



Introduction

- Sets are one of the basic building blocks for the types of objects considered in discrete mathematics.
 - Important for counting.
 - Programming languages have set operations.
- Set theory is an important branch of mathematics.
 - Many different systems of axioms have been used to develop set theory.
 - Here we are not concerned with a formal set of axioms for set theory. Instead, we will use what is called naïve set theory.



Sets

- A *set* is an unordered collection of objects.
 - the students in this class
 - the chairs in this room
- The objects in a set are called the *elements*, or *members* of the set. A set is said to *contain* its elements.
- The notation $a \in A$ denotes that a is an element of the set A .
- If a is not a member of A , write $a \notin A$

Describing a Set: Roster Method

- $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$

- Order not important

$$S = \{a, b, c, d\} = \{b, c, a, d\}$$

- Each distinct object is either a member or not; listing more than once does not change the set.

$$S = \{a, b, c, d\} = \{a, b, c, b, c, d\}$$

- Ellipses (...) may be used to describe a set without listing all of the members when the pattern is clear.

$$S = \{a, b, c, d, \dots, z\}$$

Roster Method

- Set of all vowels in the English alphabet:

$$V = \{a, e, i, o, u\}$$

- Set of all odd positive integers less than 10:

$$O = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$$

- Set of all positive integers less than 100:

$$S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 99\}$$

- Set of all integers less than 0:

$$S = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1\}$$

Some Important Sets

\mathbf{N} = *natural numbers* = $\{0,1,2,3,\dots\}$

\mathbf{Z} = *integers* = $\{\dots,-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3,\dots\}$

\mathbf{Z}^+ = *positive integers* = $\{1,2,3,\dots\}$

\mathbf{R} = *set of real numbers*

\mathbf{R}^+ = *set of positive real numbers*

\mathbf{C} = *set of complex numbers.*

\mathbf{Q} = *set of rational numbers*

Set-Builder Notation

- Specify the property or properties that all members must satisfy:

$$S = \{x \mid x \text{ is a positive integer less than } 100\}$$

$$O = \{x \mid x \text{ is an odd positive integer less than } 10\}$$

$$O = \{x \in \mathbf{Z}^+ \mid x \text{ is odd and } x < 10\}$$

- A predicate may be used:

$$S = \{x \mid P(x)\}$$

- Example: $S = \{x \mid \text{Prime}(x)\}$

- Positive rational numbers:

$$\mathbf{Q}^+ = \{x \in \mathbf{R} \mid x = p/q, \text{ for some positive integers } p, q\}$$

Interval Notation

$$[a,b] = \{x \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$$

$$[a,b) = \{x \mid a \leq x < b\}$$

$$(a,b] = \{x \mid a < x \leq b\}$$

$$(a,b) = \{x \mid a < x < b\}$$

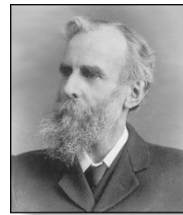
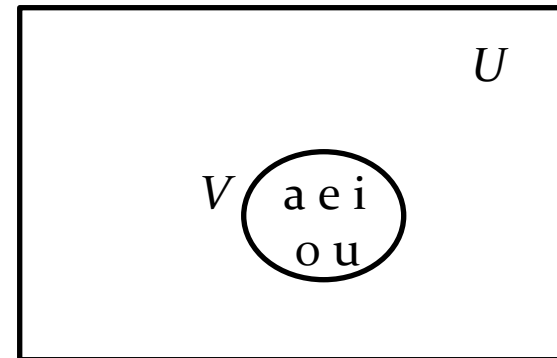
closed interval $[a,b]$

open interval (a,b)

Universal Set and Empty Set

- The *universal set* U is the set containing everything currently under consideration.
 - Sometimes implicit
 - Sometimes explicitly stated.
 - Contents depend on the context.
- The empty set is the set with no elements. Symbolized \emptyset , but $\{\}$ also used.

Venn Diagram



John Venn (1834-1923)
Cambridge, UK

Russell's Paradox

- Let S be the set of all sets which are not members of themselves. A paradox results from trying to answer the question “Is S a member of itself?”
- Related Paradox:
 - Henry is a barber who shaves all people who do not shave themselves. A paradox results from trying to answer the question “Does Henry shave himself?”



Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)
Cambridge, UK
Nobel Prize Winner

Some things to remember

- Sets can be elements of sets.

$$\{\{1,2,3\}, a, \{b,c\}\}$$

$$\{\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}\}$$

- The empty set is different from a set containing the empty set.

$$\emptyset \neq \{\emptyset\}$$

Set Equality

Definition: Two sets are *equal* if and only if they have the same elements.

- Therefore if A and B are sets, then A and B are equal if and only if $\forall x(x \in A \leftrightarrow x \in B)$
- We write $A = B$ if A and B are equal sets.

$$\{1,3,5\} = \{3, 5, 1\}$$

$$\{1,5,5,5,3,3,1\} = \{1,3,5\}$$

Subsets

Definition: The set A is a *subset* of B , if and only if every element of A is also an element of B .

- The notation $A \subseteq B$ is used to indicate that A is a subset of the set B .
- $A \subseteq B$ holds if and only if $\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$ is true.
 1. Because $a \in \emptyset$ is always false, $\emptyset \subseteq S$, for every set S .
 2. Because $a \in S \rightarrow a \in S$, $S \subseteq S$, for every set S .

Showing a Set is or is not a Subset of Another Set

- **Showing that A is a Subset of B:** To show that $A \subseteq B$, show that if x belongs to A , then x also belongs to B .
- **Showing that A is not a Subset of B:** To show that A is not a subset of B , $A \not\subseteq B$, find an element $x \in A$ with $x \notin B$. (Such an x is a counterexample to the claim that $x \in A$ implies $x \in B$.)

Examples:

1. The set of all computer science majors at your school is a subset of all students at your school.
2. The set of integers with squares less than 100 is not a subset of the set of nonnegative integers.

