



Lecture 17: Relations

Jingjin Yu | Computer Science @ Rutgers



RUTGERS
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Outline

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- ▶ Lecture 16 review
- ▶ Relations
 - ▷ Examples & overview
 - ▷ Definition of binary relation
 - ▷ Relations on a set
 - ❑ Reflexivity
 - ❑ Symmetry and antisymmetry
 - ❑ Transitivity
 - ❑ One more example
- ▶ A repeating note: **make sure you read the textbook**



L16: Recursive Definitions: Intuition

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Picture source: <https://engineering.tripping.com/building-an-recursive-nested-dropdown-component-in-react-b1c883e06ac4>

- ▶ Sometimes, it is difficult to define certain things explicitly
- ▶ A better way may be recursive or inductive:
 - ▷ Define a “base case” (iteration 1)
 - ▷ Define iteration $k + 1$ based on iteration k

L16: Recursive Definitions

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- ▶ Specifying a recursive definition $f(n)$, $n \geq 0$
 - ▷ (1) Basis step: specify $f(0)$
 - ▷ (2) Specify $f(n + 1)$ in terms of $f(n)$

- ▶ **Ex:** $f(0) = 1, f(n + 1) = 2f(n)$

- ▶ Variation:
 - ▷ (1) Basis step: specify $f(0), f(1), \dots, f(k)$ for some $k \geq 1$
 - ▷ (2) Specify $f(n + 1)$ in terms of $f(n - k), \dots, f(n)$

- ▶ **Ex:** $f(0) = 0, f(1) = 1, f(n + 1) = f(n) + f(n - 1)$.
 - ▷ This is the famous Fibonacci sequence



Relations: Example and Overview

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► Relations are everywhere

TABLE 2 GPAs.	
<i>Student_name</i>	<i>GPA</i>
Ackermann	3.88
Adams	3.45
Chou	3.49
Goodfriend	3.45
Rao	3.90
Stevens	2.99

TABLE 4 Majors.	
<i>Student</i>	<i>Major</i>
Glauser	Biology
Marcus	Mathematics
Miller	Computer Science

TABLE 7 Teaching_schedule.				
<i>Professor</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Course_number</i>	<i>Room</i>	<i>Time</i>
Cruz	Zoology	335	A100	9:00 A.M.
Cruz	Zoology	412	A100	8:00 A.M.
Farber	Psychology	501	A100	3:00 P.M.
Farber	Psychology	617	A110	11:00 A.M.
Grammer	Physics	544	B505	4:00 P.M.
Rosen	Computer Science	518	N521	2:00 P.M.
Rosen	Mathematics	575	N502	3:00 P.M.

TABLE 1 Students.			
<i>Student_name</i>	<i>ID_number</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>GPA</i>
Ackermann	231455	Computer Science	3.88
Adams	888323	Physics	3.45
Chou	102147	Computer Science	3.49
Goodfriend	453876	Mathematics	3.45
Rao	678543	Mathematics	3.90
Stevens	786576	Psychology	2.99

TABLE 8 Flights.				
<i>Airline</i>	<i>Flight_number</i>	<i>Gate</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Departure_time</i>
Nadir	122	34	Detroit	08:10
Acme	221	22	Denver	08:17
Acme	122	33	Anchorage	08:22
Acme	323	34	Honolulu	08:30
Nadir	199	13	Detroit	08:47
Acme	222	22	Denver	09:10
Nadir	322	34	Detroit	09:44

Binary relation

Relations: Example and Overview

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- ▶ Equivalence classes
- ▶ Types of relations on a set

- ▶ Transitivity

- ▶ Symmetric

- ▶ Anti-symmetric

- ▶ Reflexive

$$(a, b) \wedge (b, c) \rightarrow (a, c)$$
$$(a, b) \leftrightarrow (b, a)$$

$$(a, b) \wedge (b, a) \rightarrow a = b$$

$$A, \quad a \in A \quad (a, a)$$

Binary Relation

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► Some examples of binary relations

▷ A person and their address

(p, u)

▷ A person and their phone number

(p, r)

▷ Integers a and b , whether $a \mid b$

$a \mid b \iff b = a \cdot r \quad |r| \geq 1$

▷ A function, x and $f(x)$

$(x, f(x))$

► **Defⁿ**: Let A and B be sets. A **binary relation** from A to B is a subset of $A \times B$.

