

# Transition Maths and Algebra with Geometry

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Lecture Notes  
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## 1 Sets

## 2 Relations and functions

# Well known sets

You have come across the following sets:

$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$  - the set of natural numbers

$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  - the set of integers

$\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{p}{q} \mid p, q \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } q \neq 0 \right\}$  - the set of rational numbers

$\mathbb{R}$  - the set of real numbers

# Sets: definition

## Definition

A *set* is an unordered collection of distinct elements. We will use the notation  $x \in S$  to denote that “ $x$  is an element of the set  $S$ ”. We use curly brackets to identify elements of a set, e.g.  
 $A = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $B = \{x, y, z\}$ .

Example:  $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$ . Clearly,  $a \in S$  but  $e \notin S$ .

## Notation

If  $A$  and  $B$  are sets then we say that  $A$  is a *subset* of  $B$  and write  $A \subseteq B$  whenever  $x \in A$  implies  $x \in B$ . We say that two sets  $A$  and  $B$  are *equal* and write  $A = B$  if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .



# Sets: notations

Example:  $A = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $B = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Clearly,  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \neq B$ . Sometimes it is impossible to list all elements of a set. In that case we will use the following notation:

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x > 3\} \text{ or } \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } x > 3\}$$

# Basic operations

## Set operations

If  $A$  and  $B$  are sets then:

$$A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\},$$

$$A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\},$$

$$A \setminus B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B\},$$

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

# Basic operations

Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$ .

$$A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\},$$

$$A \cap B = \{3\},$$

$$A \setminus B = \{1, 2\},$$

$$B \setminus A = \{4, 5\}.$$

Let  $A = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c\}$ .

$$A \times B = \{(1, a), (1, b), (1, c), (2, a), (2, b), (2, c)\}$$

# Contents

## 1 Sets

## 2 Relations and functions



Let  $X, Y$  be sets.

### Definition

Any subset  $R \subseteq X \times Y$  is called a *relation* between set  $X$  and  $Y$ . If  $Y = X$  then we say that  $R \subseteq X \times X$  is a *relation on a set*  $X$ .

Let  $A = \{1, 2\}, B = \{a, b, c\}$ .

$$A \times B = \{(1, a), (1, b), (1, c), (2, a), (2, b), (2, c)\}$$

Examples of relations between  $A$  and  $B$ :

$$\emptyset, \{(1, a), (2, a)\}, \{(2, b)\}, A \times B$$

# Relations: notation

Let  $R$  be a relation between  $X$  and  $Y$ . For a pair  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$  we write  $xRy$  whenever  $(x, y) \in R$ . Example:  
For  $A = \{1, 2\}$  and  $B = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $R = \{(1, a), (1, b)\}$  we have  $1Ra$  and  $1Rb$ .

# Functions: definition

## Definition

If  $A$  and  $B$  are two sets, then a *function*  $f$  from a set  $A$  to  $B$  is a relation  $f \subseteq A \times B$  such that for any  $a \in A$  there is a unique  $b \in B$  such that  $afb$ .

If  $f$  from  $A$  to  $B$  is a function then we write  $b = f(a)$  instead of  $afb$ . We write  $f : A \rightarrow B$  to indicate that  $f$  is a function from  $A$  to  $B$ . If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  then the set  $A$  is called *the domain* of  $f$  and  $B$  is called *the codomain* of  $f$ .

# Functions: definition

Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$

$$f(1) = b,$$

$$f(2) = d,$$

$$f(3) = b.$$

$$g(1) = d,$$

$$g(2) = c,$$

$$g(3) = b.$$

# Image

## Definition

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets and  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. If  $X \subseteq A$  then *the image of  $X$* , denoted by  $f(X)$ , is the set

$$f(X) := \{f(x) \mid x \in X\}$$

Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$

$$f(1) = a, f(2) = d, f(3) = d.$$

Then:  $f(\{1\}) = \{a\}$ ,  $f(\{1, 3\}) = \{a, d\}$ ,  $f(\{2, 3\}) = \{d\}$ .

## Definition

If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a function then the set  $f(A)$  is called the image of  $f$ .

Warning: Image of a function is not the same as its codomain.

# Functions: other definitions

Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$

$$f(1) = b,$$

$$f(2) = d,$$

$$f(3) = b.$$

The codomain of  $f$  is  $B$ , whereas the image is  $\{b, d\}$ .

$$g(1) = d,$$

$$g(2) = c,$$

$$g(3) = b.$$

The codomain of  $g$  is  $B$ , whereas the image is  $\{b, c, d\}$ .

