

Relation on a set

A relation between two sets is **a collection of ordered pairs containing one object from each set**. If the object  $x$  is from the first set and the object  $y$  is from the second set, then the objects are said to be related if the ordered pair  $(x,y)$  is in the relation. A function is a type of relation.

## Definition: Relation

A relation in mathematics defines the relationship between two different sets of information. If two sets are considered, the relation between them will be established if there is a connection between the elements of two or more non-empty sets.

In the morning assembly at schools, students are supposed to stand in a queue in ascending order of the heights of all the students. This defines an ordered relation between the students and their heights.

A **relation** from a set  $A$  to a set  $B$  is a subset of  $A \times B$  (Cartesian Product). Hence, a relation  $R$  consists of ordered pairs  $(a,b)$ , where  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ . If  $(a,b) \in R$ , we say that ***a is related to b***, and we also write  **$aRb$** .

**$aRb$  : a is related to b**

**$aRb$** . a is not related to b

$A = \{1,2,6\}$

$B = \{1,3,5\}$

$A \times B = \{(1,1), (1,3), (1,5), (2,1), (2,3), (2,5), (6,1), (6,3), (6,5)\}$

There is a “<” Relation from set  $A$  to set  $B$

Relation ‘<’

$R = \{(1,3), (1,5), (2,3), (2,5)\}$

Relation ‘>’

$R = \{(2,1), (6,1), (6,3), (6,5)\}$

Relation ‘<=’

$R = \{(1,1), (1,3), (1,5), (2,3), (2,5)\}$

1R1

1R3

1R5

2R3

2R5

## 6R5 is in R. False

### Remark

We can also replace  $R$  by a symbol, especially when one is readily available. This is exactly what we do in, for example,  $a < b$ . To say it is not true that  $a < b$ , we can write  $a \not< b$ . Likewise, if  $(a, b) \notin R$ , then  $a$  is not related to  $b$ , and we could write  $a \not R b$ . But the slash may not be easy to recognize when it is written over an uppercase letter. In this regard, it may be a good practice to avoid using the slash notation over a letter.

Example:

Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Define  $(a, b) \in R$  if and only if  $(a - b) \bmod 2 = 0$ .

Then

$A \times B = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4),$

$R = \{(1, 1), (1, 3), (2, 2), (2, 4), (3, 1), (3, 3), (4, 2), (4, 4), (5, 1), (5, 3), (6, 2), (6, 4)\}$

### Definition

The **domain** of a relation  $R \subseteq A \times B$  is defined as

$$\text{domain of } R = \{a \in A \mid (a, b) \in R \text{ for some } b \in B\},$$

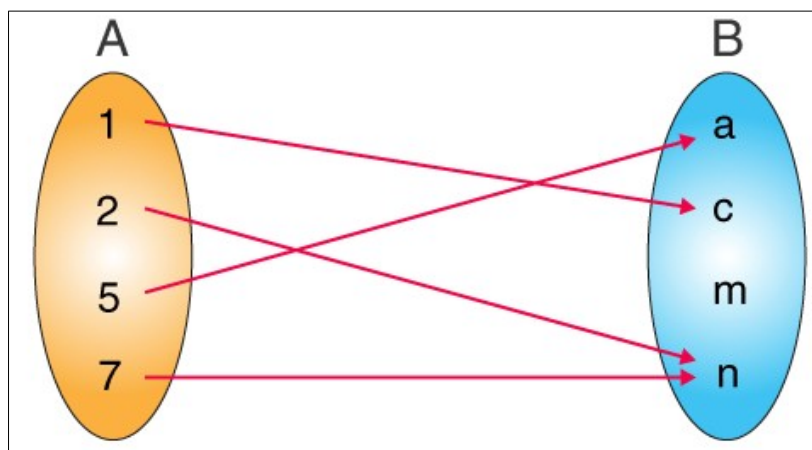
and the **range** is defined as

$$\text{range of } R = \{b \in B \mid (a, b) \in R \text{ for some } a \in A\}.$$

This mapping depicts a relation from set  $A$  into set  $B$ . A relation from  $A$  to  $B$  is a subset of  $A \times B$ . The ordered pairs are  $(1, c), (2, n), (5, a), (7, n)$ . For defining a relation, we use the notation where,

set  $\{1, 2, 5, 7\}$  represents the domain.

set  $\{a, c, n\}$  represents the range.



