Why

We want a notion for a correspondence between two sets.

Definition

A *function* (or *mapping* or *map*) f *from* a set X *to* a set Y is a relation (see Relations) whose domain is X and whose range is a subset of Y such that for each $x \in X$, there exists a unique $y \in Y$ so that $(x, y) \in f$.

We call the unique $y \in Y$ the *result* of the function *at* the *argument* x. We call Y the *codomain*. If the range is Y we say that f is a function from X *onto* Y (or f is *surjective*). If distinct elements of X are mapped to distinct elements of Y, we say that the function is *one-to-one* (or *injective*).

We say that the function *maps* (or *takes*) elements from the domain to the codomain. Since the word "function" and the verb "maps" connote activity, some authors refer to the set of ordered pairs as the *graph* of a function and avoid defining "function" in terms of sets.

Notation

Let X and Y denote sets. We denote a function named f whose domain is X and whose codomain is Y by $f : X \to Y$. We read the notation aloud as "f from X to Y". We denote the set of all functions from X to Y (which is a subset of $\mathcal{P}((X \times Y))$) by Y^X. A less standard but equally good notation is $X \to Y$, read aloud as "A to B". Using the earlier notation, we denote that $f \in (A \to B)$ by $f : A \to B$. We tend to denote function by lower case latin

letters, especially f, g, and h. f is a mnemonic for function and g and h are nearby.

Let $f : A \to B$. For each element $a \in A$, we denote the result of applying f to a by $f(a)$, read aloud "f of a." We sometimes drop the parentheses, and write the result as f_a, read aloud as "f sub a." Let $g : A \times B \to C$. We often write $g(a, b)$ or g_{ab} instead of $g((a, b))$. We read $g(a, b)$ aloud as "g of a and b". We read g_{ab} aloud as "g sub a b."

Examples

If $X \subset Y$, the function $\{(x, y) \in X \times Y \mid x = y\}$ is the *inclusion function* of X into Y. We often introduce such a function as "the function from X to Y defined by $f(x) = y$". We mean by this that f is a function and that we are specifying the appropraite ordered pairs using the statement, called *argument-value notation*. The inclusion function of X into X is called the *identity function* of X. If we view the identity function as a relation on X, it is the relation of equality on X.

The functions $f : (X \times Y) \to X$ defined by $f(x, y) = x$ is the *pair projection* of $X \times Y$ ono X. Similarly $g : (X \times Y) \to Y$ defined by $g(x, y) = y$ is the pair projection of $X \times Y$ onto Y. The identity function is one-to-one and onto, the inclusion functions are one-to-one but not always onto, and the pair projections are usually not one-to-one.

Functions

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Relations

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Set Products

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Set Powers

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Ordered Pairs   Unordered Triples

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Pair Unions

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Set Unions

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Unordered Pairs   Empty Set

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Set Specification

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Set Inclusion

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Standardized Accounts

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Accounts

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Deductions

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Quantified Statements

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Logical Statements

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Statements

↙ ↘

Identities   Sets

↘ ↙

Names

↙ ↘

Letters   Objects