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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & SOFTWARE ENGINEERING  
COMP232 MATHEMATICS FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE  
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**Assignment 4.**

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1. Establish the following properties by induction or strong induction.

(a)  $\sum_{k=1}^n k^3 = \frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

**Solution.**

Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition such that:  $\sum_{k=1}^n k^3 = \frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

**Basis Step:**  $P(1)$  is true because  $\text{LHS}(P(1)) = 1$  and  $\text{RHS}(P(1)) = \frac{1 \times 2^2}{4} = 1$

**Inductive Step:** To carry out the inductive step using this assumption, we must show that when we assume that  $P(n)$  is true, then  $P(n+1)$  is also true. That is, we must show that assuming the inductive hypothesis that  $P(n+1)$  is also true. That is, we must show that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^3 = \frac{(n+1)^2(n+2)^2}{4}$$

assuming the inductive hypothesis for  $P(n)$ . Under the assumption of  $P(n)$ , we see that:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^3 &= \sum_{k=1}^n k^3 + (n+1)^3 \\ &= \frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4} + (n+1)^3 && \text{using the inductive hypothesis for } P(n) \\ &= \frac{(n+1)^2}{4} (n^2 + 4(n+1)) && \text{by factoring with } \frac{(n+1)^2}{4} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)^2}{4} \times (n+2)^2 && \text{by factoring the last term} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)^2(n+2)^2}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Because we have completed the basis step and the inductive step, by mathematical induction, we know that  $P(n)$  is true for all non negative integers  $n \geq 1$ .

(b)  $1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \cdots + \frac{1}{2^n} \geq 1 + \frac{n}{2}$  for all  $n \geq 0$

**Solution.**

Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition such that:  $1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \cdots + \frac{1}{2^n} \geq 1 + \frac{n}{2}$  for all  $n \geq 0$

**Basis Step:**  $P(0)$  is true because  $\text{LHS}(P(0)) = 1$  and  $\text{RHS}(P(0)) = 1 - 0 = 1$ , therefore  $\text{LHS}(P(0)) > \text{RHS}(P(0))$ .

**Inductive Step:** To carry out the inductive step using this assumption, we must show that when we assume that  $P(n)$  is true, then  $P(n+1)$  is also true. That is, we must show that assuming the inductive hypothesis that  $P(n+1)$  is also true. That is, we must show that

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \cdots + \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^n + 1} + \frac{1}{2^n + 2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \geq 1 + \frac{n+1}{2}$$

assuming the inductive hypothesis for  $P(n)$ .

Under the assumption of  $P(n)$ , we see that:

$$\begin{aligned} & 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \cdots + \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^n + 1} + \frac{1}{2^n + 2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \\ \geq & 1 + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{1}{2^n + 1} + \frac{1}{2^n + 2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} && \text{using the inductive hypothesis} \\ \geq & 1 + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{2^n}{2^{n+1}} && \text{lower bounding each fraction by } \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \\ = & 1 + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1 + \frac{n+1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Because we have completed the basis step and the inductive step, by mathematical induction, we know that  $P(n)$  is true for all non negative integers  $n \geq 1$ .

- (c) Every positive integer  $n$  can be represented as a sum of distinct powers of 2, i.e., in the form  $n = 2^{i_1} + \cdots + 2^{i_h}$  with integers  $0 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_h$ .

**Solution.**

$$P(n) : \forall n, n \text{ can be written } n = 2^{i_1} + \cdots + 2^{i_h} \text{ with integers } 0 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_h.$$

Strong Induction.

**Basis Step:** The statement is true for  $n = 0$ .

**Inductive Step:** To carry out the inductive step using this assumption, we must show that when we assume that we are given an  $n \geq 1$  and that it is true for all  $m$  with  $0 \leq m < n$ . That is, we must show that when we assume that  $P(m)$  is true for  $0 \leq m < n$ , then  $P(n)$  is also true.

When  $n = 2m$  then  $m = \frac{n}{2}$  and therefore, using the inductive hypothesis for  $\frac{n}{2}$ ,  $m = \frac{n}{2} = \sum_k 2^{p_k}$  with finitely many  $p_k$ , all of them different. It follows that  $n = \sum_k 2^{i_k+1}$  with all  $i_k + 1$  different.

When  $n = 2m + 1$ , then  $m = \frac{n-1}{2}$ , and therefore, using the inductive hypothesis for  $\frac{n-1}{2}$ , we get with a similar reasoning as for the previous case that  $n = 2^0 + \sum_k 2^{i_k+1}$  with all  $i_k + 1$  different and different from 0.

