

# Math 300–03

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Set 4

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# Outline

- 1 **What is a Function?**
- 2 Building Functions
- 3 Homework #9
- 4 Onto and One-to-One Functions
- 5 Homework #10
- 6 Last Class...and Today...
- 7 Images of Sets
- 8 Homework #11
- 9 Sequences

# What is a Function?

- The beginning: Leibniz, Euler (who invented the notation  $f(x)$ )
- Definition of function uses notion of Relation: subset of  $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$

# Cartesian Product

## Definition

Let **A** and **B** be sets. The set of all ordered pairs having first coordinate in **A** and second coordinate in **B** is called the **Cartesian product** of **A** and **B** and written **A** × **B**. Thus

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \{(a, b) : a \in \mathbf{A} \text{ and } b \in \mathbf{B}\}$$

**Example:** Let **A** = {*a*, *b*}, **B** = {1, 2, 3}. Then:

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \{(a, 1), (a, 2), (a, 3), (b, 1), (b, 2), (b, 3)\}.$$

## Definition

A **function** (or **mapping**) **A** to **B** is a relation **f** from **A** to **B** such that

- 1 the **domain** of **f** is **A**:  $Dom(\mathbf{f}) = \mathbf{A}$
- 2 if  $(x, y) \in \mathbf{f}$  and  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{f}$ , then  $y = z$ .
- 3 Convenient notation is  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ , and we read “**f** is a function from **A** to **B**”, or “**f** maps **A** to **B**”. The set **B** is called the **codomain** of **f**.
- 4 When  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}$ , **f** is called a **function on A**.

## Example

Let  $\mathbf{A} = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\mathbf{B} = \{a, b, c\}$ . Here are some relations (subsets of  $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$ ):

$$R_1 = \{(1, a), (2, b), (3, c), (2, c)\}$$

$$R_2 = \{(1, a), (2, b), (3, b)\}$$

$$R_3 = \{(1, b), (2, c), (3, b)\}$$

$$R_4 = \{(1, a), (3, c)\}$$

Which relation(s) are functions? Note the basic requirement:

$$(x, y) \in R \quad \vee \quad (x, z) \in R \Rightarrow y = z.$$

This condition is known as the **vertical line test**.

# Example

- 1 Let  $H = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} : x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$ . Is  $H$  a function with domain  $[-1, 1]$ ? Note that elements

$$\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) \quad \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)$$

are in  $H$ , so the requirement fails.

- 2 If we consider the subset  $H_0 = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ , for a given first coordinate  $x$ , the second coordinate is uniquely given as  $y = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$ . So  $H_0$  is a function.

# Example

## Proposition

The set  $H = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} : x + y = 7\}$  is a function from the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .

## Proof.

First, note that  $H$  is a relation from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .

- 1 Suppose  $x \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . Then  $7 - x$  is a natural number and  $(x, 7 - x) \in H$ . Thus  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} \subset \text{Dom}(H)$ . Suppose  $x \in \text{Dom}(H)$  and  $(x, y) \in H$  for some  $y \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus  $x \leq 6$ , so  $x \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . Therefore,  $\text{Dom}(h) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ .
- 2 Suppose  $(x, y) \in H$  and  $(x, z) \in H$ . Then  $y = 7 - x$  and  $z = 7 - x$ , so  $y = z$ .

By (1) and (2),  $H : \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . □



## Definition

Let  $f : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ . We write  $y = f(x)$  when  $(x, y) \in f$ . We say that  $y$  is the **the** value of  $f$  and  $x$  (or the image of  $f$  at  $x$ ), and that  $x$  is **a** pre-image of  $y$  under  $f$ .

Pay attention to the articles **the** and **a**

# Major Examples

## Identity, Inclusion, Constant

### Definition

- 1 Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a set. The function  $I_{\mathbf{A}} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$ , for  $x \in \mathbf{A}$  given by  $I_{\mathbf{A}}(x) = x$  is the **identity function of  $\mathbf{A}$** .
- 2 If  $\mathbf{A} \subset \mathbf{B}$ , the function  $i : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$  for  $x \in \mathbf{A}$  given by  $i(x) = x$  is the **inclusion function** from  $\mathbf{A}$  to  $\mathbf{B}$ .
- 3 If  $c$  is a fixed element of  $\mathbf{B}$ , the function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$  such that for  $x \in \mathbf{A}$  gives  $\mathbf{f}(x) = c$  is the **constant function  $c$** .

# Equality of Two Functions

We need to keep in mind the following observation:

## Theorem

*Two functions  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  are equal iff*

- 1  $Dom(\mathbf{f}) = Dom(\mathbf{g})$ , and
- 2  $\forall x \in Dom(\mathbf{f}), \mathbf{f}(x) = \mathbf{g}(x)$ .

## Proof.

(Just the implication  $\Rightarrow$ ). Assume  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$ .

- 1 If  $x \in Dom(\mathbf{f})$ , then  $(x, y) \in \mathbf{f}$ , for some  $y$  and since  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$ ,  $(x, y) \in \mathbf{g}$ . Therefore  $x \in Dom(\mathbf{g})$ , which shows  $Dom(\mathbf{f}) \subset Dom(\mathbf{g})$ . The reverse containment is proved in the same manner, so that together will have  $Dom(\mathbf{f}) = Dom(\mathbf{g})$ .
- 2 Suppose  $x \in Dom(\mathbf{f})$ . Then for some  $y$ ,  $(x, y) \in \mathbf{f}$ . Since  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$ ,  $(x, y) \in \mathbf{g}$ . Therefore  $\mathbf{f}(x) = \mathbf{g}(x)$ .



