

COMPUTER SCIENCE TRIPOS Part IA – 2026 – Paper 2

8 Discrete Mathematics (js2878)

(a) We define the **kernel** of a function $f: A \rightarrow B$ to be the binary relation

$$\ker(f) := \{(x, y) \in A \times A \mid f(x) = f(y)\}.$$

(i) **Prove** that $\ker(f)$ is an equivalence relation. [3 marks]

(ii) **Prove** that f is an injective function iff $\ker(f)$ is the diagonal relation $\mathbf{1}_A = \{(a, a) \mid a \in A\}$. [1 mark]

(b) We define the **coimage** of $f: A \rightarrow B$ to be the quotient

$$\text{coim}(f) := A / \ker(f)$$

of A by the kernel of f . We write $e_f: A \twoheadrightarrow \text{coim}(f)$ for the corresponding quotient map. In what follows, we write $i_f: \text{im}(f) \hookrightarrow B$ for the inclusion of the *image* of f into B .

(i) **Define** a function $h_f: \text{coim}(f) \rightarrow \text{im}(f)$ and **verify** that the composition

$$A \xrightarrow{e_f} \text{coim}(f) \xrightarrow{h_f} \text{im}(f) \xrightarrow{i_f} B$$

is equal to $f: A \rightarrow B$. [2 marks]

(ii) **Prove** that h_f from Part (b)(i) is surjective. [2 marks]

(iii) **Prove** that h_f from Part (b)(i) is injective. [2 marks]

(iv) **Prove** that f is injective iff $e_f: A \twoheadrightarrow \text{coim}(f)$ is injective. [2 marks]

(c) Say whether or not the following are true, with proof.

(i) If A is finite and B is enumerable, then the function space $A \rightarrow B$ is enumerable. [2 marks]

(ii) If A and B are countable, then so is the function space $A \rightarrow B$. [2 marks]

(iii) If A is enumerable, then the quotient A/E of A by any equivalence relation $E \subseteq A \times A$ is enumerable. [2 marks]

(iv) If $B(a)$ is an enumerable set for each $a \in A$ and A is enumerable, then the indexed disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{a \in A} B(a)$ is enumerable. [2 marks]