

Binary Relations

Part One

Outline for Today

- ***Binary Relations***
 - Reasoning about connections between objects.
- ***Equivalence Relations***
 - Reasoning about clusters.
- ***A Fundamental Theorem***
 - How do we know we have the “right” definition for something?

Relationships

- In CS103, you've seen examples of relationships
 - between sets:

$$A \subseteq B$$

- between numbers:

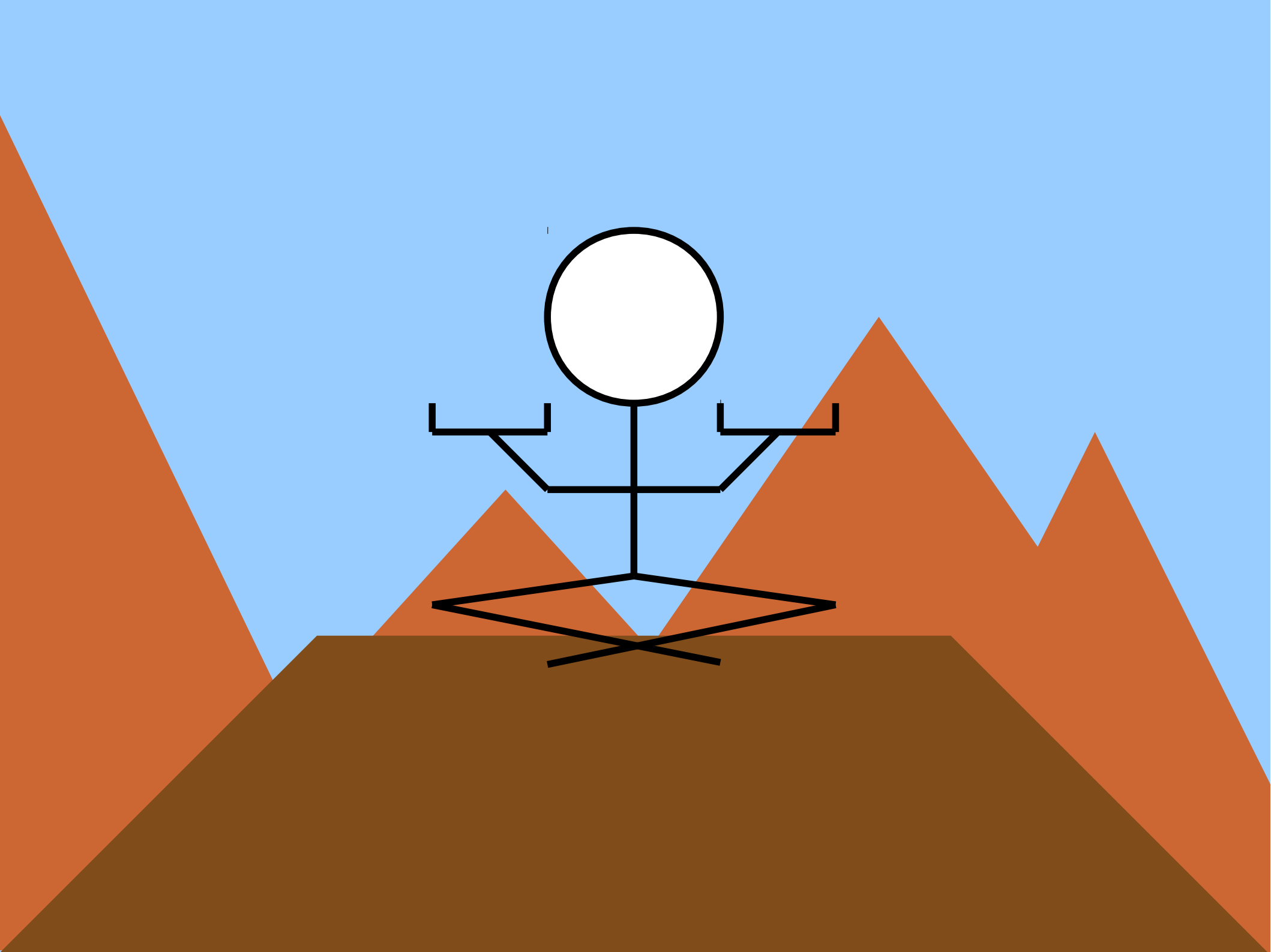
$$x < y \qquad x \equiv_k y \qquad x \leq y$$

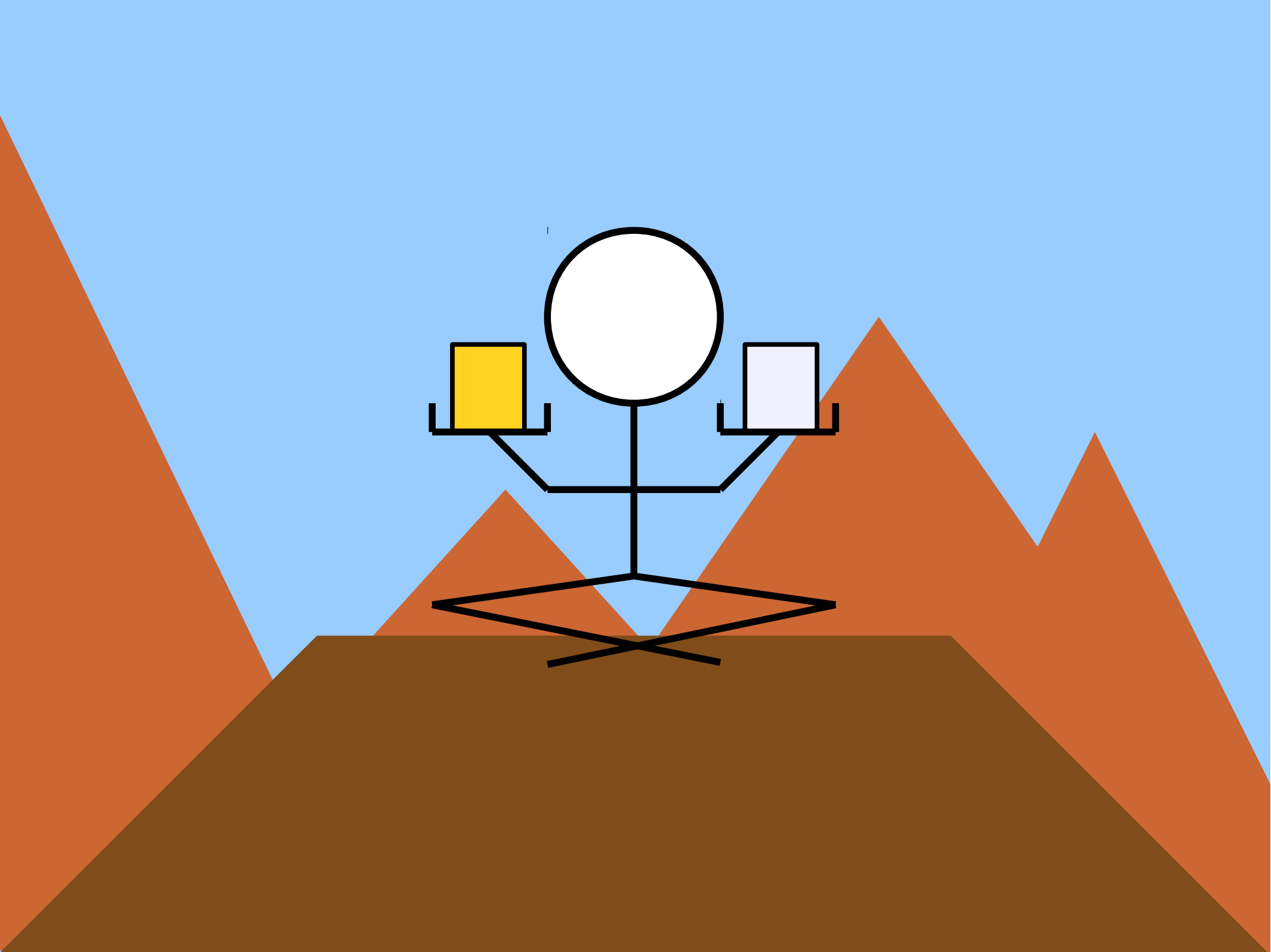
- between people:

$$p \text{ loves } q$$

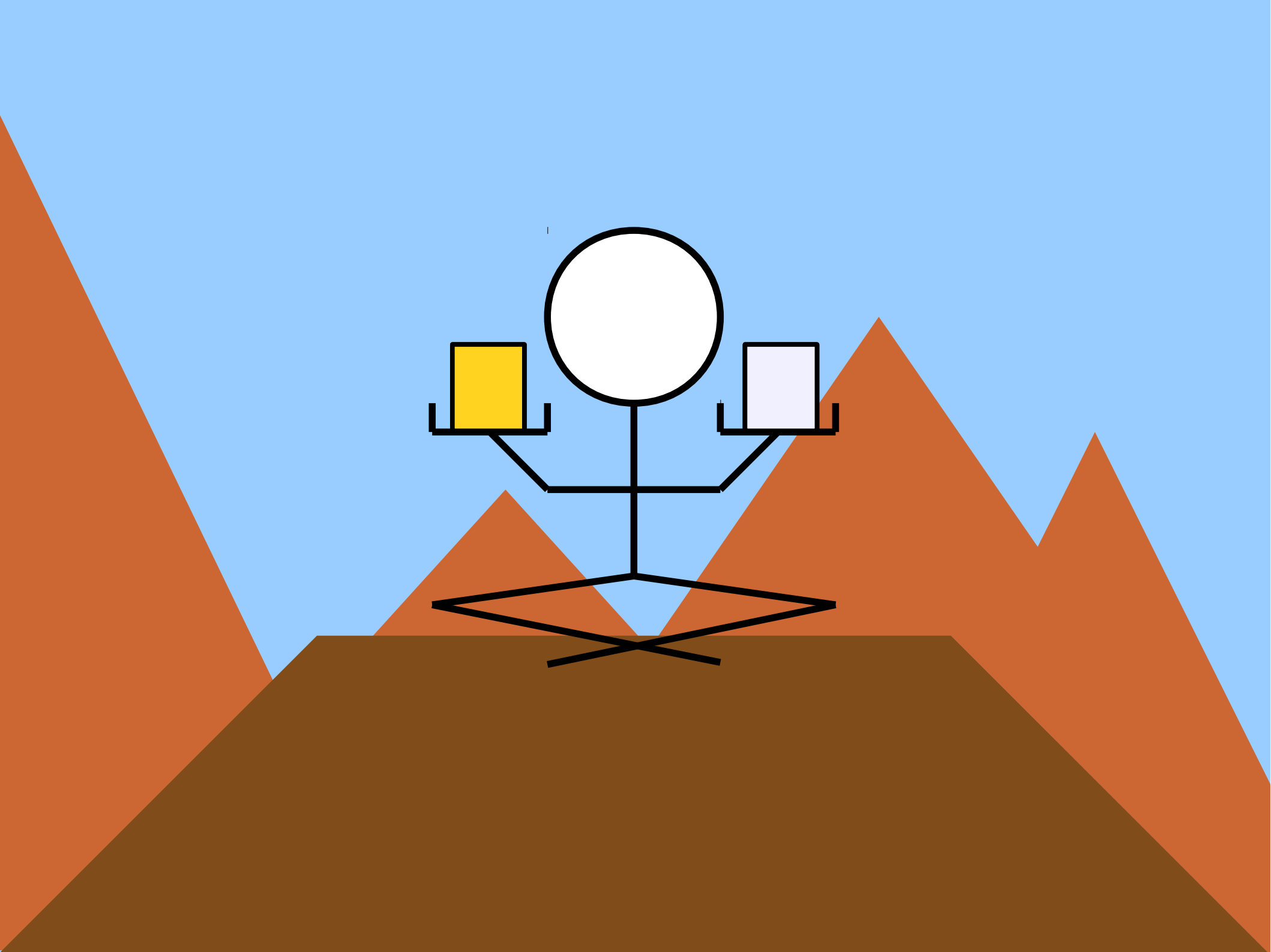
- Since these relations focus on connections between two objects, they are called **binary relations**.
 - The “binary” here means “pertaining to two things,” not “made of zeros and ones.”

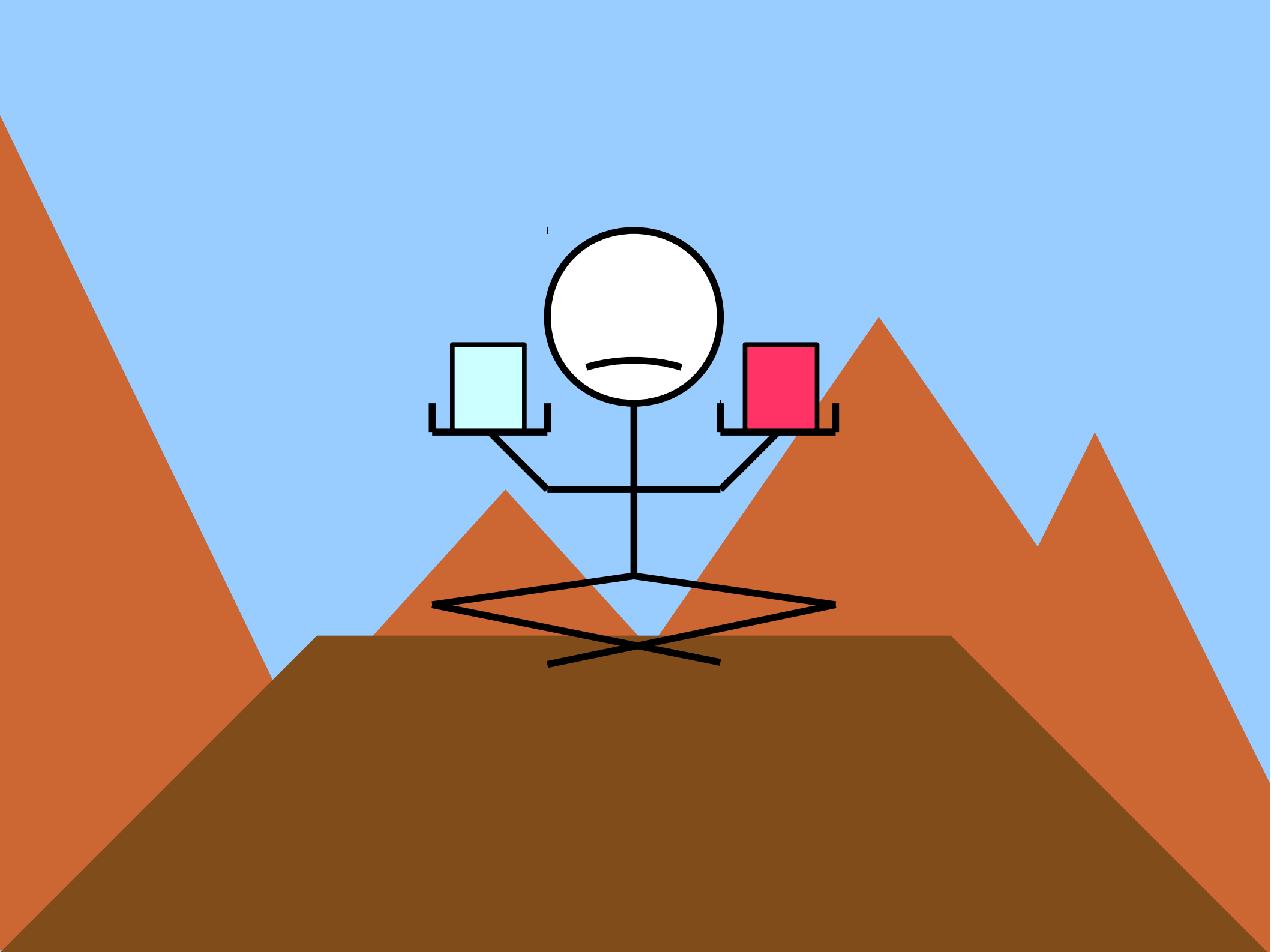
What exactly is a binary relation?

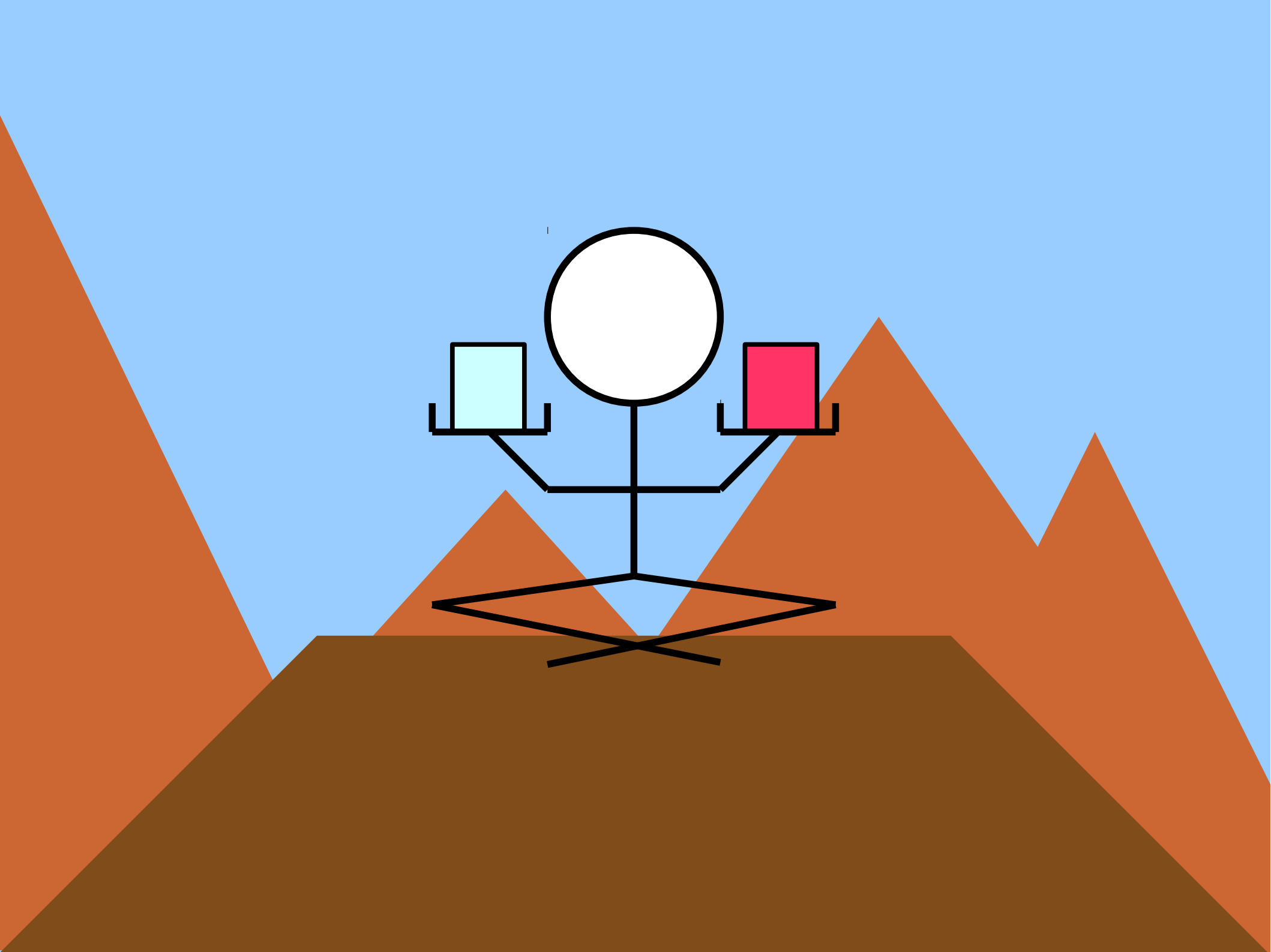




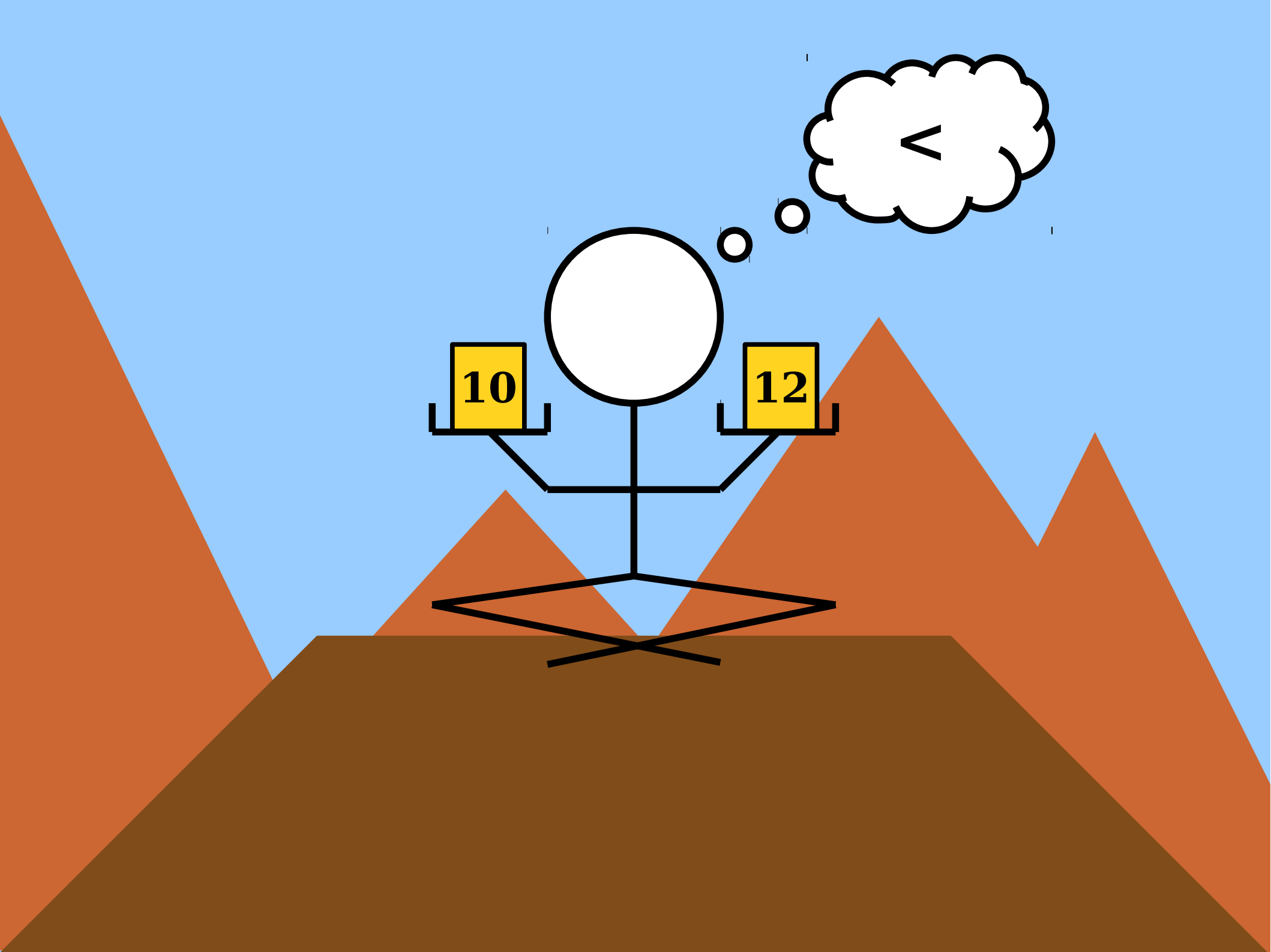


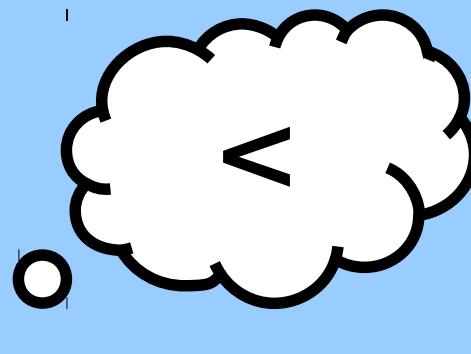
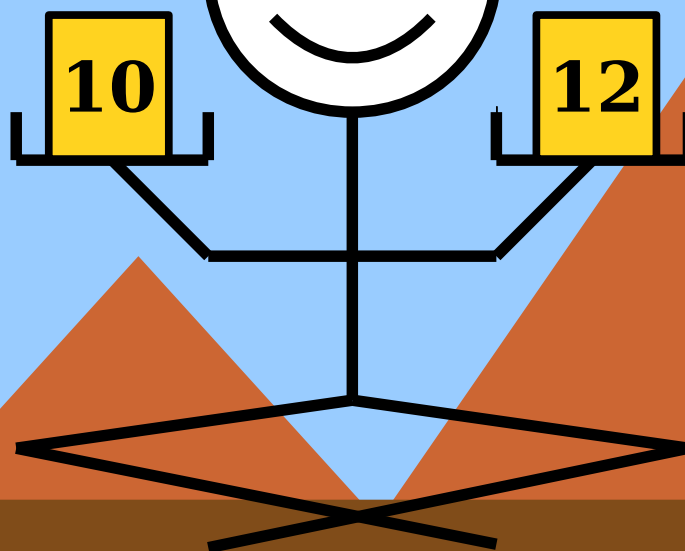
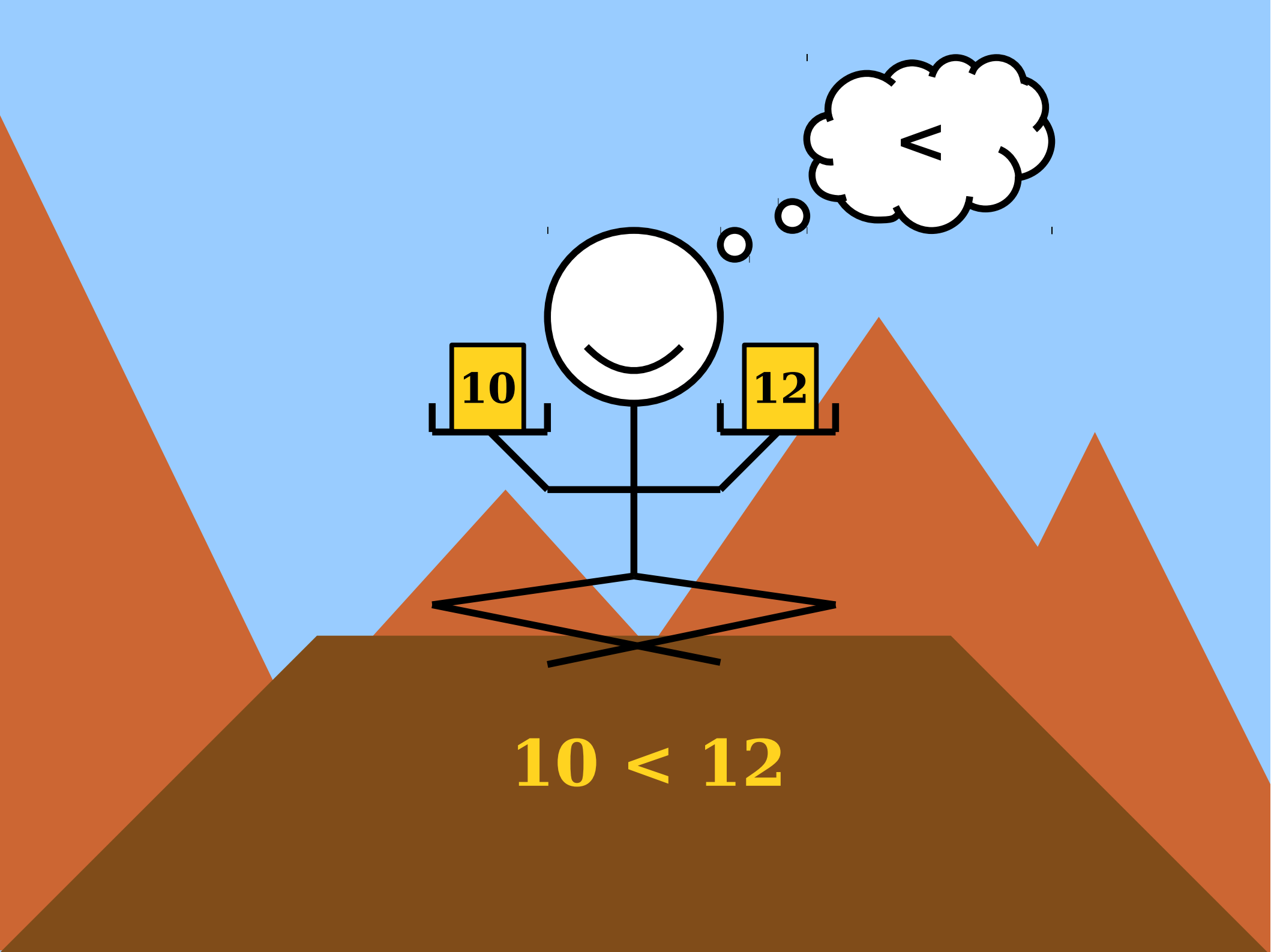






