

## Recitation 9: Partial and Total Orders

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### 1 Recall definitions

- **Injective:**  $R$  is *injective* if and only if all elements of  $B$  have in degree at most 1 ( $\leq 1$ ) - each element on the domain side of the bipartite graph has in-degree at most 1. "vertical line test"
- **Surjective:**  $R$  is *surjective* if and only if all elements of  $B$  at in degree at least 1 - each element on the domain side of the bipartite graph has in-degree at least 1. "horizontal line test"
- **Bijective:**  $R$  is *bijective* if and only if all elements of  $B$  have in degree exactly 1 - each element on the domain side of the bipartite graph has in-degree exactly 1.  $R$  is *bijective* if and only if  $R$  is *injective* and *surjective*.
- **Reflexivity**  $R$  is *reflexive* if and only if  $\forall x \in A. xRx$ . In terms of the graph, every vertex has a self-loop.
- **Irreflexivity**  $R$  is *irreflexive* if and only if  $\forall x \in A. \neg(xRx)$ . In terms of the graph, no vertex has a self-loop.
- **Symmetry**  $R$  is *symmetric* if and only if  $\forall x, y \in A. xRy \rightarrow yRx$ . In terms of the graph, every edge from  $x$  to  $y$  has an edge back from  $y$  to  $x$ .
- **Asymmetry**  $R$  is *asymmetric* if and only if  $\forall x, y \in A. xRy \rightarrow \neg(yRx)$ .
- **Antisymmetry**  $R$  is *antisymmetric* if and only if  $\forall x, y \in A. x \neq y \wedge xRy \rightarrow \neg(yRx)$ . Same as asymmetry, but with self loops.
- **Transitivity**  $R$  is *transitive* if and only if  $\forall x, y, z \in A. xRy \wedge yRz \rightarrow xRz$ .
- **Partial Order**  $R$  is a *partial order* if and only if it is transitive and asymmetric
  - **Weak Partial Order**  $R$  is a *weak partial order* if and only if it is transitive and antisymmetric (we are not learning this definition)
  - **Strong Partial Order**  $R$  is a *strong partial order* if and only if it is transitive and asymmetric (this is the definition of partial order we are using in this class)
- **Total Order**  $R$  is a *total order* if and only if it is a partial order, and  $\forall a, b \in A, (a, b) \in R$  or  $(b, a) \in R$ .
- **Equivalence Relation**  $R$  is an *equivalence relation* if and only if it is reflexive, transitive, and symmetric.
- **Equivalence Class** The *equivalence class* of an element  $a \in A$  is denoted  $[a]_R$  and is the set of all elements that relate to  $a$  under  $R$ . In other words, the equivalence class of  $a$  is the image  $R(a)$ .
- **Chain** A *chain* is a subset of elements in  $A$  such that any two elements in the subset are related to each other.

## 2 Warm-up (review): Provide functions $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$ with the following properties.

1.  $f$  is neither surjective, nor injective
2.  $f$  is surjective and not injective
3.  $f$  is injective and not surjective
4.  $f$  is both injective and surjective

### Solution

1.  $f$  is neither surjective, nor injective :  $f(x) = 1$
2.  $f$  is surjective and not injective :  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+ \setminus \{0\}$   $f(x) = |x| + 1$
3.  $f$  is injective and not surjective :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x + 3 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -2x & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* First, we prove that  $f$  is not surjective. This consists of showing that the in-degree of some  $y \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is zero. In particular, this is true for (only)  $y = 1$ . To see this, suppose there was such an  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $f(x) = 1$  for sake of contradiction. If  $x \geq 0$ , then  $f(x) = 2x + 3 \geq 3$ , which is a contradiction. Otherwise, if  $x < 0$ , then  $x \leq -1$  and thus  $f(x) \geq 2$  which is a contradiction. Thus, the in-degree of 1 is zero. To prove that  $f$  is injective, we show that the in-degree of every  $y \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is at most one. We've shown above that the in-degree of 1 is zero, so we only have to show this for the rest of the positive integers – those greater than two. First see that  $f(x)$  is odd for any non-negative integer  $x$ , and that  $f(x)$  is even for any negative integer  $x$ . Now suppose, for sake of contradiction, that there is some positive integer  $y$  that is greater than two which has in-degree at least two. Then there exists distinct  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $f(a) = f(b) = y$ . From the previous observation, if  $y$  is odd, then  $a, b \geq 0$ , and otherwise if  $y$  is even, then  $a, b < 0$ . In the former case, then  $f(a) = f(b)$  implies  $2a + 3 = 2b + 3$  which only holds when  $a = b$ , a contradiction. In the latter case, then  $f(a) = f(b)$  implies  $-2a = -2b$  which is only holds when  $a = b$ , a contradiction. Thus, the in-degree of all  $y \in \mathbb{Z}$  is at most one, so  $f$  is surjective  $\square$

