

Overview

1. Functions
2. Types of Functions
3. Inverse and Composition Functions
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Introduction to Functions

Definition 1 Let A and B be sets. A **function** from A to B is an assignment of exactly one element of B to each element of A . We write $f(a) = b$ if b is the unique element of B assigned by the function f to the element a of A . If f is a function from A to B , we write $f : A \rightarrow B$. ■

Formally, f is a function from A to B ($f : A \rightarrow B$) if and only if the following hold:

- (1) $f \subseteq A \times B$: f is a set of ordered pairs whose first components are from A and whose second components are from B , and,
- (2) $\forall a \in A \exists b \in B ((a, b) \in f)$: every element from A is mapped to some element in B , and,
- (3) $\forall a, b, c (((a, b) \in f \wedge (a, c) \in f \rightarrow b = c)$: every element from A is assigned at most one element of B .

Definition 2 If f is a function from A to B , we say that A is the **domain** of f and B is the **codomain** of f . If $f(a) = b$, we say that b is the **image** of a and a is a **pre-image** of b . The **range** of f is the set of all images of elements of A . Also, if f is a function from A to B , we say that f **maps** A to B . ■

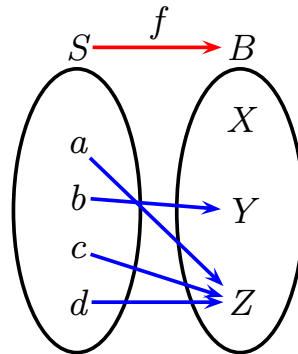
If f is a function from A to B and the domain and range of f are denoted by $dom(f)$ and $range(f)$ respectively, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 dom(f) &= \{a | \exists b ((a, b) \in f)\} = A. \\
 range(f) &= f(A) = \{f(a) | a \in A\} = \{b | \exists a ((a, b) \in f)\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Definition 3 Let f be a function from the set A to the set B and let S be a subset of A . The image of S is a subset of B that consists of the images of the elements of S . We denote the image of S by $f(S)$, so that, $f(S) = \{f(s) | s \in S\}$. ■

Introduction to Functions (cont.)

Example: Given the sets $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$ and $B = \{X, Y, Z\}$ and the figure,



then,

- (a) $f(a) = Z$
- (b) The image of d is Z
- (c) The domain of f is $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$
- (d) The codomain is $B = \{X, Y, Z\}$
- (e) $f(A) = \{Y, Z\}$
- (f) The pre-image of Y is b
- (g) The pre-images of Z are a, c and d
- (h) $f(\{c, d\}) = \{Z\}$

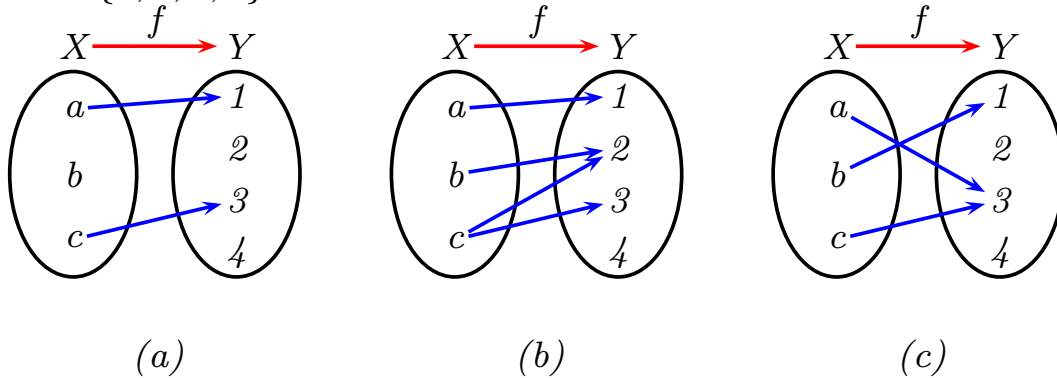
Example: Let $ICS253$ be the set of students in this class. Define

$$d : ICS253 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

by “if the last name of $s \in ICS253$ begins with letters A through H , then $d(s) = 2$, else, $d(s) = 1$ ”.

- (a) What is the image of “Hamad Ali”?
- (b) What is the the pre-image of 1?
- (c) What is the codomain of d ?
- (d) What is the range of d ?

Example: Which of the following define functions from $X = \{a, b, c\}$ to $Y = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$?



Only (c) defines a function.

Example: Someone tries to define a function $f : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by the formula:

$$f\left(\frac{m}{n}\right) = m$$

That is, the integer associated by f to the number m/n is m . Is f a function?

