

# Relations

Chang-Gun Lee ([cglee@snu.ac.kr](mailto:cglee@snu.ac.kr))

Assistant Professor

The School of Computer Science and Engineering  
Seoul National University

# Relations

- The concept of relations is also commonly used in computer science
    - two of the programs are related if they share some common data and are not related otherwise.
    - two wireless nodes are related if they interfere each other and are not related otherwise
    - In a database, two objects are related if their secondary key values are the same
  - What is the mathematical definition of a relation?
  - Definition 13.1 (Relation): A relation is a set of ordered pairs
    - The set of ordered pairs is a complete listing of all pairs of objects that “satisfy” the relation
  - Examples:
    - $\text{GreaterThanRelation} = \{(2,1), (3,1), (3,2), \dots\}$
    - $R = \{(1,2), (1,3), (3,0)\}$
- (1,2)  $\in R$ , 1 R 2 : "x is related by the relation R to y"

# Relations

- Definition 13.2 (Relation on, between sets) Let  $R$  be a relation and let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.
  - We say  $R$  is a relation on  $A$  provided

$$R \subseteq A \times A$$

- We say  $R$  is a relation from  $A$  to  $B$  provided

$$R \subseteq A \times B$$

# Example Relations

- Let  $A=\{1,2,3,4\}$  and  $B=\{4,5,6,7\}$ . Let
  - $R=\{(1,1),(2,2),(3,3),(4,4)\}$
  - $S=\{(1,2),(3,2)\}$
  - $T=\{(1,4),(1,5),(4,7)\}$
  - $U=\{(4,4),(5,2),(6,2),(7,3)\}$ , and
  - $V=\{(1,7),(7,1)\}$
- All of these are relations
  - $R$  is a relation on  $A$ . Note that it is the equality relation on  $A$ .
  - $S$  is a relation on  $A$ . Note that the element 4 is never mentioned.
  - $T$  is a relation from  $A$  to  $B$ . Note that the elements 2, 3 in  $A$  and 6 in  $B$  are never mentioned.
  - $U$  is a relation from  $B$  to  $A$ . Note that 1 in  $A$  is never mentioned.
  - $V$  is a relation, but it is neither a relation from  $A$  to  $B$  nor a relation from  $B$  to  $A$ .

# Operations on Relations

- A relation is a set → All the various set operations apply
  - $R \cap (A \times A)$ : the relation  $R$  *restricted* to the set  $A$
  - $R \cap (A \times B)$ : the relation  $R$  *restricted* to a relation from  $A$  to  $B$
- Definition 13.4 (Inverse relation) Let  $R$  be a relation. The inverse of  $R$ , denoted  $R^{-1}$ , is the relation formed by reversing the order of all the ordered pairs in  $R$ .

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

- Proposition 13.6: Let  $R$  be a relation. Then  $(R^{-1})^{-1} = R$ .
- Proof: ???

# Properties of Relations

- Definition 13.7 (Properties of relations) Let  $R$  be a relation defined on a set  $A$ .
  - Reflexive:  $\forall x \in A, x R x$
  - Irreflexive:  $\forall x \in A, x \not R x$
  - Symmetric:  $\forall x, y \in A, x R y \Rightarrow y R x$
  - Antisymmetric:  $\forall x, y \in A, (x R y \wedge y R x) \Rightarrow x = y$
  - Transitive:  $\forall x, y, z \in A, (x R y \wedge y R z) \Rightarrow x R z$
- Example 13.8: “=(equality)” relation on the integers
  - Reflexive, Symmetric, Transitive (also Antisymmetric)
- Example 13.9: “less than or equal to” relation on the integers
  - Reflexive, Transitive, Antisymmetric (not Symmetric)
- Example 13.10: “less than” relation on integers
  - not Reflexive, irreflexive, not symmetric, antisymmetric, transitive
- Example 13.11: “| (divides)” relation on natural numbers
  - Reflexive, not Symmetric, Antisymmetric
  - If “divedes” relation is defined on integers, it is neither symmetric nor antisymmetric.

