

# Abstract Algebra A

soupl<sup>ess</sup>

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## Lecture 1: Sets and relations

### Definition 1.1 (Cartesian product)

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. The *Cartesian product* of  $A$  and  $B$ , denoted by  $A \times B$ , is defined as

$$A \times B := \{(a, b) \mid a \in A, b \in B\}.$$

### Definition 1.2 (Relation)

A relation  $R$  between sets  $A$  and  $B$  is a subset of  $A \times B$ . That is,  $R \subseteq A \times B$ .

We let  $aRb \equiv (a, b) \in R$  for each  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  where  $R$  is a relation. It is an implicit assumption that  $A$  and  $B$  have to be nonempty, otherwise, the relation is trivial.

### Theorem 1.1

If  $A$  and  $B$  are finite sets, then there are  $2^{|A| \cdot |B|} - 1$  relations.

**Proof:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be finite sets. Then, the question is equivalent to finding the number of subsets of  $A \times B$ , which is  $|\mathcal{P}(A \times B)| - 1 = 2^{|A \times B|} - 1 = 2^{|A| \cdot |B|} - 1$ . ■

### Definition 1.3 (Function)

A function  $\phi$  mapping  $X$  into  $Y$  is a relation between  $X$  and  $Y$  with the property that each  $x \in X$  appears as the first member of exactly one ordered pair  $(x, y) \in \phi$  for all  $y \in Y$ .

### Definition 1.4 (Domain, codomain, range)

Let  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  be a function mapping  $X$  to  $Y$ . Then,

- $X$  is the domain of  $\phi$ ,
- $Y$  is the codomain of  $\phi$ ,
- $\phi[X]$  is the range of  $\phi$  such that  $\phi[X] = \{\phi(x) \mid x \in X\}$ .

Another notation would be  $X \xrightarrow{\phi} Y$  to denote the type signature, and  $x \mapsto y$  to denote the function definition.

### Definition 1.5 (Injective function)

A function  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  is *injective* or one-to-one (1-1) if, for all elements  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  of  $X$ ,  $\phi(x_1) = \phi(x_2)$  implies  $x_1 = x_2$ .

**Example:** Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x) = 2x + 3$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Is  $f$  injective?

Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb{R}$ , and suppose that  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_1) &= f(x_2) \\ 2x_1 + 3 &= 2x_2 + 3 \\ 2x_1 &= 2x_2 \\ x_1 &= x_2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $f$  is injective.

**Example:** Let  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g(x) = x^2$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Is  $g$  injective?

No, because  $g(-1) = 1$ , and  $g(1) = 1$ , but  $-1 \neq 1$ .

**Definition 1.6** (Surjective function)

A function  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  is surjective or onto if  $\phi[X] = Y$ . Equivalently,  $\forall y \in Y \exists x \in X (\phi(x) = y)$ .

**Example:** Let  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $F(x) = x^2$  for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Is  $F$  surjective?

Since  $F(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $F(x) = -1$  has no solution. Hence,  $F$  is not surjective.

**Example:** Let  $G : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that  $G(x) = x + 1$  for each  $x \in \mathbb{N}$ . We define  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ . Is  $G$  surjective?

No, because  $G(x) = 1$  has no solution in  $\mathbb{N}$ . Hence,  $G$  is not surjective.

**Example:** Let  $\phi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\phi(n)$  is the  $n$ th prime number for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then,  $\phi$  is injective. However, it is not surjective, because  $\phi(x) = 4$  has no solution.

**Example:** Let  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g(x) = x + 1$  for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Prove that  $g$  is surjective.

Let  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  be arbitrary. Then,  $g(x) = y \implies x + y = 1 \implies x = y - 1$ . Since  $g(y - 1) = y - 1 + 1 = y$ , this means  $g$  is surjective.

**Definition 1.7** (Bijective function)

If  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  is both injective and surjective, then  $\phi$  is bijective.

**Definition 1.8** (Inverse)

Let  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  be a bijective function. The inverse of  $\phi$ , denoted by  $\phi^{-1}$ , is the function  $\phi^{-1} : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $\phi^{-1}(y) = x \iff \phi(x) = y$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ .

A representation for finite domain maps would be through a matrix representation like

$$\phi : \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_n \\ \phi(x_1) & \phi(x_2) & \cdots & \phi(x_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

**Definition 1.9** (Function composition)

Let  $\phi : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\theta : B \rightarrow C$  be functions. The composition  $\theta\phi$  is the function  $\theta\phi : A \rightarrow C$  defined by  $\theta\phi(a) = \theta(\phi(a))$  for each  $a \in A$ .

**Definition 1.10** (Function equality)

Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : X \rightarrow Y$ . Then,  $f = g$  if  $\forall x \in X (f(x) = g(x))$ .

**Theorem 1.2**

Given functions  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$ ,  $\beta : B \rightarrow C$ , and  $\gamma : C \rightarrow D$ , then:

1.  $(\gamma\beta)\alpha = \gamma(\beta\alpha)$ . That is, function composition is associative.
2. If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are both injective, then  $\beta\alpha$  is injective.
3. If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are both surjective, then  $\beta\alpha$  is also surjective.

**Proof:** We prove each property listed in **the theorem**:

- Suppose we have the functions  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$ ,  $\beta : B \rightarrow C$ , and  $\gamma : C \rightarrow D$ . Let  $a \in A$  be arbitrary. Then,

$$(\gamma\beta)\alpha(a) = \gamma\beta(\alpha(a))$$

$$(\gamma\beta)\alpha(a) = \gamma(\beta(\alpha(a)))$$

$$\gamma(\beta\alpha)(a) = \gamma(\beta\alpha(a))$$

$$\gamma(\beta\alpha)(a) = \gamma(\beta(\alpha(a)))$$

Hence,  $(\gamma\beta)\alpha(a) = \gamma(\beta\alpha)(a)$ . Therefore,  $(\gamma\beta)\alpha = \gamma(\beta\alpha)$ .

- Let  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\beta : B \rightarrow C$  be injective functions. Then,  $\beta\alpha : A \rightarrow C$ . Suppose that for all  $a_1, a_2 \in A$ ,  $\beta\alpha(a_1) = \beta\alpha(a_2)$ . We get the following derivation:

$$\beta\alpha(a_1) = \beta\alpha(a_2)$$

$$\beta(\alpha(a_1)) = \beta(\alpha(a_2))$$

$$\alpha(a_1) = \alpha(a_2)$$

$$a_1 = a_2$$

Therefore,  $\beta\alpha$  is injective.

- Let  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\beta : B \rightarrow C$  be surjective functions. Let  $c \in C$  be arbitrary. Then, there exists  $b \in B$  such that  $\beta(b) = c$ . Since  $\alpha$  is surjective, there exists  $a \in A$  such that  $\alpha(a) = b$ . Then,  $\beta(b) = \beta(\alpha(a)) = \beta\alpha(a) = c$ . Hence, there exists  $a \in A$  such that  $\beta\alpha(a) = c$ , and so for all  $c \in C$ , there exists  $a \in A$  such that  $\beta\alpha(a) = c$ . Therefore,  $\beta\alpha$  is surjective. ■

## Lecture 2: Sets and relations, continued

### Theorem 2.1

Let  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  be a bijective function. Then there exists a function  $\theta : B \rightarrow A$  such that  $\forall a \in A (\theta\alpha(a) = a)$  and  $\forall b \in B (\alpha\theta(b) = b)$ . The function  $\theta$  is called the inverse of  $\alpha$  and is denoted by  $\theta = \alpha^{-1}$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  is a bijective function. Construct a function  $\theta : B \rightarrow A$  satisfying the properties  $\forall a \in A (\theta\alpha(a) = a)$  and  $\forall b \in B (\alpha\theta(b) = b)$ . We define  $\theta : B \rightarrow A$  by  $\theta(b) = a$  iff  $\alpha(a) = b$ .

Let  $a \in A$  be arbitrary. Consider  $\theta\alpha(a)$ . Suppose  $\alpha(a) = b$ . Then,  $\theta\alpha(a) = \theta(\alpha(a)) = \theta(b) = a$ .

Let  $b \in B$  be arbitrary. Consider  $\alpha\theta(b)$ . Suppose  $\theta(b) = a$ . Then,  $\alpha\theta(b) = \alpha(\theta(b)) = \alpha(a) = b$ . ■

### Definition 2.1 (Identity function)

The identity function is a function having the same domain and codomain such that  $x \mapsto x$  for all  $x$  in the domain.

### Theorem 2.2

Let  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  be a bijective function. Then,  $\alpha^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  is bijective.

