

Mathematics Of Doing, Understand, Learning, and Educating Secondary Schools

# MODULE(S<sup>2</sup>): Algebra for Secondary Mathematics Teaching

Adapted for University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Version Spring 2018



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The Mathematics Of Doing, Understand, Learning, and Educating Secondary Schools (MODULE(S<sup>2</sup>)) project is partially supported by funding from a collaborative grant of the National Science Foundation under Grant Nos. DUE-1726707, 1726804, 1726252, 1726723, 1726744, and 1726098. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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write instructor note modeling proof communication, use the proof of strict subset, point out relevant handout from Section 0 . . . . .	10
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# 0 Communicating Mathematics in this Course and Beyond

## Set and Logical Notation

### Set Notation

**Definition 1.1.** A set is a collection of objects, which are called the elements of the set.

$x \in D$	" $x$ is an element of the set $D$ " (a proposition about $x$ and its <i>domain</i> $D$ )
$P(x)$	A proposition about the variable $x$ ; may be true or false depending on $x$
$\{x \in D : P(x)\}$	The set of all elements of $D$ for which $P(x)$ is true (a subset of $D$ )
$\{x \in D \mid P(x)\}$	
$A \subseteq B$	" $A$ is a subset of $B$ " (a proposition about sets $A$ and $B$ )
$A \subsetneq B$	" $A$ is a strict subset of $B$ ", i.e., " $A \subseteq B$ and $A \neq B$ "
$A \supseteq B$	" $A$ is a superset of $B$ " or " $B$ is a subset of $A$ "
$A \supsetneq B$	" $A$ is a strict superset of $B$ " or " $B$ is a strict subset of $A$ ", i.e., " $A \supseteq B$ and $A \neq B$ "
$A \cap B$	The intersection of the sets $A$ and $B$ (a set)
$A \cup B$	The union of the sets $A$ and $B$ (a set)
$\emptyset$	The <i>empty set</i> (the set with no elements); also known as <i>null set</i>
$ A $	The cardinality ("size") of $A$ . When $A$ is finite, $ A $ is the number of elements in $A$ .

**Note.** The notation for subset (without the bottom line) is ambiguous: some people use it to mean  $A \subseteq B$  and others use it to mean  $A \subsetneq B$ . So we don't use it here.

**Definition 1.2.** Given sets  $A$  and  $B$ . We say  $A$  is equal to  $B$  if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .

*Notation:*  $A = B$ .

### Logical notation

$\neg P(x)$	The negation of $P(x)$
$\forall x, P(x)$	The proposition "For all values of $x$ , $P(x)$ is true."
$\exists x : P(x)$	The proposition "There exists a value of $x$ such that $P(x)$ is true."
$\forall x, P(x) \Rightarrow Q(x)$	The proposition "For all values of $x$ , if $P(x)$ is true then $Q(x)$ is true."
$\forall x, P(x) \Leftrightarrow Q(x)$	The proposition "For all values of $x$ , $P(x)$ is true if and only if $Q(x)$ is true."

### Proof structures

To show that ...	Requires showing that ...
$x \in A$	$x$ satisfies set membership rules for $A$
$x \notin A$	$x$ does not satisfy at least one set membership rule of $A$
$A \subseteq B$	If $x \in A$ , then $x \in B$
$A \subsetneq B$	(1) $A \subseteq B$ (2) there is an element of $B$ that is not in $A$
$A = B$	(1) $A \subseteq B$ (2) $B \subseteq A$

### Sets of numbers

$\mathbb{N}$	The set of <i>natural numbers</i> (positive whole numbers)
$\mathbb{Z}$	The set of <i>integers</i> (all whole numbers – positive, negative, and zero)
$\mathbb{Q}$	The set of <i>rational numbers</i> (all fractions)
$\mathbb{R}$	The set of <i>real numbers</i> (all numbers on the real line; equivalently, all decimal numbers)
$\mathbb{C}$	The set of <i>complex numbers</i> (all numbers of the form $a + bi$ , where $a$ and $b$ are real)

# Properties of $\mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbb{Z}$

## Operations are well-defined

Well-defined: There is an answer, and there isn't more than one answer.

Operations  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\times$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  are well-defined: This means that when we add two numbers, we get exactly one answer (we don't expect there to be two answers to "What is  $a + b$ ?" and we expect that there is an answer); similarly, when we subtract one number from another, or multiply two numbers, we get exactly one answer.

Division by nonzero numbers is well-defined. (There is no good numerical answer to "What is  $a/0$ ?" )

## Arithmetic Properties of $\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{R}$

We state them below for  $\mathbb{Z}$ . They also hold for  $\mathbb{R}$ .

1	$a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \implies a + b \in \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$ is closed under addition
2	$a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \implies a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$	Addition in $\mathbb{Z}$ is associative
3	$a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \implies a + b = b + a$	Addition in $\mathbb{Z}$ is commutative
4	$a \in \mathbb{Z} \implies a + 0 = a = 0 + a$	0 is an additive identity in $\mathbb{Z}$
5	$\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the equation $a + x = 0$ has a solution in $\mathbb{Z}$	Additive inverses exist in $\mathbb{Z}$
6	$a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \implies ab \in \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$ is closed under multiplication
7	$a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \implies a(bc) = (ab)c$	Multiplication in $\mathbb{Z}$ is associative
8	$a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \implies a(b + c) = ab + ac$ and $(a + b)c = ac + bc$	Distributive property
9	$a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \implies ab = ba$	Multiplication in $\mathbb{Z}$ is commutative
10	$a \in \mathbb{Z} \implies a \cdot 1 = a = 1 \cdot a$	1 is a multiplicative identity in $\mathbb{Z}$
11	$a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, ab = 0 \implies a = 0$ or $b = 0$	$\mathbb{Z}$ has no zero divisors

## Divides, Divisor, Factor

- Given  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , not both zero. We say  $b$  divides  $a$  if  $a = bc$  for some integer  $c$ . Notation:  $b \mid a$

These all mean the same thing:

- $b$  divides  $a$
- $b$  is a divisor of  $a$
- $b$  is a factor of  $a$
- $b \mid a$

If we want to say that  $b$  does not divide  $a$ , we write  $b \nmid a$ .

- A factor of a number is trivial if it is  $\pm 1$  or the  $\pm$  number. A nontrivial factor that is not trivial.
- All nonzero natural numbers have a finite number of factors.
- Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ .

## Prime, Composite

- An integer  $p$  is prime if  $p \neq 0, \pm 1$  if the only divisors of  $p$  are  $\pm 1$  and  $\pm p$ .  
An integer  $n$  is composite if  $n \neq 0, \pm 1$ , and it is not prime.
- Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $p, q$  are primes such that  $p \mid a$  and  $q \mid a$ , and  $p \neq q$ , then  $pq \mid a$ .

## Even number

An integer  $n$  is even if it is divisible by 2.

## Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

There is only one way to write any whole number as a product of positive primes (reordering doesn't count as a different way).

## Sample handwritten proof

Let's use one of the proofs we did in class as an example. We begin with the typed up version and then show one way that this same proof might be handwritten.

**Claim.** If  $A = \{3n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $B = \{6n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ , then  $B \subsetneq A$ .

*Proof.* Given  $A = \{3n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $B = \{6n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

1. *Why  $A \subseteq B$ :* This was done in the claim we just showed. [1]
2. *Why there is an element of  $B$  that is not in  $A$ .* If  $x \in B$ , then  $x$  is an even number because if  $x = 6k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $x$  as  $x = 2 \cdot (3k)$ . Closure of multiplication in  $\mathbb{Z}$  implies  $3k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so  $x$  satisfies the definition of even number.  
However, some members of  $A$  are odd numbers:  $3, 9, 15, \dots$   
Hence there are elements of  $A$  that are not in  $B$ . [2]

Why this means  $B \subsetneq A$ : We showed  $B \subseteq A$  and found elements of  $A$  not in  $B$ . By definition of  $\subseteq$ , we have  $A \subsetneq B$ .  
 $\square$

[Handwritten version of this proof goes here]

Create  
handwritten  
version  
of proof,  
insert in  
reference  
for  
section 1

## Good proof communication

Here is the same proof, with key features pointed out. These features are explained at the bottom. In general, you want to incorporate most if not all of these features into any proof you write. Even though it might seem strange at first, you may find eventually that you learn math better when you develop the habits of incorporating these features into your own writing and being aware of these features in proofs you encounter.

[Handwritten version of this proof goes here]

Features of communicating proof well:

(Essential features in bold)

1. **Label the claim.**
2. **State the claim precisely.**
3. **Label the proof beginning.**
4. Begin a proof by reminding yourself and readers of the starting point: the conditions of the claim.
5. End the proof with where you need to go: the conclusions of the claim.
6. Summarize your approach to the reader.
7. **Label the proof end.** A traditional way is to use a box.
8. **Write up parts within a proof properly. Label when they begin and end.**
  - Give them a name (e.g., Claim A) if it is a proof within a proof
  - **Use labels like  $\Rightarrow$  and  $\Leftarrow$  if doing an if and only if proof.**
9. Diagrams are good only if you explain what you are showing. Give a caption.

