

## LECTURE 13 : FUNCTIONS

- \*  $f(x)$  can be written as  $f: x \mapsto$
- \* Domain of  $f(x) = \text{range of } g^{-1}(x)$

### • One-to-one

- ↳ Each  $x$  value maps to one distinct  $y$  value
- ↳ Eg.  $f(x) = 3x - 1$

### • many-to-one

↳ some  $f(x)$  values generated by more than 1  $x$  value

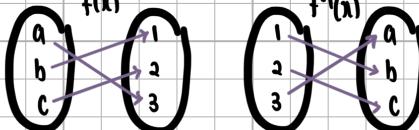
↳ Eg.  $f(x) = x^2 - 2x + 3$   
(Domain =  $x$  values; range =  $y$  values)

### • one-to-many DO NOT EXIST

### • Inverse functions

↳ only one-to-one functions have inverses

↳



↳ Eg.  $f(x) = 5x + 3$

let  $x$  be  $y$

let  $f(x)$  be  $x$

$$x = 5y + 3$$

$$\frac{x-3}{5} = y$$

$$\therefore f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x-3}{5}$$

### 13.1 Defining functions via sets

A function  $f$  consists of a domain  $X$ , a codomain  $Y$ , and a set of ordered pairs from  $X \times Y$  which has exactly one ordered pair  $(x, y)$  for each  $x \in X$ .

When  $(a, b)$  is in this set we write  $f(a) = b$ .

The set of  $y$  values occurring in these pairs is the image of  $f$ .

" $f$  is a function with domain  $X$  and codomain  $Y$ "

is shorten to  $f: X \rightarrow Y$

function consists of :

- Domain  $X$
- Codomain  $Y$

- set of ordered pairs from  $X \times Y$

↳ 1 ordered pair  $(x, y)$  for each  $x \in X$

↳ set of  $y$  values is called image of function

↳ image always subset of codomain but may not be equal

↳ if equal, the function is onto

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

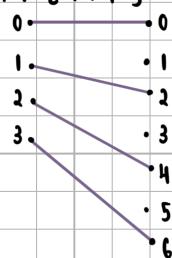
∴ The set of ordered pairs defining  $f$  is  $\{(x, 2x) : x \in \mathbb{R}\}$

Eg. what set of ordered pairs does  $f: \{0, 1, 2, 3\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined by  $f(x) = x^2$  correspond to?

∴  $\{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 4), (3, 9)\}$

### Arrow diagrams

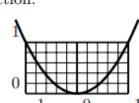
Eg. Let  $f: \{0, 1, 2, 3\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  be defined by  $f(x) = 2x$



1. The squaring function  $\text{square}(x) = x^2$  with domain  $\mathbb{R}$ , codomain  $\mathbb{R}$ , and pairs

$$\{(x, x^2) : x \in \mathbb{R}\},$$

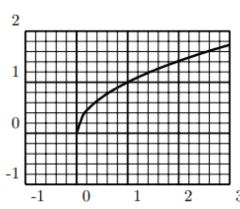
which form what we usually call the plot of the squaring function.



The image of this function (the set of  $y$  values) is the set  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  of real numbers  $\geq 0$ .

2. The square root function  $\text{sqrt}(x) = \sqrt{x}$  with domain  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , codomain  $\mathbb{R}$ , and pairs

$$\{(x, \sqrt{x}) : x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } x \geq 0\}.$$



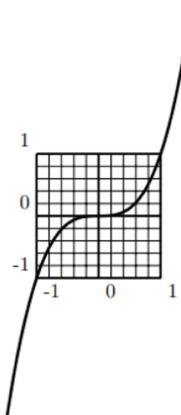
The image of this function (the set of  $y$  values) is the set  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ .

∴ The image of  $f$  is  $\{0, 2, 4, 6\}$

so  $f$  is not onto

3. The cubing function  $\text{cube}(x) = x^3$  with domain  $\mathbb{R}$ , codomain  $\mathbb{R}$ , and pairs

$$\{(x, x^3) : x \in \mathbb{R}\},$$



The image of this function is the whole of the codomain  $\mathbb{R}$ , so it is onto.

### \* WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING RULES DEFINE FUNCTIONS?

► For each non-empty set  $S$  of natural numbers, let  $f(S)$  be the least member of  $S$ .

Yes.

► For each set  $X$  of real numbers between 0 and 1, let  $g(X)$  be the least member of  $X$ .

No -  $g(\{x : x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } \frac{1}{2} < x < 1\})$  is not defined.

