

**Problem 1.** Compute

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ -5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 3 \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 7 \\ -7 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Use the result to determine the value of  $(3 - 5i)^2(1 + 2i) - 3(6 - 7i)$ .

Since any matrix in the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$$

is isomorphic to the complex number  $a + bi$ , and all of these matrices take this form, if I do arithmetic on these matrices I will get the same result as if I were to perform the arithmetic on the complex numbers. So, doing the computations I get the following.

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ -5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 3 \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 7 \\ -7 & 6 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} -16 & 30 \\ -30 & -16 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 3 \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 7 \\ -7 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 44 & 62 \\ -62 & 44 \end{bmatrix} - 3 \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 7 \\ -7 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 44 & 62 \\ -62 & 44 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 21 \\ -21 & 18 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 26 & 41 \\ -41 & 26 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

So, I determine that the answer is  $26 - 41i$  because it is equivalent to my computation of  $\begin{bmatrix} 26 & 41 \\ -41 & 26 \end{bmatrix}$ .

**Problem 3.** Define a binary operator  $*$  on  $\mathbb{Q}$  by  $a * b = ab + 1$ . Evaluate  $3 * 5$  and  $2 * -\frac{1}{2}$ . Determine whether  $*$  is commutative and associative.

First I evaluate  $3 * 5 = 16$  and  $2 * -\frac{1}{2} = 0$ . Then, to show that  $*$  is not associative I will show that  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$  where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

$$(a * b) * c = (ab + 1) * c = (ab + 1)c + 1 = abc + c + 1$$

$$a * (b * c) = a * (bc + 1) = a(bc + 1) + 1 = abc + a + 1$$

Since  $abc + c + 1 \neq abc + a + 1$ ,  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$ . Therefore,  $*$  is not associative. Now to show that  $*$  is commutative I show that  $a * b = b * a$ .

$$a * b = ab + 1$$

$$b * a = ba + 1$$

Since  $a * b = ab + 1 = ba + 1 = b * a$ ,  $a * b = b * a$  therefore  $*$  is commutative.

**Problem 4.** Define a binary operator  $*$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  as  $a * b = (2^a)^b$ . Evaluate  $3 * 5$  and  $2 * 3$ . Determine whether  $*$  is commutative and associative.

First I compute  $3 * 5 = (2^3)^5 = 2^{15} = 32768$  and  $2 * 3 = (2^2)^3 = 2^6 = 64$ . To show that  $*$  is associative I will show that  $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$  where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

$$(a * b) * c = (2^a)^b * c = (2^{(2^a)^b})^c = 2^{a2^{bc}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a * (b * c) &= a * ((2^b)^c) = (2^a)^{(2^b)^c} = 2^{a(2^{bc})} = 2^{a2^{bc}} \\ &= 2^{a2^{bc}} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $(a * b) * c = 2^{a2^{bc}} = 2^{a2^{bc}} = a * (b * c)$ ,  $*$  is associative.

To show that  $*$  is commutative, I must show that  $a * b = b * a$ .

$$a * b = (2^a)^b = 2^{ab}$$

$$b * a = (2^b)^a = 2^{ba}$$

$$2^{ba} = 2^{ab}$$

Since  $a * b = 2^{ab} = 2^{ba} = b * a$ ,  $*$  is commutative.

**Problem 5.** Define a binary operator  $*$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  as  $a * b = 2^{a^b}$ . Evaluate  $3 * 5$  and  $2 * 3$ . Determine whether  $*$  is commutative and associative.

First I evaluate  $3 * 5 = 2^{3^5} = 2^{243}$  and  $2 * 3 = 2^{2^3} = 2^8$ . Now, to show that  $*$  is not associative I show that  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$  where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

$$(a * b) * c = (2^a)^b * c = ((2^{(2^a)^b})^c = (2^{(2^{ab})})^c = 2^{c(2^{ab})}$$

$$a * (b * c) = a * (2^b)^c = (2^a)^{(2^b)^c} = (2^a)^{2^{bc}} = 2^{a2^{bc}}$$

Since,  $2^{c(2^{ab})} \neq 2^{a2^{bc}}$ ,  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$ . Therefore  $*$  is not associative. To show that  $*$  is commutative I show that  $a * b = b * a$ .

$$a * b = (2^a)^b = 2^{ab}$$

$$b * a = (2^b)^a = 2^{ba}$$

Since  $2^{ab} = 2^{ba}$ , it follows that  $a * b = b * a$ . Therefore  $*$  is commutative.

