

1. Let  $G$  be a set,  $e \in G$  and  $*$  be a binary operator on  $G$ . When is  $(G, *, e)$  called a group? Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  be the bijective function given by  $f(m) = m/2$  if  $m$  is even and  $f(m) = (1 - m)/2$  if  $m$  is odd. For  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $a * b = f^{-1}(f(a) + f(b))$ . Show that  $(\mathbb{N}, *, 1)$  is an abelian group.

Solution:

We say  $(G, *, e)$  is a group, if it satisfies the following properties

(i) Closure: for all  $a, b \in G$ ,  $a * b \in G$ .

(ii) Associativity: for all  $a, b, c \in G$ ,  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$ .

(iii) Identity element: for every element  $a \in G$ ,  $e * a = a * e = a$ .

(iv) Inverse element: for each  $a \in G$ , there exists an element  $b \in G$  such that  $a * b = b * a = e$ .

As  $f$  is a bijection from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$ , for  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f^{-1}(f(a) + f(b)) \in \mathbb{N}$ . So  $a * b \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $a, b, c \in G$ . Then we have  $(f(a) + f(b)) + f(c) = f(a) + (f(b) + f(c))$ , since  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is associative. Now

$$\begin{aligned} a * (b * c) &= a * (f^{-1}(f(b) + f(c))) \\ &= f^{-1}[f(a) + f(f^{-1}(f(b) + f(c)))] \\ &= f^{-1}[f(a) + (f(b) + f(c))] \\ &= f^{-1}[(f(a) + f(b)) + f(c)] \\ &= f^{-1}[f(f^{-1}(f(a) + f(b)))] + f(c) \\ &= f^{-1}[f(a * b) + f(c)] \\ &= (a * b) * c. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $(\mathbb{N}, *)$  is associative.

$1 \in \mathbb{N}$  and we have  $f(1) = 0$ . For any  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a * 1 = f^{-1}[f(a) + f(1)] = f^{-1}(f(a)) = a$  and  $1 * a = f^{-1}[f(1) + f(a)] = f^{-1}(f(a)) = a$ . So 1 is unity. For  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f(a) \in \mathbb{Z}$  so that  $-f(a) \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore  $f^{-1}(-f(a)) \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $b = f^{-1}(-f(a))$ . Since  $f^{-1}(0) = 1$ ,  $a * b = f^{-1}[f(a) + f(b)] = f^{-1}[f(a) + (-f(a))] = f^{-1}(0) = 1$ . So every element has Inverse in  $\mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then we have  $f(a) + f(b) = f(b) + f(a)$ , since  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is abelian. Consider  $a * b = f^{-1}(f(a) + f(b)) = f^{-1}(f(b) + f(a)) = b * a$ . Therefore  $(\mathbb{N}, *)$  is an abelian group.

2. Let  $G$  be a group and  $x \in G$ . Define the order of  $x$ . Let  $x, y \in G$  be of finite order. Show that the order of  $xy$  is finite, if  $G$  is abelian. Show that this fails if  $G$  is not abelian.

Solution:

If  $m$  is the least positive integer such that  $x^m = e$ ,  $e$  is the identity in  $G$ , we say the order of  $x$  is  $m$ .

Let  $x, y \in G$  and the orders of  $x, y$  are  $m, n$  respectively. If  $G$  is abelian,  $(xy)^i = x^i y^i$  for any  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Now consider  $(xy)^{mn} = x^{mn} y^{mn} = (x^m)^n (y^n)^m = e$ . Therefore  $xy$  is of order less than  $mn$ .

If  $G$  is not abelian, the above is not true. For example,  $G = GL_2(\mathbb{R}) = \{A_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R}) : |A| \neq 0\}$  is a non abelian group under matrix multiplication. Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $B = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then  $o(A) = 2$ ,  $o(B) = 2$  and  $AB = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(AB)^n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & n \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Therefore the order of  $AB$  is infinite.

3. Show that the group  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$  is isomorphic to  $S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ . What is image of  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  under the isomorphism you found in the previous part?

Solution:

Define  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \mapsto S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$  by  $\varphi(x + \mathbb{Z}) = e^{2\pi i x}$ ,  $0 \leq x < 1$ . Then  $\varphi$  is an isomorphism.

If  $\varphi$  is from  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  to  $S^1$ . Then  $\varphi(p/q + \mathbb{Z}) = e^{2\pi i p/q}$ ,  $0 \leq p/q < 1$ . Therefore  $\varphi(\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : z^n =$

1,  $n$ th roots of unity, for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

4. Let  $G$  be a group. What is an automorphism of  $G$ ? Show the group of automorphisms of  $(\mathbb{Z}/n, +)$  is isomorphic to  $((\mathbb{Z}/n)^*, \cdot)$ . Compute  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z})$ .

