



**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY**  
SINGAPORE

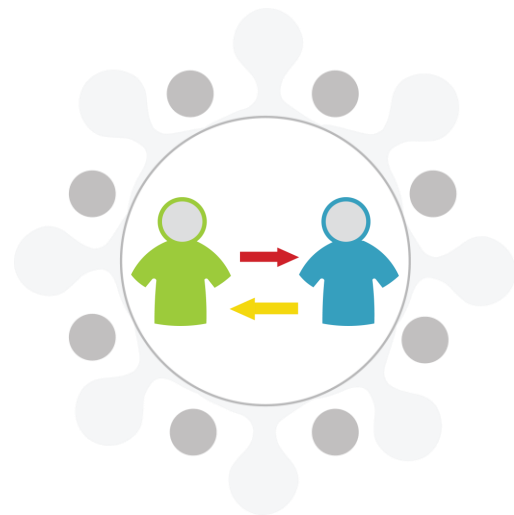
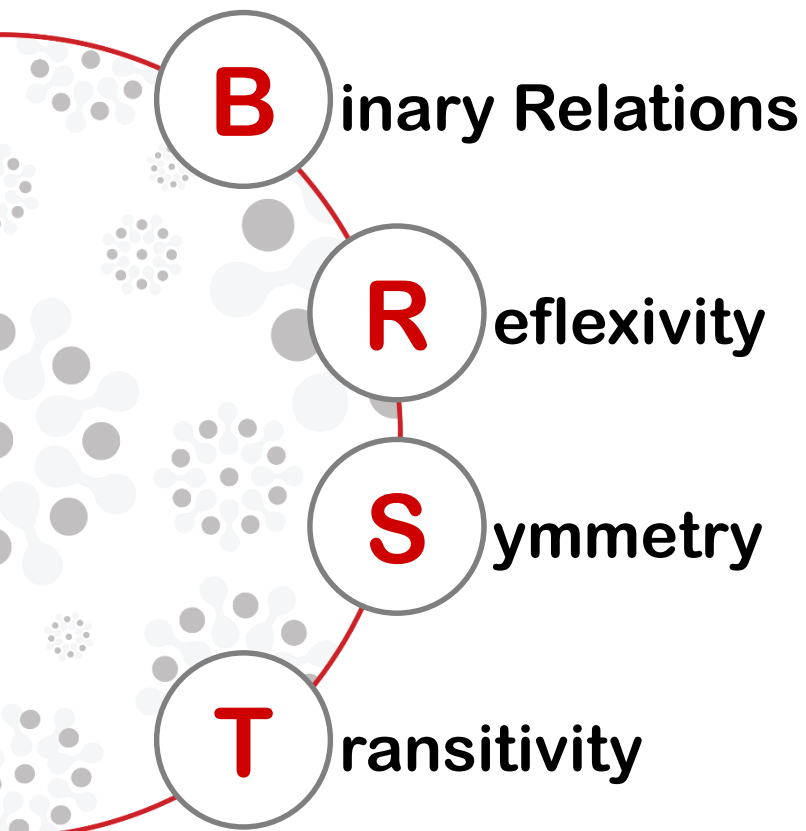
# Discrete Mathematics

## MH1812

**Topic 8.1 - Relations I**  
**Dr. Guo Jian**

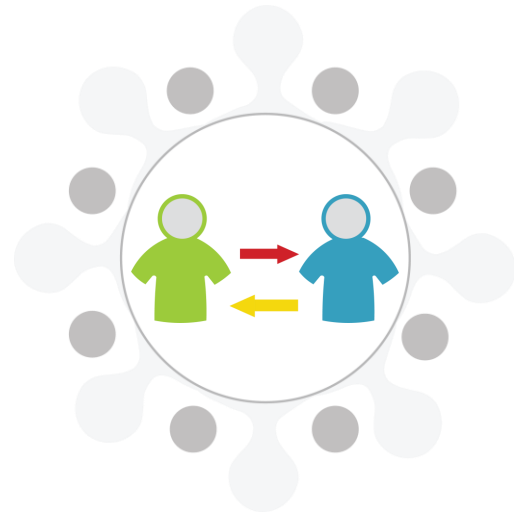
# Topic Overview

# What's in store...



# By the end of this lesson, you should be able to...

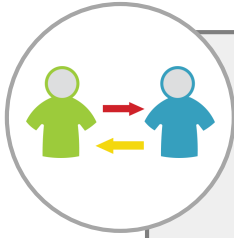
- Explain the different types of binary relations.
- Explain the concept of reflexivity.
- Explain the concept of symmetry.
- Explain the concept of transitivity.





# Binary Relations

# Binary Relations: Between Two Sets



Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. A **binary relation**  $R$  from  $A$  to  $B$  is a subset of  $A \times B$ . Given  $(x, y)$  in  $A \times B$ ,  **$x$  is related to  $y$  by  $R$**   $(xRy) \leftrightarrow (x, y) \in R$ .



