Partial orders, Lattices, etc.

In our context…

- We aim at computing properties on programs
- How can we represent these properties? Which kind of algebraic features have to be satisfied on these representations?
- Which conditions guarantee that this computation terminates?

Motivating Example (1)

- Consider the renovation of the building of a firm.
  In this process several tasks are undertaken
  - Remove asbestos
  - Replace windows
  - Paint walls
  - Refinish floors
  - Assign offices
  - Move in office furniture
  - …

Motivating Example (2)

- Clearly, some things had to be done before others could begin
  - Asbestos had to be removed before anything (except assigning offices)
  - Painting walls had to be done before refinishing floors to avoid ruining them, etc.
- On the other hand, several things could be done concurrently:
  - Painting could be done while replacing the windows
  - Assigning offices could be done at anytime before moving in office furniture
- This scenario can be nicely modeled using <u>partial orderings</u>

Partial Orderings: Definitions

- **Definitions**:
  - A relation *R* on a set *S* is called a partial order if it is
    - Reflexive
    - Antisymmetric
    - Transitive
  - A set S together with a partial ordering R is called a partially ordered set (poset, for short) and is denote (*S*,*R*)
- Partial orderings are used to give an order to sets that may not have a natural one
- In our renovation example, we could define an ordering such that $(a,b) \in R$ if 'a must be done before b can be done'

Partial Orderings: Notation

- We use the notation:
  - a $\prec$ b, when (a,b)$\in R$
  - a $\not\prec$ b, when (a,b)$\in R$ and a$\neq$b
- The notation $\prec$ is not to be mistaken for "less than" ($\prec$ versus ≤)
- The notation $\prec$ is used to denote <u>any</u> partial ordering

Comparability: Definition

- **Definition**:
  - The elements a and b of a poset $(S, \prec)$ are called <u>comparable</u> if either $a \prec b$ or $b \prec a$.
  - When for $a,b \in S$, we have neither $a \prec b$ nor $b \prec a$, we say that a,b are <u>incomparable</u>
- Consider again our renovation example
  - Remove Asbestos $\prec a_i$ for all activities a_i except assign offices
  - Paint walls $\prec$ Refinish floors
  - Some tasks are incomparable: Replacing windows can be done before, after, or during the assignment of offices

Total orders: Definition

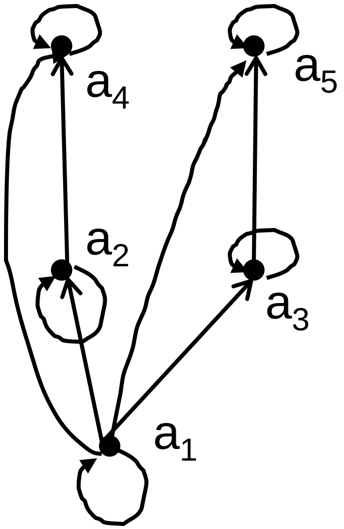
- **Definition**:
  - If (S,$\prec$) is a poset and every two elements of S are comparable, S is called a totally ordered set.
  - The relation $\prec$ is said to be a total order
- Example
  - The relation “less than or equal to” over the set of integers ($\mathbb{Z}$, $\leq$) since for every a,b$\in\mathbb{Z}$, it must be the case that a$\leq$b or b$\leq$a
  - What happens if we replace $\leq$ with <?

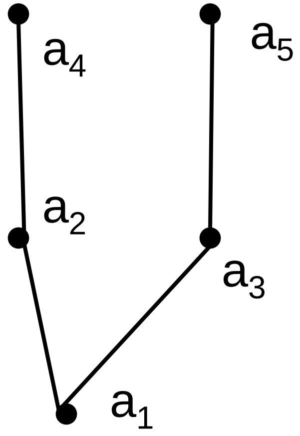
The relation < is not reflexive, and ($\mathbb{Z}$,<) is not a poset

Hasse Diagrams

- Like relations and functions, partial orders have a convenient graphical representation: Hasse Diagrams
  - Consider the digraph representation of a partial order
  - Because we are dealing with a partial order, we know that the relation must be reflexive and transitive
  - Thus, we can simplify the graph as follows
    - Remove all self loops
    - Remove all transitive edges
    - Remove directions on edges assuming that they are oriented upwards
  - The resulting diagram is far simpler

