

S3 Group

The S3 group is the group of permutation on 3 elements. It has 6 elements. It is the group of all the automorphism on the set $\{1, 2, 3\}$.

Here is the full list of the elements of S3:

```
## e: ()
## a: (1,2)
## b: (1,3)
## c: (2,3)
## p: (1,2,3)
## p^2: (1,3,2)
```

The group $\langle p \rangle = \{e, p, p^2\}$ is normal in S3:

```
all(p^a == p2, p^b == p2, p^c == p2)
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

The classes of $\langle p \rangle$ in S3 are:

$\{e, p, p^2\}, \{a, b, c\}$

The action of a on $\langle p \rangle$: $(p \ p^2)$

Subgroups of S3

is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ and it has no non-trivial subgroups.

If G is a subgroup of S3 containing

then G^*

is a subgroup of S3/

. S3/

is a group of order 2 so it is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ and it has no non trivial subgroup. The only subgroups containing p are $\{e\}$ and S3.

If G is a sub-group not including

. Then $\text{inter}(G,$

) is $\{e\}$. because $\text{inter}(G,$

) is a subgroup of

and it cannot be

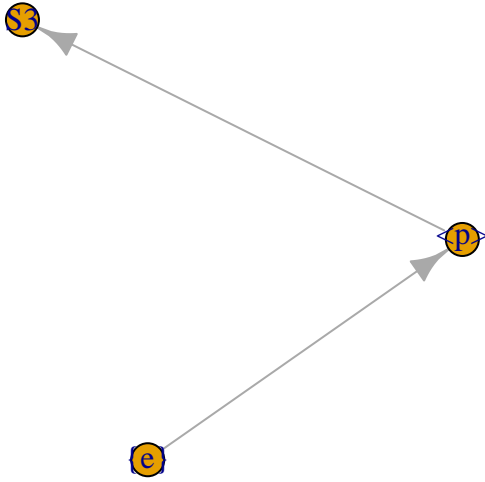
because G does no include

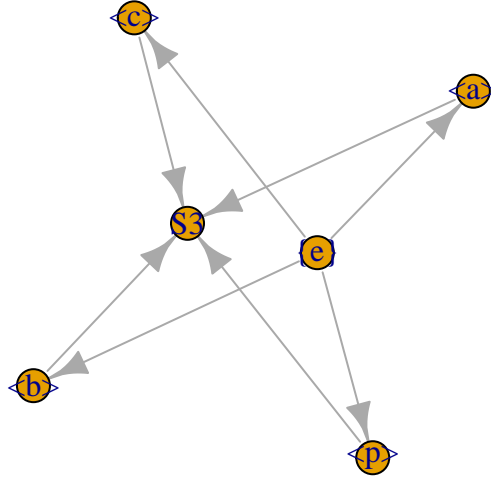
.

So G is included in $\{e, a, b, c\}$. G cannot contain more than 2 elements because any of products ab, bc, \dots will yield an element of

. So G is either $\{e, a\}, \{e, b\}, \{e, c\}$.

Conclusion: Here is the full list of the subgroups of S3: $\{e\}, \{e, a\}, \{e, b\}, \{e, c\}, \{e, p, p^2\}, \{e, a, b, c, p, p^2\}$





Action of the group

- $\langle p \rangle$ Act on the 'edges' of a triangle $\{1, 2, 3\}$: $\{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}\}$

[1] TRUE

The action of a can also be defined: $a(\{1, 2\}) = \{1, 3\}$ $a\{1, 3\} = \{2, 3\}$ $a\{2, 3\} = \{1, 2\}$

Since a and p generate S_3 we deduce that S_3 acts on the edges. And the action is faithful.

- The natural action of S_3 on $\{1, 2, 3\}$ is also faithful.
- The action of S_3 on $S_3/\langle p \rangle$ is not faithful. $S_3/\langle p \rangle = \{\{e, p, p^2\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$ Any element of $\langle p \rangle$ is sent to the identity. Any other element is sent to $(\{e, p, p^2\} \{a, b, c\})$
- There is also an action of S_3 on $\{a, b, c\}$.
- And an action of S_3 on $\langle p \rangle$

How to see if 2 actions are isomorphic?

An action is a group morphism $\text{phi1}: G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(S)$ where S is some set. Let $\text{phi2}: G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(S_2)$ be another group action. 2 action are isomorphic if there exist a set isomorphism $f: S \rightarrow S_2$ such that

$$\forall g \in G, f(\text{phi1}(g)(x)) = \text{phi2}(g)(f(x))$$

$$f(\text{phi1}(g_1 * g_2)(x)) = f(\text{phi1}(g_1)(\text{phi1}(g_2)(x))) = \text{phi2}(g_1)(f(\text{phi1}(g_2)(x))) = \text{phi2}(g_1)(\text{phi2}(g_2)(f(x))) = \text{phi2}(g_1 g_2)(f(x))$$

Let's show that the action on $\{1, 2, 3\}$ is isomorphic to the action on $\{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}\}$ by taking $f: 1 \rightarrow \{2, 3\}$ $f: 2 \rightarrow \{1, 3\}$ $f: 3 \rightarrow \{1, 2\}$

$$f(p.1) = f(2) = \{1, 3\} \quad p.f(1) = p.\{2, 3\} = \{1, 3\}$$

$$f(p.2) = f(3) = \{1, 2\} \quad p.f(2) = p.\{1, 3\} = \{1, 2\}$$

$$f(a.1) = f(2) = \{1, 3\} \quad a.f(1) = a.\{2, 3\} = \{1, 3\}$$

$$f(a.3) = f(3) = a.f(3) \Rightarrow f(3) = \{1, 2\}$$

$$f(b.2) = f(2) = b.f(2) \Rightarrow f(2) = \{1, 3\}$$

$$f(c.1) = f(1) = c.f(1) \Rightarrow f(1) = \{2, 3\}$$

So f is an isomorphism of actions.

Automorphism group of S_3

Inner automorphisms

Conjugation by an element creates an automorphism. The conjugation by p has the following effect:

