SET CONCEPTS IV

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1. Relations

Let A be a set. A relation R on A is a subset of the cartesian product of A with itself: $R \subset A \times A$. If $(a,b) \in R$, we say that a is related to b, and may write aRb

For example, suppose that A is the set of all inhabitants of some island. Let U be the subset of $A \times A$ given by

$$(a,b) \in U \Leftrightarrow a \text{ is the uncle of } b.$$

Let N be the subset of $A \times A$ given by

$$(a,b) \in N \Leftrightarrow a \text{ is the niece of } b.$$

Note that aNb does not imply bUa, nor does aUb imply aNb. However, if we had $S \subset A \times A$ given by

$$(a,b) \in T \Leftrightarrow a \text{ is the sibling of } b,$$

then $aSb \Leftrightarrow bSa$.

Let $R \subset A \times A$ be a relation. We say that R is:

- reflexive if aRa for all $a \in A$;
- symmetric if $aRb \Leftrightarrow bRa$;
- antisymmetric if $aRb \wedge bRa \Rightarrow a = b$;
- transitive if $aRb \wedge bRc \Rightarrow aRc$;
- definite if $aRb \vee bRa$ for all $a, b \in A$.

The relation "is the same person as" is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive; so is the relation "is the same height as". The relation "is the parent of" has none of these properties (except antisymmetry; think about why). The relation "is the ancestor of" is transitive, and if we allow that one is one's own ancestor, it is also reflexive and antisymmetric.

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2. Partial Orders and Total Orders

A partial order on a set A is a relation, usually denoted by \leq instead of by a letter like R, which is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive. That is:

- $a \le a$ (reflexivity);
- if $a \le b$ and $b \le a$, then a = b (antisymmetry);
- if $a \leq b$ and $b \leq c$, then $a \leq c$ (transitivity).

A partial order relation is called a total order relation if it is definite:

• either $a \leq b$ or $b \leq a$ for all $a, b \in A$ (definiteness).

Example 1. Let X be a set and let $A = \mathcal{P}(X)$ be the set of all subsets of X. Then inclusion (\subset) is a partial order relation on $\mathcal{P}(X)$. However, this is not a total order relation. For example, if $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$, then the sets $\{1, 3, 5\}$ and $\{1, 2, 3\}$ are not related by inclusion. \square

Example 2. Familiar examples of totally ordered sets are the natural number \mathbb{N} , the integers \mathbb{Z} , the rational numbers \mathbb{Q} , and the real numbers \mathbb{R} . The complex number \mathbb{C} have no total ordering which is compatible with their algebraic structure. We do, however, have a several partial orderings on \mathbb{C} which arise from their algebraic structure (think about what these could be). \square

Example 3. Let $X = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$, and let \leq be the standard total order on \mathbb{Z} . Define a relation R on X by

$$(a,b)R(c,d) \Leftrightarrow (a \le c) \land (b \le d).$$

Show that R is a partial order.

Solution. We wish to show that R is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive.

(Reflexivity) Let $(a,b) \in X$. Then since \leq is a total order, it is reflexive, so $a \leq a$ and $b \leq b$. Thus (a,b)R(a,b), and R is reflexive.

(Antisymmetry) Let $(a, b), (c, d) \in X$ such that (a, b)R(c, d) and (c, d)R(a, b). Then $a \leq c$ and $c \leq a$. Since \leq is antisymmetric, we have a = c. Similarly, b = d. Thus (a, b) = (c, d), and R is antisymmetric.

(Transitivity) Let $(a,b), (c,d), (e,f) \in X$ and suppose that (a,b)R(c,d) and (c,d)R(e,f). Then $a \leq c$ and $c \leq e$. Since \leq is transitive, we have $a \leq e$. Similarly, $b \leq f$. Thus $(a,b) \leq (e,f)$, and R is transitive.

Remark. Graph the set $X = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$, so that we may visualize the set X as a set of discrete points in the plane \mathbb{R}^2 . If we graph the point (a, b), the set of points in X greater than (a, b) are those lying to the right and above the position of (a, b).