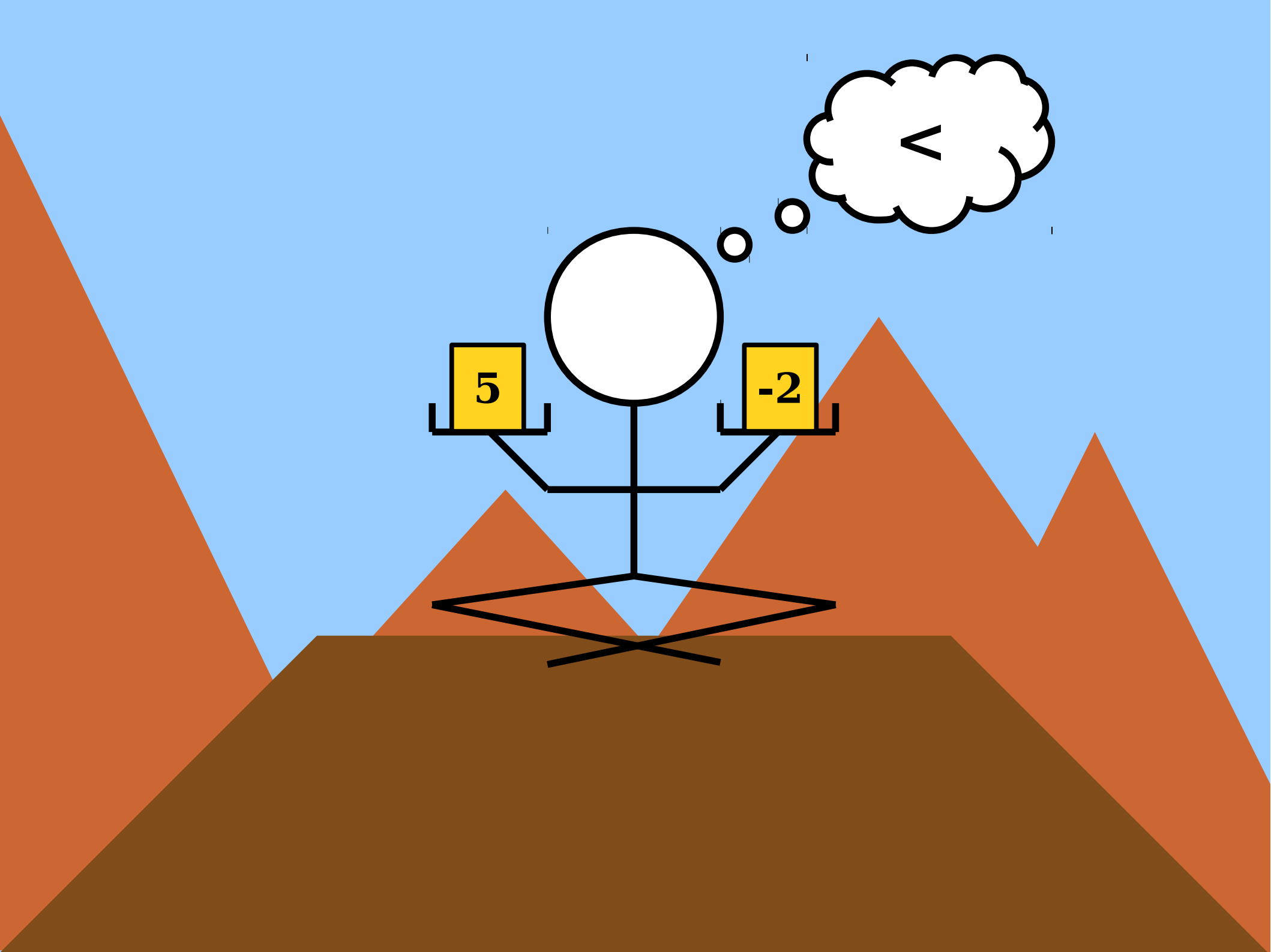


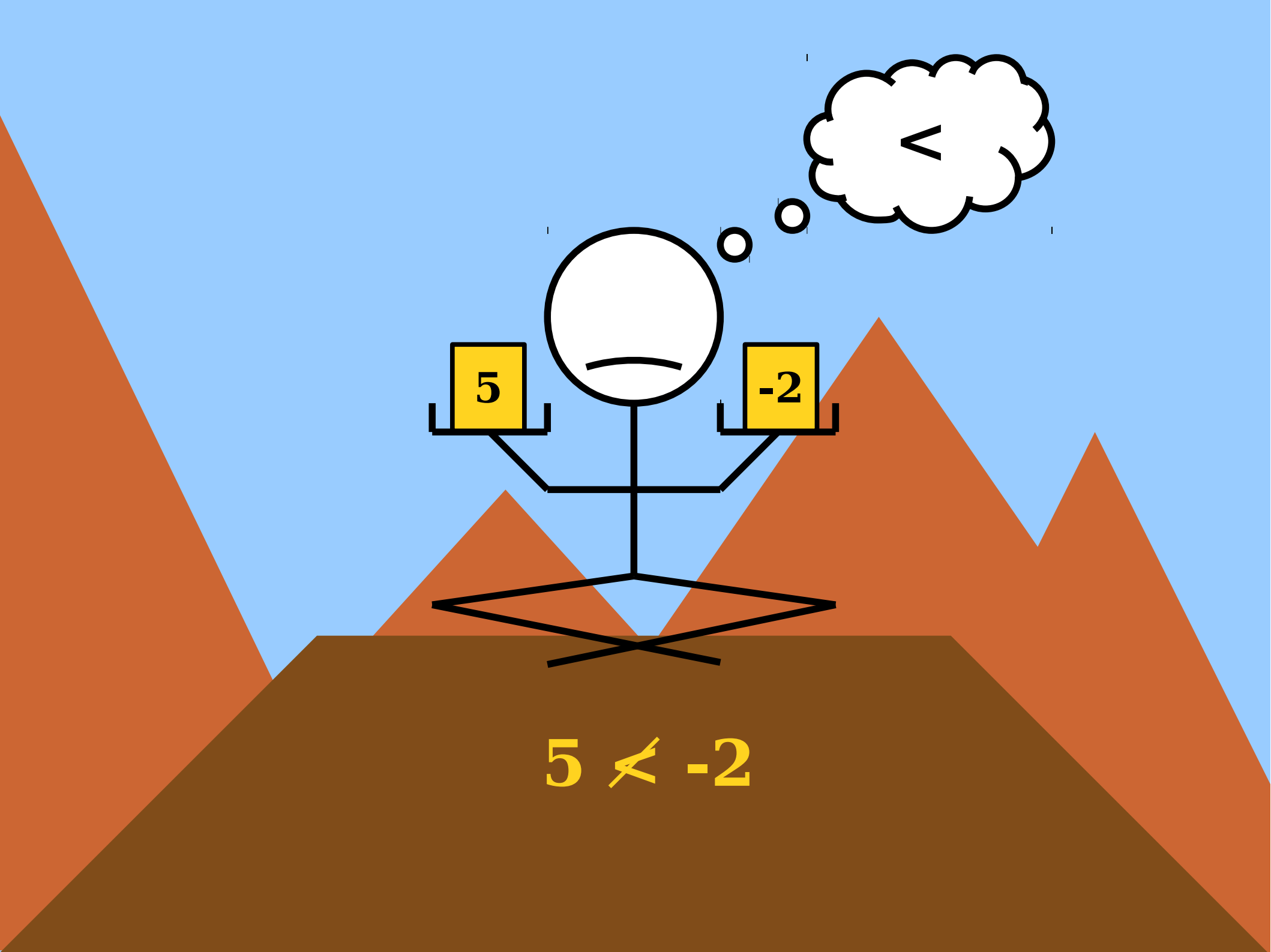




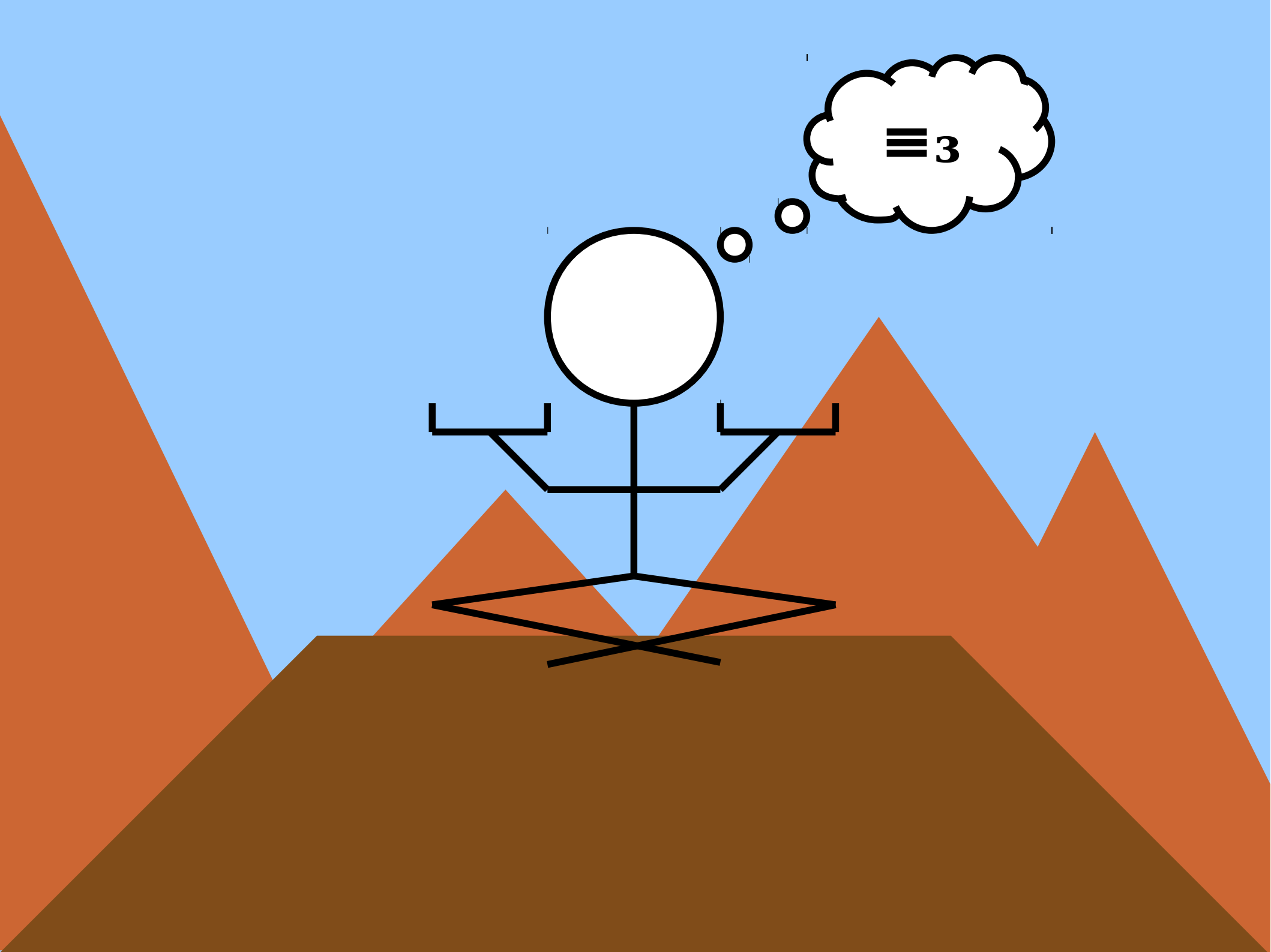
10 < 12

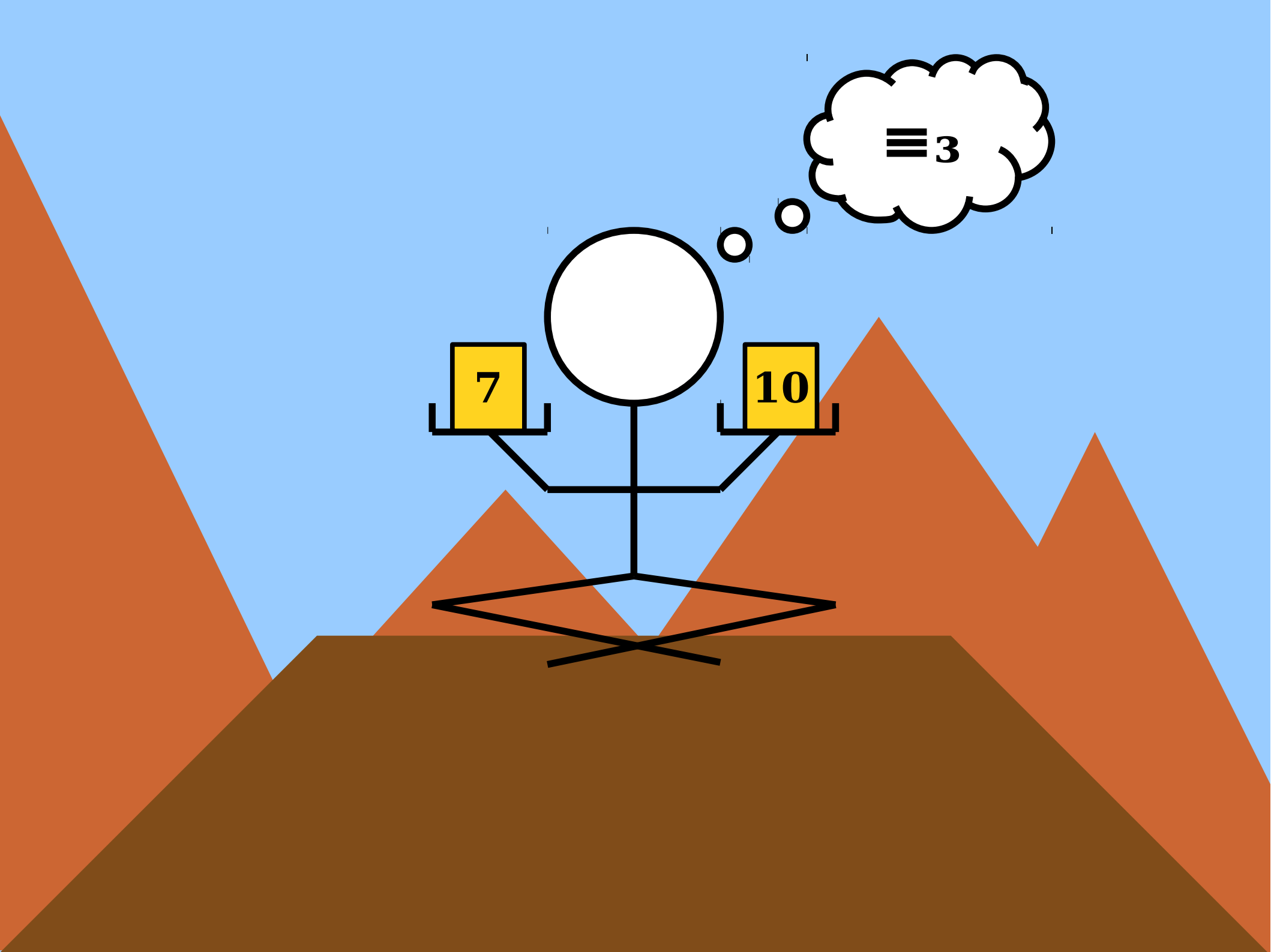


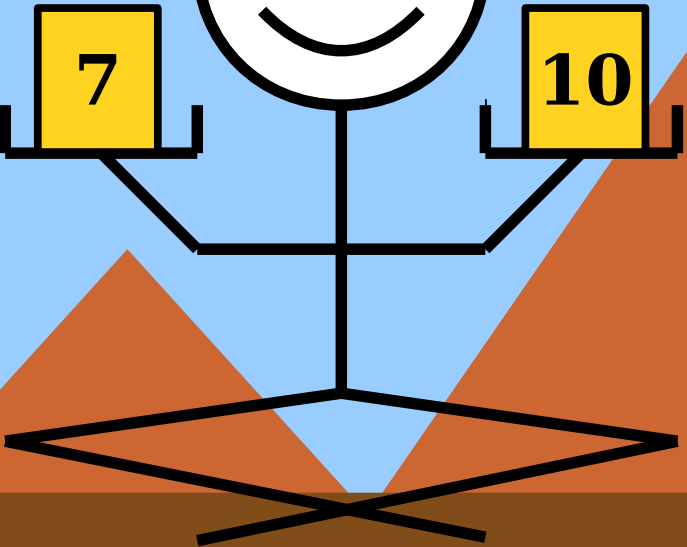
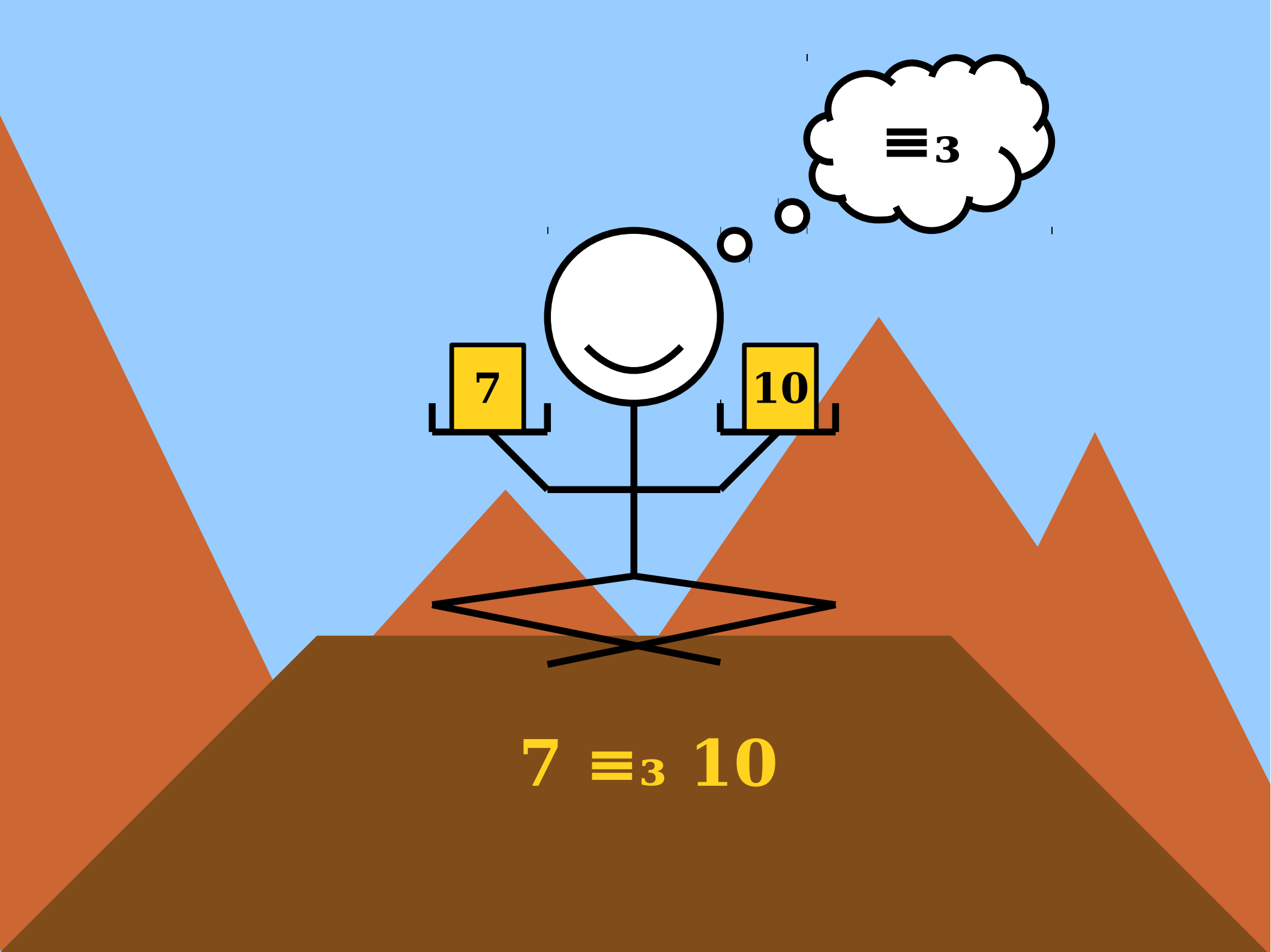




$$5 < -2$$

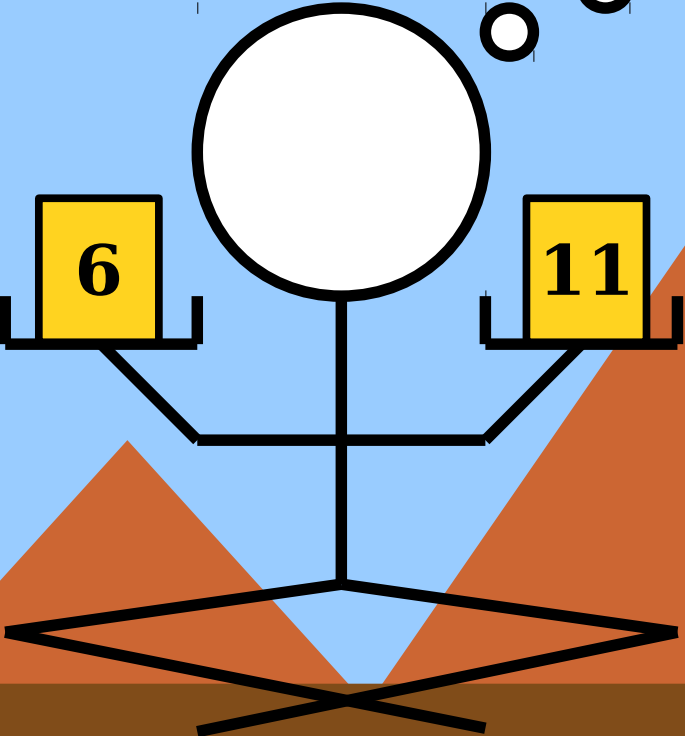
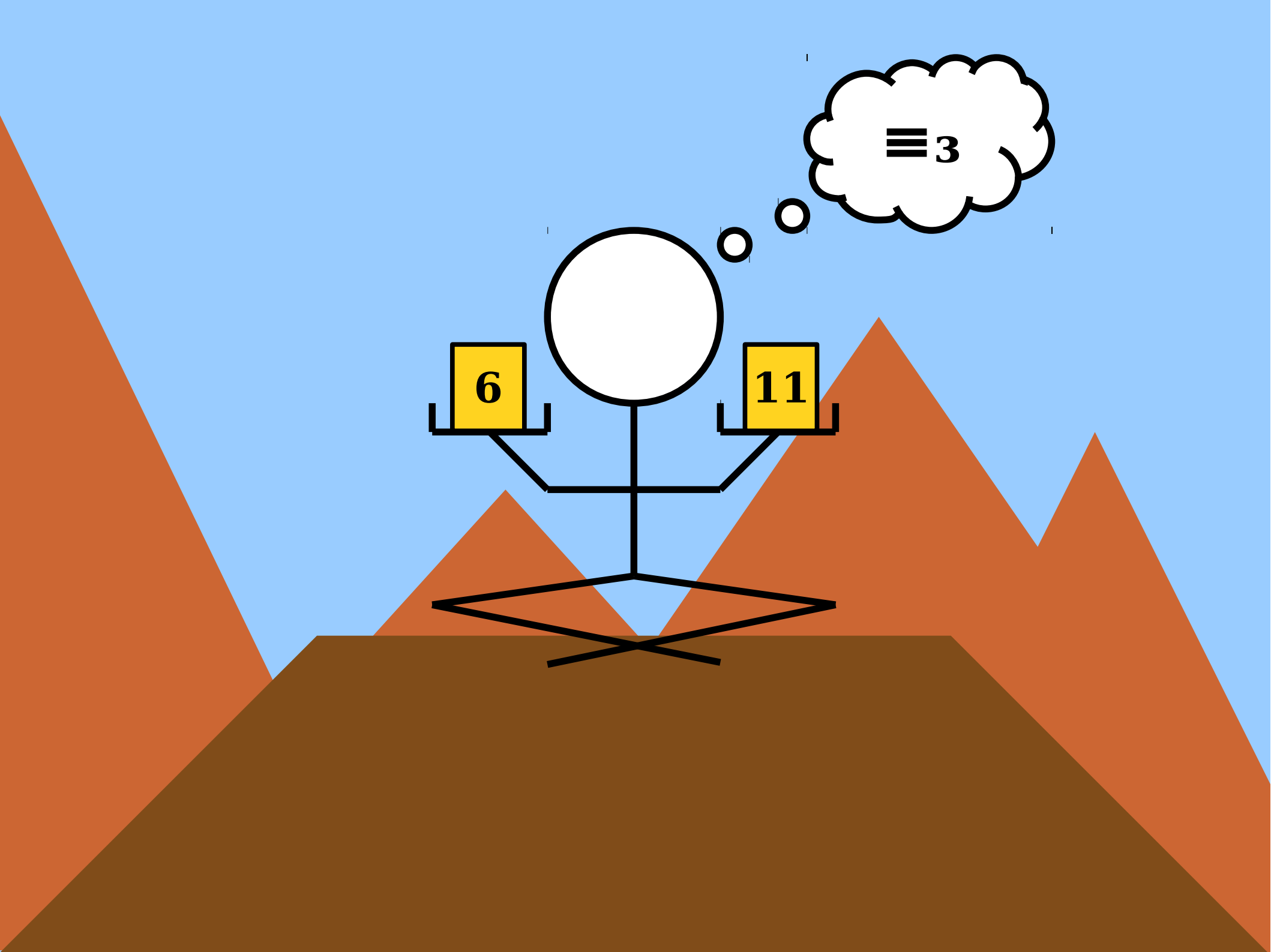