## Example

$A = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $B = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $(x, y) \in R \leftrightarrow (x - y)$  is even

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

$(1, 1) \in R$ ,  $(1, 3) \in R$ ,  $(2, 2) \in R$

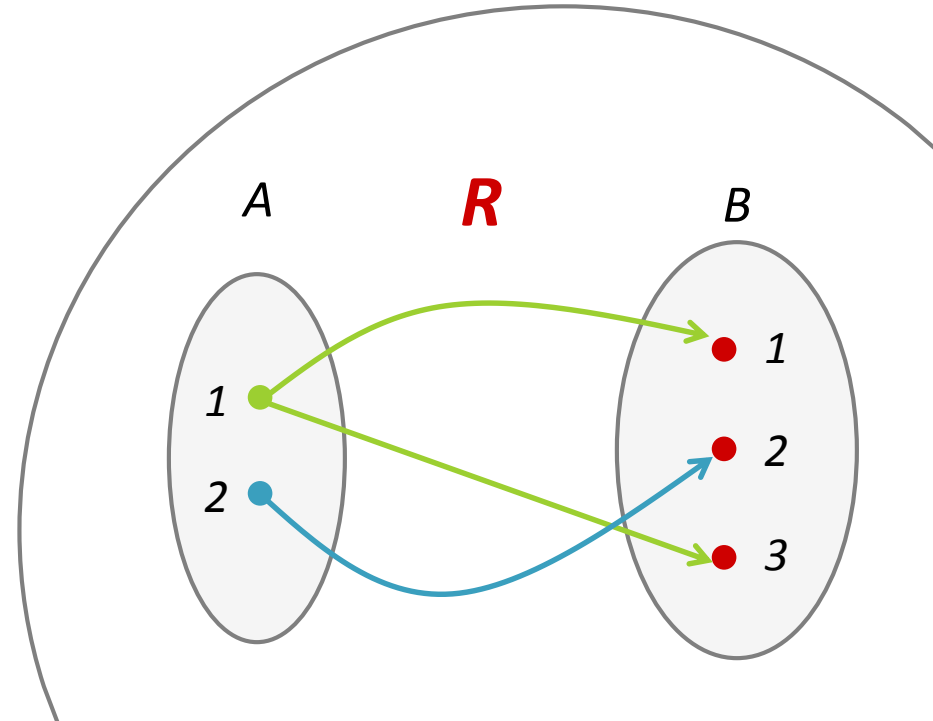
$x > y$ ,  $x$  **owes**  $y$ ,  $x$  **divides**  $y$

# Binary Relations: Between Two Sets (Graphically)

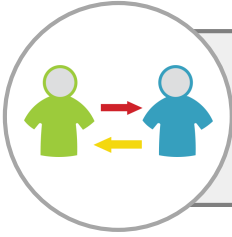
$A = \{1,2\}$ ,  $B = \{1,2,3\}$ ,  $(x,y) \in R \iff (x-y) \text{ is even}$

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

$(1,1) \in R$ ,  $(1,3) \in R$ ,  $(2,2) \in R$



# Binary Relations: Inverse of a Binary Relation



Let  $R$  be a relation from  $A$  to  $B$ . The **inverse relation**  $R^{-1}$  from  $B$  to  $A$  is defined as:  $R^{-1} = \{(y,x) \in B \times A \mid (x,y) \in R\}$ .



# Binary Relations: Inverse of a Binary Relation (Example)



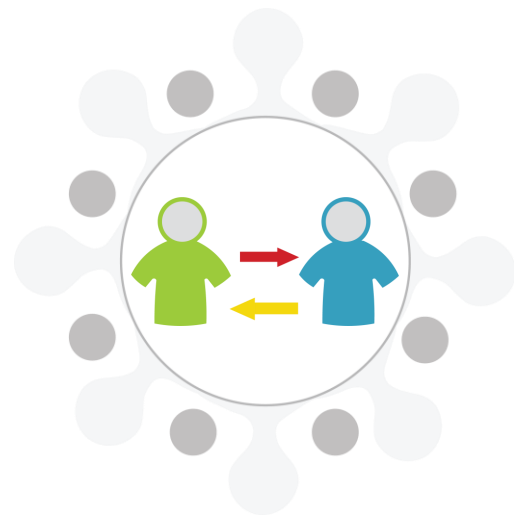
$A = \{2,3,4\}$ ,  $B = \{2,6,8\}$ ,  $(x, y) \in R \leftrightarrow x$  **divides**  $y$

$A \times B = \{(2,2), (2,6), (2,8), (3,2), (3,6), (3,8), (4,2), (4,6), (4,8)\}$

$(2,2) \in R, (2,6) \in R, (2,8) \in R, (3,6) \in R, (4,8) \in R$

$(2,2) \in R^{-1}, (6,2) \in R^{-1}, (8,2) \in R^{-1}, (6,3) \in R^{-1}, (8,4) \in R^{-1}$

