

ANALYSIS -I

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14. Direct and inverse images of functions

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- ▶ Note that for any element x of X , $f(\{x\}) = \{f(x)\}$, which is the singleton set containing $f(x)$ and is different from the element $f(x)$. This distinction between elements and singleton sets should always be maintained to avoid confusion.

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- (iv) For any two subsets A, B of X ,

$$f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B).$$

- More generally, for arbitrary family $\{A_i : i \in I\}$ of subsets of X ,

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- (v) In general, for $A \subseteq X$

$$f(A^c) \neq (f(A))^c.$$

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- ▶ $f(A \cap B) = f(\{0\}) = \{0\}$.
- ▶ Hence $f(A \cap B) \neq f(A) \cap f(B)$.

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- ▶ For instance, if $y \in f(A \cup B)$, then $y = f(x)$ for some $x \in A \cup B$. Here either $x \in A$ or $x \in B$ (or both). If $x \in A$, we get $y \in f(A)$. If $x \in B$, we get $y \in f(B)$. Consequently, we get $y \in f(A) \cup f(B)$. This shows that $f(A \cup B) \subseteq f(A) \cup f(B)$.

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- ▶ Similarly, you can show $f(A) \cup f(B) \subseteq f(A \cup B)$ and conclude that $f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B)$.

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- ▶ (c) $f(A^c) = (f(A))^c$ for all subsets A of X if and only if f is a bijection.
- ▶ **Proof:** (a) follows from the definition of surjectivity. (b) and (c) are interesting exercises.

Inverse images

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- For the example, $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined by $g(x) = x^2$, $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$, we see that $g^{-1}(\{0\}) = \{0\}$ and $g^{-1}([0, \infty)) = \mathbb{R}$.

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- ▶ **Proof:** Exercise.
- ▶ **END OF LECTURE 14.**