- (d) Let  $D_n$  denote the number of ways to cover the squares of a 2-by- $n$  board using plain dominos. Then it is easy to see that  $D_1 = 1$ ,  $D_2 = 2$ , and  $D_3 = 3$ . Compute a few more values of  $D_n$  and guess an expression for the value of  $D_n$  and use induction to prove you are right.

**Solution.**



$$D_4 = 5, D_5 = 8 \quad \leadsto \text{(guess)} \quad D_n = D_{n-1} + D_{n-2}$$

Proof by strong induction

**Basis Step:** The statement is true for  $n = 3$ :  $D_3 = D_2 + D_1$

**Inductive Step:** Assume that we are given an  $n \geq 3$  and that it is true for all  $m$  with  $0 \leq m < n$ . Let us consider an  $2 \times n$  board.

The upper-right square of the board can be covered by a domino that is either laid horizontally or vertically.

- If covered by a vertically-laid domino, this leaves a  $2 \times (n-1)$  grid that can be covered in  $D_{n-1}$  ways.
- If covered by a horizontally-laid domino, the domino below it must also lie horizontally. This leaves a  $2 \times (n-2)$  grid that can be covered in  $D_{n-2}$  ways.

Because those are all the cases, we have proven that  $D_n = D_{n-1} + D_{n-2}$ .

- Determine whether or not each of the following relations is a partial order and state whether or not each partial order is a total order.

- $(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}, \leq)$ , where  $(a, b) \leq (c, d)$  if and only if  $a \leq c$ .

**Solution.** This is not a partial order because the relation is not antisymmetric; for example,  $(1, 4) \leq (1, 8)$  because  $1 \leq 1$  and similarly,  $(1, 8) \leq (1, 4)$ , but  $(1, 4) \neq (1, 8)$ .

- $(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}, \leq)$ , where  $(a, b) \leq (c, d)$  if and only if  $a \leq c$  and  $b \geq d$ .

**Solution.**

This is a partial order.

**Reflexive:** For any  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(a, b) \leq (a, b)$  because  $a \leq a$  and  $b \geq b$ .

**Antisymmetric:** If  $(a, b), (c, d) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(a, b) \leq (c, d)$  and  $(c, d) \leq (a, b)$ , then  $a \leq c$ ,

$b \geq d, c \leq a$  and  $d \geq b$ . So  $a = c, b = d$  and hence,  $(a, b) = (c, d)$ .

**Transitive:** If  $(a, b), (c, d), (e, f) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(a, b) \leq (c, d)$  and  $(c, d) \leq (e, f)$ , then  $a \leq c$ ,  $b \geq d, c \leq e$  and  $d \geq f$ . So  $a \leq e$  (because  $a \leq c \leq e$ ) and  $b \geq f$  (because  $b \geq d \geq f$ ) and, therefore,  $(a, b) \leq (e, f)$ .

This is not a total order; for example,  $(1, 4)$  and  $(2, 5)$  are incomparable.

3. Which of the following relations on the set of all people are equivalence relations? Determine the properties of an equivalence relation that the others lack.

- (a)  $\{(a, b) | a \text{ and } b \text{ are the same age}\}$
- (b)  $\{(a, b) | a \text{ and } b \text{ have the same parents}\}$
- (c)  $\{(a, b) | a \text{ and } b \text{ share a common parent}\}$
- (d)  $\{(a, b) | a \text{ and } b \text{ have met}\}$
- (e)  $\{(a, b) | a \text{ and } b \text{ speak a common language}\}$

**Solution.**

- (a) is an equivalence relation,
- (b) is an equivalence relation,
- (c) is not an equivalence relation, not transitive,
- (d) is not an equivalence relation, not transitive,
- (e) is not an equivalence relation, not transitive.

4. Consider the following relation  $\simeq$  defined on the set  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

$$(m_1, n_1) \simeq (m_2, n_2) \text{ iff } m_1 n_2 = m_2 n_1.$$

- (a) Prove that it is an equivalence and find equivalence classes.