$(y, x) \in R^{-1} \leftrightarrow y$  **is a multiple of**  $x$

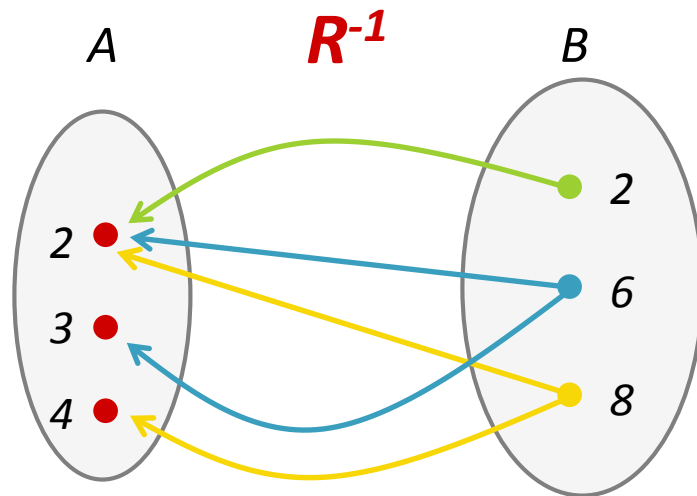
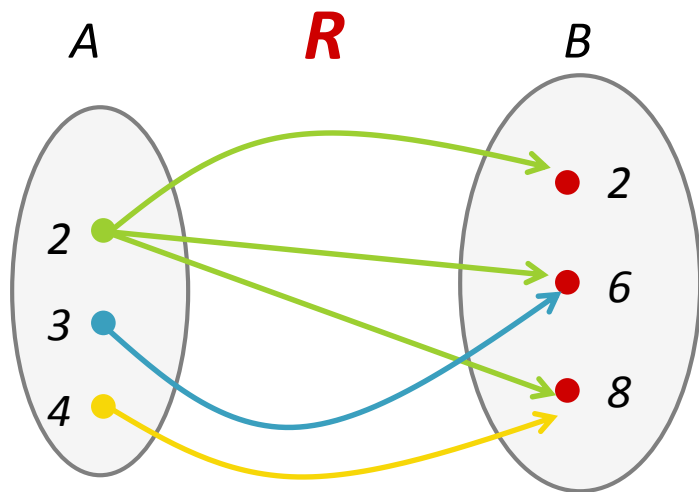


# Binary Relations: Inverse of a Binary Relation (Graphically)

$A = \{2,3,4\}$ ,  $B = \{2,6,8\}$ ,  $(x, y) \in R \leftrightarrow x$  **divides**  $y$

$(2,2) \in R$ ,  $(2,6) \in R$ ,  $(2,8) \in R$ ,  $(3,6) \in R$ ,  $(4,8) \in R$

$(2,2) \in R^{-1}$ ,  $(6,2) \in R^{-1}$ ,  $(8,2) \in R^{-1}$ ,  $(6,3) \in R^{-1}$ ,  $(8,4) \in R^{-1}$



# Binary Relations: Matrix Representation

$$A = (a_1, a_2, a_3), B = (b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4),$$

$$R = \{(a_1, b_2), (a_2, b_1), (a_3, b_1), (a_3, b_4)\}$$

$(i, j)$ th entry is  $T$  if  $a_i R b_j$ :

$$\begin{matrix} & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \\ \begin{matrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} F & T & F & F \\ T & F & F & F \\ T & F & F & T \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

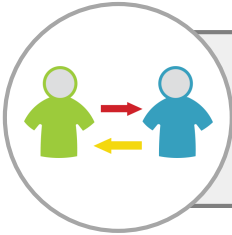


## Example

$$A = \{2, 3, 4\}, B = \{2, 6, 8\}, (x, y) \in R \leftrightarrow x \text{ divides } y.$$

$A \backslash B$	2	6	8
2	T	T	T
3	F	T	F
4	F	F	T

# Binary Relations: Matrix Representation



$R$  **relation** from  $A$  to  $B$ :  $R^{-1} = \{(y,x) \in B \times A \mid (x,y) \in R\}$ .

$$A = (a_1, a_2, a_3), B = (b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)$$

$$R = \{(a_1, b_2), (a_2, b_1), (a_3, b_1), (a_3, b_4)\}$$

$$R^{-1} = \{(b_2, a_1), (b_1, a_2), (b_1, a_3), (b_4, a_3)\}$$

The matrix of  $R^{-1}$  is the transpose of the matrix of  $R$ .

$$a_i R b_j: \begin{matrix} & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \\ \begin{matrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} F & T & F & F \\ T & F & F & F \\ T & F & F & T \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$b_i R^{-1} a_j: \begin{matrix} & a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ \begin{matrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} F & T & T \\ T & F & F \\ F & F & F \\ F & F & T \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

# Binary Relations: Composition of Relations



Given  $R$  in  $A \times B$ , and  $S$  in  $B \times C$ , the **composition** of  $R$  and  $S$  is a relation on  $A \times C$  defined by  $S \circ R = \{(a, c) \in A \times C \mid \exists b \in B, aRb \text{ and } bSc\}$ .



