

## Sets Functions Worksheet

1. Function compositions are noncommutative. Informally, **noncommutative** means that *order matters*.

More formally if  $\star$  is some binary operation (two inputs and one output, an example can be addition or multiplication and so on) on a set, and  $x$  and  $y$  are elements of that set, then noncommutative means that  $x \star y$  does not necessarily equal  $y \star x$ .

Most common operations, such as *addition* and *multiplication* of numbers are *commutative*. For instance  $4 \cdot 3 = 12 = 3 \cdot 4$  and  $2 + 3 = 5 = 3 + 2$ .

If  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are functions, then usually  $(f \circ g)(x) \neq (g \circ f)(x)$ . This can also be written as  $f(g(x)) \neq g(f(x))$ .

For example, suppose  $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x) = x^2$  and  $g(x) = x + 1$ .

Then can you find the following:

(a) First apply  $g$  and then apply  $f$  to the output of  $g$ , ie,

$$f \circ g(x) = f(g(x)) = ?$$

(b) Now do the opposite, apply  $f$  first and then apply  $g$  to the output of  $f$ , ie,

$$g \circ f(x) = g(f(x)) = ?$$

(c) Are they the same?

2. Counting Injective, Bijective, Surjective functions. Recall that a function is

- *injective* or *one-one*: if two different inputs do not give the same output. In other words,  $x \neq y \rightarrow f(x) \neq f(y)$ . An example of a function that is **not injective** is  $f(x) = x^2$  since for example  $-2 \neq 2$  but  $f(-2) = 4 = f(2)$ .
- *surjective* or *onto*: If every element in the codomain has at least one preimage. In other words, for  $f : A \rightarrow B$  if  $b \in B$ , then there exists (at least one)  $a \in A$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . An example of a function that is **not surjective** is the following  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be the function  $f(x) = x^2$ . Then  $-4 \in \mathbb{R}$  is in the codomain but it does not have any preimage. In other words, there is no  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x) = -4$ .
- *bijective*: If its both injective and surjective. Note that this means that the for  $f : A \rightarrow B$  bijective, we must have that  $|A| = |B|$  ie  $A$  and  $B$  must have the same number of elements. When such a scenario holds, alternatively we use the terminology  $A$  and  $B$  are in bijection and  $f$  is a bijection from  $A$  to  $B$ .

Try the following exercise:

(a) Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . How many injective functions are there from  $A$  to  $B$ ?

(b) Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . How many surjective functions are there from  $B$  to  $A$ ?

(c) Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . How many bijective functions are there from  $A$  to  $B$ ?