After creating handwritten version of this proof, label the features below by number.

## Part I

# How We Talk and Explore Math

## 1 Sets, Claims, Negations (Week 1) (Length: 2.5 hours)

### Overview

#### Content

**“Parent” relation**, implicitly defined as a relation which assigns elements of  $\mathbb{N}$  to its factors; used to examine subsets, mathematical statements and their negations, properties of  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$ , and to engage in mathematical practices.

(Looking ahead:) The parent relation is used in Section 2 to introduce relations and inverse relations.

**Subset, superset, strict subset, and strict superset; equality of sets**  $A$  and  $B$ , defined as  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .

**Mathematical statements**, defined as those which can be evaluated as true or false; and

**Negation** of mathematical statement  $S$ , defined as a statement which is false if and only if  $S$  is true.

**Properties of  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$**  assumed. (These may have been introduced previously in an abstract algebra course.)

#### Proof Structures

**To show that  $x \in A$**  means showing that  $x$  satisfies set membership rules for  $A$ ; and **to show that  $x \notin A$**  means showing that  $x$  does not satisfy at least one set membership rule of  $A$ .

**To show that  $A \subseteq B$**  requires showing that if  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in B$ .

**To show that  $A \subsetneq B$**  requires showing that: (1)  $A \subseteq B$ ; (2) there is an element of  $B$  that is not in  $A$ .

**To show that  $A = B$**  requires showing that: (1)  $A \subseteq B$ ; (2)  $B \subseteq A$ .

#### Mathematical/Teaching Practices

**Clarifying mathematical questions**, meaning to determine how different interpretations of question statements may have different mathematical consequences.

**Conjecturing and being precise**, in the sense of giving “satisfying” answers to mathematical questions

**Communicating proofs well**, which includes specifying claims, the body of the proof, and givens and conclusions explicitly, clearly, and correctly.

### Summary

We introduce the “parent relation” as a context for engaging in mathematical practices as well as learning how to work with each other on exploratory tasks. The main tasks in this lesson are:

- Which numbers have more than one pair of parents?
- Is one of these sets a subset of the other set? Check the mathematically correct statements. If you put a check in the  $A \neq B$  column, list an element that is in one but not the other.

	$A \subseteq B$	$A \subsetneq B$	$A \supseteq B$	$A \supsetneq B$	$A = B$	$A \neq B$	Neither is subset of the other
$A = \text{multiples of 3}, B = \text{multiples of 6}$							
$A = \text{multiples of 6}, B = \text{multiples of 9}$							
$A = \{n^2 : n \in \mathbb{N}, n > 0\},$ $B = \{1 + 3 + \cdots + (2n + 1) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$							
$A = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 16^{ax},$ $B = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 2^{ax}$							

Along the way we introduce notation for sets and subsets, discuss mathematical statements and their negations, and describe properties of  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  assumed for now. There are also tasks in this lesson addressing these ideas.

*Acknowledgements.* The structure and some tasks of **Set notation** and **Mathematical statements and their negations** are from notes from Mira Bernstein and used with permission.



**Materials.**

- All pages in Section 0: Communicating Mathematics (can be printed double-sided)
- Handouts in In-Class Resources (can be printed double-sided)
- Colored chalk / markers to highlight different parts of good proof communication

## Opening inquiry: Number parents

We begin this lesson with the following inquiry:

Two numbers are parents of a child if the child is their product.

A child cannot be its own parent.

Which numbers have more than one pair of parents?

Child	Parents
6	2, 3
4	??
12	4, 3
12	2, 6

**Instructor note.** Distribute handout with this question. As teachers work on it, circulate and listen to the questions and comments they make. They may say and do things that will lead into a discussion on clarifying the question, precision, and also what it means to have less or more satisfying answers to a question.

As we discussed this question, we learned some issues that arise when asking and answering mathematical questions:

- *Clarifying the question.* Let's assume that we are only working with natural numbers  $(0, 1, 2, \dots)$ , and that  $2, 2$  is a set of parents for  $4$ . So we are looking for natural numbers that have more than one pair of parents. We allow pairs of parents to repeat parents.
- *Finding and improving possible answers (conjecturing well).* Here are some possible answers (without explanations) to this question. Which is the most satisfying answer (without explanation)? Why?
  1. 12 has more than one pair of parents.
  2. 12, 18, 20, 28, 30, 42, 44 each have more than one pair of parents.
  3. Any number with at least three different factors has more than one pair of parents.
  4. Any number with at least three different factors (that aren't itself or 1) has more than one pair of parents.
  5. Any number with at least three different factors (that aren't itself or 1) has more than one pair of parents. There are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents.

**Instructor note.** The above are answers that prospective teachers in previous courses have given. You might use some of these answers as ringers for your own class discussion, or simply use a variety of answers that teachers in your class have given. The main thing is to have a variety of levels of how satisfying the answers are.

We concluded that an answer is satisfying when it gives the most complete and correct understanding of a situation. We also gave the analogy of answering a question that a child asks, and that the quality of being "satisfying" when giving an answer to a mathematical may well be similar to what makes an answer "satisfying" to a child.

- The first two are dissatisfying because they don't give any sort of pattern or big picture of what's going on. They raise the question: "Are those the only ones?"
- The third one is almost there, but is actually slightly incorrect. The fourth one is getting there, and it is correct. But still, neither answer the question of whether there are more answers.
- The fifth answer is the most satisfying because it provides the big picture of when a number works, and also says, yes, these are the only answers.

We also gave a name to the process of finding and improving answers to mathematical question: the practice of *conjecturing*. Before we get into proving or disproving our conjectures, we first talk about sets. This will give us a structure for addressing this inquiry more completely.

## Sets, subsets, supersets, and set equality

### SET NOTATION

**Definition 1.1.** A **set** is a collection of objects, which are called the **elements** of the set.

$x \in D$	" $x$ is an element of the set $D$ " (a proposition about $x$ and its <i>domain</i> $D$ )
$P(x)$	A proposition about the variable $x$ ; may be true or false depending on $x$
$\{x \in D : P(x)\}$	The set of all elements of $D$ for which $P(x)$ is true (a subset of $D$ )
$\{x \in D \mid P(x)\}$	
$A \subseteq B$	" $A$ is a subset of $B$ " (a proposition about sets $A$ and $B$ )
$A \subsetneq B$	" $A$ is a strict subset of $B$ ", i.e., " $A \subseteq B$ and $A \neq B$ "
$A \supseteq B$	" $A$ is a superset of $B$ " or " $B$ is a subset of $A$ "
$A \supsetneq B$	" $A$ is a strict superset of $B$ " or " $B$ is a strict subset of $A$ ", i.e., " $A \supseteq B$ and $A \neq B$ "
$A \cap B$	The intersection of the sets $A$ and $B$ (a set)
$A \cup B$	The union of the sets $A$ and $B$ (a set)
$\emptyset$	The <i>empty set</i> (the set with no elements); also known as <i>null set</i>
$ A $	The cardinality ("size") of $A$ . When $A$ is finite, $ A $ is the number of elements in $A$ .

**Note:** The notation for subset (without the bottom line) is ambiguous: some people use it to mean  $A \subseteq B$  and others use it to mean  $A \subsetneq B$ . So we don't use it here.

**Definition 1.2.** Given sets  $A$  and  $B$ . We say  $A$  **is equal to**  $B$  if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ . We denote equality with  $A = B$ .

1. Let  $A = \{1, 2, \{3, 4\}, \{5\}\}$ . Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false:

(**Hint:** There are exactly six true statements.)

$1 \in A,$	$\{1, 2\} \in A,$	$\{1, 2\} \subseteq A,$	$\emptyset \in A,$
$3 \in A,$	$\{3, 4\} \in A,$	$\{3, 4\} \subseteq A,$	$\emptyset \subseteq A,$
$\{1\} \in A,$	$\{1\} \subseteq A,$	$\{5\} \in A,$	$\{5\} \subseteq A.$

2. True or false? "All students in this class who are under 5 years old are also over 100 years old."

*Solution.*

1. (a) TRUE (b) false (c) TRUE (d) false  
 (e) false (f) TRUE (g) false (h) TRUE  
 (i) false (j) TRUE (k) TRUE (l) false

*Reasoning.* There are four elements of the set  $A$ :

- 1 (the number 1)
- 2 (the number 2)
- $\{3, 4\}$  (the set containing the numbers 3, 4)
- $\{5\}$  (the set containing the number 5)

The notation  $\in$  means “is an element of” is . That’s why (a), (f), (k) are TRUE and (b), (d), (e), (i) are false.