Let,  $A = \{ 1, 2, 9 \}$  and  $B = \{ 1, 3, 7 \}$

- **Case 1** – If relation  $R$  is 'equal to' then  $R = \{ (1, 1) \}$

$$\text{Dom}(R) = \{ 1 \}, \text{Ran}(R) = \{ 1 \}$$

- **Case 2** – If relation  $R$  is 'less than' then  $R = \{ (1, 3), (1, 7), (2, 3), (2, 7) \}$

$$\text{Dom}(R) = \{ 1, 2 \}, \text{Ran}(R) = \{ 3, 7 \}$$

- **Case 3** – If relation  $R$  is 'greater than' then  $R = \{ (2, 1), (9, 1), (9, 3), (9, 7) \}$

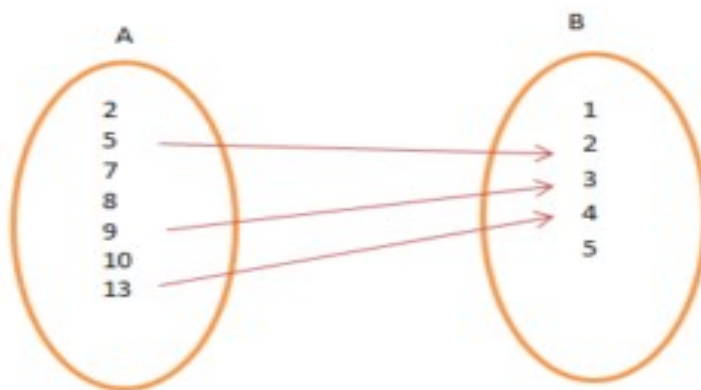
$$\text{Dom}(R) = \{ 2, 9 \}, \text{Ran}(R) = \{ 1, 3, 7 \}$$

Example:

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two sets such that  $A = \{2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . Then,

$$R = \{(x, y): x = 4y - 3, x \in A \text{ and } y \in B\} \text{ (Set-builder form)}$$

$$R = \{(5, 2), (10, 3), (13, 4)\} \text{ (Roster form)}$$



Representation of relation

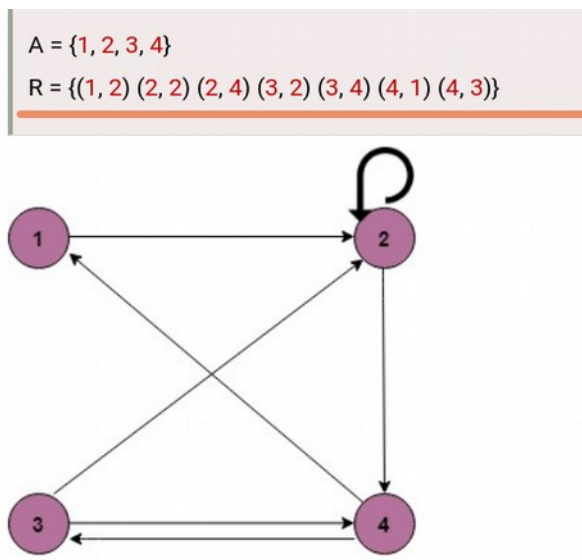
Relation as Matrix

Let  $P = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ ,  $Q = \{a, b, c, d\}$

and  $R = \{(1, a), (1, b), (1, c), (2, b), (2, c), (2, d)\}$ .

$$M_R = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} a & b & c & d \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{matrix} & \left\{ \begin{matrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \right\} \end{matrix}$$

**Relation as a Directed Graph:** There is another way of picturing a relation  $R$  when  $R$  is a relation from a finite set to itself.



