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## one-to-one function from onto function

Canonical name OnetooneFunctionFromOntoFunction

Date of creation 2013-03-22 16:26:55 Last modified on 2013-03-22 16:26:55 Owner mathcam (2727) Last modified by mathcam (2727)

Numerical id 8

Author mathcam (2727)

Entry type Definition Classification msc 03E25 Related topic function

Related topic ChoiceFunction Related topic AxiomOfChoice

Related topic set Related topic onto

Related topic SchroederBernsteinTheorem

Related topic AnInjectionBetweenTwoFiniteSetsOfTheSameCardinalityIsBijective AsurjectionBetweenTwoFiniteSetsOfTheSameCardinalityIsBijective

Related topic Set

Related topic Surjective

**Theorem.** Given an onto function from a set A to a set B, there exists a one-to-one function from B to A.

Proof. Suppose  $f: A \to B$  is onto, and define  $\mathcal{F} = \{f^{-1}(\{b\}) : b \in B\}$ ; that is,  $\mathcal{F}$  is the set containing the pre-image of each singleton subset of B. Since f is onto, no element of  $\mathcal{F}$  is empty, and since f is a function, the elements of  $\mathcal{F}$  are mutually disjoint, for if  $a \in f^{-1}(\{b_1\})$  and  $a \in f^{-1}(\{b_2\})$ , we have  $f(a) = b_1$  and  $f(a) = b_2$ , whence  $b_1 = b_2$ . Let  $\mathscr{C}: \mathcal{F} \to \bigcup \mathcal{F}$  be a choice function, noting that  $\bigcup \mathcal{F} = A$ , and define  $g: B \to A$  by  $g(b) = \mathscr{C}(f^{-1}(\{b\}))$ . To see that g is one-to-one, let  $b_1, b_2 \in B$ , and suppose that  $g(b_1) = g(b_2)$ . This gives  $\mathscr{C}(f^{-1}(\{b_1\})) = \mathscr{C}(f^{-1}(\{b_2\}))$ , but since the elements of  $\mathcal{F}$  are disjoint, this implies that  $f^{-1}(\{b_1\}) = f^{-1}(\{b_2\})$ , and thus  $b_1 = b_2$ . So g is a one-to-one function from B to A.