

HOMOMORPHISMS AND EPIMORPHISMS OF SOME HYPERGROUPS

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Abstract. By a *homomorphism* of a hypergroup (H, \circ) we mean a function $f : H \rightarrow H$ satisfying $f(x \circ y) \subseteq f(x) \circ f(y)$ for all $x, y \in H$. A homomorphism f of a hypergroup (H, \circ) is called an *epimorphism* if $f(H) = H$. For a hypergroup (H, \circ) , denote by $\text{Hom}(H, \circ)$ and $\text{Epi}(H, \circ)$ the set of all homomorphisms and the set of all epimorphisms of (H, \circ) , respectively. For a positive integer n , let (\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n) be the hypergroup where $x \circ_n y = x + y + n\mathbb{Z}$ for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$. In this paper, we characterize the elements of $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ and $\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$. In addition, we show that $|\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = |\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = 2^{n_0}$.

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1. Introduction

A *hyperoperation* on a nonempty set H is a function $\circ : H \times H \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^*(H)$ where $\mathcal{P}(H)$ is the power set of H and $\mathcal{P}^*(H) = \mathcal{P}(H) \setminus \{\emptyset\}$. The value of $(x, y) \in H \times H$ under \circ is denoted by $x \circ y$. The system (H, \circ) is called a *hypergroupoid*. For $A, B \subseteq H$ and $x \in H$, let

$$A \circ B = \bigcup_{\substack{a \in A \\ b \in B}} a \circ b, \quad A \circ x = A \circ \{x\} \text{ and } x \circ A = \{x\} \circ A.$$

The hypergroupoid (H, \circ) is called a *semihypergroup* if

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z \quad \text{for all } x, y, z \in H.$$

A *hypergroup* is a semihypergroup (H, \circ) satisfying

$$H \circ x = x \circ H = H \quad \text{for all } x \in H.$$

Then hypergroups are a generalization of groups.

By a *homomorphism* of a hypergroup (H, \circ) we mean $f : H \rightarrow H$ such that

$$f(x \circ y) \subseteq f(x) \circ f(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in H.$$

If the equality is valid, f is called a *good homomorphism* of (H, \circ) . A [good] homomorphism of a hypergroup (H, \circ) is called an [good] *epimorphism* of (H, \circ) if $f(H) = H$. For a hypergroup (H, \circ) , let $\text{Hom}(H, \circ)$ and $\text{Epi}(H, \circ)$ be the set of all homomorphisms and the set of all epimorphisms of (H, \circ) , respectively.

If G is a group, N is a normal subgroup of G and \circ_N is the hyperoperation on G defined by

$$x \circ_N y = xyN \text{ for all } x, y \in G,$$

then (G, \circ_N) is a hypergroup ([2], p.11). Observe that if $N = \{e\}$, then $(G, \circ_N) = G$ where e is the identity of G . Let \mathbb{Z} be the set of integers and n a positive integer. Then (\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n) is a hypergroup where

$$x \circ_n y = x + y + n\mathbb{Z} \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

In [3], the authors characterized the good homomorphisms and good epimorphisms of the hypergroup (\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n) . Such homomorphisms were also counted in [3]

The cardinality of a set X is denoted by $|X|$.

For $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $g_a : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be defined by $g_a(x) = ax$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then

$$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, +) = \{g_a \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}\} \text{ and } \text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, +) = \{g_1, g_{-1}\}.$$

Hence $|\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, +)| = \aleph_0$ and $|\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, +)| = 2$.

Our objective is to

- (1) characterize the elements of $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ and $\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$,
- (2) show that $|\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = |\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = 2^{\aleph_0}$.

The following fact of infinite cardinal numbers will be used. If p is an infinite cardinal number, then $p^p = 2^p$ ([6], p.161).

We note here that some results of homomorphisms and good homomorphisms of certain hypergroups can be seen in [1]. Homomorphisms of some multiplicative hyperrings were also studied in [4] and [5].

Let \mathbb{Z}^+ stand for the set of positive integers.

2. Homomorphisms of the Hypergroup (\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)

The following lemma is needed to characterize the elements of $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$.

Lemma 2.1. *Let G be a group, N a normal subgroup of G and \circ_N the hyperoperation on G . Then the following statements hold for $f \in \text{Hom}(G, \circ_N)$.*

- (i) $f(N) \subseteq N$.
- (ii) For all $x \in G$, $f(xN) \subseteq f(x)N$.

- (iii) For all $x, y \in G$, $f(xyN) \subseteq f(xy)N = f(x)f(y)N$.
- (iv) For all $x \in G$, $f(x^{-1}N) \subseteq f(x^{-1})N = f(x)^{-1}N$.
- (v) For all $x \in G$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $f(x^kN) \subseteq f(x^k)N = f(x)^kN$.