Hasse Diagram: Example

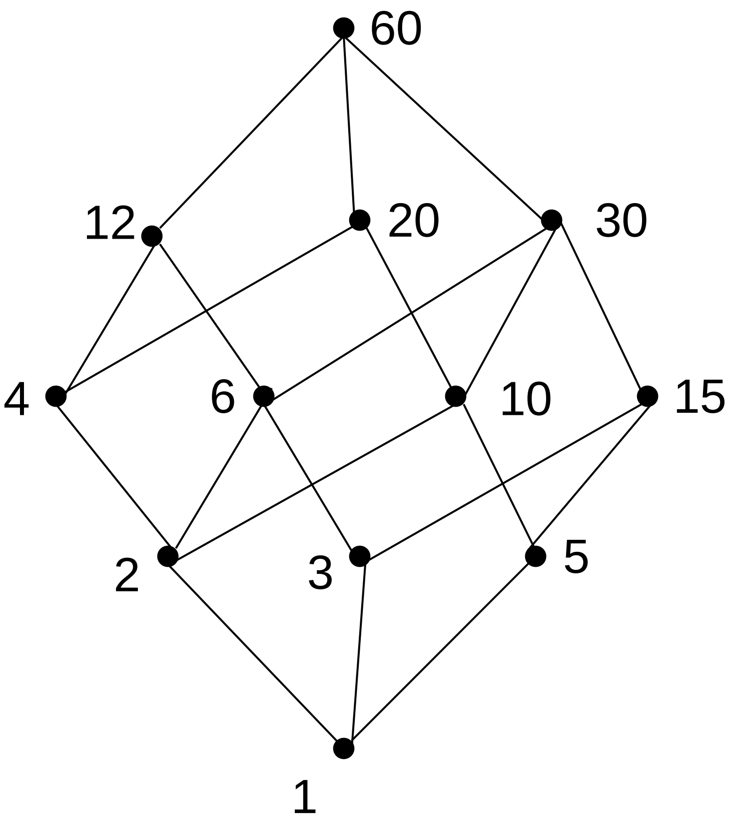




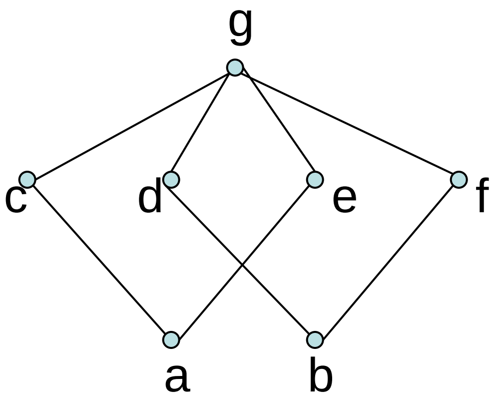
Hasse Diagrams: Example (1)

- Of course, you need not always start with the complete relation in the partial order and then trim everything.
- Rather, you can build a Hasse Diagram directly from the partial order
- Example: Draw the Hasse Diagram
  - for the following partial ordering: {(a,b) | a|b }
  - on the set {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30, 60}
  - (these are the divisors of 60 which form the basis of the ancient Babylonian base-60 numeral system)

Hasse Diagram: Example (2)



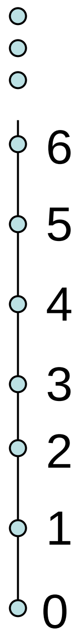
Example



- L= {a,b,c,d,e,f,g}
- $\prec$ ={(a,c), (a,e), (b,d), (b,f), (c,g), (d,g), (e,g), (f,g)}^{RT}

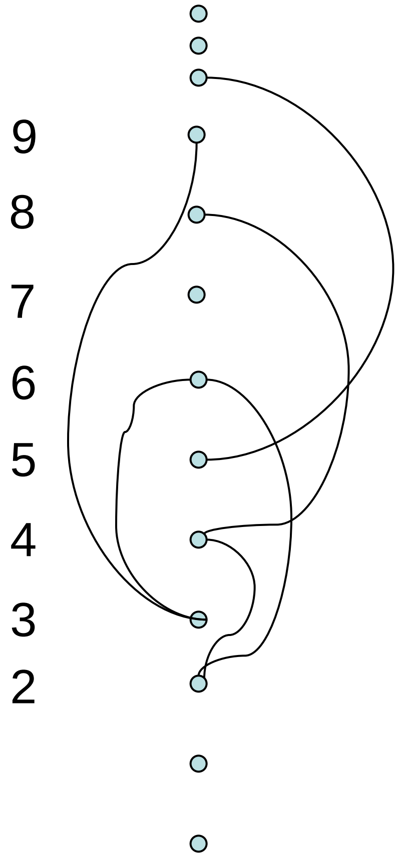
- (L, $\prec$) is a partial order

Example



- $L = \mathrm{N}$ (natural numbers)
- $\prec = \{(0,1), (1,2), (2,3), (3,4), (4,5), \ldots\}^{RT}$
- $(L, \prec)$ is a totally ordered set (infinite)

Example

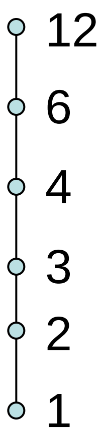


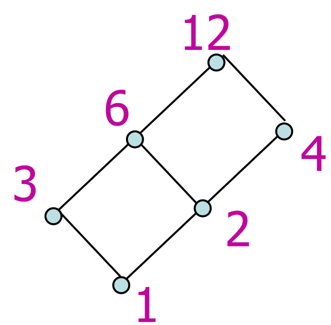
- L= N (natural numbers)
- $\prec$ ={(n,m): $\exists$ k such that m=n*k}

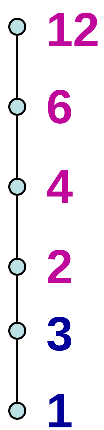
- (L, $\prec$) is a partially ordered set (infinite)

Example

- On the same set E={1,2,3,4,6,12} we can define different partial orders:

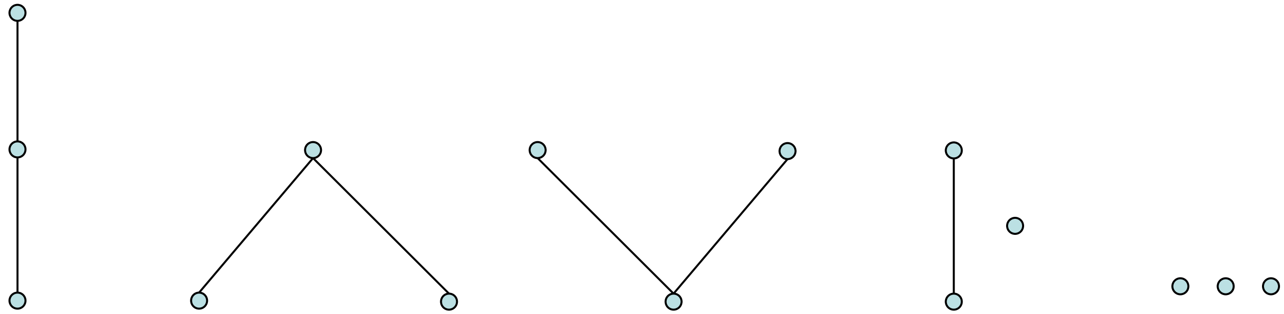






Example

- All possible partial orders on a set of three elements (modulo renaming)



Extremal Elements: Summary

We will define the following terms:

- A maximal/minimal element in a poset $(S, \prec)$
- The maximum (greatest)/minimum (least) element of a poset $(S, \prec)$
- An upper/lower bound element of a subset A of a poset $(S, \prec)$
- The greatest lower/least upper bound element of a subset A of a poset $(S, \prec)$

Extremal Elements: Maximal

- **Definition**: An element a in a poset $(S, \prec)$ is called <u>maximal</u> if it is not less than any other element in S. That is: $\neg(\exists b \in S\ (a \prec b))$
- If there is one <u>unique</u> maximal element a, we call it the <u>maximum</u> element (or the <u>greatest</u> element)

Extremal Elements: Minimal

- **Definition**: An element a in a poset (S, $\prec$) is called <u>minimal</u> if it is not greater than any other element in S. That is: $\neg(\exists b \in S\ (b \prec a))$
- If there is one <u>unique</u> minimal element a, we call it the <u>minimum</u> element (or the <u>least</u> element)

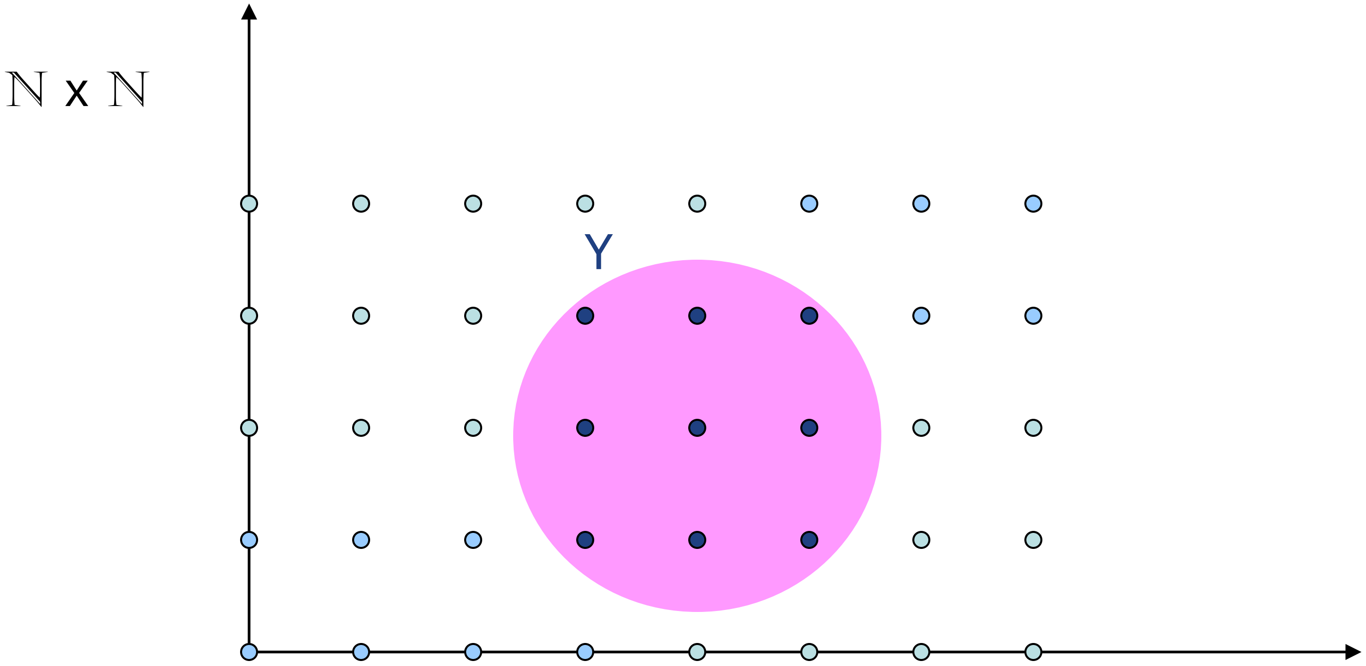
Extremal Elements: Upper Bound

- **Definition**: Let $(S,\prec)$ be a poset and let $A\subseteq S$. If u is an element of S such that $a \prec u$ for all $a\in A$ then u is an <u>upper bound of A</u>
- An element x that is an upper bound on a subset A and is less than all other upper bounds on A is called the <u>least upper bound on A</u>. We abbreviate it as lub.

