# Abstract Algebra Notes

### Cruz Godar

Math 481, 482, and 560, taught by Eric Brussel

# I — Groups

**Definition 1.1:** A **group** is a set G equipped with a binary operation such that

- 1.  $ab \in G$  for all  $a, b \in G$ .
- 2. (ab)c = a(bc) for all  $a, b, c \in G$ .
- 3. There is an  $e \in G$  with ae = ea = a for all  $a \in G$ .
- 4. For all  $a \in G$ , there is an  $a^{-1} \in G$  with  $aa^{-1} = a^{-1}a = e$ .

**Example:** One important type of group is a *symmetry group*, formed by taking the collection  $S_X$  of symmetries of a set X — that is, structure-preserving bijections from X to itself. If  $X = \mathbb{R}$ , for instance, then  $S_X$  contains translational symmetries and stretching/shrinking ones.

**Definition 1.2:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The **integers modulo** n are the set  $C_n = \{0, 1, ..., n-1\}$ .  $C_n$  is a group, with the operation given by addition mod n.

**Definition 1.3:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The group  $\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{n})$  is defined as  $U(n) = \{a \in C_n \mid \gcd(a, n) = 1\}$ , with the operation given by multiplication mod n.

**Definition 1.4:** The **dihedral group** of degree n is the the group  $D_n$  of symmetries of a regular n-gon, given by  $D_n = \{e, r, r^2, ..., r^{n-1}, s, rs, r^2s, ..., r^{n-1}s\}$ , where r is a rotation counter-clockwise by  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$ , s is a reflection over the x-axis, and the operation is function composition. Note that  $sr = r^{-1}s$ .

**Definition 1.5:** A group G is **Abelian** if ab = ba for all  $a, b \in G$ .

**Proposition 1.6:** Let G be a group. Then  $e \in G$  is unique.

**Proof:** Suppose there were  $e, e' \in G$  such that ae = ea = ae' = e'a = a for all  $a \in G$ . Then ee' = e and ee' = e', so e = e'.

**Proposition 1.7:** Let G be a group. If ab = ac for  $a, b, c \in G$ , then b = c, and similarly, if ab = cb, then a = c.

**Proposition 1.8:** Let G be a group and  $a \in G$ . Then  $a^{-1}$  is unique.

**Proof:** If there were  $a^{-1}$ ,  $(a^{-1})' \in G$  such that  $aa^{-1} = a^{-1}a = a(a^{-1})' = (a^{-1})'a = e$ , then  $aa^{-1} = a(a^{-1})'$ , so  $a^{-1}aa^{-1} = a^{-1}a(a^{-1})'$ , and so  $a^{-1} = (a^{-1})'$ .

**Definition 1.9:** Let G be a group. A set  $H \subseteq G$  is a **subgroup** of G, written  $H \subseteq G$ , if H is itself a group under G's operation.

**Example:** For all groups,  $\{e\} \leq G$ , called the *trivial subgroup*, and  $G \leq G$ .

**Example:** If X is a regular, nonoriented n-gon and X' is a regular, oriented n-gon (so reflections count as symmetries of X, but not of X'), then  $S'_X \leq S_X$ .

**Definition 1.10:**  $\mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  is a group with its operation given by stretching and rotating the plane  $-z = re^{i\theta}$  represents the symmetry of stretching by r and rotating by  $\theta$  (or equivalently, moving 1 to z).  $S^1 = \{e^{i\theta} \mid \theta \in [0, 2\pi)\} = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^* \mid |z| = 1\}$  is also a group under the same operation, so  $S^1 \leq C^*$ .

**Proposition 1.11:** Let G be a group. Then  $H \subseteq G$  is a subgroup of G if and only if

- 1.  $H \neq \emptyset$ .
- 2.  $ab \in H$  for all  $a, b \in H$ .
- 3. For all  $a \in H$ ,  $a^{-1} \in H$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) If  $H \leq G$ , then the only statement to prove is that the identity of H is the same as that of G, so that we can be sure that  $a^{-1} \in H$  is the same as  $a^{-1}$  in G. If the two identities are  $e_G$  and  $e_H$ , then  $e_H e_G = e_H$  in G and  $e_H e_H = e_H$  in H, so  $e_H e_G = e_H e_H$  in G, and therefore  $e_G = e_H$ . Thus the inverses are the same, and so all three conditions are met.

(⇐) Let  $a, b, c \in H$  (which is valid, since H is nonempty). Then  $a, b, c \in G$ , so (ab)c = a(bc). Also, since  $a^{-1} \in H$  (and this is the inverse from G),  $aa^{-1} = e_G \in H$ . We already know H is closed under G's operation, so  $H \leq G$ .

**Definition 1.12:** Let G be a group and  $a \in G$ . The **group generated by** a is  $\langle a \rangle = \{a^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$ 

**Example:** In  $D_n$ ,  $\langle r \rangle = \{e, r, r^2, ..., r^{n-1}\}$  and  $\langle s \rangle = \{e, s\}$ .

**Definition 1.13:** The **order** of a group G is |G|. A **finite group** is one that has finite order.

**Definition 1.14:** Let G be a group. The **order** of  $a \in G$  is  $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$ , or equivalently, the smallest  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a^n = e$  if it exists, or  $\infty$  if it does not.

**Example:** The orders of the elements in  $U(9) = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8\}$  are

|1| = 1,

|2| = 6,

|4| = 3,

|5| = 6,

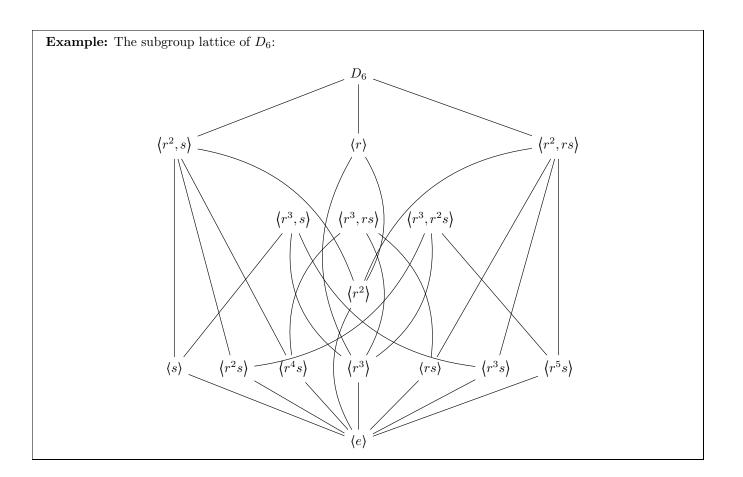
|7| = 3,

|8| = 2.

**Proposition 1.15:** Let G be a group and  $a \in G$ . Then  $|a| = |a^{-1}|$ .

**Proof:** Since  $a^k = e$  if and only if  $(a^k)^{-1} = e$ , if and only if  $(a^{-1})^k = e$ , the smallest  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a^n = e$  will also be the smallest  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(a^{-1})^m = e$ . Thus  $|a| = |a^{-1}|$ .

**Definition 1.16:** A group G is **cyclic** if  $G = \langle a \rangle$  for some  $a \in G$ , called a **generator** of G.

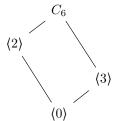


### **Theorem 1.17:** A subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic.

**Proof:** Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  and  $H \leq G$ . Then for all  $h \in H$ ,  $h = a^m$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $S = \{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid a^m \in H\}$ , let  $m_0$  be the minimum element of S, and let  $h = a^m \in H$  be arbitrary. Then  $m = m_0 q + r$  for some  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $0 \leq r < m_0$ , so  $a^m = a^{m_0 q + r}$ , or equivalently,  $a^r = a^{m - m_0 q}$ . Since  $a^m = h \in H$  and  $a^{m_0 q} = (a^{m_0})^q \in H$ ,  $a^{m - m_0 q} = a^r \in H$ . Thus if  $r \neq 0$ ,  $r \in S$  by definition, but  $r < m_0$ , the smallest element in S. f Thus f = 0, and so  $f = (a^{m_0})^q$  for some  $f \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Since  $f = a^m = a^m$ 

**Example:** Since  $\mathbb{Z}$  is cyclic, every subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  is of the form  $\langle a \rangle$  for  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Example:** The subgroups of  $C_6$  are  $\langle 0 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 3 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 2 \rangle$ , and  $\langle 1 \rangle = C_6$ .



**Theorem 1.18:** Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  be cyclic with |G| = n. Then for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $|a^k| = \frac{n}{\gcd(n,k)}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $d = \gcd(n, k)$ . We claim  $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^d \rangle$ .

- $(\subseteq)$  Since d|k, k = dq for some  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $a^k = (a^d)^q \in \langle a^d \rangle$ , so  $\langle a^k \rangle \subseteq \langle a^d \rangle$ .
- (2) By Bezout's identity, d = ks + nt for some  $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so  $a^d = a^{ks + nt} = (a^k)^s (a^n)^t = (a^k)^s (e)^t = (a^k)^s \in (a^k)$ . Thus  $\langle a^d \rangle \subseteq \langle a^k \rangle$ .

Now  $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^d \rangle$ , so in particular,  $|a^k| = |a^d|$ . We know  $|a^d| = \frac{n}{d}$ , since otherwise, if  $|a^d| = m < \frac{n}{d}$ ,  $a^{dm} = e$  and dm < n, so |G| = |a| < n. If Thus  $|a^k| = |a^d| = \frac{n}{d}$ .

**Corollary 1.18.1:** Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  with |G| = n. Then the generators of G are  $a^k$  with gcd(k, n) = 1.

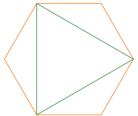
**Proposition 1.19:** Let G be a cyclic group and  $a \in G$  such that  $G \neq \langle a \rangle$ . Then no element of  $\langle a \rangle$  is a generator for G.

**Proof:** Suppose |G| = n. Since  $\langle a \rangle \neq G$ , |a| < |G|. Now every element of  $\langle a \rangle$  is of the form  $a^k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $|a^k| = \frac{|a|}{\gcd(k,|a|)} \le |a| < |G|$ , so no element of  $\langle a \rangle$  is a generator for G.

**Definition 1.20:** Two groups G and H are **isomorphic** if there is a bijection  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow H$  such that  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$  for all  $a, b \in G$ .  $\varphi$  is called an **isomorphism**, and we write  $G \simeq H$ .

**Example:**  $C_4 \simeq \langle i \rangle \leq \mathbb{C}^*$ , since the map  $\varphi : C_4 \longrightarrow \langle i \rangle$  given by  $\varphi(a) = i^a$  is an isomorphism.

**Example:** Let  $H = \{x \in D_6 \mid x \text{ preserves an inscribed triangle}\} \leq D_6$ . Then  $H \simeq D_3$ .



**Proposition 1.21:** Isomorphisms preserve identities, inverses, subgroups, and order (both of elements and groups).

**Definition 1.22:** The **symmetric group** of degree n is the group  $S_n$  of permutations on n elements, defined as  $\{\sigma: \{1,...,n\} \hookrightarrow \{1,...,n\}\}$ , where each  $\sigma$  is a bijection and the operation is given by function composition. We use **cycle notation** to denote elements of  $S_n$ : the element  $(124) \in S_4$ , for example, denotes the function  $\sigma$  with  $\sigma(1) = 2$ ,  $\sigma(2) = 4$ ,  $\sigma(4) = 1$ , and  $\sigma(3) = 3$ .

**Definition 1.23:** The **general linear group** of degree n over k is  $GL_n(k) = \{A \in M_n(k) \mid \det A \neq 0\}$ , with the operation given by matrix multiplication. Typically, k is  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$ , or  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

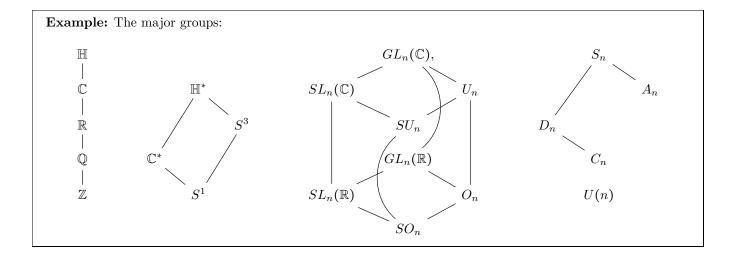
**Definition 1.24:** The **special linear group** of degree n over k is  $SL_n(k) = \{A \in M_n(k) \mid \det A = 1\}$ , with the operation again given by matrix multiplication.

**Definition 1.25:** The **orthogonal group** of degree n is  $O_n = \{A \in M_n(\mathbb{R}) \mid AA^{\mathrm{T}} = I\}$ , and the **special orthogonal group** of degree n is  $SO_n = \{A \in O_n \mid \det A = 1\}$ . The **unitary group**,  $U_n$ , and **special unitary group**,  $SU_n$ , are defined identically, except their matrices are taken from  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  and require that  $A\overline{A}^{\mathrm{T}} = I$ .

#### **Definition 1.26:** The quaternions are the set

$$\mathbb{H} = \{a + bi + cj + dk \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}, i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1, ijk = -1\}.$$

 $\mathbb{H}$  forms a group under addition, and  $\mathbb{H}^*$  a group under multiplication. Similarly to  $S^1$ , we define the **unit 3-sphere** as  $S^3 = \{z \in \mathbb{H}^* \mid |z| = 1\} \leq \mathbb{H}^*$ .



# II — The Symmetric Group

**Definition 2.1:** A k-cycle is an element of  $S_n$  of the form  $(a_1 \cdots a_k)$ .

**Definition 2.2:** A transposition is a 2-cycle.

**Proposition 2.3:** Every element of  $S_n$  can be expressed as a product of disjoint cycles.

**Example:** To remove duplicate numbers, start with 1 and pass it through the permutation, then pass the result through, and so on. Since every permutation is a bijection by definition, every number will be sent to a unique other. Once the permutation results in 1 again, close the cycle and continue with the next lowest unused number. For instance, if  $\sigma = (124)(314)$ ,  $\sigma(1) = 1$ , so we start again with 2:  $\sigma(2) = 4$ . Then  $\sigma(4) = 3$ , and  $\sigma(3) = 2$ , so the permutation is (243).

Proposition 2.4: Disjoint cycles commute.

**Proposition 2.5:** Every element of  $S_n$  can be expressed as a product of transpositions.

**Proof:** For an arbitrary  $\sigma \in S_n$ , express  $\sigma$  as a product of disjoint cycles. Then for an individual cycle  $(a_1 \cdots a_k)$ ,  $(a_1 \cdots a_k) = (a_1 a_k)(a_1 a_{k-1}) \cdots (a_1 a_3)(a_1 a_2)$ .

**Definition 2.6:** Let  $\pi \in S_n$ . The **permutation matrix** for  $\pi$  is  $P_{\pi}$ , defined by  $(P_{\pi})_{ij} = 1$  if  $\pi(j) = i$  and 0 if not.

Example: For  $\pi = (243) \in S_4$ ,

$$P_{\pi} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Proposition 2.7:** All permutation matrices are orthogonal (that is, the columns form an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , so det  $P_{\pi} = \pm 1$ ).

7

**Definition 2.8:** A permutation  $\pi \in S_n$  is **even** if det  $P_{\pi} = 1$ , and **odd** if det  $P_{\pi} = -1$ .

**Definition 2.9:** The alternating group of degree n is  $A_n = \{\pi \in S_n \mid \pi \text{ is even}\} \leq S_n$ .

**Proposition 2.10:** For  $n \ge 2$ ,  $|A_n| = \frac{n!}{2}$ .

**Proof:** Define  $f: A_n \longrightarrow S_n \setminus A_n$  by  $f(\pi) = (12)\pi$ . Then  $f^{-1}(\pi) = (12)\pi$ , so f is invertible. Thus  $|A_n| = |S_n \setminus A_n|$ , so  $|A_n| = \frac{|S_n|}{2} = \frac{n!}{2}$ .