► For each circle  $C$  in the  $(x, y)$  plane, let  $h(C)$  be the minimum distance from  $C$  to the  $x$  axis.

Yes.

► For a pair  $A, B$  of sets of real numbers let  $s(A, B)$  be the smallest set which has both  $A$  and  $B$  as subsets.

Yes (depending on your interpretation of "smallest").

$$s(A, B) = A \cup B.$$

► For a pair  $A, B$  of sets of real numbers let  $t(A, B)$  be the largest set which is a subset of both  $A$  and  $B$ .

Yes (depending on your interpretation of "largest").

$$t(A, B) = A \cap B.$$

## 13.2 Arrow notation

If  $f$  is a function with domain  $A$  and codomain  $B$  we write

$$f : A \rightarrow B,$$

and we say that  $f$  is from  $A$  to  $B$ .

For example, we could define

$$\text{square} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

We could also define

$$\text{square} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{>0}.$$

Likewise, we could define

$$\text{cube} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

However we could not define

$$\text{cube} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{>0},$$

because for some  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\text{cube}(x)$  is negative.  
For example,  $\text{cube}(-1) = -1$ .

## 13.4 Proving a function is one-to-one

There is an equivalent way of phrasing the definition of one-to-one: a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is one-to-one when, for all  $x_1, x_2 \in X$ ,

$$f(x_1) = f(x_2) \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2.$$

This can be useful for proving that some functions are or are not one-to-one.

**Eg.** The function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by  $f(x) = 6x + 2$  is one-to-one because

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_1) &= f(x_2) \\ 6x_1 + 2 &= 6x_2 + 2 \\ 6x_1 &= 6x_2 \\ x_1 &= x_2 \end{aligned}$$

**Example** Show  $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  defined by  $g(x) = (x+6)^2 + 1$  is one-to-one.

Suppose that

$$\begin{aligned} g(x_1) &= g(x_2) && \text{for some } x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{N} \\ \text{Then } (x_1 + 6)^2 + 1 &= (x_2 + 6)^2 + 1. \\ \text{So } (x_1 + 6)^2 &= (x_2 + 6)^2. \\ \text{So } x_1 + 6 &= x_2 + 6. \\ (\text{Two positive integers with equal squares are equal.}) \\ \text{So } x_1 &= x_2. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $g$  is one-to-one.

## LECTURE 14 : EXAMPLE OF FUNCTIONS

### 14.1 Functions of several variables

- Define a function  $\text{sum} : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $\text{sum}(x, y) = x + y$
- Domain =  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ , codomain in  $\mathbb{R}$
- Inputs = ordered pairs  $(x, y)$  of real numbers

} Function of 2 variables  $x$  and  $y$

- Define function  $\text{binomial} : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $\text{binomial}(a, b, n) = (a+b)^n$
- Inputs = ordered triples  $(x, y, n) \Rightarrow x$  and  $y$  are real numbers,  $n =$  natural number

} Function of 3 variables

**Eg.** What are the ordered pairs which define the function  $\text{sum} : \{1, 2\} \times \{1, 2\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined by  $\text{sum}(x, y) = x + y$ ?

∴ We have  $\text{sum}((1, 1)) = 2$ ,  $\text{sum}((1, 2)) = 3$ ,  $\text{sum}((2, 1)) = 3$  and  $\text{sum}((2, 2)) = 4 \Rightarrow ((x, y), x+y)$   
 $\text{so } \{(1, 1), 2\}, \{(1, 2), 3\}, \{(2, 1), 3\}, \{(2, 2), 4\}\}$

\* multivariable function abbreviation  $f(x, y)$  to  $f(x, y)$

\* Greatest common divisor (GCD) : Domain  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} - \{(0, 0)\}$   
codomain  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

\* Reciprocal : Domain  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$   
codomain  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$

## 14.2 Sequence

- infinite sequence of numbers like  $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{16} \dots$  viewed as the function  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f(n) = 2^{-n}$ 
  - ↳ input  $f$  = natural numbers ( $\mathbb{N}$ )
  - ↳ output = real numbers ( $\mathbb{R}$ )
- infinite sequence of numbers like  $a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3 \dots$  viewed as the function  $g(n) = a_n$  from  $\mathbb{N}$  to some set containing the values  $a_n$

