

## 5. Introduction to Groups Theory

### 5.1 Properties of groups

#### Groups:

Let  $G$  be a non-empty set and  $*$  be a binary operation on  $G$ .

$G$  is called a group under the operation  $*$  if

- (i) **Closed:**  $a * b \in G, \forall a, b \in G$
- (ii) **Associative:**  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c, \forall a, b, c \in G$
- (iii) **Identity:** There exists  $e \in G$  such that  $a * e = e * a = a, \forall a \in G$
- (iv) **Inverse:** For every  $a \in G$ , there exists  $a^{-1} \in G$  such that  $a^{-1} * a = a * a^{-1} = e$ .

It is denoted by  $(G, *)$ .

#### Abelian group:

A group  $(G, *)$  is said to be an abelian group if it satisfies commutative property  $a * b = b * a, \forall a, b \in G$ .

#### Finite and infinite groups:

A group  $(G, *)$  is said to be a finite group if  $G$  has a finite number of elements. Otherwise, it is called as an infinite group. If  $G$  has  $n$  elements, then  $O(G) = n$ .

#### 1. Check whether the set of integers under addition is an abelian group.

- (i)  $a + b \in Z, \forall a, b \in Z$
- (ii)  $a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c, \forall a, b, c \in Z$
- (iii) There exists  $0 \in Z$  such that  $a + 0 = 0 + a = a, \forall a \in Z$
- (iv) For every  $a \in G$ , there exists  $-a \in G$  such that  $(-a) + a = a + (-a) = 0$ .
- (v)  $a + b = b + a, \forall a, b \in G$ .

Therefore,  $(Z, +)$  is closed, associative, identity, inverse and commutative.

Hence,  $(Z, +)$  is an abelian group.

#### 2. Check whether the set of integers under subtraction is a group.

- (i)  $a - b \in Z, \forall a, b \in Z$
- (ii)  $a - (b - c) \neq (a - b) - c, \forall a, b, c \in Z$

Therefore,  $(Z, -)$  is closed but not associative.

Hence,  $(Z, -)$  is not a group.

**3. Check whether the set of integers under multiplication is a group.**

- (i)  $a \times b \in Z, \forall a, b \in Z$
- (ii)  $a \times (b \times c) = (a \times b) \times c, \forall a, b, c \in Z$
- (iii) There exists  $1 \in Z$  such that  $a \times 1 = 1 \times a = a, \forall a \in Z$
- (iv) For every  $a \in G, \frac{1}{a} \times a = a \times \frac{1}{a} = 1$ . But  $\frac{1}{a} \notin Z$

Therefore,  $(Z, \times)$  is closed, associative, identity, but not inverse.

Hence,  $(Z, \times)$  is not a group.

**4. Check whether the set of all non-zero rational numbers under multiplication is a group.**

- (i)  $a \times b \in Q - \{0\}, \forall a, b \in Q - \{0\},$
- (ii)  $a \times (b \times c) = (a \times b) \times c, \forall a, b, c \in Q - \{0\},$
- (iii) There exists  $1 \in Q - \{0\},$  such that  $a \times 1 = 1 \times a = a, \forall a \in Q - \{0\},$
- (iv) For every  $a \in Q - \{0\},$  there exists  $\frac{1}{a} \in Q - \{0\}$  such that  $\frac{1}{a} \times a = a \times \frac{1}{a} = 1.$

Therefore,  $(Q - \{0\}, \times)$  is closed, associative, identity and inverse.

Hence,  $(Q - \{0\}, \times)$  is a group.

**5. Prove that the set of all  $n \times n$  non-singular matrices under matrix multiplication is a group but not abelian.**

Let  $M$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  non-singular matrices.

- (i)  $AB \in M, \forall A, B \in M$
- (ii)  $A(BC) = (AB)C, \forall A, B, C \in M$
- (iii) There exists  $I \in M$  such that  $AI = IA = A, \forall A \in M$
- (iv) For every  $A \in M,$  there exists  $A^{-1} \in M$  such that  $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I.$

Therefore,  $(M, \times)$  is closed, associative, identity and inverse.

Hence,  $(M, \times)$  is a group.

Since  $AB \neq BA, (M, \times)$  is not an abelian group.

**6. Check whether the set of all fourth roots of unity under multiplication is a group.**

Let  $W = \{1, -1, i, -i\}$

- (i)  $a \times b \in W, \forall a, b \in W$
- (ii)  $a \times (b \times c) = (a \times b) \times c, \forall a, b, c \in W$
- (iii) There exists  $1 \in W$  such that  $a \times 1 = 1 \times a = a, \forall a \in W$
- (iv) For every  $a \in W$ , there exists  $b \in W$  such that  $b \times a = a \times b = 1$ .

