

## Chapter 7: Functions

### CS1231 Discrete Structures

Wong Tin Lok

National University of Singapore

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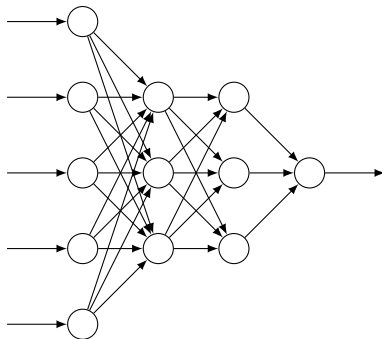
Our early experience of *functions* is in many ways similar to that of (real) numbers: that is, we first get to know and to represent particular examples such as  $n^2$  and  $2^n$ . But the transition from such particular examples to a suitably general function-concept is far from automatic.

Indeed, [...] it does not seem to me unreasonable to suggest that *the difficulty inherent in making this transition* from specific examples of what we would now call “functions” to an adequately general function-concept *was one of the main obstacles in the way of explaining precisely why, when and how the methods of the calculus could be trusted.*

Gardiner (1982)

# Plan

- ▶ functions as relations (and thus sets)
- ▶ images — an operational view
- ▶ composition
- ▶ inverse and bijectivity



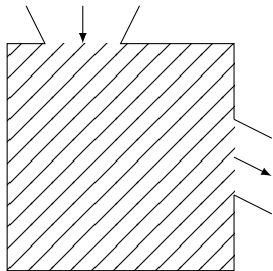
# Use sets to represent functions

## What are functions?

- ▶ An operation which, when given any permitted input, returns one and only one output.
- ▶ We are *not* interested in what the operation does to the inputs to produce the outputs.

## Representation

- ▶ We represent such an operation by the set of all input–output ordered pairs.
- ▶ This is a relation from the set of all permitted inputs (called the *domain* of the function) to a set that **contains** all the possible outputs (called the *codomain* of the function).



input	output
$a$	$f(a)$
$b$	$f(b)$
$c$	$f(c)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

# Definition of functions

## Definition 7.1.1

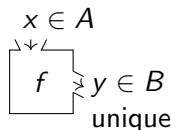
Let  $A, B$  be sets. A **function** or a **map** from  $A$  to  $B$  is a relation  $f$  from  $A$  to  $B$  such that any element of  $A$  is  $f$ -related to a unique element of  $B$ , i.e.,

(F1)  $\forall x \in A \exists y \in B (x, y) \in f$ ; and

(F2)  $\forall x \in A \forall y_1, y_2 \in B ((x, y_1) \in f \wedge (x, y_2) \in f \Rightarrow y_1 = y_2)$ .

We write  $f: A \rightarrow B$  for “ $f$  is a function from  $A$  to  $B$ ”.

Here  $A$  is called the **domain** of  $f$ , and  $B$  is called the **codomain** of  $f$ .



## Remark 7.1.2+

The two conditions above can be expressed in words respectively as

(F1) every element of  $A$  is  $f$ -related to at least one element of  $B$ ; and

(F2) every element of  $A$  is  $f$ -related to at most one element of  $B$ .

The negations of (F1) and (F2) can be expressed respectively as

( $\neg$ F1)  $\exists x \in A \forall y \in B (x, y) \notin f$ ; and

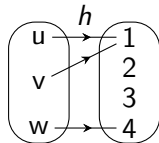
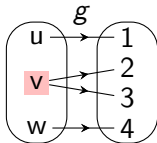
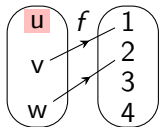
( $\neg$ F2)  $\exists x \in A \exists y_1, y_2 \in B ((x, y_1) \in f \wedge (x, y_2) \in f \wedge y_1 \neq y_2)$ .

