

In the previous lecture we defined injective and surjective functions.

Today we will explore properties of such functions.

Proposition Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ and $g: Y \rightarrow Z$ be two functions.

If f and g are injective, then $g \circ f$ is injective.

Proof. $(g \circ f)(x_1) = (g \circ f)(x_2) \implies g(f(x_1)) = g(f(x_2))$

(Since g is injective) $\implies f(x_1) = f(x_2)$

(Since f is injective) $\implies x_1 = x_2$. ■

Proposition $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ and $Y \xrightarrow{g} Z$ are two functions.

If f and g are surjective, then $g \circ f$ is surjective.

Proof. We have to show $\text{Im}(g \circ f) = Z$. i.e.

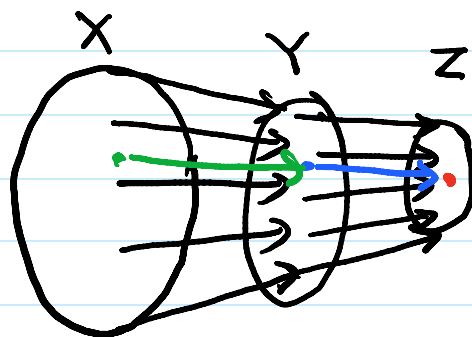
$\forall z \in Z, \exists x \in X, (g \circ f)(x) = z$.

$\forall z \in Z$, for some $y \in Y$, $g(y) = z$ as g is surjective.

Since f is surjective, for some $x \in X$,

$$f(x) = y$$

So $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = g(y) = z$. ■



Proposition $X \xrightarrow{f} Y, Y \xrightarrow{g} X$ are two functions.

If $g \circ f = I_X$, then f is injective and g is surjective.

Proof. We have already proved that f is injective. Now

we would like to prove g is surjective.

$\forall x \in X, (g \circ f)(x) = I_X(x) \implies g(f(x)) = x$

So $f(x) \in Y$ is a "good choice".

(Recall, we had to show

$$\forall x \in X, \exists y \in Y, g(y) = x.) \quad \blacksquare$$

Definition. $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ is called bijjective if it is injective and surjective.

• We say $Y \xrightarrow{g} X$ is an inverse of $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ if

$$g \circ f = I_X \quad \text{and} \quad f \circ g = I_Y.$$

• $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ is called invertible if it has an inverse.

Proposition. If $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ is an invertible function, it has a unique inverse.

Proof. Suppose $Y \xrightarrow{g_1} X$ and $Y \xrightarrow{g_2} X$ are two inverses of f . So

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 &= I_X \circ g_1 \\ &= (g_2 \circ f) \circ g_1 \\ &= g_2 \circ (f \circ g_1) \\ &= g_2 \circ I_Y \\ &= g_2. \end{aligned} \quad \blacksquare$$

Inverse of $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ is denoted by $f^{(-1)}: Y \rightarrow X$.

Proposition. $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ is invertible \iff it is bijective.

Proof. (\implies) for some $Y \xrightarrow{g} X$ we have

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} g \circ f = I_X \implies f \text{ is injective} \quad \otimes \\ f \circ g = I_Y \implies f \text{ is surjective} \quad \otimes \end{array} \right\} \implies f \text{ is bijective.}$$

(\impliedby) Claim 1 $\forall y \in Y, \exists! x \in X, f(x) = y$.

Proof of claim 1 If not, then

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$$\neg y \in Y, (\forall x \in X, (x \neq y))$$

$$(\exists x_1, x_2 \in X, x_1 \neq x_2 \wedge f(x_1) = f(x_2) = y)$$

The first one cannot hold as f is surjective,
and the second one cannot hold as f is injective. \square

Let $Y \xrightarrow{g} X$, $g(y) = x$ be the unique element
of X such that $f(x) = y$.

$$\text{So } f(g(y)) = y \Rightarrow f \circ g = I_Y.$$

Claim 2 If $f \circ g = I_Y$ and f is a bijection, then

$$g \circ f = I_X.$$

Proof. $f(g \circ f(x)) = (f \circ g)(f(x)) = f(x) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow (g \circ f)(x) = x \\ f \text{ is injective} \end{array} \right.$

$$\Rightarrow g \circ f = I_X. \quad \blacksquare$$