# Example

$$\mathbf{F} : \{-2, 3\} \rightarrow \{4, 9\}, \quad \mathbf{F}(x) = x^2$$

$$\mathbf{G} : \{-2, 3\} \rightarrow \{4, 9\}, \quad \mathbf{G}(x) = x + 6$$

**F = G**: Different rules but define the same functions.

So in defining a function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$  one pays attention to all the sets (rules included) needed to defined  $\mathbf{f}$ . Often  $\mathbf{f}$  may be defined in more than one way.

# Exercise

**One sacrificial volunteer please:**

If  $\mathbf{A}$  is a set with 5 elements, how many functions are there of the form

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$$

Answer according to Kristin:  $5^5$ .

How about

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \emptyset$$

Answer: None!

# Characteristic Function of a Subset

## Definition

Let  $U$  be a specified universe and  $\mathbf{A} \subset U$ . Define  $\chi_{\mathbf{A}} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  by

$$\chi_{\mathbf{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in \mathbf{A} \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in U \setminus \mathbf{A}. \end{cases}$$

$\chi_{\mathbf{A}}$  is the **characteristic function** of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

## Proposition

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  be subsets of the universe  $U$ . Then

- 1  $\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{A}}} = \mathbf{1} - \chi_{\mathbf{A}}$ , where  $\mathbf{1}$  is the constant function defined by 1.
- 2  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}$  iff  $\chi_{\mathbf{A}} = \chi_{\mathbf{B}}$ .
- 3  $\chi_{\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}} = \chi_{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \chi_{\mathbf{B}}$ .
- 4  $\chi_{\mathbf{A} \cup \mathbf{B}} = \chi_{\mathbf{A}} + \chi_{\mathbf{B}} - \chi_{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \chi_{\mathbf{B}}$ .
- 5  $\chi_{\mathbf{A} \Delta \mathbf{B}} = \chi_{\mathbf{A}} + \chi_{\mathbf{B}} - 2 \cdot \chi_{\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}}$ .

**Exercise:** Use the proposition to prove easily that  $\mathbf{A} \cap (\mathbf{B} \Delta \mathbf{C}) = (\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}) \Delta (\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{C})$ : This shows that  $\cap$  works as a **product** and  $\Delta$  as a **sum** operation.

# Dirichlet Function

It might be a good idea to have wonderful functions  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (or from subsets  $\mathbf{A} \subset \mathbb{R}$ ) at hand:

1 (Dirichlet Function)

$$\mathbf{f}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ 1 & x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$$

2

$$\mathbf{f}(x) = \begin{cases} x \sin(1/x) & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

- 3 Let  $\mathbf{f}(x)$  be your favorite function: polynomials, rational functions, trig functions,  $\zeta(x)$ ? You might want to google the last one: after all, it is the most famous function of Mathematics!



## Definition

A sequence is a function  $\mathbf{f}$  whose domain is  $\mathbb{N}$ .

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}.$$

It can be represented as

$$\{\mathbf{f}(1), \mathbf{f}(2), \mathbf{f}(3), \dots\}$$

$$\{a_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

# Sequences of real numbers

It allows us to look at real numbers in a concrete manner: If

$$x = A.a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \cdots ,$$

where  $a_i$  are the decimal digits, we form the sequence of rational numbers

$$x_0 = A$$

$$x_1 = A.a_1$$

$$x_2 = A.a_1 a_2$$

$$x_n = A.a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n, \quad \text{and so on}$$

This actually says that a real number is what of the sequence?

# More Examples

- 1  $f(n) = 1/n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- 2  $f(n)$  is the  $n$ th digit in the decimal expression of  $\pi$ . Makes sense?
- 3  $(c, c, c, c, \dots)$
- 4  $(1, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, -\frac{3}{4}, \dots)$
- 5  $(\frac{1}{2^n})_{n=1}^{\infty} = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \dots)$
- 6  $(a_n), a_1 = 1, \text{ and } a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n+1}{2}$
- 7  $(a_n), a_n = (1 + 1/n)^n$

# Equivalence Relation

Recall:  $R$  is an equivalence relation on the set  $X$ :

## Definition

Let  $X$  be a set and  $R$  a relation on  $X$ .

- $R$  is **reflexive** iff for all  $x \in X$ ,  $x R x$ .
- $R$  is **symmetric** iff for all  $x \in X$  and  $y \in A$ , if  $x R y$ , then  $y R x$ .
- $R$  is **transitive** iff for all  $x, y$  and  $z$  in  $X$ , if  $x R y$  and  $y R z$ , then  $x R z$ .

## Definition

A relation  $R$  on a set  $X$  is an **equivalence relation on  $A$**  iff  $R$  is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

# Equivalence Class

## Definition

Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on the set  $X$ . For  $x \in X$ , the **equivalence class** of  $x$  determined by  $R$  is the set

$$x/R = \{y \in X : x R y\}.$$

This is read “the class of  $x$  modulo  $R$ .” The set of all equivalence classes of  $R$  is called  $X$  **modulo**  $R$  and denoted  $X/R = \{x/R : x \in A\}$ . Other notation for it:  $[x]_R$  or  $\bar{x}_R$ —may drop the  $R$  when well-understood.

**Example:** Two integers have the same **parity** if they are both even or both odd. Let

$R = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} : x \text{ and } y \text{ have the same parity.}\}$   $R$  is an equivalence relation with two equivalence classes: the even integers  $E$  and the odd integers  $D$ .  $\mathbb{Z}/R = \{E, D\}$ .

# Big Example

Let  $m$  be a fixed, nonzero integer. Let  $\equiv_m$  be the relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$x \equiv_m y \text{ iff } m \text{ divides } x - y.$$

This is also written  $x \equiv y \pmod{m}$  or even  $x = y \pmod{m}$ .

