

Recall

Group  $G$  is cyclic iff

$$\exists a \in G \quad \langle a \rangle = G \\ \{a^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Every cyclic group is abelian

If  $G$  is finite  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$

" " infinite  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}$

For  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ : any elem  $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$  s.t.  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$   
is a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$   
any elem s.t.  $\gcd(m, n) \neq 1$   
generates a nontrivial proper  
subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$

For  $\mathbb{Z}$ : nontrivial proper subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$   
are of the form

$$n\mathbb{Z} = \langle n \rangle = \{k \cdot n \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \text{ for } n \geq 2 \\ = \{0, n, -n, 2n, -2n, \dots\}$$

# Generating Sets and Cayley Digraphs

Let  $G$  be a group

Let  $S = \{a, b\}$

The subgroups of  $G$  generated by  $S$   
 $\langle S \rangle$

contains all finite products of  
integral powers of  $a$  &  $b$

Ex

$a, a^2, a^{-2}, \dots$

$b, b^2, b^{-2}, \dots$

$ab, ab^2, aba^2, a^{-1}b^3a^{-2}b^4, \dots$

are elems of  $\langle S \rangle$

In general if  $S$  is a finite  
subset of  $G$  s.t.  $\langle S \rangle = G$   
then  $G$  is finitely generated

## Definition

$G$  is a finitely generated group iff  
 $\exists S \subseteq G$ ,  $S$ -finite s.t.  $\langle S \rangle = G$   
the set is called the generating set

Note: Every cyclic group is finitely generated

The converse is not true

## Recall

let  $S_i$  be a set for  $i \in I$  s.t.  $S_i \subseteq U$

$$\bigcap_{i \in I} S_i = \{x \mid x \in S_i \text{ for all } i \in I\}$$

is a set

$$\bigcap S_i \subseteq U$$

## Theorem

The intersection of subgroups  $H_i$  of a group  $G$  for  $i \in I$  is a subgroup of  $G$

## Proof

Notice  $\bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \subseteq G$  s.t.

$$1) \forall m, n \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i, \quad h_1 \cdot h_2 \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$$

$$\text{bcs } h_1 \cdot h_2 \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \Rightarrow \forall i \in I, h_1, h_2 \in H_i$$

since  $\forall i \in I, H_i \leq G$ ,

$$h_1, h_2 \in H_i \Rightarrow h_1 \cdot h_2 \in G$$

2) Since  $\forall i \in I, H_i \leq G$  we have

$$e \in H_i \text{ for all } i \in I$$

$$\text{then } e \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$$

[each subgroup contains the identity]

3) let  $h \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$  then

$$\forall i \in I, h \in H_i \text{ since}$$

$\forall i \in I, H_i \leq G \quad h^{-1} \in H_i \quad \text{so}$

$h^{-1} \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{subgroup containing} \\ h \text{ must contain} \\ \text{its inverse} \end{array} \right]$

If  $S \subseteq G$  is a subset of each  $H_i$

$\bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$  is the smallest subgroup of  $G$  that contains  $S$ , that is,

if  $G' \leq G$  that contains  $S$ , then

$$\bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \leq G'$$

### Theorem

If  $G$  is a group and  $a_i \in G$

the subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  generated by

$\{a_i \mid i \in I\}$  has the elements

that are finite products of integral powers of  $a_i$ 's, where the powers of a fixed  $a_i$  may occur several times in the product

Proof

Let  $K$  be set of all finite products of powers of  $a_i$

Then  $K \subseteq H$ , Notice

1) Since a product of 2 elems of  $K$  that are finite products of powers of  $a_i$  is a finite product of powers of  $a_i$ 's, the product belongs to  $K$

[closure]

2) The identity is  $a_i^0 \in K$  for  $i \in I$

3) The inverse of an elem in  $K$  is a finite product of integral powers of  $a_i$ 's, hence it is an elem of  $K$

$$\text{Ex } (a_1^2 a_2^{-3} a_3^4)^{-1} = a_3^{-4} a_2^3 a_1^{-2}$$

Thus  $K \leq H$

Since  $H$  is smallest subgroup containing  $\{a_i \mid i \in I\}$ , we have  $K = H$

Notice:

If  $S$  is a generating set of a group  $G$   
then  $S' \subseteq G$  s.t.  $S \subseteq S'$   
then  $S'$  also generates  $G$

## Cayley Digraphs

Illustrates structure of finitely generated groups wrt their generating set

It's a directed graph w/

- vertices as elems of a group
- edges as generators of a group

Moreover if a generator is its own inverse ( $a^{-1}=a$ ), it is repr. as a line

Ex Cayley Digraph for  $(\mathbb{Z}_6, +_6)$   
wrt following generating sets

$$S = \{1\}$$

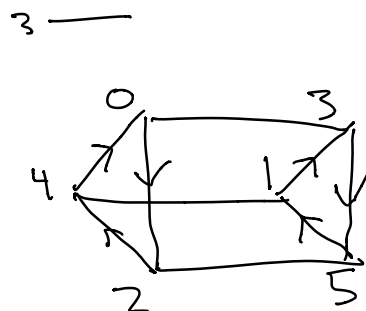
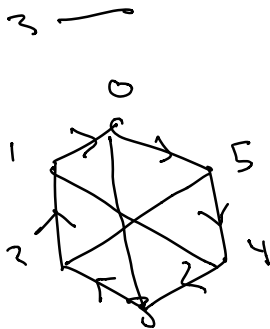
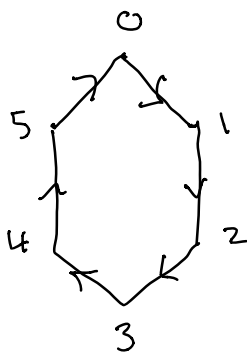
$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \hline \rightarrow \end{array}$$

$$S = \{5, 3\}$$

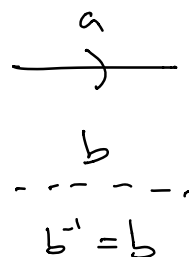
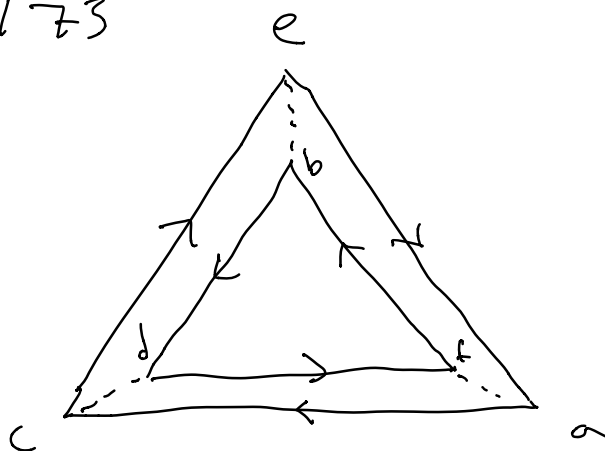
$$5 \rightarrow$$

$$S = \{2, 3\}$$

$$2 \rightarrow$$



Ex 10/73



*	e	a	b	c	d	f
e	e	a	b	c	d	f
a	a	c	f	e	b	d
b	b	d	e	f	a	c
c	c					
d	d					
f	f					

Start @  
identity and  
follow shortest  
paths to elem

$$a * a = c$$

$$a * b = f$$



$$a * c = a * a * a = e$$

$$a * d = a * (b * a) = a * b * a = b$$