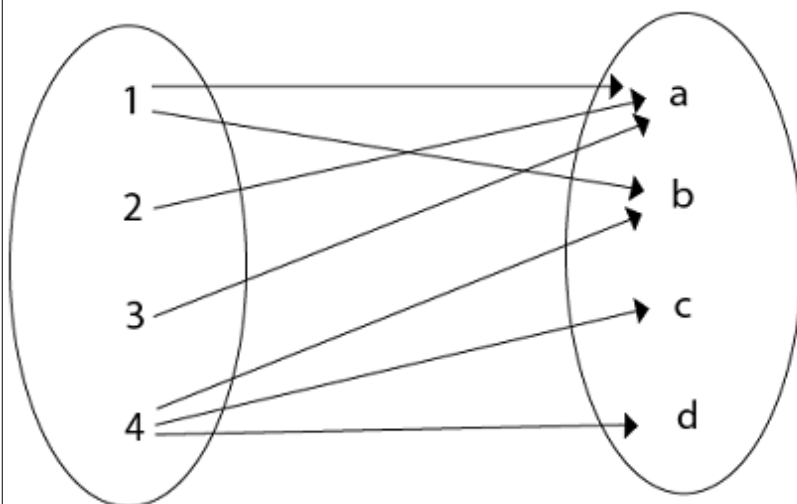
## Relation as an Arrow Diagram

Let  $P = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

$Q = \{a, b, c, d\}$

$R = \{(1, a), (2, a), (3, a), (1, b), (4, b), (4, c), (4, d)\}$

The arrow diagram of relation  $R$  is shown in fig:



## Inverse Relation

In simple words, if  $(x, y) \in R$ , then  $(y, x) \in R^{-1}$  and vice versa. i.e., If  $R$  is from  $A$  to  $B$ , then  $R^{-1}$  is from  $B$  to  $A$ . Thus, if  $R$  is a subset of  $A \times B$ , then  $R^{-1}$  is a subset of  $B \times A$ .

If  $(x, y) \in R \Leftrightarrow (y, x) \in R^{-1}$

Relation

Inverse  
Relation

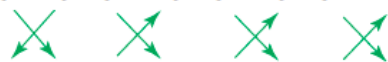
Thus

If  $R = \{(x, y) : x \in A, y \in B\}$

Then  $R^{-1} = \{(y, x) : y \in B, x \in A\}$

Example:

Relation:  $\{(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 3), (d, 4)\}$



Inverse :  $\{(1, a), (2, b), (3, c), (4, d)\}$   
Relation

## Inverse Relation Examples

Have a look at the following relations and their inverse relations on two sets  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .

- If  $R = \{(a, 2), (b, 4), (c, 1)\} \Leftrightarrow R^{-1} = \{(2, a), (4, b), (1, c)\}$
- If  $R = \{(c, 1), (b, 2), (a, 3)\} \Leftrightarrow R^{-1} = \{(1, c), (2, b), (3, a)\}$
- If  $R = \{(b, 3), (c, 2), (e, 1)\} \Leftrightarrow R^{-1} = \{(3, b), (2, c), (1, e)\}$

**Example:**

$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

$B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$

**Relation :** is equal to ( $\leq$ )

**Find out Relation set R, Domain set, Range set. Also represent your relation set R using graph, arrow and matrix representation. Find  $R^{-1}$ .**

$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

$B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$

$A \times B = \{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (1,6), (1,7), (1,8), (1,9), (1,10), (2,1), (2,2), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (2,6), (2,7), (2,8), (2,9), (2,10), (3,1), (3,2), (3,3), (3,4), (3,5), (3,6), (3,7), (3,8), (3,9), (3,10), (4,1), (4,2), (4,3), (4,4), (4,5), (4,6), (4,7), (4,8), (4,9), (4,10), (5,1), (5,2), (5,3), (5,4), (5,5), (5,6), (5,7), (5,8), (5,9), (5,10)\}$

$R = \{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)\}$

**Domain set** =  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

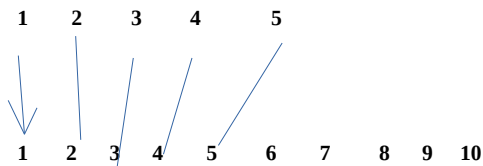
**Range set** =  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