**Proof:** We first prove that  $\alpha^{-1}$  is injective. Let  $b_1, b_2$  be arbitrary elements from  $B$ , and suppose that  $\alpha^{-1}(b_1) = \alpha^{-1}(b_2)$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha^{-1}(b_1) &= \alpha^{-1}(b_2) \\ \alpha\alpha^{-1}(b_1) &= \alpha\alpha^{-1}(b_2) \\ b_1 &= b_2\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\alpha^{-1}$  is injective.

We now prove that  $\alpha^{-1}$  is surjective. Let  $a \in A$ . We know that  $\alpha^{-1}\alpha(a) = a$ . Since  $\alpha(a) \in B$ , this means that there is an element  $b \in B$  such that  $\alpha^{-1}(b) = a$ . Hence, for all  $a \in A$ , there exists an element  $b \in B$  such that  $\alpha^{-1}(b) = a$ , and so  $\alpha^{-1}$  is surjective.

Therefore,  $\alpha^{-1}$  is surjective. ■

### Definition 2.2 (Equivalence relation)

$R$  is called an equivalence relation on a set  $S$  if  $R$  is a relation from  $S$  to  $S$  and it satisfies the following:

1.  $\forall a \in S (aRa)$ .
2.  $\forall a, b \in S (aRb \implies bRa)$ .
3.  $\forall a, b, c \in S (aRb \wedge bRc \implies aRc)$ .

**Example:** Define  $R$  on  $\mathbb{R}^*$  such that  $aRb \iff ab > 0$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^*$ . Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}^*$  be arbitrary. Since  $a \in \mathbb{R}^*$ , we have  $a \neq 0$ , and since  $x^2 > 0$  for all nonzero real numbers, we get  $aa > 0$  which is equivalent to  $aRa$ . Thus,  $R$  is reflexive. Now, suppose  $aRb$ . Then,  $ab > 0$ . Multiplication under real numbers is commutative, hence,  $ba > 0$ , and so  $bRa$ . This means  $R$  is symmetric. Lastly, suppose  $aRb$  and  $bRc$ . Then,  $ab > 0$  and  $bc > 0$ . We get  $ab^2c > 0$ , and dividing both sides by  $b^2$ , we get  $ac > 0$ . Hence,  $aRc$ , and so  $R$  is transitive.

Therefore,  $R$  is an equivalence relation.

**Example:** Define  $\sim$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  by  $a \sim b \Leftrightarrow a \equiv b \pmod{4}$ . We verify if  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

We have  $4 \mid 0 \implies 4 \mid a - a$ , and so  $a \equiv a \pmod{4}$ . Hence,  $\sim$  is reflexive. Now, suppose  $a \sim b$ . Then,  $4 \mid a - b \implies 4 \mid (-1)(a - b) \implies 4 \mid b - a$ . Hence,  $b \sim a$ , and  $\sim$  is symmetric. Lastly, suppose  $a \sim b$  and  $b \sim c$ . Then,  $4 \mid a - b$  and  $4 \mid b - c$ . We have  $4 \mid a - b + b - c \implies 4 \mid a - c$ . Hence,  $a \sim c$ , and so  $\sim$  is transitive.

Therefore,  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Definition 2.3 (Equivalence class)**

Let  $\sim$  be an equivalence relation on  $S$ . Let  $a \in S$ , The equivalence containing  $a$ , denoted by  $[a]$ , is the set defined by

$$[a] := \{x \in S \mid a \sim x\}.$$

**Example:** We have shown that  $R$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{R}^*$ . Finding the equivalence class containing 2,

$$\begin{aligned} [2] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid 2Rx\} \\ [2] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid 2x > 0\} \\ [2] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid x > 0\} \\ [2] &= \mathbb{R}^+ \end{aligned}$$

Finding the equivalence class containing  $\sqrt{2}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} [\sqrt{2}] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid \sqrt{2}Rx\} \\ [\sqrt{2}] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid \sqrt{2}x > 0\} \\ [\sqrt{2}] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid x > 0\} \\ [\sqrt{2}] &= \mathbb{R}^+ \end{aligned}$$

Finding the equivalence class containing  $-e$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} [-e] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid -eRx\} \\ [-e] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid -ex > 0\} \\ [-e] &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid x < 0\} \\ [-e] &= \mathbb{R}^- \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** We have shown that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$  where  $a \sim b \Leftrightarrow a \equiv b \pmod{4}$ .