# Finite examples

## Example 7.1.3

Let  $A = \{u, v, w\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

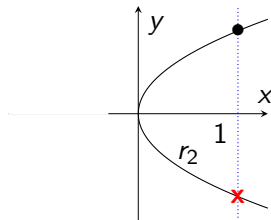
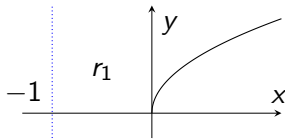
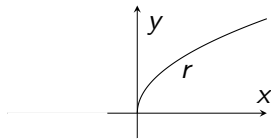
- (1)  $f = \{(v, 1), (w, 2)\}$  is **not** a function  $A \rightarrow B$   
because  $u \in A$  such that no  $y \in B$  makes  $(u, y) \in f$ , violating (F1).
- (2)  $g = \{(u, 1), (v, 2), (v, 3), (w, 4)\}$  is **not** a function  $A \rightarrow B$   
because  $v \in A$  and  $2, 3 \in B$  such that  $(v, 2), (v, 3) \in g$  but  $2 \neq 3$ , violating (F2).
- (3)  $h = \{(u, 1), (v, 1), (w, 4)\}$  **is** a function  $A \rightarrow B$   
because both (F1) and (F2) are satisfied.



# Infinite examples

## Example 7.1.4

- (1)  $r = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} : x = y^2\}$  **is** a function  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$   
because for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , there is a unique  $y \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $(x, y) \in r$ ,  
namely  $y = \sqrt{x}$ .
- (2)  $r_1 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} : x = y^2\}$  is **not** a function  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$   
because  $-1 \in \mathbb{R}$  that is not equal to  $y^2$  for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , violating (F1).
- (3)  $r_2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R} : x = y^2\}$  is **not** a function  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   
because  $1 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  and  $-1, 1 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $1 = (-1)^2$  and  $1 = 1^2$  but  $-1 \neq 1$ ,  
violating (F2).

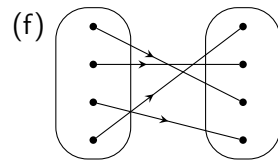
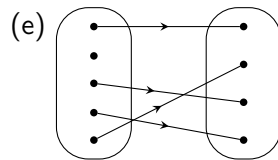
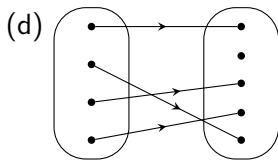
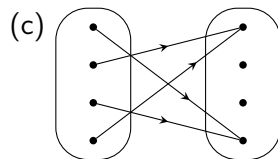
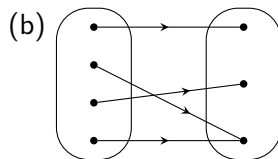
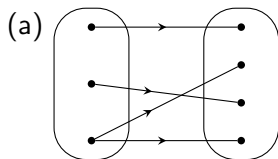


## Quick check

### Question 7.1.5

Which of the following arrow diagrams represent a function from the LHS set to the RHS set?

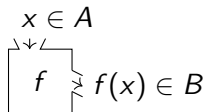
 7a



# Images

## Definition 7.2.1

- (1) If  $x \in A$ , then  $f(x)$  denotes the unique element  $y \in B$  such that  $(x, y) \in f$ . We call  $f(x)$  the *image* of  $x$  under  $f$ .
- (2) The *range* of  $f$ , denoted  $\text{range}(f)$ , is defined by  $\text{range}(f) = \{f(x) : x \in A\}$ .



## Remark 7.2.2

It follows from the definition of images that if  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $x \in A$ , then for all  $y \in B$ ,

$$(x, y) \in f \Leftrightarrow y = f(x).$$

## Remark 7.2.3

- (1) The range of a function is the set that contains all the outputs of the function *and nothing else*, while the codomain is the set associated to the function as part of its specification that contains all the outputs *but maybe also other objects*.
- (2) For any function, the range is a subset of the codomain.

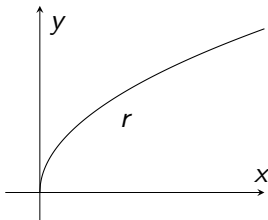


# Square root

## Example 7.2.4

Consider the function  $r = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} : x = y^2\}$  from  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  to  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ .

- ▶ We know  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \ (y = r(x) \Leftrightarrow x = y^2)$ .
- ▶ Note that  $\text{range}(r) \supseteq \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , because for every  $y \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , there is  $x \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $y = r(x)$ , namely  $x = y^2$ .
- ▶ So  $\text{range}(r) = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  by Remark 7.2.3(2).



