

# CHAOS & FRACTALS<sup>①</sup>

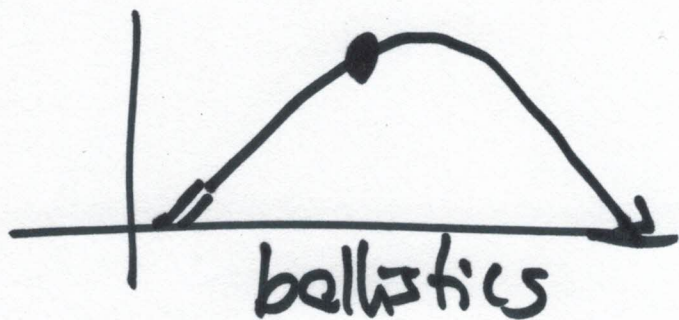
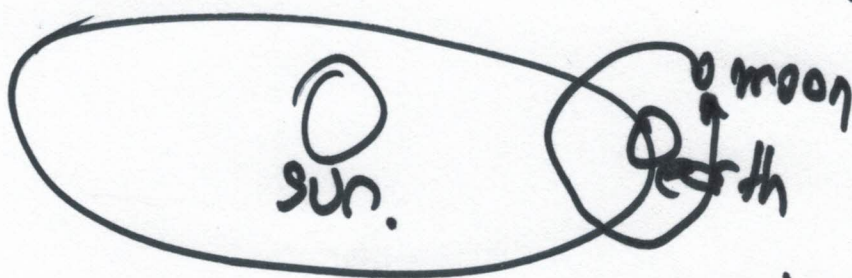
## WEEK 2 - LESSON 1

Dr. Sebastian del Bano Rollin

General idea : chaos & fractals  
related to dynamical systems

↓  
things moving.

??  
physics.



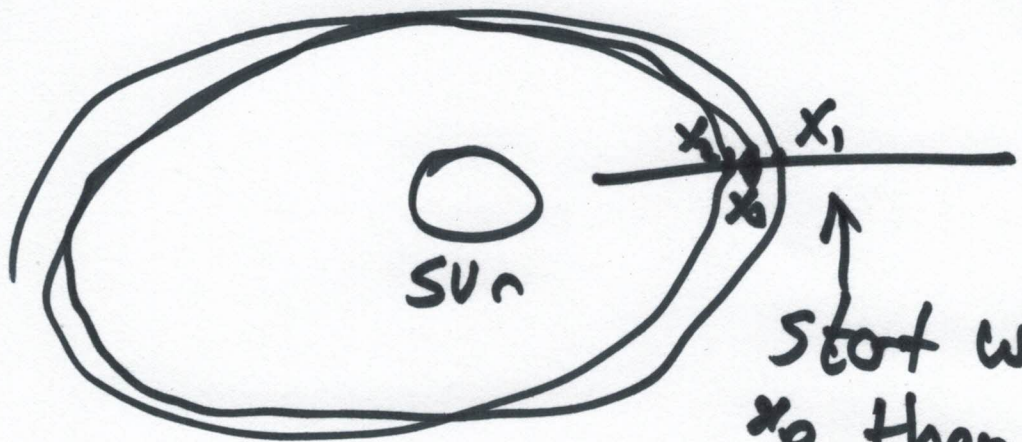
To simplify:

- discrete times  $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots$
- one dimension.



# Example

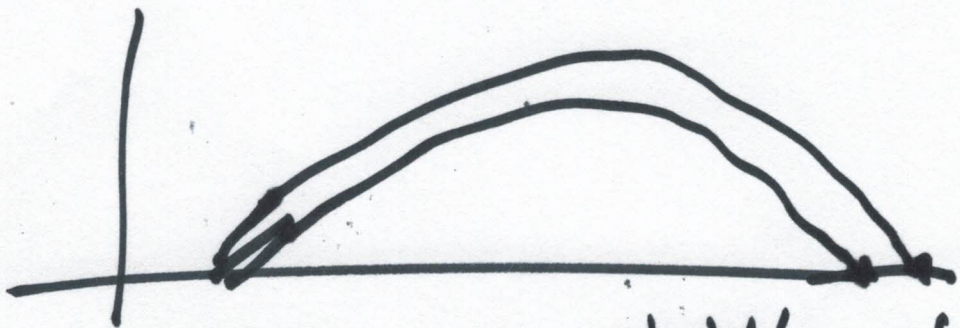
(2)



Start with  $x_0$  then  $f(x_0)$  then  $f(f(x_0))$  ...

