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PART-II (PAPER-III)  
ABSTRACT ALGEBRA  
GROUPS

① Binary Operation:- An operation which combines two elements of a set to produce another element of the same set is called a binary operation.

Generally the symbol " $\circ$ " or " $*$ " is used to represent a binary operation.

A binary operation in a set  $S$  is said to be commutative if  $a \circ b = b \circ a$ ,  $\forall a, b \in S$

Associative if

$$a \circ (b \circ c) = (a \circ b) \circ c, \forall a, b, c \in S$$

and distributive over addition if

$$a \circ (b + c) = a \circ b + a \circ c$$

$$(b + c) \circ a = b \circ a + c \circ a, \forall a, b \in S$$

Illustration:- (i) Addition in a binary operation in case of integers.

(ii) Multiplication is a binary operation in case of complex numbers.

② GROUP:- Definition:- Let  $G$  be a non-empty set and  $\circ$  be a binary operation, Then the set  $G$  together with the operation " $\circ$ " satisfying the following postulate is called a "Group"

If  $a, b, c \in G$  then

(i)  $a \circ b \in G$  (Closure axiom)

(ii) The operation is associative

$$\text{i.e. } a \circ (b \circ c) = (a \circ b) \circ c \quad (\text{Associative axiom})$$

(iii) There exists an element  $e \in G$  such that  $a \circ e = e \circ a = a$

The element  $e$  is called an identity element in  $G$ .

(iv) For every  $a \in G$ , there exists an element  $a' \in G$  such that  $a' \circ a = a \circ a' = e$



③  $a^{-1}$  is called the inverse of  $a$  in  $G$  (Inverse axiom)  
Finite and Infinite Group:-

(A) Finite Group:- A group is called a finite group if the number of elements in the group is finite. The number of elements in a group is called its order.

(B) Infinite Group:- If the group contains an infinite number of elements, then the group is called an infinite group. An infinite group has an infinite order.

(4) Commutative or Abelian Group:- A Group  $(G, \circ)$  is called an abelian if  
$$a \circ b = b \circ a \quad \forall a, b \in G.$$

If the group  $G$  does not satisfy commutative axioms  $a \circ b = b \circ a$ , then  $G$  is called non-abelian group.

~~General Properties of Groups:-~~

#### ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

Example 1

Prove that the set of positive integers is not a group under addition.

Ans.. Let  $P = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

(i) The sum of two positive integers is a positive integer. Hence the first postulate is satisfied.

(ii) The addition of positive integers is associative, for the addition of integers is associative.

(iii) The identity of  $P$  is 0, for  $a + 0 = 0 + a = a$ ,

(iv) The inverse of  $a \in P$  is  $-a$  which is a negative integer and it does not belong to  $P$ .

Thus the fourth postulate is not satisfied, and hence  $P$  is not a group.



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Example ② Prove that the set of even integers forms an Abelian group under addition.

Soln :- Let  $E$  be the set of even integers, that is  $E = \{-4, -2, 0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$

- (i) The sum of two even integers is an even integer.  
Hence if  $a, b \in E$  then  $a+b \in E$
- (ii) The addition of integers is associative and hence the addition of even integers is associative.
- (iii) The Identity of  $E$  is 0. for  $a+0=0+a=a$  for all  $a \in E$
- (iv) The inverse of an even integer is an even integer and hence the inverse of  $a \in E$  is  $-a \in E$ ,  
for  $a+(-a)=(-a+a)=0$

Thus all the group postulates are satisfied and hence the set  $E$  is a group. Moreover  $E$  is an Abelian group since the addition in  $E$  is commutative, because addition is commutative in the set of integers.

Example ③ Prove that the set of rational numbers is an Abelian group under addition.

Ans :- Let  $\mathbb{Q}$  be the set of rational numbers, that is numbers of the form  $\frac{p}{q}$  where  $p$  and  $q$  are integers and  $q \neq 0$ . If the set  $\mathbb{Q}$  is an Abelian group under addition, then it must satisfy all the five conditions

- (i) If  $\frac{a}{b}$  and  $\frac{c}{d} \in \mathbb{Q}$  then  $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d}$  which is  $= \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$  also  $\in \mathbb{Q}$ . Thus Condition (i) is satisfied.
- (ii) If  $\frac{a}{b}, \frac{c}{d}, \frac{e}{f} \in \mathbb{Q}$  then  $(\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d}) + \frac{e}{f} = \frac{ad+bc}{bd} + \frac{e}{f} = \frac{adf+bf+ecd}{bdf}$



(9) Also,  $\frac{a}{b} + \left(\frac{c}{d} + \frac{e}{f}\right) = \frac{a}{b} + \frac{cf+cd}{df} = \frac{adf+be+ecd}{bdf}$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d}\right) + \frac{e}{f} = \frac{a}{b} + \left(\frac{c}{d} + \frac{e}{f}\right)$$

Thus condition (i) is satisfied.

(ii) The identity is zero, for  $\frac{a}{b} + 0 = \frac{a}{b}$

(iv) The inverse of  $\frac{a}{b}$  is  $\left(-\frac{a}{b}\right)$  for  $\frac{a}{b} + \left(-\frac{a}{b}\right) = 0$ .

(v)  $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{c}{d} + \frac{a}{b}$ .

Thus we see that the set  $Q$  satisfies all the five conditions of a group under addition and hence it is an Abelian group w.r. to addition.

Q Show that the set of all real numbers except  $-1$  forms a group under binary operation  $*$  defined by  $a * b = a + b + ab$ .