## Boolean functions

$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$
T	T	T
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

### Definition 7.2.5

A *Boolean function* is a function  $\{T, F\}^n \rightarrow \{T, F\}$  where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

### Example 7.2.6

We can represent the Boolean expression  $p \vee q$ , where  $p, q$  be statement variables, using the Boolean function  $d: \{T, F\}^2 \rightarrow \{T, F\}$  where, for all  $p_0, q_0 \in \{T, F\}$ ,

$d(p_0, q_0)$  is the truth value that  $p \vee q$  evaluates to when one substitutes propositions of truth values  $p_0$  and  $q_0$  into the statement variables  $p$  and  $q$  respectively.

For instance, we have  $d(T, T) = T$  and  $d(F, F) = F$ . Hence  $\text{range}(d) = \{T, F\}$  by Remark 7.2.3(2).

# The images uniquely determine a function

## Proposition 7.2.7

Let  $f, g: A \rightarrow B$ . Then  $f = g$  if and only if  $f(x) = g(x)$  for all  $x \in A$ .

### Proof

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume  $f = g$ . Let  $x \in A$ . Then

$(x, f(x)) \in f$  by the  $\Leftarrow$  part of Remark 7.2.2.

$\therefore (x, f(x)) \in g$  as  $f = g$ .

$\therefore f(x) = g(x)$  by the  $\Rightarrow$  part of Remark 7.2.2.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $f(x) = g(x)$  for all  $x \in A$ . For each  $x \in A$  and each  $y \in B$ ,

$(x, y) \in f \Leftrightarrow y = f(x)$  by Remark 7.2.2;

$\Leftrightarrow y = g(x)$  by our assumption;

$\Leftrightarrow (x, y) \in g$  by Remark 7.2.2.

So  $f = g$ .



## Defining a function in terms of its images

### Example 7.2.8

The following are true in view of Proposition 7.2.7.

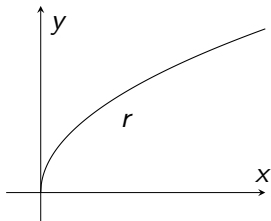
- ▶ There is *exactly one* function  $r: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  satisfying

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \quad (y = r(x) \Leftrightarrow x = y^2).$$

- ▶ There is *exactly one* function  $d: \{T, F\}^2 \rightarrow \{T, F\}$  such that, for all  $p_0, q_0 \in \{T, F\}$ ,

$d(p_0, q_0)$  is the truth value that  $p \vee q$  evaluates to when one substitutes propositions of truth values  $p_0$  and  $q_0$  into the statement variables  $p$  and  $q$  respectively.

So these descriptions in terms of  $r(x)$  and  $d(p_0, q_0)$  can serve as definitions of  $r$  and  $d$ .



$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$
T	T	T
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

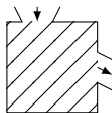
# Functions as blackbox operations

## Example 7.2.9

Let  $f: \{0, 2\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  and  $g: \{0, 2\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  defined by setting, for all  $x \in \{0, 2\}$ ,

$$f(x) = 2x \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = x^2.$$

Then  $f = g$  by Proposition 7.2.7, because  $f(x) = g(x)$  for every  $x \in \{0, 2\}$ .



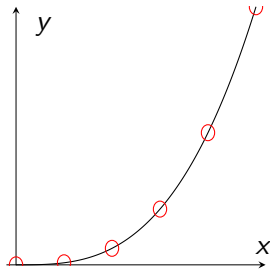
$x$	$y$
0	0
2	4

## Example 7.2.10

Let  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  and  $g: \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  defined by

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{Z} \ (f(x) = x^3) \quad \text{and} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{Q} \ (g(x) = x^3).$$

Then  $f \neq g$  because  $(1/2, 1/8)$  is an element of  $g$  but not of  $f$ .



# Function composition

## Proposition 7.3.1

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$ . Then  $g \circ f$  is a function  $A \rightarrow C$ . For every  $x \in A$ ,  
 $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$ .

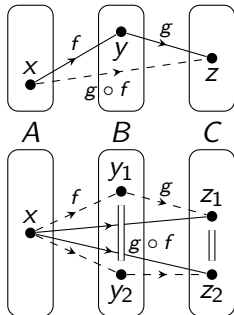
### Proof

(F1) Let  $x \in A$ . Use (F1) for  $f$  to find  $y \in B$  such that  $(x, y) \in f$ . Use (F1) for  $g$  to find  $z \in C$  such that  $(y, z) \in g$ . Then  $(x, z) \in g \circ f$  by the definition of  $g \circ f$ .

