

Lecture 07: **Functions**

Part 2 of 2

Outline for Today

- Recap from Last Time
 - Where are we, again?
- A Proof About Birds
 - Trust me, it's relevant.
- Assuming vs Proving
 - Two different roles to watch for.
- Connecting Function Types
 - Relating the topics from last time.





Is it a function? Yes!

Is it an injection? No.

Is it a surjection? No.



Is it a function? Yes!

Is it an injection? Yes!

Is it a surjection? No.



Is it a function? Yes!

Is it an injection? No.

Is it a surjection? Yes!

Domain

Codomain

Injection: $\forall a_1 \in A. \forall a_2 \in A. (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow f(a_1) \neq f(a_2))$

If the inputs are different, the outputs are different

• Can also define with the contrapositive!

Surjection: $\forall b \in B$. $\exists a \in A$. f(a) = b

"For every possible output, there's an input that produces it."

Involution: $\forall x \in A. f(f(x)) = x$

"Applying f twice is equivalent to not applying f at all."



	To prove that this is true
$\forall x. A$	Have the reader pick an arbitrary x. We then prove A is true for that choice of x.
$\exists x. A$	Find an x where A is true. Then prove that A is true for that specific choice of x.
$A \rightarrow B$	Assume <i>A</i> is true, then prove <i>B</i> is true.
$A \land B$	Prove A. Also prove B.
$A \lor B$	Either prove $\neg A \rightarrow B$ or prove $\neg B \rightarrow A$. (Why does this work?)
$A \leftrightarrow B$	Prove $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.
$\neg A$	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.

New Stuff!

A Proof About Birds







Given the predicates

Bird(b), which says b is a bird; Heron(h), which says h is a heron; and Feathers(x), which says x has feathers,

translate the theorem into first-order logic.



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$A \land B$		Prove A. Also prove B.	
		Either prove $\neg A \rightarrow B$ or	
$(\forall b. (Bird(b) \rightarrow Feathers(b))) \rightarrow (\forall h. (Heron(h) \rightarrow Feathers(h)))$			
All birds		All herons	
ha	ve leatners	nave teatners	

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$(\forall b. (Bird(b) \rightarrow Feathers(b))) \rightarrow (\forall h. (Heron(h) \rightarrow Feathers(h)))$				
ha	All birds ave feathers	All herons have feathers		



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.



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Answer at

https://cs103.stanford.edu/pollev

Which makes more sense as the next step in this proof?

Consider an arbitrary bird b.
Consider an arbitrary heron h.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

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Consider an arbitrary bird b.
Consider an arbitrary heron h.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary bird *b*.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary bird *b*. Since *b* is a bird, *b* has feathers.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary bird b. Since b is a bird, b has feathers. [and now we're stuck! we are interested in herons, but b might not be one. It could be a hummingbird, for example!]



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Which makes more sense as the next step in this proof?

1. Consider an arbitrary bird b. 2. Consider an arbitrary heron h.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Which makes more sense as the next step in this proof?

Consider an arbitrary bird b.
Consider an arbitrary heron h.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary heron *h*.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary heron h. We will show that h has feathers.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary heron *h*. We will show that *h* has feathers. To do so, note that since *h* is a heron we know *h* is a bird.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary heron h. We will show that h has feathers. To do so, note that since h is a heron we know h is a bird. Therefore, by our earlier assumption, h has feathers.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary heron h. We will show that h has feathers. To do so, note that since h is a heron we know h is a bird. Therefore, by our earlier assumption, h has feathers.



Proof: Assume that all birds have feathers. We will show that all herons have feathers.

Consider an arbitrary heron h. We will show that h has feathers. To do so, note that since h is a heron we know h is a bird. Therefore, by our earlier assumption, h has feathers.



Proving vs. Assuming

- In the context of a proof, you will need to assume some statements and prove others.
 - Here, we *assumed* all birds have feathers.
 - Here, we **proved** all herons have feathers.
- Statements behave differently based on whether you're assuming or proving them.



Proving vs. Assuming

• To **prove** the universally-quantified statement $\forall x. P(x)$

we introduce a new variable *x* representing some arbitrarily-chosen value.

