



## The structure of $F^2$ as an associative algebra via quadratic forms

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**Abstract.** Let  $F$  be a totally ordered field and  $\omega \in \bar{F}$  (a field extension of  $F$ ) be a solution to the equation  $x^2 = ax + b \in F[x]$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are fixed with  $b \neq 0$ . With the help of this idea, we convert the  $F$ -vector space  $F^2$  into an associative  $F$ -algebra. As far as  $F^2$  can even be converted into a field. In the next step, based on a quadratic form, we define an inner product on  $F^2$  with values in  $F$  and call it the  $F$ -inner product. The defined inner product is mostly studied for its various properties. In particular, when  $F = \mathbb{R}$ , we show that  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with the defined product satisfies well-known inequalities such as the Cauchy-Schwarz and the triangle inequality. Under certain conditions, the reverse of recent inequalities is established. Some interesting properties of quadratic forms on  $F^2$  such as the invariant property are presented. In the sequel, we let  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  denote the subgroup of  $M(2, \mathbb{R})$  that consists of matrices with determinant 1 and set  $G = SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \cap \mathbb{M}_{\mathbb{R}}$ , where  $\mathbb{M}_{\mathbb{R}}$  is the matrix representation of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . We then verify the coset space  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{G}$  with the quotient topology is homeomorphic to  $H$  (the upper-half complex plane) with the usual topology. Finally, we determine some families of functions in  $C(H, \mathbb{C})$ , the ring consisting of complex-valued continuous functions on  $H$ ; related to elements of  $G$  for which the functional equation  $f \circ g = g \circ f$  is satisfied.

### 1. Introduction and preliminary results

A *partially ordered set* (in brief, *poset*) is a set together with a partial order relation  $\leq$  satisfying reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive properties. A *totally ordered set* is a poset in which every pair of elements  $x, y$  are comparable, i.e.,  $x \leq y$  or  $y \leq x$ . Hence, a totally ordered set is often referred to as a chain. The notions  $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}$ , and  $\mathbb{C}$  denote the set of positive integers, rational numbers, real numbers, and complex numbers, respectively. A *totally ordered ring* is a *partially ordered ring* (see [4, 0.19]) that is ordered by its ordering relation. So each element is comparable with 0. A totally ordered field  $F$  is a *lattice ordered ring* that means if  $x, y \in F$ , then  $x \vee y := \sup\{x, y\} \in F$  (note, the supremum is  $x$  or  $y$ ). Also,  $x \wedge y := \inf\{x, y\} = -(x \vee -y) \in F$ . In particular,  $|x| := x \vee -x \in F$ . Whenever  $F$  is referred to as a topological space, its topology is *the interval topology*, i.e., the family of all rays  $\{x : x > c\}$  and  $\{x : x < d\}$  ( $c, d \in F$ ) is a subbase for the open sets in  $F$ . Hence, the family of all the open intervals  $(x, y) := \{z \in F : x < z < y\}$  is a base for the topology. The topological concepts that we need can be found in [2] and [23]. Throughout the paper,  $F$  is a totally ordered field with the interval topology, and note that  $F$  contains a copy of  $\mathbb{Q}$  (Proposition 1.1). For example,  $\mathbb{R}$  and every countable subfield of  $\mathbb{R}$  are totally ordered fields. If for  $0 < y \in F$  there is  $x \in F$  such that  $y = x^n$ , then  $x$  is called *the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of  $y$*  and denoted by  $\sqrt[n]{y}$  or  $y^{\frac{1}{n}}$  (i.e.,  $x = y^{\frac{1}{n}}$ ). Recall that  $\mathbb{Q}$  does not satisfy the

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property of  $2^{\text{th}}$  root for all  $y > 0$ . But in  $\mathbb{R}$ , all nonnegative elements have the same number of square roots. If  $0 < x < y$ , then  $x^n < y^n$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence, a positive element has at most one positive  $n^{\text{th}}$  root (see Proposition 1.1). A mapping  $Q$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$  to  $R$  is called a *quadratic form*, if  $Q(rx) = r^2Q(x)$  for each  $r \in R$  and  $x \in M$ ; and the mapping  $B : M \times M \rightarrow R$  defined by  $B(x, y) = Q(x + y) - Q(x) - Q(y)$  is a bilinear symmetric form (see [8, 1.2]). For a deeper discussion of quadratic forms, we refer the reader to [5], [8], [9], [11], [12], [14] and [15].

The paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, with the help of a solution  $\omega \in \bar{F}$  of the equation  $x^2 = ax + b \in F[x]$ , we convert  $F^2$  into an associative  $F$ -algebra. As far as  $F^2$  can even be converted into a field. In the next step, based on a quadratic form, we define an inner product on  $F^2$  with values in  $F$  and call it the  $F$ -inner product. The defined product is mostly studied for its various properties. In particular, we focus on the case of  $F = \mathbb{R}$  and show that  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with this product satisfies well-known inequalities such as *the Cauchy-Schwarz* and *the triangle inequality*. Under certain conditions, the reverse of recent inequalities is established. In the sequel, we let  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  denote the subgroup of  $M(2, \mathbb{R})$  that consists of matrices with determinant 1. The best general references here are [6] and [10]. Set  $G = SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \cap M_{\mathbb{R}}$ . We then show that the coset space  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{G}$  with the quotient topology is homeomorphic to  $H$  (the upper-half complex plane) with the usual topology. In Section 3, we determine some families of functions in  $C(H, \mathbb{C})$ , the ring consisting of complex-valued continuous functions on  $H$  (actually, from  $H$  to  $H$ ); related to elements of  $G$  for which the functional equation  $f \circ g = g \circ f$  is satisfied.

