

Bijections — invertible  
or reversible

$f: A \rightarrow B$  is a bijection  
whenever there is  $l: B \rightarrow A$  and  $r: B \rightarrow A$   
such that  
 $l \circ f = \text{id}_A$  and  $f \circ r = \text{id}_B$

NB: In this case,

$$l = r.$$

rdor // lofor //  
// rd  
r l

NB: Inverses of bijections are unique  
The inverse of  $f$  is denoted  $f^{-1}$ .

## Bijections

**Definition 127** A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is said to be bijection, or a bijection, whenever there exists a (necessarily unique) function  $g : B \rightarrow A$  (referred to as the inverse of  $f$ ) such that

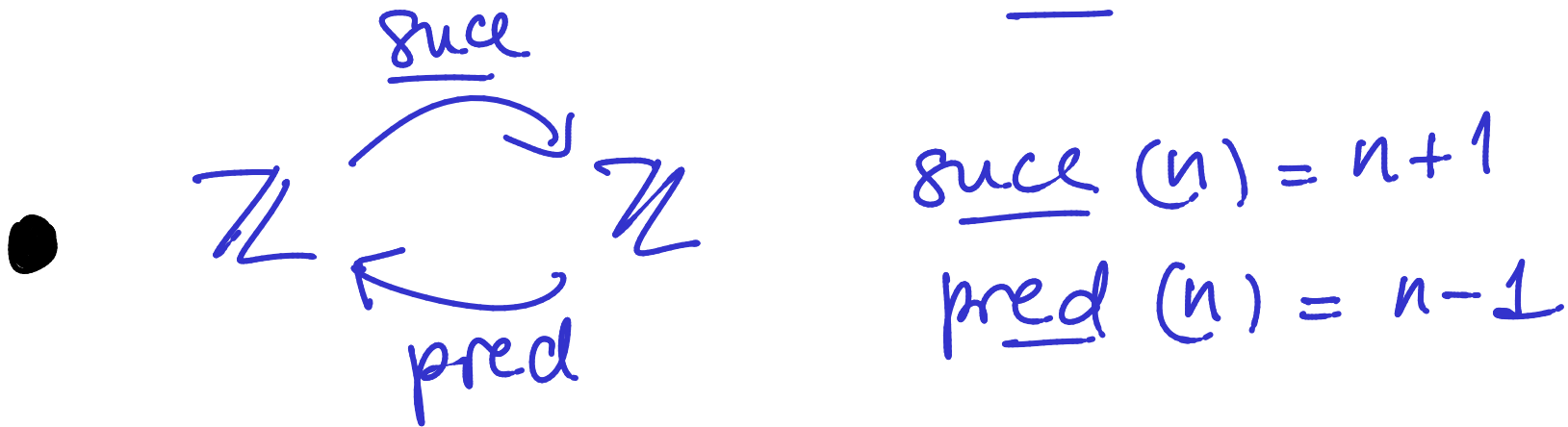
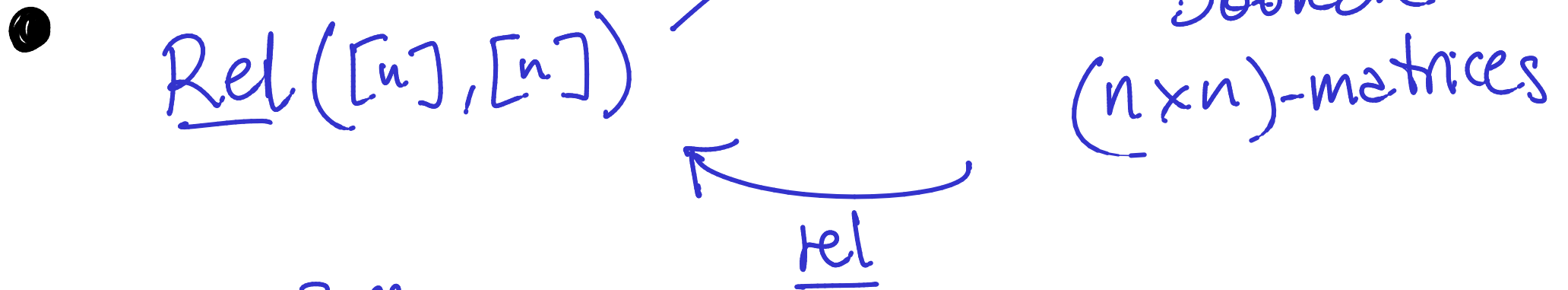
1.  $g$  is a retraction (or left inverse) for  $f$ :

