

Problems on relations and equivalence relations

Relevant reading: Velleman, 4.1, 4.2, 4.6 (Velleman says a ton more about relations in 4.3-4.5, if you are interested, but you won't need to know any of that stuff for this course)

1. How many equivalence relations are there on a set with three elements? List them.
2. Let $A = \mathbb{R}$. Define a relation R on A by

$$(x, y) \in R \Leftrightarrow x < y$$

Determine whether or not R is an equivalence relation. Prove your answer.

3. Let $A = \mathbb{R}$. Define a relation R on A by

$$(x, y) \in R \Leftrightarrow x \leq y$$

Determine whether or not R is an equivalence relation. Prove your answer.

4. Let $A = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$.

Define a relation R on A by

$$((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) \in R \Leftrightarrow \text{the distance from } (x_1, y_1) \text{ to } (x_2, y_2) \text{ is a rational number.}$$

Determine whether or not R is an equivalence relation. Prove your answer.

5. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

We say a is **congruent** to $b \pmod{m}$ iff $m \mid (a - b)$.

If a is congruent to $b \pmod{m}$, we write

$$a \equiv b \pmod{m}.$$

- (a) Show that the relation R on \mathbb{Z} defined by

$$R = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} : a \equiv b \pmod{m}\}$$

is an equivalence relation.

- (b) Prove that if $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$, then

$$(a + c) \equiv (b + d) \pmod{m}$$

and

$$ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$$

6. Let $A = \mathbb{R}$.

Define a relation R by

$$(a, b) \in R \Leftrightarrow a - b \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

- (a) Show that R is an equivalence relation.
- (b) Give an example of one of the equivalence classes in A/R .
- (c) Prove that there are infinitely many equivalence classes in A/R .