3. Equivalence Relations

Let A be a set and consider the relation

$$E = \{(a, b) \in A \times A \mid a = b\}.$$

Then E is simply the relation of equality. The set E is sometimes called the diagonal of $A \times A$. This is because if we graph E (say that $A = \mathbb{R}$), we obtain the diagonal line which is the graph of the equation y = x. Notice that the relation of equality is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Let A be a set and let \equiv be a relation on A. We say that \equiv is an *equivalence* relation if it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive:

- $a \equiv a$ (reflexivity);
- $a \equiv b$ if and only if $b \equiv a$ (symmetry);
- if $a \equiv b$ and $b \equiv c$, then $a \equiv c$ (transitivity).

Example 4. Let A be the set of all animals in the world. Define a relation R by

$$R = \{(a, b) \in A \times A \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ are of the same species } \}.$$

Note that we could have written this

$$aRb \Leftrightarrow a \text{ and } b \text{ are of the same species.}$$

Then R is an equivalence relation on the set A. For certainly if an animal a is a pig, then it is a pig (reflexivity); if a and b are both pigs, then b and a are both pigs (symmetry); and if a and b are both pigs, and b and c are both pigs, then a and b are both pigs (transitivity). \Box

Example 5. Let $X = \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$. Define a relation on X by

$$(a,b) \equiv (c,d) \Leftrightarrow a+d=b+c.$$

This is an equivalence relation. \Box

Example 6. Let $\mathbb{Z}^* = \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ be the set of nonzero integers. Let $X = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}^*$. Define a relation on X by

$$(a,b) \equiv (c,d) \Leftrightarrow ad = bc.$$

Show that this is an equivalence relation.

Solution. We wish to show that \equiv is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

(Reflexivity) Let $(a, b) \in X$. Then ab = ba by commutativity of multiplication. This says that $(a, b) \equiv (a, b)$, so \equiv is reflexive.

(Symmetry) Let $(a, b), (c, d) \in X$. Then

$$(a,b) \equiv (c,d) \Leftrightarrow ad = bc \Leftrightarrow cb = da \Leftrightarrow (c,d) \equiv (a,b),$$

so \equiv is symmetric.

(Transitivity) Let $(a, b), (c, d), (e, f) \in X$. Suppose that $(a, b) \equiv (c, d)$ and $(c, d) \equiv (e, f)$. Then ad = bc and ce = df. Multiply the first equation by e and the second by e and apply commutativity of multiplication in the integers to obtain ade = bce and bce = bdf. Then by transitivity of equality, we have ade = bdf. By cancellation, we have ae = bf. Thus $(a, b) \equiv (e, f)$, and e is transitive.

4. Equivalence Classes

Relations of this type are particularly important, because they group the elements of a set into blocks such that the members of one of the blocks, although not exactly equal, are similar in some sense in which one may be interested. More precisely, equivalence relations induce partitions on sets.

Let \equiv be an equivalence relation on a set A. We say that two element $a,b \in A$ are equivalent if $a \equiv b$. Since \equiv is symmetric, this is the case if and only if $b \equiv a$. The equivalence class of a, denoted [a], is the set of all elements of A which are equivalent to a:

$$[a] = \{ b \in A \mid a \equiv b \}.$$

Example 7. Suppose A is the set of all animals in the world, and \equiv is the relation of being in the same species. Let p be a pig. Then [p] is the set of all pigs in the world. One can see that if q is also a pig, then [p] = [q]. Also it is clear that if a is an anteater, then $[p] \cap [a] = \emptyset$. Note there there is exactly one equivalence class [x] for each species of animal on earth such that x is an animal of that species. We now proceed to formalize these assertions. \square

Proposition 1. Let A be a set and let \equiv be an equivalence relation on A. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) $a \equiv b$;
- (2) [a] = [b];
- (3) $b \in [a]$.

Proof. To prove a statement of this kind, we need to show that (1) is logically equivalent to (2), that (2) is logically equivalent to (3), and that (3) is logically equivalent to (1). It suffices to show that (1) implies (2), that (2) implies (3), and that (3) implies (1).