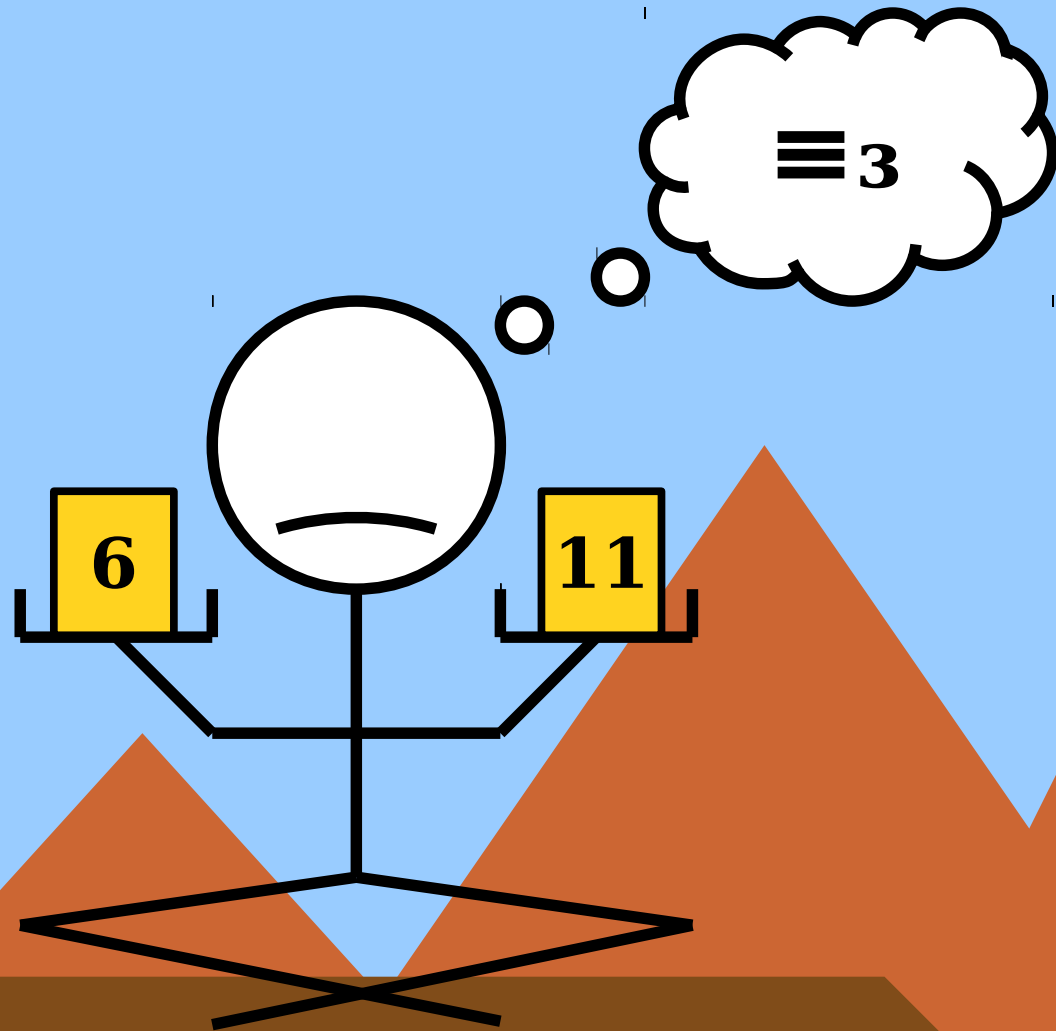


$\equiv 3$

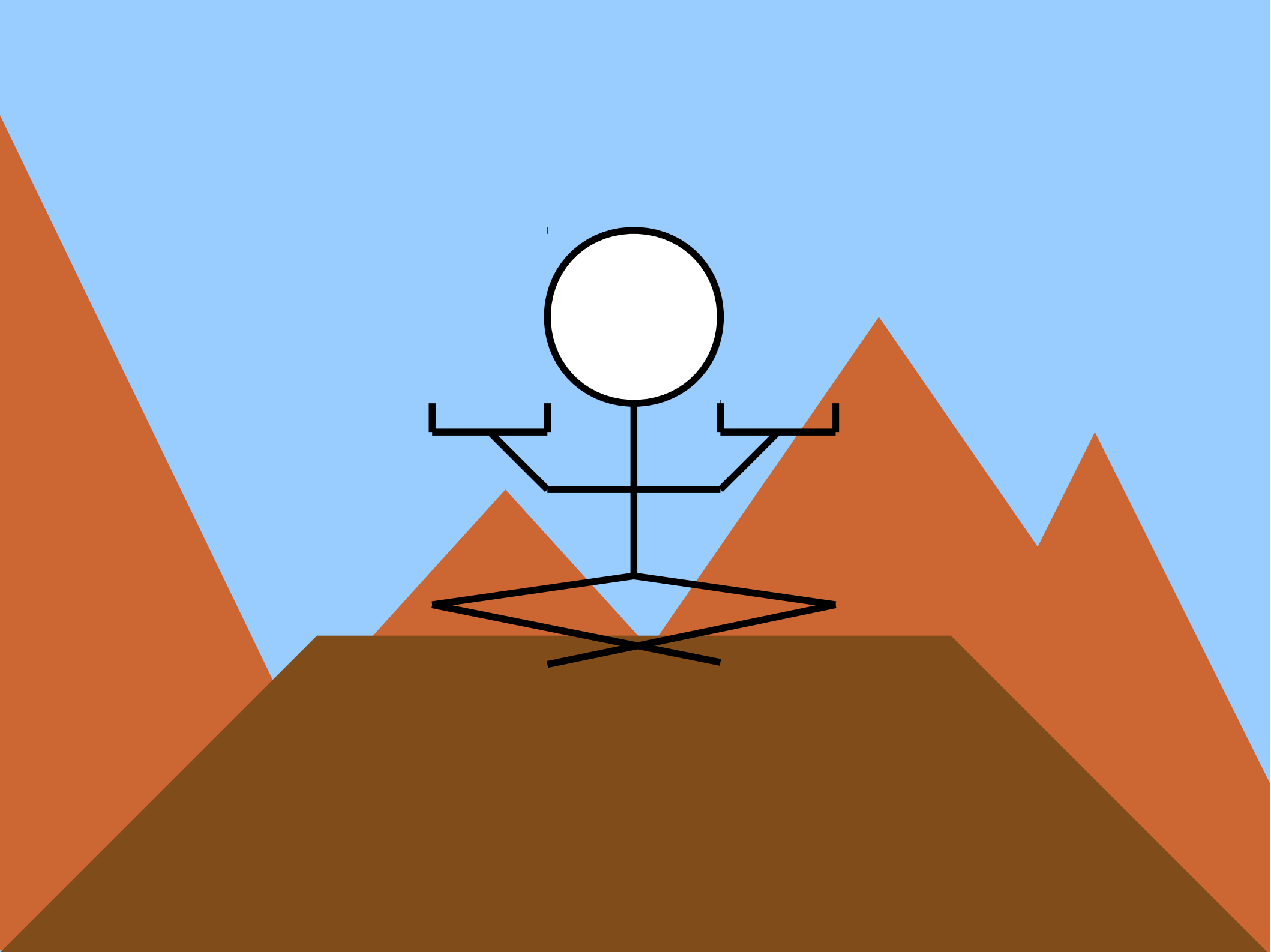
$7 \equiv_3 10$

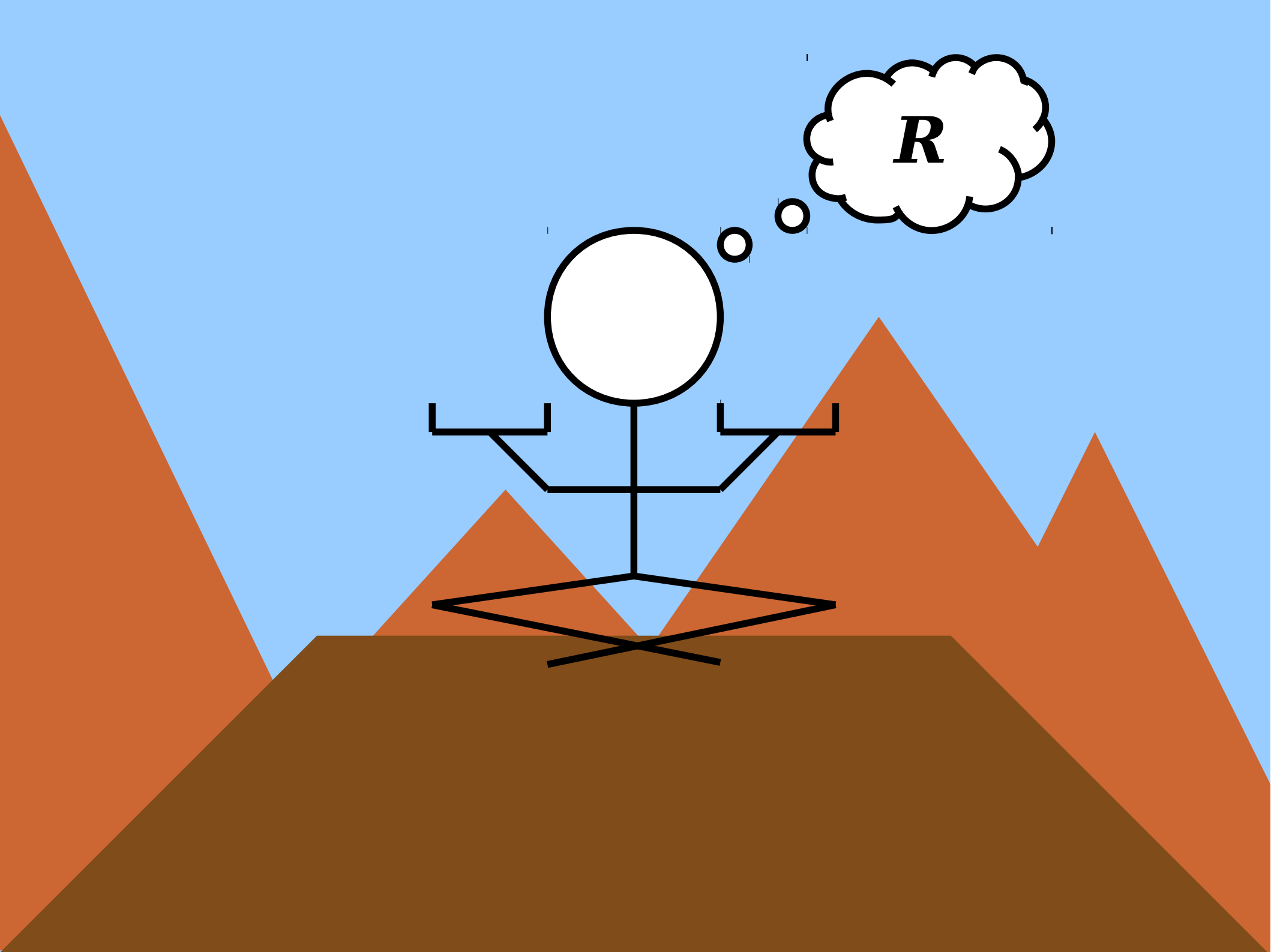


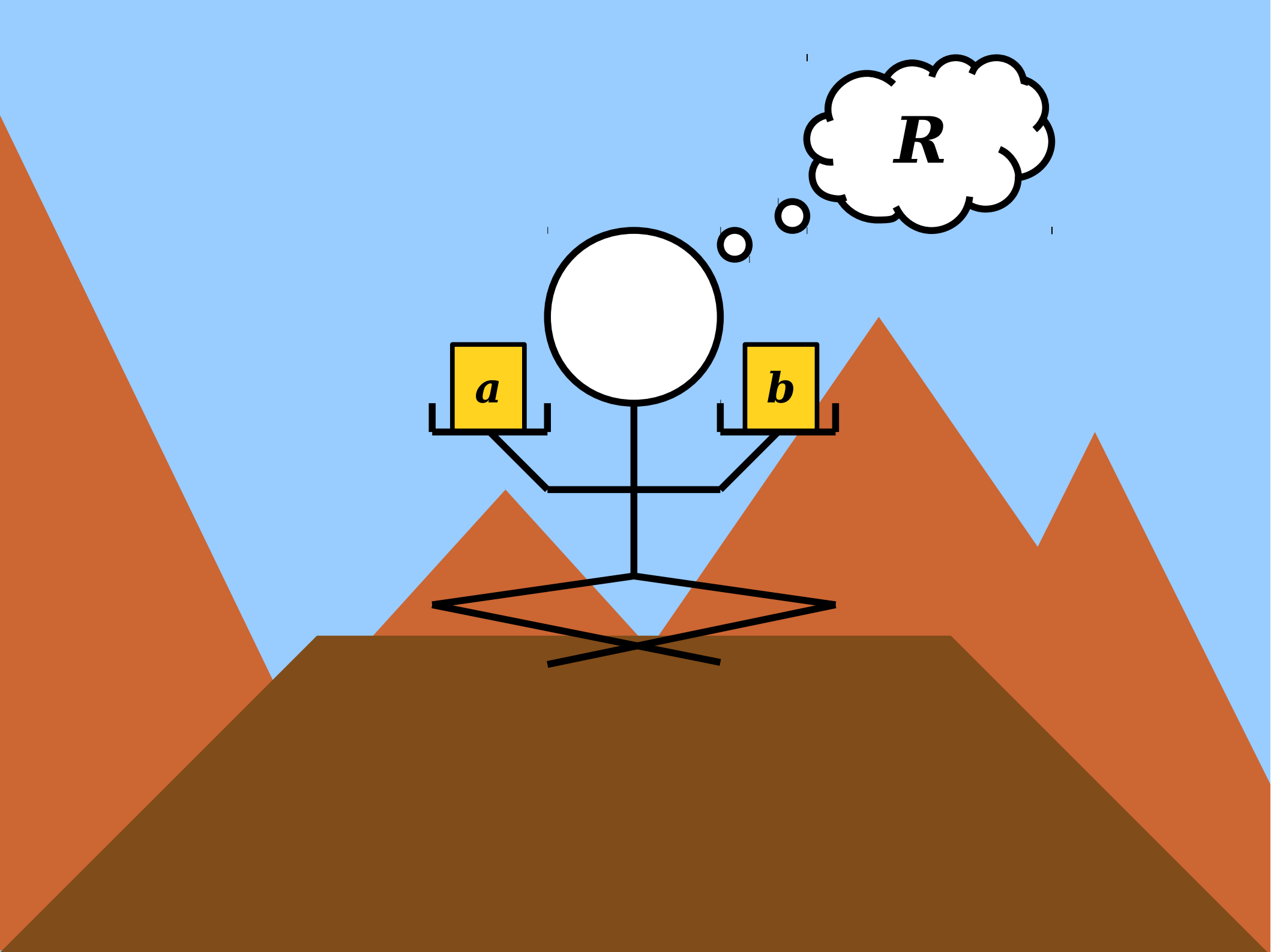
$\equiv 3$

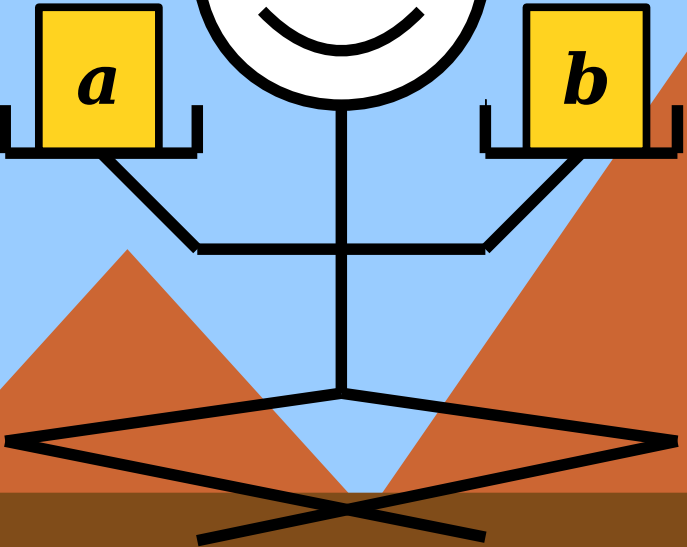
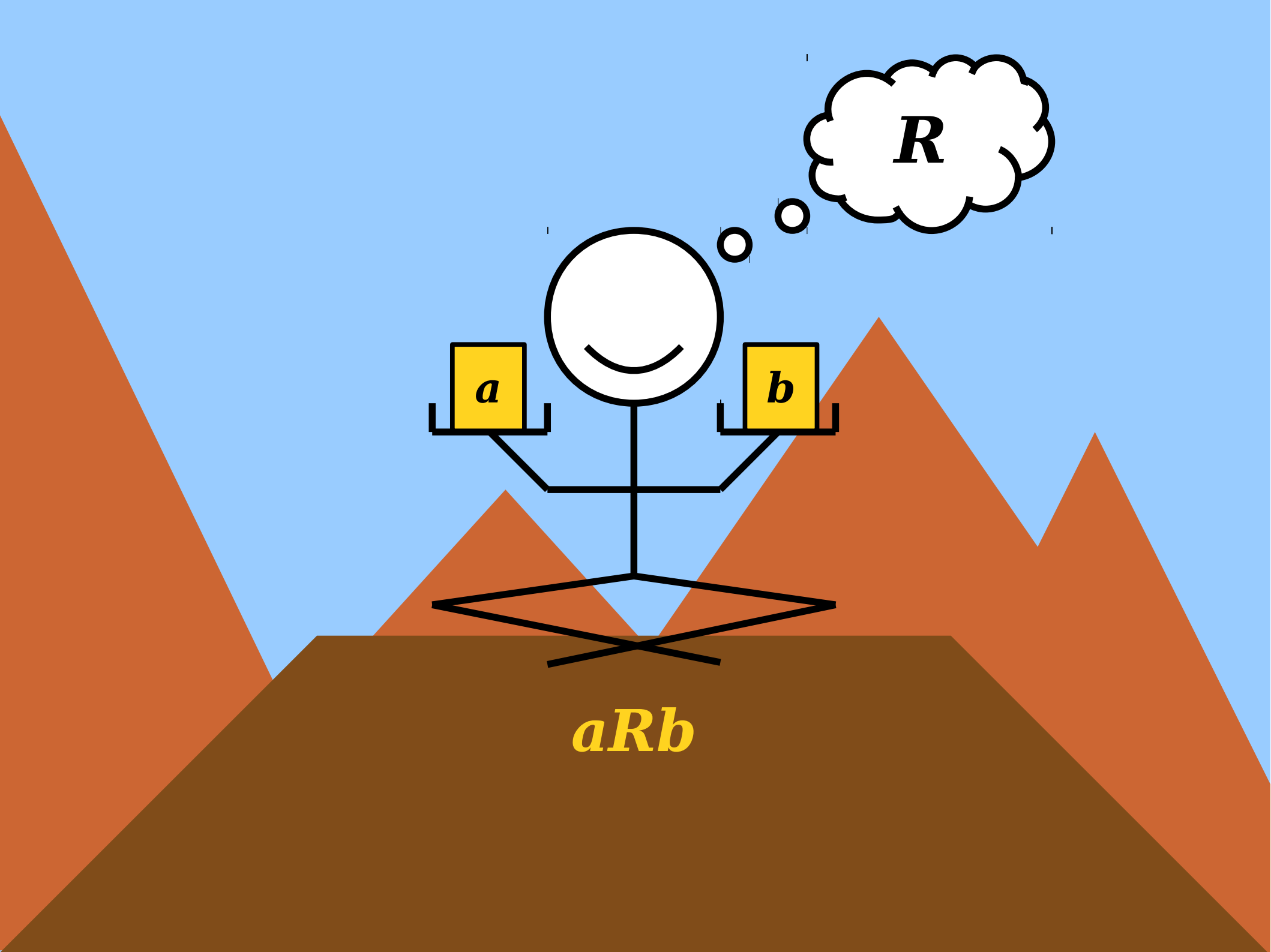


$$6 \not\equiv_3 11$$



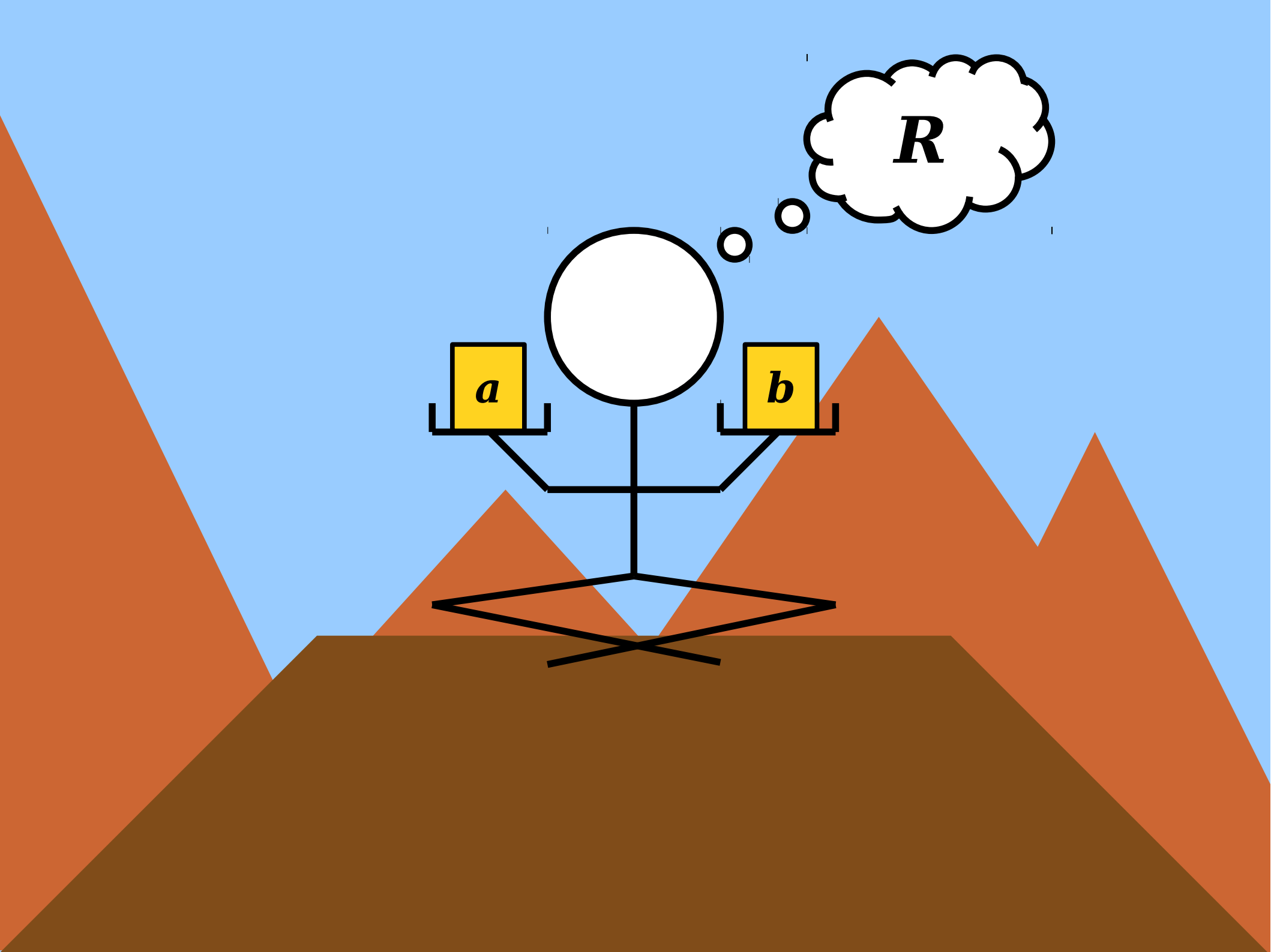


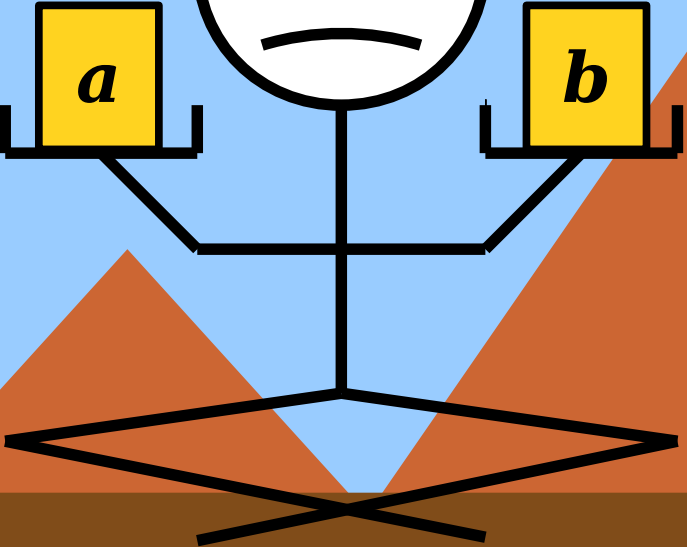
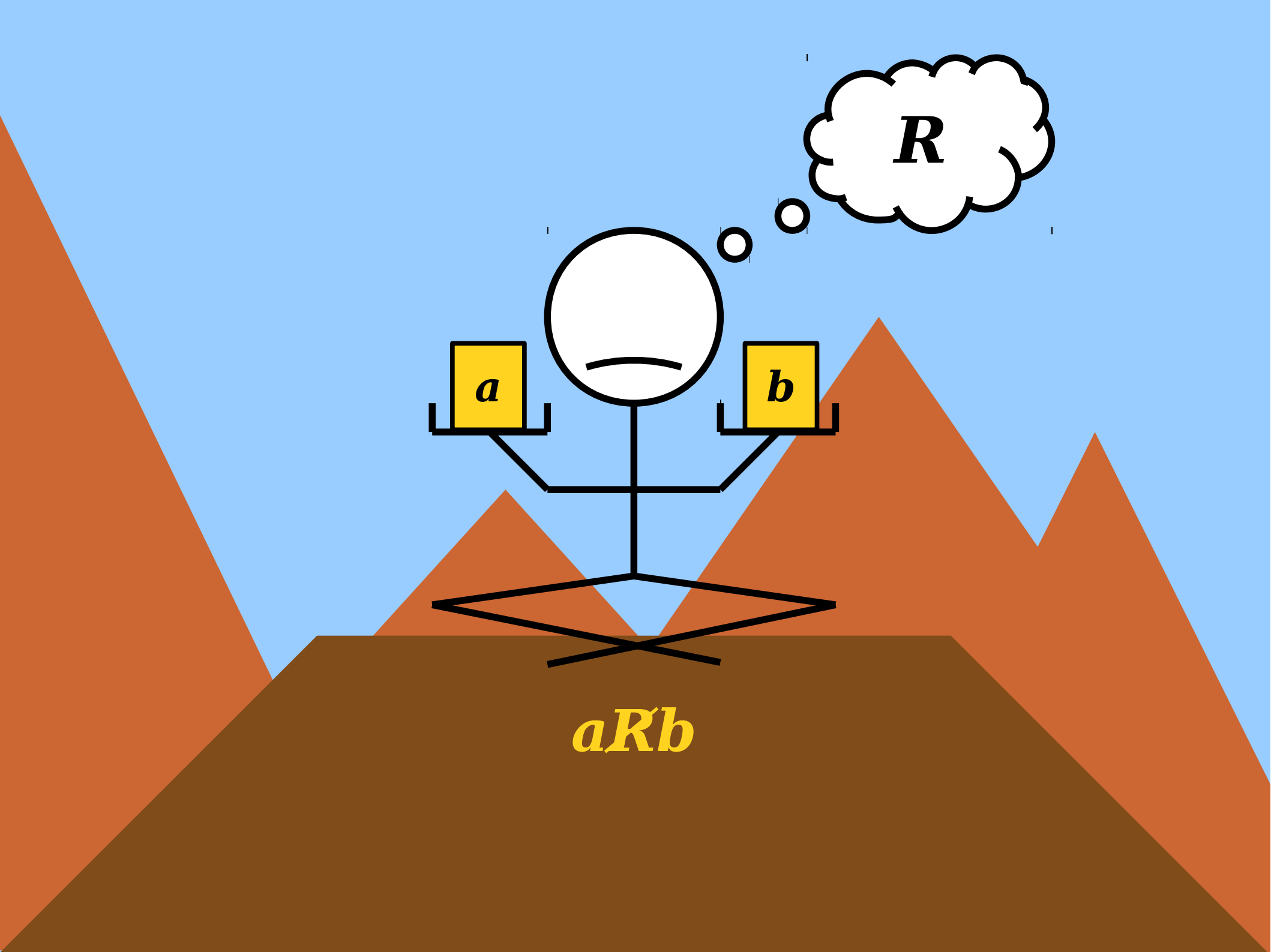




R

aRb





R

aRb

Binary Relations

- A **binary relation over a set A** is a predicate R that can be applied to pairs of elements drawn from A .
- If R is a binary relation over A and it holds for the pair (a, b) , we write **aRb** .

$$3 = 3$$

$$5 < 7$$

$$\emptyset \subseteq \mathbb{N}$$

- If R is a binary relation over A and it does not hold for the pair (a, b) , we write **$a \not R b$** .

$$4 \neq 3$$

$$4 \not< 3$$

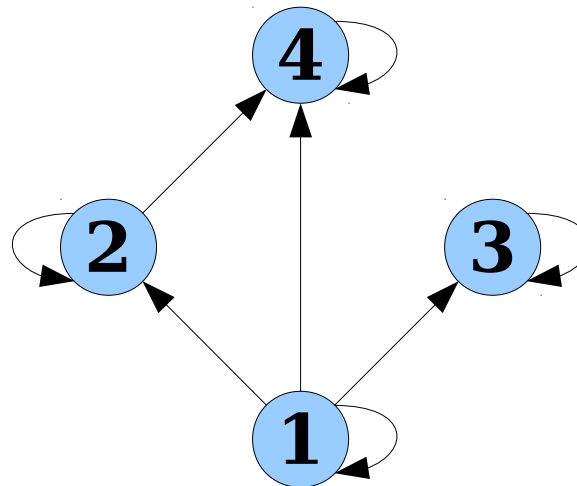
$$\mathbb{N} \not\subseteq \emptyset$$

Properties of Relations

- Generally speaking, if R is a binary relation over a set A , the order of the operands is significant.
 - For example, $3 < 5$, but $5 \not< 3$.
 - In some relations order is irrelevant; more on that later.
- Relations are always defined relative to some underlying set.
 - It's not meaningful to ask whether $\odot \subseteq 15$, for example, since \subseteq is defined over sets, not arbitrary objects.

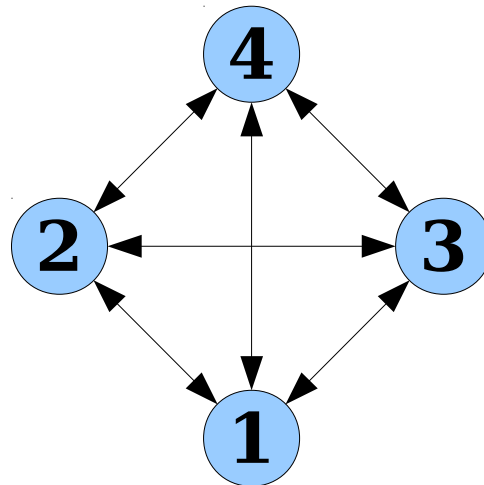
Visualizing Relations

- We can visualize a binary relation R over a set A by drawing the elements of A and drawing a line between an element a and an element b if aRb is true.
- Example: the relation $a \mid b$ (meaning “ a divides b ”) over the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ looks like this:



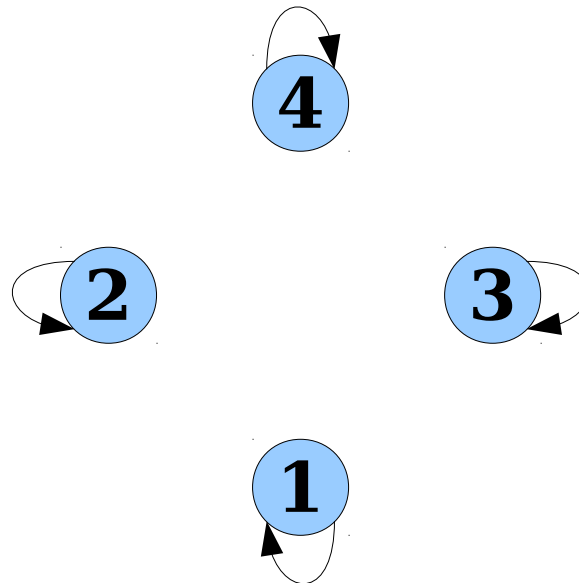
Visualizing Relations

- We can visualize a binary relation R over a set A by drawing the elements of A and drawing a line between an element a and an element b if aRb is true.
- Example: the relation $a \neq b$ over the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ looks like this:



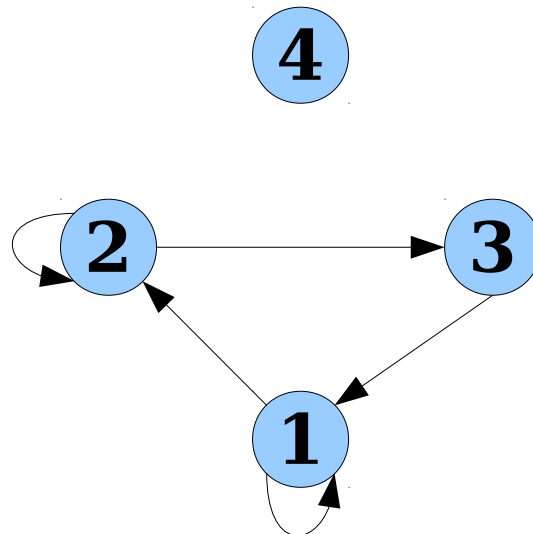
Visualizing Relations

- We can visualize a binary relation R over a set A by drawing the elements of A and drawing a line between an element a and an element b if aRb is true.
- Example: the relation $a = b$ over the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ looks like this:



Visualizing Relations

- We can visualize a binary relation R over a set A by drawing the elements of A and drawing a line between an element a and an element b if aRb is true.
- Example: below is some relation over $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ that's a totally valid relation even though there doesn't appear to be a simple unifying rule.



Below is a picture of a binary relation R over the set $\{1, 2, \dots, 8\}$.
How many of the following are correct ways to state the definition of the binary relation R ?

xRy if $x = 3$ and $y = 5$

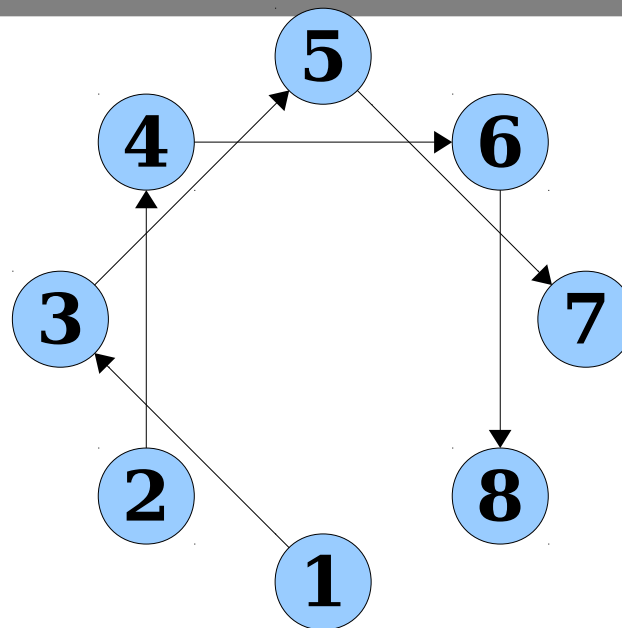
xRy if $x = 3$ and $y = 5$

xRy if $y = x + 2$

yRx if $y = x + 2$

$R = +2$

(Answer how many are correct)



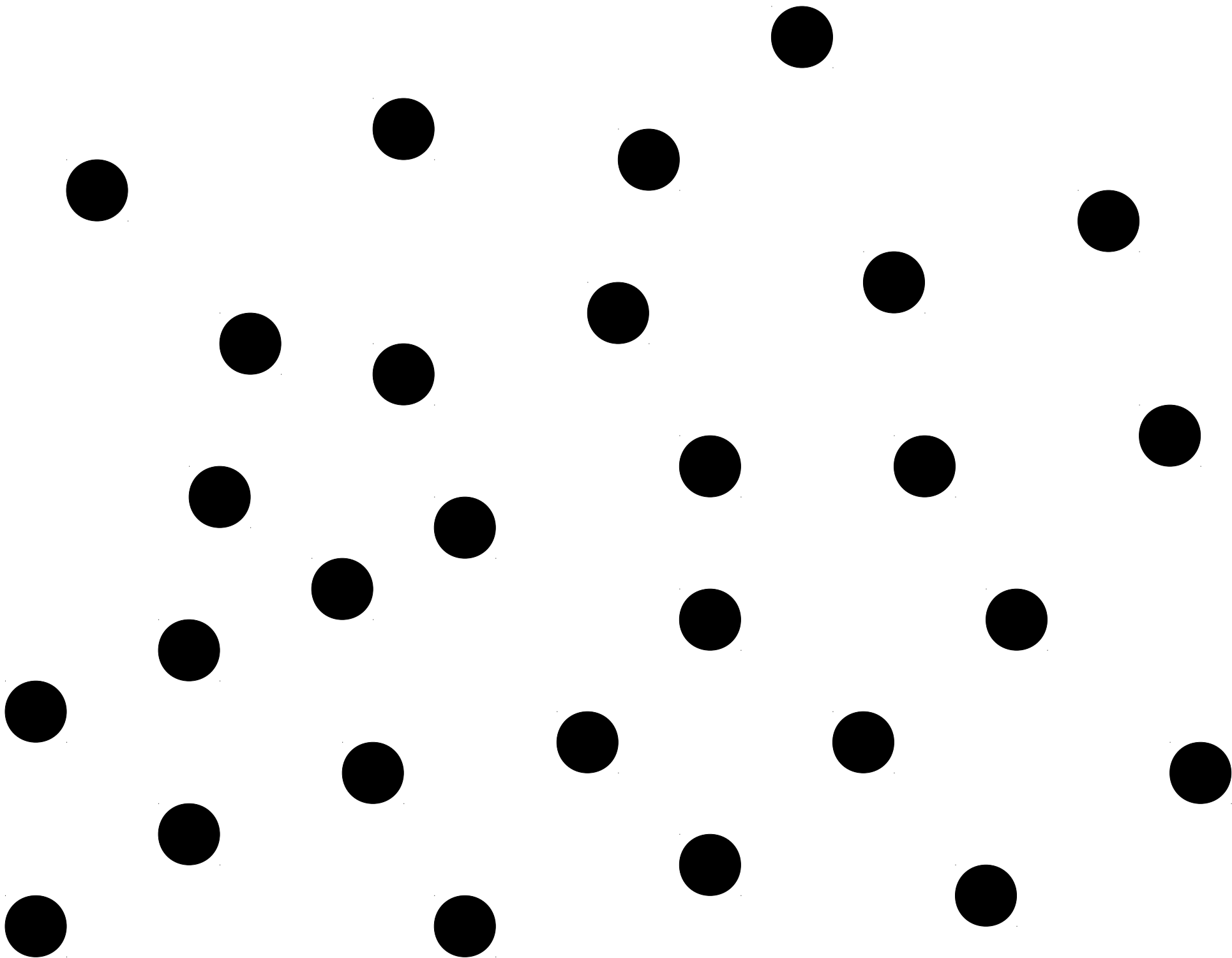
Answer at **PollEv.com/cs103** or
text **CS103** to **22333** once to join, then **0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5**.

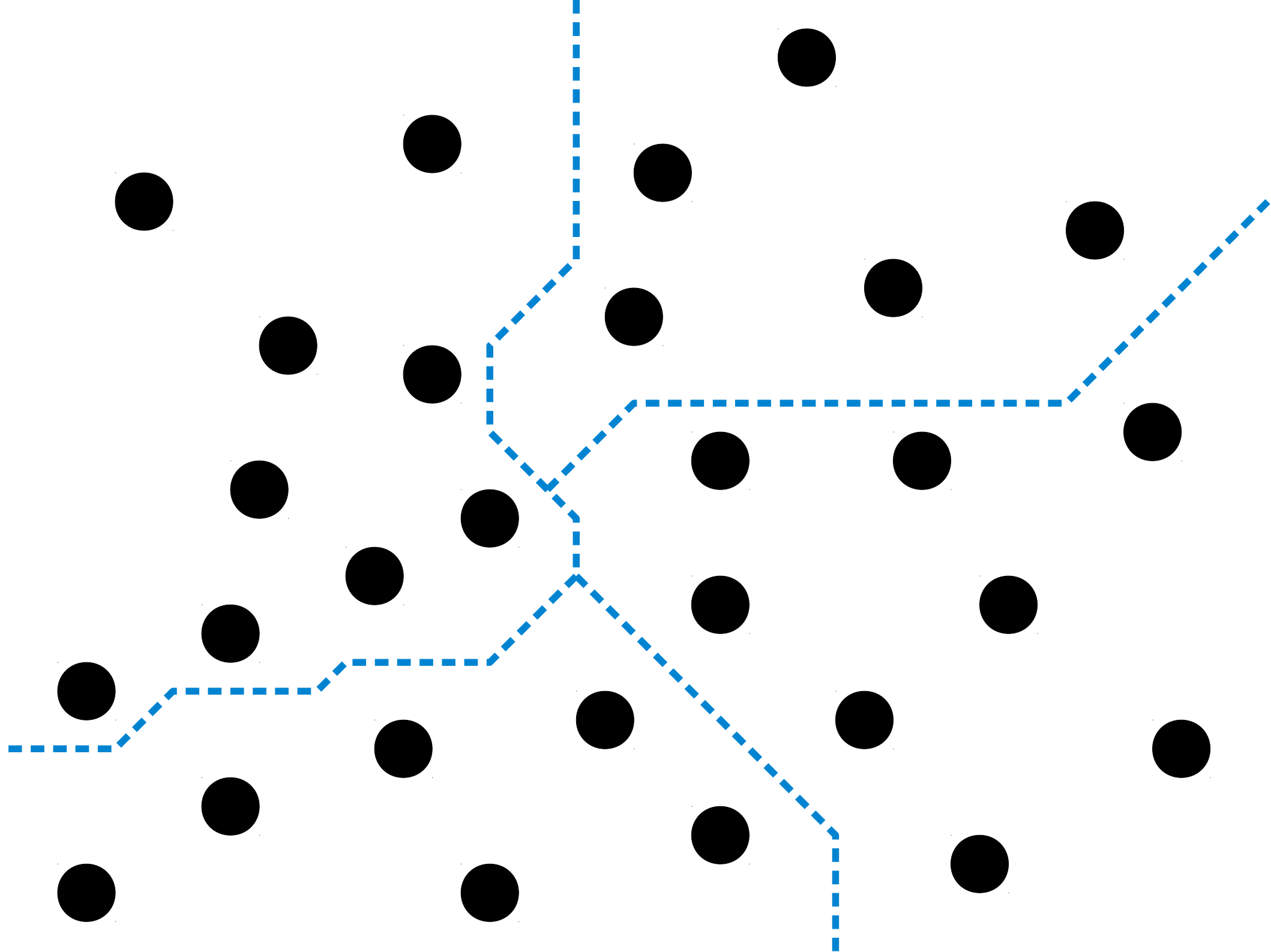
Capturing Structure

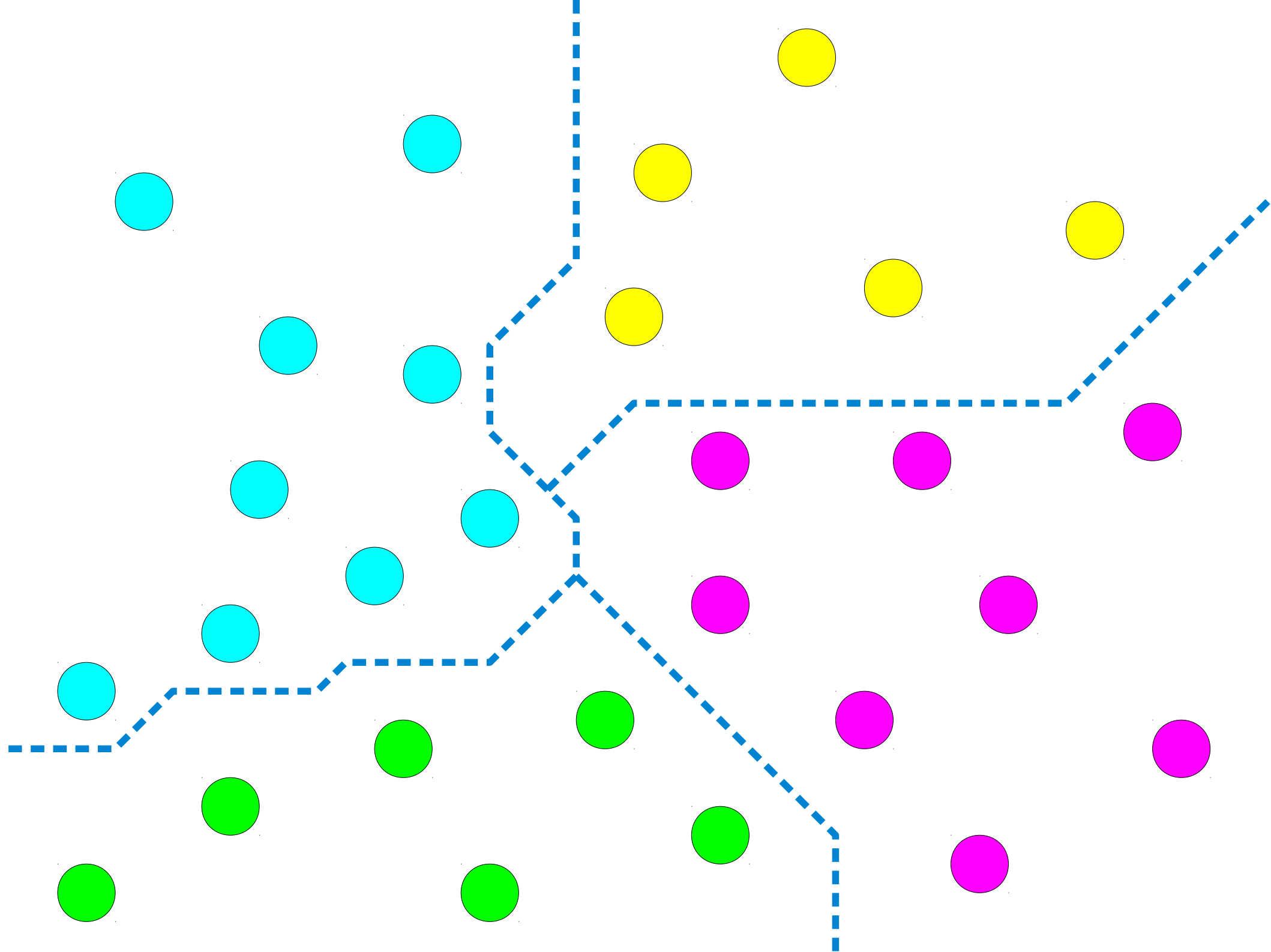
Capturing Structure

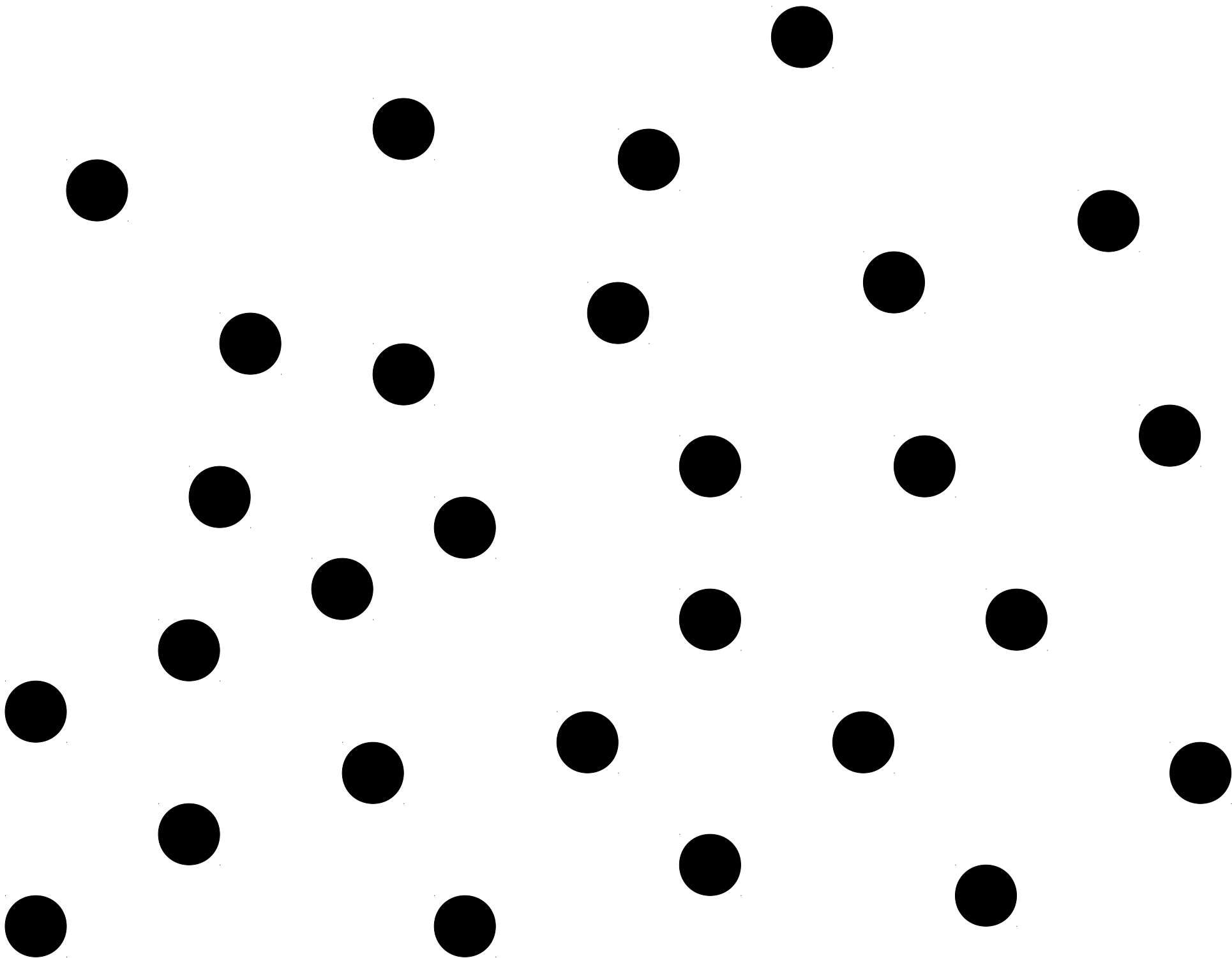
- Binary relations are an excellent way for capturing certain structures that appear in computer science.
- Today, we'll look at one of them (***partitions***), and next time we'll see another (***prerequisites***).
- Along the way, we'll explore how to write proofs about definitions given in first-order logic.