In this course we start looking at things like ↗

→ If changing initial conditions a little bit, changes trajectory a little bit → STABLE



→ But sometimes little changes in initial conditions change trajectory a lot ⇒ CHAOS.

mountain





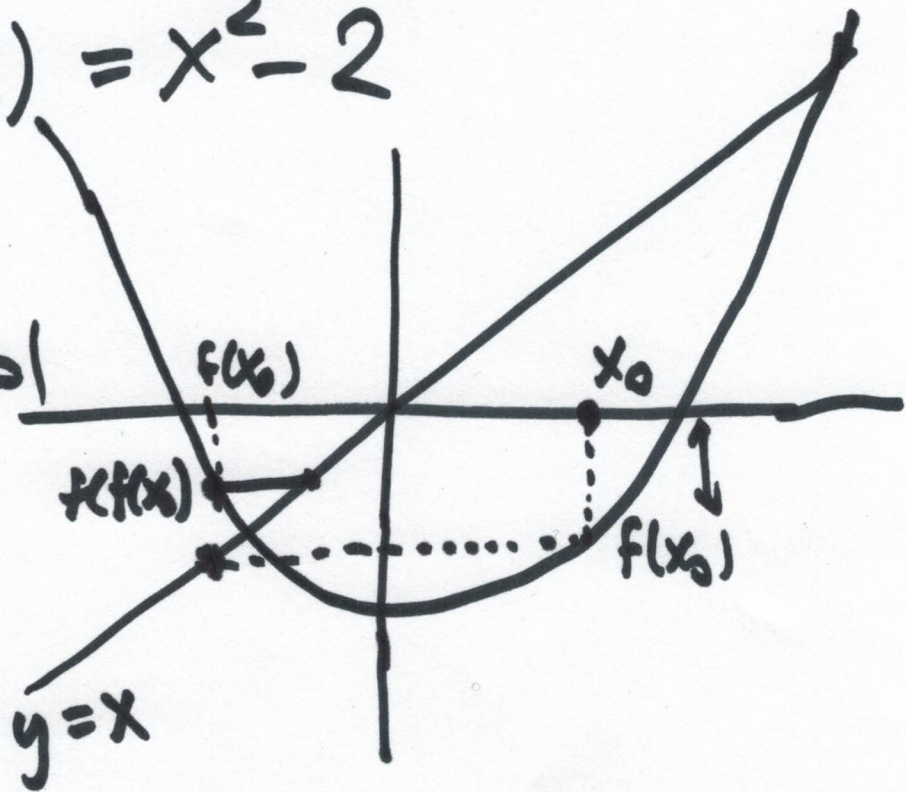
This is why we study 3

$$x_0 \rightarrow f(x_0) \rightarrow f(f(x_0)) \rightarrow f(f(f(x_0)))$$

"  $f^2(x_0)$  "  $f^3(x_0)$

Example  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$

How does  
this dynamical  
system  
behave?



