



**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY**  
SINGAPORE

# Discrete Mathematics

## MH1812

**Topic 9.2 - Functions II**  
**Dr. Wang Huaxiong**

# Topic Overview

# What's in store...

**B**

ijectivity

**I**

dentify and Inverse

**C**

omposition and Properties

$f(x)$

# By the end of this lesson, you should be able to...

- Explain the concepts of bijective functions.
- Explain the concepts of identity and inverse functions.
- Explain the composition of functions.





# Bijectionity

# Bijectivity: One-to-one Correspondence



$f(x)$

A function  $f$  is a **one-to-one correspondence** (or **bijection**), if and only if it is both one-to-one and onto.

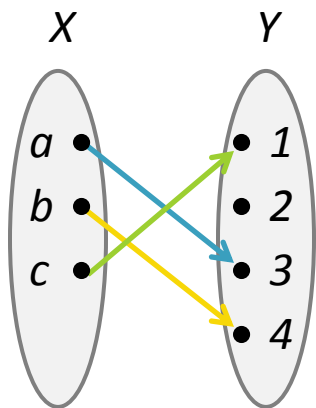
In words...

“No element in the codomain of  $f$  has two (or more) preimages” (one-to-one)

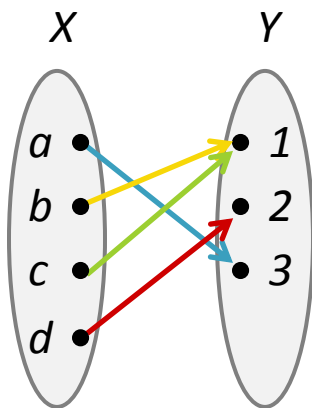
**and**

“Each element in the codomain of  $f$  has a preimage” (onto)

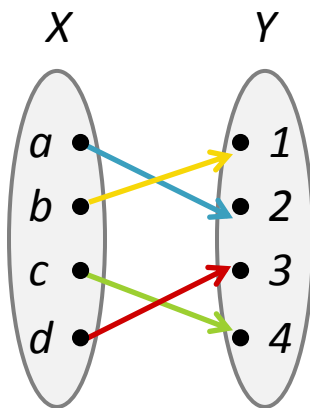
# Bijectivity: Example (Bijection)



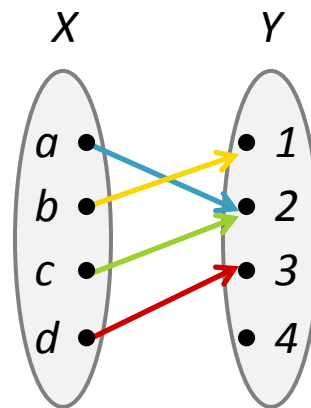
**No!**  
(Not onto as  $2$   
has no  
preimage)



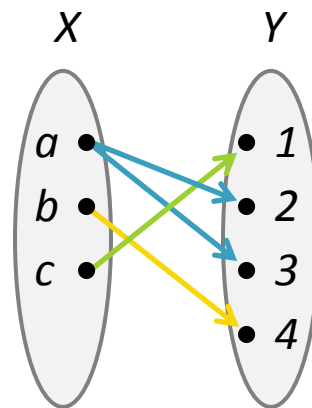
**No!**  
(Not one-to-one  
as  $1$  has two  
preimages)