# Equivalence Relations

- Certain relations bear a strong resemblance to the relation *equality*.
- Example: “is-congruent-to” relation on the set of triangles
  - Reflexive
  - Symmetric
  - Transitive
- Definition 14.1 (Equivalence relation) Let  $R$  be a relation on a set  $A$ . We say  $R$  is an “equivalence relation” provided it is “reflexive”, “symmetric”, and “transitive”.
- Example 14.2: “has-the-same-size-as” relation on finite sets
  - not the “equal” relation
  - equivalence relation (share a common property: size): reflexive, symmetric, transitive
  - “like” resemblance to “equal”

# Equivalence Classes

- An equivalence relation  $R$  on  $A$  categorizes the elements into disjoint subsets --- each subset is called an equivalence class
- Definition 14.6 (Equivalence class) Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$  and let  $a$  be an element of  $A$ . The equivalence class of  $a$ , denoted by  $[a]$ , is the set of all elements of  $A$  related (by  $R$ ) to  $a$ ; that is,

$$[a] = \{x \in Z : x R a\}$$

- Example 14.8: Let  $R$  be the “has-the-same-size-as” relation defined on the set of finite subsets of  $Z$ .

$$[\emptyset] = \{A \subseteq Z : |A| = 0\} = \{\emptyset\}$$

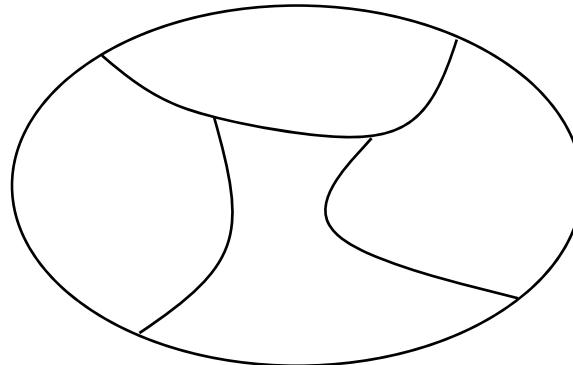
$$[\{2, 4, 6, 8\}] = \{A \subseteq Z : |A| = 4\}$$

# Propositions on Equivalence Classes

- Proposition 14.9: Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$  and let  $a \in A$ . Then  $a \in [a]$
- Proposition 14.10: Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$  and let  $a, b \in A$ . Then  $a R b$  iff  $[a] = [b]$ .
- Proposition 14.11: Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$  and let  $a, x, y \in A$ . If  $x, y \in [a]$ , then  $x R y$ .
- Proposition 14.2: Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on  $A$  and suppose  $[a] \cap [b] \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $[a] = [b]$ .
- Corollary 14.13: Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$ . The equivalence classes of  $R$  are nonempty, pairwise disjoint subsets of  $A$  whose union is  $A$ .

# Partitions

- The equivalence classes of  $R$  “partitions” the set into pairwise disjoint subsets.



- Definition 15.1 (Partition) Let  $A$  be a set. A partition of (or on)  $A$  is a set of nonempty, pairwise disjoint sets whose union is  $A$ .
  - A partition is a set of sets; each member of a partition is a subset of  $A$ . The members of the partition are called parts.
  - The parts of a partition are nonempty. The empty set is never a part of a partition.
  - The parts of a partition are pairwise disjoint. No two parts of a partition may have an element in common.
  - The union of the parts is the original set.

# An Example Partition

- Example 15.2: Let  $A = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$  and let  $P=\{\{1,2\},\{3\},\{4,5,6\}\}$ . This is a partition of  $A$  into three parts. The Three parts are  $\{1,2\}$ ,  $\{3\}$ , and  $\{4,5,6\}$ . These three sets are (1) nonempty, (2) they are pairwise disjoint, and (3) their union is  $A$ .
- $\{\{1,2,3,4,5,6\}\}$  is a partition of  $A$  into just one part containing all the elements of  $A$
- $\{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}, \{6\}\}$  is a partition of  $A$  into six parts, each containing just one element.
- Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$ . The equivalence classes of  $R$  form a partition of the set  $A$ .
- An equivalence relation forms a partition and a partition forms an equivalence relation.