**Proposition 1.1.** ([4, 0.20]) *Let  $D$  be a totally ordered integral domain. If  $0 < x < y$ , then  $x^n < y^n$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence, a positive element has at most one positive  $n^{\text{th}}$  root.  $D$  contains a natural copy of  $\mathbb{N}$ . If  $D$  is a totally ordered field, then  $D$  contains a copy of  $\mathbb{Q}$ .*

**Proposition 1.2.** *Let  $R$  be a totally ordered commutative ring and  $0 < x, y \in R$ . Then  $x < y$  if and only if  $x^n < y^n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $R$  is commutative, we conclude that  $x^n - y^n = (x - y) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x^{n-i} y^{i-1} \right)$ . Moreover, the last sum is positive. Therefore,  $x - y < 0$  gives  $x^n - y^n < 0$  and vice versa. Actually,  $x - y$  and  $x^n - y^n$  have the same sign. It means both are positive or both are negative, and we are done  $\square$

## 2. The structure of $F^2$ as an associative $F$ -algebra and some of its properties

Let  $F$  be a totally ordered field and  $a, b \in F$  be fixed with  $b \neq 0$ . Suppose  $\omega$  satisfies the equation  $x^2 = ax + b$ , i.e.,  $\omega^2 = a\omega + b$ . If  $x^2 = ax + b$  has a zero in  $F$ , then  $\omega \in F$ . Otherwise, we may assume that  $\omega$  belongs to a field extension (not necessarily totally ordered)  $\bar{F}$  of  $F$ . For example,  $x^2 = -1$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R}$  ( $a = 0, b = -1$ ) has  $\omega = i \in \mathbb{C}$  as a zero. Also,  $\omega = \sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfies  $x^2 = 2$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Q}$  ( $a = 0, b = 2$ ). Now, we define  $\Delta$  as follows and refer to it often because it plays a crucial role in most results.

$$\Delta = a^2 + 4b.$$

Let  $F^2 = \{(x, y) : x, y \in F\}$ . Then  $F^2$  with the pointwise addition and the scalar multiplication is a vector space over  $F$ . Also,  $F^2$  can be identified by the set  $\{x + y\omega : x, y \in F\}$  via the map  $(x, y) \mapsto x + y\omega$ . Our goal in this part is to convert the vector space  $F^2$  into an associative algebra. For  $X = (x, y), Y = (x', y') \in F^2$ , we put  $X = x + y\omega$  and  $Y = x' + y'\omega$ . Therefore,  $X + Y = x + x' + (y + y')\omega$  and  $\lambda X = \lambda x + \lambda y\omega$  ( $\lambda \in F$ ). Also,  $X \times Y$  represents the product of  $X$  and  $Y$  and is defined by the following relation,

$$\begin{aligned} X \times Y &= (x + y\omega)(x' + y'\omega) = xx' + (xy' + yx')\omega + yy'\omega^2 \\ &= xx' + byy' + (xy' + yx' + ay y')\omega \\ &= (xx' + byy', xy' + yx' + ay y'). \end{aligned} \tag{*}$$

Note that  $X \times Y = Y \times X$ . In particular, if  $F = \mathbb{R}, a = 0$  and  $b = -1$ , then the above multiplication agrees with the multiplication in  $\mathbb{C}$ . From now on, the matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix}$  is used instead of the ordered pair  $(x, y)$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $M(2, F)$  be the ring of all 2-square matrices over  $F$  and  $SL(2, F) = \{A \in M(2, F) : \det(A) = 1\}$ . Then  $H := \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & c \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : c \in F \right\}$  and  $K := \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ d & 1 \end{bmatrix} : d \in F \right\}$  are abelian subgroups of  $SL(2, F)$ . Furthermore,  $H \cong F \cong K$  as groups.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $\mathbb{M}_F = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x + ay \end{bmatrix} : x, y \in F \right\}$ . Then  $\mathbb{M}_F$  is an  $F$ -subalgebra of  $M(2, F)$ . Moreover,  $F^2 \cong \mathbb{M}_F$  as algebras.

*Proof.* Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x + ay \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} x' & y' \\ by' & x' + ay' \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{M}_F$ . Then  $-A, A + B \in \mathbb{M}_F$ . Also,

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} xx' + byy' & xy' + yx' + ayy' \\ b(yx' + xy' + ayy') & xx' + byy' + a(xy' + yx' + ayy') \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{M}_F.$$

Moreover,  $1_{\mathbb{M}_F} = 1_{M(2, F)} = I$ , the identity matrix. Therefore,  $\mathbb{M}_F$  is a subring of  $M(2, F)$ . Since  $rA \in \mathbb{M}_F$ , for every  $r \in F$ , we infer that  $\mathbb{M}_F$  is an  $F$ -subalgebra of  $M(2, F)$ . Now, let us define

$$\varphi : F^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_F \text{ by } \varphi(X) = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x + ay \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } X = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then  $\varphi(X + Y) = \varphi(X) + \varphi(Y)$  and  $\varphi(rX) = r\varphi(X)$ , where  $Y = \begin{bmatrix} x' & y' \end{bmatrix}$  and  $r \in F$ . Moreover,

$$\varphi(X \times Y) = \begin{bmatrix} xx' + byy' & xy' + yx' + ayy' \\ b(yx' + xy' + ayy') & xx' + byy' + a(xy' + yx' + ayy') \end{bmatrix} \text{ (see (*)). We also have}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(X)\varphi(Y) &= \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x + ay \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x' & y' \\ by' & x' + ay' \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} xx' + byy' & xy' + yx' + ayy' \\ b(yx' + xy' + ayy') & xx' + byy' + a(xy' + yx' + ayy') \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

So  $\varphi(X \times Y) = \varphi(X)\varphi(Y)$ . Furthermore,  $\varphi$  is one-to-one and onto. This yields  $\varphi$  is an algebra isomorphism.  $\square$

**Remark 2.3.** For  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \in F^2$ , we may let  $\det(X) = \det(\varphi(X)) = x^2 + axy - by^2$ . It easily follows that  $\det(X)$  is a quadratic form (see [8, 1.2]). In the sequel, we will need  $\det(X)$  as in the following form.

$$\det(X) = x^2 + axy - by^2 = \left(x + \frac{ay}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{4}(a^2 + 4b)y^2 \tag{1}$$

$$= \left(x + \frac{ay}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{4}\Delta y^2. \tag{2}$$

The next result is now immediate.

