

# THE ALGEBRA OF FUNCTIONS

## DEFINITIONS

1.  $[f + g](x) = f(x) + g(x)$  for every  $x$  that is in both the domain of  $f$  and the domain of  $g$ .
2.  $[f - g](x) = f(x) - g(x)$  for every  $x$  that is in the domain of  $f$  and the domain of  $g$ .
3.  $[f \cdot g](x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$  for every  $x$  that is in both the domain of  $f$  and in the domain of  $g$ .
4.  $\left[\frac{f}{g}\right](x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ ;  $g(x) \neq 0$  for every  $x$  that is in both the domain of  $f$  and the domain of  $g$ .
5.  $[f \circ g](x) = f(g(x))$  for every  $x$  that is in the domain of  $g$  such that  $g(x)$  is in the domain of  $f$ .

- I. **SUM, DIFFERENCE, PRODUCT AND QUOTIENT.** When trying to perform these binary operations on two functions  $g(x)$  and  $f(x)$  we must make sure that the functions have the same domain. Once we have established this fact we simply add, subtract, multiply or divide the ranges of the functions. Study the following examples carefully.

Example 1.

$$f(x) = \{(0,7), (3,4), (-1,2)\} \quad g(x) = \{(0,5), (4,4), (-1,6)\}$$

$$[f + g](-1) = \begin{array}{r} f(-1) + g(-1) \\ 2 \quad + \quad 6 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$$

$$[f - g](3) = f(3) - g(3) = \text{This is not possible because } g(3) \text{ does not exist.}$$

$$[f - g](0) = \begin{array}{r} f(0) - g(0) \\ 7 \quad - \quad 5 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$

$$[f \cdot g](-1) = \begin{array}{r} f(-1) \cdot g(-1) \\ 2 \quad \cdot \quad 6 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

Example 2

$$f(x) = x^2 + 3$$

$$g(x) = x - 3$$

$$[f + g](x) = \begin{array}{l} f(x) + g(x) \\ = (x^2 + 3) + (x - 3) \\ = x^2 + x \end{array}$$

$$[f \cdot g](x) = \begin{array}{l} f(x) \cdot g(x) \\ = (x^2 + 3)(x - 3) \\ = x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x - 9 \end{array}$$

$$\left[\frac{f}{g}\right](x) = \begin{array}{l} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \\ = \frac{x^2 + 3}{x - 3} \end{array}$$

Be careful -- This is defined for all  $x$  except  $x = 3$ . WHY?

$$[f - g](x) = \begin{array}{l} f(x) - g(x) \\ = x^2 + 3 - (x - 3) \\ = x^2 + 3 - x + 3 \\ = x^2 - x + 6 \end{array}$$

PROBLEM SET I Find a)  $[f + g](x)$  b)  $[f - g](x)$  c)  $[f \cdot g](x)$  and d)  $[\frac{f}{g}](x)$  for the following functions. Then give the domain and range for all of the answers

- 1.  $f = \{(1,2), (2,2), (3,5), (4,6)\}$   $g = \{(2,2), (-1,3), (3,0), (4,9)\}$
- 2.  $g = \{(0,3), (2,6), (-1,5), (5,0)\}$   $h = \{(-1,7), (5,8), (2,3), (7,7)\}$
- 3.  $h(x) = x^2$   $m(x) = x - 1$
- 4.  $f(x) = x - 2$   $g(x) = x^2 + 7$
- 5.  $p(x) = \{(0,3), (3,5), (1,6), (-3,7)\}$   $g(x) = x + 4$
- 6.  $h(x) = \{(5,4), (7,3), (-1,6), (-3,0), (2,2)\}$   $f(x) = x^3 - 1$

SECTION II. COMPOSITES. In this section things get a bit harder. When finding the composite of any two functions we do not look for where the functions have the same domain but rather where the range of one function is in the domain of the other. This is a bit confusing but study the definition and the following examples.

Example 1.  $f(x) = \{(5,4), (3,7), (4,4)\}$   $g(x) = \{(7,4), (4,2), (3,5)\}$

$[f \circ g](7) = f(g(7))$  since  $g(7) = 4$  we substitute 4 into f.  
 $= f(4)$   
 $= 4$   
 The composite is (7,4)

$[f \circ g](4) = f(g(4))$   
 $= f(2)$  since  $f(2)$  does not exist the composite cannot be found

$[f \circ g](3) = f(g(3))$  since  $g(3) = 5$  we substitute 5 into f  
 $= f(5)$  now find  $f(5)$  which is 4  
 $= 4$   
 The composite is (3,4).