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a partition of a set  $A$ . We use  $\mathcal{P}$  to form a relation “is-in-the-same-part-as” on  $A$ . Formally,

$$a \stackrel{\mathcal{P}}{\equiv} b \Leftrightarrow \exists P \in \mathcal{P}, a, b \in P$$

# Propositions on Partitions and Equivalence Relations

- Proposition 15.3: Let  $A$  be a set and let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a partition on  $A$ . The “is-in-the-same-part-as” relation is an equivalence relation on  $A$ .
- Proof???
- Proposition 15.4: Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a partition on a set  $A$ . The equivalence classes of the “is-in-the-same-part-as” relation are exactly the parts of  $\mathcal{P}$ .
- Proof???

# Counting Equivalence Classes/Parts

- Example 15.5: In how many ways can the letters in the word WORD be rearranged?
- How about HELLO?
  - Differentiate two Ls as a Large L and small l.
  - Let  $A$  be the set of all rearrangements
  - Define a relation  $R$  with  $a R b$  provided that  $a$  and  $b$  give the same rearrangement of HELLO when we shrink the Large L to small l.
  - The number of parts (equivalence classes) are the number of different rearrangements of HELLO.
- How about AARDVARK?
- Theorem 15.6 (Counting equivalence classes) Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a finite set  $A$ . If all the equivalence classes of  $R$  have the same size,  $m$ , then the number of equivalence classes is  $|A|/m$ .

# Revisit Binomial Coefficients

- Theorem 16.12: Let  $n$  and  $k$  be integers with  $0 \leq k \leq n$ .

Then

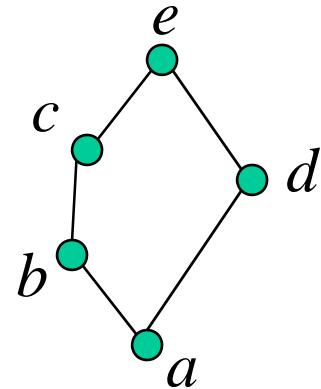
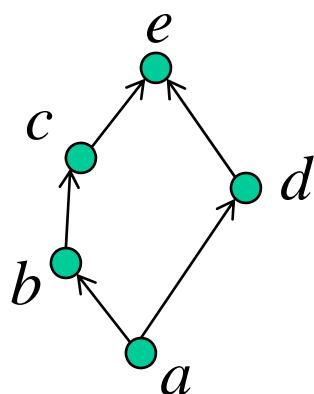
$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!/(n-k)!}{k!}$$

- How the concept of partition helps?
  - The number of  $k$ -element repetition-free lists:  $(n)_k$
  - Partition those lists with the relation “has-the-same-elements-as”
  - Each part (equivalence class) has the same size,  $k!$
  - Thus, the number of  $k$ -element subsets of  $n$ -element set is  $(n)_k/k!$  by Theorem 15.6

# Partial Ordering Relations

- A relation is said to be a *partial ordering relation* if it is reflexive, anti-symmetric, and transitive.
  - Example 1:  $R = \{(a,b) : a, b \in N, a | b\}$
  - Example 2: Let  $A$  be a set of foods. Let  $R$  be a relation on  $A$  such that  $(a,b)$  is in  $R$  if  $a$  is inferior to  $b$  in terms of both nutrition value and price.
- Objects in a set are ordered according to the property of  $R$ . But, it is also possible that two given objects in the set are not related. → Partial Ordering

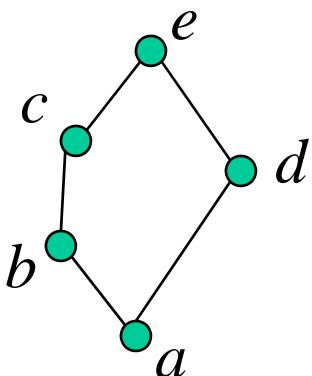
$\{(a,a), (a,b), (a,c), (a,d), (a,e), (b,b), (b,c), (b,e), (c,c), (c,e), (d,d), (d,e), (e,e)\}$



Hasse diagram

# Partially Ordered Set (1)

- Set  $A$ , together with a partial ordering relation  $R$  on  $A$ , is called a *partially ordered set* and is denoted by  $(A, R)$ .
- Let  $(A, R)$  be a partially ordered set. A subset of  $A$  is called a *chain* if every two elements in the subset are related.
  - Because of antisymmetry and transitivity, all the elements in a chain form an ordered list.
  - The number of elements in a chain is called the *length* of the chain
- Let  $(A, R)$  be a partially ordered set. A subset of  $A$  is called an *antichain* if no two distinct elements in the subset are related.



