

GROUP THEORY
PROBLEM SET 2
EXAMPLES OF GROUPS

- (1) Determine if each set G with the operation $*$ indicated form a group. If not, point out which of the group axioms fail(s).
- (a) $G = \mathbb{Z}$, $a * b = a - b$.
 - (b) $G = \mathbb{Z}$, $a * b = a + b + ab$.
 - (c) $G = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, $a * b = a + b$. Here \mathbb{N} denotes the set of all natural numbers $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$.
 - (d) $G =$ set of all rational numbers $\neq -1$, $a * b = a + b + ab$.
 - (e) $G =$ set of all rational numbers with denominator divisible by 5 (written so that numerator and denominator are relatively prime), $a * b = a + b$.
 - (f) G , a set having more than one element, $a * b = a$ for all $a, b \in G$.
- (2) If G is an abelian group, prove that $(a * b)^n = a^n * b^n \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$.
Hint: Use the mathematical induction.
- (3) If G is any group and $a, b, c \in G$, show that if $a * b = a * c$, then $b = c$, and if $b * a = c * a$, then $b = c$.
- (4) If G is a group in which $a^2 = e \forall a \in G$, show that G is abelian.
- (5) Show that any group of order 4 or less is abelian.
- (6) Express $(a * b)^{-1}$ in terms of a^{-1} and b^{-1} .
- (7) In any group G , prove that $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a \forall a \in G$.
- (8) Show that a group of order 5 must be abelian.
- (9) If G is any group, show that
- (a) e is unique.
 - (b) Given $a \in G$, $a^{-1} \in G$ is unique.