Therefore,  $(W, \times)$  is closed, associative, identity and inverse.

Hence,  $(W, \times)$  is a group.

**7. Let  $G$  be a set of all non-zero real numbers and let  $a * b = \frac{1}{2}(ab)$ .**

**Show that  $(G, *)$  is an abelian group.**

- (i)  $a * b = \frac{1}{2}(ab) \in G, \forall a, b \in G$
- (ii)  $a * (b * c) = a * \frac{1}{2}(bc) = \frac{1}{2}\left\{a \frac{1}{2}(bc)\right\} = \frac{1}{4}\{a(bc)\} = \frac{1}{4}\{(ab)c\}$   
 $(a * b) * c = \frac{1}{2}(ab) * c = \frac{1}{2}\left\{\frac{1}{2}(ab)c\right\} = \frac{1}{4}\{(ab)c\}$

Therefore,  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c, \forall a, b, c \in G$

- (iii) There exists  $2 \in G$  such that

$$a * 2 = \frac{1}{2}(a \times 2) = a, \forall a \in G$$

$$2 * a = \frac{1}{2}(2 \times a) = a, \forall a \in G$$

- (iv) For every  $a \in G$ , there exists  $b = \frac{4}{a} \in G$  such that

$$a * b = \frac{1}{2}(ab) = \frac{1}{2}\left(a \times \frac{4}{a}\right) = 2$$

$$b * a = \frac{1}{2}(ba) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{4}{a} \times a\right) = 2$$

- (v)  $a * b = \frac{1}{2}(ab) = \frac{1}{2}(ba) = b * a, \forall a, b \in G$

Therefore,  $(G, *)$  is closed, associative, identity, inverse and commutative.

Hence,  $(G, *)$  is an abelian group.

8. Let  $\circ$  be an operation on  $Z$  defined by  $x \circ y = x + y + 1$ , prove that  $(Z, \circ)$  is an abelian group.

(i)  $x \circ y = x + y + 1 \in Z, \forall x, y \in Z$

(ii)  $x \circ (y \circ z) = x \circ (y + z + 1) = x + y + z + 1 + 1$

$$(x \circ y) \circ z = (x + y + 1) \circ z = x + y + 1 + z + 1$$

Therefore,  $x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z, \forall x, y, z \in Z$ .

(iii) There exists  $-1 \in Z$  such that

$$x \circ (-1) = x - 1 + 1 = x, \forall x \in Z$$

$$(-1) \circ x = -1 + x + 1 = x, \forall x \in Z$$

(iv) For every  $x \in Z$ , there exists  $-x - 2 \in Z$  such that

$$x \circ (-x - 2) = x - x - 2 + 1 = -1$$

$$(-x - 2) \circ x = -x - 2 + x + 1 = -1$$

(v)  $x \circ y = x + y + 1 = y + x + 1 = y \circ x, \forall x, y \in Z$

Therefore,  $(Z, \circ)$  is closed, associative, identity, inverse and commutative.

Hence,  $(Z, \circ)$  is an abelian group.

**9. Let  $G$  be the set of all real numbers not equal to  $-1$  and  $*$  be defined by**

**$a * b = a + b + ab$  then prove that  $(G, *)$  is an abelian group.**

(i)  $a * b = a + b + ab \in G, \forall a, b \in G$

(ii)  $a * (b * c) = a * (b + c + bc)$   
 $= a + b + c + bc + a(b + c + bc)$   
 $= a + b + c + ab + bc + ca + abc$   
 $(a * b) * c = (a + b + ab) * c$   
 $= a + b + ab + c + (a + b + ab)c$   
 $= a + b + c + ab + bc + ca + abc$

Therefore,  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c, \forall a, b, c \in G$

(iii) There exists  $0 \in G$  such that

$$a * 0 = a + 0 + a(0) = a, \forall a \in G$$

$$0 * a = 0 + a + (0)a = a, \forall a \in G$$

(iv) For every  $a \in G$ , there exists  $-\frac{a}{1+a} \in G$  such that

$$a * \left(-\frac{a}{1+a}\right) = a - \frac{a}{1+a} + a\left(-\frac{a}{1+a}\right) = \frac{a+a^2-a-a^2}{1+a} = 0$$

$$\left(-\frac{a}{1+a}\right) * a = -\frac{a}{1+a} + a + \left(-\frac{a}{1+a}\right)a = \frac{-a+a+a^2-a^2}{1+a} = 0$$

(v)  $a * b = a + b + ab = b + a + ba = b * a, \forall a, b \in G$

Therefore,  $(G, *)$  is closed, associative, identity, inverse and commutative.