Finding the equivalence class containing  $a$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} [a] &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \sim a\} \\ [a] &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \equiv a \pmod{4}\} \\ [a] &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 4 \mid x - a\} \\ [a] &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 4 \mid x - a\} \\ [a] &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 4k = x - a, k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ [a] &= \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 4k + a = x, k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ [a] &= \{4k + a \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the equivalence class containing 0 is just  $\{4k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . The equivalence class containing 1 is  $\{4k + 1 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ ,  $\{4k + 2 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  for the equivalence class containing 2, and  $\{4k + 3 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  for the equivalence class containing 3. The equivalence class containing 5 is just  $[1]$  since  $5 \in [1]$ . Finally,  $\mathbb{Z} = [0] \cup [1] \cup [2] \cup [3]$ .

## Definition 2.4 (Partition, cells)

A partition  $P$  of a set  $S$  is a collection of nonempty disjoint subsets of  $S$  whose union is  $S$ . Each element of  $P$  is called a *cell*.

**Example:** In  $\mathbb{Z}$ , one such partition is  $\{\mathbb{Z}^-, \mathbb{Z}^+, \{0\}\}$

**Example:** Let  $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . One partition would be  $P_1 = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}\}$ . Another partition would be  $P_2 = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}\}$ . The number of 2-cell partitions of  $S$  would be  $\binom{5}{2}$ .

## Theorem 2.3

The equivalence classes of an equivalence relation on a set  $S$  constitute a partition of  $S$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\sim$  be an equivalence relation on  $S$ . For any  $a \in S$ , we have  $a \in [a]$ . Let  $a, b \in S$  such that  $[a] \neq [b]$ .

There will be two cases:

- The intersection of  $[a]$  and  $[b]$  is nonempty. This means that there exists an element  $x$  in both  $[a]$  and  $[b]$ . Then,  $x \sim a$  and  $x \sim b$ , so  $a \sim b$ . Let  $y \in S$  be arbitrary. Suppose  $y \in [a]$ . Then,  $y \sim a$ . Since  $a \sim b$ , then  $y \sim b$ , so  $y \in [b]$ . Hence,  $[a] \subseteq [b]$ . Similarly, suppose  $y \in [b]$ . Then,  $y \sim b$ . Then,  $a \sim b$  implies  $b \sim a$ , so  $y \sim a$ . Hence,  $y \in [a]$ , and so  $[b] \subseteq [a]$ . Hence,  $[a] = [b]$ . This contradicts our assumption that  $[a] \neq [b]$ . Hence,  $[a] \cap [b] = \emptyset$ .
- The intersection of  $[a]$  and  $[b]$  is empty. Hence,  $[a] \cap [b] = \emptyset$ .

In either case, we get  $[a] \cap [b] = \emptyset$ .

Since each equivalence class is disjoint to another, and every element belongs to an equivalence class containing it, this means that the collection of all equivalence classes of  $S$  is a partition of  $S$ . ■



## Lecture 3: Operations

### Definition 3.1 (Binary operation)

A binary operation  $*$  on a set  $S$  is a function  $*$  :  $S \times S \rightarrow S$ .

We let  $a * b \equiv *((a, b))$  for each  $a, b \in S$ .

### Definition 3.2 (Closure)

If  $*$  is a binary operation on  $S$ , then  $S$  is closed under  $*$ .

### Example :

- $+$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R}$  because the signature of  $+$  is  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- $-$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R}$  since  $- : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- $\div$  is not a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R}$  since  $a \div 0$  is not in  $\mathbb{R}$ . However,  $\div$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .
- Define  $\theta$  on  $\mathbb{R}^+$  by  $a\theta b = a^b$ . Then,  $\theta$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R}^+$ .
- Define  $\phi$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  by  $a\phi b = \sqrt{ab}$ . Then,  $\phi$  is not a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R}$  since if  $ab < 0$ , then  $\sqrt{ab} \notin \mathbb{R}$ .

### Note 3.1 (Ordinary addition, ordinary multiplication)

We call  $+$  :  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as ordinary addition, and  $\cdot$  :  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

### Definition 3.3 (Commutative binary operation)

A binary operation  $*$  on  $S$  is commutative iff  $\forall a, b \in S (a * b = b * a)$ .

