# Relations

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### <u>Relations</u>

- For a cartesian product set  $A \times B = \{(x, y) | x \in A \land y \in B\}$ , a binary relation from A to B is a subset of  $A \times B$ , i.e.  $R \subseteq A \times B$
- if  $(a, b) \in R$ , then a is said to be related to b by R, i.e aRb
- Let A be the set of students and B be the set of courses
  - A = {Ahmet, Efe, Buse, Pelin, ...}
    B = {Math, Physics, Discrete, Algorithms, ...}

Let R be the relation such that if student a is taking course b,  $(a, b) \in R$ .

(Ahmet, Physics)  $\in R$ , (Efe, Discrete)  $\notin R$ 









R = {(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 2)}

 the number of relations that can be defined from A to B :

 $2^{|A||B|}$ 



- A relation can be defined on a single set A as a subset of AxA
  - A = {1, 2, 3} R = {(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 2), (3, 2)}



#### Functions as Relations



R(A): the image of  $R, R(A) = \{y \in B | (x, y) \in R, \exists x \in A\}$ 

Function is a relation that satisfies two conditions :

for every element x of the domain, there is an element y in the range such that (x,y) is an element of the relation

Let  $R \subseteq A \times B$  be the relation,  $\forall x[(x \in A) \rightarrow (\exists y \in B \ s.t.(x,y) \in R)]$ 

 for every element x of the domain, there is only one element y of the range such that (x,y) is an element of the relation

Let  $R \subseteq A \times B$  be the relation,  $\forall x[((x, y_1) \in R \land (x, y_2) \in R) \rightarrow (y_1 = y_2)]$ 



<u>Reflexivity</u>

• A relation on a set A is called reflexive if  $(a, a) \in R$  for every element  $a \in A$ 

 $\mathbf{R_1} = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 2), (3, 2), (3, 3)\}$ 





#### <u>Symmetry</u>

- A relation on a set A is called symmetric if  $(a, b) \in R$ , then  $(b, a) \in R$
- If the relation is not symmetric, it is called asymmetric.
- If for all  $(a, b) \in R$ ,  $(b, a) \notin R$  or a = b, then it is called antisymmetric





<u>Transitivity</u>

• A relation on a set A is called symmetric if  $(a,b) \in R \land (b,c) \in R$ , then  $(a,c) \in R$ 

 $\underline{R_1} = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 2), (3, 1)\}$ 



#### **Properties**

Let R be a relation on Z such that  $(a, b) \in R$  if  $a, b \ge 0$ 

- Since  $a \cdot a \ge 0$  for all  $a \in Z$ ,  $(a, a) \in R$  for all  $a \in Z$ . Thus, R is reflexive.
- $[(a,b) \in R] \rightarrow (a,b \ge 0) \rightarrow (b,a \ge 0)$  $\rightarrow R \text{ is symmetric}$
- $[(a,b) \in R \land (b,c) \in R] \rightarrow [(a,b \ge 0) \land (b,c \ge 0)]$  $\rightarrow (a,b,b,c \ge 0)$  $\rightarrow (a,c \ge 0)$  $\rightarrow (a,c) \in R$  $\rightarrow R \text{ is transitive}$

#### **Properties**

Consider the division operator, '|', as a relation on integers :  $(a,b) \in '|' \rightarrow a \mid b$ 

- Since  $a \mid a, (a, a) \in '|'$  for all  $a \in Z$ . Thus, '|' is reflexive.
- $[(a,b) \in '|'] \rightarrow (a \mid b) \rightarrow (\text{either } a = b \text{ or } b \nmid a)$  $\rightarrow '|' \text{ is antisymmetric}$
- $[(a,b) \in '|' \land (b,c) \in '|'] \rightarrow [(a \mid b) \land (b \mid c)]$   $\rightarrow [b = x.a \land c = y.b, \exists x, y \in Z]$   $\rightarrow (c = x.y.a)$   $\rightarrow a \mid c \rightarrow (a,c) \in '|'$  $\rightarrow '|' \text{ is transitive}$



How many reflexive relations can be defined on a set A of n elements?