$$g \circ f = \text{id}_A \quad ,$$

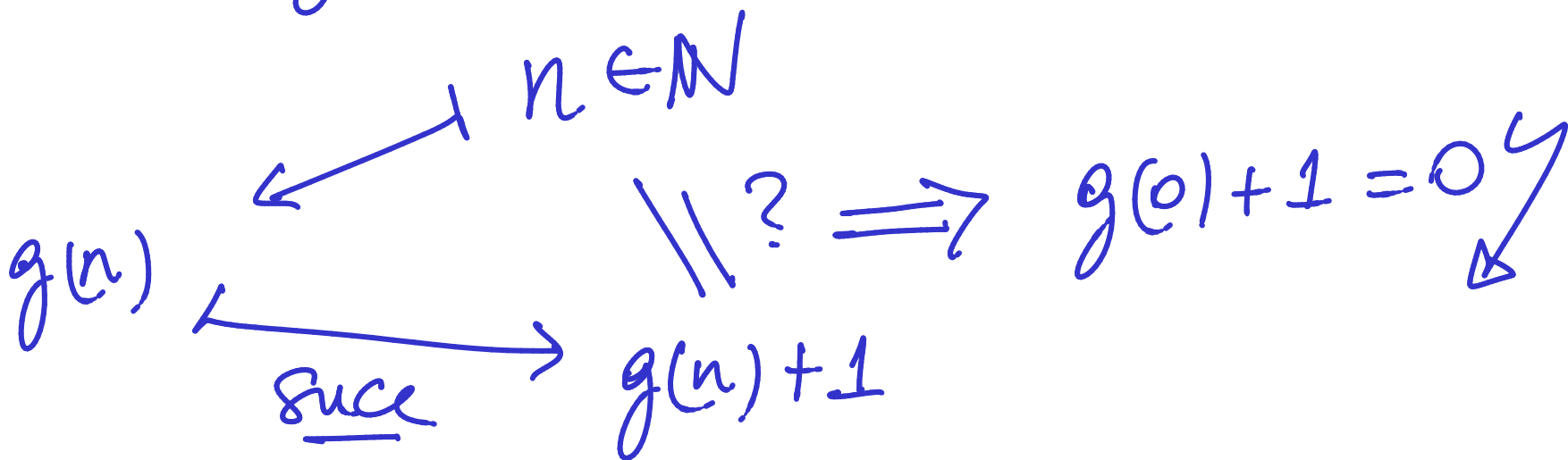
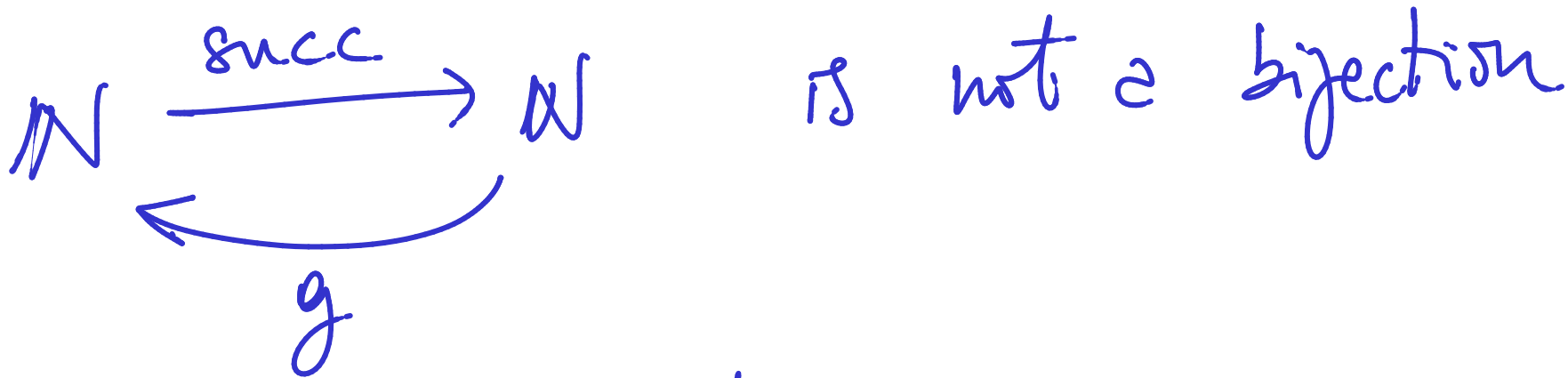
2.  $g$  is a section (or right inverse) for  $f$ :

