

If $*$ is not a binary operation on A , then $a * b \notin A$ for some $a, b \in A$, so that $a * b = -1$, since $a * b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $A = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1\}$. Thus $(1 + a)(1 + b) = 1 + a * b = 0$ and $a = -1$ or $b = -1$. Contradiction.

For $a, b, c \in A$, $((1 + a)(1 + b))(1 + c) = 1 + (a * b) * c$ and $(1 + a)((1 + b)(1 + c)) = 1 + a * (b * c)$. Since $((1 + a)(1 + b))(1 + c) = (1 + a)((1 + b)(1 + c))$ in \mathbb{R} , it follows that $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$.

(b) 0 is the identity of $(A, *)$, since $0 * a = 0 + a + 0a = a = a * 0$ for all $a \in A$.

For $a \in A$, if b is its inverse, then $a * b = 0 \iff (1 + a)(1 + b) = 1 \iff b = \frac{-a}{1+a}$. Note that $b = \frac{-a}{1+a} \neq -1$, since $(1 + a)(1 + b) = 1$. Check $a * \frac{-a}{1+a} = \frac{-a}{1+a} * a = 0$, so $\frac{-a}{1+a}$ is the inverse of a . Thus $(A, *)$ is a group.

Since $a * b = a + b + ab = b * a$ for any $a, b \in G$, it follows that $(A, *)$ is an abelian group.

3. (a) $e * e^{-1} = e = e * e \implies e^{-1} = e$ by Cancellation law.

(b) $x * x^{-1} = e = x * x^{n-1} \implies x^{-1} = x^{n-1}$ by Cancellation law.