It is easy to see that  $\mathbb{Z}/\equiv_2 = \{E, D\}$ . This set is also denoted by  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  and called the set of integers modulo 2. For  $m = 3$ ,  $\equiv_3$  is also an equivalence relation and there are three distinct equivalence classes.

## Theorem

*The relation  $\equiv_m$  is an equivalence relation on the integers. The set of equivalence relations is called  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  and has  $m$  distinct elements  $\overline{0}, \overline{1}, \overline{2}, \dots, \overline{m-1}$ .*

# Canonical Map

- 1 Let  $m$  be a fixed integer. The map  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Z}}_m$

$$\mathbf{f}(n) := [n] = \text{congruence class of } n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ modulo } m$$

is an example of a **canonical mapping**.

- 2 More generally, if  $R$  is an equivalence relation on  $X$ , the map

$$\mathbf{f}(x) := \text{equivalence class of } x \in X \text{ relative to } R$$

is the **canonical mapping** relative to  $R$ .

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# New from Old

## Inverses

### Definition

If  $\mathbf{f}$  is a relation from  $A$  to  $B$ , the **inverse** of  $\mathbf{f}$  is

$$\mathbf{f}^{-1} = \{(y, x) : (x, y) \in \mathbf{f}\}.$$

If  $\mathbf{f}$  is a function from  $A$  to  $B$ ,  $\mathbf{f}^{-1}$  is a relation from  $B$  to  $A$ . Lets us find out when  $\mathbf{f}^{-1}$  is a function by applying the requirements.

### Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{f}$  be a relation from  $A$  to  $B$ .

- 1  $\mathbf{f}^{-1}$  is a relation from  $B$  to  $A$ .
- 2  $\text{Dom}(\mathbf{f}^{-1}) = \text{Rng}(R)$ .
- 3  $\text{Rng}(\mathbf{f}^{-1}) = \text{Dom}(R)$ .

## Theorem

If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a function then  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  is a function iff

- 1  $Rng(f) = B$ ;
- 2 if  $(x, z), (y, z) \in f$  then  $y = z$ .

**Proof.** Let us prove that if  $f$  satisfies (1) and (2) then  $f^{-1}$  is a function.

- 1 By (1), for each  $y \in B$  there is  $x \in A$  such that  $(x, y) \in f$ , and therefore  $(y, x) \in f^{-1}$ .
- 2 (**Vertical Line Test**) If  $(y, x) \in f^{-1}$  and  $(y, z) \in f^{-1}$ , then  $x = z$  by condition (2).

This proves that  $f^{-1}$  is a function. The converse has a similar proof.  $\square$

**Summary:** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function such that  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  is also a function:

- 1  $f(x) = y$  iff  $f^{-1}(y) = x$ ;
- 2  $B = \text{Range}(f) = \text{Dom}(f^{-1})$ ;
- 3  $A = \text{Dom}(f) = \text{Range}(f^{-1})$ ;

# New Relations from Old

## Composition of Functions

### Definition

Let  $\mathbf{f}$  be a function from  $A$  to  $B$ , and let  $\mathbf{g}$  be a function from  $B$  to  $C$ . The **composite** of  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  is

$$\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f} = \{(a, c) : \text{there exists } b \in B \text{ such that } (a, b) \in \mathbf{f} \text{ and } (b, c) \in \mathbf{g}\}.$$

This is more simply written as

$$(\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f})(a) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{f}(a)) = \mathbf{g}(b) = c.$$

# Confusing Diagram...

Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ , and  $B = \{p, q, r, s, t\}$ , and  $C = \{x, y, z, w\}$ .  
Let  $R$  be the relation from  $A$  to  $B$ :

$$R = \{(1, p), (1, q), (2, q), (3, r), (4, s)\}$$

and  $S$  the relation from  $B$  to  $C$ :

$$S = \{(p, x), (q, x), (q, y), (s, z), (t, z)\}.$$

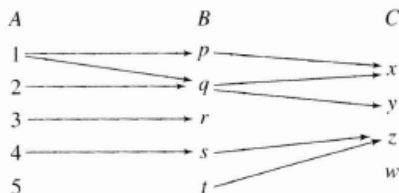


Figure 3.10

## Theorem

Suppose  $A, B, C$  and  $D$  are sets. Let  $\mathbf{f}$  be a function from  $A$  to  $B$ ,  $\mathbf{g}$  a function from  $B$  to  $C$ , and  $\mathbf{h}$  a function from  $C$  to  $D$ :

$$A \xrightarrow{\mathbf{f}} B \xrightarrow{\mathbf{g}} C \xrightarrow{\mathbf{h}} D.$$

- 1 If  $\mathbf{f}^{-1}$  exists, then  $(\mathbf{f}^{-1})^{-1} = \mathbf{f}$ .
- 2  $\mathbf{h} \circ (\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}) = (\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}) \circ \mathbf{f}$ .
- 3  $I_B \circ \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{f} \circ I_A = \mathbf{f}$ .
- 4 If  $\mathbf{f}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{g}^{-1}$  exist, then  $(\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f})^{-1} = \mathbf{f}^{-1} \circ \mathbf{g}^{-1}$ .

Proof of (2): Note both  $\mathbf{h} \circ (\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f})$  and  $(\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}) \circ \mathbf{f}$  are relations from  $A$  to  $D$ , that is they are subsets of  $A \times D$ .

To prove  $\mathbf{h} \circ (\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}) = (\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}) \circ \mathbf{f}$ , let  $(a, d) \in \mathbf{h} \circ (\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f})$ . Note that  $\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}$  is a relation from  $A$  to  $C$ .