**Theorem 2.11:** Let  $\pi \in S_n$ . Then  $\pi \in A_n$  if and only if  $\pi$  can be expressed as the product of evenly many transpositions. Moreover, when  $\pi$  is expressed in such a way, there are always the same number of transpositions (mod 2).

**Proof:** Suppose  $\pi = \tau_1 \cdots \tau_k$ , where each  $\tau_i$  is a transposition. Then  $P_{\pi} = P_{\tau_1} \cdots P_{\tau_k}$ . Since  $P_{\tau_i}$  has exactly 2 columns permuted from  $I_n$ , det  $P_{\tau_i} = -1$ , so det  $P_{\pi} = (-1)^k$ . Thus  $\pi$  is even if and only if k is even, proving both claims.

#### **Theorem 2.12:** Let $n \ge 3$ . Then $A_n$ is generated by 3-cycles.

**Proof:** Let  $\pi \in A_n$ . Then  $\pi$  is the product of evenly many transpositions. Group them in pairs, and consider an arbitrary pair, say (ab)(cd).

If (ab) and (cd) have no common entries, then (ab)(cd) = (ab)(bc)(bc)(cd) = (abc)(bcd) (which is valid, since  $b \neq c$  by assumption).

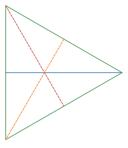
If (ab) and (cd) have one entry in common, then without loss of generality, (cd) = (bd). Then (ab)(cd) = (ab)(bd) = (abd).

Finally, if (ab) and (cd) share two entries, they are identical, so (ab)(cd) = e. Thus each pair is expressible as either one or two 3-cycles or the identity, and since we can omit the identities,  $\pi$  is the product of 3-cycles.

# III — Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem

**Definition 3.1:** Let G be a group,  $H \leq G$ , and  $a \in G$ . The **left coset** of H in G with representative a is the set  $aH = \{ah \mid h \in H\}$ , and right cosets are defined similarly.

**Example:** Let  $H = \langle r \rangle \le D_3$ . Then  $eH = rH = r^2H = \{e, r, r^2\}$  and  $sH = rsH = r^2sH = \{s, rs, r^2s\}$ . If  $K = \langle s \rangle$ , then  $eK = sK = \{e, s\}$ ,  $rK = rsK = \{r, rs\}$ , and  $r^2sK = \{r^2, r^2s\}$ .



Here, K fixes the solid blue line, rK moves it to the red dashed line, and  $r^2K$  to the yellow dashed line. The red and yellow lines are called **conjugate substructures** to the blue line. Conjugate substructures can be found by applying every element of a group — or just those that generate distinct cosets — to the original substructure.

**Example:** The cosets of  $S^1 \leq \mathbb{C}^*$  are all the concentric circles around the origin.

**Comment:** In general, left cosets are more important than right ones, since function composition operates right-to-left.

**Proposition 3.2:** Let G be a group and  $H \leq G$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- 1. aH = bH.
- 2.  $b \in aH$ .
- 3.  $b^-1a \in H$ .

**Definition 3.3:** Let G be a group and  $H \leq G$ . The **index** of H in G is  $[G:H] = |\{aH \mid a \in G\}|$ .

**Theorem 3.4:** (Lagrange) Let G be a group and  $H \leq G$ . Then the set of left cosets  $\{aH \mid a \in G\}$  partitions G into subsets of equal cardinality.

**Proof:** For all  $b \in G$ ,  $b \in bH$ , so  $G \subseteq \bigcup aH$ . And clearly  $\bigcup aH \subseteq G$ , so  $G = \bigcup aH$ . Now we claim  $aH \cap bH$  is either aH or  $\emptyset$  for all  $a, b \in G$ . Suppose  $aH \cap bH \neq \emptyset$ . Then there is a  $c \in aH \cap bH$ , so by the previous result, cH = aH and cH = bH, and therefore aH = bH. Thus G is the disjoint union of the cosets of H, so they are a partition.

To show that all cosets have the same cardinality, define a function  $f: aH \longrightarrow H$  by f(ah) = h. Then f is a bijection, so |aH| = |H|.

Corollary 3.4.1: Let G be a group and  $H \leq G$ . Then |G| = [G : H]|H|.

**Proof:** Since  $G = \bigsqcup aH, \ |G| = \sum |aH| = \sum |H| = \sum_{k=1}^{[G:H]} |H| = [G:H]|H|.$ 

Corollary 3.4.2: Let G be a finite group and let  $H \leq G$ . Then  $|H| \mid |G|$ .

Corollary 3.4.3: Let G be a finite group and let  $a \in G$ . Then  $|a| \mid |G|$ .

Corollary 3.4.4: Let G be a finite group and let  $a \in G$ . Then  $a^{|G|} = e$ .

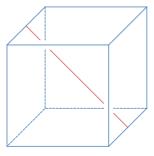
Corollary 3.4.5: Let  $a, n \in \mathbb{N}$  with gcd(a, n) = 1. Then  $a^{\varphi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ .

**Proof:** With G = U(n),  $|G| = |\{a \in \mathbb{N} \mid a < n, \gcd(a, n) = 1\}| = \varphi(n)$ , so  $a^{|G|} = a^{\varphi(n)} = 1$ .

Corollary 3.4.6: Let  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  and p prime. If  $p \nmid a$ , then  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

**Example:** Find the order of the group of orientation-preserving symmetries of a regular cube.

Let G be this group and let  $H \leq G$  be the subgroup fixing the red line.



There are six elements of G that fix the red line (pick one of the two vertices on the line to face up — then there are three symmetries that permute the three vertices adjacent to it, making six in total). And there are four conjugate substructures of the line, so there are four distinct cosets of H. Thus [G:H] = 4, and therefore |G| = [G:H]|H| = 24.

**Theorem 3.5:** There is only one cyclic group of each finite order, and only one of any infinite order, up to isomorphism.

**Proof:** Let G be cyclic with |G| = n. Then  $G = \langle a \rangle$  for some  $a \in G$ , so the map  $\varphi : G \longrightarrow C_n$  given by  $a^k \longmapsto k \cdot 1$  is an isomorphism.

If G is infinite, then G must be countable, since it can be written as  $\{e, a, a^2, ...\}$ . Then there is an isomorphism given by  $a^k \mapsto k \cdot 1$ . Not that it is *not* sufficient to claim that  $G \simeq \mathbb{Z}$  since G is countable—that definition requires only a bijection, which need not be multiplicative.

**Proposition 3.6:** Let  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be an isomorphism. Then

- 1. |G| = |G'|.
- 2.  $\varphi(e_G) = e_{G'}$ .
- 3.  $\varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)^{-1}$ .
- 4.  $|\varphi(a)| = |a|$ .
- 5. If  $H \leq G$ , then  $\varphi(H) \leq \varphi(G) = G'$ .
- 6. If G is Abelian, then so is G'.

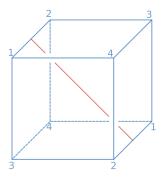
**Theorem 3.7:** (Cayley) Let G be a finite group of order n. Then G is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $a \in G$  and define  $\lambda_a : G \longrightarrow G$  by  $\lambda_a(b) = ab$ . Then if we number the elements of G from 1 to  $n, \lambda_a \in S_n$ . Let  $G' = \{\lambda_a \in S_n \mid a \in G\}$ . We claim  $G \simeq G'$ , where the isomorphism is given by  $\lambda(a) = \lambda_a$ .

Clearly,  $\lambda$  is onto, since  $G' = \lambda(G)$  by definition. To show that  $\lambda$  is injective, suppose  $\lambda(a) = \lambda(b)$ . Then  $\lambda_a = \lambda_b$ , so in particular,  $\lambda_a(e) = \lambda_b(e)$ . Thus a = b. Finally,  $\lambda$  is multiplicative, since  $\lambda(ab) = \lambda_{ab} = \lambda_a \lambda_b = \lambda(a)\lambda(b)$ . Thus  $\lambda$  is an isomorphism, so  $G \simeq G' \leq S_n$ .

**Example:** Determine the rotation group of the cube.

Let the group be G. By our previous work, we know |G| = 24, and by Cayley's Theorem, we know  $G \le S_6$ . But  $|S_6| = 720$ , and there are far too many order-24 subgroups of  $S_6$  to determine the correct one (or even easily make a complete list). Instead, fix the four diagonals from the previous example and number the vertices 1—4 by which line they are contained in. Then each element of G must fix one of the four diagonals by the previous example, so  $G \le S_4$ .



Now each rotation about one of the four diagonal axes fixes one number and permutes the other three, so it is a 3-cycle. Since we have all 8 possible 3-cycles from this method, G contains  $A_4$ . Draw a new line that connects the midpoints of the edges with endpoints 1 and 2 (shown in the above figure). A rotation about this axis fixes 3 and 4 and permutes 1 and 2, so  $(12) \in G$ . Thus  $|G| \ge |A_4| + 1 = 13$ , since  $(12) \notin A_4$ , and since  $|G| \mid |S_4| = 24$ , |G| = 24. Thus  $G = S_4$ .

Since we can form a regular octahedron by replacing each face of the cube with a vertex and each vertex with a face (that is, the cube and octahedron are dual), the rotation group of the octahedron is also  $S_4$ .

**Definition 3.8:** Let G be a group. An **automorphism** of G is an isomorphism from G to itself. Notice that every automorphism is completely determined by where it sends the generators of G, since  $\varphi(a_1^{k_1} \cdots a_n^{k_n}) = \varphi(a_1)^{k_1} \cdots \varphi(a_n)^{k_n}$ .

**Definition 3.9:** Let G be a group. The **automorphism group** of G is Aut G, the group of automorphisms of G.

**Example:** The automorphism group of  $\mathbb{Z}$  is  $\{e, \varphi\}$ , where  $e: 1 \longmapsto 1$  and  $\varphi: 1 \longmapsto -1$ . Thus Aut  $\mathbb{Z} \simeq C_2$ .

**Example:** For any group  $G, \gamma_a : G \longrightarrow G$  defined by  $\gamma_a(b) = aba^{-1}$  is an automorphism.

**Definition 3.10:** Let G be a group. The **inner automorphism group** of G is Inn  $G = \{\gamma_a \mid a \in G\}$ .

**Definition 3.11:** Let G and G' be groups. The **direct product** of G and G' is  $G \times G' = \{(a, a') \mid a \in G, a' \in G'\}$ , where the group operation is defined as (a, a')(b, b') = (ab, a'b').

**Proposition 3.12:** Let G and G' be groups. Then  $G \times G'$  is also a group, and  $|G \times G'| = |G||G'|$ .

**Proposition 3.13:** Let G and G' be groups and let  $(a, a') \in G \times G'$ . Then  $|(a, a')| = \operatorname{lcm}(|a|, |a'|)$ .

**Definition 3.14:** An **internal direct product** is a group G such that there exist two subgroups  $H, K \leq G$  satisfying  $HK = \{hk \mid h \in H, k \in K\} = G, H \cap K$ , and hk = kh for all  $h \in H$  and  $k \in K$ . In this case,  $G \simeq H \times K$ .

Example:  $D_6 = \langle r^2, s \rangle \langle r^3 \rangle$ .

**Proposition 3.15:**  $\simeq$  is an equivalence relation.

**Proposition 3.16:**  $C_m \times C_n \simeq C_{mn}$  if and only if gcd(m, n) = 1.

**Proposition 3.17:** Let *H* and *K* be groups. Then  $H \times K \simeq K \times H$ .

**Proposition 3.18:** If  $H \simeq H'$  and  $K \simeq K'$ , then  $H \times K \simeq H' \times K'$ .

**Definition 3.19:** Let G be a group. Two elements  $b, c \in G$  are **conjugate** if  $c = aba^{-1}$  for some  $a \in G$ .

**Definition 3.20:** Let G be a group. Two subgroups  $H, K \leq G$  are **conjugate** if  $K = aHa^{-1}$  for some  $a \in G$ .

Proposition 3.21: Conjugacy is an equivalence relation.

**Proof:** Let G be a group. For all  $b \in G$ ,  $b = ebe^{-1}$ . If  $c = aba^{-1}$  for some  $a, b, c \in G$ , then  $b = (a^{-1})c(a^{-1})^{-1}$ . Finally, if  $c = aba^{-1}$  and  $d = a'c(a')^{-1}$  for some  $a, a', b, c, d \in G$ , then  $d = (a'a)b(a'a)^{-1}$ .

**Theorem 3.22:** Let *G* be a group,  $a, b \in G$ , and  $H \leq G$ . Then  $|b| = |aba^{-1}|$ ,  $|H| = |aHa^{-1}|$ , and  $H \simeq aHa^{-1}$ .

**Example:** For  $D_6$ ,  $r^{-1} = srs = srs^{-1}$ , so r and  $r^{-1} = r^5$  are conjugate. Similarly,  $r^2$  and  $r^4$  are conjugate. Since  $r^3 \in Z(D_6)$ , it is only conjugate to itself.  $s, r^2s$ , and  $r^4s$  are all conjugate to one another, as are  $rs, r^3s$  and  $r^5s$ .

**Example:** In  $S_5$ , (12345) and (13524) are conjugate by the amazing conjugation trick. Similarly, so are any two elements with the same cycle structure.

Comment: In a sense, conjugate elements and subgroups have the same "type".

**Definition 3.23:** A subgroup  $H \leq G$  is **normal** is  $H = aHa^{-1}$  for all  $a \in G$ , or, equivalently, aH = Ha for all  $a \in G$ . We write  $H \triangleleft G$ .

**Definition 3.24:** A group is **simple** if it contains no nontrivial normal subgroups.

**Example:** All Abelian groups are normal, since  $aHa^{-1} = aa^{-1}H = H$ . In particular,  $Z(G) \triangleleft G$  for all groups G.

**Example:**  $\{e, (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\} \triangleleft S_4$ .

**Proposition 3.25:** Let G be a groups and  $N \triangleleft G$ . Then the set product (aN)(bN) = abN.

**Definition 3.26:** Let G be a group and  $N \triangleleft G$ . The quotient group of G by N is  $G/N = \{aN \mid a \in G\}$  under the composition law (aN)(bN) = abN, with identity N and inverse  $(aN)^{-1} = a^{-1}N$ . Note that |G/N| = [G:N].

**Example:**  $D_6/\langle r^2, s \rangle \simeq C_2$ .

 $S_n/A_n = \{A_n, (12)A_n\} \simeq C_2.$ 

For  $K = \{e, (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}, S_4/K \simeq D_3$ .

 $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \simeq C_5$ .

# IV — Morphisms

**Definition 4.1:** Let G and G' be groups. A **homomorphism** between G and G' is a function  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  such that  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$  for all  $a, b \in G$ . Notice that every isomorphism is a homomorphism.

**Proposition 4.2:** Let G and G' be groups and  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a homomorphism. Then:

- 1.  $\varphi(e_G) = \varphi(e_{G'})$ .
- 2.  $\varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)^{-1}$ .
- 3.  $\varphi(G) \leq G'$ .

**Example:** Examples of homomorphisms:

Vector space linear transformations: T(v+w) = Tv + Tw.

The determinant,  $\det : GL_n(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$ :  $\det AB = (\det A)(\det B)$ .

The complex modulus,  $|\cdot|: \mathbb{C}^* \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ : |ab| = |a||b|.

The exponential map,  $\exp: \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow S^1$ :  $\exp(a+b) = e^{2\pi i (a+b)} = e^{2\pi i a} e^{2\pi i b} = \exp(a) \exp(b)$ . (Remember that the group action in  $S^1$  is complex multiplication!)