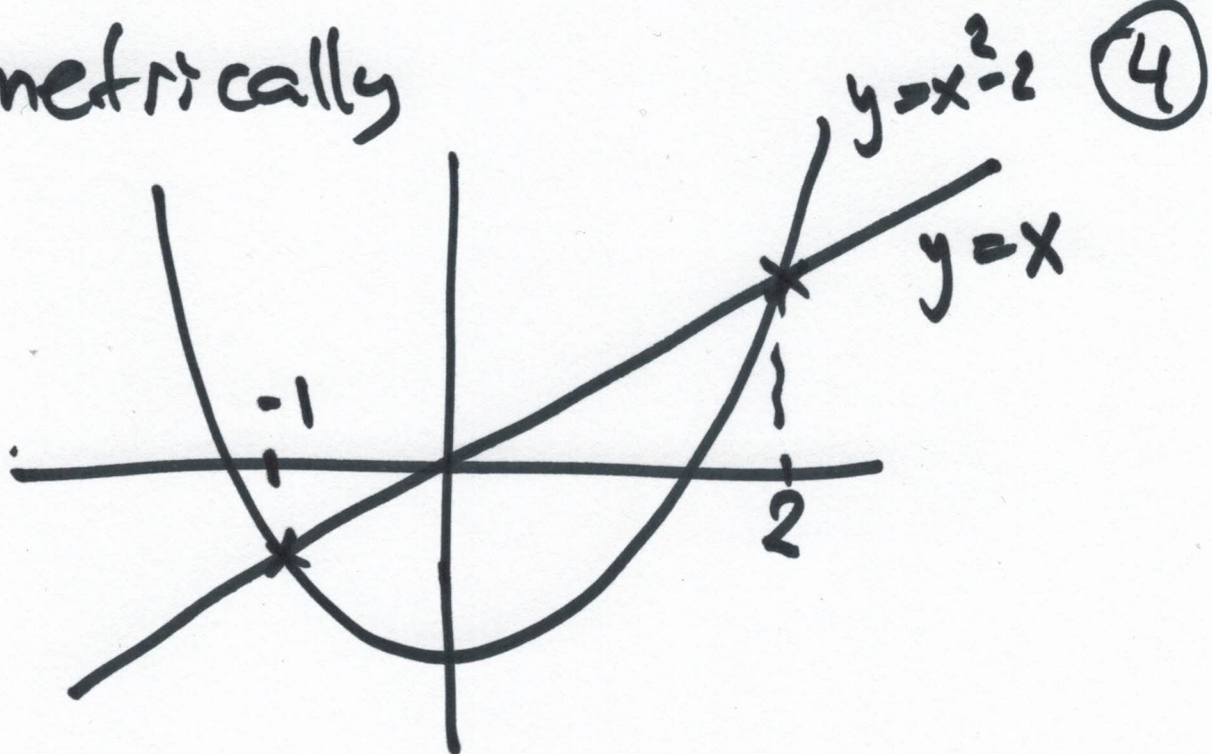
Fixed points :  $f(x) = x$   
solve  $\rightarrow$

$$x^2 - 2 = x, \quad x^2 - x - 2 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 4 \cdot 2}}{2} = \begin{cases} 2 \\ -1 \end{cases}$$



Geometrically

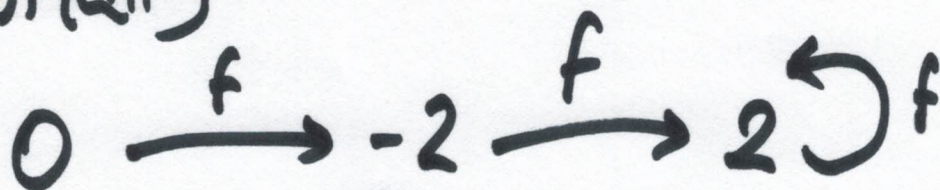


So if  $x_0 = -1$ , then  $f(x_0) = (-1)^2 - 2 = -1$

Other interesting values  
are "eventually fixed" points

①  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $f(x_0) = (0)^2 - 2 = -2$   
 $f^2(x_0) = f(-2) = (-2)^2 - 2 = 2$

pictorially



and are eventually fixed points.



②  $\pm\sqrt{3}$  are also eventually  $\textcircled{5}$   
fixed points

$$f(\pm\sqrt{3}) = (\pm\sqrt{3})^2 - 2 = 1$$

$$f(1) = (1)^2 - 2 = -1$$

$$\begin{array}{l} +\sqrt{3} \xrightarrow{f} 1 \xrightarrow{f} -1 \curvearrowright f \\ -\sqrt{3} \xrightarrow{f} 1 \xrightarrow{f} -1 \curvearrowright \end{array}$$

Remark here we are given these eventually fixed points:

$$0, -2, +\sqrt{3}, -\sqrt{3}, 1$$

and we checked they are ev. fix. pts.