Hence,  $(G, *)$  is an abelian group.

**10. Theorem 1: In a group, prove that there exists only one identity element.**

Suppose there are two identity elements  $e_1, e_2 \in G$ .

Since  $e_1$  is an identity element,  $e_1 a = a e_1 = a, \forall a \in G$ .

Since  $e_2$  is an identity element,  $e_2 a = a e_2 = a, \forall a \in G$ .

This shows that  $a e_1 = a = a e_2$  and hence  $e_1 = e_2$ .

This means that  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are not different.

Therefore, there exists only one element.

**11. Theorem 2: In a group  $G$ , prove that every element has only one inverse.**

Suppose  $a'$  and  $a''$  are two inverse elements of  $a \in G$ .

Since  $a'$  is an inverse of  $a$ ,  $aa' = a'a = e$ , where  $e$  is an identity element of  $G$ .

Since  $a''$  is an inverse of  $a$ ,  $aa'' = a''a = e$ , where  $e$  is an identity element of  $G$ .

Therefore,  $a' = a'e = a'(aa'') = (a'a)a'' = ea'' = a''$ .

This means that  $a'$  and  $a''$  are not different.

Therefore, every element has only one inverse.

**12. Theorem 3: For any elements  $a, b$  in a group  $G$ ,**

**Prove that  $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$  and  $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$ .**

(i) Let  $a^{-1} = c$ . Then  $ca = a^{-1}a = e$  and  $ac = aa^{-1} = e$ .

Therefore,  $ca = ac = e$ .

Hence,  $a = c^{-1} = (a^{-1})^{-1}$

(ii)  $(ab)(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = a(bb^{-1})a^{-1} = aea^{-1} = (ae)a^{-1} = aa^{-1} = e$ .

$(b^{-1}a^{-1})(ab) = b^{-1}(a^{-1}a)b = b^{-1}eb = b^{-1}(eb) = b^{-1}b = e$ .

Therefore,  $b^{-1}a^{-1}$  is the inverse of  $ab$ .

Hence,  $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$ .

**13. Theorem 4: Let  $G$  be a group and  $a, b, x \in G$ . Prove that left cancellation law and right cancellation law hold.**

(i) To prove:  $xa = xb \Rightarrow a = b$  (Left cancellation law)

$$xa = xb \Rightarrow x^{-1}(xa) = x^{-1}(xb)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x^{-1}x)a = (x^{-1}x)b$$

$$\Rightarrow ea = eb$$

$$\Rightarrow a = b$$

Therefore, left cancellation law holds.

(ii) To prove:  $ax = bx \Rightarrow a = b$  (Right cancellation law)

$$ax = bx \Rightarrow (ax)x^{-1} = (bx)x^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow a(xx^{-1}) = b(xx^{-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow ae = be$$

$$\Rightarrow a = b$$

Therefore, right cancellation law holds.

**14. Theorem 5:** Let  $G$  be a group and  $a, b \in G$ . Then (i) The equation  $ax = b$  has a unique solution in  $G$ . (ii) The equation  $ya = b$  has a unique solution in  $G$ .

(i)  $ax = a(a^{-1}b) = (aa^{-1})b = eb = b$

Therefore,  $x = a^{-1}b$  is the solution of  $ax = b$ .

Suppose  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are the two solutions of  $ax = b$ .

Then  $ax_1 = b$  and  $ax_2 = b$ .

This implies that  $ax_1 = ax_2$

By left cancellation law,  $x_1 = x_2$ .

Therefore, the two solutions of  $ax = b$  are not different.

Hence, the equation  $ax = b$  has a unique solution in  $G$ .

(ii)  $ya = (ba^{-1})a = b(a^{-1}a) = be = b$

Therefore,  $y = ba^{-1}$  is the solution of  $ya = b$ .

Suppose  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are the two solutions of  $ya = b$ .

Then  $y_1a = b$  and  $y_2a = b$ .

This implies that  $y_1a = y_2a$

By right cancellation law,  $y_1 = y_2$ .

Therefore, the two solutions of  $ya = b$  are not different.

Hence, the equation  $ya = b$  has a unique solution in  $G$ .

**15. Prove that a group  $G$  in which every element is its own inverse is abelian.**

Let  $a, b \in G$ . By data,  $a = a^{-1}$ ,  $b = b^{-1}$  and  $ab = (ab)^{-1}$

$$ab = (ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1} = ba$$

Therefore,  $G$  is an abelian group.

