

# Recitation: Functions

Discrete Mathematics TAs  
(plaigarised primarily from the book)

May 11, 2022

## 1 Questions

1. 10 points Determine whether  $f : \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is onto if

(a)  $f(m, n) = 2m - n$

**Solution:** This is clearly onto, since  $f(0, -n) = n$  for every integer  $n$ .

(b)  $f(m, n) = m^2 - n^2$

**Solution:** We know that  $m^2 - n^2 = (m - n)(m + n)$ . The resultant output is a factor of 2 numbers. We can see that the output 2 is not possible to generate in any case. We can justify this by contradiction. If  $m^2 - n^2 = (m - n)(m + n) = 2$ , then one of the factors must be 2 (the other being 1) or the factor must be -2 (the other being -1). In order to get 2 or -2,  $m$  and  $n$  must have same parity (both even or both odd) since the desired factor is even. In either case, both  $m - n$  and  $m + n$  are then even, so this expression is divisible by 4. This leads to a contradiction since 2 is not divisible by 4.  $\perp$

(c)  $f(m, n) = m + n + 1$

**Solution:** This is clearly onto, since  $f(0, n - 1) = n$  for every integer  $n$ .

(d)  $f(m, n) = |m| - |n|$

**Solution:** This is onto. To achieve negative values we set  $m = 0$ , and to achieve nonnegative values we set  $n = 0$ .

(e)  $f(m, n) = m^2 - 4$

**Solution:** This is not onto, for the same reason as in part (b). In fact, the range here is clearly a subset of the range in that part.

2. 5 points if  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a one to one function show that there exists a function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  such that  $g$  is onto.

**Solution:** A function is simply a relation. We can take the inverse of the relation, where an inverse is  $R^{-1} = \{(b, a) \mid (a, b) \in f\}$ , since for each  $a$ , there exists one unique  $b$  mapped to in  $f$ , we know that for each  $b$  that exists there is one  $a$  in  $R^{-1}$ , therefore the onto condition is met if  $R^{-1}$  is indeed a function. Some values in  $b \in B$  might not have an associated pair  $(b, a)$  in  $R$ , let  $C$  be the set containing all these  $bs$ . Take any arbitrary value  $a_0 \in A$  then we can construct a new relation  $g$  which is  $R^{-1} \cup \{(b, a_0) \mid b \in C\}$ . This relation is a function since each member from the domain  $B$  maps to one value in  $A$ . It is onto since each value in  $A$  is mapped to.

3. 5 points if  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a onto function show that there exists a function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  such that  $g$  is one to one.

**Solution:** A function is simply a relation. We can take the inverse of the relation, where an inverse is  $R^{-1} = \{(b, a) \mid (a, b) \in f\}$ , Since  $f$  is onto, each  $b$  has some  $a$  that it is mapped to, and no two  $as$  are mapped by the same by  $b$ .  $R^{-1}$  might not be a function since one  $b$  might map to multiple  $a$ , in order to make it a function we can create a function  $g$  that is a subset of  $R^{-1}$  with only one element for each  $b$  to map to. The resulting is a function and is one-to-one since no two  $as$  are mapped by the same  $b$ .

4. 5 points Show that for every one-to-one and onto function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  it has an inverse function  $g$ , such that  $\forall a \in A, g(f(a)) = a$  and  $\forall b \in B, f(g(b)) = b$

**Solution:** Proof. Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be one-to-one and onto. We will define a function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  as follows. Let  $b \in B$ . Since  $f$  is onto, there exists  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . Let  $g(b) = a$ . Since  $f$  is injective, this  $a$  is unique, so  $g$  is well-defined.

Now we much check that  $g$  is the inverse of  $f$ . First we will show that  $g(f(a)) = a$  for all  $a$ . Let  $a \in A$ . Let  $b = f(a)$ . Then, by definition,  $f^{-1}(b) = a$ . Then  $g(f(a)) = g(f(a)) = g(b) = a$ . Now we will show that  $f(g(b))$  for all  $b$ . Let  $b \in B$ . Let  $a = g(b)$ . Then, by definition,  $f(a) = b$ . Then  $f(g(b)) = f(g(b)) = f(a) = b$ .

5. 7 points 1. Let  $I$  be the set of decimals of the form  $0.d_1d_2d_3d_4\dots$ . Construct a one to one function from  $I$  to  $I \times I$

**Solution:**  $f(x) = (x, x)$  where  $\forall x \in I$ .

2. Find either an onto function from  $I$  to  $I \times I$  or a one to one function from for  $I \times I$  to  $I$

**Solution:** Simply use cantor's diagonalization proof to map  $I \times I$  to  $I$

3. Do  $I$  and  $I \times I$  have the same cardinality?

**Solution:** Yes as there is a bijection between them

6. 5 points Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$   
If  $C_0 \subseteq C$ , show that  $(g \circ f)^{-1}(C_0) = f^{-1}(g^{-1}(C_0))$

**Solution:** If  $C_0 \subset C$ , show that  $(g \circ f)^{-1}(C_0) = f^{-1}(g^{-1}(C_0))$ . For any element  $a \in A$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} a \in (g \circ f)^{-1}(C_0) &\Leftrightarrow (g \circ f)(a) \in C_0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow g(f(a)) \in C_0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow f(a) \in g^{-1}(C_0) \\ &\Leftrightarrow a \in f^{-1}(g^{-1}(C_0)) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the two sets are equal.