**Matrix**

$R = \{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)\}$

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

### Graph



$$R = \{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)\}$$

$$R^{-1} = \{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)\}$$

### Example:

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$$

**Relation :** is less than ( $<$ )

**Find out Relation set R, Domain set, Range set.**

**Also represent your relation set R using graph, arrow and matrix representation. Find  $R^{-1}$ .**

$$A \times B = \{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (1,6), (1,7), (1,8), (1,9), (1,10), (2,1), (2,2), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (2,6), (2,7), (2,8), (2,9), (2,10), (3,1), (3,2), (3,3), (3,4), (3,5), (3,6), (3,7), (3,8), (3,9), (3,10), (4,1), (4,2), (4,3), (4,4), (4,5), (4,6), (4,7), (4,8), (4,9), (4,10), (5,1), (5,2), (5,3), (5,4), (5,5), (5,6), (5,7), (5,8), (5,9), (5,10)\}$$

$$R = \{(1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (1,6), (1,7), (1,8), (1,9), (1,10), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (2,6), (2,7), (2,8), (2,9), (2,10), (3,4), (3,5), (3,6), (3,7), (3,8), (3,9), (3,10), (4,5), (4,6), (4,7), (4,8), (4,9), (4,10), (5,6), (5,7), (5,8), (5,9), (5,10)\}$$

$$\text{Domain} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$\text{Range} = \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$$

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1

## Combining Relations

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\} \quad B = \{u, v\}$$

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

$$R_1 \cup R_2 = \{(1, u), (2, u), (2, v), (3, u), (1, v), (3, v)\}$$

$$R_1 \cap R_2 = \{(3, u)\}$$

$$R_1 - R_2 = \{(1, u), (2, u), (2, v)\}$$

$$R_2 - R_1 = \{(1, v), (3, v)\}$$

$$R_1' = \{(1, v), (3, v)\}$$

$$R_2' = \{(1, u), (2, u), (2, v)\}$$

### Combining relations

#### Example:

- Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{u, v\}$  and
- $R_1 = \{(1, u), (2, u), (2, v), (3, u)\}$
- $R_2 = \{(1, v), (3, u), (3, v)\}$

#### What is:

- $R_1 \cup R_2 = \{(1, u), (1, v), (2, u), (2, v), (3, u), (3, v)\}$
- $R_1 \cap R_2 = \{(3, u)\}$
- $R_1 - R_2 = \{(1, u), (2, u), (2, v)\}$
- $R_2 - R_1 = \{(1, v), (3, v)\}$

Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

The relation  $R_1$  is on  $A$  and the relation  $R_2$  is on  $B$ :

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

$$R_2 = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4)\}.$$

Definition 1. Determine the following relations.

(a)  $R_1 \cup R_2 = \{(1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4)\}$

(b)  $R_1 \cap R_2 = \{(1, 1)\}$

(c)  $R_1 - R_2 = \{(2, 2), (3, 3)\}$



$$(d) R_2 - R_1 = \{(1,2), (1,3), (1,4)\}$$

$$\text{Let } A = \{1,2,3\} \text{ and } B = \{1,2,3,4\}$$

Universal Relation

$$A \times B = \{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (2,1), (2,2), (2,3), (2,4), (3,1), (3,2), (3,3), (3,4)\}$$

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

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

Example:

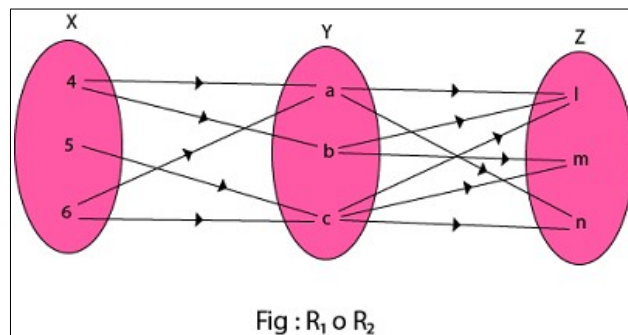
$$\text{set } x = \{4,5,6\}$$

$$\text{set } y = \{a,b,c\}$$

$$\text{set } z = \{l,m,n\}$$

Relation  $R_1 : X \rightarrow y$

Relation  $R_2 : y \rightarrow z$



$$R_1 = \{(4, a), (4, b), (5, c), (6, a), (6, c)\}$$

$$R_2 = \{(a, l), (a, m), (b, l), (b, m), (c, l), (c, m), (c, n)\}$$

Find the composition of relation  $R_1 \circ R_2$

$$\mathbf{R_1 \circ R_2} = \{(4, l), (4, m), (4, n), (5, l), (5, m), (5, n), (6, l), (6, m), (6, n)\}$$

## Composite of relations

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be a relation from a set  $A$  to a set  $B$  and  $S$  a relation from  $B$  to a set  $C$ . The **composite of  $R$  and  $S$**  is the relation consisting of the ordered pairs  $(a,c)$  where  $a \in A$  and  $c \in C$ , and for which there is a  $b \in B$  such that  $(a,b) \in R$  and  $(b,c) \in S$ . We denote the composite of  $R$  and  $S$  by  $S \circ R$ .

