

# Relations

## --- Binary Relations

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# What is a relation?

- The mathematical concept of relation is based on the common notion of relationships among objects:
  - One box is heavier than the other
  - One man is richer than the other
  - An event occurs prior to the other

# Ordered n-tuple

- For  $n > 0$ , an ordered  $n$ -tuple (or simply  $n$ -tuple) with  $i$ th component  $a_i$  is a sequence of  $n$  objects denoted by  $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$ . Two ordered  $n$ -tuples are equal iff their  $i$ th components are equal for all  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .
- For  $n=2$ , ordered pair
- For  $n=3$ , ordered triple

# Cartesian Product

- Let  $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$  be an indexed collection of sets with indices from 1 to  $n$ , where  $n > 0$ . The cartesian product, or cross product of the sets  $A_1$  through  $A_n$ , denoted by  $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$ , or  $\times_{i=1}^n A_i$  is the set of  $n$ -tuples  $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle | a_i \in A_i$ .  
When  $A_i = A$ , for all  $i$ , then  $\times_{i=1}^n A_i$  will be denoted by  $A^n$ .

# Examples

- Let  $A=\{1,2\}$ ,  $B=\{m,n\}$ ,  $C=\{0\}$ ,  $D=\Phi$ .
  - $A \times B = \{ \langle 1,m \rangle, \langle 1,n \rangle, \langle 2,m \rangle, \langle 2,n \rangle \}$
  - $A \times C = \{ \langle 1,0 \rangle, \langle 2,0 \rangle \}$
  - $A \times D = \Phi$
- When  $A$  and  $B$  are real numbers, then  $A \times B$  can be represented as a set of points in the Cartesian Plane. Let,  $A = \{x \mid 1 \leq x \leq 2\}$  and  $B = \{y \mid 0 \leq y \leq 1\}$ . Then
  - $A \times B = \{ \langle x,y \rangle \mid 1 \leq x \leq 2 \wedge 0 \leq y \leq 1 \}$

# Theorems

1.  $AX(B \cup C) = (AXB) \cup (AXC)$

2.  $AX(B \cap C) = (AXB) \cap (AXC)$

3.  $(A \cup B)XC = (AXC) \cup (BXC)$

4.  $(A \cap B)XC = (AXC) \cap (BXC)$

# Proof of 1

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y \rangle \in A \times (B \cup C) &\Leftrightarrow x \in A \wedge y \in (B \cup C) \\ &\Leftrightarrow x \in A \wedge (y \in B \vee y \in C) \\ &\Leftrightarrow (x \in A \wedge y \in B) \vee (x \in A \wedge y \in C) \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\langle x, y \rangle \in A \times B) \vee (\langle x, y \rangle \in A \times C) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \langle x, y \rangle \in (A \times B) \cup (A \times C) \end{aligned}$$

The rest of the proofs are similar.

# What is a relation mathematically?

- Let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  be sets. An  $n$ -ary relation  $R$  on  $\times_{i=1}^n A_i$  is a subset of  $\times_{i=1}^n A_i$ . If  $R = \Phi$ , then  $R$  is called the empty or void relation. If  $R = \times_{i=1}^n A_i$  then  $R$  is the universal relation. If  $A_i = A$  for all  $i$ , then  $R$  is called an  ***$n$ -ary relation on  $A$*** .
- If  $n=1$ , unary
- If  $n=2$ , binary
- Ternary...



# Number of n-ary relations

- If  $A_i$  has  $r_i$  elements, then  $\times_{i=1}^n A_i$  has  $\prod_{i=1}^n r_i$  elements
- The number of n-ary relations is the cardinal number of the power set of the cartesian product of the  $A_i$ s.
- Thus, the number of relations is

$$2^{\prod_{i=1}^n r_i}$$

# Equality of relations

- Let  $R_1$  be an  $n$ -ary relation on  $\times_{i=1}^n A_i$  and  $R_2$  be an  $m$ -ary relation on  $\times_{i=1}^m B_i$ . Then  $R_1 = R_2$  iff  $n=m$ , and  $A_i = B_i$  for all  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and  $R_1 = R_2$  are equal sets of ordered  $n$ -tuples.
- Every  $n$ -ary relation on a set  $A$ , corresponds to an  $n$ -ary predicate with  $A$  as the universe of discourse.
- A unary relation on a set  $A$  is simply a subset of set  $A$ .

