

# Discrete Structures

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# Text book

Discrete Mathematics and Its Application, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Kenneth H. Rosen

# References

Discrete Mathematics and Its Application, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition  
by Kenneth H. Rose

Discrete Mathematics with Applications  
by Thomas Koshy

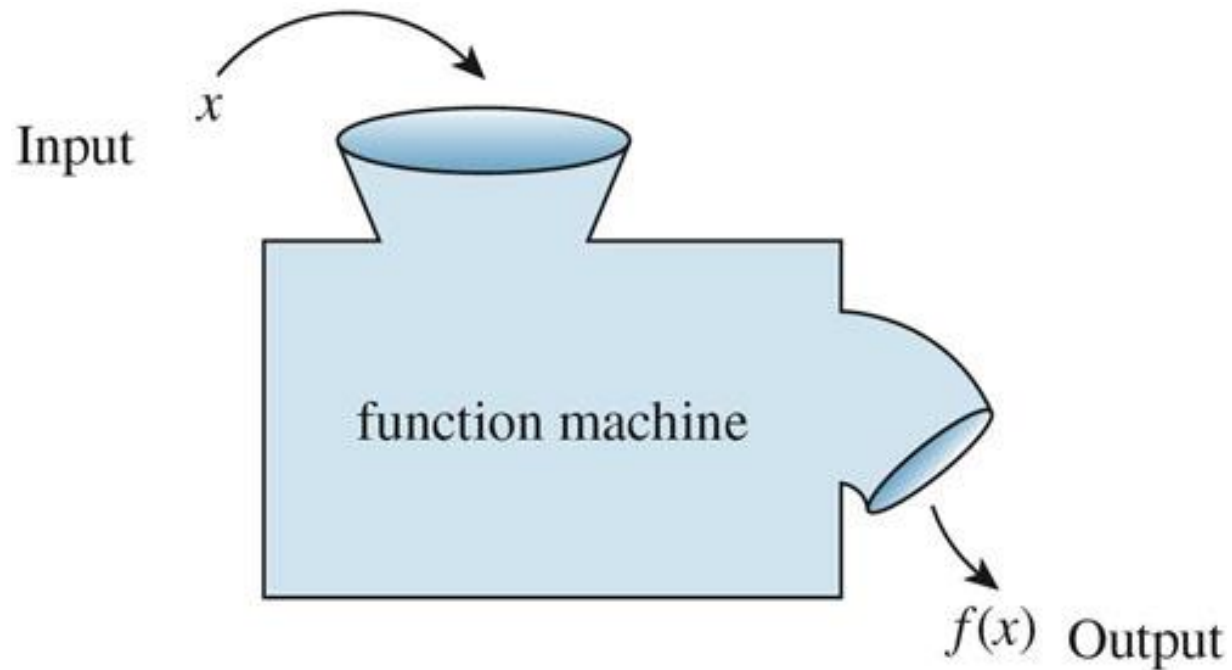
Discrete Mathematical Structures, CS 173  
by Cinda Heeren, Siebel Center

<http://raider.mountunion.edu/ma/MA125/Fall2011/Chapter7/IntroToFunctions.html>

# Functions

- The concept of a function is extremely important in mathematics and computer science.
- For example, in **discrete mathematics functions** are used in the definition of such **discrete structures as sequences and strings**.
- Functions are also used to represent how long it takes a **computer to solve problems of a given size**.
- Many computer programs and subroutines are designed to calculate **values of functions**.

# Function Machines



# Function Machines

One way to think of a **function is as a machine**. You drop a **domain element** into the input hopper, and it produces a **codomain** element from the output chute.

There is a rule or **formula hiding inside** the machine.

We do have to specify what the **domain** is for the rule, so we **don't drop things into the machine that might "break"** it. (It may not know how to handle certain inputs.)