Solution: Fractions have more than one representation as quotients of integers. For instance, $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{8}$. Now if f were a function then $f(\frac{1}{2}) = f(\frac{4}{8})$ since $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{8}$. But, we get $f(\frac{1}{2}) = 1$ and $f(\frac{4}{8}) = 4$. This contradiction shows that the relation f is not a function.

Definition 4 Let f_1 and f_2 be functions from A to \mathbf{R} . Then $f_1 + f_2$ and $f_1 f_2$ are also functions from A to \mathbf{R} defined by

$$(f_1 + f_2)(x) = f_1(x) + f_2(x).$$

$$(f_1 \cdot f_2)(x) = f_1(x) \cdot f_2(x). \quad \blacksquare$$

Functions Equality

Definition 5 Two functions $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $g : C \rightarrow D$ are equal, ($f = g$) if $A = C$, $B = D$, and for every $a \in A$, $f(a) = g(a)$. ■

Note that in order to be equal f and g must have the same domain and the same codomain.

Example: Consider the functions:

$$f : \mathbf{R} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$$

defined by $f(x) = 3x/x$, and

$$g : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$$

defined by $g(x) = 3$. Then,

$$f(x) = g(x)$$

for every x in the domain of f , however, $f \neq g$, because g is defined on a larger domain.

Example: Define $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and $g : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ by the following formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= |x| & \forall x \in \mathbf{R} \\ g(x) &= \sqrt{x^2} & \forall x \in \mathbf{R} \end{aligned}$$

Does $f = g$?

Solution: Yes. Since the absolute value of a number equals the square root of its square.

$$|x| = \sqrt{x^2}, \forall x \in \mathbf{R}$$

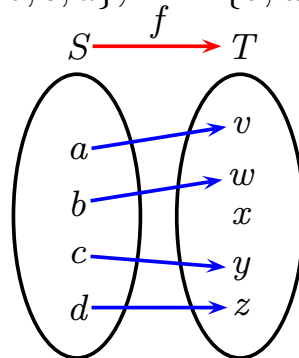
Hence $f = g$.

Types of Functions

Definition 6 A function f is said to be **one-to-one**, or **injective**, iff if $f(x) = f(y)$ implies that $x = y$ for all x and y in the domain of f . A function is said to be an injection if it is one-to-one.

$$F : X \longrightarrow Y \text{ is one-to-one} \Leftrightarrow \forall a \forall b \in X (F(a) = F(b) \rightarrow a = b) \blacksquare$$

Example: Let $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$, $T = \{v, w, x, y, z\}$ and $f : S \rightarrow T$.



An Injective Function that is not Surjective.

Example: The function $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, defined as $f(x) = 2x$ is injective.

Example: If the function $g : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is defined by the formula $g(n) = n^2, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$, then g is not one-to-one.

Counterexample: $g(2) = g(-2) = 4$ but $2 \neq -2$.

Definition 7 A function f from A to B is called **onto**, or **surjective**, if and only if for every element $b \in B$ there is an element $a \in A$ with $f(a) = b$. A function f is called a surjection if it is onto.

$$f : A \rightarrow B \text{ is onto} \Leftrightarrow \forall y \in B, \exists x \in A (f(x) = y) \blacksquare$$

Definition 8 A function f is a **one-to-one correspondence**, or a **bijection**, if it is both one-to-one and onto. \blacksquare

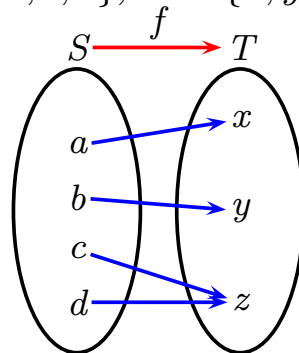
Example: The function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$, defined as $f(x) = x^2$ is surjective.

Example: If $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the function defined by the rule $f(x) = 4x - 1, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$, then f is onto.

Solution: Let $y \in \mathbf{R}$. We must show that $\exists x \in \mathbf{R}$ such that $f(x) = y$. Let $x = \frac{y+1}{4}$. Then x is a real number since sums and quotients (other than 0) of real numbers are real numbers. It follows that

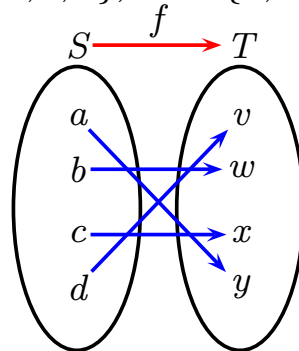
$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f\left(\frac{y+1}{4}\right) \\ &= 4 \cdot \left(\frac{y+1}{4}\right) - 1 = y \end{aligned}$$

Example: Let $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$, $T = \{x, y, z\}$ and $f : S \rightarrow T$.



