

**CBSE Class-12 Mathematics**  
**NCERT solution**  
**Chapter - 1**  
**Relations & Functions - Exercise 1.4**

1. Determine whether or not each of the definition of  $*$  given below gives a binary operation. In the event that  $*$  is not a binary operation, given justification for this.

(i) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ , define  $*$  by  $a * b = a - b$

(ii) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ , define  $*$  by  $a * b = ab$

(iii) On  $\mathbb{R}$ , define  $*$  by  $a * b = ab^2$

(iv) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ , define  $*$  by  $a * b = |a - b|$

(v) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ , define  $*$  by  $a * b = a$

Ans. (i) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+ = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ,  $a * b = a - b$

Let  $a = 1, b = 3 \therefore a * b = 1 - 3 = -2 \notin \mathbb{Z}^+$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is not a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ .

(ii) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+ = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ,  $a * b = ab$

Let  $a = 2, b = 4 \therefore a * b = 2 \times 4 = 8 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ .

(iii) on  $\mathbb{R}$  (set of real numbers)  $a * b = ab^2$

Let  $a = 5.2, b = 3 \therefore a * b = 5.2(3)^2 = 36.8 \in \mathbb{R}$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

(iv) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+ = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ,  $a * b = |a - b|$

Let  $a = 3, b = 7 \therefore a * b = |3 - 7| = |-4| = 4 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ .

(v) On  $\mathbb{Z}^+ = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ,  $a * b = a$

Let  $a = 5, b = 7 \therefore a * b = 5 \times 7 = 35 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ .

**2. For each binary operation  $*$  defined below, determine whether  $*$  is commutative or associative:**

(i) On  $\mathbb{Z}$ , define  $a * b = a - b$

(ii) On  $\mathbb{Q}$ , define  $a * b = ab + 1$

(iii) On  $\mathbb{Q}$ , define  $a * b = \frac{ab}{2}$

(iv) On  $\mathbb{Z}$ , define  $a * b = 2^{ab}$

(v) On  $\mathbb{Z}$ , define  $a * b = a^b$

(vi) On  $\mathbb{R} - \{-1\}$ , define  $a * b = \frac{a}{b+1}$

**Ans. (i)** For commutativity:  $a * b = a - b$  and  $b * a = b - a = -(a - b) \neq a * b$

For associativity:  $a * (b * c) = a * (b - c) = a - (b - c) = (a - b + c)$

Also,  $(a * b) * c = (a - b) * c = (a - b - c)$

$\therefore a * (b * c) \neq (a * b) * c$

Therefore, the operation  $*$  is neither commutative nor associative.

**(ii)** For commutativity:  $a * b = ab + 1$  and  $b * a = ba + 1 = ab + 1 = a * b$

For associativity:  $a * (b * c) = a * (bc + 1) = a(bc + 1) + 1 = abc + a + 1$

Also,  $(a * b) * c = (ab + 1)c + 1 = abc + c + 1$

$$\therefore a * (b * c) \neq (a * b) * c$$

Therefore, the operation  $*$  is commutative but not associative.

**(iii)** For commutativity:  $a * b = \frac{ab}{2}$  and  $b * a = \frac{ba}{2} = \frac{ab}{2} = a * b$

For associativity:  $a * (b * c) = a * \left(\frac{bc}{2}\right) = \frac{abc/2}{2} = \frac{abc}{4}$

Also,  $(a * b) * c = \left(\frac{ab}{2}\right) * c = \frac{abc/2}{2} = \frac{abc}{4}$

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

Therefore, the operation  $*$  is commutative and associative.

**(iv)** For commutativity:  $a * b = 2^{ab}$  and  $b * a = 2^{ba} = 2^{ab} = a * b$

For associativity:  $a * (b * c) = a * 2^b = (2)$

Also,  $(a * b) * c = (2^{ab}) * 2 = 2^{ab} \times c$

$$\therefore a * (b * c) \neq (a * b) * c$$

Therefore, the operation  $*$  is commutative but not associative.