# Functions Defined by Formulas

1.  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f(x) = x^2$

This is a well-defined function, since the rule inside the function machine can **handle all possible values of  $x$**  from the domain real numbers

2.  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$

This is not a **well-defined function** (that is, it is not a function!), since the rule inside the function machine can not handle all possible values of  $x$  from the domain real numbers

**What if we changed the domain to  $\mathbb{R}^+$ ?**

# Functions

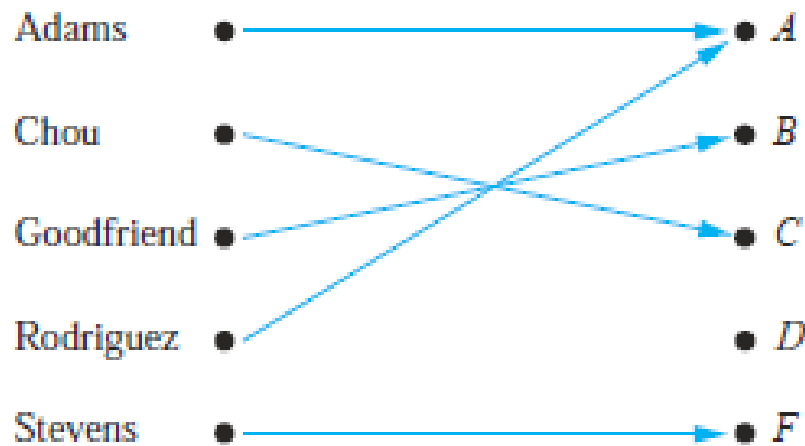
- **Definition 1** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty sets. A *function*  $f$  from  $A$  to  $B$  is an assignment of exactly **one element** of  $B$  to **each element of  $A$** . We write  $f(a) = b$  if  $b$  is the unique element of  $B$  assigned by the function  $f$  to the element  $a$  of  $A$ . If  $f$  is a function from  $A$  to  $B$ , we write  $f : A \rightarrow B$ .
- **Remark:** Functions are sometimes also called **mappings** or **transformations**.



# Functions

- In many instances **we assign to each element of a set a particular element of a second set** (which may be the same as the first).
- For example, suppose that each student in a **discrete mathematics class** is assigned a letter grade from the set **{A, B, C, D, F}**. And suppose that the grades are A for Adams, C for Chou, B for Good friend, A for Rodriguez, and F for Stevens.

# Functions



**FIGURE 1** Assignment of Grades in a Discrete Mathematics Class.

# Functions

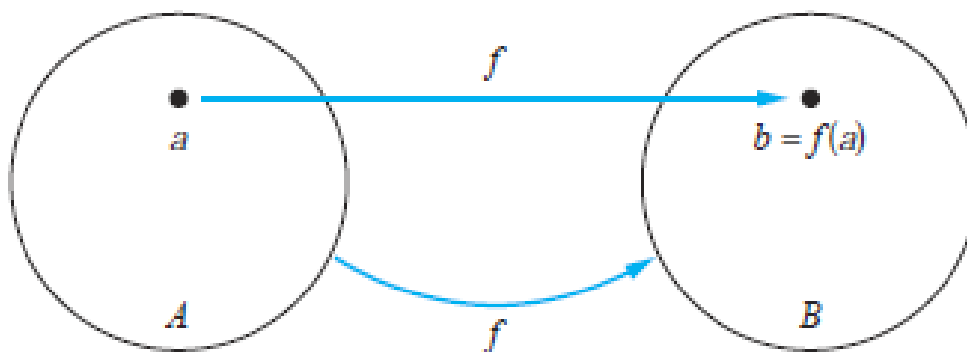
- Functions are specified in many different ways. Sometimes we explicitly state the assignments, as in Figure 1.
- Often we give a **formula**, such as  $f(x) = x + 1$  , to define a function.
- Other times we use a **computer program** to specify a **function**.

# Functions

- A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  can also be defined in terms of a **relation from  $A$  to  $B$** .
- Recall from that a **relation from  $A$  to  $B$**  is just a subset of  **$A \times B$** .
- A relation from  $A$  to  $B$  that contains one, and **only one, ordered pair  $(a, b)$**  for **every element  $a \in A$** , defines a function  $f$  from  $A$  to  $B$ .
- This function is defined by the assignment  $f(a) = b$ , where  $(a, b)$  is the **unique ordered pair** in the relation that has  $a$  as its first element

# Functions

- **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 **preimage** 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  $B$ .