# Binary Relations

- They are frequently used in abstraction in CS
- Various data structures, like trees and graphs can be modeled as binary relations and vice versa.
- We shall see techniques and methods to analyze.

# Binary Relations

- Let  $A, B$  be any two sets.
- A *binary relation*  $R$  from  $A$  to  $B$ , written (with signature)  $R:A\leftrightarrow B$ , is a **subset of  $A\times B$** .
  - E.g., let  $< : \mathbf{N}\leftrightarrow\mathbf{N} := \{ \langle n,m \rangle \mid n < m \}$
- The notation  $a R b$  or  $aRb$  means  $\langle a,b \rangle \in R$ .
  - E.g.,  $a < b$  means  $(a,b) \in <$
- If  $aRb$  we may say “ $a$  is related to  $b$  (by relation  $R$ )”, or “ $a$  relates to  $b$  (under relation  $R$ )”.
- A binary relation  $R$  corresponds to a predicate function  $P_R:A\times B\rightarrow\{\mathbf{T},\mathbf{F}\}$  defined over the 2 sets  $A,B$ ; e.g., “eats”  $:= \{ \langle a,b \rangle \mid \text{organism } a \text{ eats food } b \}$

# Domain and Co-domain

- Let  $R$  be a binary relation over  $A \times B$ .
- Domain: Set  $A$
- Co-domain: Set  $B$
- $\langle a, b \rangle \in R \Rightarrow aRb$
- $\langle a, b \rangle \notin R \Rightarrow a \not R b$

# Complementary Relations

- Let  $R:A\leftrightarrow B$  be any binary relation.
- Then,  $\bar{R}:A\leftrightarrow B$ , the *complement* of  $R$ , is the binary relation defined by

$$\bar{R} := \{ \langle a, b \rangle \mid (a, b) \notin R \}$$

Example:  $< = \{ (a, b) \mid (a, b) \notin < \} = \{ (a, b) \mid \neg a < b \} = \geq$

# Inverse Relations

- Any binary relation  $R:A\leftrightarrow B$  has an *inverse* relation  $R^{-1}:B\leftrightarrow A$ , defined by

$$R^{-1} := \{(b,a) \mid (a,b) \in R\}.$$

*E.g.*,  $<^{-1} = \{(b,a) \mid a < b\} = \{(b,a) \mid b > a\} = >$ .

- *E.g.*, if  $R:\text{People} \rightarrow \text{Foods}$  is defined by  
 $aRb \Leftrightarrow a \text{ eats } b$ , then:  
 $b R^{-1} a \Leftrightarrow b \text{ is eaten by } a$ . (Passive voice.)



# Relations on a Set

- A (binary) relation from a set  $A$  to itself is called a relation *on* the set  $A$ .
- *E.g.*, the “ $<$ ” relation from earlier was defined as a relation *on* the set  $\mathbf{N}$  of natural numbers.
- The *identity relation*  $\mathbf{I}_A$  on a set  $A$  is the set  $\{(a, a) \mid a \in A\}$ .

# Representing Relations

- With a zero-one matrix.
- With a directed graph.

# Using Zero-One Matrices

- To represent a relation  $R$  by a matrix  $\mathbf{M}_R = [m_{ij}]$ , let  $m_{ij} = 1$  if  $(a_i, b_j) \in R$ , else 0.
- *E.g.*,  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{1, 2\}$ . Let  $R$  be the relation from  $A$  to  $B$  containing  $(a, b)$  s.t  $a$  is in  $A$  and  $b$  is in  $B$  and  $a > b$ .
- The 0-1 matrix representation

When  $A=B$ , we have a square matrix

$$M_R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# So, what is complement of R?