 $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$ Suppose that $a \equiv b$. By symmetry of \equiv , we know that $b \equiv a$. We wish to show that [a] = [b]. We show containment both ways.

Let $c \in [a]$. Then $a \equiv c$ by definition of [a]. Thus $b \equiv c$ by transitivity of \equiv , because $b \equiv a$ and $a \equiv c$. Thus $c \in [b]$ by definition of [b]. This shows that $[a] \subset [b]$.

Simply by reversing the roles of a and b is the above argument, we see that $[b] \subset [a]$. Therefore [a] = [b].

- $(2) \Rightarrow (3)$ Suppose that [a] = [b]. We wish to show that $b \in [a]$. Now by reflexivity, $b \equiv b$. Thus $b \in [b]$. Since [a] is the same set as [b], we must have $b \in [a]$.
- $(3) \Rightarrow (1)$ Suppose that $b \in [a]$. We wish to show that $a \equiv b$. But this follows by the defintion of [a].

5. Partitions induced by Equivalence Relations

Proposition 2. Let A be a set and let \equiv be an equivalence relation on A. Then the collection of equivalence classes

$$\mathcal{C} = \{ [a] \in \mathcal{P}(A) \mid a \in A \}$$

forms a partition of A.

Proof. We wish to show that the equivalence classes are pairwise disjoint and cover A. It is clear that they cover, since for any $a \in A$, we have $a \in [a]$.

Let $a, b \in A$ so that $[a], [b] \in \mathcal{C}$ are arbitrary equivalence classes. Suppose that their intersection is nonempty, say $c \in [a] \cap [b]$. Then [c] = [a] and [c] = [b]; thus [a] = [b]. This tells us that the only way two equivalence classes can have a nonempty intersection is if they are the same class. Thus distinct equivalence classes are disjoint. This was our condition to call the sets in a collection of subsets pairwise disjoint.

The collection of equivalence classes referred to above is called the *partition* induced by the equivalence relation.

Proposition 3. Let A be a set and let \mathbb{C} be a partition of A. Define a relation R on A by

$$R = \{(a, b) \in A \times A \mid a \in [b]\}.$$

Then R is an equivalence relation.

Proof. We wish to show that R is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Since \mathcal{C} is a partition, every element of $a \in A$ is in exactly one member of \mathcal{C} . Let us denote this member by [a]. We first note that for $a, b \in A$, $a \in [b]$ if and only if [a] = [b]. To see this, suppose that $a \in [b]$. Then [b] is the unique member of the partition \mathcal{C} which contains a. Since we are calling this member [a], we have [a] = [b]. On the other hand, if [a] = [b], we know that $a \in [a]$, so $a \in [b]$.

We have $a \in [a]$, so $(a, a) \in R$. Thus R is reflexive.

Suppose aRb. We wish to show that bRa. Now aRb means that $a \in [b]$, so [a] = [b]. Thus $a \in [b]$; therefore bRa. Reversing the roles of a and b shows that $bRa \Rightarrow aRb$. Thus $aRb \Leftrightarrow bRa$, and R is symmetric.

Suppose that aRb and bRc. We wish to show that aRc. Rephrased, we wish to show if $a \in [b]$ and $b \in [c]$, then $a \in [c]$. But $a \in [b]$ implies that [a] = [b], and $b \in [c]$ implies that [b] = [c]; thus [a] = [c], so $a \in [c]$, and aRc. Thus R is transitive.

The relation defined above is called the *equivalence relation induced by the* partition. The above two propositions say that the concepts of partition and equivalence relation correspond to each other in a natural way. A partition is an equivalence relation by considering its blocks as equivalence classes, and an equivalence relation partitions the set into blocks which are equivalence classes.

6. Partitions induced by Functions

We now show that if $f:A\to B$ is a function, then f induces an equivalence relation on the domain A.

Proposition 4. Let $f: A \to B$ be a function. Define a relation \equiv on A by $a \equiv b \Leftrightarrow f(a) = f(b)$.

Then \equiv is an equivalence relation.