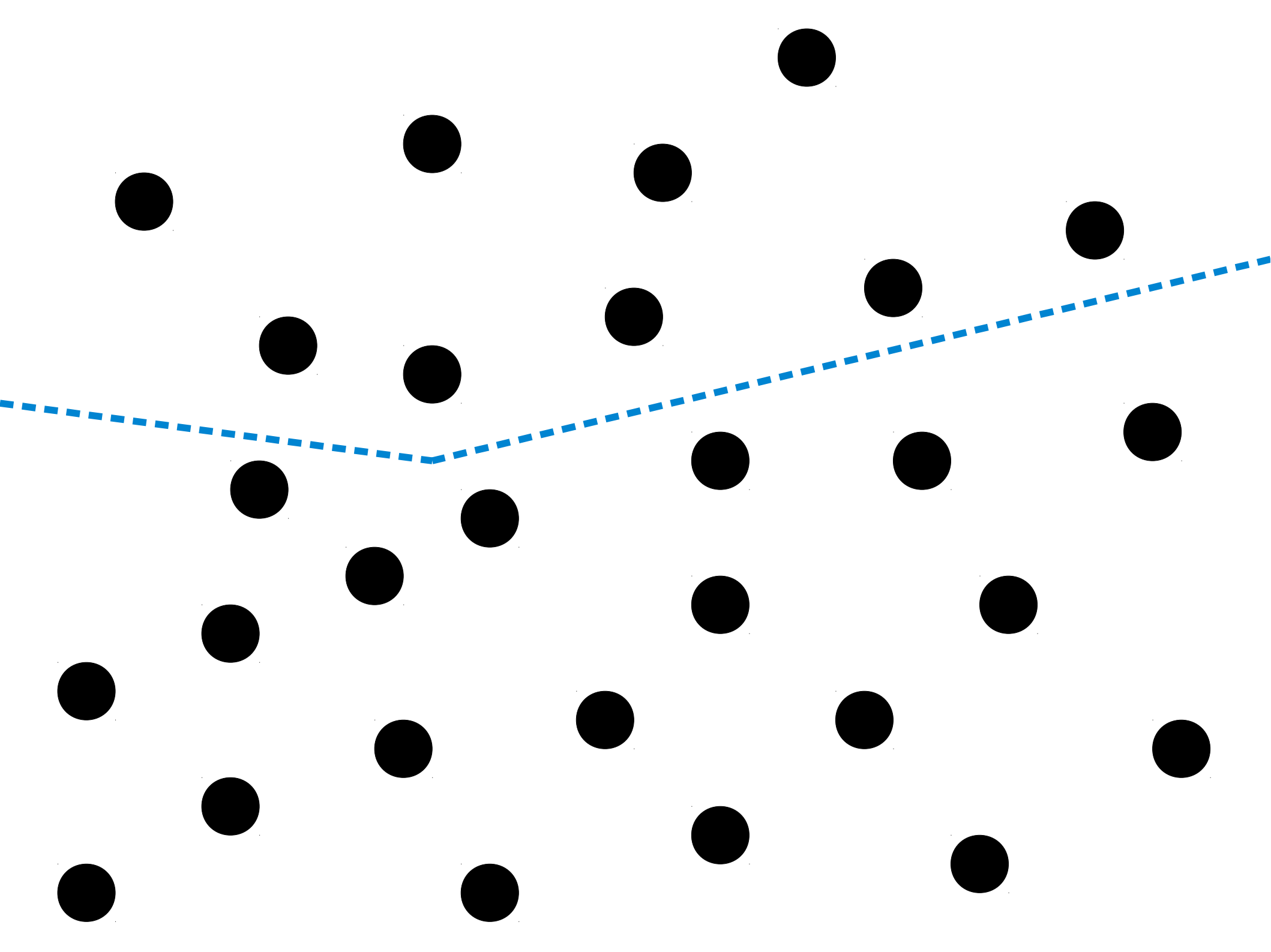
Partitions

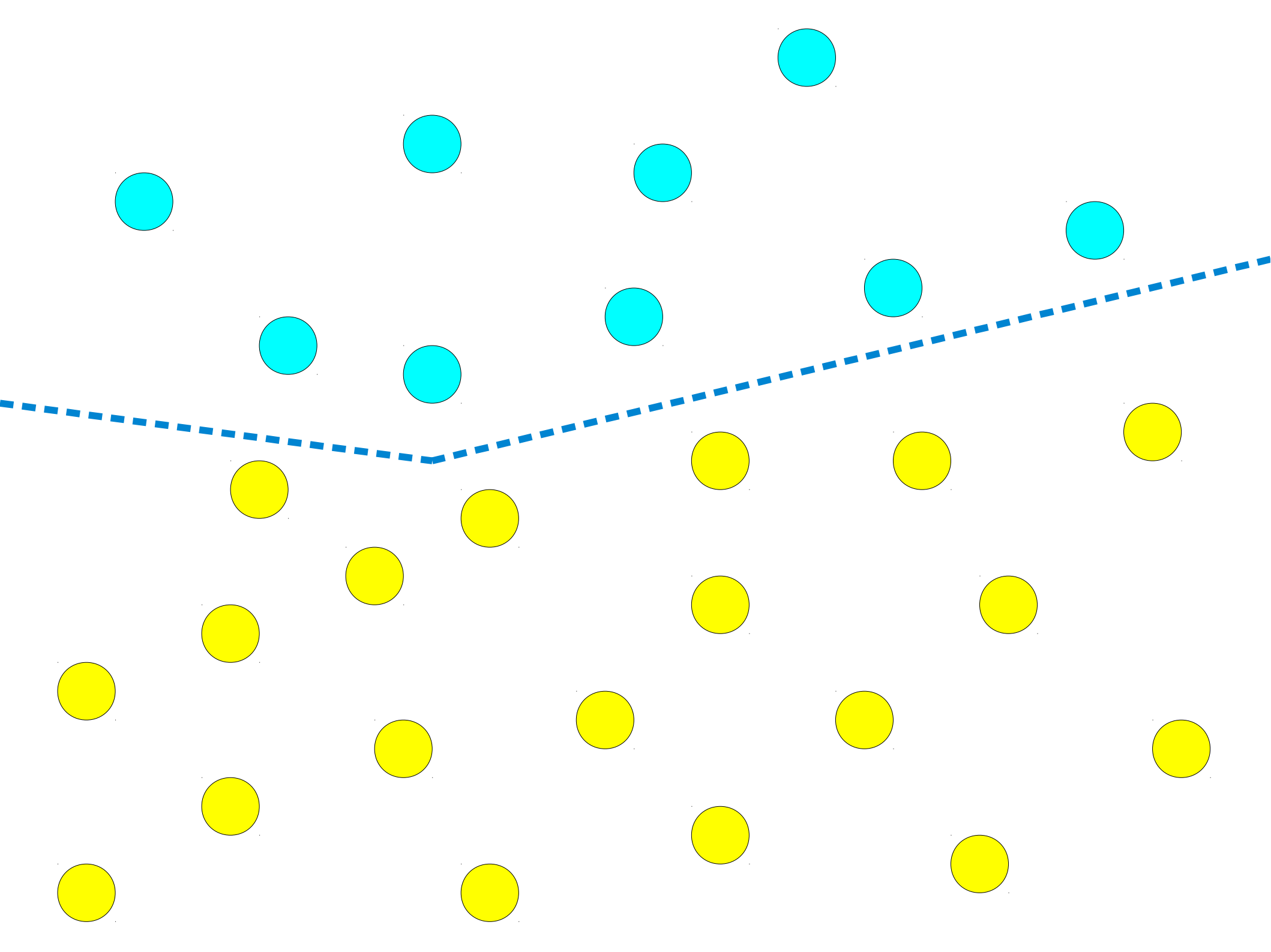


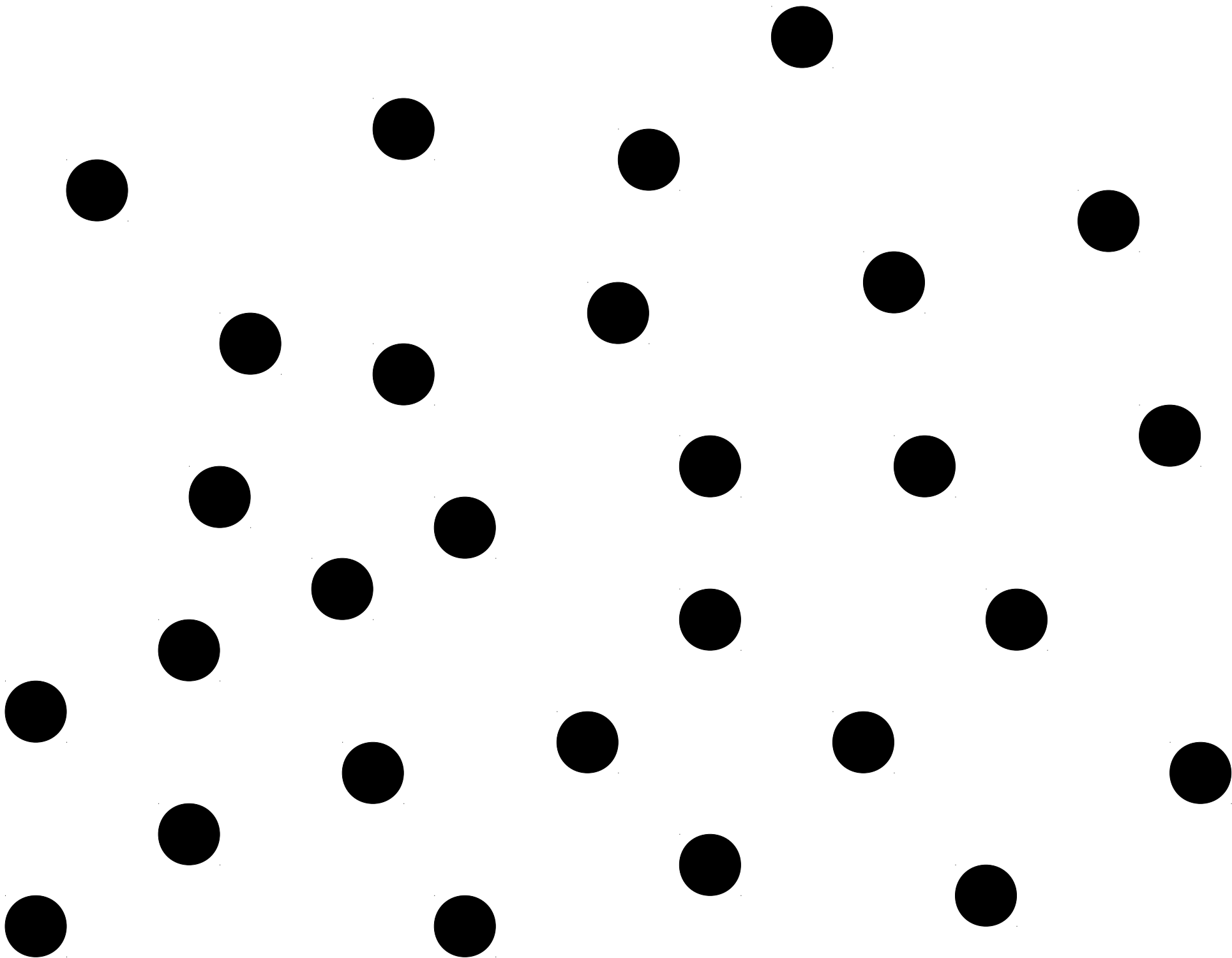


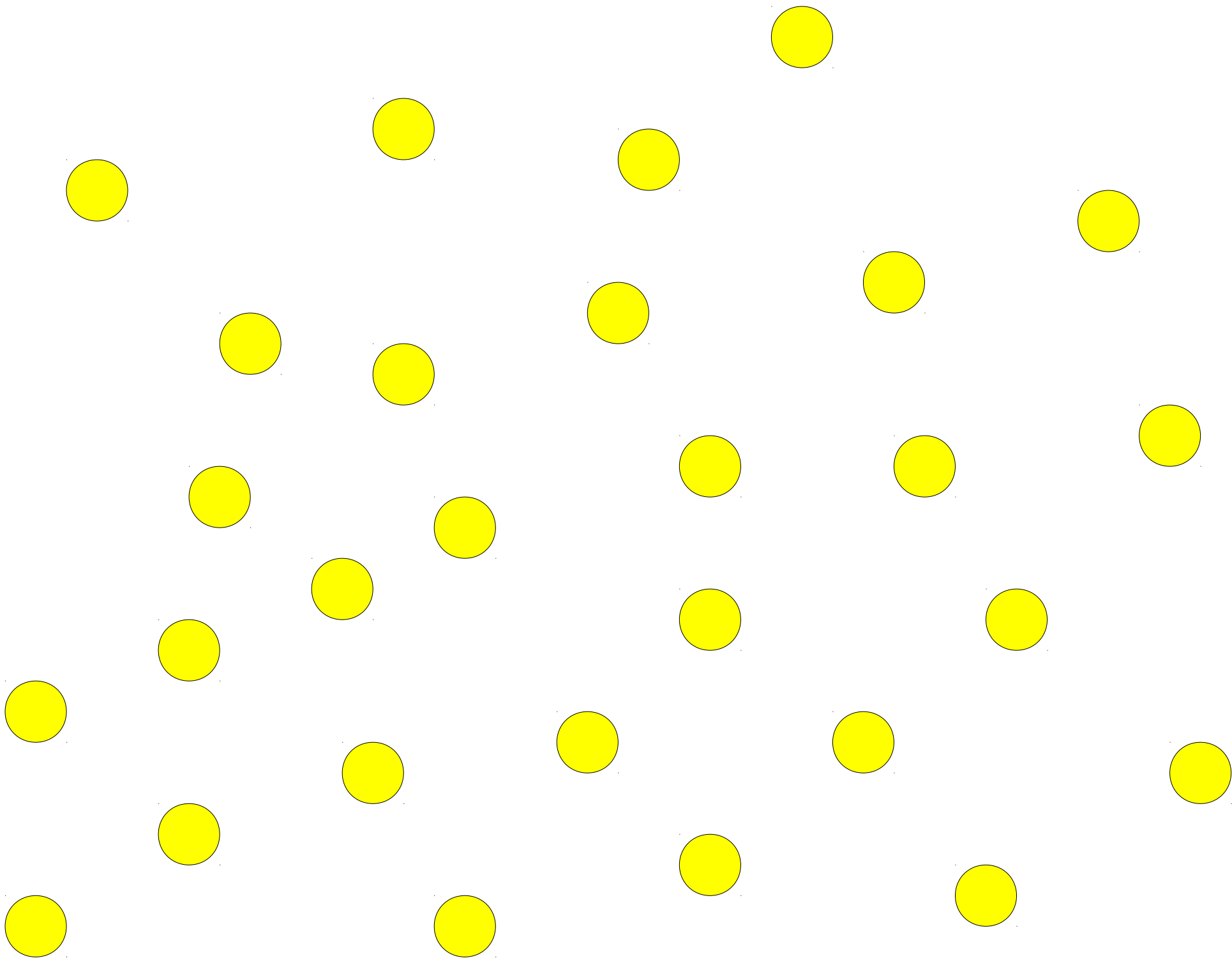


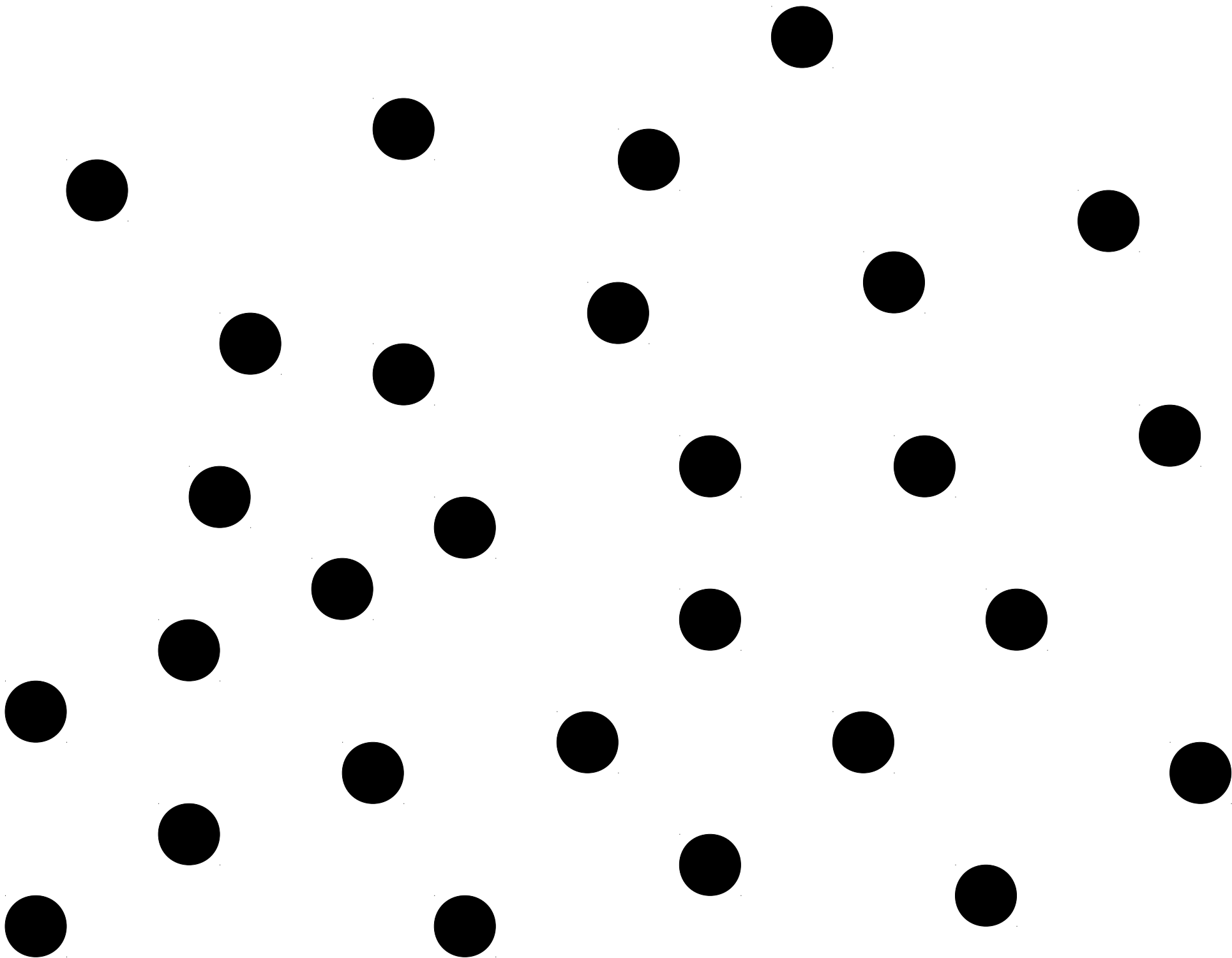


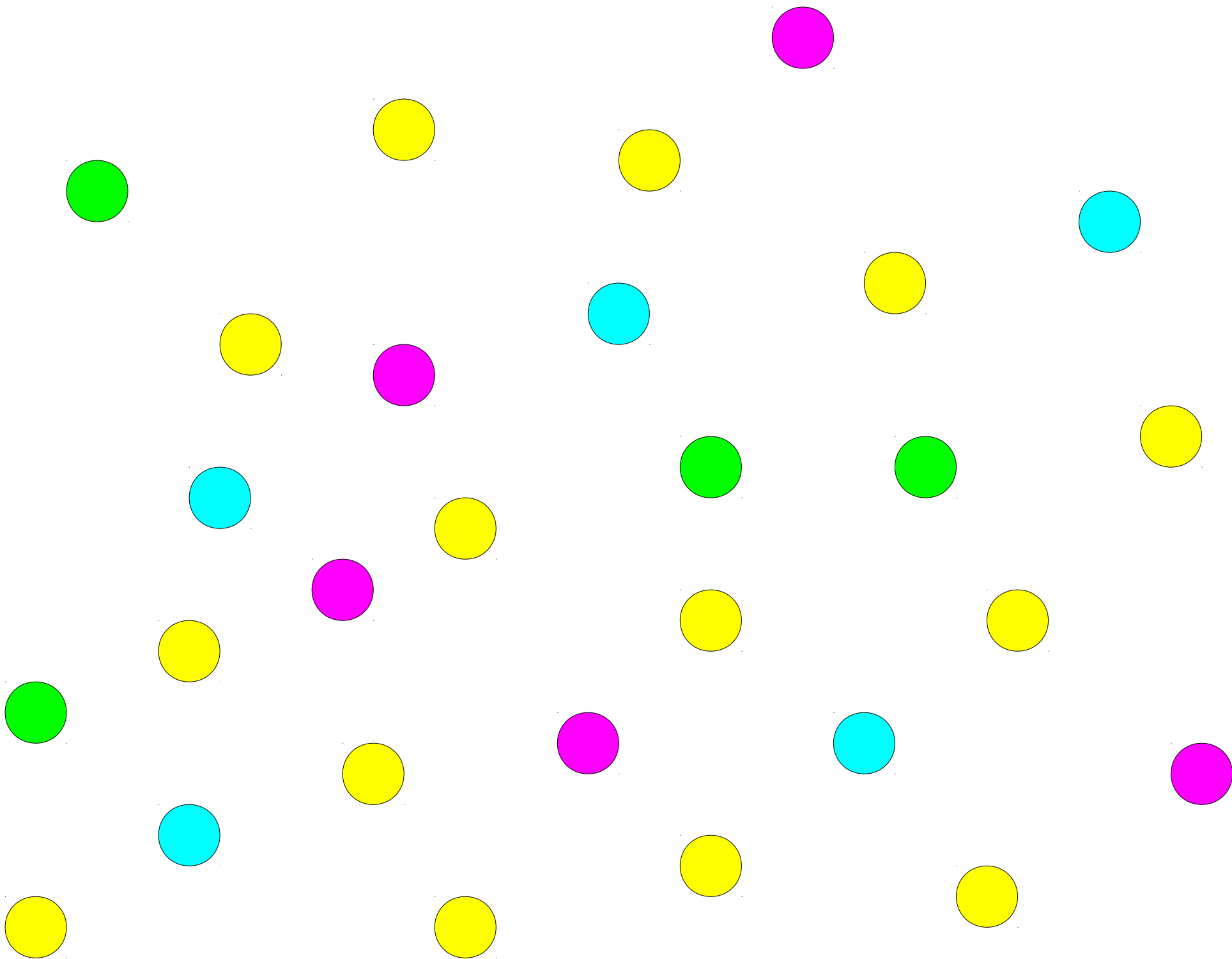












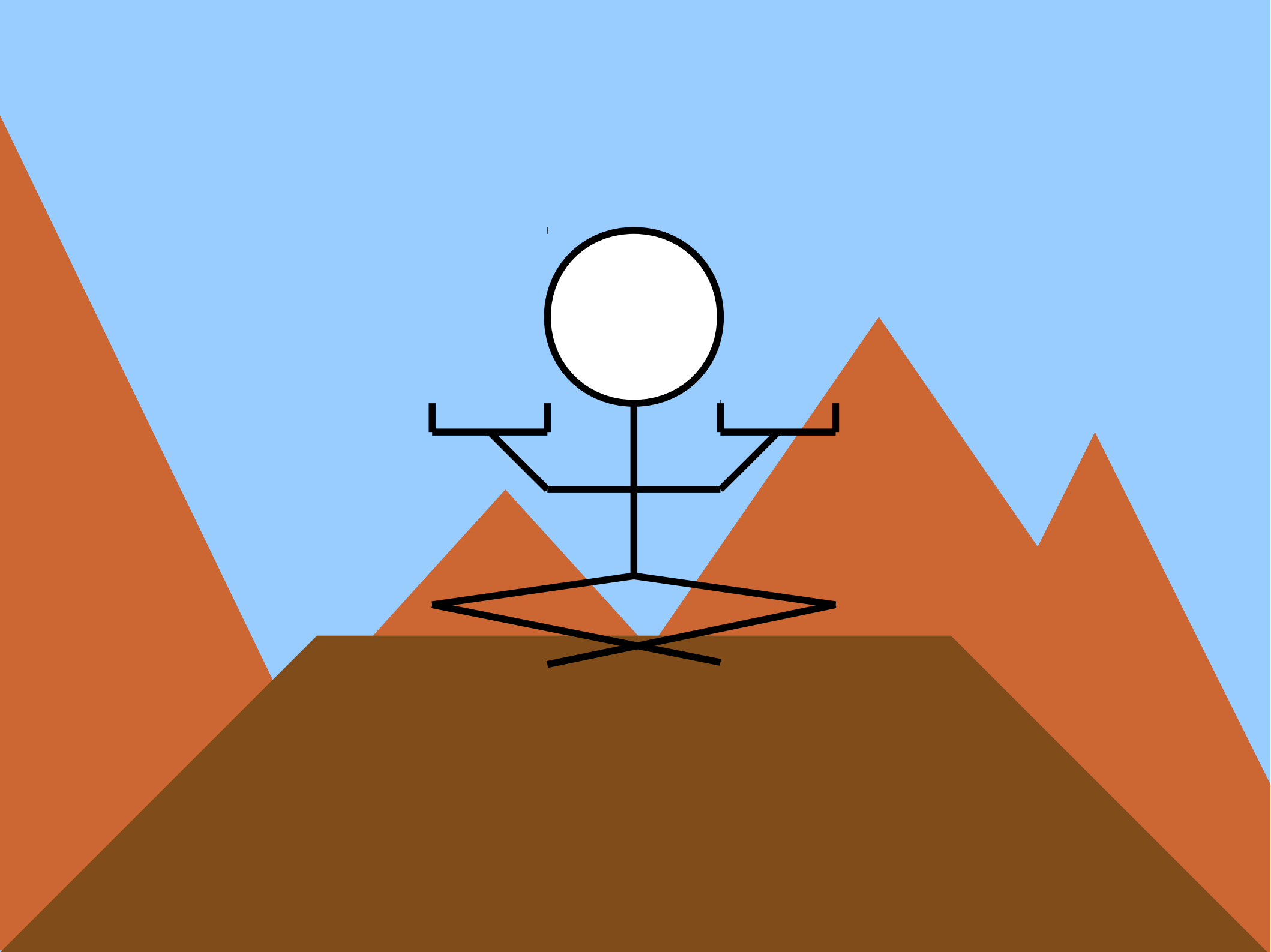
Partitions

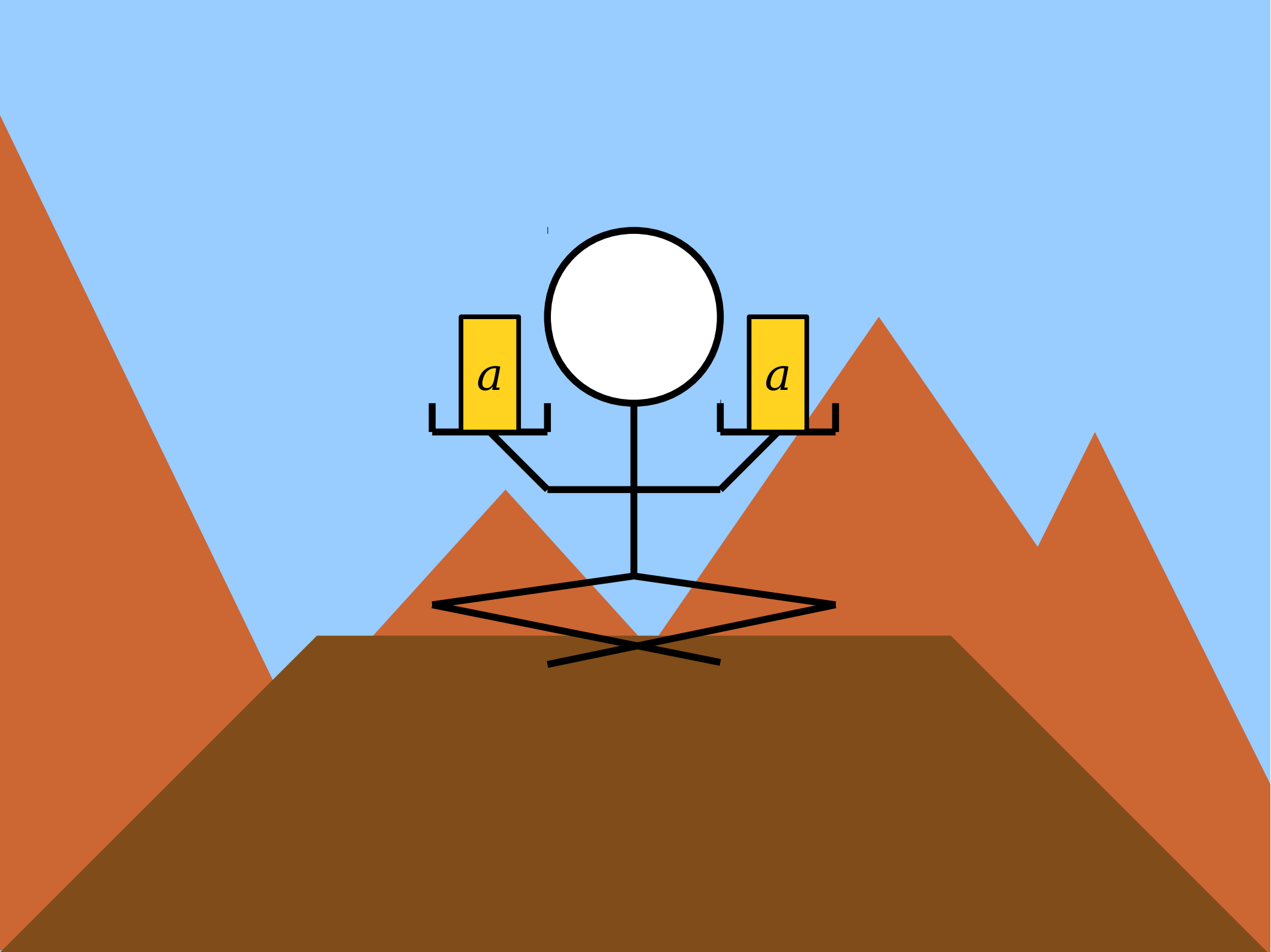
- A ***partition of a set*** is a way of splitting the set into disjoint, nonempty subsets so that every element belongs to exactly one subset.
 - Two sets are ***disjoint*** if their intersection is the empty set; formally, sets S and T are disjoint if $S \cap T = \emptyset$.
- Intuitively, a partition of a set breaks the set apart into smaller pieces.
- There doesn't have to be any rhyme or reason to what those pieces are, though often there is one.