(F2) Let  $x \in A$  and  $z_1, z_2 \in C$  such that  $(x, z_1), (x, z_2) \in g \circ f$ . Use the definition of  $g \circ f$  to find  $y_1, y_2 \in B$  such that  $(x, y_1), (x, y_2) \in f$  and  $(y_1, z_1), (y_2, z_2) \in g$ . Then (F2) for  $f$  implies  $y_1 = y_2$ . So  $z_1 = z_2$  as  $g$  satisfies (F2).

(image) Now, for every  $x \in A$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & (x, f(x)) \in f \quad \text{and} \quad (f(x), g(f(x))) \in g && \text{by the } \Leftarrow \text{ part of Remark 7.2.2;} \\ \therefore & \quad \text{input} \quad \text{output} \quad \text{function} && \\ & (x, g(f(x))) \in g \circ f && \text{by the definition of } g \circ f; \\ \therefore & \quad g(f(x)) = (g \circ f)(x) && \text{by the } \Rightarrow \text{ part of Remark 7.2.2.} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$



# Noncommutativity of function composition

## Example 7.3.2

Let  $f, g: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  such that for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

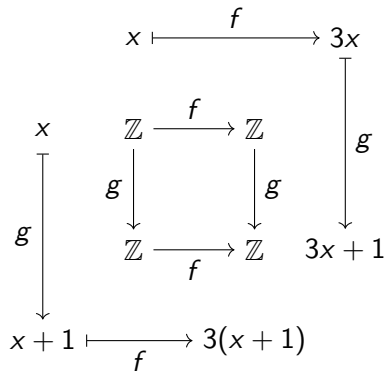
$$f(x) = 3x \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = x + 1.$$

By Proposition 7.3.1, for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = g(3x) = 3x + 1 \quad \text{and} \\ (f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = f(x + 1) = 3(x + 1).$$

Note  $(g \circ f)(0) = 1 \neq 3 = (f \circ g)(0)$ .

So  $g \circ f \neq f \circ g$  by Proposition 7.2.7.

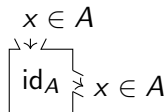


# Identity functions

## Definition 7.3.3

Let  $A$  be a set. Then the *identity function* on  $A$ , denoted  $\text{id}_A$ , is the function  $A \rightarrow A$  which satisfies, for all  $x \in A$ ,

$$\text{id}_A(x) = x.$$



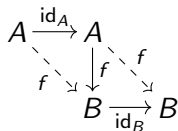
## Example 7.3.4

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$ . Then  $f \circ \text{id}_A = f$  by Proposition 7.2.7, as Proposition 7.3.1 implies

- ▶  $f \circ \text{id}_A$  is a function  $A \rightarrow B$ ; and
- ▶  $(f \circ \text{id}_A)(x) = f(\text{id}_A(x)) = f(x)$  for all  $x \in A$ .

## Exercise 7.3.5


Prove that  $\text{id}_B \circ f = f$  for all functions  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .  7b



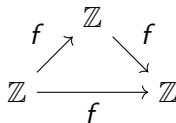


## Idempotent functions

### Question 7.3.6

Which of the following define a function  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  that satisfies  $f \circ f = f$ ?  7c

- (1)  $f(x) = 1231$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (2)  $f(x) = x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (3)  $f(x) = -x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (4)  $f(x) = 3x + 1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (5)  $f(x) = x^2$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .



# Surjectivity, injectivity, and bijectivity

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .

## Definition 7.4.1

- (1)  $f$  is *surjective* or *onto* if  $(F^{-1}1) \quad \forall y \in B \quad \exists x \in A \quad y = f(x)$ .
- (2)  $f$  is *injective* or *one-to-one* if  $(F^{-1}2) \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in A \quad (f(x_1) = f(x_2) \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2)$ .
- (3)  $f$  is *bijective* if it is both surjective and injective.

## True by design

- $f$  satisfies  $(F^{-1}1) \Leftrightarrow f^{-1}$  satisfies  $(F1)$ .
- $f$  satisfies  $(F^{-1}2) \Leftrightarrow f^{-1}$  satisfies  $(F2)$ .
- $f$  satisfies  $(F^{-1}1) \wedge (F^{-1}2) \Leftrightarrow f^{-1}$  satisfies  $(F1) \wedge (F2)$ .

