Graded Assignment #1

1 [2 points each] Which of the following are binary operations on the given sets? If it is not an operation, explain why.

(a). $S = \mathbb{R}^+$ with $a * b = a \ln b$

A binary operation must be uniquely defined and closed.

Proof. Consider $a = 1$ and $b = \frac{1}{e}$. Both a and $b \in \mathbb{R}^+$, but

$$a * b = a \ln b = 1 \ln \frac{1}{e} = 1 \cdot -1 = -1 \notin \mathbb{R}^+.$$

Thus S is not closed under $*$, and $*$ cannot be a binary operation. $\square$

(b). $S = \mathbb{R}$ where $a * b$ is the root of the equation $x^2 - a^2b^2 = 0$

A binary operation must be uniquely defined and closed.

Proof. Consider $a = 2$ and $b = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} a * b = x^2 - a^2b^2 &= 0 \\ x^2 - 2^2 1^2 &= \\ x^2 - 4 &= 0 \\ (x-2)(x+2) &= 0 \\ x &= \pm 2 \end{aligned}$$

Since there are two solutions, S is not uniquely defined under $*$, and $*$ cannot be a binary operation. $\square$

2 [2 points each] Consider the binary operation $*$ defined on $\mathbb{R}^+$ by $a * b = \frac{ab}{a+b+1}$

(a). Is $*$ commutative? Explain.

$*$ is commuatative.

Proof. Consider $a * b$ and $b * a$ for $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^+$:

$$a * b = \frac{ab}{a+b+1} = \frac{ba}{b+a+1} = b * a$$

Since $a * b = b * a$ for all $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^+$, $*$ is commutative. $\square$

(b). Is $*$ associative? Explain.

$*$ is associative.

Proof. Consider $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}^+$:

$$\begin{aligned}(a * b) * c &= \frac{ab}{a+b+1} * c = \frac{\frac{ab}{a+b+1}c}{\frac{ab}{a+b+1} + c + 1} = \frac{abc}{(a+b+1)(\frac{ab}{a+b+1} + c + 1)} \\ &= \frac{abc}{ab + ac + bc + a + b + c + 1}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}a * (b * c) &= a * \frac{bc}{b+c+1} = \frac{a\frac{bc}{b+c+1}}{a + \frac{bc}{b+c+1} + 1} = \frac{abc}{(b+c+1)(a + \frac{bc}{b+c+1} + 1)} \\ &= \frac{abc}{ab + ac + bc + a + b + c + 1}\end{aligned}$$

Thus $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$, and $*$ is associative. □

3 [3 points] Let E denote the set of all even integers. Prove that $\langle \mathbb{Z}, + \rangle \simeq \langle E, + \rangle$.

4 [3 points each] Prove that isomorphism is an equivalence relation among binary structures. To do this, you need to prove the following three properties:

(a). Reflexive: Every binary structure is isomorphic to itself. Hint: let $\langle S, * \rangle$ be a binary structure and define $\phi : S \to S$ by $\phi(x) = x$. Prove that ϕ is an isomorphism.

answer

(b). Symmetric: For binary structures $\langle S_1, * \rangle$ and $\langle S_2, * \rangle$, if $S_1 \simeq S_2$ then $S_2 \simeq S_1$. Hint: assume $\phi : S_1 \to S_2$ is an isomorphism and prove that $\phi^{-1} : S_2 \to S_1$ is also an isomorphism.

answer

(c). Transtiive: For binary structures $\langle S_1, * \rangle$, $\langle S_2, *' \rangle$, and $\langle S_3, *'' \rangle$, if $S_1 \simeq S_2$ and $S_2 \simeq S_3$ then $S_1 \simeq S_3$. Hind: assume $\phi_1 : S_1 \to S_2$ and $\phi_2 : S_2 \to S_3$ are isomorphisms and prove that $\phi_2 \circ \phi_1 : S_1 \to S_3$ is also an isomorphism.

answer