**(v)** For commutativity:  $a * b = a^b$  and  $b * a = b^a$

$$\Rightarrow a * b \neq b * a$$

For associativity:  $a * (b * c) = a * b^c = (a)^b$

Also,  $(a * b) * c = (a^b) * c = a^{bc}$

$\therefore a * (b * c) \neq (a * b) * c$

Therefore, the operation  $*$  is neither commutative nor associative.

(vi) For commutativity:  $a * b = \frac{a}{b+1}$  and  $b * a = \frac{b}{a+1} \Rightarrow a * b \neq b * a$

For associativity:  $a * (b * c) = a * \left( \frac{b}{c+1} \right) = \frac{a}{\frac{b}{c+1} + 1} = \frac{a(c+1)}{b+c+1}$

Also,  $(a * b) * c = \left( \frac{a}{b+1} \right) * c = \frac{\frac{a}{b+1}}{c+1/\frac{a}{b+1}} = \frac{a}{(b+1)(c+1)}$

$\therefore a * (b * c) \neq (a * b) * c$

Therefore, the operation  $*$  is neither commutative nor associative.

**3. Consider the binary operation  $\wedge$  on the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  defined by  $a \wedge b = \min\{a, b\}$ . Write the operation table of the operation  $\wedge$ .**

**Ans.** Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  defined by  $a \wedge b = \min\{a, b\}$  i.e., minimum of  $a$  and  $b$ .

$\wedge$	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	2	2	2	2
3	1	2	3	3	3
4	1	2	3	4	4
5	1	2	3	4	5

**4. Consider a binary operation  $*$  on the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  given by the following multiplication table (table 1.2).**

**(i) Compute  $(2 * 3) * 4$  and  $2 * (3 * 4)$**

(ii) Is  $*$  commutative?

(iii) Compute  $(2 * 3) * (4 * 5)$

(Hint: Use the following table)

**Table 1.2**

*	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	2	1	2	1
3	1	1	3	1	1
4	1	2	1	4	1
5	1	1	1	1	5

**Ans. (i)**  $2 * 3 = 1$  and  $3 * 4 = 1$

Now  $(2 * 3) * 4 = 1 * 4 = 1$  and  $2 * (3 * 4) = 2 * 1 = 1$

**(ii)**  $2 * 3 = 1$  and  $3 * 4 = 1$

$2 * 3 = 3 * 2$  and other element of the given set.

Hence the operation is commutative.

**(iii)**  $(2 * 3) * (4 * 5) = 1 * 1 = 1$

**5. Let  $*$ ' be the binary operation on the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  defined by  $a *' b = \text{H.C.F. of } a \text{ and } b$ . Is the operation  $*$ ' same as the operation  $*$  defined in Exercise 4 above? Justify your answer.**

**Ans.** Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $a *' b = \text{H.C.F. of } a \text{ and } b$ .

$*$ '	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	2	1	2	1
3	1	1	3	1	1
4	1	2	1	4	1

5	1	1	1	1	5
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We observe that the operation  $*$  is the same as the operation  $*$  in Exp.4.

6. Let  $*$  be the binary operation on  $N$  given by  $a * b = \text{L.C.M. of } a \text{ and } b$ . Find:

(i)  $5 * 7, 20 * 16$

(ii) Is  $*$  commutative?

(iii) Is  $*$  associative?

(iv) Find the identity of  $*$  in  $N$ .

(v) Which elements of  $N$  are invertible for the operation  $*$ ?

Ans.  $a * b = \text{L.C.M. of } a \text{ and } b$

(i)  $5 * 7 = \text{L.C.M. of } 5 \text{ and } 7 = 35$

$20 * 16 = \text{L.C.M. of } 20 \text{ and } 16 = 80$

(ii)  $a * b = \text{L.C.M. of } a \text{ and } b = \text{L.C.M. of } b \text{ and } a = b * a$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is commutative.