- Then, we prove that P(x) is true for that variable x.
- That's why we introduced a variable *h* in this proof representing a heron.



Proving vs. Assuming

• If we *assume* the statement

 $\forall x. P(x)$

we **do not** introduce a variable *x*.

- Rather, if we find a relevant value z somewhere else in the proof, we can conclude that P(z) is true.
- That's why we didn't introduce a variable *b* in our proof, and why we concluded that *h*, our heron, have feathers.


	To prove that this is true
$\forall x. A$	Have the reader pick an arbitrary x. We then prove A is true for that choice of x.
$\exists x. A$	Find an x where A is true. Then prove that A is true for that specific choice of x.
$A \rightarrow B$	Assume <i>A</i> is true, then prove <i>B</i> is true.
$A \land B$	Prove A. Also prove B.
$A \lor B$	Either prove $\neg A \rightarrow B$ or prove $\neg B \rightarrow A$. (Why does this work?)
$A \leftrightarrow B$	Prove $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.
$\neg A$	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.

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$\neg A$		Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.

	If you assume this is true	To prove that this is true
$\forall x. A$	Initially, do nothing . Once you find a <i>z</i> through other means, you can state it has property <i>A</i> .	Have the reader pick an arbitrary x. We then prove A is true for that choice of x.
$\exists x. A$		Find an x where A is true. Then prove that A is true for that specific choice of x.
$A \rightarrow B$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you know <i>A</i> is true, you can conclude <i>B</i> is also true.	Assume <i>A</i> is true, then prove <i>B</i> is true.
$A \land B$		Prove A. Also prove B.
$A \lor B$		Either prove $\neg A \rightarrow B$ or prove $\neg B \rightarrow A$. (Why does this work?)
$A \leftrightarrow B$		Prove $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.
$\neg A$		Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.

	If you assume this is true	To prove that this is true
$\forall x. A$	Initially, do nothing . Once you find a <i>z</i> through other means, you can state it has property <i>A</i> .	Have the reader pick an arbitrary x. We then prove A is true for that choice of x.
$\exists x. A$	Introduce a variable x into your proof that has property A.	Find an x where A is true. Then prove that A is true for that specific choice of x.
$A \rightarrow B$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you know <i>A</i> is true, you can conclude <i>B</i> is also true.	Assume <i>A</i> is true, then prove <i>B</i> is true.
$A \land B$	Assume A. Also assume B.	Prove A. Also prove B.
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$A \leftrightarrow B$		Prove $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.
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$\forall x. A$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find a <i>z</i> through other means, you can state it has property <i>A</i> .	Have the reader pick an arbitrary x. We then prove A is true for that choice of x.
$\exists x. A$	Introduce a variable x into your proof that has property A.	Find an x where A is true. Then prove that A is true for that specific choice of x.
$A \rightarrow B$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you know <i>A</i> is true, you can conclude <i>B</i> is also true.	Assume <i>A</i> is true, then prove <i>B</i> is true.
$A \land B$	Assume A. Also assume B.	Prove A. Also prove B.
$A \lor B$	Consider two cases. Case 1: A is true. Case 2: B is true.	Either prove $\neg A \rightarrow B$ or prove $\neg B \rightarrow A$. (Why does this work?)
$A \leftrightarrow B$	Assume $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.	Prove $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.
$\neg A$	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.

Connecting Function Types

Types of Functions

- We now have three special types of functions:
 - *involutions*, functions that undo themselves;
 - *injections*, functions where different inputs go to different outputs; and
 - *surjections*, functions that cover their whole codomain.
- *Question:* How do these three classes of functions relate to one another?

























- 1. Assume *f* is an involution.
- 2. Pick an arbitrary $b \in A$.
- 3. Give a choice of $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

Proof:

- 1. Assume *f* is an involution.
- 2.
- Pick an arbitrary $b \in A$. Give a choice of $a \in A$ where 3. f(a) = b.

Proof: Pick any involution $f : A \rightarrow A$.

- Assume *f* is an involution.
- Pick an arbitrary $b \in A$. Give a choice of $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

Proof: Pick any involution $f : A \rightarrow A$. We will prove that *f* is surjective.

