CS 441: Functions

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[Key CS Link] Functions

The URL Router

When you type a URL into your browser, like https://www.example.com/users/profile/123, a web server needs to figure out which specific piece of code should handle that request. It needs to:

- Identify the part of the URL that's important (/users/profile/123).
- Extract any variables from the URL (in this case, the user ID 123).
- Map this specific URL to a function that will generate the user's profile page.

This is a classic function problem: a well-defined input (the URL) needs to be mapped to a single, specific output (the correct function to execute).

Source: Gemini

Today's topics

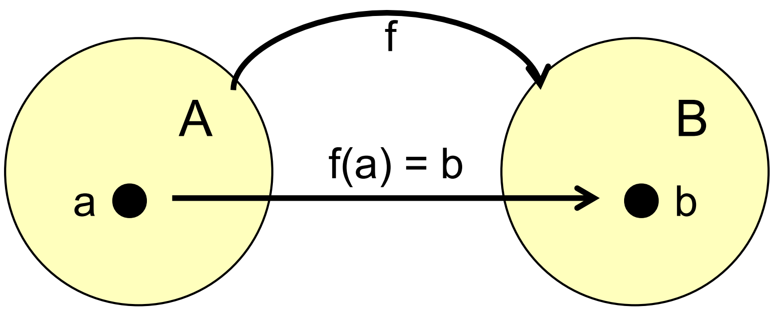
- Set Functions
  - Important definitions
  - Relationships to sets, relations
  - Specific functions of particular importance

Sets give us a way to formalize the concept of a function

Definition: Let A and B be nonempty sets. A function, f, is an assignment of exactly one element of set B to each element of set A.

Note: We write $f : A \to B$ to denote that f is a function from A to B

Note: We say that $f(a) = b$ if the element $a \in A$ is mapped to the unique element $b \in B$ by the function f