**Corollary 2.4.** For every  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_F$ , we have  $AB = BA$ . So every subring of  $\mathbb{M}_F$  is commutative and every subgroup of  $\mathbb{M}_F$  with multiplication is abelian. In particular,  $\overline{\mathbb{G}} := \{M \in \mathbb{M}_F : \det(M) \neq 0\}$ , and  $\mathbb{G} := \{M \in \mathbb{M}_F : \det(M) = 1\}$  are subgroups of  $\mathbb{M}_F$ . Moreover,  $\mathbb{G}$  is a normal subgroup of  $\overline{\mathbb{G}}$ , and further,  $\mathbb{G} = SL(2, F) \cap \mathbb{M}_F$ .

**Proposition 2.5.** Let  $\mathbb{G}$  and  $\overline{\mathbb{G}}$  be as defined in Corollary 2.4, and let  $F = \mathbb{R}$ . Then the following hold:

- (i) If  $\Delta = a^2 + 4b < 0$ , then  $\frac{\overline{\mathbb{G}}}{\mathbb{G}} \cong \mathbb{R}^+ \cong \frac{\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}}{\{1, -1\}}$ .
- (ii) If  $\Delta > 0$ , then  $\frac{\overline{\mathbb{G}}}{\mathbb{G}} \cong \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* First, we note that  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\mathbb{R}^+ := \{r \in \mathbb{R} : r > 0\}$  are multiplicative abelian groups with the same identity element 1.

(i) Define  $\psi_1 : \overline{\mathbb{G}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  with  $\psi_1(M) = \det(M)$  (note,  $\Delta < 0$  gives  $\det(M) > 0$ ). So  $\psi_1$  is a homomorphism and  $\ker(\psi_1) = \mathbb{G}$ . Now, if  $r > 0$  and  $X = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{r} & 0 \\ by & x+ay \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $\psi_1(X) = r$ , i.e.,  $\psi_1$  is onto. For the second assertion, consider  $\psi : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  with  $\psi(r) = |r|$ . Hence,  $\psi$  is onto and  $\ker(\psi) = \{-1, 1\}$ .

(ii) Define  $\psi_2 : \overline{\mathbb{G}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  like  $\psi_1$ , i.e.,  $\psi_2(M) = \det(M)$ . So  $\psi_2$  is a homomorphism and  $\ker(\psi_2) = \mathbb{G}$ . If  $r > 0$ , then we choose  $X$  as the same matrix in part (i), and if  $r < 0$ , then we take  $x + \frac{1}{2}ay = 0$  and  $\frac{-1}{4}\Delta y^2 = r$ , and let  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x+ay \end{bmatrix}$  for which  $x$  and  $y$  satisfy the latter equation. Then in both cases  $\psi_2(X) = r$ , i.e.,  $\psi_2$  is onto, which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $\Delta < 0$ . Then  $\mathbb{M}_F$  (and hence  $F^2$ ) is a field.

*Proof.* According to Corollary 2.4,  $\mathbb{M}_F$  (and hence  $F^2$ ) is a commutative ring. Let  $0 \neq M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x+ay \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{M}_F$ . We claim that  $\det(M) \neq 0$  (and thus by (2),  $\det(M) > 0$ ). Otherwise,  $\det(M) = 0$  gives

$$0 \leq (x + \frac{ay}{2})^2 = \frac{1}{4}\Delta y^2 \leq 0.$$

Therefore,  $y = 0$  and hence  $x = 0$ , which implies that  $M = 0$ . So every non-zero element of  $\mathbb{M}_F$  is invertible, meaning that  $\mathbb{M}_F$ , as well as  $F^2$ , is a field.  $\square$

**Definition 2.7.** Let  $V$  be an  $F$ -vector space and a map  $\varphi : V \times V \rightarrow F$  provides all the requirements of an inner product. Then, we call the pair  $(V, \varphi)$  or simply  $V$  an  $F$ -inner product space over  $F$  and  $\varphi$  the  $F$ -inner product.

**Example 2.8.** Let  $P : F^2 \times F^2 \rightarrow F$  be defined by

$$P(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2} [2x_1x_2 + a(x_1y_2 + y_1x_2) - 2by_1y_2], \text{ where } X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } Y = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 & y_2 \end{bmatrix}. \tag{3}$$

If  $\Delta < 0$ , then it is easy to verify that  $P$  is an  $F$ -inner product, and thus  $F^2$  is an  $F$ -inner product space.

**Theorem 2.9.** Let  $P$  be as defined in Example 2.8. Then the following hold:

- (i)  $P(X + Y, X + Y) + P(X - Y, X - Y) = 2P(X, X) + 2P(Y, Y)$ .
- (ii)  $P(X + Y, X + Y) - P(X - Y, X - Y) = 4P(X, Y)$ .
- (iii) If  $\Delta = a^2 + 4b \leq 0$ , then  $P(X, X) = \det(X) \geq 0$ .
- (iv) If  $\Delta \leq 0$ , then  $P^2(X, Y) \leq P(X, X)P(Y, Y)$ .
- (v) If  $\Delta \geq 0$ , then  $P^2(X, Y) \geq P(X, X)P(Y, Y)$ .
- (vi)  $P^2(X, Y) = P(X, X)P(Y, Y)$  if and only if  $\Delta = 0$  or  $X = \lambda Y$  for some  $\lambda \in F$ .

*Proof.* (i)-(ii). Since the mapping  $P$  is bilinear, it follows that

$$P(X + Y, X + Y) = P(X, X) + P(Y, Y) + 2P(X, Y), \text{ and} \tag{4}$$

$$P(X - Y, X - Y) = P(X, X) + P(Y, Y) - 2P(X, Y). \tag{5}$$

The results are now obtained by adding and subtracting recent expressions respectively.

(iii) It follows from (2).

