Math 110B (Algebra)
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These are my lecture notes for Math 110B (Algebra), which is the second course in Algebra taught by Nicolle Gonzales. The textbook for this class is *Abstract Algebra: An Introduction, 3rd edition* by Hungerford.

Contents

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1.1 Groups

- Algebra $\to$ study of mathematical structure.
- Rings $\leftrightarrow$ "numbers" e.g. $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Z}_p$
  2 operations $(+, \cdot)$

Question 1.1: What happens if we have only 1 operation (either $\cdot$ or $+$ but not both)? What kind of structure is this more basic setup?

Answer: Groups! It turns out groups encode the mathematical structures of the symmetries in nature.

Definition 1.2 (Group)
A group $(G, *)$ is a nonempty set with a binary operation $* : G \times G \to G$ that satisfies

1. (Closure): $a * b \in G \quad \forall a, b \in G$
2. (Associativity): $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c) \quad \forall a, b, c \in G$
3. (Identity): $\exists e \in G$ such that $e * a = a = a * e \quad \forall a \in G$
4. (Inverse): $\forall a \in G, \exists d \in G$ such that $d * a = e = a * d$

Note:

- If * is addition, we just divide * by the usual + sign. In this case

$$e = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad d = -a$$

- If the operation * is multiplication, we just divide * by the usual $\cdot$ sign. In this case

$$e = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad d = a^{-1}$$

- Be aware that sometimes * is neither.

Definition 1.3 (Abelian)
If the * operation is commutative, i.e. $a * b = b * a$, then we say that G is abelian (named after the mathematician N.H. Abel)

Definition 1.4 (Order, Finite Group vs. Infinite Group)
The order of a group G, denoted $|G|$, is the number of elements it contains (as a set).
Thus, G is a finite group if $|G| < \infty$
and G is an infinite group if $|G| = \infty$

Examples 1.5 (Examples of a group)

1. Rings where you "forget" multiplication.
   $\to (\mathbb{Z}, +)$ integers with $* = +, (\mathbb{R}[X], +)$, etc.
   Note: $(\mathbb{Z}, *)$ with $* = \cdot$ is not a group. Why?

Theorem 1.6
Every ring is an abelian group under addition.

Proof. $e = 0$, inverse $= -a$ for each $a \in R$. □

Fact: If $R \neq 0$ then $(R, \cdot)$ is never a group since 0 has no multiplicative inverse.

Examples 1.7 (More examples of a group)

2. Fields without zero.

Theorem 1.8
Let $\mathbb{F}^*$ denote the nonzero elements of a field $\mathbb{F}$. Then $(\mathbb{F}^*, \cdot)$ is an abelian group.

Recall: A unit in a ring R is an element $a \in R$ with a multiplicative inverse $a^{-1} \in R$ such that $aa^{-1} = 1 = a^{-1}a$.

Theorem 1.9
The set of units $\mathcal{U}$ inside a ring R is a group under multiplication.

Examples 1.10 (More examples of a group cont.)

3. $\mathcal{U}_n = \{m | (m,n) = 1\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n$ is also a group, but under multiplication,

   $\underline{n = 4}$ $\quad \mathbb{Z}_4 = \{0,1,2,3\}, \quad \mathcal{U}_4 = \{1,3\}$
   $(\mathbb{Z}_4, +)$ and $(\mathcal{U}_4, \cdot)$ are groups with different binary operation!

   $\underline{n = 6}$ $\quad \mathbb{Z}_6 = \{0,1,2,3,4,5\}, \quad \mathcal{U}_6 = \{1,5\}$
   $(\mathcal{U}_6, \cdot)$ is a group
   - $1 \cdot 5 = 5 \pmod 6 \in \mathcal{U}_6$ (closure)
   - $1 = e$ (identity)
   - $1 \cdot 1 = 1, \quad 5 \cdot 5 = 25 \equiv 1 \pmod 6$ (inverse)
   - Associativity is clear

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2.1 Groups (Cont'd)

Examples 2.1

4. $(M_{n\times m}(\mathbb{F}), +) = m \times n$ matrices over $\mathbb{F}$ under addition
   $e =$ zero matrix, inverse of a matrix $-M$

Definition 2.2 (General linear group)
Denote by $GL_n(\mathbb{F})$ the set of nxn invertible matrices under multiplication. $(\det(A) \neq 0 \quad \forall A \in GL_n)$

- Closed: $\det(A \cdot B) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B) \neq 0 \implies AB \in GL_n \quad \forall A, B \in GL_N$
- Associativity: Obvious.
- Identity: $\det(I) = 1 \neq 0 \implies I \in GL_n(\mathbb{F})$
- Inverse: $A \in GL_n; \det(A^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \neq 0 \implies A^{-1} \in GL_n(\mathbb{F})$