The notation  $\subseteq$  means “is a subset of”. The set is a subset of  $A$  if each of its elements are also elements of  $A$ . That’s why (c), (j) are TRUE and (g), (l) are false.

Finally, (h) is TRUE on a technicality. It contains no elements. So all zero of its elements are part of  $A$ . The empty set is a subset of any set for this reason.

2. For most sections of mathematics courses at university level, this statement should be TRUE. ■

**Note:** One helpful metaphor may be thinking of the braces (the  $\{$  and  $\}$ ) as permanent packaging, like gift wrap that doesn’t come off. You can’t take out what’s inside the packaging. You can only hold the whole package. Even if only one thing is wrapped, you still can’t hold the thing by itself, you can only hold it with its gift wrap. But if an object not wrapped, you can hold that object by itself.

**Proof Structure: Showing set membership.** To show that  $x \in S$  means showing that  $x$  satisfies set membership rules for  $S$ ; to show that  $x \notin S$  means showing that  $x$  does not satisfy at least one set membership rule of  $A$ .

Let  $S = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} : x \text{ can be written as a fraction with denominator 2 and } |x| < 2\}$ .

True or false?  $0.5 \in S$ ,  $3.5 \in S$ ,  $0.25 \in S$ ,  $1 \in S$ .

*Solution. (Partial)*

- (a)  $0.5 \in S$  is TRUE because it can be written as the fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $|0.5| < 2$ . The number 0.5 satisfies all the rules of membership of  $S$ , so it is an element of  $S$ .
- (b)  $3.5 \in S$  is FALSE because even though it can be written as the fraction  $\frac{7}{2}$ , it does not satisfy the condition  $|x| < 2$ . The number 3.5 does not satisfy all the rules of membership of  $S$ , so it is not an element of  $S$ .
- (c)  $0.25 \in S$  is FALSE. (Why?)
- (d)  $1 \in S$  is TRUE. (Why? Hint: The fraction does not have to be in lowest terms ... ) ■

## SUBSET EXPLORATION

Is  $A$  a subset of  $B$  or vice versa? Complete this table with “yes” or “no” in each cell.

	$A \subseteq B$	$A \subsetneq B$	$A \supseteq B$	$A \supsetneq B$	$A = B$	$A \neq B$	Neither is subset of the other
$A = \text{multiples of 3,}$ $B = \text{multiples of 6}$							
$A = \text{multiples of 6,}$ $B = \text{multiples of 9}$							
$A = \{n^2   n \in \mathbb{N}, n > 0\},$ $B = \{1 + 3 + \cdots + (2n + 1)   n \in \mathbb{N}\}$							
$A = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 16^{ax},$ $B = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 2^{ax}$							

**Teaching the subset exploration task.** Take this task one row at a time, emphasizing the mathematical practices of *clarifying the question* and then *finding and improving possible answers (aka conjecturing)*. The goal is first to generate conjectures; then, after generating satisfying conjectures, to *prove (or disprove) the conjectures*.

Rows 1, 2, and 4 can be interpreted in different ways with different mathematical consequences. You may decide with your class to interpret:

- Row 1, 2: Multiples should mean “integer multiples”
- Row 4:  $a$  should be considered in two cases,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

This means revising Row 4 and adding a Row 5 to the table:

$A = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 16^{ax},$ $B = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 2^{ax},$ where $a \in \mathbb{Z}$					
$A = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 16^{ax},$ $B = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 2^{ax},$ where $a \in \mathbb{Q}$					

Row 3 may need clarification as far as set notation and what the “...” mean, but is otherwise precisely phrased.

Row 3 may be assigned as homework after discussing what there is to prove.

This task is designed to show why equality of sets requires showing both that  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ . Often we have found that students think of showing one direction as sufficient, and that this is reinforced by tasks where containment follows practically tautologically by definition. The examples in rows 3 and 4 do require inference from the definitions, not just the definitions themselves.

*Clarifying the question.* We found that there were several ways that these questions needed to be clarified: In Row 1 and 2, we asked: what kind of multiples? We decided to consider only integer multiples. In Row 4, we asked: What is  $a$ ? If  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there are different consequences than when  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ . We added this interpretation as a different row.

*Making conjectures/observations and improving them.* Possible conjectures about this table include:

- (set of integer multiples of 3)  $\supseteq$  (set of integer multiples of 6)
- (set of integer multiples of 3)  $\supsetneq$  (set of integer multiples of 6)
- (set of integer multiples of 6) and (set of integer multiples of 9) are not subsets of each other
- (set of perfect squares) = (set of sum of consecutive odd positive numbers)
- When  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , (set of functions of the form  $x \mapsto 16^{ax}$ )  $\subsetneq$  (set of functions of the form  $x \mapsto 2^{ax}$ )
- When  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ , (set of functions of the form  $x \mapsto 16^{ax}$ ) = (set of functions of the form  $x \mapsto 2^{ax}$ )

*Proving conjectures.* We will use the properties listed in Section 0.2. We also use the following proof structures.

**Proof Structure: Showing one set is a subset or strict subset of another.**

- To show that  $B \subseteq A$  requires showing: if  $x \in B$ , then  $x \in A$ .
- To show that  $B \subsetneq A$  requires showing: (1)  $B \subseteq A$ ; (2) there is an element of  $A$  that is not in  $B$ .

**Proof Structure: Showing set equality.**

- To show that  $A = B$  requires showing: (1)  $A \subseteq B$ ; (2)  $B \subseteq A$ .

**Claim.** If  $A = \{3n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $B = \{6n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ , then  $B \subseteq A$ .

*Proof.* Given  $A = \{3n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $B = \{6n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Showing that  $B \subseteq A$  means showing: if  $x \in B$ , then  $x \in A$ .

Given  $x \in B$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 6k, k \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ by definition of } B \\
 &= 3 \cdot 2k \\
 &= 3n, n \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ because } 2 \in \mathbb{Z}, k \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ and } \mathbb{Z} \text{ is closed under multiplication}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $x$  satisfies set membership rules of  $A$ , implying  $x \in A$ .

We have shown that if  $x \in B$ , then  $x \in A$ . Thus  $B \subseteq A$ , by definition of subset. □

**Claim.** If  $A = \{3n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $B = \{6n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ , then  $B \subsetneq A$ .

*Proof.* Given  $A = \{3n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $B = \{6n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

1. *Why  $A \subseteq B$ :* This was done in the claim we just showed. 1
2. *Why there is an element of  $B$  that is not in  $A$ .* If  $x \in B$ , then  $x$  is an even number because if  $x = 6k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $x$  as  $x = 2 \cdot (3k)$ . Closure of multiplication in  $\mathbb{Z}$  implies  $3k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so  $x$  satisfies the definition of even number. However, some members of  $A$  are odd numbers:  $3, 9, 15, \dots$ .  
Hence there are elements of  $A$  that are not in  $B$ . 2

Why this means  $B \subsetneq A$ : We showed  $B \subseteq A$  and found elements of  $A$  not in  $B$ . By definition of  $\subseteq$ , we have  $A \subsetneq B$ . □

**Claim.** If  $A = \{f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 16^{ax} : a \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  and  $B = \{f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 2^{ax} : a \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ , then  $A = B$ .

*Sketch of proof.* Given  $A = \{f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 16^{ax} : a \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  and  $B = \{f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 2^{ax} : a \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ .

We outline the steps of the proof for you to fill in.

1. *Why  $A \subseteq B$ :* 1
2. *Why  $B \subseteq A$ :* 2

Why the above means that  $A = B$ : □

**Modeling proof communication.**

## Mathematical statements and their negations

### Logical notation

$P(x)$	A proposition about the variable $x$ ; may be true or false depending on $x$
$\neg P(x)$	The negation of $P(x)$
$\forall x, P(x)$	The proposition "For all values of $x$ , $P(x)$ is true."
$\exists x : P(x)$	The proposition "There exists a value of $x$ such that $P(x)$ is true."
$\forall x, P(x) \Rightarrow Q(x)$	The proposition "For all values of $x$ , if $P(x)$ is true then $Q(x)$ is true."
$\forall x, P(x) \Leftrightarrow Q(x)$	The proposition "For all values of $x$ , $P(x)$ is true if and only if $Q(x)$ is true."

write  
instructor  
note  
modeling  
proof  
communication  
use the  
proof  
of strict  
subset,  
point out  
relevant  
handout  
from  
Section 0

- For each of the following statements, figure out what it means, and decide whether it is true, false, or neither.
  - $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \exists y \in \mathbb{R} : y + x \in \{z \in \mathbb{Z} : z > 0\}$
  - $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}, \exists y \in \mathbb{Z} : y + x \notin \mathbb{Z}$
  - $\forall g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 2^{ax}, \exists h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 4^{bx} : \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, g(x) = h(x)$
  - $\forall g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 4^{ax}, \exists h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto 2^{bx} : \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, g(x) = h(x)$
- Negate the following statements without using any negative words (“no”, “not”, “neither ... nor”, etc.) Try to make your negation sound as much like normal English as possible.
  - Every word on this page starts with a consonant and ends with a vowel.
  - The set  $A$  is equal to the set  $B$ .
  - There is a book on this shelf in which every page has a word that starts and ends with a vowel.
  - The set  $A$  is a strict subset of the set  $B$ .