### Definition 3.4 (Set of $m \times n$ matrices)

We define  $M_{mn}(\mathbb{R})$  as the set of all  $m \times n$  matrices whose entries belong to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

### Definition 3.5 (General linear matrix set)

We define  $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$  as the set of  $n \times n$  nonsingular matrices with real entries.

### Example :

- In  $M_{mn}(\mathbb{R})$ , matrix addition is a binary operation. It is also commutative.
- In  $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ , matrix multiplication is a binary operation but it is not commutative. Matrix addition is not a binary operation, i.e.,  $I_n + (-1)I_n$  is not in  $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ .

### Definition 3.6 (Associative binary operation)

A binary operation  $*$  on  $S$  is an associative binary operation iff  $\forall a, b, c \in S (a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c)$ .

**Example :** Define the operation  $*$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  by  $a * b = a + b + ab$ . Is  $*$  an associative binary operation?

It is trivial that  $*$  is a binary operation. Checking if it is associative,

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

We see that  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$ . Hence,  $*$  is an associative binary operation.

**Example:** Let  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$ . Let  $*$  be matrix multiplication. Verify if  $*$  is a commutative or associative binary operation on  $S$ .

Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$  where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} c & -d \\ d & c \end{bmatrix}$  where  $c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then,

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ -b & a \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} c & -d \\ d & c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} ac - bd & -ad - bc \\ ad + bc & ac - bd \end{bmatrix}$$

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} ac - bd & -(ad + bc) \\ ad + bc & ac - bd \end{bmatrix}$$

This means  $AB \in S$ . Solving for  $BA$ ,

$$BA = \begin{bmatrix} c & -d & d & c \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ -b & a \end{bmatrix}$$

$$BA = \begin{bmatrix} ac - bd & -bc - ad \\ ad + bc & -bd + ac \end{bmatrix}$$

$$BA = \begin{bmatrix} ac - bd & -(ad + bc) \\ ad + bc & ac - bd \end{bmatrix}$$

This also means that  $BA \in S$ . Note that  $AB = BA$ . Hence, matrix multiplication is commutative. It is also associative, since the general matrix multiplication is associative.

**Example:** Let  $S = \{a, b, c\}$ . Define  $*$  on  $S$  by

$*$	$a$	$b$	$c$
$a$	$b$	$a$	$c$
$b$	$c$	$a$	$b$
$c$	$b$	$b$	$c$

Is  $*$  a binary operation? If it is, is it commutative and/or associative?

The operation  $*$  is a binary operation since every output of  $*$  is in  $S$ . It is not commutative, since  $a * c \neq c * a$ .

Checking if it is associative is left for the reader.

### Theorem 3.1

There are  $n^{n^2}$  binary operations on a set  $S$  such that  $|S| = n$ .

**Proof:** We have  $n$  choices for each cell in the table. There are  $n^2$  cells in the matrix, so there will be  $n^{n^2}$  combinations for the matrix. Hence, there are  $n^{n^2}$  binary operations on a set  $S$  such that  $|S| = n$ . ■

### Definition 3.7 (Group)

A group  $\langle G, * \rangle$  is a set  $G$ , closed under the binary operation  $*$  such that the following axioms hold:

- $\mathcal{G}_1: \forall a, b, c \in G (a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c)$ .
- $\mathcal{G}_2: \exists e \in G \forall a \in G (e * a = a * e = a)$ .
- $\mathcal{G}_3: \forall a \in G \exists a' \in G (a * a' = a' * a = e)$ .

In the third axiom,  $a'$  is called the inverse of  $a$ . We let  $a^{-1} \equiv a'$  for each  $a \in G$ .

**Example :**

- Is  $\langle \mathbb{R}, + \rangle$  a group?

Yes,  $\langle \mathbb{R}, + \rangle$  is a group because:

- $+$  is associative,
  - $+$  has an identity element which is 0,
  - An arbitrary element  $a$  from  $\mathbb{R}$  has an inverse  $-a$  such that  $a + (-a) = 0$ .
- Is  $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$  a group? Yes,  $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$  is a group because:
    - Matrix multiplication is associative,
    - $+$  has an identity element which is  $I_2$ ,
    - A nonsingular  $2 \times 2$  matrix has a nonsingular inverse, which is in  $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$ .