

Abstract Algebra Homework 1

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2. Which of the following multiplication tables defined on the set $G = \{a, b, c, d\}$ form a group? Support your answer in each case.

Theorem 1. Let $a, b, c \in G$. Given a is the Identity element of the set G , then $a \circ (b \circ c) = (a \circ b) \circ c, \forall b, c \in G$.

Proof. Let $d \in G$ with $b \circ c = d$. Then $a \circ (b \circ c) \implies a \circ d = d$.

We also have $(a \circ b) \circ c \implies b \circ c = d$.

$\therefore a \circ (b \circ c) = (a \circ b) \circ c$. ■

(a)

\circ	a	b	c	d
a	a	c	d	a
b	b	b	c	d
c	c	d	a	b
d	d	a	b	c

This Cayley Table does not form a group because it is not Associative:

$a \circ (b \circ c) = d$ and

$(a \circ b) \circ c = a$, so

$a \circ (b \circ c) \neq (a \circ b) \circ c$

(b)

\circ	a	b	c	d
a	a	b	c	d
b	b	a	d	c
c	c	d	a	b
d	d	c	b	a

Closure: Every element in the Cayley Table is in the set G , so it is closed.

Identity: taking any element and multiplying it by a returns that element. So a is the identity element.

Inverse: A diagonal is formed in the table with the identity element a , so every element is its own inverse.

Associative: Because a is the identity element it is associative with every set of two elements by Theorem 1. Because every element $p_{ij} = p_{ji}$ it is commutative as well, so only one

permutation of the elements b, c, d needs to be tested for associativity. We have $(b \circ c) \circ d = a$ and $b \circ (c \circ d) = a$, so $(b \circ c) \circ d = b \circ (c \circ d)$.

Therefore this Cayley Table is a group.

(c)

\circ	a	b	c	d
a	a	b	c	d
b	b	c	d	a
c	c	d	a	b
d	d	a	b	c

This Cayley Table is the same as the Cayley Table for the group $(\mathbb{Z}_4, +)$ where $a = 0$, $b = 1$, $c = 2$, $d = 3$, so This Cayley Table must be a group.

(d)

\circ	a	b	c	d
a	a	b	c	d
b	b	a	c	d
c	c	b	a	d
d	d	d	b	c

The identity element of this Cayley Table is a . There is no inverse for d where $d \circ p = a$ in this Cayley Table. Therefore this Cayley Table is not a Group.

13. Show that $\mathbb{R}^* = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ is a group under the operation of multiplication.

Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}^*$

Closure: Multiplying two real numbers will always return result in a real number.

Associativity: The Field Axioms of real numbers state $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$, so it is Associative as well.

Identity: The multiplicative identity for \mathbb{R}^* is 1 because $a * 1 = a \forall a \in \mathbb{R}^*$.

Inverse: The multiplicative inverse for \mathbb{R}^* is $\frac{1}{a}$ because $a * \frac{1}{a} = \frac{a*1}{a} = \frac{a}{a} = 1 \forall a \in \mathbb{R}^*$.

27. Prove that the inverse of $g_1 g_2 \dots g_n$ is $g_n^{-1} g_{n-1}^{-1} \dots g_1^{-1}$.