- A = {1, 2, ..., n}
- there are  $|A \times A| = n^2$  pairs
- a reflexive relation must contain the pairs (1, 1), ..., (n, n)
- take these pairs out,  $(n^2-n)$  remaining pairs
- $2^{(n^2-n)}$  different relations can be formed with the  $(n^2-n)$  remaining pairs
- add each of them the pairs (1, 1), ..., (n, n) to make them reflexive



How many symmetric relations can be defined on a set A of n elements?

- A = {1, 2, ..., n}
- there are  $|A \times A| = n^2$  pairs

$$A_{1} = \{(a_{i}, a_{i}) | 1 \le i \le n\}$$

$$A_{2} = \{(a_{i}, a_{j}) | 1 \le i, j \le n \text{ and } i \ne j\}$$

$$A_{1} | = n$$

$$A_{2} = \{(a_{i}, a_{j}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}) | 1 \le i, j \le n, a_{1} = (a_{1}, a_{1}$$

$$\left(2^n \cdot 2^{\frac{n^2 - n}{2}}\right) = 2^{(n^2 + n)/2}$$



Union : Given  $R, S \subseteq A \times B$ ,  $T = R \cup S = \{(x, y) | (x, y) \in R \lor (x, y) \in S\}$ **Intersection** : Given  $R, S \subseteq A \times B$ ,  $T = R \cap S = \{(x, y) | (x, y) \in R \land (x, y) \in S\}$ <u>Complement</u> : Given  $R \subseteq A \times B$ ,  $T = \overline{R} = \{(x, y) | (x, y) \notin R \}$ **Inverse** : Given  $R \subseteq A \times B$ ,  $T = R^{-1} = \{(y, x) \in B \times A | (x, y) \in R \}$ Composition : Given  $R \subseteq A \times B$  and  $S \subseteq B \times C$  $T = S \circ R = \{(x, z) | (x, y) \in R \land (y, z) \in S\}$ 



R	1	2	S∘R	u	V
۵	1	0	۵	0	0
b	0	1	b	1	1
С	1	0	С	0	0

 S	u	V	S <sup>-1</sup>	1	2
1	0	0	u	0	1
2	1	1	V	0	1



• A = { 1, 2, 3 }, R = { (1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 2) }

R	1	2	3	R	1	2	3	R∘	R	1 2	3
1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1		1 0	0
2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2		1 0	0
3	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	3	; (	0 1	0

- $R^2 = R \circ R = \{(1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 2)\}$  $R^3 = R^2 \circ R = \{(1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 2)\}$
- The relation R on a set A is transitive if and only if  $R^n \subseteq R$  for some  $n \in Z^+$

<u>Definition</u>: A relation R on a set A is called an equivalence relation if it's reflexive, symmetric, and transitive. If  $(a, b) \in R$ , then a and b are called equivalent, i.e.  $a \sim b$ .

• Let R be a relation defined on real numbers such that  $(a, b) \in R$  if and only if a - b is an integer. R is an equivalence relation?

- 
$$\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$$
, since  $a - a = 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(a, a) \in R$  (reflexive)

- 
$$[(a,b) \in R] \rightarrow [a-b \in \mathbb{Z}]$$
  
  $\rightarrow [b-a \in \mathbb{Z}] \rightarrow [(b,a) \in R]$  (symmetric)

- 
$$[(a,b) \in R \land (b,c) \in R] \rightarrow [a-b \in \mathbb{Z} \land b-c \in \mathbb{Z}]$$
  
 $\rightarrow [a-c \in \mathbb{Z}] \rightarrow [(a,c) \in R]$  (transitive)

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- Let R be a relation defined on integers such that  $(a, b) \in R$  if and only if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ . R is an equivalence relation?
  - $\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , since  $a \equiv a \pmod{m}$ ,  $(a, a) \in R$  (reflexive)

- 
$$[(a,b) \in R] \rightarrow [a \equiv b \pmod{m}]$$
  
 $\rightarrow [b \equiv a \pmod{m}] \rightarrow [(b,a) \in R]$  (symmetric)

- 
$$[(a,b) \in R \land (b,c) \in R] \rightarrow [a \equiv b(mod \ m) \land b \equiv c(mod \ m).]$$
  
 $\rightarrow [a \equiv c(mod \ m)] \rightarrow [(a,c) \in R]$   
(transitive)

<u>Definition</u>: A relation R on a set A is called an equivalence relation if it's reflexive, symmetric, and transitive. If  $(a, b) \in R$ , then a and b are called equivalent, i.e.  $a \sim b$ .

