**Definition 4.3.3**

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. If the **inverse relation**  $f^{-1}$  of  $f$  is a function, then we say that  $f^{-1}$  is the **inverse function** of  $f$ . In particular, if  $f^{-1}$  is a function, then  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  is defined by

$$f^{-1} = \{(y, x) : (x, y) \in f\}.$$

**Example 4.3.7**

Let  $f = \{(1, 2), (4, 2)\}$  be a function. Decide whether  $f^{-1}$  is a function.

**Solution:**

No. Since  $f^{-1} = \{(2, 1), (2, 4)\}$  where 2 is mapped to two distinct elements.

**Theorem 4.3.3**

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow A$ . Then,  $g = f^{-1}$  iff  $f \circ g = I_B$  and  $g \circ f = I_A$ , where  $I_A : A \rightarrow A$  is the **identity function** defined by  $I_A(x) = x$  for all  $x \in A$ .

**Example 4.3.8**

Let  $f(x) = 2x + 1$  and let  $g(x) = \frac{x-1}{2}$ . Show that  $g = f^{-1}$ .

**Solution:**

For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = f\left(\frac{x-1}{2}\right) = 2\frac{x-1}{2} + 1 = x - 1 + 1 = x = I_{\mathbb{R}}$ . Therefore,  $g = f^{-1}$ .

### Theorem 4.3.4

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function. Then,

1.  $f^{-1}$  is a function from  $\text{Rng}(f)$  to  $A$  iff  $f$  is one-to-one.
2. If  $f^{-1}$  is a function, then  $f^{-1}$  is one-to-one.

### Proof:

1. " $\Rightarrow$ ": Assume that  $f^{-1}$  is a function. Let  $f(x) = f(y) = z$ , then  $(x, z), (y, z) \in f$ . Thus,  $(z, x), (z, y) \in f^{-1}$ . Since  $f^{-1}$  is a function,  $x = y$ . Therefore,  $f$  is 1-1.  
 " $\Leftarrow$ ": Assume that  $f$  is 1-1. Let  $(x, y), (x, z) \in f^{-1}$  (we need to show that  $y = z$ ). Then,  $(y, x), (z, x) \in f$ . Since  $f$  is 1-1,  $y = z$ . Thus,  $f^{-1}$  is a function. By Definition 3.1.6,  $\text{Dom}(f^{-1}) = \text{Rng}(f)$  and  $\text{Rng}(f^{-1}) = \text{Dom}(f)$ .
2. Assume that  $f^{-1}$  is a function. Let  $f^{-1}(x) = f^{-1}(y) = z$ , then  $(x, z), (y, z) \in f^{-1}$ . Thus,  $(z, x), (z, y) \in f$  and since  $f$  is a function,  $x = y$ . Therefore,  $f^{-1}$  is 1-1.

### Definition 4.3.4

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is called a **1-1 corresponding** or a **bijection** if it is both 1-1 and onto  $B$ . In that case, we write  $f : A \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} B$ .

### Theorem 4.3.5

Let  $f : A \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} B$  and  $g : B \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} C$ . Then,

1.  $g \circ f : A \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} C$  is a bijection.
2.  $f^{-1} : B \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} A$  is a bijection.

### Proof:

1. By Theorem 4.3.1 and Theorem 4.3.2, if  $f$  and  $g$  are one-to-one and onto, the composite function  $g \circ f$  is also one-to-one and onto.
2. By Theorem 4.3.4, if  $f$  is one-to-one, then  $f^{-1}$  is a function and hence it is a one-to-one

function. To show that  $f^{-1}$  is onto  $A$ , let  $a \in A$ . Then,  $f(a) = b \in B$ . Thus,  $(a, b) \in f$  and hence  $(b, a) \in f^{-1}$  and therefore  $f^{-1}(b) = a$ .

## Section 4.4: Images of Sets

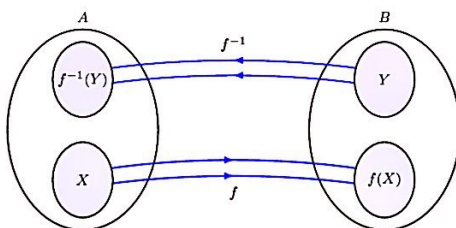
### Definition 4.4.1

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$ . If  $X \subseteq A$ , the **image of  $X$**  or **image set of  $X$**  is

$$f(X) = \{y \in B : y = f(x) \text{ for some } x \in X\}.$$

If  $Y \subseteq B$ , then the **inverse image of  $Y$**  is

$$f^{-1}(Y) = \{x \in A : f(x) = y \text{ for some } y \in Y\}.$$



### Example 4.4.1

Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f(x) = 2x + 2$ . Find  $f(\{1, 4\})$ ,  $f([1, 2])$ ,  $f(\mathbb{N})$ ,  $f^{-1}(\{2, 3\})$ , and  $f^{-1}([2, 4])$ .

#### Solution:

- $f(\{1, 4\}) = \{4, 10\}$ .
- $f([1, 2]) = [4, 6]$ .
- $f(\mathbb{N}) = \{4, 6, 8, 10, 12, \dots\}$ .
- $f^{-1}(\{2, 3\}) = \{0, \frac{1}{2}\}$ .
- $f^{-1}([2, 4]) = [0, 1]$ .

