

▣ Prove that a set of rational numbers \mathbb{Q} , equipped with two binary operations of addition and multiplication form a field.

Soln: A set F with two binary operation $+$ and \cdot is a field if the following conditions hold.

1. $(F, +)$ is an abelian group.
2. $F \setminus \{0\}, \cdot$ is an abelian group.
3. Distributivity: $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$ for all $x, y, z \in F$.
4. Finally $0 \neq 1$ must hold.

Let's us verify this properties for \mathbb{Q} :

Every rational number can be written as $\frac{a}{b}$ with $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, $b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$.

Case 1: $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ is an abelian group.

• Closure under addition: if $x = \frac{a}{b}$ and $y = \frac{c}{d}$

$$\text{then, } x + y = \frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad + bc}{bd}$$

- Here $ad + bc$ is an integer with $bd \neq 0$. Thus $x + y \in \mathbb{Q}$.

• Associativity: addition of rationals is associative because it follows from associativity of integers addition.

• Additive Identity: 0 satisfies $x + 0 = x$ and $0 + x = x$ for x is rational.

• Additive Inverse: for $x = \frac{a}{b}$, the additive inverse is $-x = -\frac{a}{b}$ which is rational and satisfies $x + (-x) = 0$.

• Commutativity:

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{c}{d} + \frac{a}{b}$$

Hence $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ is an abelian group.

Case 2: $(\mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\})$ is an abelian group:

• Closure under multiplication:

with $x = \frac{a}{b}$, $y = \frac{c}{d}$ $x \cdot y = \frac{ac}{bd}$

Here ac and bd are integers with $bd \neq 0$ so the product is in \mathbb{Q} . if neither x nor y is zero, then $ac \neq 0$ so the product is non zero.

• Associativity: multiplication of rationals is associative.

• Multiplicative Identity: 1 satisfies $x \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot x = x \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{Q}$

• multiplicative Inverse: For a non zero element $x = \frac{a}{b}$ with $a \neq 0$, the inverse is b/a which $\in \mathbb{Q}$ and $\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{b}{a} = 1$.

• Commutativity: Integers and multiplication is commutative

Thus $(\mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\})$ is an abelian group.

Case 3: Distributability: for rationals $x = \frac{a}{b}$, $y = \frac{c}{d}$, $z = \frac{e}{f}$

$$x(y+z) = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{cf+de}{df} = \frac{acf+ade}{bdf} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} + \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{e}{f} \\ = x \cdot y + x \cdot z.$$

~~Thus \mathbb{Q} is~~ Thus \mathbb{Q} is distributive.

Case 4: $0 \neq 1$.

In \mathbb{Q} , 0 is $0/1$ and 1 is $1/1$. These are different rationals, so $0 \neq 1$. This prevents the degenerate one element ring.

All field axioms hold for \mathbb{Q} : $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ is an abelian group, (\mathbb{Q}, \cdot) is an abelian group, multiplication distributes over addition and $0 \neq 1$. Therefore \mathbb{Q} under addition and multiplication is a field.