• Let R be a relation defined on real numbers such that  $(a, b) \in R$ if and only if |a - b| < 1. R is an equivalence relation?

- 
$$\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$$
, since  $|a - a| = 0 < 1$ ,  $(a, a) \in R$  (reflexive)

- 
$$[(a,b) \in R] \rightarrow [|a-b| < 1]$$
  
  $\rightarrow [|b-a| < 1] \rightarrow [(b,a) \in R]$  (symmetric)

- 
$$[(a,b) \in R \land (b,c) \in R] \rightarrow [|a-b| < 1 \land |b-c| < 1]$$

for 
$$a = 1, b = \frac{1}{10}$$
, and  $c = -\frac{2}{10}$   
 $|a - b| < 1$  and  $|b - c| < 1$ , but  $|a - c| > 1$  (not transitive)

<u>Definition</u>: Let R be an equivalence relation on a set A. The set of all elements related to an element a is called the equivalence class of a, denoted by  $[a]_R$ 

$$[a]_R = \{s \in A \mid (a, s) \in R\}$$

• What are the equivalence classes of 2 and 1 for the congruence relation of module 5?

- 
$$(2,s) \in R \to 2 \equiv s \pmod{5} \to 5 \mid (2-a)$$

- $[2]_R = \{\dots, -3, 2, 7, 12, \dots\}$
- $[1]_R = \{\dots, -4, 1, 6, 11, \dots\}$

Let R<sub>n</sub> be a relation on the set of strings built with {0,1}.
 For any two strings s and t,

 $(s,t) \in R_n \quad \text{if} \quad s = t,$ or  $l(s), l(t) \ge n \text{ and } s[1..n] = t[1..n]$ length of s first n bits of s

•  $(01,01) \in R_3$ ,  $(11,10) \notin R_3$  $(101,101) \in R_3$ ,  $(101,110) \notin R_3$  $(0111,0110) \in R_3$ ,  $(1101,1011) \notin R_3$  $(01001,010111000) \in R_3$ ,  $(1100,10011111) \notin R_3$ 

Let R<sub>n</sub> be a relation on the set of strings built with {0,1}.
 For any two strings s and t,

$$(s,t) \in R_n$$
 if  $s = t$ ,

or  $l(s), l(t) \ge n$  and s[1..n] = t[1..n]

- for all  $a \in S$ , since a = a,  $(a, a) \in R_3$  (reflexive)
- if  $(a,b) \in R_3$ , either a = b or a[1..3] = b[1..3]thus  $(b,a) \in R_3$  (symmetric)
- if  $(a,b) \in R_3 \land (b,c) \in R_3$ , either a = b and b = c, then a = cor a = b and b[1..3] = c[1..3], then a[1..3] = c[1..3]or a[1..3] = b[1..3] and b = c, then a[1..3] = c[1..3]or a[1..3] = b[1..3] and b[1..3] = c[1..3], then a[1..3] = c[1..3](transitive)

Let R<sub>n</sub> be a relation on the set of strings built with {0,1}.
 For any two strings s and t,

$$(s,t) \in R_n$$
 if  $s = t$ ,

or  $l(s), l(t) \ge n$  and s[1..n] = t[1..n]

- $[0]_{R_3} = \{0\}, [1]_{R_3} = \{1\}, [00]_{R_3} = \{00\}, [01]_{R_3} = \{01\}, [10]_{R_3} = \{10\}, [11]_{R_3} = \{11\}, [\varepsilon]_{R_3} = \{\varepsilon\}$
- $[000]_{R_3} = \{000,0000,0001,00000,00001,\dots\}$  $[001]_{R_3} = \{001,0010,0011,00100,00101,\dots\}$  $\vdots$  $[111]_{R_3} = \{111,1110,1111,11100,11101,\dots\}$
- $[\varepsilon]_{R_3} \cup [0]_{R_3} \cup \cdots \cup [111]_{R_3} = S$ , the set of all strings

• A given set S can be decomposed into disjoint subsets  $A_i$ . For a family of sets  $A = \{A_i | i \in I\}$  such that  $A_i \cap A_j \neq \emptyset$ , a given set S can be written as

$$S = A_1 \cup \ldots \cup A_n$$

S = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6} can be written as  $S = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3$  where

$$A_1 = \{1, 2, 3\}, A_1 = \{4, 5\}, A_1 = \{6\}$$

Let R be an equivalence relation on a set S. Then the equivalence classes of R form a partititon of S.
 If there is a partition of S, then there is an equivalence relation that has A<sub>i</sub> as its equivalence classes.

