

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

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- ▶ Hence  $f(A \cap B) \neq f(A) \cap f(B)$ .

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

## Characterizations

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- ▶ **Proof:** (a) follows from the definition of surjectivity. (b) and (c) are interesting exercises.

## Inverse images

- ▶ **Notation:** Let  $X, Y$  be non-empty sets and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a function. Then for any subset  $V$  of  $Y$ ,

$$f^{-1}(V) := \{x \in X : f(x) \in V\}.$$

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