Ans:- It has to be noted that for any  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a + b + ab \neq -1$  otherwise

$$a + b + ab = -1 \Rightarrow (1+a)b = -(1+a)$$

$$\Rightarrow (1+a)(1+b) = 0 \Rightarrow a = -1 \text{ or } b = -1$$

Since  $a \neq -1$ ,  $\therefore$  we shall have  $b = -1$

which contradicts the definition of set  $S$

Thus for any  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a + b + ab \neq -1$

(i) Obviously  $a * b = a + b + ab$  is a real number different from  $-1$ . Hence  $S$  is closed w.r. to  $*$

(ii) Let  $a, b, c \in S$

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



(5)

Similarly  $(a * b) * c = a + b + c + ab + bc + ca + abc$

$$= a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$$

Hence  $*$  is associative

(ii) The number  $0 \in S$  is the identity element

$$\text{Pr } a + 0 = a + 0 + a \cdot 0 = a + 0 + 0 = a$$

$$0 * a = 0 + a + 0 \cdot a = 0 + a + 0 = a \quad \forall a \in S$$

(iii) In order that an element of  $a \in S$  may be the multiplicative inverse of  $a \in S$ , we must have

$$a * a' = a + a' + a'a = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a + (1 + a) a' = 0 \Rightarrow a' = -\frac{a}{1+a} \quad \text{Since } 1+a \neq -1$$

Thus the element  $-\frac{a}{1+a}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $a \in S$

Hence  $(S, *)$  is a group.

(iv) Moreover the group is Abelian, since

$$a * b = a + b + ab + ba + a'b = b * a \quad \text{for all } b \in S$$

Q Prove that the  $n$ th roots of unity form a multiplication group.

Ans - Let  $S$  be the set of  $n$ th roots of unity, that is

$$S = \{ e^{\frac{2\pi i r}{n}}, r = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (n-1), \text{ where } i = \sqrt{-1} \}$$

Let  $a$  and  $b \in S$  given by  $a = e^{\frac{2\pi i r_1}{n}}$ ,  $r_1 \leq n-1$  and  $b = e^{\frac{2\pi i r_2}{n}}$ ,  $r_2 \leq n-1$ , first of all we have to show that  $ab \in S$ .

$$\text{Now, } ab = e^{\frac{2(\pi r_1 + r_2)}{n}}$$

If  $r_1 + r_2 \leq n-1$  then obviously  $ab \in S$

If  $r_1 + r_2 > n-1$  then let  $r_1 + r_2 = n + k$  where  $k \leq n-2$

In this case,  $ab = e^{\frac{2(n+k)\pi i}{n}} = e^{\frac{2n\pi i}{n}} \cdot e^{\frac{2k\pi i}{n}} = e^{\frac{2k\pi i}{n}} \in S$

Since  $k \leq n-2$

Thus in both the cases  $ab \in S$ .

Hence the first Postulate is satisfied.

The elements of  $S$  are complex numbers and the multiplication of complex numbers is associative.

Hence the Second Postulate is satisfied.

The identity of  $S$  is  $e^{\frac{2 \cdot 0 \cdot \pi i}{n}} = 1$  for  $r=0$

The inverse of any element  $e^{\frac{2r\pi i}{n}}$  is  $= e^{\frac{2(n-r)\pi i}{n}}$

for their product  $= e^{\frac{2r\pi i}{n}} \cdot e^{\frac{2(n-r)\pi i}{n}} = e^{\frac{2n\pi i}{n}} = 1$

The third and fourth Postulates are satisfied.

Hence the set  $S$  forms a group.

Moreover the multiplication of two complex numbers is commutative.

Hence  $S$  is an Abelian group.

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Q Show that the set  $S$  of all positive rational forms a group under the binary operation  $*$  defined by  $a * b = \frac{ab}{2}$

Ans: (i) For any positive rationals  $a, b$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}ab$  is also a positive rational. Hence the operation  $*$  is a binary operation on  $S$ .

(ii) Let  $a, b, c \in S$ .

Then we have  $a * (b * c) = a * \left(\frac{bc}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(a \cdot \frac{bc}{2}\right)$



Similarly  $(a * b) * c = \frac{1}{4} abc$ , Thus  $a * b * c = (a * b) * c$   
 Hence  $*$  is associative on  $S$ .

(iii) The identity in  $S$  is  $2$ , Since  $a * 2 = \frac{1}{2} a \cdot 2 = a$   
 and  $2 * a = \frac{1}{2} 2a = a$

(iv) The inverse of  $a \in S$  is  $\frac{4}{a} \in S$ ,

$$\text{Since } a * \frac{4}{a} = \frac{1}{2} a \cdot \frac{4}{a} = 2 \text{ and } \frac{4}{a} * a = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{4}{a} \cdot a = 2$$

Hence  $(S, *)$  is a group

(v) Moreover the group is Abelian, Since  $a * b = \frac{1}{2} ab$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} ba = b * a$   
 for all  $a, b \in S$

Q:- Prove that the set of real numbers forms an Abelian group under addition

Ans:- Let  $R$  be the set of real numbers

(i) The sum of two real numbers is a real number

Hence if  $a, b \in R$  then  $a + b \in R$

(ii) The addition of real numbers is associative

Hence if  $a, b, c \in R$ , then  $a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$

(iii) The identity of  $R$  is  $0 \in R$ , for  $a + 0 = 0 + a = a \quad \forall a \in R$

(iv) The inverse of  $a \in R$  is  $-a \in R$  for  $a + (-a) = (-a) + a = 0$

Thus all the group Postulates are satisfied and hence  $R$  is a group. Moreover  $R$  is an Abelian group since addition in  $R$  is commutative.