**Yes!**  
(Each element  
has exactly one  
preimage)



**No!**  
(Neither  
one-to-one  
nor onto)



**No!**  
(Not a function  
as  $a$  has two  
images)

# Identity and Inverse



# Identity and Inverse: Identity Function

$f(x)$

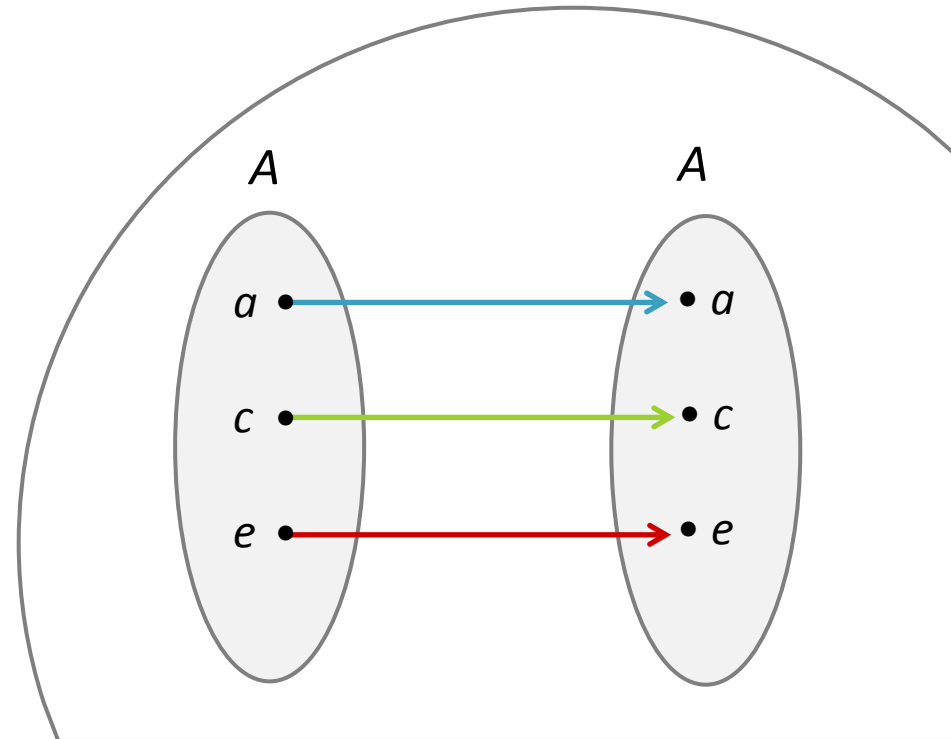
The **identity function** on a set  $A$  is defined as:

$$i_A: A \rightarrow A, i_A(x) = x.$$



**Example**

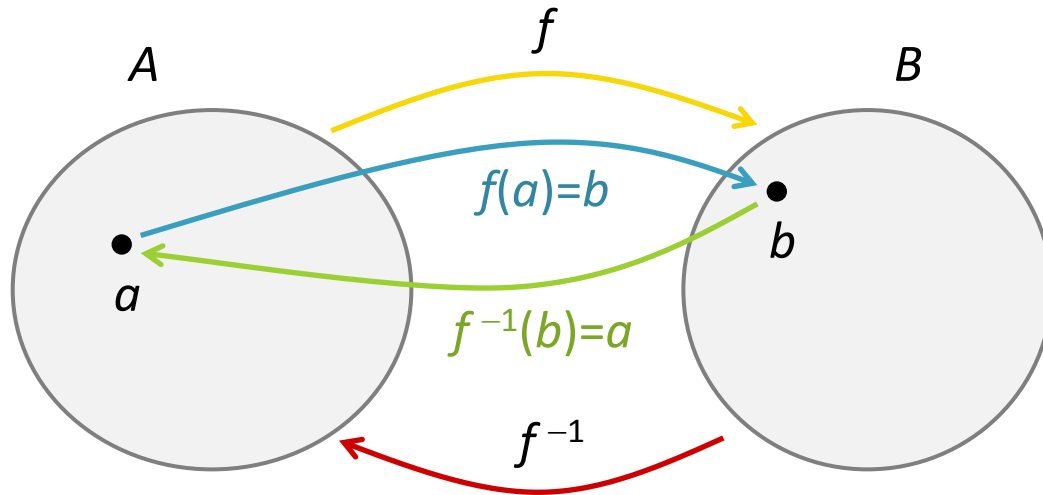
All identity functions are bijections (e.g., for  $A = \{a, c, e\}$ ).