Another look at Equality of Sets

- Recall that two sets A and B are *equal*, denoted by $A = B$, iff
$$\forall x(x \in A \leftrightarrow x \in B)$$

- Using logical equivalences we have that $A = B$ iff

$$\forall x[(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B) \wedge (x \in B \rightarrow x \in A)]$$

- This is equivalent to

$$A \subseteq B \quad \text{and} \quad B \subseteq A$$

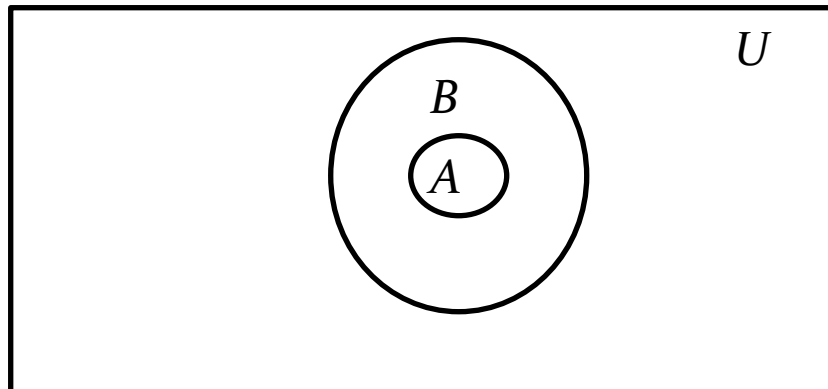
Proper Subsets

Definition: If $A \subseteq B$, but $A \neq B$, then we say A is a *proper subset* of B , denoted by $A \subset B$. If $A \subset B$, then

$$\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B) \wedge \exists x(x \in B \wedge x \notin A)$$

is true.

Venn Diagram



Set Cardinality

Definition: If there are exactly n distinct elements in S where n is a nonnegative integer, we say that S is *finite*. Otherwise it is *infinite*.

Definition: The *cardinality* of a finite set A , denoted by $|A|$, is the number of (distinct) elements of A .

Examples:

1. $|\emptyset| = 0$
2. Let S be the letters of the English alphabet. Then $|S| = 26$
3. $|\{1,2,3\}| = 3$
4. $|\{\emptyset\}| = 1$
5. The set of integers is infinite.

Power Sets

Definition: The set of all subsets of a set A , denoted $P(A)$, is called the *power set* of A .

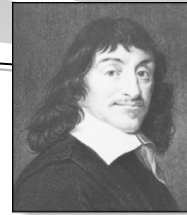
Example: If $A = \{a,b\}$ then

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a,b\}\}$$

- If a set has n elements, then the cardinality of the power set is 2^n . (In Chapters 5 and 6, we will discuss different ways to show this.)

Tuples

- The *ordered n-tuple* (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) is the ordered collection that has a_1 as its first element and a_2 as its second element and so on until a_n as its last element.
- Two n-tuples are equal if and only if their corresponding elements are equal.
- 2-tuples are called *ordered pairs*.
- The ordered pairs (a, b) and (c, d) are equal if and only if $a = c$ and $b = d$.



René Descartes
(1596-1650)

Cartesian Product

Definition: The *Cartesian Product* of two sets A and B , denoted by $A \times B$ is the set of ordered pairs (a,b) where $a \in A$ and $b \in B$.

$$A \times B = \{(a, b) | a \in A \wedge b \in B\}$$

Example:

$$A = \{a, b\} \quad B = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

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

- **Definition:** A subset R of the Cartesian product $A \times B$ is called a *relation* from the set A to the set B . (Relations will be covered in depth in Chapter 9.)

Cartesian Product

Definition: The cartesian products of the sets A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n , denoted by $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$, is the set of ordered n -tuples (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) where a_i belongs to A_i for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

$$A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n = \{(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \mid a_i \in A_i \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

Example: What is $A \times B \times C$ where $A = \{0,1\}$, $B = \{1,2\}$ and $C = \{0,1,2\}$

Solution: $A \times B \times C = \{(0,1,0), (0,1,1), (0,1,2), (0,2,0), (0,2,1), (0,2,2), (1,1,0), (1,1,1), (1,1,2), (1,2,0), (1,2,1), (1,2,2)\}$

Truth Sets of Quantifiers

- Given a predicate P and a domain D , we define the *truth set* of P to be the set of elements in D for which $P(x)$ is true. The truth set of $P(x)$ is denoted by

$$\{x \in D \mid P(x)\}$$

- **Example:** The truth set of $P(x)$ where the domain is the integers and $P(x)$ is “ $|x| = 1$ ” is the set $\{-1, 1\}$



Boolean Algebra

- Propositional calculus and set theory are both instances of an algebraic system called a *Boolean Algebra*.
- The operators in set theory are analogous to the corresponding operator in propositional calculus.
- As always there must be a universal set U . All sets are assumed to be subsets of U .

Union

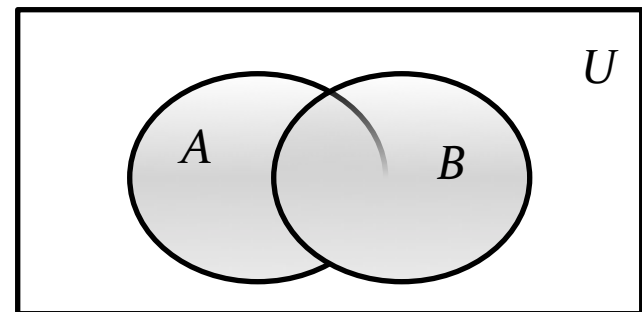
- **Definition:** Let A and B be sets. The *union* of the sets A and B , denoted by $A \cup B$, is the set:

$$\{x \mid x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

- **Example:** What is $\{1,2,3\} \cup \{3,4,5\}$?

Solution: $\{1,2,3,4,5\}$

Venn Diagram for $A \cup B$



Intersection

- **Definition:** The *intersection* of sets A and B , denoted by $A \cap B$, is

$$\{x \mid x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$$

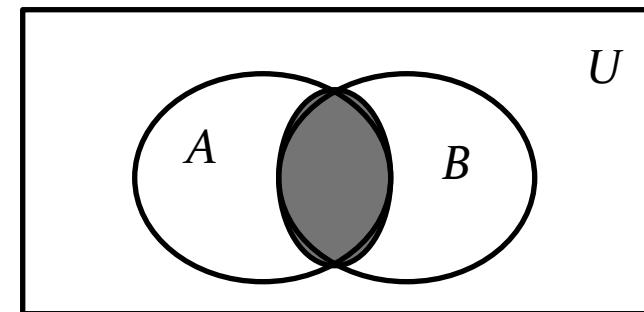
- Note if the intersection is empty, then A and B are said to be *disjoint*.
- **Example:** What is? $\{1,2,3\} \cap \{3,4,5\}$?

Solution: $\{3\}$

- **Example:** What is?
 $\{1,2,3\} \cap \{4,5,6\}$?