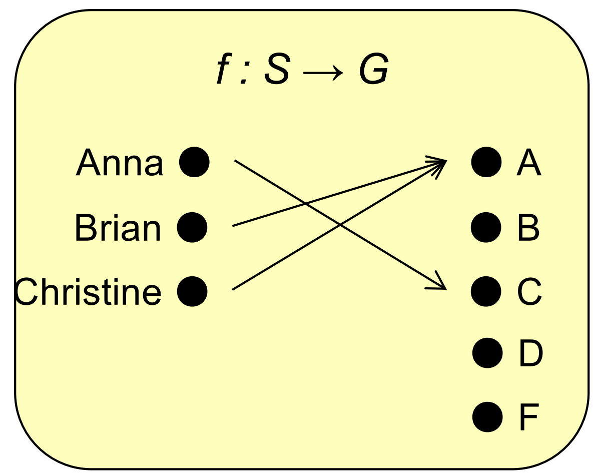


Functions can be defined in a number of ways

1. Explicitly
   - f : **Z** → **Z**
   - $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1$

2. Using a programming language
   - int min(int x, int y) = { x < y ? return x : return y; }

3. Using a relation
   - Let S = {Anna, Brian, Christine}
   - Let G = {A, B, C, D, F}

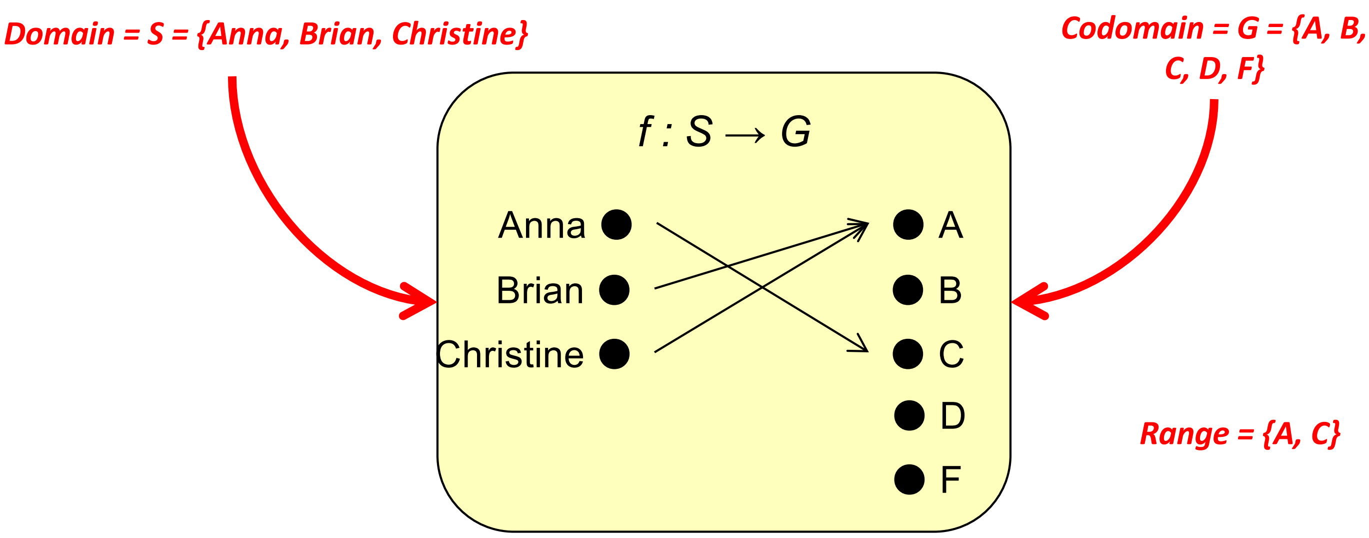


More terminology

The domain of a function is the set that the function maps from, while the codomain is the set that is mapped to

If f(a) = b, b is called the image of a, and a is called the preimage of b

The range of a function f : A → B is the set of all images of elements of A



What are the domain, codomain, and range of the following functions?

1. $f : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$, $f(x) = x^3$
   - Domain:
   - Codomain:
   - Range:

2. $g : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, $g(x) = x - 2$
   - Domain:
   - Codomain:
   - Range:

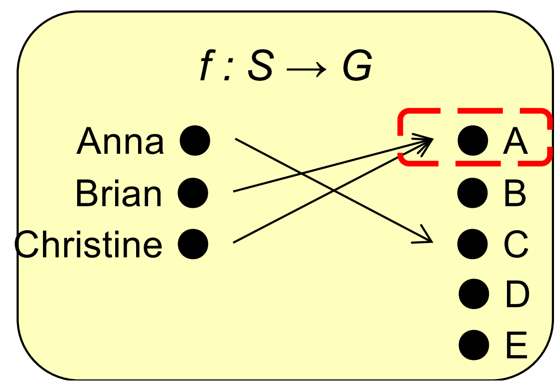
3. `int foo(int x, int y) = { return (x*y)%2; }`
   - Domain:
   - Codomain:
   - Range:

A one-to-one function never assigns the same image to two different elements

Definition: A function f : A → B is one-to-one, or injective, iff ∀x,y∈A [(f(x) = f(y)) → (x = y)]

Are the following functions injections?

- f : **R** → **R**, f(x) = x + 1
- f : **Z** → **Z**, f(x) = x^2
- f : $\mathbf{R}^+$ → $\mathbf{R}^+$, f(x) = √x
- f : S → G

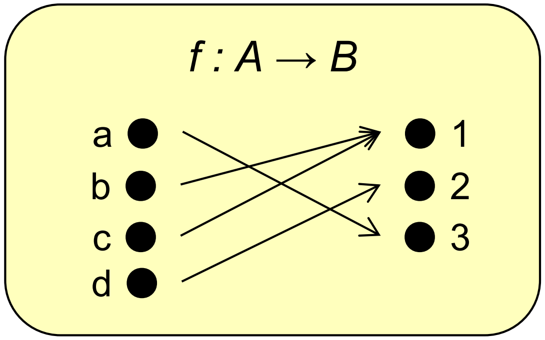


An onto function "uses" every element of its codomain

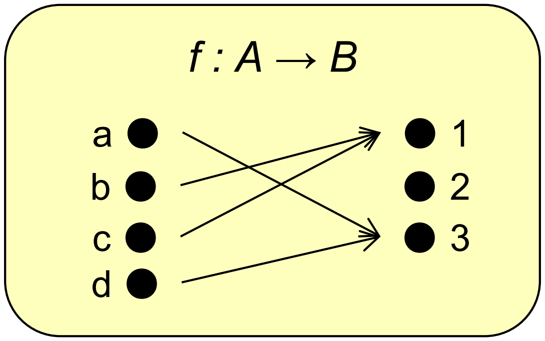
Definition: We call a function $f : A \rightarrow B$ onto, or surjective, iff for every element $b \in B$, there is some element $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$.

Think about an onto function as "covering" the entirety of its codomain.

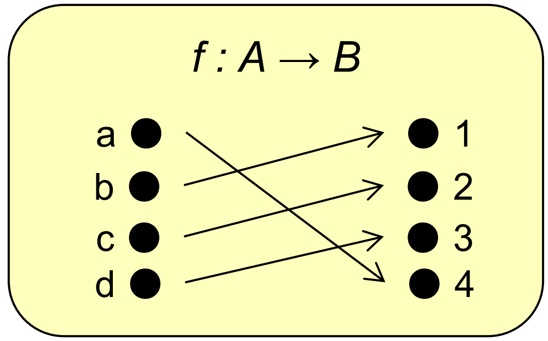
The following function is a surjection:



Are the following functions one-to-one, onto, both, or neither?