**Examples:**

- Let  $A = \{1,2,3\}$ ,  $B = \{0,1,2\}$  and  $C = \{a,b\}$ .
- $R = \{(1,0), (1,2), (3,1), (3,2)\}$
- $S = \{(0,b), (1,a), (2,b)\}$
- $S \circ R = \{(1,b), (3,a), (3,b)\}$

Let  $P = \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . Consider the relation  $R$  and  $S$  on  $P$  defined by

$$R = \{(2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 5), (5, 3)\}$$

$$S = \{(2, 3), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 2), (4, 3), (4, 5), (5, 2), (5, 5)\}.$$

Find the matrices of the above relations.

Use matrices to find the following composition of the relation  $R$  and  $S$ .

(i)  $RoS$     (ii)  $RoR$     (iii)  $SoR$

$$P = \{2, 3, 4, 5\} \text{ Relation } R : P \rightarrow P$$

$$P = \{2, 3, 4, 5\} \text{ Relation } S : P \rightarrow P$$

$$R = \{(2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 5), (5, 3)\}$$

$$S = \{(2, 3), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 2), (4, 3), (4, 5), (5, 2), (5, 5)\}$$

$$RoS = \{(2, 3), (2, 5), (2, 4), (2, 2), (3, 2), (3, 3), (3, 5), (4, 2), (4, 5), (5, 4), (5, 5)\}$$

$$R = \{(2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 5), (5, 3)\}$$

$$R = \{(2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 5), (5, 3)\}$$

$$RoR = \{(2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 5), (3, 3), (4, 3), (5, 4), (5, 5)\}$$

$$S = \{(2, 3), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 2), (4, 3), (4, 5), (5, 2), (5, 5)\}$$

$$R = \{(2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 5), (5, 3)\}$$

$$SoR =$$

$$R \circ S = \{(2, 2), (2, 3), (2, 4), (3, 2), (3, 3), (4, 2), (4, 5), (5, 2), (5, 3), (5, 4), (5, 5)\}.$$

$$R \circ R = \{(2, 2), (3, 2), (3, 3), (3, 4), (4, 2), (4, 5), (5, 2), (5, 3), (5, 5)\}$$

$$S \circ R = \{(2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 3), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4, 2), (4, 4), (4, 5), (5, 2), (5, 3), (5, 4), (5, 5)\}.$$

Types of relations:

Universal Relation :

A relation R from set A to set B is said to be a universal relation if  $R = A \times B$ .

$$A = \{1, 2\}$$

$$B = \{3\}$$

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

$$R = \text{"is less than"} (<)$$

Find R?

$$R = \{(1, 3), (2, 3)\}$$

Here  $R = A \times B$ , so R is an universal relation.

**Empty relation:**

Example:

$$A = \{1, 2\}$$

$$B = \{3\}$$

$AXB = \{(1,3), (2,3)\}$

Relation:  $(>)$

Find R?

$R = \{\}$

Here  $R = \{\}$ , so R is a empty relation or null relation or void relation

Reflexive Relation

Example:

$A = \{1,2,3,4\}$

Relation is (divides)

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

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

**Universal Relation:**

R is not equal to AXA so R is not an universal relation.

**Empty Relation:**

R is not an empty relation.

**Reflexive Relation**

for all a,  $(a,a) \in R$ , so R is a reflexive relation.

**Irreflexive Relation**

for all a,  $(a,a) \in R$ , so R is a reflexive relation, so it cant be irreflexive relation

**Symmetric Relation**

for all a,  $(a,b) \in R$  but  $(b,a)$  not belongs to R, so it can not be a symmetric relation.

**Antisymmetric Relation**

for all a,  $(a,b) \in R$  but  $(b,a)$  not belongs to R, so it can be an anti- symmetric relation.

$(a,a)$  allows

**Asymmetric Relation**

for all a,  $(a,b) \in R$  but  $(b,a)$  not belongs to R, but  $(a,a) \in R$  so it can not be called an asymmetric relation.

