

$\{(1, 2), (2, 3), (5, 2), (1, 5), (2, 5), (1, 3)\}$

$\{(1, 2), (2, 3), (5, 2), (1, 5), (2, 5), (1, 3)\}$

$\{(1, 2), (2, 3), (5, 2), (1, 5), (2, 5), (1, 3)\}$

$\{(1, 2), (2, 3), (5, 2), (1, 5), (2, 5), (1, 3)\}$

Domain

Rivers

First relation*flows into*

The Platte flows into the Missouri, and the Missouri flows into the Mississippi.

Second relation*is tributary to*

The Platte is a tributary to the Missouri; both the Platte and the Missouri are tributaries to the Mississippi.

People

is parent of

Bill is Jane's parent; Jane is Leroy's parent

is ancestor of

Bill is Jane's ancestor; Leroy has both Jane and Bill as ancestors.

Domain

Animals

First relation*eats*

Rabbit eats clover; coyote eats rabbit.

Second relation*derives nutrients from*

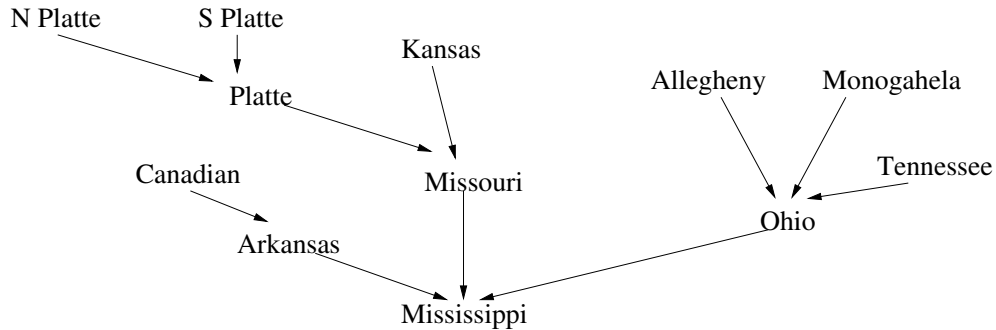
Coyote derives nutrients from rabbit; rabbit derives nutrients from clover; both coyote and rabbit ultimately derive nutrients from clover.

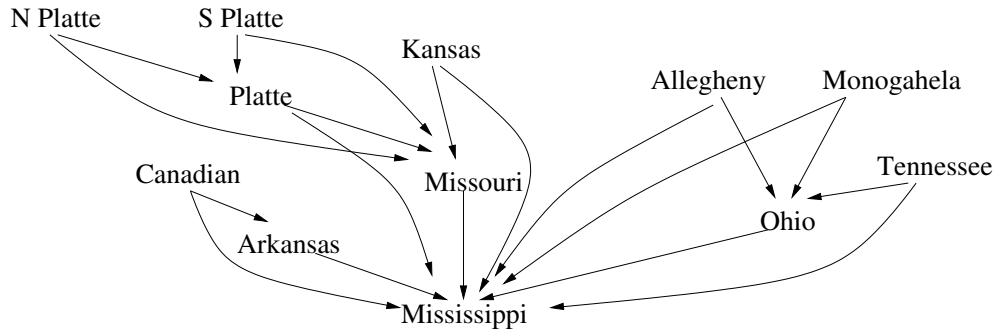
 \mathbb{Z} *is one less than*

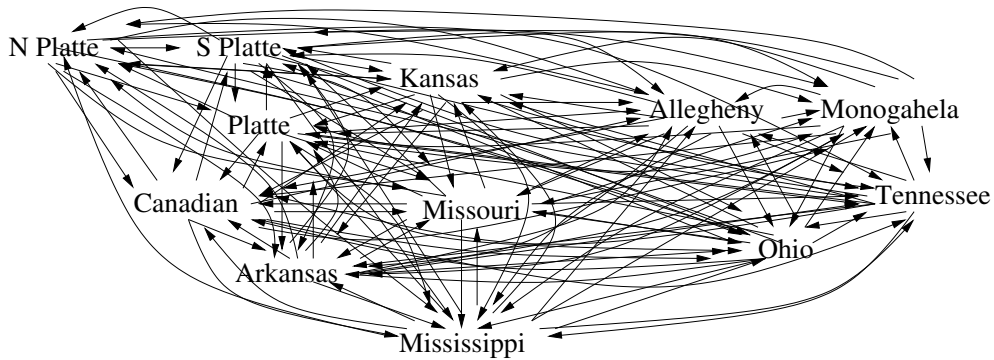
2 is one less than 3; 3 is one less than 4

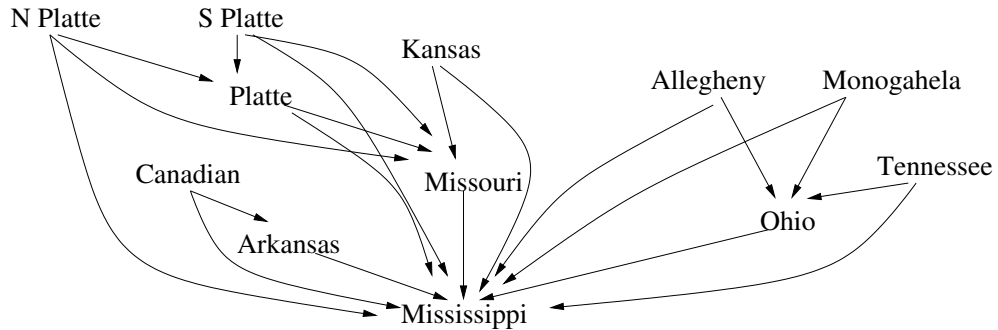
<

$2 < 3$; $3 < 4$; $2 < 4$.









Theorem 5.12 *The transitive closure of a relation R is unique.*

Proof. *Suppose S and T are relations fulfilling the requirements for being transitive closures of R . By items 1 and 2, S is transitive and $R \subseteq S$, so by item 3, $T \subseteq S$. By items 1 and 2, T is transitive and $R \subseteq T$, so by item 3, $S \subseteq T$. Therefore $S = T$ by the definition of set equality. \square*

Theorem 5.13 *If R is a relation on a set A , then*

$$R^\infty = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} R^i = \{(x, y) \mid \exists i \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } (x, y) \in R^i\}$$

is the transitive closure of R .

Proof. *Suppose R is a relation on a set A .*

Suppose $a, b, c \in A$, $(a, b), (b, c) \in R^\infty$. By the definition of R^∞ , there exist $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(a, b) \in R^i$ and $(b, c) \in R^j$. By the definition of relation composition and Exercise 5.7.4, $(a, c) \in R^j \circ R^i = R^{i+j}$. $R^{i+j} \subseteq R^\infty$ by the definition of R^∞ . By the definition of subset, $(a, c) \in R^\infty$. Hence, R^∞ is transitive by definition.

Suppose $a, b \in A$ and $(a, b) \in R$. By the definition of R^∞ (taking $i = 1$), $(a, b) \in R^\infty$, and so $R \subseteq R^\infty$, by definition of subset.

Suppose S is a transitive relation on A and $R \subseteq S$. Further suppose $(a, b) \in R^\infty$. Then, by definition of R^∞ , there exists $i \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(a, b) \in R^i$. By Lemma 5.14, $(a, b) \in S$. Hence $R^\infty \subseteq S$ by definition of subset.

Therefore, R^∞ is the transitive closure of R . \square