**Instructor note.** There is typically only time to do one or two of each task, with the rest assigned for homework. For (1), we recommend (a) or (b), and then as time allows, (c) or (d). For (2) We recommend doing least one word negation ((a) or (c)) in class, and then as time allows, one negation having to do with concepts of sets ((b) or (d)).

*Solution. (Partial)*

- For each real number  $x$ , there is a real number  $y$  so that  $x + y$  is a positive integer. TRUE.  
*Reasoning:* If  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then take  $y = 1 - x$ . Then  $x + y = 1$ , which is a positive integer. Or take any positive integer  $n$  and take  $y = n - x$ .
  - What it means: ... (fill in the rest). FALSE.  
*Reasoning:* (Why?)
  - For each function  $g(x) = 2^{ax}$  there is a function  $f(x) = 4^{bx}$  so that  $g(x) = h(x)$  on every possible real value of  $x$ . NEITHER.  
*Reasoning:* The truth of this statement depends on the possible values of  $a$  and  $b$ . If  $a$  and  $b$  must be integers, then there are some  $a$  where  $2^{ax}$  cannot equal  $4^{bx}$ . (All odd integers.) If  $a$  and  $b$  are rational or real, then for each  $a$ , we can take  $b = \frac{a}{2}$ , and then  $2^{ax} = 4^{bx}$ .
  - What it means: ... (fill in the rest). TRUE.  
*Reasoning:* (Why?)
- THERE IS a word on this page that starts with a vowel OR ends with a consonant.
  - The set  $A$  has at least one element that is not in  $B$  OR the set  $B$  has at least one element that is not in  $A$ .
  - EVERY book on this shelf (... fill in the rest)
  - The set  $A$  equals  $B$  OR (... fill in the rest)

## Back to the opening inquiry

We have now spent some time discussing set notation and logical notation.

We began this class considering “parents” of numbers. We conjectured that:

If a number has least three different factors (that are not itself or 1), then it has more than one pair of parents. There are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents.

One way of saying “factors of a number that are not itself or 1” is to say “nontrivial factors”.

**Applying set notation.** Using set notation, we can interpret the conjecture as saying:

**Conjecture 1.3** (Number parent conjecture, take 1). Let

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \text{ has at least three different non-trivial factors}\} \\ T &= \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \text{ has more than one pair of parents}\} \end{aligned}$$

Then  $S = T$ .

How does this way of phrasing the conjecture match up with the original way?

- Look up the definition of set equality. What does  $S = T$  mean by definition of set equality?
- Which part of set equality implies the first sentence (“If a number has least three different nontrivial factors, then it has more than one pair of parents.”)?
- Which part of set equality implies the second sentence? (“There are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents”)

*Solution.* By definition,  $S = T$  means  $S \subseteq T$  and  $T \subseteq S$ .

$S \subseteq T$  implies that “If a number has least three different nontrivial factors, then it has more than one pair of parents.”

$T \subseteq S$  means that “there are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents.” ■

**Applying logical notation.** There is another mathematically equivalent way of saying the conjecture using the logical notation we developed.

**Conjecture 1.4** (Number parent conjecture, take 2).  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \text{ has more than one pair of parents} \iff n \text{ has at least three nontrivial factors.}$

How does this way of phrasing the conjecture match up with the original way?

- What does “if and only if” mean?
- Which part of “iff” implies the first sentence (“If a number has least three different nontrivial factors, then it has more than one pair of parents.”)? (An abbreviation for “if and only if” is “iff”)
- Which part of “iff” implies the second sentence? (“There are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents”)

*Solution.* By definition,  $P \text{ iff } Q$  means that both  $P \implies Q$  and  $Q \implies P$  are true statements.

Given  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let the statement  $P$  be “ $n$  has more than one pair of parents”, and the statement  $Q$  be statement “ $n$  has at least three nontrivial factors”.

$Q \implies P$  being true implies that “if a number has least three different nontrivial factors, then it has more than one pair of parents.”

$P \implies Q$  being true implies that “there are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents.” ■

(The following is stated in two equivalent ways)

**Proposition 1.5** (Number parent proposition).

<p>If <math>S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \text{ has at least three different non-trivial factors}\}</math> and <math>T = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \text{ has more than one pair of parents}\}</math>, then <math>S = T</math>.</p>	<p>For all <math>n \in \mathbb{N}</math>, <math>n</math> has more than one pair of parents if and only if <math>n</math> has at least three nontrivial factors.</p>
--	---

*Proof.* Given  $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \text{ has at least three different non-trivial factors}\}$  and

$T = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \text{ has more than one pair of parents}\}.$

1. Why  $S \subseteq T$ : Let  $n \in S$ . Then there exist distinct  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a \mid n$ ,  $b \mid n$ , and  $c \mid n$ . Either each of these are paired with another one of  $a, b, c$  to be a pair of parents of  $n$  or they are not. If they are not paired with any of each other, then  $n$  has at least three pairs of parents, which is more than one. If one of them is paired with another, there is still a third factor that cannot be paired with the other two (because they are already paired). So it is part of a second pair of parents. Thus  $n \in T$ .

We have shown that if  $n \in S$ , then  $n \in T$ . By definition of subset, this shows  $S \subseteq T$ . □

2. Why  $T \subseteq S$ : Let  $n \in T$ . Then there exist at least two pairs  $a, a' \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $b, b' \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $aa' = n$  and  $bb' = n$ , and  $\{a, a'\} \neq \{b, b'\}$ .

If  $a \neq a'$  and  $b \neq b'$ , then  $n$  has at least four factors, so  $n \in S$ .

It may be true that  $a = a'$  or  $b = b'$ . If  $a = a'$ , though, then  $n$  is a perfect square and  $b \neq b'$ , since there is only one positive square root possible for every  $n$ . Similarly, if  $b = b'$ , then  $a \neq a'$ . In either case,  $n$  has at least three factors (either  $a, b, b'$  or  $a, a', b$ ), so  $n \in S$ .

We have shown that if  $n \in T$ , then  $n \in S$ . By definition of subset, this shows  $T \subseteq S$ . □

We have shown that  $S \subseteq T$  and  $T \subseteq S$ . By definition of set equality, we have shown  $S = T$ . □

This part of the proof needs to be cleaned up. It is correct but really confusing.

## Summary of mathematical practices

### CLARIFYING THE QUESTION

- Make the best sense as you can of the question with what is available.
- Identify what is unambiguous, and then identify what is ambiguous.
- For the ambiguous parts, play around with different possibilities to see what is the most mathematically interesting possibility. Sometimes you may find that there are multiple interesting mathematical possibilities.

### CONJECTURING AND CLAIM MAKING

- Think of claims as an “I bet” statement.  
If you’re the arbitrator for a bet between people, you would want to make absolutely sure that everyone knows exactly what the statement means, and also that everyone would agree on what evidence would count as showing the bet is true or not true!  
The same is true about mathematical statements. A mathematical statement needs to be crystal clear about what it means.
- Mathematical claims should either be true or false; if they “depend” on something, this means that there is often a better claim that can be made.
- The more general a claim, the better it is.  
For instance, “12 has more than one pair of parents” is a true claim, but a better claim is “All numbers with at least three distinct factors have more than one pair of parents” is an even better claim.
- The more “directions” a claim addresses, the better it is.  
For instance, “All numbers with at least three distinct factors have more than one pair of parents” is a true claim, but “A number has more than one pair of parents if and only if it has at least three distinct factors” goes even further to understanding the situation.

### EXPLORING MATH: OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Make claims.
- Try to prove them.
- If you get stuck, consider the negations of the claim.
- Try to prove those.



- Consider the “opposite direction” claim. (The “converse” of the claim.)
- Try to prove those.
- Aim to make the most satisfying claims possible.
- Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite! Use the rewriting process to help things get clear for yourself, your future students, and your future self, and your peers.