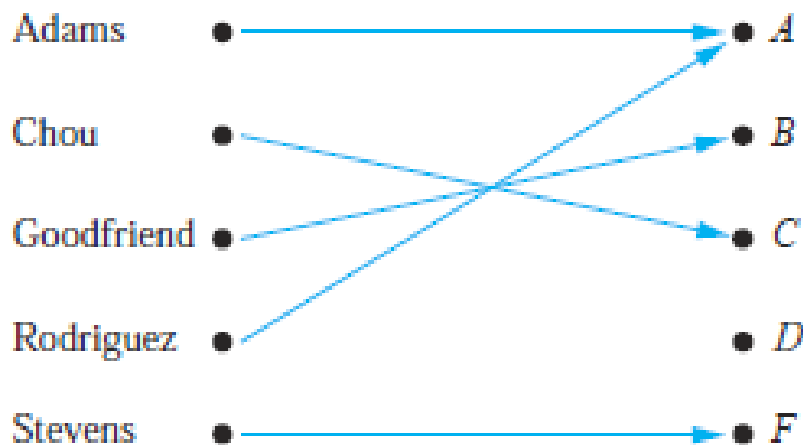
**FIGURE 2** The Function  $f$  Maps  $A$  to  $B$ .

- When we define a function we specify its **domain**, its **codomain**, and the mapping of elements of the **domain to elements in the codomain**.
- Two functions are **equal** when they have the **same domain**, have **the same codomain**, and map each element of their common domain to the same element in their common codomain.

**Note that** if we change either **the domain or the codomain** of a function, then we obtain a **different function**. If we change the mapping of elements, then we also obtain a different function.

# Domain, codomain, and range of a function

**Example** What are the domain, codomain, and range of the function that assigns grades to students described in Figure 1?



**FIGURE 1** Assignment of Grades in a Discrete Mathematics Class.

**Solution:** Let **G** be the function that assigns a grade to a student in our discrete mathematics class.

Note that  $G(\text{Adams}) = A$

**domain of G** = {Adams, Chou, Goodfriend, Rodriguez, Stevens}

**codomain** = {A, B, C, D, F}.

**range of G** = {A, B, C, F}, because each grade **except D** is assigned to some student.



# Domain, codomain, and range of a function

**Example** Let  $R$  be the relation with ordered pairs (Abdul, 22), (Brenda, 24), (Carla, 21), (Desire, 22), (Eddie, 24), and (Felicia, 22). Here each pair consists of a graduate student and this student's age. Specify a function determined by this relation.

## Solution:

$f(x)$  is the age of  $x$ , where  $x$  is a student.

If  $f$  is a **function** specified by  $R$ , then

**$f(\text{Abdul}) = 22$ ,  $f(\text{Brenda}) = 24$ ,  $f(\text{Carla}) = 21$ ,  $f(\text{Desire}) = 22$ ,  $f(\text{Eddie}) = 24$ , and  $f(\text{Felicia}) = 22$ .**

**domain** of  $F = \{\text{Abdul, Brenda, Carla, Desire, Eddie, Felicia}\}$

**codomain** of  $F =$  contain all possible ages of students

Or

**$\Rightarrow$  codomain** of  $F =$  the set of positive integers less than 100

**range** of  $F = \{21, 22, 24\}$

# Domain, codomain, and range of a function

**Example:** Let  $f$  be the function that assigns the last two bits of a bit string of length 2 or greater to that string.

For example,

$$f(11010) = 10.$$

## Solution

**domain** of  $f$  = the set of all bit strings of length 2 or greater

**codomain** of  $f$  =  $\{00, 01, 10, 11\}$ .

**range** of  $f$  =  $\{00, 01, 10, 11\}$ .

# Domain, codomain, and range of a function

**Example:** Let  $f: \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$  assign the square of an integer to this integer. Then,  $f(x) = x^2$ . Find domain, codomain, and range of  $f$ .

## Solution

**domain** of  $f$  = set of all integers

**codomain** of  $f$  = set of integers

**range** of  $f$  = the set of all integers that are perfect squares  
or

**range** of  $f$  =  $\{0, 1, 4, 9, \dots\}$ .

**Note:** A function is called **real-valued** if its codomain is the set of real numbers, and it is called **integer-valued** if its codomain is the set of integers.

# Domain, codomain, and range of a function

**Example** The domain and codomain of functions are often specified in programming languages. For instance, the **Java** statement

```
int floor(float real){. . .}
```

and the **C++** function statement

```
int function (float x){. . .}
```

both tell us that the **domain** of the **floor function** is the set of **real numbers** (represented by floating point numbers) and its **codomain** is **the set of integers**.

# One-to-One and Onto Functions

Some functions never assign **the same value** to **two different domain elements**. These functions are said to be **one-to-one**.

.