- $A=\{1,2,3\}$ ,  $B=\{1,2\}$ . Let R be the relation from A to B containing  $(a,b)$  s.t a is in A and b is in B and  $a>b$
- Complement of R =  $\{(a,b)|\text{not}(a>b)\}$   
 $=\{(a,b)|a\leq b\}$

- 0-1 matrix is:

$$M_{\bar{R}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

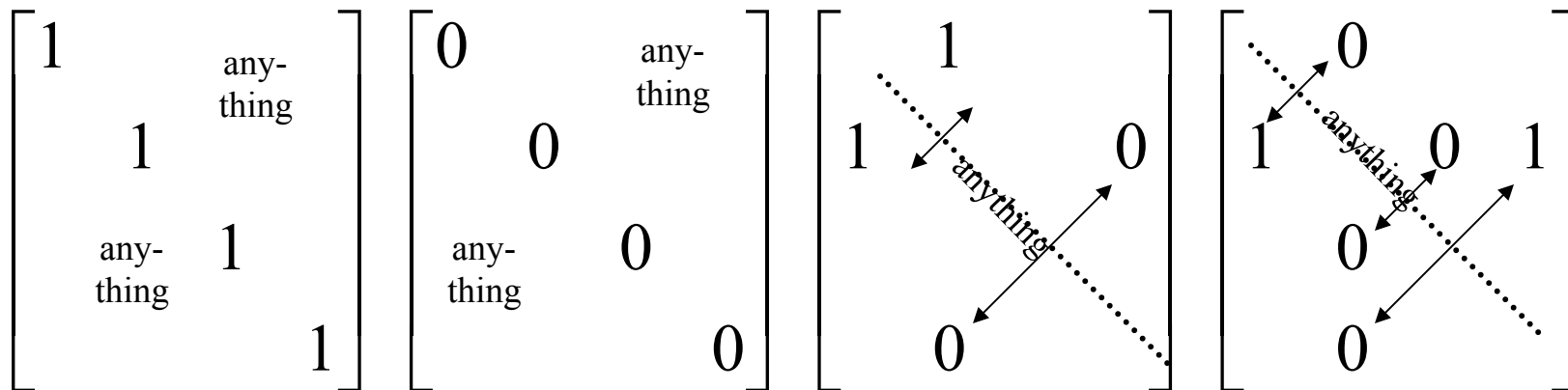
We can obtain by the element wise bit complement of the matrix.

# Types of Relations

- Let  $R$  be a binary relation on  $A$ :
  - $R$  is reflexive if  $xRx$  for every  $x$  in  $A$
  - $R$  is irreflexive if  $\neg xRx$  for every  $x$  in  $A$
  - $R$  is symmetric if  $xRy$  implies  $yRx$  for every  $x, y$  in  $A$
  - $R$  is antisymmetric if  $xRy$  and  $yRx$  together imply  $x=y$  for every  $x, y$  in  $A$
  - $R$  is transitive if  $xRy$  and  $yRz$  imply  $xRz$  for every  $x, y, z$  in  $A$

# Zero-One Reflexive, Symmetric

- These relation characteristics are very easy to recognize by inspection of the zero-one matrix.



*Reflexive:*  
all 1's on diagonal

*Irreflexive:*  
all 0's on diagonal

*Symmetric:*  
all identical  
across diagonal

*Antisymmetric:*  
all 1's are across  
from 0's

# Tell what type of relation

$$M_R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{Reflexive, Symmetric})$$

$$M_R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{Neither Reflexive nor irreflexive, Symmetric})$$

$$M_R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{Reflexive, Anti-Symmetric})$$

# Operations on 0-1 Matrix

- Union and Intersection of relations can be obtained by join and meet of the Binary matrices

$$M_{R_1 \cup R_2} = M_{R_1} \vee M_{R_2}$$

$$M_{R_1 \cap R_2} = M_{R_1} \wedge M_{R_2}$$



# Operations on 0-1 Matrix

$$M_{R_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad M_{R_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{R_1 \cup R_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad M_{R_1 \cap R_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Composition of relations

- $R: A \rightarrow B, S: B \rightarrow C$

$$S \circ R : A \rightarrow C$$

- Suppose,  $A, B$  and  $C$  have  $m, n$  and  $p$  elements
- $M_S: [s_{ij}]$  ( $n \times p$ ),  $M_R: [r_{ij}]$  ( $m \times n$ ),  $M_{S.R}: [t_{ij}]$  ( $m \times p$ )
- $(a_i, c_j)$  belongs to  $S.R$  iff there is  $(a_i, b_k)$  belonging to  $R$  and  $(b_k, c_j)$  belonging to  $S$  for some  $k$ .
- Thus  $t_{ij} = 1$  iff  $r_{ik} = 1$  and  $s_{kj} = 1$ , for some  $k$ .
- Thus,  $M_{S \circ R} = M_R \odot M_S$