$= \{(a, b) \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$

► Notation: Notation. $R \subseteq A \times B$ is a set of relations. E.g.

aRb means $(a, b) \in R$. This reads a is related to b by R .

$a \not R b$ means $(a, b) \notin R$. Sometimes relation is also written as $a \sim b$.

$\rightarrow (a, b) \notin R \quad \checkmark$

Binary Relation: Formal Examples

Induction memo

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- **Ex:** A : students, B : courses

$R \subseteq A \times B$

(Shane 1520)

(s_1, c_1)
 (s_1, c_2)
 (s_1, c_3)
 (s_1, c_4)

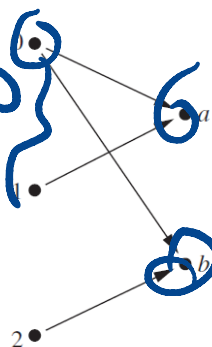
- **Ex:** A : US cities, B : US states

$R \subseteq A \times B$

$(a, b) \in R$ a is a city in state b

- **Ex:** $A = \{0; 1; 2\}; B = \{a; b\}, R = \{(0, a), (0, b), (1, a), (2, b)\}$.

$R \subseteq A \times B$ $A \times B = \{(0, a), (0, b), (1, a), (1, b), (2, a), (2, b)\}$



R	a	b
0	×	×
1	×	
2		×

Binary Relations on a Set

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- ▶ **Defⁿ**: A (binary) relation R on a set A is a relation from $A \rightarrow A$.
- ▶ **Ex**: A : students, R : “classmates”

- ▶ If $|A| = n$, how many possible relations R ?

- ▶ Total # pairs: n^2

- ▣ E.g., $A = \{1, 2\}$, pairs $P = \{(1,1), (1,2), (2,1), (2,2)\}$

- ▶ Any subset of P defines a relation, so total of 2^{n^2}

- ▶ Types of binary relations on a set

- ▶ Reflexive
- ▶ Symmetric, antisymmetric
- ▶ Transitive

$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $P = \{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (2,1), (2,2), (2,3), (3,1), (3,2), (3,3)\}$

Reflexivity

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- ▶ **Defⁿ:** A relation R on A is reflexive if $(a, a) \in R$ for all $a \in A$
- ▶ **Ex:** A : cities, R : “road between”
- ▶ **Ex:** $A = \{1\}$, $R = \{(1,1)\}$. Reflexive?
- ▶ **Ex:** $A = \{1,2\}$, $R = \{(1,1)\}$. Reflexive?

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

$$R_1 = \{(\underline{1}, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (\underline{2}, 2), (3, 4), (4, 1), (\underline{4}, 4)\}, \quad \text{Handwritten: } \{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4)\}$$

$$R_2 = \{(\underline{1}, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1)\}, \quad \text{Handwritten: } \checkmark$$

$$R_3 = \{(\underline{1}, 1), (1, 2), (1, 4), (2, 1), (\underline{2}, 2), (3, 3), (4, 1), (\underline{4}, 4)\}, \quad \text{Handwritten: } \checkmark$$

$$R_4 = \{(2, 1), (3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 1), (4, 2), (\underline{4}, 3)\}, \quad \text{Handwritten: } \checkmark$$

$$R_5 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (\underline{2}, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (\underline{3}, 3), (\underline{3}, 4), (\underline{4}, 4)\}, \quad \text{Handwritten: } \checkmark$$

$$R_6 = \{(\underline{3}, 4)\}. \quad \text{Handwritten: } \times$$

Which of these relations are reflexive?

Reflexivity, Cont.