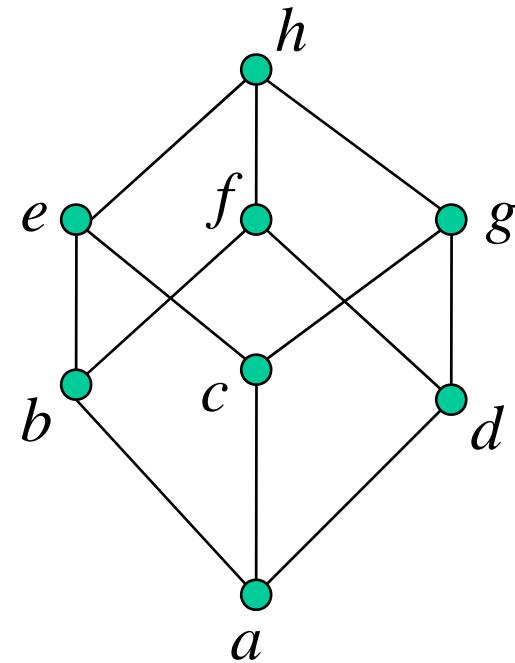
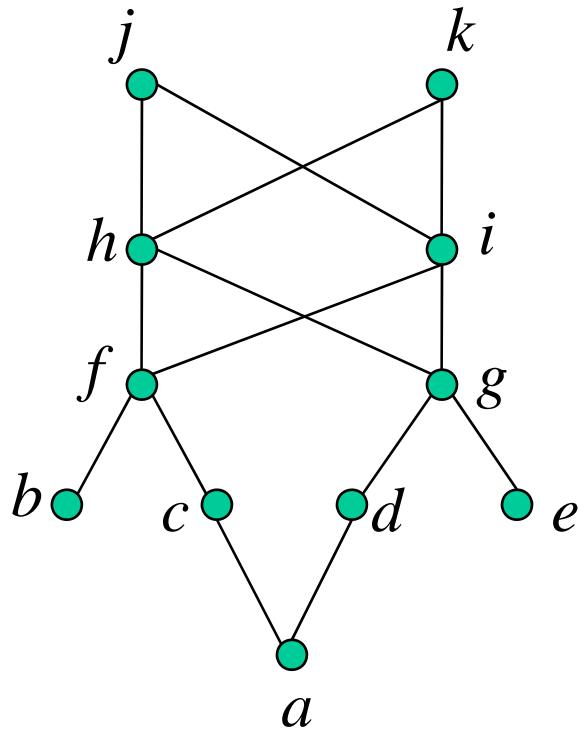
Chains:  $\{a,b,c,e\}$ ,  $\{a,b,c\}$ ,  $\{a,d,e\}$ ,  $\{a\}$

Antichains:  $\{b,d\}$ ,  $\{c,d\}$ ,  $\{a\}$

# Partially Ordered Set (2)

- A partially ordered set  $(A, R)$  is called a totally ordered set if  $A$  is a chain.
  - In this case, the relation  $R$  is called a total ordering relation.
- An element  $a$  in  $(A, R)$  is called a *maximal element* if for no  $b$  in  $A$ ,  $a \neq b, a \leq b$ .
- An element  $a$  in  $(A, R)$  is called a *minimal element* if for no  $b$  in  $A$ ,  $a \neq b, b \leq a$ .
- An element  $a$  is said to *cover* another element  $b$  if  $b \leq a$  and for no other element  $c$ ,  $b \leq c \leq a$ .
- An element  $c$  is said to be an *upper bound* of  $a$  and  $b$  if
$$a \leq c \text{ and } b \leq c.$$
- An element  $c$  is said to be a *least upper bound* of  $a$  and  $b$  if  $c$  is an upper bound of  $a$  and  $b$  and if there is no other upper bound  $d$  of  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $d \leq c$ .
- *Lower bound, greatest lower bound*

# Partially Ordered Set (3)



A partially ordered set is said to be a *lattice* if every two elements in the set have a unique least upper bound and a unique greatest lower bound.