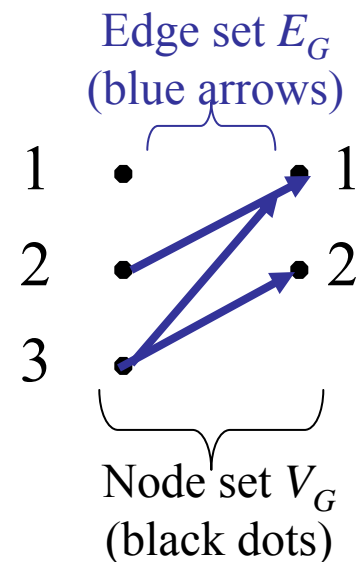
# Example of composition

$$M_R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad M_S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$M_{S \circ R} = M_R \odot M_S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Using Directed Graphs

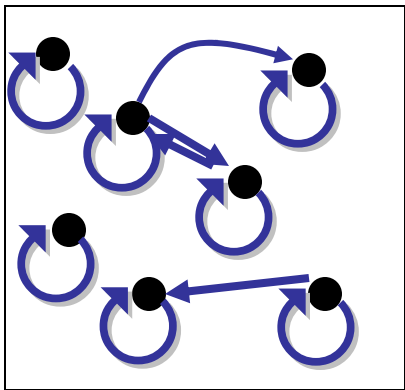
- A *directed graph* or *digraph*  $G=(V_G, E_G)$  is a set  $V_G$  of vertices (*nodes*) with a set  $E_G \subseteq V_G \times V_G$  of edges (*arcs, links*). Visually represented using dots for nodes, and arrows for edges. Notice that a relation  $R:A \leftrightarrow B$  can be represented as a graph  $G_R=(V_G=A \cup B, E_G=R)$ .

$$M_R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

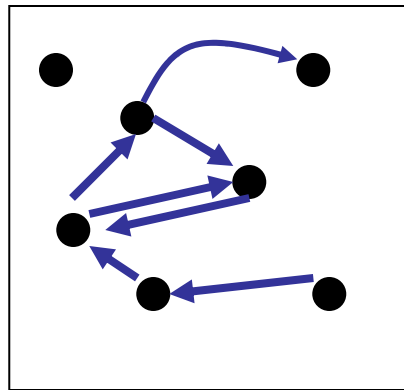


# Digraph Reflexive, Symmetric

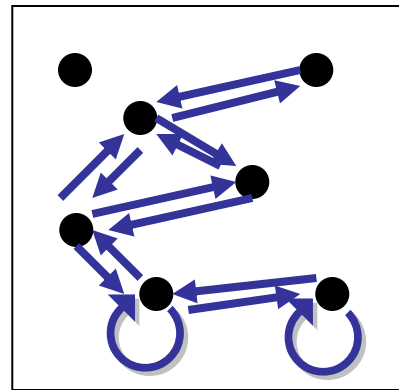
It is extremely easy to recognize the reflexive/irreflexive/ symmetric/antisymmetric properties by graph inspection.



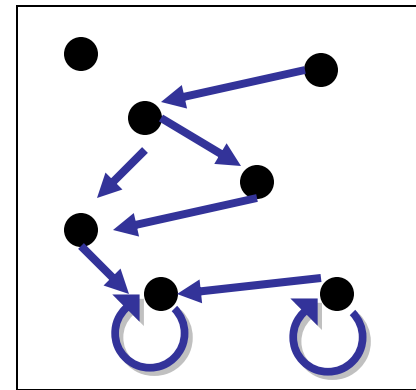
Reflexive:  
Every node  
has a self-loop



Irreflexive:  
No node  
links to itself



Symmetric:  
Every link is  
bidirectional

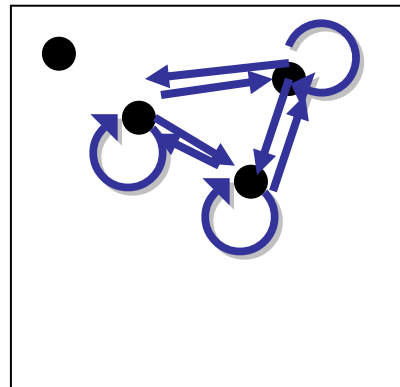


Antisymmetric:  
No link is  
bidirectional

# A Question discussed in class

- Does symmetry and transitivity imply reflexivity ?
- Reason of doubt:
  - $aRb \Rightarrow bRa$  (symmetry)
  - This implies  $aRa$  (transitivity)
  - So,  $R$  is reflexive!