(iv) First, we let

$$\mathcal{A} = P(X, X)P(Y, Y) - P^2(X, Y), \tag{6}$$

and then calculate as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} &= (x_1^2 + ax_1y_1 - by_1^2)(x_2^2 + ax_2y_2 - by_2^2) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4}[2x_1x_2 + a(x_1y_2 + y_1x_2) - 2by_1y_2]^2 \\ &= x_1^2x_2^2 + ax_1^2x_2y_2 - bx_1^2y_2^2 + ax_1y_1x_2^2 \\ &\quad + a^2x_1y_1x_2y_2 - abx_1y_1y_2^2 - by_1^2x_2^2 - aby_1^2x_2y_2 \\ &\quad + b^2y_1^2y_2^2 - \frac{1}{4}[4x_1^2x_2^2 + a^2x_1^2y_2^2 + a^2y_1^2x_2^2 \\ &\quad + 4b^2y_1^2y_2^2 + 4ax_1^2x_2y_2 + 4ax_1y_1x_2^2 - 4bx_1y_1x_2y_2 \\ &\quad + 2a^2x_1y_1x_2y_2 - 4abx_1y_1y_2^2 - 4aby_1^2x_2y_2] \\ &= -(x_1y_2 - y_1x_2)^2\Delta. \end{aligned}$$

We summarize the above calculations as follows:

$$\mathcal{A} = -(x_1y_2 - y_1x_2)^2\Delta. \tag{7}$$

Now, if  $\Delta \leq 0$ , then  $\mathcal{A} \geq 0$  and we reach the claim.

(v) Reusing (7), we obtain  $\mathcal{A} \leq 0$  when  $\Delta \geq 0$ .

(vi) ( $\Rightarrow$ ) If  $\Delta \neq 0$ , then  $x_1y_2 = y_1x_2$ . We can assume that  $Y \neq 0$ . If  $y_2 \neq 0$ , then we take  $\lambda = y_1y_2^{-1}$ , and if  $x_2 \neq 0$ , then we take  $\lambda = x_1x_2^{-1}$ . So  $X = \lambda Y$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) It is obvious.  $\square$

**Remark 2.10.** If  $F$  is  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ , then every inner product induces a norm, called its canonical norm, that is defined in the natural way, by  $\|x\| = \sqrt{\langle x \ x \rangle}$ . With this norm, every inner product space becomes a normed vector space. So, every general property of normed vector spaces applies to inner product spaces. But in general, it is not true that every  $F$ -inner product induces a norm because the square root  $\sqrt{\langle x \ x \rangle}$  does not necessarily belong to  $F$  (for example  $F = \mathbb{Q}$ ).

For  $X, Y \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , we put  $P(X, Y) = X \cdot Y$  and  $P(X, X) = X \cdot X = \|X\|^2$ .

**Theorem 2.11.** Let  $X = [x_1 \ y_1], Y = [x_2 \ y_2] \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Then the following hold:

- (i)  $\|X + Y\|^2 + \|X - Y\|^2 = 2(X \cdot X) + 2(Y \cdot Y)$ .
- (ii)  $\|X + Y\|^2 - \|X - Y\|^2 = 4(X \cdot Y)$ .
- (iii) If  $\Delta \leq 0$ , then  $\|X\|^2 = X \cdot X = \det(X) \geq 0$ .
- (iv) If  $\Delta \leq 0$ , then  $|X \cdot Y| \leq \|X\| \|Y\|$ . (the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality)
- (v) If  $\Delta \geq 0$ , then  $|X \cdot Y| \geq \|X\| \|Y\|$ . (the reverse of Cauchy-Schwarz inequality)
- (vi) If  $\Delta \leq 0$ , then  $\|X + Y\| \leq \|X\| + \|Y\|$ . (the triangle inequality)
- (vii) If  $\Delta \geq 0$  and  $X \cdot Y \geq 0$ , then  $\|X + Y\| \geq \|X\| + \|Y\|$ . (the reverse of triangle inequality)
- (viii)  $\|X\| \|Y\| = |X \cdot Y|$  if and only if  $\Delta = 0$  or  $X = \lambda Y$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .

*Proof.* (i)-(v) and (viii) are obtained by (i)-(v) and (vi) in Theorem 2.9, respectively.

(vi) From (4) we get

$$\|X + Y\|^2 = \|X\|^2 + \|Y\|^2 + 2(X \cdot Y), \text{ and } \|X - Y\|^2 = \|X\|^2 + \|Y\|^2 - 2(X \cdot Y). \tag{8}$$

Also, Theorem 2.9(iv) implies that

$$(X \cdot Y)^2 \leq \|X\|^2 \|Y\|^2, \text{ and therefore } |X \cdot Y| = \sqrt{(X \cdot Y)^2} \leq \sqrt{\|X\|^2 \|Y\|^2} = \|X\| \|Y\|.$$

Hence, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|X + Y\|^2 &= \|X\|^2 + \|Y\|^2 + 2(X \cdot Y) \leq \|X\|^2 + \|Y\|^2 + 2|X \cdot Y| \\ &\leq \|X\|^2 + \|Y\|^2 + 2\|X\| \|Y\| \\ &= (\|X\| + \|Y\|)^2. \end{aligned}$$

So  $\|X + Y\| \leq \|X\| + \|Y\|$ , meaning that triangle inequality is established.

(vii) Using the assumptions,  $\Delta \geq 0$ ,  $X \cdot Y \geq 0$ , and Theorem 2.9(v), we get  $X \cdot Y = |X \cdot Y| \geq \|X\| \|Y\|$ . The result is now obtained by replacing  $\leq$  with  $\geq$  in the above calculation, and we are done.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.12.** *If  $\Delta < 0$ , then the mapping  $\|\cdot\| : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  which  $X \mapsto \|X\| = \sqrt{\det(X)}$  turns  $\mathbb{R}^2$  into a normed space.*

**Remark 2.13.** Similar to real-valued functions on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , the gradient vector (gradient) of  $f : F^2 \rightarrow F$  at a point  $X_0$  is the vector  $\nabla f(X_0) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(X_0), \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(X_0)\right)$ , for brevity,  $\nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)$ , obtained by evaluating the partial

derivatives of  $f$  at  $X_0$ . If the second derivations of  $f$  exist at  $X_0$ , then we let  $J := d^2f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}$  and call

it the *Jacobean matrix* of  $f$ .

