

CS1231S: Discrete Structures
Tutorial #4: Relations & Equivalence Relations
(Week 6: 15 – 19 September 2025)

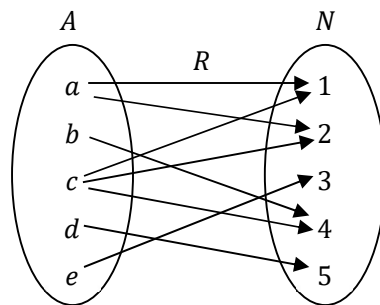
1. Discussion Questions

These are meant for you own discussion. No answers will be provided.

D1. Let $A = \{0,1\}$, $B = \{a, b, c\}$ and $C = \{01,10\}$. Determine the following:

- (a) $B \times C$ (b) $A \times B \times C$ (c) $\emptyset \times A$ (d) $\mathcal{P}(\{\emptyset\}) \times A$

D2. Let $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ and $N = \{1,2,3,4,5\}$. A relation R from A to N is shown in the arrow diagram below.



- (a) Determine R^{-1} . (b) Determine $R^{-1} \circ R$.

2. Tutorial Questions

1. Let $A = \{1,2, \dots, 10\}$ and $B = \{2,4,6,8,10,12,14\}$. Define a relation R from A to B by setting

$$x R y \Leftrightarrow x \text{ is prime and } x \mid y$$

for each $x \in A$ and each $y \in B$. Write down the sets R and R^{-1} in **roster notation**. Do not use ellipses (...) in your answers.

2. Let R be a relation on a set A . Show that the following are logically equivalent by using this strategy: (i) implies (ii), (ii) implies (iii), and (iii) implies (i).

- (i) R is symmetric, i.e. $\forall x, y \in A (x R y \Rightarrow y R x)$.
- (ii) $\forall x, y \in A (x R y \Leftrightarrow y R x)$.
- (iii) $R = R^{-1}$.

3. For each of the relations defined below, determine whether it is (i) reflexive, (ii) symmetric, (iii) transitive, and (iv) an equivalence relation. If a property is false for the relation, give a counter-example.

(a) Let $A = \{1,2,3\}$, $Q = \{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (2,2), (2,3), (3,3)\}$, where Q is a relation on A .

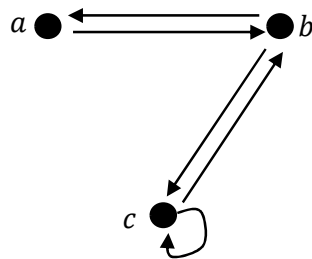
(b) Define the relation E on \mathbb{Q} by setting, for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$, $x E y \Leftrightarrow x = y$.

(c) Define the relation R on \mathbb{Q} by setting, for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$, $x R y \Leftrightarrow xy \geq 0$.

(d) Define the relation S on \mathbb{Q} by setting, for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$, $x S y \Leftrightarrow xy > 0$.

(e) Define the relation T on \mathbb{Z} by setting, for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$, $x T y \Leftrightarrow -2 \leq x - y \leq 2$.

4. The directed graph of a binary relation R on a set $A = \{a, b, c\}$ is shown below.



Draw the directed graph for each of the following and determine if it is transitive or not. If it is not transitive, explain.

(a) $R \circ R$

(b) $R \circ R \circ R$

(c) $(R \circ R) \cup R$

5. (AY2023/24 semester 1 midterm test).

Which of the following are true for all equivalence relations R ?

(a) $R^{-1} \circ R = R \circ R^{-1}$

(b) $R \subseteq R \circ R$

(c) $R \circ R \subseteq R$

(d) $R \circ R^{-1} = R$

6. (AY2023/24 semester 1 exam).

Define the following relation on $A = \{1,2,3\}$:

$$R = \{ (1,1), (1,2), (2,1), (2,2), (3,3) \}.$$

Find $R \circ R \circ R \circ R \circ R \circ R$.

(How do you make use of some question above to get the answer quickly?)

7. Let A, B, C, D be sets and $R \subseteq A \times B, S \subseteq B \times C$, and $T \subseteq C \times D$. Prove that

$$T \circ (S \circ R) = (T \circ S) \circ R.$$

That is, composition of relations is associative.

8. (AY2020/21 Semester 1 exam question)

Define an equivalence relation \sim on $\mathbb{Z}^+ \times \mathbb{Z}^+$ by setting, for all $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$,

$$(a, b) \sim (c, d) \Leftrightarrow ab = cd.$$

Write down the equivalence classes $[(1,1)]$ and $[(4,3)]$ in **roster notation**.

9. Consider the relation $S = \{(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : m^3 + n^3 \text{ is even}\}$. (Recall that \mathbb{Z}^2 means $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$.) Determine (a) S^{-1} , (b) $S \circ S$ and (c) $S \circ S^{-1}$.

You may use theorems involving the sum of even and odd integers without quoting them (eg: the sum of two even integers is even; the sum of an even integer and odd integer is odd; etc.).

10. Define a relation \sim on $\mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ as follows: $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\} (a \sim b \Leftrightarrow ab > 0)$.

(a) Prove that \sim is an equivalence relation. You may adopt the appropriate **order axioms** and **theorems** in *Appendix A: Properties of the Real Numbers* for the integers. (Appendix A is available on Canvas > Files as well as the CS1231S webpage at https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1231s/2_resources/lectures.html.)

(b) Determine all the distinct equivalence classes formed by this relation \sim .