## Example

$$A = \{a_1, a_2\}, B = \{b_1, b_2\}, C = \{c_1, c_2, c_3\}$$

$$R = \{(a_1, b_1), (a_1, b_2)\}$$

$$S = \{(b_1, c_1), (b_2, c_1), (b_1, c_3), (b_2, c_2)\}$$

**What is  $S \circ R$  ?**

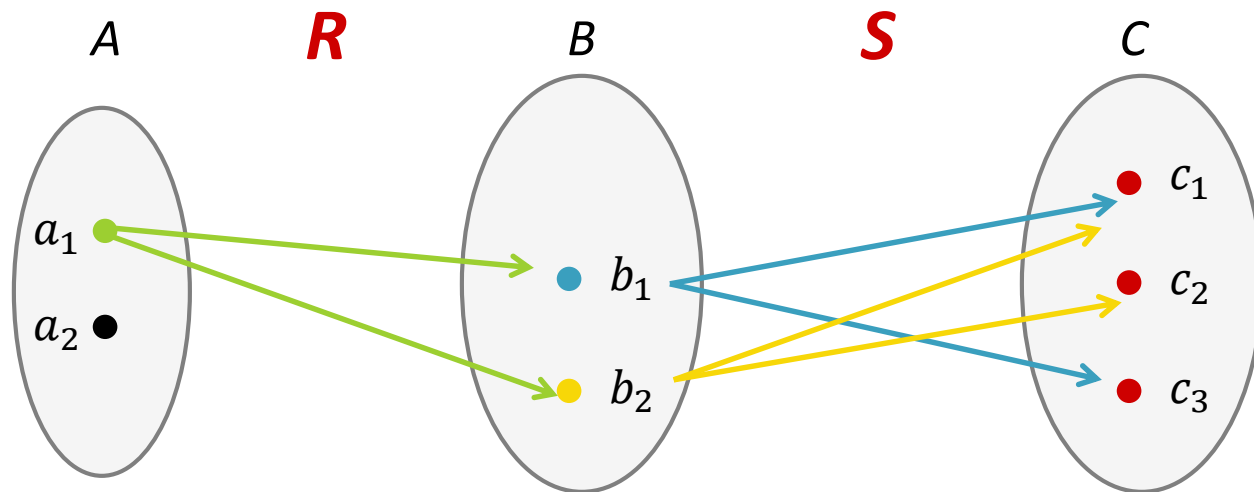
$$S \circ R = \{(a_1, c_1), (a_1, c_3), (a_1, c_2)\}$$

# Binary Relations: Composition of Relations (Graphically)

$$A = \{a_1, a_2\}, B = \{b_1, b_2\}, C = \{c_1, c_2, c_3\}$$

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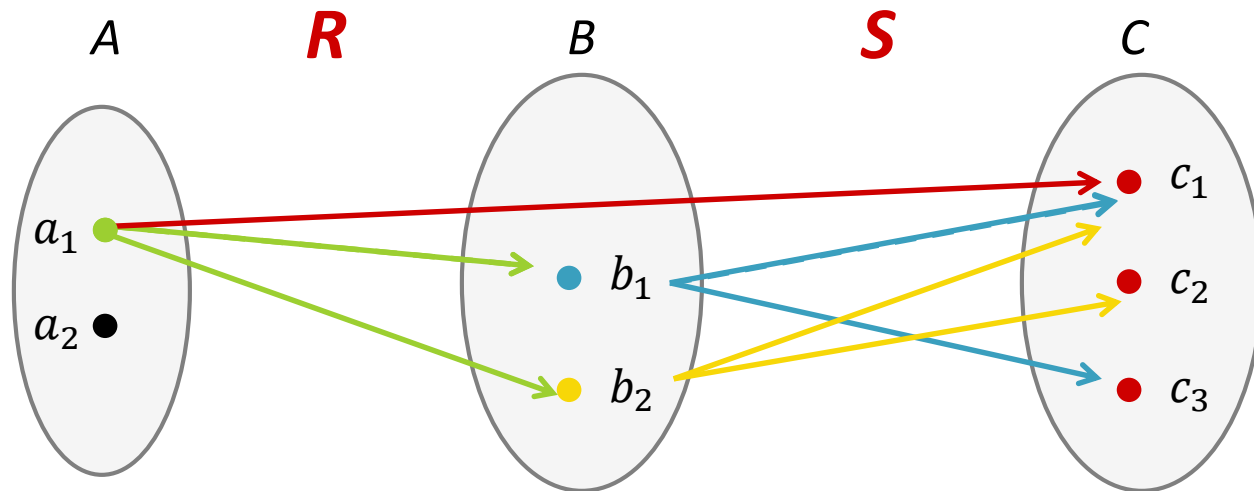
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$$S \circ R = \{(a_1, c_1), (a_1, c_3), (a_1, c_2)\}$$



