Calculus

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Part I Preliminaries

Functions

1.1 Sets

Before defining what a function is or what it does, it is important to briefly discuss what goes into function and what comes out. Simply, *sets* are a collection of items and each one of those items are usually referred to as *elements*. Without getting into the weeds of set theory, sets can contain pretty much anything from numbers, functions, and other sets [1].

Some common sets that you may be familiar with are the *natural numbers* $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots\}$, the *integers* $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, and the *real numbers* \mathbb{R} , which is usually represented via a number line. Sets can also be intervals on the real line (i.e. [a,b) is an interval on \mathbb{R} containing a but not b) or even the possible results of flipping a coin $C = \{H, T\}$.

We will now define the basic notation when dealing with sets and the operations that can be performed on sets. We say that x is an element of a set A with the notation $x \in A$ and when x is not in A, we say $x \notin A$. For example, given the set $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, we can say that $1 \in A$ is true as well as $5 \notin A$.

The notion of combining sets comes with *unions* and *intersections*. Given A and B are sets, the union of A and B is denoted as $A \cup B$ and is equal to the set the contains elements in either A or B. Similarly, the intersection between A and B is denoted as $A \cap B$ and is the set that contains elements that are in both A and B. For example, given the sets $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $B = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$, the union and intersection between A and B is

$$A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$A \cap B = \{3, 4\}$$
 (1.1)

Subsets are important to relate different sets. A set A is said to be a subset of another set B if all of the elements of A are also within B and is denoted as $A \subseteq B$ and a set A is equal to a set B if and only if $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$. An important subset is the empty set represented by the symbols \emptyset , \emptyset , or simply $\{\}$. It is important to note that the empty set is also a subset of all sets.

Using sets by listing them out can become cumbersome and sometimes confusing, instead set builder notation is used to build a set based on a rule. For example, the set of all positive even integers can be written as

$$A = \{2, 4, 6, 8, \dots\} = \{z : z \text{ is an positive even integer}\} = \{z : z = 2n, n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } n > 0\}$$
 (1.2)

Here, the : stands for "such that" which indicates the rule (the words "such that" or the symbol | is also often used). The *rational numbers* \mathbb{Q} can also be constructed via the integers with

$$\mathbb{Q} = \{ \frac{p}{q} : p, q \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } q \neq 0 \}$$
 (1.3)

As mentioned previously, intervals on the real number line can be represented as sets. Given two values a and b and assuming that $a \le b$, intervals on the real line are represented as

b

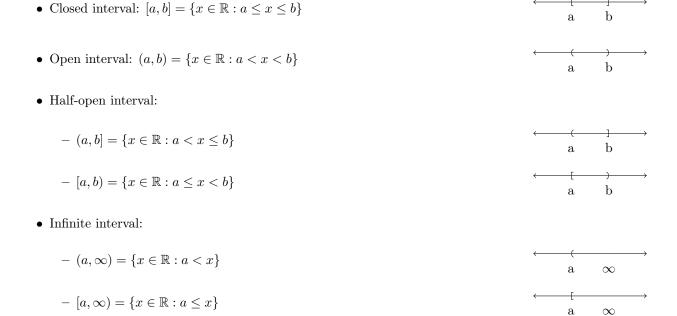
b

 ∞

 $-\infty$

 $-\infty$

 $-\infty$



Here, the open brackets (and) indicate that the respective endpoint is not included, while the closed brackets [and] indicate that the respective endpoint is included in the interval.

1.2 What is a function?

 $- (-\infty, b) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x < b\}$

 $-(-\infty, b] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x < b\}$

 $-(-\infty,\infty)=\mathbb{R}$

Functions are objects in math that describe a relationship or mapping between two sets. Given two sets X and Y, a function f maps the elements of X, called the *domain* of the function, to elements in the set Y called the *codomain* of the function and the relationship is denoted as $f: X \to Y$ ("f maps from X to Y") or y = f(x) ("g equals g of g"), where g is known as the *dependent variable* and g is known as the *independent variable* or the *argument* of the function. The *range* of a function is the set of all possible values that g is able to output with g as its domain, note that the range is a subset of g but is not always equal.

Some real-world examples of functions are

• The area of a circle: $A(r) = \pi r^2$ • The height of a falling ball: $h(t) = h_0 + v_0 t - (1/2) g t^2$ • Compound interest: $A(t) = P(1 + \frac{r}{n})^{nt}$ • Temperature conversion: $C(F) = \frac{5}{9}(F - 32)$

- 1.3 The Graph of a Function
- 1.4 Types of Functions
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Bibliography

[1] Richard Hammack. Book of Proof. 3rd Edition. Richard Hammack, 2018.

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