4.  $f$  is both injective and surjective:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x + 1 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -2x & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* A similar proof for the injectivity of the function in part c implies that  $f$  is injective. The details are omitted here. To see that  $f$  is surjective, we show that the in-degree of every  $y \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is at least one. Consider an arbitrary  $y \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . If  $y$  is odd, see that  $y - 1$  is even and non-negative, so  $(y - 1)/2$  is non-negative and integral. Thus,  $f((y - 1)/2) = y$ . If  $y$  is even, then  $-y/2$  is negative and integral. Thus,  $f(-y/2) = y$ . In either case, there is some  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $f(x) = y$ , so the in-degree of all  $y \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is at least one. We conclude that  $f$  is surjective.  $\square$

**3 For each of the following, state whether it is a strong partial order or not. If not, state which axiom it violates.**

1. The order of getting dressed in the morning. Namely,  $A =$  set of clothes, and  $aRb \leftrightarrow$  we must put on  $a$  before we put on  $b$ . This example is a helpful, easy, toy example.
2. The superset relation  $\supseteq$  on the power set  $\text{pow}(\{1, 2, 3, 4\})$
3. The superset relation  $\supset$  on the power set  $\text{pow}(\{1, 2, 3, 4\})$
4. The relation between two non negative integers given by  $a \equiv b \pmod{8}$
5. The relation between two propositional formulas  $A$  and  $B$  in  $A \rightarrow B$  (implies).
6. The relation "beats" in rock paper scissors
7. The empty relation on the set of integers
8. The identity relation on the set of integers

**Solution**

1. The order of getting dressed in the morning. Namely,  $A =$  set of clothes, and  $aRb \leftrightarrow$  we must put on  $a$  before we put on  $b$ . This example is a helpful, easy, toy example.  
**Solution** Strong partial order.
2. The superset relation  $\supseteq$  on the power set  $\text{pow}(\{1, 2, 3, 4\})$   
**Solution** For our purposes, this is not a partial order as we define partial orders as asymmetric, not antisymmetric. In fact, is a weak partial order - every element is related to itself and it is transitive. Formally showing antisymmetry is as follows. Let  $A \supseteq B$  and  $A \neq B$ . Then  $\exists x \in A. x \notin B$ . Then  $\neg(B \supseteq A)$ .
3. The strict superset relation  $\supset$  on the power set  $\text{pow}(\{1, 2, 3, 4\})$   
**Solution** This is a strong partial order.
4. The relation between two non negative integers given by  $a \equiv b \pmod{8}$   
**Solution** Neither. The relation is symmetric.
5. The relation between two propositional formulas  $A$  and  $B$  in  $A \rightarrow B$  (implies).  
**Solution** Weak partial order - every element is related to itself and it is transitive. For our purposes, however, this is not a partial order as we only learned the definition of a strong partial order.
6. The relation "beats" in rock paper scissors  
**Solution** Neither - the relation is not transitive.
7. The empty relation on the set of integers  
**Solution** The relation is transitive. The relation is not reflexive. The relation is symmetric. BUT the relation is also vacuously asymmetric, so it is correct to say the empty relation is a strong partial order.

8. The identity relation on the set of integers :  $Id(A) = \{(a, b) \in A \times A | a = b\}$

**Solution** The identity set is symmetric, so is not a strong partial order.

**4 Consider the relation  $R$  on the set  $A = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} | 1 \leq n \leq 10\}$ :**

$$R = \{(x, y) \in A \times A | (x = y) \vee ((x \text{ is odd}) \wedge (x < y))\}$$

1. Is this a (strong) partial order?

**Solution** No, this is a weak partial order - what we are learning as not a partial ordering. Can be seen since  $R \supset \{(a, b) \in A \times A | x = y\}$ , which is not a partial order by above.