- Clarification:



Symmetric, Transitive  
But not  
Reflexive..

# Closure of Relations

# Closure?

- Let  $R$  be a relation on a set  $A$
- $R$  may or may not have a property  $P$
- Define  $S$ , as the relation which has the property  $P$  AND
- $S$  contains  $R$  AND
- $S$  is the subset of every relation with property  $P$  and which contains  $R$
- $S$  is called the closure of  $R$  w.r.t  $P$
- Closure may not exist.



# Reflexive Closure

- $R = \{(1,1), (1,2), (2,1), (3,2)\}$  on the set  $A = \{1,2,3\}$
- Is  $R$  reflexive?
- How can we create an  $S$  (which is as small as possible) containing  $R$  which is reflexive?
- Add  $(2,2)$  and  $(3,3)$ .
- $S$  is reflexive and contains  $R$
- Since, any reflexive relation on  $A$  must contain  $(2,2)$  and  $(3,3)$ , all such relations must be a superset of  $S$
- $S$  is hence the reflexive closure.

# Generalization

- Define  $\Delta = \{(a, a) \mid a \in A\}$  (**Diagonal Relation**)
- $S = R \cup \Delta$
- $S$  is the reflexive closure of  $R$ .

# Symmetric Closure

- $R = \{(1,1), (1,2), (2,2), (2,3), (3,1), (3,2)\}$  on the set  $A = \{1,2,3\}$
- Is  $R$  symmetric?
- How can we create an  $S$  (which is as small as possible) containing  $R$  which is symmetric?
- Add  $(2,1)$  and  $(1,3)$ .
- $S$  is symmetric and contains  $R$
- Since, any symmetric relation on  $A$  must contain  $(2,1)$  and  $(1,3)$ , all such relations must be a superset of  $S$
- $S$  is hence the symmetric closure.

# Generalization

- Define  $R^{-1} = \{(b, a) \mid (a, b) \in R\}$
- $R = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 1), (3, 2)\}$
- $R^{-1} = \{(1, 1), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 2), (1, 3), (2, 3)\}$
- $S = R \cup R^{-1}$   
 $= \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 1), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 1), (3, 2)\}$
- S contains R
- All such relations contain S
- Thus, S is the symmetric closure.

# Transitive Closure?

- $R = \{(1,3), (1,4), (2,1), (3,2)\}$
- $R$  is not transitive.
- So, add  $(1,2), (2,3), (2,4), (3,1)$ .
- Does it become transitive?
- No, because say  $(3,2)$  and  $(2,4)$  are members but not  $(3,4)$ .
- So, transitive closure is not that easy.

# Composition of R with itself : $R^n$

- Let R be a relation on set A
- $aRb \Rightarrow \{(a,b) \mid (a,b) \in R\}$
- Let R be a relation on the set A. The powers  $R^n$ ,  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$  are defined recursively by:

$$R^1=R \text{ and } R^{n+1}=R^n.R$$

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

# Composition in DAG

- A path from  $a$  to  $b$  in DAG  $G$ , is a sequence of edges  $(a, x_1), (x_1, x_2), \dots, (x_{n-1}, b)$ . The path has length  $n$ . A path of length  $n \geq 1$  that begins and ends at the same vertex is called a circuit or cycle.
- Theorem: *Let  $R$  be a relation on a set  $A$ . There is a path of length  $n$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer from  $a$  to  $b$ , iff  $(a, b)$  belongs to  $R^n$ .*

# Proof

- **Base:** There is a path from  $a$  to  $b$  of length 1, iff  $(a,b)$  is in  $R$ .
- **Induction:** Assume theorem is true for  $n$
- There is a path of length  $(n+1)$  between  $a$  and  $b$ , iff there is a path of length 1 between  $(a,c)$  and there is a path of length of  $n$  between  $(c,b)$  for some  $c$ .
- Hence, there is such a path iff  $(a,c) \in R$  and  $(c,b) \in R^n$  (inductive hypothesis)
- But there is such an element  $c$  iff  $(a,b) \in R^{n+1}$



