Relations can be also represented with *directed graphs* (*digraphs*)

[Def] a directed graph (digraph) consists of: a

- a set **V** of *vertices* (*nodes*)
- a set E of ordered pairs of elements of V called edges (arcs)



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An edge (a,a) is represented using an arc from vertex a back to itself. Such an edge is called a *loop*.

**Example**: See the digraph of the relation *R* on the set {a,b,c,d}

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**Example**: See the digraph of the relation *S* on the set {a,b,c,d}

 $S = \{ (a,a), (b,b), (b,d), (c,a), (c,c), (d,b), (d,d) \}$ 



relation S is *reflexive* 

**Example**: See the digraph of the relation *T* on the set {a,b,c,d}

 $T = \{ (a,b), (b,b), (b,d), (c,c), (c,d), (d,a), (d,b), (d,c), (d,d) \}$ 



relation T is symmetric

**Example**: See the digraph of the relations  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  on the set {a,b,c,d}

 $R_{1} = \{ (a,a), (c,a), (c,c), (d,b) \}$  $R_{2} = \{ (a,a), (b,b), (c,c), (d,d) \}$ 



relation *R1* is *antisymmetric* 

a b

 $\sim$  d c  $\sim$  relation  $R_2$  is symmetric and antisymmetric

**Example**: See the digraph of the relation *T* on the set {a,b,c,d}

 $T = \{ (a,a), (b,b), (b,d), (c,b), (d,c), (d,d) \}$ 



relation T is transitive

We will talk more about graphs in Chapter 10

**[Def]** A relation *R* on set A is called an *equivalence relation* if it is *reflexive*, *symmetric* and *transitive*.



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**[Def]** A relation *R* on set A is called an *equivalence relation* if it is *reflexive*, *symmetric* and *transitive*.

**[Def]** Two elements a and b that are related by an equivalence relation are called *equivalent*.

denotation: a ~ b



relation *R* is *reflexive*, *symmetric* and *transitive* 

# **Example: congruence modulo** *m* Let $m \in Z^+$ . The relation $R = \{(a,b) \mid a \equiv b \pmod{m}\}$ is an *equivalence relation*. Let's prove it.

#### Example: congruence modulo m

Let  $m \in Z^+$ . The relation  $R = \{(a,b) \mid a \in Z, b \in Z, and a \equiv b \pmod{m}\}$  is an *equivalence relation*. Let's prove it.

To prove it we need to show that relation *R* is *reflexive*, *symmetric* and *transitive* 

Recall the definition of congruence (we will use it in the proof):  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  iff m | (a-b). We also had a theorem:  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  iff  $a(\mod{m}) = b(\mod{m})$ - we will use definition

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#### Proof:

1) *reflexivity*: we need to show that all  $(a,a) \in R$ 

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#### Proof:

1) *reflexivity*:  $\forall a \in Z \ (a,a) \in R$ , because  $m \mid (a-a)$  i.e.  $m \mid 0$ , for any  $m \in Z^+$ .

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Assume  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then m | (a-b), by def., i.e.  $\exists k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a-b = k_1 m$ . and

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 $a - c = m(k_1 + k_2)$ , therefore  $m \mid (a-c)$ , i.e.  $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$ 

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 $a - c = m(k_1 + k_2)$ , therefore  $m \mid (a - c)$ , *i.e.*  $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$ We showed that if  $(a,b) \in R$  and  $(b,c) \in R$  then  $(a,c) \in R_{28}$ .

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#### Proof:

4) we showed that relation *R* is *reflexive*, *symmetric* and *transitive*, therefore it is an *equivalence* relation. q.e.d.

#### **Equivalence classes**

**[Def]** 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* of *a*.

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If  $b \in [a]_R$ , then *b* is called *representative* of this equivalence class.

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**Example:** Let S be the relation on the set of all sets of real numbers such that A S B iff A and B have the same cardinality.

- 1) Is S an equivalence relation?
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#### Notes:

a) elements are sets, not just numbers, or strings, ...

b)Set of all sets of real numbers: powerset of *R*, set of all real numbers

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 $[Z] = \{A \mid |A| = \infty \text{ and } A \in P(\mathbf{R}) \}$ 

#### **Equivalence classes and partitions**

Let A be the set of students at BCC who are majoring in exactly on subject, and let R be the relation on A consisting of pairs (*x*,*y*), where *a* and *y* are students majoring in the same major.

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**[Theorem]** Let *R* be an equivalence relation on a set A. The following statements for elements *a* and *b* of A are equivalent: (1) *a R b* (2) [a] = [b] (3) [a]  $\cap$  [b]  $\neq \emptyset$ 

#### Proof:

1) let's show that (1)  $\rightarrow$  (2) 2) let's show that (2)  $\rightarrow$  (3) 3) let's show that (3)  $\rightarrow$  (1) This is enough to show that all three statements are equivalent.

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#### Proof:

1) let's show that (1)  $\rightarrow$  (2): assume that a R b. Let's show that in this case  $[a] \subseteq [b]$  and  $[b] \subseteq [a]$ :

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Note that [a] and [b] : are not empty sets (*reflexivity* takes care of it)

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We proved that (1)  $\rightarrow$  (2), (2)  $\rightarrow$  (3), and (3)  $\rightarrow$  (1). It means that all three statements are equivalent.

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So equivalence classes form a *partition* of set A (disjoint subsets)

### Partitions

**[Def]** A collection of subsets  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$  (I is an index set) forms a *partition* of set S iff  $A_i \neq \emptyset \quad \forall i \in I$ ,  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  when  $i \neq j$ , and  $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = S$ 



### Partitions

**Example:** Suppose that  $S = \{a,b,c,d,e,f\}$ . Which collections of sets form a partition of S?

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$$A_1 = \{a, b, c, d\}, A_2 = \{a, e\}, A_3 = \{f\}$$

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#### Partitions and equivalence relations

**[Theorem]** 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 sets  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , as its equivalence classes.

No proof. It is a summary of all the connections we have established between equivalence relations and partitions.

#### Partitions and equivalence relations

**Example:** List the ordered pairs in the equivalence relation *R* produced by partition  $A_1 = \{1, 2\}, A_2 = \{3\}$ , and  $A_3 = \{4, 5\}$  of the set  $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .

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