Solution: \emptyset

Venn Diagram for $A \cap B$



Complement

Definition: If A is a set, then the complement of the A (with respect to U), denoted by \bar{A} is the set $U - A$

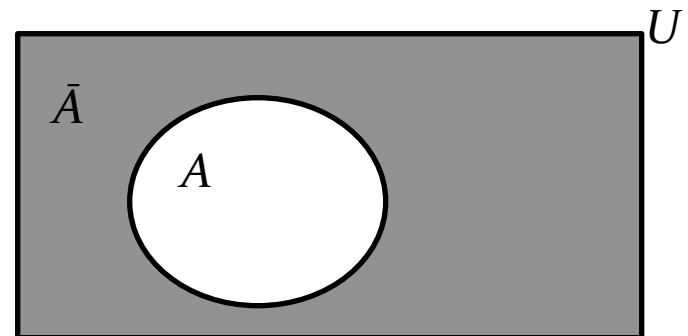
$$\bar{A} = \{x \in U \mid x \notin A\}$$

(The complement of A is sometimes denoted by A^c .)

Example: If U is the positive integers less than 100, what is the complement of $\{x \mid x > 70\}$

Solution: $\{x \mid x \leq 70\}$

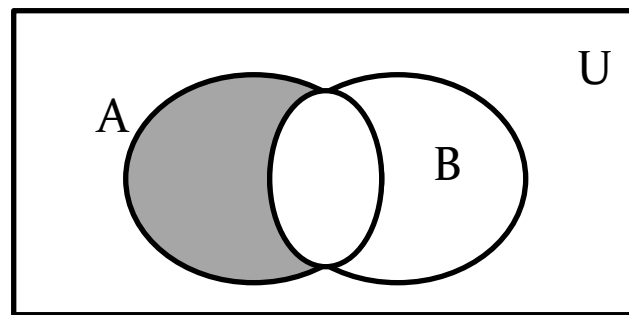
Venn Diagram for Complement



Difference

- **Definition:** Let A and B be sets. The *difference* of A and B , denoted by $A - B$, is the set containing the elements of A that are not in B . The difference of A and B is also called the complement of B with respect to A .

$$A / B = \{x \mid x \in A \wedge x \notin B\}$$

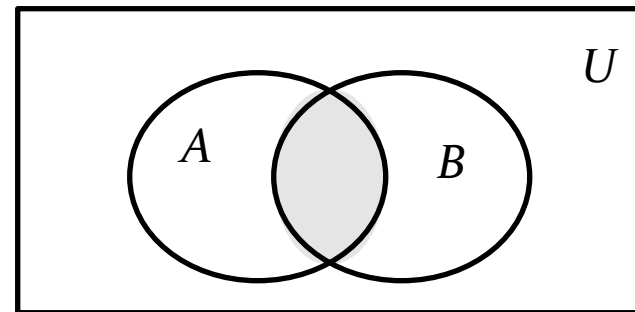


Venn Diagram for A / B

The Cardinality of the Union of Two Sets

- Inclusion-Exclusion

$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$$



Venn Diagram for $A, B, A \cap B, A \cup B$

- **Example:** Let A be the math majors in your class and B be the CS majors. To count the number of students who are either math majors or CS majors, add the number of math majors and the number of CS majors, and subtract the number of joint CS/math majors.
- We will return to this principle in Chapter 6 and Chapter 8 where we will derive a formula for the cardinality of the union of n sets, where n is a positive integer.

Review Questions

Example: $U = \{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10\}$ $A = \{1,2,3,4,5\}$, $B = \{4,5,6,7,8\}$

1. $A \cup B$

Solution: $\{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8\}$

2. $A \cap B$

Solution: $\{4,5\}$

3. \bar{A}

Solution: $\{0,6,7,8,9,10\}$

4. \bar{B}

Solution: $\{0,1,2,3,9,10\}$

5. $A - B$

Solution: $\{1,2,3\}$

6. $B - A$

Solution: $\{6,7,8\}$

Set Identities

- Identity laws

$$A \cup \emptyset = A \quad A \cap U = A$$

- Domination laws

$$A \cup U = U \quad A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$$

- Idempotent laws

$$A \cup A = A \quad A \cap A = A$$

- Complementation law

$$\overline{(\overline{A})} = A$$

Continued on next slide →

Set Identities

- Commutative laws

$$A \cup B = B \cup A \quad A \cap B = B \cap A$$

- Associative laws

$$A \cup (B \cup C) = (A \cup B) \cup C$$

$$A \cap (B \cap C) = (A \cap B) \cap C$$

- Distributive laws

$$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$$

$$A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$$

Continued on next slide →

Set Identities

- De Morgan's laws

$$\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B} \quad \overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$$

- Absorption laws

$$A \cup (A \cap B) = A \quad A \cap (A \cup B) = A$$

- Complement laws

$$A \cup \overline{A} = U \quad A \cap \overline{A} = \emptyset$$



Proving Set Identities

- Different ways to prove set identities:
 1. Prove that each set (side of the identity) is a subset of the other.
 2. Use set builder notation and propositional logic.
 3. Membership Tables: Verify that elements in the same combination of sets always either belong or do not belong to the same side of the identity. Use 1 to indicate it is in the set and a 0 to indicate that it is not.

Proof of Second De Morgan Law

Example: Prove that $\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$

Solution: We prove this identity by showing that:

$$1) \quad \overline{A \cap B} \subseteq \overline{A} \cup \overline{B} \quad \text{and}$$

$$2) \quad \overline{A} \cup \overline{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cap B}$$

Continued on next slide →

Proof of Second De Morgan Law

These steps show that: $\overline{A \cap B} \subseteq \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$

$$x \in \overline{A \cap B}$$

by assumption

$$x \notin A \cap B$$

defn. of complement

$$\neg((x \in A) \wedge (x \in B))$$

defn. of intersection

$$\neg(x \in A) \vee \neg(x \in B)$$

1st De Morgan Law for Prop Logic

$$x \notin A \vee x \notin B$$

defn. of negation

$$x \in \overline{A} \vee x \in \overline{B}$$

defn. of complement

$$x \in \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$$

defn. of union

Continued on next slide →

Proof of Second De Morgan Law

These steps show that:

$$\overline{A} \cup \overline{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cap B}$$