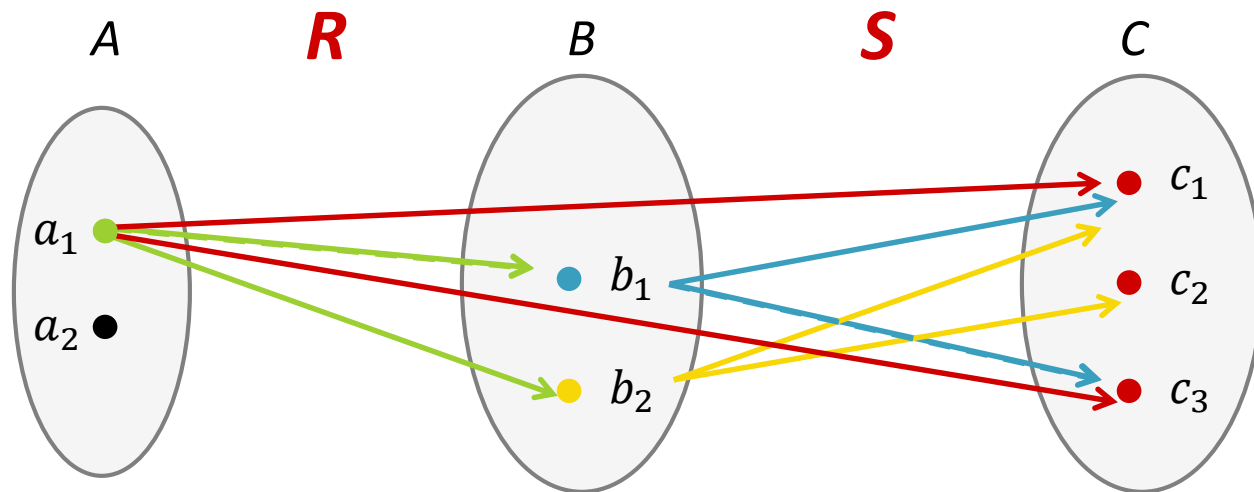
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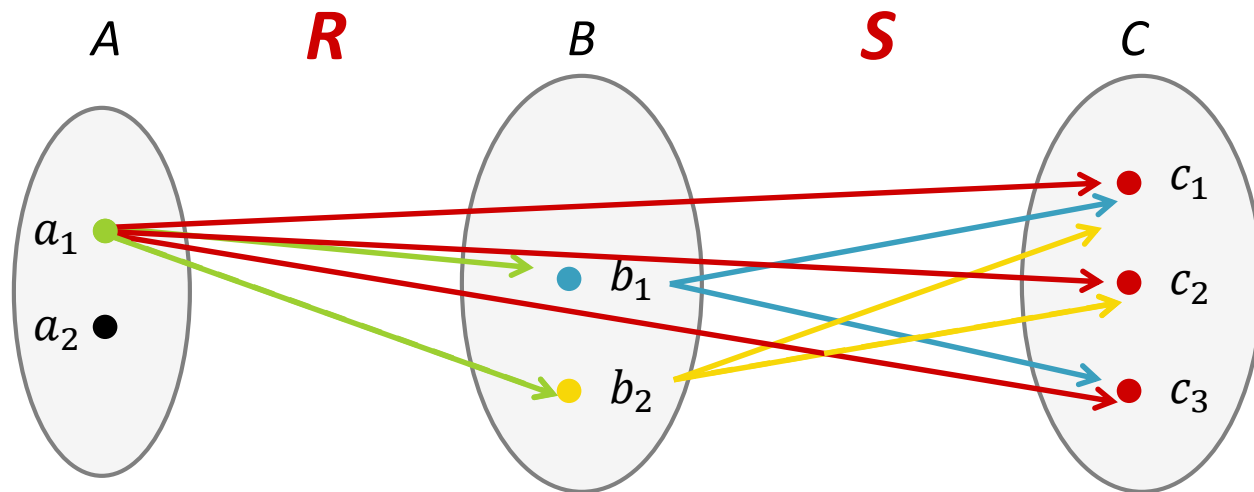
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$$S \circ R = \{(a_1, c_1), (a_1, c_3), (a_1, c_2)\}$$



# Reflexivity

# Reflexivity: Definition



A relation  $R$  on a set  $A$  is **reflexive** if every element of  $A$  is related to itself:  $\forall x \in A, xRx$ .

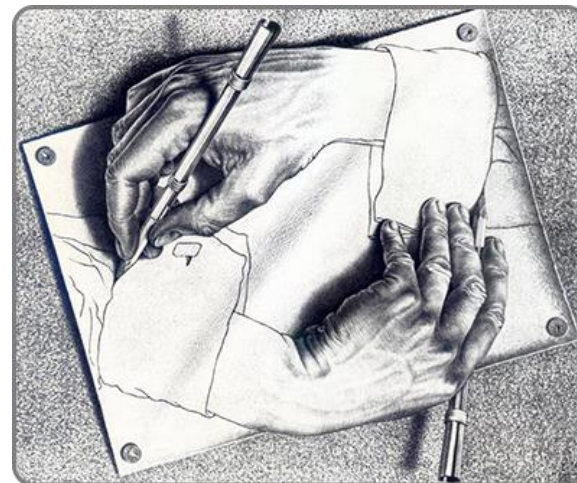


## Example

$A = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $xRy \leftrightarrow x = y$ : reflexive

$A = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $xRy \leftrightarrow x > y$ : not reflexive

What is the reflexivity on the matrix representing  $R$ ?