**Things to keep in mind on the first day.** This first lesson is an important place to do what can be called “setting norms and expectations”. What this means is communicating to prospective teachers, both implicitly and explicitly, what productive conversation, exploration, questioning, and justification look and feel like. For instance, you may want to teach a class where:

- *Students embrace learning from their own individual and each others’ work* – they view their own mistakes courageously and with an open mind; they accept that making errors and learning from them is a natural part of the mathematical process; they recognize what is worthwhile about others’ reasoning and what needs further thought, and they do so constructively; they celebrate others’ ideas.
- *Students view mathematical reasoning as the ultimate mathematical authority* – they have faith in their ability to learn to reason mathematically; they come back to the mathematics rather than to a perceived authority figure such as an instructor or a “smart” student to figure out what works; they seek precision in language while also understanding that going from informal language to precise language may take some time, may not happen right away, but is a valuable goal.
- *Students persist in seeking mathematical questions and answers* – they accept that setbacks are an important part of learning; they can work for an extended amount of time on one problem in productive ways; they celebrate when they do come to an understanding of a mathematical idea, especially one that is hard-won.

If these are values that you see a productive class expressing, you can do much to foster these values beginning the first day. There are many different things you can do and say, and certainly different things may work better or worse for different instructors and different students. Here are some examples of things to do and say that have helped previous MODULE(S<sup>2</sup>)instructors:

- *Praise thoughtful errors.* It’s easy to spot “right” answers and there can be a temptation to run with the way that some students have found exactly the “right” way to approach a problem. There is also a temptation to respond to “wrong” answers with saying matter-of-factly, “Not quite; what did others get?” But if you respond in these ways, and exclusively so as your form of interacting with students about their thinking, what message does that send to students about the role of mistakes in the process of working through mathematics? It may well send the message that the best work is the work that is correct the first try, or worse, that the most worthy students are those that only do correct mathematics and make no mistakes. Instead, an alternative approach is to look for thoughtful errors – the kind of thinking that is ultimately mathematically incorrect for some reason, but where thinking through the mistake has the potential to really get at something fundamental about the mathematics at hand or in the future. Moves that you can make to acknowledge thoughtful errors might include:
  - “I am so glad that you brought that up, [student name]. Did everyone understand what [student name] said? Can someone say in their own words what they understand of [student name]’s reasoning?” [If someone raises their hand to counter this idea] “Right now we’re not interested in whether we agree or disagree with [student name], we are trying to understand what [student name] is thinking. What might they thinking? Why does it make sense to do this?”
  - “Let’s see what happens when we follow this reasoning.”
  - “We just learned a really important lesson about doing mathematics because of this reasoning. Thank you, [student name], for sharing your idea. This was incredibly helpful. Let’s remember the lesson we learned throughout today and also as we move forward in this class.”
- *Do not make a big deal when students get a correct answer right away. Focus on the process of getting to the answer, and on understanding the answer, rather than the answer itself.* The Fields Medalist William Thurston (1994) observed of his colleagues, “I thought that what they sought was a collection of powerful proven theorems that might be applied to answer further mathematical questions. But that’s only one part of the story. More than the knowledge, people want *personal understanding*.” (p. 51, emphasis by Thurston). The same is true of students, or at least we would like to be a truth about students. Moves that emphasize understanding over the answer might include:
  - (As a matter-of-fact first reaction to the correct answer) “You answered X. What was your reasoning for that answer?” ... “What do others think of this reasoning?”
  - “[Student name] arrived at the solution X, and just shared their reasoning. Did anyone else arrive at this solution? Did you have similar reasoning or different reasoning?”
  - “Let’s think back on why this answer makes sense.”

- *Relinquish your authority to the students and the mathematics.* A common question instructors hear is, “What do you want?” or “Is this what you are looking for?” Sometimes the answer to these questions really does rest with you, the instructor – especially if it is about specific directions that you are setting for your students that can’t be derived from mathematical reasoning. However, answering these questions from your authority as an instructor can be less useful if the questions are actually about mathematical reasoning, for instance, if the question is about whether a proof or solution is correct. In these cases, it can be more productive to return the responsibility of these questions to the students and the mathematics:
  - “Can you tell me more about how you arrived at this?”
  - “Tell me about what’s here.”
  - “How does this help to give a solution to the question we are working on?”
  - “How complete do you think it is?” ... “What about your work are you sure about, and what are you less sure about?”
- *Give students ways to work constructively with each other.* Working with each other on mathematics is not necessarily a natural skill; it is a learned skill. Help your students find ways to talk to each other about their thinking. While students are working, stir the pot (meaning, find ways to provoke productive disagreement and/or discussion).
  - “I see that [student A] and [student B] have different answers. It looks like you have something to resolve. [Student A] and [Student B], will you share how you did your work with each other and figure out what’s really going on?”
  - “I see that [student A] and [student B] have arrived at the same answer, but it looks like you’ve done it in different ways. Will you compare what you’ve done and see how they match each other or do not?”
  - “It looks like [student A] has drawn a graph and [student B] has used mostly equations. Are you thinking about the same thing? Will you talk to each other about how your thinking matches up or not?”
  - “It looks like [Student A] worked on [Case 1] whereas [student B] worked on [Case 2]. Are there more cases to consider? Are both cases necessary? You should talk to each other to figure this out.”

## In-Class Resources

### OPENING INQUIRY

Two numbers are parents of a child if the child is their product.

A child cannot be its own parent.

Which numbers have more than one pair of parents?

Child	Parents
6	2, 3
4	??
12	4, 3
12	2, 6

---

Clarifying what it means to be a pair of parents:

Notes on finding and improving answers to mathematical questions:

## GETTING TO KNOW SET NOTATION

1. Let  $A = \{1, 2, \{3, 4\}, \{5\}\}$ . Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false:  
(**Hint:** There are exactly six true statements.)

$1 \in A,$	$\{1, 2\} \in A,$	$\{1, 2\} \subseteq A,$	$\emptyset \in A,$
$3 \in A,$	$\{3, 4\} \in A,$	$\{3, 4\} \subseteq A,$	$\emptyset \subseteq A,$
$\{1\} \in A,$	$\{1\} \subseteq A,$	$\{5\} \in A,$	$\{5\} \subseteq A.$

2. True or false? "All students in this class who are under 5 years old are also over 100 years old."
3. Let  $S = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} : x \text{ can be written as a fraction with denominator 2 and } |x| < 2\}$ .  
True or false?  $0.5 \in S,$   $3.5 \in S,$   $0.25 \in S,$   $1 \in S.$

---

## GETTING TO KNOW LOGICAL NOTATION

1. For each of the following statements, figure out what it means, and decide whether it is true, false, or neither.
- (a)  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \exists y \in \mathbb{R} : y + x \in \{z \in \mathbb{Z} : z > 0\}$
- (b)  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}, \exists y \in \mathbb{Z} : y + x \notin \mathbb{Z}$
2. Negate the following statements without using any negative words ("no", "not", "neither ... nor", etc.) Try to make your negation sound as much like normal English as possible.
- (a) Every word on this page starts with a consonant and ends with a vowel.
- (b) The set  $A$  is equal to the set  $B$ .

## SUBSET EXPLORATION

Is  $A$  a subset of  $B$  or vice versa? Complete this table with “yes” or “no” in each cell.

	$A \subseteq B$	$A \subsetneq B$	$A \supseteq B$	$A \supsetneq B$	$A = B$	$A \neq B$	Neither is subset of the other
$A = \text{multiples of 3,}$ $B = \text{multiples of 6}$							
$A = \text{multiples of 6,}$ $B = \text{multiples of 9}$							
$A = \{n^2   n \in \mathbb{N}, n > 0\},$ $B = \{1 + 3 + \cdots + (2n + 1)   n \in \mathbb{N}\}$							
$A = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 16^{ax},$ $B = \text{functions of the form } x \mapsto 2^{ax}$							

## BACK TO THE OPENING INQUIRY

We began this class considering “parents” of numbers. We conjectured that:

**Applying set notation.** Using set notation, we can interpret the conjecture as saying:

How does this way of phrasing the conjecture match up with the original way?

- Look up the definition of set equality. What does  $S = T$  mean by definition of set equality?
- Which part of set equality implies the first sentence (“If a number has least three different nontrivial factors, then it has more than one pair of parents.”)?
- Which part of set equality implies the second sentence? (“There are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents”)

**Applying logical notation.** There is another mathematically equivalent way of saying the conjecture using the logical notation we developed:

How does this way of phrasing the conjecture match up with the original way?

- What does “if and only if” mean?
- Which part of “iff” implies the first sentence (“If a number has least three different nontrivial factors, then it has more than one pair of parents.”)? (An abbreviation for “if and only if” is “iff”)
- Which part of “iff” implies the second sentence? (“There are no other numbers with more than one pair of parents”)

# Homework

finalize  
Homework  
1

1. Proving set membership problem
2. Proving subset, subsetneq problem
3. Proving set equality problem (possibly assign even number, consecutive odd numbers); can also assign exponential function problem
4. Proof comprehension question about parent relation proof
5. Something about assigning parents to children, to introduce the idea of a relation as a set of assignments. Possibly the opener to Lesson 2.
6. Something to introduce Cartesian product  $D \times R$ . (Note that it's also called cross product, but it's not the linear algebra thing.)