$$x \in \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$$

$$(x \in \overline{A}) \vee (x \in \overline{B})$$

$$(x \notin A) \vee (x \notin B)$$

$$\neg(x \in A) \vee \neg(x \in B)$$

$$\neg((x \in A) \wedge (x \in B))$$

$$\neg(x \in A \cap B)$$

$$x \in \overline{A \cap B}$$

by assumption

defn. of union

defn. of complement

defn. of negation

by 1st De Morgan Law for Prop Logic

defn. of intersection

defn. of complement



Set-Builder Notation: Second De Morgan Law

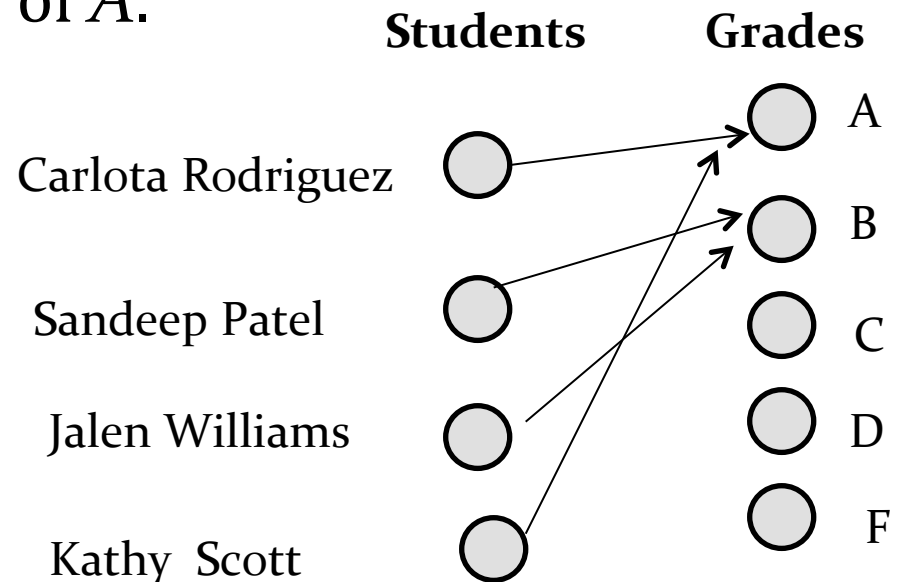
$$\begin{aligned}\overline{A \cap B} &= \{x \mid x \notin A \cap B\} && \text{by defn. of complement} \\ &= \{x \mid \neg(x \in (A \cap B))\} && \text{by defn. of does not belong symbol} \\ &= \{x \mid \neg(x \in A \wedge x \in B)\} && \text{by defn. of intersection} \\ &= \{x \mid \neg(x \in A) \vee \neg(x \in B)\} && \text{by 1st De Morgan law} \\ &&& \text{for Prop Logic} \\ &= \{x \mid x \notin A \vee x \notin B\} && \text{by defn. of not belong symbol} \\ &= \{x \mid x \in \overline{A} \vee x \in \overline{B}\} && \text{by defn. of complement} \\ &= \{x \mid x \in \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}\} && \text{by defn. of union} \\ &= \overline{A} \cup \overline{B} && \text{by meaning of notation}\end{aligned}$$



Functions

Definition: Let A and B be nonempty sets. A *function* f from A to B , denoted $f: A \rightarrow B$ is an assignment of each element of A to exactly one element of B . We write $f(a) = b$ if b is the unique element of B assigned by the function f to the element a of A .

- Functions are sometimes called *mappings* or *transformations*.



Functions

- A function $f: A \rightarrow B$ can also be defined as a subset of $A \times B$ (a relation). This subset is restricted to be a relation where no two elements of the relation have the same first element.
- Specifically, a function f from A to B contains one, and only one ordered pair (a, b) for every element $a \in A$.

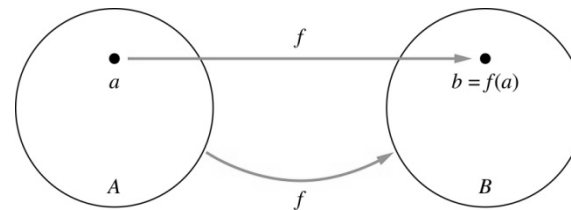
$$A. \quad \forall x[x \in A \rightarrow \exists y[y \in B \wedge (x, y) \in f]]$$

and $\forall x, y_1, y_2[(x, y_1) \in f \wedge (x, y_2) \in f] \rightarrow y_1 = y_2]$

Functions

Given a function $f: A \rightarrow B$:

- We say f maps A to B or f is a *mapping* from A to B .
- A is called the *domain* of f .
- B is called the *codomain* of f .
- If $f(a) = b$,
 - then b is called the *image* of a under f .
 - a is called the *preimage* of b .
- The range of f is the set of all images of points in A under f . We denote it by $f(A)$.
- Two functions are *equal* when they have the same domain, the same codomain and map each element of the domain to the same element of the codomain.





Representing Functions

- Functions may be specified in different ways:
 - An explicit statement of the assignment.
Students and grades example.
 - A formula.
 $f(x) = x + 1$
 - A computer program.
 - A Java program that when given an integer n , produces the n th Fibonacci Number (covered in the next section and also inChapter 5).