# One-to-One and Onto Functions

**Definition 5** function  $f$  is said to be **one-to-one**, or an **injection**, if and only if  **$f(a) = f(b)$**  implies that  **$a = b$**  for all  $a$  and  $b$  in the domain of  $f$ . A function is said to be **injective** if it is **one-to-one**

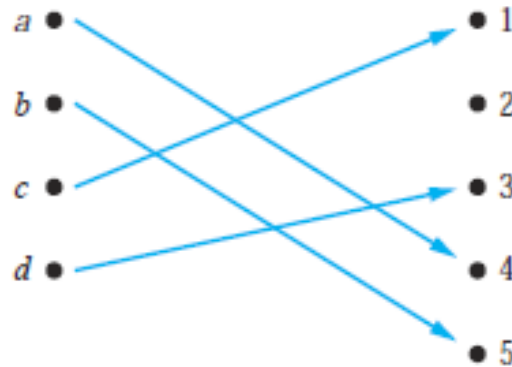


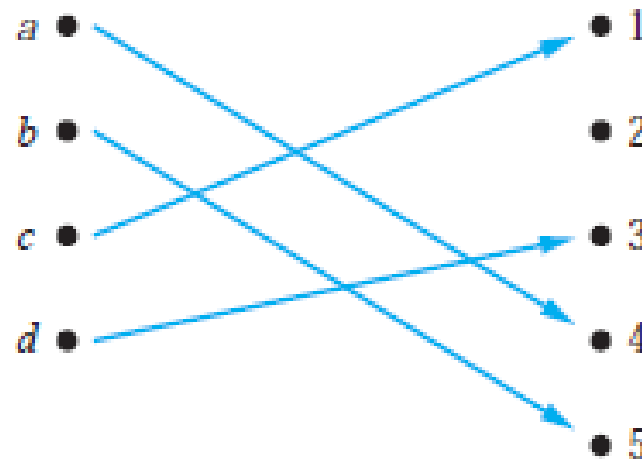
FIGURE 3 A One-to-One Function.

**Note:** A function  $f$  is one-to-one if and **only if  $f(a) \neq f(b)$  whenever  $a \neq b$** . This way of expressing that  $f$  is one-to-one is obtained by taking the contrapositive of the implication in the definition.

**Example** Determine whether the function  $f$  from  $\{a, b, c, d\}$  to  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  with  $f(a) = 4$ ,  $f(b) = 5$ ,  $f(c) = 1$ , and  $f(d) = 3$  is one-to-one.

## Solution

The function  $f$  is one-to-one because  $f$  takes on different values at the four elements of its domain



**FIGURE 3** A One-to-One Function.

# Addition and multiplication of functions

**Two real-valued functions** or **two integer valued functions** with the **same domain** can be added, as well as multiplied.

**Definition 3** 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 for all  $x \in A$  by

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

**Example** Let  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  be functions from  $\mathbf{R}$  to  $\mathbf{R}$  such that  $f_1(x) = x^2$  and  $f_2(x) = x - x^2$ . What are the functions  $f_1 + f_2$  and  $f_1 f_2$ ?

**Solution:** From the definition of the sum and product of functions, it follows that

$$(f_1 + f_2)(x) = f_1(x) + f_2(x) = x^2 + (x - x^2) = x$$

and

$$(f_1 f_2)(x) = x^2(x - x^2) = x^3 - x^4$$

When  $f$  is a function from  $A$  to  $B$ , the image of a subset of  $A$  can also be defined.

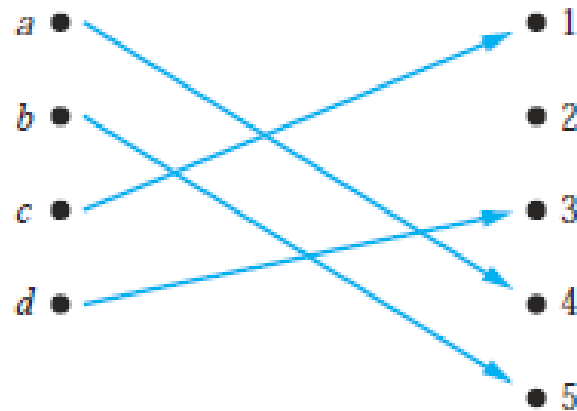
# Image

**Example** Let  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with  $f(a) = 2$ ,  $f(b) = 1$ ,  $f(c) = 4$ ,  $f(d) = 1$ , and  $f(e) = 1$ . What is the **image** of the subset  $S = \{b, c, d\}$

**Solution:**

The **image** of the subset  $S = \{b, c, d\}$  is the set  $f(S) = \{1, 4\}$ .