**Instructor note.** For homework, you may want to make sure to assign at least one problem on parent relation and the problem with Cartesian product. These are used in the next lesson, in Section 2, and beyond.



## Part II

# Relations and Functions

## 2 Relations (Week 2) (Length: ~2.5 hours)

### Overview

#### Content

**Cartesian product** of two sets  $A$  and  $B$ , denoted  $A \times B$ , defined as the set of ordered pairs  $\{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}$ .

**Relation** from a set  $D$  to set  $C$ , defined from three different perspectives: the “middle school”, “high school”, and “university”; and their mathematical equivalence.

- The “middle school” version is described in terms of a set of arrows between an input and output space.
- The “high school” version formalizes arrows to assignments.
- The “university” version defines a relation as a subset of the Cartesian product  $D \times R$ .

We call these definitions the middle school, high school, and university versions to refer to when they most likely arise.

**Inverse of a relation**, defined from these three perspectives; their mathematical equivalence.

**Composition of relations**  $P : D \rightarrow R$  then  $Q : R \rightarrow S$ , defined as the relation  $Q \circ P : D \rightarrow S$  that assigns  $x \in D$  to  $z \in S$  whenever there is a  $y \in R$  such that  $P$  assigns  $x \mapsto y$  and  $Q$  assigns  $y \mapsto z$ .

**Function** from a set  $D$  to a set  $R$ , defined as a relation from  $D$  to  $R$  such that each input in  $D$  is assigned to no more than one output in  $R$ ; how this definition can be interpreted from the three perspectives for relation.

**Graph of a (real) relation**, defined as the set of points  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that the relation assigns  $x$  to  $y$ .

**Graph of an (real) equation** in variables  $x$  and  $y$ , defined as the set of points  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that evaluating the equation at  $x$  and  $y$  results in a true statement.

#### Proof Structures

**To show that a point  $(x, y)$  is on a graph of a relation**  
means showing that the relation assigns  $x$  to  $y$ .

**To show that a point  $(x, y)$  is on the graph of an equation**  
means showing that evaluating the equation at  $x$  and  $y$  results in a true statement.

#### Mathematical/Teaching Practices

**Connecting mathematically equivalent definitions**, meaning to understand how different but equivalent definitions can serve different pedagogical and mathematical purposes.

**Connecting different mathematical representations of the same concept**, meaning to think about different ways of drawing and describing the same mathematical idea.

### Summary

One goal of this lesson is to introduce relations and functions from an advanced perspective. However, more importantly, the goal is to connect the advanced perspective to high school and middle school perspectives, so that teachers have a sense of where the math can go.

Using the parent relation as an opening example, we define *relation* in the three (mathematically equivalent) described above. We then define *domain*, *range*, *image* of a point and set, and *preimage* of a point and set.

To highlight the universality of these concepts throughout high school and middle school mathematics, we use examples from algebra (from story problems and also graphs of relations such as  $x = y^2$ ), trigonometry (the relation from  $[0, 360)$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  defined by equivalence of angle measure in degrees), and geometry (rigid motions).

We then introduce *inverse relations*, *functions*, *graphs of functions*, and *compositions of functions*. For each concept in this lesson, we ask teachers to consider how they might explain the connection between the concept and the middle school, high school, and university conceptions of relation, as well as how they might explain how different representations denote mathematically equivalent ideas.

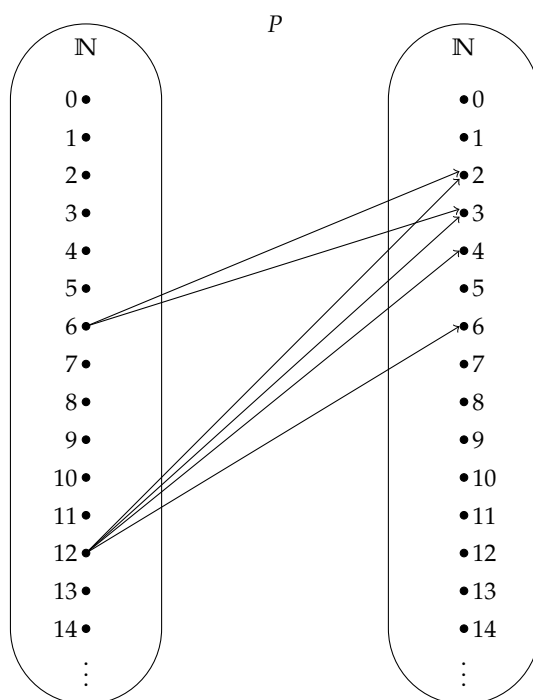
**Materials.**

- Handouts from In-Class Resources (can be printed double-sided)

## Opening example: Parent relation

We learned about natural number parents and children last time.

1. What is the definition of a parent of a natural number child?
2. Let  $P$  assign a natural number to each of its parents. We can represent  $P$  as a set of arrows from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ . Some arrows below have been filled in, for example  $P$  assigns 6 to 2 and 3, and assigns 12 to 2, 3, 4, 6. Draw in more arrows.
3. Consider this statement: "Some children have no parents, some children have exactly one parent, and some children have multiple parents."  
Is this statement true or false? Why?
4. How about this statement? "Some numbers have no children, and some numbers have multiple children."



*Solution. (Partial)* Given a number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , a parent of  $n$  is a nontrivial factor of  $n$ .

The first statement is true:

- $n$  has no parents when  $n$  is 0, 1, or prime
- $n$  has exactly one parent when  $n$  is a perfect square of a prime number
- $n$  has multiple parents otherwise

These are represented by no arrows starting at a number, exactly one arrow starting at a number, and multiple arrows starting at a number.

The second statement is also true. 0 and 1 have no children. All other numbers have multiple children (infinitely many, in fact). These are represented by arrows ending a number or not. ■

## Cartesian products

Let's discuss Cartesian products, which you first saw in your homework from last week.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $D$  and  $R$  be sets. The **Cartesian product** of  $D$  and  $R$  is defined as the set of ordered pairs  $\{(x, y) : x \in D, y \in R\}$ . It is denoted  $D \times R$ .

Let  $A = \{5, 6, 10\}$ ,  $B = \{-1, -2, -3\}$ ,  $C = \{-1, 1\}$ . Let  $\mathbb{N}$  denote natural numbers,  $\mathbb{Z}$  the integers, and  $\mathbb{R}$  the real numbers.

List the elements of the following Cartesian products:

- $A \times B$
- $A \times C$
- $\mathbb{Z} \times C$
- $C \times \mathbb{Z}$
- $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ .

Which of the above sets contains the element  $(6, -1)$ ? How about  $(-1, 10)$ ?

How would you describe  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ ?

How about  $\mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R})$ ?

*Solution.* (Partial)  $(6, -1) \in A \times B, \mathbb{Z} \times C, \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ . It is not an element of any of the other sets.

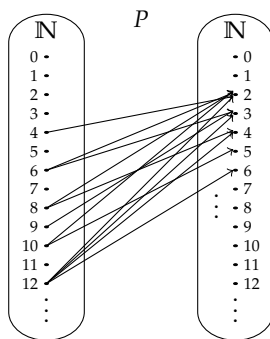
$(-1, 10) \in C \times \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ . It is not an element of any of the other sets.

$\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  is the coordinate plane.

$\mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R})$  can be thought of as all the coordinates of 3-space. ■

## Relations

In middle school, if relations are introduced, they are often done so in the form of a cloud diagram, such as drawn in the opening task. (Question: What do the "... " mean in the below diagram?)



In our example, a relation  $P$  maps numbers in  $\mathbb{N}$  to numbers in  $\mathbb{N}$ , and the map is represented by arrows connecting input numbers to output numbers.

**Definition 2.2** (Relation: Middle school version). A **relation** from a set  $D$  to a set  $R$  is a set of arrows going from elements of  $D$  to elements of  $R$ .

We use the notation  $P : D \rightarrow R$  to mean a relation from  $D$  to  $R$  called  $P$ .

**Definition 2.3** (Parent relation). The parent relation  $P : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is the set of arrows from each element of  $\mathbb{N}$  to its nontrivial factors.

If there is an arrow from an element  $x$  to an element  $y$ , we say the relation maps  $x$  to  $y$ .

**Note:** A relation  $P : D \rightarrow R$  may map an element of  $D$  to no elements of  $R$ , exactly one element of  $R$ , or multiple elements of  $R$ .

An element of  $R$  may have no elements of  $D$  mapping to it, exactly one element of  $D$  mapping to it, or multiple elements of  $D$  mapping to it.