# Theorem

- The relation  $R$  on a set  $A$  is transitive iff

$$R^n \subseteq R$$

- **If part:** If  $R^2$  is a subset of  $R$  (special case) then  $R$  is transitive
- **Else part:**
  - Trivial proof for  $n=1$
  - Assume if  $R$  is transitive  $R^n$  is a subset of  $R$ .
  - Consider  $(a,b) \in R^{n+1}$ . Thus, there is an element  $c$  st  $(a,c) \in R$  and  $(c,b) \in R^n$ . By hypothesis,  $(c,b) \in R$ .
  - But  $R$  is transitive, so  $(a,c) \in R$  and  $(c,b) \in R$  means  $(a,b) \in R$

# Now lets look at the Problem of Transitive Closure

- Define, the connectivity relation consisting of the pairs (a,b) such that there is a path of length at least one from a to b in R.

$$R^+ = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R^n$$

- **Theorem:** The connectivity relation is the transitive closure
- Proof:
  - $R^+$  contains R
  - $R^+$  is transitive

# To show that $R^+$ is the smallest!

- Assume a transitive  $S$  containing  $R$
- $R^+$  is a subset of  $S^+$  (as all paths in  $R$  are also paths in  $S$ )
- Thus, we have

$$R^+ \subseteq S^+ \subseteq S \text{ (as } S \text{ is transitive we have } S^n \subseteq S)$$

# Lemma

- *Let,  $A$  be a set with  $n$  elements, and let  $R$  be a relation on  $A$ . If there is a path of length at least one in  $R$  from  $a$  to  $b$ , then there is such a path with length not exceeding  $n$ .*
- *Thus, the transitive closure is*

$$t(R) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n R^i$$

- *Proof follows from the fact  $R^k$  is a subset of  $t(R)$*

# Example

- Find the zero-one matrix of the transitive closure of

$$\begin{aligned} M_R &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ M_{R^+} &= M_R \vee M_R^{[2]} \vee M_R^{[3]} \\ M_R^2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, M_R^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ M_{R^+} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \vee \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \vee \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

# Algorithm-1

- Procedure transitive-closure( $M_R$ )  
   $A = M_R$ ,  $B = A$   
  for  $i = 2$  to  $n$   
  begin  
     $A = A \odot B$   
     $B = B \vee A$   
  end  
   $B$  is the answer

Complexity:  
 $n^2(2n-1)(n-1) + n^2(n-1) = O(n^4)$

# Algorithm-2

## (Roy-Warshall algorithm)

- Based on the construction of 0-1 matrices,  $W_0, W_1, \dots, W_n$ , where  $W_0 = M_R$  (0-1 matrix of the relation).
- Uses the concept of internal vertices of a path: If there is a path  $(a, b)$ , namely,  $(a, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{m-1}, b)$
- Internal vertices:  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{m-1}$
- The start vertex is not an internal vertex unless it is visited again, except as a last vertex
- The end vertex is not an internal vertex unless it has been visited before, except as a first vertex

