

Risp 18: When does fg equal gf?

Pick two functions, and call them $f(x)$ and $g(x)$.

If fg means "f composed with g",
so that $fg(x) = f(g(x))$,
find $fg(x)$ and $gf(x)$.

Does $fg(x) = gf(x)$ for all values of x ?

Does $fg(x) = gf(x)$ for any values of x ?

Can you think of any f and g so that fg always equals gf ?

Pick f so that the graph of $y = f(x)$ is a straight line.

Can you find a straight line graph $y = g(x)$
so that fg always equals gf ?

Can you interpret this geometrically?

If $f(x) = \frac{ax+1}{x+b}$ and $g(x) = \frac{cx+1}{x+d}$,
when does $fg = gf$?

Investigate other pairs of functions where $fg = gf$.