**Proposition 2.14.** *If  $X, Y \in F^2$  and  $Y^t$  denote the transpose of  $Y$ , then  $2P(X, Y) = XJY^t$  (see (3)). In particular,  $2\|X\|^2 = XJX^t$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f : F^2 \rightarrow F$  be defined by  $f(X) = \det(X) = x^2 + axy - by^2$ , where  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix}$  (Remark 2.3). Then  $J = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & a \\ a & -2b \end{bmatrix}$ . Let  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 \end{bmatrix}, Y = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 & y_2 \end{bmatrix} \in F^2$ . Then, with a simple calculation, we get

$$XJY^t = 2x_1x_2 + a(x_1y_2 + y_1x_2) - 2by_1y_2 = 2P(X, Y),$$

which gives the result. Also,  $XJX^t = 2P(X, X) = 2\|X\|^2$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.15.** *Let  $M \in M(2, F)$  and  $\Delta = a^2 + 4b \neq 0$ .*

(i) *If  $M \in \mathbb{M}_F$  (Theorem 2.2), then  $MJM^t = \det(M)J$ .*

(ii)  *$M \in \mathbb{G} = \{M \in \mathbb{M}_F : \det(M) = 1\}$  (Corollary 2.4) if and only if  $\det(M) > 0$  and  $MJM^t = J$ .*

*Proof.* (i) It is straightforward, so we eliminate the proof.

(ii)  $(\Rightarrow)$  It follows from (i).

$(\Leftarrow)$  Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & t \end{bmatrix} \in M(2, F)$  such that  $MJM^t = J$ . Then the assumption,  $\det(J) = -\Delta \neq 0$ , gives  $\det^2(M) = 1$  and thus  $\det(M) = 1$ . Moreover, from equation  $MJ = J(M^t)^{-1}$  we obtain  $z = by$  and  $t = x + ay$ , i.e.,  $M \in \mathbb{G}$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.16.** Let  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 \end{bmatrix}, Y = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 & y_2 \end{bmatrix} \in F^2$ . Then we define

$$P_1(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2}(2x_1x_2 + a(x_1y_2 + x_2y_1) - 2by_1y_2),$$

$$P_2(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2}\left(2x_1x_2 + \frac{a}{b}(x_1y_2 + x_2y_1) - \frac{2}{b}y_1y_2\right),$$

$$Q_1(X) = P_1(X, X) = x_1^2 + ax_1y_1 - by_1^2, \text{ and}$$

$$Q_2(X) = P_2(X, X) = x_1^2 + \frac{a}{b}x_1y_1 - \frac{y_1^2}{b}.$$

Notice that the mappings  $P_1, P_2 : F^4 \rightarrow F$ , and,  $Q_1, Q_2 : F^2 \rightarrow F$  are continuous. Moreover, if  $\Delta < 0$ , then  $P_1$  ( $= P$ , in Example 2.8) and  $P_2$  are  $F$ -inner products. Also,  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are quadratic forms. Furthermore, the gradient vectors of  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla Q_1(X) &= (2x_1 + ay_1, ax_1 - 2by_1), \text{ and } \nabla Q_1(Y) = (2x_2 + ay_2, ax_2 - 2by_2). \\ \nabla Q_2(X) &= (2x_1 + \frac{a}{b}y_1, \frac{a}{b}x_1 - \frac{2}{b}y_1), \text{ and } \nabla Q_2(Y) = (2x_2 + \frac{a}{b}y_2, \frac{a}{b}x_2 - \frac{2}{b}y_2). \end{aligned}$$

The relations between  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  as well as  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are presented in the next two theorems.

A quadratic form  $Q$  on  $F^2$  is called  $G$ -invariant, if for all  $A \in G$  and  $X \in F^2$ ; we have  $Q(AX^t) = Q(X)$ , where  $G$  is a family of invertible elements of  $M(2, F)$  and  $X^t$  is the transpose of  $X$ .

**Theorem 2.17.** Let  $G_1 = \left\{ N = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ \frac{y}{b} & x + \frac{a}{b}y \end{bmatrix} : \det(N) \neq 0 \right\}$  and  $X = [x_1 \ y_1], Y = [x_2 \ y_2] \in F^2$ . Then the following hold:

- (i)  $P_1(\nabla Q_2(X), \nabla Q_2(Y)) = \frac{1}{2b} \Delta P_2(X, Y)$ .
- (ii)  $Q_1(\nabla Q_2(X)) = \frac{1}{2b} \Delta Q_2(X)$ .
- (iii)  $Q_1(NX^t) = \det(N)Q_1(X)$ . In particular, if  $\det(N) = 1$ , then  $Q_1$  is  $G_1$ -invariant.

*Proof.* (i)

$$\begin{aligned} P_1(\nabla Q_2(X), \nabla Q_2(Y)) &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ 2(2x_1 + \frac{a}{b}y_1)(2x_2 + \frac{a}{b}y_2) + a(2x_1 + \frac{a}{b}y_1) \right. \\ &\quad \times (\frac{a}{b}x_2 - \frac{2}{b}y_2) + (2x_2 + \frac{a}{b}y_2)(\frac{a}{b}x_1 - \frac{2}{b}y_1) \\ &\quad \left. - 2b(\frac{a}{b}x_1 - \frac{2}{b}y_1)(\frac{a}{b}x_2 - \frac{2}{b}y_2) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ (8 + \frac{2a^2}{b} + \frac{2a^2}{b} - \frac{2a^2}{b})x_1x_2 + (\frac{4a}{b} - \frac{4a}{b} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{a^3}{b^2} + \frac{4a}{b})x_1y_2 + (\frac{4a}{b} + \frac{a^3}{b^2} + \frac{-4a}{b} + \frac{4a}{b})x_2y_1 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\frac{2a^2}{b^2} + \frac{-2a^2}{b^2} + \frac{-2a^2}{b^2} + \frac{-8}{b})y_1y_2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\frac{a^2 + 4b}{b}) \left[ 2x_1x_2 + (x_1y_2 + y_1x_2)\frac{a}{b} - \frac{2}{b}y_1y_2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\frac{a^2 + 4b}{b}) P_2(X, Y) \\ &= \frac{1}{2b} \Delta P_2(X, Y). \end{aligned}$$

