

ITC8190  
Mathematics for Computer Science  
Binary Relations Between Two Sets

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The **Cartesian product** of sets  $A$  and  $B$  is the set of ordered pairs

$$A \times B = \{(a, b) : a \in A \wedge b \in B\} .$$

Let  $A = \{x, y\}$ ,  $B = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Then

$$A \times B = \{(x, 1), (x, 2), (x, 3), (y, 1), (y, 2), (y, 3)\}$$

$$B \times A = \{(1, x), (2, x), (3, x), (1, y), (2, y), (3, y)\}$$

Observe that  $A \times B \neq B \times A$ .

The Cartesian product of a set with itself is often denoted by

$$\mathbb{R}^3 = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} ,$$

$$\mathbb{Z}^n = \underbrace{\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}}_{n \text{ times}} .$$

A **binary relation**  $R$  between sets  $A$  and  $B$  is the subset

$$R \subseteq A \times B : \forall x \in A, \forall y \in B : xRy \iff (x, y) \in R .$$

Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{a, b, c\}$ . An example of a relation  $R \subseteq A \times B$  is a set of pairs

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

The **domain** of  $R \subseteq A \times B$  is the set

$$Dom(R) = \{x \in A : \exists y \in B : xRy\} .$$

The **image of  $A$  under  $R \subseteq A \times B$**  is the set

$$Im(R) = \{y \in B : \exists x \in A : xRy\} .$$

The **field of  $R$**  is the set

$$Field(R) = Dom(R) \cup Im(R) .$$

Let

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\} ,$$

$$B = \{a, b, c\} ,$$

$$R \subseteq A \times B$$

$$= \{(1, a), (1, b), (2, c), (3, a)\} .$$

Then

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

$$Im(R) = \{a, b, c\} ,$$

$$Field(R) = \{1, 2, 3\} \cup \{a, b, c\}$$

$$= \{1, 2, 3, a, b, c\} .$$

Let

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

$$B = \{a, b, c, d\} ,$$

$$R \subseteq A \times B$$

$$= \{(1, a), (1, b), (3, b), (3, d)\} .$$

Then

$$Dom(R) = \{1, 3\} ,$$

$$Im(R) = \{a, b, d\} ,$$

$$Field(R) = \{1, 3\} \cup \{a, b, d\}$$

$$= \{1, 3, a, b, d\} .$$

A binary relation  $R \subseteq A \times B$  is **injective** (or **left-unique**) if

$$\forall x, z \in A, \forall y \in B : xRy \wedge zRy \implies x = z .$$

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = x + 5 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is injective, since

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R} : a + 5 = b + 5 \implies a = b .$$

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = x^2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is not injective, since

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R} : a^2 = b^2 \not\Rightarrow a = b .$$

I.e.:  $(5, 25) \in R, (-5, 25) \in R$ , but  $5 \neq -5$ .



A binary relation  $R \subseteq A \times B$  is **functional** (or **right-unique**) if

$$\forall x \in A, \forall y, z \in B : xRy \wedge xRz \implies y = z .$$

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = x^2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is functional, since for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  there is a unique element  $x^2 \in \mathbb{R}$ . The situation  $xRy \wedge xRz$  is impossible.

Functional relations are also called **partial function**.

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = \sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is not functional. Because  $\sqrt{25} = \pm 5$ , we have  $(25, 5) \in R, (25, -5) \in R$ , but  $5 \neq -5$ .

A binary relation  $R$  is **one-to-one** if it is **injective** and **functional**. In other words, a one-to-one relation is left-unique and right-unique.

A binary relation  $R \subseteq A \times B$  is **left-total** if

$$\forall x \in A \exists y \in B : xRy .$$

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = x + 5 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is left-total, since  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R} \exists x + 5 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = \sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is not left-total, since  $-5 \in \mathbb{R}$ , but  $\sqrt{-5} \notin \mathbb{R}$ .

A binary relation  $R \subseteq A \times B$  is **surjective** (or **right-total**, or **onto**) if

$$\forall y \in B \exists x \in A : xRy .$$

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = x + 5 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is surjective, since for every  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists  $x = y - 5 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

The relation

$$R \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y = x^2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is not surjective, since  $-5 \in \mathbb{R}$ , but there is no  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  for which  $x^2 = -5$ .