Questions

$f(a) = ?$ z

The image of d is ? z

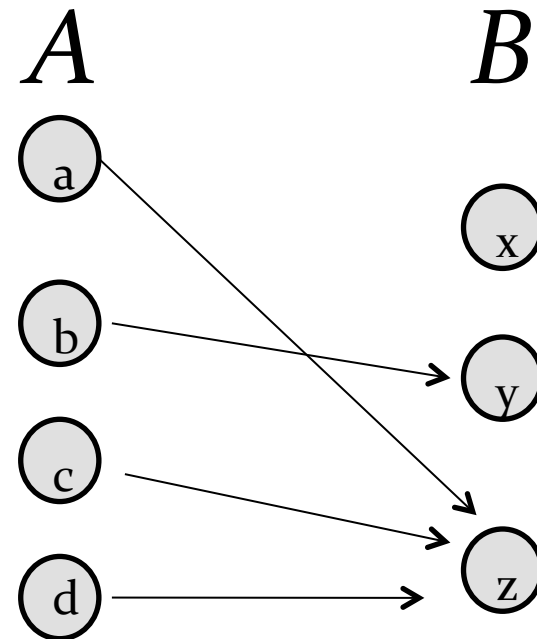
The domain of f is ? A

The codomain of f is ? B

The preimage of y is ? b

$f(A) = ?$

The preimage(s) of z is (are) ? $\{a,c,d\}$



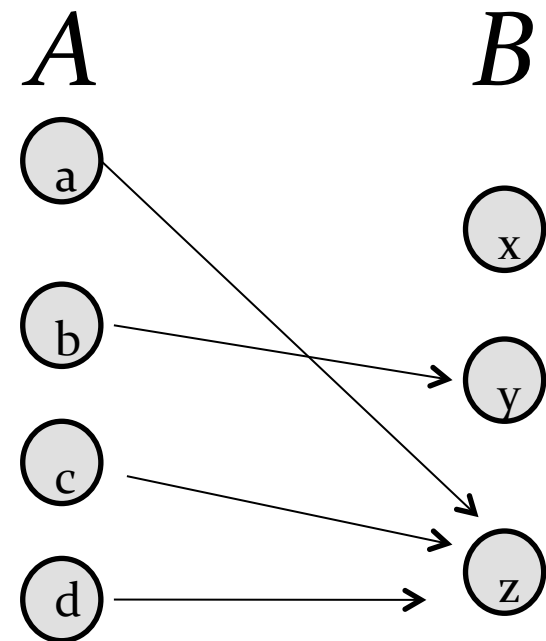
Question on Functions and Sets

- If $f : A \rightarrow B$ and S is a subset of A , then

$$f(S) = \{f(s) \mid s \in S\}$$

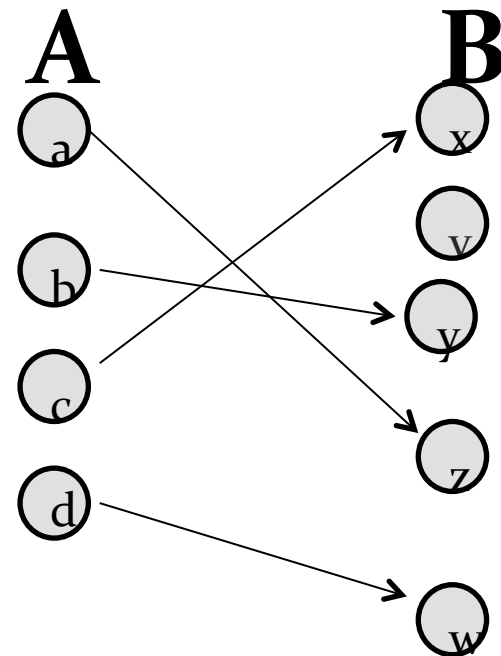
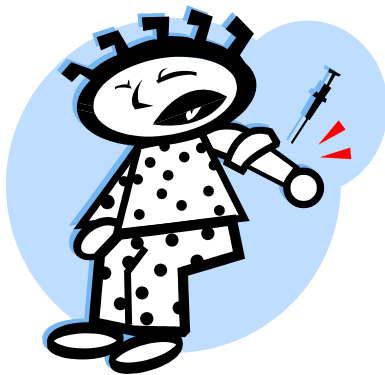
$f\{a,b,c\}$ is ? $\{y,z\}$

$f\{c,d\}$ is ? $\{z\}$



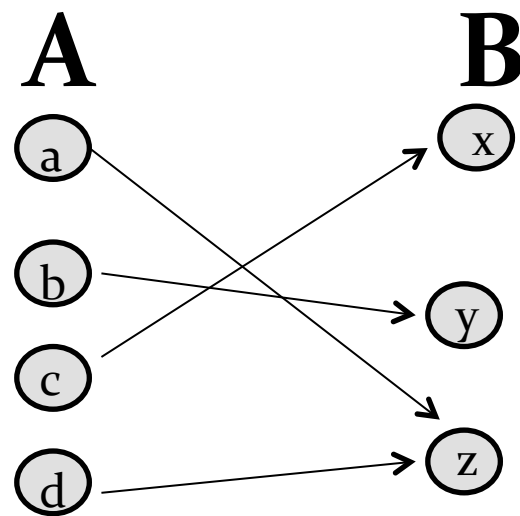
Injections

Definition: A function f is said to be *one-to-one*, or *injective*, if and only if $f(a) = f(b)$ implies that $a = b$ for all a and b in the domain of f . A function is said to be an *injection* if it is one-to-one.



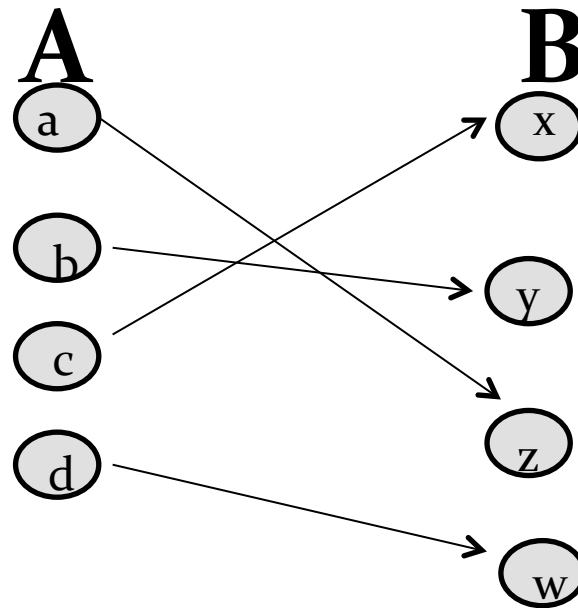
Surjections

Definition: A function f from A to B is called *onto* or *surjective*, if and only if for every element $b \in B$ there is an element $a \in A$ with $f(a) = b$. A function f is called a *surjection* if it is onto.



Bijections

Definition: A function f is a *one-to-one correspondence*, or a *bijection*, if it is both one-to-one and onto (surjective and injective).



Showing that f is one-to-one or onto

Suppose that $f : A \rightarrow B$.

To show that f is injective Show that if $f(x) = f(y)$ for arbitrary $x, y \in A$ with $x \neq y$, then $x = y$.

To show that f is not injective Find particular elements $x, y \in A$ such that $x \neq y$ and $f(x) = f(y)$.

To show that f is surjective Consider an arbitrary element $y \in B$ and find an element $x \in A$ such that $f(x) = y$.

To show that f is not surjective Find a particular $y \in B$ such that $f(x) \neq y$ for all $x \in A$.

Showing that f is one-to-one or onto

Example 1: Let f be the function from $\{a,b,c,d\}$ to $\{1,2,3\}$ defined by $f(a) = 3$, $f(b) = 2$, $f(c) = 1$, and $f(d) = 3$. Is f an onto function?

Solution: Yes, f is onto since all three elements of the codomain are images of elements in the domain. If the codomain were changed to $\{1,2,3,4\}$, f would not be onto.