# Identity and Inverse: Inverse Function

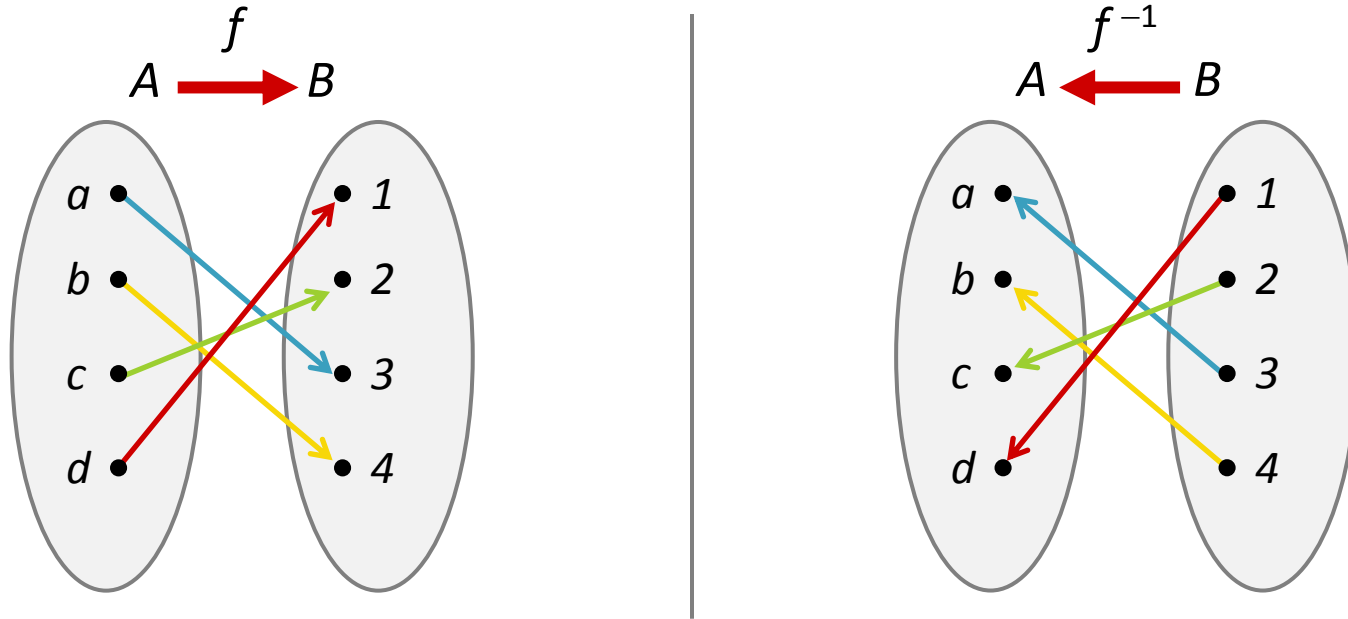
$f(x)$

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a one-to-one correspondence (bijection). Then the **inverse function of  $f$** ,  $f^{-1}: B \rightarrow A$ , is defined by:  $f^{-1}(b) =$  that unique element  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . We say that  $f$  is **invertible**.



# Identity and Inverse: Example 1

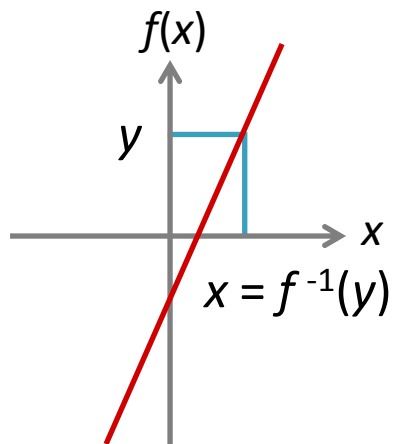
Find the inverse function of the following function:



Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a one-to-one correspondence and  $f^{-1}: B \rightarrow A$  its inverse. Then  $\forall b \in B \forall a \in A (f^{-1}(b) = a \Leftrightarrow b = f(a))$ .

# Identity and Inverse: Example 2

What is the inverse of  
 $f:R \rightarrow R, f(x) = 4x-1$ ?

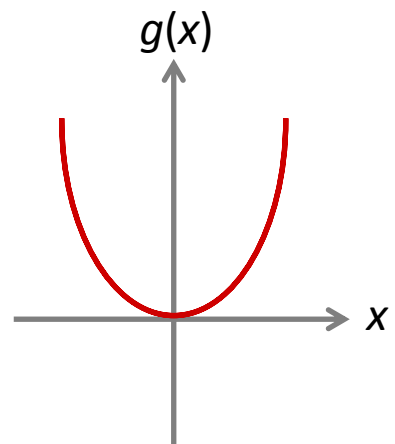


Let  $y \in R$ .