**Solution.**

**Reflexive.**  $(m_1, n_1) \simeq (m_1, n_1)$  iff  $m_1 n_1 = m_1 n_1$ .

**Symmetric.** We have:

$$(m_1, n_1) \simeq (m_2, n_2) \text{ iff } m_1 n_2 = m_2 n_1.$$

$$(m_2, n_2) \simeq (m_1, n_1) \text{ iff } m_2 n_1 = m_1 n_2.$$

therefore  $(m_1, n_1) \simeq (m_2, n_2)$  whenever  $(m_2, n_2) \simeq (m_1, n_1)$

**Transitive.**

$$(m_1, n_1) \simeq (m_2, n_2) \text{ iff } m_1 n_2 = m_2 n_1.$$

$$(m_2, n_2) \simeq (m_3, n_3) \text{ iff } m_2 n_3 = m_3 n_2.$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
m_2(m_1n_3) &= (m_2m_1)n_3 && \text{commutativity} \\
&= (m_1m_2)n_3 && \text{commutativity of multiplication} \\
&= m_1(m_2n_3) && \text{associativity of multiplication} \\
&= m_1(n_2m_3) && \text{as } (m_2, n_2) \simeq (m_3, n_3) \\
&= (m_1n_2)m_3 && \text{associativity of multiplication} \\
&= (n_1m_2)m_3 && \text{as } (m_1, n_1) \simeq (m_2, n_2) \\
&= (m_2n_1)m_3 && \text{commutativity of multiplication} \\
&= m_2(n_1m_3) && \text{associativity of multiplication}
\end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $n_1m_3 = m_1n_3$  as  $m_2 \neq 0$ , i.e.,  $(m_1, n_1) \simeq (m_3, n_3)$

- (b) Provide a concise characterization of the equivalence classes in terms of rational numbers.

**Solution.**

There is one equivalence class for each distinct rational number. Each equivalence class consists of all ordered pairs  $(a, b)$  that, if written as fractions  $\frac{a}{b}$ , would equal each other.

Equivalence class of rational  $r = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} | y \neq 0 \text{ and } \frac{x}{y} = r\}$ .

5. Consider the following relation  $<$  over reals:  $x < y$  iff  $(x - y) \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Prove that it is an equivalence and characterize its equivalence classes

**Solution.**

**Reflexive.** To see that  $<$  is reflexive, let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $x - x = 0$  and  $0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so  $x < x$ .

**Symmetric.** To see that  $<$  is symmetric, let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ . Suppose  $a < b$ . Then  $a - b \in \mathbb{Z}$  say  $a - b = m$ , where  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $b - a = -(a - b) = -m$  and  $-m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus,  $b < a$ .

**Transitive.** To see that  $<$  is transitive, let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ . Suppose that  $a < b$  and  $b < c$ . Thus,  $a - b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $b - c \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose  $a - b = m$  and  $b - c = n$ , where  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $a - c = (a - b) + (b - c) = m + n$ . Now  $m + n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ; that is,  $a - c \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore  $a < c$ .

**Equivalence classes.** Let the above relation be called  $R$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
[a]_R &= \{b \in \mathbb{R} \mid (a, b) | a - b = kn \text{ for some integer } k\} \\
&= \{b \in \mathbb{R} \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ have the same decimal part}\}.
\end{aligned}$$

6. A set  $S$  of jobs can be ordered by writing  $x \leq y$  to mean that either  $x = y$  or  $x$  must be done before  $y$ , for all  $x$  and  $y$  in  $S$ . Given the Hasse diagram represented in Figure 1 for this relation for a particular set  $S$  of jobs, show the following:

- (a) minimal, least, maximal, and greatest elements;
- (b) a topological sort.

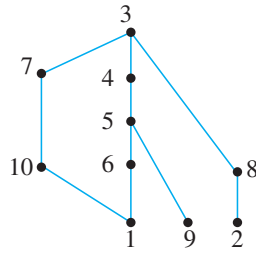


Figure 1: Hasse Diagram

**Solution.**

**Reminder.** There is usually not a unique way to define a topological sort.

Minimal = 1, 2, 9.

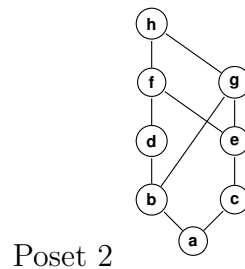
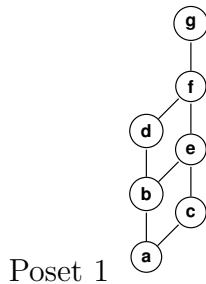
Least does not exist.

Maximal = Greatest = 3.

A topological sort requires to iteratively choose one of the minimal elements as least, e.g.,

$$1 \leq 9 \leq 2 \leq 10 \leq 6 \leq 8 \leq 5 \leq 7 \leq 4 \leq 3.$$

7. Determine whether the posets with these Hasse diagrams are lattices.



**Solution.**

**Poset 1:** Yes. Every two elements will have a least upper bound and greatest lower bound

**Poset 2:** No. If we take the elements  $b$  and  $c$ , then we will have  $f, g$ , and  $h$  as the upper bound, but none of them will be the least upper bound

8. Determine whether the following posets are lattices:

- (a)  $(1, 3, 6, 9, 12, |)$
- (b)  $(1, 5, 25, 125, |)$
- (c)  $(\mathbb{Z}, \geq)$
- (d)  $(P(S), \supseteq)$ , where  $P(S)$  is the power set of a set  $S$ .