(iii)  $a * (b * c) = a * (\text{L.C.M. of } b \text{ and } c) = \text{L.C.M. of } (a \text{ and L.C.M. of } b \text{ and } c)$

$= \text{L.C.M. of } a, b \text{ and } c$

Similarly,  $(a * b) * c = \text{L.C.M. of } a, b \text{ and } c$

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

Therefore, the operation is associative.

(iv) Identity of  $*$  in  $N = 1$  because  $a * 1 = \text{L.C.M. of } a \text{ and } 1 = a$

(v) Only the element 1 in  $N$  is invertible for the operation  $*$  because  $1 * \frac{1}{1} = 1$

7. Is  $*$  defined on the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  by  $a * b = \text{L.C.M. of } a \text{ and } b$  a binary operation? Justify your answer.

**Ans.** Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $a * b = \text{L.C.M. of } a \text{ and } b$ .

*	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	2	6	4	10
3	3	x	3	12	15
4	4	4	12	4	20
5	5	x	15	20	5

Here,  $2 * 3 = 6 \notin A$

Therefore, the operation  $*$  is not a binary operation.

8. Let  $*$  be the binary operation on  $N$  defined by  $a * b = \text{H.C.F. of } a \text{ and } b$ . Is  $*$  commutative? Is  $*$  associative? Does there exist identity for this binary operation on  $N$ ?

**Ans.**  $a * b = \text{H.C.F. of } a \text{ and } b$ .

(i)  $a * b = \text{H.C.F. of } a \text{ and } b = \text{H.C.F. of } b \text{ and } a = b * a$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is commutative.

(ii)  $(a * b) * c = (\text{H.C.F. of } a \text{ and } b) * c = \text{H.C.F. of } (\text{H.C.F. of } a \text{ and } b) \text{ and } c$   
 $= \text{H.C.F. of } a, b \text{ and } c = a * (b * c)$

Therefore, the operation is associative.

$1 * a = a * 1 \neq a$

Therefore, there does not exist any identity element.

9. Let  $*$  be a binary operation on the set  $Q$  of rational numbers as follows:

(i)  $a * b = a - b$       (ii)  $a * b = a^2 + b^2$

(iii)  $a * b = a + ab$       (iv)  $a * b = (a - b)^2$

(v)  $a * b = \frac{ab}{4}$       (vi)  $a * b = ab^2$

**Find which of the binary operations are commutative and which are associative.**

**Ans. (i)**  $a * b = a - b = -(b - a) = -b * a$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is not commutative.

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

$$\text{And } a * (b * c) = a * (b - c) = a - (b - c) = a - b + c$$

Here,  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is not associative.

**(ii)**  $a * b = a^2 + b^2 = b^2 + a^2 = b * a$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is commutative.

$$(a * b) * c = (a^2 + b^2) * c = (a^2 + b^2) + c^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$$

$$\text{And } a * (b * c) = a * (b^2 + c^2) = a^2 + (b^2 + c^2)^2$$

Here,  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is not associative.

**(iii)**  $a * b = a + ab = a(1 + b)$  and  $b * a = b + ba = b(1 + a) \neq a * b$

Therefore, operation  $*$  is not commutative.

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

$$\text{And } a * (b * c) = a * (b + bc) = a + a(b + bc)$$

Here,  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is not associative.

**(iv)**  $a * b = (a - b)^2 = (b - a)^2 = b * a$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is commutative.



$$(a * b) * c = (a - b)^2 * c = [(a - b)^2 - c]^2$$

$$\text{And } a * (b * c) = a * (b - c)^2 = [a - (b - c)^2]^2$$

Here,  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is not associative.

$$\text{(v) } a * b = \frac{ab}{4} = \frac{ba}{4} = b * a \therefore \text{operation } * \text{ is commutative.}$$

$$(a * b) * c = \frac{ab}{4} * c = \frac{\frac{ab}{4}c}{4} = \frac{abc}{16} \quad \text{And} \quad a * (b * c) = a * \frac{bc}{4} = \frac{a \frac{bc}{4}}{4} = \frac{abc}{16}$$