- 1 Thus there is  $c \in C$  such that  $(a, c) \in \mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}$  and  $(c, d) \in \mathbf{h}$ :  
 $(a, c) \in \mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}$  and  $(c, d) \in \mathbf{h}$
- 2 Hence there is  $b \in B$  such that  $(b, c) \in \mathbf{g}$ .
- 3 Therefore  $(b, d) \in \mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}$ .
- 4 Since  $(a, b) \in \mathbf{f}$  and  $(b, d) \in \mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}$ , it follows that  $(a, d) \in (\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}) \circ \mathbf{f}$ .
- 5 This shows that  $\mathbf{h} \circ (\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}) \subseteq (\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}) \circ \mathbf{f}$ . The reverse inequality has a similar proof.

# Composition Summary

- ①  $\mathbf{h} \circ (\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}) = (\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}) \circ \mathbf{f}$ : Because both make sense and in the functional notation

$$(\mathbf{h} \circ (\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}))(a) = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{f}(a))) = ((\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g}) \circ \mathbf{f})(a)$$

- ② If  $\mathbf{f}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{g}^{-1}$  exist, then  $(\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f})^{-1} = \mathbf{f}^{-1} \circ \mathbf{g}^{-1}$ .



# Restriction and Extension

Let  $f : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$  be a function. A simple way to obtain new functions from  $f$  is the following:

## Definition

Let  $\mathbf{C} \subset \mathbf{A}$ . The function

$$g : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}, \quad \forall c \in \mathbf{C}, g(c) = f(c)$$

is called the **restriction** of  $f$  to  $\mathbf{C}$ . In turn,  $f$  is called an **extension or prolongation** of  $g$  to  $\mathbf{A}$ .

Note that  $f$  has a unique restriction to  $\mathbf{C}$ , but  $g$  may have several extensions to  $\mathbf{A}$ .

# Example of Restriction/Extension

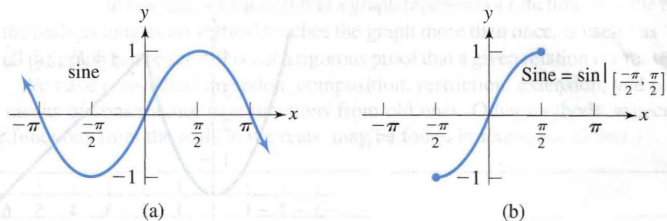


Figure 4.6

# Gluing Functions

Let  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  be two functions with the same target:

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{C},$$

$$\mathbf{g} : \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$$

How to define a function

$$\mathbf{h} : \mathbf{A} \cup \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$$

so that  $\mathbf{f}$  is the restriction of  $\mathbf{h}$  to  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  is the restriction of  $\mathbf{h}$  to  $\mathbf{B}$ ?

# Gluing two functions

## Proposition

Let  $\mathbf{h}$  be the relation from  $\mathbf{A} \cup \mathbf{B}$  to  $\mathbf{C}$ ,

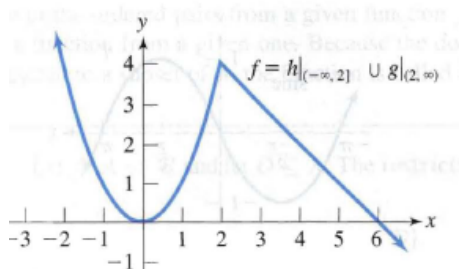
$$\mathbf{h} = \{(a, b) \in \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{C} : b = \mathbf{f}(a)\} \cup \{(c, d) \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C} : d = \mathbf{g}(c)\}.$$

Then  $\mathbf{h}$  is a function from  $\mathbf{A} \cup \mathbf{B}$  to  $\mathbf{C}$  if  $\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B} = \emptyset$ . More generally,  $\mathbf{h}$  is a function from  $\mathbf{A} \cup \mathbf{B}$  to  $\mathbf{C}$  if

$$\mathbf{f}(x) = \mathbf{g}(x) \forall x \in \mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}.$$

$\mathbf{h}$  is said to be **glued** from  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  along  $\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}$ . Note that if  $\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B} = \emptyset$ , we have no obstruction.

# Gluing of two functions



**Figure 4.7**

# Gluing several functions

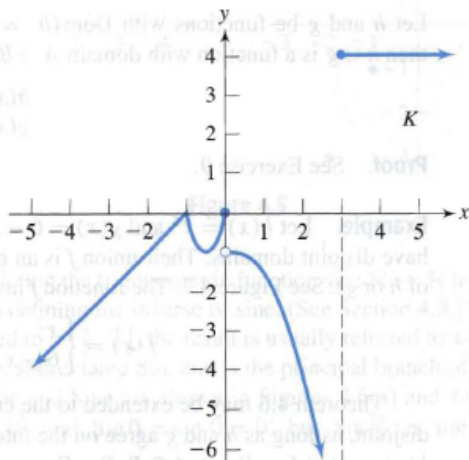


Figure 4.8

# Restriction and Extension

# Sum and Product of Functions

Functions whose target space is the set of real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ , allow many new constructions to obtain new functions from old ones. Here are some

## Definition

Let  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  be two functions from  $\mathbf{A}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ . The relations given by

$$\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{g} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{g})(a) = \mathbf{f}(a) + \mathbf{g}(a), \quad a \in \mathbf{A},$$

$$\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{g} : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{g})(a) = \mathbf{f}(a)\mathbf{g}(a), \quad a \in \mathbf{A},$$

are called the **Sum** and the **Product** of  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$ , resp.

Moreover, if  $\mathbf{g}(a) \neq 0 \forall a \in \mathbf{A}$ , the quotient  $\frac{\mathbf{f}}{\mathbf{g}}$  can also be defined.