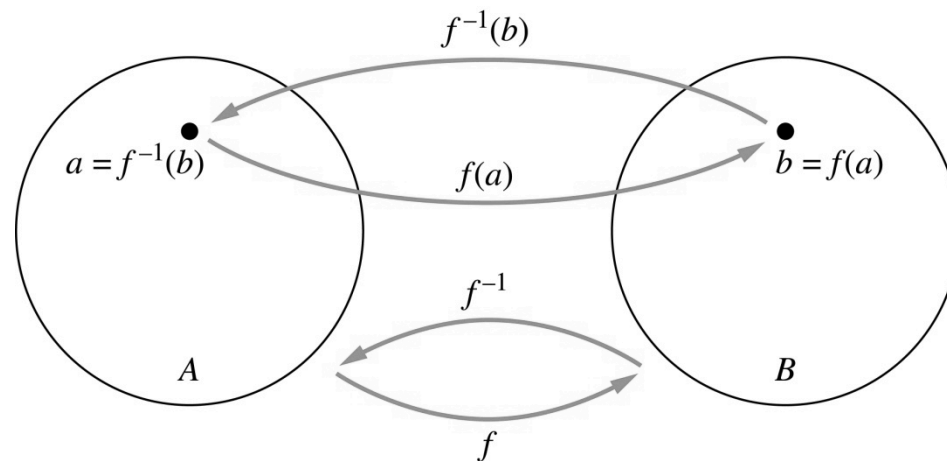
Example 2: Is the function $f(x) = x^2$ from the set of integers onto?

Solution: No, f is not onto because there is no integer x with $x^2 = -1$, for example.

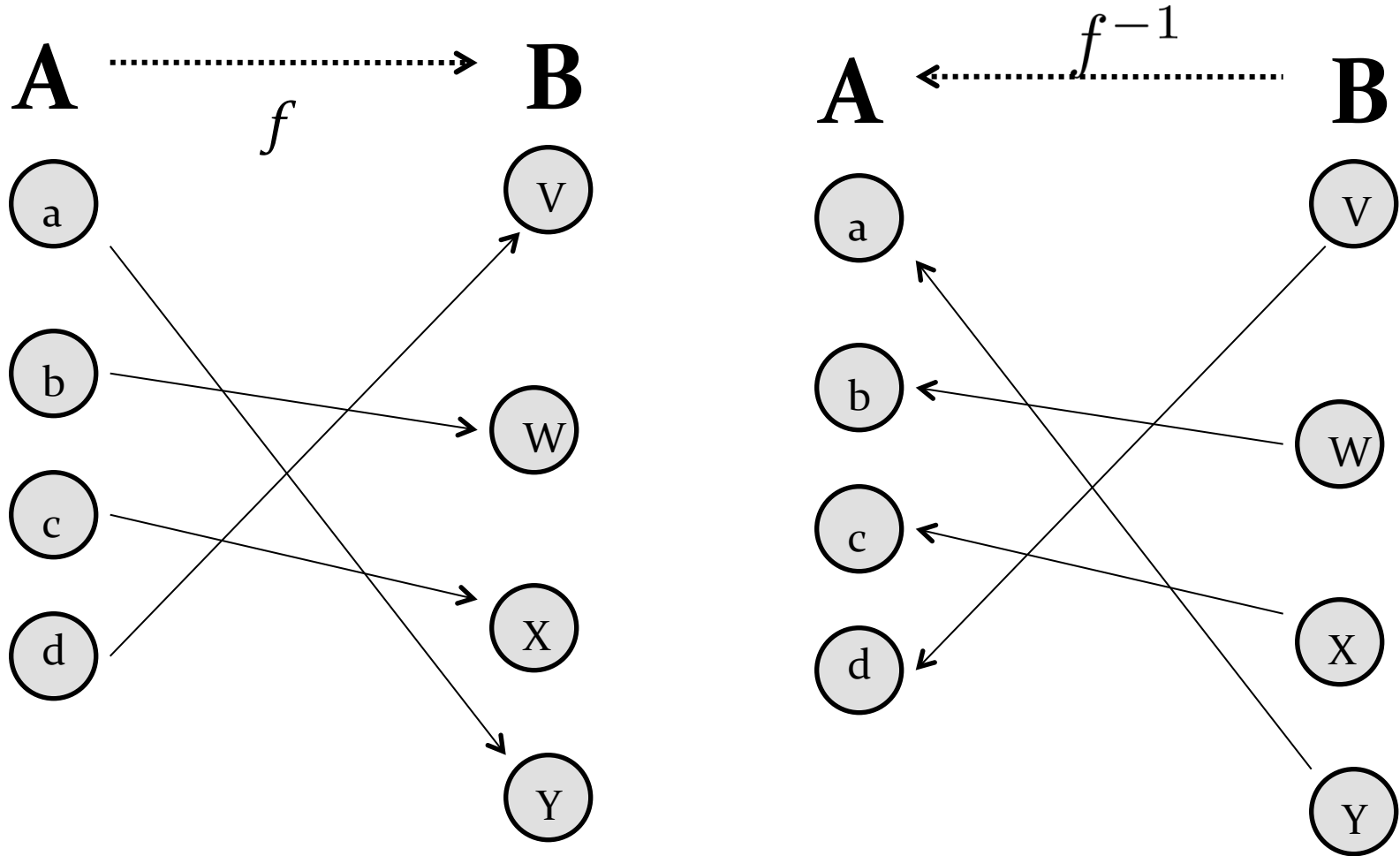
Inverse Functions

Definition: Let f be a bijection from A to B . Then the *inverse* of f , denoted f^{-1} , is the function from B to A defined as $f^{-1}(y) = x$ iff $f(x) = y$

No inverse exists unless f is a bijection. Why?



Inverse Functions



Questions

Example 1: Let f be the function from $\{a,b,c\}$ to $\{1,2,3\}$ such that $f(a) = 2$, $f(b) = 3$, and $f(c) = 1$. Is f invertible and if so what is its inverse?

Solution: The function f is invertible because it is a one-to-one correspondence. The inverse function f^{-1} reverses the correspondence given by f , so $f^{-1}(1) = c$, $f^{-1}(2) = a$, and $f^{-1}(3) = b$.

Questions

Example 2: Let $f: \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$ be such that $f(x) = x + 1$. Is f invertible, and if so, what is its inverse?

Solution: The function f is invertible because it is a one-to-one correspondence. The inverse function f^{-1} reverses the correspondence so $f^{-1}(y) = y - 1$.



