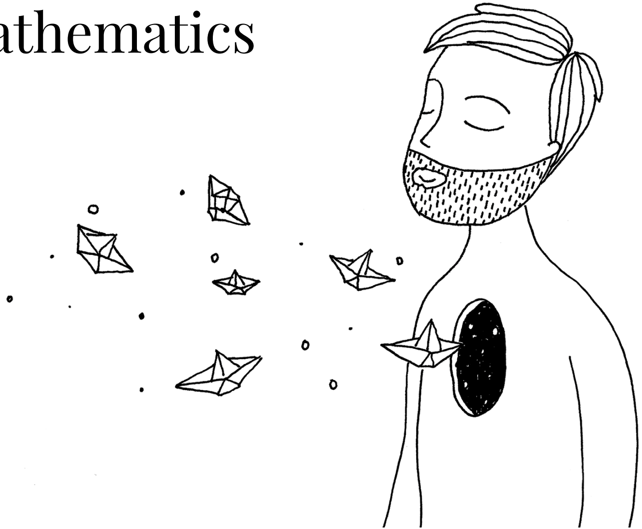
4509 - Bridging Mathematics

Functions



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Functions

A *function* takes one element from a set, and associates it with an element of another set.

Definition

f is a **function** from A to B, if it links each element from A to a <u>single</u> element from B. The set A is called the *domain of* f, and the set B is called the *codomain of* f.

The notation for a function is $f : A \to B$, and if $y = f(x)$ we say that $(x, y) \in f$.

Functions

Let $f : A \to B$ be a function.

- Let $a \in A$, then $f(a)$ is called the ***image*** of a under f.
- Let $C \subseteq A$, then $f(C) := \{f(c) | c \in C\}$ is called the *Image* of C, $Im(C)$.
- $f(A) \subseteq B$, the *image* of A is called the ***range*** of f.
- Let $D \subseteq f(A)$, the set $\{x \in A | f(x) \in D\}$ is called the ***preimage*** of D.

Functions

Definition

Consider a function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$, the **Graph** of f, $Gr(f)$ is defined as:

$$Gr(f) := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} | y = f(x)\}$$

Note: More generally neither the domain needs to be $\mathbb{R}^n$ nor the codomain needs to be $\mathbb{R}$, the case given above is just the most common situation in economics.

Functions

Definition

Consider $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ and $g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$,

1. Sum: $(f+g) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, and $(f+g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$.
2. Product: $(f \cdot g) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, and $(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x)g(x)$
3. Division: $(f/g) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, and $(f/g)(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$. This is only well defined when $g(x) \neq 0$.
4. Scaling: If $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, $(\alpha f) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, and $(\alpha f)(x) = \alpha f(x)$

Functions

Definition

Consider the functions $f : B \to C$, and $g : A \to B$, then the **composite** function $f \circ g : A \to C$ is defined as

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$$

Functions

Definition

Consider sets A and B, and the function $f : A \rightarrow B$.

1. f is **injective** if, for a and a' in A, such that $a \neq a'$, then $f(a) \neq f(a')$.
2. f is **surjective** if, for any $b \in B$, exists $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$.
3. f is **bijective** if it is both, injective and surjective at the same time.

Quick Quiz - 5 Minutes

Classify the following functions

Function	Classification
$f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^2$	-
$f : \mathbb{R} \to [-1, 1], f(x) = sin(x)$	Surjective
$f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^3$	Bijective

Functions

Proposition

If $f : A \to B$ is a bijective function, then there exists a unique function $g : B \to A$, bijective, such that

$$g(f(x)) = x$$

g is called the inverse of f, also known as f^{-1}.

Proposition

Let $f : B \to C$, and $g : A \to B$ be both invertible functions, then $f \circ g$ is invertible. Moreover,

$$(f \circ g)^{-1} = g^{-1} \circ f^{-1}$$

Functions

Proof.

Existence:

- Let $g = \{(b,a)|(a,b) \in f\}$.
- If $(b,a_1),(b,a_2) \in g$, then $(a_1,b),(a_2,b) \in f$, but f is injective, so $a_1 = a_2$. Then g is a function.
- The domain of g is $\{b|(b,a) \in g\} = \{b|(a,b) \in f\} = f(X)$.
- Let $(b,a_2) \in g$ and $(a_1,b) \in f$. Then $(a_2,b) \in f$, and given f injective, we have $a_1 = a_2$. Then $g \circ f = \{(a,a)|a \in A\} = Id$.
- Let $f^{-1} = g$

Homework, show that g is bijective. Hint: Go with contradiction. □

Functions

Unicity,

- Let g and h be inverse of f.
- Assume $g(b) \neq h(b)$, at least for some $b \in B$.
- As $b \in B$, then there is a such that $f(a) = b$.
- So $g(b) \neq h(b)$, but $g(f(a)) \neq h(f(a))$.
- But $g \circ f$ and $h \circ f$ are both the identity so...
- $g(f(a)) = a \neq a = h(f(a))$, contradiction!

So the inverse must be unique.

Composite Invertible

Proof.

- $(g \circ f) \circ (f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}) = g \circ f \circ f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}$.
- $g \circ f \circ f^{-1} \circ g^{-1} = g \circ Id \circ g^{-1}$.
- $g \circ Id \circ g^{-1} = g \circ g^{-1} = Id$.

Trivial to show that $(f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}) \circ (g \circ f) = Id$. as well, using the same steps.

□

Functions

Definition

Consider $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ and $\hat{y}$ in the codomain.

1. The **level curve** of f at $\hat{y}$ is:

$$\mathcal{C}_{\hat{y}} = \{(x, \hat{y}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} | f(x) = \hat{y}\}$$

2. The **isoquant** curve of f at $\hat{y}$ is:

$$I_{\hat{y}} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n | f(x) = \hat{y}\}$$

Functions

Definition

Consider the function $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, and any pair x and y in $\mathbb{R}$ such that $x < y$, we say that

1. f is **increasing** if $f(x) \leq f(y)$.
2. f is **decreasing** if $f(x) \geq f(y)$.

If the inequalities are strict, then you add the word *strictly* to increasing or decreasing. A non decreasing function is also known as monotonically increasing. Conversely, a non increasing function is also known as monotonically decreasing.

Functions

Definition

Consider the function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$, and any pair x and y in $\mathbb{R}^n$ such that $y_i = x_i$ for every $i = 1, ., j-1, j+1, .., n$, and $y_i = x_i + \epsilon$, with $\epsilon > 0$ we say that

1. f is **increasing in the component** j if

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_j, \dots, x_n) \leq f(x_1, \dots, x_j + \epsilon, \dots, x_n)$$

If the inequalities are strict, then you add the word *strictly* to increasing or decreasing.