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# Homework #9

1 4.2: 3(b), 7(c), 14(d), 16(c)

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# Onto Functions

## Definition

A function  $\mathbf{f} : A \rightarrow B$  is **onto**  $B$  (or is a **surjection**) if  $Rng(\mathbf{f}) = B$ . That is,

$$\forall b \in B \quad \exists a \in A : \mathbf{f}(a) = b.$$

Note that all functions  $\mathbf{f} : A \rightarrow B$  gives rise to another function that is onto

$$\mathbf{g} : A \rightarrow Rng(\mathbf{f}).$$

**Example:** The function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbf{f}(n) = 2n$ , is not a surjection. Its Range is the set  $E$  of nonzero even numbers. The function  $\mathbf{g} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow E$ ,  $\mathbf{g}(n) = 2n$ , is a surjection.

# Solving Equations

Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be the function

$$f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1.$$

Is  $f$  **surjective**? (another name for a surjection)

To be a surjection means that for any real number  $b$ , we must be able to solve the equation

$$f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1 = b.$$

This means that

$$(x + 1)^2 = b,$$

so  $b$  cannot be  $< 0$ , so  $f$  is not surjective.

# Exercise

Let  $f$  be the function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , given by

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c, \quad a \neq 0.$$

Prove that  $f$  is NOT surjective.

We must be able to solve  $ax^2 + bx + c = e \quad \forall e \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$ax^2 + bx + (c - e) = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4a(c - e)}}{2a}.$$

This requires that

$$b^2 + 4a(e - c) \geq 0 \Rightarrow 4a(e - c) \geq -b^2$$

This means that if  $a > 0$ ,  $e \geq c - b^2/4a$ , and  $e \leq c - b^2/4a$  if  $a < 0$ . Both inequalities can be broken by choosing  $e$  conveniently.

# Cubics

**One sacrificial volunteer please:** Prove the following

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{f}$  be the function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$\mathbf{f}(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d, a \neq 0.$$

(We may assume  $\mathbf{f}(x) = 2x^3 + 4x^2 - 6x + 8$ .) Then  $\mathbf{f}$  is surjective.

The proof uses Cal 1. We are going to sketch the graph of  $\mathbf{f}$ , paying attention to the following points:

- 1 Plot a few points, say  $x = 0, -1, 1$
- 2 Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{f}(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \mathbf{f}(x)$
- 3 Is  $\mathbf{f}$  a continuous function?
- 4 What does this means for the graph of  $\mathbf{f}$ ?
- 5 Argue that the graph of  $\mathbf{f}$  crosses any **horizontal line!**

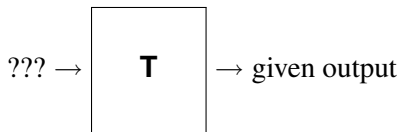
# Bit of Linear Algebra

We can describe a linear system of equations in the following manner:

Let  $\mathbf{T}$  (i.e. a matrix) be a linear transformation of source  $\mathbf{V}$  and target  $\mathbf{W}$ ,

$$\mathbf{T} : \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{W}.$$

**Problem:** Given  $w \in \mathbf{W}$  is there  $v \in \mathbf{V}$  such  $\mathbf{T}(v) = w$ ? Such  $v$  is called **a** solution, or a special solution.





- 1 Do solutions exist? The answer, in the affirmative case [called CONSISTENT] carries consequences to the next questions.
- 2 If solutions exist, what is the nature of the set of solutions?
- 3 Among the solutions, which is the best?
- 4 How do we find these things anyway?

# Example

Let  $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be defined by  $\mathbf{F}(m, n) = 2^{m-1}(2n - 1)$ .

**Claim:**  $\mathbf{F}$  is surjective. Let  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ . We must show that there are  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $s = 2^{m-1}(2n - 1)$ . For example, if  $s = 12$ ,  
 $12 = 4 \times 3 = 2^{3-1}(2 \times 2 - 1) = \mathbf{F}(3, 2)$ .

If  $s$  is odd, it can be written  $s = 2n - 1$ , so that

$$\mathbf{F}(1, n) = 2^0 \times (2n - 1) = s.$$

If  $s$  is even, it can be written  $s = 2^k t$ , where  $t$  is odd (why Abdel?)

Choosing  $m = k + 1$  and  $t = 2n - 1$ , we have  $\mathbf{F}(m, n) = s$ .

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{f} : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\mathbf{g} : B \rightarrow C$ . Then

- 1 If  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  are surjections, then  $\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}$  is a surjection.
- 2 If  $\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f}$  is a surjection then  $\mathbf{g}$  is a surjection.

# One-to-One Functions

## Definition

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is **one-to-one** (or is an **injection**) iff whenever  $f(x) = f(y)$  then  $x = y$ .

To prove that a  $f$  is one-to-one, one often checks it by contradiction:

$$x \neq y \Rightarrow f(x) \neq f(y).$$

For example, the function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , defined by  $f(x) = |x|$  is not injective:  $|1| = |-1| = 1$ .

The **Horizontal Line Test for One-to-One** :

$f : A \rightarrow B$  is one-to-one iff every horizontal line intersects the graph of  $f$  at most once.

## Back to Earlier Example

**Claim:** The function  $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbf{F}(mn) = 2^{m-1}(2n - 1)$  is one-to-one.

- 1 Suppose  $\mathbf{F}(m, n) = \mathbf{F}(r, s)$ . We must show  $(m, n) = (r, s)$ .
- 2 We first prove that  $m = r$ . We may assume  $m \geq r$  (Why Eric?)  
From  $2^{m-1}(2n - 1) = 2^{r-1}(2s - 1)$  we have

$$2^{m-r}(2n - 1) = (2s - 1).$$

- 3 If  $m > r$ , this gives that  $2s - 1$  is an even number, a contradiction.  
Thus  $m = r$ .
- 4 Therefore  $2n - 1 = 2s - 1$ , which implies  $n = s$ .
- 5 We conclude that  $(m, n) = (r, s)$ , as desired.

