

# 1 Lecture 1

*“The materials invented 15 years ago are becoming important today, and will be more important after 15 years.”*

## 1.1 Overview of this lecture

### 1.1.1 What the course is about

This class is a path to *Algebraic Geometry*, where we have to learn *Topology* and *Ring Theory* as a prerequisite. If time permits, we will also introduce *Convex Geometry*, which is a foundation for convex optimization.

The goal of this class is to provide you a formal mathematical training, comprising mathematical intuition, principled thinking, and mathematical tools.

### 1.1.2 Where this class is applied.

(there may be typos since I do not understand the terminology.)

Topology is used in Data Science (e.g., Pattern Analysis via “Persistent Homology”), Electron Devices (“topological insulator”), Network/Graph Topologies, Molecular Biology (e.g., DNA and protein folding, Knot Theory).

Algebraic Geometry is used in Machine Learning (e.g., Data Clustering, Matrix Completion), Computer Vision (e.g., Structure from Motion, Multi-view Geometry), Robotics (e.g., Control and Planning, the motion space is algebraic), Biology (e.g. Phylogenetics)

### 1.1.3 Evaluation for the course

There will be no exams for the course, and the homework is occasional. As an alternative, we will have weekly tests, including 2 questions which you need to solve/prove in 30 minutes.

The course proceeds as follows. 1) You take the class in the week  $i$ , 2) there will be a TA session in week  $i+1$ , where or when we will do again what we did in the week  $i$ , 3) you got a new lecture and the quiz in the week  $i+2$ .

### 1.1.4 A starting point for Mathematics

To begin mathematics, we have to use some languages (e.g., we use Chinese to talk). We introduce *set* as a language, or as a primitive notion, to describe mathematics. You know what I mean by *set*, hopefully.

## 1.2 Math

We are ready to define *function*, as you might already know, it is merely a mapping from one set to another. Formally,

**Definition 1.2.1** (function). A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a subset  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $X \times Y$ , such that, for each  $x \in X$ , there is only one element  $y \in Y$  satisfying  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{F}$ .

Usually we say that  $X$  is the *domain* of the function  $f$ ,  $Y$  the *target domain* of the function  $f$ .

**Definition 1.2.2** (image of a function). The image of a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is defined as follows:

$$\text{im}(f) = \{y \in Y \mid \text{there is } x \in X : y = f(x)\}. \quad (1)$$

**Definition 1.2.3** (inverse image). Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a function and  $T$  a subset of  $Y$ , then

$$f^{-1}(T) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in T\} \quad (2)$$

is called inverse image of  $T$ . If  $T$  is a singleton set, i.e.,  $T = \{y\}$  where  $y \in Y$ . we call  $f^{-1}(T) = f^{-1}(\{y\})$  the *fiber* over  $y$ .

**Definition 1.2.4** (left-invertible and right-invertible). The professor draws pictures to illustrate these two concepts. review the pictures or read the textbook for a reference.

**Definition 1.2.5** (invertible function). A function  $f$  is invertible if  $f$  is both left- and right-invertible.

**Question 1.2.6.** How to show that a function  $f$  is left (right) invertible?

**Definition 1.2.7** (injectivity and surjectivity). A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is called *injective* if whenever  $f(x) = f(x')$  for  $x, x' \in X$ , then  $x = x'$ . That is, for each  $y \in f(X)$  there is only one  $x \in X$  such that  $f(x) = y$ .

A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is called *surjective* if  $Y = f(X)$ .

**Proposition 1.2.8.** A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is injective if and only if it is left-invertible.

*proof skeleton.* Just follow the definitions of injectivity and left-invertibility.

To show that  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is left-invertible, you have to find a function  $g : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $g(f(x)) = x$  (the definition of left-invertibility).

To show that  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is injective, you have to prove that given  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  and  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ , it must be that  $x_1 = x_2$  (the definition of injectivity).  $\square$

**Exercise 1.2.9.** Prove that a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is surjective if and only if it is right-invertible.

**Definition 1.2.10** (Equivalence Relations). A relation  $R$  of  $X$  is a subset of  $X \times X$ .

$$(x, y) \in R \iff xRy. \quad (3)$$

An equivalence relation should be reflexive ( $xRx$ ), symmetric ( $xRy \Rightarrow yRx$ ) and transitive ( $xRy, yRz \Rightarrow xRz$ ).

**Question 1.2.11.** Can an equivalence relation even be an empty set?

**Definition 1.2.12** (equivalence class). Let  $R$  be equivalence relation on  $X$ , and  $x \in X$ , then we call  $[x] = \{x' \in X | xRx'\}$  is the equivalence class of  $x$ .

**Proposition 1.2.13.** Let  $X$  be a set and  $x, y \in X$ , then

$$[x] \cap [y] \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow [x] = [y]. \quad (4)$$

**Corollary 1.2.14.** Let  $X$  be a set and  $R$  a equivalence relation on  $X$ , then  $X$  is the disjoint union of all equivalence classes.

*proof skeleton.* use the proposition above.  $\square$

**Example 1.2.15** (examples for understanding equivalence relations). Let  $\mathbb{R}$  be the set and  $=$  the equivalence relation between real numbers. Then  $[x] = \{x\}$ .

The connected components in a graph can be viewed as a equivalence class.

Zorn's lemma is important but difficult to understand. Let's do it.

Let  $X$  be a set, and  $R$  be a partial order relation, in the sense that 1)  $xRx$ , 2)  $xRy, yRx \Rightarrow x = y$ , and 3)  $xRy, yRz \Rightarrow xRz$ .

**Example 1.2.16** (examples for understanding partial order relation).  $\leq$  is a partial order relation on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Axiom 1.2.17** (Axiom of Choice. v.1). *Let  $(X_i)_{i \in I}$  be a collection of non-empty sets. Then we can always choose one element from each set.*

**Axiom 1.2.18** (Axiom of Choice. v.2). *Let  $(X_i)_{i \in I}$  be a collection of non-empty sets. Then there exists a choice function  $f : I \rightarrow \cup_{i \in I} X_i$ .*

**Theorem 1.2.19** (Zorn's Lemma). *Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a partially ordered set. Suppose that every totally ordered subset  $Y$  of  $X$  has an upper bound (i.e.,  $\exists u \in X (u \geq y, \forall y)$ ). Then  $X$  has a maximal element (i.e.  $\exists m \in X (x \geq m \Rightarrow x = m)$ ).*

Zorn's Lemma and Axiom of Choice is equivalent, the lemma itself is difficult to prove. We will not prove it here. Refer to Paul Halmos's *Naive Set Theory* if you want to understand the whole story.

Zorn's Lemma can be used to show that

- Every vector space has a basis (in Matrix Analysis course, next semester).
- The product of compact spaces is compact (in this class).
- Every ideal of a ring is contained in a maximal ideal (in this class).

## 1.3 Further Reading

Mendelson, chapter 1.