**Definition 2.4.** For a relation  $P : D \rightarrow R$ , we say that

- $D$  is the **candidate domain**;
- $R$  is the **candidate range** (or **codomain**);
- the **image** of an element  $x \in D$  is the set of elements of  $R$  that  $x$  is mapped to. Similarly, the **image** of a subset of  $S \subseteq D$  is the subset of  $R$  that  $x \in S$  are mapped to. It is the union of the image of all elements  $x \in S$ ;
- the **domain** of  $P$  is the subset  $D' \subseteq D$  of elements that are mapped to an element of the candidate range, in other words, the subset of the candidate domain with nonempty assignments;
- the **preimage** of an element of  $R$  is the set of elements of  $D$  that map to  $R$ . Similarly, the **preimage** of a subset  $T \subseteq R$  is the subset of  $D$  whose elements map to  $R$ ; and
- the **range** (or **image**) of the relation  $P$  is the subset  $R \subseteq D$  of elements that have elements of the domain mapped to it, in other words, the subset of the candidate range with nonempty preimage.

**Note:** In these materials, we will use the terms “codomain” and “candidate range” interchangeably. We will also use the terms “range” and “image” interchangeably. The terms “codomain” and “image” typically do not show up in K-12 materials; they are typically introduced in university or graduate mathematics. The term “range” is standard to middle school and high school materials, though sometimes “range” is used to mean “candidate range” and other times it is used to mean “the set of elements with nonempty preimage”. In these materials, “range” only refers to the latter.

**Instructor note.** In writing these materials, we sought to find a standard term for what we call the “candidate domain.” To our knowledge, there is no well-known standard term for this concept. This is perhaps in part because the distinction matters primarily in undergraduate level mathematics and beyond, for instance in defining function composition; and perhaps also because at times at this level, a certain amount of notational interpretation is assumed and we loosen the restriction. For instance, meromorphic functions on  $\mathbb{C}$  are really holomorphic functions on the complement of a discrete set in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Functions in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  are technically only well defined up to equality of all integrals, so they don’t have a strict notion of “domain”; however, mathematicians still talk about the “domain” of an  $L^2$  function.

In this context, we want to be careful about differentiating between the “candidate domain” and the “domain”, so that we have language for talking about real functions and their domain. The term “candidate domain” was suggested to us by a high school mathematics teacher as a term that would have meaning to high school teachers that could potentially be explained to high school students. Another term we considered was “corange” as a parallel to “codomain”, as suggested by some mathematicians. However, we decided to use “candidate domain” instead because the term seemed more down-to-earth, and moreover problematizes the issue of finding the domain. The term suggests the question, “Is this really the domain? If not, how can we fix it to be the domain?”

The term “candidate range” was chosen to mirror “candidate domain”, as the phrase “a relation (or function) from a candidate domain to a candidate range” is more straightforward to high school teachers than “a relation (or function) from a candidate domain to a codomain”.

We have seen examples of most of these concepts in the parent relation. Other examples of relations might be:

- The relation from the candidate domain of all cars in the world to candidate range of all people in the world, mapping a car to its owner(s).
- The relation from the candidate domain of rooms in the mathematics building to candidate range of courses taking place at 1pm, mapping a room to the course being taught in it at 1pm.

In these examples, we can see how each condition of the note about relations may apply.

What are the domain and range of the car-owner relation and the room-course relation?

Suppose this table contains course assignments to rooms at 1pm. What is the image of Math Bldg Room 100? What is the preimage of Math 996, Math 405, Math 100, and Math 221 under the room-course relation?

Room	Course in room at 1pm
Math Bldg room 100	Math 996
Math Bldg room 104	Math 100
Engineering Bldg room 750	Math 405
not being offered this term	Math 221

Let  $T$  be the relation that maps each day of the year 2030 to the its average temperature in  $^{\circ}F$  that day. Describe a possible candidate domain, domain, candidate range, and range of this relation.

Let  $A$  be the relation that maps each degree in the interval  $[0^{\circ}, 360^{\circ})$  to all degrees in the interval  $(-\infty, \infty)$  that give an equivalent angle measure. What is the preimage of  $361^{\circ}$ ? What is the image of  $0^{\circ}$ ?

Let  $\rho$  be the relation that maps a point in the plane to its rotation about the origin by  $90^{\circ}$ . (This means  $90^{\circ}$  counterclockwise.) What is the image of the point  $(1, 0)$ ? What is the preimage of the point  $(-2, 0)$ ?

Let  $G$  be the relation that maps  $x$  to every  $y$  such that  $x = y^2$ . What is the image of 4? What is the preimage of  $-6$ ?

Interpret the definitions of candidate domain, domain, image, preimage, candidate range, and range in terms of arrows and their start and end points.

At the high school level, textbooks generally do not use cloud diagrams any more, nor do they talk about arrows. Instead, discussion of relations (and functions) are in terms of assignments. The definition in high school is mathematically equivalent to the middle school version, but stated in a way that more directly allows for defining concepts like the graph of a relation or later, the behavior of a function. (We note that as we will discuss later, a function is a kind of relation.)

**Definition 2.5** (Relation: High school version). A relation  $P$  from a set  $D$  to a set  $R$  a set of assignments from elements of  $D$ , called inputs, to elements of  $R$ , called outputs.

**Note:** We use the notation  $P : D \rightarrow R$  to mean a relation from  $D$  to  $R$ , and the notation  $x \mapsto y$  to denote an assignment from  $x \in D$  to  $y \in R$ . Something to keep in mind for “assignment” is that an assignment has to map something to something. So we think of an assignment not just as an “arrow” but as an arrow with specific start and end points.

What are some example assignments of the relation  $A$  mapping each degree in the interval  $[0^{\circ}, 360^{\circ})$  to all degrees in the interval  $(-\infty, \infty)$  that give an equivalent angle measure? Use the  $x \mapsto y$  notation to write down your examples.

*Solution.* Some examples of assignments are:  $0^{\circ} \mapsto 360^{\circ}$ ,  $0^{\circ} \mapsto 0^{\circ}$ ,  $359^{\circ} \mapsto -1^{\circ}$ ,  $90^{\circ} \mapsto 810^{\circ}$ . ■

Suppose we were to graph the relation  $A$ . What might this graph look like? What are some examples of coordinates that are contained in this graph?

*Solution.* It would look like the set of all lines of the form  $y = x + 360n$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Some example coordinates are  $(0, 360)$ ,  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(359, -1)$ ,  $(90, 810)$ . ■

Suppose we were to graph the parent relation. What might this graph look like? What are some examples of coordinates that are contained in this graph?

In undergraduate courses such as real analysis as well as in graduate courses in analysis, we go one step farther. Rather than defining relations in terms of assignments, we define relations in terms of ordered pairs. The ordered pairs represent the assignments.

**Definition 2.6** (Relation: University version). A relation  $P : D \rightarrow R$  is a subset of  $D \times R$ , i.e.,  $P \subseteq D \times R$ .

One way to think about this definition is that we are defining the relation as its graph in the space  $D \times R$ .

**Note:** One question that might come up is: if the candidate domain could be anything, then why bother finding good candidate domains? Why not instead let the candidate domain be the largest set that we could think of? For instance,  $\mathbb{R} \cup (\text{all cars in the world}) \cup (\text{all rooms in all buildings in the world}) \dots$  One reason is that eventually, we want to construct and compare graphs of relations and functions. The candidate domain and candidate range of comparable relations and functions are likely to be similar to each other, and the graphs live in the space  $D \times R$  where  $D$  is the candidate domain and  $R$  is the candidate range for these relations or functions.

## Inverse of a relation

**Definition 2.7** (Inverse relation: Middle school version). If  $P$  is a relation from a set  $D$  to  $R$ , then the **inverse relation** of  $P$  is the relation that swaps the direction of the arrows of  $P$ . The arrows of the inverse relation go from elements of  $R$  to elements of  $D$ .

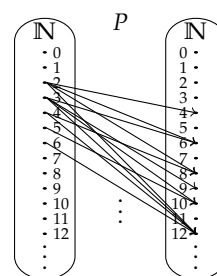
**Definition 2.8** (Inverse relation: High school version). Given a relation  $P : D \rightarrow R$ , the **inverse relation** of  $P$  is the set of assignments  $y \mapsto x$  such that  $x \mapsto y$  is an assignment of  $P$ . The inverse relation is denoted  $P^{-1}$ .

**Definition 2.9** (Inverse relation: University version). Given a relation  $P : D \rightarrow R$ , the **inverse relation** of  $P$  is defined

$$P^{-1} = \{(y, x) : (x, y) \in P\}.$$

As an example, let's look at the parent relation. The inverse of the parent relation could be represented like the following. (*Question:* What do the "... " mean in this representation?)

