Equivalence Relations

Section 9.5

Section Summary

- Equivalence Relations
- Equivalence Classes
- Equivalence Classes and Partitions

Equivalence Relations

Definition 1: A relation on a set *A* is called an *equivalence relation* if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Definition 2: Two elements *a*, and *b* that are related by an equivalence relation（等价关系） are called *equivalent.* The notation $a \sim b$ is often used to denote that *a* and *b* are equivalent elements with respect to a particular equivalence relation.

Strings

Example: Suppose that R is the relation on the set of strings of English letters such that aRb if and only if $l(a) = l(b)$, where $l(x)$ is the length of the string x. Is R an equivalence relation?

Solution: Show that all of the properties of an equivalence relation hold.
- *Reflexivity*: Because $l(a) = l(a)$, it follows that aRa for all strings a.
- *Symmetry*: Suppose that aRb. Since $l(a) = l(b)$, $l(b) = l(a)$ also holds and bRa.
- *Transitivity*: Suppose that aRb and bRc. Since $l(a) = l(b)$,and $l(b) = l(c)$, $l(a) = l(a)$ also holds and aRc.

Congruence Modulo m

Example: Let m be an integer with $m > 1$. Show that the relation
$R = \{(a,b) \mid a \equiv b \pmod{m}\}$
is an equivalence relation on the set of integers.

Solution: Recall that $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ if and only if m divides $a - b$.

- *Reflexivity*: $a \equiv a \pmod{m}$ since $a - a = 0$ is divisible by m since $0 = 0 \cdot m$.
- *Symmetry*: Suppose that $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$. Then $a - b$ is divisible by m, and so $a - b = km$, where k is an integer. It follows that $b - a = (-k)\, m$, so $b \equiv a \pmod{m}$.
- *Transitivity*: Suppose that $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$. Then m divides both $a - b$ and $b - c$. Hence, there are integers k and l with $a - b = km$ and $b - c = lm$. We obtain by adding the equations:
  $a - c = (a - b) + (b - c) = km + lm = (k + l)\, m$.
  Therefore, $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$.

Divides

Example: Show that the "divides" relation on the set of positive integers is not an equivalence relation.

Solution: The properties of reflexivity, and transitivity do hold, but there relation is not transitive. Hence, "divides" is not an equivalence relation.

- *Reflexivity*: $a \mid a$ for all a.
- *Not Symmetric*: For example, $2 \mid 4$, but $4 \nmid 2$. Hence, the relation is not symmetric.
- *Transitivity*: Suppose that a divides b and b divides c. Then there are positive integers k and l such that $b = ak$ and $c = bl$. Hence, $c = a(kl)$, so a divides c. Therefore, the relation is transitive.

Equivalence Classes

Definition 3: Let R be an equivalence relation on a set A. The set of all elements that are related to an element a of A is called the *equivalence class* （等价类） of a. The equivalence class of a with respect to R is denoted by $[a]_R$. When only one relation is under consideration, we can write $[a]$, without the subscript R, for this equivalence class.

Note that $[a]_R = \{s | (a,s) \in R\}$.

℞ If $b \in [a]_R$, then b is called a representative of this equivalence class. Any element of a class can be used as a representative of the class.

℞ The equivalence classes of the relation congruence modulo m are called the *congruence classes modulo m* （以m为模的同余类）. The congruence class of an integer a modulo m is denoted by $[a]_m$, so $[a]_m = \{..., a-2m, a-m, a+2m, a+2m, ...\}$. For example,

$$[0]_4 = \{..., -8, -4, 0, 4, 8, ...\} \qquad [1]_4 = \{..., -7, -3, 1, 5, 9, ...\}$$

$$[2]_4 = \{..., -6, -2, 2, 6, 10, ...\} \qquad [3]_4 = \{..., -5, -1, 3, 7, 11, ...\}$$

Equivalence Classes and Partitions

Theorem 1: let R be an equivalence relation on a set A. These statements for elements a and b of A are equivalent:

(*i*) aRb

(*ii*) $[a] = [b]$

(*iii*) $[a] \cap [b] = \emptyset$

Proof: We show that (*i*) implies (*ii*). Assume that aRb. Now suppose that $c \in [a]$. Then aRc. Because aRb and R is symmetric, bRa. Because R is transitive and bRa and aRc, it follows that bRc. Hence, $c \in [b]$. Therefore, $[a] \subseteq [b]$. A similar argument (omitted here) shows that $[b] \subseteq [a]$. Since $[a] \subseteq [b]$ and $[b] \subseteq [a]$, we have shown that $[a] = [b]$.