**Problem 6.** The binary operation  $*$  on  $\mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$  is defined as

$$a * b = \max(a, a - b),$$

where  $\max(x, y)$  denotes the maximum value of the real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ .

(a) Explain why  $a * 0 = a$  for all real numbers  $a$ .

$$a * 0 = a, \forall a \in \mathbb{R} \text{ because } a * 0 = \max(a, a - 0) = \max(a, a) = a$$

(b) Does this mean that 0 is the identity element? Explain.

The identity element is defined as the element which is the left identity and the right identity. Although 0 is the right identity,  $a * 0 = \max(a, a) = a$ , it is not the left identity because  $0 * a = \max(0, 0 - a)$ . Here, if  $a$  is positive, then  $\max(0, 0 - a) = 0 \neq a$ . Therefore 0 is not the identity element.

**Problem 7.** Define a binary operation  $*$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  according to

$$a * b = 3a + 5b$$

(a) Is  $*$  commutative? Explain.

(b) Is  $*$  associative? Explain.

(c) Is  $a^3$  well-defined? Explain.

(d) Does the identity element  $e$  exist? Explain.

- (a)  $*$  is not commutative because  $a * b \neq b * a$ .

$$a * b = 3a + 5b$$

$$b * a = 3b + 5a$$

Since  $3a + 5b \neq 3b + 5a$ ,  $a * b \neq b * a$ . Therefore,  $*$  is not commutative.

- (b)  $*$  is not associative because  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$ .

$$(a * b) * c = (3a + 5b) * c = 3(3a + 5b) + 5c$$

$$a * (b * c) = a * (3b + 5c) = 3a + 5(3b + 5c)$$

Since  $(a * b) * c = 3(3a + 5b) + 5c \neq 3a + 5(3b + 5c) = a * (b * c)$ ,  $*$  is not associative.

- (c)  $a^3$  is not well defined because it is not associative. This means that  $a^3$  is ambiguous.

- (d) The identity element does not exist. I will show there is no such identity element  $e$ . Suppose there was an element  $e \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$a * e = a \text{ and } e * a = a \text{ so } a * e = e * a$$

It also follows that

$$a * e = a = 3a + 5e$$

solving for  $e$  I get

$$\frac{-2a}{5} = e$$

It also follows that

$$e * a = a = 3e + 5a$$

solving for  $e$  I get

$$\frac{-4a}{3} = e$$

Since  $e$  is equal to two separate numbers, this is a contradiction with the assumption that  $e$  is the identity element because it is not unique. Therefore the identity element does not exist.

**Problem 8.** Let  $m \geq 2$  be an integer, and define

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ k & 1 \end{bmatrix} \middle| k \in \mathbb{Z}_m \right\}$$

Show that  $S$  is a group under multiplication, as follows.

- First of all, describe, using proper notation, the meaning of the underlying binary operation  $*$ .
- Show that  $S$  is closed under  $*$ .
- Do we need to prove that  $*$  is associative? Explain.
- What is the identity element? Is it an element in  $S$ ? Be sure to explain why this is an element of  $S$ .
- Given an element  $z \in S$ , does its inverse always exist? If yes, what is it? Is it an element of  $S$ ?
- What is your conclusion about  $S$ ?

(a)  $*$  is normal matrix multiplication but with elements of  $\mathbb{Z}_m$

(b)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ k & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ k_1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ k+k_1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } k, k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_m$$

Since  $k, k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_m$ ,  $k+k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_m$  then it follows that the product  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ k+k_1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in S$

(c) We don't need to prove associativity on  $*$  because we know that matrix multiplication is associative.

(d) The identity element is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is an element of  $S$  because it takes the form of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ k & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $k=0 \in \mathbb{Z}_m$

(e) Yes, there is always an inverse because the determinant is non-zero. Using the fact that the inverse of a  $2 \times 2$  matrix is  $\frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$ , I can show that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ k & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{1-0} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -k & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -k & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(f)  $S$  is a group because the set is closed, and it has associativity, inverse, and identity on its operator.