- Assume *f* is an involution.
- Pick an arbitrary $b \in A$. Give a choice of $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

Proof: Pick any involution $f : A \rightarrow A$. We will prove that f is surjective. To do so, pick an arbitrary $b \in A$.

- 1. Assume *f* is an involution.
- 2. Pick an arbitrary $b \in A$.
- 3. Give a choice of $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

Proof: Pick any involution $f : A \rightarrow A$. We will prove that f is surjective. To do so, pick an arbitrary $b \in A$. We need to show that there is an $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

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- 2. Pick an arbitrary $b \in A$.
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Proof: Pick any involution $f: A \rightarrow A$. We will prove that *f* is surjective. To do so, pick an arbitrary $b \in A$. We need to show that there is an $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

Specifically, pick a = f(b).

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Specifically, pick a = f(b). This means that f(a) = f(f(b)), and since f is an involution we know that f(f(b)) = b.

- Assume *f* is an involution.
- Pick an arbitrary $b \in A$. Give a choice of $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

Proof: Pick any involution $f: A \rightarrow A$. We will prove that *f* is surjective. To do so, pick an arbitrary $b \in A$. We need to show that there is an $a \in A$ where f(a) = b.

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This proof contains no first-order logic syntax (quantifiers, connectives, etc.). It's written in plain English, just as usual.

The Two-Column Proof Organizer

What We're Assuming

 $f: A \to A$ is an involution. $\forall z \in A. f(f(z)) = z.$

> We're *assuming* this universally-quantified statement, so we won't introduce a variable for what's here.

