

A semi-ordering data type is based on a semi-ordering relation P :

for any $a, b, c \in A$,

$P(a, b) \& P(b, c) \Rightarrow \forall d \in A \text{ such that } P(a, d) \vee P(d, c).$

This relation P can be illustrated with intervals. Let a function U be a coding function each element of A as a real number, $U: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then $P(a, b)$ is defined as $P(a, b) \Leftrightarrow U(a) + 1 < U(b).$