

MTHSC 412 SECTION 1.4 –BINARY OPERATIONS

Kevin James

DEFINITION

A binary operation on a nonempty set A is a mapping f from $A \times A$ to A . That is $f \subseteq A \times A \times A$ and f has the property that for each $(a, b) \in A \times A$, there is precisely one $c \in A$ such that $(a, b, c) \in f$.

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or perhaps

$$a * b = c.$$

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- 2 Subtraction is an operation on \mathbb{Z} which is neither commutative nor associative.
- 3 The binary operation on \mathbb{Z} given by $x * y = 1 + xy$ is commutative but not associative. For example $(1 * 2) * 3 = 3 * 3 = 10$ while $1 * (2 * 3) = 1 * (7) = 8$.

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Since a and b were arbitrary even integers, it follows that the set of even integers is closed under addition. □

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- ① 1 is an identity element for multiplication on the integers.
- ② 0 is an identity element for addition on the integers.
- ③ If $*$ is defined on \mathbb{Z} by $x * y = x + y + 1$ Then -1 is the identity.
- ④ The operation $*$ defined on \mathbb{Z} by $x * y = 1 + xy$ has no identity element.

RIGHT, LEFT AND TWO-SIDED INVERSES

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Suppose that $*$ is a binary operation on a nonempty set A and that e is an identity element with respect to $*$. Suppose that $a \in A$.

- If there exists $b \in A$ such that $a * b = e$ then b is called a *right inverse* of a with respect to $*$.

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- If there exists $b \in A$ such that $b * a = e$ then b is called a *left inverse* of a with respect to $*$.

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- If there exists $b \in A$ such that $b * a = e$ then b is called a *left inverse* of a with respect to $*$.
- If $b \in A$ is both a right and left inverse of a with respect to $*$ then we simply say that b is an *inverse* of a and we say that a is *invertible*.

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FACT

Suppose that $$ is a binary operation on a nonempty set A . If there is an identity element with respect to $*$ then it is unique. In the case that there is an identity element and that $*$ is associative then for each $a \in A$ if there is an inverse of a then it is unique.*