What We Need to Prove

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f is injective.
```

```
\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (f(a_1) = f(a_2) \rightarrow a_1 = a_2
```

We need to prove this universallyquantified statement. So let's introduce arbitrarily-chosen values.

What We're Assuming

 $f: A \to A$ is an involution. $\forall z \in A. f(f(z)) = z.$

 $a_1 \in A$

 $a_2 \in A$

What We Need to Prove f is injective. $\forall a_1 \in A. \forall a_2 \in A. (f(a_1) = f(a_2) \rightarrow a_1 = a_2)$

What We're Assuming

 $f: A \rightarrow A$ is an involution. $\forall z \in A. f(f(z)) = z.$

 $a_1 \in A$

 $a_2 \in A$

What We Need to Prove

f is injective.

 $\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (f(a_1) = f(a_2) \rightarrow a_1 = a_2)$

We need to prove this implication. So we assume the antecedent and prove the consequent.
What We're Assuming

 $f: A \to A$ is an involution. $\forall z \in A. f(f(z)) = z.$

 $a_1 \in A$

 $a_2 \in A$

 $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$



What We're Assuming

 $f: A \to A$ is an involution. $\forall z \in A. f(f(z)) = z.$

 $a_1 \in A$

 $a_2 \in A$

 $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$

 $f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2))$



What We're Assuming

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 $a_1 \in A$

 $a_2 \in A$

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 $f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2))$

 $f(f(a_1)) = a_1$



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 $f: A \to A$ is an involution. $\forall z \in A. f(f(z)) = z.$

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 $f: A \to A$ is an involution. $\forall z \in A. f(f(z)) = z.$

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 $a_2 \in A$

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Since $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$, we know that $f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2))$.

Proof: Choose any $a_1, a_2 \in A$ where $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$. We need to show that $a_1 = a_2$.

Since $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$, we know that $f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2))$. Because f is an involution, we see $a_1 = f(f(a_1))$ and that $f(f(a_2)) = a_2$.

Proof: Choose any $a_1, a_2 \in A$ where $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$. We need to show that $a_1 = a_2$.

Since $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$, we know that $f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2))$. Because f is an involution, we see $a_1 = f(f(a_1))$ and that $f(f(a_2)) = a_2$. Putting this together, we see that

$$a_1 = f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2)) = a_2,$$

so $a_1 = a_2$, as needed.

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Since $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$, we know that $f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2))$. Because f is an involution, we see $a_1 = f(f(a_1))$ and that $f(f(a_2)) = a_2$. Putting this together, we see that

$$a_1 = f(f(a_1)) = f(f(a_2)) = a_2,$$

so $a_1 = a_2$, as needed.

This proof contains no first-order logic syntax (quantifiers, connectives, etc.). It's written in plain English, just as usual.

Time-Out for Announcements!

Back to CS103!

Function Composition



Function Composition

- Suppose that we have two functions $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $g: B \rightarrow C$.
- Notice that the codomain of *f* is the domain of *g*. This means that we can use outputs from *f* as inputs to *g*.



Function Composition

- Suppose that we have two functions $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $g: B \rightarrow C$.
- The *composition of f and g*, denoted *g f*, is a function where
 - $g \circ f : A \to C$, and
 - $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)).$
- A few things to notice:

The name of the function is $g \circ f$. When we apply it to an input x, we write $(g \circ f)(x)$. I don't know why, but that's what we do.

- The domain of $g \circ f$ is the domain of f. Its codomain is the codomain of g.
- Even though the composition is written $g \circ f$, when evaluating $(g \circ f)(x)$, the function f is evaluated first.

Properties of Composition

What We're Assuming

- $f: A \to B \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in A. \ \forall y \in A. \ (x \neq y \to f(x) \neq f(y))$
- $g: B \rightarrow C$ is an injection.

 $\forall x \in B. \ \forall y \in B. \ (x \neq y \rightarrow g(x) \neq g(y)$

We're assuming these universally-quantified statements, so we won't introduce any variables for what's here.

What We Need to Prove

 $g \circ f$ is an injection.

 $\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow (g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2)$

We need to prove this universallyquantified statement. So let's introduce arbitrarily-chosen values.

What We're Assuming

- $$\begin{split} f: A \to B \text{ is an injection.} \\ \forall x \in A. \; \forall y \in A. \; (x \neq y \to f(x) \neq f(y)) \\ \end{split}$$
- $g: B \to C \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in B. \ \forall y \in B. \ (x \neq y \to g(x) \neq g(y))$

 $a_1 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen. $a_2 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen.

What We Need to Prove

 $g \circ f$ is an injection.

 $\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow (g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2)$

We need to prove this universally quantified statement. So let's introduce arbitrarily—chosen values.

What We're Assuming

- $$\begin{split} f: A \to B \text{ is an injection.} \\ \forall x \in A. \ \forall y \in A. \ (x \neq y \to f(x) \neq f(y)) \\ \end{split}$$
- $g: B \to C \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in B. \ \forall y \in B. \ (x \neq y \to g(x) \neq g(y))$

 $a_1 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen. $a_2 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen.

 $a_1 \neq a_2$

What We Need to Prove

 $g \circ f$ is an injection.

 $\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow (g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2)$

Now we're looking at an implication. Let's assume the antecedent and prove the consequent.

What We're Assuming

- $$\begin{split} f: A \to B \text{ is an injection.} \\ \forall x \in A. \ \forall y \in A. \ (x \neq y \to f(x) \neq f(y)) \\ \end{split}$$
- $g: B \to C \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in B. \ \forall y \in B. \ (x \neq y \to g(x) \neq g(y))$

 $a_1 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen. $a_2 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen.

 $a_1 \neq a_2$

What We Need to Prove

 $g \circ f$ is an injection.

 $\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow (g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2)$

Let's write this out separately and simplify things a bit.

What We're Assuming

- $f: A \to B \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in A. \ \forall y \in A. \ (x \neq y \to f(x) \neq f(y))$
- $g: B \to C \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in B. \ \forall y \in B. \ (x \neq y \to g(x) \neq g(y))$

 $a_1 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen. $a_2 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen.

 $a_1 \neq a_2$

What We Need to Prove

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g \circ f is an injection.
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 $\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow (g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2)$

$(g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2)$

What We're Assuming

- $f: A \to B \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in A. \ \forall y \in A. \ (x \neq y \to f(x) \neq f(y))$
- $g: B \to C \text{ is an injection.}$ $\forall x \in B. \ \forall y \in B. \ (x \neq y \to g(x) \neq g(y))$

 $a_1 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen. $a_2 \in A$ is arbitrarily-chosen.

 $a_1 \neq a_2$

What We Need to Prove

```
g \circ f is an injection.