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Consider these relations on the set of integers:

$$R_1 = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\},$$

Yes. Because $a \leq a$ **always** holds!

$$R_2 = \{(a, b) \mid a > b\},$$

No. Because $a > a$ does not hold, $(a, a) \notin R$

$$R_3 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b \text{ or } a = -b\},$$

Yes. Because $a = a$ **always** holds!

$$R_4 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b\},$$

Yes. Because $a = a$ **always** holds!

$$R_5 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b + 1\},$$

No. Because $a = a + 1$ does not hold

$$R_6 = \{(a, b) \mid a + b \leq 3\}.$$

No. Because $a + a \leq 3$ does not always hold

Which of these relations are reflexive?

To check, we replace b with a and see whether $(a, a) \in R$ is true



Symmetry and Antisymmetry

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- ▶ **Defⁿ:** A relation R on A is symmetric if $(a, b) \in R \leftrightarrow (b, a) \in R$ for all $a, b \in A$
 - ▷ Equivalently, R symmetric $\Leftrightarrow \forall a \forall b ((a, b) \in R \leftrightarrow (b, a) \in R)$.
- ▶ **Defⁿ:** A relation R on A is antisymmetric if $(a, b) \in R$ and $(b, a) \in R$ implies $a = b$ for $a, b \in A$
 - ▷ Equivalently, R antisymmetric $\Leftrightarrow \forall a \forall b (((a, b) \in R) \wedge ((b, a) \in R)) \rightarrow (a = b)$
 - ▷ Same as $\forall a \forall b (((a \neq b) \wedge (a, b) \in R) \rightarrow (b, a) \notin R)$.
- ▶ A set can be both!
 - ▷ **Ex:** $A = \{1, 2\}, R = \{(1, 1)\}$. Symmetric? Antisymmetric?



Symmetry and Antisymmetry, Cont.

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

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

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

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

$$R_4 = \{(2, 1), (3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 1), (4, 2), (4, 3)\},$$

$$R_5 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (3, 3), (3, 4), (4, 4)\},$$

$$R_6 = \{(3, 4)\}.$$

Which of the relations are symmetric and which are antisymmetric?

To check, you look at every element and see whether the flipped one is also in there.

R_1 : No. $(3, 4) \in R_1$ but $(4, 3) \notin R_1$

R_2 : Yes.

R_3 : Yes.

R_4 : No. $(2, 1) \in R_4$ but $(1, 2) \notin R_4$

R_5 : No. $(1, 2) \in R_5$ but $(2, 1) \notin R_5$

R_6 : No. $(3, 4) \in R_6$ but $(4, 3) \notin R_6$



Symmetry and Antisymmetry, Cont.

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

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

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

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

$$R_4 = \{(2, 1), (3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 1), (4, 2), (4, 3)\},$$

$$R_5 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (3, 3), (3, 4), (4, 4)\},$$

$$R_6 = \{(3, 4)\}.$$

Which of the relations are symmetric and which are antisymmetric?

To check, if $a \neq b$, then we cannot have both (a, b) and (b, a)

R_1 : No. Has both $(1, 2)$ and $(2, 1)$

R_2 : No. Has both $(1, 2)$ and $(2, 1)$

R_3 : No. Has both $(1, 2)$ and $(2, 1)$

R_4 : Yes. In this case, for all (a, b) pairs where $a \neq b$, $a > b$

R_5 : Yes. In this case, for all (a, b) pairs where $a \neq b$, $a < b$

R_6 : Yes.



Symmetry and Antisymmetry, Cont.

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Consider these relations on the set of integers:

$$\begin{aligned} R_1 &= \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\}, & \text{X} \\ R_2 &= \{(a, b) \mid a > b\}, & \text{X} \\ R_3 &= \{(a, b) \mid a = b \text{ or } a = -b\}, & \checkmark \\ R_4 &= \{(a, b) \mid a = b\}, & \checkmark \\ R_5 &= \{(a, b) \mid a = b + 1\}, & \text{X} \\ R_6 &= \{(a, b) \mid a + b \leq 3\}. & \text{X} \end{aligned}$$

Which of the relations are symmetric and which are antisymmetric?

To check, see whether the condition holds when a, b are flipped

R_1 : No. $a \leq b$ does not imply $b \leq a$

R_2 : No. $a > b$ does not imply $b > a$

R_3 : Yes.

R_4 : Yes.