**16. Prove that a group  $G$  is abelian if and only if  $(ab)^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}, \forall a, b \in G$**

**If part:** Suppose  $G$  is abelian.

$$(ab)^{-1} = (ba)^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}, \forall a, b \in G$$

**Only if part:** Suppose  $(ab)^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}$

$$ab = (a^{-1})^{-1}(b^{-1})^{-1} \quad [\text{Since } a = (a^{-1})^{-1}, b = (b^{-1})^{-1}]$$

$$= (a^{-1}b^{-1})^{-1} \quad [\text{Since } a^{-1}b^{-1} = (ab)^{-1}]$$

$$= (b^{-1})^{-1}(a^{-1})^{-1} \quad [\text{Since } (ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1} \text{ in } G]$$

$$= ba \quad [\text{Since } (a^{-1})^{-1} = a]$$

Therefore,  $G$  is abelian.

**17. In a group  $G$  having more than one element if  $x^2 = x$  for every  $x \in G$ .**

**Prove that  $G$  is abelian.**

Let  $a, b \in G$ . By data,  $a^2 = a, b^2 = b$  and  $(ab)^2 = ab$

$$a(ab)b = (aa)(bb) = a^2b^2 = ab = (ab)^2 = (ab)(ab) = a(ba)b$$

By left cancellation law,  $(ab)b = (ba)b$

By right cancellation law,  $ab = ba$

Therefore,  $G$  is an abelian group.

**18. Prove that a group  $G$  is an abelian if and only if  $(ab)^2 = a^2b^2, \forall a, b \in G$**

**If part:** Suppose  $G$  is an abelian.

$$(ab)^2 = (ab)(ab) = a(ba)b = a(ab)b = (aa)(bb) = a^2b^2$$

**Only if part:** Suppose  $(ab)^2 = a^2b^2$

$$(ab)(ab) = (aa)(bb)$$

$$a(ba)b = a(ab)b$$

By left cancellation law,  $(ba)b = (ab)b$

By right cancellation law,  $ba = ab$

Therefore,  $G$  is abelian.



## 5.2 Particular groups

### 1. The Klein 4-group

Consider a set  $A = \{e, a, b, c\}$  on this set, suppose we define a binary operation described by the following table:

It is easy to verify that  $A$  is an abelian group under the binary operation defined.

$e$  is the identity element of  $G$  and every element is its own inverse.

This group is of order 4.

It is called as the Klein 4-group or Quadratic group.

It is denoted by  $K_4$  or  $V_4$ .

$\bullet$	$e$	$a$	$b$	$c$
$e$	$e$	$a$	$b$	$c$
$a$	$a$	$e$	$c$	$b$
$b$	$b$	$c$	$e$	$a$
$c$	$c$	$b$	$a$	$e$

### Additive group of Integers modulo $n$

Let  $n$  be a specified positive integer  $\geq 2$ . It is known that Congruent to modulo  $n$  is an equivalence relation on  $Z$ . This relation induces a partition of  $Z$  with the congruence classes. For any  $a \in Z$ , Additive group of Integers modulo the congruence class determined by the expression  $[a] = \{x \in Z | x \equiv a \pmod{n}\} = \{a + nx | x \in Z\}$ .

Now  $[0] = \{0 + nx | x \in Z\}$ ,  $[1] = \{1 + nx | x \in Z\}$ , ... ,  $[n-1] = \{n-1 + nx | x \in Z\}$

Let  $Z$  be the set of these equivalence classes. That is,  $Z = \{[0], [1], [2], \dots, [n-1]\}$ .

Consider  $Z$  under the binary operation *addition modulo  $n$* , denoted by  $\oplus_n$ .

This group is called additive group of integers modulo  $n$  and is denoted by  $(Z_n, \oplus_n)$ .

The order of this group is  $n$ .

**Example:** Operation table for  $(Z_6, +)$  is given by

$+$	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	0	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5	0
2	2	3	4	5	0	1
3	3	4	5	0	1	2
4	4	5	0	1	2	3
5	5	6	1	2	3	4

## 2. Multiplicative group of integers mod p

Let  $n$  be a given integer  $> 1$  and  $Z_n$  denote the set of all congruence classes modulo  $n$ .

That is,  $Z_n = \{[0], [1], [2], \dots, [n-1]\}$ .

Multiplication modulo  $n$  denoted by  $\otimes_n$  is defined as

$$[x] \otimes_n [y] = [x \times y], \forall [x], [y] \in Z_n.$$

Consider  $Z_n$  under the binary operation multiplication modulo  $n$  denoted by  $\otimes_n$ .