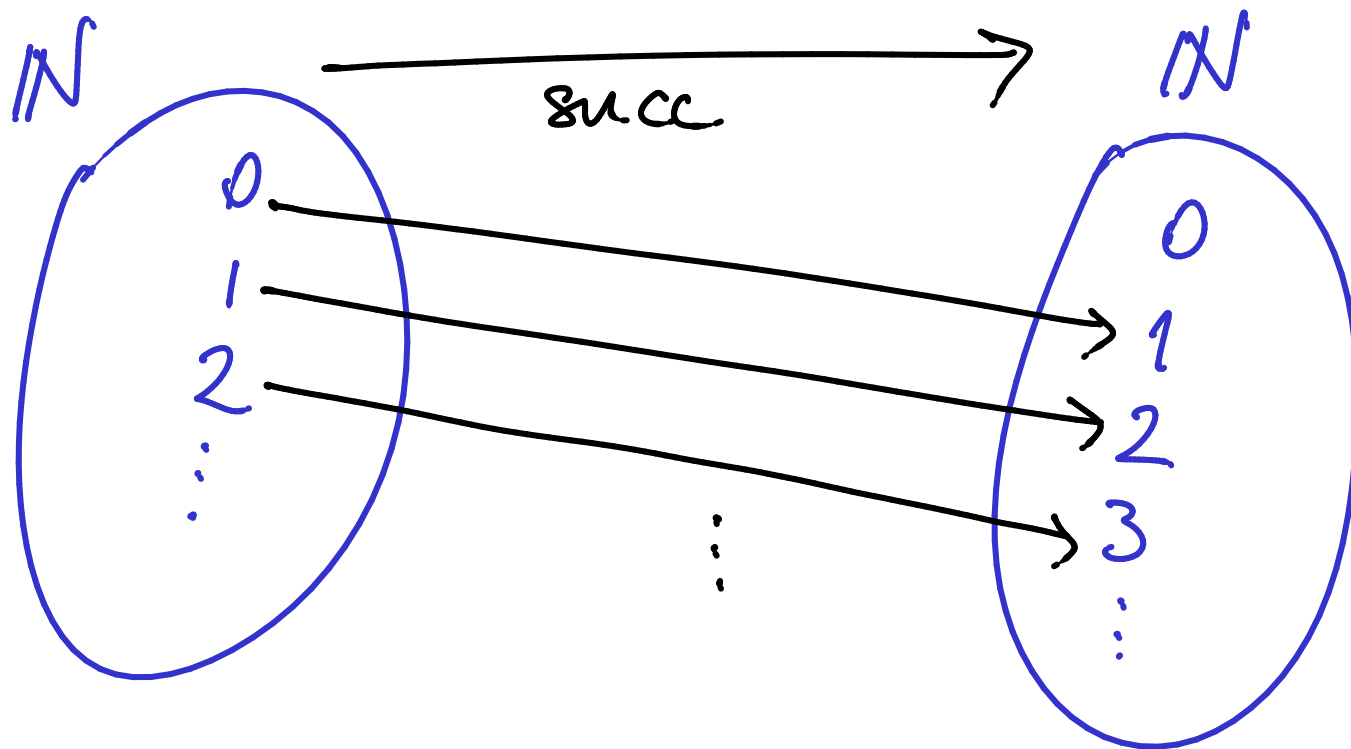
$$f \circ g = \text{id}_B \quad .$$

# Examples

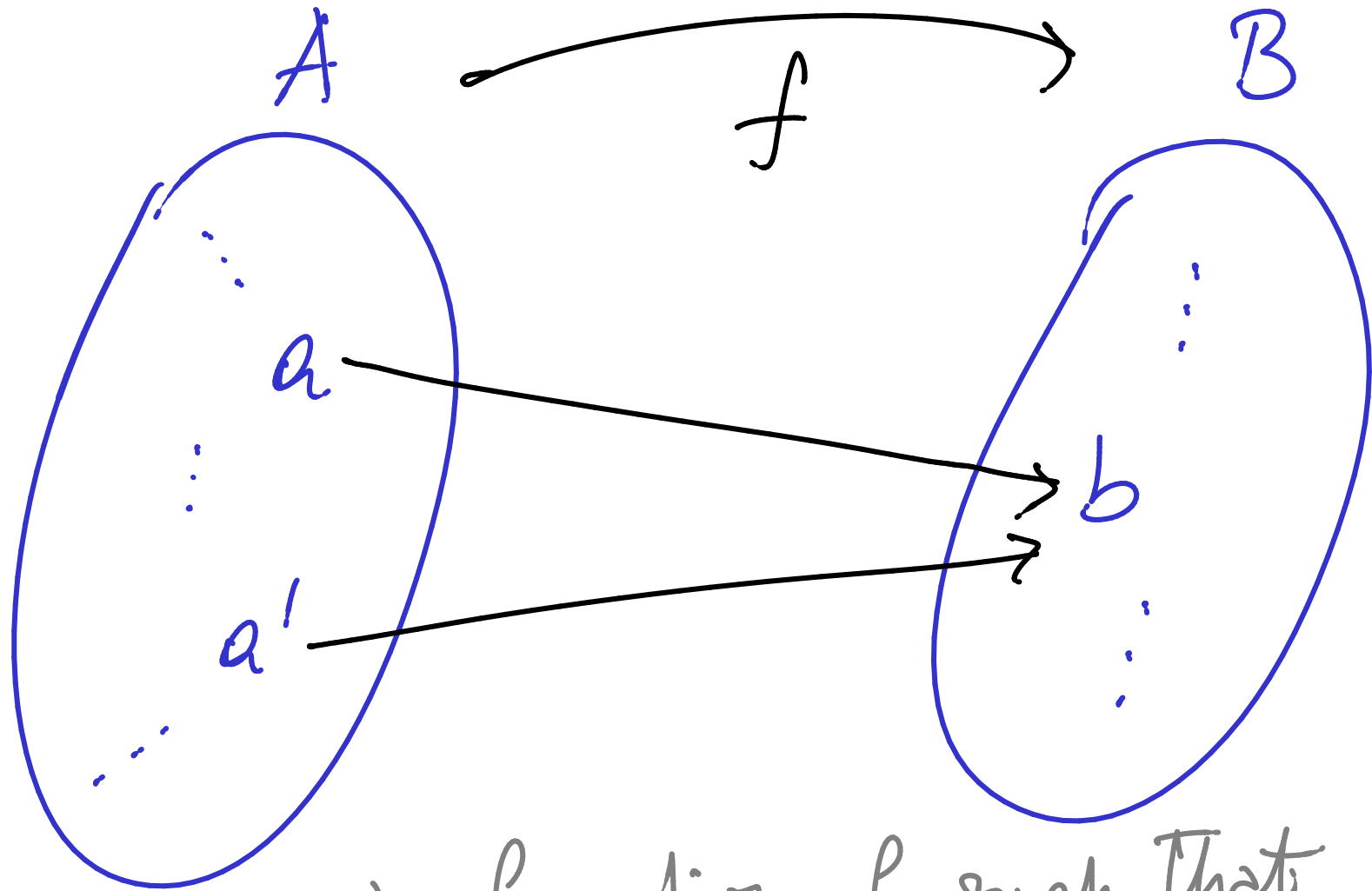


# Non-example





There is  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , namely  $k=0$ ,  
such that, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\text{succ}(n) \neq k$ .



a function  $f$  such that  
 $f(a) = f(a')$  for  $a \neq a'$   
is not a bijection.