$$R = \{(1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 1), (3, 1), (4, 4), (4, 5), (5, 4), (5, 5), (6, 6)\}$$

### Partial Order

<u>Definition</u>: A relation R on a set A is called a partial order if it's reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive. A set S together with a partial order R is called partially ordered set or poset, (S, R)

- Consider 'greater than or equal' relation (≥) defined on integers.
   (≥) is a partial order ?
  - $\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , since  $a \ge a$ ,  $(a, a) \in (\ge)$  (reflexive)
  - $[(a,b) \in R] \rightarrow (a \ge b) \rightarrow (b \ge a \text{ if } a \ne b)$  (antisymmetric)
  - $[(a,b) \in R \land (b,c) \in R] \rightarrow (a \ge b \land b \ge c)$  $\rightarrow (a \ge c) \rightarrow [(a,c) \in R]$  (transitive)

### Partial Order

<u>Definition</u>: A relation R on a set A is called a partial order if it's reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive. A set S together with a partial order R is called partially ordered set or poset, (S, R)

- Consider a relation R on integers such that  $(a, b) \in R$  if a b is a non-negative integer. R is a partial order ?
  - $\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , since a a = 0,  $(a, a) \in R$  (reflexive)
  - $[(a, b) \in R] \rightarrow (a b \text{ is a non-negative integer})$  $\rightarrow (b - a \text{ is a negative integer if } a \neq b) (antisymmetric)$
  - $[(a,b) \in R \land (b,c) \in R] \rightarrow (a b \text{ and } b c \text{ are non-negative integer})$  $\rightarrow (a - c \text{ is a non-negative integer})$  $\rightarrow [(a,c) \in R] \text{ (transitive)}$



<u>Definition</u>: The elements a and b of a poset (S, R) are called comparable if either aRb or bRa.

- Consider the poset  $(\mathbb{Z}^+, '|')$ .
  - Since 3/9, 3 and 9 are comparable.
  - Since 7/5 or 5/7, 5 and 7 are not comparable

<u>Definition</u>: If every pair of elements in S are comparable, then R is called total order. (S, R) is called totally ordered set.

- the poset  $(\mathbb{Z}^+, '|')$  is not totally ordered set.
- the poset  $(\mathbb{Z}^+, \leq)$  is a totally ordered set.

### Partial Order

<u>Definition</u>: Consider a poset (S, R). An element a is called maximal if there is no  $b \in S$  such that aRb. An element a is called minimal if there is no  $b \in S$  such that bRa.

- Consider the poset (S, '|') where  $S = \{2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30\}$ 
  - maximal elements of (5, '|') {12, 20, 30}
  - minimal elements of (S, '|') {2, 5}

<u>Definition</u>: An element a is called the greatest element if bRa for all  $b \in S$ . An element a is called the least element if aRb for all  $b \in S$ .

- Consider the power set of a given set S.
  - $\emptyset$  is the least element of (P(S),  $\subseteq$ ) since  $\emptyset \subseteq T$  for any  $T \in P(S)$
  - S is the greatest element of  $(P(S), \subseteq)$  since  $T \subseteq S$  for any  $T \in P(S)$



- Let  $A = \{0, 1, 2\}, B = A \times A, R$  be a relation defined on B such that  $((a, b), (c, d)) \in R$  if a < c or a = c and  $b \le d$ 
  - $((0,1),(1,0)) \in R$  since a < c
  - $((0,1),(0,2)) \in R$  since a = c and  $b \leq d$
- R is partial order relation?
  - for all  $(a, b) \in B$ , since a = a and  $b \leq b$ ,  $((a, b), (a, b)) \in R$
  - for all  $((a, b), (c, d)) \in R$  such that  $(a, b) \neq (c, d)$ either a < c, then  $((c, d), (a, b)) \notin R$ or a = c and b < d, then  $((c, d), (a, b)) \notin R$
  - for all  $((a,b), (c,d)) \in R$  and  $((c,d), (e,f)) \in R$ , either a < c and c < e, then a < e,  $((a,b), (e,f)) \in R$ or a < c, and c = e and  $d \le f$ , then a < e,  $((a,b), (e,f)) \in R$ or a = c, and c < e, then a < e,  $((a,b), (e,f)) \in R$ or a = c and  $b \le d$ , and c = e and  $d \le f$ , then a = e and  $b \le f$ ,  $((a,b), (e,f)) \in R$