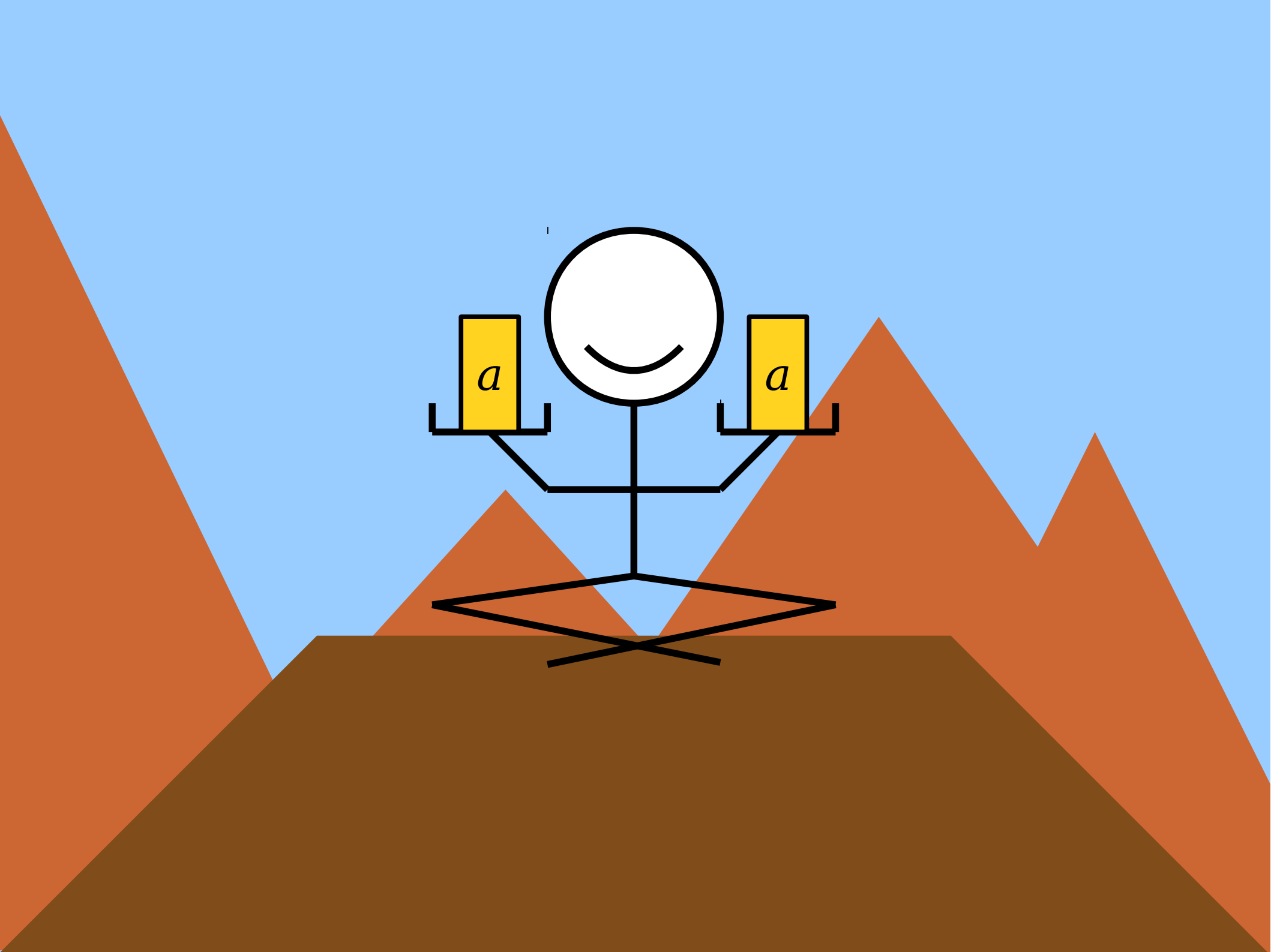
Partitions and Clustering

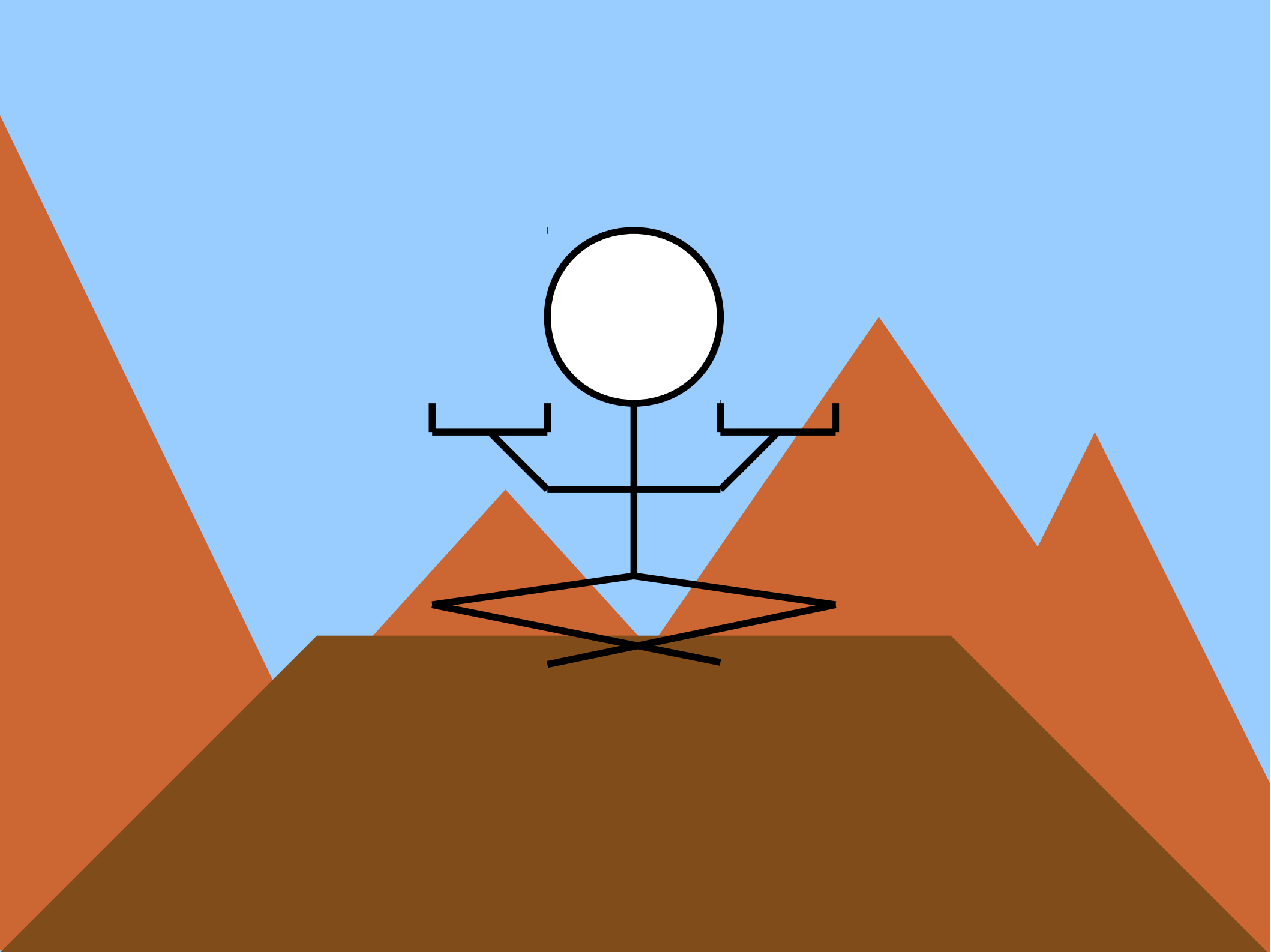
- If you have a set of data, you can often learn something from the data by finding a “good” partition of that data and inspecting the partitions.
 - Usually, the term ***clustering*** is used in data analysis rather than *partitioning*.
- Interested to learn more? Take CS161 or CS246!

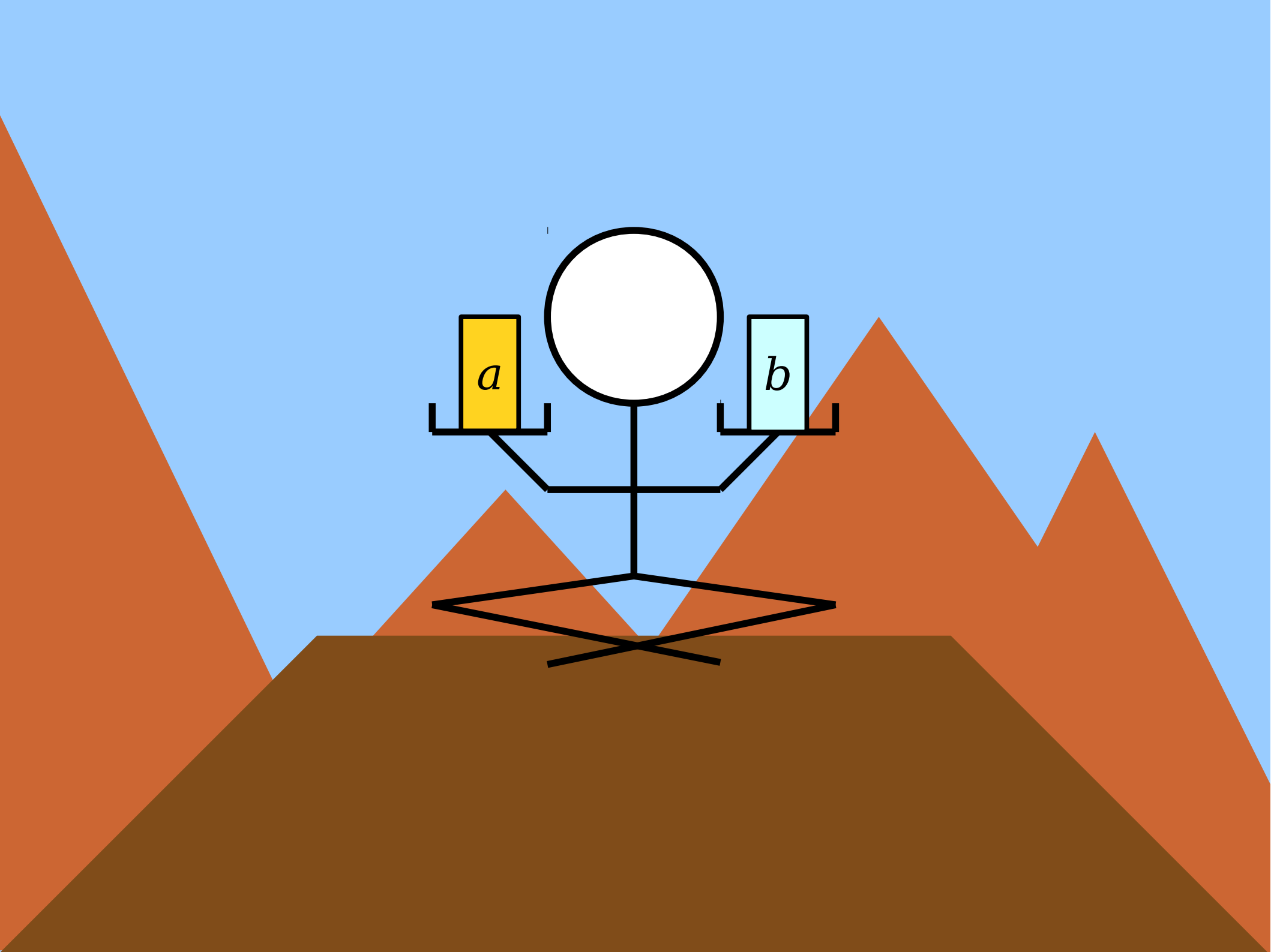
What's the connection between partitions
and binary relations?



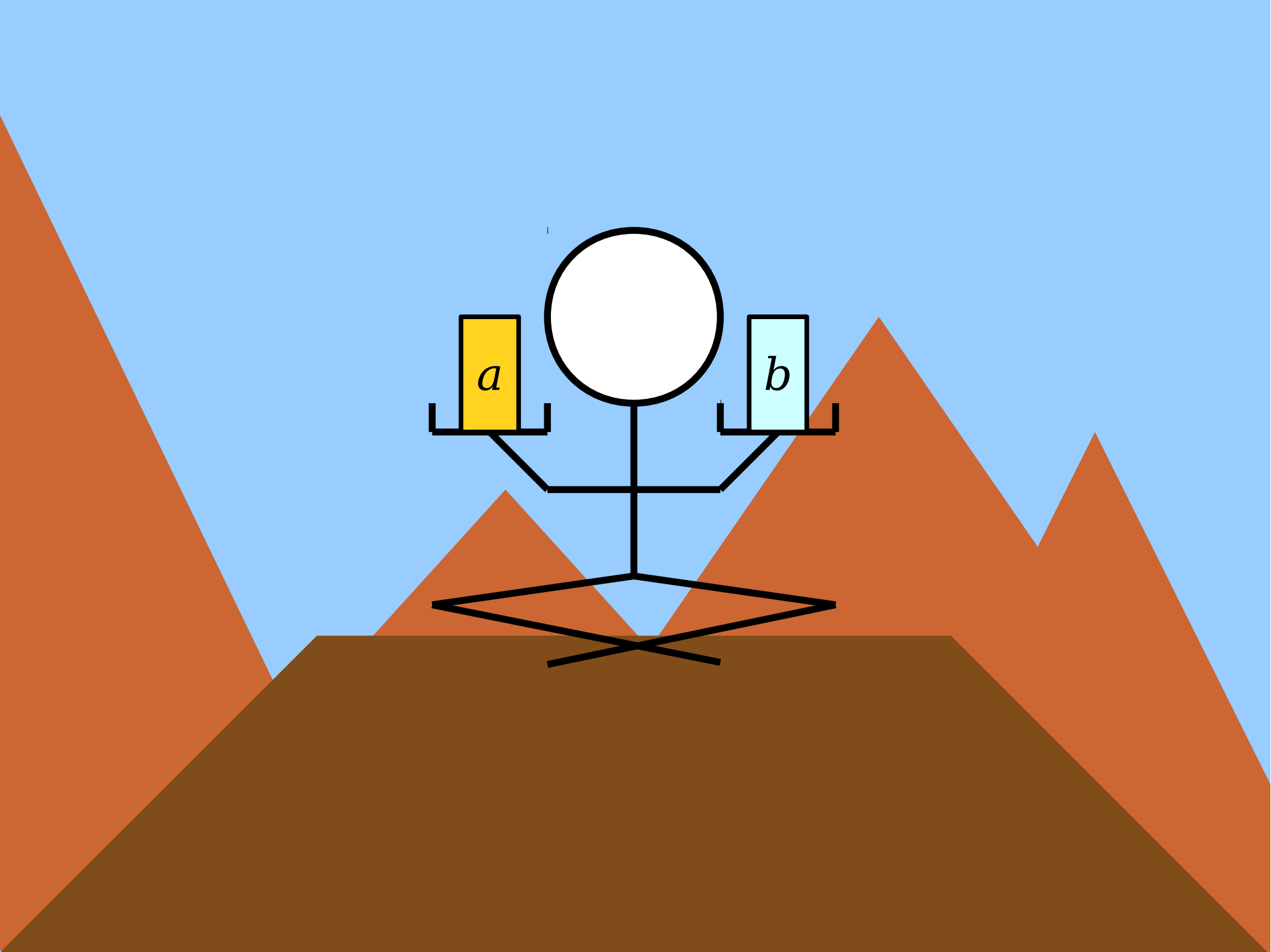




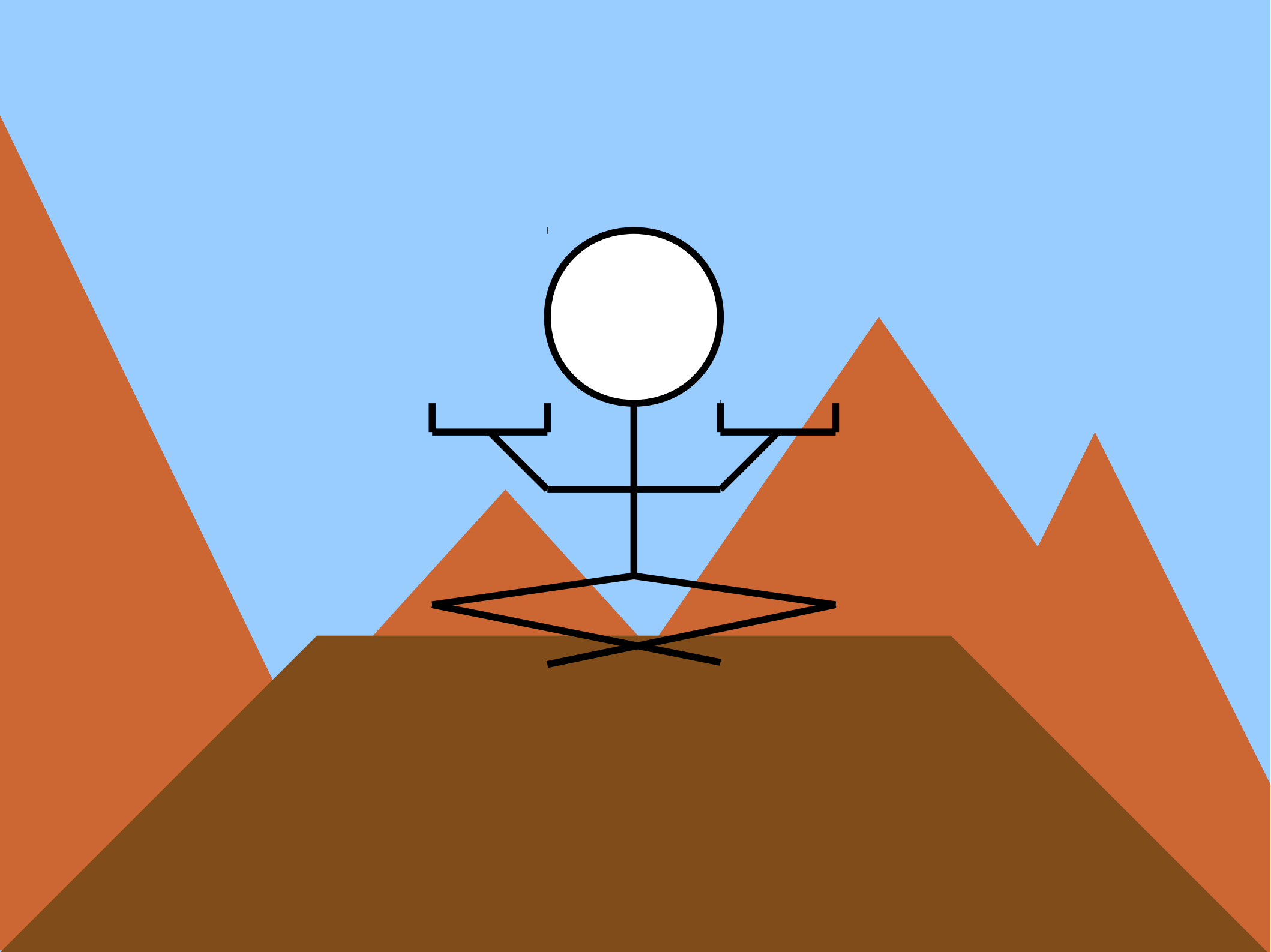


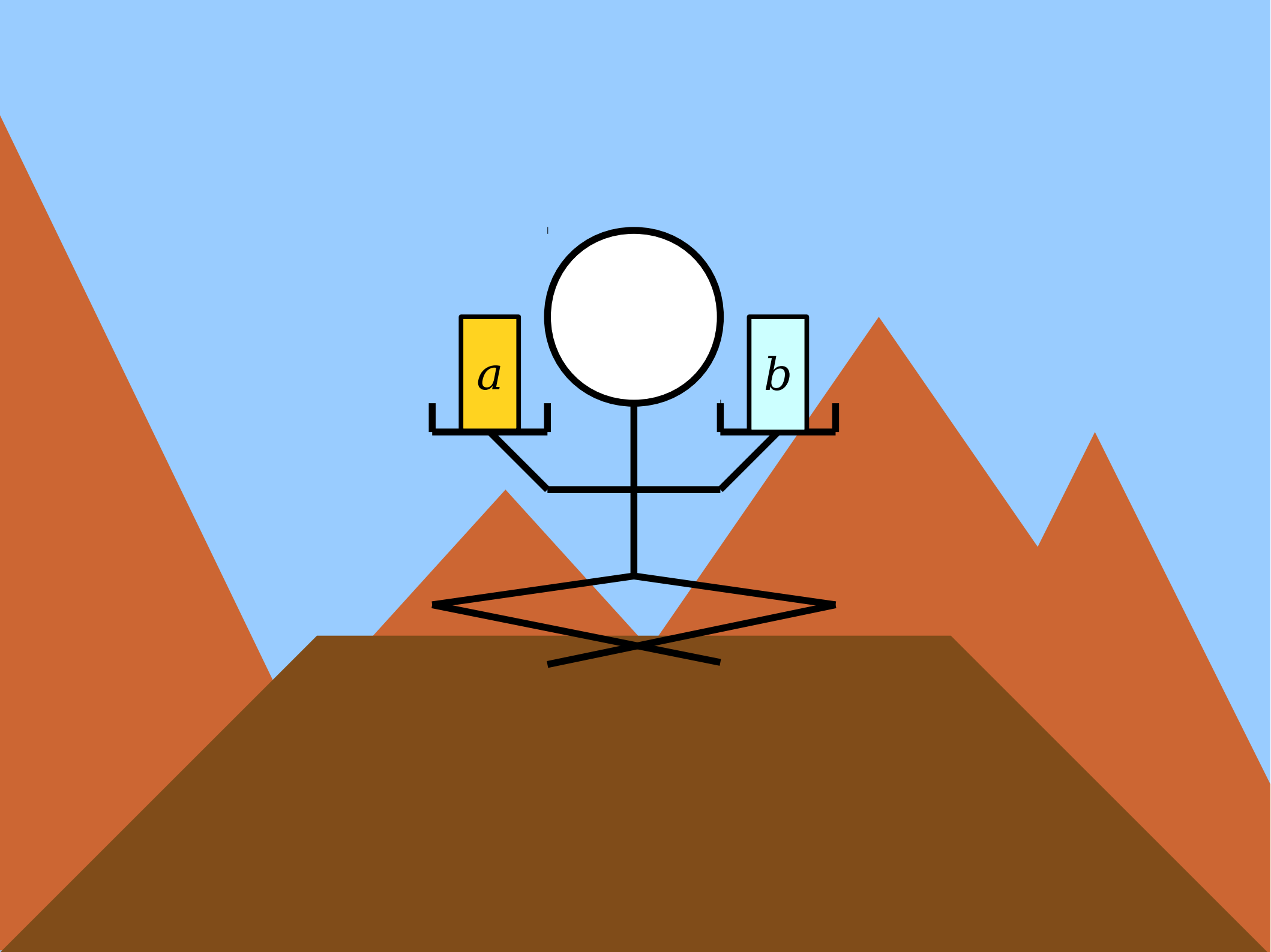


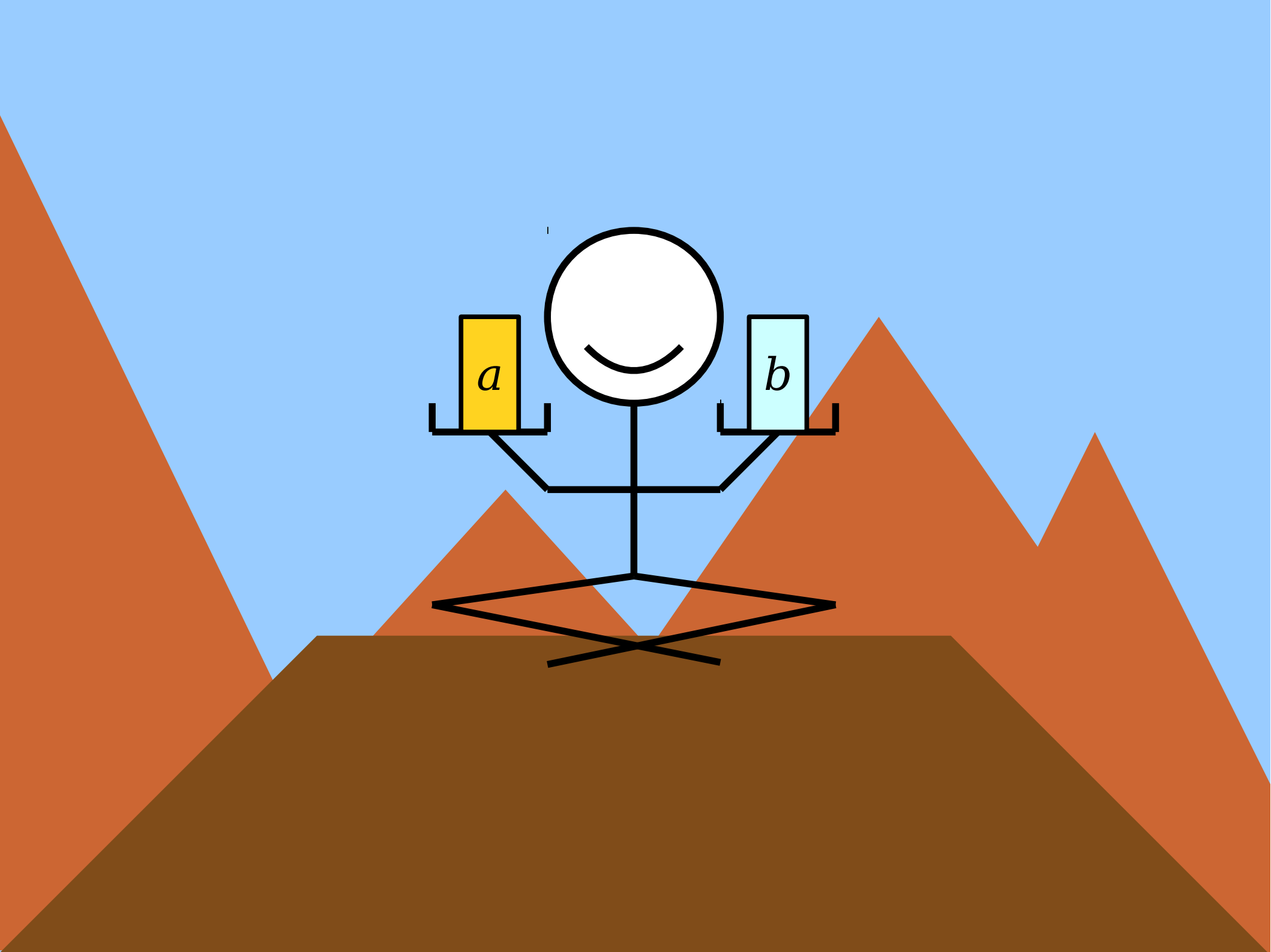


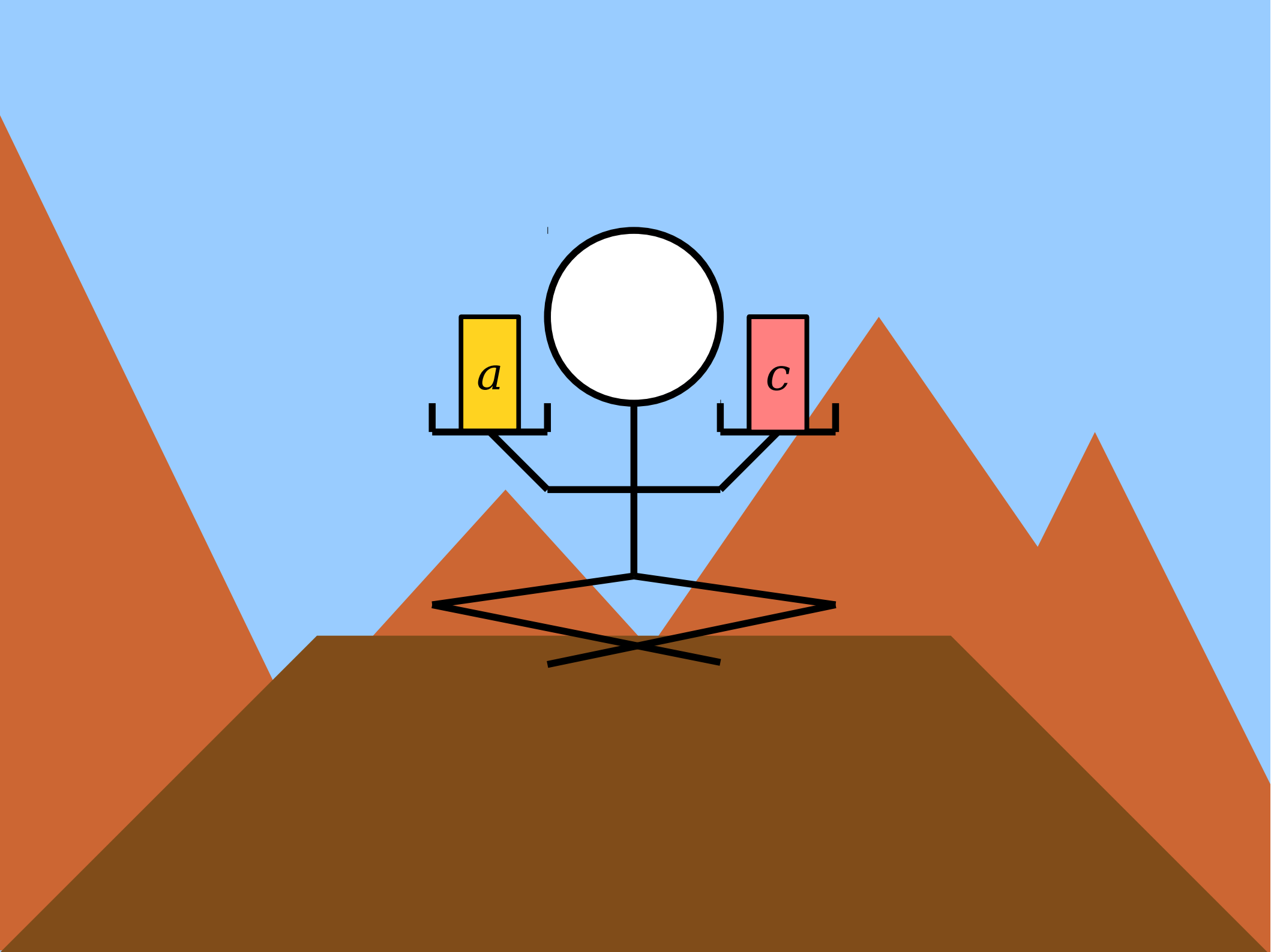




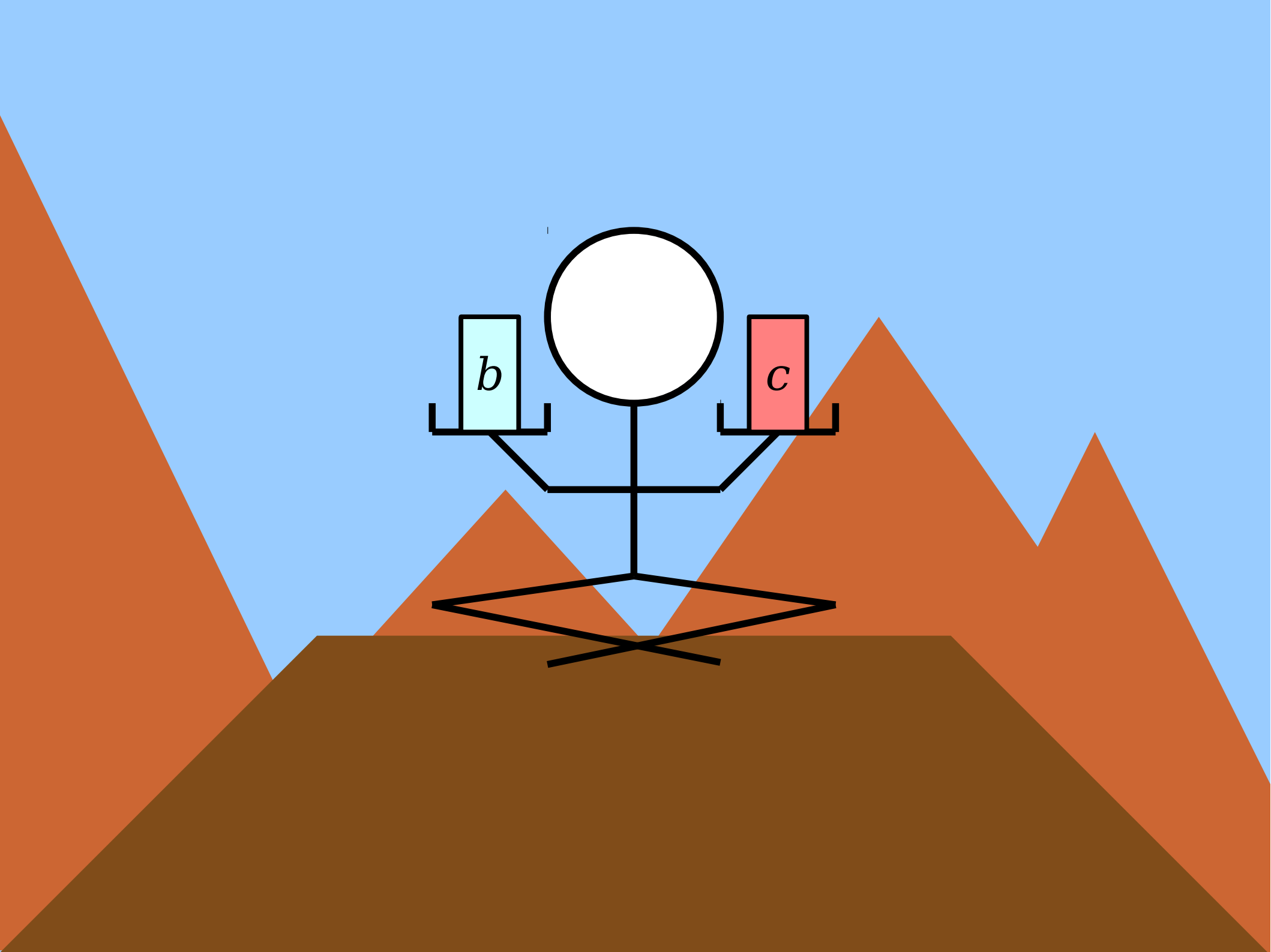




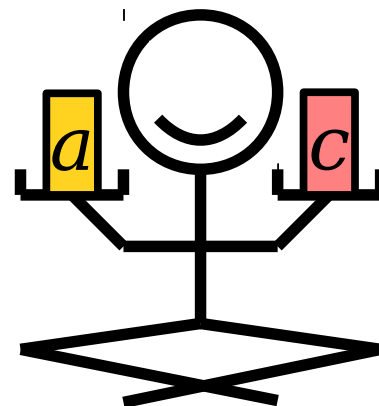
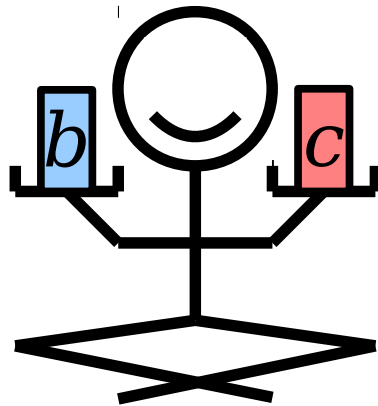
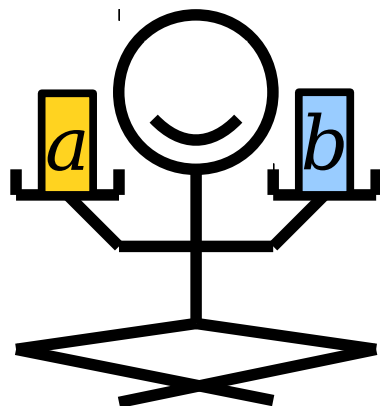
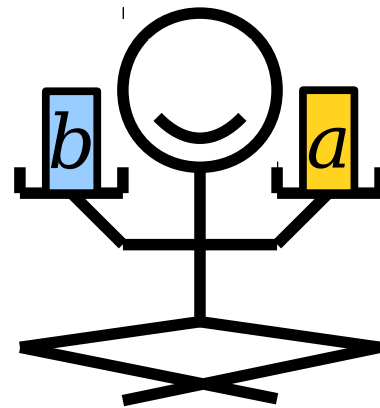
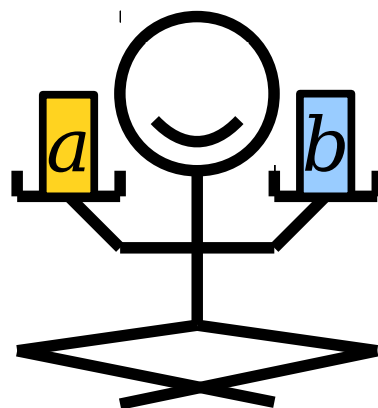
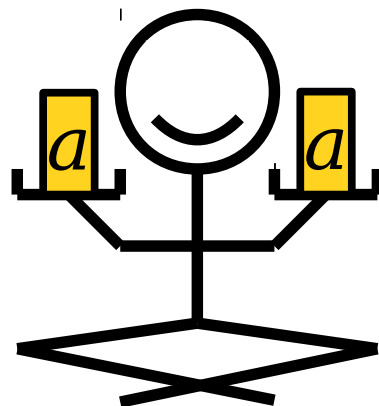