# Famous Technique from Calculus

Let  $f$  be a differentiable function on the interval  $[a, b]$ . Probably the most useful assertion of the differential calculus is the relationship between the value of the slope of the secant to the graph of  $f(x)$ ,

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a},$$

and values of the derivative. Even the so-called Fundamental Theorem of Calculus can be seen as one of its consequences.

## Theorem

Let  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function on  $[a, b]$  and differentiable on  $(a, b)$ . Then there exists a point  $c \in (a, b)$

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

## Corollary

If  $f'(x) \neq 0$  in  $[a, b]$  then  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is one-to-one.



# IVT: Intermediate Value Theorem of Calculus

Another of the great theorems of Calculus is

## Theorem (IVT)

*If  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous, and if  $L$  is any real number satisfying  $f(a) < L < f(b)$  or  $f(a) > L > f(b)$ , then there exists a point  $c \in (a, b)$  where  $f(c) = L$ . In particular, if  $f(a) < 0$  and  $f(b) > 0$ , there exists a point  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f(c) = 0$ .*

It is useful to prove that certain functions are surjections.

# Example

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{f}(x) = x^n + x$ , where  $n$  is an odd natural number. Then the function

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is one-to-one and onto.

## Proof.

- 1 **(One-to-One)** Since  $\mathbf{f}'(x) = nx^{n-1} + 1$ , and  $n - 1$  is even,  $\mathbf{f}'(x)$  is never 0. Let us argue by contradiction. If for  $a < b$ ,  $\mathbf{f}(a) = \mathbf{f}(b)$ , then by the **MVT**, for some  $c \in (a, b)$ ,  $\mathbf{f}'(c) = 0$ , which can't happen. Thus  $\mathbf{f}$  is one-to-one.
- 2 **(Onto)** Since  $n$  is odd,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{f}(x) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \mathbf{f}(x) = -\infty$ . Thus if  $L \in \mathbb{R}$ , there are  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $\mathbf{f}(a) < L < \mathbf{f}(b)$ . By the **IVT**, there is  $c \in [a, b]$  such that  $L = \mathbf{f}(c)$ . So  $\mathbf{f}$  is onto.



## Definition

A function  $\mathbf{f} : A \rightarrow B$  is a **one-to-one correspondence** (or is a **bijection**) if it is one-to-one and onto.

**Example:** The function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{f}(x) = 2x + 1$ , is a bijection:

- 1 If  $\mathbf{f}(x) = 2x + 1 = 2y + 1 = \mathbf{f}(y)$ , then  $x = y$ , so  $\mathbf{f}$  is one-to-one.
- 2 If  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , we can find  $x$  so that  $\mathbf{f}(x) = 2x + 1 = b$ :  $x = 1/2(b - 1)$ , so  $\mathbf{f}$  is onto.

## Theorem

If  $\mathbf{f} : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\mathbf{g} : B \rightarrow C$  are bijections, then

- 1  $\mathbf{g} \circ \mathbf{f} : A \rightarrow C$  is bijective.
- 2 The inverse relation  $\mathbf{f}^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  is a function and

$$I_A = \mathbf{f}^{-1} \circ \mathbf{f} : A \rightarrow A \quad I_B = \mathbf{f} \circ \mathbf{f}^{-1} : B \rightarrow B.$$

# Outline

- 1 What is a Function?
- 2 Building Functions
- 3 Homework #9
- 4 Onto and One-to-One Functions
- 5 Homework #10**
- 6 Last Class...and Today...
- 7 Images of Sets
- 8 Homework #11
- 9 Sequences

# Homework #10

- 1 If  $A$  is a set with 3 elements and  $B$  has 4 elements: (a) How many functions are there from  $A$  to  $B$ , (b) how many of these are surjections, and (c) and how many are injections?
- 2 4.3: 1(l), 4, 8(c), 15(b,d), 16(b,c)

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# Last Class...and Today...

Some properties of functions that are valuable

- ① **Onto/Surjective Function:**  $f : A \rightarrow B$ ,  $Rng(f) = B$ , that is

$$\forall b \in B \quad \exists x \in A : f(x) = b.$$

- ② **One-to-One/Injective Function:** If  $f(x) = f(y)$  then  $x = y$ , in other words (more properly) if  $x \neq y$  then  $f(x) \neq f(y)$ .
- ③ **Bijection:**  $f$  is both **onto and one-to-one**. If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a bijection,  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  is a function. The irony is that  $f$  may be given by a 'formula' but we may be unable to describe  $f^{-1}$  in a similar manner.

Calculus has wonderful tools to examine these properties.



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Given

$$f : A \rightarrow B$$

we are interested in issues like: if  $a$  and  $b$  are 'related', what of  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ ?

## Definition

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and let  $X \subset A$  and  $Y \subset B$ .

- The **image of  $X$**  is  $f(X) = \{y \in B : y = f(x) \text{ for some } x \in X\}$ .
- The **inverse image of  $Y$**  is  $f^{-1}(Y) = \{x \in A : f(x) \in Y\}$ .

# Functions of Sets

Observe what this says: If  $f : A \rightarrow B$ , for every subset  $X \subset A$ ,  $f(X)$  is a subset of  $B$ , in other words we have a new function

$$f_* : \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B),$$

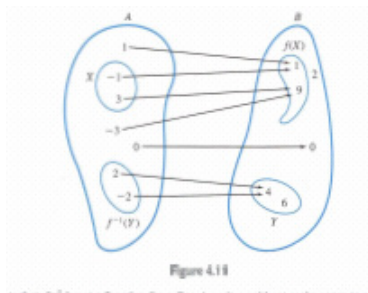
from the power set  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  to the power set  $\mathcal{P}(B)$ .