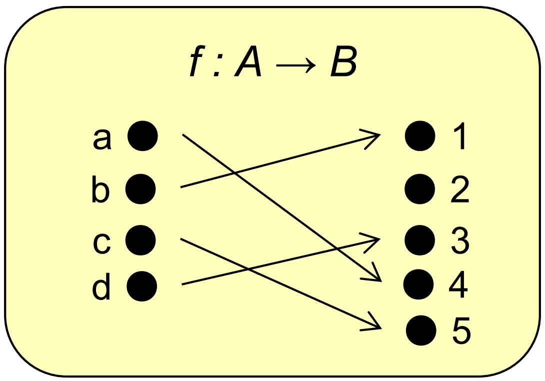


Neither!

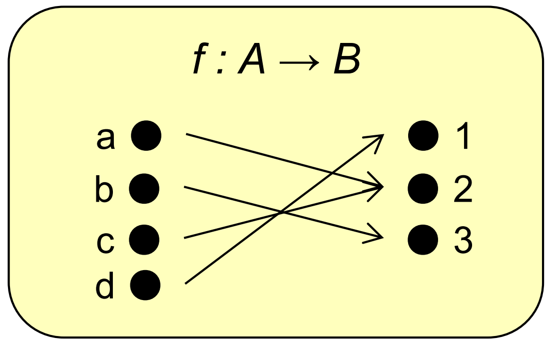


One-to-one and onto

(Aside: Functions that are both one-to-one and onto are called *bijections*)



One-to-one

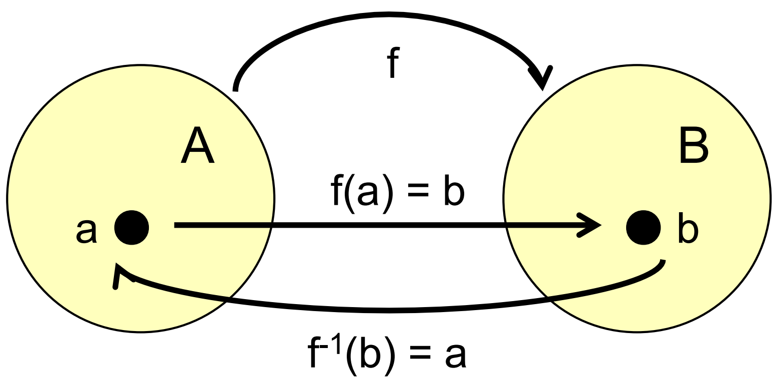


Onto

Bijections have inverses

Definition: If $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a bijection, the inverse of f is the function $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$ that assigns to each $b \in B$ the unique value $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$. That is, $f^{-1}(b) = a$ iff $f(a) = b$.

Graphically:



Note: Only a bijection can have an inverse. (Why?)

Reversal is only possible:

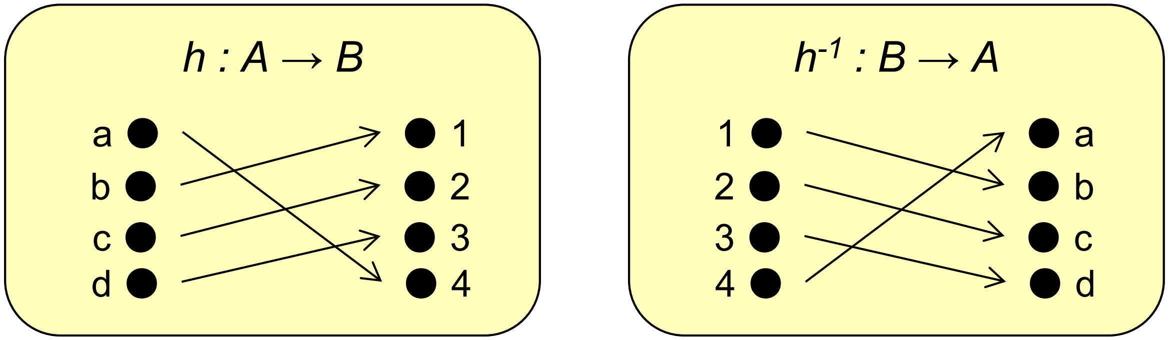
- Each element in the domain maps to a unique element in the codomain (injective).
- Every element in the codomain has a corresponding element in the domain (surjective).

Do the following functions have inverses?