If we had to find them you would have to solve

$$f(x) = -1 \quad \leftarrow \text{a fixed pt.}$$



$$x^2 - 2 = -1$$

fixed pt.  $\textcircled{6}$   
 $\downarrow$

$$x^2 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow x = -1, +1$$

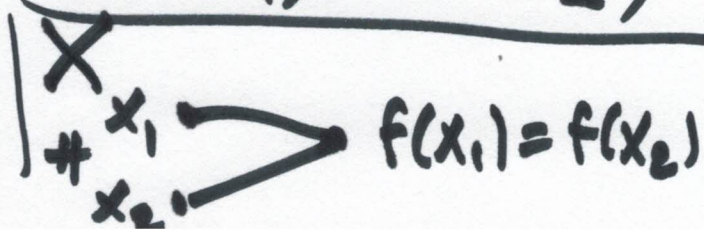
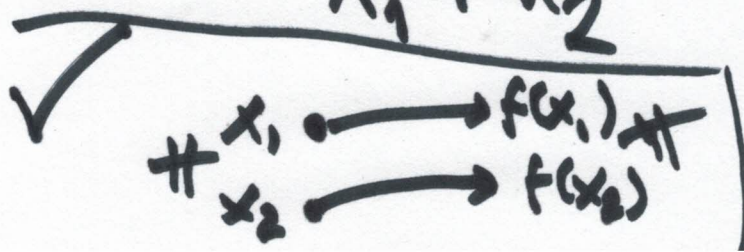
here we discover the eventually  
fixed point + 1.

Homework Find more eventually  
fixed points.

## Revision of mathematical terminology.

Definition If  $f: A \rightarrow B$   
is a function and  $A, B$  sets  
then it is called one-to-one  
or injective if

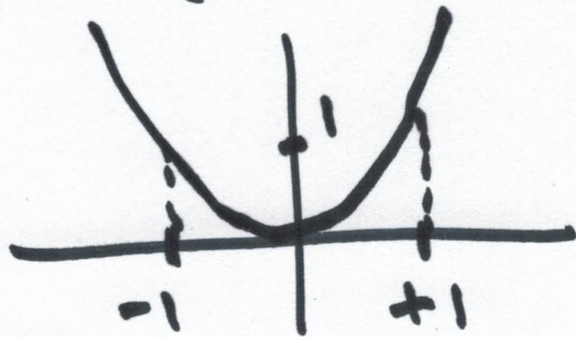
$$x_1 \neq x_2 \Rightarrow f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$$



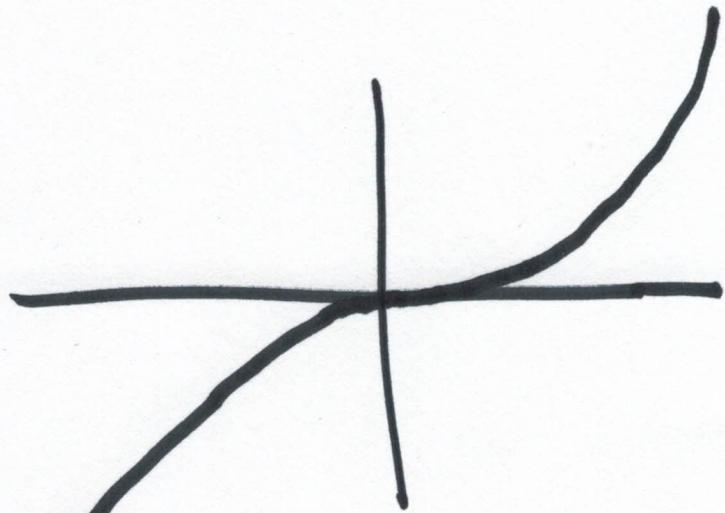


Examples ①  $f(x) = x^2$  is not ②  
injective as  $f(-1) = f(+1)$

3



②  $f(x) = x^3$   
this is injective.

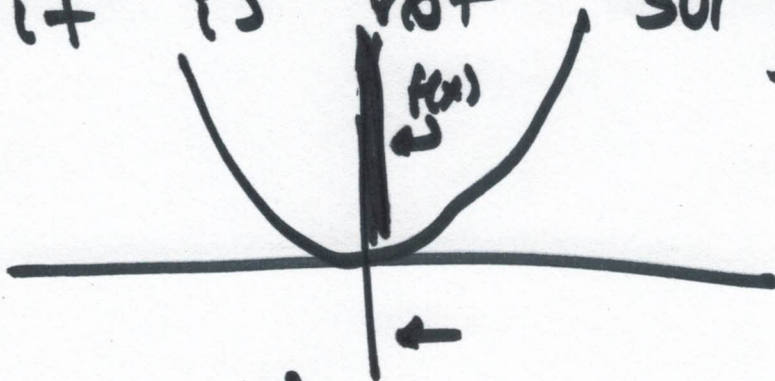


Definition If  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is  
a function from the set  $A$   
to the set  $B$ , then  $f$  is  
called onto or exhaustive  
(epijective) if: surjective