For a group G with |G| = n, the map from Cayley's theorem,  $\lambda : G \longrightarrow S_n$ :  $\lambda(ab) = \lambda_{ab} = \lambda_a \lambda_b = \lambda(a)\lambda(b)$ .

**Theorem 4.3:** Let G and G' be groups,  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a homomorphism, and  $H' \leq G'$ . Then  $\varphi^{-1}(H') = \{h \in G \mid \varphi(h) \in H'\} \leq G$ . Moreover, if  $H' \triangleleft G'$ , then  $\varphi^{-1}(H') \triangleleft G$ .

**Proof:** Let  $H = \varphi^{-1}(H')$ . Since  $e_G \in G$  and  $\varphi(e_G) = e_{G'} \in H'$ ,  $e_G \in H$  by definition.

Let  $a, b \in H$ . Then  $\varphi(a), \varphi(b) \in H'$ , so  $\varphi(a)\varphi(b) = \varphi(ab) \in H'$ . Thus  $ab \in H$ .

Finally, let  $a \in H$ . Then  $\varphi(a) \in H$ , so  $\varphi(a)^{-1} = \varphi(a^{-1}) \in H'$ . Thus  $a^{-1} \in H$ , and so  $H \leq G$ .

Now suppose  $H' \triangleleft G'$  and let  $a \in G$  be arbitrary. Then  $a(\varphi^{-1}(H'))a^{-1} = \varphi^{-1}(\varphi(a)H'\varphi(a^{-1})) = \varphi^{-1}H'$ , since  $H' \triangleleft G'$ . Since  $H = \varphi^{-1}(H')$ ,  $aHa^{-1} = H$ . Thus  $H \triangleleft G$ .

**Definition 4.4:** Let G and G' be groups and  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a homomorphism. The **kernel** of  $\varphi$  is the set  $\ker \varphi = \{a \in G \mid \varphi(a) = e_{G'}\}.$ 

**Proposition 4.5:** Let G and G' be groups and  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a homomorphism. Then  $\ker \varphi \triangleleft G$ .

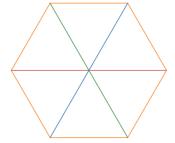
**Proof:** Since  $\ker \varphi = \varphi^{-1}(\{e\})$  and  $\{e\} \triangleleft G'$ ,  $\ker \varphi \triangleleft G$ .

**Example:** With  $\varphi: GL_n(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$  defined by  $\varphi(A) = \det A$ ,  $\ker \varphi = SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ , so  $SL_n(\mathbb{R}) \triangleleft GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Proposition 4.6:** Let  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a homomorphism and let  $a \in G$ . Then  $|\varphi(a)| \mid |a|$  and  $|\varphi(a)| \mid |G'|$ .

**Proposition 4.7:** Let G be a group such that each element  $a \in G$  permutes a set of conjugate substructures  $\{y_1, ..., y_d\}$ . Then there is a homomorphism  $\varphi : G \longrightarrow S_d$ .

#### Example:



Here,  $\varphi: D_6 \longrightarrow S_3$ .

**Theorem 4.8:** (The First Isomorphism Theorem) Let G and G' be groups and let  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a homomorphism. Then  $G/(\ker \varphi) \simeq \varphi(G)$ .

**Proof:** Let  $N = \ker \varphi$  and define  $\psi : G/N \longrightarrow G'$  by  $\psi(aN) = \varphi(a)$ .  $\psi$  is well-defined, since if aN = bN, then  $b^{-1}a \in N = \ker \varphi$ , so  $\varphi(b)^{-1}\varphi(a) = e$ , or equivalently,  $\psi(aN) = \psi(bN)$ . Moreover, since  $\psi(aNbN) = \psi(abN) = \varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b) = \psi(aN)\psi(bN)$ ,  $\psi$  is a homomorphism.

Now suppose  $\psi(aN) = \psi(bN)$ . Then  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(b)$ , so  $\varphi(b^{-1}a) = e$ . Then  $b^{-1}a \in \ker \varphi = N$ , so aN = bN. Thus  $\psi$  is injective, and certainly it is surjective onto its range, so  $\psi|_{\varphi(G)} : G/N \longrightarrow \varphi(G)$  is an isomorphism.

**Definition 4.9:** Let G be a group and  $N \triangleleft G$ . The **canonical projection** is  $\gamma: G \longrightarrow G/N$ , defined by  $g \longmapsto gN$ .

**Definition 4.10:** A **commutative diagram** is a collection of sets and maps between them such that for any two sets A and B in the diagram, all paths of compositions from A to B are equal as functions.

**Theorem 4.11:** Let G and G' be groups and  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a homomorphism. Then the following diagram commutes, where  $\gamma$  is the canonical projection of G onto G/N and  $\psi$  is as before, defined by  $\psi(aN) = \varphi(a)$ .



**Example:** Let  $\varphi: V \longrightarrow V'$  be a linear transformation between vector spaces and let  $W = \ker \varphi$ . Then  $V/W \simeq \varphi(V)$ .

With  $\varphi = \det$ ,  $GL_n/SL_n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$ .

With  $\varphi(a+bi) = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}^*/S^1 \simeq \mathbb{R}^+$ .

With  $\varphi(a) = e^{2\pi i a}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \simeq S^1$ .

**Theorem 4.12:** (The Second Isomorphism Theorem) Let G be a group,  $H \leq G$ , and  $N \triangleleft G$ . Then HN is a group,  $H \cap N \triangleleft H$ , and  $H/(H \cap N) \simeq (HN)/N$ , where the isomorphism is given by  $\varphi(h(H \cap N)) = hN$ .

**Theorem 4.13: (The Third Isomorphism Theorem)** Let G be a group and  $H, N \triangleleft G$  such that  $H \subseteq N$ . Then  $N/H \triangleleft G/H$  and  $\frac{G/H}{N/H} \simeq G/N$ .

**Theorem 4.14:** (The Correspondence Theorem) Let G and G' be groups and  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  a surjective homomorphism. Then  $\varphi$  is a bijection between  $\{H \leq G \mid \ker \leq H\}$  and  $\{H' \leq G'\}$ . Moreover, if  $N' \triangleleft G'$ , then  $\varphi^{-1}(N') \triangleleft G$ .

**Proof:** Since  $\varphi$  is surjective, for all  $h' \in H'$ , there is a  $g \in G$  such that  $\varphi(g) = h'$ . Thus  $\varphi(\varphi^{-1}(H')) = H'$ . Now let  $h \in H$ . Since  $\varphi^{-1}(\varphi(H)) = H$ . Thus  $\varphi$  is a bijection,

**Definition 4.15:** Let G be a group and  $a \in G$ . The **conjugacy class** of a is  $[a] = \{gag^{-1} \mid g \in G\}$ .

**Proposition 4.16:** Let G be a group. Then  $G = \bigsqcup_{a \in G} [a]$ .

**Proposition 4.17:** Let G be a group,  $a \in G$ , and  $G_a = \{g \in G \mid gag^{-1} = a\}$ . Then  $[G : G_a] = |[a]|$ .

Theorem 4.18: (The Class Equation) Let G be a group. Then  $|G| = \sum [G:G_a]$ , where the sum is over the  $a \in G$  that produce distinct conjugacy classes.

## V — Group Actions

**Definition 5.1:** Let G be a group, X a set, and  $S_X$  the group of permutations of X. An **action** of G on X is a homomorphism  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow S_X$ . We say that X is a G-set, and write a(x) instead of  $(\varphi(a))(x)$  for  $x \in X$ . In this sense, every element of G is a function on X.

**Definition 5.2:** Let G be a group acting on a set X. The **stabilizer** of  $x \in X$  is the set  $G_x = \{a \in G \mid a(x) = x\} \le G$ .

**Definition 5.3:** Let G be a group acting on a set X, with the action given by  $\varphi$ . The **kernel** of the action is  $\ker \varphi$ .

**Definition 5.4:** Let *G* be a group acting on a set *X*. The **orbit** of  $x \in X$  is orb  $x = \{a(x) \mid a \in G\}$ .

**Definition 5.5:** Let G be a group acting on a set X. The **fixed point set** corresponding to the action is  $X^G = \{x \in X \mid a(x) = x \text{ for all } a \in G\}.$ 

**Example:**  $D_6$  acts on the regular hexagon,  $\mathbb{C}^*$  acts on the plane, and SO(3) acts on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

**Example:** If G is the group of symmetries of a structured set X and Y is a substructure of X, then G acts on the set of conjugate substructures of Y.

**Example:** A group G acts on itself by left multiplication, giving the isomorphism from G to a subgroup of  $S_{|G|}$ .

**Example:** A group G acts on the set of left cosets of a subgroup  $H \leq G$  by left multiplication, which gives the homomorphism from G to  $S_{|G/H|}$ .

**Example:** A group G acts on itself by conjugation, giving the homomorphism from G to Aut G with a range of Inn G. This is called the *adjoint action*. For  $a \in G$ ,  $G_a$  is called the *centralizer* of a and is denoted C(a). The kernel of the action is the center of the group, Z(G). The orbit of  $a \in G$  is a's conjugacy class, [a].

**Theorem 5.6:** There is a one-to-one correspondence between the sets orb x and  $G/G_x$ , and between the a(x) and  $aG_x$ . In particular, the number of distinct orbits of x is  $[G:G_x]$ , and therefore,  $[G:G_x] = |[x]|$ .

**Proposition 5.7:** Let G be a group acting on a set X,  $a \in G$ , and  $x \in X$ . Then  $G_{a(x)} = aG_xa^{-1}$ .

**Definition 5.8:** Let G be a group acting on a set X. G acts **transitively** on X if for all  $x, y \in X$ , there is an  $a \in G$  such that a(x) = y.

**Theorem 5.9:** Let G be a group acting transitively on a set X. Let  $x_0 \in X$  and  $G_0 = G_{x_0}$ , and for all  $x \in X$ , let  $a_x \in G$  be such that  $a_x(x_0) = x$ . Then the action of G on X is equivalent to the action of G on  $G/G_0$ , in that there is a bijection from X to  $G/G_0$  given by  $x \longmapsto a_x G_0$ , and a(x) = y if and only if  $a(a_x G_0) = a_y(G_0)$  for all  $a \in G$ .

**Proof:** The bijection exists immediately by the one-to-one correspondence between orb  $x_0 = X$  (since the action is transitive) and  $G/G_0$ . For the second statement, a(x) = y if and only if  $aa_xG_0(x_0) = a((a_xG_0)(x_0)) = y$ , since  $a_xG_0$  is the set of elements that send  $x_0$  to x. But this happens if and only if  $a(a_xG_0) = a_yG_0$ , since  $a_yG_0$  is the set of elements that send  $x_0$  to y.

**Comment:** By this theorem, we can treat any transitive action as an action on the left cosets of some subgroup. Therefore, all actions on geometric objects can be transformed into pure algebra by fixing a base point and considering the left cosets of its stabilizer subgroup.

**Definition 5.10:** Let G be a group acting on a set X. G acts **freely** on X if for all  $x \in X$ ,  $G_x = \{e\}$ .

**Definition 5.11:** Let G be a group acting on a set X. X is a **principal homogeneous set** for G if G acts freely and transitively on X.

**Example:** The punctured line  $\mathbb{E} \setminus \{0\}$  is a principal homogeneous set for  $\mathbb{R}^*$ .

The punctured plane  $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \{0\}$  is a principal homogeneous set for  $\mathbb{C}^*$ .

The punctured 3-space  $\mathbb{E}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  is *not* a principal homogeneous set for the group of symmetries of  $\mathbb{E}^3$  that preserve the orientation, scale, and the origin, since it is impossible to rotate the 2-sphere without fixing a point, and therefore the symmetry group cannot act freely.

The punctured 4-space  $\mathbb{E}^4 \setminus \{0\}$  is a principal homogeneous set for  $\mathbb{H}^*$ .

**Theorem 5.12:** (The Class Equation) Let G be a group. Then

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{[a], a \notin Z(G)} [G : G_a].$$

**Proof:**  $[G:G_a]$  = 1 if and only if [a] =  $\{a\}$ , if and only  $a \in Z(G)$ .

**Example:** Does  $S_4$  have a normal subgroup of order 8? The class equation for  $S_4$  is 24 = 1 + 6 + 8 + 6 + 4, counting the center, 2-cycles, 3-cycles, 4-cycles, and (2, 2)-cycles, respectively. A normal subgroup is the union of conjugacy classes. But every subgroup contains the identity, and there is no way to union conjugacy classes to result in a subgroup of order 8 that includes e.

**Definition 5.13:** A *p*-group is a group G with order  $|G| = p^n$  for some prime p and some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proposition 5.14:** Every nontrivial *p*-group has a nontrivial center.

**Proof:** Let G be a nontrivial p-group. Then  $|G| = p^n = |Z(G)| + \sum_{\substack{[a], a \notin Z(G)}} [G:G_a]$ . Since  $|G_a| \mid p^n$  for all  $a \in G$ ,  $p \mid |G_a|$  if  $|G_a| \neq 1$ , so  $p \mid |G_a|$  if  $a \notin Z(G)$ . Thus  $p \mid \sum_{\substack{[a], a \notin Z(G)}} [G:G_a]$ , and since  $p \mid p^n \ (n \neq 0)$ ,  $p \mid |Z(G)|$ . Since p > 1,  $|Z(G)| \neq 1$ .

**Definition 5.15:** Let G be a group. The **commutator subgroup** of G is  $G' = \langle [a,b] \mid a,b \in G \rangle$ , where  $[a,b] = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$ .

**Proposition 5.16:** Let G be a group and G' the commutator subgroup. Then  $G' \triangleleft G$ , G/G' is abelian, and if  $N \triangleleft G$  and G/N is abelian, then  $G' \triangleleft N$ .

**Definition 5.17:** Let G be a group. The *i*th derived subgroup of G if  $G^{(i)} = (G^{(i-1)})'$ , where  $G^{(1)} = G'$ .

**Definition 5.18:** A group G is solvable if  $G^{(n)} = \{e\}$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Example:** Every abelian group G is solvable, since  $G' = \{e\}$ .

**Comment:** In some sense, solvable groups are built up from abelian groups, but they are far more common than abelian groups while still sharing many nice properties.

**Definition 5.19:** A group G is **perfect** if G' = G.

**Theorem 5.20:** All *p*-groups are solvable.

**Proof:** Suppose not. Then there is a group G that is the smallest-order nonsolvable p-group. Since  $G' \leq G$ ,  $|G'| \leq |G|$ , so G' = G, since otherwise G' would be a smaller-order nonsolvable p-group. Now let  $\overline{G} = G/ZG$ , which is a group, since  $Z(G) \triangleleft G$ . Since G is a nontrivial p-group,  $Z(G) \neq \{e\}$ , so  $|\overline{G}| < |G|$ . Since G = G', every element of G is of the form  $([a_1,b_1])\cdots([a_i,b_i]])$ , and since  $|G| > |\overline{G}|$ , there is an onto homomorphism from G to  $\overline{G}$  given by  $[a,b] \longmapsto [a,b]Z(G)$ , so every element of  $\overline{G}$  is of the form [a,b]Z(G). Thus  $\overline{G} = \overline{G}'$ , so  $\overline{G}^{(n)} = \overline{G}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since G is a p-group,  $|G| = p^k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and since  $Z(G) \leq G$ ,  $|Z(G)| = p^l$  for some  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus  $|\overline{G}| = |G/Z(G)| = p^{k-l}$ , and so  $\overline{G}$  is a p-group. But G is the smallest-order nonsolvable p-group, so  $\overline{G}$  must be solvable. But  $\overline{G}^{(n)} = \overline{G}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , so  $\overline{G} = \{e\}$ . But  $\overline{G} = G/Z(G)$ , so G = Z(G), and so G is abelian, and therefore solvable. f

Theorem 5.21: All odd-ordered groups are solvable.