- (i)  $[x] \otimes_n [y] \in Z_n, \forall [x], [y] \in Z_n$
- (ii)  $[x] \otimes_n ([y] \otimes_n [z]) = ([x] \otimes_n [y]) \otimes_n [z], \forall [x], [y], [z] \in Z_n$
- (iii) There exists  $[1] \in Z_n$ , such that  $[x] \otimes_n [1] = [1] \otimes_n [x] = [x]$ .
- (iv) For any  $[x] \in Z_n$ , there exists  $[y] \in Z_n$  such that  $[x] \otimes_n [y] = [y] \otimes_n [x] = [1]$ ,  
if  $n$  is a prime number.
- (v)  $[x] \otimes_n [y] = [y] \otimes_n [x], \forall [x], [y] \in Z_n$

Therefore,  $(Z_n, \otimes_n)$  is an abelian group only if  $n$  is a prime number.

**Note:**

$(Z_p^+, \otimes_p)$  is the multiplicative group of integers modulo  $p$ .

It is also denoted by  $(Z_p^+, \times)$ .

$Z_p^+ = \{[0], [1], [2], \dots, [p-1]\}$ . Order of the group  $O(Z_p^+) = p - 1$ .

Operation table for  $(Z_7^+, \times)$  is

**Example 1: Find the operation table for  $(Z_7^+, \times)$ .**

$\times$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	2	4	6	1	3	5
3	3	6	2	5	1	4
4	4	1	5	2	6	3
5	5	3	4	6	4	2
6	6	5	1	3	2	1

**Example 2: Find all  $x$  in  $(\mathbb{Z}_{11}^+, \times)$  such that  $x = x^{-1}$ .**

$\times$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	4	6	8	10	1	3	5	7	9
3	3	6	9	1	4	7	10	2	5	8
4	4	8	1	5	9	2	6	10	3	7
5	5	10	4	9	3	8	2	7	1	6
6	6	1	7	2	8	3	9	4	10	5
7	7	3	10	6	2	9	5	1	8	4
8	8	5	2	10	7	4	1	9	6	3
9	9	7	5	3	1	10	8	6	4	2
10	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

From the above table  $x \cdot x = 1$  is true only if  $x = 1$  or  $10$ .

1 and 10 are only elements of  $(\mathbb{Z}_{11}^+, \times)$  which are their own inverses.

That is, 1 and 10 are only solutions of  $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$

**Example 3: If  $p$  is a prime, prove that  $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$**

**[Wilson's theorem]**

Consider the group  $(\mathbb{Z}_p^+, \times)$ .

$$\mathbb{Z}_p^+ = \{[1], [2], [3], \dots, [p-1]\}$$

In  $\mathbb{Z}_p^+$ , only  $[1]$  and  $[p-1]$  have their own inverses. ( $[x] = [x]^{-1}$ )

Remaining  $(p-3)$  elements have  $\frac{p-3}{2}$  pairs of the form  $[x], [x]^{-1}$  with  $[x] \neq [x]^{-1}$ .

Multiplying all these elements,

$$2 \times 3 \times \dots \times (p-2) \equiv 1^{\frac{p-3}{2}} \pmod{p}$$

$$2 \times 3 \times \dots \times (p-2) \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

$$2 \times 3 \times \dots \times (p-2) \times (p-1) \equiv 1 \times (p-1) \pmod{p}$$

$$(p-1)! \equiv (p-1) \pmod{p}$$

$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$$

This proves the result.

#### 4. Permutation groups

##### Example : Permutation group of degree 3

Consider that set  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . These 3 elements can be permuted in  $3! = 6$  ways.

These permutations are 123, 132, 213, 231, 312, 321. That is,

$$P_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$P_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, P_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, P_5 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since these six permutations are 1-1 and onto functions from  $A$  to  $A$ , the composition of any two of these permutations is also a permutation.

If  $S_3 = \{P_0, P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5\}$ , composition table for  $S_3$  is as below.

$\times$	$P_0$	$P_1$	$P_2$	$P_3$	$P_4$	$P_5$
$P_0$	$P_0$	$P_1$	$P_2$	$P_3$	$P_4$	$P_5$
$P_1$	$P_1$	$P_2$	$P_0$	$P_5$	$P_3$	$P_4$
$P_2$	$P_2$	$P_0$	$P_1$	$P_4$	$P_5$	$P_3$
$P_3$	$P_3$	$P_4$	$P_5$	$P_0$	$P_1$	$P_2$
$P_4$	$P_4$	$P_5$	$P_3$	$P_2$	$P_0$	$P_1$
$P_5$	$P_5$	$P_3$	$P_4$	$P_1$	$P_2$	$P_0$

$S_3$  is closed and associative under composition of permutations.

$S_3$  contains identity element  $P_0$ .  $S_3$  contains inverse of each element.

