

Group rings

Let **Ab** be the category of abelian groups. If G acts on an abelian group A , that is to say, we have a morphism

$$\phi: G \rightarrow \text{Mor}_{\mathbf{Ab}}(A, A)$$

between monoids.

Ab has a forgetful functor to **Set**, an action yields a set function

$$\begin{aligned}\mu: G \times A &\rightarrow A \\ (g, a) &\mapsto ga\end{aligned}$$

which satisfies the following conditions.

1. $1a = a$ for all $a \in A$.
2. $(gh)a = g(h(a))$ for all $g, h \in G$ and all $a \in A$.
3. $g(a + b) = ga + gb$ for all $g \in G$ and all $a, b \in A$.

The action $\mu: G \times A \rightarrow A$ can be extended as follows. If

$$x: \sum_{g \in G} m_g g \tag{1}$$

is a formal finite \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of elements from G , then we define

$$xa := \sum_{g \in G} m_g (ga). \tag{2}$$

The set $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ of all elements of the form (1) is a ring. The action (2) can be interpreted as a ring homomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z}[G] \rightarrow \text{Mor}_{\mathbf{Ab}}(A, A).$$

Question

Let G be a finite non-trivial group. Can you find a zero-divisor of $\mathbb{Z}[G]$?