An Surjective Function that is not Injective.

Example: Let $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$, $T = \{v, w, x, y\}$ and $f : S \rightarrow T$.



A one-to-one Correspondence (Bijective Function).

Example:

- The function $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, defined as $f(x) = x + 3$ is bijective.
- $h : \emptyset \rightarrow \emptyset$ is bijective.
- $d : ICS253 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is not 1-1 because more than one student is assigned to 1. It is not onto because no student is assigned to 3.
- $d : ICS253 \rightarrow \{1, 2\}$ is not 1-1 but it is onto.

Identity and Inverse Functions

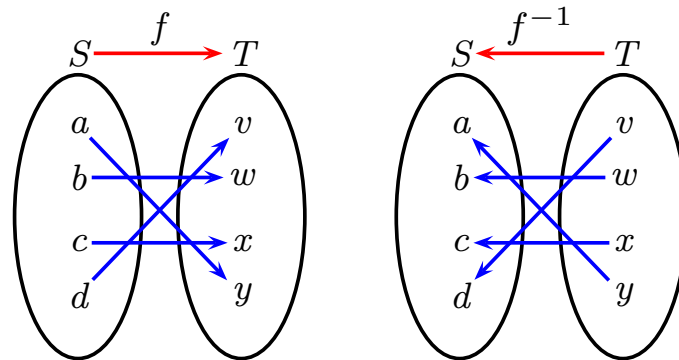
Let A be any set. Define the *identity function on A* ($\iota_A : A \rightarrow A$) by, $\iota(a) = a$, i.e.,

$$\iota_A = \{(a, a) | a \in A\}.$$

Observe that ι_A is a 1-1 correspondence.

Definition 9 Let f be a one-to-one correspondence from the set A to the set B . The *inverse function of f* is the function that assigns to an element $b \in B$ the unique element $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$. The inverse function of f is denoted by f^{-1} . Hence $f^{-1}(b) = a$ when $f(a) = b$. ■

Example: The following figure show the function $f : S \rightarrow T$ and its inverse.



Example: Here are some other examples:

- (a) If $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is defined by $f(x) = x + 3$, then its inverse is $f^{-1}(x) = x - 3$.
- (b) If $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \cup 0$ is defined by $f(x) = x^2$, one may think that its inverse is $g(x) = \sqrt{x}$, but that is incorrect.

Definition 10 A function f whose domain and codomain are subsets of \mathbb{R} is called **strictly increasing** if $f(x) < f(y)$ whenever $x < y$ and x and y are in the domain of f .

f is strictly increasing: $\forall x \forall y ((x < y) \rightarrow (f(x) < f(y)))$ ■

Definition 11 A function f is called **strictly decreasing** if $f(x) > f(y)$ whenever $x < y$ and x and y are in the domain of f .

f is strictly decreasing: $\forall x \forall y ((x < y) \rightarrow (f(x) > f(y)))$ ■

Function Composition

A function that has an inverse is called *invertible*. The necessary and sufficient condition for a function to be invertible is to be a 1-1 correspondence.

Definition 12 Let g be a function from the set A to the set B and let f be a function from the set B to the set C . The composition of the functions f and g , denoted by $f \circ g$, is defined by $(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$. ■

Example: Diagrammatic view of functions f and g and their composition $g \circ f$.