**Theorem 5.22:** Let G be a finite group and let p be a prime such that  $p \mid |G|$ . Then G contains an element of order p.

# VI — Rings

**Definition 6.1:** A **ring** is a nonempty set R with two binary operations + and  $\cdot$ , such that (R, +) is an abelian group, R is closed under  $\cdot$ ,  $\cdot$  is associative, and for all  $a, b, c \in R$ , a(b+c) = ab + ac and (a+b)c = ac + bc.

**Example:**  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $C_n$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathbb{H}$ ,  $M_nR$  for any ring R, and the set of functions on a given set are all rings.

**Definition 6.2:** Let R be a ring. The **polynomial ring** R[x] is the set of all polynomials in x with coefficients in R.

**Definition 6.3:** A **ring with 1** is a ring with a multiplicative identity.

**Definition 6.4:** Let R be a ring with 1. A **unit** of R is an element of R with a multiplicative inverse.

**Definition 6.5:** Let R be a ring with 1. The **group of units** of R is  $R^{\times} = \{a \in R \mid a \text{ is a unit}\}.$ 

**Definition 6.6:** A **commutative ring** is a ring with commutative multiplication.

**Proposition 6.7:** Let R be a ring. Then 0a = a0 = 0 for all  $a \in R$ .

**Proof:** 0a = (0+0)a = 0a + 0a, so 0a = 0.

**Proposition 6.8:** Let R be a ring. Then (-a)b = -(ab) for all  $a, b \in R$ .

**Proof:** ab + (-a)b = (a + (-a))b = 0b = 0, so (-a)b = -(ab).

**Proposition 6.9:** Let R be a ring. Then (-a)(-b) = ab for all  $a, b \in R$ .

**Proof:** (-a)(-b) = -(a(-b)) = -(-(ab)) = ab.

**Proposition 6.10:** Let R be a ring with 1. Then (-1)a = -a for all  $a \in R$ .

**Proof:** a + (-1)a = (1 + (-1))a = 0a = 0, so (-1)a = -a.

**Corollary 6.10.1:** Let R be a ring with 1. Then (-1)(-1) = 1.

### VII — Domains

**Definition 7.1:** A division ring is a ring R with 1 such that  $R^{\times} = R \setminus \{0\}$ .

**Definition 7.2:** A field is a commutative division ring.

**Definition 7.3:** An **integral domain** is a commutative ring with 1 such that if ab = 0, then either a = 0 or b = 0.

**Definition 7.4:** Let R be a ring. A **zero divisor** in R is a nonzero element  $a \in R$  such that for some nonzero  $b \in R$ , either ab = 0 or ba = 0.

**Proposition 7.5:** Let R be a ring. Then  $S \subseteq R$  is a subring if and only if  $S \neq \emptyset$ ,  $(S, +) \leq (R, +)$ , and S is closed under multiplication.

**Proposition 7.6:** Let R be a commutative ring and let  $a \in R$  be a nonzero non-zero divisor. Then if ab = ac, b = c.

**Proof:** Since ab = ac, ab - ac = a(b - c) = 0. Since  $a \neq 0$  is not a zero divisor, b - c = 0. Thus b = c.

Corollary 7.6.1: Let R be an integral domain. Then if ab = ac for  $a, b, c \in R$  with  $a \neq 0, b = c$ .

Theorem 7.7: (Wedderburn) All finite integral domains are fields.

**Proof:** Let D be a finite integral domain. Then  $D = \{a_1, ..., a_n\}$  with the  $a_i$  distinct. Let  $a_i \in D$ . If  $a_i a_j = a_i a_k$  for some  $a_j, a_k \in D$ , then  $a_j = a_k$ , which is impossible, since the elements of D are distinct. Thus  $|\{a_i a_1, ..., a_i a_n\}| = |D|$ , and since this cardinality is finite,  $\{a_i a_1, ..., a_i a_n\} = D$ . Now  $1 \in D$  since it is an integral domain, so  $a_i a_j = 1$  for some  $a_j \in D$ . Thus  $a_i^{-1}$  exists for all  $a_i \in D$ , so D is a field.

**Theorem 7.8:** (Artin-Zorn) All finite division rings are fields.

**Definition 7.9:** Let R be a ring with 1. The **characteristic** of R is char R = |1| in (R, +). If |1| is infinite, char R = 0.

**Example:** char  $\mathbb{Z}$  = char  $\mathbb{Q}$  = 0, and char  $C_n$  = n.

**Definition 7.10:** Let R and S be rings. A **ring homomorphism** between R and S is a function  $\varphi: R \longrightarrow S$  such that  $\varphi(a+b) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b)$  and  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$  for all  $a, b \in R$ .

**Definition 7.11:** Let R be a ring and  $a \in R$ . The **evaluation homomorphism** at a is  $\varepsilon_a : \mathbb{Z}[x] \longrightarrow R$ , defined by  $\varepsilon_a(p(x)) = p(a)$ .

**Definition 7.12:** Let  $\varphi$  be a ring homomorphism. The **kernel** of  $\varphi$  is  $\ker \varphi = \{a \in R \mid \varphi(a) = 0\}$ .

**Proposition 7.13:** Let R and S be rings and  $\varphi: R \longrightarrow S$  a ring homomorphism. Then  $\ker \varphi \leq (R, +)$ .

**Definition 7.14:** Let R be a ring. An **ideal** of R is a subset  $I \subseteq R$  such that  $I \subseteq (R, +)$  and  $ar, ra \in I$  for all  $a \in I$  and  $r \in R$ .

**Definition 7.15:** Let R be a ring and  $a \in R$ . The ideal generated by a is (a) = aR.

**Definition 7.16:** Let R be a ring. A **principal ideal** of R is an ideal  $I \subseteq R$  such that I = (a) for some  $a \in R$ .

**Definition 7.17:** A principal ideal domain, or PID, is an integral domain in which all ideals are principal.

**Theorem 7.18:** Let R be a ring and  $I \subseteq R$  an ideal. Then the quotient  $R/I = \{a + I \mid a \in R\}$  is a ring.

**Proof:** Let  $a+I, b+I \in R/I$ . Then  $(a+I)(b+I) = ab+aI+bI+I = ab+I \in R/I$ , so R/I is closed under multiplication. Clearly, multiplication in R/I is associative and distributes over addition, so all that remains to be shown is that it is well-defined. Suppose a+I=a'+I and b+I=b'+I. Let  $x=a-a' \in I$  and  $y=b-b' \in I$ . Then a'b'+I=ab-ay-xb+xy=ab+I.

**Theorem 7.19:** Let R and S be rings and  $\varphi: R \longrightarrow S$  a homomorphism. Then  $R/\ker \varphi \simeq \varphi(R)$ .

**Proof:** Define  $\psi: R/\ker \varphi \longrightarrow \varphi(R)$  by  $\psi(a + \ker \varphi) = \varphi(a)$ . By the first isomorphism theorem for groups,  $\psi$  is a group isomorphism, and since  $\psi((a + \ker \varphi)(b + \ker \varphi)) = \psi(ab + \ker \varphi) = \varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b) = \psi(a + \ker \varphi)\psi(b + \ker \varphi)$  for  $a, b \in R$ ,  $\psi$  is a ring isomorphism too.

**Proposition 7.20:** Let R be a ring with 1. Then  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle \operatorname{char} R \rangle \simeq \langle 1_R \rangle$ .

**Proof:** Define  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow R$  by  $\varphi(k) = k(1_R)$ . Then  $\varphi(\mathbb{Z}) = \langle 1_R \rangle$  and  $\ker \varphi = \langle \operatorname{char} R \rangle$ , so  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle \operatorname{char} R \rangle \simeq \langle 1_R \rangle$ .

**Theorem 7.21:** Let  $\varphi: R \longrightarrow S$  be a surjective homomorphism. Then there is a one-to-one correspondence between the ideals of R containing  $\ker \varphi$  and the ideals of S, given by  $I \longmapsto \varphi(I)$  and  $J \longmapsto \varphi^{-1}(J)$ .

**Comment:** Moreover, if R is a ring and  $I \subseteq R$  is an ideal, then there is a one-to-one correspondence between the ideals of R that contain I and the ideals of R/I, given by  $J \longmapsto J + I$ .

**Definition 7.22:** Let R be a ring. A **maximal ideal** of R is an ideal  $I \subseteq R$  such that there is no ideal  $J \subseteq R$  with  $I \subset J \subset R$ .

**Definition 7.23:** Let R be a ring. A **prime ideal** of R is an ideal  $I \subset R$  such that for all  $ab \in I$ , either  $a \in I$  or  $b \in I$ .

**Definition 7.24:** Let R be a ring. An element  $p \in R$  is **prime** if  $p \neq 0$  and (p) is a prime ideal.

**Definition 7.25:** Let R be a ring. An element  $r \in R$  is **irreducible** if r is not a unit and whenever r = ab, either  $a \in R^{\times}$  or  $b \in R^{\times}$ .

**Theorem 7.26:** Let R be a commutative ring with 1 and let  $I \subseteq R$  be an ideal. Then I is maximal if and only if R/I is a field.

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume I is maximal. Then by the Correspondence theorem, R/I has no proper nontrivial ideals — that is, its only ideals are (0) and R/I. It follows quickly that R/I is a division ring, and we know already that is a commutative ring with 1, so it is a field.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose I is not maximal. Then there is an ideal J of R with  $I \subset J \subset R$ . But then J + I is an ideal of R/I, so R/I is not a field.

**Comment:** This theorem lays the groundwork for constructing fields from arbitrary rings — in particular, we will use it to construct fields from  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ .

Theorem 7.27: Every ring contains a maximal ideal.

**Theorem 7.28:** Let R be a commutative ring with 1 and let  $I \subseteq R$  be an ideal. Then I is a prime ideal if and only if R/I is an integral domain.

#### **Proof:**

```
I is a prime ideal \Leftrightarrow ab \in I \Rightarrow a \in I or b \in I

\Leftrightarrow ab + I = I \Rightarrow a + I = I or b + I = I

\Leftrightarrow (a + I)(b + I) = I \Rightarrow a + I = I or b + I = I

\Leftrightarrow (a + I)(b + I) = (0) + I \Rightarrow a + I = (0) + I or b + I = (0) + I

\Leftrightarrow I is an integral domain.
```

**Definition 7.29:** Let R be a commutative ring with 1. The **spectrum** of R, denoted Spec R, is the set of prime ideals of R.

**Theorem 7.30:**  $\mathbb{Q}$  is the smallest field containing  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Then for any field k containing  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\frac{a}{b} = a\left(\frac{1}{b}\right) = a\left(b^{-1}\right) \in k$ , since k is closed under multiplicative inverses. Thus  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq k$ .

**Comment:** We would like to construct the smallest ring containing a given integral domain and certain multiplicative inverses from it.

**Definition 7.31:** Let A be an integral domain. A subset  $S \subseteq A$  is **multiplicative** if S is closed under multiplication.

**Definition 7.32:** Let A be an integral domain and let  $S \subseteq A$  be multiplicative with  $1 \in S$ . The **localization** of A at S is  $A[S^{-1}] = \{\frac{a}{s} \mid a \in A, s \in S\}$ , where  $\frac{a_1}{s_1} = \frac{a_2}{s_2}$  if  $a_1s_2 = a_2s_1$ .

**Proposition 7.33:** Let A be an integral domain and let  $S \subseteq A$  be multiplicative with  $1 \in S$ . Then  $A\left[S^{-1}\right]$  is a ring when addition is defined as  $\frac{a}{s} + \frac{b}{t} = \frac{as+bt}{st}$  and multiplication as  $\frac{a}{s} \cdot \frac{b}{t} = \frac{ab}{st}$ . In this case,  $\frac{0}{1} = 0$ ,  $\frac{1}{1} = 1$ , and  $-\left(\frac{a}{s}\right) = \frac{-a}{s}$ . Moreover, if  $0 \in S$ , then  $A\left[S^{-1}\right] = \{0\}$ , and if  $0 \notin S$ , then  $A\left[S^{-1}\right]$  is an integral domain containing A.

**Proof:** To show that + is well-defined, suppose  $\frac{a}{s} = \frac{b}{t}$ . Then at = bs. Now let  $c \in A$  and  $u \in S$ . Since at = bs,  $atu^2 + cstu = bsu^2 + cstu$ , so (au + cs)(tu) = (bu + ct)(su). Thus  $\frac{a}{s} + \frac{c}{u} = \frac{au + cs}{su}$  and  $\frac{b}{t} + \frac{c}{u} = \frac{bu + ct}{tu}$ , and so + is well-defined. The other ring axioms follow quickly.

Suppose  $0 \in S$ . Then for all  $\frac{a}{s} \in A\left[S^{-1}\right]$ ,  $\frac{a}{s} = \frac{0}{0}$  by definition, and  $\frac{0}{0} = \frac{0}{1} = 0$ , so  $A\left[S^{-1}\right] = \{0\}$ .

Now suppose  $0 \notin S$ . We already know that  $A\left[S^{-1}\right]$  is a commutative ring with 1, so we need only show it has no zero divisors. Let  $\frac{a}{s}, \frac{b}{t} \in A[S^{-1}]$  with  $\frac{ab}{st} = 0 = \frac{0}{1}$ . Since  $0 \notin S$  and S is multiplicative,  $st \neq 0$ . Thus ab = 0, and since A is an integral domain, either a = 0 or b = 0. Thus  $A\left[S^{-1}\right]$  is an integral domain, and  $A \simeq \left\{\frac{a}{1} \mid a \in A\right\} \subseteq A\left[S^{-1}\right]$ .

**Definition 7.34:** Let A be an integral domain,  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime ideal, and  $S = A \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ . The local ring  $A_{\mathfrak{p}} = A [S^{-1}]$ .

**Definition 7.35:** Let A be an integral domain and  $S = A \setminus \{0\}$ . The field of fractions of A is Frac  $A = A \setminus \{0\}$ .

**Definition 7.36:** Let k be a field. The field of rational functions in k is  $k(x) = \operatorname{Frac} k[x]$ .

**Proposition 7.37:** Let A be an integral domain. Then Frac A is the smallest field containing A.

**Definition 7.38:** A Euclidean domain is an integral domain D equipped with a function  $\nu: D \setminus \{0\} \longrightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  such that

- 1.  $\nu(a) \le \nu(ab)$  for all  $a, b \in D$ .
- 2.  $\nu(0) = \infty$ .
- 3. If  $a, b \in D$  with  $a \neq 0$ , then there are  $q, r \in D$  with b = aq + r and either r = 0 or  $\nu(r) < \nu(a)$ .

**Theorem 7.39:** Every Euclidean domain is a principal ideal domain.

**Proof:** Let D be a Euclidean domain and let  $I \subseteq D$  be an ideal with  $I \neq (0)$ . Since  $\nu$  maps into the nonnegative integers, there is  $a \in I$  such that  $\nu(a) \leq \nu(b)$  for all  $b \in I$ . Finally, let  $i \in I$ . Since D is a Euclidean domain, there are  $q, r \in D$  such that i = aq + r and either r = 0 or  $\nu(r) < \nu(a)$ . Since  $a \in I$  and I is an ideal,  $aq \in I$ , so  $r = i - aq \in I$  too. Thus  $\nu(r) \geq \nu(a)$ , since  $\nu(a)$  was minimal in  $\nu(I)$ , and therefore r must be 0. Thus  $i = aq \in (a)$ , so  $I \subseteq (a)$ , and clearly  $(a) \subseteq I$ , so I = (a) and is therefore a principal ideal.