Fact: $GL_n(\mathbb{F})$ is a group for any field $\mathbb{F}$.
Comment:

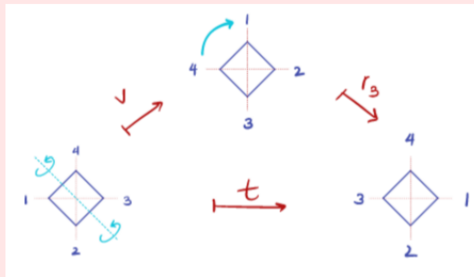
- $\det(A + B) \neq \det(A) + \det(B)$
- $\det(AB) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B)$

Definition 2.3 (Special linear group)
Let $SL_n(\mathbb{F})$ denote the set of invertible matrices over $\mathbb{F}$ with $\det = 1$

Exercise. Show that $SL_n(\mathbb{F})$ is a group.

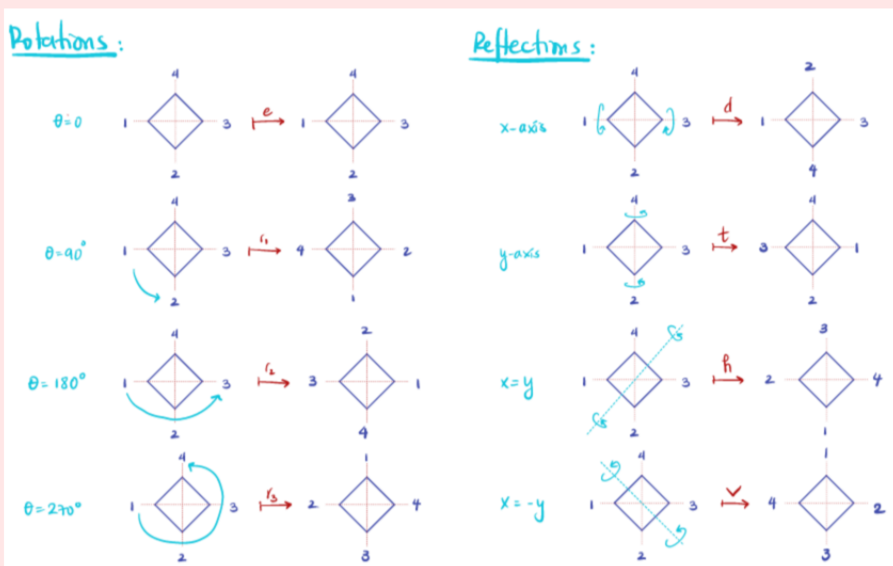
2.2 Symmetries

Example 2.4 (Symmetries over a square)
Rotations and reflection These operations (maps) form a group under composition. So $* = 0$. For instance, suppose
$r_3 \circ t = h$



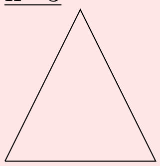
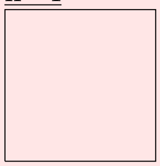
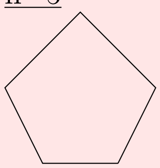
The group of rotations/reflections of a square is called Dihedral Group of degree 4, denoted D_4.

$$D_4 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, d, t, h, v \mid \text{under } \circ\}$$



These are Professor Gonzales's lovely drawings.

Example 2.5 (Symmetries of a regular polygon with n sides)
Called the dihedral groups of degree n, D_n.

- n=3

- n=4

- n=5

- n=6
etc...

Observe: $|D_n| = 2n$ because you have n-axes of reflection and n-angles of notation.

Example 2.6 (The symmetric group)
Let $n \in N$, and S_n be the set of all permutations of the numbers $\{1, ..., n\}$.
Note: any permutation of $\{1, ..., n\}$ can be thought of as a bijection $\{1, ..., n\} \to \{1, ..., n\}$.
$\implies$ This allows us to compose permutations just like functions.
$\implies$ S_n is a group!

Definition 2.7 (Symmetric group)
The symmetric group S_n is the group of permutations of the integers of the integers $\{1, ..., n\}$.
Given any permutation $\sigma \in S_n$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma :&\{1, ..., n\} \to \{1, ..., n\}, \\ &i \mapsto \sigma_i \end{aligned}$$

$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n-1 & n \\ \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 & \cdots & \sigma_{n-1} & \sigma_n \end{pmatrix} \to e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \end{pmatrix}$

$\sigma^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ \sigma_1^{-1} & \sigma_2^{-1} & \cdots & \sigma_n^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$

Group operation: function composition.

