

Given functions $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$, $\beta : B \rightarrow C$, and $\gamma : C \rightarrow D$, then

1. $\gamma (\beta \alpha) = (\gamma \beta) \alpha$ (**associativity**).

Let $a \in A$. Then $(\gamma (\beta \alpha))(a) = \gamma ((\beta \alpha)(a)) = \gamma (\beta (\alpha (a)))$.

On the other hand, $((\gamma \beta) \alpha)(a) = (\gamma \beta)(\alpha (a)) = \gamma (\beta (\alpha (a)))$.

So, $\gamma (\beta \alpha) = (\gamma \beta) \alpha$.

2. **If α and β are one-to-one, then $\beta \alpha$ is one-to-one.**

Let α and β be one-to-one.

Suppose $\beta \alpha$ is not one-to-one.

Then, $\exists c \in C$ and $a_1, a_2 \in A$ such that $a_1 \neq a_2$, $\beta (\alpha (a_1)) = c$, and $\beta (\alpha (a_2)) = c$.

Since β is one-to-one, $\beta (\alpha (a_1)) = c$ and $\beta (\alpha (a_2)) = c$ implies $\alpha (a_1) = \alpha (a_2)$.

Since α is one-to-one, $\alpha (a_1) = \alpha (a_2)$ implies $a_1 = a_2$, a contradiction.

Hence, $\beta \alpha$ is one-to-one.

3. **If α and β are onto, then $\beta \alpha$ is onto.**

Let α and β be onto.

Suppose $\beta \alpha$ is not onto.

Then $\exists c \in C$ such that $\forall a \in A$, $\beta (\alpha (a)) \neq c$.

Since β is onto, $\exists b \in B$ such that $\beta (b) = c$.

Since α is onto, $\exists a \in A$ such that $\alpha (a) = b$.

But, $\beta (\alpha (a)) = c$. A contradiction.

Hence, $\beta \alpha$ is onto.

4. **If α is one-to-one and onto, then there is a function α^{-1} from B onto A such that $(\alpha^{-1} \alpha)(a) = a$, $\forall a \in A$ and $(\alpha \alpha^{-1})(b) = b$, $\forall b \in B$.**

Part 1:

Let α be one-to-one and onto function from A to B .

Assume $\alpha (a)$ is defined $\forall a \in A$.

Let $a \in A$ and let $\alpha (a) = b$.

Since α is one-to-one, b is only mapped to by a .

Since α is onto, every element in B is mapped to by an element in A .

Notice also that every element in B is mapped to only once, since α is one-to-one as well.

Thus, $\forall a \in A$, there exists a unique $\alpha (a)$, and for each unique $\alpha (a)$, \exists a unique a .

Hence, \exists a function α^{-1} such that $(\alpha^{-1} \alpha)(a) = a$, $\forall a \in A$

Part 2:

Let α be one-to-one and onto function from A to B .

Let $b \in B$.

Since α is onto, $\exists a \in A$ such that $\alpha (a) = b$.

Since α is one-to-one, the only element that maps to b is a .

Thus, any $b \in B$ can only map backwards to one $a \in A$, and that a can only map forwards to b .

Hence, \exists a function α^{-1} such that $(\alpha \alpha^{-1})(b) = b$, $\forall b \in B$