Proposition: A function  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is a bijection if and only if,

$$\forall b \in B. \exists! a \in A. f(a) = b.$$

PROOF: ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume there exists  $g: B \rightarrow A$  such that  $f \circ g = \text{id}_B$  and  $g \circ f = \text{id}_A$ .

RTP:  $\forall b \in B. \exists! a \in A. f(a) = b.$

Let  $b \in B$ . Then  $g(b) \in A$  is such that  $f(g(b)) = b$ . Therefore  $\exists a \in A. f(a) = b$ .



We need show uniqueness.

RTP:  $\forall a, a' \in A. f(a) = b \wedge f(a') = b \Rightarrow a = a'$

Let  $a, a' \in A$ . Assume  $f(a) = b$  and  $f(a') = b$ .

Then

$$f(a) = f(a')$$

and therefore

$$a = g(f(a)) = g(f(a')) = a'$$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume

$$\forall b \in B. \exists! a \in A. f(a) = b.$$

RIP:  $f$  has both a left and a right inverse,  
say  $g: B \rightarrow A$ .

Define

$g: b \mapsto$  The unique  $a \in A$  such that  
 $f(a) = b$ .

Then,

(1)  $g$  is a total function from  $B$  to  $A$ .

(2) For  $b \in B$ ,  $f(g(b)) = b$

$$f \circ g = \text{id}_B.$$

(3) For  $a \in A$ ,

$g(f(a))$  is the unique  $x \in A$  s.t.  $f(x) = f(a)$

and  $f(a) = f(a)$

therefore  $g(f(a)) = a$

Hence,  $g \circ f = \text{id}_A$



**Proposition 129** For all finite sets  $A$  and  $B$ ,

$$\# \text{Bij}(A, B) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } \#A \neq \#B \\ n! & , \text{ if } \#A = \#B = n \end{cases}$$

PROOF IDEA:  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$   $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$

There is a bijection between  $A$  and  $B$

iff  $\forall b_j (1 \leq j \leq n) \exists! a_i (1 \leq i \leq m)$ .

iff  $m = n$ .

Let  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  and  $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ .

$a_1 \mapsto b_{j_1}$   $n$ -choices

$a_2 \mapsto b_{j_2}$   $(n-1)$ -choices  $b_{j_2} \neq b_{j_1}$

$a_3 \mapsto b_{j_3}$   $(n-2)$  choices.  $b_{j_3} \neq b_{j_1}$   
 $\neq b_{j_2}$

$\vdots$

$a_{n-1} \mapsto b_{j_{n-1}}$  2-choices

$a_n \mapsto b_{j_n}$  1-choice

Number of bijections is  $n \times (n-1) \times \dots \times 2 \times 1$   
 $= n!$



**Theorem 130** *The identity function is a bijection, and the composition of bijections yields a bijection.*

NB:  $(\text{id}_A)^{-1} = \text{id}_A$

For  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$  bijections,

$g \circ f: A \rightarrow C$  bijection with inverse

$$(g \circ f)^{-1} = f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}: C \rightarrow A.$$

NB:  $(\text{Bij}(A, A), \text{id}_A, \circ)$  is a group.

