

# A Book of Abstract Algebra | (2nd Edition)

Chapter 17, Problem 1EA

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## Problem

In each of the following, a set  $A$  with operations of addition and multiplication is given. *Prove that  $A$  satisfies all the axioms to be a commutative ring with unity. Indicate the zero element, the unity, and the negative of an arbitrary  $a$ .*

$A$  is the set  $\mathbb{Z}$  of the integers, with the following “addition”  $\oplus$  and “multiplication”  $\otimes$ :

$$a \oplus b = a + b - 1 \quad a \otimes b = ab - (a + b) + 2$$

## Step-by-step solution

### Step 1 of 5

Consider that the set  $A$  is the set of integers, with the following addition and multiplication:

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus b &= a + b - 1, \\ a \otimes b &= ab - (a + b) + 2. \end{aligned}$$

Objective is to show that  $A$  satisfies all the axioms to be a commutative ring with unity.

Write explicitly the zero element, the unity, and the negative of an arbitrary  $a$ .

First show that  $(A, \oplus)$  is an abelian group.

(1) Since sum of integers is integers, therefore  $a \oplus b$  is closed in  $A$ .

(2) Associative: Let  $a, b, c \in A$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (a \oplus b) \oplus c &= a \oplus (b \oplus c) \\ (a + b - 1) \oplus c &= a \oplus (b + c - 1) \\ (a + b - 1) + c - 1 &= a + (b + c - 1) - 1 \\ a + b + c - 2 &= a + b + c - 2. \end{aligned}$$

Since both the sides are equals, so addition is associative in  $A$ .

(3) Since addition is commutative in integers, so

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus b &= a + b - 1 \\ &= b + a - 1 \\ &= b \oplus a. \end{aligned}$$

(4) Additive identity or zero element:

$$a \oplus e = a$$

$$a + e - 1 = a$$

$$e = 1.$$

Thus, zero element of  $A$  will be 1.

(5) Let for every  $a$  in  $A$ , the negative of  $a$  is  $b$  then

$$a \oplus b = 1$$

$$a + b - 1 = 1$$

$$b = 2 - a.$$

Thus, negative of  $a$  will be  $2 - a$ .

And from here it conclude that,  $A$  is an abelian group.

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### Step 2 of 5

Now, show that  $\otimes$  is associative. Let  $a, b, c \in A$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}(a \otimes b) \otimes c &= (ab - (a + b) + 2) \otimes c \\ &= (ab - (a + b) + 2)c - (ab - (a + b) + 2 + c) + 2 \\ &= abc - ac - bc + 2c - ab + a + b + c \\ &= abc - ac - bc - ab + a + b + c,\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}a \otimes (b \otimes c) &= a \otimes (bc - (b + c) + 2) \\ &= a(bc - (b + c) + 2) - (a + bc - (b + c) + 2) + 2 \\ &= abc - ab - ac + 2a - a - bc + b + c \\ &= abc - ac - bc - ab + a + b + c.\end{aligned}$$

Since both the sides are equals, so multiplication is associative in  $A$ .

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### Step 3 of 5

Next is distributive law:

$$\begin{aligned}a \otimes (b \oplus c) &= a \otimes (b + c - 1) \\ &= a(b + c - 1) - (a + b + c - 1) + 2 \\ &= ab + ac - a - a - b - c + 3 \\ &= ab + ac - 2a - b - c + 3\end{aligned}$$

And

$$\begin{aligned}(a \otimes b) \oplus (a \otimes c) &= (ab - (a + b) + 2) \oplus (ac - (a + c) + 2) \\ &= ab - (a + b) + 2 + ac - (a + c) + 2 - 1 \\ &= ab + ac - 2a - b - c + 3.\end{aligned}$$

Next, show that  $\otimes$  is commutative. Let  $a, b \in A$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} a \otimes b &= ab - (a + b) + 2 \\ &= ba - (b + a) + 2 \\ &= b \otimes a. \end{aligned}$$

Since addition  $\oplus$ , multiplication  $\otimes$  both are commutative, therefore  $(b \oplus c) \otimes a = (b \otimes a) \oplus (c \otimes a)$  automatically holds.

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#### Step 4 of 5

Let the unity of non-identity element  $a$  in  $A$  is  $b$  then,

$$\begin{aligned} a \otimes b &= a \\ ab - (a + b) + 2 &= a \\ ab - b &= 2a - 2 \\ b(a - 1) &= 2(a - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $a$  is non-identity element, so  $b = 2$ . Thus,  $a \otimes 2 = a$ .

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#### Step 5 of 5

Hence,  $(A, \oplus, \otimes)$  form a commutative ring with the zero element 1, the unity is 2, and the negative of an arbitrary  $a$  is  $2 - a$ .

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