Also, a new function

$$f_*^{-1} : \mathcal{P}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A),$$

from the power set  $\mathcal{P}(B)$  to the power set  $\mathcal{P}(A)$ .

Surprisingly,  $f_*^{-1}$  is more well-behaved than  $f_*$ . (see later)



# Exercise

Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  given by  $f(m, n) = 2^m 3^n$ . Find

- ①  $f(A \times B)$  where  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{3, 4\}$ .

We just collect the images of the 6 elements of  $A \times B$ :

$$f(A \times B) = \{2 \cdot 3^3, 2 \cdot 3^4, 2^2 \cdot 3^3, 2^2 \cdot 3^4, 2^3 \cdot 3^3, 2^4 \cdot 3^4\}$$

- ②  $f^{-1}(5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)$ : We find  $(m, n)$  so that  $2^m 3^n$  is one of  $\{5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$ . Keep in mind that  $0 \notin \mathbb{N}$ .

Note that  $2^m 3^n$  cannot be 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, so

$$f^{-1}(5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) = \{(1, 1)\}.$$

**Example.** Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be given by  $f(x) = x^2$ . Then  $f(\{-2, 2\}) = \{4\}$  since both  $f(2) = 4$  and  $f(-2) = 4$ . From Figure 4.12 we see that  $f(\{1, 2\}) = \{1, 4\}$ . Also,  $f(\{-1, 0\}) = \{0, 1\}$ .

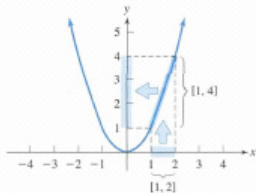


Figure 4.12  $f([1, 2]) = [1, 4]$

In this example it is tempting to believe that  $f(\{-1, 2\}) = \{(-1)^2, 2^2\} = \{1, 4\}$ , but this is incorrect. By definition,  $f(\{-1, 2\})$  is the set of all images of elements of  $\{-1, 2\}$ . Since  $-\frac{1}{2}$ , 0, and 0.7 are in  $[-1, 2]$ , their images  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 0, and 0.49 must be in  $f(\{-1, 2\})$ . Figure 4.13 shows that  $f(\{-1, 2\}) = [0, 4]$ .

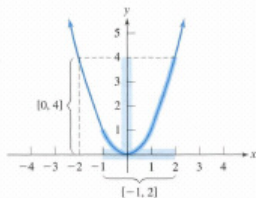


Figure 4.13  $f(\{-1, 2\}) = [0, 4]$

# Class Exercise

Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be given by  $f(x) = 10x - x^2$ . Find: (a)  $f([1, 6])$ , (b)  $f^{-1}((0, 21])$ .

Need the sketch of the graph.

# Exercise

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$ . Prove that if  $f$  is one-to-one, then for all  $X, Y$   
 $f(X) \cap f(Y) = f(X \cap Y)$ . Is the converse true?

The R.H.S. is always contained in the in the L.H.S. Let  $z \in f(X) \cap f(Y)$ ,  
that is  $z = f(x) = f(y)$  with  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ . Since  $f$  is one-to-one,  
 $x = y$ . Thus  $z \in f(X \cap Y)$ .

Let us prove by contradiction that the converse holds. If  $f(x) = f(y)$  but  
 $x \neq y$ , consider the sets  $X = \{x\}$ ,  $Y = \{y\}$ . Then  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$ , and  
 $f(X) \cap f(Y) = \{f(x)\}$  but  $f(X \cap Y) = f(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ .



## Theorem

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$ ,  $C$  and  $D$  subsets of  $A$ , and  $E$  and  $F$  be subsets of  $B$ .  
Then

- 1  $f(C \cap D) \subset f(C) \cap f(D)$ .
- 2  $f(C \cup D) = f(C) \cup f(D)$ .
- 3  $f^{-1}(E \cap F) = f^{-1}(E) \cap f^{-1}(F)$ .
- 4  $f^{-1}(E \cup F) = f^{-1}(E) \cup f^{-1}(F)$ .

# Classroom Proof by non-willing volunteer

# Exercise

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$ . Let  $R$  be the relation on  $A$  defined by  $x R y$  iff  $f(x) = f(y)$ .

- 1 Show that  $R$  is an equivalence relation.
- 2 Describe the partition of  $A$  associated with  $R$ .

This is like the case in a quiz, when we defined  $x R y$  iff  $\sin x = \sin y$ . It is easy to prove the relation is reflexive, symmetric and transitive. We have for the equivalence class of  $x$

$$x/R = \{\text{all } y \text{ such that } f(y) = f(x)\} = f^{-1}(f(x)).$$

The partition is

$$A = \bigcup_{x \in A} f^{-1}(f(x)).$$

Note that the subsets  $f^{-1}(f(x))$  are non-empty, pairwise disjoint and cover  $A$ .

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# Homework #11

4.4: 4(a,c), 9(a,b), 17, 19(a,b)

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# Sequences of real numbers

## Definition

A sequence is a function  $\mathbf{f}$  whose domain is  $\mathbb{N}$ .

