

You will not turn in this assignment, but make sure that your attendance is counted so that you get credit for your work.

## Section 1: Binary Relations

### Binary Relations on a set $A$ . reflexive, antisymmetric, & transitive

Let  $R$  be a binary relation on a set  $A$ .

1.  $R$  is said to be **reflexive** if  $(a, a) \in R$  for all  $a \in A$ .

In terms of the arrow diagram, this means that every node has a loop.

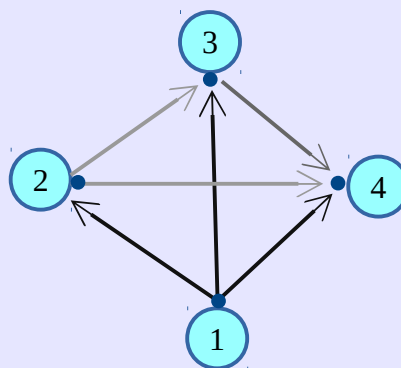
2. A relation  $R$  is called *antisymmetric* if for all  $a, b \in A$ , if  $a \neq b$  and  $(a, b) \in R$ , then  $(b, a) \notin R$ .

In terms of the arrow diagram, this means that arrow only goes in one direction.

3. A relation  $R$  is called *transitive* if whenever  $(a, b) \in R$  and  $(b, c) \in R$ , it must also be the case that  $(a, c) \in R$ .

In terms of the arrow diagram, this means that whenever you can follow two arrows to get from node  $a$  to node  $c$ , you can also get there along a single arrow.

**Example relation  $R_1$  on the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with the rule “ $(x, y) \in R_1$  if  $x \leq y$ ”**



### Irreflexive

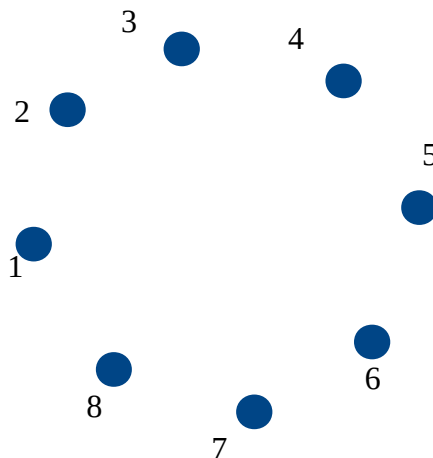
A relation  $R$  on  $A$  is *irreflexive* if for all  $a \in A$ ,  $(a, a) \notin R$ . On an arrow diagram, this means no loops.

A *strict partial ordering* on the set  $A$  is a relation  $R$  on  $A$  that is transitive, antisymmetric, and irreflexive.

1. Complete the arrow diagram for each of the relations on  $A = \{ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 \}$ , and decide if it has any reflexive, antisymmetric, or transitive properties. For each property that a relation does not have, illustrate this failure with a specific example.

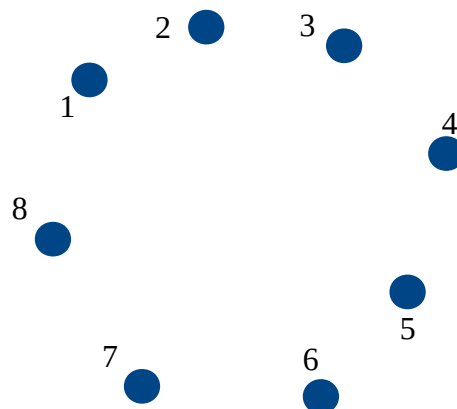
- a.  $R_1 = \{ (1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 4), (1, 8), (2, 2), (2, 4), (2, 8), (3, 3), (3, 6), (4, 4), (4, 8), (5, 5), (6, 6), (7, 7), (8, 8) \}$

Is this transitive, antisymmetric, and/or reflexive?



- b.  $R_3 = \{ (1, 1), (1, 3), (1, 5), (1, 7), (2, 2), (2, 4), (2, 8), (3, 3), (3, 5), (3, 7), (4, 2), (4, 4), (4, 8), (5, 3), (5, 7), (6, 6), (6, 8), (8, 2), (8, 4), (8, 8) \}$

Is this transitive, antisymmetric, and/or reflexive?



**Recap**

- **Reflexive:**  $(a, a) \in R$  for all  $a \in A$
- **Irreflexive:**  $(a, a) \notin R$  for all  $a \in A$
- **Antisymmetric:** for all  $a, b \in A$ , if  $a \neq b$  and  $(a, b) \in R$  then  $(b, a) \notin R$
- **Transitive:** If  $(a, b) \in R$  and  $(b, c) \in R$  then  $(a, c) \in R$

2. For the following relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$   $R_1 = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} : a + b \text{ is even}\}$

a. decide if the relation is reflexive or irreflexive. If it does not have one (or both) of these properties, give a specific example to illustrate this.

Hint:  $a$  and  $b$  are both in the set of integers. We are checking to see if the result of  $(a, a)$  is always in the relation  $R$ , so if you plug  $(a, a)$  into the, is what you get out still “is even”?

b. decide if the relation is antisymmetric. If it is not, give a specific example to illustrate this.

Hint: Find some  $(a, b)$  and  $(b, a)$  that are both in the relation. Remember that  $a$  and  $b$  are both in the set of integers.

3. Let  $P$  be the set of people who have ever lived. For each of the following relations on  $P$ , decide if it is reflexive, irreflexive, transitive, or antisymmetric – each can satisfy more than one of these properties. Give explanations on how you decided each of these.

a.  $R_1 = \{(\alpha, \beta) \in P \times P : \alpha \text{ is a child of } \beta\}$

Reflexive: Is  $(a, a) \in P$  valid?

Irreflexive: Is  $(a, a) \notin P$  valid?

Transitive: Is there some  $(a, b) \in P$  and  $(b, c) \in P$  ?  
(Pretend that it's an *ideal* world...)

Antisymmetric: Is  $(a, b) \in P$  and  $(b, a) \notin P$  valid?

b.  $R_2 = \{(\alpha, \beta) \in P \times P : \alpha \text{ is a descendant of } \beta\}$

Reflexive: Is  $(a, a) \in P$  valid?

Irreflexive: Is  $(a, a) \notin P$  valid?

Transitive: Is there some  $(a, b) \in P$  and  $(b, c) \in P$  ?

Antisymmetric: Is  $(a, b) \in P$  and  $(b, a) \notin P$  valid?