Proof. First, we recall that for all $x, y \in G$, $xN \cap yN \neq \emptyset$ implies $xN = yN$.

(i) We have that

$$f(N) = f(eeN) = f(e \circ_N e) \subseteq f(e) \circ_N f(e) = f(e)f(e)N.$$

Then $f(e) \in f(N) \subseteq f(e)f(e)N$. Since G is cancellative, we have $e \in f(e)N$ which implies that $N = f(e)N$, so $f(N) \subseteq f(e)f(e)N = N$.

(ii) By (i), $f(e) \in N$. If $x \in G$, then

$$f(xN) = f(xeN) = f(x \circ_N e) \subseteq f(x) \circ_N f(e) = f(x)f(e)N = f(x)N.$$

(iii) Let $x, y \in G$. Then by (ii),

$$f(xyN) \subseteq f(xy)N.$$

We also have that

$$f(xyN) = f(x \circ_N y) \subseteq f(x) \circ_N f(y) = f(x)f(y)N.$$

This implies that $f(xy)N = f(x)f(y)N$. Hence (iii) holds.

(iv) If $x \in G$, then

$$f(N) = f(xx^{-1}N) = f(x \circ_N x^{-1}) \subseteq f(x)f(x^{-1})N.$$

But $f(N) \subseteq N$ by (i), so $f(N) \subseteq N \cap f(x)f(x^{-1})N$. Then $N = f(x)f(x^{-1})N$ which implies that $f(x^{-1})N = f(x)^{-1}N$. By (ii), $f(x^{-1}N) \subseteq f(x^{-1})N$. Hence (iv) holds.

(v) Let $x \in G$. Then by (ii), for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $f(x^kN) \subseteq f(x^k)N$. It remains to show that $f(x^k)N = f(x)^kN$ for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. This is true for $k = 0$ and 1 . Assume that $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $f(x^k)N = f(x)^kN$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(x^{k+1})N &= f(xx^k)N \\ &= f(x)f(x^k)N && \text{from (iii)} \\ &= f(x)(f(x^k)N) \\ &= f(x)(f(x)^kN) && \text{from the assumption} \\ &= f(x)^{k+1}N. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that $f(y^l)N = f(y)^lN$ for all $y \in G$ and $l \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. If $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, then

$$\begin{aligned} f(x^{-k})N &= f((x^{-1})^k)N \\ &= f(x^{-1})^kN \\ &= (f(x^{-1})N) \dots (f(x^{-1})N) && (k \text{ brackets}) \\ &= (f(x)^{-1}N) \dots (f(x)^{-1}N) && \text{from (iv)} \\ &= (f(x)^{-1})^kN \\ &= f(x)^{-k}N. \end{aligned}$$

Hence (v) is proved. ■

Theorem 2.2. For $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, the following statements are equivalent.

- (i) $f \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$.
- (ii) $f(x + n\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq xf(1) + n\mathbb{Z}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- (iii) There exists an integer a such that $f(x + n\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq xa + n\mathbb{Z}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) follows directly from Lemma 2.1(v).

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) is evident.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i). Let $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $f(x) \in f(x) + n\mathbb{Z}$ and $f(y) \in f(y) + n\mathbb{Z}$. Since $f(x) \in f(x + n\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq xa + n\mathbb{Z}$ and $f(y) \in f(y + n\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq ya + n\mathbb{Z}$, it follows that $f(x) + n\mathbb{Z} = xa + n\mathbb{Z}$ and $f(y) + n\mathbb{Z} = ya + n\mathbb{Z}$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x \circ_n y) &= f(x + y + n\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq (x + y)a + n\mathbb{Z} = xa + n\mathbb{Z} + ya + n\mathbb{Z} \\ &= f(x) + n\mathbb{Z} + f(y) + n\mathbb{Z} = f(x) + f(y) + n\mathbb{Z} = f(x) \circ_n f(y). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $f \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$, as desired. ■

Remark 2.3. For $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ and $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, if f and a satisfies (iii) of Theorem 2.2, then $a \equiv f(1) \pmod{n}$ since $f(1) \in f(1 + n\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq a + n\mathbb{Z}$.

Recall that for any nonempty sets X and Y ,

$$|\{f \mid f : X \rightarrow Y\}| = |Y|^{|X|}$$

and in particular, if X is an infinite set, then

$$|\{f \mid f : X \rightarrow X\}| = |X|^{|X|} = 2^{|X|}.$$

Lemma 2.4. Let G be a group and N a normal subgroup of G . For $f \in \text{Hom}(G)$, $f(N) \subseteq N$ if and only if $f \in \text{Hom}(G, \circ_N)$.

