

Theorem 1. Let G_1, G_2 be *abelian* groups. Then there exist a unique *abelian* group G , up to isomorphism, with homomorphism $\psi_i : G_i \rightarrow G$ satisfying the following *coproduct rule* : For any abelian group G' with any homomorphisms $\psi'_i : G_i \rightarrow G'$ there exists a unique homomorphism $\psi : G \rightarrow G'$ such that $\psi\psi_i = \psi'_i$ for $i=1,2$. In fact, G is isomorphic to $G_1 \times G_2$.

Proof:

”existence”:

Set $G = G_1 \times G_2$ and $\psi_i = \iota_i : G_i \rightarrow G_1 \times G_2$ be the inclusive map.

Pick any (G', ψ'_1, ψ'_2) as described.

Set $\psi : G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G'$ by $\psi(g_1, g_2) = \psi'_1(g_1) \cdot \psi'_2(g_2)$ for $g_1 \in G_1, g_2 \in G_2$.

Clearly, $\psi\psi_i = \psi'_i$

We need to check that $\psi : G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G'$ is a homomorphism.

$$\begin{aligned} \psi((g_1, g_2) \cdot (h_1, h_2)) &= \psi(g_1 h_1, g_2 h_2) \\ &= \psi'_1(g_1 h_1) \psi'_2(g_2 h_2) \\ &= \psi'_1(g_1) \psi'_1(h_1) \psi'_2(g_2) \psi'_2(h_2) \\ &= \psi'_1(g_1) \psi'_2(g_2) \psi'_1(h_1) \psi'_2(h_2) \\ &= \psi(g_1, g_2) \psi(h_1, h_2) \text{ for any } g_1, h_1 \in G_1 \end{aligned}$$

”uniqueness”:

As before.

Question: What is the group G in previous theorem. If we drop all the abelian assumption.