

# 9.6 PARTIAL ORDERS

WK 3-1

LET'S LOOK AT **TOTAL ORDER** first:

ex:  $\leq$  over the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

$aRb$  iff  $a \leq b$   
are total order



the relation

- $(1,1) (1,2) (1,3) (1,4) (1,5)$
- $(2,2) (2,3) (2,4) (2,5)$
- $(3,3) (3,4) (3,5)$
- $(4,4) (4,5)$
- $(5,5)$

- total order
- this is reflexive
  - this is transitive (if  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq c$ , then  $a \leq c$ )
  - this is anti-symmetric (whenever  $a \leq b$  +  $b \leq a$ ,  $a=b$ )
  - for any  $a + b$ , either  $a \leq b$  or  $b \leq a$  ← relax this for **partial order**  
inclusive or  
we are defining an order, but some pairs may not be ordered relative to each other

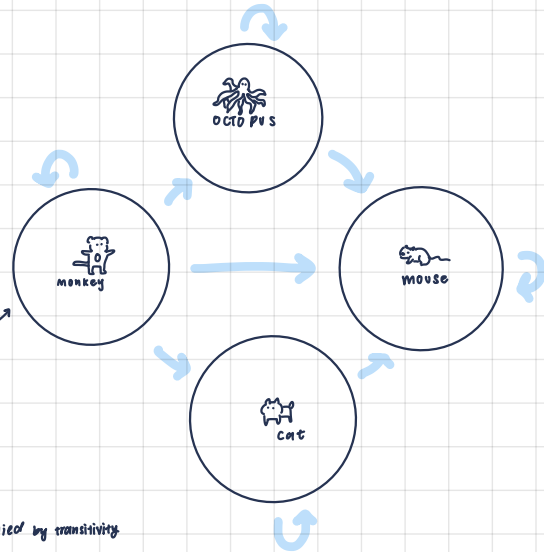


## PARTIAL ORDER:

- required items
- reflexive  $\rightarrow$  monkey  $\leq$  octopus + octopus  $\leq$  mouse
  - transitive (if  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq c$ , then  $a \leq c$ ) then monkey  $\leq$  mouse!
  - anti-symmetric (whenever  $a \leq b$  +  $b \leq a$ ,  $a=b$ )

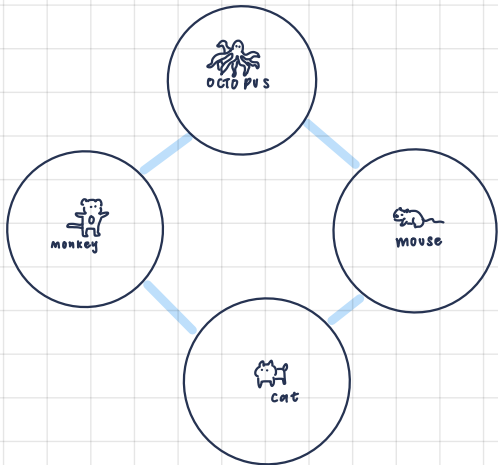


PARTIAL ORDER SYMBOL



## HASSE DIAGRAM

of the partial order diagram  
↳ an easier way to draw partial orders



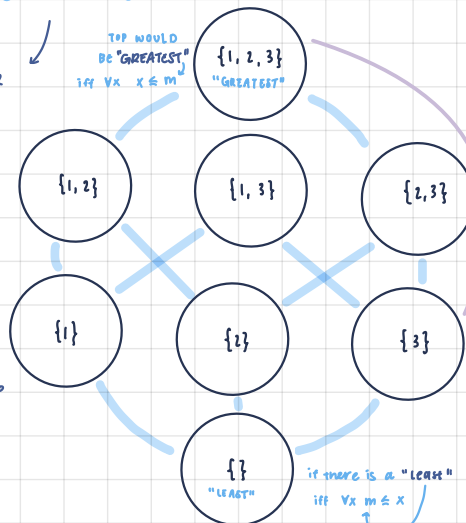
- all arrows point up
- don't draw arrows implied by transitivity
- don't draw arrows implied by reflexivity

## HASSE DIAGRAM

FOR THE SUBSET RELATION ON THE SET  $\mathcal{P}(\{1, 2, 3\})$

POWER SET  
 $\{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$  = all subsets