Extremal Elements: Lower Bound

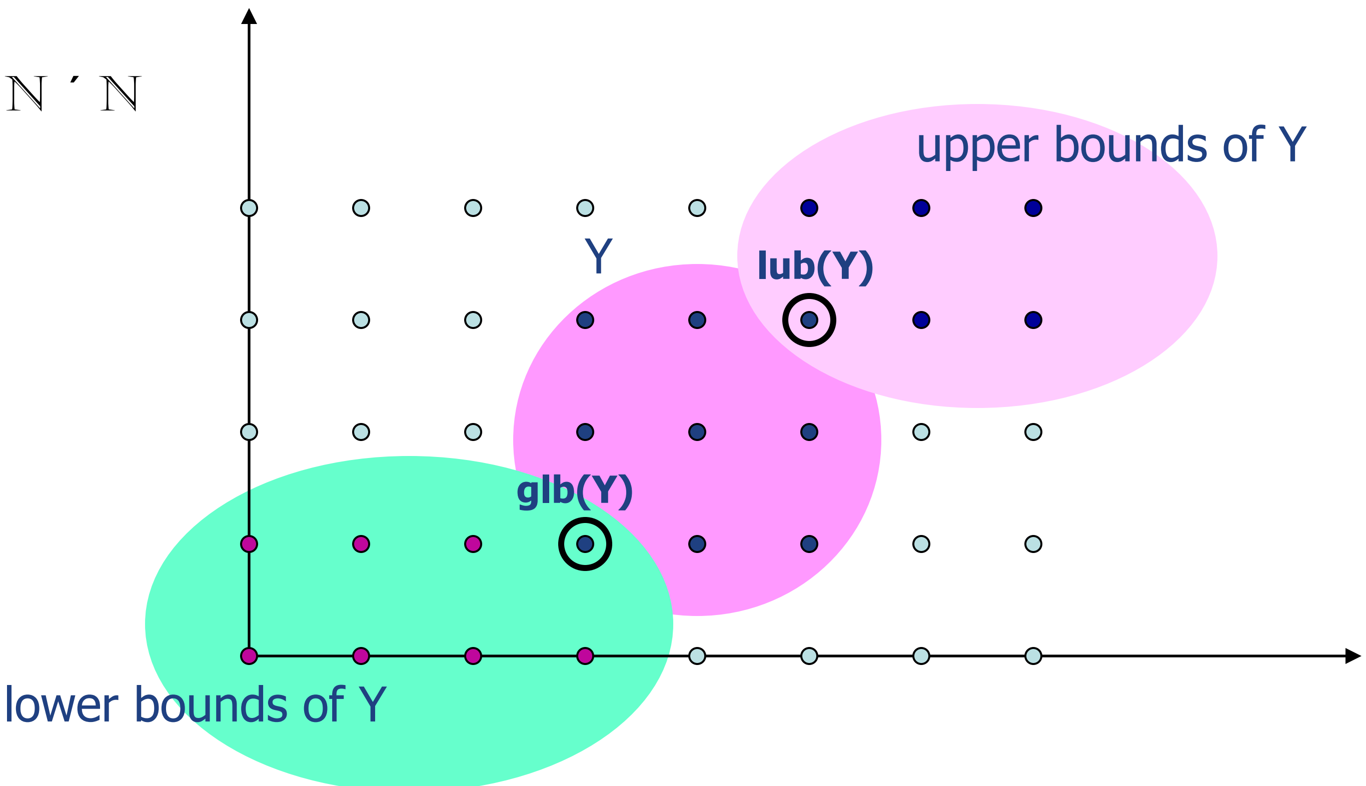
- **Definition**: Let $(S,\prec)$ be a poset and let $A \subseteq S$. If l is an element of S such that $l \prec a$ for all $a \in A$ then l is an lower bound of A
- An element x that is a lower bound on a subset A and is greater than all other lower bounds on A is called the greatest lower bound on A. We abbreviate it glb.