By table,  $P_0^{-1} = P_0, P_1^{-1} = P_2, P_2^{-1} = P_1, P_3^{-1} = P_3, P_4^{-1} = P_4, P_5^{-1} = P_5$ .

Therefore,  $S_3$  is a group under composition of permutations.

$S_3$  is a symmetric group of order 3.  $S_3$  is not commutative.

**Problem :** Consider the symmetric group  $S_4$  consists of all the permutations of the set  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

What is the order of  $S_4$ ? What is the identity element of  $S_4$ ?

If  $\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\beta = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$  verify that  $(\alpha\beta)^{-1} = \beta^{-1}\alpha^{-1}$ .

(i) The order of  $S_4 = 4! = 24$ .

(ii) Identity element of  $S_4 = P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

(iii)  $(\alpha\beta)^{-1} = \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1}$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\beta^{-1}\alpha^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore,  $(\alpha\beta)^{-1} = \beta^{-1}\alpha^{-1}$ .

### 5.3 Subgroups

**Definition:** A non-empty subset  $H$  of a group  $G$  is called a subgroup of  $G$  whenever  $H$  itself is a group under the binary operation in  $G$ .

**Examples:**

1. Under the usual addition, the set of all even integers is a subgroup of the group of integers.
2. Under the usual multiplication, the set of all non-zero real numbers is the subgroup of the group of all non-zero real numbers.
3. Under the composition of permutations,  $\{P_0, P_1, P_2\}, \{P_0, P_3\}, \{P_0, P_4\}$  are the subgroups of the symmetric group  $S_3 = \{P_0, P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5\}$ .
4. Let  $H = \{0, 2, 4\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_6$ ,  $(H, +)$  is a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Z}_6, +)$ .

**Remarks:**

1. For any group  $G$ ,  $e \in G$  and  $\{e\} \subseteq G$ .  
Since  $\{e\}$  is a group under the operation in  $G$ ,  $\{e\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .
2. For any group  $G$ ,  $G \subseteq G$ . Thus every group is a subgroup to itself.
3.  $\{e\}$  and  $G$  are called **trivial subgroups** of a group  $G$ .  
All the other subgroups are called **proper subgroups** of  $G$ .

**1. Theorem 1: Prove that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if**

**$ab \in H$  and  $a^{-1} \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .**

**If part:**

Suppose  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

$\Rightarrow H$  is a group under the same operation of  $G$ .

$\Rightarrow H$  is closed and  $H$  has inverse for each element of  $H$ .

$\Rightarrow ab \in H$  and  $a^{-1} \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .

**Only if part:**

Suppose  $ab \in H$  and  $a^{-1} \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .

Since  $ab \in H$ ,  $H$  is closed.

Since  $H \subseteq G, a(bc) = (ab)c, \forall a, b, c \in H$ .  $H$  is associative.

Since  $a, a^{-1} \in H, aa^{-1} = e \in H$  by given conditions. Hence  $H$  has identity element.

Since  $a^{-1} \in H$ , for any  $a \in H$ ,  $H$  has inverse.

Therefore,  $H$  is a group.

Since  $H$  is a group and  $H \subseteq G$ ,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**2. Theorem 2: Prove that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if  $ab^{-1} \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .**

**If part:**

Suppose  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

Then clearly,  $H$  is a group under the same operation of  $G$ .

Hence, for any  $a, b \in H, b^{-1} \in H$  and  $ab^{-1} \in H$ .

**Only if part:**

Suppose  $ab^{-1} \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .

By taking  $b = a, aa^{-1} \in H$ . Thus  $e \in H$ . Identity property holds.

By taking  $a = e$  and  $b = a, ea^{-1} = a^{-1} \in H$ . Inverse property holds.

Since  $b \in H, b^{-1} \in H, a(b^{-1})^{-1} \in H$ , by given condition.

Therefore,  $ab \in H$ . Closed property holds under the binary operation of  $G$ .

Since associative property holds for all the elements of  $G$ , this holds for  $H \subseteq G$ .

Therefore,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**3. Theorem 3: When  $H$  is finite, P.T.  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if  $ab \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .**

**If part:**

$H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

$\Rightarrow H$  is a group.

$\Rightarrow H$  is closed.

$\Rightarrow ab \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .

**Only if part:**

$ab \in H, \forall a, b \in H$ .

That is,  $H$  is **closed**.

Since  $H \subseteq G$  and  $G$  is associative,  $H$  is also **associative**.

Consider a set  $aH = \{ah | h \in H\}$ , for any  $a \in H$ .

Since  $a \in H, ah \in H$ , for any  $h \in H$ .

Therefore,  $aH \subseteq H$ . Since  $H$  is finite,  $aH$  is also finite.