(ii) By (i), we have

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1(\nabla Q_2(X)) &= P_1(\nabla Q_2(X), \nabla Q_2(X)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2b} \Delta P_2(X, X) = \frac{1}{2b} \Delta Q_2(X). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) If  $X^t$  is the transpose of  $X$ , then  $NX^t = \begin{bmatrix} xx_1 + yy_1 \\ \frac{y}{b}x_1 + xy_1 + \frac{a}{b}yy_1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $Q_1(X^t) = Q_1(X) = x_1^2 + ax_1y_1 - by_1^2$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1(NX^t) &= (xx_1 + yy_1)^2 + a(xx_1 + yy_1)\left(\frac{y}{b}x_1 + xy_1 + \frac{a}{b}yy_1\right) \\ &\quad - b\left(\frac{y}{b}x_1 + xy_1 + \frac{a}{b}yy_1\right)^2 \\ &= (xx_1)^2 + (yy_1)^2 + 2xx_1yy_1 + a\left[xx_1^2\frac{y}{b} + x^2x_1y_1 + \frac{a}{b}xx_1yy_1\right. \\ &\quad \left.+ \frac{y^2}{b}x_1y_1 + xyy_1^2 + \frac{a}{b}y^2y_1^2\right] - b\left[x_1^2\frac{y^2}{b^2} + x^2y_1^2 + \frac{a^2}{b^2}y^2y_1^2\right. \\ &\quad \left.+ \frac{2}{b}xx_1yy_1 + \frac{2a}{b^2}x_1y_1y^2 + \frac{2a}{b}xyy_1^2\right] \\ &= \left[x^2 + \frac{a}{b}xy - \frac{y^2}{b}\right]x_1^2 + \left[2xy + ax^2 + \frac{a^2}{b}xy + \frac{a}{b}y^2 - 2xy\right. \\ &\quad \left.- \frac{2a}{b}y^2\right]x_1y_1 + \left[y^2 + axy + \frac{a^2}{b}y^2 - bx^2 - \frac{a^2}{b}y^2 - 2axy\right]y_1^2 \\ &= \left(x^2 + \frac{a}{b}xy - \frac{y^2}{b}\right)(x_1^2 + ax_1y_1 - by_1^2) \\ &= \det(N)Q_1(X). \end{aligned}$$

The second assertion is now obvious.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.18.** Let  $G_2 = \left\{M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x + ay \end{bmatrix} : \det(M) \neq 0\right\}$  and  $X = [x_1 \ y_1], Y = [x_2 \ y_2] \in F^2$ . Then the following hold:

- (i)  $P_2(\nabla Q_1(X), \nabla Q_1(Y)) = \frac{1}{2b}\Delta P_1(X, Y)$ .
- (ii)  $Q_2(\nabla Q_1(X)) = \frac{1}{2b}\Delta Q_1(X)$ .
- (iii)  $Q_2(MX^t) = \det(M)Q_2(X)$ . In particular, if  $\det(M) = 1$ , then  $Q_2$  is  $G_2$ -invariant.

*Proof.* The proof is exactly the same as the proof of Theorem 2.17, so the details are omitted.  $\square$

The next result is an application of Theorem 2.17.

**Corollary 2.19.** Let  $F = \mathbb{R}$ . Then the tangent line to the curve  $Q_1(X) = x^2 + axy - by^2 = 1$  at the point  $X_0 = (x_0, y_0)$  (belonging to the curve) is  $P_1(X, X_0) = 1$ .

*Proof.* The tangent line to the curve at  $X_0$  is the line through  $X_0$  whose slope is

$$m = \frac{-\frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial x}(X_0)}{\frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial y}(X_0)} = \frac{(2x_0 + ay_0)}{(2by_0 - ax_0)}.$$

Calculations give an equation to the tangent line that is  $P_1(X, X_0) = 1$ .  $\square$

In the remainder of this section, we focus on the case of  $F = \mathbb{R}$ , and to obtain the main result (Theorem 2.24), we will use [3, Chapter I], [6], and [10]. Remember that by Corollary 2.4, we have

$$G = \left\{M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x + ay \end{bmatrix} : x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \det(M) = 1\right\} = SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \cap M_{\mathbb{R}}. \tag{9}$$

**Remark 2.20.** Remember that the roots of the equation  $x^2 = ax + b$  are  $\omega_1, \omega_2 = \frac{a \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2}$ , where  $\Delta = a^2 + 4b$ . If  $\Delta < 0$ , then  $\omega_1, \omega_2 = \frac{a \pm \sqrt{-\Delta}i}{2}$ . Let  $\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{\omega_1}$  and  $\lambda_2 = \frac{1}{\omega_2}$ . Then  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 = \frac{2}{a \pm \sqrt{-\Delta}i} = u \mp vi$ , where  $u$  and  $v$  are defined in (10). From now on, we let

$$\omega := \omega_2, \text{ and } \lambda := \lambda_2 = u + vi, \text{ where, } u = \frac{2a}{a^2 - \Delta} = \frac{a}{-2b}, \text{ and } v = \frac{2\sqrt{-\Delta}}{a^2 - \Delta} = \frac{\sqrt{-\Delta}}{-2b}. \tag{10}$$

Since  $\Delta < 0$  and  $b \neq 0$ ; we get  $b < 0$ . So  $\text{Im}(\lambda) = v > 0$ , i.e.,  $\lambda \in H = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Im}(z) > 0\}$ , the upper-half plane.

**Definition 2.21.** Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ r & t \end{bmatrix} \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  and consider a mapping  $T_M : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  which  $z \mapsto M(z) := \frac{xz+y}{rz+t}$  and let  $z_0 \in H$  be fixed. Then we call  $M$  a stabilizer of  $z_0$ , or equivalently,  $z_0$  is a fixed point of  $M$ , if  $M(z_0) = z_0$ .

In the next result, we show that the stabilizers of  $\lambda$  (see (10)) are precisely the elements of  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.22.**  $\lambda$  is a fixed point of a matrix  $M \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  if and only if  $M \in G$ .

