for all  $x, y, z \in R^\rightarrow$  that if  $x \longrightarrow_R y$  and  $y \longrightarrow_R z$  then  $x \longrightarrow_R z$ . By definition of  $R$ -walk there exist lists  $(a_0, \dots, a_k)$  and  $(b_0, \dots, b_l)$  where  $a_0 = x, a_k = b_0 = y, b_l = z$  in which each element is related to the next. Therefore  $a_{k-1}Ra_k$  and  $yRb_0$ . Thus the list taken by removing  $b_0$  from the second list and concatenating with the first list  $(a_0, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k, b_1, \dots, b_l)$  satisfies the definition of  $R$ -walk, as every single pair of successive elements is related. Therefore  $x \longrightarrow_R z$ .
- Suppose that the relation  $R$  has a subset that is an  $R$ -reachability relation. We want to show that  $R^\rightarrow$  is reflexive. By definition we want to show that for all  $x \in X$ ,  $(x, x) \in R^\rightarrow$ . Therefore by definition of  $R^\rightarrow$  we must show that for all  $x \in X$ ,  $x \longrightarrow_R x$ . Suppose  $x$  is an element of  $X$ . By definition of the  $R$ -reachability relation, it contains all pairs from  $(x, y) \in X^2$  for which  $x \longrightarrow_R y$ . By definition of  $R$ -walk, an  $R$ -walk consisting of the list  $(x)$  constitutes a valid  $R$ -walk. Since the first and last element are both the same, then by definition  $xRx$ . Therefore  $R$ -reachability is reflexive.