Proof. First, assume that $f(N) \subseteq N$. Then for all $x, y \in G$,

$$f(x \circ_N y) = f(xyN) = f(x)f(y)f(N) \subseteq f(x)f(y)N = f(x) \circ_N f(y).$$

Thus $f \in \text{Hom}(G, \circ_N)$.

For the converse, assume that $f \in \text{Hom}(G, \circ_N)$. Since $f \in \text{Hom}(G)$, $f(e) = e$. Then

$$f(N) = f(eeN) = f(e \circ_N e) \subseteq f(e) \circ_N f(e) = f(e)f(e)N = N. \quad \blacksquare$$

Theorem 2.5. $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, +) \subseteq \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$.

Proof. Recall that

$$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, +) = \{g_a \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

where $g_a(x) = ax$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since $g_a(n\mathbb{Z}) = an\mathbb{Z} \subseteq n\mathbb{Z}$ for all $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, by Lemma 2.4, $g_a \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ for all $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and the desired result follows. ■

From Theorem 2.5, we have $|\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| \geq \aleph_0$. In fact, $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ is an uncountable set, as shown by the next theorem.

Lemma 2.6. *If G is a group, then $\text{Hom}(G, \circ_G) = \{f \mid f : G \rightarrow G\}$.*

Proof. If $f : G \rightarrow G$, then for all $x, y \in G$,

$$f(x \circ_G y) = f(xyG) = f(G) \subseteq G = f(x)f(y)G = f(x) \circ_G f(y),$$

so $f \in \text{Hom}(G, \circ_G)$. Hence the result follows. ■

Theorem 2.7. $|\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = 2^{\aleph_0}$.

Proof. By Lemma 2.6, $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_1) = \{f \mid f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\}$. Then

$$|\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_1)| = |\{f \mid f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\}| = \aleph_0^{\aleph_0} = 2^{\aleph_0}.$$

Next, assume that $n > 1$. Let $K = \{g \mid g : n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow n\mathbb{Z}\}$. Then $|K| = \aleph_0^{\aleph_0} = 2^{\aleph_0}$. Recall that for each $x \in \mathbb{Z}$, there are unique $q_x \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $r_x \in \{0, 1, \dots, n - 1\}$ such that $x = nq_x + r_x$. For each $g \in K$, define $\bar{g} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by

$$\bar{g}(x) = r_x + g(nq_x) \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Then for every $g \in K$, $\bar{g}|_{n\mathbb{Z}} = g$ and for $x \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{g}(x + n\mathbb{Z}) &= \bar{g}(r_x + nq_x + n\mathbb{Z}) = \bar{g}(r_x + n\mathbb{Z}) = r_x + g(n\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq r_x + n\mathbb{Z} \\ &= r_x + nq_x + n\mathbb{Z} = x + n\mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 2.2, we have $\bar{g} \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ for all $g \in K$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{\aleph_0} &= |K| = |\{\bar{g} \mid g \in K\}| \\ &\leq |\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| \\ &\leq |\{f \mid f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\}| = \aleph_0^{\aleph_0} = 2^{\aleph_0} \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $|\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = 2^{\aleph_0}$.

Hence the theorem is proved. ■

3. Epimorphisms of the Hypergroup (\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)

First, we provide the following general fact. It is used to characterize the elements of $\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$.

Lemma 3.1. *Let G be a group and N a normal subgroup of G . If the index $[G : N]$ of N in G is finite and $f \in \text{Epi}(G, \circ_N)$, then $f(xN) = f(x)N$ for all $x \in G$.*

Proof. Let $[G : N] = n$. Then there are $x_1, \dots, x_n \in G$ such that $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^n x_i N$. Then $x_1 N, \dots, x_n N$ are mutually disjoint. By Lemma 2.1(ii), $f(x_i N) \subseteq f(x_i)N$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Hence

$$G = f\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n x_i N\right) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n f(x_i N) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n f(x_i)N,$$

which implies that

$$G = \bigcup_{i=1}^n f(x_i N) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n f(x_i)N.$$

Since $[G : N] = n$, it follows that $f(x_1)N, \dots, f(x_n)N$ are mutually disjoint. But $f(x_i N) \subseteq f(x_i)N$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, thus we have

$$f(x_i N) = f(x_i)N \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

Next, let $x \in G$. Then $xN = x_j N$ for some $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. By Lemma 2.1(ii), $f(xN) \subseteq f(x)N$. Hence

$$f(x_j)N = f(x_j N) = f(xN) \subseteq f(x)N$$

which implies that $f(x)N = f(x_j)N$. Consequently,

$$f(xN) = f(x_j N) = f(x_j)N = f(x)N \quad \blacksquare$$

Theorem 3.2. *For $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, $f \in \text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ if and only if*

- (i) $f(x + n\mathbb{Z}) = xf(1) + n\mathbb{Z}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ and
- (ii) $f(1)$ and n are relatively prime.

