

**Definition:** In each of the problems we use the following:

1.  $f(E) = \{f(x) \mid x \in E\}$  and
2.  $f^{-1}(F) = \{x \mid f(x) \in F\}$

where  $E \subseteq X$  and  $F \subseteq Y$ .

1. Suppose  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and that  $A \subseteq X$ .

To show that  $A \subseteq f^{-1}(f(A))$ , assume that  $x \in A$ . By 1 in the above definition, this means that  $f(x) \in f(A)$ . However by 2 above, this means that  $x \in f^{-1}(f(A))$ . This concludes the inclusion portion of the problem. ■

Now suppose that the two are equal for all  $A$ , we will show that  $f$  must be injective. Suppose otherwise and that  $a, b \in X$ , with  $a \neq b$ , and  $f(a) = f(b)$ . Let  $A = \{a\}$ . In this case  $f(A) = \{f(a)\}$ , and  $f^{-1}(f(A)) = \{a, b\} \neq A$ . This contradiction implies that  $f$  must be one-to-one. ■

So suppose that  $f$  is one-to-one. We will show that the two sets are equal. We need only show that  $f^{-1}(f(A)) \subseteq A$ . So let  $x \in f^{-1}(f(A))$ . Again using part 2 of the above definition,  $x \in f^{-1}(f(A))$  implies that  $f(x) \in f(A)$ . If this is true  $f(x) = f(y)$  for some  $y \in A$ . Since  $f$  is one-to-one,  $x = y \in A$ , and we are done. ■

2. For this problem we must start by proving  $f(f^{-1}(B)) \subseteq B$  if  $B \subseteq Y$ . To this end let  $y \in f(f^{-1}(B))$ . This means that there is an  $x \in f^{-1}(B)$  so that  $f(x) = y$ . But by the definition part 2,  $y = f(x) \in B$ . ■

As before it is easy to show that if  $f(f^{-1}(B)) = B$ , for all  $B \subseteq Y$ , then  $f$  must be onto. Suppose  $f$  is not onto. Then there is a  $y \in Y$  which is not the image of any  $x$  in  $X$ . For this  $y$  let  $B = \{y\}$ . Since nothing maps onto  $y$ ,  $f^{-1}(B) = \emptyset$ . Thus  $f(f^{-1}(B)) = \emptyset \neq \{y\} = B$ .

So suppose that  $f$  is onto (surjective). Let  $y \in B$ . Since  $f$  is onto, there is an  $x \in X$  so that  $f(x) = y$ . In other words, an  $x$  so that  $x \in f^{-1}(\{y\}) \subseteq f^{-1}(B)$ . This means that  $y = f(x) \in f(f^{-1}(B))$ . Hence  $B \subseteq f(f^{-1}(B))$ .

The next two exercises are very similar to these two, except perhaps easier.