*Proof.* ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & t \end{bmatrix} \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  such that  $M(\lambda) = \frac{x\lambda+y}{z\lambda+t} = \lambda$ . Then

$$\frac{x+y\omega}{z+t\omega} = \frac{1}{\omega}, \text{ and so } x\omega + y\omega^2 = z + t\omega.$$

Replacing  $\omega^2$  with  $a\omega + b$  (since  $\omega^2 = a\omega + b$ ) gives  $z = by$ , and  $t = x + ay$ . Hence,  $M \in G$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let  $M \in G$ . Since  $\det(M) = 1$ , it follows that  $x + ay$  and  $by$  cannot be zero at the same time. Now,

$$M(\lambda) = \lambda \Leftrightarrow \frac{x + y\omega}{by + (x + ay)\omega} = \frac{1}{\omega} \Leftrightarrow x\omega + y\omega^2 = by + (x + ay)\omega.$$

The last equality holds because  $\omega^2 = a\omega + b$ . Thus,  $\lambda$  is a fixed point of  $M$ , and we are done.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.23.** The mapping  $p : SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H$  which  $M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & t \end{bmatrix} \mapsto M(\lambda)$  is onto and continuous.

*Proof.* First, we claim that  $(zu + t) + zvi \neq 0$ . Otherwise,  $z = 0$  and therefore  $t = 0$  which is absurd, since  $\det(M) = 1$ . Also,  $M(\lambda) = \frac{x\lambda+y}{z\lambda+t} = \frac{(xu+y)+xvi}{(zu+t)+zvi} \in H$  because  $\text{Im}(M(\lambda)) = \frac{v}{(zu+t)^2+(zv)^2} > 0$ . Next, for  $z = x + yi \in H$  (i.e.,  $y > 0$ ), we set

$$M_X = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{y}{v}} & x\sqrt{\frac{v}{y}} - u\sqrt{\frac{y}{v}} \\ 0 & \sqrt{\frac{v}{y}} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } X = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix}. \tag{11}$$

Now, it is easy to check that  $M_X(\lambda) = z$ . Thus  $p(M_X) = z$ , i.e.,  $p$  is onto. Remember that  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^4$  with the usual topology and  $p(M) = M(\lambda)$ . Therefore,  $p$  is continuous.  $\square$

For a topological space  $X$  and a set  $Y$  with an onto mapping  $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ , a topology can be induced on  $Y$ , which is called the quotient topology. The space  $Y$  is called a quotient space of  $X$  and  $\pi$  a quotient map. Hence,  $V$  is open in  $Y$  if and only if  $\pi^{-1}(V)$  is open in  $X$ . Now, consider  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  as a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^4$  with the usual topology, and let  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{G}$  denote the family of all cosets of  $G$  (see (9)) as a quotient space of  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ . Note that  $G$  is not necessarily a normal subgroup of  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ . Hence,  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{G}$  is regarded as a set of cosets of  $G$ .

In [3, Chapter I], the upper-half complex plane  $H$  with the usual topology is described as a coset space, by  $H \sim \frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{SO(2, \mathbb{R})}$ , where the special orthogonal group  $SO(2, \mathbb{R})$  is the stabilizer of  $i$  (where  $i^2 = -1$ ). Here, in the next theorem, we present a new description of  $H$ , where  $G$  is the stabilizer of  $\lambda$ , see (10).

Another main result in this section is as follows:

**Theorem 2.24.** Suppose that  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{G}$  is equipped with the quotient topology. Then  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{G} \sim H$ .

*Proof.* Define  $\varphi : \frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{G} \rightarrow H$  with  $\varphi(MG) = M(\lambda)$ . If  $MG = NG$ , then  $N^{-1}MG = G$  and thus  $N^{-1}M \in G$ . By Lemma 2.22,  $N^{-1}M(\lambda) = \lambda$  and hence  $M(\lambda) = N(\lambda)$ , so  $\varphi$  is well-defined. Now, suppose that  $\varphi(MG) = \varphi(NG)$ . Hence,  $M(\lambda) = N(\lambda)$  and thus  $N^{-1}M(\lambda) = \lambda$ . Reusing Lemma 2.22 we get  $N^{-1}M \in G$ . Therefore,  $MG = NG$ , i.e.,  $\varphi$  is one-to-one. To show that  $\varphi$  is onto, for  $z = x + yi \in H$ , it suffices to choose  $M_X$  the same matrix as defined in (11). Hence,  $\varphi(M_XG) = M_X(\lambda) = z$ . Let  $V$  be an open set in  $H$ . Then  $p^{-1}(V)$  is open in  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$

(Proposition 2.23) and hence  $\frac{P^{-1}(V)}{\mathbb{G}}$  is open in  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{\mathbb{G}}$ . Furthermore,  $\varphi^{-1}(V) = \{MG : M(\lambda) \in V\} = \frac{P^{-1}(V)}{\mathbb{G}}$ . Therefore,  $\varphi$  is continuous. Now, let us define

$$\psi : H \rightarrow \frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{\mathbb{G}} \text{ with } \psi(x + yi) = M_X \mathbb{G}, \text{ where } M_X \text{ is defined in (11).} \tag{12}$$

Also, let  $\pi : SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{\mathbb{G}}$  be the quotient map and  $\psi' : H \rightarrow SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  be defined by  $\psi'(x + yi) = M_X$ . Then  $\psi = \pi \circ \psi'$ , and it is continuous because both  $\pi$  and  $\psi'$  are continuous. Remember that  $\varphi(M\mathbb{G}) = M(\lambda) = x + yi \in H$ . On the other hand, we have  $M_X(\lambda) = x + yi$ . So  $M\mathbb{G} = M_X \mathbb{G}$  (Lemma 2.22). Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi \circ \varphi)(M\mathbb{G}) &= (\psi \circ \varphi)(M_X \mathbb{G}) = \psi(x + yi) = M_X \mathbb{G} = M\mathbb{G}, \text{ and} \\ (\varphi \circ \psi)(x + yi) &= \varphi(M_X \mathbb{G}) = M_X(\lambda) = x + yi. \end{aligned}$$

This yields both  $\psi \circ \varphi$  and  $\varphi \circ \psi$  are identity maps. So  $\psi = \varphi^{-1}$  and hence  $\varphi$  is a homeomorphism.  $\square$

### 3. Finding some solutions for the functional equation $f \circ g = g \circ f$

Let  $f, g : H \rightarrow H$  be continuous functions and  $f \circ g$  represents their composition. In this section, we are going to introduce some families of continuous functions  $f, g$  from  $H$  to  $H$  which satisfy the functional equation  $f \circ g = g \circ f$ . Evidently, the invertible continuous functions  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  are the solutions to the equation. Below, we prove that these types of functions are closely related to elements of  $\mathbb{G}$  (see (9)). This is also generalized in Theorem 3.3.