7. 5 points Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$ .  
If  $f$  and  $g$  are injective, show that  $g \circ f$  is injective.

**Solution:** Suppose  $g \circ f(x) = g \circ f(y)$ , we show that this implies  $x = y$

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

As  $g$  is injective, then  $f(x) = f(y)$

As  $f$  is injective, then  $x = y$

$g \circ f$  is injective

8. 5 points Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$ .  
If  $f$  and  $g$  are surjective, show that  $g \circ f$  is surjective.

**Solution:** Let  $z \in C$

As  $g$  is surjective  $\exists y \in B$ , s.t.  $g(y) = z$

As  $f$  is surjective  $\exists x \in A$ , s.t.  $f(x) = y$

Therefore  $z = g(f(x)) = g \circ f(x)$ , thus  $z \in \text{range}(g \circ f)$ .

$g \circ f$  is surjective

9. 5 points In mathematics and computer science, the floor function is the function that takes as input a real number  $x$ , and gives as output the greatest integer less than or equal to  $x$ .

Let  $g$  be a function from the set  $A$  to the set  $B$ . Let  $S$  be a subset of  $B$ . We define the inverse image of  $S$  to be the subset of  $A$  whose elements are precisely all pre-images of all elements of  $S$ . We denote the inverse image of  $S$  by  $g^{-1}(S)$ , so  $g^{-1}(S) = \{a \in A \mid g(a) \in S\}$ . (Beware: The notation  $g^{-1}$  is used in two different ways. Do not confuse the notation introduced here with the notation  $g^{-1}(y)$  for the value at  $y$  of the inverse of the invertible function  $g$ . Notice also that  $g^{-1}(S)$ , the inverse image of the set  $S$ , makes sense for all functions  $g$ , not just invertible functions.)

Let  $g(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$ . Find

(a)  $g^{-1}(\{0\})$ .

**Solution:** Answer:  $\{x \mid 0 \leq x < 1\}$

(b)  $g^{-1}(\{-1, 0, 1\})$

**Solution:** Answer:  $\{x \mid -1 \leq x < 2\}$

(c)  $g^{-1}(\{x \mid 0 < x < 1\})$ .

**Solution:** There is no integer in range  $0 < x < 1$ , hence no number will give this output.  
Answer:  $\emptyset$

10. 5 points Let  $f$  be a function from the set  $A$  to the set  $B$ . Let  $S$  be a subset of  $B$ . We define the inverse image of  $S$  to be the subset of  $A$  whose elements are precisely all pre-images of all elements of  $S$ . We denote the inverse image of  $S$  by  $f^{-1}(S)$ , so  $f^{-1}(S) = \{a \in A \mid f(a) \in S\}$ . (Beware: The notation  $f^{-1}$  is used in two different ways. Do not confuse the notation introduced here with the notation  $f^{-1}(y)$  for the value at  $y$  of the inverse of the invertible function  $f$ . Notice also that  $f^{-1}(S)$ , the inverse image of the set  $S$ , makes sense for all functions  $f$ , not just invertible functions.)  
Let  $f$  be a function from  $A$  to  $B$ . Let  $S$  and  $T$  be subsets of  $B$ . Show that  $f^{-1}(S \cap T) = f^{-1}(S) \cap f^{-1}(T)$ .

**Solution:** We need to prove two things. First suppose  $x \in f^{-1}(S \cap T)$ . This means that  $f(x) \in S \cap T$ . Therefore  $f(x) \in S$  and  $f(x) \in T$ . That means  $x \in f^{-1}(S)$ , and  $x \in f^{-1}(T)$ . Thus we have shown that  $f^{-1}(S \cap T) \subseteq f^{-1}(S) \cap f^{-1}(T)$ .  
Conversely, suppose that  $x \in f^{-1}(S) \cap f^{-1}(T)$ . Then  $x \in f^{-1}(S)$  and  $x \in f^{-1}(T)$ , so  $f(x) \in S$  and  $f(x) \in T$ . Thus we know that  $f(x) \in S \cap T$ , so by definition  $x \in f^{-1}(S \cap T)$ . This shows that  $f^{-1}(S) \cap f^{-1}(T) \subseteq f^{-1}(S \cap T)$ , as desired.