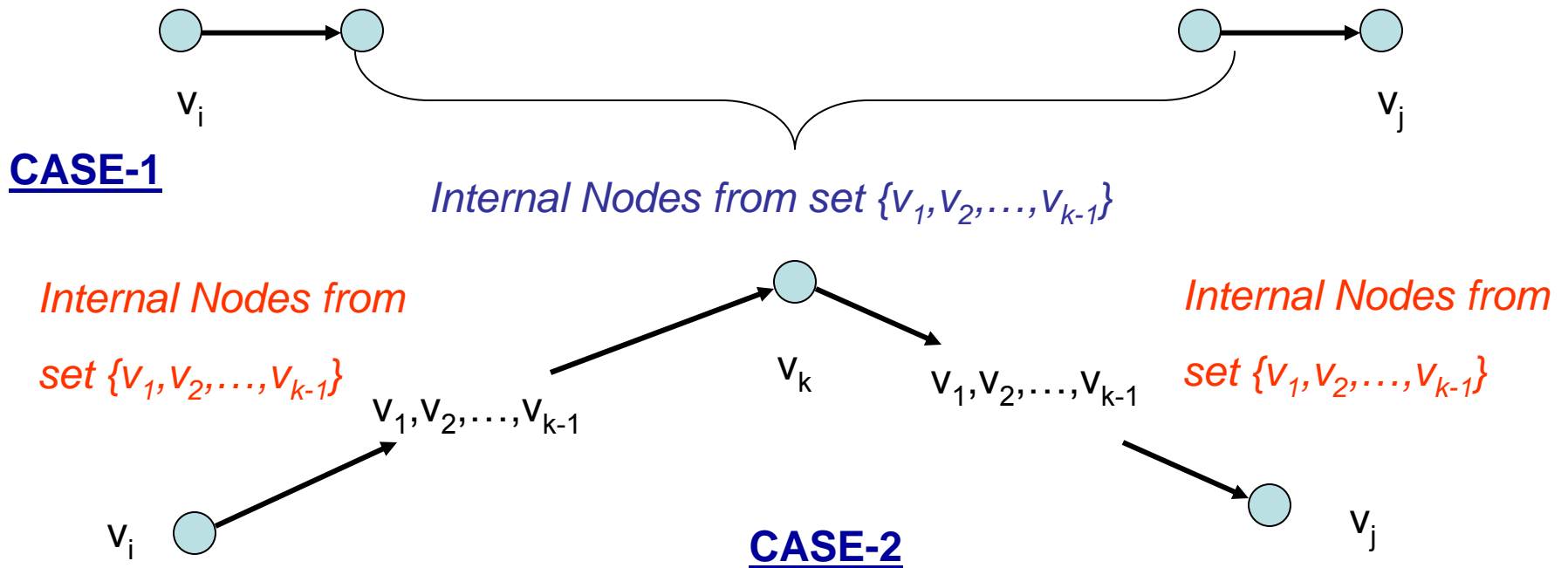
# So, what is the trick?

- Construct,  $W_k = [w_{ij}^{(k)}]$ , where  $w_{ij}^{(k)} = 1$ , if there is a path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  such that all the interior vertices of this path are in the set  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ , and 0 otherwise.
- $W_n = M_R^*$ . Can you see why?
- But construction of  $W_n$  is easier than the boolean product of matrices.



# Construct $W_k$

- $w_{ij}^{(k)}=1$ , if there is a path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  such that all the interior vertices of this path are in the set  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ , and 0 otherwise.



# Computing $W_k$

- $w_{ij}^{[k]} = w_{ij}^{[k-1]} \vee (w_{ik}^{[k-1]} \wedge w_{kj}^{[k-1]})$  --- 2 oper
- Procedure Warshall-transitive-closure( $M_R$ )

$W = M_R$

for  $k=1$  to  $n$

begin

  for  $i=1$  to  $n$

    begin

      for  $j=1$  to  $n$

$w_{ij}^{[k]} = w_{ij}^{[k-1]} \vee (w_{ik}^{[k-1]} \wedge w_{kj}^{[k-1]})$

      end

    end

  end  $W$  is the answer  $M_R^+$

Complexity:  
 $(2n^2)n = O(n^3)$

# Equivalence Relation

# Definition

- Three important characteristics of the notion “equivalence”:
  - Every element is equivalent to itself (reflexivity)
  - If  $a$  is equivalent to  $b$ , then  $b$  is equivalent to  $a$  (symmetry)
  - If  $a$  is equivalent to  $b$ , and  $b$  is equivalent to  $c$ , then  $a$  is equivalent to  $c$  (transitivity)
- *A binary relation  $R$  on a set  $A$  is an equivalence relation if  $R$  is reflexive, symmetric and transitive.*

# Modular equivalences: Congruence Modulo $m$

- $R = \{(a, b) \mid a \equiv b \pmod{m}\}$
- **Reflexive** as  $aRa$
- **Symmetric:**
  - If  $aRb \Rightarrow m \mid (a-b) \Rightarrow (a-b) = km$ , where  $k$  is an integer
  - Thus,  $(b-a) = -km \Rightarrow m \mid (b-a) \Rightarrow bRa$
- **Transitive:**
  - $aRb \Rightarrow (a-b) = k_1m$
  - $bRc \Rightarrow (b-c) = k_2m$
  - So,  $(a-c) = (a-b) + (b-c) = (k_1 + k_2)m \Rightarrow m \mid (a-c) \Rightarrow aRc$

# Equivalence Class

- Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$ . The set of all the elements that are related to an element  $a$  of  $A$  is called the equivalence class of  $a$ . It is denoted by  $[a]_R$ . When only one relation is under consideration, one can drop the subscript  $R$ .
- $[a]_R = \{s \mid (a, s) \in R\}$ . Any element in the class can be chosen as the **representative** element in the class.