(see text for proof that (ii) implies (iii) and (iii) implies (i))
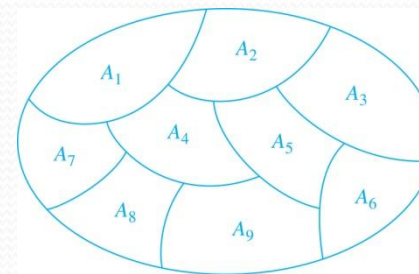
Partition of a Set

Definition: A *partition* of a set S is a collection of disjoint nonempty subsets of S that have S as their union. In other words, the collection of subsets A_i, where $i \in I$ (where I is an index set), forms a partition of S if and only if

- $A_i \neq \emptyset$ for $i \in I$,
- $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ when $i \neq j$,
- and

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = S.$$

A Partition of a Set

An Equivalence Relation Partitions a Set

- Let R be an equivalence relation on a set A. The union of all the equivalence classes of R is all of A, since an element a of A is in its own equivalence class $[a]_R$. In other words,

$$\bigcup_{a \in A} [a]_R = A.$$

- From Theorem 1, it follows that these equivalence classes are either equal or disjoint, so $[a]_R \cap [b]_R = \emptyset$ when $[a]_R \neq [b]_R$.

- Therefore, the equivalence classes form a partition of A, because they split A into disjoint subsets.

An Equivalence Relation Partitions a Set (*continued*)

Theorem 2: Let R be an equivalence relation on a set S. Then the equivalence classes of R form a partition of S. Conversely, given a partition $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$ of the set S, there is an equivalence relation R that has the sets A_i, $i \in I$, as its equivalence classes.

Proof: We have already shown the first part of the theorem.

For the second part, assume that $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a partition of S. Let R be the relation on S consisting of the pairs (x, y) where x and y belong to the same subset A_i in the partition. We must show that R satisfies the properties of an equivalence relation.

- *Reflexivity*: For every $a \in S$, $(a,a) \in R$, because a is in the same subset as itself.
- *Symmetry*: If $(a,b) \in R$, then b and a are in the same subset of the partition, so $(b,a) \in R$.
- *Transitivity*: If $(a,b) \in R$ and $(b,c) \in R$, then a and b are in the same subset of the partition, as are b and c. Since the subsets are disjoint and b belongs to both, the two subsets of the partition must be identical. Therefore, $(a,c) \in R$ since a and c belong to the same subset of the partition.

Partial Orderings

Section 9.6

Section Summary

- Partial Orderings and Partially-ordered Sets
- Lexicographic Orderings
- Hasse Diagrams
- Lattices (*not currently in overheads*)
- Topological Sorting (*not currently in overheads*)

Partial Orderings

Definition 1: A relation *R* on a set S is called a *partial ordering,* or *partial order,* if it is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive. A set together with a partial ordering *R* is called a *partially ordered set*, or *poset*（偏序集）, and is denoted by (*S*, *R*). Members of *S* are called *elements* of the poset.

Partial Orderings (*continued*)

Example 1: Show that the "greater than or equal" relation ($\geq$) is a partial ordering on the set of integers.

- *Reflexivity*: $a \geq a$ for every integer a.
- *Antisymmetry*: If $a \geq b$ and $b \geq a$, then $a = b$.
- *Transitivity*: If $a \geq b$ and $b \geq c$, then $a \geq c$.

These properties all follow from the order axioms for the integers. (*See Appendix* 1).

Partial Orderings (*continued*)

Example 2: Show that the divisibility relation (|) is a partial ordering on the set of integers.

