

**Relevant definitions and theorems:**

A **function**  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is a rule of assignment (which assigns to every input exactly one output) together with a set  $B$  (range) that contains the image set of the rule.

$f: A \rightarrow B$  is **injective** (or one-to-one) if given any elements  $a_1, a_2 \in A$ ,  $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$  implies that  $a_1 = a_2$ . This definition can also be stated as its contrapositive: Given any elements  $a_1, a_2 \in A$  such that  $a_1 \neq a_2$ , if this implies that  $f(a_1) \neq f(a_2)$ , then  $f$  is injective.

$f$  is **surjective** (or onto) if given any  $b \in B$ , there exists some  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . (i.e., if given any element in the set  $B$ , you can find some element in the set  $A$  that maps to it.)

$f$  is **bijective** if it is both injective and surjective. If  $f$  is a bijective function, then there exists a function  $f^{-1}: B \rightarrow A$  called the **inverse function** of  $f$ , defined as  $f^{-1}(b) = a$  if and only if  $f(a) = b$ .

Given a function  $f: A \rightarrow B$ , and  $A_0 \subseteq A$ , the **image** of  $A_0$  under  $f$  is  $f(A_0) = \{b \in B \mid b = f(a) \text{ for at least one } a \in A_0\}$ .

Given a function  $f: A \rightarrow B$ , and  $B_0 \subseteq B$ , the **preimage** of  $B_0$  under  $f$  is  $f^{-1}(B_0) = \{a \in A \mid f(a) \in B_0\}$ . Note that if there are no points  $a$  of  $A$  whose images lie in  $B_0$ , then the set  $f^{-1}(B_0)$  is empty.

Given functions  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$ , the **composition** of  $f$  and  $g$ , denoted by  $g \circ f$ , is defined as  $(g \circ f)(a) = g(f(a))$ . Formally,  $g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$  is the function whose rule is  $\{(a, c) \mid \text{For some } b \in B, f(a) = b \text{ and } g(b) = c\}$ .

**Lemma 2.1:** Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function. If  $\exists g: B \rightarrow A$  &  $h: B \rightarrow A$  such that  $g(f(a)) = a \forall a \in A$  and  $f(h(b)) = b \forall b \in B$ , then  $f$  is bijective and  $g = h = f^{-1}$

Translation: If a function has an inverse, then that function is bijective.

**Example Problem #1(b):**

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$ . Let  $A_0 \subseteq A$  and  $B_0 \subseteq B$ . Show that  $f(f^{-1}(B_0)) \subseteq B_0$  and that equality holds if  $f$  is surjective (onto).

**Proof:**

$\subseteq$  Let  $y \in f(f^{-1}(B_0))$ .

< Let  $y$  be an element in the image of the set  $f^{-1}(B_0)$  under  $f$ . >

**Then  $y = f(a)$  for some  $a \in f^{-1}(B_0)$ .**

< There exists an element  $a$  in the preimage of the set  $B_0$  under  $f$  such that  $y = f(a)$ . >

$\Rightarrow f(a) \in B_0$ .

< By definition, since  $a$  is an element of the preimage of  $B_0$  under  $f$ , this implies that the image of  $a$  under  $f$  lies in  $B_0$ . >

**Since  $y = f(a)$ , we have  $y \in B_0$  and hence  $f(f^{-1}(B_0)) \subseteq B_0$ .**

**Assuming, in addition, that  $f$  is surjective:**

$\supseteq$  Let  $x \in B_0$ .

**Since  $B_0 \subseteq B$  and  $f$  is surjective from  $A$  onto  $B$ , there exists at least one  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = x$ .**

$f(a) = x \Rightarrow f(a) \in B_0 \Rightarrow a \in f^{-1}(B_0)$

< Since the image of the element  $a$  under  $f$  is an element of the set  $B_0$ , this is precisely what it means for an element to be in the preimage of the set  $B_0$  under  $f$ . >

**By definition of the image of set  $f^{-1}(B_0)$  under  $f$ , we have that  $f(a) \in f(f^{-1}(B_0))$ .**

**Since  $x = f(a)$ , we have  $x \in f(f^{-1}(B_0))$  and hence  $B_0 \subseteq f(f^{-1}(B_0))$ .**