**Definition 7.40:** Let *A* be an integral domain and let  $a, b \in A$ . a divides b, written a|b, if there is a  $k \in A$  such that b = ak.

**Definition 7.41:** Let A be an integral domain and let  $a, b \in A$ . A **greatest common divisor** of a and b is an element  $d \in A$  such that d|a, d|b, and if c|a and c|b, then c|d. Notice that d may not be unique.

**Theorem 7.42:** (The Euclidean Algorithm) Let A be a principal ideal domain. Then gcd(a,b) exists for all  $a,b \in A$ , and there are  $s,t \in A$  such that gcd(a,b) = as + bt.

**Proof:** Since A is a principal ideal domain, (a) + (b) = (d) for some  $d \in A$ . Since  $a \in (a) + (b) = (d)$ , d|a, and similarly, d|b. Now suppose c|a and c|b for some  $c \in A$ . Then a = ck and b = cl for some  $k, l \in A$ , and since  $d \in (d) = (a) + (b)$ , d = as + bt = (ck)s + (cl)t for some  $s, t \in A$ . Thus c|d, and so  $d = \gcd(a, b) = as + bt$ .

**Comment:** Not every principal ideal domain is a Euclidean domain, though examples can be somewhat exotic. One such domain is  $\mathbb{Z}\left[\sqrt{-19}\right]$ .

**Theorem 7.43:** In a principal ideal domain, irreducible elements are prime.

**Proof:** Let D be a principal ideal domain and let  $a \in D$  be irreducible. We will show that (a) is maximal, and therefore prime.

Suppose there were an ideal  $I \subseteq D$  with  $(a) \subseteq I$  and  $I \ne D$ . Since I = (d) for some  $d \in D$ ,  $a \in (d)$ , so a = dk for some  $k \in D$ . Since d is not a unit and a is irreducible, k must be a unit. But then  $d = ak^{-1} \in (a)$ , so (a) = (d). If Thus (a) is maximal.

**Example:** Let  $z = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{5}}$ . Then  $\varepsilon_z : \mathbb{Q}[x] \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$  given by  $f(x) \longmapsto f(z)$  has a nontrivial kernal, since  $x^5 - 1 \in \ker \varepsilon_z$ . It can be shown that  $\ker \varepsilon_z = (p)$  is a prime ideal. Then p is irreducible, so (p) is maximal, and therefore  $\mathbb{Q}[z] \simeq \mathbb{Q}[x]/(p)$  is a field.

**Theorem 7.44:** Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  be algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Then there is a unique monic, irreducible polynomial  $p(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  such that p(z) = 0 and  $\mathbb{Q}[z]$  is a field.

**Theorem 7.45:** Let D be a principal ideal domain and let  $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq I_3 \subseteq \cdots$  be an ascending chain of ideals. Then  $I_n = I_{n+1} = I_{n+2} = \cdots$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $I = I_1 \cup I_2 \cup I_3 \cup \cdots$ . Then I is an ideal, so I = (d) for some  $d \in D$ . Clearly,  $d \in I_n$  for some n, so since each  $I_k$  is an ideal,  $I_n = I_{n+1} = \cdots = I$ .

**Theorem 7.46:** In a principal ideal domain, every proper ideal is contained in a maximal ideal.

**Proof:** Let D be a principal ideal domain and  $I_1 \subset D$  a proper ideal. If  $I_1$  is not contained in any maximal ideal, then there is an infinite ascending chain  $I_1 \subset I_2 \subset I_3 \subset \cdots$ .

**Definition 7.47:** Let R be a ring and  $a, b \in R$ . If a = bu for some unit  $u \in R$ , we write a b.

**Definition 7.48:** A unique factorization domain is an integral domain D in which every nonzero nonunit element of D is expressible as a finite product of irreducible elements in D, and this factorization is unique up to multiplication by units.

**Theorem 7.49:** All principal ideal domains are unique factorization domains.

**Lemma 7.49.1:** Let D be a principal ideal domain and let  $a \in D$  be a nonzero nonunit. Then a = pq for some  $p, q \in D$  with p irreducible.

**Proof:** Since D is a principal ideal domain,  $(a) \subseteq (p)$  for some maximal ideal (p). Then p is prime, so it is irreducible, and since  $a \in (p)$ , a = pq for some  $q \in D$ .

**Proof:** Let D be a principal ideal domain and let  $a_1 \in D$  be a nonzero nonunit. By the lemma, let  $d_i \in D$  be irreducible such that  $a_1 = d_1 a_2 = (d_1 d_2) a_3 \cdots = (d_1 \cdots d_i) a_{i+1}$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then each  $a_{i+1} | a_i$ , so  $(a_i) \subseteq (a_{i+1})$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since D is a principal ideal domain, this chain terminates, so  $(a_n) = (a_{n+1})$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $a_{n+1}$  must be a unit, since otherwise the lemma would guarantee another ideal, and so  $a_1 = d_1 \cdots d_n$  for irreducible elements  $d_1, \ldots, d_n \in D$ . Now we need only show this factorization is unique.

Suppose  $a = d_1 \cdots d_n = c_1 \cdots c_m$  for irreducible elements  $d_1, ..., d_n, c_1, ..., c_m \in D$ . Without loss of generality, suppose  $m \le n$ . We will proceed by strong induction.

If m = 1, then  $c_1 = d_1 \cdots d_n$ . Since  $c_1$  is prime,  $c_1|d_k$  for some  $k \in \{1, ...n\}$ . Since  $d_k|c_1$  and  $c_1$  is irreducible, n must be 1. Therefore,  $a = d_1 = c_1$ .

Now suppose that the theorem holds for all products of less than m irreducibles. Then if  $c_1 \cdots c_m = d_1 \cdots d_n$ ,  $c_m | d_1 \cdots d_n$ , so  $c_m \ d_k$  for some  $k \in \{1, \dots n\}$ , since  $c_m$  is irreducible. Thus  $d_k = uc_m$  for some unit  $u \in D$ , so  $c_1 \cdots c_m = d_1 \cdots d_{k-1} d_{k+1} \cdots d_n uc_m$ , since D is commutative, and since D is an integral domain, we can cancel the  $c_m$ , leaving  $c_1 \cdots c_{m-1} = d_1 \cdots d_{k-1} d_{k+1} \cdots d_n u$ . Since  $c_1 \cdots c_{m-1}$  is a unique factorization, there is a one-to-one correspondence between the  $c_i$  and the  $d_j$ — without loss of generality,  $c_i \ d_i$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ . Notice that this correspondence also implies that n = m. Now  $a = d_1 \cdots d_n = c_1 \cdots c_n = d_1 \cdots d_{n-1} c_n u'$  for some unit  $u' \in D$ . By cancellation,  $c_n \ d_n$ , so the original factorization is unique up to units.

## VIII — Polynomials

**Definition 8.1:** Let D be a unique factorization domain and let  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n \in D[x]$ . The **content** of f is  $c(f) = gcd(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n)$ . A polynomial is **primitive** if c(f) is a unit.

**Definition 8.2:** Let  $f = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  and let  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  be prime. The **reduction mod** p of f is  $[f]_p = [a_0]_p + [a_1]_p x + \dots + [a_n]_p x^n$ .

**Proposition 8.3:** If  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  is primitive and deg  $f = \deg[f]_p$ , then  $[f]_p$  is irreducible.

**Proposition 8.4:** Let R and S be commutative rings with 1 and let  $\varphi: R \longrightarrow S$  be a homomorphism. Then there is a homomorphism  $\phi: R[x] \longrightarrow S[x]$  given by  $\phi(a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n) = \varphi(a_0) + \varphi(a_1)x + \cdots + \varphi(a_n)x^n$ .

**Proposition 8.5:** Let D be a unique factorization domain and let  $d \in D$ . Let  $\phi : D[x] \longrightarrow \left(\frac{D}{(d)}\right)[x]$  be the homomorphism given by the previous proposition. If  $f = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n$  is primitive,  $d \nmid a_n$ , and  $\phi(f)$  is irreducible, then f is irreducible.

**Proof:** Suppose not. Then f = gh for some  $g, h \in D[x]$ . Since f is primitive, g and h must be nonconstant, and since  $d + a_n$ ,  $\deg f = \deg \phi(f)$ , so  $\deg g + \deg h = \deg \phi(g) + \deg \phi(h)$ . Since  $\deg g \ge \deg \phi(g)$  and  $\deg h \ge \deg \phi(h)$ ,  $\deg g = \deg \phi(g)$  and  $\deg h = \deg \phi(h)$ . Thus  $\phi(f) = \phi(g)\phi(h)$ , and so  $\phi(f)$  is reducible.  $\sharp$ 

**Theorem 8.6:** (Eisenstein's Criterion) Let D be a unique factorization domain,  $p \in D$  prime, and  $f = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \in D[x]$  primitive. If  $p|a_i$  for all  $i \in \{0, ..., n-1\}$ ,  $p \nmid a_n$ , and  $p^2 \nmid a_0$ , then f is irreducible.

**Proof:** Suppose not. then f = gh for  $g, h \in D[x]$ , and since f is primitive, g and h are nonconstant. Let  $\phi: D[x] \longrightarrow \left(\frac{D}{(p)}\right)[x]$  be reduction mod p. Then  $\phi(f) = [a_n]_p x^n = \phi(g)\phi(h)$ , so the constant terms of g and h must both be divisible by p. But then  $p^2|a_0$ .  $\not$ 

**Theorem 8.7:** Let  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  be prime. Then  $x^{p-1} + x^{p-2} + \dots + x + 1$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ .

**Proof:** Let  $f(x) = x^{p-1} + x^{p-2} + \dots + x + 1 = \frac{x^p - 1}{x - 1}$ . Then

$$f(x+1) = \frac{(x+1)^p - 1}{x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \left( x^p + {p \choose 1} x^{p-1} + \dots + {p \choose p-1} x \right)$$

$$= x^{p-1} + {p \choose 1} x^{p-2} + \dots + {p \choose p-1}.$$

Now  $p \mid \binom{p}{k}$  for all  $k \in \{1, ..., p-1\}$ ,  $p \nmid 1$ , and  $p^2 \nmid \binom{p}{p-1} = p$ , so by Eisenstein's criterion, f(x+1) is irreducible. But with u = x - 1, f(u+1) = f(x) is irreducible.

**Proposition 8.8:** (Gauss's Lemma I) Let D be a principal ideal domain and let  $f, g \in D[x]$ . Then c(fg) = c(f)c(g).

**Proof:** Let  $p \in D$  be prime and let  $\phi$  be reduction mod p. Since (p) is maximal, D/(p) is a field, so it is also an integral domain. Thus  $\phi(f)\phi(g) = 0$  if and only if  $\phi(f) = 0$  or  $\phi(g)$ , so p|fg if and only if p|f or p|g, and so c(fg) = c(f)c(g).

**Theorem 8.9:** (Gauss's Lemma II) Let D be a principal ideal domain and k = Frac D. If  $f \in D[x]$  is nonconstant and irreducible, then it is also irreducible in k[x].

**Proof:** Suppose not. Then  $f = g_k h_k$  for some nonconstant  $g_k, h_k \in k[x]$ . By clearing the denominators and factoring out the content, there are primitive, nonconstant polynomials  $g, h \in D[x]$ , where  $g = \frac{b}{b'}g_k$  and  $h = \frac{c}{c'}h_k$ . Then  $\frac{bc}{b'c'}f = gh$ , so (bc)f = (b'c')gh. Since g and h are both primitive, so is gh by Gauss's lemma I. Since f is irreducible in D[x], it is primitive, so bc b'c'. Thus f = ugh for some unit  $u \in D$ , so f is reducible in D[x]. f

**Proposition 8.10:** If D is a unique factorization domain, then so is D[x].

**Definition 8.11:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The *n*th roots of unity are the n complex solutions to  $x^n - 1$ , written  $\zeta_n^i$ , where  $\zeta_n = e^{frac2\pi in}$ .

**Definition 8.12:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The **primitive** *n*th roots of unity are the *n*th roots of unity  $\zeta_n^i$  with *i* relatively prime to *n*.

**Definition 8.13:** The *n*th cyclotomic polynomial is the unique monic irreducible polynomial that generates  $\ker \varepsilon_{\zeta_n}$ , written  $\Phi_n(x)$ .

### IX — Field Extensions

**Definition 9.1:** Let k be a field. A field extension of k is a field F, written F/k, such that  $k \subseteq F$ .

**Definition 9.2:** Let F/k be a field extension. The **degree** of F/k is  $[F:k] = \dim_F k$ , where  $\dim_F$  is the vector space dimension over F.

**Definition 9.3:** A field extension is **finite** if it has finite degree.

**Theorem 9.4:** (Kronecker's Theorem) Let k be a field and  $f \in k[x]$  be a nonconstant irreducible polynomial with deg f = n. Then  $E = \frac{k[x]}{(f)}$  is a field extension of k of degree n with a basis  $\{1, \overline{x}, \overline{x}^2, ..., \overline{x}^{n-1}\}$ , where  $\overline{x} = x + (f)$ . Moreover,  $\overline{x}$  is a root of f.

**Proof:** Since f is irreducible and k[x] is a principal ideal domain, (f) is maximal, so E is a field. Define  $\varphi: k \longrightarrow \frac{k[x]}{(f)}$  by  $\varphi(a) = a + (f)$ . Then  $\ker \varphi$  is an ideal of the field k, so it is either (0) or k. But since f is nonconstant, the kernel cannot be k, so it is (0). Thus  $\varphi$  is injective, so  $k \subseteq E$ , and therefore E is a field extension of k.

Let  $g \in E$ . Then g = r for some  $r \in E$  with deg  $r < \deg f = n$ , so  $r \in \operatorname{span}\{1, x, x^2, ..., x^{n-1}\}$ . Since  $\overline{x} = x + (f)$ ,  $g \in \operatorname{span}\{1, \overline{x}, \overline{x}^2, ..., \overline{x}^{n-1}\}$ . If  $c_0 + c_1 \overline{x} + \cdots + c_{n-1} \overline{x}^{n-1} = 0$ , then each  $c_i = 0$ , so  $\{1, \overline{x}, \overline{x}^2, ..., \overline{x}^{n-1}\}$  is linearly independent, and therefore a basis for E over k. Finally,  $f(\overline{x}) = f(x) + (f) = 0$  by definition.

**Example:** Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}[\zeta_5]$ . Then  $[F : \mathbb{Q}] = \deg \Phi_5 = \deg x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1 = 4$ .

**Example:** To find  $\left[\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2},e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\right):\mathbb{Q}\right]$ , we first find a generator of  $\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2}\right)$  — a monic irreducible polynomial such that quotienting  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  by it gives  $\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2}\right)$ . This is  $x^3-2$ , so  $\left[\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2}\right):\mathbb{Q}\right]=3$ . Similarly,  $\left[\mathbb{Q}\left(e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\right):\mathbb{Q}\right]=2$ , since the generator is  $x^2+x+1$ . By properties of vector spaces,  $\mathbb{Q}\left(e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\right)$  cannot be contained in  $\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2}\right)$ , since  $2 \nmid 3$ . Thus the generator of  $\mathbb{Q}\left(e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\right)$  over  $\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2}\right)$  is still  $x^2+x+1$ . Therefore,  $\left[\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2},e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\right):\mathbb{Q}\right]=6$ , with a basis of

$$\left\{1,\sqrt[3]{2},\sqrt[3]{4},e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}},e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\sqrt[3]{2},e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\sqrt[3]{4}\right\}.$$

Theorem 9.5: (Multiplicativity of Degree) Let k be a field and E/k a finite field extension with degree n. Let F/E be another finite extension with degree m. Then F/k has degree mn.