Calculate  $x$  with  $f(x) = y$ :  $y = 4x-1 \Leftrightarrow (y+1)/4 = x$ .

Hence  $f^{-1}(y) = (y+1)/4$ .

What is the inverse of  
 $g:R \rightarrow R, g(x) = x^2$ ?



# Identity and Inverse: One-to-one Correspondence

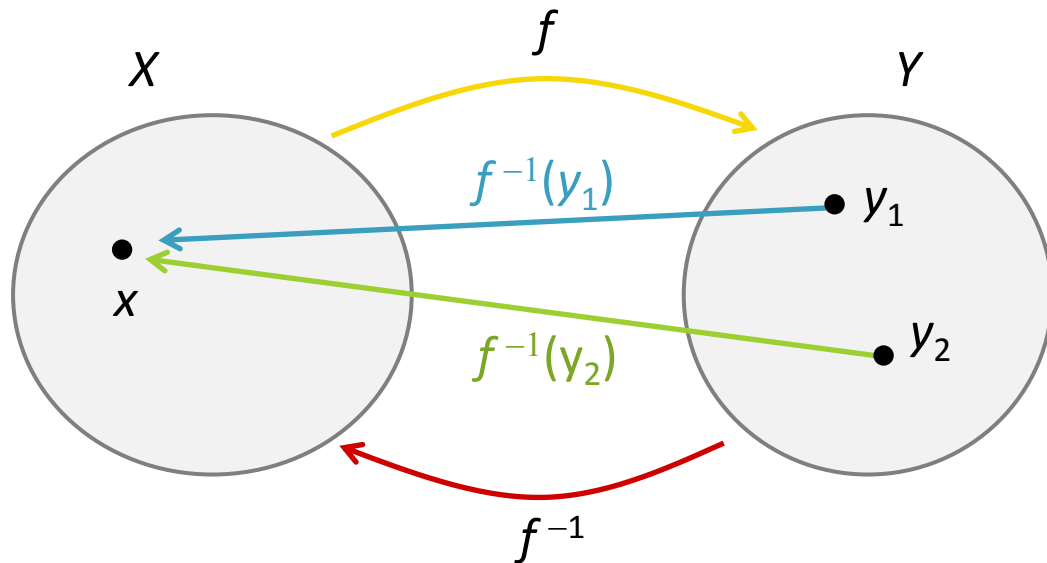
$f(x)$

**Theorem 1:** If  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a one-to-one correspondence, then  $f^{-1}: Y \rightarrow X$  is a one-to-one correspondence.

**Proof:**  $f^{-1}$  is one-to-one

Take  $y_1, y_2 \in Y$  such that  $f^{-1}(y_1) = f^{-1}(y_2) = x$ .

Then  $f(x) = y_1$  and  $f(x) = y_2$ , thus  $y_1 = y_2$ .