Example 2  $f(x) = \{(5,4), (3,7), (4,4)\}$   $g(x) = \{(7,4), (4,2), (3,5)\}$

$[g \circ f](5) = g(f(5))$  since  $f(5) = 4$  we substitute 4 into g.  
 $= g(4)$   
 $= 2$   
 Composite is (5,2)

$[g \circ f](3) = g(f(3))$   
 $= g(7)$   
 $= 4$   
 the composite is (3,4)

$[g \circ f](4) = g(f(4))$   
 $= g(4)$   
 $= 2$   
 The composite is (4,2)

Example 3  $f(x) = x^2 + 2$   $g(x) = x - 2$

$$\begin{aligned} [f \circ g](x) &= f(g(x)) && \text{since } g(x) = x - 2 \text{ we substitute} \\ &= f(x - 2) && x - 2 \text{ into } f(x) \\ &= (x - 2)^2 + 2 && \text{Then find } f(x - 2). \\ &= x^2 - 4x + 6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [g \circ f](x) &= g(f(x)) \\ &= ( \quad ) - 2 && \text{substitute } (x^2 + 2) \text{ into} \\ &= (x^2 + 2) - 2 && g(x) \\ &= x^2 \end{aligned}$$

PROBLEM SET II

1.  $f = \{(6,0), (4,3), (5,9), (1,4)\}$   $g = \{(0,3), (2,1), (9,6)\}$

$[f \circ g] =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$[g \circ f] =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $g = \{(3,5), (-1,6), (4,3), (2,7), (-2,9)\}$

$h = \{(7,-1), (9,5), (-3,-5), (5,2), (3,7)\}$

$[g \circ h] =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$[h \circ g] =$  \_\_\_\_\_

3.  $p(x) = x^2 + 4$   $h(x) = x - 5$

$[p \circ h](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$[h \circ p](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

4.  $g(x) = x^3 - 2$   $h(x) = x^2 + 1$

$[g \circ h](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$[h \circ g](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

5.  $p(x) = 3x + 2$   $g(x) = x^2 - 4$

$[p \circ g](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$[g \circ p](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

6.  $f(x) = x - 2$   $g(x) = x^2 + 7$

$[f \circ g](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$[g \circ f](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

7.  $f = \{(2,1), (3,4), (4,4), (5,7), (-8,4), (0,1)\}$   $g(x) = 2x + 3$



PROBLEM SET III

1. If  $f(x) = 2x^2 + 6$  and  $g(x) = 7x + 2$ , then find

- a)  $[g \circ f](4) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- b)  $[g \circ g](2) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- c)  $[g \circ f](5) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- d)  $[f \circ f](0) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- e)  $[g^{-1} \circ g](200) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- f)  $[g \circ g^{-1}](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- g)  $[f \circ g](0) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- h)  $[f \circ g](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- i)  $[f^{-1} \circ g](x) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- j)  $\left[\frac{f}{g}\right]\left(\frac{-2}{7}\right) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- k)  $\left[\frac{g}{f}\right](0) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $f = \{(2,1), (3,4), (4,4), (5,7), (-8,4), (0,1)\}$

$g(x) = x - 1$

- a)  $[f + g](2) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- b)  $[f - g](5) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- c)  $[f \cdot g](4) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- d)  $\left[\frac{f}{g}\right](0) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- e)  $[f \circ g](5) =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- f)  $[g \circ f](2) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

3. If  $f = \{(1,1), (2,4), (3,9), (-1,7), (-2,5), (-3,6)\}$  and

$g = \{(1,4), (2,1), (4,5), (-2,0)\}$  then

$f^{-1} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$g^{-1} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

- a) the domain of  $f + g$  is \_\_\_\_\_
- b) the domain of  $\frac{f}{g}$  is \_\_\_\_\_
- c)  $[f^{-1} \circ f] =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- d)  $[g^{-1} \circ g] =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- e) What statement can you make about any function composite its inverse? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Let  $f(x) = 3x - 7$  and  $g(x) = 2x + k$

Find  $k$  so that  $[f \circ g](x) = [g \circ f](x)$

5. Complete the following table

Given	Domain	Range
$f(x) = x^3 + 8$	_____	_____
$g(x) = x - 7$	_____	_____
$h(x) = \sqrt{x+1}$	_____	_____
$j(x) =  x $	_____	_____
$k(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	_____	_____



ALGEBRA OF FUNCTIONS

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES

I. Define each of the following binary operations

A.  $[f + g](x)$

B.  $[f - g](x)$

C.  $[f \cdot g](x)$

D.  $\left[\frac{f}{g}\right](x)$

E.  $[f \circ g](x)$

II. Given two functions  $f$  and  $g$ , determine

A.  $f + g$ ; its domain and range

B.  $f - g$ ; its domain and range

C.  $f \cdot g$ ; its domain and range

D.  $\frac{f}{g}$ ; its domain and range

E.  $f \circ g$ ; its domain and range

ALGEBRA OF FUNCTIONS ANSWERS

PROBLEM SET 1

$1. f + g = \{(2,4), (3,5), (4,15)\}$	$D = \{2,3,4\}$	$R = \{4,5,15\}$
$f - g = \{(2,0), (3,5), (4,-3)\}$	$D = \{2,3,4\}$	$R = \{0,5,-3\}$
$f \cdot g = \{(2,4), (3,0), (4,54)\}$	$D = \{2,3,4\}$	$R = \{4,0,54\}$
$f / g = \{(2,1), (4, \frac{2}{3})\}$	$D = \{2,4\}$	$R = \{1, \frac{2}{3}\}$

