# Collections of Sets Part b: Partitions

lan Ludden

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• Image: A image:

- Define a partition of a set *A* informally and formally.
- Determine whether a specific set *P* is a partition of some specific set *A*.

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### What is a partition?

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• Split a set into parts

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- (2)  $S \neq \emptyset \ \forall S \in \mathcal{P}$  (the sets are non-empty)
- (3)  $S \cap U = \emptyset \ \forall S, U \in \mathcal{P}, S \neq U$  (the sets are pairwise disjoint)

# **Examples of Partitions**

Partition rules: (1) covers set, (2) non-empty, (3) pairwise disjoint

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• Color classes of a graph with a proper k-coloring

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### **Examples of Partitions**

Partition rules: (1) covers set, (2) non-empty, (3) pairwise disjoint

- Color classes of a graph with a proper k-coloring
- Splitting students into *k* project teams

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• Let  $A = \{ \odot, 2, \pi, \odot \}$ . Is  $\mathcal{P} = \{ \{2\}, \{\pi\}, \{\odot, \odot\} \}$  a partition of *A*?

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• Define 
$$Q_1 = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : a \ge 0 \text{ and } b \ge 0\}$$
,  
 $Q_2 = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : a \le 0 \text{ and } b \ge 0\}$ ,  
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Is  $\{Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, Q_4\}$  a partition of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ?

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• Is 
$$\{[n, n+1) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$
 a partition of  $\mathbb{R}$ ?

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# Partitions and Equivalence Classes

By design, equivalence classes form a partition of their set.

• Partitioning  $\mathbb{Z}$  into congruence classes modulo k

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- Define *R* on  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ : (*x*, *y*) *R* (*a*, *b*) iff |x| + |y| = |a| + |b|.

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- Partitioning  $\mathbb{Z}$  into congruence classes modulo k
- Define *R* on  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ : (*x*, *y*) *R* (*a*, *b*) iff |x| + |y| = |a| + |b|.
- Given a partition  $\mathcal{P}$  of some set A, define a relation  $\sim$  on A by  $x \sim y$  iff  $\exists S \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $x, y \in S$ .

- Define a partition of a set *A* informally and formally.
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