Example



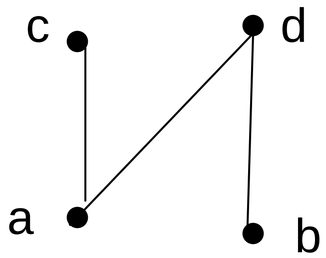
$(x_1,y_1) \leq_{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}} (x_2,y_2) \iff x_1 \leq_{\mathbb{N}} x_2 \wedge y_1 \leq_{\mathbb{N}} y_2$

Example



$$(x_1,y_1) \leq_{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}} (x_2,y_2) \Leftrightarrow x_1 \leq_{\mathbb{N}} x_2 \wedge y_1 \leq_{\mathbb{N}} y_2$$

Extremal Elements: Example 1



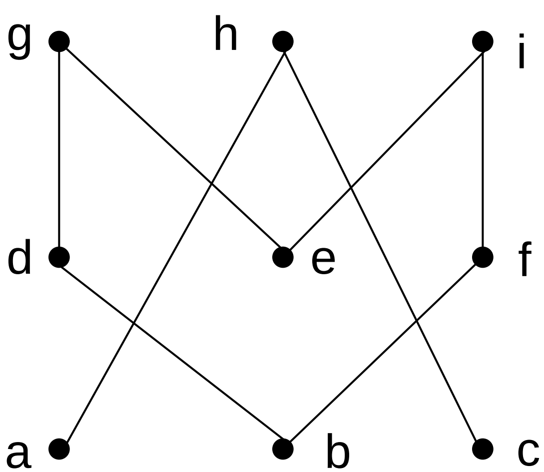
What are the minimal, maximal, minimum, maximum elements?

- Minimal: {a,b}
- Maximal: {c,d}
- There are no unique minimal or maximal elements, thus no minimum or maximum

Extremal Elements: Example 2

Give lower/upper bounds & glb/lub of the sets:

{d,e,f}, {a,c} and {b,d}



{d,e,f}

- Lower bounds: ∅, thus no glb
- Upper bounds: ∅, thus no lub

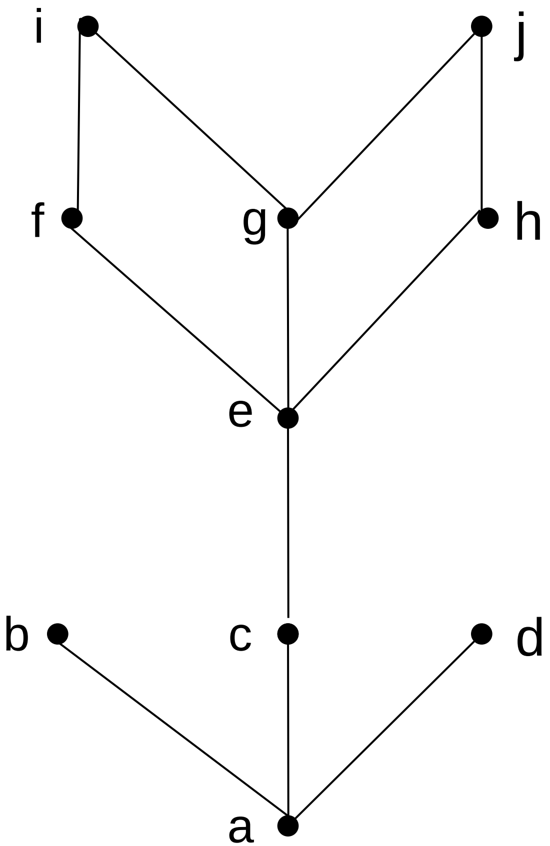
{a,c}

- Lower bounds: ∅, thus no glb
- Upper bounds: {h}, lub: h

{b,d}

- Lower bounds: {b}, glb: b
- Upper bounds: {d,g}, lub: d because d$\prec$g

Extremal Elements: Example 3



- Minimal/Maximal elements?
  - Minimal & Minimum element: a
  - Maximal elements: b,d,i,j
- Bounds, glb, lub of {c,e}?
  - Lower bounds: {a,c}, thus glb is c
  - Upper bounds: {e,f,g,h,i,j}, thus lub is e
- Bounds, glb, lub of {b,i}?
  - Lower bounds: {a}, thus glb is c
  - Upper bounds: ∅, thus lub DNE

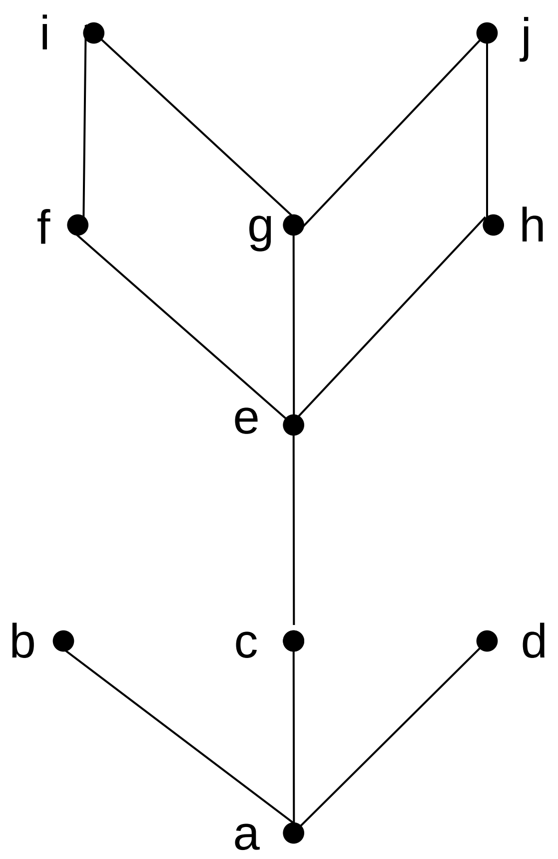
Lattices

- A special structure arises when <u>every</u> pair of elements in a poset has an lub and a glb
- **Definition**: A <u>lattice</u> is a partially ordered set in which <u>every</u> pair of elements has both
  - a least upper bound and
  - a greatest lower bound

Lattices: Example 1

- Is the example from before a lattice?

