2526-MA140: Week 01, Lecture 2 (L02)

More About Functions

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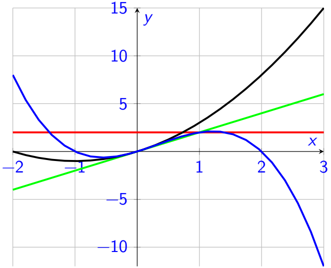


Outline

1. Functions: notation
   - Domain of a function
2. 4 Ways to Represent a Function
3. Graphical Representation
4. A Catalog of Functions
   - Linear functions
5. Polynomials
6. Exercises

For more, see Sections 1.1 and 1.2 of https://math.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Calculus/Calculus_(OpenStax)/01%3A_Functions_and_Graphs

Functions: notation

Recall: This section is all about **functions**, which a "rule" for mapping inputs to outputs.

1. Writing $f : A \to B$ means the inputs come from the set A, and the outputs come from the set B. (A **set** is just a collection of things).
2. A is called the **domain**, and B is called the **co-domain**.
3. $y = f(x)$ means "x gets mapped to y according to the rule defined by f". We sometimes also say "y is the image of x".
4. The subset of B that contains all the images of the things in A is called the **range** of f.
5. When we write $x \in A$ we mean "x is an element of X, or "x belongs to A".

Often, the domain of a function is not expilicitly stated.
In such a case the following **Domain Convention** applies.

The **domain** of a function f is the set of all numbers x for which $f(x)$ *makes sense* and gives a *real-number output*.

Example

1. Find the subset of $\mathbb{R}$ that is the **domain** of $f_1(x) = \dfrac{1}{x^2 - x}$.

Example

Find the subset of $\mathbb{R}$ that is the **domain** of the function $f_2(x) = \sqrt{x+2}$.

Example

Given the function $f_3(x) = 3x^2 + 1$, find the largest subset of $\mathbb{R}$ that is the domain of f_3. What is the corresponding **range**?

Example

Identify the domain (in $\mathbb{R}$) and range of
$f_4(x) = \sqrt{(x+4)(3-x)}$

Example

Identify the domain and range of $f_5(x) = \dfrac{1}{x}$.

4 Ways to Represent a Function

A function can be represented in different ways:

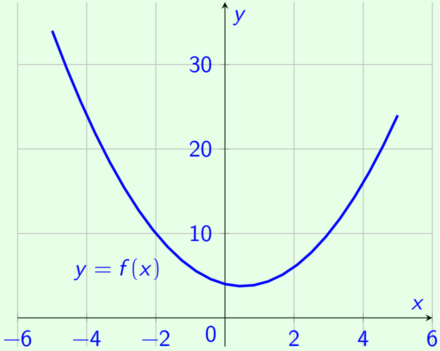
1. **verbally** (by a description in *words*);
2. **numerically** (as a *table* of values);
3. **visually** (as a *graph*);
4. **algebraically** (by an explicit *formula*).

Often it is possible, and useful, to go from one way to another.

Graphical Representation

Graph $\rightarrow$ Table

A common way to *visualize* a function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is its *graph* in the x, y-plane. In this example, $f(x) = x^2 - x + 4$.



x	$f(x)$
-4	24
-2	10
0	4
2	6
4	16

A Catalog of Functions

There are many *different types of functions* that can be used to *model relationships* between objects in the *real world*.

The most common types of functions (in MA140) are:

- *Linear* Functions,
- *Polynomial* Functions,
- *Power* Functions,
- *Rational* Functions,
- *Algebraic* Functions,
- *Trigonometric* Functions,
- *Exponential* Functions,
- *Logarithms*.

Linear functions have formulae such as $f(x) = mx + c$, where m and c are some given numbers.

It is often represented graphically as a straight line of slope m through the point $(0, c)$.

Polynomials

Polynomials

A **polynomial function** (or just **polynomial**) is a function of the form

$$y = f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x^1 + a_0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

where $a_0, a_1, ..., a_n$ are real numbers called the **coefficients** of the polynomial.
The number n is called the **degree** of the polynomial.

There are special names for polynomials of low degree:

Exercises

Exercise 1.2.1

Identify the largest possible subset of $\mathbb{R}$ that could be the domain and range of these functions:

1. $f(x) = (x-4)^2 + 5$
2. $f(x) = \sqrt{3x+2} - 1$
3. $f(x) = 3/(x-2)$.

(See Example 1.1.2 of the textbook).