\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow (g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2))
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What We Need to Prove

 $g \circ f$ is an injection.

 $\forall a_1 \in A. \ \forall a_2 \in A. \ (a_1 \neq a_2 \rightarrow (g \circ f)(a_1) \neq (g \circ f)(a_2)$

 $g(f(a_1)) \neq g(f(a_2))$





Proof:



Proof: Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary injections.



- **Theorem:** If $f : A \to B$ is an injection and $g : B \to C$ is an injection, then the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also an injection.
- **Proof:** Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary injections. We will prove that the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also injective.



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Since *f* is injective and $a_1 \neq a_2$, we see that $f(a_1) \neq f(a_2)$.



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This proof contains no first-order logic syntax (quantifiers, connectives, etc.). It's written in plain English, just as usual.



Theorem: If $f : A \to B$ is a surjection and $g : B \to C$ is a surjection, then the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is a surjection.

Proof: In the appendix!

Major Ideas From Today

- Proofs involving first-order definitions are heavily based on the structure of those definitions, yet FOL notation itself does *not* appear in the proof.
- Statements behave differently based on whether you're *assuming* or *proving* them.
- When you *assume* a universally-quantified statement, initially, do nothing. Instead, keep an eye out for a place to apply the statement more specifically.
- When you *prove* a universally-quantified statement, pick an arbitrary value and try to prove it has the needed property.

	If you assume this is true	To prove that this is true
$\forall x. A$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find a <i>z</i> through other means, you can state it has property <i>A</i> .	Have the reader pick an arbitrary x. We then prove A is true for that choice of x.
$\exists x. A$	Introduce a variable x into your proof that has property A.	Find an x where A is true. Then prove that A is true for that specific choice of x.
$A \rightarrow B$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you know <i>A</i> is true, you can conclude <i>B</i> is also true.	Assume <i>A</i> is true, then prove <i>B</i> is true.
$A \land B$	Assume A. Also assume B.	Prove A. Also prove B.
$A \lor B$	Consider two cases. Case 1: A is true. Case 2: B is true.	Either prove $\neg A \rightarrow B$ or prove $\neg B \rightarrow A$. (Why does this work?)
$A \leftrightarrow B$	Assume $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.	Prove $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$.
$\neg A$	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.

Next Time

- Set Theory Revisited
 - Formalizing our definitions.
- **Proofs on Sets**
 - How to rigorously establish set-theoretic results.

Appendix: Additional Function Proofs

Proof: Composing surjections yields a surjection.

Proof:

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Proof: Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary surjections. We will prove that the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also surjective. To do so, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that $(g \circ f)(a) = c$.

Proof: Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary surjections. We will prove that the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also surjective. To do so, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that $(g \circ f)(a) = c$. Equivalently, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that g(f(a)) = c.



Proof: Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary surjections. We will prove that the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also surjective. To do so, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that $(g \circ f)(a) = c$. Equivalently, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that g(f(a)) = c.

Consider any $c \in C$.



Proof: Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary surjections. We will prove that the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also surjective. To do so, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that $(g \circ f)(a) = c$. Equivalently, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that g(f(a)) = c.

Consider any $c \in C$. Since $g : B \to C$ is surjective, there is some $b \in B$ such that g(b) = c.



Proof: Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary surjections. We will prove that the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also surjective. To do so, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that $(g \circ f)(a) = c$. Equivalently, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that g(f(a)) = c.

Consider any $c \in C$. Since $g : B \to C$ is surjective, there is some $b \in B$ such that g(b) = c. Similarly, since $f : A \to B$ is surjective, there is some $a \in A$ such that f(a) = b.



Proof: Let $f : A \to B$ and $g : B \to C$ be arbitrary surjections. We will prove that the function $g \circ f : A \to C$ is also surjective. To do so, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that $(g \circ f)(a) = c$. Equivalently, we will prove that for any $c \in C$, there is some $a \in A$ such that g(f(a)) = c.

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g(f(a)) = g(b) = c,

С

which is what we needed to show.



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