Eg. For each of the following sequences, find a function  $f$  such that the sequence is  $f(0), f(1), f(2) \dots$

$$(a) 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5} \dots$$

pattern: denominator add by 1 every sequence

$$\therefore f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}, f(n) = \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$(b) 5, 1, -3, -7, -11, -15 \dots$$

pattern: minus 4 every sequence

$$\therefore f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, f(n) = 5 - 4n$$

$$(c) 4, 12, 36, 108, 324, 972 \dots$$

pattern: multiply by 4 every sequence

$$\therefore f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, f(n) = 4(3^n)$$

## 14.3 Characteristic function

- subset of  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  can be represented by its characteristic function
- eg. set of squares represented by function  $\chi: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  defined by:  $\chi(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is a square} \\ 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is not a square} \end{cases}$
- $\therefore$  sequence would be 1101000010000001000000000000100...
- HENCE, any set or property of natural numbers is represented by a function  $\chi: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

Eg. If  $A$  and  $B$  are subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  with characteristic function  $\chi_A(n)$  and  $\chi_B(n)$ , then what set does the function  $\chi_A(n)\chi_B(n)$  represent?

If  $n \in A$  and  $n \in B$  then  $\chi_A(n)\chi_B(n) = 1 \times 1 = 1$ .

If  $n \in A$  and  $n \notin B$  then  $\chi_A(n)\chi_B(n) = 1 \times 0 = 0$ .

If  $n \notin A$  and  $n \in B$  then  $\chi_A(n)\chi_B(n) = 0 \times 1 = 0$ .

If  $n \notin A$  and  $n \notin B$  then  $\chi_A(n)\chi_B(n) = 0 \times 0 = 0$ .

So  $\chi_A(n)\chi_B(n)$  is the characteristic function of  $A \cap B$

**Question** How many functions are there with domain  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and codomain  $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ ?

**Answer**

The domain has 4 elements. (There are 4 possible inputs.) For each input, we can decide if it's mapped to  $-1$  or  $0$  or  $1$ . We can do this in  $\underbrace{3 \times 3 \times \dots \times 3}_4 = 3^4 = 81$  ways.

**Question** How many functions are there with domain  $X$  and codomain  $Y$ ?

**Answer**

The domain has  $|X|$  elements. (There are  $|X|$  possible inputs.) For each input, we have  $|Y|$  options for where it's mapped to. We can do this in  $\underbrace{|Y| \times |Y| \times \dots \times |Y|}_{|X|} = |Y|^{|X|}$  ways.

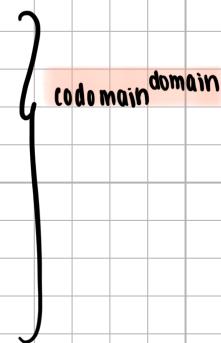
**Question** Let  $d$  be a positive integer. If  $\chi_d: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is a function defined by

$$\chi_d(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \text{ divides } d; \\ 0, & \text{if } x \text{ does not divide } d. \end{cases}$$

then what is  $1\chi_d(1) + 2\chi_d(2) + 3\chi_d(3) + \dots + d\chi_d(d)$ ?

**Answer**

The sum of the positive divisors of  $d$



## 14.4 Boolean functions

The connectives  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$  and  $\neg$  are functions of variables whose values come from the set  $\mathbb{B} = \{\text{T}, \text{F}\}$  of Boolean values (named after George Boole).

$\neg$  is a function of one variable, so

$$\neg: \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$$

and it is completely defined by giving its values on T and F, namely

$$\neg\text{T} = \text{F} \quad \text{and} \quad \neg\text{F} = \text{T}.$$

This is what we previously did by giving the truth table of  $\neg$ .

$\wedge$  and  $\vee$  are functions of two variables, so

$$\wedge: \mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$$

and

$$\vee: \mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$$

They are completely defined by giving their values on the pairs  $\{\text{T}, \text{T}\}$ ,  $\{\text{T}, \text{F}\}$ ,  $\{\text{F}, \text{T}\}$ ,  $\{\text{F}, \text{F}\}$  in  $\mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{B}$ , which is what their truth tables do.

### Eg. Hamming distance :

Let  $B_n$  be the set of all binary strings of length  $n$ .

Hamming distance is a function  $h: B_n \times B_n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined by  $h(s, t)$  equals the number of places in which  $s$  and  $t$  disagree.

For example,

$$h(000, 101) = 2,$$

$$h(011, 010) = 1,$$

$$h(10111, 01000) = 5.$$

## LECTURE 15

Complicated functions are often built from simple parts. For example, the function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f(x) = (x^2 + 1)^3$  is computed by doing the following steps in succession:

- square,
- add 1,
- cube.