**Transitive Relations**

for all  $(a,b) \in R$  and  $(b,c) \in R$ , we have  $(a,c) \in R$ , so  $R$  is a transitive relation.

Example:

$A = \{1,2,3,4,5\}$

Relation is  $(\leq)$

$A \times A = \{1,2,3,4,5\} \times \{1,2,3,4,5\}$

$A \times A = \{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (2,1), (2,2), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (3,1), (3,2), (3,3), (3,4), (3,5), (4,1), (4,2), (4,3), (4,4), (4,5), (5,1), (5,2), (5,3), (5,4), (5,5)\}$

$R = \{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (2,2), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (3,3), (3,4), (3,5), (4,4), (4,5), (5,5)\}$

Find out types of relations.

**Universal Relation:**

$R$  is not equal to  $A \times A$  so  $R$  is not an universal relation.

**Empty Relation:**

$R$  is not an empty relation.

**Reflexive Relation**

for all  $a$ ,  $(a,a) \in R$ , so  $R$  is a reflexive relation.

**Irreflexive Relation**

for all  $a$ ,  $(a,a) \in R$ , so  $R$  is a reflexive relation, so it can't be irreflexive relation

**Symmetric Relation**

for all  $a$ ,  $(a,b) \in R$  but  $(b,a)$  not belongs to  $R$ , so it can't be a symmetric relation.

**Antisymmetric Relation**

for all  $a$ ,  $(a,b) \in R$  but  $(b,a)$  not belongs to  $R$ , so it can be an anti-symmetric relation.

**Asymmetric Relation**

for all  $a$ ,  $(a,b) \in R$  but  $(b,a)$  not belongs to  $R$ , but  $(a,a) \in R$  so it can not be called an asymmetric relation.

## Transitive Relations

### Example 3

- A relation on a set  $A$  is a relation from  $A$  to  $A$ .
- In other words, a relation on a set  $A$  is a subset of  $A \times A$ .
- Let  $A$  be the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Which ordered pairs are in the relation  $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \text{ divides } b\}$ ?
- Solution: Because  $(a, b)$  is in  $R$  if and only if  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers not exceeding 4 such that  $a$  divides  $b$ , we see that
- $R = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 2), (2, 4), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$ .
- The pairs in this relation are displayed both graphically and in tabular form in Figure 2.

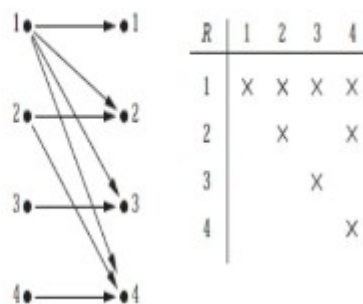


FIGURE 2 Displaying the Ordered Pairs

### Example 3

- A relation on a set  $A$  is a relation from  $A$  to  $A$ .
- In other words, a relation on a set  $A$  is a subset of  $A \times A$ .
- Let  $A$  be the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Which ordered pairs are in the relation  $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \text{ divides } b\}$ ?
- Solution: Because  $(a, b)$  is in  $R$  if and only if  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers not exceeding 4 such that  $a$  divides  $b$ , we see that
- $R = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 2), (2, 4), (3, 3), (4, 4)\}$ .
- The pairs in this relation are displayed both graphically and in tabular form in Figure 2.

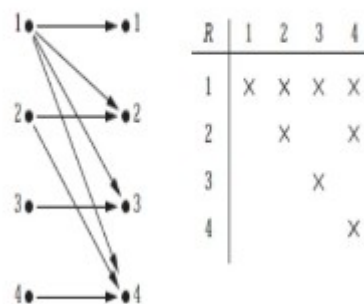


FIGURE 2 Displaying the Ordered Pairs

Divides is reflexive, anti symmetric and transitive.

$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$   
Relation is  $(\geq)$   
 $A \times A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \times \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

## **Compatible Relation**

A relation  $R$  on set  $A$  is said to be compatible relation, if and only if it satisfies two properties –

- Reflexive
- Symmetric

## **Equivalence Relation**

A relation  $R$  on set  $A$  is said to be an Equivalence Relation if it satisfies three properties –

- Reflexive
- symmetric
- Transitive.

## **Partial Order Relations**

A relation  $R$  on set  $A$  is said to be an Partial Order Relation if it satisfies

- Reflexive
- Anti symmetric
- Transitive.