Example 2.8

n=2:

$e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ $\tau = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\tau \circ \tau = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \circ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = e$

$\tau \circ e = \tau$

$e \circ \tau = \tau$

$e \circ \tau = e$

$\implies S_2 = \{e, \tau\}$ is a group

$e^{-1} = e$

$\tau^{-1} = \tau$

Associativity: obvious because of function composition

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3.1 Symmetries (Cont'd)

Example 3.1
n=3 S_3: permutations of $\{1, 2, 3\}$
$e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ $\tau_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ $\tau_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ $\tau_{21} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ $\tau_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
$\tau_{121} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
$\tau_1 \circ \tau_2 \circ \tau_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \tau_{121}$
Note: $\tau_{21} = \tau_2 \circ \tau_1$, $\tau_{12} = \tau_1 \circ \tau_2$
$\tau_{21} \neq \tau_{12} \implies S_3$ is not abelian!

Exercise. τ_{212}?

3.2 Direct Product of Groups

Definition 3.2 (Direct product)
Given $(G, *), (H, \star)$ both groups define the binary operation:

$$\begin{aligned} (G \times H) \times (G \times H) &\to G \times H \\ (g, h) \,\square\, (g', h') &\mapsto (g * g', h \star h') \end{aligned}$$

Side note: $(S, ☺)$
$☺: S \times S \to S \implies S$ group

Example 3.3
$S_2 \times D_4$:
$(\tau_1, r_{270^\circ}) \,\square\, (\tau_1, v) = (\tau_1 \circ \tau_1, r_{270^\circ} v) = (e, t)$

Example 3.4
$(\mathbb{R}, +) \times (\mathbb{R}*, \cdot)$
$(5, 2)\square(-5, \pi) = (0, 2\pi)$

Example 3.5
$\mathbb{Z}_n \times \mathbb{Z}_m \quad n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.
$(a, b) \,\square\, (a', b') = (\underbrace{a + a'}_{\text{mod } n}, \underbrace{b + b'}_{\text{mod } m})$

$$\begin{aligned} (5, 5)\square(2, 2) &= (5 + 2, 5 + 2) \\ &= (7, 1) \end{aligned}$$

3.3 Properties of Groups

Notation: Going forward, we omit $*$ in the notation: $(G, *) \to G$. Use multiplicative notation for abstract groups. Instead $a * b \to ab$.

$$\underbrace{a * a * a \cdots * a}_{n \text{ times}} \to a^n$$

However, for very explicit groups like
$(\mathbb{Z}, +), (\mathbb{R}, +), (\mathbb{Z}_n, +)$, etc, we use additive notation. $(* = +)$

$$a * b \to a + b$$
$$\underbrace{a * \cdots * a}_{n \text{ times}} \to n \cdot a$$

(Review notation on page 198 of book)

Theorem 3.6
G group, $a, b, c \in G$. Then

1. $e \in G$ is unique
2. if $ab = ac$ or $ba = ca \implies b = c$
3. $\forall a \in G : a^{-1}$ is unique.

Proof.

1. Suppose $\exists e' \in G$ s.t $e \neq e'$ but $e'a = a = ae'$ $\forall a \in G$. $\implies$ let $a = e \implies e'e = e = ee'$
   On the other hand $e \cdot e' = e' = e'e$
   $\implies e = e'$
2. $ab = ac, \quad a, b, c \in G$.
   Since $a^{-1} \in G$
   $$\implies \underbrace{a^{-1}a}_{e} b = \underbrace{a^{-1}a}_{e} c$$
   $$\implies e \cdot b = e \cdot c$$
   $$\implies b = c$$
3. Suppose $a \in G$ $\exists$ two distinct inverses.
   $d_1, d_2 \in G$.
   $d_1 a = e = ad_1$
   $d_2 a = e = ad_2$
   $\implies d_1 = d_1 e = d_1 a d_2 = e \cdot d_2 = d_2$

$\square$

Corollary 3.7
G group, $a, b \in G$. Then

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

Proof. Exercise. $\square$

Note: $ab = ba$ (G is abelian)

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

Generally: $ab \neq ba \implies a^{-1}b^{-1} \neq b^{-1}a^{-1}$

3.4 Order of an Element

Definition 3.8 (Order (of an element) and Finite vs. Infinite order)
The order of an element $a \in G$ is the smallest $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $a^k = e$. We denote this by $|a|$.
If k is finite $\implies$ a has finite order.
If k is infinite $\implies$ a has infinite order.

Example 3.9
S_2; $e, \tau_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
$|e| = 1; e' = e$
$|\tau_1| = 2 \quad \tau_1^2 = \tau_1 \circ \tau_1 = e$
$\tau_1^4 = \tau_1^2 \circ \tau_1^2 = e \circ e = e$

Example 3.10
$\mathbb{Z} \leftarrow e = 0.$
$|1| = ?$
$1 \cdot n = 0$ for which n?
Answer none!
$\implies |1| = \infty$

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4.1 Order of an Element (Cont'd)

Theorem 4.1
G-group, $a \in G$

1. If $|a| = \infty$, then $a^i \neq a^j$ for any $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $i \neq j$.
2. If $\exists i \neq j$ such that $a^i = a^j \implies |a| < \infty$.

