

EXERCISES 2

6. Table 2.28 can be completed to define an associative binary operation $*$ on $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$. Assume this is possible and compute the missing entries.

2.28 Table

$*$	a	b	c	d
a	a	b	c	d
b	b	a	c	d
c	c	d	c	d
d				

In Exercises 7 through 11, determine whether the binary operation $*$ defined is commutative and whether $*$ is associative.

10. $*$ defined on \mathbb{Z}^+ by letting $a * b = 2^{ab}$

13. How many different commutative binary operations can be defined on a set of 2 elements? on a set of 3 elements? on a set of n elements?

In Exercises 17 through 22, determine whether the definition of $*$ does give a binary operation on the set. In the event that $*$ is not a binary operation, state whether Condition 1, Condition 2, or both of these conditions on page 24 are violated.

22. On \mathbb{Z}^+ , define $*$ by letting $a * b = c$, where c is the largest integer less than the product of a and b .

either prove the statement or give a counterexample.

28. Every commutative binary operation on a set having just two elements is associative.

37. Suppose that $*$ is an associative and commutative binary operation on a set S . Show that $H = \{a \in S \mid a * a = a\}$ is closed under $*$. (The elements of H are **idempotents** of the binary operation $*$.)