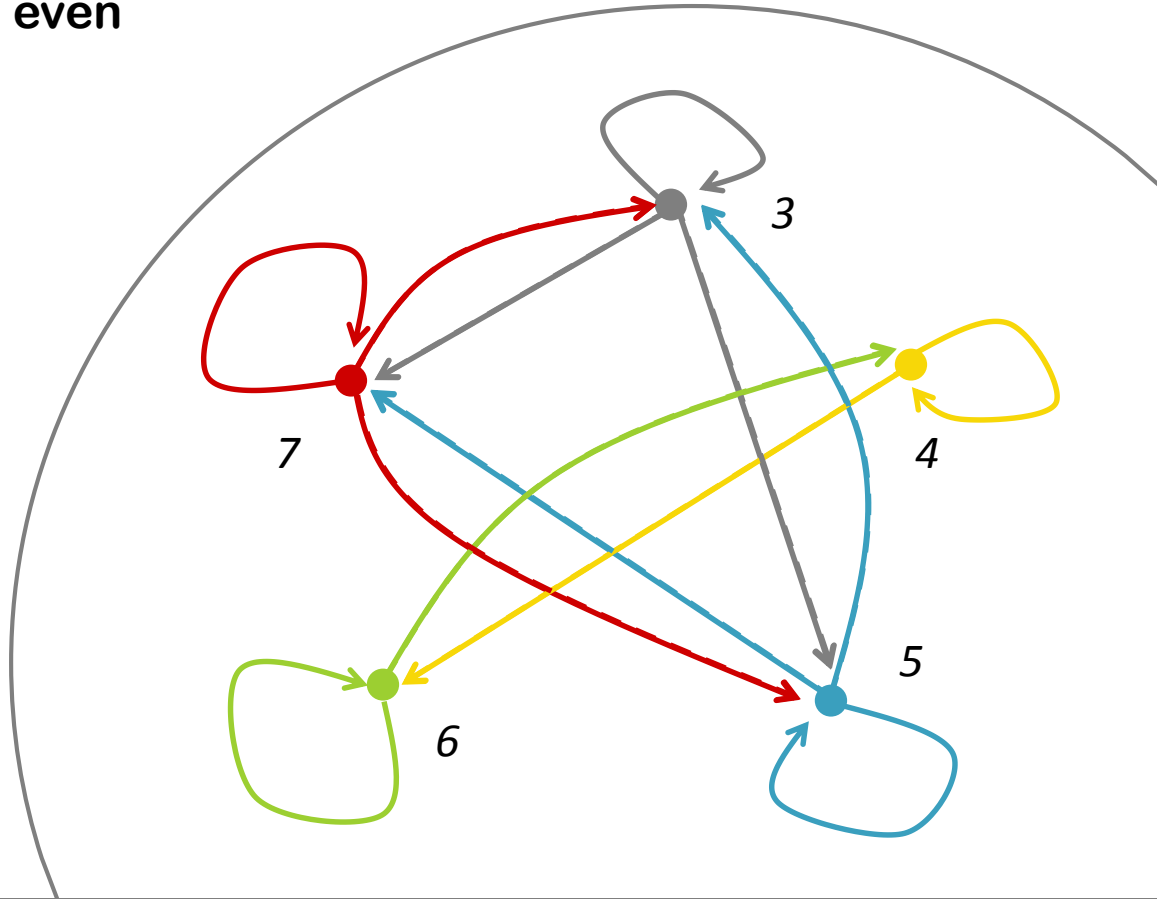


Drawing Hands (M.C. Escher)

# Reflexivity: Graphically

$A = \{3,4,5,6,7\}$ ,  $xRy \iff (x - y) \text{ is even}$

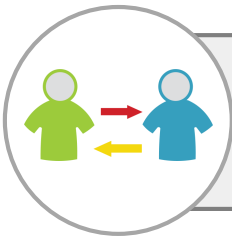
$R$  reflexive



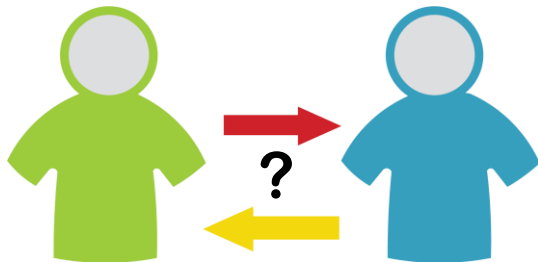


# Symmetry

# Symmetry: Definition

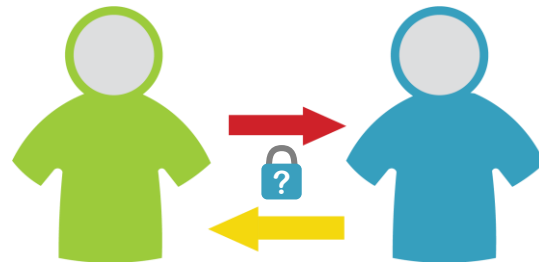


A relation  $R$  on a set  $A$  is **symmetric** if  $(x,y) \in R$  implies  $(y,x) \in R$ :  $\forall x \in A \ \forall y \in A, xRy \rightarrow yRx$ .