2. Consider now  $R' = \{(x, y) \in A \times A | ((x \text{ is odd}) \wedge (x < y))\}$

3. Is this a (strong) partial order?

**Solution** Yes. The relation is a subset of  $\{(x, y) \in A \times A | x < y\}$ , which is a symmetric relation. Further, this is a total partial order on the set given. Therefore,  $R$  must be asymmetric. It is easy to verify transitivity.

**5 Indicate which of the following are strong partial orders, or an equivalence relation. If neither, state which of the following properties it has : transitive, reflexive, symmetric and asymmetric**

1. The relation on the integers  $a = b + 1$

2. The "relatively prime" relation on the non negative integers

3. The relation "has the same prime factors" on the non negative integers.

**6 Let  $A = \mathbb{R}^3$ . Let  $R = \{(a, b) \in A \times A | a_3 = b_3\}$  (two elements relate to each other iff they have the same  $z$  value. Prove that  $R$  is an equivalence relation.**

**Solution**

*Proof.* We must show reflexivity, transitivity and symmetry. Consider  $a \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Clearly  $(a, a) \in R$ . Consider  $a, b, c \in A | (a, b) \in R \wedge (b, c) \in R$ . Then,  $a_3 = b_3 = c_3$ . Then,  $a_3 = c_3$ , so  $(a, c) \in R$ . Symmetry follows in a similar fashion.  $\square$

**7 In an n-player round-robin tournament, every pair of distinct players compete in a single game. Assume that every game has a winner—there are no ties. The results of such a tournament can then be represented with a tournament digraph where the vertices correspond to players and there is an edge  $x \rightarrow y$  iff "x beat y" in their game**

1. Briefly explain why a tournament digraph cannot have cycles of length one or two.
2. Briefly explain whether the "beats" relation is always/sometimes/never symmetric, reflexive, irreflexive, transitive.
3. If a tournament graph has no cycles of length three, prove that it is a partial order.

**Solution**

1. Briefly explain why a tournament digraph cannot have cycles of length one or two.  
**Solution**  $x$  cannot beat themselves, so there are no cycles of length one. Either  $x$  beats  $y$  or vice versa; we cannot have both since every pair of distinct players only play one game against each other.
2. Briefly explain whether the "beats" relation is always/sometimes/never symmetric, reflexive, irreflexive, transitive.  
**Solution** The relation is never reflexive - no one can beat themselves. The relation is never symmetric, as there are no cycles of length two by above. If, in all cases where  $a$  beats  $b$  and  $b$  beats  $c$ , we have that  $a$  beats  $c$ , the relation is transitive.
3. If a tournament graph has no cycles of length three, prove that it is a partial order.  
**Solution** It suffices to show that if the relation is not a partial order, there must be a cycle of length three by contrapositive. Either  $R$  is not asymmetric, or  $R$  is not transitive. If  $R$  is not transitive, then  $(a,b) \in R$  and  $(b,c) \in R$  but  $(a,c) \notin R$ . But since  $a$  must have played  $c$ , this means  $(c,a) \in R$ . Thus, there would be a cycle of length three. On the other hand, we know that there are no pairs  $a,b$  such that  $(a,b) \in R$  and  $(b,a) \in R$  since  $a$  and  $b$  play each other only once, and so  $R$  must be asymmetric.

**8 Prove that if a binary relation  $R$  is transitive and irreflexive, then it is asymmetric.**

**Solution**

*Proof.* Suppose not, so that  $R$  is transitive and irreflexive and symmetric. Then, there exists  $a,b \in A$ ,  $(a,b) \in R$  and  $(b,a) \in R$ . Then, by transitivity  $(a,a) \in R$ , which contradicts irreflexivity. □

- 9 A set of functions  $f, g: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  can be partially ordered by the relation  $<$  where  $f < g \leftrightarrow \forall d \in D, f(d) < g(d)$ . Describe a set of functions and infinite chain of functions in that set. (If having trouble, can give hint: consider linear functions of the form  $f(x) = ax + b$ ,  $a, b$  constants.)

**Solution** The set of linear functions as above is the set needed, and we can define a chain by the set of linear functions with the same slope.

- 10 Let  $A$  be a set, and  $R$  a relation on that set. Prove or disprove the following.

1. There exists an equivalence relation  $S$  on  $A$  such that  $R \subseteq S$ .
2. There exists a (strong) partial order such that  $S \subseteq R$ .

**Solution**

1. **Solution** Let  $S = A \times A$ . Verification of the properties is left as an exercise.
2. **Solution** Let  $S = \emptyset$ . Verification of properties is left as an exercise.