$$aRa$$

$$aRb \rightarrow bRa$$

$$aRb \wedge bRc \rightarrow aRc$$

$$\forall a \in A. aRa$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. \forall c \in A. (aRb \wedge bRc \rightarrow aRc)$$

$$\forall a \in A. aRa$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. \forall c \in A. (aRb \wedge bRc \rightarrow aRc)$$

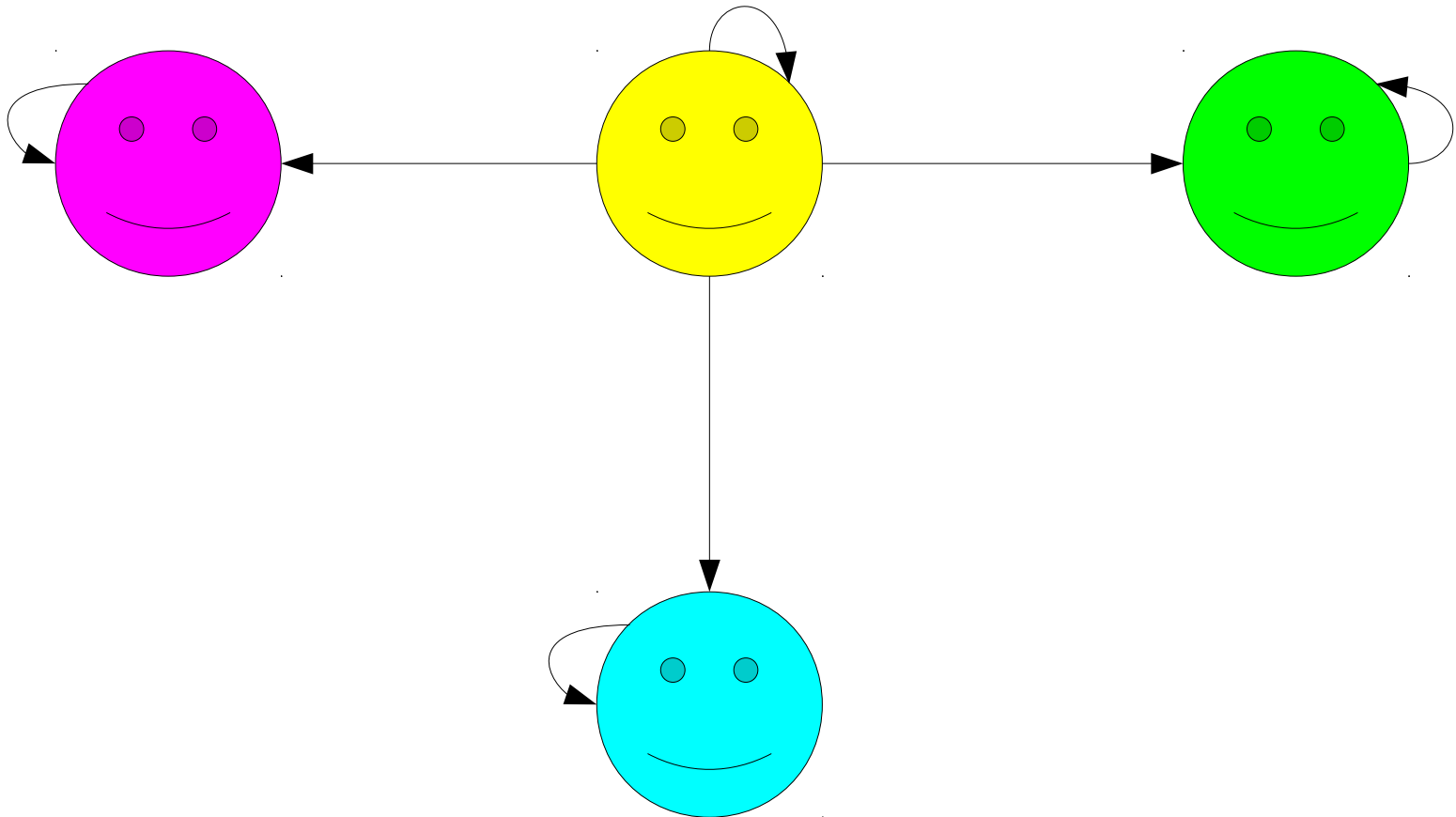
Reflexivity

- Some relations always hold from any element to itself.
- Examples:
 - $x = x$ for any x .
 - $A \subseteq A$ for any set A .
 - $x \equiv_k x$ for any x .
- Relations of this sort are called ***reflexive***.
- Formally speaking, a binary relation R over a set A is reflexive if the following first-order statement is true:

$$\forall a \in A. aRa$$

(“Every element is related to itself.”)

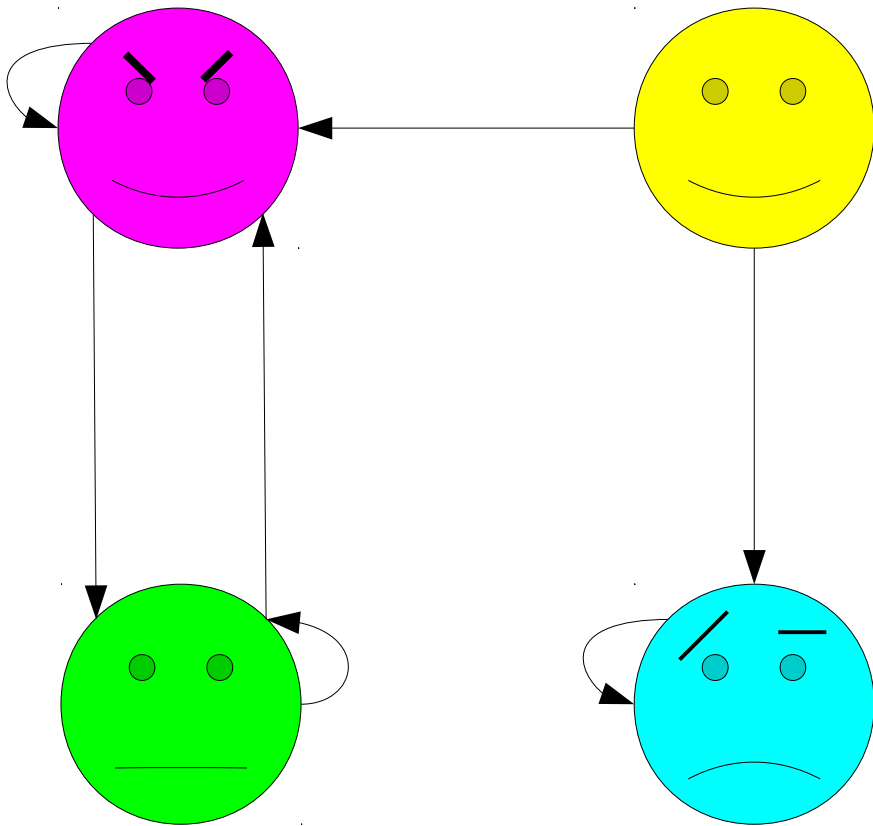
Reflexivity Visualized



$\forall a \in A. aRa$

(“Every element is related to itself.”)

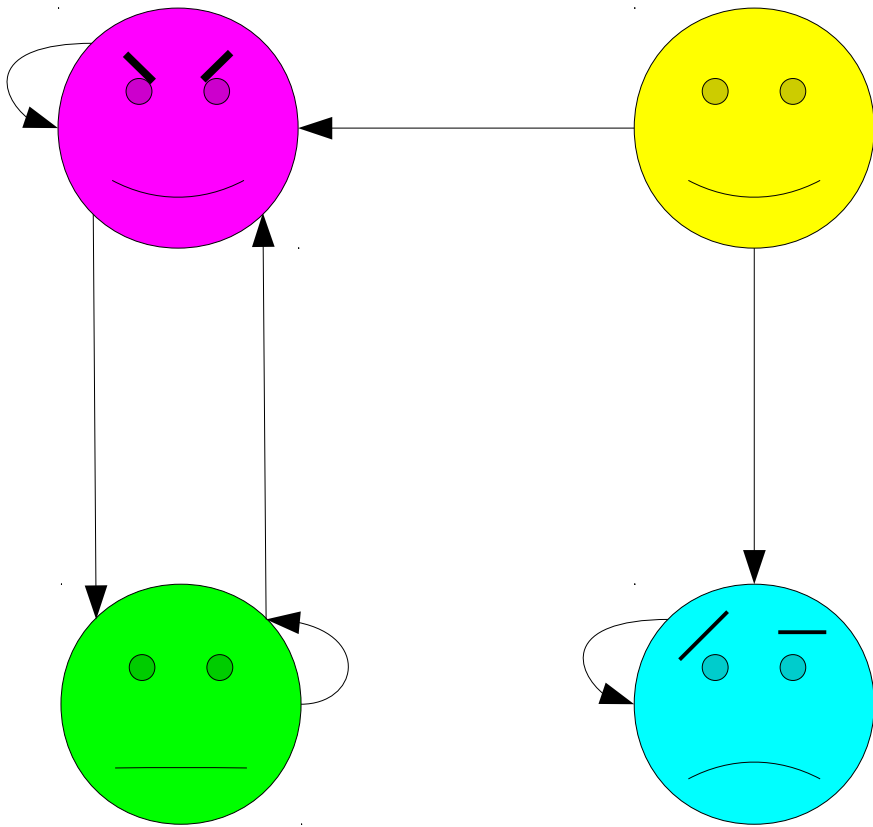
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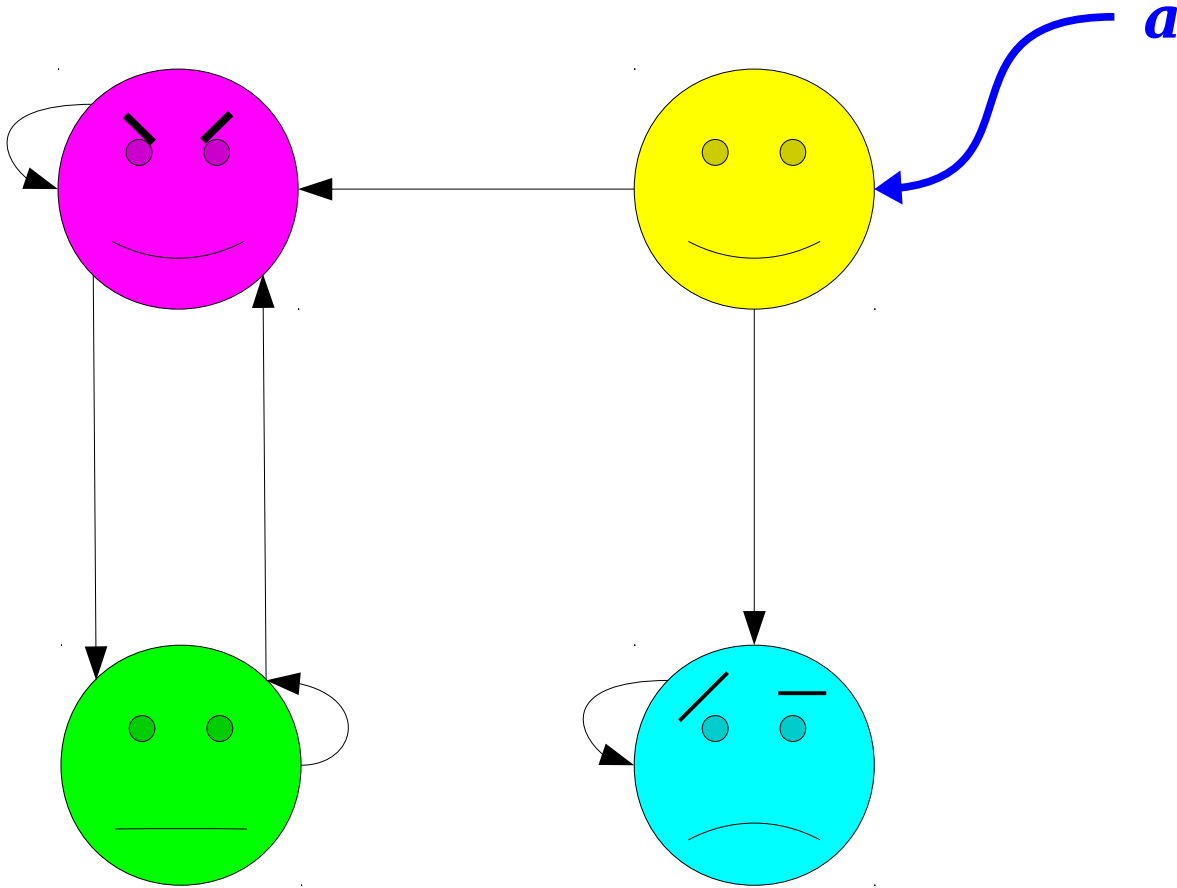
Let R be the binary relation
given by the drawing to the left.
How many of the following
objects are reflexive?



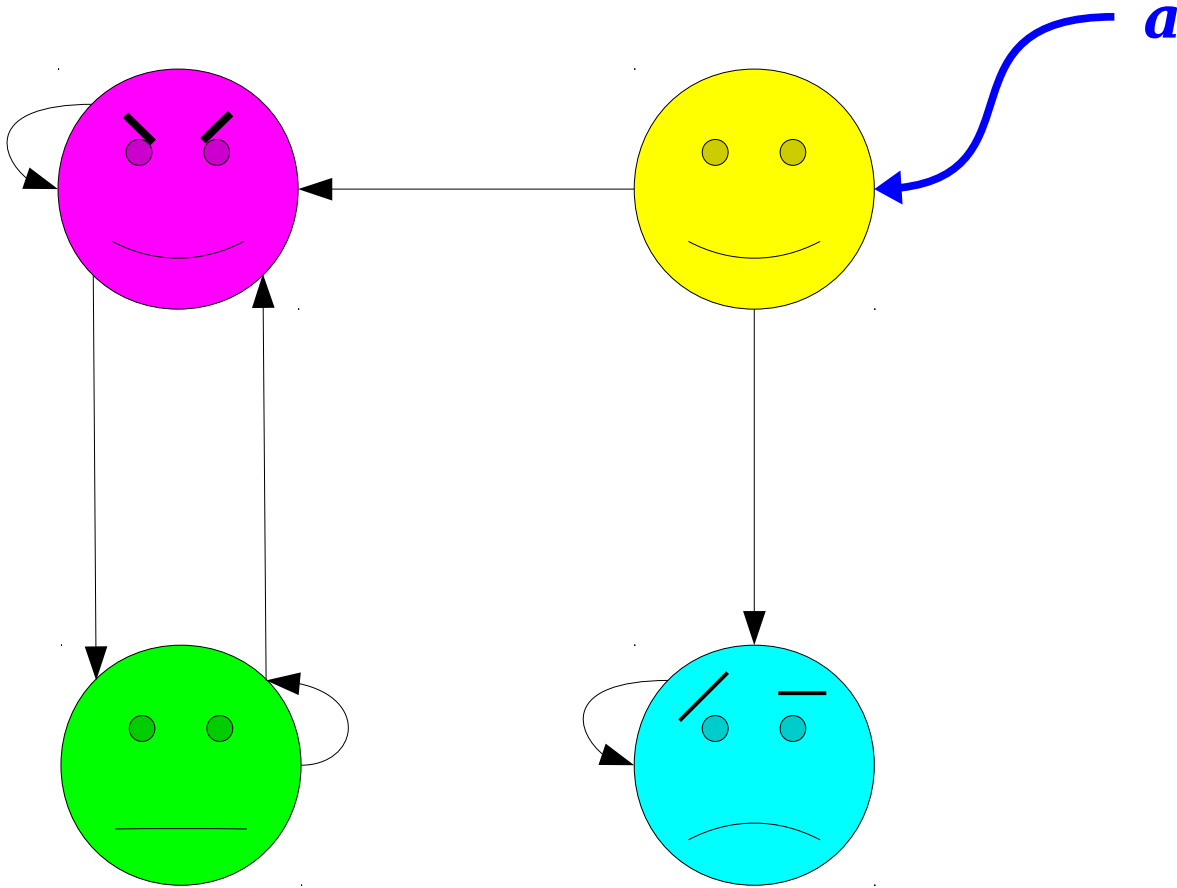
$\forall a \in A. aRa$
(“Every element is related to itself.”)



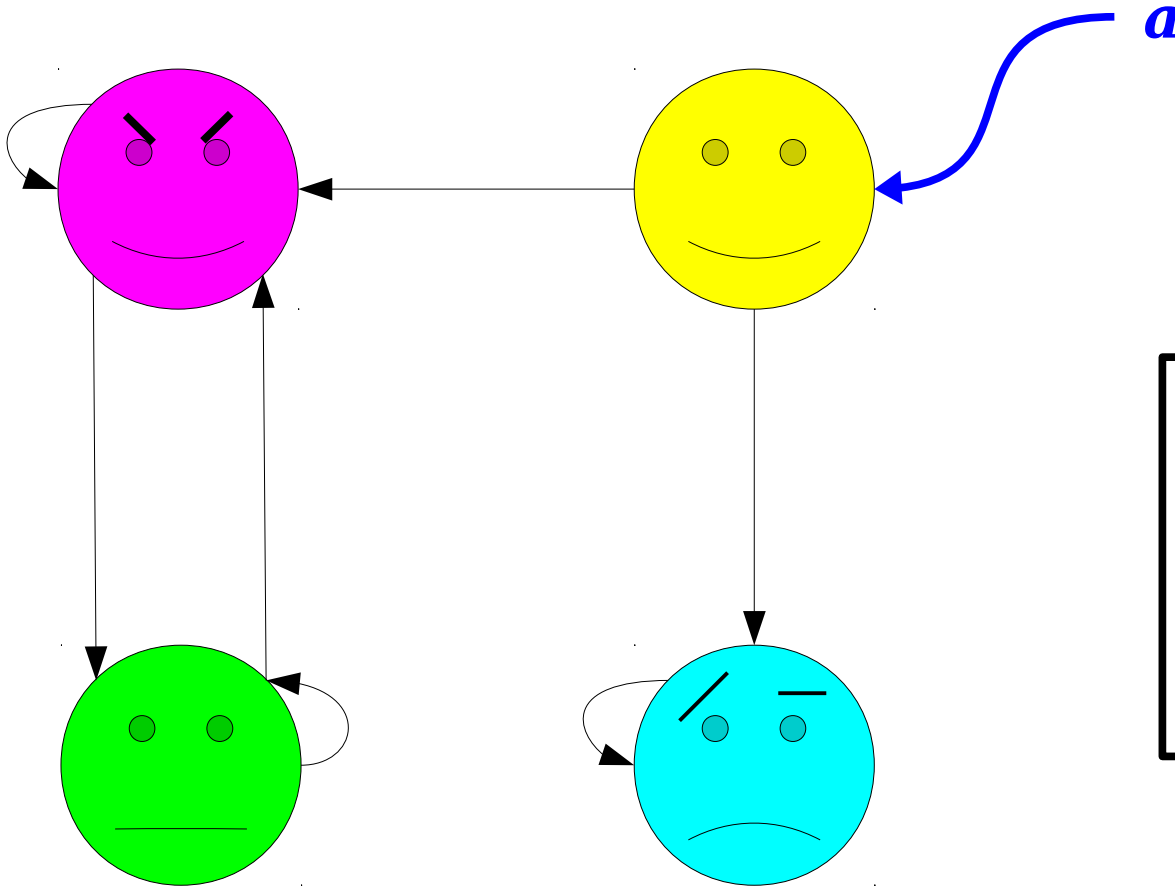
$\forall a \in A. aRa$
(*“Every element is related to itself.”*)



$\forall a \in A. aRa$
(*“Every element is related to itself.”*)

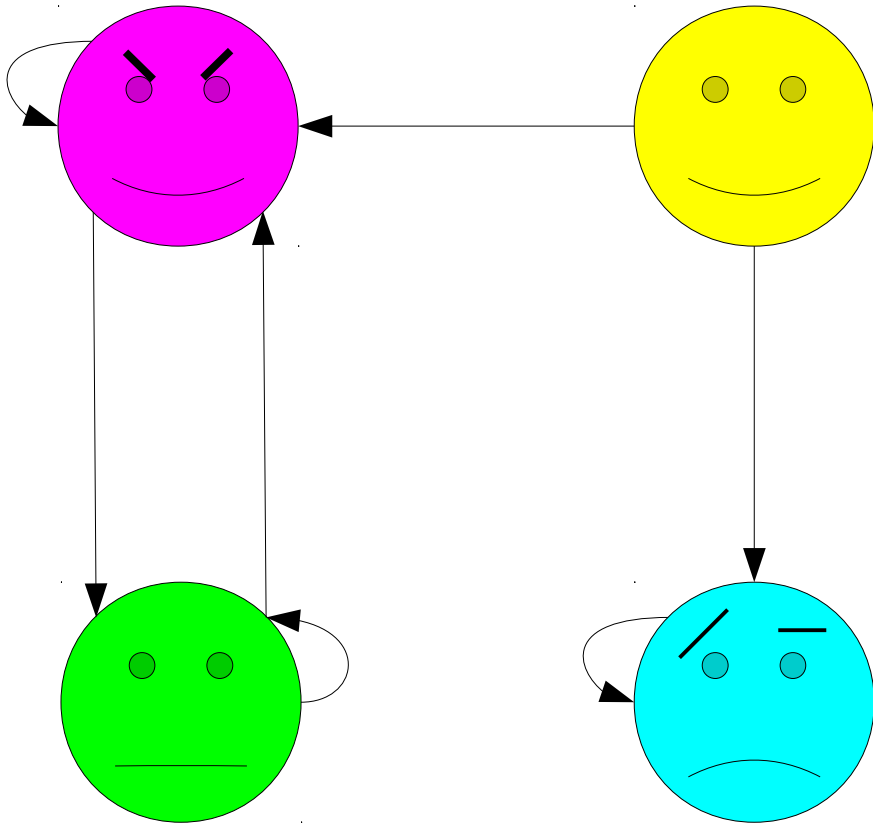


$\forall a \in A. \mathbf{aRa}$
(*“Every element is related to itself.”*)

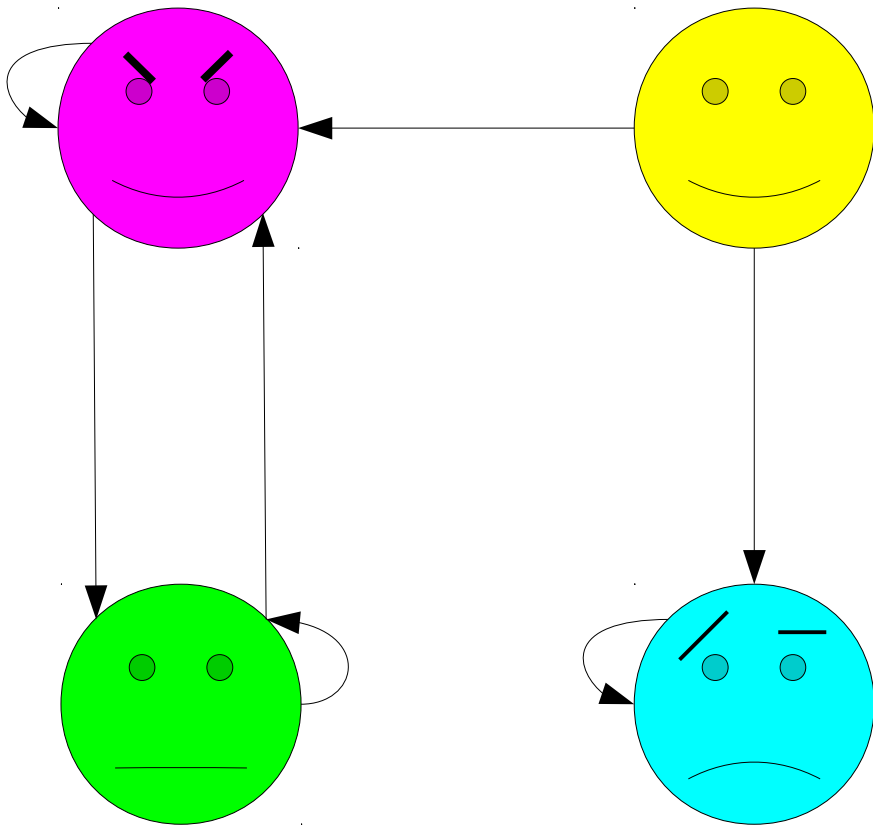



This means that R is not reflexive, since the first-order logic statement given below is not true.

$\forall a \in A. aRa$
(“Every element is related to itself.”)

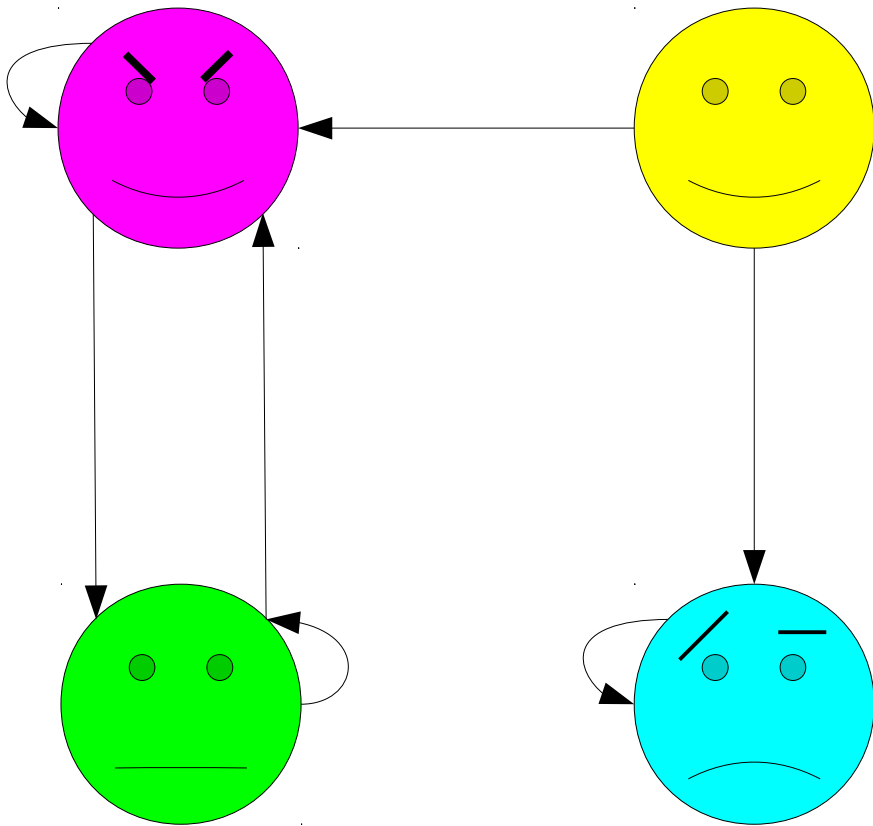


Is  reflexive?



Is  reflexive?

$\forall a \in ?? . a$  a



Is  reflexive?

Reflexivity is a property
of *relations*, not
individual objects.