R_5 : No. $a = b + 1$ does not imply $b = a + 1$

R_6 : Yes. $a + b \leq 3 \leftrightarrow b + a \leq 3$



Symmetry and Antisymmetry, Cont.

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Consider these relations on the set of integers:

$$R_1 = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\},$$

$$R_2 = \{(a, b) \mid a > b\},$$

$$R_3 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b \text{ or } a = -b\},$$

$$R_4 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b\},$$

$$R_5 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b + 1\},$$

$$R_6 = \{(a, b) \mid a + b \leq 3\}.$$

Which of the relations are symmetric and which are antisymmetric?

To check, if $a \neq b$, then we cannot have both (a, b) and (b, a)

R_1 : Yes. When $a \neq b$, $a < b$

R_2 : Yes. When $a \neq b$, $a > b$

R_3 : No. When $a \neq b$, it's possible that $a = -b$, e.g., $(1, -1) \in R_3$

R_4 : Yes. $a \neq b$ is false, so it trivially holds

R_5 : Yes. When $a \neq b$, $a = b + 1 > b$

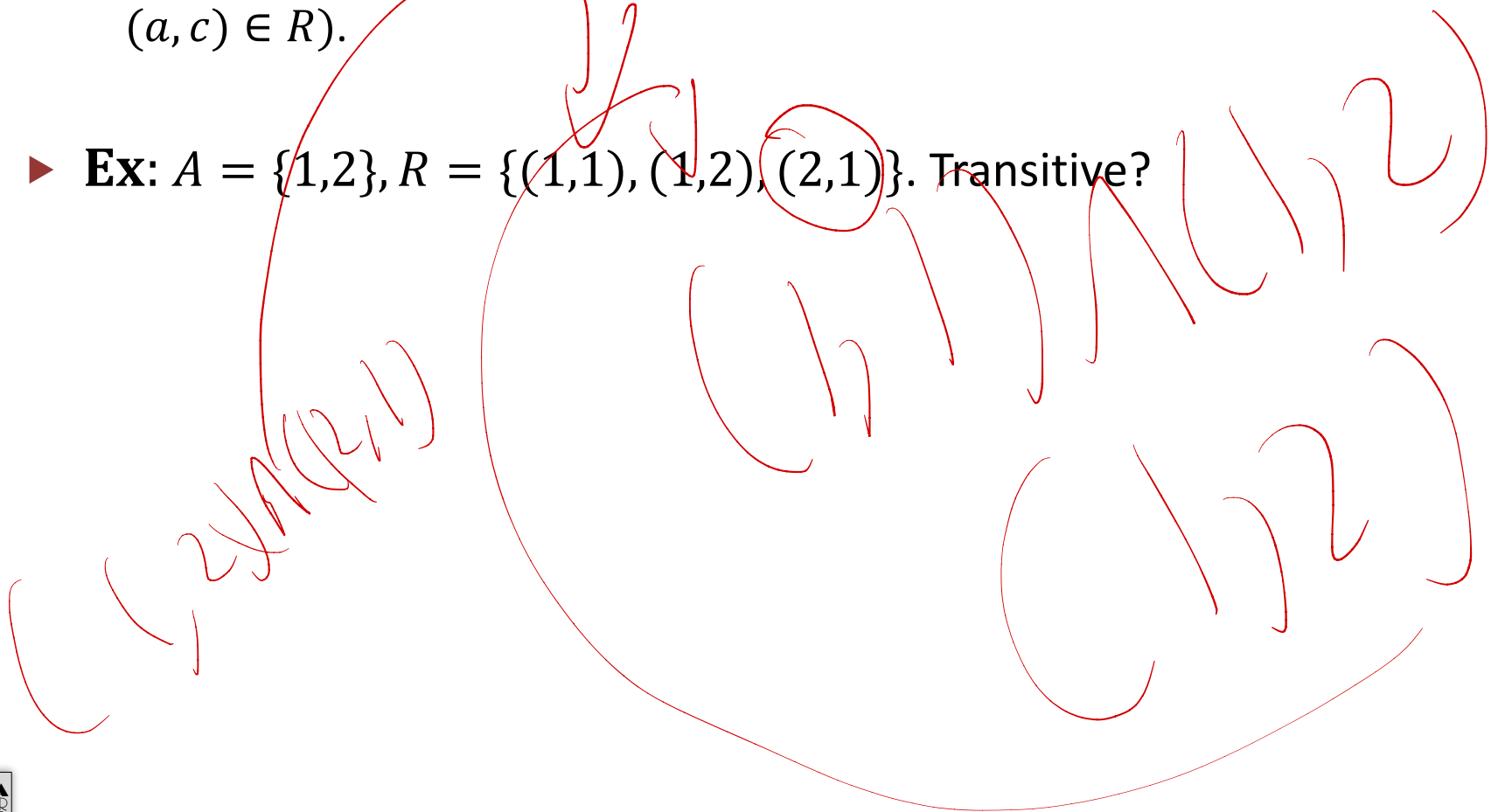
R_6 : No. E.g., $(1, 2) \in R_6$ and $(2, 1) \in R_6$