*surjection* = surjective function.  
*injection* = injective function.  
*bijection* = bijective function.

## Change $f$ to $f^{-1}$ , noting that $(f^{-1})^{-1} = f$

- $f^{-1}$  satisfies  $(F^{-1}1) \Leftrightarrow f$  satisfies  $(F1)$ .
- $f^{-1}$  satisfies  $(F^{-1}2) \Leftrightarrow f$  satisfies  $(F2)$ .
- $f^{-1}$  satisfies  $(F^{-1}1) \wedge (F^{-1}2) \Leftrightarrow f$  satisfies  $(F1) \wedge (F2)$ .

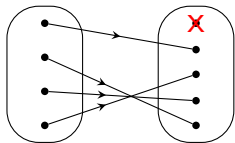
## Proposition 7.4.3

If  $f$  is a bijection  $A \rightarrow B$ , then  $f^{-1}$  is a bijection  $B \rightarrow A$ .

# Surjectivity

## Example 7.4.4

The function  $f: \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ , defined by setting  $f(x) = 3x + 1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ , is surjective.



## Proof

Take any  $y \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $x = (y - 1)/3$ . Then  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $f(x) = 3x + 1 = y$ . □

## Remark 7.4.5

negation

A function  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is **not** surjective if and only if  $\exists y \in B \forall x \in A (y \neq f(x))$ .

## Example 7.4.6

Define  $g: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  by setting  $g(x) = x^2$  for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $g$  is not surjective.

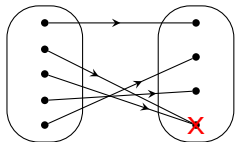
## Proof

Note  $g(x) = x^2 \geq 0 > -1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ . So  $g(x) \neq -1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , although  $-1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . □

# Injectivity

## Example 7.4.7

The function  $f: \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ , defined by setting  $f(x) = 3x + 1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ , is injective.



## Proof

Let  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ . Then  $3x_1 + 1 = 3x_2 + 1$ . So  $x_1 = x_2$ . □

## Remark 7.4.8

A function  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is *not* injective if and only if  $\exists x_1, x_2 \in A$  (negation  $f(x_1) = f(x_2) \wedge x_1 \neq x_2$ ).

## Example 7.4.9

Define  $g: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  by setting  $g(x) = x^2$  for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $g$  is not injective.

## Proof

Note  $g(1) = 1^2 = 1 = (-1)^2 = g(-1)$ , although  $1 \neq -1$ . □

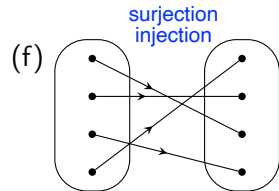
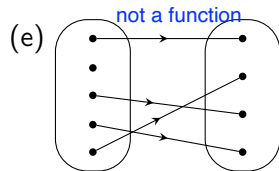
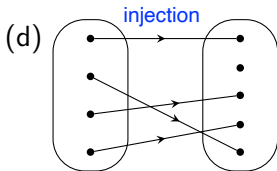
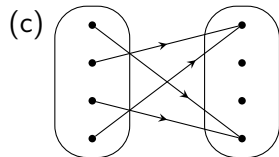
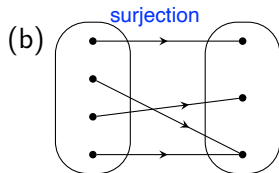
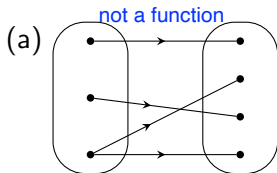
## Quick check

Note : surjection = surjective function  
must fulfill both SURJECTIVE & FUNCTION

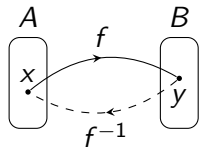
### Question 7.4.10

Amongst the arrow diagrams below, which ones represent injections, which ones represent surjections, and which ones represent bijections?

