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4 Relations

Task: Define subsets of Cartesian products with certain properties. Understand the predicates " = " (equality) and other predicates in predicate logic in a more abstract light.

Start with $x = y$. The element x is some relation R to y (equality in this case). We can also denote it as xRy or $(x, y) \in E$

Let x, y in $\mathbb{R}$, then $E = \{(x, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\} \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$.

The "diagonal" in $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ gives exactly the elements equal to each other.

More generally:

Definition: Let A, B be sets. A subset of the Cartesian product $A \times B$ is called a relation between A and B. A subset of the Cartesian product $A \times A$ is called a relation on A.

Remark: Note how general this definition is. To make it useful for understanding predicates, we will need to introduce key properties relations can satisfy.

Example: $A = \{1, 3, 7\}$ $\qquad B = \{1, 2, 5\}$

We can define a relation S on $A \times B$ by $S = \{(1, 1), (1, 5), (3, 2)\}$. This means $1S1$, $1S5$ and $3S2$ and no other ordered pairs in $A \times B$ satisfy S.

Remark: The relations we defined involve 2 elements, so they are often called <u>binary relations</u> in the literature.

4.1 Equivalence Relations

Task: Define the most useful kind of relation.

Definition: A relation R on a set A is called

1. <u>reflexive</u> iff (if and only if) $\forall x \in A, xRx$

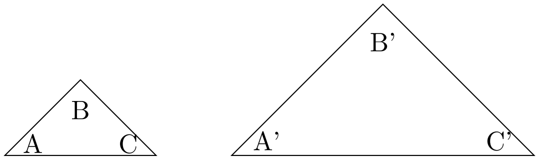
2. <u>symmetric</u> iff $\forall x, y \in A, xRy \to yRx$
3. <u>transitive</u> iff $\forall x, y, z \in A, xRy \wedge yRz \to xRz$

An equivalence relation on A is a relation that is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Notation: Instead of xRy, an equivalence relation is often denoted by $x \equiv y$ or $x \sim y$.

Examples:

1. "=" equality is an equivalence relation.
   (a) $x = x$ reflexive
   (b) $x = y \Rightarrow y = x$ symmetric
   (c) $x = y \wedge y = z \Rightarrow x = z$ transitive
2. $A = \mathbb{N}$
   $x \equiv y \bmod 3$ is an equivalence relation. $x \equiv y \bmod 3$ means $x - y = 3m$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, **i.e.** x and y have the same remainder when divided by 3. The set of all possible remainders is $\{0, 1, 2\}$
   NB: In correct logic notation, $x \equiv y \bmod 3$ if $\exists m \in \mathbb{Z}\, s.t.\, x - y = 3m$
   (a) $x \equiv x \bmod 3$ since $x - x = 0 = 3 \times 0 \to$ reflexive
   (b) $x \equiv y \bmod 3 \Rightarrow y \equiv x \bmod 3$ because $x \equiv y \bmod 3$ means $x - y = 3m$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow y - x = -3m = 3 \times (-m) \Rightarrow y \equiv x \bmod 3 \to$ symmetric
   (c) Assume $x \equiv y \bmod 3$ and $y \equiv z \bmod 3$
   $x \equiv y \bmod 3 \Rightarrow \exists m \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $x - y = 3m \Rightarrow y = x - 3m$
   $y \equiv z \bmod 3 \Rightarrow \exists p \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $y - z = 3p \Rightarrow y = z + 3p$
   Therefore, $x - 3m = z + 3p \Leftrightarrow x - z = 3p + 3m = 3(p + m)$
   Since $p, m \in \mathbb{Z}, p + m \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow x \equiv z \bmod 3 \to$ transitive.
3. Let $f : A \to A$ be any function on a non-empty set A. We define the relation $R = \{(x, y) \mid f(x) = f(y)\}$
   (a) $\forall x \in A, f(x) = f(x) \Rightarrow (x, x) \in R \to$ reflexive
   (b) If $(x, y) \in R$, then $f(x) = f(y) \Rightarrow f(y) = f(x)$, **i.e.** $(y, x) \in R \to$ symmetric
   (c) If $(x, y) \in R$ and $(y, z) \in R$, then $f(x) = f(y)$ and $f(y) = f(z)$, which by the transitivity of equality implies $f(x) = f(z)$, **i.e.** $(x, z) \in R$ as needed, so R is transitive as well.
   $f(x)$ can be $e^x, \sin x, |x|$, etc.



4. Let Γ be the set of all triangles in the plane. $ABC \sim A'B'C'$ if ABC and $A'B'C'$ are similar triangles, **i.e.** have equal angles.

   (a) $\forall ABC \in \Gamma, ABC \sim ABC$ so $\sim$ is reflexive

   (b) $ABC \sim A'B'C' \Rightarrow A'B'C' \sim ABC$ so $\sim$ is symmetric

   (c) $ABC \sim A'B'C'$ and $A'B'C' \sim A"B"C" \Rightarrow ABC \sim A"B"C"$, so $\sim$ is transitive

   Clearly (a), (b), (c) use the fact that equality of angles is an equivalence relation.

Exercise: For various predicates you've encountered, check whether reflexive, symmetric or transitive. Examples of predicates include $\neq$, $<$, $>$, $\leq$, $\geq$, $\subseteq$, $\rightarrow$, $\leftrightarrow$