

## 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 by<sup>1</sup>

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

---

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.

---

<sup>1</sup>Recall 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 the domain of  $f_1$ )

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.

Will show that  $f(a) = f(b)$  implies  $a = b$ .

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be in the domain of  $f$  and  
suppose  $f(a) = f(b)$ . Then

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

(add 2 to both sides)

$$3a = 3b$$

(divide both sides 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  $(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) = x$ .

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