$2. g + h = \{(2,9), (-1,12), (5,8)\}$	$D = \{2, -1, 5\}$	$R = \{8, 9, 12\}$
$g - h = \{(2,3), (-1,-2), (5,-8)\}$	$D = \{-1, 2, 5\}$	$R = \{-8, -2, 3\}$
$g \cdot h = \{(2,18), (-1,35), (5,0)\}$	$D = \{-1, 2, 5\}$	$R = \{0, 18, 35\}$
$g / h = \{(2,2), (-1, \frac{5}{7}), (5,0)\}$	$D = \{-1, 2, 5\}$	$R = \{0, \frac{5}{7}, 2\}$

$3. [h + m](x) = x^2 + x - 1$	$D = \text{all reals}$	$R = \{y: y \geq -\frac{5}{4}\}$
$[h - m](x) = x^2 - x + 1$	$D = \text{all reals}$	$R = \{y: y \geq \frac{3}{4}\}$
$[h \cdot m](x) = x^3 - x^2$	$D = \text{all reals};$	$R = \text{all reals}$
$[h / m](x) = \frac{x^2}{x-1}$	$D = x: x \neq 1$	$*R = \{y: y \leq 0 \text{ or } y \geq 4\}$

$4. [f + g](x) = x^2 + x + 5$	$D = \text{all reals}$	$R = \{y: y \geq \frac{19}{4}\}$
$[f - g](x) = -x^2 + x - 9$	$D = \text{all reals}$	$R = \{y: y \leq -\frac{35}{4}\}$
$[f \cdot g](x) = x^3 - 2x^2 + 7x - 14$	$D = \text{all reals}$	$R = \text{all reals}$
$[f / g](x) = \frac{x-2}{x^2+7}$	$D = \text{all reals}$	$*R = \{y: -.4 \leq y \leq .9\}$

$5. p + g = \{(0,7), (3,12), (1,11), (-3,8)\}$	$D = \{-3,1,0,3\}$	$R = \{7,12,11,8\}$
$p - g = \{(0,-1), (3,-2), (1,1), (-3,5)\}$	$D = \{-3,1,0,3\}$	$R = \{-1,-2,1,5\}$
$p \cdot g = \{(0,12), (3,35), (1,30), (-3,7)\}$	$D = \{-3,1,0,3\}$	$R = \{12,35,30,7\}$
$p / g = \{(0, \frac{3}{4}), (3, \frac{5}{7}), (1, \frac{6}{5}), (-3,7)\}$	$D = \{-3,1,0,3\}$	$R = \{\frac{3}{4}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{5}, 7\}$

\* Only by checking a great number of values could you determine the range of this function. The range for  $f/g$  in #4 is approximate. Methods for determining the range of functions like these will be discussed in the last unit of Math Analysis and even more thoroughly in Calculus.

6.  $h + f = \{(5, 128), (7, 345), (-1, 4), (-3, -28), (2, 9)\}$   $D = \{5, 7, -1, -3, 2\}$   
 $R = \{128, 345, 4, -28, 9\}$
- $h - f = \{(5, -120), (7, -339), (-1, 8), (-3, 28), (2, -5)\}$   $D = \{-3, -1, 2, 5, 7\}$   
 $R = \{-120, -339, 8, 28, -5\}$
- $h \cdot f = \{(5, 496), (7, 1026), (-1, -12), (-3, 0), (2, 14)\}$   $D = \{-3, -1, 2, 5, 7\}$   
 $R = \{496, 1026, -12, 0, 14\}$
- $h / f = \{(5, \frac{1}{31}), (7, \frac{1}{114}), (-1, -3), (-3, 0), (2, \frac{2}{7})\}$   $D = \{-3, -1, 2, 5, 7\}$   
 $R = \{\frac{1}{31}, \frac{1}{114}, -3, 0, \frac{2}{7}\}$