Proof. First, assume that $f \in \text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$. By Lemma 3.1, $f(x + n\mathbb{Z}) = f(x) + n\mathbb{Z}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}$. But by Lemma 2.1(v), $f(x) + n\mathbb{Z} = xf(1) + n\mathbb{Z}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}$, thus (i) holds. The fact that $f(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$ and (i) yield

$$\mathbb{Z} = f\left(\bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (x + n\mathbb{Z})\right) = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (xf(1) + n\mathbb{Z}).$$

Then $1 \in yf(1) + n\mathbb{Z}$ for some $y \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus $1 = yf(1) + tn$ for some $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ which implies that $f(1)$ and n are relatively prime. Therefore (ii) holds.

For the converse, assume that (i) and (ii) hold. Then from (i) and Theorem 2.2, $f \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$. From (ii), $sf(1) + tn = 1$ for some $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$. But since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad x + n\mathbb{Z} &= x(sf(1) + tn) + n\mathbb{Z} \\
 &= xsf(1) + n\mathbb{Z} \\
 &= f(xs + n\mathbb{Z}) \quad \text{from (i)} \\
 &\subseteq f(\mathbb{Z}),
 \end{aligned}$$

it follows that $f(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$. Hence $f \in \text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$. ■

To show that $|\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = 2^{\aleph_0}$, the following lemma is also needed.

Lemma 3.3. *If X is an infinite set, then $|\{f : X \rightarrow X \mid f(X) = X\}| = 2^{|X|}$.*

Proof. Since X is an infinite set, there are subsets X_1 and X_2 such that $X = X_1 \cup X_2, X_1 \cap X_2 = \emptyset$ and $|X_1| = |X_2| = |X|$. Let b and c be two distinct fixed points in X . Then $|X_1| = |X \setminus \{b\}|$. Let $\varphi : X_1 \rightarrow X \setminus \{b\}$ be a bijection. For each nonempty subset Y of X_2 , define $g_Y : X \rightarrow X$ by a bracket notation as follows:

$$g_Y = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} s & Y & t \\ \varphi(s) & b & c \end{array} \right)_{\substack{s \in X_1 \\ t \in X_2 \setminus Y}}$$

Then $g_Y(X) = X$ for every nonempty subset Y of X_2 . If Y_1 and Y_2 are distinct nonempty subsets of X_2 , then $g_{Y_1}^{-1}(b) = Y_1 \neq Y_2 = g_{Y_2}^{-1}(b)$, so $g_{Y_1} \neq g_{Y_2}$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 2^{|X|} = |X|^{|X|} &= |\{f \mid f : X \rightarrow X\}| \geq |\{f : X \rightarrow X \mid f(X) = X\}| \\
 &\geq |\{g_Y \mid \emptyset \neq Y \subseteq X_2\}| \\
 &= |\{Y \mid \emptyset \neq Y \subseteq X_2\}| \\
 &= 2^{|X_2|} = 2^{|X|}
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $|\{f : X \rightarrow X \mid f(X) = X\}| = 2^{|X|}$, as desired. ■

Theorem 3.4. $|\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| = 2^{\aleph_0}$.

Proof. By Lemma 2.6, we have that $\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_1) = \{f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \mid f(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}\}$. Then by Lemma 3.3, $|\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_1)| = 2^{\aleph_0}$.

Assume that $n > 1$. Let $L = \{g : n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow n\mathbb{Z} \mid g(n\mathbb{Z}) = n\mathbb{Z}\}$. Also, by Lemma 3.3, $|L| = 2^{\aleph_0}$. For each $x \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $q_x, r_x \in \mathbb{Z}$ be such that $r_x \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ and $x = nq_x + r_x$. Note that q_x and r_x are unique. For each $g \in L$, define $\bar{g} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by

$$\bar{g}(x) = r_x + g(nq_x) \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Then for $g \in L, \bar{g}|_{n\mathbb{Z}} = g$ and we can see from the proof of Theorem 2.7 with $g(n\mathbb{Z}) = n\mathbb{Z}$ that

$$\bar{g}(x + n\mathbb{Z}) = x + n\mathbb{Z} \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

It follows from Theorem 2.2 that $\bar{g} \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ for all $g \in L$. We also have that

$$\bar{g}(\mathbb{Z}) = \bar{g}\left(\bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (x + n\mathbb{Z})\right) = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} \bar{g}(x + n\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (x + n\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}.$$

Hence $\bar{g} \in \text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)$ for all $g \in L$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{\aleph_0} = |L| &= |\{\bar{g} \mid g \in L\}| \\ &\leq |\text{Epi}(\mathbb{Z}, \circ_n)| \\ &\leq |\{f \mid f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\}| = \aleph_0^{\aleph_0} = 2^{\aleph_0}, \end{aligned}$$

so the desired result follows. ■

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