# Example

- $aRb$  iff  $a=b$  or  $a=-b$
- $R$  is an Equivalence relation (exercise)
- What is the equivalence class of an integer  $a$ ?
- $[a]_R = \{-a, a\}$

# Example

- What are the equivalence classes of 0 and 1 for congruence modulo 4?
  - $[0]=\{\dots,-8,-4,0,4,8,\dots\}$
  - $[1]=\{\dots,-7,-3,1,5,9,\dots\}$
- The equivalence classes are called congruent classes modulo  $m$ .



# Partitions

- Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $A$ . These statements are equivalent if:
  1.  $aRb$
  2.  $[a]=[b]$
  3.  $[a] \cap [b] \neq \emptyset$
- $1 \Rightarrow 2 \Rightarrow 3 \Rightarrow 1$

# Theorem

- Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on set  $A$ .
  1. For, all  $a, b \in A$ , either  $[a]=[b]$  or  $[a] \cap [b] = \emptyset$
  2.  $\bigcup_{x \in A} [x] = A$

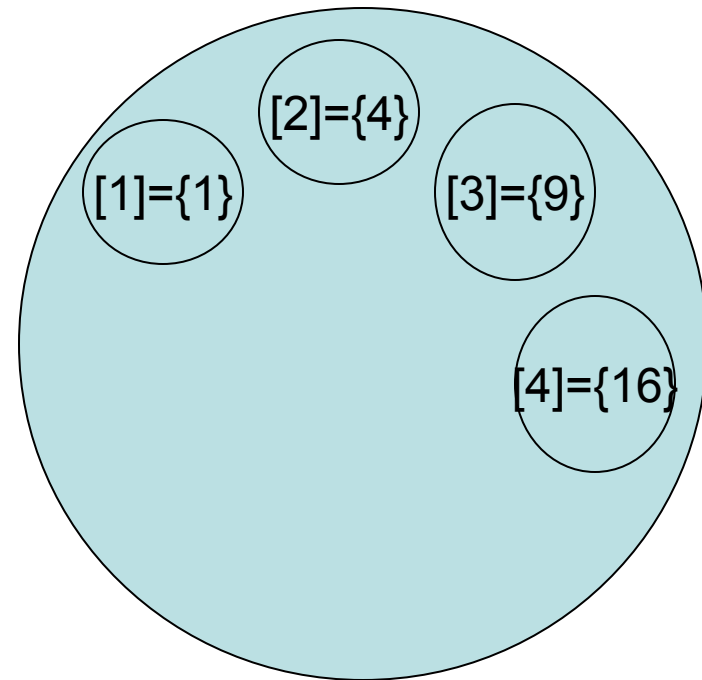
*Thus, the equivalence classes form a partition of  $A$ . By partition we mean a collection of disjoint nonempty subsets of  $A$ , that have  $A$  as their union.*

# Why both conditions 1 and 2 are required?

- In the class we had a discussion, saying that is 1 sufficient and does 2 always hold?
- Lets consider the following example:  
Define over the set  $A = \{y | y \in \mathbb{I}^+\}$   
 $R = \{(a, b) | b = a^2\}$ .  
Thus  $(1, 1), (2, 4)$  are members of  $R$ .
- Consider the class:  $[x] = \{s | (x, s) \in R\}$

# Pictographic Representation

- So, we see that we have classes which satisfy property 1  
(here for distinct  $a$  and  $b$ , the intersection of  $[a]$  and  $[b]$  is always null)
- But the union of the partitions is not the set  $A$ . It's a subset of  $A$
- For equivalence classes it is exactly  $A$ .
- Property 1 and 2 together define equivalence classes.



# Quotient Set

- Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on  $A$ . The *quotient* set,  $A/R$ , is the partition  $\{[a]_R \mid a \in A\}$ . The quotient set is also called  $A$  modulo  $R$  or the partition of  $A$  induced by  $R$ .
- Equivalence classes of  $R$  form a partition of  $A$ . Conversely, given a partition  $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$  of  $A$ , there is an equivalence relation  $R$  that has the sets,  $A_i$  as its equivalence classes.
  - *Equivalence relations induce partitions and partitions induce equivalence relations*