# Identity and Inverse: One-to-one Correspondence

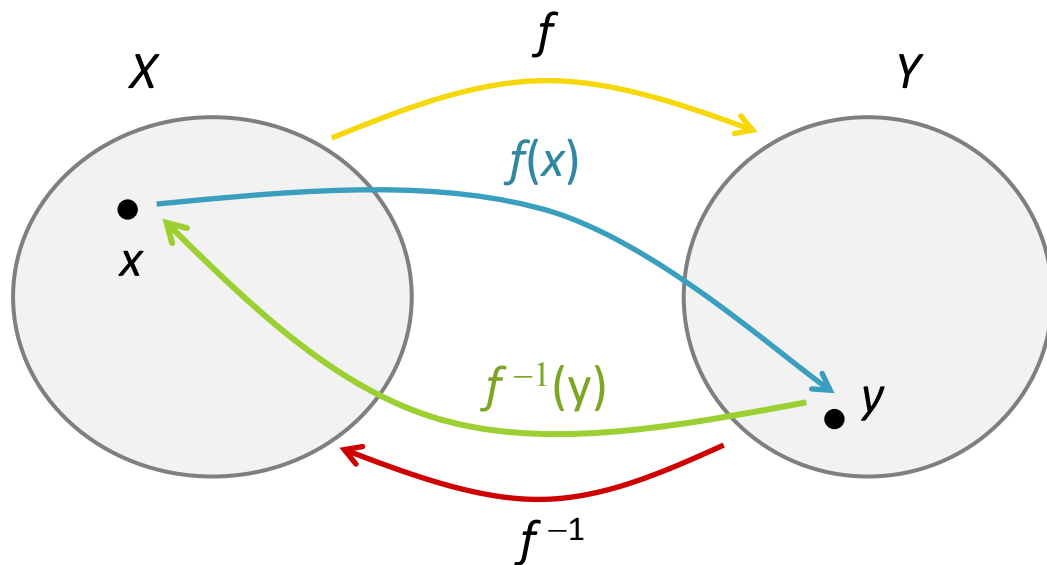
$f(x)$

**Theorem 1:** If  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a one-to-one correspondence, then  $f^{-1}: Y \rightarrow X$  is a one-to-one correspondence.

**Proof:**  $f^{-1}$  is onto

Take some  $x \in X$ , and  
let  $y = f(x)$ .

Then  $f^{-1}(y) = x$ .