Solution:

An automorphism  $\varphi$  from a group  $(G, *)$  to itself is a bijective function such that  $\varphi(a * b) = \varphi(a) * \varphi(b)$  for all  $a, b \in G$ .

To show  $(\mathbb{Z}/n, +)$  is isomorphic to  $((\mathbb{Z}/n)^*, \cdot)$ , see Theorem 6.4, Contemporary Abstract algebra by Joseph A. Gallian (page 125).

Let  $\varphi$  be an automorphism of  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ . Since 1 is a generator of  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ ,  $\varphi(1)$  is also a generator of  $\varphi(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$ . So that  $\varphi(1)$  is either 1 or  $-1$ . Therefore  $\varphi_1(x) = x$ ,  $\varphi_2(x) = -x$ , for all  $x \in G$ , are the automorphisms of  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .

5. When is a subgroup of a group  $G$  called normal subgroup? Let  $D_{14}$  be the dihedral group of order 14. Show the only nontrivial proper normal subgroup of  $D_{14}$  is the subgroup consisting of rotations. Let  $\phi : D_{14} \rightarrow S_5$  be a group homomorphism. Show that the image  $\text{Im}(\phi)$  has at most two elements.

Solution:

Normal Subgroup: A subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  is said to be a normal subgroup of  $G$  if for every  $g \in G$  and  $h \in H$ ,  $ghg^{-1} \in H$ .

We know that set of all rotations in  $D_{14}$  is a subgroup of  $D_{14}$  and the order of this subgroup is 7. The number of 7-sylow's subgroups of  $D_{14}$  is  $7k + 1$ , where  $7k + 1$  divides 14 and  $k \in \{0\} \cup \mathbb{N}$ . This gives  $k = 0$ , so that there are only one 7-sylow subgroup and it is of order 7. Therefore it is a normal subgroup of  $D_{14}$  and it is the subgroup consisting of rotations.

The number of 2-sylow's subgroups of  $D_{14}$  is  $2k + 1$ , where  $2k + 1$  divides 14 and  $k \in \{0\} \cup \mathbb{N}$ . So number of 2-sylow's subgroups are either 1 or 7. The order of 2-sylow's subgroup is 2. If suppose  $D_{14}$  has unique 2-sylow subgroup, then it is normal subgroup of  $D_{14}$ . Now let  $H$  and  $K$  be the 7-sylow subgroup and 2-sylow subgroup respectively. As  $H$  and  $K$  are of prime order, they are cyclic groups. So  $H = \langle x \rangle$ ,  $K = \langle y \rangle$  for some  $x, y \in G$ . Since  $H, K$  are normal subgroups of  $D_{14}$ , we have  $xy = yx$ . So that  $o(xy) = o(x)o(y) = 7 \cdot 2 = 14$ . This gives  $D_{14}$  is a cyclic group generated by  $xy$ , which is a contradiction. So  $D_{14}$  has 7 2-sylow subgroups. Therefore they are not normal subgroups. Hence  $D_{14}$  has unique proper normal subgroup.

Let  $\phi : D_{14} \rightarrow S_5$  be a group homomorphism. Then  $D_{14}/\ker(\phi) \cong \text{Im}(\phi)$ . As  $\ker(\phi)$  is a normal subgroup of  $D_{14}$ , the possibilities of order of  $\ker(\phi)$  are 1, 2, 7, 14. Since  $D_{14}$  has no normal subgroups of order 2,  $|\ker(\phi)| \neq 2$ . If  $|\ker(\phi)| = 1$ , then  $|D_{14}|/|\ker(\phi)| = |\text{Im}(\phi)| = 14$ . This is not possible, since  $\text{Im}(\phi)$  is a subgroup of  $S_5$  and 14 does not divide 120, order of  $S_5$ . So  $|\ker(\phi)| \neq 1$ . Therefore the order of  $\ker(\phi)$  is either 7 or 14. If  $|\ker(\phi)| = 7$ , then  $|\text{Im}(\phi)| = |D_{14}|/|\ker(\phi)| = 2$ . If  $|\ker(\phi)| = 14$ , then  $|\text{Im}(\phi)| = |D_{14}|/|\ker(\phi)| = 1$ . Hence, in any case  $\text{Im}(\phi)$  has at most two elements.

6. Define the centre of a group  $G$ . Suppose  $G$  has unique element  $x$  of order 2. Then show that  $x$  is in the centre of  $G$ .

Solution:

The centre of a group  $G$ ,  $Z(G) = \{x \in G | xy = yx, \forall y \in G\}$ .

Let  $x \in G$  be only the element of order 2. But, for any  $y \in G$ , we have  $o(y^{-1}xy) = o(x) = 2$ . So that  $y^{-1}xy = x$ . Therefore  $x \in Z(G)$ .