We say that  $f(x) = (x^2 + 1)^3$  is the composite of the functions (from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ )

- $\text{square}(x) = x^2$ ,
- $\text{successor}(x) = x + 1$ ,
- $\text{cube}(x) = x^3$ .

### MORE EXAMPLES :

**Question 15.2** Write the following as composites of  $\text{square}(x)$ ,  $\text{sqrt}(x)$ ,  $\text{successor}(x)$  and  $\text{cube}(x)$ .

(Assume that all of these have domain and codomain  $\{x : x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } x \geq 0\}$ .)

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{1+x^3} &= \text{sqrt}(\text{successor}(\text{cube}(x))) = \text{sqrt} \circ \text{successor} \circ \text{cube}(x) \\ x^{\frac{3}{2}} &= \text{sqrt}((\text{cube}(x))) = \text{sqrt} \circ \text{cube}(x) \\ (1+x)^3 &= \text{cube}(\text{successor}(x)) = \text{cube} \circ \text{successor}(x) \\ (1+x^3)^2 &= \text{square}(\text{successor}(\text{cube}(x))) = \text{square} \circ \text{successor} \circ \text{cube}(x)\end{aligned}$$

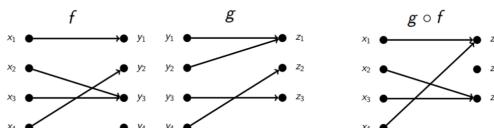
**Note** Composition of functions is associative:  $(f \circ g) \circ h = f \circ (g \circ h)$ . So we don't bother with the brackets.

Let  $g : C \rightarrow D$  and  $h : A \rightarrow B$  be functions

- $g \circ h$  exists if and only if  $C = B$
- if it exists,  $g \circ h : A \rightarrow D$  and is defined by  $g \circ h(x) = g(h(x))$

### Examples :

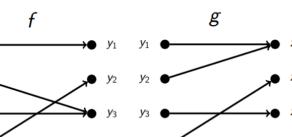
**Question** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : C \rightarrow D$  be the functions pictured below.



Does  $g \circ f$  exist?

$\text{codomain}(f) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$  and  $\text{domain}(g) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$ . So  $g \circ f$  does exist because  $\text{codomain}(f) = \text{domain}(g)$ .  $g \circ f : A \rightarrow D$

**Question** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : C \rightarrow D$  be the functions pictured below.



Does  $g \circ f$  exist?

$\text{codomain}(f) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$  and  $\text{domain}(g) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$ . So  $g \circ f$  does exist because  $\text{codomain}(f) = \text{domain}(g)$ .  $g \circ f : A \rightarrow D$

### 15.3 The identity function

On each set  $A$  the function  $i_A : A \rightarrow A$  defined by  $i_A(x) = x$ , is called the identity function (on  $A$ )

### 15.4 Inverse functions

Functions  $f : A \rightarrow A$  and  $g : A \rightarrow A$  are said to be inverses (of each other) if

$$f \circ g = g \circ f = i_A.$$

**Example.**  $\text{square}$  and  $\text{sqrt}$  are inverses of each other on the set  $\mathbb{R}^{>0}$  of reals  $\geq 0$ .

$$\text{sqrt}(\text{square}(x)) = x \text{ and } \text{square}(\text{sqrt}(x)) = x.$$

In fact, this is exactly what  $\text{sqrt}$  is supposed to do – reverse the process of squaring. However, this works only if we restrict the domain to  $\mathbb{R}^{>0}$ . On  $\mathbb{R}$  we do not have  $\text{sqrt}(\text{square}(x)) = x$  because, for example,

$$\text{sqrt}(\text{square}(-1)) = \text{sqrt}(1) = 1.$$

This problem arises whenever we seek an inverse for a function which is not one-to-one. The squaring function on  $\mathbb{R}$  sends both 1 and  $-1$  to 1, but we want a single value 1 for  $\text{sqrt}(1)$ . Thus we have to restrict the squaring function to  $\mathbb{R}^{>0}$ .

\*  $f(x) = g(h(x))$

same as  $f = g \circ h$

↳  $f$  is the composite of  $g \circ h$

### 15.1 Notation for composite function

$$f(x) = \text{cube}(\text{successor}(\text{square}(x)))$$

SAME AS

$$f = \text{cube} \circ \text{successor} \circ \text{square}$$

**Warning:** Remember that  $g \circ h$  means “do  $h$  first, then  $g$ .”  $g \circ h$  is usually different from  $h \circ g$ .