# Inverse image

## Definition

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets and  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. If  $Y \subseteq B$  then *the inverse image of  $Y$* , denoted by  $f^{-1}(Y)$ , is the set

$$f^{-1}(Y) := \{x \mid f(x) \in Y\}$$

Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$

$$f(1) = a, f(2) = d, f(3) = d.$$

Then:  $f^{-1}(\{a\}) = \{1\}$ ,  $f^{-1}(\{d\}) = \{2, 3\}$ ,  $f^{-1}(\{b\}) = \emptyset$ .

## Fact

If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a function then  $f^{-1}(B) = A$ .



# Function composition

## Definition

If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$  are functions then the *composition*  $g \circ f$  is a function whose domain is  $A$  and whose codomain is  $C$  which is defined by

$$(g \circ f)(a) = g(f(a)).$$

Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$ ,  $C = \{\textcircled{0}, \#\}$

$$f(1) = a, f(2) = c, f(3) = a,$$

$$g(a) = \textcircled{0}, g(b) = \#, g(c) = \#, g(d) = \textcircled{0},$$

$$\text{Then: } (g \circ f)(1) = \textcircled{0}, (g \circ f)(2) = \#, (g \circ f)(3) = \textcircled{0}.$$



# Composition

## Fact

For functions  $f : A \rightarrow B$ ,  $g : B \rightarrow C$  and  $h : C \rightarrow D$  we have

$$h \circ (g \circ f) = (h \circ g) \circ f.$$

Proof on the tutorials.

# Injective functions

## Definition

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is called *one-to-one* or *injective* if any two different arguments have different values. In other words, if for two arguments  $x_1, x_2 \in A$  the values  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$  then  $x_1 = x_2$ .

Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$

$$f(1) = a, f(2) = d, f(3) = d.$$

The function  $f$  is not 1-1.

$$g(1) = a, g(2) = d, g(3) = c.$$

The function  $g$  is 1-1.

# Injective functions

Examples:

If  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  then:

$$f(x) = x + 1 \text{ - is 1-1}$$

$$f(x) = x^2 \text{ - is *not* 1-1}$$

If  $f : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  then:

$$f(x) = x^2 \text{ - is 1-1}$$

# Inverse functions

## Definition

If a function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is 1-1 then we define a function  $f^{-1} : f(A) \rightarrow A$ , whose domain is the image of  $f$  and whose codomain is the domain of  $f$ , by:

$$f^{-1}(b) = a \text{ if } f(a) = b.$$

$f^{-1}$  is called the inverse of  $f$ .

## Warning

If  $f$  is not 1-1 then it is impossible to invert it.



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# Inverse functions

Example:  $A = \{a, b, c\}$ ,  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be defined by:

$$f(a) = 2, f(b) = 1, f(c) = 4$$

Then the inverse  $f^{-1} : \{1, 2, 4\} \rightarrow A$  is

$$f^{-1}(1) = b, f^{-1}(2) = a, f^{-1}(4) = c$$

# Composition and inversion

## Fact

If the function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is 1-1 then for any  $a \in A$  the function  $f$  and its inverse  $f^{-1}$  satisfy:

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

Moreover, for any  $b \in f(A)$  we have

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

Example:

If  $f(x) = 2x + 1$  then  $f^{-1}(y) = \frac{y-1}{2}$ .

# Surjective functions

## Definition

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is called *surjective* or *onto* if for any element  $b$  there exists an element  $a$  whose value under  $f$  is  $b$ . In other words, for any  $b \in B$  there is  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = b$ .

## Fact

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is surjective if and only if  $f(A) = B$ .

# Surjective functions

Example: Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c\}$  and define  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : A \rightarrow B$ :

$$f(1) = a, f(2) = d, f(3) = d.$$

$$g(1) = a, g(2) = c, g(3) = b.$$

The function  $f$  is not onto, whereas the function  $g$  is.



# Surjective functions

Examples:

If  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  then:

$f(x) = x + 1$  - is onto

$f(x) = \sin x$  - is *not* onto because  $f(\mathbb{R}) = [-1, 1]$ .

If  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-1, 1]$  then:

$f(x) = \sin(x)$  - is onto

# Bijjective functions

## Definition

If a function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is 1-1 and onto then it is called a *bijection*.

## Fact

A composition of two bijections is also a bijection.

Proof on the tutorials.