**Proposition 3.1.** Let  $T_M : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be defined by  $T_M(z) = M(z) = \frac{xz+y}{byz+x+ay}$ , where  $M = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ by & x+ay \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{G}$  be fixed (in fact,  $T_M : H \rightarrow H$ ) and let  $\mathbb{T} = \{T_M : M \in \mathbb{G}\}$ . Then  $\mathbb{T}$  with the composition of functions is an abelian group. Moreover,  $\mathbb{T} \cong \frac{\mathbb{G}}{\mathbb{N}_0}$ , where  $\mathbb{N}_0 = \{I, -I\}$ .

*Proof.* First, we note that if  $y = 0$ , then  $x = \pm 1$  because  $\det(M) = 1$ . Hence,  $T_M(z) = z$ . Otherwise, it easily follows that  $T_M(z) \in H$  (i.e.,  $\text{Im}(T_M(z)) > 0$ ) and further  $T_M$  is continuous. Let  $N = \begin{bmatrix} x' & y' \\ by' & x'+ay' \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{G}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (T_M \circ T_N)(z) &= T_M\left(\frac{x'z+y'}{by'z+x'+ay'}\right) = \frac{x\left(\frac{x'z+y'}{by'z+x'+ay'}\right) + y}{by\left(\frac{x'z+y'}{by'z+x'+ay'}\right) + x + ay} \\ &= \frac{(xx' + byy')z + xy' + x'y + ay y'}{(byx' + bxy' + aby' y')z + byy' + xx' + ayx' + axy' + a^2yy'} = T_{MN}(z). \end{aligned}$$

So  $\mathbb{T}$  is closed under the composition of functions. Moreover, it is easily seen that  $(T_M)^{-1} = T_{M^{-1}}$ , and the identity element in  $\mathbb{T}$  is  $T_I$ . Therefore,  $\mathbb{T}$  is a group. Now, since  $\mathbb{G}$  is abelian, we have  $MN = NM$  and hence

$$T_M \circ T_N = T_{MN} = T_{NM} = T_N \circ T_M.$$

This yields  $\mathbb{T}$  is abelian. To establish the second assertion, consider the mapping  $\varphi : \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$  with  $\varphi(M) = T_M$ . So  $\varphi$  is an epimorphism. Let  $M \in \ker(\varphi)$ . Since  $T_M$  is the identity map, we obtain  $\frac{xz+y}{byz+x+ay} = z$ . From  $b \neq 0$ , we get  $y = 0$ . Now,  $\det(M) = 1$  yields  $x = \pm 1$  and thus  $M = \pm I$ . Hence,  $\ker(\varphi) \subseteq \mathbb{N}_0$ . Moreover,  $\mathbb{N}_0 \subseteq \ker(\varphi)$ . Therefore,  $\frac{\mathbb{G}}{\mathbb{N}_0} \cong \mathbb{T}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** Every two elements of  $\mathbb{T}$  are solutions for the equation  $f \circ g = g \circ f$ .

The main result of this section is the next theorem, which generalizes Proposition 3.1.

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $u : H \rightarrow H$  be an invertible continuous function and  $T_M, T_N$  be as defined in Proposition 3.1. Define  $f(z) = u^{-1}(T_M(u(z)))$ , briefly,  $f = u^{-1}(T_M(u))$ , and  $g = u^{-1}(T_N(u))$ . Then  $f \circ g = g \circ f$ .

*Proof.* By Proposition 3.1,  $T_M$  and  $T_N$ , and therefore,  $f$  and  $g$  are continuous. Now, the proof is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (f \circ g)(z) &= f(g(z)) = f(u^{-1}(T_N(u))) \\
 &= f\left(u^{-1}\left(\frac{x'u + y'}{by'u + x' + ay'}\right)\right) \\
 &= u^{-1}\left(\frac{xu(u^{-1}(\frac{x'u+y'}{by'u+x'+ay'})) + y}{byu(u^{-1}(\frac{x'u+y'}{by'u+x'+ay'})) + x + ay}\right) \\
 &= u^{-1}\left(\frac{x(\frac{x'u+y'}{by'u+x'+ay'}) + y}{by(\frac{x'u+y'}{by'u+x'+ay'}) + x + ay}\right) \\
 &= u^{-1}\left(\frac{xx'u + xy' + byy'u + x'y + ay'y'}{by'xu + byy' + bxy'u + aby'y'u + xx' + ax'y + axy' + a^2yy'}\right) \\
 &= u^{-1}\left(\frac{x'(\frac{xu+y}{byu+x+ay}) + y'}{by'(\frac{xu+y}{byu+x+ay}) + x' + ay'}\right) \\
 &= u^{-1}\left(\frac{x'u(u^{-1}(\frac{xu+y}{byu+x+ay})) + y'}{by'u(u^{-1}(\frac{xu+y}{byu+x+ay})) + x' + ay'}\right) \\
 &= u^{-1}(T_N(f(z))) \\
 &= (g \circ f)(z).
 \end{aligned}$$

□

An immediate consequence of the above theorem is given below:

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $u : H \rightarrow H$  be an invertible continuous function and let*

$$\mathbb{T}_u = \left\{ u^{-1}(T_M(u)) : M \in \mathbb{G} \right\}.$$

*Then every pair of elements of  $\mathbb{T}_u$  satisfy the equation  $f \circ g = g \circ f$ . In particular, if  $u$  is the identity map, then  $\mathbb{T}_u = \mathbb{T}$  (Proposition 3.1).*

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