 7d



# Operational inverse



## Proposition 7.4.11

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow A$ . Then

$$g = f^{-1} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \forall x \in A \quad \forall y \in B \quad (g(y) = x \Leftrightarrow y = f(x)).$$

## Proof

$$\begin{aligned} g = f^{-1} &\Leftrightarrow \forall y \in B \quad \forall x \in A \quad ((y, x) \in g \Leftrightarrow (y, x) \in f^{-1}) && \text{as } g, f^{-1} \subseteq B \times A; \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall x \in A \quad \forall y \in B \quad ((y, x) \in g \Leftrightarrow (x, y) \in f) && \text{by the definition of } f^{-1}; \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall x \in A \quad \forall y \in B \quad (g(y) = x \Leftrightarrow y = f(x)) && \text{by Remark 7.2.2.} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

# Finding the inverse of a function

## Example 7.4.12

Define  $f: \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  by setting  $f(x) = 3x + 1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Note that for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,

$$y = 3x + 1 \Leftrightarrow x = (y - 1)/3.$$

Let  $g: \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $g(y) = (y - 1)/3$  for all  $y \in \mathbb{Q}$ . The equivalence above implies

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{Q} \quad (y = f(x) \Leftrightarrow x = g(y)).$$

So Proposition 7.4.11 tells us  $g = f^{-1}$ .

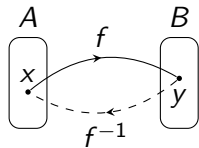
## Note 7.4.13

Unlike in Example 7.4.12, in general we are *not* guaranteed a description of the inverse of a bijection  $f$  that is significantly different from the trivial description that it is the inverse of  $f$ .

## Algebraic inverse

### Proposition 7.4.14

If  $f$  is a bijection  $A \rightarrow B$ , then  $f^{-1} \circ f = \text{id}_A$  and  $f \circ f^{-1} = \text{id}_B$ .



### Proof of $f^{-1} \circ f = \text{id}_A$

We know  $f^{-1}$  is a function by Proposition 7.4.3, because  $f$  is bijection. Let  $x \in A$ .

Define  $y = f(x)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) &= f^{-1}(f(x)) && \text{by Proposition 7.3.1;} \\ &= f^{-1}(y) && \text{by the definition of } y; \\ &= x && \text{by Proposition 7.4.11, as } y = f(x); \\ &= \text{id}_A(x) && \text{by the definition of } \text{id}_A.\end{aligned}$$

So  $f^{-1} \circ f = \text{id}_A$  by Proposition 7.2.7. □

### Exercise

The proof of  $f \circ f^{-1} = \text{id}_B$  is similar, and is left as an exercise.



## Summary

**Definition 7.1.1.** Let  $A, B$  be sets. A **function** from  $A$  to  $B$  is a relation  $f$  from  $A$  to  $B$  such that any element of  $A$  is  $f$ -related to a unique element of  $B$ , i.e.,

(F1)  $\forall x \in A \exists y \in B (x, y) \in f$ ; and

(F2)  $\forall x \in A \forall y_1, y_2 \in B ((x, y_1) \in f \wedge (x, y_2) \in f \Rightarrow y_1 = y_2)$ .

**Remark 7.2.2.** If  $f: A \rightarrow B$ , then  $\forall x \in A \forall y \in B ((x, y) \in f \Leftrightarrow y = f(x))$ .

**Proposition 7.3.1.** Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$ . Then  $g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$ .

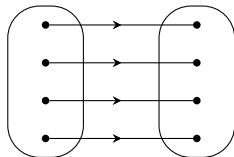
For every  $x \in A$ ,  $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$ .

**Definition 7.4.1.** Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$ .

(1)  $f$  is **surjective** if  $\forall y \in B \exists x \in A y = f(x)$ .

(2)  $f$  is **injective** if  $\forall x_1, x_2 \in A (f(x_1) = f(x_2) \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2)$ .

(3)  $f$  is **bijective** if it is both surjective and injective.



**Proposition 7.4.3.** If  $f$  is a bijection  $A \rightarrow B$ , then  $f^{-1}$  is a bijection  $B \rightarrow A$ .

**Proposition 7.4.11.** Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow A$ . Then

$$g = f^{-1} \Leftrightarrow \forall x \in A \forall y \in B (g(y) = x \Leftrightarrow y = f(x)).$$

**Proposition 7.4.14.** If  $f$  is a bijection  $A \rightarrow B$ , then  $f^{-1} \circ f = \text{id}_A$  and  $f \circ f^{-1} = \text{id}_B$ .