Transitivity

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- ▶ **Defⁿ:** A relation R on A is transitive if $(a, b) \in R$ and $(b, c) \in R$ implies that $(a, c) \in R$
 - ▷ Equivalently, R transitive $\Leftrightarrow \forall a, b, c ((a, b) \in R \wedge (b, c) \in R) \rightarrow (a, c) \in R$.
- ▶ **Ex:** $A = \{1, 2\}, R = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1)\}$. Transitive?



Transitivity, Cont.

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

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

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

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

$$R_4 = \{(2, 1), (3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 1), (4, 2), (4, 3)\},$$

$$R_5 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (3, 3), (3, 4), (4, 4)\},$$

$$R_6 = \{(3, 4)\}$$

Which of these relations are transitive?

To check, for each $(a, b) \in R \wedge (b, c) \in R$, check that $(a, c) \in R$

R_1 : No. $\overset{a}{1}\overset{b}{2} \in R, \overset{b}{2}\overset{c}{1} \in R$, but $\overset{a}{1}\overset{c}{1} \notin R$

R_2 : No. $(2, 1) \in R, (1, 2) \in R$, but $(2, 2) \notin R$

R_3 : No. $(2, 1) \in R, (1, 4) \in R$, but $(2, 4) \notin R$

R_4 : Yes. All decreasing pairs, i.e., $a > b$

R_5 : Yes. All non-decreasing pairs, i.e., $a \leq b$

R_6 : Yes. Trivially holds

Transitivity, Cont.

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Consider these relations on the set of integers:

$$R_1 = \{(a, b) \mid a \leq b\},$$

$$R_2 = \{(a, b) \mid a > b\},$$

$$R_3 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b \text{ or } a = -b\},$$

$$R_4 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b\},$$

$$R_5 = \{(a, b) \mid a = b + 1\},$$

$$R_6 = \{(a, b) \mid a + b \leq 3\}.$$

Which of these relations are transitive?

Check directly whether the relation is transitive

R_1 : Yes. $a \leq b \wedge b \leq c \rightarrow a \leq c$

R_2 : Yes. $a > b \wedge b > c \rightarrow a > c$

R_3 : Yes. 4 possibilities, $a = b \wedge b = c \rightarrow a = c$, $a = b \wedge b = -c \rightarrow a = -c$, ...

R_4 : Yes. $a = b \wedge b = c \rightarrow a = c$

R_5 : No. Counterexample: $a = 2, b = 1, c = 0$. $a = b + 1, b = c + 1, a \neq c + 1$

R_6 : No. $a = c = 3, b = 0$. $a + b \leq 3, b + c \leq 3, a + c > 3$



One More Example

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- Is the “divides” relation reflexive, symmetric, antisymmetric, transitive on positive integers?

✓ Reflexive $(a,a) \in R$ for all $a \in A$ $a|a$

✗ Symmetric $a|b \not\Rightarrow b|a$

✓ Antisymmetric $(a,b) \wedge (b,a) \rightarrow a=b$

✓ Transitive $(a|b) \wedge (b|c) \rightarrow a|c$

$(a|b) \wedge (b|a) \rightarrow a=b$
 $a \leq b \quad b \leq a$

- Note: what if we use integers instead of positive integers?

