Math 299

Homework: Group Axioms

Define a group by the set:

$$G = \{ f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ is a bijective function} \},\$$

and the operation * as the composition of functions. That is, the group product of two functions is their composite function:

$$f * g = f \circ g = h$$
, where $h(x) = f(g(x))$.

Show that this G with this operation satisfies the four group axioms. You may use facts about about functions that we have previously covered.

AXIOM 1. Closure: $\forall f, g \in G, f \circ g \in G$. Explain briefly; no need for a detailed proof.

AXIOM 2. Associativity: $\forall f, g, h \in G$, $(f \circ g) \circ h = f \circ (g \circ h)$ Show this by checking: $((f \circ g) \circ h)(x) = (f \circ (g \circ h))(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

AXIOM 3. Identity element: $\exists e \in G, \forall f \in G, f \circ e = e \circ f = f$. What function $e : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ acts as the identity element? Why? Is it an element of G?

AXIOM 4. Inverse element: $\forall f \in G, \exists g \in G, f \circ g = g \circ f = e$. What function corresponds to the inverse element of f? Is it an element of G? Why?

Does the above group satisfy the following additional property? Prove your answer. Commutativity: $\forall f, g \in G, f \circ g = g \circ f$?