### Example.

$$\text{square}(\text{successor}(x)) = (x+1)^2 = x^2 + 2x + 1$$

$$\text{successor}(\text{square}(x)) = x^2 + 1$$

### 15.2 Conditions for compositions

\* composition functions don't always exist

**Example.** If reciprocal :  $\mathbb{R} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by  $\text{reciprocal}(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  and predecessor :  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by  $\text{predecessor}(x) = x - 1$ , then  $\text{reciprocal} \circ \text{predecessor}$  does not exist, because  $\text{predecessor}(1) = 0$  is not a legal input for reciprocal.

To avoid this problem, we demand that the codomain of  $h$  be equal to the domain of  $g$  for  $g \circ h$  to exist. This ensures that each output of  $h$  will be a legal input for  $g$ .

Let  $h : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : C \rightarrow D$  be functions. Then  $g \circ h : A \rightarrow D$  exists if and only if  $B = C$ .

## 15.5 Conditions for inverse

A function  $f$  can have an inverse without its domain and codomain being equal.

The inverse of a function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a function  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  such that

$$f^{-1} \circ f = i_A \text{ and } f \circ f^{-1} = i_B.$$

Note that  $f^{-1} \circ f$  and  $f \circ f^{-1}$  are both identity functions but they have different domains.

Not every function has an inverse, but we can neatly classify the ones that do.

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. Then  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  exists if and only if  $f$  is one-to-one and onto.

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$ .

The function  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  exists if and only if  $f$  is one-to-one and onto.

(Remember onto means  $\text{image}(f) = B$ .)

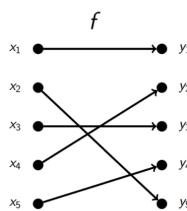
If it exists,  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  is defined by  $f^{-1}(y)$  equals the unique  $x \in A$  such that  $f(x) = y$ .

We have  $f^{-1} \circ f = i_A$  and  $f \circ f^{-1} = i_B$ .

**Note**  $f^{-1}$  is just a notation for "the inverse function of  $f$ ". It is \*not\* an exponential.

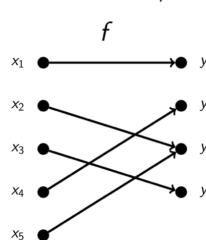
### Examples:

**Question** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be the function pictured below.



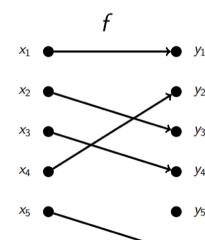
Does  $f^{-1}$  exist? Yes.

**Question** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be the function pictured below.



Does  $f^{-1}$  exist? No.  
 $f$  is not one-to-one.

**Question** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be the function pictured below.



Does  $f^{-1}$  exist? No.  
 $f$  is not onto.

### Question 15.4:

**Question 15.4** What feature do

$\neg : \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$  defined by  $\neg(x) = \neg x$ ;

$f(x) : \mathbb{R} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$  defined by  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ ; and

$g(x) : \mathbb{R} - \{1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} - \{1\}$  defined by  $g(x) = \frac{x}{x-1}$ ;

have in common?

**Question** Let  $f : \{x : x \text{ is a Monash student}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be the function defined by  $f(x)$  equals the ID number of  $x$ . Does  $f^{-1}$  exist?

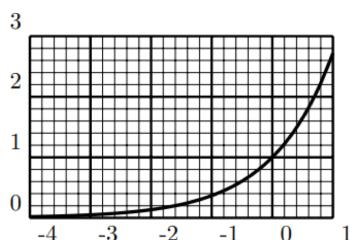
**Answer**

No.  $f$  is not onto. (E.g. there is no student with ID number  $10^{200}$ .)

They are their own inverses.

**Example:**  $e^x$  and  $\log$

Consider  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} - \{0\}$  defined by  $f(x) = e^x$ . We know that  $e^x$  is one-to-one (e.g. because it is strictly increasing), and onto. So it has an inverse  $f^{-1}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} - \{0\}$ .



Plot of  $y = e^x$ .

In fact,  $f^{-1} = \log(y)$  where

$$\log : \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Now

$$e^{\log x} = x \text{ and } \log(e^x) = x,$$

so  $e^{\log x}$  and  $\log(e^x)$  are both identity functions, but they have different domains.

The domain of  $e^{\log x}$  is  $\mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} - \{0\}$  (note  $\log$  is defined only for reals  $> 0$ ). The domain of  $\log(e^x)$  is  $\mathbb{R}$ .