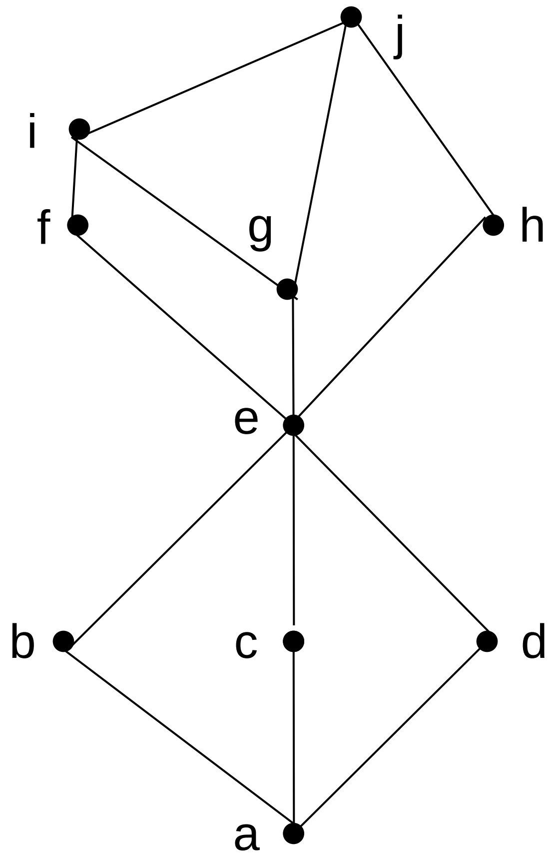
- **No, because the pair {b,c} does not have a least upper bound**



Lattices: Example 2

- What if we modified it as shown here?

- **Yes, because for any pair, there is an lub & a glb**



A Lattice Or Not a Lattice?

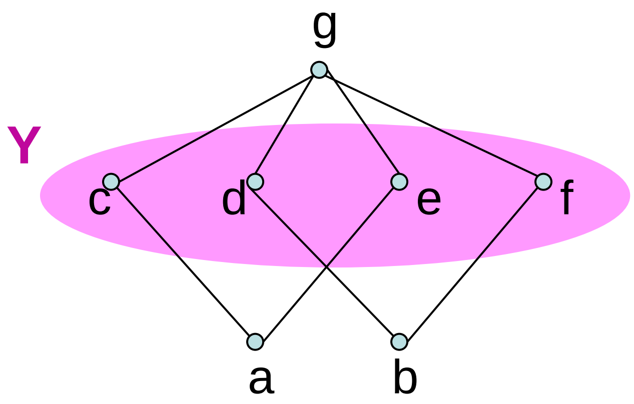
- To show that a partial order is not a lattice, it suffices to find a pair that does not have an lub or a glb (i.e., a counter-example)
- For a pair not to have an lub/glb, the elements of the pair must first be <u>incomparable</u> (Why?)
- You can then view the upper/lower bounds on a pair as a sub-Hasse diagram: If there is no maximum/minimum element in this sub-diagram, then it is not a lattice

Complete lattices

- Definition:
  A lattice A is called a complete lattice if every subset S of A admits a glb and a lub in A.

- Exercise:
  Show that for any (possibly infinite) set E, (P(E),$\subseteq$) is a complete lattice
  (P(E) denotes the powerset of E, i.e. the set of all subsets of E).

