

2.3-2.5: Functions, Relations and Orderings

Definition 1. A relation on a set S is a subset of $S \times S$. If R is a relation on S we say that “ a is related to b ” if $(a, b) \in R$, which we sometimes write as $a R b$.

Example 1.

Example 2. Let P be the set of all people, living or dead. For any $a, b \in P$, let $a R b$ if a and b are (or were) brothers. Then R is a relation and $(\text{Cain}, \text{Abel}) \in P$.

Definition 2. A function is a relation in which each input has exactly one output. We think of functions as mappings from one place to another.

Example 3. $f(x) = x^2 - 3x + 2$

Example 4. A propositional statement in two variables defines a function

$$w : \{T, F\} \times \{T, F\} \rightarrow \{T, F\}.$$

Example 5. Let X be a set. Then the *identity* function

$$1_X : X \rightarrow X$$

is defined by $1_X(x) = x$ for all $x \in X$.

Example 6. (Checking that a function is well-defined) Consider two relations $f, g : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ defined by

$$f(x/y) = x + y \quad \text{and} \quad g(x/y) = \frac{x + y}{y}.$$

Which of these relations is a function? (A common way of asking this questions is to check whether the function is well-defined. This is a bit misleading because if it is not well-defined, then it is not a function, but only a relation.)

One-to-one and onto functions: Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function. We say that f is one-to-one (or injective) if, for all $a, b \in X$, $f(a) = f(b)$ implies $a = b$. This is just a fancy way of saying that each output has a unique input (or that the map created by reversing the arrows is well-defined). We say that f is onto (or surjective) if, for all $y \in Y$, there exists an $x \in X$ such that $f(x) = y$. In other words, the range of f covers all of Y . If we define the subset $f(X) \subseteq Y$ by

$$f(X) := \{y \in Y \mid f(x) = y \text{ for some } x \in X\}$$

then $f : X \rightarrow f(X)$ is an onto function.

Example 7. Show that $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ (or $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$) defined by $f(x) = 2x + 1$ is both one-to-one and onto. Such a function is said to be a bijection or a one-to-one correspondence.

Example 8. Show that $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ defined by $f(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$ is onto.

Example 9. Let E and O be the sets of even and odd integers, respectively. Define a function

$$f : E \times O \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

by $f(x, y) = x + y$. Is f one-to-one or onto? Prove or disprove.

New functions from old: If a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is one-to-one, then each output has a unique input. In this case, we can define a function $f^{-1} : f(X) \rightarrow X$ by $f^{-1}(y) = x$ if $f(x) = y$. The function f^{-1} is called the inverse of f . Represent this new function pictorially.

Example 10. Suppose a cheese pizza costs \$10 plus an additional \$1 for each topping. Write a function $f : \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ that represents the cost of a pizza with n toppings. Is this function invertible? If so, find its inverse and explain what it represents in words.

Example 11. Not all functions have inverses. Consider the function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $x \xrightarrow{f} x^2$. In this case we can make f invertible by restricting its domain.

Definition 5. Given two functions $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ we define the composition of f and g by $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$ by $g \circ f(x) = g(f(x))$ for all $x \in X$.

Example 12. Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by $f(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$ and $g(x) = 3x$. Find $g \circ f(2.4)$ and $f \circ g(2.4)$. Are your answers different? What does this mean in general?

Example 13. Let D be the unit disk in \mathbb{R}^2 , that is,

$$D := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 \leq 1\}.$$

In addition, let $D^* = D \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$ (the punctured disk) and let $S = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$ be the unit circle. Define a relation $p : D \rightarrow S$ by projection straight out along a radius until you reach the boundary S . Is this relation a function; i.e. “is this function well-defined?” Can we make it a well-defined function? Can we come up with a formula for p ?