Define a function  $f: H \rightarrow aH$  by  $f(h) = ah, \forall h \in H$ .

Then  $f(h_1) = f(h_2) \Rightarrow ah_1 = ah_2 \Rightarrow h_1 = h_2$ , by left cancellation law.

Therefore,  $f$  is 1-1 from  $H$  to  $aH$ . Since  $f$  is finite,  $|H| = |aH|$ .

$aH \subseteq H, |H| = |aH| \Rightarrow H = aH$ .

Since  $a \in H, a = ah_1$ , for some  $h_1 \in H$ .

Since  $a = ae, ae = ah_1$ , for some  $h_1 \in H$ .

By left cancellation law,  $e = h \in H$ . **Identity** law holds.

$e \in H \Rightarrow e \in aH \Rightarrow e = ah_2$ , for some  $h_2 \in H$ .  $h_2 = a^{-1}$ . **Inverse** property holds.

Therefore,  $H$  is a group. Since  $H \subseteq G$ ,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

This completes the proof of the theorem.

**4. Prove that the intersection of two groups of a group is a subgroup of the group.**

Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  and  $K$  be two subgroups of  $G$ .

$a, b \in H \cap K \Rightarrow a, b \in H$  and  $a, b \in K$

$\Rightarrow ab^{-1} \in H$  and  $ab^{-1} \in K$

$\Rightarrow ab^{-1} \in H \cap K$

Therefore,  $H \cap K$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .



**5. Check whether the union of two subgroups of a group is a subgroup?**

Consider two subgroups of a symmetric group  $S_3$  as  $T_1 = \{P_0, P_3\}, T_2 = \{P_2, P_4\}$ .

But  $T_1 \cup T_2 = \{P_0, P_2, P_3, P_4\}$  is not closed. Because  $P_3P_4 = P_1 \notin T_1 \cup T_2$ .

Therefore,  $T_1 \cup T_2$  is not a group.

**6. Let  $G$  be a group and  $J = \{x \in G | xy = yx, \forall y \in G\}$ . P.T.  $J$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .**

$$e \in G \Rightarrow ey = ye, \forall y \in G$$

$$\Rightarrow e \in J$$

$$\Rightarrow J \text{ is non-empty.}$$

For any  $a, b \in J$  and any  $y \in G$ ,

$$(ab)y = a(by) = a(yb) = (ay)b = (ya)b = y(ab)$$

Therefore,  $ab \in J$ .

$$ya = ay$$

$$\Rightarrow a^{-1}(ya)a^{-1} = a^{-1}(ay)a^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow (a^{-1}y)(aa^{-1}) = (a^{-1}a)(ya^{-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow (a^{-1}y)e = e(ya^{-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow a^{-1}y = ya^{-1}$$

Therefore,  $a^{-1} \in J$

Thus,  $ab \in J, a^{-1} \in J, \forall a, b \in J$

Therefore,  $J$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**7. Consider the subset  $H$  of the symmetric group  $S_4$  consisting of the following**

**elements of  $S_4$ .  $P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix},$**   
 **$P_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Construct a table to show that  $H$  is an abelian group of  $S_4$ .**

This table shows that  $H$  is closed under permutation.

Therefore, by theorem 3,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $S_4$ .

The table also shows that the commutative law holds in  $H$ .

Therefore,  $H$  is an abelian group.

$\times$	$P_0$	$P_1$	$P_2$	$P_3$
$P_0$	$P_0$	$P_1$	$P_2$	$P_3$
$P_1$	$P_1$	$P_0$	$P_3$	$P_2$
$P_2$	$P_2$	$P_3$	$P_0$	$P_1$
$P_3$	$P_3$	$P_2$	$P_1$	$P_0$

**8. For the group  $Z_6^3$ , find subgroups of orders 6, 12 and 36.**

Consider the group  $Z_6$  of order 6.

$$Z_6^3 = Z_6 \times Z_6 \times Z_6 \text{ is a group of order } 6^3 = 216.$$

Every element of  $Z_6^3$  is of the form  $(a, b, c)$ , where  $a, b, c \in Z_6$ .

$$H_1 = \{(a, 0, 0) | a \in Z_6\} \text{ is a subgroup of order 6.}$$

$H_2 = \{(a, b, 0) | a \in Z_6, b = 0, 3\}$  is a subgroup of order 12.

$H_3 = \{(a, b, 0) | a, b \in Z_6\}$  is a subgroup of order 36.

## 5.4 Cyclic group

### Definition:

A group is said to be the cyclic group if for some  $a \in G$ , every element  $x \in G$  is of the form  $a^n$ , for some  $n \in Z$ . The element  $a$  is called the generator of the cyclic group  $G$ . It is denoted by  $G = \langle a \rangle$ .