```
## a^p: (2,3)
## b^p: (1,2)
## c^p: (1,3)
## p^p: (1,2,3)
## p2^p: (1,3,2)
```

So $\text{conj}(p) = (a \ c \ b)$

Here is the conjugation by p^2 :

```
## a^p2: (1,3)
## b^p2: (2,3)
## c^p2: (1,2)
## p^p2: (1,2,3)
## p2^p2: (1,3,2)
```

So $\text{conj}(p^2) = (a \ b \ c)$

Here is the conjugation by a :

```
## a^a: (1,2)
## b^a: (2,3)
## c^a: (1,3)
## p^a: (1,3,2)
## p2^a: (1,2,3)
```

So $\text{conj}(a) = (b \ c) \ (p \ p^2)$

Here is the conjugation by b :

```
## a^b: (2,3)
## b^b: (1,3)
## c^b: (1,2)
## p^b: (1,3,2)
## p2^b: (1,2,3)
```

So $\text{conj}(b) = (a \ c) (p \ p^2)$

Here is the conjugation by c:

```
## a^c: (1,3)
## b^c: (1,2)
## c^c: (2,3)
## p^c: (1,3,2)
## p2^c: (1,2,3)
```

So $\text{conj}(c) = (a \ b)(p \ p^2)$

So together with the identity there are 6 inner automorphisms.

Structure of the automorphism group

We will show that $\text{Inner}(S_3) = S_3 \text{ conj}(a)^2 = e \text{ conj}(p)^3 = e \text{ conj}(p) \text{ conj}(a) = \text{conj } a^{-1} \circ \text{conj } p \circ \text{conj } a$
 $= \text{conj } a^{-1} p a = \text{conj } p^2 = \text{conj}(p)^2$

Since the generators of $\text{Inner}(S_3)$ have the same relations as those of S_3 we know the 2 groups are isomorphic.

Total group or isomorphism

We can show that there are no outer isomorphism. Indeed an automorphism maps elements to elements of the same order. There are thus 2 possibilities for mapping p and 3 possibilities for mapping a. Since a and p generate S_3 this 2 images will define uniquely a mapping. There are at most $3 \cdot 2$ automorphisms and according to the previous paragraphs we already have 6 inner automorphisms. So all the automorphism are inner.

Matrix representation of an automorphism

Since an automorphism is uniquely defined by its image of the generators a and p we might be able to write them as a matrix. Indeed the reason we are able to write linear operators as matrix is because they are defined by their action on a basis which is a generator set of the whole vector space.

First lets try to write elements of S_3 as vectors: we note $a = (1, 0)$ and $p = (0, 1)$ $(0, x) * (1, m) = p^x * a * p^m = a * a^{p^x} * a^{p^m} = (1, 2^x + m)$

$$(g_1, n_1) * (g_2, n_2) = g_1 n_1 g_2 n_2 = g_1 g_2 \text{inv}(g_2) n_1 g_2 n_2 = g_1 g_2 n_1^{\wedge} g_2 n_2 = (g_1 g_2, n_1^{\wedge} g_2^2 n_2)$$

$$\text{inv}(g_1) * (g_2, n_2) * g_1 = \text{inv}(g_1) * (g_2^* g_1, n_2^{\wedge} g_1) = (g_2^{\wedge} g_1, n_2^{\wedge} g_1) \text{conj}(g_1) = g_1 \ e \ e \ g_1$$