$\forall a \in ??.$ *a*  *a*

$$\forall a \in A. aRa$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. \forall c \in A. (aRb \wedge bRc \rightarrow aRc)$$

$$\forall a \in A. aRa$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$$

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. \forall c \in A. (aRb \wedge bRc \rightarrow aRc)$$

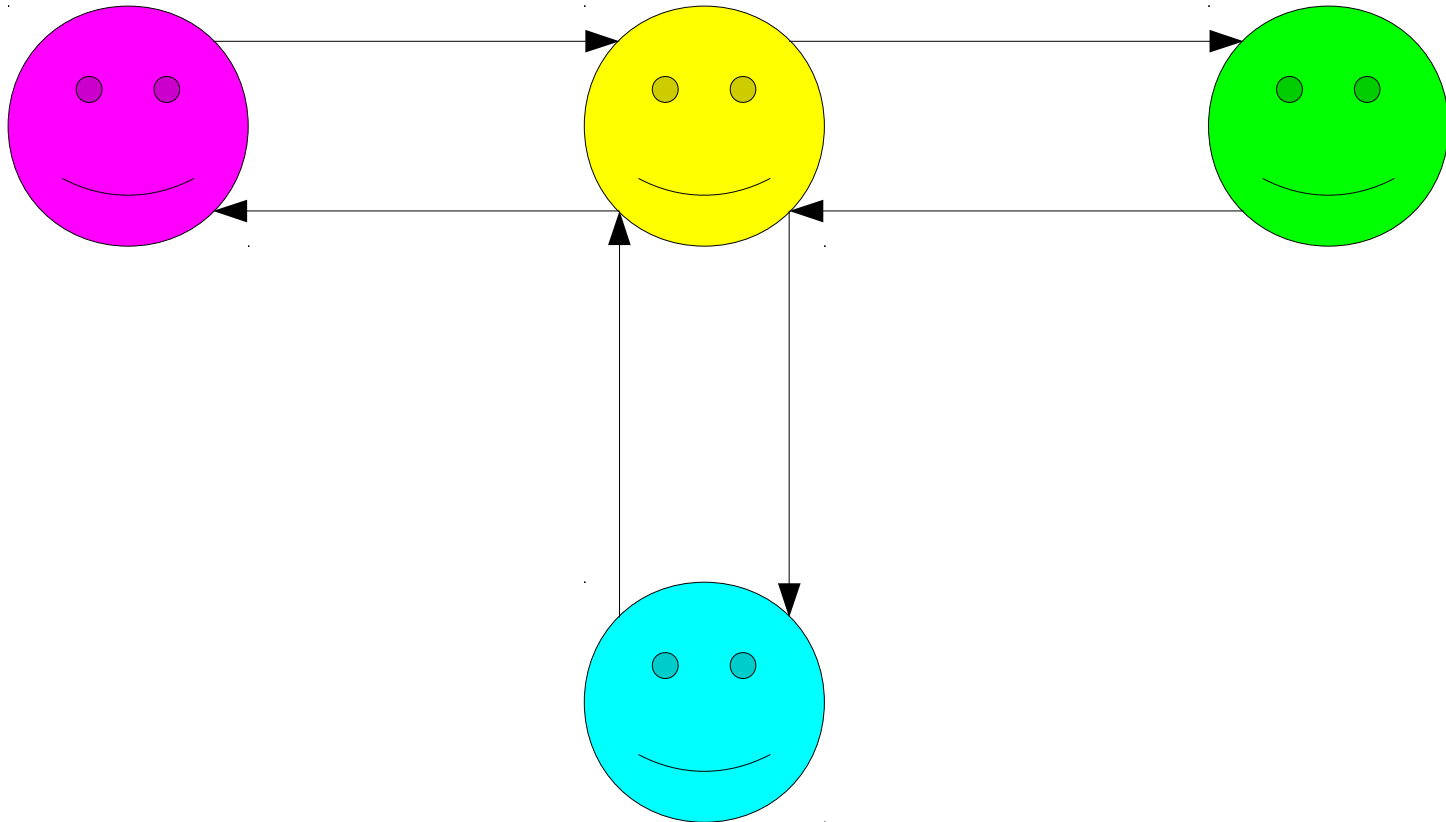
Symmetry

- In some relations, the relative order of the objects doesn't matter.
- Examples:
 - If $x = y$, then $y = x$.
 - If $x \equiv_k y$, then $y \equiv_k x$.
- These relations are called ***symmetric***.
- Formally: a binary relation R over a set A is called *symmetric* if the following first-order statement is true about R :

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$$

(“If a is related to b , then b is related to a .”)

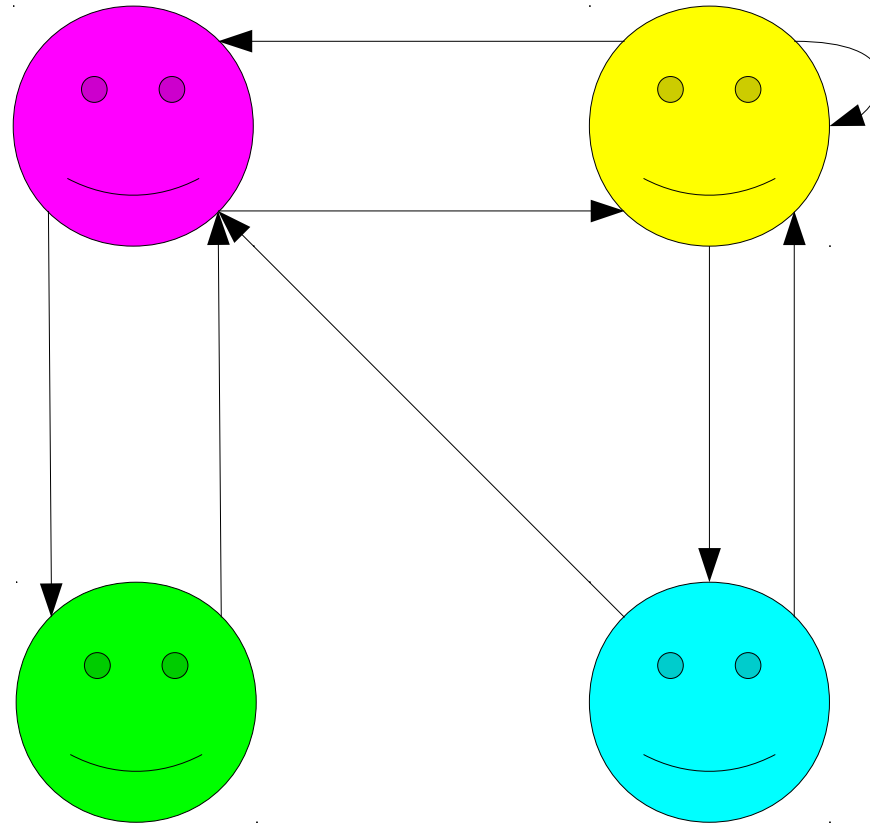
Symmetry Visualized



$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. (aRb \rightarrow bRa)$

("If a is related to b , then b is related to a .")

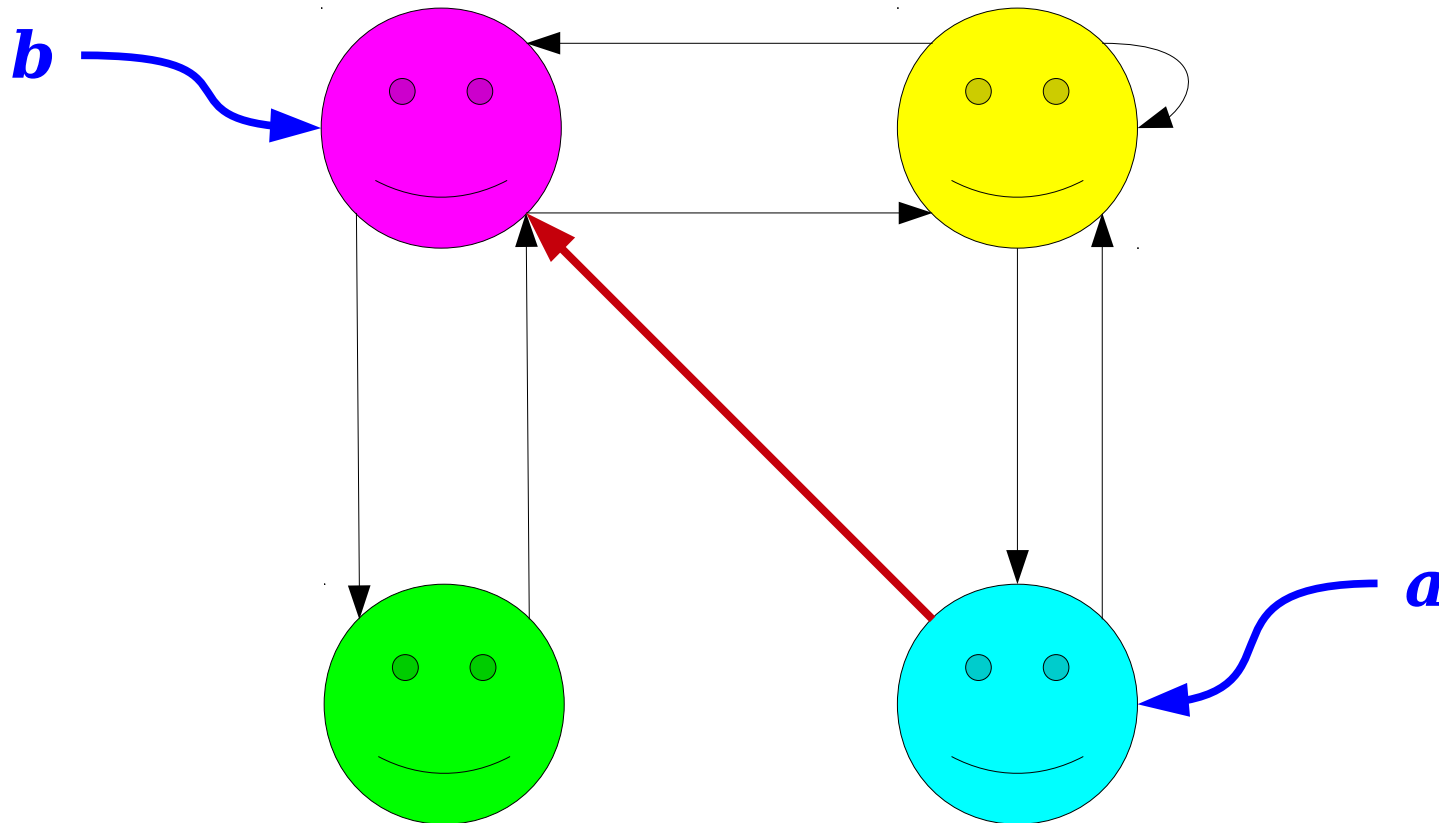
Is This Relation Symmetric?



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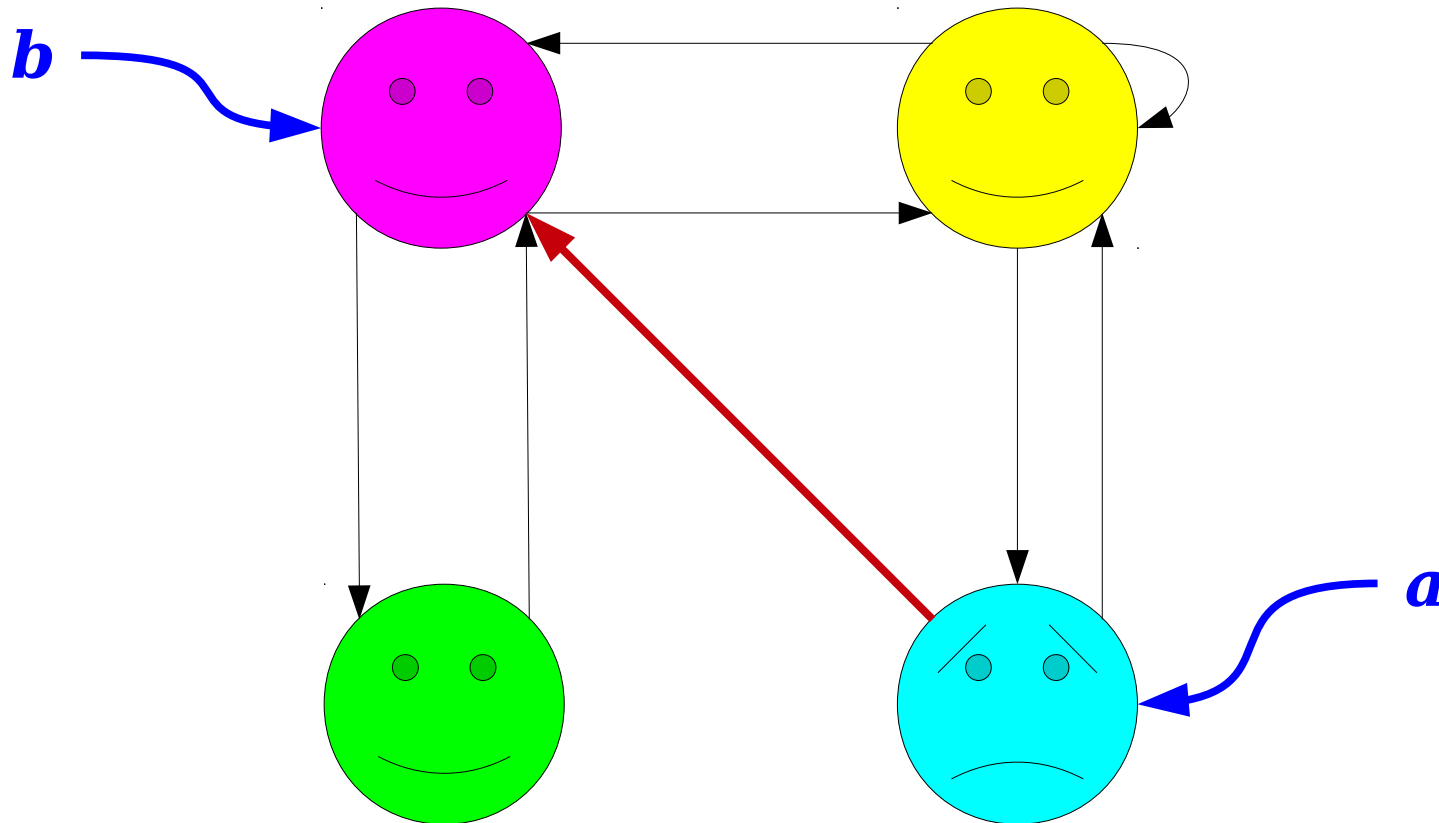
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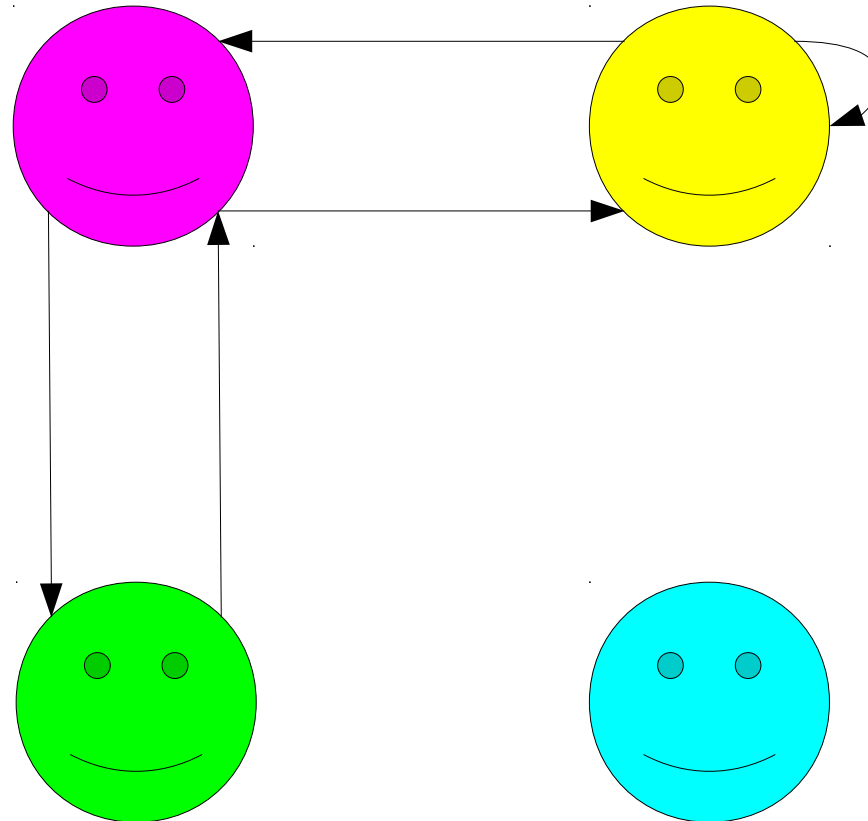
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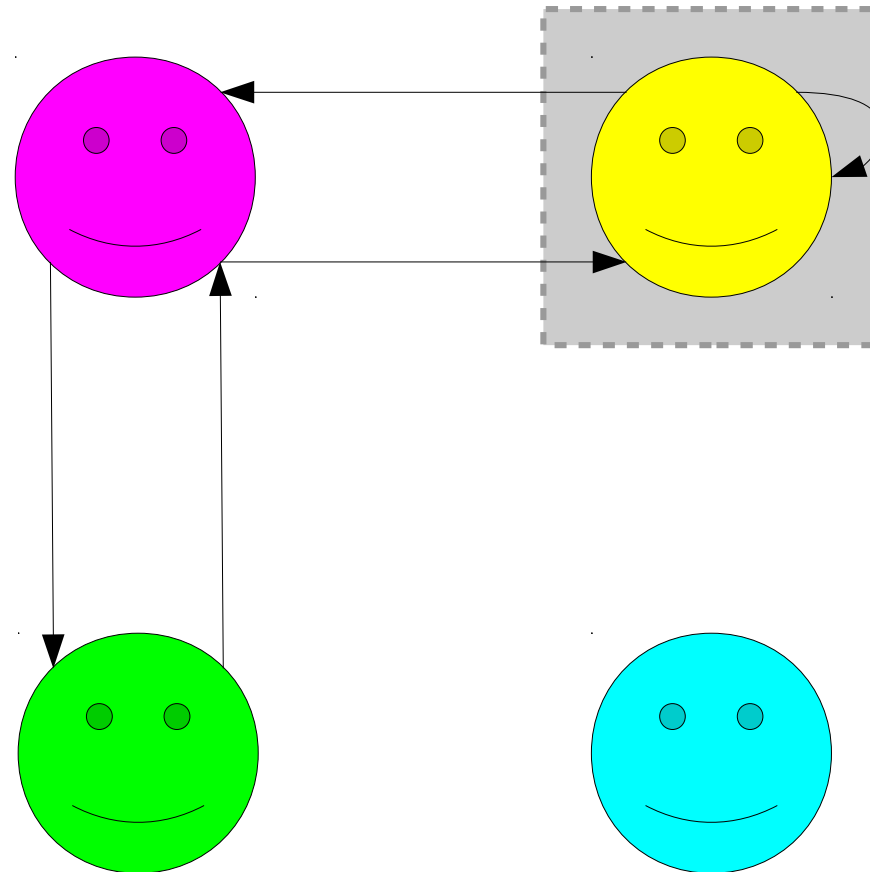
Answer at [PollEv.com/cs103](https://poll-ev.com/cs103) or
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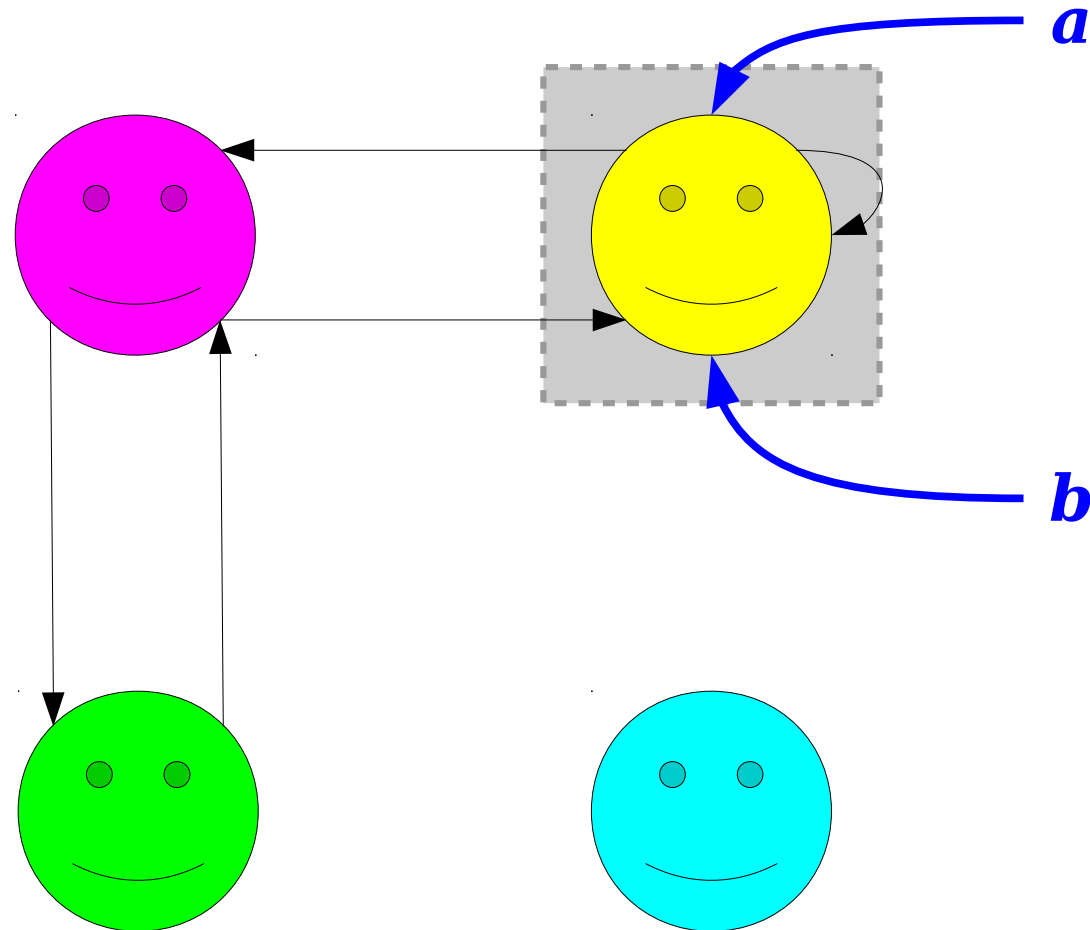
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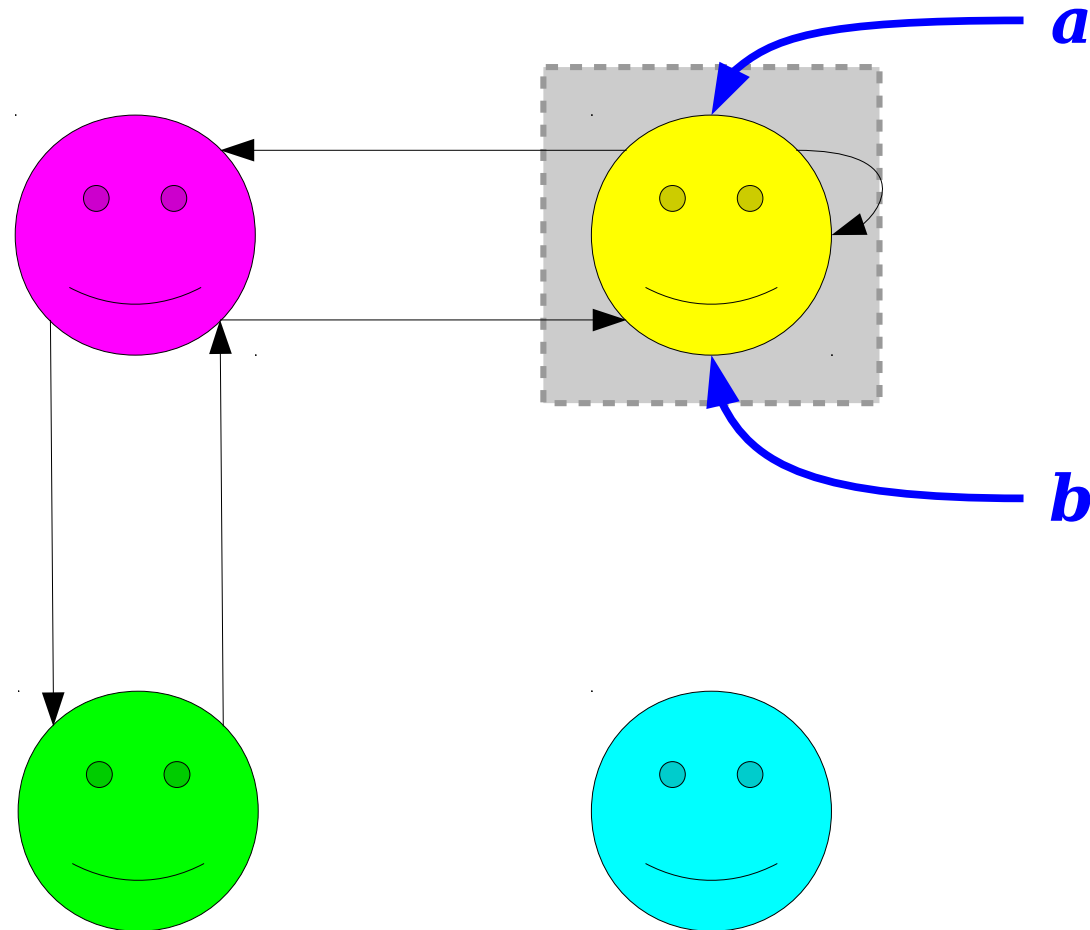
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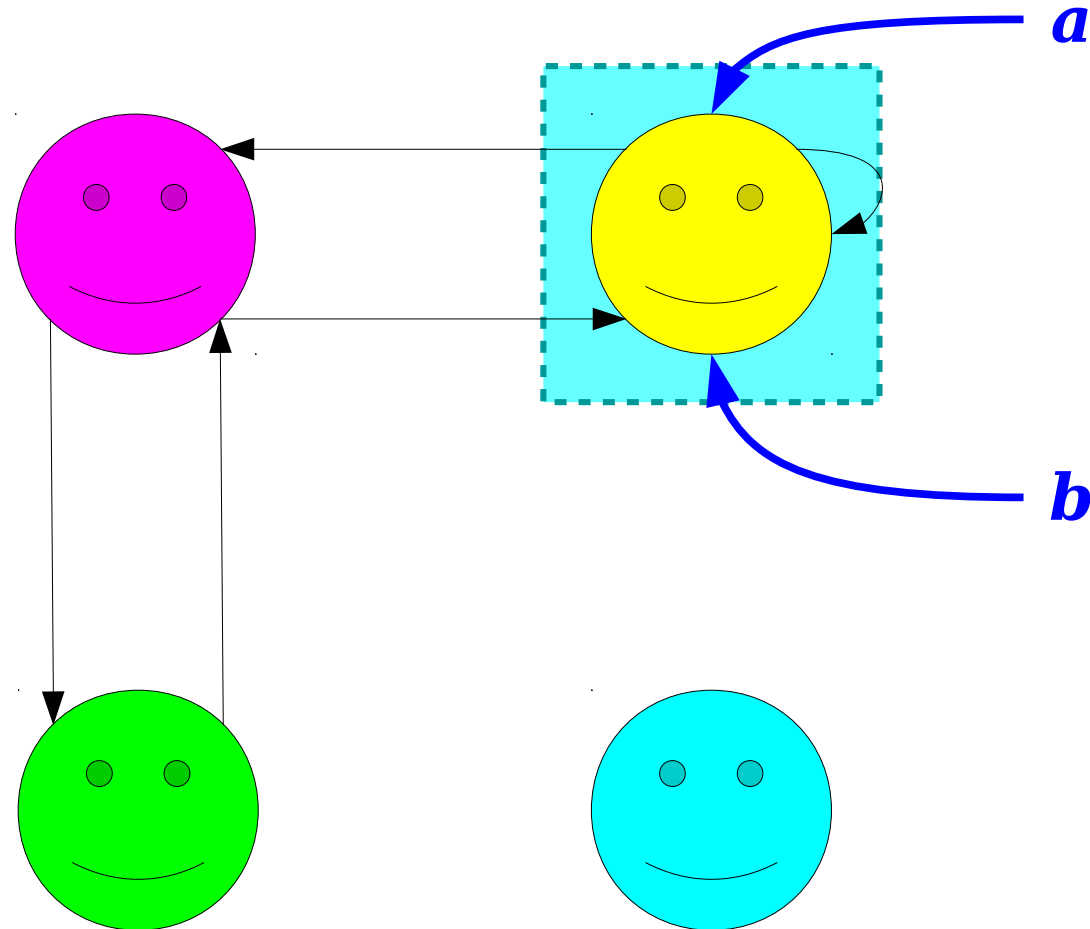
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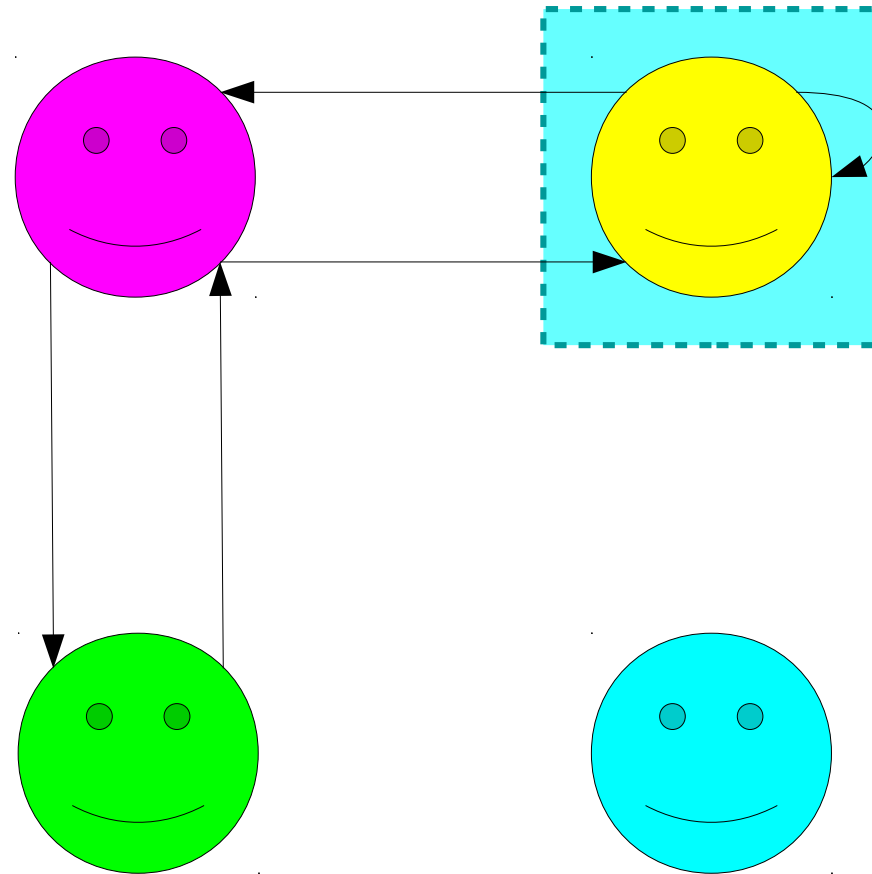
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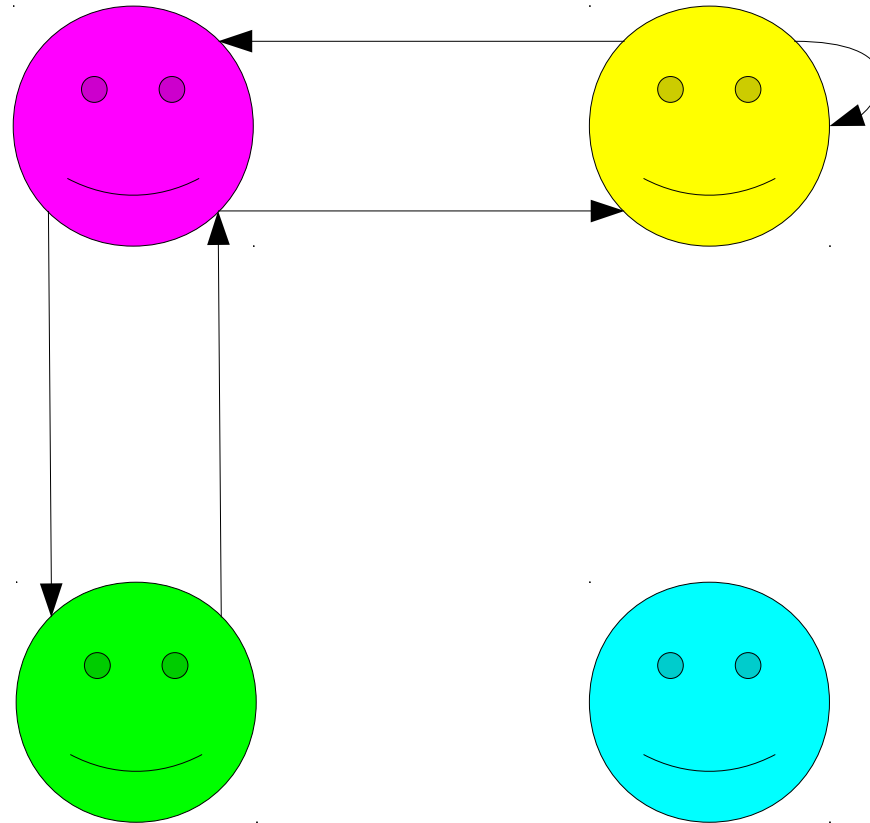
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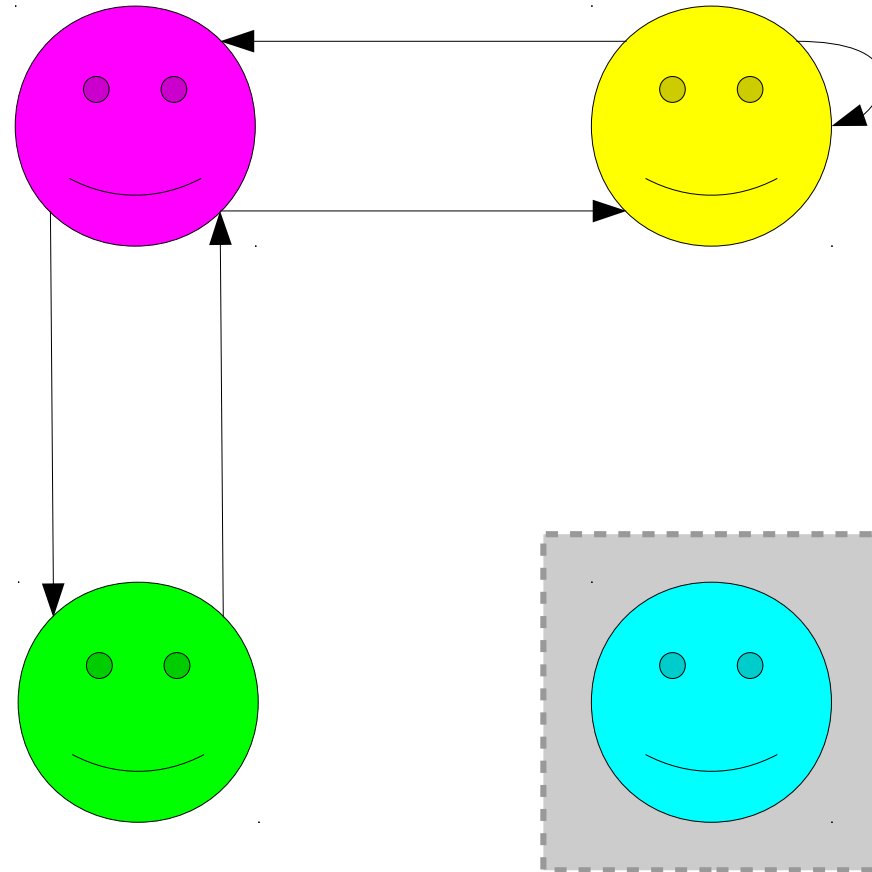
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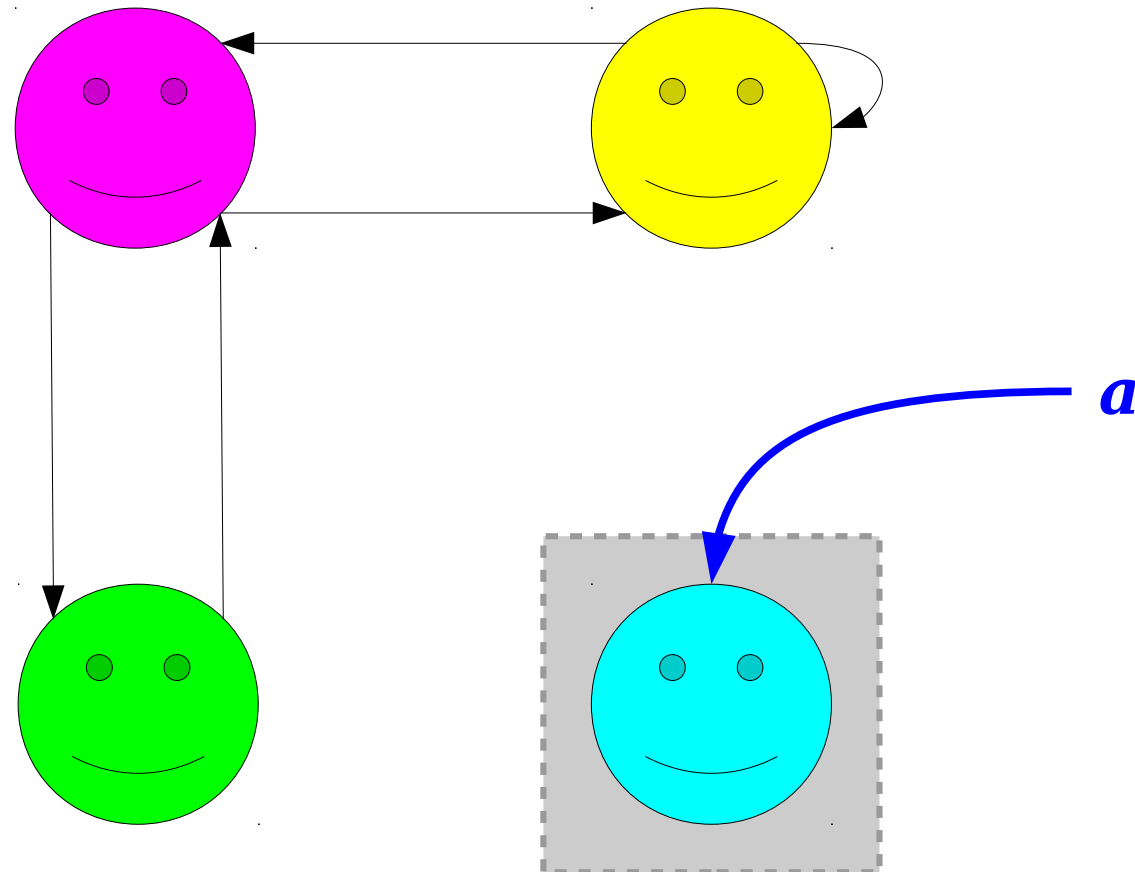
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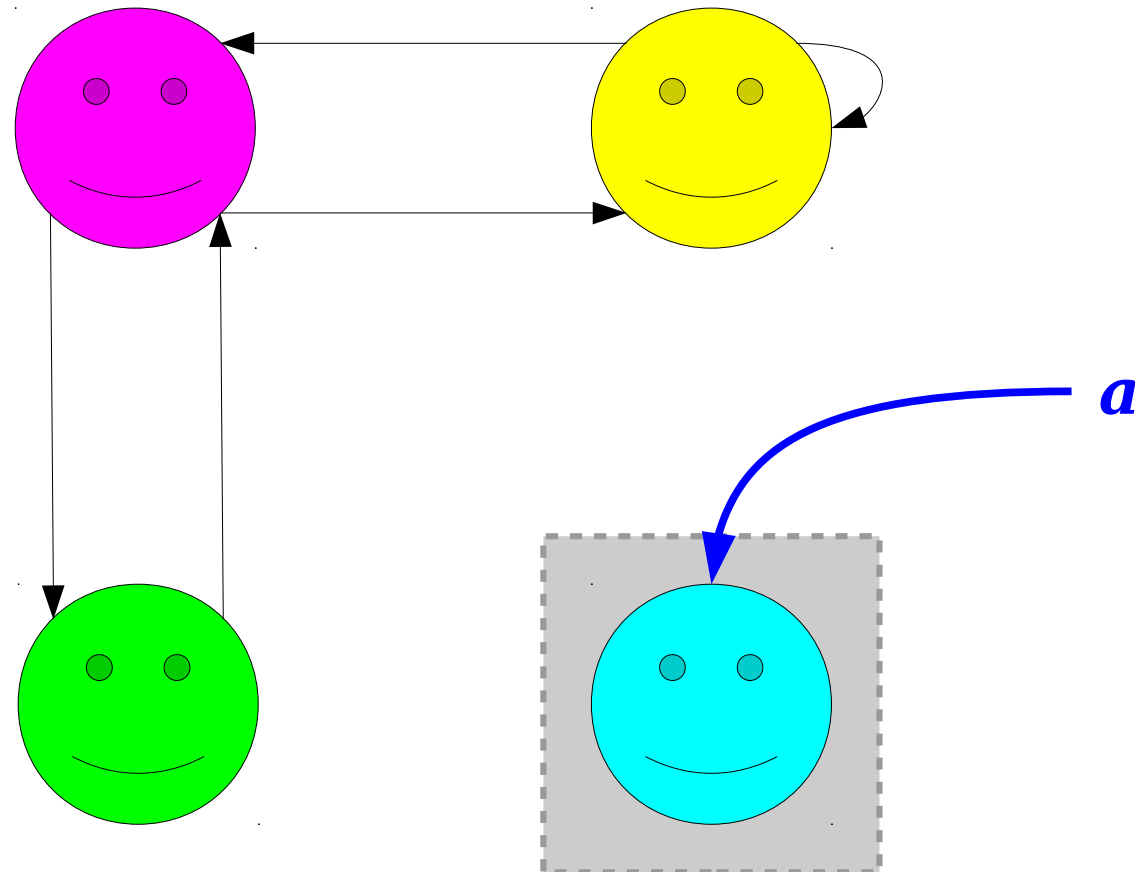
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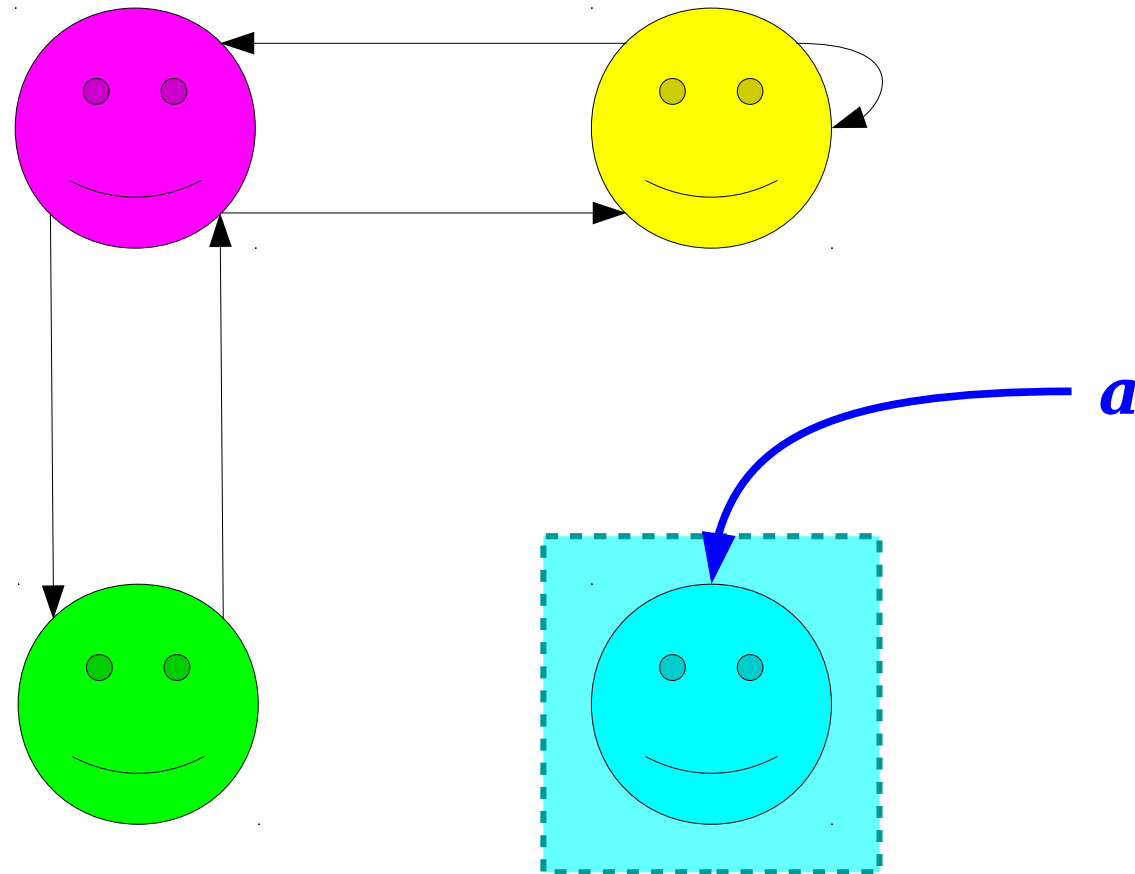
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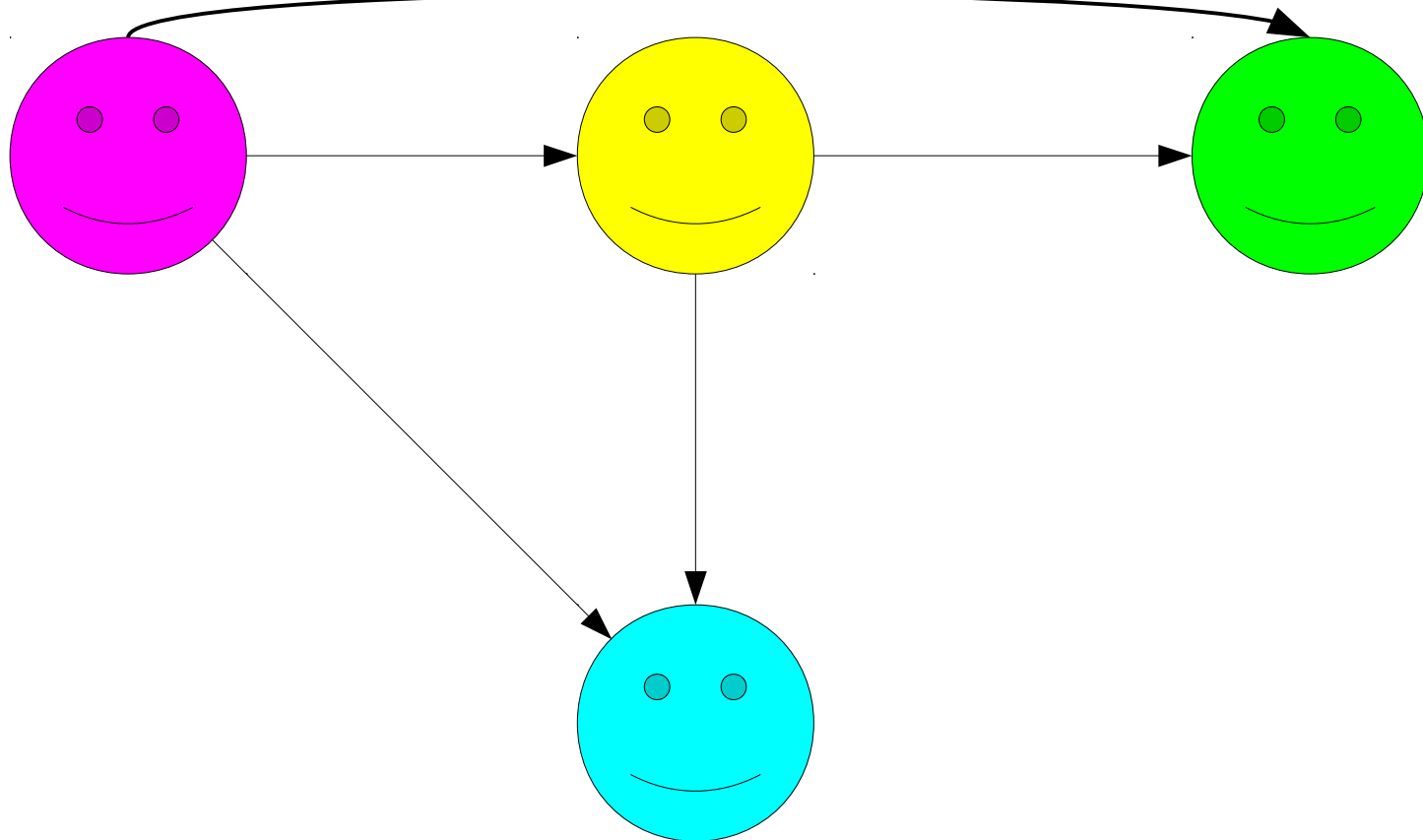
Transitivity