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

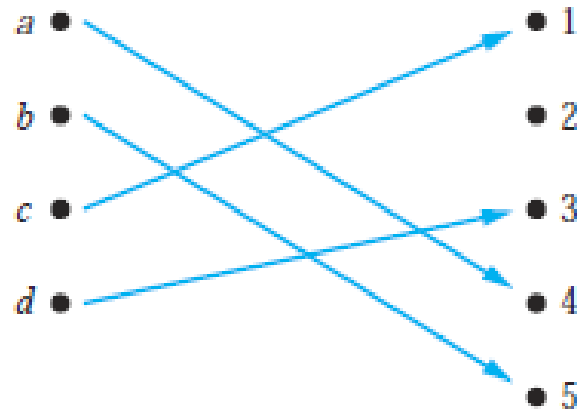


**FIGURE 3** A One-to-One Function.



Determine whether the function  $f$  from  $\{a, b, c, d\}$  to  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  with  $f(a) = 4$ ,  $f(b) = 5$ ,  $f(c) = 1$ , and  $f(d) = 3$  is **one-to-one**.

**Solution:** The function  $f$  is one-to-one because  $f$  takes on different values at the four elements of its domain. This is illustrated in Figure 3.



**FIGURE 3** A One-to-One Function.

**Example** Determine whether the function  $f(x) = x^2$  from the set of integers to the set of integers is **one-to-one**.

### **Solution:**

The function  $f(x) = x^2$  is **not one-to-one because**, for instance,  $f(1) = f(-1) = 1$ , but  $1 \neq -1$ .

**Note** that the function  $f(x) = x^2$  with its domain restricted to  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  is one-to-one.

**Remark:** We can express that  $f$  is one-to-one using quantifiers as

$$\forall a \forall b (f(a) = f(b) \rightarrow a = b)$$

or  $\forall a \forall b (a \neq b \rightarrow f(a) \neq f(b)),$

where the universe of discourse is the domain of the function.

**Example** Determine whether the function  $f(x) = x + 1$  from the set of real numbers to itself is one-to-one.

The function  $f(x) = x + 1$  is a one-to-one function. To demonstrate this, note that

$x + 1 \neq y + 1$  when  $x \neq y$ .

**Recall:**

$$\forall a \forall b (f(a) = f(b) \rightarrow a = b)$$

$$\text{or } \forall a \forall b (a \neq b \rightarrow f(a) \neq f(b))$$

# Increasing and Decreasing Functions

**Definition** A function  $f$  whose domain and codomain are subsets of the set of **real numbers** is called

1. **increasing** if  $f(x) \leq f(y)$ ,
2. **strictly increasing** if  $f(x) < f(y)$ , whenever  $x < y$  and  $x$  and  $y$  are in the domain of  $f$ .
3. **decreasing** if  $f(x) \geq f(y)$
4. **strictly decreasing** if  $f(x) > f(y)$ , whenever  $x < y$  and  $x$  and  $y$  are in the domain of  $f$ .

# Increasing and Decreasing Functions

- A function  $f$  is **increasing** if  $\forall x \forall y (x < y \rightarrow f(x) \leq f(y))$
- **Strictly increasing** if  $\forall x \forall y (x < y \rightarrow f(x) < f(y))$
- **Decreasing** if  $\forall x \forall y (x < y \rightarrow f(x) \geq f(y))$
- **Strictly decreasing** if  $\forall x \forall y (x < y \rightarrow f(x) > f(y))$ , where the universe of discourse is the domain of  $f$ .

# Onto Function

**Definition** A function  $f$  from  $A$  to  $B$  is called **onto**, or a *surjection*, 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 *surjective* if it is onto.

**Example** Let  $f$  be the function from  $\{a, b, c, d\}$  to  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  defined by  $f(a) = 3$ ,  $f(b) = 2$ ,  $f(c) = 1$ , and  $f(d) = 3$ . Is  $f$  an onto function?

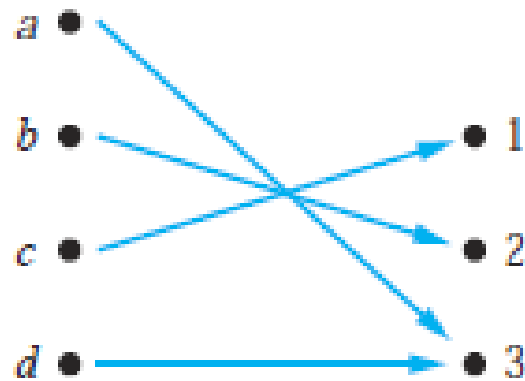


FIGURE 4 An Onto Function.