Proof. We prove (2) (because $1 \Leftrightarrow 2$).
WLOG suppose $i > j$, then if $a^i = a^j \implies a^{i-j} = a^i a^{-j} \implies = a^j a^{-j} = a^0 = e$
$\implies |a| \leq i - j < \infty$ □

Theorem 4.2
G group, $a \in G \quad |a| = n$

1. $a^k = e \Leftrightarrow n \mid k \quad (n \leq k)$
2. $a^i = a^j \Leftrightarrow i \equiv j \pmod{n}$
3. if $n = td \quad d \geq 1 \implies |a^t| = d$.

Proof.

1. If $a^k = e$ and since $a^n = e$ with n-smallest such integer, then $k > n$, and so $k = nd + r$ with $0 \leq r < n$
$$a^k = a^{nd+r} = (a^n)^d a^r = e^d a^r = a^r$$
If $0 < r < n \implies a^r \neq e \implies a^k \neq e$
$r = 0 \implies k = nd \implies n \mid k$.
2. If $a^i = a^j \implies a^{i-j} = e$
$\implies n \mid i - j$ by part 1.
$\implies i - j \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$
$\implies i \equiv j \pmod{n}$
3. If $n = td\ (d \geq 1) \overset{?}{\implies} |a^t| = d$
Since $a^n = e \implies (a^t)^d = e \implies |a^t| \leq d$.
If $|a^t| = k < d \implies (a^t)^k = a^{tk} = e$
But $tk < td = n \implies a^{tk} = e$ for $tk < n \implies \neq$ because n is the smallest positive integer such that $a^n = e$.
$\implies k = d \implies |a^t| = d$.

□

Corollary 4.3
G- abelian group with $|a| < \infty \quad \forall a \in G$. Suppose $c \in G$ such that $|a| \leq |c| \quad \forall a \in G$. Then $|a| \mid |c|$.

Proof. Suppose not. $\exists$ some $a \in G$ such that $|a| \nmid |c|$. Consider prime factorizations of $|a|$ and $|c|$.
$\implies$ Then $\exists$ some prime p such that $|a| = p^r m \quad |c| = p^s n$ where $r > s$ (s might be zero) and $(p_1 m) = 1 = (p_1 n)$.
Then by (3) of Theorem 4.2 of previous theorem,

$$|a^m| = p^r \quad \text{and} \quad |c^{p^s}| = n$$

$$\underset{\text{because } (p^r, n)=1}{\implies} |\underbrace{a^m \cdot c^{p^s}}_{\in G}| = p^r \cdot n$$

Note: $|a| = n, |b| = m, |a \cdot b| \neq n \cdot m$ unless $(n, m) = 1$
Recall: $|c| = p^s \cdot n$ where $s < r$
$\implies p^r > p^s$
$\implies p^r n > p^s n$
$\implies |a^m \cdot c^{p^s}| > |c|$
$\implies \neq$ because c is the element in G with maximal order! So $a^m c^{p^s} \in G$ cannot have order larger than c. $\square$

4.2 Subgroups

Definition 4.4 (Subgroup)
A subset $H \subseteq G$ is a subgroup of $(G, *)$ if it is also a group under $*$.
Note:
$G \subseteq G \implies G$ is always a subgroup of itself (Improper subgroup)
$\{e\} \subseteq G \implies \{e\}$ is always a subgroup of G (Trivial subgroup of G)
$\implies$ Any subgroup $e \neq H \neq G$ is called a nontrivial proper subgroup.

Examples 4.5

- $(\mathbb{Z}, +) \subseteq (\mathbb{Q}, +)$
- $\{e, r_{90}, r_{180}, r_{270}\} \subseteq D_4$
- $SL_n(\mathbb{F}) \subseteq GL_n(\mathbb{F})$

Note: any subgroup always contains e.

Theorem 4.6
A nonempty subset H of G is a subgroup if:

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

Proof. Since $H \neq \emptyset \quad \exists a \in H$. By (2), $\exists a^{-1} \in H$. $\implies$ By (1) $aa^{-1} = e \in H \implies e \in H$. $\square$

Theorem 4.7
Any closed nonempty finite subset H of G is a subgroup.

Proof. By Theorem 4.6, we need only show that H contains inverses.
If $a \in H \quad a^k \in H \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}$.
Since H is finite, not all a^k can be distinct.
$\implies |a| = n < \infty$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
$\implies a^n = e$
$\implies a^{n-1} \cdot a = e = a \cdot a^{n-1}$
If $n > 1 \implies a^{-1} \in H$
If $n = 1 \implies a^{-1} = e \implies a = e \implies a^{-1} = e \in H$. $\square$