- Let  $A = \{0, 1, 2\}, B = A \times A, R$  be a relation defined on B such that  $((a, b), (c, d)) \in R$  if a < c or a = c and  $b \le d$ 
  - $((0,1),(1,0)) \in R$  since a < c
  - $((0,1),(0,2)) \in R$  since a = c and  $b \leq d$
- R is partial order relation?
  - Is there a least element ?(0,0)
  - Is there a greatest element?

(2, 2)

- Is it total order ?

for all  $a, b \in B$ ,  $(a, b) \in R$  or  $(b, a) \in R$ 

- How many elements are in R?

(0,0)R(0,1)R(0,2)R(1,0)R(1,1)R(1,2)R(2,0)R(2,1)R(2,2)



- a type of directed graph used to represent finite posets.
- consider the poset  $(\{1, 2, 3\}, \leq)$ :  $(x, y) \in (\leq)$  if  $x \leq y$

- consider the elements of the set as vertices
- if  $(x, y) \in (\leq)$ , draw a line from x to y





- a type of directed graph used to represent finite posets.
- consider the poset  $(\{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}, R)$ :  $(x, y) \in R$  if x divides y





- a type of directed graph used to represent finite posets.
- consider the poset  $(\{1, 2, 3\}, R)$ :  $(X, Y) \in R$  if  $X \subseteq Y$



### Partial Order

<u>Definition</u>: Consider a poset (S, R). If there is an element  $u \in S$  such that aRu for all  $a \in A$ , then u is called an upper bound of A. If there is an element  $v \in S$  such that vRa for all  $a \in A$ , then v is called an lower bound of A.

- Consider the poset  $(\mathbb{Z}^+, '|')$ 
  - for the set A = {3, 9, 12};
    if u|3, u|9, u|12, then u is a lower bound : 1 and 3
    if 3|v, 9|v, 12|v, then v is an upper bound : 36, 72, ...
  - for the set  $B = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 10\};$

if u|1, u|2, u|4, u|5, u|10, then u is a lower bound : 1 if 1|v, 2|v, 4|v, 5|v, 10|v, then v is an upper bound : 20, 40, ...

### Partial Order

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• Consider the poset  $(P(S), \subseteq)$  where  $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ 

if  $U \subseteq \{1\}$ ,  $U \subseteq \{2\}$ ,  $U \subseteq \{1,2\}$ , then U is a lower bound :  $\emptyset$ 

if  $\{1\}\subseteq V, \{2\}\subseteq V, \{1,2\}\subseteq V$ , then V is an upper bound :

 $\{1,2\}, \{1,2,3\}, \{1,2,4\}, \{1,2,3,4\}$ 

- Consider the poset (S, '|') where  $S = \{2, 15, 8, 3, 6, 20\}$ 
  - 2, 3, 6, 8, 15, 20
  - 3, 2, 8, 6, 15, 20
  - 3, 2, 6, 8, 20, 15
  - 3, 6, 2, 8, 20, 15 is not, i.e.  $(2, 6) \in '|'$  since 2|6, but 6 comes before 2 in the sorting.

<u>Definition</u>: Topological sorting of n elements from a poset (S, R) is  $s_1s_2...s_n$  such that there is no  $(s_i, s_j) \in R$  where j < i

- Every finite nonempty poset (S, R) has at least one minimal element.
  - Pick an element  $a_0 \in S$ . If  $a_0$  is not minimal, then there should be an element  $a_1 \in S$  such that  $a_1Ra_0$ .
  - If  $a_1$  is not minimal, then there should be an element  $a_2 \in S$  such that  $a_2Ra_1$ .

:

- Since there are only finite number of elements, there should be an element  $a_n$  that is minimal.





```
input : a finite poset (S, R)
output : topological sorting of elements in S
initialize an empty queue Q
while S \neq \emptyset
a = a minimal element of S
S = S - \{a\}
add a to Q
return Q
```



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Q : HK

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#### Q: HKALXBEDC