A binary relation is a **mapping** (or a **function**)  $f: A \rightarrow B$  if it is functional (right-unique) and left-total.

In other words,  $R \subseteq A \times B$  maps every element  $a \in A$  to a *unique* element  $b \in B$ .

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a mapping. We will use the following notation:

$$a \xrightarrow{f} b \iff f(a) = b .$$

Suppose  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{a, b, c\}$ . The relation

$$R \subseteq A \times B = \{(1, a), (2, c), (3, a)\}$$

is a mapping, since it is functional and left-total. The relation

$$G \subseteq A \times B = \{(1, a), (1, b), (2, c), (3, c)\}$$

is not a mapping, since it is not functional – element 1 is mapped to both  $a$  and  $b$ . The relation

$$H \subseteq A \times B = \{(1, a), (2, b)\}$$

is functional, but not left-total, hence is not a mapping.

Since mapping  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is left-total, then its **domain**

$$\text{Dom}(f) = \{x \in A : \exists y \in B : xRy\} = A .$$

In other words, the domain of a mapping  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is the set  $A$ .

The **range** of  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is the set  $B$ .

The **image** of  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is the set

$$f(A) = \{f(a) : a \in A\} \subseteq B .$$

An **injection** is an injective mapping – a binary relation that is left-unique, right-unique, and left-total

A **surjection** (or **onto mapping**) is a surjective mapping – a binary relation that is right-unique, left-total, and right-total.

A mapping is a **bijection** (or **one-to-one correspondence**) is a mapping which is injective and surjective. In other words, left-unique, right-unique, left-total, and right-total.



We are now ready to re-visit the set theory again and introduce some definitions omitted last time.

**Cardinality** of a set  $A$  (written  $|A|$ ) is a measure of the number of elements in the set.

The sets  $A$  and  $B$  are **equinumerous** (written  $|A| = |B|$ ), meaning that the sets  $A$  and  $B$  have the same cardinality if there exists a bijection  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .

For example, the set of even numbers  $E = \{0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$  has the same cardinality as the set  $\mathbb{N}$ , since the function  $f(n) = 2n$  is a bijection  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

Cardinality of set  $A$  is **less than or equal** to the cardinality of a set  $B$  (written as  $|A| \leq |B|$ ) if there exists an injective function from  $A$  to  $B$ .

Cardinality of set  $A$  is **strictly less** than the cardinality of a set  $B$  (written as  $|A| < |B|$ ) if there exists an injective function from  $A$  to  $B$ , but no bijective function from  $A$  to  $B$  exists.

For example, the cardinality of  $\mathbb{N}$  is strictly less than the cardinality of  $\mathbb{R}$ . The mapping  $i: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is injective, but it can be shown (Cantor's first uncountability proof, Cantor's diagonal argument) that there does not exist a bijection  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

It is interesting to note that the cardinality of a proper subset of an infinite set is the same as the cardinality of the set itself. For instance,  $\mathbb{N} \subset \mathbb{Z}$  and  $|\mathbb{N}| = |\mathbb{Z}|$ . Let us define a bijection  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .

$$\begin{array}{c} \dots \\ -3 \mapsto 5 \\ -2 \mapsto 3 \\ -1 \mapsto 1 \\ 0 \mapsto 0 \\ 1 \mapsto 2 \\ 2 \mapsto 4 \\ \dots \end{array}$$

A set  $A$  is **infinite** if there exists  $A' \subset A$  such that  $|A'| = |A|$ .

A finite set  $A$  is **countable** if there exists an injective function  $A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

A set  $A$  is **countably infinite** if there exists a bijection  $A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

Infinity is the most weird, counter-intuitive, and the least understood concept in mathematics.

I.e.: an interesting phenomena involving infinite sets – the Banach–Tarski paradox.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s86-Z-CbaHA>

## Theorem (Cantor–Schröder–Bernstein)

*If there exist injective functions  $A \rightarrow B$  and  $B \rightarrow A$ , there exists a bijection  $A \rightarrow B$ .*

### Corollary

*If  $|A| \leq |B|$  and  $|B| \leq |A|$ , then  $|A| = |B|$ .*



THANK YOU  
FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION  
ANY QUESTIONS?