Proof. We wish to show that \equiv is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

It is reflexive because f(a) = f(a). It is symmetric because $f(a) = f(b) \Leftrightarrow f(b) = f(a)$. It is transitive because f(a) = f(b) and f(b) = f(c) implies that f(a) = f(c).

The relation defined above is called the equivalence relation induced by the function, and the associated partition, naturally enough, is called the partition induced by the function. The blocks of this partition are nothing but the preimages of points in B under the map A. The equivalence relation induced by a function is sometimes called a kernel equivalence. The equivalence class of a under such an equivalence is sometimes denoted \overline{a} instead of [a]. The set of equivalence classes may be denoted \overline{A} .

Example 8. Let $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ be given by $f(x) = \sin x$. Then f induces an equivalence relation on \mathbb{R} which is given by

$$x_1 \equiv x_2 \Leftrightarrow x_2 - x_1 = k\pi \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

The blocks of the corresponding partition are the equivalence classes of this equivalence relation. Such a block consists of points scattered on the real line at a distance of π from each other. The set of all such blocks covers the real line.

Example 9. Let A be the set of animals on earth and let S be the set of species. Define a function $f:A\to S$ by sending an animal to the species of which it is a member. Then the partition of A induced by f is the collection of subsets of A consisting of blocks such that all the animals in one block are of the same species, and any two animals of the same species are in the same block. \square

7. Functions defined on Partitions

Let A be a set and let \mathcal{A} be a partition of A. For a given $a \in A$, let [a] denote the block in \mathcal{A} which contains a. We say that a represents the block [a], or that a is a choice of representative. Suppose B is another set and we wish to define a function $\alpha: \mathcal{A} \to B$, and we do so by saying where each block $[a] \in \mathcal{A}$ should be sent in B. Perhaps we use some formula or algorithm which depends on the choice of representative $a_1 \in [a]$. Then we better be certain that, if a_2 is another element representing [a], then the algorithm gives the same value for a_2 as it did for a_1 .

Example 10. Let $X = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ be the set of nonzero real numbers. Let $Y = \{x \in X \mid x > 0\}$ be the set of positive real numbers and let $Z = X \setminus Y$ be the set of negative real numbers. Then $\mathfrak{X} = \{Y, Z\}$ is a partition of X.

If we attempt to define a function $f: \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{Z}$ by $[x] \mapsto x^2$, this doesn't make sense, since [1] = [2], but f([1]) = 1 and f([2]) = 4.

However, if we attempt to define a function $g: \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{Z}$ by $[x] \mapsto \frac{x}{|x|}$, this function does make sense, since the entire block of positive numbers is sent to 1 and the entire block of negative number is sent to -1. \square

Let A be a set and let A be a partition of A. Let $g: A \to B$ be a function. Suppose we define a function $f: A \to B$ by specifying $f([a]) = g(a) \in B$. If $g(a_1) = g(a_2)$ whenever $[a_1] = [a_2]$, we say the the function is well-defined.

Example 11. Let V be the set of vertibrate animals in the world and let \mathcal{V} be the set of equivalence classes of vertibrates of the same species.

Let $T = \{\text{fish, amph, rept, bird, mamm}\}$ be the set of types of vertibrates. Attempt to define $f : \mathcal{A} \to B$ by

$$f([v]) = \begin{cases} \text{fish} & \text{if } v \text{ is a fish;} \\ \text{amph} & \text{if } v \text{ is an amphibian;} \\ \text{rept} & \text{if } v \text{ is a reptile;} \\ \text{bird} & \text{if } v \text{ is a bird;} \\ \text{mamm} & \text{if } v \text{ is a mammal.} \end{cases}$$

Then f is well-defined, since all the vertibrates of the same species are of the same type.

However, if we attempt to define $g: \mathcal{A} \to \mathbb{R}$ by

$$g([v]) =$$
the mass of v in grams ,

then g is not well-defined, because not every vertibrate of the same species has the same mass. \square

8. Canonical Functions

Let \overline{A} be a partition of a set A, and for $a \in A$ let \overline{a} denote the block containing a. Then there is a *canonical function*

$$\beta: A \to \overline{A}$$

given by $f(a) = \overline{a}$. Each element simply is sent to the block containing it. That is, each element is sent to its equivalence class in the equivalence relation corresponding to the partition. The function β is surjective, since every block contains an element (we made it part of our definition of partition that its members are nonempty).