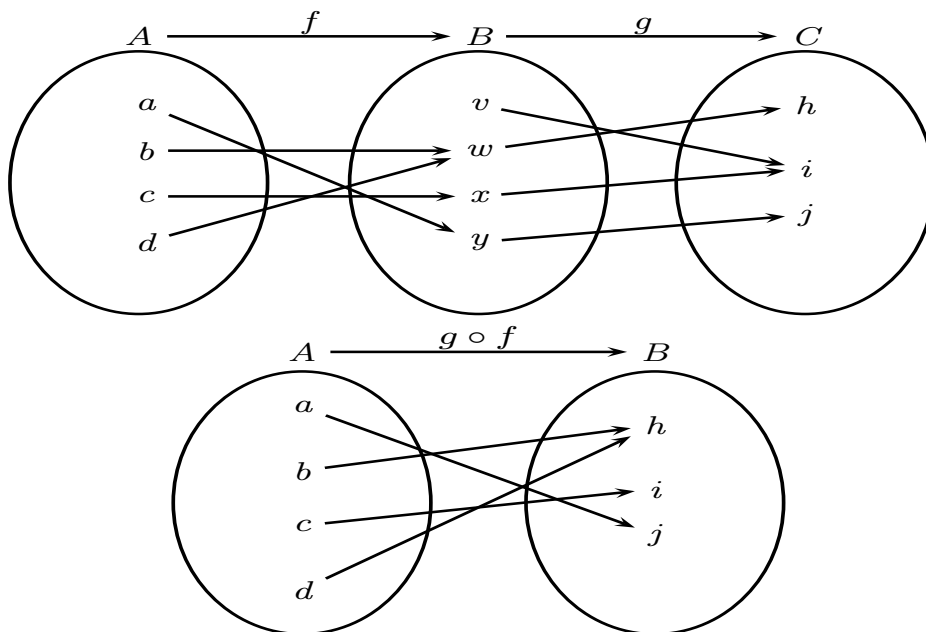


Figure 1: Function Composition.

Example: As another example, if $A = B = C = Z$, $f(x) = x+1$, $g(x) = x^2$, then $(g \circ f)(x) = f(x)^2 = (x+1)^2$. Also $(f \circ g)(x) = g(x) + 1 = x^2 + 1$.

This demonstrates that, in general, function composition is not commutative.

Function Composition (cont.)

Some properties of function composition:

(1.) If $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a function from A to B , we have that

$$f \circ \iota_A = \iota_B \circ f = f.$$

(2.) Given two functions, $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $g : B \rightarrow C$, we have:

- (a) If f and g are one-to-one, then $g \circ f$ is one-to-one.
- (b) If f and g are onto, then $g \circ f$ is onto.
- (c) If $g \circ f$ is one-to-one then f is one-to-one.
- (d) If $g \circ f$ is onto then g is onto.

(3.) Function composition is associative, i.e., given three functions

$$f : A \rightarrow B, g : B \rightarrow C, h : C \rightarrow D,$$

we have that $h \circ (g \circ f) = (h \circ g) \circ f$.

Definition 13 Let f be a function from the set A to the set B . The graph of the function f is the set of ordered pairs $\{(a, b) | a \in A \wedge f(a) = b\}$. ■

Definition 14 The floor function assigns to the real number x the largest integer that is less than or equal to x . The value of the floor function at x is denoted by $\lfloor x \rfloor$. The ceiling function assigns to the real number x the smallest integer that is greater than or equal to x . The value of the ceiling function at x is denoted by $\lceil x \rceil$. ■

Example:

$$(a) \lfloor 2 \rfloor = 2, \lfloor 2.3 \rfloor = 2, \lfloor \pi \rfloor = 3, \lfloor -2.5 \rfloor = -3.$$

$$(b) \lceil 2 \rceil = 2, \lceil 2.3 \rceil = 3, \lceil \pi \rceil = 4, \lceil -2.5 \rceil = -2.$$

See Rosen p. 107 for some useful properties of the Floor and Ceiling functions.

$$x - 1 < \lfloor x \rfloor \leq x \leq \lceil x \rceil < x + 1, \forall x \in \mathbf{R}$$

Example: Prove or disprove the assertion

$$\lfloor \sqrt{\lfloor x \rfloor} \rfloor = \lfloor \sqrt{x} \rfloor, \text{ real } x \geq 0$$

Solution: Let us try to prove it. Let $m = \lfloor \sqrt{\lfloor x \rfloor} \rfloor$. Then,

$$m = \lfloor \sqrt{\lfloor x \rfloor} \rfloor$$

$$m \leq \sqrt{\lfloor x \rfloor} < m + 1$$

$$m^2 \leq \lfloor x \rfloor < (m + 1)^2$$

$$m^2 \leq x < (m + 1)^2$$

$$m \leq \sqrt{x} < m + 1$$

$$m = \lfloor \sqrt{x} \rfloor$$

Warmups Exercises

(1) Prove or disprove the assertion

$$\lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor y \rfloor \leq \lfloor x + y \rfloor, \forall x \in \mathbf{R} \forall y \in \mathbf{R}$$

(2) Consider $f(n) : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined as:

$$f(1) = 1, f(n + 1) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}f(n) & \text{if } f(n) \text{ is even;} \\ 5f(n) + 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(a) Is f a function?

(b) Is f injective, surjective, bijective?

(3) Prove that

$$\left\lceil \frac{n}{m} \right\rceil = \left\lfloor \frac{n + m - 1}{m} \right\rfloor,$$

for all integers n and all positive integers m .