THIS IS A PARTIAL ORDER  
BECAUSE NOT ALL ITEMS  
CAN BE COMPARED TO  
EACH OTHER!



no lines go  $\{2\} \leftrightarrow \{1, 3\}$   
because  $\{2\} \leq \{1, 3\}$  ARE FALSE  
 $\{1, 3\} \leq \{2\}$  ARE FALSE

this line exists but we  
don't draw it in since it's implied  
by transitivity

BEING COMPARABLE:

iff  $a \leq b$  or  $b \leq a$

for example  $\{1\} + \{2\}$  are

NOT COMPARABLE BUT

$\{1\} + \{3\}$  are COMPARABLE

since  $\{1\} \leq \{3\}$

It's:

- reflexive  $a \leq a$
- transitive if  $a \leq b$ ,  $b \leq c$ , then  $a \leq c$
- anti-symmetric if  $a \leq b$  +  $b \leq a$  then  $a = b$

if there is a "least"  
iff  $\forall x, m \leq x$

# HOW DO WE KNOW A PARTIAL ORDER NEVER HAS MULTIPLE GREATEST ELEMENTS?

Proof by contradiction.

We assume there are 2 greatest elements  $A + B$

since  $A$  is greatest,  $B \leq A$

since  $B$  is greatest,  $A \leq B$

BUT!  $A \neq B$ , violates anti-symmetry.

So we also can't have multiple least elements!

\* MUST BE UNIQUE

## MAXIMAL ELEMENT:

elements that only relate to themselves

in an example:  $\{1, 2, 3\}$

if there is greatest + least,

they will be maximal + minimal!

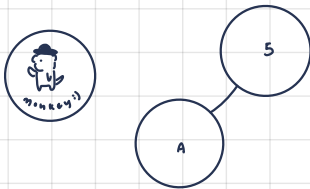
can have more than one

## MINIMAL ELEMENT:

elements that nothing else relates to

in an example:  $\{ \}$

## AN ELEMENT THAT IS MINIMAL + MAXIMAL:



THIS IS A PARTIAL ORDER:

• GREATEST: none

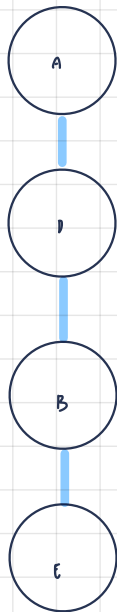
• MAXIMAL: 5, monkey

• LEAST: none

• MINIMAL: A, monkey

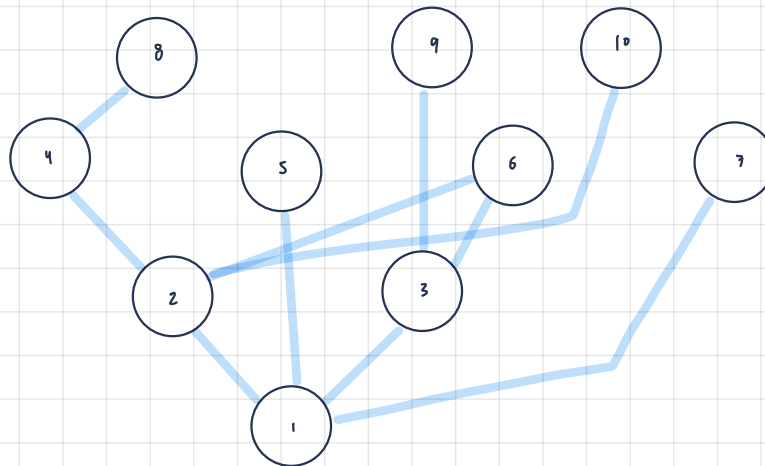
Both min + max!

## HASSE DIAGRAM + TOTAL ORDER



since every element is comparable, we got a chain!

every total order is a partial order



MORE EXAMPLE:

• GREATEST: none

• MAXIMAL: 8, 9, 10

• LEAST: 1 relate to nothing

• MINIMAL: 1

if more than 1 maximal, no greatest element

if there is greatest, only 1 maximal

an or not there may be no maximals or all

SIDE NOTE: CIRCULAR →

if  $aRb + bRc$ , then  $cRa$

$(a,b) (b,c) (c,a)$  combined w/ transitivity

→ violates anti-symmetry, can't be partial order.