Not Symmetric Relationship

E.g.,  $A = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $xRy \leftrightarrow x > y$ :  
not symmetric



Symmetric Relationship

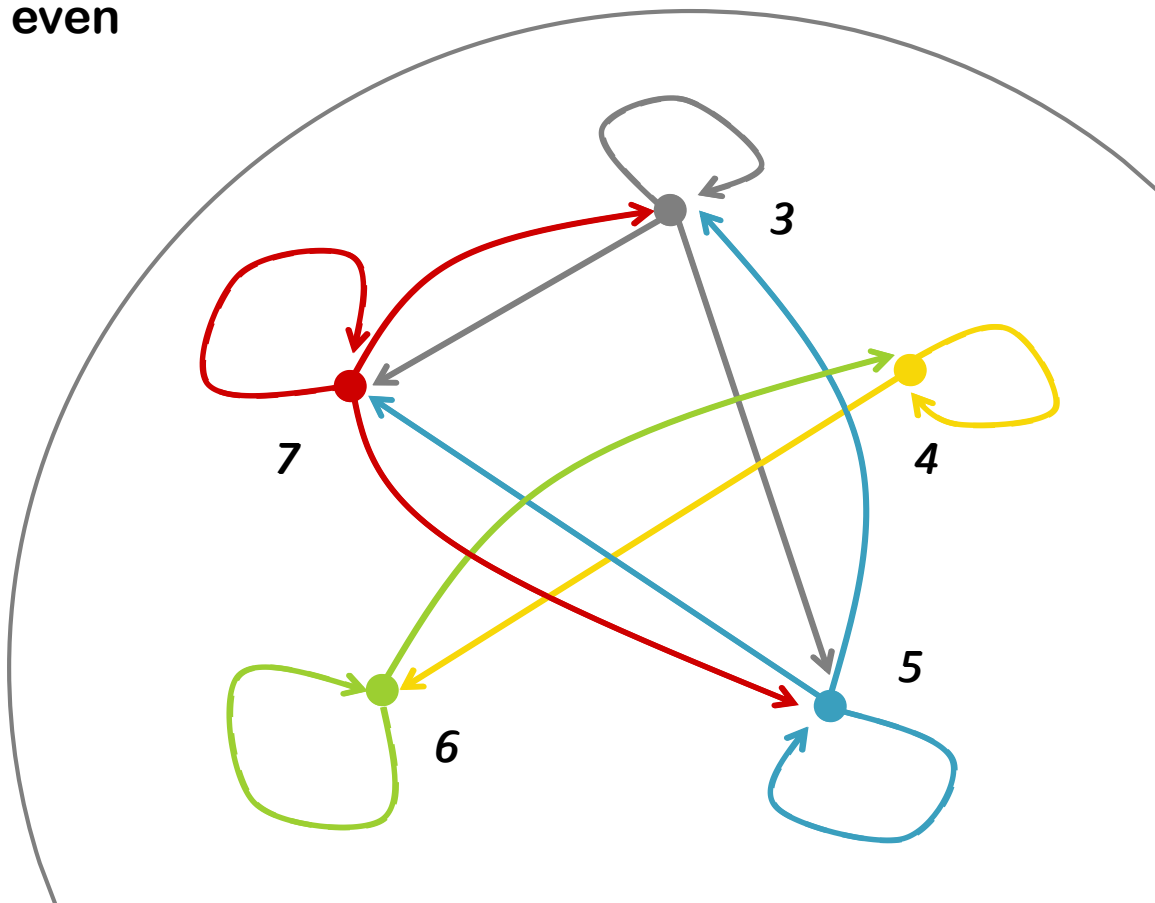
E.g.,  $A = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $xRy \leftrightarrow x = y$ :  
symmetric