### Example:

$G = \{i, -i, -1, 1\}$  is the cyclic group generated by  $i$ .

Every element of  $G$  is of the form  $i^n$ , for some  $n \in Z$ .

Hence,  $i$  is the generator of the cyclic group  $G$ .

### Theorem 1:

**If  $a$  is a generator of a cyclic group  $G$ , show that inverse of  $a$  is also a generator.**

### Proof:

$a$  is a generator of the cyclic group  $G$ .

$\Rightarrow$  If  $g \in G$  then  $g = a^n$ , for some  $n \in Z$ .

$\Rightarrow g = a^n = \{(a^{-1})^{-1}\}^n = (a^{-1})^{-n}$ , for some  $n \in Z$ .

$\Rightarrow a^{-1}$  is also a generator of the cyclic group  $G$ .

### Examples:

**1. Show that the group  $(G, *)$  is a cyclic group whose multiplication table is**

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

$a$  is an identity element of  $G$ .

$$b^2 = b * b = c$$

$$b^3 = b^2 * b = c * b = d$$

$$b^4 = b^3 * b = d * b = e$$

$$b^5 = b^4 * b = e * b = f$$

$$b^6 = b^5 * b = f * b = a$$

Every element of  $G$  is an integral power of  $b$ .

Therefore,  $(G, *)$  is a cyclic group.

**2. Prove that the Klein-4 group is not cyclic.**

In the Klein-4 group, every element is its own inverse.

$$x^2 = x \cdot x = e$$

$$x^3 = x^2 \cdot x = ex = x$$

$$\text{If } n \text{ is even, } x^n = x^{2r} = (x^2)^r = e^r = e$$

$$\text{If } n \text{ is odd, } x^n = x^{n-1} \cdot x = ex = x$$

Therefore, every integral power of  $x$  is equal to either  $e$  or  $x$ .

$\Rightarrow$  No element in this group can be a generator.

$\Rightarrow$  Klein-4 group is not cyclic.

**3. Prove that the multiplicative group of non-zero rational numbers are not cyclic.**

Consider  $(Q^*, \times)$ .

$Q^*$  is the set of all non-zero rational numbers and  $\times$  is the usual multiplication.

Suppose  $(Q^*, \times)$  is cyclic.

$\Rightarrow$  There is a non-zero rational number  $\frac{p}{q} \neq 1$  as a generator.

$\Rightarrow$  Since  $2, 3 \in Q^*$ , we have  $2 = \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^m$  and  $3 = \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^n$  for some  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  This gives  $2^n = 3^n$ , which is impossible.

Therefore,  $(Q^*, \times)$  is not cyclic.

**4. Prove that the group  $(\mathbb{Z}_4, +)$  is cyclic. Find all its generators.**

The elements of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are the congruent classes  $[0], [1], [2], [3]$ .

The operator  $+$  is 'addition modulo 4'.

$$[1] = [1]^1$$

$$[2] = [1] + [1] = [1]^2$$

$$[3] = [1] + [1] + [1] = [1]^3$$

$$[4] = [1] + [1] + [1] + [1] = [1]^4$$

Therefore, every element of  $\mathbb{Z}$  is an integral power of  $[1]$ .

Therefore,  $(\mathbb{Z}_4, +)$  is a cyclic group.

$[1]$  is the generator of  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ .

$[1]^{-1} = [-1] = [4 - 1] = [3]$  is also a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ .

$[0]^n \neq [1]$ , for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$[2]^n \neq [1]$ , for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Therefore,  $[1]$  and  $[3]$  are the only generators of  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ .

### 5.5 Lagrange's theorem

If  $G$  is a finite group and  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , then  $O(G)|O(H)$ .

**Proof:**

$H$  is a subgroup of a finite group  $G$ .

$\Rightarrow H$  is also finite.

$\Rightarrow H = \{h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_n\}$ , where each  $h_i$  is distinct.

$\Rightarrow Ha = \{h_1a, h_2a, h_3a, \dots, h_na\}$ , where each  $h_ia$  is distinct.

$\Rightarrow$  The right coset  $Ha$  has  $n$  distinct elements.

Since  $G$  is finite, there are a finite number of distinct right cosets.

Let  $G = Ha_1 \cup Ha_2 \cup \dots \cup Ha_k$

$\Rightarrow O(G) = |Ha_1| + |Ha_2| + \dots + |Ha_k| = n + n + \dots k \text{ times} = nk$

$\Rightarrow n|O(G)$

$\Rightarrow O(H)|O(G)$