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16-12-20

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Ring with unity — If in a ring

$R$  there exists an element denoted by  $1$  such that  $1 \cdot a = a = a \cdot 1$   
 $\forall a \in R$ , then  $R$  is called a ring with unit element. The element  $1 \in R$  is called the unit element of the ring.

Obviously  $1$  is the multiplicative identity of  $R$ . Thus if a ring possesses multiplicative identity then it is a ring with unity.

Commutative Ring — If in a Ring

$R$ , the multiplication composition is also commutative. i.e., if we have  $a \cdot b = b \cdot a \forall a, b \in R$  then  $R$  is called a commutative ring.

Elementary properties of a Ring

Theorem If  $R$  is a ring, then for all  $a, b, c \in R$

(i)  $a \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot a = 0$ .

Proof

we have

$$a0 = a(0+0)$$

$$= a0 + a \cdot 0$$

$$(\because 0+0=0)$$

by left distributive law.

$$\therefore 0+a0 = a0+a0 \quad (\because a0 \in R \text{ \& } 0+a0=a0)$$

Now  $R$  is a group with respect to addition, therefore applying right cancellation law for addition in  $R$  we get  $0 = a0$

$$\text{Similarly we have } 0a = (0+0)a$$

$$= 0a + 0a$$

$$\therefore 0+0a = 0a+0a \quad (\because 0+0a=0a)$$

Applying right cancellation law for addition in  $R$  we get

$$0 = 0a.$$