Theorem 1. Let $\phi: A \to B$ be a function. Let \overline{A} be the set of equivalence classes of A induced by f. Let $\beta: A \to \overline{A}$ be the canonical function given by $a \mapsto \overline{a}$. Then there exists a unique injective function

$$\overline{\phi}: \overline{A} \to B$$

such that $\phi = \overline{\phi} \circ \beta$. If ϕ is surjective, then $\overline{\phi}$ is bijective.

Proof. Define $\overline{\phi}$ by $\overline{\phi}(\overline{a}) = \phi(a)$. We must show that this is well defined and injective, that $\phi = \overline{\phi} \circ \beta$, and that any other function $\psi : \overline{A} \to B$ such that $\phi = \psi \circ \beta$ is equal to $\overline{\phi}$.

Note that $\overline{\phi}$ is defined via a choice of representative for a given block in \overline{A} . To show that $\overline{\phi}$ is well-defined, we must show that the definition of $\overline{\phi}$ is independent of the choice of representative. Thus let $a_1, a_2 \in A$ such that $\overline{a_1} = \overline{a_2}$. Thus a_1 and a_2 are inverse images of the same point in B under the map ϕ . That is, $\phi(a_1) = \phi(a_2)$. Therefore $\overline{\phi}(\overline{a_1}) = \phi(a_1) = \phi(a_2) = \overline{\phi}(\overline{a_2})$, and $\overline{\phi}$ is well-defined.

To see that $\overline{\phi}$ is injective, let $\overline{a_1}, \overline{a_2} \in \overline{A}$ such that $\overline{\phi}(\overline{a_1}) = \overline{\phi}(\overline{a_2})$. Then $\phi(a_1) = \phi(a_2)$. By definition of kernel equivalence, $\overline{a_1} = \overline{a_2}$, so $\overline{\phi}$ is injective.

To see that $\phi = \overline{\phi} \circ \beta$, note that for $a \in A$, $\phi(a) = \overline{\phi}(\overline{a}) = \overline{\phi}(\beta(a))$. Thus this holds essentially by definition of $\overline{\phi}$ and of β .

Suppose that $\psi : \overline{A} \to B$ is another function such that $\phi = \psi \circ \beta$. Then $\psi(\overline{a}) = \phi(a) = \overline{\phi}(\overline{a})$, so $\overline{\phi} = \psi$ since it acts the same way on every element of its domain. Thus \overline{a} is the unique function with this property.

Example 12. Let A be the set of animals on earth and let S be the set of species. Let $\overline{A} \to S$ be given by sending an animal to its species. Let \overline{A} be the partition of A into subsets of A which contain all of the animals of a given species. Then \overline{A} is the partition of A induced by ϕ . Let $\beta: A \to \overline{A}$ be the canonical function which sends an animal to the block which contains it. One can easily see that such blocks naturally correspond to the set of species. The bijective function $\overline{\phi}$, whose existence is guaranteed by the above theorem, sends each block to the species to which the animals in the block belong. \square

9. Exercises IV

Exercise 1. Let A and B be sets and let \leq be a total order on B. Let $f: A \to B$ be a function and define a relation \leq on A by

$$a_1 \preccurlyeq a_2 \Leftrightarrow f(a_1) \leq f(a_2).$$

- (a) Show that if f is injective, \leq is a total order on A.
- (b) Give an example where f is not injective and \leq is not a partial order on A.

Exercise 2. Let X be a set and let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$. Define a relation \leq on \mathcal{C} by

$$A \preceq B \Leftrightarrow \exists \text{ injective } f: A \to B.$$

Is \leq a partial order on \mathbb{C} ?

Exercise 3. Let X be a set and let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$. Define a relation \equiv on \mathcal{C} by

$$A \equiv B \Leftrightarrow \exists \text{ bijective } f: A \to B.$$

Show that \equiv is an equivalence relation.