Because all **three elements of the codomain** are images of elements in the domain, we see that  $f$  is onto



# Example of different types of correspondences

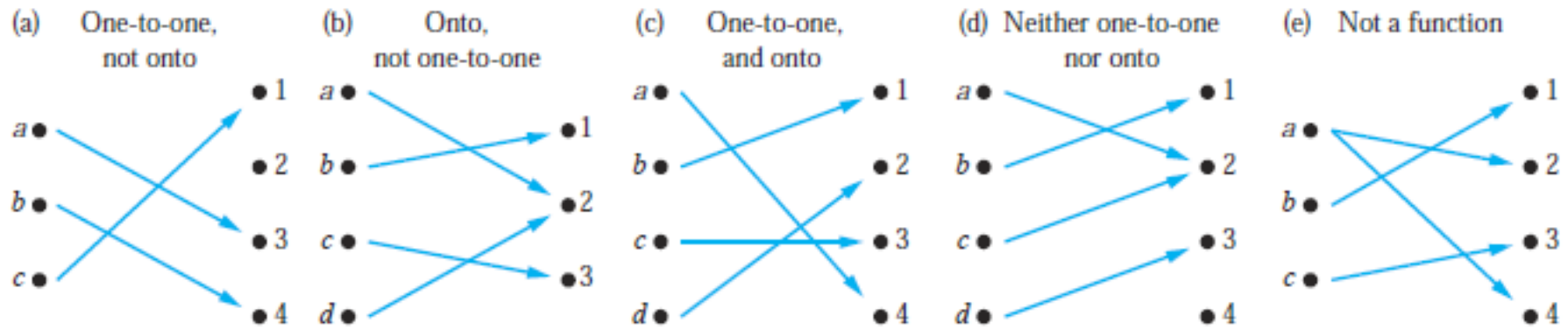


FIGURE 5 Examples of Different Types of Correspondences.

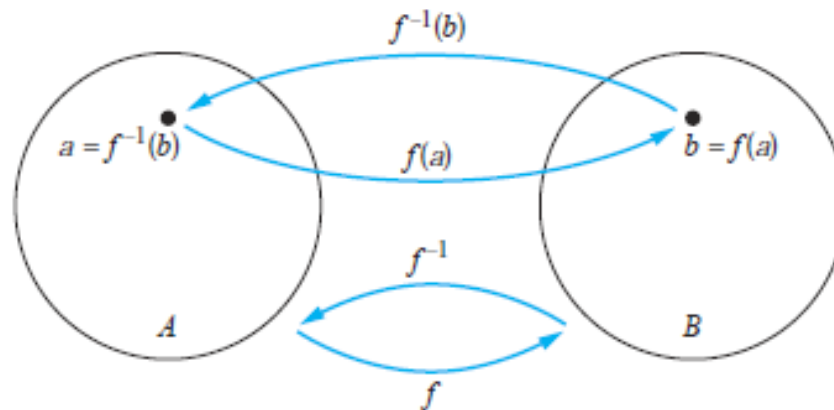
# Inverse function

**Definition** 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  $b$  belonging to  $B$  the unique element  $a$  in  $A$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . The inverse function of  $f$  is denoted by  $f^{-1}$

Hence,  $f$

$f^{-1}(a) = b$  when

$f(a) = b$ .



**FIGURE 6** The Function  $f^{-1}$  Is the Inverse of Function  $f$ .

# Inverse function

- If a function  $f$  is not a **one-to-one correspondence**, we cannot define an inverse function of  $f$ . When  $f$  is not a one-to-one correspondence, either it is **not one-to-one** or it is **not onto**.
- Note: A function  $f$  is a **one-to-one correspondence** if it is one-to-one and onto

**Example** Let  $f$  be the function from  $\{a, b, c\}$  to  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  such that  $f(a) = 2$ ,  $f(b) = 3$ , and  $f(c) = 1$ . Is  $f$  invertible, and if it is, what is its inverse?

### **Solution**

The function  $f$  is invertible because it is a **one-to-one correspondence**. The inverse function  $f^{-1}$  reverses the correspondence given by  $f$ ,

$$f^{-1}(1) = c$$

$$f^{-1}(2) = a$$

$$f^{-1}(3) = b$$

Let  $f : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$  be such that  $f(x) = x + 1$ . Is  $f$  invertible, and if it is, what is its inverse?

