

Let  $A$  be a nonempty set, and let

$$S_A = \{f : A \longrightarrow A : f \text{ is both 1 to 1 and onto}\}$$

Show that  $S_A$  is a group under composition. Is  $S_A$  an Abelian group?

a. **Closure:** Want to show that,  $\forall f, g \in S_A, f \circ g \in S_A$

Let  $f, g \in S_A$ , and let  $a \in A$ .

Since both  $f$  and  $g$  are well defined,  $f(a)$  and  $g(a)$  exist.

Since both  $f$  and  $g$  map to  $A$ ,  $f(a) \in A$  and  $g(a) \in A$ . **(1)**

Since both  $f$  and  $g$  are one to one,  $f(a)$  and  $g(a)$  are unique. **(2)**

By **(1)** and **(2)**,  $f(g(a))$  and  $g(f(a))$  both exist and are unique.

Therefore, both  $f \circ g$  and  $g \circ f$  are one-to-one.

Now, we want to show that they're onto.

Suppose  $\exists a_0 \in A$  such that  $f(g(a)) \neq a_0$  (or that  $g(f(a)) \neq a_0$ ),  $\forall a \in A$ .

However, if  $a_0 \in A$ , then it gets mapped onto by both  $f$  and  $g$ .

So that means there exists some  $a_f$  and  $a_g$  in  $A$  such that  $f(a_g) = a_0$  (or  $g(a_f) = a_0$ ).

And since  $a_f$  and  $a_g$  are in  $A$ , they get mapped to by  $f$  and  $g$ , respectively.

Thus, a contradiction.

b. **Associativity:** Want to show that,  $\forall f, g, h \in S_A, (f \circ g) \circ h = f \circ (g \circ h)$ .

Let  $f, g, h \in S_A$ , and let  $a \in A$ .

Let  $h(a) = a_h$ ,  $g(h(a)) = a_{gh}$ ,  $f(a) = a_f$ ,  $f(g(a)) = a_{fg}$ , which are all defined since  $f, g$ , and  $h$  are all well defined and onto.

Notice that  $((f \circ g) \circ h)(a) = f(g(a_h))$  and  $(f \circ (g \circ h))(a) = f(a_{gh})$ .

Want to show:  $g(a_h) = a_{gh}$ .

Well,  $g(a_h) = g(h(a))$  by definition, and  $a_{gh} = g(h(a))$  by definition.

Hence, result.

c. **Identity:** Want to show that  $\exists I \in S_A$  such that  $I \circ f = f \circ I = f, \forall f \in S_A$ .

d. **Inverse:** Want to show that,  $\forall f \in S_A, \exists f^{-1}$  such that  $f(f^{-1}(a)) = f^{-1}(f(a)) = a, \forall a \in A$ .

$S_A$  is **NOT** an Abelian group (since function composition is not commutative).