Definition 1. A circle in the cartesian plane is a subset of \mathbb{R}^2 which is the set of all points equidistant from a given point, called its *center*; the common distance is called the *radius* of the circle. If $C \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is a circle and $A \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, we say that A is *inside* C if for each $a \in A$, the distance from a to the center of C is less than or equal to the radius of the circle.

Exercise 4. Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ be the collection of all circles in the cartesian plane. Define a relation \leq on \mathcal{C} by

$$C_1 \preceq C_2 \Leftrightarrow C_1$$
 is inside C_2 .

Is \leq a partial order on \mathbb{C} ?

Exercise 5. Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ be the collection of all circles in the cartesian plane. Define a relation \leq on \mathcal{C} by

$$C_1 \preccurlyeq C_2 \Leftrightarrow \text{ the center of } C_1 \text{ is inside } C_2.$$

Is \leq a partial order on \mathbb{C} ?

Exercise 6. Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ be the collection of all circles in the cartesian plane. Define a relation \equiv on \mathcal{C} by

$$C_1 \equiv C_2 \Leftrightarrow C_1$$
 and C_2 have the same center .

Is \equiv an equivalence relation?

Exercise 7. Define a function $|\cdot|: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ by

$$|(x,y)| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}.$$

Let $\mathcal C$ be the partition of $\mathbb R^2$ induced by this function.

Describe the members of C.

Exercise 8. Let $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$. Define a function $f : \mathcal{P}(X) \setminus \{\emptyset\} \to X$ by

$$f(A) =$$
 the smallest member of A.

Compute the partition of $\mathcal{P}(X)$ induced by the function f.

Exercise 9. Let $X = \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$. Define a relation on X by

$$(a,b) \equiv (c,d) \Leftrightarrow a+d=b+c.$$

- (a) Show that this is an equivalence relation.
- (b) Describe the equivalence classes.
- (c) Let \mathcal{C} be the set of equivalence classes. Denote the equivalence class of (a,b)by [a, b]. Determine which of the following functions $f: \mathcal{C} \to \mathbb{R}$ are well defined:
 - $f([a,b]) = a^2 + b^2;$
 - $f([a,b]) = a^2 2ab + b^2;$ $f([a,b]) = \frac{a}{b};$ $f([a,b]) = \sin(a-b).$

Exercise 10. Define a relation \equiv on \mathbb{Z} by

$$a \equiv b \Leftrightarrow 6 \mid (a - b).$$

- (a) Show that \equiv is an equivalence relation.
- (b) Describe the equivalence classes.
- (c) Count the equivalence classes.
- (d) Let C be the set of equivalence classes. Denote the equivalence class of a by [a]. Determine which of the following functions $f: \mathcal{C} \to \mathbb{Z}$ are well defined:

 - f([a]) = 3r, where r is the remainder when a is divided by 6;
 - f([a]) = x, where x is the remainder when 3a is divided by 6;
 - f([a]) = x, where x is the remainder when a is divided by 3;
 - f([a]) = x, where x is the remainder when a is divided by 5.

Exercise 11. Let X be a set and let $\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, \dots, C_m\}$ and $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$ be partitions of X. Define

$$\mathcal{E} = \{ C_i \cap D_j \mid C_i \in \mathcal{C}, D_j \in \mathcal{D} \}.$$

- (a) Show that \mathcal{E} is a partition of X.
- (b) Describe the equivalence relation induced by $\mathcal E$ in terms of the equivalence relations induced by \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} .

Exercise 12. Let X and Y be sets. Let \sim be an equivalence relation on X and let \approx be an equivalence relation on Y. Let [X] and [Y] denote the respective sets of equivalence classes. Show that there is an induced equivalence relation \equiv on $X \times Y$. Denote the set of equivalence classes by $[X \times Y]$, and for $(x, y) \in X \times Y$, denote its equivalence class by [x, y]. Define a function

$$\phi: [X \times Y] \to [X] \times [Y]$$

by $[x,y] \mapsto ([x],[y])$. Show that ϕ is well-defined and bijective.

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