The function  $f$  has an inverse because it is a one-to-one correspondence, as follows from the previous examples.

$$y = x + 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow x = y - 1$$

$$f^{-1}(y) = y - 1$$

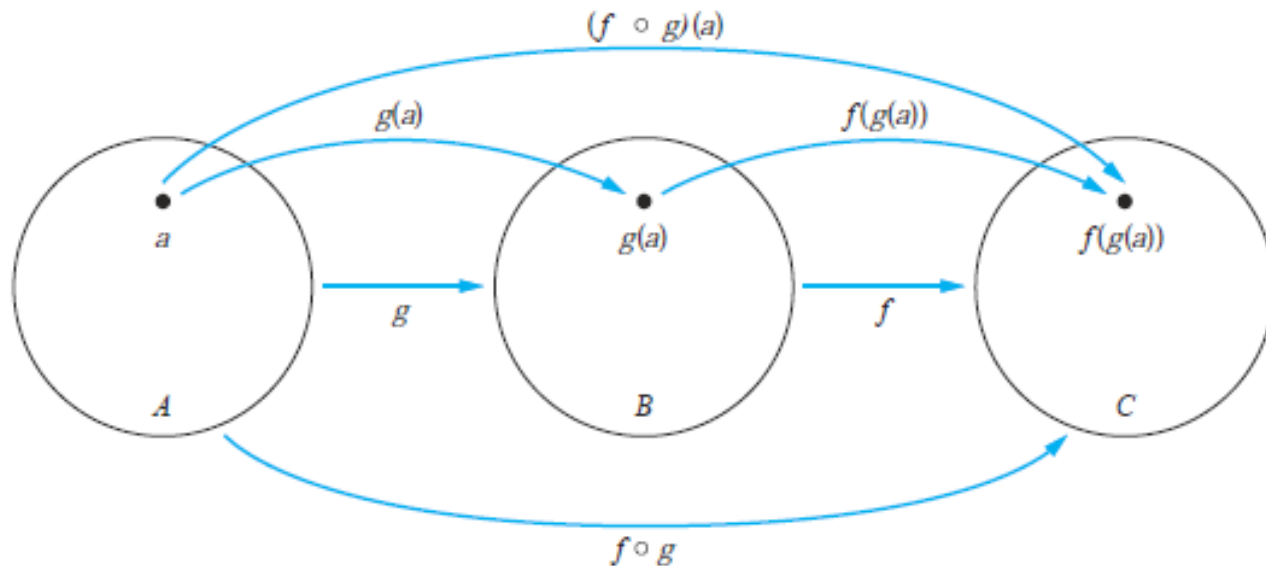
**Example** Let  $f$  be the function from  $\mathbf{R}$  to  $\mathbf{R}$  with  $f(x) = x^2$ . Is  $f$  invertible?

$$f(-2) = f(2) = 4,$$

**$f$  is not one-to-one.** If an inverse function were defined, it would have to assign two elements to 4. Hence,  $f$  is not invertible

# Composition of the functions

**Definition** 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 for all  $a \in A$  by  $f \circ g$ , is defined by  $(f \circ g)(a) = f(g(a))$ .



**FIGURE 7** The Composition of the Functions  $f$  and  $g$ .

# Composition of the functions

In other words,  $f \circ g$  is the function that assigns to the element  $a$  of  $A$  the element assigned by  $f$  to  $g(a)$ . That is, to find  $(f \circ g)(a)$  we first apply the function  $g$  to  $a$  to obtain  $g(a)$  and then we apply the function  $f$  to the result  $g(a)$  to obtain  $(f \circ g)(a) = f(g(a))$ .

**Note** that the composition  $f \circ g$  cannot be defined unless the range of  $g$  is a subset of the domain of  $f$



**Example** Let  $g$  be the function from the set  $\{a, b, c\}$  to itself such that  $g(a) = b$ ,  $g(b) = c$ , and  $g(c) = a$ . Let  $f$  be the function from the set  $\{a, b, c\}$  to the set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  such that  $f(a) = 3$ ,  $f(b) = 2$ , and  $f(c) = 1$ . What is the composition of  $f$  and  $g$ , and what is the composition of  $g$  and  $f$ ?