- *Reflexivity*: $a \mid a$ for all integers a. (*see Example* 9 *in Section* 9.1)
- *Antisymmetry*: If a and b are positive integers with $a \mid b$ and $b \mid a$, then $a = b$. (*see Example* 12 *in Section* 9.1)
- *Transitivity*: Suppose that a divides b and b divides c. Then there are positive integers k and l such that $b = ak$ and $c = bl$. Hence, $c = a(kl)$, so a divides c. Therefore, the relation is transitive.
- $(\mathbf{Z}^+, |)$ is a poset.

Partial Orderings (*continued*)

Example 3: Show that the inclusion relation (⊆) is a partial ordering on the power set of a set S.

    ☙*Reflexivity*: $A \subseteq A$ whenever A is a subset of S.

    ☙*Antisymmetry*: If A and B are positive integers with $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$, then $A = B$.

    ☙*Transitivity*: If $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq C$, then $A \subseteq C$.

The properties all follow from the definition of set inclusion.

Comparability

Definition 2: The elements a and b of a poset $(S, \preccurlyeq)$ are *comparable* （可比的） if either $a \preccurlyeq b$ or $b \preccurlyeq a$. When a and b are elements of S so that neither $a \preccurlyeq b$ nor $b \preccurlyeq a$, then a and b are called i*ncomparable.*

> The symbol $\preccurlyeq$ is used to denote the relation in any poset.

Definition 3: If $(S, \preccurlyeq)$ is a poset and every two elements of S are comparable, S is called a *totally ordered*（全序） or *linearly ordered set* （线序）, and $\preccurlyeq$ is called a *total order* or a *linear order.* A totally ordered set is also called a *chain.*

Definition 4: $(S, \preccurlyeq)$ is a well-ordered set（良序集） if it is a poset such that $\preccurlyeq$ is a total ordering and every nonempty subset of S has a least element.

Lexicographic Order

Definition: Given two posets $(A_1, \preccurlyeq_1)$ and $(A_2, \preccurlyeq_2)$, the *lexicographic ordering*（字典顺序） on $A_1 \times A_2$ is defined by specifying that (a_1, a_2) is less than (b_1, b_2), that is,

$$(a_1, a_2) \prec (b_1, b_2),$$

either if $a_1 \prec_1 b_1$ or if $a_1 = b_1$ and $a_2 \prec_2 b_2$.

∽ This definition can be easily extended to a lexicographic ordering on strings (*see text*).
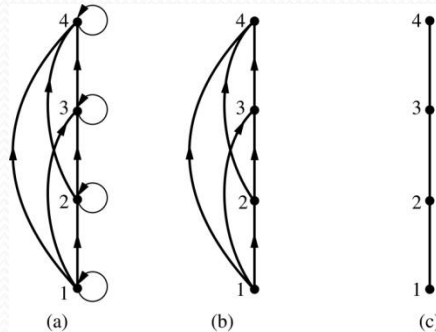
Example: Consider strings of lowercase English letters. A lexicographic ordering can be defined using the ordering of the letters in the alphabet. This is the same ordering as that used in dictionaries.

∽ *discreet* ≺ *discrete*, because these strings differ in the seventh position and *e* ≺ *t*.

∽ *discreet* ≺ *discreetness*, because the first eight letters agree, but the second string is longer.

Hasse Diagrams

Definition: A *Hasse diagram* is a visual representation of a partial ordering that leaves out edges that must be present because of the reflexive and transitive properties.

A partial ordering is shown in (a) of the figure above. The loops due to the reflexive property are deleted in (b). The edges that must be present due to the transitive property are deleted in (c). The Hasse diagram for the partial ordering (a), is depicted in (c).

Procedure for Constructing a   Hasse Diagram

- To represent a finite poset $(S, \preccurlyeq)$ using a Hasse diagram, start with the directed graph of the relation:
    - Remove the loops (a, a) present at every vertex due to the reflexive property.
    - Remove all edges (x, y) for which there is an element $z \in S$ such that $x \prec z$ and $z \prec y$. These are the edges that must be present due to the transitive property.
    - Arrange each edge so that its initial vertex is below the terminal vertex. Remove all the arrows, because all edges point upwards toward their terminal vertex.