It can be represented as

$$\{\mathbf{f}(1), \mathbf{f}(2), \mathbf{f}(3), \dots\}$$

$$\{\mathbf{f}(0), \mathbf{f}(1), \mathbf{f}(2), \mathbf{f}(3), \dots\}$$

or

$$\{\mathbf{f}(n), \dots, \quad n \geq n_0\}$$

We will first examine sequences of real numbers,  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Sequences allow us to look at real numbers in a concrete manner: If

$$x = A.a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \cdots ,$$

where  $a_i$  are the decimal digits, we form the sequence of rational numbers

$$x_0 = A$$

$$x_1 = A.a_1$$

$$x_2 = A.a_1 a_2$$

$$x_n = A.a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n, \quad \text{and so on}$$



# Examples

We will look for features such as **clustering**

①  $(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \dots)$

②  $(c, c, c, c, \dots)$

③  $(1, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, -\frac{3}{4}, \dots)$

④  $(\frac{1}{2^n})_{n=1}^{\infty} = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \dots)$

⑤  $(a_n)$ ,  $a_1 = 1$ , and  $a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n+1}{2}$

⑥  $(a_n)$ ,  $a_n$  is the  $n$ th digit in the decimal expansion of  $\pi$ .

⑦  $(a_n)$ ,  $a_n = (1 + 1/n)^n$

# Why Sequences?

We use sequences to make sense of:

- $\sum_{n \geq 1} a_n$ : Series

$$1 + 1/2^2 + 1/3^2 + \dots + 1/n^2 + \dots$$

Question: How to handle

$$(a_0 + a_1 + \dots + a_n + \dots)(b_0 + b_1 + \dots + b_n + \dots)$$

- $\sum_{m,n \geq 1} a_{m,n}$ : Double [multiple] Series

$$\sum_{m,n} \frac{1}{m^2 + n^2}$$

- $\prod_{n \geq 1} a_n$ : Infinite Products

$$\prod_p \left( \frac{1}{1 - p} \right), \quad p \text{ prime number}$$

# Convergence of a Sequence

Sequences are wonderful ways to represent data, but we are mostly interested in one of its aspects:

## Definition

A sequence  $(a_n)$  converges to a real number  $a$  if, for every positive real number  $\epsilon$ , there exists an  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that whenever  $n \geq N$  it follows that  $|a_n - a| < \epsilon$ .

One notation:  $\lim a_n = a$ , or  $(a_n) \rightarrow a$ . To understand this we introduce the notion of a **neighborhood** of a real number  $a$ .

# Example

Consider the sequence  $(a_n)$ ,  $a_n = \frac{n+1}{n}$ . It is natural to expect that  $\lim a_n = 1$ . Let us follow the template:

- Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , to determine  $N$  we solve

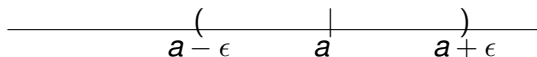
$$\left| \frac{n+1}{n} - 1 \right| < \epsilon$$

- That is

$$\left| \frac{1}{n} \right| < \epsilon \quad \Rightarrow \quad n > \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

- Thus if  $\epsilon = 1/100$ ,  $N = 101$  will work.

# Neighborhoods



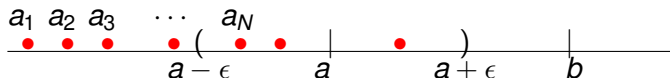
## Definition

Given a real number  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and a positive number  $\epsilon > 0$ , the set

$$V_\epsilon(a) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : |x - a| < \epsilon\}$$

is called the  $\epsilon$ -**neighborhood** of  $a$ .

# Limit and Neighborhoods



$a$  is the limit of  $(a_n)$  if once  $a_N$  **enters** the neighborhood  $V_\epsilon(a)$ , all  $a_n$  that follow will stay in it. That is, the  $a_n$  cluster around  $a$  in a very specific manner.

Note that this implies that if  $(a_n)$  converges, its limit is unique: the  $a_n$  cannot be in both  $V_\epsilon(a)$  and  $V_\epsilon(b)$  if  $\epsilon < 1/2|a - b|$ .

# Exercise

Let  $a_n = \frac{2n^2+n+1}{n^2}$ . It can be written as

$$a_n = 2 + \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2}$$

It is now easy to see that  $\lim a_n = 2$ : Just notice that

$$|a_n - 2| = \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2\frac{1}{n}$$

and we can use the argument of the previous Example to finish.

**Exercise:** For every real number  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists a sequence  $(a_n)$  of rational numbers such that  $(a_n) \rightarrow x$ .

# Limit Template

Let us summarize the procedure to compute the limit of a sequence:

$(a_n) \rightarrow a$  involves all the following steps:

- 1 Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be arbitrary
- 2 Demonstrate a choice for  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ : hard work here often
- 3 Assume  $n \geq N$
- 4 Check that

$$|a - a_n| < \epsilon$$



# Example

Define the sequence

$$a_1 = \sqrt{2}, \quad a_2 = \sqrt{2\sqrt{2}}, \quad a_3 = \sqrt{2\sqrt{2\sqrt{2}}}, \dots$$

**Question:**  $(a_n) \rightarrow ?$  Note

$$a_1 = \sqrt{2}, \quad a_2 = a_1 \sqrt[4]{2}, \quad a_3 = a_2 \sqrt[8]{2}, \dots$$

$$a_n = 2^{1/2+1/4+\dots+1/2^n} < 2$$

So this sequence is bounded [and increasing]. Show that its least upper bound is 2.

# Infinity as the limit of a sequence

If a sequence  $(a_n)$  is not **convergent**, we say that it is **divergent**. We also use the following terminology for some divergent sequences:

## Definition

The sequence  $(a_n)$  converges to  $\infty$ ,  $\lim a_n = \infty$ , if given any positive number  $b$ , there is an  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n \geq b$  for  $n \geq N$ .

**Example:**  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$

Some sequences don't make up their minds:

- 1  $1, -1, 1, \dots, \pm 1, \dots$
- 2 one gets a very complicated sequence by glueing two unrelated sequences  $(a_n)$ ,  $(b_n)$ , as in

$$a_0, b_0, a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, \dots, a_n, b_n, \dots,$$