Example



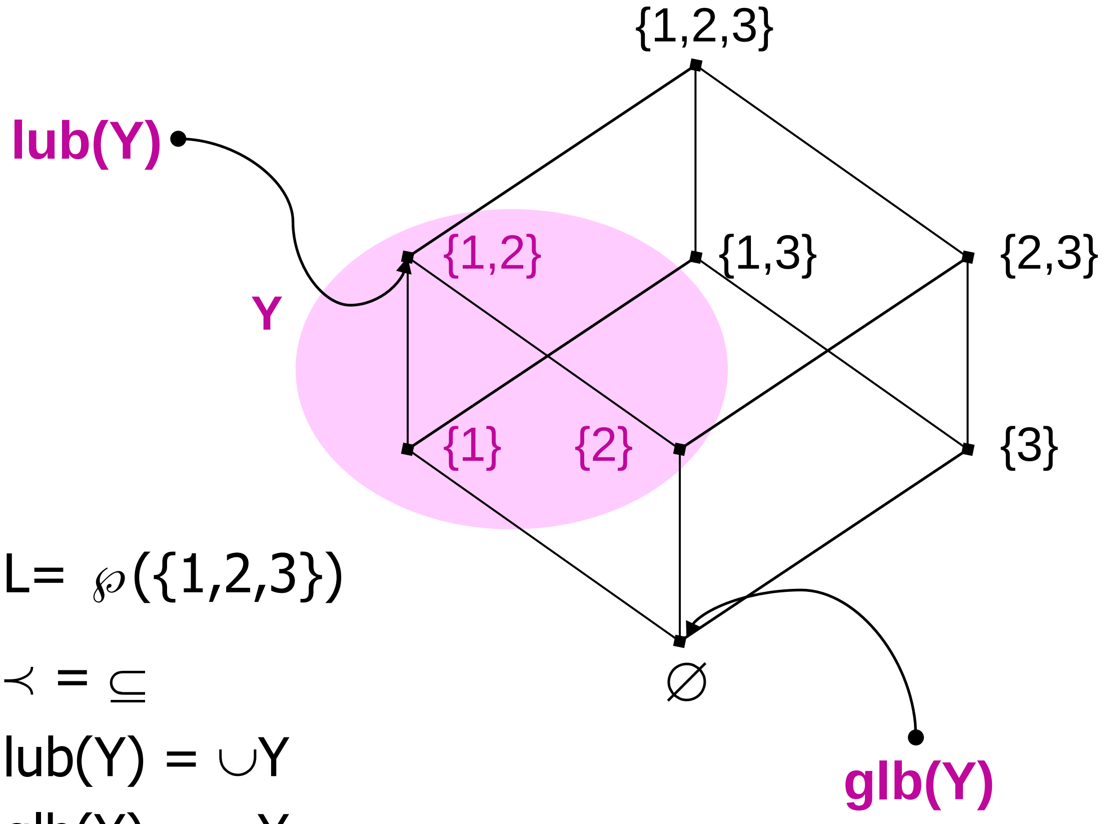
- L= {a,b,c,d,e,f,g}
- $\leq$ ={(a,c), (a,e), (b,d), (b,f), (c,g), (d,g), (e,g), (f,g)}^{T}

- (L,$\leq$) is not a lattice:
  a and b are lower bounds of Y, but a and b are not comparable

Exercise

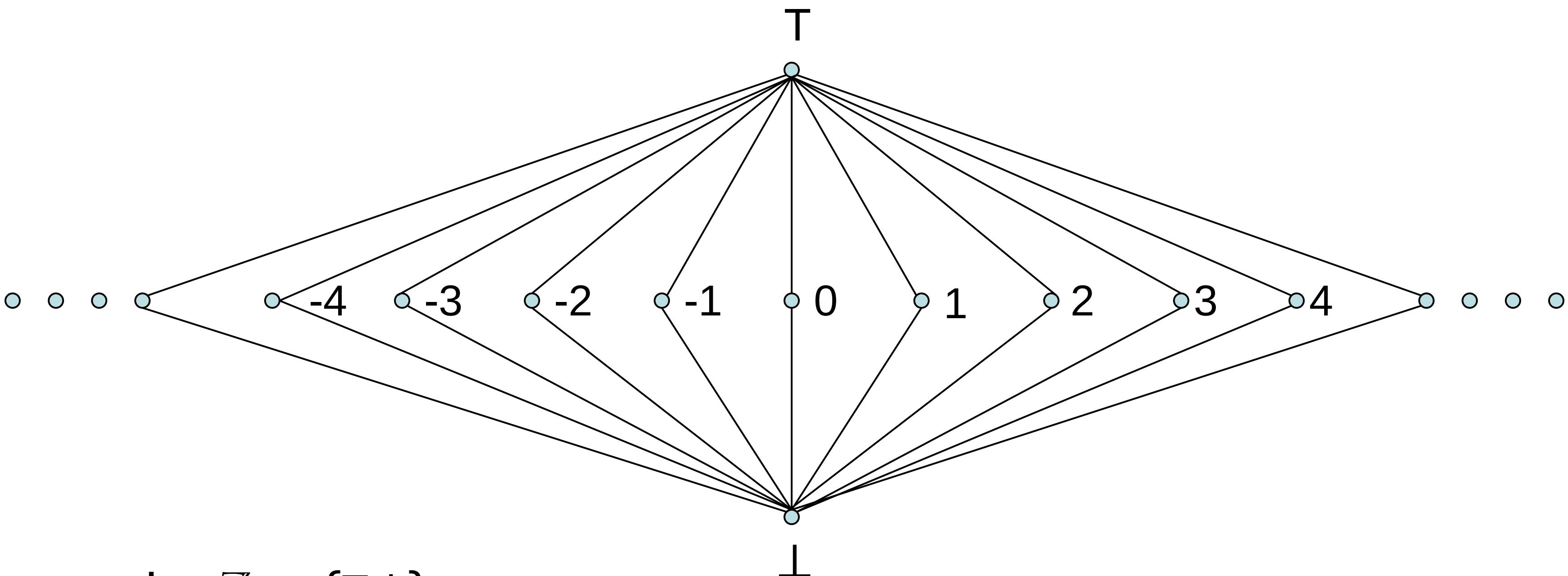
- Prove that "Every finite lattice is a complete lattice".

