### Math 103A W23 HW 2

### 7. Suggested answer:

#### 1.5 Question 7

**Proposition** The set  $S = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1\}$  combined with the operation  $a \circ b = a + b + ab$  makes an abelian group.

*Proof.* In order to prove that this set makes an abelian group, we must prove 5 things: closedness, associativity, identity, inverse, and commutativity.

**Closedness** In order to prove that the operation described is a mapping onto itself, we must prove that no (a, b) where a and b are real map onto -1. This is logically equivalent to saying that, if  $a \circ b = -1$ , and a and b are real and a is not -1, b must be -1(and vice versa, however a and b are symmetric).

We can use algebra to manipulate the expression -1 = a + b + ab

 $\begin{aligned} -1 &= a + b(1 + a) \\ -1 - a &= b(1 + a) \\ \frac{-1 - a}{1 + a} &= b \\ (-1)\frac{1 + a}{1 + a} &= b = -1 \end{aligned}$ 

This proves that no two numbers (a, b) inside the set S result in the output -1, and since the products and sums of real numbers must be real, we can conclude that  $\circ$  is a closed operation under S.

Associativity We can prove associativity by stating that, as a+b+ab+c+c(a+b+ab) = a+(b+c+bc)+a(b+c+bc),  $a\circ(b\circ c)$  is by definition equal to  $(a\circ b)\circ c$ .

**Identity** We can prove that 0 is the identity by proving that, by definition,  $a \circ 0 = a + 0 + 0a = a$ , and similarly  $0 \circ a = 0 + a + 0a = a$ .

Inverse We can prove that every element in  $\mathbb S$  has an inverse by writing out the equation  $a\circ a^{-1}=a+a^{-1}+aa^{-1}=0$ 

 $a^{-1}(1+a) + a = 0$  $a^{-1} = \frac{-a}{1+a}$ 

This proves  $a^{-1}$  exists, and because a = 1 + a has no solutions, we know that all a in S has an  $a^{-1}$  that is also within S.

Lastly, we can prove commutativity by stating that, as b+a+ba=a+b+ab,  $b\circ a$  is by definition equal to  $a\circ b$ .

This proves all the axioms required to conclude that the group given is both a group and an abelian group.

### **Comments**:

The solution clearly states the elements needed to prove the proposition: closedness(closure), associativity, identity, inverse and commutativity.

### Common Mistakes:

Most students correctly calculated the inverse but neglected to show that the inverse resides in the group. For this question, we need to show that  $\frac{-a}{1+a}$  can't equal -1.

# 16. Suggested answer:

16.

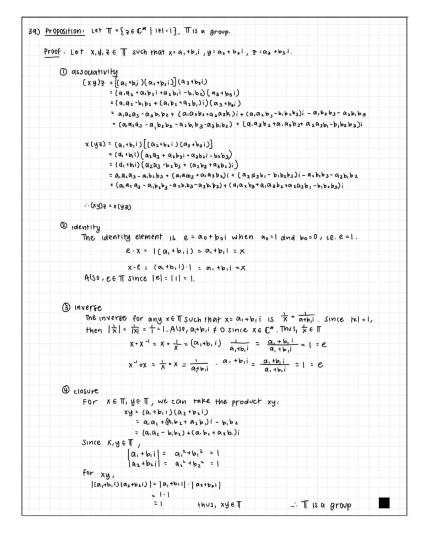
**Proposition.** There exists a group G and elements  $g,h \in G$  such that  $(gh)^n \neq g^n h^n$ .

Proof. Let G be the symmetry group of an equilateral triangle, 
$$D_3$$
. Let  $g = \begin{pmatrix} A & B & C \\ B & C & A \end{pmatrix}$  and  $h = \begin{pmatrix} A & B & C \\ A & C & B \end{pmatrix}$ . Then  $g \circ h = \begin{pmatrix} A & B & C \\ B & A & C \end{pmatrix}$  so  $(g \circ h)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} A & B & C \\ A & B & C \end{pmatrix}$ . We also have  $g^2 = \begin{pmatrix} A & B & C \\ C & B & A \end{pmatrix}$  and  $h^2 = \begin{pmatrix} A & B & C \\ A & B & C \end{pmatrix}$  so  $g^2 \circ h^2 = \begin{pmatrix} A & B & C \\ C & B & A \end{pmatrix}$ . Thus,  $(g \circ h)^2 \neq g^2 \circ h^2$ .  $\Box$ 

## Comments:

A very straightforward answer/example.

### 39. Suggested answer:



### Comments:

Again, the elements of the proof are very clear: associativity, identity, inverse and closure.

### Common Mistakes:

1. Similar to the common mistake in Q7, we need to show that the identity/inverse we found resides within the group. For this question, we need to show that the identity 1 has |1| = 1, and the inverse  $\frac{1}{x}$  has  $|\frac{1}{x}| = 1$ . 2. Notice that you can utilize the properties of modulus of complex num-

ber to simplify your proof for closure and inverse.