



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

proof of properties of Hopfian and co-Hopfian groups

Canonical name	ProofOfPropertiesOfHopfianAndCoHopfianGroups
Date of creation	2013-03-22 18:31:17
Last modified on	2013-03-22 18:31:17
Owner	joking (16130)
Last modified by	joking (16130)
Numerical id	6
Author	joking (16130)
Entry type	Proof
Classification	msc 20F99

Proposition. A group G is Hopfian if and only if every surjective homomorphism $G \rightarrow G$ is an automorphism.

Proof. “ \Rightarrow ” Assume that $\psi : G \rightarrow G$ is a surjective homomorphism such that ψ is not an automorphism, which means that $\text{Ker}(\psi)$ is nontrivial. Then (due to the First Isomorphism Theorem) $G/\text{Ker}(\psi)$ is isomorphic to $\text{Im}(\psi) = G$. Contradiction, since G is Hopfian.

“ \Leftarrow ” Assume that G is not Hopfian. Then there exists nontrivial normal subgroup H of G and an isomorphism $\phi : G/H \rightarrow G$. Let $\pi : G \rightarrow G/H$ be the quotient homomorphism. Then obviously $\pi \circ \phi : G \rightarrow G$ is a surjective homomorphism, but $\text{Ker}(\pi \circ \phi) = H$ is nontrivial, therefore $\pi \circ \phi$ is not an automorphism. Contradiction. \square

Proposition. A group G is co-Hopfian if and only if every injective homomorphism $G \rightarrow G$ is an automorphism.

Proof. “ \Rightarrow ” Assume that $\psi : G \rightarrow G$ is an injective homomorphism which is not an automorphism. Therefore $\text{Im}(\psi)$ is a proper subgroup of G , therefore (since $\text{Ker}(\psi) = \{e\}$ and due to the First Isomorphism Theorem) G is isomorphic to its proper subgroup, namely $\text{Im}(\psi)$. Contradiction, since G is co-Hopfian.

“ \Leftarrow ” Assume that G is not co-Hopfian. Then there exists a proper subgroup H of G and an isomorphism $\phi : G \rightarrow H$. Let $i : H \rightarrow G$ be an inclusion homomorphism. Then $i \circ \phi : G \rightarrow G$ is an injective homomorphism which is not onto (because i is not). Contradiction. \square