Example



- L= $\wp(\{1,2,3\})$
- $\prec \; = \; \subseteq$
- lub(Y) = $\cup$Y
- glb(Y) = $\cap$Y

Example



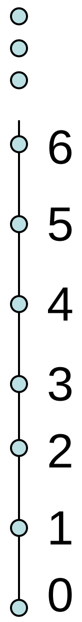
- L= $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{T,\perp\}$
- $\forall$ n $\in \mathbb{Z}$: $\perp \prec$ n $\prec$ T

Example

- L= $\mathbb{Z}_+$
- $\prec$ total order on $\mathbb{Z}_+$
- lub = max
- glb = min

It is a lattice, but not complete:

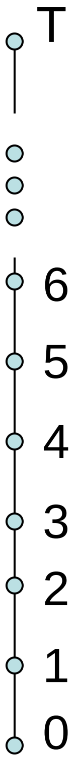
For instance, the set of even numbers has no lub



Example

- L= $\mathbb{Z}_+ \cup \{T\}$
- $\prec$ total order on $\mathbb{Z}_+ \cup \{T\}$
- lub = max
- glb = min

This is a complete lattice



Examples

- L=R (real numbers) with $\prec$ = $\leq$ (total order)
- (R, $\leq$) is not a complete lattice:
  for instance $\{x \in R \mid x > 2\}$ has no lub
- On the other hand,
  for each x<y in R, ([x,y], $\leq$) is a complete lattice

- L=Q (rational numbers) with $\prec$ = $\leq$ (total order)
- (Q, $\leq$) is not a complete lattice
- The set $\{x \in Q \mid x^2 < 2\}$ has upper bounds but there is no least upper bound in Q.

- **Theorem**:

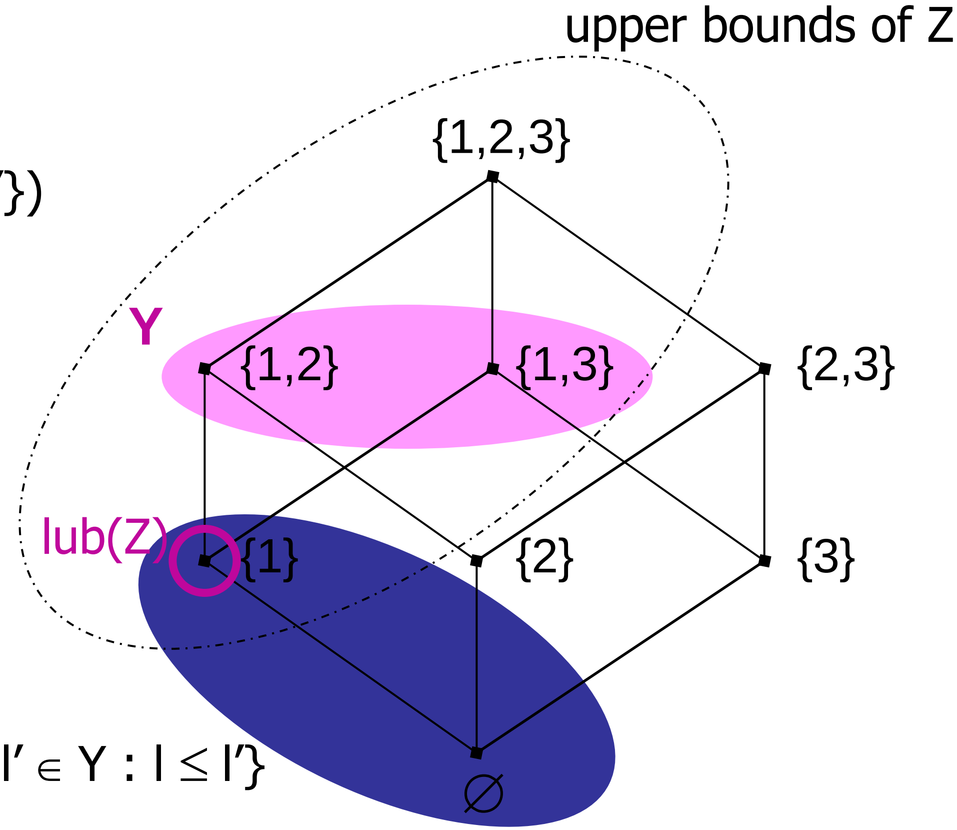
  Let $(L, \prec)$ be a partial order. The following conditions are equivalent:

  1. L is a complete lattice
  2. Each subset of L has a least upper bound
  3. Each subset of L has a greatest lower bound

- Proof:
  - $1 \Rightarrow 2$ e $1 \Rightarrow 3$ by definition
  - In order to prove that $2 \Rightarrow 1$, let us define for each $Y \subseteq L$

$$glb(Y) = lub(\{l \in L \mid \forall l' \in Y : l \leq l'\})$$

$$glb(Y) = lub(\{l \in L \mid \forall l' \in Y : l \leq l'\})$$



$$Z = \{l \in L \mid \forall l' \in Y : l \leq l'\}$$