for any  $b \in B$  there exists  
some  $a \in A$  s.t.  $f(a) = b$

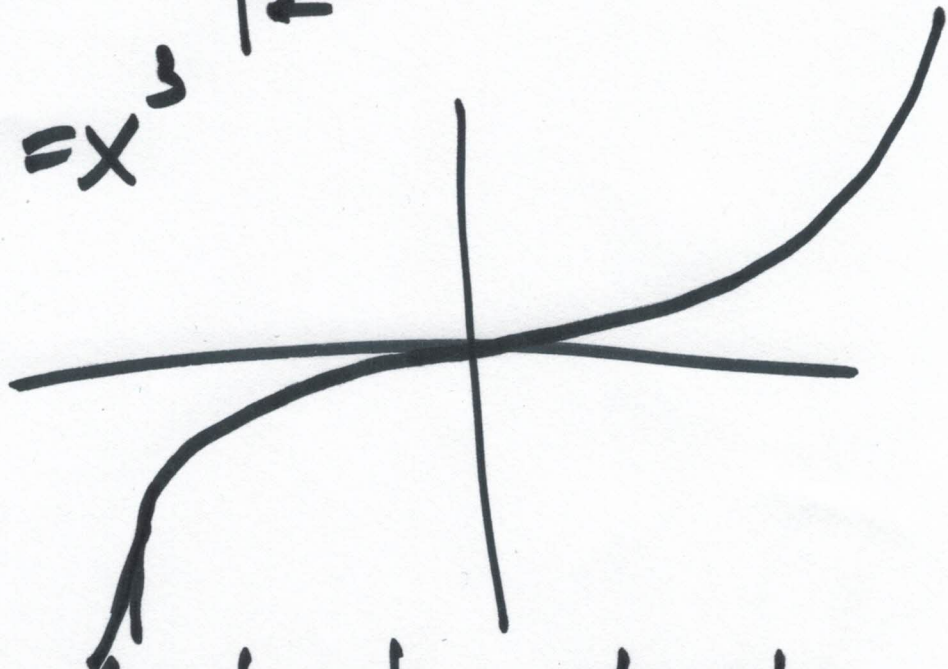


Examples ①  $f(x) = x^2$  ⑧  
never yields negative numbers  
so it is not surjective



②  $f(x) = x^3$

is surjective.



Remark In fact to decide whether something is injective or surjective you have to specify  $A$  &  $B$ , & answer can change with different  $A$  &  $B$ .



①  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  ← positive numbers ⑨  
 $x \mapsto x^2$

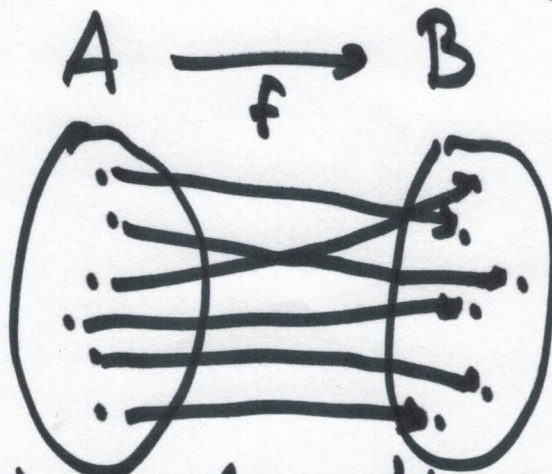
$f(x) = x^2$  is surjective.  
 not injective as  $f(1) = f(-1)$

②  $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

↑ positive numbers  
 $f(x) = x^2$

not surjective  
 injective.

Definition If  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is both surjective and injective it is called bijective.



"identification"

if  $f$  is bijective then we have an inverse function  $f^{-1}$



Remark  $f$  bijective is also (10)  
called invertible as then  
we have an inverse function  $f^{-1}$

Examples ①  $f(x) = x^2$   
 $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   
not invertible.

②  $f(x) = x^3$   
 $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   
is bijective  
with inverse



$$f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$$

↑  
there is unique  
cubic root for  
a real number  
(there are 3 in  $\mathbb{C}$ )

Homework Google injective/surjective  
bijective & make more  
examples.

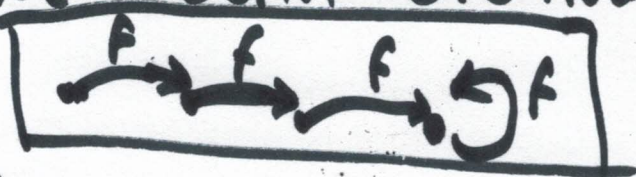


Insert this @ the end of (11)  
discussion on  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$

We found fixed points  $x^2 - 2 = x$

$\hookrightarrow -1, 2$

we found eventually fixed points



$1, \pm\sqrt{3}, 0$

Let us also see if there are periodic points.