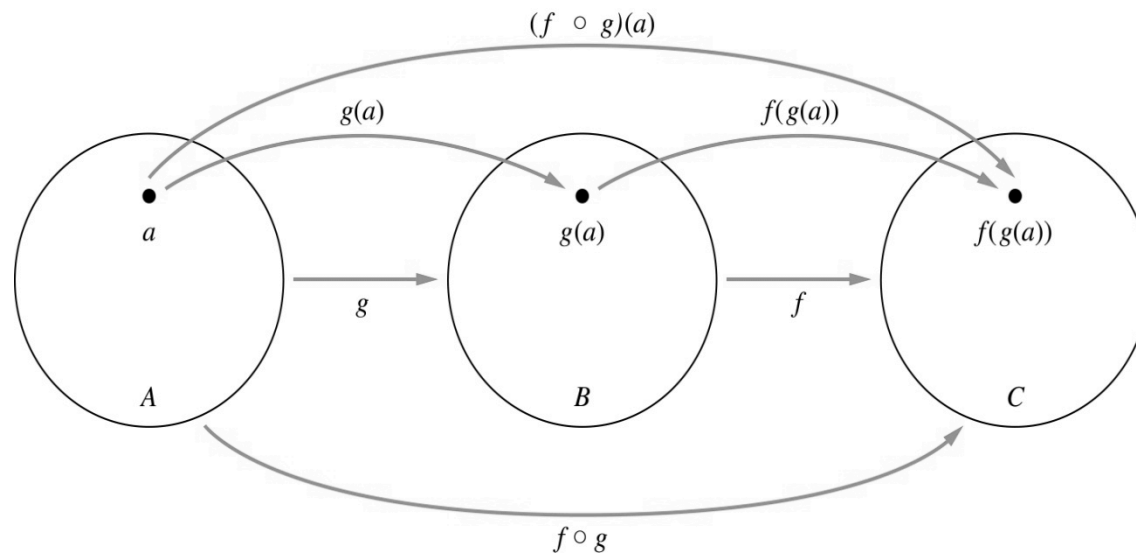
Questions

Example 3: Let $f: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ be such that $f(x) = x^2$. Is f invertible, and if so, what is its inverse?

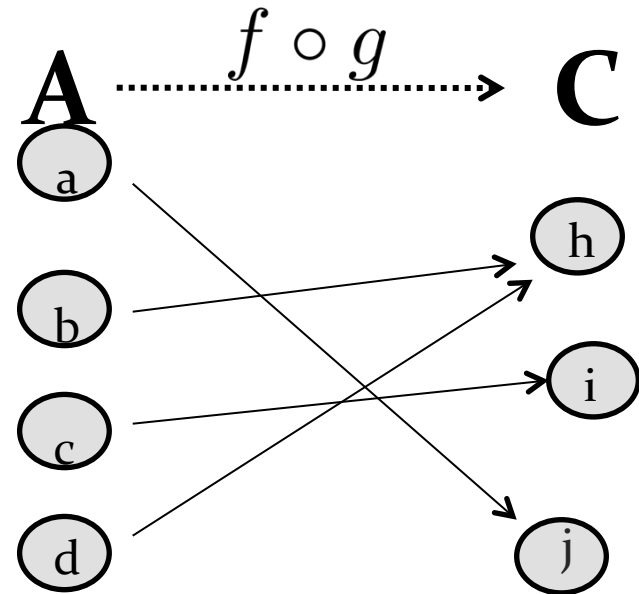
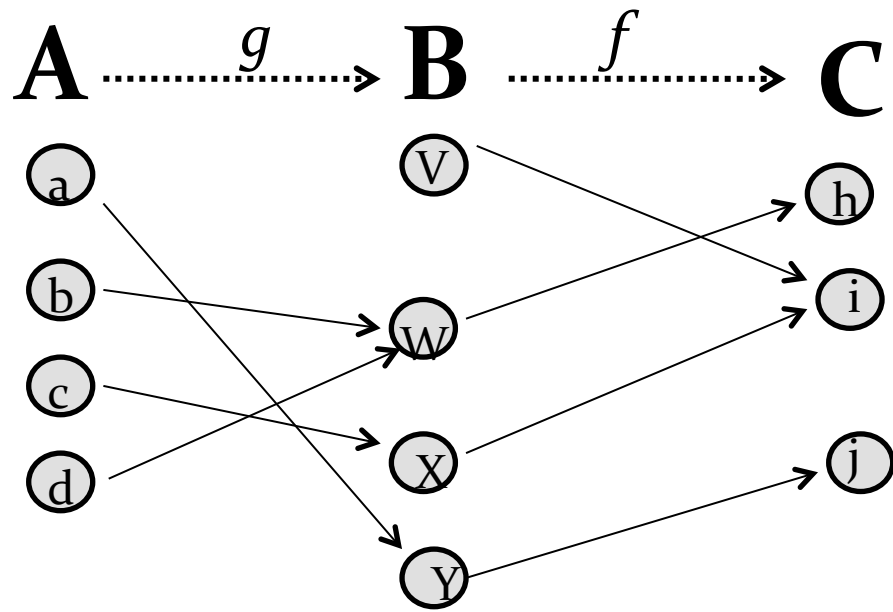
Solution: The function f is not invertible because it is not one-to-one .

Composition

- **Definition:** Let $f: B \rightarrow C$, $g: A \rightarrow B$. The *composition of f with g* , denoted $f \circ g$ is the function from A to C defined by $f \circ g(x) = f(g(x))$



Composition



Composition

Example 1: If $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = 2x + 1$,
then

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

and

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

Composition Questions

Example 2: Let g be the function from the set $\{a,b,c\}$ to itself such that $g(a) = b$, $g(b) = c$, and $g(c) = a$. Let f be the function from the set $\{a,b,c\}$ to the set $\{1,2,3\}$ such that $f(a) = 3$, $f(b) = 2$, and $f(c) = 1$.

What is the composition of f and g , and what is the composition of g and f .

Solution: The composition $f \circ g$ is defined by

$$f \circ g (a) = f(g(a)) = f(b) = 2.$$

$$f \circ g (b) = f(g(b)) = f(c) = 1.$$

$$f \circ g (c) = f(g(c)) = f(a) = 3.$$

Note that $g \circ f$ is not defined, because the range of f is not a subset of the domain of g .

Composition Questions

Example 2: Let f and g be functions from the set of integers to the set of integers defined by $f(x) = 2x + 3$ and $g(x) = 3x + 2$.

What is the composition of f and g , and also the composition of g and f ?

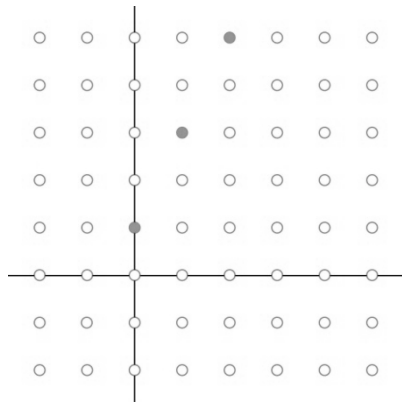
Solution:

$$f \circ g (x) = f(g(x)) = f(3x + 2) = 2(3x + 2) + 3 = 6x + 7$$

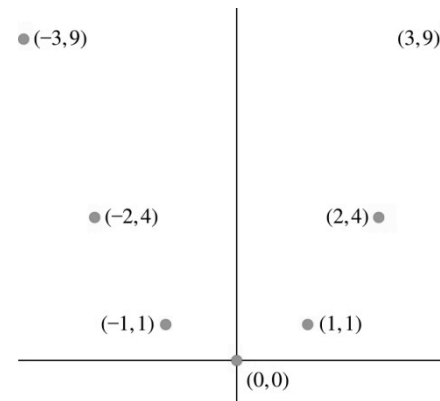
$$g \circ f (x) = g(f(x)) = g(2x + 3) = 3(2x + 3) + 2 = 6x + 11$$

Graphs of Functions

- Let f be a function from the set A to the set B . The *graph* of the function f is the set of ordered pairs $\{(a,b) \mid a \in A \text{ and } f(a) = b\}$.



