

## Housekeeping

Assignment 5 is now available. It is due at the beginning of your support class in week 7 (10–13 April). Submission options for people missing their Fri 14 April tutorial are included on the assignment sheet.

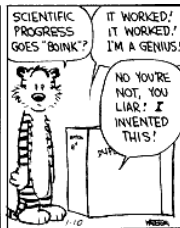
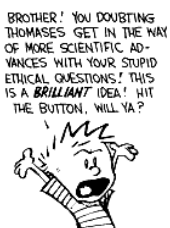
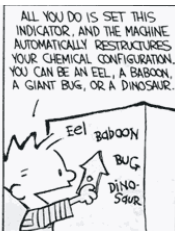
People missing their Fri 14 April tutorial should feel free to attend any other tutorial in week 7 (a list will be posted on moodle).

Tutorial sheet 5 and tutorial solutions 4 are also now available.

Assignment 4 is due at your support class next week.

# MAT1830

## Lecture 15: Composition and Inversion



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  $\mathbb{R}$ )

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

## 15.1 Notation for composite functions

In the present example we write

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

or

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

In general, if  $f(x) = g(h(x))$  we write  $f = g \circ h$  and say  $f$  is the *composite* of  $g$  and  $h$ .

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

**Example.**

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

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

**Question 15.1** Let  $f$ ,  $m$  and  $s$  be functions on the set of people defined by

$m(x)$  = mother of  $x$

$f(x)$  = father of  $x$

$s(x)$  = spouse of  $x$ .

What are the following?

(Note  $s$  is not actually a valid function on the set of people.)

$m \circ s(x)$     mother in law of  $x$

$f \circ s(x)$     father in law of  $x$

$m \circ m(x)$     grandmother (maternal) of  $x$

$f \circ m(x)$     grandfather (maternal) of  $x$

$s \circ s(x)$      $x$

**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  $\{x : x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } x \geq 0\}$ .)

$$\sqrt{1 + x^3} = \text{sqrt}(\text{successor}(\text{cube}(x))) = \text{sqrt} \circ \text{successor} \circ \text{cube}(x)$$

$$x^{\frac{3}{2}} = \text{sqrt}((\text{cube}(x))) = \text{sqrt} \circ \text{cube}(x)$$

$$(1 + x)^3 = \text{cube}(\text{successor}(x)) = \text{cube} \circ \text{successor}(x)$$

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

## 15.2 Conditions for composition

Composite functions do not always exist.

**Example.** If  $\text{reciprocal} : \mathbb{R} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by  $\text{reciprocal}(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  and  $\text{predecessor} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  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  $\text{reciprocal}$ .

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  $B = C$ .

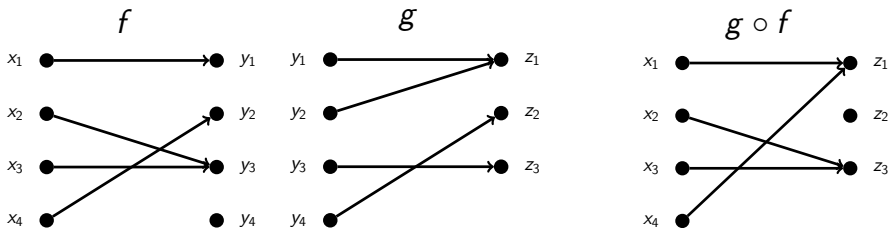


Let  $g : C \rightarrow D$  and  $h : A \rightarrow B$  be functions.

The function  $g \circ h$  exists if and only if  $C = B$ .

If it exists,  $g \circ h : A \rightarrow D$  and is defined by  $g \circ h(x) = g(h(x))$ .

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



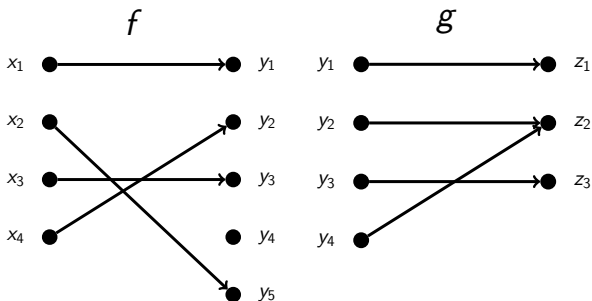
Does  $g \circ f$  exist?

$\text{codomain}(f) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$  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?