**Definition 131** Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  are said to be isomorphic (and to have the same cardinality) whenever there is a bijection between them; in which case we write

$$A \cong B \quad \text{or} \quad \#A = \#B \quad .$$

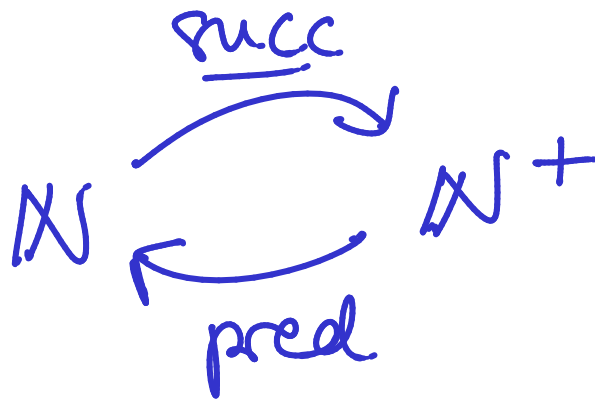
**Examples:**

1.  $\{0, 1\} \cong \{\text{false}, \text{true}\}$ .

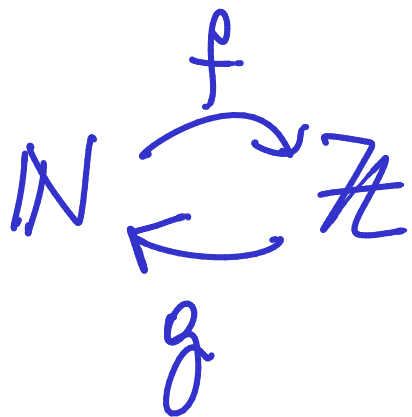
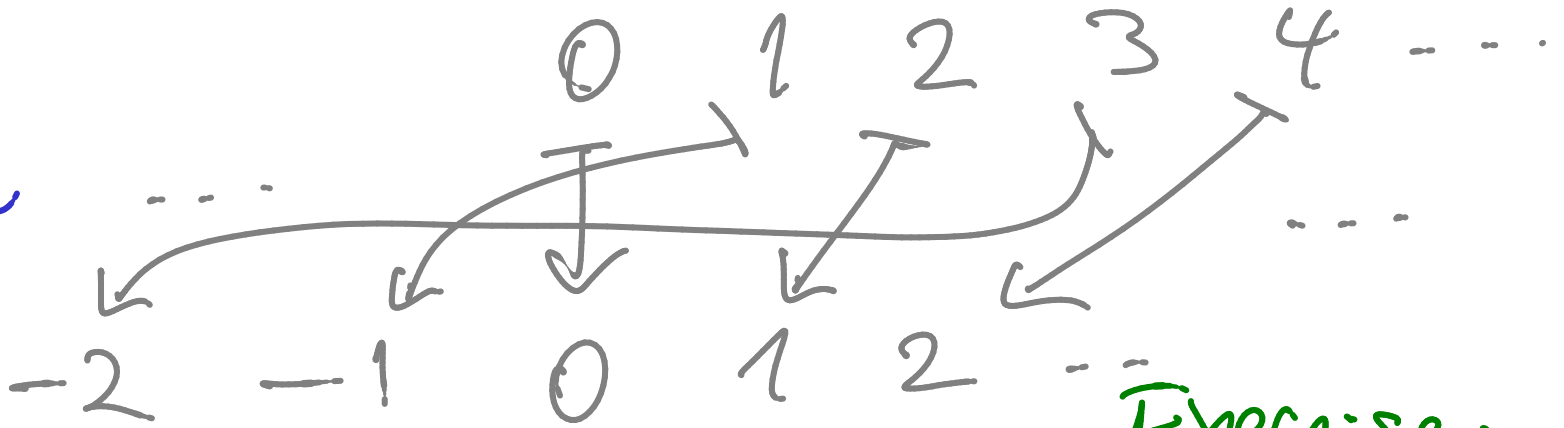
2.  $\mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{N}^+$  ,  $\mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{Z}$  ,  $\mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  ,  $\mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{Q}$  .

# Examples

$$\mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{N}^+$$



$$\mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{Z}$$



$$f(n) = \begin{cases} k, & \text{if } n = 2k \\ -(k+1), & \text{if } n = 2k+1 \end{cases}$$

Exercise:  
Define  $g$   
such that  
 $f \circ g = \text{id}_{\mathbb{Z}}$  and  
 $g \circ f = \text{id}_{\mathbb{N}}$