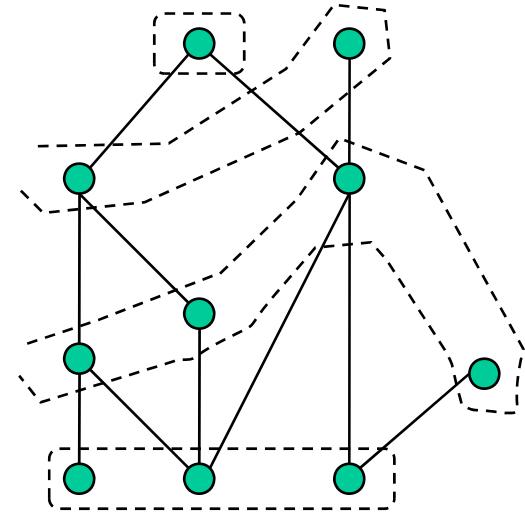
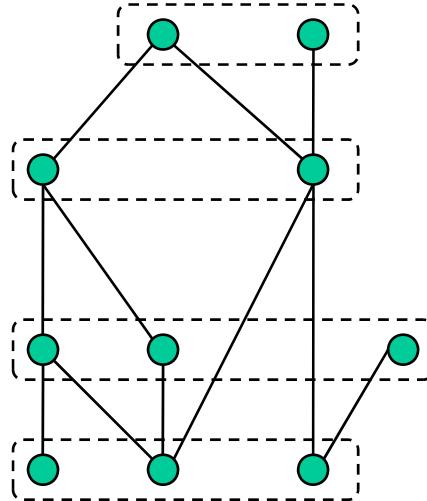
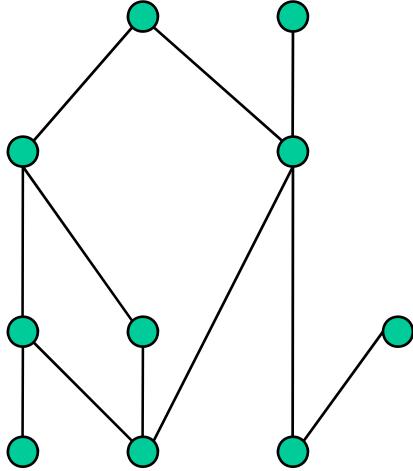
# Chains and Antichains

- Example: Let  $A=\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_r\}$  be the set of all courses required for graduation. Let  $R$  be a reflexive relation on  $A$  such that  $(a_i, a_j)$  is in  $R$  if and only if course  $a_i$  is a prerequisite of course  $a_j$ . Then,  $R$  is a partial ordering relation.
  - What is the minimum number of semesters for graduation?
    - the length of the longest chain in the partially ordered set  $(A, R)$ .
  - What is the maximum number of courses that a student can take in a semester?
    - the size of the largest antichain in the partially ordered set  $(A, R)$ .