Graph of $f(n) = 2n + 1$
from \mathbb{Z} to \mathbb{Z}



Graph of $f(x) = x^2$
from \mathbb{Z} to \mathbb{Z}

Some Important Functions

- The *floor* function, denoted

$$f(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$$

is the largest integer less than or equal to x .

- The *ceiling* function, denoted

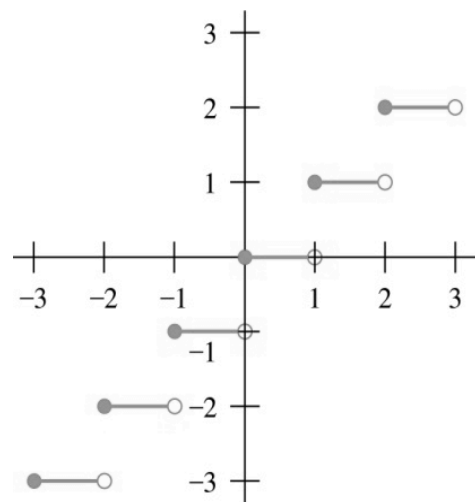
$$f(x) = \lceil x \rceil$$

is the smallest integer greater than or equal to x

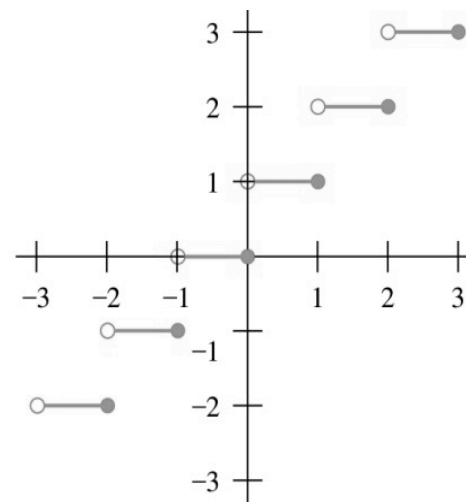
Example: $\lceil 3.5 \rceil = 4$ $\lfloor 3.5 \rfloor = 3$

$$\lceil -1.5 \rceil = -1 \quad \lfloor -1.5 \rfloor = -2$$

Floor and Ceiling Functions



(a) $y = [x]$



(b) $y = [x]$

Graph of (a) Floor and (b) Ceiling Functions

Floor and Ceiling Functions

TABLE 1 Useful Properties of the Floor and Ceiling Functions.

(n is an integer, x is a real number)

(1a) $\lfloor x \rfloor = n$ if and only if $n \leq x < n + 1$

(1b) $\lceil x \rceil = n$ if and only if $n - 1 < x \leq n$

(1c) $\lfloor x \rfloor = n$ if and only if $x - 1 < n \leq x$

(1d) $\lceil x \rceil = n$ if and only if $x \leq n < x + 1$

(2) $x - 1 < \lfloor x \rfloor \leq x \leq \lceil x \rceil < x + 1$

(3a) $\lfloor -x \rfloor = -\lceil x \rceil$

(3b) $\lceil -x \rceil = -\lfloor x \rfloor$

(4a) $\lfloor x + n \rfloor = \lfloor x \rfloor + n$

(4b) $\lceil x + n \rceil = \lceil x \rceil + n$

Proving Properties of Functions

Example: Prove that x is a real number, then

$$\lfloor 2x \rfloor = \lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor$$

Solution: Let $x = n + \varepsilon$, where n is an integer and $0 \leq \varepsilon < 1$.

Case 1: $\varepsilon < 1/2$

- $2x = 2n + 2\varepsilon$ and $\lfloor 2x \rfloor = 2n$, since $0 \leq 2\varepsilon < 1$.
- $\lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor = n$, since $x + 1/2 = n + (1/2 + \varepsilon)$ and $0 \leq 1/2 + \varepsilon < 1$.
- Hence, $\lfloor 2x \rfloor = 2n$ and $\lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor = n + n = 2n$.

Case 2: $\varepsilon \geq 1/2$

- $2x = 2n + 2\varepsilon = (2n + 1) + (2\varepsilon - 1)$ and $\lfloor 2x \rfloor = 2n + 1$, since $0 \leq 2\varepsilon - 1 < 1$.
- $\lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor = \lfloor n + (1/2 + \varepsilon) \rfloor = \lfloor n + 1 + (\varepsilon - 1/2) \rfloor = n + 1$ since $0 \leq \varepsilon - 1/2 < 1$.
- Hence, $\lfloor 2x \rfloor = 2n + 1$ and $\lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor = n + (n + 1) = 2n + 1$. ◀

Factorial Function

Definition: $f: \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^+$, denoted by $f(n) = n!$ is the product of the first n positive integers when n is a nonnegative integer.

$$f(n) = 1 \cdot 2 \cdots (n - 1) \cdot n, \quad f(0) = 0! = 1$$

Examples:

$$f(1) = 1! = 1$$

$$f(2) = 2! = 1 \cdot 2 = 2$$

$$f(6) = 6! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 = 720$$

$$f(20) = 2,432,902,008,176,640,000.$$

Stirling's Formula:

$$n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} (n/e)^n$$

$$f(n) \sim g(n) \doteq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n)/g(n) = 1$$

Partial Functions (*optional*)

Definition: A *partial function* f from a set A to a set B is an assignment to each element a in a subset of A , called the *domain of definition* of f , of a unique element b in B .

- The sets A and B are called the *domain* and *codomain* of f , respectively.
- We say that f is *undefined* for elements in A that are not in the domain of definition of f .
- When the domain of definition of f equals A , we say that f is a *total function*.

Example: $f: \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ where $f(n) = \sqrt{n}$ is a partial function from \mathbf{Z} to \mathbf{R} where the domain of definition is the set of nonnegative integers. Note that f is undefined for negative integers.