Let us check if there are points of period 2.



just need to solve

$$f(f(x)) = x$$

$$f(x^2 - 2) = x$$

$$(x^2 - 2)^2 - 2 = x$$



$$x^4 - 4x^2 - x + 2 = 0 \quad (12)$$

But we know that the fixed points are also a solution to this as they also verify

$$f(f(x)) = x$$

Fixed points are  $-1$  &  $2$

~~If you divide~~

To find the other 2 roots we divide polynomial by

$$(x+1)(x-2)$$

If you do this you get

$$x^2 + x - 1 = 0$$

The roots are

$$\frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

golden ratio.

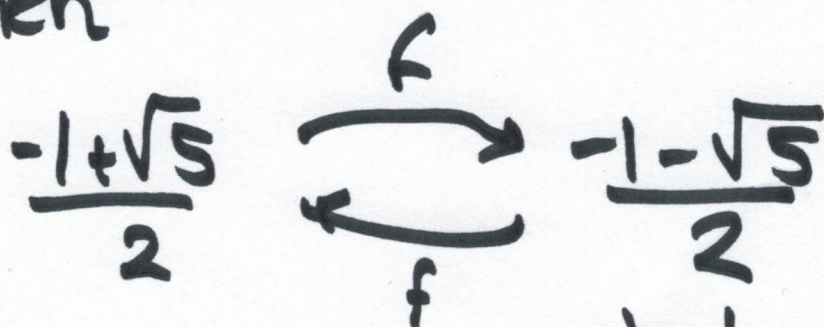
$1.6\dots$

$0.6\dots$



So then

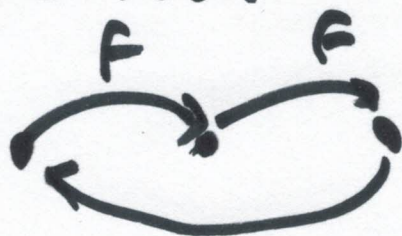
(13)



is a periodic orbit of period 2.

Question  
Find

What to do to find period 3 orbits



Answer

$$f(f(f(x))) = x$$

$$((x^2 - 2)^2 - 2)^2 - 2 = x$$

degree 6 polynomial eqn. 😞

but  $x = -1, 2$  are solns.

⇒ can divide by  $(x+1)(x-2)$

⇒ degree 4 polynomial eqn. 😞



Recall we have fixed pts & eventually fixed pts. (14)

Lemma If  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is injective then an eventually fixed point is in fact a fixed point.

Remark ① In example  $f(x) = x^2 - 1$  we had fixed pts  $2, -1$  & eventually fixed pts  $0, 1, \pm\sqrt{3}$

Lemma does not apply because  $f(x)$  is not injective

② Lemma will apply to  $f(x) = -x^3$  as this is injective.  
Here  $-x^3 = x$

Eventually fixed = fixed =  $\{0\}$



proof: We need to see

that if  $f^k(x_0)$  is fixed then  $x_0$  is fixed.

as  $f^k(x_0)$  is fixed:

$$f(f^k(x_0)) = f^k(x_0)$$

$$f^{k+1}(x_0) = f^k(x_0)$$

~~$f^k(x_0)$~~

$$f^k(f(x_0)) = f^k(x_0)$$

$$f(f^{k-1}(f(x_0))) = f(f^{k-1}(x_0))$$

as  $f$  injective

$$f^{k-1}(f(x_0)) = f^{k-1}(x_0)$$

same again

$$f^{k-2}(f(x_0)) = f^{k-2}(x_0)$$

⋮

$$f(x_0) = x_0$$

$\Rightarrow x_0$  is fixed







# Remark in plain language (16)

if  $f$  is injective we can  
cross it out from both  
sides of an equation



$$\cancel{f}(\dots) = \cancel{f}(\dots)$$

In fact there is a more  
general statement.

We have

- fixed pts 
- eventually fixed pts 

Also

- periodic points 
- eventually periodic pts 



Lemma If  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is <sup>(17)</sup>  
injective then any point  
that is eventually periodic  
is in fact periodic

proof = Homework.