**Proof:** Let  $\{e_1, ..., e_n\}$  be a basis for E over k and  $\{f_1, ..., f_m\}$  a basis for F over E. It is simple (if tedious) to show that  $\{e_1f_1, ..., e_1f_m, ..., e_nf_n, ..., e_nf_m\}$  is a basis for F over k and that therefore [F:k] = mn.

34

**Proposition 9.6:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If m < n and m | n, then  $gcd(x^m - 1, \Phi_n(x)) = 1$ .

**Proof:** If not, then  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)$  would be a subfield of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$  by multiplicativity of degree, so  $\Phi_n$  would be reducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Corollary 9.6.1: Every root of  $\Phi_n$  is a primitive *n*th root of unity.

Corollary 9.6.2:  $\deg \Phi_n \leq \varphi(n)$ , where  $\varphi(n)$  is the Euler phi function.

**Comment:** Given a field extension k, we have created a field extension K for every polynomial  $p \in k[x]$  such that the extension contains a root of p. Moreover,  $K = k(\overline{x})$  is the smallest such extension — if F/k has a root z of p, then there is an injective homomorphism from  $k(\overline{x})$  to F given by  $f(\overline{x}) \mapsto f(z)$ .

**Definition 9.7:** Let k be a field. An element z is **transcendental** over k if ker  $\varepsilon_z = \{0\}$ , and **algebraic** if not.

**Proposition 9.8:** If z is transcendental over a field k, then  $k[z] \simeq k[x]$ .

**Proof:**  $\ker \varepsilon_z = \{0\}$ , so  $k[x] \simeq \frac{k[x]}{\ker \varepsilon_z} \simeq k[z]$ .

**Definition 9.9:** Let k be a field and z an element possibly not in k. The **minimum polynomial** for z over k is the unique monic irreducible polynomial  $m_{z/k}$  with  $m_{z/k}(z) = 0$ . Notice that if f(z) = 0 for some polynomial  $f \in k[x]$ , then  $m_{z/k}|f$ .

**Definition 9.10:** Let k be a field and z an element possibly not in k. The **degree** of z over k is deg(z/k) = [k(z):k].

**Definition 9.11:** Let k be a field. Two elements z, z' are **conjugate** over k if  $m_{z/k} = m_{z'/k}$ .

**Definition 9.12:** A ring F is algebraic over a field k if  $k \subseteq F$  and every  $z \in F$  is algebraic over k.

**Definition 9.13:** A field k is algebraically closed if every element algebraic over k is contained in k.

**Theorem 9.14:** Finite extensions are algebraic.

**Proof:** Let E/k be a field extension and let  $z \in E$ . Since E/k is finite, [E:k] = n for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $1, z, z^2, ..., z^n$  cannot all be linearly independent, so there is a polynomial  $p \in k[x]$  with deg  $p \le n$  such that p(z) = 0. Thus z is algebraic over k.

**Theorem 9.15:** If z is algebraic over a field k, then k[z] = k(z).

**Proof:** Since z is algebraic over k, there is a polynomial in k[x] with z as a zero. Let  $m_{z/k}$  be the polynomial with lowest degree with z as a zero. Then  $m_{z/k}$  is necessarily irreducible, so  $(m_{z/k})$  is a maximal ideal, since k[x] is a principal ideal domain (because polynomial long division makes it a Euclidean domain). Thus  $k[z] = k[x]/(m_{z/k})$  is a field, so it is closed under inverses. Thus k[z] = k(z).

**Theorem 9.16:** Let E/k be a field extension. Then E/k is finite if and only if it is algebraic and finitely generated — that is,  $E = k[z_1, ..., z_n]$  for some  $z_1, ..., z_n$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume [E:k] is finite. Then if  $y \in E$ , k(y) is a subfield of E, so by multiplicativity of degree, [k(y):k]|[E:k]. Thus [k(y):k] is finite, so it is algebraic.

Since [E:k] is finite, there is a finite basis  $\{e_1,...,e_n\}$  for E over k by definition. Then  $E=k[e_1,...,e_n]$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Now suppose E/k is algebraic and finitely generated. Then  $E = k[z_1, ..., z_n]$  for some  $z_1, ..., z_n \in E$ , and so  $k \subseteq k[z_1] \subseteq k[z_1, z_2] \subseteq \cdots \subseteq k[z_1, ..., z_n] = E$ . Since  $z_1$  is algebraic over k,  $k[z_1] = k(z_1)$  and  $[k(z_1) : k]$  is finite. Similarly,  $[k(z_1, z_2) : k(z_1)] = [k(z_1)(z_2) : k(z_1)]$  is finite, so by multiplicativity of degree, so is  $[k(z_1, z_2) : k]$ . By induction, [E : k] is finite.

**Theorem 9.17:** Let E/k be a field extension. Then the set of elements of E algebraic over k is a field.

**Proof:** Let  $F = \{z \in E \mid z/k \text{ is algebraic}\}$  and let  $a,b \in F$ . Then  $\ker \varepsilon_x \neq \{0\}$ , so there is a minimal polynomial  $m_{a/k}$  with  $\frac{k[x]}{(m_{a/k})} \cong k[a]$ . By Kronecker's theorem, [k[a]:k] = [k(a):k] is finite. Since b is algebraic over k it is also algebraic over k(a). Thus k(a,b)/k(a) is finite, so by multiplicativity of degree, k(x,y)/k is too. Thus k(x,y) is algebraic over k, so by definition, all of its elements are algebraic, and therefore in F. Thus  $x + y, x - y, xy, \frac{x}{y} \in F$ , so F is a field.

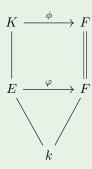
**Definition 9.18:** Let E/k and F/k be field extensions. A **k-embedding** of E into F is a ring homomorphism  $\varphi: E \longrightarrow F$  such that  $\varphi|_k = id_k$ , the identity map on k.



A k-automorphism is a k-embedding of E into itself.

**Definition 9.19:** Let E/k be a field extension. The **Galois group** of E/k, written Gal(E/k), is the set of k-automorphisms of E.

**Definition 9.20:** Let K/E be a field extension of E/k. An **extension** of a k-embedding  $\varphi: E \longrightarrow F$  is a ring homomorphism  $\phi: K \longrightarrow F$  such that  $\phi|_E = id_E$ .



**Example:** To compute the Galois group of  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}$ , let  $\sigma$  be an element in the group. Then  $\sigma(\sqrt[3]{2})^3 = \sigma(2) = 2$ , since  $2 \in \mathbb{Q}$ , and  $\sigma(\sqrt[3]{4}) = 4$ , so  $\varsigma$  fixes  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\sqrt[3]{2}$ , and  $\sqrt[3]{4}$ . Thus  $\sigma = id$ , so  $\operatorname{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}) = \{e\}$ .

**Comment:** If E/k is a finite extension and  $\varphi: E \longrightarrow F$  is a k-embedding,  $\ker \varphi = \{0\}$ , since otherwise  $\varphi$  would no longer be a homomorphism. Thus  $E \simeq \varphi(E)$ , and in particular,  $[E:k] = [\varphi(E):k]$ .

**Comment:** k-embeddings preserve minimal polynomials: let E/k be a finite extension and  $\varphi: E \longrightarrow F$  a k-embedding. Then if  $z \in E$  is algebraic over k and p(z) = 0 for some  $p \in k[x]$ ,  $\varphi(p(z)) = 0$ , and since  $\varphi_k = id$ ,  $p(\varphi(z)) = 0$ . Thus  $\varphi(z)$  is a root of  $m_{z/k}$ , and by the properties of homomorphisms,  $\varphi(z)$  must have a minimal polynomial of the same degree as z. Thus  $m_{z/k} = m_{\varphi(z)/k}$ .

**Theorem 9.21:** (The Extension Lemma) Let  $\varphi: k \longrightarrow k'$  be an isomorphism, let E/k' be an extension, and let  $p \in k[x]$  be irreducible with  $\varphi(p) \in k'[x]$ . If  $\varphi(p)$  has n distinct roots  $z_1, ..., z_n$ , and  $k(\overline{x}) = k[x]/(p)$ , then there are n extensions of  $\varphi$  that map  $k(\overline{x})$  to E, denoted  $\phi_1, ..., \phi_n$ , such that  $\phi_i(\overline{x}) = z_i$ .

$$k(\overline{x}) \xrightarrow{\phi_i} E$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$k \xrightarrow{\varphi} k'$$

**Proof:** Define  $\phi_i': k[x] \longrightarrow E$  by  $\phi_i' = \varepsilon_{z_i}(\varphi)$ . Since  $\varepsilon_{z_i}(\varphi(p)) = 0$  by hypothesis,  $\ker \phi_i' = (p)$  (since p must be the minimal polynomial for  $z_i$ ). Now define  $\phi_i: k[x]/(p) \longrightarrow E$  by the first isomorphism theorem. All the  $\phi_i$  must be distinct, since  $\phi_i(\overline{x}) = z_i$  and the  $z_i$  are distinct. Moreover, there are no other extensions, since if  $\phi: k(\overline{x}) \longrightarrow E$  is one, then  $\phi(\overline{x})$  is a root of  $\varphi(p)$ , since p is the minimum polynomial for  $\overline{x}$ . Thus  $\phi = \phi_i$  for some i.

Corollary 9.21.1: Let E/k be a field extension containing exactly n roots of the irreducible polynomial  $p \in k[x]$ . If the roots are  $z_1, ..., z_n$ , then there are exactly n k-embeddings  $\psi_i : k(z_1) \longrightarrow E$ , and they are given by  $\psi_i = \phi_i \circ \phi_1^{-1}$  — that is,  $\psi_i(g(z_1)) = g(z_i)$ .

Example:

The second level comes from the extension lemma, and so we can see that

$$\left[\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2},e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}\right):\mathbb{Q}\right]=6.$$

## X — Splitting Fields

**Definition 10.1:** A polynomial **splits** over a field if it factors into linear factors over that field.

**Definition 10.2:** Let k be a field and  $p \in k[x]$ . The **splitting field** for p is the field extension of k of smallest degree in which p splits.

**Definition 10.3:** Let k be a field and  $p \in k[x]$ . The Galois group of p is the Galois group of its splitting field.

**Example:** Compute the splitting field for  $f(x) = x^5 - 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ : First we factor f into  $(x-1)(x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1)$ , and since the first factor is already linear, we can ignore it. Now we have

$$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_5) \xrightarrow{\varphi_i} \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_5)$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\mathbb{Q} \xrightarrow{id} \mathbb{Q}$$

since  $\mathbb{Q}\left(\zeta_5, \zeta_5^2, \zeta_5^3, \zeta_5^4\right) = \mathbb{Q}\left(\zeta_5\right)$ . Since the roots  $z_i$  are exactly  $\zeta_5^i$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , we can define  $\varphi_i$  by  $\varphi_i(\zeta_5) = \zeta_5^i$ . By the extension lemma, this is a complete list of automorphisms of  $\mathbb{Q}\left(\zeta_5\right)$  that fix  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and since there are four roots, we know that  $\operatorname{Gal}\left(\mathbb{Q}\left(\zeta_5\right)/\mathbb{Q}\right) \leq S_4$ . Since  $|\varphi_2| = 4$ ,  $\operatorname{Gal}\left(\mathbb{Q}\left(\zeta_5\right)/\mathbb{Q}\right) = \operatorname{Gal}\left(x^5 - 1\right) = \mathbb{Z}/4$ .

**Example:** Compute Gal  $(x^4 - 2/\mathbb{Q})$ : the splitting field is  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2}, i)$ , and  $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2}, i) : \mathbb{Q}] = 8$ :

$$\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[4]{2},i\right) \xrightarrow{\phi_k} \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[4]{2},i\right)$$

$$\downarrow^2 \qquad \qquad \parallel$$

$$\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[4]{2}\right) \xrightarrow{\varphi_j} \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[4]{2},i\right)$$

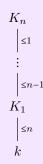
$$\downarrow^4 \qquad \qquad \downarrow^6$$

We now have a group with 8 elements. In particular, there is a map  $s \in \operatorname{Gal}\left(x^4 - 2/\mathbb{Q}\right)$  such that  $s\left(\sqrt[4]{2}\right) = \sqrt[4]{2}$  and s(i) = -i, and there is another map  $r \in \operatorname{Gal}\left(x^4 - 2/\mathbb{Q}\right)$ , where  $r\left(\sqrt[4]{2}\right) = \sqrt[4]{2}i$  and r(i) = i. Then  $\operatorname{Gal}\left(x^4 - 2/\mathbb{Q}\right) = \langle r, s \rangle = D_4$ .

Theorem 10.4: (The Existence of Splitting Fields) Let k be a field and  $p \in k[x]$  a monic polynomial of degree n. Then there is a field extension E/k that is a splitting field for p, and  $[E:k] \le n!$ .

**Proof:** Let  $p_1(x)$  be an irreducible factor of p and let  $K_1 = k[x]/(p_1)$ . Then  $p_1$  has a root  $z_1$  in  $K_1$  and  $[K_1:k] = \deg p_1 \le n$ , and  $p(x) = (x-z_1)q_1(x)$  in  $K_1[x]$ .

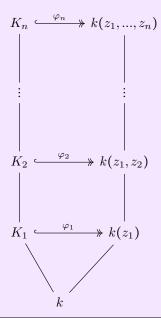
Now let  $p_2$  be an irreducible factor of  $q_1$  in  $K_1[x]$  and let  $K_2 = K_1[x]/(p_2)$ . Then  $K_2$  is a field extension of  $K_1$ , and therefore of k. Now  $p_2$  has a root  $z_2$  in  $K_2$ , and  $[K_2:K_1] = \deg p_2 \leq \deg q_1 \leq n-1$ . Repeat this process until we reach  $K_n$ , which contains every root of p and satisfies  $[K_n:k] \leq n!$ .



Theorem 10.5: (The Uniqueness of Splitting Fields) Let k be a field and let  $p \in k[x]$  be a polynomial of degree n. If p splits completely in some field L/k, then the splitting field of p is uniquely determined as a subset of L. Moreover, any two splitting fields of p are k-isomorphic — that is, isomorphic with the map fixing k.

**Proof:** If p splits completely in L, then the roots of p are uniquely determined, since L[x] is a principal ideal domain, and therefore a unique factorization domain. Thus the splitting field for p is both uniquely determined and contained in L.

To prove the second claim, let E/k be a splitting field for p. Since we already constructed a splitting field  $K_n$  for p in the previous theorem, we need only show that  $E \simeq K_n$ . Let  $z_1, ..., z_n$  be the roots of p. Then  $k[x]/(p_1) \simeq k(z_1) \simeq K_1$ , with some isomorphism  $\varphi_1 : K_1 \longrightarrow k(z_1)$ . By the extension lemma, there is an isomorphism  $\varphi_2 : K_2 \longrightarrow k(z_1)(z_2) = k(z_1, z_2)$  that fixes  $k(z_1) = K_1$ . Repeat to create an isomorphism  $\varphi_n : K_n \longrightarrow k(z_1, ..., z_n) = E$  with  $\varphi_n|_k = id$ .



Theorem 10.6: (The Permutation Action) Let k be a field and  $p \in k[x]$  an irreducible polynomial of degree n, and let E/k be the splitting field of p. Then Gal(E/k) acts faithfully and transitively on the roots of p — that is, no element of Gal(E/k) fixes all the roots of p except the identity (so Gal(E/k) is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$ ), and if z and z' are roots of p, then there is a  $\sigma \in Gal(E/k)$  such that  $\sigma(z) = z'$ .