# Symmetry: Graphically

$A = \{3,4,5,6,7\}$ ,  $xRy \iff (x - y)$  is even

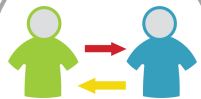
$R$  reflexive

$R$  symmetric



# Transitivity

# Transitivity: Definition



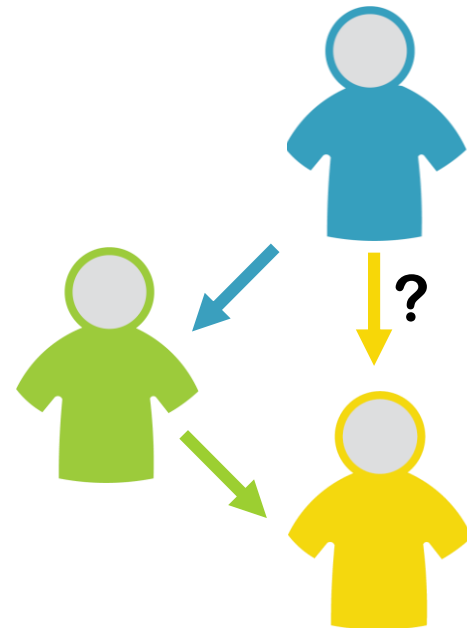
A relation  $R$  on a set  $A$  is **transitive** if  $(x,y) \in R$  and  $(y,z) \in R$  implies  $(x,z) \in R$ :  $\forall x \forall y \forall z \ xRy \wedge yRz \rightarrow xRz$ .



## Example

$A = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $xRy \leftrightarrow x = y$ : transitive

$A = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $xRy \leftrightarrow x > y$ : transitive



# Transitivity: Graphically

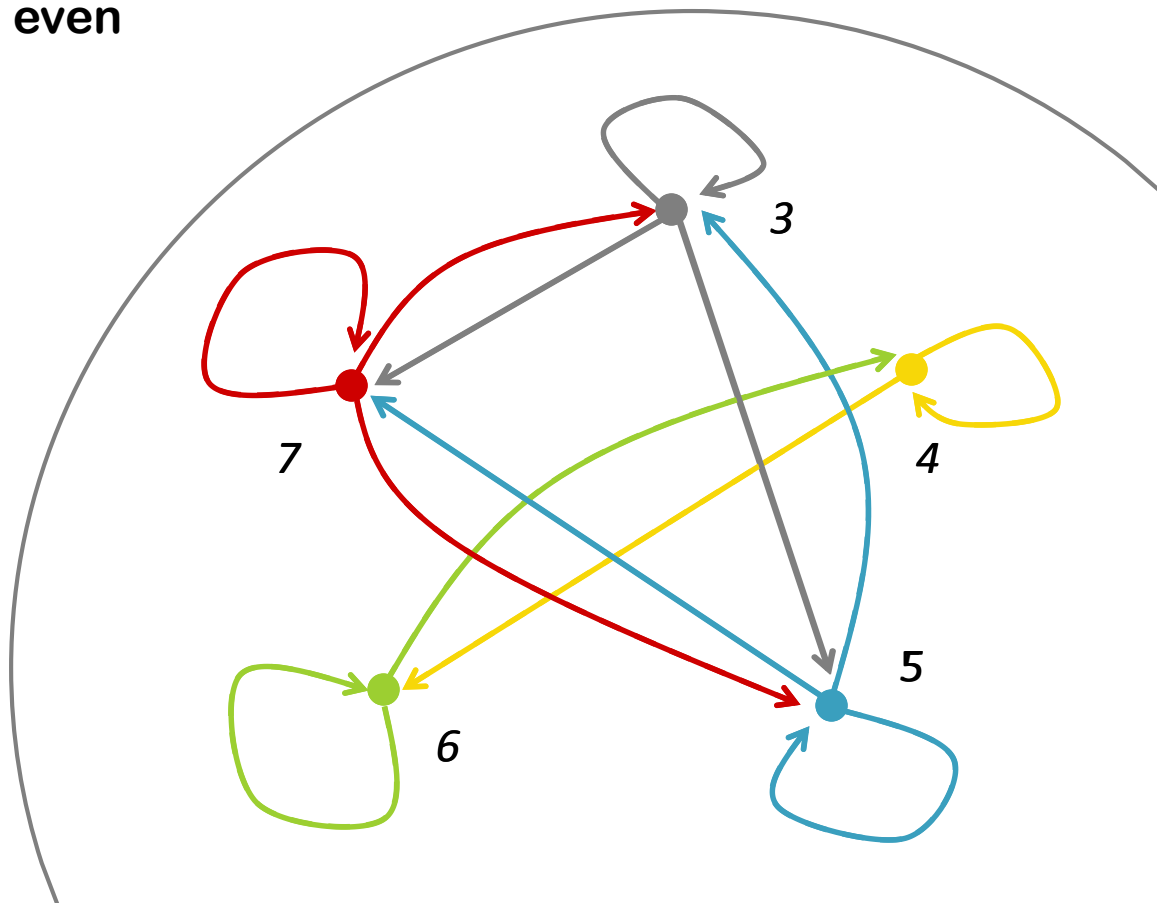
$A = \{3,4,5,6,7\}$ ,  $xRy \iff (x - y) \text{ is even}$

$[3] = \{3,5,7\}$ ,  $[4] = \{4,6\}$

$R$  reflexive

$R$  symmetric

$R$  transitive





# Topic Summary

# Let's recap...

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- Binary relations:
  - Inverse and composition
  - Graphical representation
- Properties:
  - Reflexivity
  - Symmetry
  - Transitivity