What other arrows does the inverse of the parent relation contain?  
What might be a good name for this relation?  
What is the inverse of the car-owner relation? How about the relations  $T$ ,  $A$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $G$ ?



**Instructor note.** One reasonable name for the inverse of the parent relation might be the "child relation", as this relation maps natural numbers to their children. The inverse of the car-owner relation is the relation from all people in the world to all cars in the world that map a person to all the cars they own. The relation  $T^{-1}$  maps possible temperatures to the days on which that temperature was the day's average temperature. The relation  $A^{-1}$  maps an element of  $\mathbb{R}$  to the element of  $[0, 360)$  which represents its angle measure. The relation  $\rho^{-1}$  is rotation about the origin by  $-90^\circ$ , which is  $90^\circ$  clockwise. The relation  $G^{-1}$  is the relation that maps  $y$  to every  $x$  such that  $x = y^2$ .

Discuss the three versions of the definition of inverse of a relation. What do they each say? How would you represent them? What makes them mathematically equivalent?

## Composition of relations

**Definition 2.10** (composition). Given two relations  $P : D \rightarrow R$  and  $Q : R \rightarrow S$ , we define the **composition** of  $P$  then  $Q$  as the relation that assigns  $x \in D$  to  $z \in S$  whenever there is a  $y \in R$  such that  $P$  assigns  $x \mapsto y$  and  $Q$  assigns  $y \mapsto z$ .

In the remainder of this section, most of the examples that we use will be cases where  $D, R, S \in \mathbb{R}$  or  $D, R, S \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . We make this choice for two main reasons:

- Most examples of composition in high school mathematics are those where the superdomain and superrange can be the same space, and this space is either  $\mathbb{R}$  (in algebra) or  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (in geometry).
- The details of some results require more technical bookkeeping when not working in  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . The idea behind these results is more important for high school teaching than learning the technical bookkeeping.

Composition and relation to inverse

Composition and different ways of representing

## Graph of a relation

In this section, we work exclusively with graphs of functions whose candidate domain and candidate range are subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Definition 2.11** (graph of a relation). The graph of a relation  $P : D \rightarrow R$  is defined as the set of points  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $P$  assigns  $a \mapsto b$ .

**Definition 2.12** (graph of an equation). The graph of an equation in  $x$  and  $y$  is defined as the set of points  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that evaluating the equation at  $x = a$  and  $y = b$  results in a true statement.

Example with integral?

**Proof structure.** To show that a point  $(a, b)$  is on a graph of a relation means showing that the relation assigns  $a$  to  $b$ .

**Proof structure.** To show that a point  $(x, y)$  is on the graph of an equation means showing that evaluating the equation at  $x = a$  and  $y = b$  results in a true statement.

Composition of graphs??

## Functions

**Definition 2.13** (Function: Middle and High school version). A **function**  $f$  from  $D$  to  $R$  is a relation from  $D$  to  $R$  where each input in  $D$  is assigned to no more than one output in  $R$ .

**Definition 2.14** (Function: University version). A **function** is a relation  $f : D \rightarrow R$ , such that if  $(x, y), (x, y') \in f$ , then  $y = y'$ .

Discuss these definitions. What do they each say? How would you represent them? What makes them mathematically equivalent?

Look at definitions of function and possibly revise them

Example:  $1/x$ , sqrt, other examples

Things high school students should be thinking about:

- codomain
- range (image)
- domain

Pose these as problems.

Discuss vertical line test. Eventually explaining this becomes one of the SoPs.

Crib homework problems from combination of Bremigan, Bremigan, and Lorch and Sultan and Artzt. They have some good conceptual problems in there about relations and functions.

## Intro to inverse of a functions

We are now going to say something that may seem strange: every function has an inverse! The reason why this statement is true is that every function has an *inverse relation*. This is because functions are relations, and all relations have inverses. (What about concepts like “inverse function” and “invertibility”? Stay tuned for the next time.)

To finish this class, let's do an exploration: \_\_\_\_\_

Under what conditions can you rotate the graph of a function about the origin, and still have the resulting graph being the graph of a function? If the graph of a function cannot be rotated about the origin without ceasing to be the graph of a function, might there be other points which could act as centre of rotation and preserve the property of being the graph of a function?

Next time: Define invertibility. Put intro to this in homework.

need to  
reword  
exploration  
task for  
inverses  
of  
functions,  
this is  
copying  
p. 203 of  
Mason,  
Burton,  
and  
Stacey's  
(2010)  
book  
verbatim



## **In-Class Resources**

## Homework

Define invertibility of function somewhere in homework.

IGNORE EVERYTHING HERE FOR NOW: NEED TO COMBINE WITH LESSON 2.

### **3 Function Composition and Inverse Functions (Week 3) (Length: ~2.5 hours)**

#### **Overview**

Teaching practice: “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

#### **Summary**

### Materials.

- Handouts from In-Class Resources (can be printed double-sided)

## Function composition

Recall the middle school definition of relation and the parent relation  $P$ . Let  $t : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, x \mapsto 2x$ . Using the middle school definition, how would you represent the  $P \circ t$ ? How would you represent  $t \circ P$ ? What are the domain and range of each composition?

Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto x^2$  and  $g$  be defined as the relation which maps  $x$  to all  $y$  such that  $x = y^2$ . Using the middle school definition, how would you represent  $f \circ g$ ? How would you represent  $g \circ f$ ? What do you notice? What do you wonder?

*Solution. (Sketch)* For each of the above, we can represent the compositions with concatenated cloud diagrams, such as:

[insert graphic here of three clouds]

Although only the domain and range of the  $P$  and  $t$  compositions are asked for, we provide the domain and range for all compositions considered:

composition	domain	range
$P \circ t$	$\{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \geq 2\}$	$\{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \geq 2\}$
$t \circ P$	$\{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \neq 0, 1 \text{ and } n \text{ is not prime}\}$	All even natural numbers $\geq 4$
$g \circ f$	$\mathbb{R}$	$\mathbb{R}$
$f \circ g$	$\mathbb{R}$	$\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

Why is 1 *not* in the domain of  $P \circ t$ ? The relation  $P$  does not assign  $t(1)$  to any element. So  $P(t(1))$  is undefined. ■

**Instructor note.** One way to discuss the domain of  $t \circ P$  is to ask, “Raise your hand if 5 was in your domain ... 4? ... 3? ... 2? ... 1? ... 0?” Make a note of any disagreements or wide agreements to the class orally. Then ask for students’ reasoning about 5, 1, and 0.

Which of the above is a function?

*Solution.* Only  $g \circ f$  is a function. The other compositions are not relations because there exist elements that are assigned to multiple elements by the composition.

One way to see this is to represent the result of the compositions using two cloud diagrams, such as below.

[insert graphic]

## Compositions that result in functions

As we have seen, relation composition can get pretty messy! Yet occasionally they compose nicely to functions.

We can think of elements in the superdomain of a relation as being one of three types:

**Type 0:** Elements in the superdomain that are not mapped to any element in the superrange.

**Type 1:** Elements in the superdomain that are mapped to exactly one element in the superrange.

**Type 2<sup>+</sup>:** Elements in the superdomain that are mapped to multiple elements in the superrange.

We’ve seen examples of each of these in the parent relation; there are other examples as well.

make tikz or pencil sketches of three cloud diagrams to represent function composition

use tikz or pencil to show composition via two cloud diagrams

**Instructor note.** You might ask the class quickly, “What are some examples in the parent relation of type 0? of type 1? of type 2+?”

Here is a question that we will explore in the future but not at this moment.

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be two relations.

- (a) Suppose that we know that  $P$  is a function. What would have to be true about the assignments associated to  $Q$  for  $Q \circ P$  to be a function?
- (b) What if  $P$  were not a function? What would have to be true about the assignments associated to  $Q$  for  $Q \circ P$  to be a function?

Before we dive into this task, discuss:

- What are these questions asking?
- What are some examples of  $P$  that you would use to try to explore the question?
- What are some representations of relations that we have been using? Which do you think would be helpful to consider and why?

## Functions whose inverse relations are functions

[Introduce definitions]

### Constructing partial inverses

[activities: construct candidate partial inverses for  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto x^2$ ,  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto |x|$ ,  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto \sin(x)$ ,  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto \cos(x)$ .]

[above activity is to construct as many candidates as possible. bring up idea of having non-continuous partial inverses. choose favorites. talk about desirable features and conventions about canonical partial inverses. should lead to discovery of standard definition for arcsin and arccos.]

[activity: talk about candidate partial inverses and what they are in terms of different representations]

“rule of 6” using symbolic, cloud, tables, graphs

## In-Class Resources

### OPENER

Which of the following is the graph of  $y = \sin(x)$ ?

## Homework

## **Simulation of Practice: Title of Simulation 1**

something with vertical line test



## Simulation of Practice: Title of Simulation 2

function/relation transformation maybe