**Proof:** Let  $X = \{z_1, ..., z_n\} \subseteq E$  be the roots of p, and let  $\sigma \in \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ . Since p is a polynomial,  $p(\sigma(z_i)) = \sigma(p(z_i))$ , and  $\sigma(p(z_i)) = \sigma(0) = 0$ , so  $\sigma(z_i) \in X$ . Thus  $\sigma$  permutes X.

Now since  $\operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$  acts on X, there is a homomorphism  $\alpha : \operatorname{Gal}(E/k) \longrightarrow S_n$  by definition. And  $\ker \alpha = \{\sigma \in \operatorname{Gal}(E/k) \mid \sigma(z_i) = z_i \text{ for all } i\}$ , so any  $\sigma \in \ker \alpha$  fixes k and all  $z_i$ , and therefore fixes  $k(z_1, ..., z_n) = E$ . Thus  $\ker \alpha = \{id\}$ , so by the first isomorphism theorem,  $\operatorname{Gal}(E/k) \cong \operatorname{Fange} \alpha \subseteq S_n$ . Thus  $\operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$  acts faithfully on the roots of p.

Now let z and z' be roots of p. Let  $K = K_n$  be the splitting field from the proof of existence and  $\phi = \varphi_n : K \longrightarrow E$  be the isomorphism from the proof of uniqueness. Then  $\phi(\overline{x}) = z_1$  from the construction of  $\phi$ , but the choice of  $z_1$  in that construction was arbitrary, since p is irreducible. Thus there is another isomorphism  $\phi' : K \longrightarrow E$ , where  $\phi'(\overline{x}) = z'$ . Let  $\sigma = \phi' \circ \phi^{-1}$ . Then  $\sigma(z) = z'$  and  $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(E/k)$  (since Gal(E/k) is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$ ), and so Gal(E/k) acts transitively on the roots of p.

Corollary 10.6.1: Only transitive subgroups of  $S_n$  can potentially be Galois groups of splitting fields.

#### XI — Finite Fields

#### **Definition 11.1:** A finite field is a field with finite cardinality.

**Theorem 11.2:** Let k be a finite field. Then  $|k| = p^n$  for some prime p and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Moreover, k is the splitting field for  $x^{p^n} - x$  over  $C_p$  — it consists exactly of the roots of  $x^{p^n} - x$ .

**Proof:** Define a ring homomorphism  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow k$  by  $\varphi(m) = m \cdot 1$  — that is,  $1 \in k$  added to itself m times. Since k is a field, it is an integral domain, so if ab = 0, then either a = 0 or b = 0. Thus  $\ker \varphi$  is prime, since  $\varphi(ml) = ml \cdot 1 = (m \cdot 1)(l \cdot 1) = \varphi(m)\varphi(l)$  by the distributive property for fields, so if  $\varphi(ml) = 0$ , either  $\varphi(m) = 0$  or  $\varphi(l) = 0$ . Moreover, since k is finite,  $\ker \varphi \neq (0)$ . Since  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a principal ideal domain,  $\ker \varphi = (p)$  for some prime number  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $C_p \simeq \mathbb{Z}/(p) \simeq \varphi(\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq k$ , so  $C_p \subseteq k$ . Thus k is a  $C_p$  vector space, and since k is finite, it is of finite dimension. Thus  $k \simeq C_p^n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and so  $|k| = p^n$ .

Now if  $a \in k^{\times}$ , then  $|a| \mid |k^{\times}| = p^n - 1$  by Lagrange's theorem, so  $a^{p^n - 1} = 1$ . Thus  $a^{p^n - 1} - 1 = 0$ , so a is a root of  $x^{p^n - 1} - 1$ , and therefore also of  $(x)(x^{p^n - 1} - 1) = x^{p^n} - x$ . And  $0 \in k$  is also a root of this polynomial, so every element in k is a root of  $x^{p^n} - x$ . Since there are  $p^n$  roots and  $|k| = p^n$ , k is the smallest field containing all those roots, so it is the splitting field for  $x^{p^n} - x$  by definition.

**Theorem 11.3:** Let p be a prime and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then there is a unique field with cardinality  $p^n$  up to isomorphism: the splitting field of  $x^{p^n} - x$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof:** By the existence and uniqueness theorems, there is a unique splitting field E for  $x^{p^n} - x$  over  $C_p$ . All we need show is that  $|E| = p^n$ .

Let  $K = \{a \in E \mid a^{p^n} = a\}$ . Then if  $a, b \in K$ ,  $(a+b)^{p^n} = a^{p^n} + b^{p^n}$ , since we are over  $C_p$ , and so  $(a+b)^{p^n} = a+b$ . Thus  $a+b \in K$ . Also,  $(ab)^{p^n} = a^{p^n}b^{p^n} = ab$ , so  $ab \in K$ . Since,  $a^{p^n} - a = 0$ ,  $(a)(a^{p^{n-1}} - 1)$ , so if  $a \neq 0$ , then  $a^{p^n-1} = 1$ . Thus  $a^{-1} = a^{p^n-2}$ , and since  $(a^{p^n-2})^{p^n} = (a^{p^n})^{p^n-2} = a^{p^n-2}$ ,  $a^{p^n-2} \in K$ . Thus K is a field. Since K obviously contains all the roots of  $x^{p^n} - x$ ,  $x^{p^n} - x$  splits completely in K, and therefore  $E \subseteq K$ . But  $K \subseteq E$ , so E = K.

There is one more technical thing to check. We have shown that E contains exactly the roots of  $x^{p^n}-x$ , but if  $x^{p^n}-x$  has repeated roots, then  $|E|< p^n$ . However, this cannot be the case, since if there were a repeated root z, then  $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\left[x^{p^n}-x\right]=\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\left[(x-z)^2q(x)\right]=2(x-z)+(x-z)^2q'(x)$  for some q(x), and so  $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\left[x^{p^n}-x\right]|_{x=z}=0$ . But  $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\left[x^{p^n}-x\right]=p^nx^{p^n-1}-1=-1\neq 0$ , so this cannot be the case. Thus  $|E|=p^n$ .

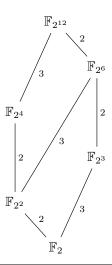
**Definition 11.4:**  $\mathbb{F}_n$  is the unique finite field with n elements, if it exists.

**Proposition 11.5:**  $\mathbb{F}_{p^m} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$  if and only if m|n.

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) If  $\mathbb{F}_{p^m} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ , then  $n = [\mathbb{F}_{p^n} : \mathbb{F}] = [\mathbb{F}_{p^n} : \mathbb{F}_{p^m}][\mathbb{F}_{p^m} : \mathbb{F}] = [\mathbb{F}_{p^n} : \mathbb{F}_{p^m}]m$ , so m|n.

 $(\Leftarrow) \text{ Suppose } m|n. \text{ For any } q \in \mathbb{N}, \ p^{mq}-1 = (p^m)^q-1 = (p^m-1)\left(p^{m(q-1)}+p^{m(q-2)}+\dots+p^m+1\right). \text{ In particular, with } q = \frac{n}{m}, \ p^n-1 = (p^m-1)\left(p^{n-m}+p^{n-2m}+\dots+p^m+1\right). \text{ Thus } (p^m-1)\left|\left(p^n-1\right). \text{ Now for any nonzero } z \in \mathbb{F}_{p^m}, \ z^{p^m-1} = 1, \text{ so } z^{p^n-1} = 1. \text{ Thus } z \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}.$ 

**Example:** The field extensions of  $\mathbb{F}_2$  up to  $\mathbb{F}_{2^{12}}$ :



**Definition 11.6:** Let p be a prime and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The **Frobenius automorphism** is the map  $\phi : \mathbb{F}_{p^n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$  given by  $\phi(a) = a^p$ .

**Proposition 11.7:** The Frobenius automorphism is in fact an automorphism, and it fixes  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\phi : \mathbb{F}_{p^n} \longrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$  be defined by  $\phi(a) = a^p$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and p prime. First,  $\phi$  fixes  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , since any nonzero  $a \in \mathbb{F}_p$  is also an element of  $\mathbb{F}_p^{\times} = \mathbb{F}_p \setminus \{0\}$ .  $\mathbb{F}_p^{\times}$  is a group under multiplication, so  $|a| \mid |\mathbb{F}_p^{\times}| = p-1$ . In particular,  $a^{p-1} = 1$ , so  $a^p = a$ . Thus  $\phi(a) = a^p = a$ , so  $\phi|_{\mathbb{F}_p} = id$ .

To show  $\phi$  is an isomorphism, let  $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ . Then  $\phi(a+b) = (a+b)^p = a^p + b^p = \phi(a) + \phi(b)$  and  $\phi(ab) = (ab)^p = a^p b^p = \phi(a)\phi(b)$ , so  $\phi$  is multiplicative. Now we need only show that  $\phi$  is a bijection. If  $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ , then  $a^p = b^p$ , so  $(a^p)^{p^{n-1}} = (b^p)^{p^{n-1}}$ , and therefore a = b, so  $\phi$  is injective. And if  $a \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ , then  $\phi\left(a^{p^{n-1}}\right) = a^{p^n} = a$ , so  $\phi$  is surjective. Thus  $\phi$  is, in fact, an automorphism.

**Theorem 11.8:** Let p be a prime and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $Gal(\mathbb{F}_{p^n}/\mathbb{F}_p) = \langle \phi \rangle \simeq C_n$ , where  $\phi$  is the Frobenius automorphism.

**Proof:** We already know that  $\phi \in \operatorname{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_{p^n}/\mathbb{F}_p)$ . To find the order of  $\phi$ , suppose  $\phi^i = id$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then for all  $x \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ ,  $x^{p^i} = x$ . But this polynomial only has  $p^i$  roots, and we know that there are  $p^n$  elements of  $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ , so i = n. However,  $[\mathbb{F}_{p^n} : \mathbb{F}_p] = n$ , so by the extension lemma, there are  $n \mathbb{F}_p$ -automorphisms of  $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ , so  $|\operatorname{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_{p^n}/\mathbb{F}_p)| = n$ . Thus  $\operatorname{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_{p^n}/\mathbb{F}_p) = \langle \phi \rangle \simeq C_n$ .

# XII — Separability

**Comment:** Let k be as field and  $p \in k[x]$ . If E is the splitting field of p, we are not necessarily guaranteed that |Gal(E/k)| = [E:k]: for example, if  $k = \mathbb{F}_P(t)$  and  $p(x) = x^p - t$ , then  $E = k(\sqrt[p]{t})$  and [E:k] = p, but  $Gal(E/k) = \{e\}$ , since  $x^p - t = (x - \sqrt[p]{t})^p$ , so there is only one root to permute.

**Comment:** Even if E/k is a finite extension, we are not guaranteed a  $z \in E$  with E = k(z): for example, with  $k = \mathbb{F}_2(s,t)$  and  $E = k(\sqrt{s},\sqrt{t})$ , then any element  $z \in E$  satisfies  $z = a_0 + a_1\sqrt{s} + a_2\sqrt{t} + a_3\sqrt{st}$ , so  $z^2 = a_0^2 + a_1^2 s + a_2^2 t + a_3^2 s t \in k$ . Thus every element of E has degree 2 over E, but E = k(z):

**Definition 12.1:** Let k be a field. An irreducible polynomial  $p \in k[x]$  is **separable** if p has no repeated roots in its splitting field.

**Definition 12.2:** Let k be a field and E/k be a field extension. An element  $z \in E$  is **separable** if  $m_{z/k}$  is separable.

**Definition 12.3:** Let k be a field. A field extension E/k is **separable** if  $z \in E$  is separable for all z. E/k is **purely inseparable** if no  $z \in E$  is separable.

**Example:** In  $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$ ,  $x^p - t$  is not separable, so neither is  $\sqrt[p]{t}$ . This means that  $E = k \left(\sqrt[p]{t}\right)$  is not a separable extension.

Comment: Galois theory is a theory of separable extensions.

**Definition 12.4:** A field k is **perfect** if either char k = 0 or char k = p > 0 and  $\phi : a \mapsto a^p$  is an automorphism of k.

**Example:**  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{F}_p$  are perfect.

**Theorem 12.5:** If k is perfect, then any irreducible polynomial  $p \in k[x]$  is separable.

**Proof:** Let  $p \in k[x]$  be irreducible, let E/k be the splitting field for p, and let  $z \in E$  be a root of p. Suppose  $p(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n$ . Then  $p'(x) = a_1 + 2a_2x + \dots + na_nx^{n-1}$ . Now either p' = 0 or  $\deg p' < \deg p$ . Since  $\ker \varepsilon_z = (p)$ , p'(z) = 0 if and only if p|p' or p' = 0. But if p|p', then  $\deg p \le \deg p'$ , so this cannot happen. Thus p'(z) = 0 if and only if p' = 0.

Now we can approach the theorem statement. We know  $p(x) = (x-z)^m q(x)$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and q such that  $q(z) \neq 0$ . We need only show m = 1. With this representation of p,  $p'(x) = m(x-z)^{m-1}q(x) + (x-z)^m q'(x)$ . If p'(z) = 0, then  $m-1 \geq 1$ , since  $q(z) \neq 0$ , so  $m \geq 2 > 1$ . Thus p' = 0 if and only if p is not separable.

Since k is perfect, either char k=0 or char k=c>0 and  $\phi: a \longmapsto a^c$  is an automorphism of k. If char k=0, then  $p'\neq 0$ , since p is obviously nonconstant. If char k=c>0, then p'(x)=0 if and only if  $p(x)=g(x^c)$  for some  $g\in k[x]$ . But since  $\phi$  is an automorphism of k,  $g(x^c)=h(x)^c$  for some  $h\in k[x]$ . Thus  $p(x)=h(x)^c$ , which implies that p is not irreducible.  $\not$ 

In both cases,  $p' \neq 0$ , so p is separable.

**Definition 12.6:** Let k be a field and E/k a field extension. The **separable degree**  $[E:k]_s$  of E/k is the number of k-embeddings of E into any splitting field E that contains E.

**Comment:** By the extension lemma, the separable degree is multiplicative.

**Comment:** If k is a field and E/k is a splitting field, then  $[E:k]_s = |Gal(E/k)|$ .

**Proposition 12.7:** An element z is separable over k if and only if  $[k(z):k]_s = [k(z):k]$ .

**Proof:** If z/k is separable, then  $m_{z/k}$  has no repeated roots in its splitting field. Then there are  $[k(z):k] = \deg m_{z/k}$  roots of  $m_{z/k}$ , and since none is repeated, a k-embedding of k(z) into a splitting field for  $m_{z/k}$  can send z to any of the [k(z):k] of them. Thus  $[k(z):k]_s = [k(z):k]$ .

**Proposition 12.8:** Let k be a field. Then an element z is separable over k if and only if k(z)/k is a separable extension.

**Proof:** If k(z)/k is separable, then every element of k(z) is separable over k, so in particular, z is separable. To prove the other direction, suppose z is separable over k and let  $w \in k(z)$ . Now  $[k(z):k]_s = [k(z):k]$  by the previous proposition, and clearly, z is separable over k(w), since  $m_{z/k(w)}|m_{z/k}$ . Thus  $[k(z):k(w)] = [k(z):k(w)]_s$ , so  $[k(z):k] = [k(z):k(w)][k(w):k]_s$  and [k(z):k] = [k(z):k(w)][k(w):k]. Thus  $[k(w):k] = [k(w):k]_s$ , so w is separable over w. Thus w is separable.

Theorem 12.9: (They Choose a Leader) Let k be a field, E/k a finite extension, and  $v, w \in E$  separable over k. Then k(v, w)/k is separable and k(v, w) = k(z) for some  $z \in E$ .