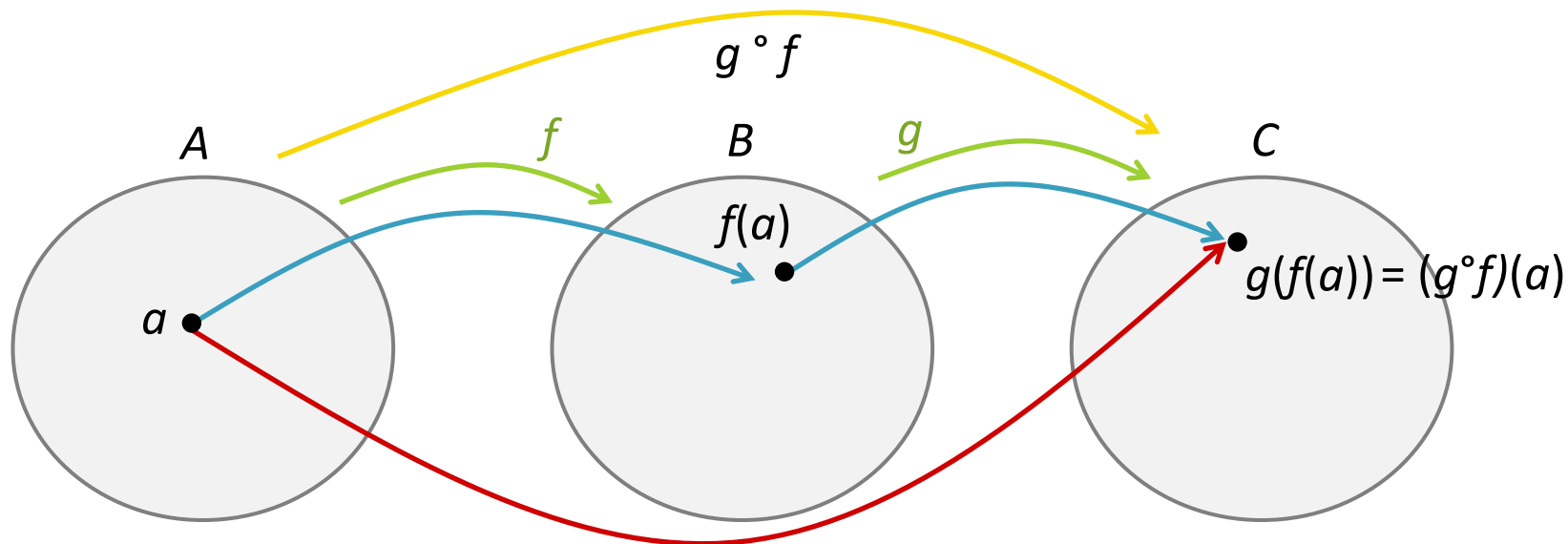


# Composition and Properties

# Composition and Properties: Composition of Functions

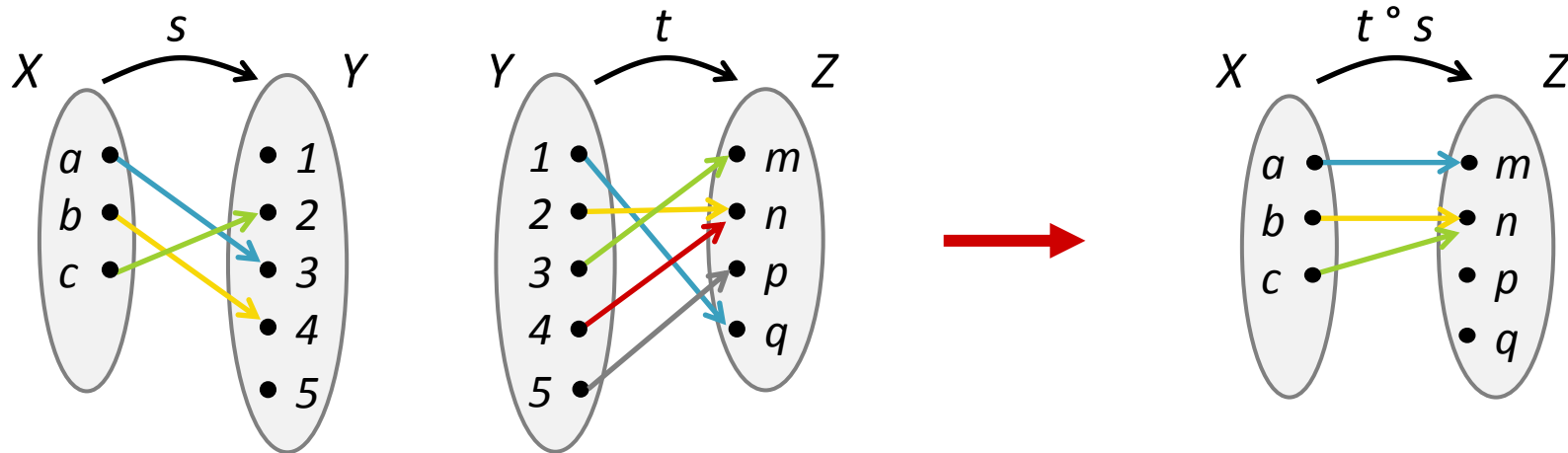
$f(x)$

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$  be functions. The **composition** of the functions  $f$  and  $g$ , denoted as  $g \circ f$ , is defined by:  $g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$ ,  $(g \circ f)(a) = g(f(a))$ .



# Composition and Properties: Example

Given functions  $s: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $t: Y \rightarrow Z$ . Find  $t \circ s$  and  $s \circ t$ .



# Composition and Properties: Example



$f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, f(n) = 2n + 3, g: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, g(n) = 3n + 2$

What is  $g \circ f$  and  $f \circ g$ ?

$$(f \circ g)(n) = f(g(n)) = f(3n + 2) = 2(3n + 2) + 3 = 6n + 7$$

$$(g \circ f)(n) = g(f(n)) = g(2n + 3) = 3(2n + 3) + 2 = 6n + 11$$

$f \circ g \neq g \circ f$  (No **commutativity** for the composition of functions!)



# Composition and Properties: One-to-one Propagation

$f(x)$

**Theorem 2:** Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g: Y \rightarrow Z$  be both one-to-one functions. Then  $g \circ f$  is also one-to-one.

**Proof:**  $\forall x_1, x_2 \in X ((g \circ f)(x_1) = (g \circ f)(x_2) \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2)$

Suppose  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  with  $(g \circ f)(x_1) = (g \circ f)(x_2)$ .

Then  $g(f(x_1)) = g(f(x_2))$ .

Since  $g$  is one-to-one, it follows  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ .

Since  $f$  is one-to-one, it follows  $x_1 = x_2$ .

# Composition and Properties: Onto Propagation

$f(x)$

**Theorem 3:** Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g: Y \rightarrow Z$  be both onto functions. Then  $g \circ f$  is also onto.

**Proof:**  $\forall z \in Z \exists x \in X$  such that  $(g \circ f)(x) = z$

Let  $z \in Z$ .

Since  $g$  is onto,  $\exists y \in Y$  with  $g(y) = z$ .

Since  $f$  is onto,  $\exists x \in X$  with  $f(x) = y$ .

Hence, with  $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = g(y) = z$ .

# Topic Summary

# Let's recap...

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- Bijective functions
- Identify and inverse functions
- Composition of functions and their properties

