

► **Problem DM-3.9-6** Let

$$X = \{-5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}.$$

For  $x, y \in X$ , set  $x R y$  (i.e.,  $(x, y) \in R$ ) if  $x^2 < y^2$  or  $x = y$ . Show that  $R$  is a partial ordering on  $X$ . Draw a diagram of  $R$ .

**Proof.** For proving  $R$  is a partial ordering on  $X$ , we will show that  $R$  is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive.

**Reflexive:** For each  $x \in X$ ,  $(x, x) \in R$  by definition of  $R$ .

**Antisymmetric:** Suppose  $(x, y) \in R$  and  $x \neq y$ . Then, it follows from definition that  $x^2 < y^2$ . Since  $y \neq x$  and  $y^2 \not< x^2$ , this implies  $(y, x) \notin R$ .

**Transitive:** Let  $x, y, z \in X$ . Suppose  $(x, y) \in R$  and  $(y, z) \in R$ . We now show that  $(x, z) \in R$  according to the following four cases:

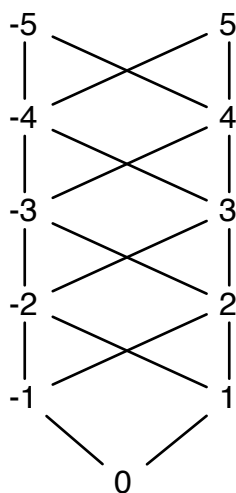
*Case 1:*  $x = y$  and  $y = z$ . Then  $x = z$ , so  $(x, z) \in R$ .

*Case 2:*  $x = y$  and  $y^2 < z^2$ . Then  $x^2 < z^2$ , so  $(x, z) \in R$ .

*Case 3:*  $x^2 < y^2$  and  $y = z$ . Then  $x^2 < z^2$ , so  $(x, z) \in R$ .

*Case 4:*  $x^2 < y^2$  and  $y^2 < z^2$ . Then  $x^2 < z^2$ , so  $(x, z) \in R$ .

Since  $R$  is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive,  $R$  is a partial order. In addition, we show the diagram of  $R$  as follows.



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