**Solution.** In each case, we need to decide whether every pair of elements has a least upper bound and a greatest lower bound.

- (a) This is not a lattice, since the element 6 and 9 have no upper bound.
- (b) This is a lattice since it is a linear order.
- (c) This is a lattice since it is a linear order.
- (d) This is a lattice since, for any pair of elements  $A$  and  $B$  of  $P(S)$ , the GLB (Greatest Lower Bound) is  $A \cup B$  and the LUB (Least Upper Bound) is  $A \cap B$

9. Let  $R$  be a relation on  $\mathbb{N}$  defined by  $(x, y) \in R$  iff there is a prime  $p$  such that  $y = px$ . Describe in words the reflexive, symmetric and transitive closures of  $R$ , denoted by  $r, s$  and  $t$ , respectively.

**Solution.**

Remember:

0 and 1 are **not** prime numbers.

$\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  set of natural numbers

$$R = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid \exists \text{ prime } p \text{ such that } y = px\}.$$

$r(R)$  = reflexive closure of  $R$

$$= \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid \text{there is a prime } p \text{ such that } y = px\} \cup \{(x, x)\}$$

$$= \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid \text{either there is a prime } p \text{ or } p = 1 \text{ such that } y = px\}$$

$s(R)$  = symmetric closure of  $R$

$$= \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid \text{there is a prime } p \text{ such that } y = px\} \cup \{(y, x) \mid \text{there is a prime } p \text{ such that } y = px\}$$

$$= \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid \text{either there is a prime } p \text{ such that } y = px \text{ or } x = py\}$$

$t(R)$  = transitive closure of  $R$

$$= \{(x, z) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid \exists y \text{ such that } (x, y) \in R \text{ and } (y, z) \in R\}$$

$$= \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid x|y \text{ for } x < y\} \cup \{(0, 0)\}.$$

Note that  $(x, y) \in R$  can be interpreted as: either  $x = y = 0$  (observe that if  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 0$  as a prime cannot be 0), or  $x$  divides  $y$ .

(a) Which of the following are true:

$$r(s(R)) = s(r(R))$$

$$r(t(R)) = t(r(R))$$

$$s(t(R)) = t(s(R))$$

You need to justify your answer.

**Solution.**

- $r(s(R)) = s(r(R))$ : True

Indeed,  $r(s(R)) = s(r(R)) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid \text{either there is a prime } p \text{ such that } y = px \text{ or } x = py\} \cup \{(x, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{N}\}$

- $r(t(R)) = t(r(R))$ : True

Indeed,  $r(t(R)) = t(r(R)) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid x|y \text{ for } x < y\} \cup \{(x, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{N}\}$

- $s(t(R)) = t(s(R))$ : False

Note that  $(x, x) \notin R$ . However,  $(x, x) \in t(s(R))$  but  $(x, x) \notin s(t(R))$

$(x, x) \in t(s(R))$ : If  $(x, y) \in R$ , then  $(y, x) \in s(R)$ , and consequently  $(x, x) \in t(s(R))$ .

On the other hand,  $(x, x) \notin t(R)$ , and therefore it cannot belong to  $s(t(R))$ .

(b) Which of them hold for all relations on  $\mathbb{N}$ ?

**Solution.** None

(c) Using the reflexive, symmetric, and transitive closures, express the smallest equivalence relation containing an arbitrary relation.

**Solution.**

If we have a relation  $R$  that does not satisfy a property  $P$  (such as reflexivity or symmetry), we can add edges until it does. This is called the  $P$  closure of  $R$ . Consequently, a closure gives the smallest possible relation with property  $P$ .

In order to get the smallest equivalence relation, we need to take all three closures (reflexive, symmetric, transitive).

For an arbitrary relation  $S$ :  $r(s(t(S)))$

For relation  $R$ : it is defined by relation  $T$  such that

$$T = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid x|y \text{ or } y|x\} \cup \{(0, 0)\}$$

(d) What is the smallest partial order containing  $R$ ?

**Solution.** Since the relation is already asymmetric, we only need to consider the reflexive and transitive closure in order to get the smallest partial order containing  $R$ .

$$T = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid x|y\} \cup \{(0, 0)\}.$$