$\text{codomain}(f) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4, y_5\}$  and  $\text{domain}(g) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$ .  
So  $g \circ f$  does not exist because  $\text{codomain}(f) \neq \text{domain}(g)$ .

**Example** Let  $f$ ,  $g$  and  $h$  be the functions

$f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  defined by  $f(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$  (“ $x$  rounded down”)

$g : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $g(x) = \sqrt{x'}$  where  $x'$  is the remainder when  $x$  is divided by 5.

$h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $h(x) = x^2 + 7$ .

Does  $g \circ f$  exist?    Yes.     $\text{codomain}(f) = \text{domain}(g)$      $g \circ f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Does  $f \circ g$  exist?    Yes.     $\text{codomain}(g) = \text{domain}(f)$      $f \circ g : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

Does  $g \circ h$  exist?    No.     $\text{codomain}(h) \neq \text{domain}(g)$

Does  $g \circ f \circ g$  exist?    Yes.     $\text{codomain}(f \circ g) = \text{domain}(g)$

$g \circ f \circ g : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

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

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

In fact, this is exactly what sqrt is supposed to do – reverse the process of squaring. However, this works only if we restrict the domain to  $\mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ . 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  $\mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ .

## 15.5 Conditions for inversion

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

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

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.

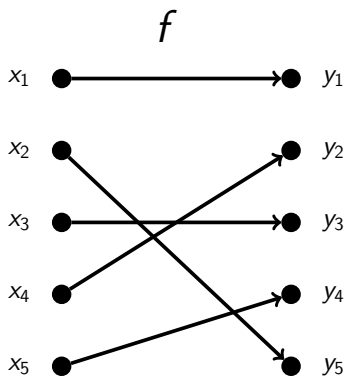
(Remember onto means  $\text{range}(f) = B$ .)

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

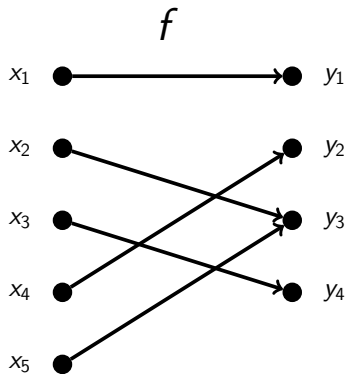


**Question** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be the function pictured below.



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

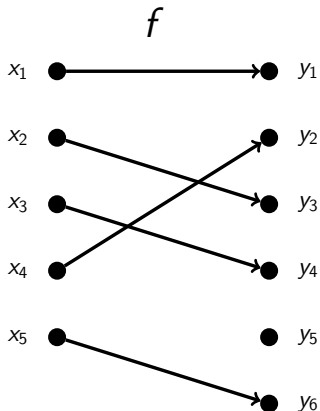
**Question** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be the function pictured below.



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** 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

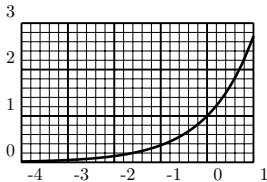
$g(x) : \mathbb{R} - \{1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} - \{1\}$  defined by  $g(x) = \frac{x}{x-1}$ ;

have in common?

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

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

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  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Question** Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be the function defined by  $f((a, b)) = ab$ . Does  $f^{-1}$  exist?

No.  $f$  is not one-to-one. e.g.  $f((2, 3)) = f((1, 6))$

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

No.  $g$  is not onto.

**Question** Let  $h : \{C : C \text{ is a circle in the plane with centre } (0, 0)\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be the function defined by  $h(C)$  equals the area of  $C$ . Does  $h^{-1}$  exist?

Yes.  $h$  is one-to-one and onto.

## 15.6 Operations

An *operation* is a particular type of function, with domain  $A \times A \times A \times \dots \times A$  and codomain  $A$ , for some set  $A$ .

For example, the addition function  $f(a, b) = a + b$  is called an *operation on*  $\mathbb{R}$ , because  $f : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . (That is, addition is a function of two real variables, which takes real values.)

An operation with one variable is called *unary*, an operation with two variables is called *binary*, an operation with three variables is called *ternary*, and so on.

### Examples

1. Addition is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R}$ .
2. Successor is a unary operation on  $\mathbb{N}$ .
3. Intersection is a binary operation on  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  for any set  $A$ .
4. Complementation is a unary operation on  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  for any set  $A$ .