

Composition of Functions

Combining two formulas into one using substitution.

Algorithm for finding the composition of $f(g(x))$

1. Write the rule for $f(x)$
2. Everywhere you see an x in $f(x)$, substitute $g(x)$
3. Using 2, substitute the rule for $g(x)$ everywhere you see $g(x)$ in the rule
4. Simplify

Example: If $f(x) = 3x - 2$ and $g(x) = 5x + 1$, find $f(g(x))$

1. $f(x) = 3x - 2$

2. $f(g(x)) = 3g(x) - 2$

3. $\quad\quad\quad = 3(5x + 1) - 2$

4. $\quad\quad\quad = 15x + 3 - 2 \Rightarrow 15x + 1$

Using the following functions, find the compositions.

$f(x) = 2x + 1$

$g(x) = x^2$

$h(x) = x - 6$

$j(x) = \frac{x-1}{2}$

1. $f(g(x))$

2. $f(h(x))$

3. $j(h(x))$

4. $g(h(x))$

5. $h(f(x))$

6. $h(j(x))$

7. $f(f(x))$

8. $h(h(x))$

9. $f(j(x))$

10. $g(f(x))$

11. $j(g(x))$

12. $g(g(x))$