

New Classes of Functions

Polynomial and Rational functions are examples of *Algebraic* functions.

Now we wish to move on to a class of functions called *Transcendental* functions.

We will begin by discussing inverse functions and relations. This will allow us to consider classes of functions called *exponential*, *logarithmic*, and *trigonometric*.

Section 5.1: Inverse Relations and Inverse Functions

Suppose we have a relation $S = \{(1, 0), (4, 2), (\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{7}), (\pi, 16), (7, 2)\}$.
If one asks

What is the output if the input is 7?

we can easily answer by referencing the given pairs. Clearly the answer is 2.

One could also pose a similar question:

What is the input if the output is 2?

This question is also easily answered. The answer is 4 or 7.

We can construct another relation from S by interchanging the inputs and outputs. We'll call this the **inverse of S** and denote it as follows

$$S^{-1} = \left\{ (0, 1), (2, 4), \left(\frac{1}{7}, \frac{3}{2} \right), (16, \pi), (2, 7) \right\}.$$

Inverse Relation

Definition: Let S be a relation with domain D and range R . The inverse relation S^{-1} is the relation having domain R and range D defined by¹

$$(x, y) \in S^{-1} \quad \text{provided} \quad (y, x) \in S.$$

Recall that a **function** is a type of relation with the property that each domain element is assigned exactly one element from the range—i.e. no distinct pairs in a function can have the same first element.

¹Recall that \in means "in," so $(x, y) \in S^{-1}$ is read " (x, y) is an element of S^{-1} ."

Algebraic Representations

If a relation is defined by an equation, the inverse relation can be written by swapping the variable names. For example, if we consider the relation defined by

$$y = x^2,$$

it's inverse relation would be given by the formula

$$x = y^2.$$

The domains and ranges might be specified or may be inferred.

Example

Consider the **functions** $f_1 = \{(-2, 4), (-1, 1), (0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 4)\}$ and $f_2 = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 4)\}$.

(a) Write the inverse relations f_1^{-1} and f_2^{-1} .

$$f_1^{-1} = \{(4, -2), (1, -1), (0, 0), (1, 1), (4, 2)\}$$

$$f_2^{-1} = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (4, 2)\}$$

Example

Consider the **functions** $f_1 = \{(-2, 4), (-1, 1), (0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 4)\}$ and $f_2 = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 4)\}$.

(b) Identify the domain and range of each inverse relation.

The domain of f_1^{-1} is $\{4, 1, 0\}$

(This is the range of f_1)

The range of f_1^{-1} is $\{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$

(This is f_1 's domain)

The domain of f_2^{-1} is $\{0, 1, 4\}$

The range of f_2^{-1} is $\{0, 1, 2\}$

Question

In the previous example we found the two inverse relations

$$f_1^{-1} = \{(4, -2), (1, -1), (0, 0), (1, 1), (4, 2)\} \quad \text{and} \quad f_2^{-1} = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (4, 2)\}.$$

Which of the following statements is true?

- (a) Neither of these inverse relations are a function.
- (b) f_1^{-1} is a function, but f_2^{-1} is not a function.
- (c) f_1^{-1} is not a function, but f_2^{-1} is a function.
- (d) Since f_1 and f_2 were functions, both inverse relations are also functions.

Inverse Functions

If we look carefully at the function

$$f_1 = \{(-2, 4), (-1, 1), (0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 4)\}$$

we can see that the inverse relation f_1^{-1} is not going to be a function. At least one second element number appears more than once. This gives us insight into what must be true of a function for its inverse relation to also be a function (called its *inverse function*).

A function will have an inverse **function** if each OUTPUT occurs exactly once! There's a name for this.

One to One

Definition: A function f is **one to one** if different inputs have different outputs. That is, f is one to one provided

$$a \neq b \text{ implies } f(a) \neq f(b).$$

Equivalently, f is a one to one function provided

$$f(a) = f(b) \text{ implies } a = b.$$

Inverse Function

Theorem: If f is a one to one function with domain D and range R , then its inverse f^{-1} is a function with domain R and range D .

Moreover, the inverse function is defined by

$$f^{-1}(x) = y \quad \text{if and only if} \quad f(y) = x.$$

↓

" f inverse of x equals y "

Characteristic Compositions:

If f is a one to one function with domain D , range R , and with inverse function f^{-1} , then

- ▶ for each x in D , $(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) = x$, and
- ▶ for each x in R , $(f \circ f^{-1})(x) = x$.

Example: $f(x) = 3x - 2$

Show that f is one to one.

We'll show that $f(a) = f(b)$ implies $a = b$.

Suppose a and b are in the domain of f and

$f(a) = f(b)$. Then

$$3a - 2 = 3b - 2$$

(add 2 to both sides)

$$3a = 3b$$

(divide by 3)

$$a = b$$

So f is one to one.

Example: $f(x) = 3x - 2$

Verify that $f^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{3}(x + 2)$ by showing that $(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) = x$.

$$\begin{aligned}(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) &= f^{-1}(f(x)) \\ &= f^{-1}(3x - 2) \\ &= \frac{1}{3}((3x - 2) + 2) \\ &= \frac{1}{3}(3x - 2 + 2) \\ &= \frac{1}{3}(3x) \\ &= x\end{aligned}$$