1. $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, $f(x) = x^2$

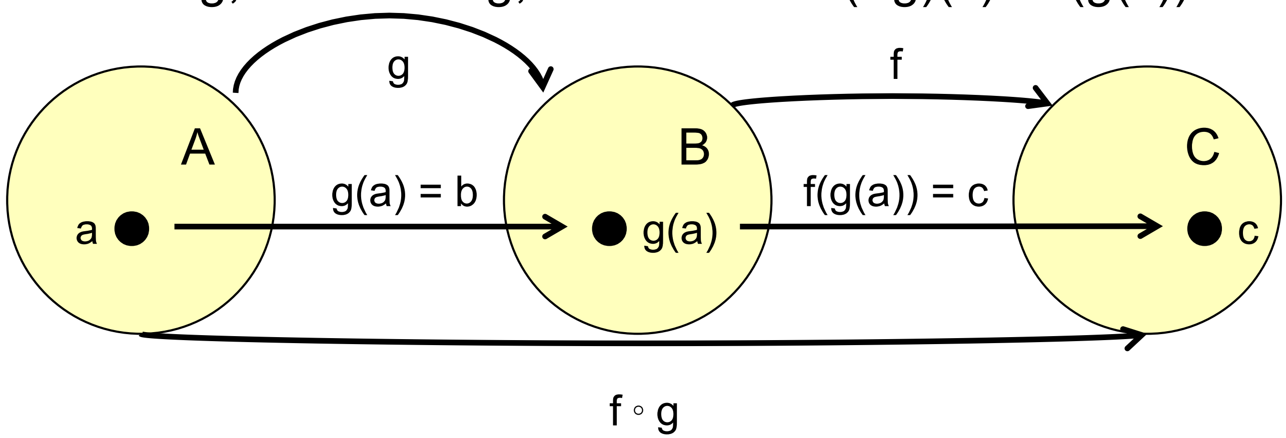
2. $g : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$, $g(x) = x + 1$

3. $h : A \rightarrow B$



Functions can be composed with one another

Given functions g : A → B and f : B → C, the composition of f and g, denoted f∘g, is defined as (f∘g)(x) = f(g(x)).



Note: For f∘g to exist, the codomain of g must be a subset of the domain of f.

Definition: If g : A → B and f : D → C and B ⊆ D, f∘g is a function A → C where (f∘g)(x) = f(g(x))

Can the following functions be composed? If so, what is their composition?

Let $f : A \rightarrow A$ such that $f(a) = b$, $f(b) = c$, $f(c) = a$
$g : B \rightarrow A$ such that $g(1) = b$, $g(4) = a$

1. $(f \circ g)(x)$?
2. $(g \circ f)(x)$?

Let $f : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$, $f(x) = 2x + 1$
$g : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$, $g(x) = x^2$

1. $(f \circ g)(x)$?
2. $(g \circ f)(x)$?

Note: There is not a guarantee that $(f \circ g)(x) = (g \circ f)(x)$.

Important functions

Definition: The floor function maps a real number x to the largest integer y that is not greater than x. The floor of x is denoted $\lfloor x \rfloor$.

Definition: The ceiling function maps a real number x to the smallest integer y that is not less than x. The ceiling of x is denoted $\lceil x \rceil$.

Examples:

- $\lfloor 1.2 \rfloor = 1$
- $\lfloor 7.0 \rfloor = 7$
- $\lfloor -42.24 \rfloor = -43$

- $\lceil 1.2 \rceil = 2$
- $\lceil 7.0 \rceil = 7$
- $\lceil -42.24 \rceil = -42$

We actually use floor and ceiling quite a bit in computer science…

Example: A byte, which holds 8 bits, is typically the smallest amount of memory that can be allocated on most systems. How many bytes are needed to store 123 bits of data?

Answer: We need $\lceil 123/8 \rceil = \lceil 15.375 \rceil = 16$ bytes

Example: How many 1400 byte packets can be transmitted over a 14.4 kbps modem in one minute?

Answer: A 14.4 kbps modem can transmit 14,400*60 = 864,000 bits per minute. Therefore, we can transmit $\lfloor 864{,}000/(1400*8) \rfloor = \lfloor 77.1428571 \rfloor = 77$ packets.

In-class Activities

Activity 1: Find the domain and range of each of the following functions.[miro]

a. The function that determines the number of zeros in some bit string
b. The function that maps an English word to its two rightmost letters
c. The function that assigns to an integer the sum of its individual digits

Activity 2: Suppose g is a function from A to B and f is a function from B to C. Prove that if f and g are one-to-one, then $f \circ g$ is one-to-one. [miro]

Submit on miro

Steps:
1. Introduce to a classmate
2. Work in pairs on the exercise
3. Submit answers on miro
4. Volunteers to share answers

Final thoughts

- Set identities are useful tools!
- We can prove set identities in a number of (equivalent) ways
- Sets are the basis of functions, which are used throughout computer science and mathematics
- Next time:
  - Summations (Section 2.4)