# Chains and Antichains

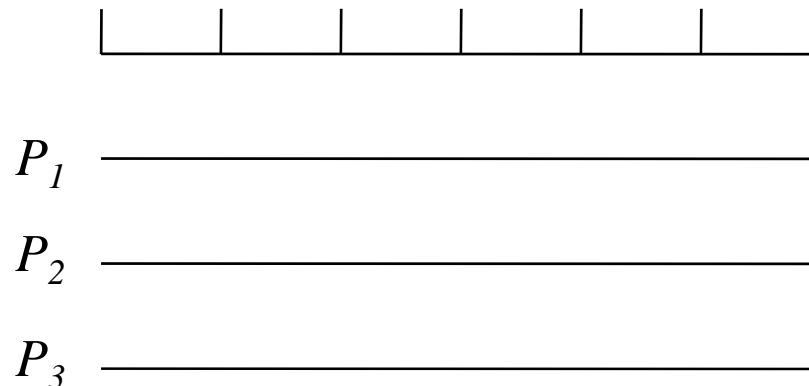
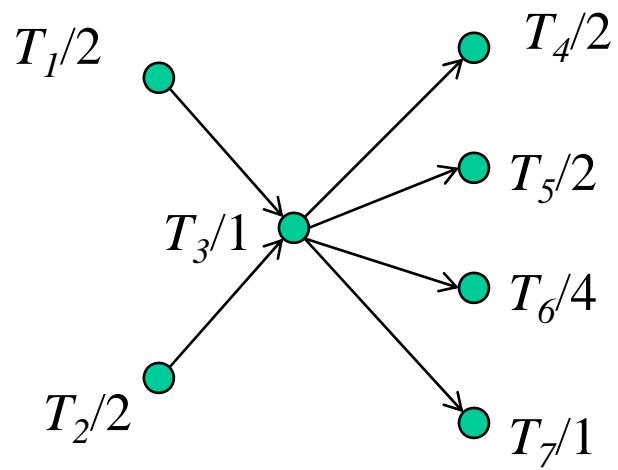
- Theorem: Let  $(A, R)$  be a partially ordered set. Suppose the length of the longest chains in  $A$  is  $n$ . Then the elements in  $A$  can be partitioned into  $n$  disjoint antichains.
- Proof: by induction
  - for  $n=1$ , true
  - Suppose it holds for  $n-1$ . Let  $A$  be a partially ordered set with the length of its longest chain being  $n$ . Let  $M$  denote the set of maximal elements in  $A$ . Clearly,  $M$  is a nonempty antichain. Consider now the partially ordered set  $(A-M, R)$ . The length of its longest chain is at most  $n-1$ . On the other hand, if the length of the longest chains in  $A-M$  is less than  $n-1$ ,  $M$  must contain two or more elements that are members of the same chain, which is not possible. Consequently, the length of the longest chain in  $A-M$  is  $n-1$ . According to the induction hypothesis,  $A-M$  can be partitioned into  $n-1$  disjoint antichains. Thus,  $A$  can be partitioned into  $n$  disjoint antichains.
- Corollary: Let  $(A, R)$  be a partially ordered set consisting of  $mn+1$  elements. Either there is an antichain consisting of  $m+1$  elements or there is a chain of length  $n+1$  in  $A$ .
  - Proof: Suppose the length of the longest chains in  $A$  is  $n$ . According to the above theorem,  $A$  can be partitioned into  $n$  disjoint antichains. If each of these antichains consists of  $m$  or fewer elements, the total number of elements in  $A$  is at most  $mn$ . Contradiction!

# Chains and Antichains

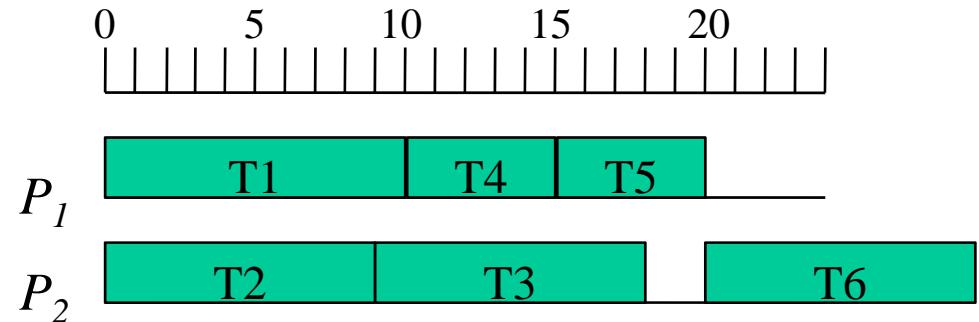
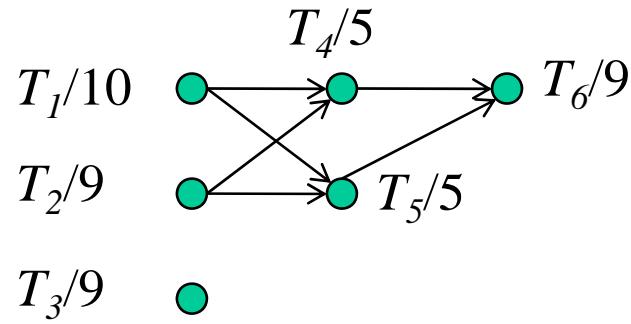