- Many relations can be chained together.
- Examples:
 - If $x = y$ and $y = z$, then $x = z$.
 - If $R \subseteq S$ and $S \subseteq T$, then $R \subseteq T$.
 - If $x \equiv_k y$ and $y \equiv_k z$, then $x \equiv_k z$.
- These relations are called ***transitive***.
- A binary relation R over a set A is called *transitive* if the following first-order statement is true about R :

$$\forall a \in A. \forall b \in A. \forall c \in A. (aRb \wedge bRc \rightarrow aRc)$$

(“Whenever a is related to b and b is related to c , we know a is related to c .)

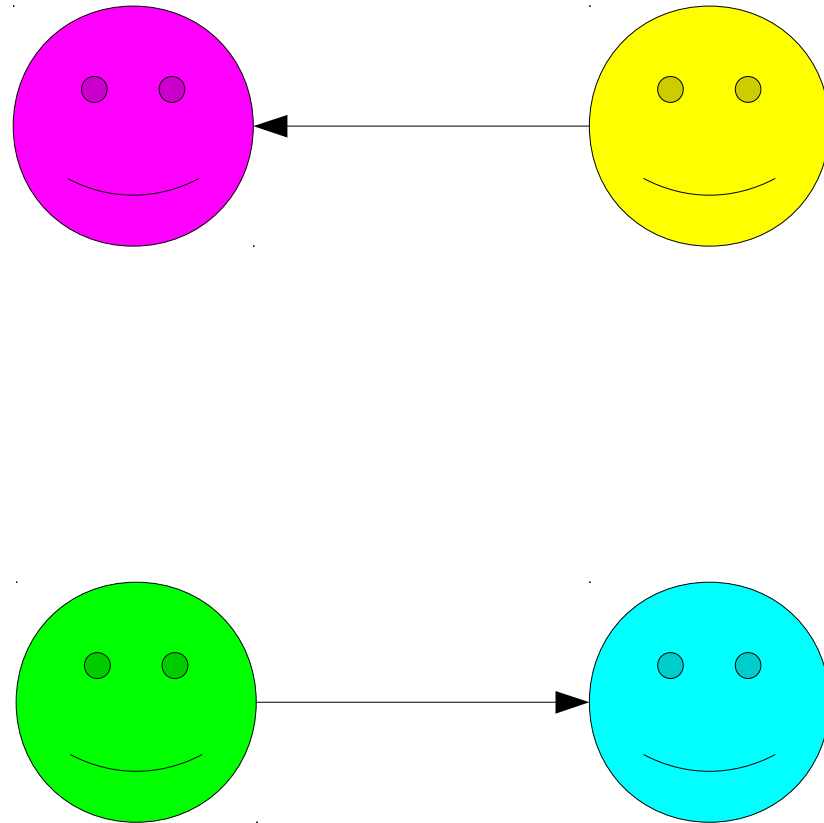
Transitivity Visualized



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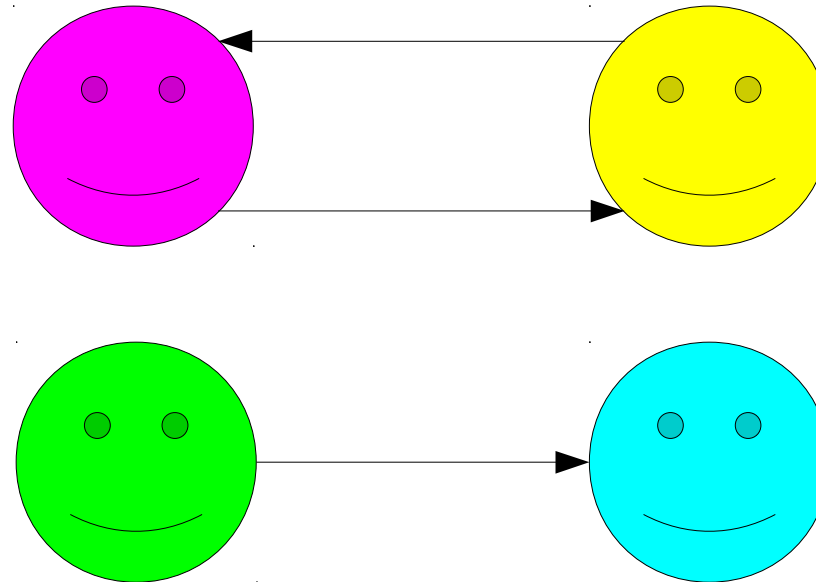
Is This Relation Transitive?



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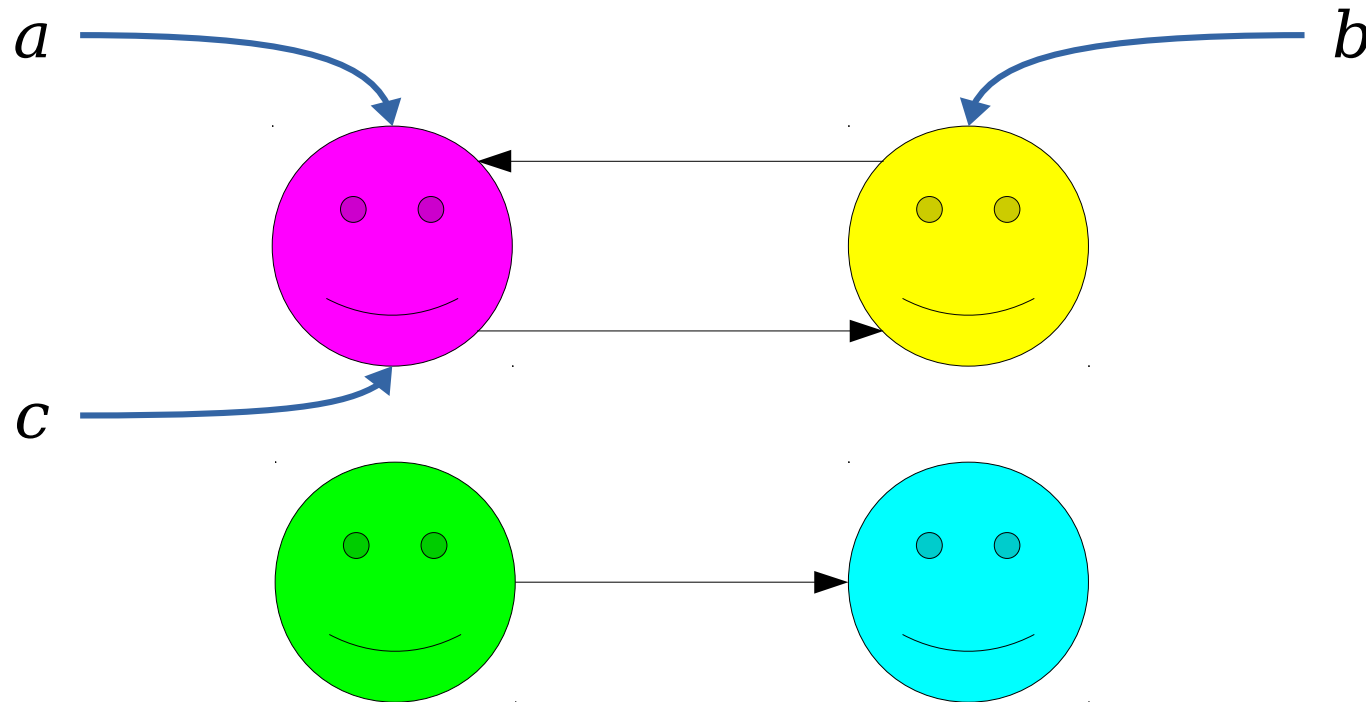
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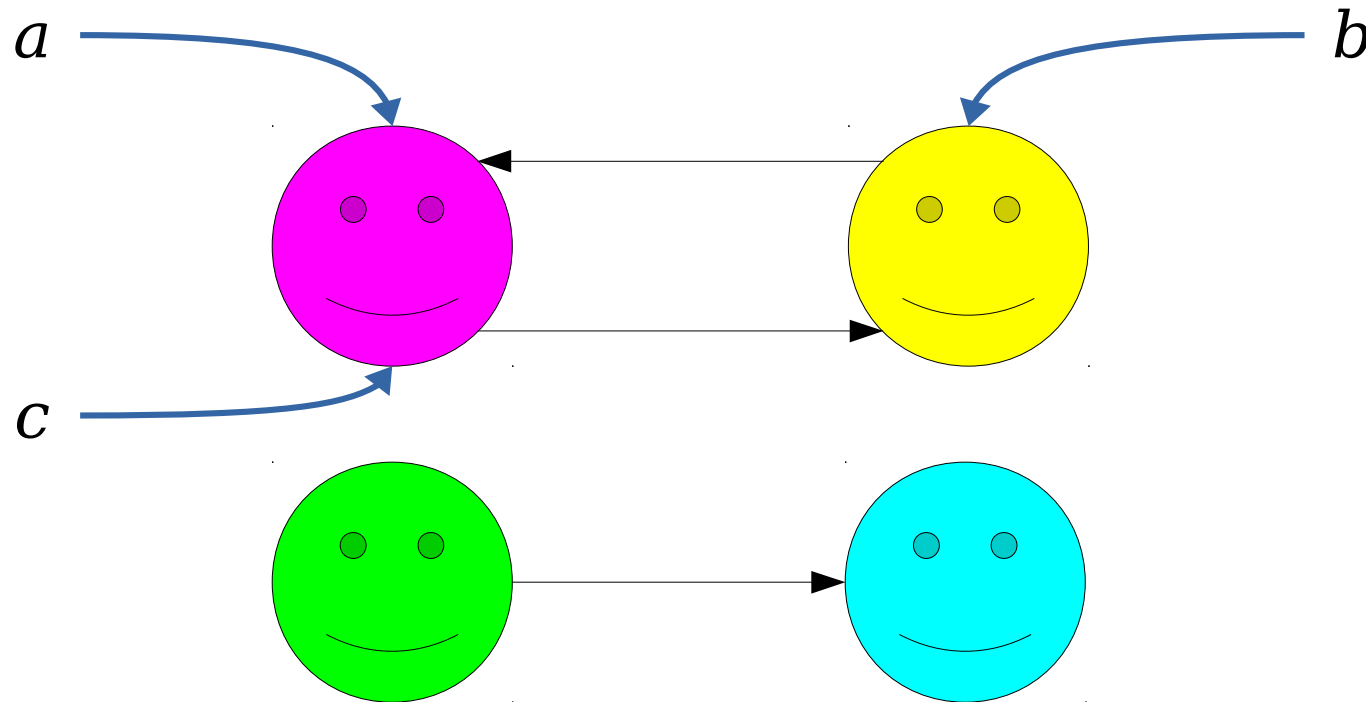
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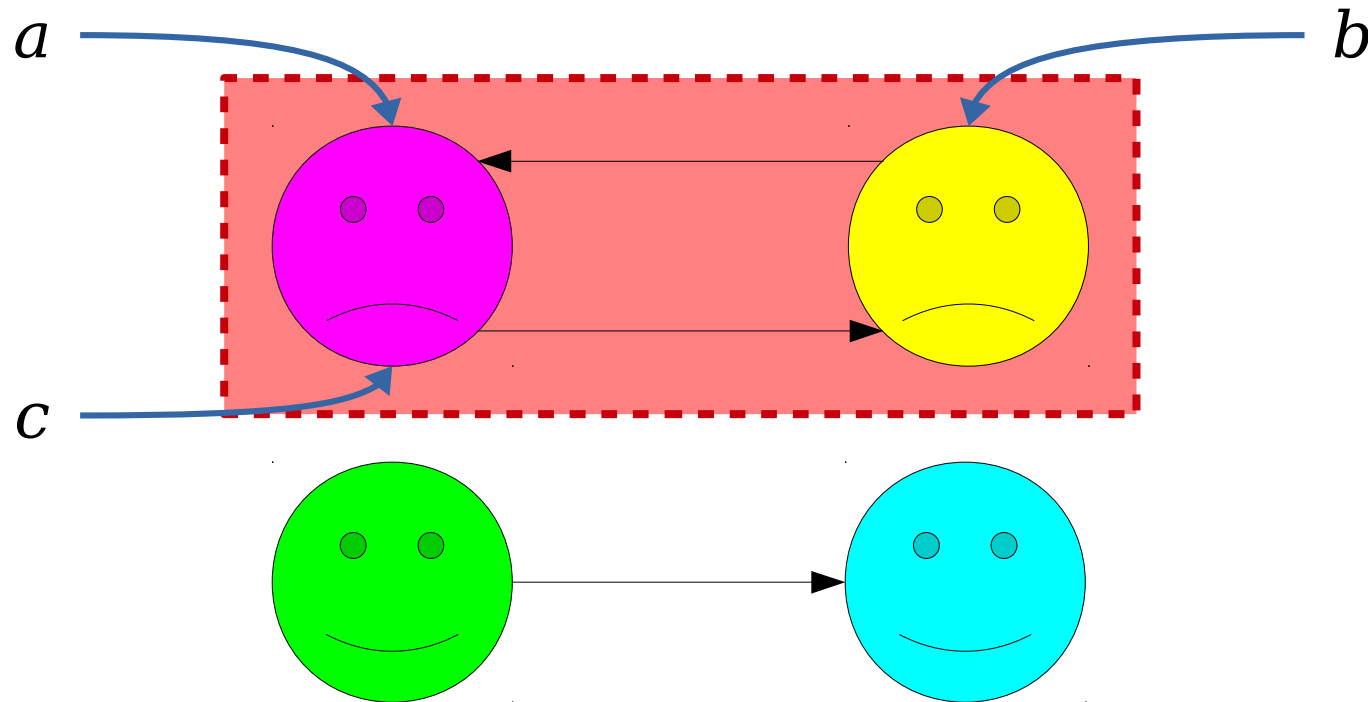
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Equivalence Relations

- An ***equivalence relation*** is a relation that is reflexive, symmetric and transitive.
- Some examples:
 - $x = y$
 - $x \equiv_k y$
 - x has the same color as y
 - x has the same shape as y .

Binary relations give us a ***common language*** to describe ***common structures***.

Equivalence Relations

- Most modern programming languages include some sort of hash table data structure.
 - Java: `HashMap`
 - C++: `std::unordered_map`
 - Python: `dict`
- If you insert a key/value pair and then try to look up a key, the implementation has to be able to tell whether two keys are equal.
- Although each language has a different mechanism for specifying this, many languages describe them in similar ways...

Equivalence Relations

“The equals method implements an equivalence relation on non-null object references:

- It is *reflexive*: for any non-null reference value `x`, `x.equals(x)` should return true.
- It is *symmetric*: for any non-null reference values `x` and `y`, `x.equals(y)` should return true if and only if `y.equals(x)` returns true.
- It is *transitive*: for any non-null reference values `x`, `y`, and `z`, if `x.equals(y)` returns true and `y.equals(z)` returns true, then `x.equals(z)` should return true.”

Java 8 Documentation

Equivalence Relations

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Java 8 Documentation

Equivalence Relations

“Each unordered associative container is parameterized by Key, by a function object type Hash that meets the Hash requirements (17.6.3.4) and acts as a hash function for argument values of type Key, and by a binary predicate Pred that induces an equivalence relation on values of type Key. Additionally, unordered_map and unordered_multimap associate an arbitrary mapped type T with the Key.”

C++14 ISO Spec, §23.2.5/3

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Equivalence Relation Proofs

- Let's suppose you've found a binary relation R over a set A and want to prove that it's an equivalence relation.
- How exactly would you go about doing this?

An Example Relation

- Consider the binary relation \sim defined over the set \mathbb{Z} :

$$a \sim b \quad \text{if} \quad a+b \text{ is even}$$

- Some examples:

$$0 \sim 4 \quad 1 \sim 9 \quad 2 \sim 6 \quad 5 \sim 5$$

- Turns out, this is an equivalence relation! Let's see how to prove it.

We can binary relations by giving a rule, like this:

$$a \sim b \quad \text{if} \quad \text{some property of } a \text{ and } b \text{ holds}$$

This is the general template for defining a relation.

Although we're using “if” rather than “iff” here, the two above statements are definitionally equivalent. For a variety of reasons, definitions are often introduced with “if” rather than “iff.” Check the “Mathematical Vocabulary” handout for details.

What properties must \sim have to be an equivalence relation?

Reflexivity
Symmetry
Transitivity

Let's prove each property independently.

$a \sim b$ if $a+b$ is even

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Therefore, we'll choose an arbitrary integer a , then
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Lemma 2: The binary relation \sim is symmetric.

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Which of the following works best as the opening of this proof?

- A. Consider any integers a and b . We will prove $a \sim b$ and $b \sim a$.
- B. Pick $\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\forall b \in \mathbb{Z}$. We will prove $a \sim b \rightarrow b \sim a$.
- C. Consider any integers a and b where $a \sim b$ and $b \sim a$.
- D. Consider any integer a where $a \sim a$.
- E. The relation \sim is symmetric if for any $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have $a \sim b \rightarrow b \sim a$.
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$$\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}. \forall b \in \mathbb{Z}. \forall c \in \mathbb{Z}. (a \sim b \wedge b \sim c \rightarrow a \sim c)$$

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$$(a+b) + (b+c) = 2k + 2m.$$

Rearranging, we see that

$$a+c + 2b = 2k + 2m,$$

so

$$a+c = 2k + 2m - 2b = 2(k+m-b).$$

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Lemma 3: The binary relation \sim is transitive.

Proof: Consider arbitrary integers a , b and c where $a \sim b$ and $b \sim c$. We need to prove that $a \sim c$, meaning that we need to show that $a+c$ is even.

Since $a \sim b$ and $b \sim c$, we know that $a+b$ and $b+c$ are even. This means there are integers k and m where $a+b = 2k$ and $b+c = 2m$. Notice that

$$(a+b) + (b+c) = 2k + 2m.$$

Rearranging, we see that

$$a+c + 2b = 2k + 2m,$$

so

$$a+c = 2k + 2m - 2b = 2(k+m-b).$$

So there is an integer r , namely $k+m-b$, such that $a+c = 2r$. Thus $a+c$ is even, so $a \sim c$, as required.

$a \sim b$ if $a+b$ is even

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An Observation

$a \sim b$ if $a+b$ is even

Lemma 1: The binary relation \sim is reflexive.

Proof: Consider an arbitrary $a \in \mathbb{Z}$. We need to prove that $a \sim a$. From the definition of the \sim relation, this means that we need to prove that $a+a$ is even.

To see this, notice that $a+a = 2a$, so the sum $a+a$ can be written as $2k$ for some integer k (namely, a), so $a+a$ is even. Therefore, $a \sim a$ holds, as required. ■

The formal definition of reflexivity is given in first-order logic, but
this proof does not contain any first-order logic symbols!

$a \sim b$ if $a+b$ is even

Lemma 2: The binary relation \sim is symmetric.

Proof: Consider any integers a and b where $a \sim b$.
We need to show that $b \sim a$.

Since $a \sim b$, we know that $a+b$ is even. Because $a+b = b+a$, this means that $b+a$ is even. Since $b+a$ is even, we know that $b \sim a$, as required. ■

The formal definition of symmetry
is given in first-order logic, but
**this proof does not contain any first-
order logic symbols!**

$a \sim b$ if $a+b$ is even

Lemma 3: The binary relation \sim is transitive.

Proof: Consider arbitrary integers a , b and c where $a \sim b$ and $b \sim c$. We need to prove that $a \sim c$, meaning that we need to show that $a+c$ is even.

Since $a \sim b$ and $b \sim c$, we know that $a+b$ and $b+c$ are even. This means there are integers k and m where $a+b = 2k$ and $b+c = 2m$. Notice that

$$(a+b) + (b+c) = 2k + 2m.$$

Rearranging, we see that

$$a+c + 2b = 2k + 2m,$$

so

$$a+c = 2k +$$

So there is an integer r ,
 $a+c = 2r$. Thus $a+c$ is even.

The formal definition of transitivity is given in first-order logic, but
this proof does not contain any first-order logic symbols!

First-Order Logic and Proofs

- First-order logic is an excellent tool for giving formal definitions to key terms.
- While first-order logic *guides* the structure of proofs, it is *exceedingly rare* to see first-order logic in written proofs.
- Follow the example of these proofs:
 - Use the FOL definitions to determine what to assume and what to prove.
 - Write the proof in plain English using the conventions we set up in the first week of the class.
- ***Please, please, please, please, please internalize the contents of this slide!***