

Homework: 3W

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Math 113: Discrete Structures

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Problem 1

Let y be an arbitrary element of A . Then we can create the function,

$$f(E) = \begin{cases} E - \{y\} & \text{if } y \in E \\ E \cup \{y\} & \text{if } y \notin E \end{cases}$$

This takes E sets to O , as $|f(E)| = |E| - 1 = 2e - 1$ and $|f(E)| = |E| + 1 = 2e + 1$ where $e = \frac{|E|}{2}$. In fact, it also takes O sets to E . $|f(O)| = |O| - 1 = (2o + 1) - 1 = 2o$ and $|f(O)| = |O| + 1 = (2o + 1) + 1 = 2(o + 1)$ where $o = \frac{|O| - 1}{2}$. We can see that

$$f \circ f(E) = f(f(E)) = f(O) = \begin{cases} O - \{y\} & \text{if } y \in O \\ O \cup \{y\} & \text{if } y \notin O \end{cases} = E$$

Thus we have shown a bijection, $f : E \rightarrow O, f : O \rightarrow E$. Since they are in bijection, $|O| = |E|$. Since the cardinalities of the set are either even or odd,

$$|E| + |O| = 2|E| = 2|O| = 2^{|A|} \implies |E| = |O| = 2^{|A|-1}$$

Problem 2

(\implies) Suppose there does not exist $g : B \rightarrow A$ such that, $f \circ g = \text{id}_B$, but f is surjective. If f is surjective then $f(A) = B$. $g(B) \neq A$ since otherwise $f \circ g = \text{id}_B$. However, we can construct a function g that is surjective, i.e. $g(B) = A$, thus a contradiction. If there exists a $g : B \rightarrow A$ such that $f \circ g = \text{id}_B$ then f is surjective.

(\impliedby) Suppose f is not surjective. Take the range of f to be $f(A) \subsetneq B$. Let $f \circ g : B \rightarrow f(A) \subsetneq B = \text{id}_B$. However, this is clearly false as by assumption, id_B should have equal domain and range or $\text{id}_B : B \rightarrow B$ and $\text{id}_B(B) = B$, $|B| = |f(A)|$ and as by assumption, $|f(A)| < |B|$. Thus a contradiction. Thus $f(A) = B$ or surjectivity. Hence, if f is surjective then there exists $g : B \rightarrow A$ such that $f \circ g = \text{id}_B$.

Thus we have proved both ways, and f is surjective if and only if there exists $g : B \rightarrow A$ such that $f \circ g = \text{id}_B$.