Here,  $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is associative.

$$\text{(vi) } a * b = ab^2 \text{ and } b * a = ba^2 \neq a * b \therefore \text{operation } * \text{ is not commutative.}$$

$$(a * b) * c = (ab^2) * c = (ab^2)c^2 = ab^2c^2$$

$$\text{And } a * (b * c) = a * (bc^2) = a(bc^2)^2 = ab^2c^4$$

Here,  $(a * b) * c \neq a * (b * c)$   $\therefore$  operation  $*$  is not associative.

**10. Show that none of the operations given above the identity.**

**Ans.** Let the identity be I.

$$\text{(i) } a * I = a - I \neq a$$

$$\text{(ii) } a * I = a^2 - I^2 \neq a$$

$$\text{(iii) } a * I = a + aI \neq a$$

$$\text{(iv) } a * I = (a - I)^2 \neq a$$

$$(v) a * I = \frac{aI}{4} \neq a$$

$$(vi) a * I = aI^2 \neq a$$

Therefore, none of the operations given above has identity.

**11. Let  $A = N \times N$  and  $*$  be the binary operation on  $A$  defined by  $(a, b) * (c, d) = (a + c, b + d)$**

**Show that  $*$  is commutative and associative. Find the identity element for  $*$  on  $A$ , if any.**

**Ans.**  $A = N \times N$  and  $*$  is a binary operation defined on  $A$ .

$(a, b) * (c, d) = (a + c, b + d) = (c + a, d + b) = (c, d) * (a, b) \quad \therefore$  The operation is commutative

Again,  $[(a, b) * (c, d)] * (e, f) = (a + c, b + d) * (e, f) = (a + c + e, b + d + f)$

And  $(a, b) [(c, d) * (e, f)] = (a, b) * (c + e, d + f) = (a + c + e, b + d + f)$

Here,  $[(a, b) * (c, d)] * (e, f) = (a, b) [(c, d) * (e, f)] \quad \therefore$  The operation is associative.

Let identity function be  $(e, f)$ , then  $(a, b) * (e, f) = (a + e, b + f)$

For identity function  $a = a + e \Rightarrow e = 0$

And for  $b + f = b \Rightarrow f = 0$

As  $0 \notin N$ , therefore, identity-element does not exist.

**12. State whether the following statements are true or false. Justify:**

**(i) For an arbitrary binary operation  $*$  on a set  $N$ ,  $a * a = a \forall a \in N$ .**

**(ii) If  $*$  is a commutative binary operation on  $N$ , then  $a * (b * b) = (c * b) * a$ .**

**Ans. (i)** \* being a binary operation on N, is defined as  $a * a = a \forall a \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Hence operation \* is not defined, therefore, the given statement is false.

**(ii)** \* being a binary operation on N.

$$\therefore c * b = b * c \quad \therefore (c * b) * a = (b * c) * a = a * (b * c)$$

Thus,  $a * (b * b) = (c * b) * a$ , therefore the given statement is true.

**13. Consider a binary operation \* on N defined as  $a * b = a^3 + b^3$ . Choose the correct answer:**

**(A) Is \* both associative and commutative?**

**(B) Is \* commutative but not associative?**

**(C) Is \* associative but not commutative?**

**(D) Is \* neither commutative nor associative?**

**Ans.**  $a * b = a^3 + b^3 = b^3 + a^3 = b * a \quad \therefore$  The operation \* is commutative.

Again,  $(a * b) * c = a * (a^3 + b^3) = a^3 (a^3 + b^3)^3$

And  $(a * b) * c = (a^3 + b^3) * c = (a^3 + b^3)^3 + c^3 \neq a * (b * c)$

$\therefore$  The operation \* is not associative.

Therefore, option (B) is correct.