**Proof:** First, suppose k is finite. Then E is finite, so k(v, w) is too. Thus  $k(v, w)^{\times}$  is cyclic, so it has a generator z. Since every element of  $k(v, w)^{\times}$  is a power of z by definition, k(v, w) = k(z). And since k is perfect, z is separable over k because its minimal polynomial is irreducible by definition. By the previous proposition, k(z)/k is separable.

If k is infinite, things are more complicated. First, let L be a splitting field containing k(v, w) and let n = [K(v, w) : k(v)] and m = [k(v) : k]. Since k(v, w) is separable over k, so is k(v), so  $n = [k(v, w) : k(v)]_s$  and  $m = [k(v) : k]_s$ . Thus there are exactly mn k-embeddings of E into L, say  $\sigma_1, ..., \sigma_{mn}$ .

Now let

$$p(x) = \prod_{1 \le i < j \le mn} (\sigma_i(v + wx) - \sigma_j(v + wx)).$$

Since  $\sigma_i$  and  $\sigma_j$  are distinct on v and w, no factor of p is zero. Thus  $p \neq 0$ , and in a bizarre argument, since p can only have finitely many roots and k is infinite, there must be a  $c \in k$  with  $p(c) \neq 0$ . Let z = v + wc — then  $\sigma_i(z) \neq \sigma_j(z)$  for any  $i \neq j$ , since  $p(c) \neq 0$ , and therefore every  $\sigma_i$  is a distinct k-embedding of k(z) into L. Thus  $[k(z):k]_s = mn$ , but  $[k(z):k] \geq [k(z):k]_s = mn$  and  $k(z) \leq k(v,w)$ , so  $[k(z):k] \leq mn$ . Thus  $[k(z):k] = [k(z):k]_s = mn$ , and so k(z) is separable and k(z) = k(v,w).

**Definition 12.10:** Let k be a field and let E/k be a finite extension. An element  $z \in E$  is **primitive** if E = k(z).

Theorem 12.11: (The Primitive Element Theorem) Every finite, separable extension has a primitive element.

**Proof:** Let k be a field and let  $E = k(z_1,...,z_n)$  be a finite extension of k, where  $z_1,...,z_n$  are separable over k. By n-1 applications of the previous theorem,  $k(z_1,...,z_n) = k(z)$  for some separable z, so E has a primitive element.

Theorem 12.12: (The Separable Structure of Finite Extensions) Let k be a field and let E/k be a finite extension. Then  $F = \{z \in E \mid z/k \text{ is separable}\}\$  is a separable subfield of E. Moreover, E/F is purely inseparable, so  $[F:k] = [F:k]_s = [E:k]_s$ .

### XIII — The Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory

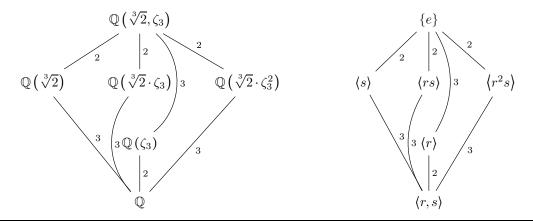
**Definition 13.1:** Let k be a field. An extension E/k is **Galois** if E is a separable splitting field over k.

**Definition 13.2:** Let k be a field and E/k an extension, and let  $H \leq \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ . The fixed field of H is  $E^H = \{z \in E \mid \sigma(z) = a \text{ for all } \sigma \in H\}$ .

Comment:  $E^H$  is indeed a field, since being fixed by a ring homomorphism commutes with all the field operations.

**Comment:** We would like to establish a correspondence between fixed fields of E and subgroups of Gal(E/k).

**Example:** Let  $p(x) = x^3 - 2$ . Then its splitting field over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $E = \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2}, \zeta_3\right)$ , and its Galois group is  $D_3$ . Now we have  $E^{\langle r \rangle} = \mathbb{Q}\left(\zeta_3\right)$ ,  $E^{\langle s \rangle} = \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2}\right)$ ,  $E^{\langle r s \rangle} = \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2} \cdot \zeta_3\right)$ , and  $E^{\langle r^2 s \rangle} = \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt[3]{2} \cdot \zeta_3^2\right)$ . Obviously,  $E^{\{e\}} = E$  and  $E^{\langle r, s \rangle} = \mathbb{Q}$ . Drawing a diagram for these extensions and their corresponding subgroups of  $D_3$ , we see that the subgroup lattice is exactly upside-down, and the degrees of the field extensions even match the indices of the subgroups.



Theorem 13.3: (The Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory) Let k be a field and E/k a finite Galois extension.

- 1. If F is a field such that  $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$ , then E/F is a Galois extension, and [E:F] = |Gal(E/F)|. In fact,  $F = E^{Gal(E/F)}$ .
- 2. If  $H \leq \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ , then  $H = \operatorname{Gal}(E/E^H)$ .
- 3. There is an inclusion-reversing bijection between the subfields of E over k and the subgroups of Gal(E/k), given by

$$F \xrightarrow{\psi} \operatorname{Gal}(E/F)$$

$$E^H \longleftrightarrow_{\phi} H$$

where  $\psi \phi = \phi \psi = id$ .

#### **Proof:**

1. Since E/k is a finite and separable extension, it has a primitive element z by the Primitive Element Theorem. Thus E = k(z). Since z is separable over k, it is also separable over F, and obviously E/F is still the splitting field for z. Thus E/F is a separable splitting field, so it is Galois.

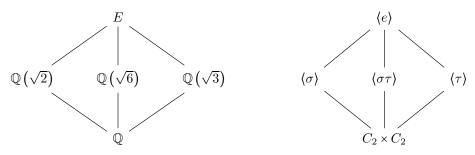
Now let  $H = \operatorname{Gal}(E/F)$  and let  $p(x) = \prod_{\sigma \in H} (x - \sigma(z))$ . Then  $p \in E^H[x]$ , and since H is transitive on the roots of p (since it is a Galois group), so all the roots of p are conjugate. Thus p must be irreducible in  $E^H[x]$ , since if even two linear factors in E multiplied to a quadratic factor in  $E^H$ , then there would be an element of H that permuted just those two roots. But this would be the identity on  $E^H$ , so H would no longer be faithful. f

Thus  $p=m_{z/E^H}$ , the minimal polynomial for z over  $E^H$ , and so  $[E:E^H]=\deg p$ . By definition,  $\deg p=|H|$ . Now since E/F is separable,  $[E:F]=|\mathrm{Gal}(E/F)|=|H|=\deg p=[E:E^H]$ . Moreover, since everything in  $H=\mathrm{Gal}(E/F)$  fixes F by definition, so  $F\subseteq E^H$ . By multiplicativity of degree,  $[E:F]=[E:E^H][E^H:F]$ , but  $[E:F]=[E:E^H]$ , so  $[E^H:F]=1$ . Thus  $F=E^H=E^{\mathrm{Gal}(E/F)}$ .

- 2. Let  $H \leq \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ . Then  $H \leq \operatorname{Gal}(E/E^H)$  by definition anything in H fixes everything fixed by H. Now let E = k(z) from the previous proof, and let  $p = \prod\limits_{\sigma \in H} (x \sigma(z))$  once again. As previously shown, p is irreducible over  $E^H[x]$ , and so  $[E:E^H] = |H|$ . Since  $E/E^H$  is separable,  $[E:E^H] = |\operatorname{Gal}(E/E^H)|$ , so  $|H| = |\operatorname{Gal}(E/E^H)|$ . Since E/k is finite, so is  $E/E^H$ , so  $H = \operatorname{Gal}(E/E^H)$ .
- 3. Let F be a field such that  $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$ . Then  $\phi\psi(F) = \phi(\operatorname{Gal}(E/F)) = E^{\operatorname{Gal}(E/F)}$ , and by part 1, this equals F. Now let  $H \leq \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ . Then  $\psi\phi(H) = \psi(E^H) = \operatorname{Gal}(E/E^H)$ , and by part 2, this equals H. Thus  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are inverses.

To show that the maps are inclusion-reversing, let F and K be fields such that  $k \subseteq F \subseteq K \subseteq E$ . Then  $\psi(K) = \operatorname{Gal}(E/K) \le \psi(F) = \operatorname{Gal}(E/F)$ , since any automorphism fixing K must also fix F. Now let H and I be groups such that  $H \le I \le \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ . Then  $\phi(I) = E^I \subseteq \phi(H) = E^H$ , since anything fixed by all of I must also be fixed by everything in H— if not, then there would be an automorphism in H that was not in I, but  $H \le I$ . Thus  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are inclusion-reversing.

**Example:** Let  $f(x) = (x^2 - 2)(x^3 - 3)$ . Then The splitting field for f is  $E = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ , so  $[E : \mathbb{Q}] = 4$ , and  $Gal(E/\mathbb{Q}) = C_2 \times C_2$ . If  $\sigma, \tau \in Gal(E/k)$  are such that  $\sigma(\sqrt{3}) = -\sqrt{3}$  and  $\sigma(\sqrt{2}) = -\sqrt{2}$ , then we have:



To find  $\operatorname{Gal}(f/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}))$ , we know  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) = E^{\langle \sigma \rangle}$ , so  $\operatorname{Gal}(f/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})) = \langle \sigma \rangle$ .

**Example:** Let  $f(x) = x^5 - 1$ . Then  $Gal(f/\mathbb{Q}) = \langle \sigma \rangle$ , where  $\sigma(\zeta_5) = \zeta_5^2$ . Then we have:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_5) & \langle e \rangle \\
& & \\
& & \\
\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4) & \langle \sigma^2 \rangle \\
& & \\
\mathbb{Q} & \langle \sigma \rangle
\end{array}$$

We get  $\zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4$  by applying  $\sigma^2$  repeatedly to a primitive element until we get the element back again, and then adding all of the results.

**Comment:** If E/k is Galois and  $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$ , then E/F is Galois, but F/k may not be: for example, if  $k = \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $E = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}, \zeta_3)$ , and  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$ , then  $Gal(F/k) = \{e\}$ , so  $[F:k] = 3 \neq |Gal(F/k)|$ . Thus F is not separable, so it is not Galois.

**Definition 13.4:** Let G be a group and  $H \leq G$  a subgroup. The **normalizer** of H in G is  $N_G(H) = \{a \in G \mid aH = Ha\}$ .

**Theorem 13.5:** (The Normal Subgroup Theorem) Let k be a field and E/k a finite Galois extension. Let  $G = \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ , let F be a field such that  $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$ , and let  $H = \operatorname{Gal}(E/F)$ . Then  $\operatorname{Gal}(F/k) \simeq N_G(H)/H$ , and F/k is Galois if and only if  $H \triangleleft G$ .

**Proof:** By the extension lemma, any k-automorphism of F extends to a k-automorphism of E, and by the uniqueness of splitting fields, this extended automorphism is some  $\sigma \in \operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$ . Thus every element of  $\operatorname{Gal}(F/k)$  is some element of  $\operatorname{Gal}(E/k)$  that is restricted to F.

Since  $H = \operatorname{Gal}(E/F)$  fixes F,  $\sigma H \sigma^{-1}$  fixes  $\sigma(F)$ . Thus  $\operatorname{Gal}(E/\sigma(F)) = \sigma H \sigma^{-1}$ , so  $F = \sigma(F)$  if and only if  $H = \sigma H \sigma^{-1}$ . But  $H = \sigma H \sigma^{-1}$  if and only if  $\sigma \in N_G(H) \leq G$ . Thus for  $\sigma \in N_G(H)$ ,  $\sigma(F) = F$ . By definition, these  $\sigma$  are in  $\operatorname{Gal}(F/k)$  — notice that the  $\sigma$  do not fx F, but rather permute it — so we have a homomorphism from  $N_G(H) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Gal}(F/k)$  given by restriction to F. The homomorphism is surjective by the extension lemma, and the kernel is  $\{\sigma \in N_G(H) \mid \sigma|_F = id\}$ . But this is  $\operatorname{Gal}(E/F)$  by definition, so by the first isomorphism theorem,  $N_G(H)/H \simeq \operatorname{Gal}(F/k)$ .

Now we show that F/k is Galois if and only if  $H \triangleleft G$ .

- (⇒) Suppose F/k is Galois. Then |Gal(F/k)| = [F:k], so  $\frac{|N_G(H)|}{|H|} = \frac{|G|}{|H|}$ . Thus  $|N_G(H)| = |G|$ , and since G is finite,  $N_G(H) = G$ . Thus  $H \triangleleft G$ .
- (⇐) Suppose  $H \triangleleft G$ . Then  $\operatorname{Gal}(F/k) \cong G/H$ , so  $|\operatorname{Gal}(F/k)| = \frac{|G|}{|H|}$ , since G is finite. But E/k is Galois, so  $|G| = |\operatorname{Gal}(E/k)| = [E:k]$ , and E/F is Galois by the fundamental theorem, so  $|H| = |\operatorname{Gal}(E/F)| = [E:F]$ . Thus |G| = |H|[F:k], so  $[F:k] = \frac{|G|}{|H|} = |\operatorname{Gal}(F/k)|$ . Thus F/k is Galois.

Corollary 13.5.1: If  $H \triangleleft G$ , then  $Gal(F/k) \simeq \frac{Gal(E/k)}{Gal(E/F)}$ .

**Example:** Find the splitting field of  $x^{13} - 1$  over  $\mathbb{F}_3$ , show that E is also the splitting field of  $x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ , and express  $x^{13} - 1$  as a product of linear factors in E[x].

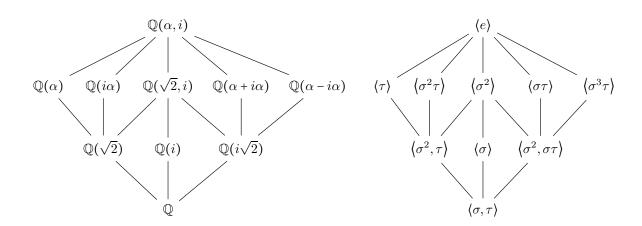
Let E be the splitting field. Any root of  $x^13 - 1$  has order 1 or 13 in  $E^{\times}$ , and the first finite field with elements of order 13 in its group of units is  $\mathbb{F}_{27} = \mathbb{F}_{(2)(13)+1}$ . Thus  $E = \mathbb{F}_{27}$ .

To show that the splitting field of  $x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$  over  $\mathbb{F}_3$  is also E, first notice that  $x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{F}_3$  — neither 0, 1, or 2 make the polynomial vanish. Thus  $x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$  splits completely in  $\mathbb{F}_3/(x^3 - x^2 + x + 1) \cong \mathbb{F}_{27}$ . If a is a root of  $x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ , then  $a^{27} - a = 0$ , since  $x^3 - x^2 + x + 1 \mid x^{27} - x$ . Thus E is the splitting field for  $x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ .

Finally, let z be a generator of  $E^{\times}$ , which we have previously shown is cyclic. Then |z| = 16, so  $|z^2| = 13$ , and therefore  $x^{13} - 1 = \prod_{i=1}^{13} (x - z^{2i})$ .

**Example:** Find the Galois subextensions of  $x^4 - 2$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ 

Let  $\alpha = \sqrt[4]{2}$ ,  $\sigma = (1234)$ , and  $\tau = (24)$ . Then we have



Now the normal subgroups of  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle$  are  $\langle e \rangle$ ,  $\langle \sigma^2 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \sigma^2, \tau \rangle$ ,  $\langle \sigma \rangle$ ,  $\langle \sigma^2, \sigma \tau \rangle$ , and  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle$ , so the Galois subextensions of  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha, i)/\mathbb{Q}$  are  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha, i)/\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, i)/\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})/\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(i)/\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(i\sqrt{2})/\mathbb{Q}$ , and  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Q}$ .