PROBLEM SET II

1.  $\{(2, 4), (9, 0)\}$       2.  $\{(7, 6), (5, 7)\}$       3.  $x^2 - 10x + 29$   
 $\{(6, 3), (5, 6)\}$        $\{(3, 2), (4, 7), (-2, 5), (2, -1)\}$        $x^2 - 1$
4.  $(x^2 + 1)^3 - 2$       5.  $3(x^2 - 4) + 2$       6.  $x^2 + 5$   
 $(x^3 - 2)^2 + 1$        $(3x + 2)^2 - 4$        $(x - 2)^2 + 7$
7.  $\{(-\frac{1}{2}, 1), (0, 4), (\frac{1}{2}, 4), (1, 7), (-\frac{11}{2}, 4), (-\frac{3}{2}, 1)\}$   
 $\{(2, 5), (3, 11), (4, 11), (5, 17), (-8, 11), (0, 5)\}$

8.      DOMAIN      RANGE      DOMAIN      RANGE
1.       $\{2, 9\}$        $\{4, 0\}$       2.       $\{7, 5\}$        $\{6, 7\}$   
           $\{6, 5\}$        $\{3, 6\}$                        $\{3, 4, -2, 2\}$        $\{2, 7, 5, -1\}$
3.      Reals       $\{y: y \geq 4\}$       4.      Reals       $\{y: y \geq -1\}$   
          Reals       $\{y: y \geq -1\}$                       Reals       $\{y: y \geq 1\}$
5.      Reals       $\{y: y \geq -10\}$       6.      Reals       $\{y: y \geq 5\}$   
          Reals       $\{y: y \geq -4\}$                       Reals       $\{y: y \geq 7\}$
7.       $\{-\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, -\frac{11}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}\}$        $\{1, 4, 7\}$   
           $\{2, 3, 4, 5, -8, 0\}$        $\{5, 11, 17\}$

PROBLEM SET III

1. a) 268      b) 114      c) 394      d) 78      e) 200      f) x      g) 14
- h)  $2(x + 2)^2 + 6$       i) Undefined,  $f^{-1}$  does not exist      j) Undefined
- k)  $\frac{1}{3}$

2. a) 2;    b) 3;    c) 12;    d) -1;    e) 4    f) 0

3.  $f^{-1} = \{(1,1), (4,2), (9,3), (7,-1), (5,-2), (6,-3)\}$

$g^{-1} = \{(4,1), (1,2), (5,4), (0,-2)\}$

a)  $\{1, 2, -2\}$     b)  $\{1, 2\}$     c)  $\{(1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (-1,-1), (-2,-2), (-3,-3)\}$

d)  $\{(1,1), (2,2), (4,4), (-2,-2)\}$

4.  $k = -\frac{7}{2}$

	<u>DOMAIN</u>	<u>RANGE</u>
	Reals	Reals
	Reals	Reals
	Reals	Integers
	Reals	$\{y: y \geq 0\}$
	$\{x: x \neq 0\}$	$\{y: y \neq 0\}$
	$\{x: x > 0\}$	Reals
	Reals	$\{y: y \geq 6\}$
$\lfloor x - 7 \rfloor$	Reals	Integers
$\lfloor \lfloor x \rfloor \rfloor$	Reals	Non-negative integers
$\left  \frac{1}{x} \right $	$\{x: x \neq 0\}$	$\{y: y > 0\}$
$\frac{1}{\log_2 x}$	$\{x: x > 0, x \neq 1\}$	$\{y: y \neq 0\}$
$ \log_2 x $	$\{x: x > 0\}$	$\{y: y \geq 0\}$
$\log_2  x $	$\{x: x \neq 0\}$	Reals
$ x^2 + 2x + 7 $	Reals	$\{y: y \geq 6\}$

I. Define:

(a)  $[f + g](x)$

(b)  $[f \circ g](x)$

(c)  $\left[\frac{f}{g}\right](x)$

II. Suppose  $f(x) = 4x + 4$ ,  $g(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$ ,  $h(x) = |x + 2|$ ,  $j(x) = x^2$ ,  
 $k(x) = \{(3,3), (2,0), (4,1)\}$ ,  $m(x) = \{(1,8), (0,4), (3,0)\}$

(a) Evaluate:

1.  $[f + k](4) =$

2.  $[f - h](-1) =$

3.  $[j + f](2) =$

4.  $[k + m](3) =$

5.  $\left[\frac{k}{m}\right](3) =$

6.  $\left[\frac{f}{h}\right](1) =$

7.  $\left[\frac{f}{h}\right](0) =$

8.  $[f \circ k](4) =$

9.  $[m \circ m](0) =$

10.  $j(f(0)) =$

11.  $[f \circ h](2) =$

12.  $[f \circ g](6.2) =$

(b) Find:

1.  $[j + f](x) =$

2.  $[k \circ m] =$

3.  $[g \circ f](x) =$

4.  $[g \circ h](x) =$

5.  $[m \circ h]$

6.  $\left[\frac{h}{g}\right](x) =$

(c) Determine the domain and range of each of numbers 1 through 5 of (b) above.

