

# Functions and Cardinality

August 31, 2021

## Question 1

- a) Come up with a function that is injective but not surjective.
- b) Come up with a function that is surjective but not injective.
- c) Come up with a function that is both injective and surjective.

## Question 2

- a) Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. Recall that we showed in section that for  $X \subseteq A$  it is not always true that  $f^{-1}(f(X)) = X$ . However, prove that for any subset  $X \subseteq A$ ,  $X \subseteq f^{-1}(f(X))$
- b) Now consider a subset  $Y \subseteq B$ . State and prove an analogous version of part a regarding the relationship of  $Y$  to  $f(f^{-1}(Y))$ . It might help to draw some silly pictures here to convince yourself of what the conjecture should be.
- c) Again, let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. Show that  $f$  is injective iff for any  $X \subseteq A$ ,  $f^{-1}(f(X)) = X$
- d) State and prove the analogous claim to part c for a function being surjective. That is, give necessary and sufficient criteria for a function  $f$  to be surjective based on its the relationship of  $Y \subseteq B$  to  $f(f^{-1}(Y))$ .

## Question 3- Collections of Functions as a Group

Recall that if  $f : A \rightarrow B, g : B \rightarrow C$  were functions we could form the composite function  $g \circ f : A \rightarrow C$  but not the composite function  $f \circ g$ .

However, if our domain and codomain are the same, we can do both  $g \circ f$  and  $f \circ g$  for any two functions  $f, g : A \rightarrow A$ . Finally, recall that we showed

(or at least claimed) that function composition is associate.

Now, we consider the set  $Func(A) = \{f : f : A \rightarrow A \text{ is a function}\}$ . Inside this set we have  $Invert(A) = \{g : g : A \rightarrow A \text{ is bijective}\}$ . This set  $Invert(A)$  shares some very similar properties to  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  that I spelled out in Section 7 questions. Namely, I claimed that the addition of equivalence classes we defined for  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  turned it into a "group".

What we have basically just showed is that, if we define addition on the set  $Invert(A)$  as function composition, then we get that  $Invert(A)$  is a group!! This provides maybe one of the more compelling reasons for why we should care about group theory: Given any set (!!), we can form the group of bijective functions on that set! This shows that groups arise extremely naturally everywhere we look in mathematics.