## Solution

### Given

$g$  be the function from the set  $\{a, b, c\}$  to itself

**$g(a) = b$ ,  $g(b) = c$ , and  $g(c) = a$**

$f$  be the function from the set  $\{a, b, c\}$  to the set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$

**$f(a) = 3$ ,  $f(b) = 2$ , and  $f(c) = 1$**

$$f \circ g = (f \circ g)(a) = f(g(a)) = f(b) = 2$$

$$f \circ g = (f \circ g)(b) = f(g(b)) = f(c) = 1$$

$$f \circ g = (f \circ g)(c) = f(g(c)) = f(a) = 3$$

$$g \circ f = (g \circ f)(a) = g(f(a)) = g(3) = ?$$

**Note** that  $g \circ f$  is not defined, because the range of  $f$  is not a subset of the domain of  $g$ .

**Example** Let  $f$  and  $g$  be the functions from the set of integers to the set of integers defined by  $f(x) = 2x + 3$  and  $g(x) = 3x + 2$ . What is the composition of  $f$  and  $g$ ? What is the composition of  $g$  and  $f$ ?

Both the compositions  $f \circ g$  and  $g \circ f$  are defined.

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = f(3x + 2) = 2(3x + 2) + 3 = 6x + 7$$

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = g(2x + 3) = 3(2x + 3) + 2 = 6x + 11.$$

# Floor and ceiling functions

**Definition** 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  $\lceil x \rceil$ .

# Floor and ceiling functions

**TABLE 1** Useful Properties of the Floor and Ceiling Functions.

( $n$  is an integer,  $x$  is a real number)

(1a)  $\lfloor x \rfloor = n$  if and only if  $n \leq x < n + 1$

(1b)  $\lceil x \rceil = n$  if and only if  $n - 1 < x \leq n$

(1c)  $\lfloor x \rfloor = n$  if and only if  $x - 1 < n \leq x$

(1d)  $\lceil x \rceil = n$  if and only if  $x \leq n < x + 1$

(2)  $x - 1 < \lfloor x \rfloor \leq x \leq \lceil x \rceil < x + 1$

(3a)  $\lfloor -x \rfloor = -\lceil x \rceil$

(3b)  $\lceil -x \rceil = -\lfloor x \rfloor$

(4a)  $\lfloor x + n \rfloor = \lfloor x \rfloor + n$

(4b)  $\lceil x + n \rceil = \lceil x \rceil + n$

**Example** These are some values of the floor and ceiling functions:

$$\left\lfloor \frac{1}{2} \right\rfloor = \lfloor 0.5 \rfloor = 0 \text{ and } \left\lceil \frac{1}{2} \right\rceil = \lceil 0.5 \rceil = 1$$

$$\left\lfloor -\frac{1}{2} \right\rfloor = \lfloor -0.5 \rfloor = -1 \text{ and } \left\lceil -\frac{1}{2} \right\rceil = \lceil -0.5 \rceil = 0$$

$$\lfloor 3.1 \rfloor = 3 \text{ and } \lceil 3.1 \rceil = 4$$

$$\lfloor 7 \rfloor = 7 \text{ and } \lceil 7 \rceil = 7$$

**Example:** Data stored on a computer disk or transmitted over a data network are usually represented as a string of **bytes**. Each **byte** is made up of **8 bits**. How many **bytes** are required to encode **100 bits** of data?

## Solution

$$\left\lceil \frac{100}{8} \right\rceil = \lceil 12.5 \rceil = 13 \text{ bytes}$$

## Reasons for not using floor function:

Since data is represented as a string of bytes, if we take **the floor function** of it then we might **lose some bits** while transmitted over a data network.



**Example** In **asynchronous transfer mode (ATM)** (a communications protocol used on backbone networks), data are organized into **cells of 53 bytes**. How many ATM cells can be transmitted in **1 minute** over a connection that transmits data at the rate of **500 kilobits per second**.

## Solution

- In **1 minute**, this connection can transmit  **$500,000 \times 60 = 30,000,000$  bits**
- Each ATM cell is **53 bytes** long, which means that it is  $53 \times 8 =$  **424 bits** long.
- $\left\lfloor \frac{30,000,000}{424} \right\rfloor = 70,754$  ATM cells can be transmitted in 1 minute over a **500 kilobit per second connection**.

## Reasons for not using ceiling function:

- Data is organized into **cells of 53 bytes**. But connection transmits data at the rate of 500 kilobits per second (500kb per second bandwidth). It **means the maximum bandwidth** (of the channel) is **500 kb per second**.
- We cannot send more data than the bandwidth of the channel. That is the reason we take the ceiling function

# Suggested Readings

## 2.3 Functions