Equivalence Relations: A relation R on a set S is an equivalence relation if it satisfies the following three properties:

1. *Reflexivity.* For any $a \in S$, $a R a$.
2. *Symmetry.* For any $a, b \in S$, $a R b \iff b R a$.
3. *Transitivity.* For any $a, b, c \in S$, if $a R b$ and $b R c$, then $a R c$.

Example 14. The relation on \mathbb{Z} (or some collection of sets or really anything) defined by $=$ is an equivalence relation.

Example 15. Let $S : \{\frac{x}{y} | x, y \in \mathbb{Z}, y \neq 0\}$. Define a relation R on S as follows: For any elements $\frac{x}{y}, \frac{z}{w} \in S$, $\frac{x}{y} R \frac{z}{w}$ if $xw = yz$. Prove that R is an equivalence relation.

Example 16. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function. Define a relation on X as follows: For any $a, b \in X$, $a R b$ if $f(a) = f(b)$. Is R an equivalence relation? Prove or disprove.

Example 17. A *partition* of a set S is a set $P \subseteq P(S)$ of nonempty subsets of S such that

1. For any $a \in S$, there is some $X \in P$ such that $a \in X$. The elements of P are called the *blocks* of the partition.
2. If $X, Y \in P$ are distinct blocks; i.e. $X \neq Y$, then $X \cap Y = \emptyset$.

Define a relation R on S by $a R b$ if a and b belong to the same block. Show that R is an equivalence relation.

Theorem 1. Let R be an equivalence relation on a set S . For any element $x \in S$, define $[x] := \{a \in S \mid x R a\}$ to be the set of all elements related to x . Let P be the collection of distinct subsets of S formed in this way; i.e. $P = \{[x] \in P(S) \mid x \in S\}$. Then P is a partition of S .

We call the partitions defined in the above theorem the equivalence classes with respect to the relation R . Specifically, we will call $[x]$ to be the equivalence class of x . If $a \in [x]$ we will call a as a *representative* of $[x]$.

Modular Arithmetic: Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. If, for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \mid (a - b)$, we say that “ a is equivalent (or congruent) to b modulo n .” The notation for this relation is

$$a \equiv b \pmod{n}.$$

Example 18.

- (a) Find the collection of all integers which are equivalent to 1 modulo 2.
- (b) Find the collection of all integers which are equivalent to 2 modulo 3.

Example 19. Show that (for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$) \equiv defines an equivalence relation on \mathbb{Z} .

Proposition 2. Let $[a]$ and $[b]$ be equivalence classes in \mathbb{Z}/n . Suppose that $x \in [a]$ and $y \in [b]$. Then $x \pm y \in [a \pm b]$ and $xy \in [ab]$.

Proof.

Chinese Remainder Theorem: Suppose you are an army general trying to determine how many soldiers you have at your disposal. Can modular arithmetic be used to simplify this procedure? For instance, try to answer from the 3rd-century book Sunzi Suanjing by the Chinese mathematician Sunzi:

“There are certain things whose number is unknown. If we count them by threes, we have two left over; by fives, we have three left over; and by sevens, two are left over. How many things are there?”

Partial Orderings: A relation R on a set S is a partial ordering if it satisfies the following three properties:

1. *Reflexivity.* For any $a \in S$, $a R a$.
2. *Transitivity.* For any $a, b, c \in S$, if $a R b$ and $b R c$, then $a R c$.
3. *Antisymmetry.* For any $a, b \in S$, if $a R b$ and $b R a$, then $a = b$.

Example 20. Show that \leq (equivalently \geq) is a partial ordering on any set S of numbers.

Example 21. Let S be any set. Show that \subseteq is a partial ordering on $P(S)$.

Homework. (Due Oct 24, 2018) Section 2.3: 22, 27; Section 2.4: 9, 30; Section 2.5: 1

Practice Problems. Section 2.3: 3-6, 13-15, 28, 29, 30*, **33-36**; Section 2.4: 3-6, 10, 16-19, 21-23, 29, 32*, 33* **34-40**; Section 2.5: 8-10, 13-15, **18**