**Problem 9.** Show that the set  $T = \{nd \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  forms an additive group for any fixed nonzero integer  $d$ . What if  $d=0$ ? Is  $\langle T, + \rangle$  still a group? Explain.

To show that  $T$  is an additive group I need to show that  $T$  is closed under  $+$ , associative, has an identity and has an inverse. First,  $T$  is closed under  $+$  because  $a+b = n_1d_1 + n_2d_2$ ,  $a, b \in T$  and any two integers multiplied or added to each other is another integer which can always be represented by the product  $nd$ . Next I show then  $T$  is associative. To do this I show that  $(a+b)+c = a+(b+c)$ . Let  $n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $d_1, d_2, d_3 \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$

$$(a+b)+c = (n_1d_1 + n_2d_2) + c = (n_1d_1 + n_2d_2) + n_3d_3 = n_1d_1 + n_2d_2 + n_3d_3$$

$$a+(b+c) = a+(n_2d_2 + n_3d_3) = n_1d_1 + (n_2d_2 + n_3d_3) = n_1d_1 + n_2d_2 + n_3d_3$$

So, clearly it is shown that  $(a+b)+c = a+(b+c)$ . Next I state that the identity is  $e = 0 \cdot 1$ . This is the identity because any element,  $a$ , in  $T$  added with this element,  $e$ , in  $T$  yields the same element  $a$ . Finally I show that the additive inverse exists. The additive inverse is  $-a$ ,  $\forall a \in T$  because any element,  $a = nb$ , added with  $-a = -nb$  is equal to the additive identity  $0 \cdot 1$ . All of the properties of  $T$  are shown to satisfy the requirements of a group so  $T$  is a group.

**Problem 10.** Prove that the set

$$R = \{3^k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

forms a group under multiplication.

*Proof.* To prove that  $R$  forms a group under multiplication, I will show that  $R$  is closed under  $+$ ,  $R$  is associative, has an identity element and has an inverse.  $R$  is closed because any integer raised to another integer power is another integer. To prove associativity, I must show that  $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$ . Let  $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then,

$$(a \cdot b) \cdot c = (3^k \cdot 3^{k_1}) \cdot c = (3^{k+k_1}) \cdot c = 3^{k+k_1} \cdot k^{k_2} = 3^{k+k_1+k_2}$$

and

$$a \cdot (b \cdot c) = a \cdot (3^{k_1} \cdot 3^{k_2}) = a \cdot (3^{k_1+k_2}) = 3^k \cdot 3^{k_1+k_2} = 3^{k+k_1+k_2}$$

Therefore  $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$ . Now to I show that the identity of  $R$  is  $e = 3^0$ . That is, for any element,  $a = 3^k$ , in  $R$ ,  $3^k \cdot 3^0 = 3^k \cdot 1 = 3^k$ . Finally I show that the inverse of any element,  $a = 3^k$ , in  $R$  is  $3^{-k}$ . This is because  $3^k \cdot 3^{-k} = 3^{k-k} = 3^0 = e$ . Since all the requirements for a group is satisfied for multiplication,  $R$  must be a group under multiplication.  $\square$

**Problem 11.** Let  $S$  be the set of  $3 \times 3$  real matrices of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Show that  $S$  form a group under matrix multiplication. Is it abelian? What is the inverse of the matrix given above?

To show that  $S$  is a group under matrix multiplication, I must show that  $S$  is closed under matrix multiplication, it is associative, has an identity element, and has an inverse.

$S$  is closed because matrix multiplication is known to be closed.  $S$  is also associative because matrix multiplication is associative. This group can be shown to be abelian. In other words  $AB = BA$ ,  $A, B \in S$  is true, which I show now

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a_1 & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a_1 + a & b_1 + b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad a_1, b_1 \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$BA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a_1 & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a + a_1 & b + b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since  $AB=BA$ , matrix multiplication under  $S$  is commutative and therefore  $S$  is abelian. The identity element of  $S$  can be shown with  $a = b = 0$ .

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is because for any matrix  $A \in S$ ,  $AE = A$  and  $EA = A$ .

Next, the inverse can be shown to exist like so,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = rref \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & b & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & | & 1 & -a & -b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

So,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -a & -b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$S$  satisfies all properties of an abelian group under matrix multiplication. Therefore  $S$  is an abelian group under matrix multiplication.