# Job-Scheduling Problem

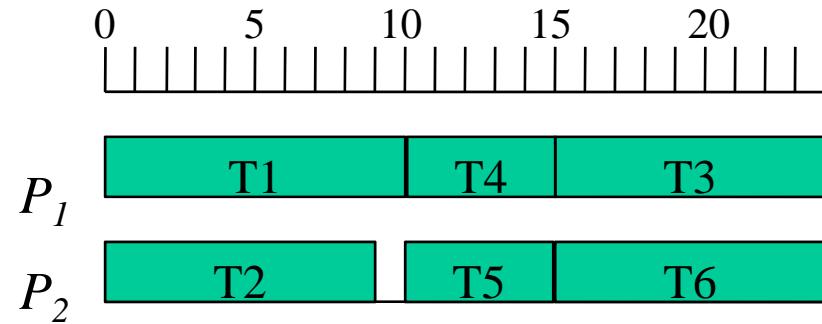
- Scheduling the execution of a set of tasks on  $n$  identical processors.
- The set of tasks may have a partial ordering relation  $R$ , “ $T_i R T_j$ ” if and only if the execution of task  $T_j$  cannot begin until the execution of task  $T_i$  has been completed.  
(Precedence relation)



# Best Schedule?



work conserving schedule



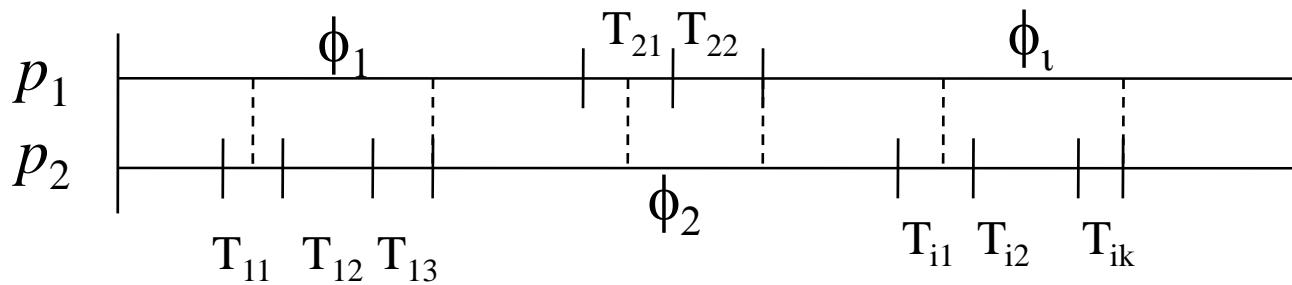
optimal schedule

# Work Conserving Schedule

- Theorem: For a given set of tasks, let  $w$  denote the total elapsed time of a work conserving schedule and let  $w_0$  denote the minimum possible total elapsed time. Then

$$\frac{w}{w_0} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}, \text{ where } n \text{ is the number of processors .}$$

- Proof: ???



- There is a chain  $\zeta$  such that  $\sum_{T_a \in \zeta} \mu(T_a) \geq \sum_{\phi_i \in \Phi} \mu(\phi_i)$

$$w = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{T_j \in T} \mu(T_j) + \sum_{\phi_i \in \Phi} \mu(\phi_i) \right] \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{T_j \in T} \mu(T_j) + \sum_{T_a \in \zeta} \mu(T_a) \right]$$

$$w_0 \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{T_j \in T} \mu(T_j) \text{ and } w_0 \geq \sum_{T_a \in \zeta} \mu(T_a)$$

$$w \leq w_0 + \frac{1}{2} w_0$$

# Homework

- 13.1, 13.2, 13.9, 13.13
- 14.1, 14.5, 14.7, 14.13
- 15.2, 15.10